

THE  
NORTH EASTS  
ALTERNATIVE  
PRESS

# MUTHER GRUMBLE

FEB. 1973  
No. 10

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## CRIME

### Decline in the quality of life

SIR—In recent months the hitherto silent majority has been expressing increasing concern over the decline in the quality of life in Britain.

Since the inception of the Welfare State in 1945 there has been an inevitable reduction in the need to exercise personal responsibility, as more and more of an individual's problems and responsibilities have been taken over by the State. The advocates of the so-called permissive or alternative society have taken advantage of the co-existence of reduced personal responsibility and increased material prosperity to preach, from the powerful pulpits provided by the mass media, propaganda of lethal propensity.

The virtues which support our civilisation have, without exception, been denigrated; often by abuse of the power of music. The resultant increase in irresponsibility, self-indulgence, dishonesty and violence (much of it mindless) is by now frighteningly evident. Many inherently decent young people have been bullied into "dropping out" (a euphemism for living on their neighbours), and family life, the backbone of our society, threatened as never before.

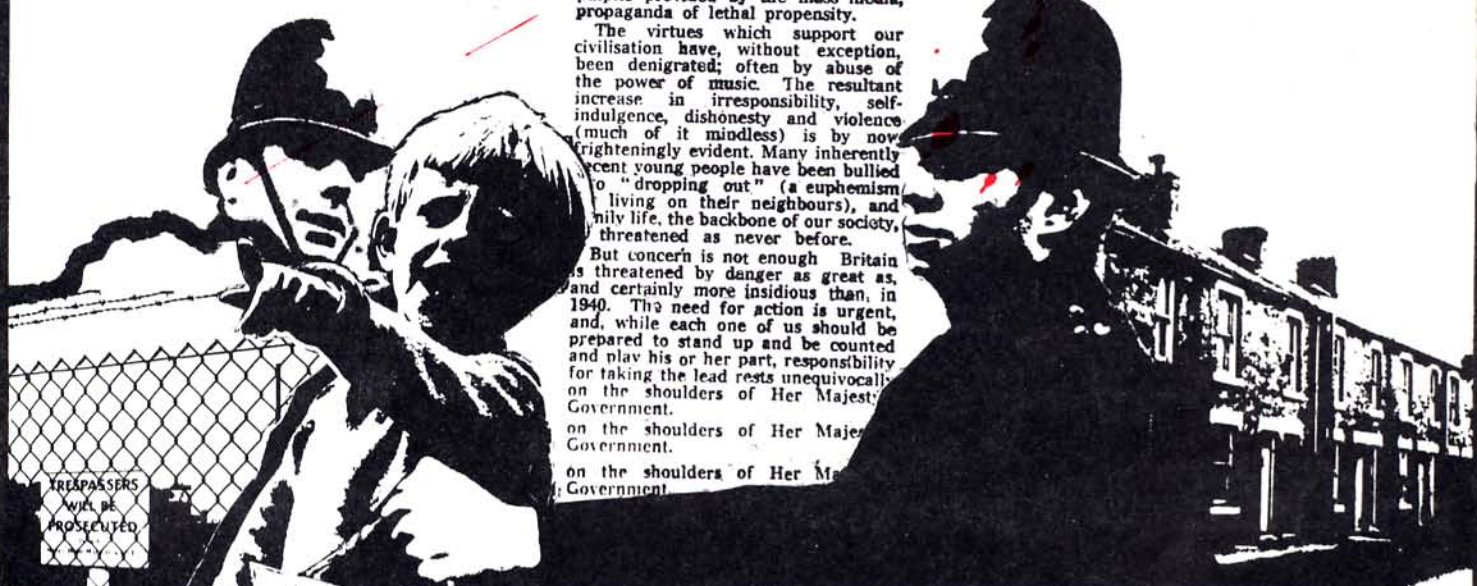
But concern is not enough. Britain is threatened by danger as great as, and certainly more insidious than, in 1940. The need for action is urgent, and, while each one of us should be prepared to stand up and be counted and play his or her part, responsibility for taking the lead rests unequivocally on the shoulders of Her Majesty's Government.

on the shoulders of Her Majesty's Government.

on the shoulders of Her Majesty's Government.

VIOLATORS  
WILL BE  
PROSECUTED

DO NOT  
DISTURB





# CRIME RATE SOARS

**Find out why and how.  
Read Muther Grumble's  
exclusive reports on Today's  
Criminals and their Methods**

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Without the following people this Issue might never have been so ridiculous!

Ian, Don, Andy, Brian, Geoff, Pat, Cliff, Tony, Ted, Sian, Paul, Chris, Bill-ian, George, Pete, Pauline, Pam, Marion, Linden, Malc, Jim, Rich, Ol' Jack, Mole Express & G.P.O. for putting the Phone back again.

The Front and Back Covers were Designed by Brian who is available for freelance work, if you're interested contact M.G.

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# CONNINGHAM AGAIN



We continue our long-running serial on Alderman Andy Cunningham.....

Back in 1971, during a drugs case in Durham Crown Court, policemen were observed photographing people attending the trial. When asked about this, Andy, as Chairman of the Police Authority, said:

IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE POLICE MAY HAVE TO RESORT TO WHAT MAY NOT BE CONSTITUTIONAL OR LEGAL PRACTICE IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO STAMP OUT CRIME.....THEY MIGHT SOMETIMES HAVE TO BREAK THE LAW. THE POINT IS THEY SHOULD NOT BE FOUND OUT BREAKING THE LAW.

Now Mr. Cunningham is obviously an honest man for admitting publicly what other policemen only mutter into their beer, and this fact should be borne in mind when you read the rest of this page.....

In the days when he had an architectural practice, John Poulson used to pay T.Dan Smith £20,000 a year. From this, Dan Smith used to pay Andy £1,000 a year: which may not seem very generous, but Andy's wife was also employed as a consultant in Poulson's Newcastle office - a post, for which, incidentally, she had no professional qualifications.

Now read on.....

So the Cunningham still survives.

This last month has seen strong pressure on him to resign from his position as Chairman of the Durham Police Authority.

The first move to oust Andy came from monacled Douglas Nicholson, chairman of Vaux Breweries, member of the Police Authority and himself a former chairman. Nicholson called

on Cunningham to 'temporarily resign' until the Poulson matter had been cleared up.

Nicholson said pointedly: "The Chairman of the Police Authority should not be under the shadow of suspicion." And after the meeting - at which Labour members rallied to give Cunningham a 19 - 11 majority - Nicholson explained to reporters what he meant by this. The authority was responsible for spending more than £3 million a quarter, he said, and as the committee only met once a quarter the chairman played a big part in the allocation of that expenditure in between meetings.

## Piss Off

So Andy survived this first attempt on his political life but by then the red clouds were gathering. The Labour group likes to extract its own justice and so a group of Labour dissidents called a group meeting to get Cunningham to talk about Poulson and explain his poor attendance at recent Labour group meetings.

The meeting took place on December 29 and janitors at County Hall were given strict instructions not to allow reporters beyond the entrance of the building. The apparent reasoning was that Labour members shout so loudly when they get aerated that some of their comments were sure to stray out of the Council chamber where they were meeting.

After two and a half hours the Labour group emerged in twos and threes from the chamber. Cunningham was beaming and when approached by reporters for a comment he came back with the immortal line: "Piss off."

Alderman Bob Coxon, Labour

group leader, then appeared and said that the motion to oust Cunningham had been defeated by a "Substantial vote". Coxon added that he had ruled any discussion of the Poulson business out of order so that it hadn't been mentioned and that Cunningham had "explained" his non-appearance at Labour group meetings by saying that he had been away on business with his union or with the Labour Party.

Councillor Robert Wilkinson, a miner from Horden, who led the putsch on Cunningham was also keeping mum. It is known that he had the support of about a dozen of the Labour group and although none of them were Aldermen, it is also known that several Aldermen on the County Council are beginning to get a bit sick of Cunningham.

In the County Council there was an unsuccessful attempt by Councillor Buckingham to find out why Cunningham was not available to answer allegations in connection with the Poulson affair, and to call for his resignation from the Police Authority. Councillor Buckingham was told his questions were out of order.

## Meanwhile...

Andy Cunningham, of course, has other jobs. Two of these are as Regional Boss of the GMWU, and as a member of the Labour Party Executive. Both of these bodies passed a vote of confidence in him after the Poulson disclosures.

Is it a coincidence that the Labour candidate for the forthcoming Chester-le-Street bye-election (Andy lives in Chester) is a GMWU official from London?



From left to right: Poulson, T.Dan Smith and Andy Cunningham.



The Special Branch and the Drug Squad are the two branches of the police force whose jobs are almost entirely political - motivated to keep society clean for the politicians.

Illegal drugs are considered 'politically' dangerous and suspected offenders are watched much more closely than suspected tax-fiddlers for example. The drug squad has incredible powers under the law - they can stop and search people and search houses on suspicion of possession of drugs - and long hair often constitutes reasonable suspicion. And the courts back up the D.Squad's job by meting out stiff sentences.

This is what happens:

On Friday 15th December David Brown was sentenced to 3 years in prison - one year suspended from a previous - and only - drug offence and two years for possession of dope, two for possession of acid and three months for assaulting a police officer, the last three offences to run concurrently. Dave's girlfriend, Sally Pegrum, was sentenced to 21 months for possession - it was her first offence.

Judge Gill, who presided with two magistrates ( who never actually said anything aloud) described the sentences as "sudden, sure and severe". They certainly were: he neglected to mention that they were also inhuman, unjust and barbaric - maybe because he didn't want to spoil the alliteration. We were deeply shocked and angry at what has been done to Dave and Sally but perhaps we should no longer be shocked at the crimes the system commits when it imagines it is threatened. Perhaps we should get more angry.

Dave and Sal were bust in their house in Durham at 1 a.m. on 6th

August. They were watching T.V. with two friends when the front door was broken open, and the dope squad thundered in. Apparently they broke down the door 'cos they got no reply to their knocks. They said at the trial they'couldn't see a bell: quite reasonable - after all no-one would think of looking for a bell push in the centre of a door at head height, and it's quite easy to overlook if there's only 8 of you and your head hurts. One of them, Det. Con. Paul Green, seemingly couldn't find the door and made like Batman through the window of the room containing T.V., dope freaks and, by this time, the rest of the dope squad. Several of these daring raiders - Taylor, Green, Angus and Storie (or maybe not Storie, it doesn't matter, he never testified) - went upstairs taking Dave with them. After a short time, during which there were crashes, bangs, screams and yells for help,

thing depended on who you believed. Since Dave couldn't prove that these "upright, decent young men, just doing a job" (one of the prosecutions more laughable assertions) weren't telling the truth and actually had to beat him up, the jury believed the three little piggies.

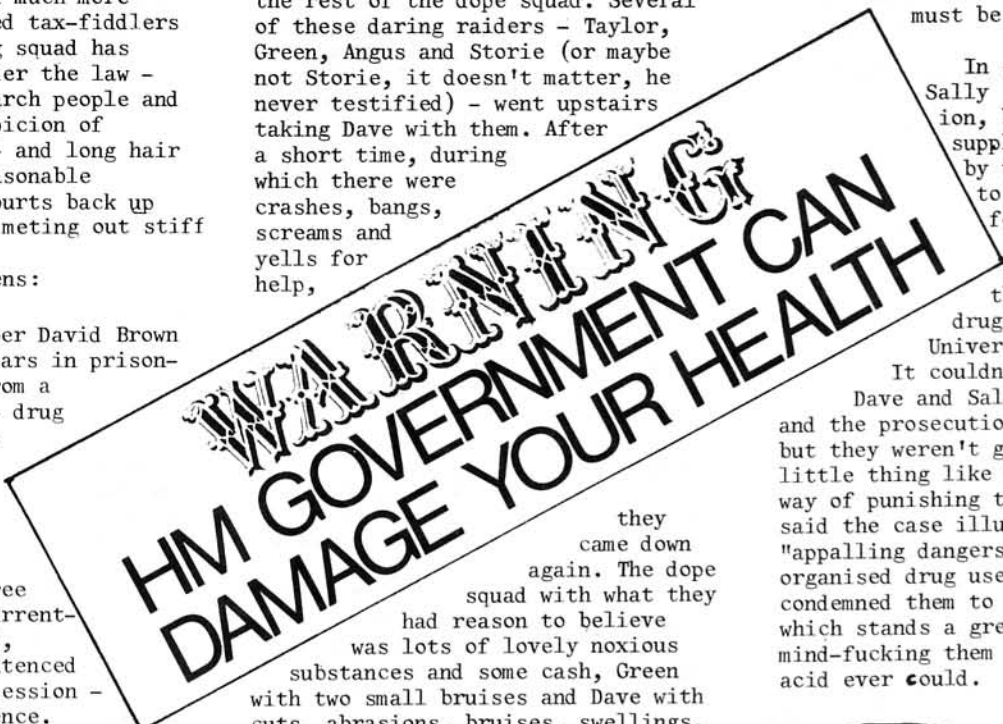
One of the most ironic moments in the trial was when one of Dave's neighbours testified that he had heard Dave shouting for help. He said he didn't go and see what was the matter because at that moment he saw a police vehicle draw up (the Black Maria to take them to the station) so he knew everything must be alright.

In court Dave and Sally admitted possession, but denied supplying. Undeterred by this, Gill proceeded to sentence them for supplying:

"You were both at the heart and the focus of the drug scene in this University town."

It couldn't be proved that

Dave and Sally were dealing, and the prosecution admitted this, but they weren't going to let a little thing like this get in the way of punishing them for it. Gill said the case illustrated the "appalling dangers of tolerating organised drug use." But he condemned them to an experience which stands a greater chance of mind-fucking them than dope or acid ever could.



