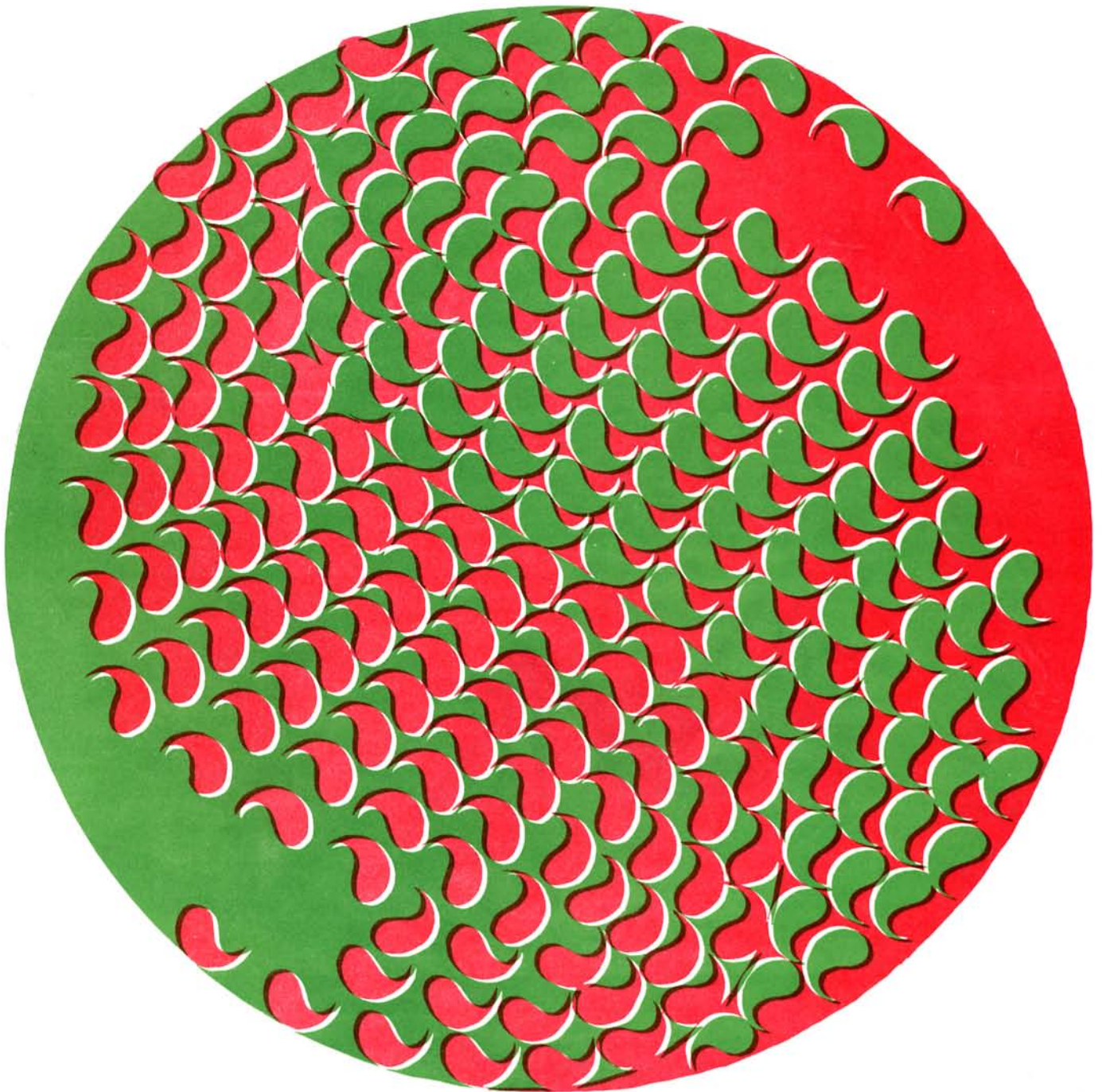


THE  
NORTH EASTS  
ALTERNATIVE  
PRESS

# MUTHER GRUMBLE

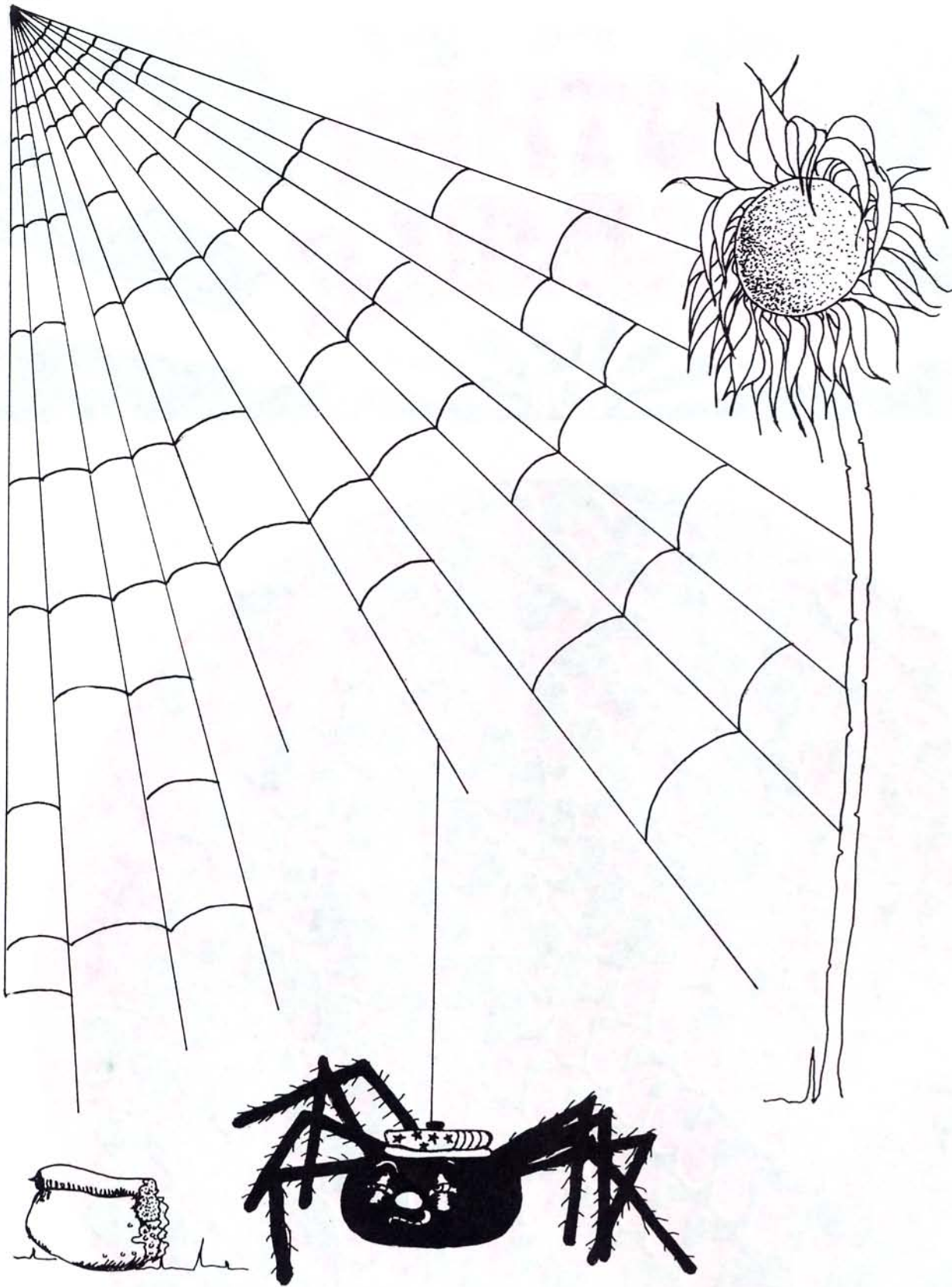
MARCH '73  
No. 11

10p



stop.





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This issue was only just put together by:-

Ian, Don, Paul, Sian,  
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Geoff, Ted, Chris, Andy,  
Pauline, Rich. and all  
the people I forgot.

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