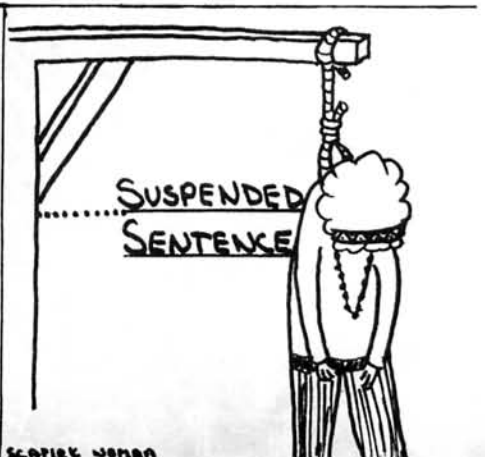
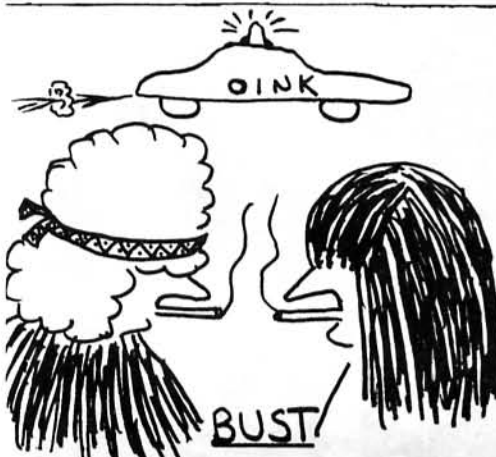
they came down again. The dope squad with what they had reason to believe was lots of lovely noxious substances and some cash, Green with two small bruises and Dave with cuts, abrasions, bruises, swellings, pains and stiffness over quite a large area of his body and a badly bleeding nose.

Dave complained Green had assaulted him twice - the first time with Taylor and Storie looking on, the second time with Angus giving him a hand - Green complained Dave had assaulted him once, and had, with devilish and no doubt drug inspired cunning, brutally hung out of the window and screamed for help a little later on. So Dave got charged with assault, Green got his photo taken to be used as evidence.

The trial was very predictable. Green, Taylor and Angus denied Dave's story: he denied their's. The whole



There is a body of opinion that criticises the present legislative treatment of cannabis on the grounds that it exaggerates the dangers of the drug, and needlessly interferes with civil liberty..... We are also convinced that the present penalties for possession and supply are altogether too high. (Wooton Report On Cannabis 1968)



SCARLET WOMAN

# PROP

Recent unrest in Britain's prisons brought nationwide publicity to a newly formed organisation entitled PROP (Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners).

Started by Dick Pooley, himself an ex-prisoner, PROP exists to help and represent prisoners, ex-prisoners and their relatives and to strive for the reform of Britain's penal system.

PROP is not intended to be a political organisation but this is unavoidable when reform in prisons, rehabilitation of prisoners and even the need for prisons takes in the whole structure of our society.

Most prisoners are inside for crimes of which personal gain was the motive. In a society where money is all important and we have television and advertising to drum this into us, it's not surprising to find that of those have-nots at the bottom of the class structure scale, many turn to crime as a way of getting what they've been told they need.

In 1962 a survey showed that 97% of prisoners were said to be from working class, and many had been unemployed before arrest.

Everyone should want to see social reform leading to a society where prisons were unnecessary, but this does not appear to be around the corner. However there are many changes that can be made immediately which would bring about a tremendous improvement in the situation.

There are 40,000 prisoners in Britain today, for most it is not their first conviction. The lack of guidance and rehabilitation inside and then of material and spiritual help on their release merely means that the majority return to prison.

When a man goes to prison he loses his liberty: but when he is released he often finds that he has lost his wife, family, friends and career as well, so he is demoralised and far more likely to return to crime.

'Prevention is better than cure' is a well known phrase used in connection with crime, but where is the cure? 'The criminal has to be punished' is the traditional view, so prisons are modelled to be a punishment when they should be the cure; the time used in the prevention of further crime.

In Holland over the past ten years, massive prison reform has been adopted. In that ten years the Dutch prison population has been halved and the crime rate has risen only 10% compared to the same period in Britain where the crime rate has doubled. We have over 25 times the number of prisoners, but only 4 times the population. Dutch prisoners

rarely have sentences longer than 8 months and there is almost a one to one staff/prisoner ratio and sometimes one full time social worker to every five prisoners. In the last few months before a Dutch prisoner's release he goes out to work from an open prison and can keep 40% of his earnings. There are only about 1,500 people serving sentences in Holland.

The only thing we need here to copy the Dutch system is smaller prisons.

PROP has a charter of rights for prisoners which could be easily adopted at the present. If adopted it would provide a good basis from which to work towards keeping men out of prisons and reducing crime. There are many obvious advantages in these proposals. It is not possible to cut a person off from the outside world and then expect him to return to it with ease. At the moment, a prisoner receives £4 on his release. Whilst inside he would have worked, possibly for as little as 30p a week. If he were to be paid a more realistic wage he would be in a much better position to face the world when he came out. Many long-term prisoners find that their wife has left them and this could easily be helped by placing



him in a prison near his family home to avoid travel problems for visiting and by providing good visiting facilities. (In the United States some prisons have a scheme that enables the wife of long-term prisoners to stay with her husband for occasional week-ends, in a specially provided flat within the prison. This relieves sexual frustrations on both sides of the prison wall.) These improvements could mean a stable family unit to come out to. Then there is further education which would benefit prisoners greatly, both while serving sentence and when they are released. In fact all of the proposed rights have very sound reasons behind them and would help prisoners, prison staff and the society the prisoner now feels so grudgingly towards.

People outside of prisons rarely think of those inside, why they are there or whether they will be there again. This too is something that needs improving. PROP needs support in any way and can be contacted at 96 Victoria Road, Hull.



## Charter Of Rights

Right to be a member of PROP, communicate with, elect or be elected as, PROP representatives.

Right to vote in government elections. (National or Local)

Right to trade union membership.

Right to take legal proceedings against anybody, without Home Office permission.

Right to contact legal advisers without interference and to have legal representation, and call witnesses in internal disciplinary hearings, at which Press should have access.

Right to parole under certain conditions and access to all Parole Board hearings, the right to give evidence, hear all decisions and the right to appeal.

Right to communicate freely with the Press and public.

Right to legal representation at Judicial hearings.

Right to reasons for refusal of bail.

Right to be allocated to local prisons.

Right to adequate visiting and to exercise conjugal rights.

Right to send and receive any amount letters without censorship.

Right to educational and vocational training, sit exams and have appropriate facilities for this.

Right to independent inspection of all prison conditions and have adequate leisure facilities.

Right to adequate exercise periods.

Right to consult independent medical advisers.

Right to enter into marriage.

Right to attend funerals of near relations.

Right to own and sell products of leisure time.

Right to receive toilet articles.

Right to adequate preparation for discharge including;

1. Courses to advise on housing, education, marriage and child care.

2. Home leave.

3. To be allocated first to open prison then pre-release hostel.

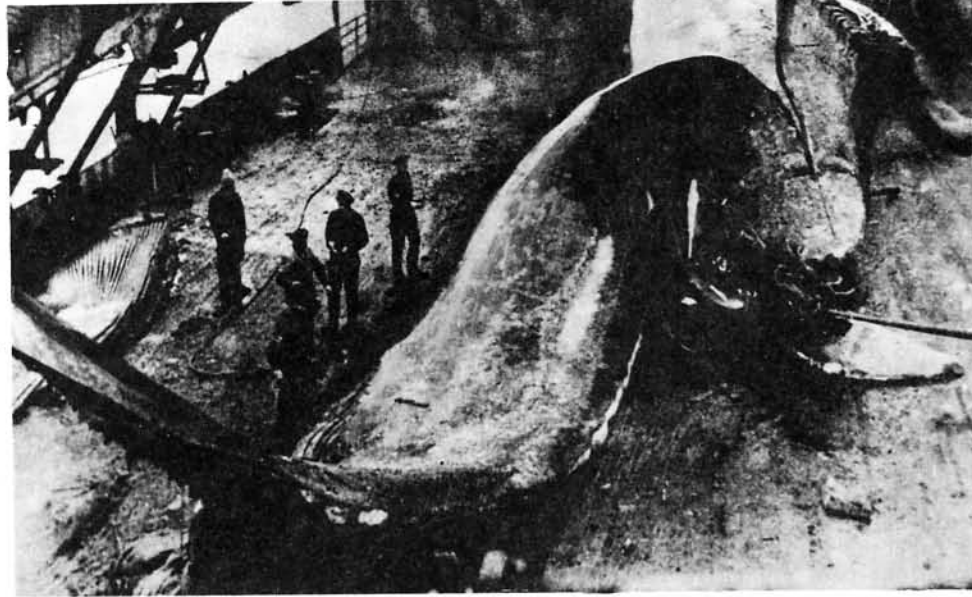
4. A fully franked insurance card and to full State Benefits.

5. Equal right to employment in State concerns.

Right to have criminal records destroyed within five years of discharge.

The above are the demands made by PROP on behalf of prisoners.

(Don)



# Action Guide

Write to -

- M.P.s - urging ban on whale imports.
- Dept. of Trade and Industry - urging ban on whale imports.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries - same thing.
- Dept. of Education and Science - same thing.
- Companies using Whale products - urging use of alternatives and ceasing Whale imports.
- Shops and Stores - urging them not to stock products containing Whale matter.

Do NOT buy products containing Whale matter. These include most Cosmetics and Pet foods.

For a list of products using Whale matter see Muther Grumble No.9 p.10 and for a list of addresses of companies using Whale products write or phone us. Both the above are available from Friends Of The Earth. Also from FOE 'Save the Whale' badges 10p+ s.a.e. Whale Campaign Manual price 65p. Endangered Species Campaign Manual price 10p. Friends Of The Earth, 9 Poland St, London W1V 3DG. Or Colin Clews, c/o Fullbeck Grange, Northgate, Morpeth, Northumberland.

## Make-Up In The Raw

Whales play a very important part in ocean life: if we wipe out their colonies we are in danger of disrupting the whole oceanic food chain.

The ultimate step in whaling has now been taken, with the introduction of radar ships, sonar ships, factory ships (for immediate dissection of the whales), helicopters

for spotting whales and so on. The rate at which whales are exterminated is increasing enormously - on average a whale is killed every 12 minutes of the day. We must now ask ourselves if it is time to stop (and also tell those responsible for the deaths that it is time to stop), we haven't many more whales left; isn't it time we gave them an amnesty.



# Passing The Buck



Recently a woman with two small children came up to the MG office. She had had a quarrel with her family and had arrived in Durham homeless. She had the chance of a job, but nowhere to live.

She went to the Social Services for help - they said that they could take the children into care temporarily and put her in a hostel or old people's home until she found permanent accomodation. They seemed surprised when she didn't come back, and clearly considered her case wasn't urgent because she was unwilling to have her family split.

Durham Shelter group had heard that there were a number of empty Council flats in Spennymoor, and asked the housing department if she could have one. There was an office party going on at the time, but eventually they found someone sober enough to say no.

She had in fact fallen right into the bureaucratic trap - the game of pass the buck with homeless families that goes like this:

The Social Services department has a duty to provide temporary homes for people who are evicted or are homeless: this is known as part 3 accomodation. In County Durham the part 3 consists of 9 flats in the old workhouse at Houghton-le-Spring. Some people have been in part 3 for over a year - which means that the 9 flats are grossly inadequate, and when they are full, a homeless family has to be split up - the children put into care, and the parents in hostels.

The Social Services is a County Council department, and although it has the duty to provide temporary accomodation, it has no powers to provide permanent homes: this is the job of the district councils - the Urban Districts and Rural Districts.

The Social Services claim that their facilities are inadequate only because the district councils are not doing their duty. They say that if each district council was to rehouse one homeless family per year, then there would be no problem, and part3 would be what it is supposed to be - temporary accomodation.

So, hearing about these empty flats in Spennymoor, we went over to see why Spennymoor UDC couldn't rehouse one family a year.

They admitted that there were about 30 empty flats at the moment - but that they were all on the top floor. And the Council had recently ruled that families with children under 10 should not be allowed to have these flats. So, we said, if a homeless family with no children under 10 came to you, you could rehouse them. This was too simple - to qualify for rehousing in Bessemer Park one had to be resident in

Spennymoor for 3 years. But the flats were empty because they couldn't find anyone in Spennymoor who qualified? Yes, but they had these rules, didn't they, and they couldn't make exceptions, or everyone would want to get in.

So we challenged them with what the Social Services had said about the bottleneck - surely with 30 empty flats they could rehouse at least one family a year?

Well, they wouldn't consider anyone unless they had been a resident of Spennymoor in the past and had been evicted...and they were very unlikely to take anyone back who had been evicted as they knew their past record. Neat isn't it?

But, said the man, I don't know why you are picking on us, as all local authorities are the same. That, we said, is the point.

So all the authorities try to shove the problem under the carpet rather than accept responsibility for homeless families.

And one way of getting rid of people is to recommend them to dumping grounds - substandard accomodation willing to accept anyone. One such dumping ground is Finchale Abbey caravan site - homeless people have been told "why don't you try Finchale?"

Yet Finchale hardly reaches a desirable standard of hygiene - and if a tenant tries to kick against his conditions he gets nowhere.

A man living in one of the caravans applied to the Rent Tribunal to have his rent lowered. This was at the beginning of December. Several times after this, Mrs Welsh asked for his key back and tried to get him to move to a different caravan which he refused to do until after the Tribunal hearing. At New Year he went out in the morning and came back in the afternoon to find that his caravan had been towed to a different part of the site, and all

his belongings were in Mrs Welsh's house. These had had to sign for and he claims two letters are missing.

That night he had to sleep out, but the following day got put up with friends in Sacriston.

He went to the Police and complained of harassment, but only got as far as the desk seargent who didn't seem very interested, and he's heard nothing more. He then went to the Clerk of the RDC - Mr Moorhouse, who didn't seem interested - which is not surprising as he said that Mrs Welsh had said several times that she was acting on Mr. Moorhouse's advice. Mr. Moorhouse suggested he see a solicitor.

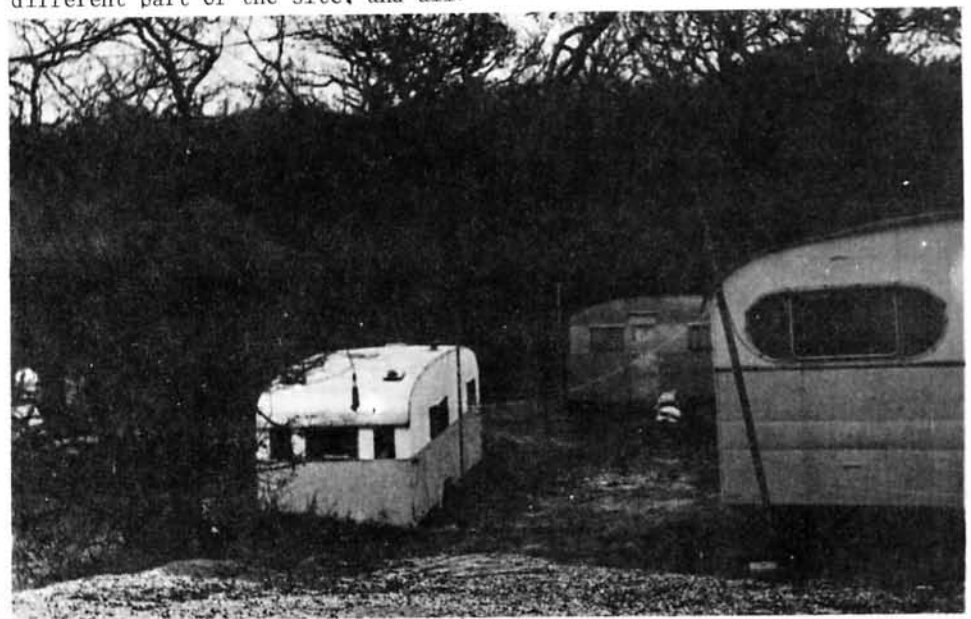
Next he went to the rent tribunal - who give you security of tenure until your case is heard - but they said they did give security of tenure, but had no power to enforce it.

He then went to a solicitor, who advised him to wait until the rent tribunal hearing until taking action.

Finally on Jan 15th came the Tribunal hearing. The Commissioners and the tenant went to Finchale to inspect his caravan. Mrs. Welsh was there to meet them with a solicitor. The solicitor said they had no right to inspect the caravan, so they all went away again. The tribunal then ruled that the caravan didn't come under their jurisdiction anyway as it was moveable. The case was dismissed.

In fact he should have applied to the County Court for protection under the 1968 Caravans Sites Act but noone told him that, so now he has no home.

To this man it appears that there is an organised conspiracy to keep him from getting a good home. Is he wrong when no authority will take responsibility for him?





# PORN

It is estimated that over 700 prisoners are released in the North-East every year. The majority of these are under 25 years old and have no real place to go. However there is a hostel for them in Newcastle but it only holds 14. 'Nuff said!

The modernisation of Council houses in the area goes on, and the prices builders are asking - and getting - keep on rising. And funny things happen.....

Burnhope is a small village in Lanchester R.D.C., and the houses there are about to be modernised. About a year ago several tenants applied for, and got, permission to put their own central heating in. Then came news of modernisation, and they were told their heating would be ripped out, and the council model put in.

So, after modernisation, they will be paying off the instalments on heating they won't even have.

One of the tenants went down to challenge the council. He was told by an official that he had never had permission to put in central heating - although the form giving permission was signed by this very official.

The council later changed their story and said that permission had been granted before modernisation was even considered. In fact one of the tenants had received notice of modernisation three days after getting permission to instal central heating.

The council then agreed to a meeting with the tenants - to which the press were not admitted - on the condition that the subject of money should not be raised. Naturally it wasn't a very constructive meeting, although one of the tenants was called a troublemaker by the Chairman.

Latest development: a tenant has been told by the council that he ought to take out his central heating before the council do the

modernisation. Then, after they have put in their model, he can take that out, and put his own back in.

Modernisation costs about £3,500 per house.

The Scotland Yard fraud squad, sent north to investigate the Poulson case, have set up their headquarters at Morpeth. One of the first places they will investigate will be Felling, where they might make some interesting discoveries.

At any rate it seems that the 1 local council aren't too willing to be investigated. Nearly four months ago they set up a sub-committee to investigate any suspicious dealings between themselves and Poulson. This sub-committee hasn't actually met yet - according to one councillor it has been impossible to find a free evening. Did you know councillors worked THAT hard?

One in eight men who die in Newcastle die of lung cancer - and the death rate from lung diseases in Newcastle is 30% - 40% above the national average. And it is industrial pollution that is killing people.

The North has the highest smoke concentration in the country, and Newcastle's air contains about 2½ times as much smoke as London's.

Incomes the sort ive made n, which respects to help NORTHUMBERLAND police solved more crimes t an ever before during 1072, it was claimed today. the Chronical bled Persons authorities h tions to provi and facilitie dicapped, but the Act's pri

This is how the law works...recently a Detective Chief Inspector from Northumberland was up on a drinking and driving charge. He had been stopped by a junior policeman when his car was "keeping an unsteady course". He submitted to a blood test, and was found to be over the

limit. However his defence c aimed that there was insufficient evidence for stopping him in the first place, and the case was dismissed.

Two days later North-East police confirmed their policy of not carrying out random breath tests - despite a High Court ruling that these are not illegal.

And if it had been you.....?

Maybe the biggest crime since the last war is over - maybe..... The Vietnam war has cost the Americans 110,000,000,000 dollars and 46,000 American lives. No-one knows how many Vietnamese have died.

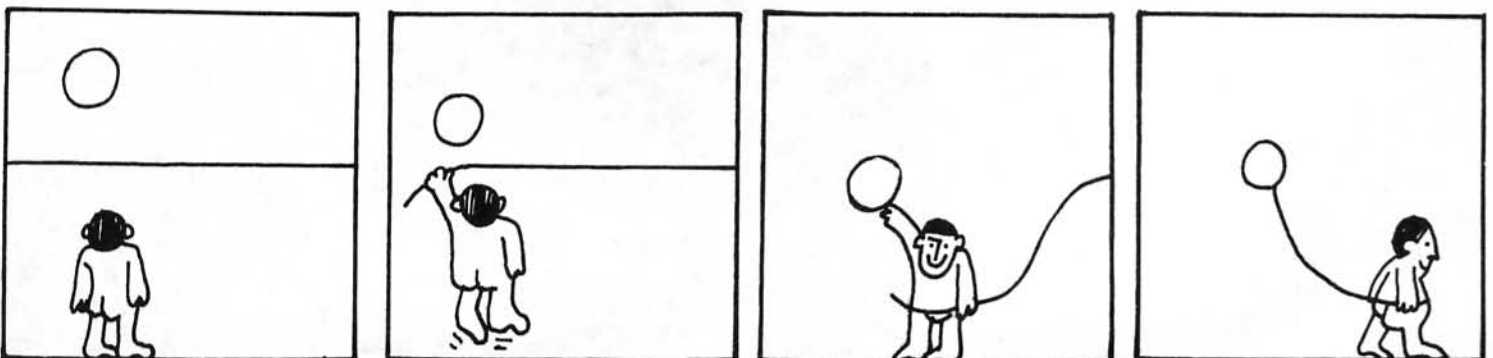
Vapona fly strips contain DDVP - a chemical which acts on the nervous system in the same way as nerve gasses. DDVP is more dangerous when inhaled than eaten, and can have serious effects on people with liver diseases.

Shell's own research has shown that the concentration of DDVP in the air during the first two weeks of the use of a Vapona strip is above the permitted level for children.

Vapona type strips were cleared by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1967: both the Ministry and Shell refused to disclose the evidence (supplied by Shell) on which the decision was based. It is possible that DDVP can cause cell mutations: but the necessary experiments to prove whether the long term exposure of animals to DDVP in the air can cause mutations wasn't done before Vapona was marketed. Shell started these experiments last year.

Vapona is just one of many toxic experimental and often unnecessary chemicals thrust upon us? Are they necessary? Is it not time we stopped allowing ourselves to be used as guinea pigs?

For more information contact FOE Consumer Unit - Colin Clews, Fulbeck Grange, Peacock Gap, Morpeth.





# MURDER

A few weeks ago 350 prisoners in Durham jail staged two sit-ins hoping to draw attention to the circumstances in which a 21 year old man, named Henry Whisker, died following his transferral from the prison to Dryburn Hospital. The prisoners got various malicious punishments (ranging from solitary confinement to withdrawal of remission) for their pains, but the man's father has contacted his M.P. and is demanding a Home Office enquiry into the matter.

Henry's father, Mr. Christopher Whisker, was summoned to Dryburn Hospital on December 13th and told that his son was seriously ill. Half an hour after he arrived he was told that his son was dead. When he saw the body, ostensibly immediately after death, Mr. Whisker, who has worked as a

mortuary attendant and an ambulance driver, claimed that his son had been dead for about two days. Also, his face was bruised and his nose appeared to have been broken.

The official version, compiled from police and hospital sources, seems to be that Mr. Whisker went down with a heavy cold, was put in the prison hospital and then transferred to Dryburn on December 12th with, in the words of a hospital spokesman, "a two day history of a cold". He is supposed to have died the following day. It was admitted that "there was slight bruising over the bridge of the nose..." which "could be consistent with the use of an oxygen mask or something of that sort."

The post mortem revealed that death resulted from natural causes.

There was then a Police enquiry



which concluded that the injuries Mr. Whisker had noticed on his son's body were sustained when he became delirious and fell out of bed in the prison hospital.

The inquest, on the 25th January, concluded that Harry Whisker had contracted bronchial pneumonia, and passed a verdict of 'death from natural causes' which was predictable, for those who maintain law and order never lie, do they?

If they are vindicated then we are left to think upon the excellent facilities provided for those who fall ill in her Majesty's prisons. Meanwhile those incumbents of Durham jail who are unfortunate enough to contract a common cold would do well to make their peace with the almighty.

# ROBBERY

The 2,500 workers at Steel's in Sunderland have been on strike since the beginning of January.

The factory was recently taken over by the Acrow Engineering Group, and the strike began when the company failed to honour agreements.

Since the 1971 Social Security Act, the non-payment of benefit to single strikers has been a major government weapon to stop strikes.

Thus Claimants Unions, by forcing the S.S. to give emergency payments, can give great support to strikers.

Durham Claimants Union have these last two weeks been helping Strikers at a centre set up for them in a drill hall in Seaburn, and the following are a few of the things

our members found out on arrival:

- 1) The weekend emergency system was according to the manager closed to strikers and their families.
- 2) S.S. officers were refusing to accept claims from single strikers.
- 3) S.S. officers were not taking down all the facts - e.g. about H.P. commitments that strikers had to meet.
- 4) S.S. officers were arrogant and unhelpful. One or two of them tried their hardest after the C.U. arrived to get them to lose their tempers in order for them (the S.S.) to get shop stewards to ask us to leave: a trick they've tried before.

According to one shop steward the S.S. actually phoned them up and told them we were starting a small riot. If this was true it

would have been a big one (Pete thinks big.)

5) The manager was not available on request. I asked for him at one time and was told he wasn't in, when in fact he was behind me, talking to a shop steward. The S.S. officer was facing him.

These are just a few of the things the S.S. get up to during strikes.

If we had not gone to help out it would probably still be going on now, with the strikers and their families going through a lot of unnecessary hardship.

A copy of this report is being sent to the Home Office, S.S. Headquarters, and the Lord Chancellor demanding an official enquiry.

Durham C.U. is now in debt: if anyone would like to help keep us going please send donations to D.C.U. Postal orders etc. payable to G.L. Turnbull or P. Carroll. 13, Silver St., Durham City.

# RAPE

The anti-discrimination bill, once it becomes law, will make discrimination against people because of their sex illegal.

Woman do not have full equal rights and opportunities in education, training and employment.

The equal pay act, due to come into force in 1975, will not give women equality unless discrimination is made illegal. (Job descriptions can be changed, and industrial apartheid based on sex can be introduced.)

At the moment women form about 37% of the country's labour force - nearly all of it cheap labour.

The anti-discrimination bill is important - please help by signing the national petition in Durham market place on Saturday feb. 3rd.





Over the past few years there have been vast changes in social standards, values and morals, especially among the younger generation. When the need for change is obvious and nothing appears to happen, those advocating the change become discontented, frustrated and militant. Minority groups become larger and bring more pressure to bear on the establishment, which in turn adopts stronger pressures of restraint. More people become discontented and the situation soon gets worse.

It is the freedom of the Press and the individual which is restrained. The freedom to do what you want, say what you want, be what you want, go where you want and live how you want.

A look at some recent events and a general pattern begins to emerge that indicates that pressure from the establishment is increasing far more than the pressure on it.

For instance when a person or group of people is seen by the authorities to be a threat to their stability, it is becoming increasingly common for prosecutions to be brought for conspiracy, incitement or something equally as non-specific.

In fact there are a whole group of laws and acts, some new some archaic, which the authorities can use to suppress those they see as a threat. In other words, if they want to get you they don't need to wait till you commit a 'crime'. These are the laws relating to Official Secrets, Conspiracy, Incitement, Drugs, Censorship, Obscene Publications, Court Injunctions, and the Special Powers, Housing Finance, and Industrial Relations Acts.

Nearly all prosecutions under these laws could be described as political, and the proportion of not guilty verdicts and the vastly reduced sentences and acquittals on appeal, are significant.

In the case of aliens, work permits and visas are not granted or not renewed.

Most things that happen in Britain have a forerunner in the United

# The Law Is The Law

States and the 'Angry Brigade' trial was no exception.

After rioting at the Democratic Party's National Convention in Chicago during the 1968 Presidential Elections, 8 people appeared in court in what came to be known as the 'Chicago Trial'.

The defendants were charged with crossing State lines to incite riots. Two were found not guilty and Bobby Seale (Chairman of the Black Panthers) had the charges dropped after the judge had sentenced him to 4 years for contempt of court, after having him bound and gagged during the proceedings. Bobby is now standing for Mayor in Oakland, California.

After 4 years the U.S. appeals court has ruled that the constitutional rights of the five others were violated during the trial, and reversed the convictions.

This was just after the Angela Davis trial and she was acquitted as well.



The similarities between the 'Chicago Trial' and the 'Angry Brigade Trial' are the non-specific charges, the thin and mainly circumstantial evidence and the bending of court procedures.

The result of the 'Angry Brigade' trial was that four of the eight were acquitted. At the earlier but related trial of Jake Prescott and Ian Purdie, Ian had been acquitted.

Thus only five of the ten accused of conspiring together were convicted, and it seems unjustified that Jake Prescott got 15 years, and the other four 10 years each.

The four acquitted at the second trial had been detained for 15 months before being found not guilty.

Those convicted are all appealing and the chances of them all being acquitted and making the Angry Trial a replica of Chicago are not good, but it's a thought.

Many of the younger generation have adopted a new morality especially in terms of drugs and sex. The use of the obscene publications act to suppress 'underground' papers has become common, but in the 'Oz' case

the amazingly heavy sentences were virtually removed on appeal, and the 'Nasty Tales' four have been acquitted.

In the case of drugs the use of cannabis has become socially acceptable in some circles - more so in the U.S. - and evidence suggests that cannabis is less harmful than alcohol. Despite the Wooton Report which recommended lighter treatment on cannabis, Police powers are stronger and sentences heavier.

It is not only the young, hippies, revolutionaries and anarchists who get suppressed. When the dockers were on strike, five shop stewards were put in Pentonville for defying the Industrial Relations Court; and the AEUW was fined £50,000 for the same reason.

There were more strikes in 1972 than in any year since 1926 and even the Civil Servants joined in as workers increasingly felt their liberty eroded by the law.

Even Councillors became law-breakers for not raising the Rents of the people they represent and defying the Housing Finance Act.

Then the Sunday Times had a High Court injunction that stopped its campaign against Distillers in the Thalidomide affair, and ITV'S programme on Andy Warhol met the same fate because of one man's objection.

But it becomes obvious that something needs doing quickly when you recall the Special Branch investigation of the Railway Gazette for publishing an article on proposed cuts in the railway system, and the fact that they got a warrant under the Official Secrets Act.

However, let's not forget that the greatest act of repression in the U.K. is in Northern Ireland with the introduction of the Special Powers Act and direct rule. Law and order is kept by the Army patrolling the streets in armoured cars in the name of freedom. Ireland is Britain's Vietnam. It is significant that while the Special Powers Act is in our constitution Britain is unable to sign the Declaration of Human Rights.

Everyone should ask themselves if they are satisfied with this society, the way it's run, and the life-style it dictates - and if not they should stand up and voice their opinion instead of shrugging their shoulders and ignoring the world about them.

But keep in mind the 79 year old guy who wrote what he thinks of the world on the side of his house, and landed in court charged with advertising without permission.



## Apartheid

Apartheid is achieving its desired effect, not in South Africa or Mozambique but in Australia - where the black community is gradually being wiped out of existence. This was the message that Bobbi Sykes, the militant black Australian leader carried with her to meetings in the north-east recently.

For a start, a black Australian is not a citizen of his country, and if he applies to become one he must separate himself from other blacks for two years. As non-citizens they cannot vote and are not entitled to welfare aids.

The practice of apartheid occurs in all fields of life, and especially affects those blacks not on the reserves (these are emigres from surrounding islands or native Australians born with a white parent). The education system is typical of the situation: in two hundred years only two blacks have become qual-

ified post-graduates, and Bobbi who has shown her worth by becoming the first black journalist in Australia was herself forced to leave school at fourteen - the usual norm for black children.

After leaving school employment is almost impossible, with the lack of education provided, the common respiratory and eye diseases, and an unemployment level equivalent to Britain (not that this is stated when advertising the "land of opportunity!"). Those blacks who drift to the cities live in black ghettos, and as in the case of the U.S. Red Indians alcohol has become a serious social problem.

There is a dual legal system in operation, eg. it is an offence for a black to be drunk, but a white must be disorderly. Arrests are made by police swooping on black bars and arresting all those there at the time. Any black brought to court can be uprooted with his whole family and dumped onto therreserves, whether found guilty or not.

The vast majority of blacks are kept permanently on these reserves, in conditions as bad as the Red Indians, and these reserves are out of bounds to other blacks and Relief Organisations such as the World Council of Churches and Oxfam, who have both attempted to inspect conditions recently.

In addition it is disturbing how the reserve areas are diminishing. Recently a 510 sq. mile reserve at Weipa was reduced to 300 acres because the Government sold mineral rights to a Swiss firm. The same number of families remains on the reserve. Lord Vestey (of Midland Cold Storage Container Notoriety) owns vast areas, and the workers are treated abysmally. In one area



cheap black labour has been on strike for six years!

But what can this small black community do as their culture and existence slowly disappear? Miss Sykes and others have formed groups of militants who have coordinated protests to remind whites they exist.

In Britain we can work on a Campaign of Public Education like that operated with success on South Africa to publicise the facts, and discourage emigration to this "land of opportunity". In addition donations towards the Emergency Nutrition Fund would be of practical assistance.

So next time you see Bondi Beach, Yvonne Goolagong (an aborigine who was adopted at 9 by whites and had the open conscience to declare herself white in order to play tennis in South Africa) or Brisbane Cricket Ground try to think about the corrugated sheds of misery on the forbidden Detention Camps.

DAVE HUTTON

Written after 2 days touring with Bobbi Sykes

For further information about the Educational Campaign or the Nutrition Fund please contact:-  
45 Woodbine Road  
Gosforth  
Newcastle  
NW3 1DC Tel. 855910

## Watch Out! There's A Thief About



Richard Tompkins, Chief Executive, Green Shield Stamps. £1313 per week after tax. (yes - £1313)



Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice. £173 per week after tax.



The Queen, £5769 per week.



Robert Mark, Metropolitan Commissioner of Police. £151 per week after tax.



Sir Val Duncan, Chairman Rio Tinto Zinc. £322 per week after tax



Jack Callard, Chairman ICI. £388 per week.



Lord Hailsham, Lord Chancellor. £204 per week.



Edward Heath, sailor. £266 per week.



Derek Ezra, Chairman National Coal Board. £192 per week.



Social Security Benefit, £6.55 plus rent per week.

# GRAPHEM

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

### Films

#### BLYTH

##### TATLER CINEMA

Beaconsfield St.  
4th Feb for 4 days  
(members only)  
WONDERLAND OF LOVE.  
& ROSELAND  
8th Feb for 3 days  
(open to the public)  
I AM A NYMPHOMANIAC &  
NOT TONIGHT DARLING  
11th Feb for 4 days  
(members only)  
THE LOVE TOY & THE  
NAKED TEMPTRESS  
15th Feb for 3 days  
(open to the public)  
FEW A FEW DOLLARS MORE  
& THE ORGANIZATION  
18th Feb for 4 days  
THE LUSTFUL TURK &  
HUNGRY FOR LOVE  
22nd Feb for 3 days  
(open to the public)  
LOVE ME BABY, LOVE ME  
& MY SWEDISH MEATBALL.  
25th Feb for 4 days  
(members only)  
BEDSPREAD & RUINED  
1st Mar for 3 days  
(open to the public)  
NAUGHTY NICKERS & PLAY  
THE GAME OR LEAVE THE  
BED.

##### WALLAW CINEMA

Union St. Tel 2504  
4th Feb for 7 days  
SHAFT'S BIG SCORE (X)  
with Richard Rowntree.  
At 4.50, 8.30. Also  
EVEL KNEIVEL (X) at  
6.50. Mon - Wed mat. 3.15  
11th Feb for 7 days  
CARRY ON ABROAD (A)  
with Sid James etc. At  
6.00, 8.45. Mats Mon,  
Wed, Sat 3.10. Also  
EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE at  
4.45, 7.30. Mats Mon,  
Wed, Sat 2.00  
18th Feb for 7 days  
FRITZ THE CAT (X) at  
5.45, 8.55. Mats Mon,  
Wed 2.40. Also  
FRANKENSTEIN CREATED  
WOMEN (X) with Peter  
Cushing at 7.10. Mats  
Mon, Wed 4.00  
25th Feb for 7 days  
THE ITALIAN JOB (U) with  
Michael Caine. At 4.30,  
S.40. Also MONTE CARLO  
OR BUST (U) with Tony

Curtis, Peter Cook. At  
6.15. Mats Mon, Wed, Sat  
at 2.05.

#### DURHAM

##### CLASSIC CINEMA

North Road. Tel 3184.  
28th Jan for 7 days  
PRIME CUT (X) with Lee  
Marvin & Gene Hackman.  
Also THE FAST KILL (X)  
4th Feb for 7 days  
EXPOSED (X) with Christina  
Linberg. Also THE YES  
GIRLS (X).  
11th Feb for 7 days  
ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF  
IVAN DENISOVITCH (A) with  
Tom Courtenay. Also  
TO COMMIT A MURDER (AA).  
18th Feb for 7 days  
OOH...YOU ARE AWFUL (A)  
with Dick Emery. Also  
S.W.A.L.K. (A) with  
Jack Wild, Mark Lester.  
25th Feb for 7 days  
THE GRADUATE (AA) with  
Anne Bancroft & Dustin  
Hoffman. Also WOMEN IN  
LOVE (X) with Alan Bates.

##### DURHAM FILM SOCIETY

Meetings in Room 140,  
University Arts Building,  
Elvet Riverside at 7.30  
Thur 8th Feb  
GOTO, ISLE OF LOVE by  
Borowczyk.  
THUR 22nd Feb  
DR STRANGELOVE. Kubrick's  
film with Peter Sellers.

##### HOUGHTON LE SPRING

##### CLASSIC CINEMA

Newbottle St. Tel 3137.  
28th Jan for 7 days  
AU PAIR GIRLS (X) with  
Gabrielle Drake & Astrid  
Frank. Continuous from  
5.30. Last perf. 6.55.  
Also WITCHFINDER GENERAL  
(X) with Vincent Price.  
4th Feb for 7 days  
CARRY ON ABROAD (A) with  
Sid James etc. Continuous  
from 6.00. Last perf 7.30.  
Also EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE.  
11th Feb for one night  
WEDDING NIGHT (X) with  
Dennis Waterman & Tessa  
Wyatt. Also FUN AND GAMES  
(X). 6.30 pm.  
Thur 14th Feb for 3 days  
JUNIOR BONNER (A) with  
Steve McQueen. Also THE  
LAST GRENADE (A) with  
Honor Blackman & Stanley  
Baker. One perf at 6.30

18th Feb for 7 days  
FUZZ (X) with Burt Reynolds.  
Also HICKEY & BOGGS (AA)  
with Bill Crosby. One  
perf 6.30. Sat continuous  
from 5.00  
25th Feb for 7 days  
PRIME CUT (X) with Lee  
Marvin. Also THE FAST  
KILL (X). One perf 7.00.  
Sat continuous from 5.30

#### MIDDLESBOROUGH

##### TEESSIDE FILM THATRE

Little Theatre, The  
Avenue. Tel 2685.  
29th Jan - 3rd Feb  
FAT CITY (AA) & THE  
WATERMELON MAN (X) 7.30  
4th Feb  
ALEXANDER NEVSKY (U) &  
BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN (U)  
Two Eisenstein classics  
at 7.30  
5th - 10th Feb  
A DAY IN THE DEATH OF  
JOE EGG (X) at 7.30

#### NEWCASTLE

##### APOLLO CINEMAS

Shields Rd, Byker.  
Apollo 1  
Feb 4th for 7 days  
FEAR IS THE KEY  
Feb 11th for 7 days  
FRITZ THE CAT & LUST  
FOR A VAMPIRE  
Feb 18th for 7 days  
THE KING AND I  
Feb 25th for 7 days  
SHAFT'S BIG SCORE &  
EVIL KNEIVEL  
Apollo 2  
Feb 4th  
THE WIFE SWAPPERS & THE  
RACE WITHIN  
Feb 5th for six days  
THE BOYFRIEND & THE  
TROUBLE WITH GIRLS  
Feb 11th for 7 days  
7 BRIDES FOR 7 BROTHERS  
& THE STUDENT PRINCE  
Feb 18th for 7 days  
SEX IS NOT FOR VIRGINS  
& HOT PANTS  
Feb 25th for 7 days  
2001, A SPACE ODYSSEY  
Apollo 3  
Feb 4th for 7 days  
LOVE VARIATIONS & THE  
BODY STEALERS  
Feb 11th for 7 days  
OOH...YOU ARE AWFUL &  
S.W.A.L.K.  
Feb 18th for 7 days  
MARY, QUEEN OF  
SCOTS

Feb 25th for 7 days  
INNOCENT BYSTANDERS &  
LADY FRANKENSTEIN

##### CLASSIC CINEMAS

Westgate Rd. Tel 23232  
Classic 1  
Jan 28th for 7 days  
BAFFLED (A) & PIED PIPER  
(A) with Donovan & Donald  
Pleasance  
Coming shortly:  
THE GLASSHOUSE  
PANCHO VILLA  
THE GREAT DICTATOR  
Classic 2  
Coming shortly:  
FRITZ THE CAT & CRY OF  
THE BANSHEE  
BULLITT & THE OWL AND  
THE PUSSYCAT  
DR. PHIBES RIDES AGAIN  
& WILD ANGELS.  
THE CREEPING FLESH &  
BLOOD BRIDES.  
Late night movies  
every Saturday at 10.45  
Feb 10th ALL NIGHT  
HORROR SHOW 11pm - 7am

##### ODEON CINEMA

Pilgrim St. Tel 26718  
28th Jan for 6 days  
NOTHING BUT THE NIGHT  
1st Feb one day only  
THE LION IN WINTER  
3rd Feb late night show  
BREAD & GROUPIE GIRL

##### PAVILION CINEMA

Westgate Rd. Tel 21835  
28th Jan for 7 days  
THE GODFATHER  
4th Feb for 7 days  
GROUPIES with Joe  
Cocker. & THE DEVIL RIDES  
OUT  
11th Feb for 7 days  
NEVER MIND THE QUALITY

##### TATLER CLUB

Northumberland St.  
Tel 26814.  
Feb 4th for 7 days  
DIRTY POOL & THE TAMING  
Wed. only live cabaret  
Feb 11th for 6 days  
(not Wed) SANDRA, THE  
MAKING OF A WOMAN & YOU  
Wed Feb 14th only  
THE MOTHERS & BLACK-  
MAILED WIVES  
Feb 18th for 7 days  
I WISH I WERE IN DIXIE.  
& LOVE MERCHANT  
Wed. live cabaret  
Feb 25th for 6 days  
SCHOOLGIRLS OF SCANDAL &  
SHAME SHAME

Wed Feb 28th only  
MAINLY FOR MEN & ROSELAND

Late night movies every  
Sat at 11pm. Open to all  
3rd Feb THE DETECTIVE (X)  
with Frank Sinatra. Also  
HAND OF DEATH (X)  
10th Feb JACK THE RIPPER  
(X) & THE FLESH AND THE  
FIENDS (X)

17th Feb DRACULA HAS  
RISEN FROM THE GRAVE (X)  
& A COVENANT WITH DEATH.  
24th Feb THE BONNIE PARKER  
STORY (A) & MACHINE GUN  
KELLY (A)

FINESIDE FILM THEATRE  
Pilgrim St. Tel 21506  
CINEMA 1 (open to public)  
5th - 10th Feb  
FAT CITY & I NEVER SANG  
FOR MY FATHER  
Late night shows at 11pm  
Feb 2nd & 3rd.

WITCHFINDER GENERAL &  
CURSE OF THE CRIMSON  
ALTAR  
Feb 9th & 10th  
IN THE HEAT OF THE  
NIGHT (A) & A MAN AND  
A WOMEN (A)

Feb 16th & 17th  
LET IT BE (U) & YELLOW  
SUBMARINE (U)

Feb 23rd & 24th  
CANDY (X) & HELL IN  
THE PACIFIC (X)  
CINEMA 2 (members only)  
1st - 3rd Feb

THE DAMNED by Visconti  
at 7.30

5th - 10th Feb  
ROBERT HAVING HIS NIPPLE  
PIERCED at 6.00 & 8.15

11th Feb  
FILM MAKERS TALKING at  
7.30. Free.

12th - 17th Feb  
DEATH IN VENICE by  
Visconti at 7.30

18th Feb  
THE PETRIFIED FOREST  
Bogart. At 7.30  
19th - 24th Feb  
THE ILLUSTRATED MAN &  
WATERMELON MAN. At 7.00

25th Feb  
TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT.  
Bogart. At 7.30

26th - 28th Feb &  
1st - 3rd Mar  
I AM CURIOUS BLUE at  
6.00 & 8.15.

Late night shows at 11.30

Feb 3rd  
CASABLANCA  
Feb 10th  
THE AFRICAN QUEEN  
Feb 17th  
THE PETRIFIED FOREST  
Feb 24th  
TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT  
Mar 3rd  
THE MALTESE FALCON



DEATH IN VENICE  
at Tyneside Film Theatre

#### NORTH SHIELDS

CLASSIC CINEMA  
Russell St. Tel 72975.  
11th Feb for 7 days  
OOH...YOU ARE AWFUL (A)  
with Dick Emery & Derren  
Nesbitt. Also S.W.A.L.K.  
(A) with Jack Wild &  
Mark Lester.

18th Feb for 7 days  
THE LOVE BOX (X) with  
Chris Williams & Joan  
Alcorn. Also DEATH OCCURRED  
LAST NIGHT (X) with Raf  
Vallone & Frank Wolfe.

#### SOUTH SHIELDS

A.B.C. CINEMA  
Ocean Rd. Tel 61503.  
28th Jan for 7 days  
FRITZ THE CAT (X) at  
3.05, 6.04, and 9.00. Also  
THE HOUSE THAT SCREAMED (X)  
at 1.30, 4.25, 7.25.  
4th Feb for 14 days  
THE GODFATHER (X) with  
Marlon Brando. 2.00 &  
7.00 daily. 7.00 only Sun.  
Also in Feb & early March  
DR. PHIBES RIDES AGAIN (X)  
with Vincent Price  
DRACULA AD 72 (x) with  
Christopher Lee.

GAUMONT CINEMA  
Ocean Rd. Tel 60819  
28th Jan for 7 days  
CARRY ON ABROAD & EAST  
SIDE, WEST SIDE.  
4th Feb  
Not known  
11th Feb for 7 days  
OOH...YOU ARE AWFUL (A)  
with Dick Emery. Also  
SOME KIND OF HERO.

#### STOCKTON

THE DOVECOT  
Dovecot St. Tel 611625  
Fri Feb 2nd 7.30pm.  
A TOWN LIKE ALICE (A)  
with Virginia McKenna &  
Peter Finch.  
Fri Feb 9th 7.30pm  
THE CHELSEA GIRLS (X)  
produced & directed by  
Andy Warhol.

Fri Feb 23rd. 7.30pm  
LORD OF THE FLIES (X)  
Directed by Peter Brook

#### WEST MONKSEATON

CLASSIC CINEMA  
4th Feb for 7 days  
ROMEO AND JULIET (A) and  
TURKEY - THE BRIDGE (U)  
Opens Sun 6.30, Daily  
4.45, Wed & Sat 1.40  
11th Feb for 7 days  
ENDLESS NIGHT (AA) with  
Hayley Mills, Britt Ekland  
Also LORD OF THE FLIES.  
Opens Sun 6.00, Daily 5.00,  
Wed & Sat 1.20  
18th Feb for 7 days  
OUR MISS FRED (AA) with  
Danny La Rue. Also AND  
SOON THE DARKNESS (AA)  
Opens Sun 6.00, daily  
4.50. Wed & Sat 1.20  
25th Feb for 7 days  
THE SOUND OF MUSIC (U)  
See local press for times.

#### WHITLEY BAY

CLASSIC CINEMA  
Park Road. Tel 23505.  
4th Feb for 7 days  
SHAFT'S BIG SCORE (X)  
with Richard Rountree at  
1.30, 4.50 & 8.20. Sun 7.40  
Also EVIL KNEIVAL (A)  
with George Hamilton &  
Sue Lyon at 3.15, 6.45  
Sun 6.00  
11th Feb for 7 days  
CARRY ON ABROAD (A)  
with the usual mob. At  
3.00, 5.45, 8.35. Sun  
5.30 & 8.15. Also EAST  
SIDE, WEST SIDE (U) at  
1.50, 4.30, 7.20. Sun 7.05  
18th Feb for 7 days  
FUZZ (X) with Burt Reynolds.  
At 4.35, 8.40. Sun 8.25.  
Also HICKEY AND BOGGS (AA)  
with Bill Crosby. At 2.25  
6.25. Sun 6.10.  
Late night movies every  
Saturday at 10.45.

10th Feb. FRANKENSTEIN  
MUST BE DESTROYED (X)  
with Peter Cushing. Also  
SONS OF SATAN (X) with  
Rita Hayworth.  
17th Feb. BOB & CAROL &  
TED & ALICE (X) with  
Natalie Wood. Also  
LOVING (X) with George  
Segal & Eve Marie Saint.  
24th Feb. THE BLOB (X)  
with Steve McQueen. Also  
TICKLE ME (U) with Elvis.  
3rd March. YIELD TO THE  
NIGHT (X) with Diana Dors.  
Also DEATH IS A WOMAN (X)

## Rock

#### NEWCASTLE

CITY HALL  
Sun 4th Feb  
ROY HARPER  
Wed 7th Feb  
CHUCK BERRY (7.30 & 10)  
Thur 8th Feb  
VINEGAR JOE & FLASH  
Sat 10th Feb  
SPINNERS  
Sat 17th Feb  
RORY GALLAGHER  
Sun 18th Feb  
JAMES LAST  
Mon 19th Feb  
LABI SIFFRE  
Tue 20th Feb  
STACKRIDGE  
Thur 22nd Feb  
GENESIS  
Mon 26th Feb  
CAN  
Tue 27th Feb  
BEEP PURPLE  
Tue Mar 6th  
YOU  
Wed Mar 7th  
ELTON JOHN

MAYFAIR  
Fri Feb 16th  
ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA  
& SANDGATE

UNIVERSITY BALLROOM  
17th Feb  
PATTO & Disco at 9.00.  
20p  
23rd Feb  
CARAVAN & HATFIELD AND  
THE NORTH at 9.00. 40p  
3rd March  
MAN & LISTEN at 9.00.

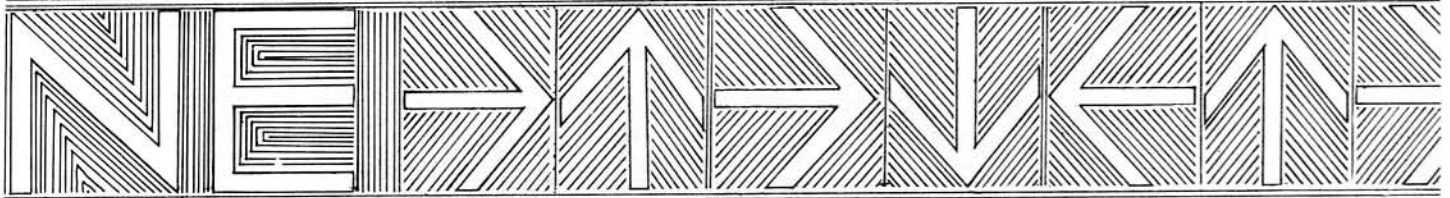
## Theatre

#### NEWCASTLE

THEATRE ROYAL  
Grey St. Tel 29494.  
Until Feb 10th.  
MOTHER GOOSE (PANTOMIME)  
with Stanley Baxter &  
Bernard Bresslaw. 7 pm.  
(matinees 2,30).  
19th Feb - 24th Feb.  
MOTHER ADAM with Hermione  
Baddely & Peter Wyngarde.  
7.30 pm. (Sat 5 & 8 pm.)

PEOPLE'S THEATRE  
Stephenson's Rd.  
Tel 655020.  
12th Feb - 17th Feb.  
Shakespeare's MEASURE  
FOR MEASURE at 7.30

UNIVERSITY THEATRE  
Barras Bridge. Tel 23421.



25th Jan - 17th Feb.  
**PEER GYNT** by Ibsen.  
 With the Tyneside Theatre Company. Eves. 7.30, Sat 8.00. Matinees 31 Jan & 7 Feb 2.30, 17th Feb 3.00.  
21st Feb - 24th Feb.  
**INCIDENT FIVE** by Malcolm Clarke. Modern dance. At 8.00 pm.  
27th Feb - 3rd Mar.  
**YEOMEN OF THE GUARD**  
 At 7.30 (Sat mat. 2.30)  
8th Mar - 31 Mar.  
**THE TEMPEST**  
 Eves 7.30, Sat 8.00.  
**GULBENKIAN STUDIO**  
20th Feb - 3rd March  
**HAPPY DAYS** by Samuel Beckett. At 7.30, Sat 8.00 pm.

#### STOCKTON

DOVECOT  
 Dovecot St. Tel 611625.  
 Sat 17th Feb.  
**PORTRAIT OF A PLANET** by Friedrich Durrenmatt at 7.30 pm.  
19th Feb - 21st Feb.  
**SAVED** by Edward Bond.  
 At 7.30 pm.

#### SUNDERLAND

EMPIRE THEATRE  
 Tel 73274.  
 Until 15th Feb (15)  
**DICK WHITTINGTON**  
 (PANTOMIME) at 7 pm.  
 Matinees 2.30 & Sat 11 am.  
ROYALTY THEATRE  
 6th Feb - 10th Feb.  
**THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE.** At 7.30

## Folk

MONDAYS  
**Bay Hotel** - Cullercoats at 7.30 pm.  
**Bridge Hotel** - Durham City: Singaround (free)  
**Swan Hotel** - Heworth. at 8.00 pm.  
**The Millstone F.C.** - Haddricks Mill Road, South Gosforth.  
**Honeysuckle** - Coatsworth Road, Gateshead.  
**Sunn. Inn** - Stockton.  
TUESDAYS  
**Black Horse Hotel** - Billingham  
**Blagdon Arms** - Cramlington at 8.00 pm.  
**BOOT & SHOE HOTEL** - Darlington  
**Marquis of Granby** - Durham  
**Balmbras** - Cloth Market, Newcastle. (Country &

Western)  
**New Darnell Traditional Club** - off Barrack Rd, Newcastle. 8.00 pm.  
**Blackbird Inn** - Ponteland at 8.00 pm.  
**Dun Cow Inn** - Seaham  
**Percy Arms** - Front St, Tynemouth at 8.00 pm.  
**Rising Sun Inn** - Crawcrook

WEDNESDAYS  
**Three Tuns** - Birtley  
**White Horse Hotel** - Darlington  
**Kings Head** - Easington  
**Cleveland Bay Hotel** - Eston  
**County Hotel** - Gosforth  
**Change Is** - Bath Lane, Newcastle.  
**Polytechnic** - Ellison Place, Newcastle,  
**Gretna Wedding Inn** - Newton Aycliffe  
**Speculation Hotel** - Washington  
**Fox and Hounds** - Cotherstone  
**Plough Hotel** - Baxtergate, Whitby.

THURSDAYS  
**Salutation** - Framwellgate Moor, Durham City  
**Ladle Hotel** - Middlesboro (Country & Western)  
**Bridge Hotel** - High Level  
**Bridge, Newcastle** at 8.00  
**Chillingham Hotel** - Chillingham Rd, Newcastle at 7.30 pm.  
**Railway Hotel** - Darlington  
**Redesdale Arms** - Otterburn

FRIDAYS  
**Lampglass Cellar Club** - Ashington at 7.30 pm.  
**Albert Social Club** - Middlesboro. (C & W)  
**Station Hotel** - South Shields  
**George & Dragon** - Sunderland  
**Londonderry Hotel** - Sunderland  
**Red Lion Inn** - Trimdon Village  
**Baltin Hotel** - Quayside, Newcastle  
**Oaktree Inn** - Richmond

SATURDAYS  
**Barley Mow** - City Rd, Newcastle at 8.00 pm.  
**Chesters Hotel** - Sunderland  
**ALbert Social Club** - Middlesboro

SUNDAYS  
**Buffalo Head** - Saddler St, Durham.

**Gosforth Hotel** - Salters Road, Gosforth at 8.00  
**Nursery Inn** - Hartlepool  
**Cannon Inn** - Coast Road, N. Shields at 8.00 pm  
**Marsden Inn** - S. Shields  
**Blacksmiths Arms** - Swainby

## Jazz

MONDAYS  
**Granby Hotel** - Whitley Bay. Bobby Carr Band  
**Crawley Arms** - Swalwell  
**Mighty Joe Young Band**

TUESDAYS  
**Piccolo Restaurant** - Gosforth. River City Jazzmen at 8.00 pm.  
**Highland Lad Hotel** - Stockton, Canal St.  
**Dixie Jazzmen**

WEDNESDAYS  
**Balmbras** - Cloth Market, Newcastle, Saratoga Jazzmen  
**Granby** - Whitley Bay

THURSDAYS  
**Nursery Inn** - Hartlepool, Alex Hand Band.  
**Wheatshaf** - New York at 9.00. Open jam session.  
**Diamond Inn** - Ponteland  
**Vieux Carre Jazzmen**

FRIDAYS  
**Granby Hotel** - Whitley Bay. Vintage Jazz Band.

SUNDAYS  
**Gosforth Hotel** - Gosforth.  
**Newcastle Big Band.** At 12 - 2 pm.  
**Red Hills Hotel** - Durham City. Savoy Jazzmen  
**Hardwick Hall Hotel** - Sedgfield

## Classical

#### DURHAM

CATHEDRAL  
**3rd Feb BERLIOZ TE DEUM & BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH.**  
 Tickets from The Information Centre. Tel 3720.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS  
**12th Feb - 17th Feb.**  
**OPERA - ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD.** At 8.15.  
 Sat 7.30 pm.

#### NEWCASTLE

CITY HALL  
**10th Feb** at 11 am  
 Robert Mayer concert for kids. (Adults only admitted if accompanied

by a kid.)  
**15th Feb** at 7.45  
 Telemann, Varese, Prokofiev, Mozart, Berkely played by Uto Ughi (violin) & the Northern Sinfonia.

#### KING'S HALL, NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

31st Jan at 7.30  
 Messiaen, Grieg, Busoni played by Crawford Massey (violin) & Brenda McDermott (piano)  
7th Feb at 7.30  
 Liszt, Sherlaw, Johnson, Messiaen, Boulez. Played by Robert Sherlaw Johnson (piano)  
14th Feb.  
 String Quartet.  
17th Feb.  
 Lutoslawski, Henze, Skalkottas, Rawsthorne & Wagner played by the Northern Soloists.

#### PEOPLE'S THEATRE

1st Feb at 7.30  
 Anthony Hopkins:  
 TALKING ABOUT MUSIC.

#### UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Feb 11th at 8.00  
 Hummel, Liszt, Busoni & Godowsky played by John Ogden.

## Exhibs

#### DURHAM

D.L.I. Museum  
To Feb 11th  
 Durham lodge banners from closed lodges. And Coalface 1900 - photographs from S.Wales. Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5.  
Feb 17th - Mar 11th  
 'Decade - the 40's'  
 British painting, drawing and sculpture. Lowry, Nash, Moore, Sutherland etc.

#### JARROW

Bede Gallery  
Until Feb 13th  
 Photographs by David Buckland. Mon - Thur 11 - 5. Sat & Sun 12 - 5.

#### SUNDERLAND

Ceolfrith Gallery  
 Frederick St.  
6th Feb - Mar 3rd.  
 Prints by Dave Gormley, Gouaches by Nick Harris, Photographs by John Roberts.

# Straight from the parrot's mouth...

Ceolfrith Gallery in Sunderland are starting a new magazine about the arts in Sunderland. The first issue will be out on February 7th, and will contain a guide to what's on in Sunderland.

Meanwhile Spectro Arts Workshop in Whitley Bay want to start a 'community paper for the North-East'. Watch this space....

Durham County has been chosen as one of five areas in the country for an experiment which aims to replace prison sentences with community service. The scheme will start in March, and if it is to be genuine community service and not just another form of punishment then we are all in favour.

Post early for Christmas.

South Shields Trades Council have put forward the suggestion that people who stay on in the sixth form at school should be payed a wage, so that they are not worse off than those who leave.

Durham Claimants Union would like to thank all those people from Kesteven College, Grantham, Lincs., for their contribution of £25 towards the Winter Heating fund for Pensioners.

When the Bill authorising the Tyneside Rapid Transit system has gone through Parliament, the Tyneside Passenger Transport Executive will have the power to demolish any of about 800 buildings that stand in its way, without asking for objections or holding a public enquiry - although they say it is unlikely that these powers will be used.

Still, even if there aren't going to be any buildings left in Newcastle, we can always travel around on the Rapid Transit system admiring the motorways.

We regret to announce that FRENZ appears to have folded up. We do not know why or when but will let ya know in the next issue. All we do know is that their offices are closed and the phones are off.

TYNESIDE THEATRE COMPANY  
in the UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Haymarket, Newcastle upon Tyne.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Thurs 25 Jan - Sat 17 Feb

PEER GYNT  
Henrik Ibsen  
in a new version by James Kirkup

Evgs 7.30 Sats 8.00  
Matinees: 2.30 31 Jan, 7 Feb  
3.00 17 Feb  
Student Preview 7.30 Wed 24 Jan

MUSIC IN STYLE

Sunday 28 Jan, 8.00 pm

Ralph Holmes (violin)  
Denis Matthews (piano)

Works by Beethoven, Stravinsky,  
Prokofiev and Franck.

All seats 60p

Thurs 8 March - Sat 31 March

THE TEMPEST  
William Shakespeare

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Matinees: 2.30 14, 21, 28 March  
3.00 31 March  
Student Preview 7.30, Wed 7 Mar

\*\*\*\*\*  
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Ticket Centre Tel 22888

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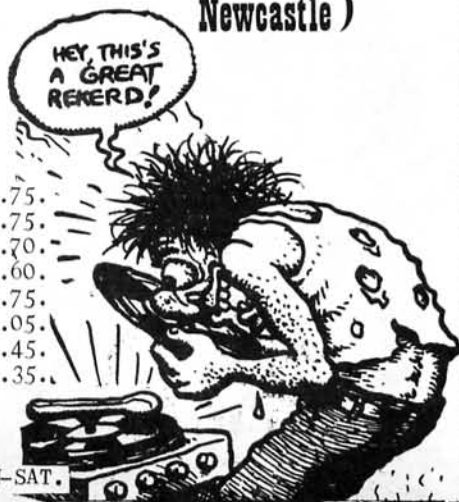
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FULL NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

SIGNED ..... DATE .....

# RAVE ON!

Last month in Muther Grumble, Rich Scott gave us a bleak and accurate summary of what our music makers are doing for us at present it could have been subtitled 'The story so far'. What follows is subtitled 'Meanwhile....' and its about 50's Rock and Roll.

Thanks for staying! Glad you did, because if 15 years' exposure couldn't make you dig Rock and Roll, I wasn't going to try. For those who believe, read on.

Remember 1963 (after this I promise, no more nostalgia) when you or your big brother were throwing jars of Brylcreem into the bin? You went on to dig the Beatles, Stones, Blues Revival, Soul, Folk, Dylan, Hendrix, Love, Woodstock, the heavies and other Supergroups. Some people stopped off on the way, others are staying on 'till the terminus. There were some who didn't take the trip at all and okay, they missed a lot, but they know exactly what they like and at the moment their heads aren't spinning like most peoples' are. After all, the Teds were noted for being rebels and all these guys did was to rebel against the new crazes and refuse to be distracted.

However, the things that Teds could relate to gradually vanished; the local dances, Rock and Roll on the radio, drapes and wedges in the shops, etc. Well, if you want a scene, paint it yourself! Last year the North East Rock and Roll Society was started and almost immediately a hard core of fulltime Teds got together. Starting with 50's records as the basis, a lot has emerged since then and its happened despite and not courtesy of the hustlers of the music business, Radio 1 and the clothes boutiques. Last week over 500 people danced to nothing but 50's Rock and Roll at Newcastle Polytech' with d.j. Tongue-Tied Pete Forrester, one of the guys who started the Society. Future dates include a return to the Poly in three weeks and before that a night at Newcastle University on the 7th February. In a sense, this could be Golden Era vol.2 as the club has access to virtually every worthwhile record; complete collections Presley, Holly, Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Cochran, Vincent and Bo Diddely and all the rare material from more obscure artistes. No DJ in the 50's had access to this much gold! The situation now is that the Society can put on a dance almost anywhere in the N.E. and of course its regular members, notably the Teds will be in there bopping. Anyone having second thoughts will be pleased to know the razors and bike chains of the 50's are no longer standard equipment and that it really is the music that they go for.



North East Rock 'n Roll have two regular sessions at the Aventine Club in Cuthbert Street (off Bensham Road) Gateshead on Monday nights and at the Newcastle W.M.C., St. James Street, (near Football ground) Newcastle on Fridays. Both of these sessions have licensed bars and dancing. Apart from these regular nights there'll be the various dates at the colleges etc., which will be advertised.

Finally, this isn't another Revival and no-one is pretending that Rock 'n Roll is the next development in music. It's nothing to do with the pop-art rock and roll gear that gets mixed up with space suits on Top of The Pops. Like this mag, we're an alternative and we're independent. If you like it, get out your boppin' shoes!





# Chrisfarce is gone

The time has come! For Christ's sake to let him die in his already well mutilated condition. The celebration of his birth has widely become the celebration of the birth of excess excretion from the body, the consumer-goods-making factories and the houses out of which the two-day-old broken cardboard-plasticity-glittery toys get ejected, freshly wrapped in shrouds of torn crumpled wrapping paper. It appears that the main mass of British Humans have to save up materially and emotionally to unleash their conscious love for their relatives, friends and even acquaintances throughout this Chrisfarce period and, because of the sheep syndrome weakness of that main mass of British Humans, their brain-cassettes are locked on to this new mechanical process of love-display, behind the ideas-grille of which there lie some real resilient human emotions. Have not most people noticed the anti-climactic end to the Christmas-crammed rush? I feel presents should be given only when the givers feel warmed towards the recipients - then there is a proper love feeling with no hang-over, and the whole action is positive with elative

tingle. There is no 'Out of Pocket Blues', no 'What'll I Get Him - That'lll Do Waltz', just a correct good feeling. People seem to be pulled back from giving presents when they individually feel inclined because they are made timid by the 40ft high roaring Father Christmas image with its high advertismantic magnetic field reading. What a superficial surface-scum level this current society swims through! - but that's another subject upon which I am most willing to proffer theses. The Bible seems to have been compiled so that the great mass of humans could be made to understand and practise an ideal of living which is, like all religions, based on some aspect or other of basic physical needs (including social grouping) and multi-layered brain thoughts. But like any writing that attempts to represent multi-layered brain ideas, it fails because no two people get exactly the same meaning from a particular word-arrangement and therefore a surface level of meaning that exists both in the idea and in its written representation is extracted to serve all the individuals that it desires to bring together in that particular social and mental harmony.

And it can be seen that, due to the complexity, scope and vast word mass of the Bible, various groups branched off again and again with their own/different surface interpretations, and just look at the diverse range of ostrich-head-burying Christian branches and sub-branches that exist in Hardly Harmony at this time!

So, we'll just have to wait until all this heavy adolescent squabbling burns its various selves to natural ashes (good fertiliser for the soil) before the human world-race can have a common 'religion' (but that word maybe would have gone down in the ashes) which is not written down for scholars to misread and misbroadcast but is all about survival of the human pins stuck round the woolly-world-ball and allows for a much higher plane of life-quality activity of which we are all definitely capable.

Ron Geesin.



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# Lord Of The Flies

## AND THE SPIDERS FROM MARS

David Bowie City Hall Newcastle

Got down a little late this time, but when I finally made it "Stealer's Wheel" were onstage apparently doing their thing - which didn't particularly seem to be everybody else's thing. Considering all the airplay they've had recently (which sounded OK) what I heard of Stealer's Wheel live won't sell many albums for them. Whoever mixed raw material like that into a reasonably good album must have been some engineer. Stealer's Wheel just sounded like another of those overloud, unbalanced, boring bands.

However "Fumble" who preceded Bowie's appearance were amazing. A band who can hold an audience rocking for an hour while they sit awaiting a superstar must have something. Fumble's something appeared to be: rock 'n' roll, making it a real shame about those seats 'cos with numbers like 'Mary Lou', 'All Shook Up' and 'Good Golly Miss Molly' you feel like maybe you want to do more than sit and stare. At this show the old rock 'n' roll standards were more than just a nostalgic trip. Fumble raced from one to the next recreating the sound of those original 'juke box' hits.

It's a pity that the half-hour break seemed to dispel all the fun and excitement that Fumble generated. Bowie appeared on stage as the darkness was shattered by a strobe and a battery of flash-bulbs. The audience who had been waiting patiently (?) rose to their feet.

Into the first number sped the Spiders; a rolling 'Let's spend the night together' but I don't suppose they really meant it. Ronson's guitar burnt rhythm through the already warming atmosphere. A chick jumped to the stage at the invitation only to be met by a quick backstep as Bowie rose from his knees, withdrew his hand and left her careering into the side of the platform. Multicoloured strobes blasted from above as Bowie stalked the stage in his cat suit, flaunting his body to the drooling crowd.

Continuity was achieved throughout the set as Bowie & the Spiders worked through album and single material. 'Gene Jeanie' was received with the expected hysteria, Bowie now vocal, tambourine and harmonica. Things exploded with 'Suffragette City' followed by the inevitable but unbelievable goodnight. As people began to realise it was over the applause swelled,

reaching a climax as Bowie led the band back for an encore of 'Rock 'n' Roll Suicide'. This time the short 'bye-bye' was met with thunderous applause - the show was over.

## NEW ALBUMS

### "History of Fairport Convention" Island

History of the Fairports was coupled in its release with Dave Mason's "Scrapbook". The album retails at £2.40 and considering its a double, that's not bad. For me this album is a collection of my favourite tracks from six of the seven already released from the fast changing "Fairport" line-up. The album is packaged in an extremely attractive sleeve, which has on the front cover a Fairport family tree. Fairport Convention formed back in 1967 and when Judy Dyble left in 1968 she was replaced by the exceptional Fairport vocalist "Sandy Denny". The tree is easily traced and one can see the liquid personnel forming bands such as "Fotheringay", "The Bunch", and "Steeleye Span". Fairport Convention 7 formed in Feb 1972 with the current line-up working on the new soon to be released

album "Rosie". There's a taste of things to come on History. "The Hen's March/The Four Poster Bed" have been added to the History album although they are in fact on the new long awaited album. These two tracks are traditional jigs and certainly provide a showcase for Swarbrick's violin and Dave Pegg's bass playing ability.

This album holds a varied selection of the bands work ranging from the traditional jigs to the more heavy folk rock side of Fairport with numbers like "Walk Awhile" (Full House album) and numbers that fall inbetween the traditional style folk and rock folk as surely "Meet On the Ledge" (What We Did On Our Holidays).

I find straight folk rather hard to sit and listen to but Fairport Convention offer to me a little more scope to become involved in the music style. Here's an album which is a bargain if you're the same in the way that you've always liked certain tracks from the band but never enough to acquire an album.

TRACKS ON "HISTORY OF THE FAIRPORTS."

NEU United Artists UAS29396

Tracks. Side 1. Meet On The Ledge. Fotheringay. Mr. Lacey. Book Song, Sailor's Life. Side 2. Si Tu Dois Partir. Who Knows Where The Time Goes. Matty Groves. Crazy Man Michael. Side 3. Medley: The Lark in the Morning, Raccish Paddy, Foxhunters Jig, Toss the Feathers. Now Be Thankful. Walk Awhile. Sloth. Bonny Black Hare. Side 4. Angel Delight. Bridge Over The River Ash. John Lee. Breakfast in Mayfair. Hanging Song. The Hen's March/The Four Poster Bed.

NEU are a German band consisting of two former members of Kraftwerk, Klaus Dinger and Michael Rother. With the release of this, their first album, NEU have joined Amon Duul and Can to become one of Germany's top groups. I find the adulation a trifle premature on the basis of one record, even though it is rather good.

Basically, it's music to listen to whilst stoned, or, for unfortunates, music to daydream by. Side one is a relaxed meander into the realms of hypnosis, with pulse like drumming and floating guitar dissolving reality. Side two is an extension of this with more variation, although the album is marred somewhat by the last track Lieber Honig which is quite detestable. However ignore this track and all's well.

"THE GRAND WAZOO" THE MOTHERS BIZARRE/REPRISE

After eighteen albums, Zappa's music is finally starting to move in the direction he has always favoured. One of the reasons for the lack of acceptance of his work has been that he has always found it difficult to contain all of his talents. One minute he's producing a record like 'Hot Rats' and the next time you turn around he's recording something like 'Live at the Fillmore'. The most easily acceptable bands are those who find a formula and stick to it without looking any farther. Zappa's never done this and it's part of his strength.

This latest album is over 38 mins long and has only 9 minutes of 'songs' on it. The rest is a selection of amazing blows that are made up of Zappa's personal blend of 'rock' 'jazz' and electronics.

On this album the Mothers is a twenty two piece band. Some old faces but mostly new ones. The approach you must use to this record is the same you have to have to any of Zappa's work: be open and be wide and you're gonna come away smiling and lifted. The effect it leaves me with is the same I'm left with after an incredible orgasm - and surely that's the function of the music.

HOT LICKS, COLD STEEL AND TRUCKERS FAVOURITES  
COMMANDER CODY & THE LOST PLANET AIRMEN  
PARAMOUNT EMI

"Truck Stop Rock". There's a blending of blue grass with rock n' roll, and this should be an album for either country freaks or rockers. Commander Cody (George Frayne) and his seven airmen use a wide selection of instruments, sax, electric and acoustic bass, piano, pedal steel guitars, drums, harmonica and fiddle, over which are laid some earthy vocals and harmonics.

The songs relate to the lighter side of a truck drivers life with the music varying in tempo from a hoedown to a lazy New Riders sound. This album, along with his previous release, "Ozones" are well worth a listen.

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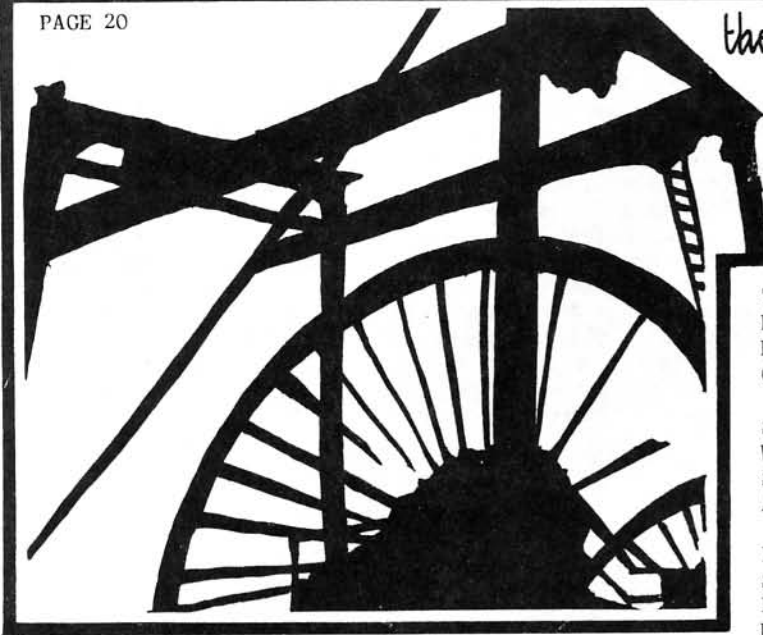
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the saga of

## Jack Tempest.



This song was given to us by John Hutchinson, a retired miner from Durham. Jack Tempest actually lived and Billy Hinny was a relative of John's. The song dates back to about 1880 and may be sung to 'All Jolly Fellows Who Follow The Plough' or 'As I Went A Walking' or 'Sweet Betty From Pike'.

'Big hewer' Jack Tempest\* was a man of renown,  
Round Hetton pits he was very well known!  
Two juds\* in a shift he would curve, scallop and clear\*  
And drink every evening three gallons of beer.

Chorus: What a man, what a man,  
The like of Jack Tempest we'll ne'er see again.

He got down the coal in a manner most brisk,  
For he tore at the seam with a five pounder pick\*  
Which few men could handle without a grave risk,  
Of a strain in the back, the shoulder or wrist.

The coals that he loosened, both large and small  
Went into the tubs, like a black waterfall,  
From a special made shovel, which all viewed with awe,  
For when heaped up and full it held three pecks or more.\*

Billy Hinny his cross-marrow\* would oft tell the tale,  
How Tempest for water always did claim,  
The steam from his sweat fell down just like rain,  
So Tempest for 'droppers' always was paid.\*

Once his shovel was broken by a big lump of coal  
Was Tempest laid off, not on your soul.  
He filled twenty more tubs, so it is said,  
With a broad batten sleeper, trimmed sharp at the edge.

Tempest's end it was sudden, and caused much surprise,  
He ate, for a bet, his height in penny pork pies,  
Rolled home with his wits high in the skies,  
Choked on a greasy dish cloth, and quietly died.

Some friends said the pies had finished him proper,  
With the greasy dish cloth, he mistook for his supper,  
So as they drank up their ale and talked of the matter  
Agreed that we may be here today and gone by tomorrow.

Billy in the local when they laid him to rest,  
Said "Tempest at hewing was one of the best,  
But here while I'm talking I will now confess  
He had the working man's weakness, lack of plain common sense."

More just by thinking can be got from his life  
Than 'riving' and drinking and beating the wife;  
If Tempest's brains had been powder set off by a cap,  
The resulting explosion wouldn't have blown off his hat.

How often he'd a score to the eight I had wrought,  
And often I envied as I weighed up the board,\*  
Now comes the verdict, plain and unsought,  
Once a score to eight, now eight tubs to nought.

That all seeing power of the world we live in  
Gives often long credit to the ignorant that sin,  
But reserves always the right the debt to call in,  
And weigh all in the balance before the judgement begins.

I beg of you friends to ponder and think  
Or machines and smooth talkers may over you sit,  
And pass on your experience, for the time swiftly flits;  
A strong back's not enough if your brain is in splints.\*

Looking into the future as time it rolls on,  
The thinking machines and the 'know how' will come,  
Callous greed and indifference have always been known;  
Sheep have been sheared and butchered after being sold.

You're the inheritors of ten thousand years,  
Of living and loving and laughter and tears,  
Tomorrow's triumphs today are prepared:  
Past years' mistakes today many do bear.

It is suggested that the last 3 verses have the following chorus:

So beware, oh beware,  
Against scoundrels and schemers you should have a care.

\* a "big hewer"

\* juds

\* curve

\* scallop

\* clear

\* pick blades

\* three pecks

\* cross-marrow

\* wet or water

\* top water or droppers

was a crack coal hewer known far and wide.

are undercutting in the seams from one side to the other in bottom, middle or top. Jud in to top "bannocking". Nicking was holing from top to bottom usually in one nook. Nicking shoulders (ie. one shoulder higher than the other) were quite common in miners when I went down the pit at Lambton in 1914.

is to undercut with pick.

is to hew down with hand pick.

is to fill loosened coal into empty tubs.

were 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2lb. and 3lb. for show-off. 2lb. was used for curving and scalloping. Lighter ones for taking the back out of a jud. 3lb. picks were sometimes used for breaking in the front of a jud when standing. The rest was done sitting on a cracket (stool) or lying on the side with a shoulder rest.

is about 60lb. or half a cwt.

is an opposite shift worker.

was paid for by "consideration". Usually up to 4 inches bottom water did not count.

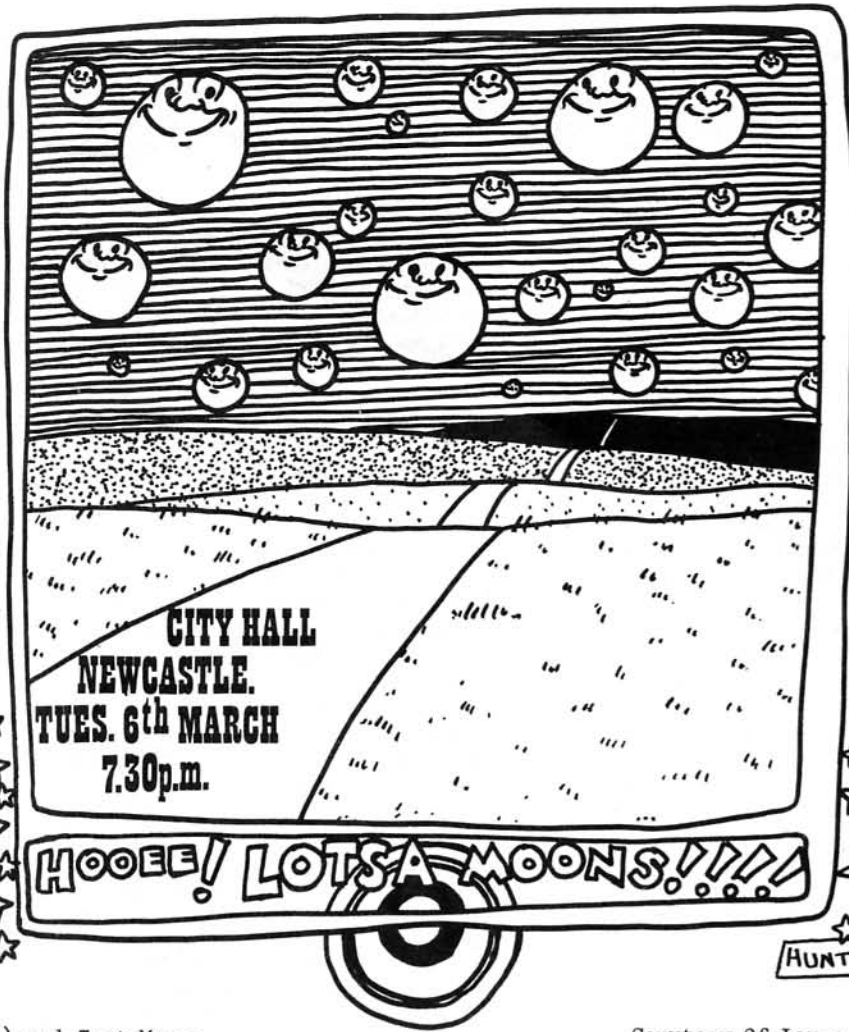
was put in for "consideration" on measuring day. (There is a tale of a coal hewer called George Hutchinson of Littleton pit who had a wooden leg and was only paid half wet consideration because he only had one leg wet.)

MUTHERSON PROMOTIONS  
PRESENTS  
IN CONCERT.

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AND  
ELLIS\*

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# THE NORTH-EAST MESSAGE

## Balnbras

The North-East music scene contains everything if you know where to find it.

On tuesday nights at Balnbras Music Hall they have a country and western night. It's a fabulous environment consisting of the original Victorian decor, candelabrum (1) arched roofing, carved wooden bar and mirrors etc. It's free, you just walk in and everybody is standing around in that peculiar sort of semi-formal Geordie public-house informality. The music is Johnny Cash, Merle Travis and that. Last week's band (who are usually on) features an excellent steel pedal guitarist, an 18 stone guitarist with an orange Gretsch Firebird who somehow seems to be sque-e-e-zing licks out of it, plus an excellent bass player and a snappy drummer who sounds as though he learnt to play in the army. There are two singers, a rather small guy who is the gaffer of the outfit with a gravelly Nashville/Geordie voice the texture of which contrasts rather well with his lady partner who has a sort of country music gospel style ("here is one I learnt back in the little wooden church where the congregation are still praying for the soul of little Jimmy Brown", type thing) corny but a great scene.

So that's the back room downstairs in Balnbras tuesday nights and don't ask at the bar for sasp-arilla.

## Honeysuckle

Meanwhile over in Gateshead at the Honeysuckle is another authentic pub which features a blues club on wednesday nights. There is a liberal supply of residents and guests so this week I will just mention Pignite, an excellent acoustic band covering a variety of styles and featuring washboard, kazoo, a huge fat acoustic bass guitar (they tell me the instrument originated in Mexican bands), bottleneck played on a demonic bright-red metal-bodied guitar with an acoustic resonator, harmonica, and a variety of guitar styles. Jim plays the red one which is how he gets that Mississippi Robert Johnson tone for bottleneck. He also plays a 1930's jazz-ragtime style a la Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller, and perhaps more familiarly, Mike Cooper. You know, sort of ooh mama it's tight like that beedle um bum. He's got an unusual tenor voice and is totally natural and familiar with blues and jazzy numbers. He has a good time and sometimes shuts up completely and plays washboard with brushes, so the guy must have some humility.

Ray is a more intense character with a more dramatic emotive style, he plays a dramatic black guitar as well. His voice is darker textured and menacing and more "gutbucket" than Jim. He sounds more like (say) Big Joe Williams than Jim who sounds like he's entertaining in a honkey-tonk.

## 'Life' In Byker

The North-East is getting a much wider choice of films and better cinemas due to the massive expansion programme of the Classic Group.

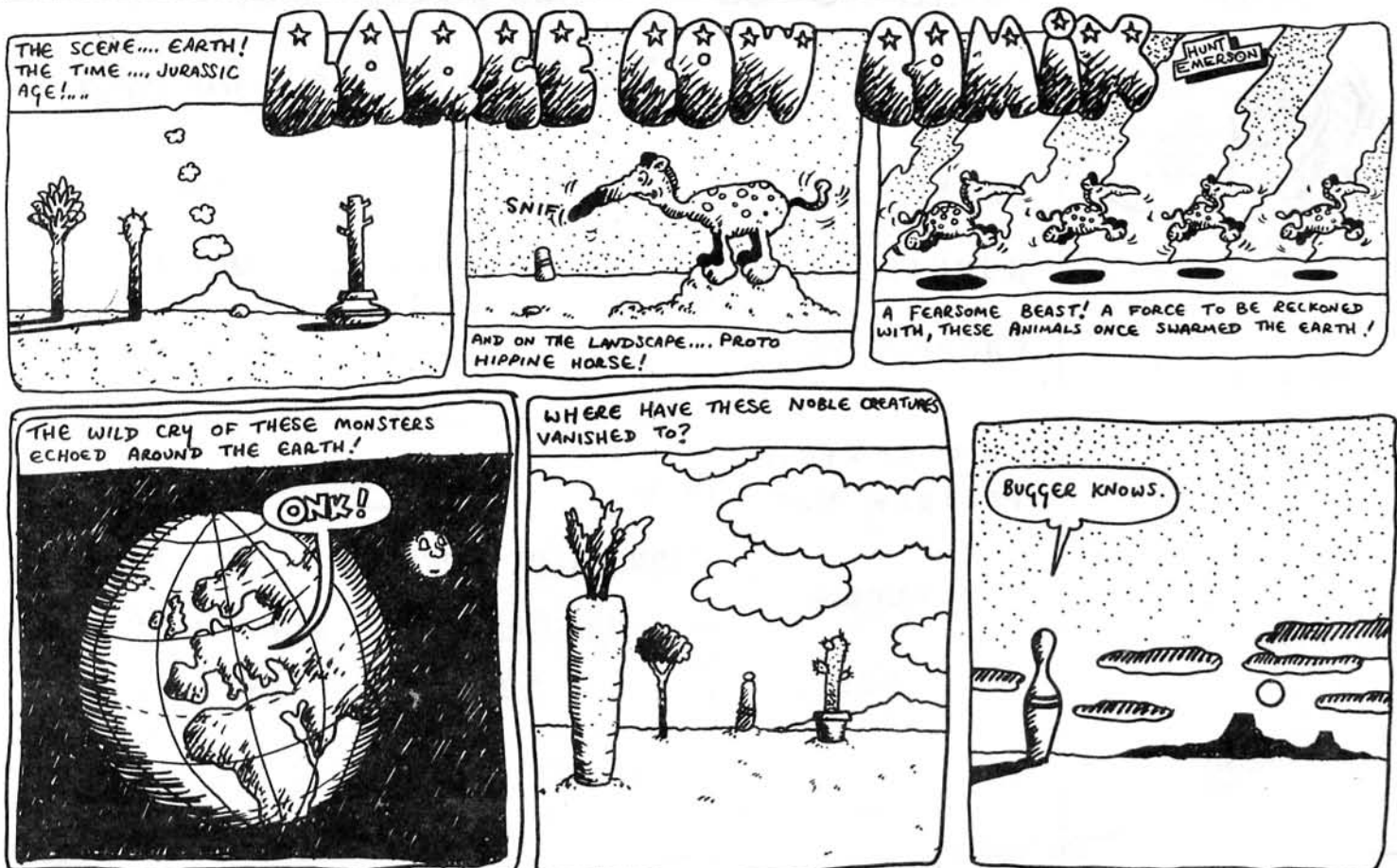
They have recently opened the first triple cinema in the North-East at the Apollo, Byker. It is cheaper than most in N/E, more comfortable and easy to get to. The programmes are varied to suit most tastes but if your still not happy there's always the bar (for patrons only). If that's not enough, on February 5th. Classic are opening a new Tatler Club next door to the Apollo, which will show uncensored films.

They still have the Tatler Club in the Haymarket and the Classic 'twin' in Westgate Rd., plus cinemas in Whitley Bay, Monkseaton and Blyth. The latter is soon to be a Tatler Club four days a week. They also plan to open another triple cinema at the Capitol, Low Fell. So whether it's a good 'skin flick' or a Walt Disney you want to see the chances are it won't be far away.

(Don.)

The combination of "Hear me talking to ya, ya bastards" and "Let's have a good time, folks" works very well and is ably supported by Les on acoustic bass guitar and guitar, who holds the whole thing together as an integral and groovy little band. Well, I've run out of space, so that's awl, folks.

(Mike Maurice.)





**HELP, ADVICE, INFO.**

CLAMTANTS UNIONS

Durham 13, Silver St., Durham City, Tel 71242  
 Newcastle Jim & Larry, Elswick Action Centre, 143, Elswick Road. South Shields Claimants Union is temporarily of no fixed abode. Watch this space.  
 Crook Contact Malcolm Scarlett, 22 Chestnut Grove, Roddymoor, Crook.

CYRENIANS

Newcastle c/o The Chaplaincy, University. Durham c/o David Constantine, 6 Kepier Terrace.

SAMARITANS

Newcastle 27272  
 Durham 63737  
 Sunderland 77177

WEST END TENANTS

At Elswick Action Centre, Elswick Rd., Newcastle. Phone 39767.

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RELEASE

1 Elgin Ave, London W.9 (01-603-8654)

BIT

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FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Northumbria Branch. 'A' floor, Milburn House, Dean St., Newcastle. Tel 27929.

CAG, 37 Blackwellgate, Darlington - General advice/info etc.

Wanted: all old stamps, cigg coupons, trading stamps and old spectacles. They are worth money to us for MG and the claimants union. The glasses go to refugees.

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OSTRICH is a poetry paper. Comes out 4 times a year at 10p. Issued by Erdesdun Pomes, 10 Greenhaugh Rd., South Wellfield, Whitley Bay. Contributions welcome.

If you are under 21 you are entitled to reductions on some concerts through Northern Arts. 31 New Bridge St., Newcastle.

**GROUPS.**

MEDICAL AID COMMITTEE FOR VIETNAM (Tyneside)  
 Sec. A. Dickinson, 91 The Links, Whitley Bay. Tel W.B. 24063.

BRITISH CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM (N.E. District)  
 Acting Sec: A. Dickinson at above address and phone.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT  
 Sunderland Acting Sec. H. Llewellyn, Students' Union, Sunderland Polytech. Newcastle 258, Westgate Road, Newcastle.

PROP  
 (Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners)  
 96 Victoria Ave., Hull.

TYNESIDE CHE  
 Meets on alternative Tuesdays, Contact Richard Webster, 17, Oxford Terrace, Gateshead (tel 72660) for details.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
 Now hold regular meetings in private in the Percy Arms, Haymarket, Newcastle at 7.30 pm. Every other Monday. Or contact Colin Clewes, c/o Fullbeck Grange, Northgate, Morpeth.

SOC'EM  
 For information contact 70, Roseberry Crescent, Newcastle 2.

TYNESIDE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN  
 Contact Colin Marsh, 62, Beatty Ave., Jesmond. Tel Newcastle 856214.

NE ROCK N ROLL SOCIETY  
 meets Mon. Aventine Club, Cuthbert St., Gateshead (off Bensham Rd.) and Fridays, Newcastle Workingmens Club, St. James St. (nr. Football Ground)

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 26, Grosvenor Road, St. Albans, Herts.

WHITE PANTHERS  
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RADICAL EDUCATION  
 Anyone interested contact Jon & Marcia Taylor, 5 Astral House, Sunderland SRL 3DX

If you are interested in learning yoga. I would like to help you. Please phone Gordon at Newcastle 811876, or come round and see me at 51 Larkspur Terrace. We've already started an improvisation session and a yoga session once a week (Tue. & Thur) but anyone is still welcome to join. Please get in touch with me. Gordon, 51 Larkspur Tce., Jesmond. Tel. Newcastle 811876.

HELP keep our listings up to date - let us know what you're doing, so we can let others know.

Chick called Jane who wrote to Dave Brown in Durham Prison. Please get in touch with Paul at MG.

Urgent messages for MG Newcastle or help needed Ring Jim at N/c 813687

Do us a favour, if you use the shops advertising with us, tell em you saw the ad in MG (it helps)

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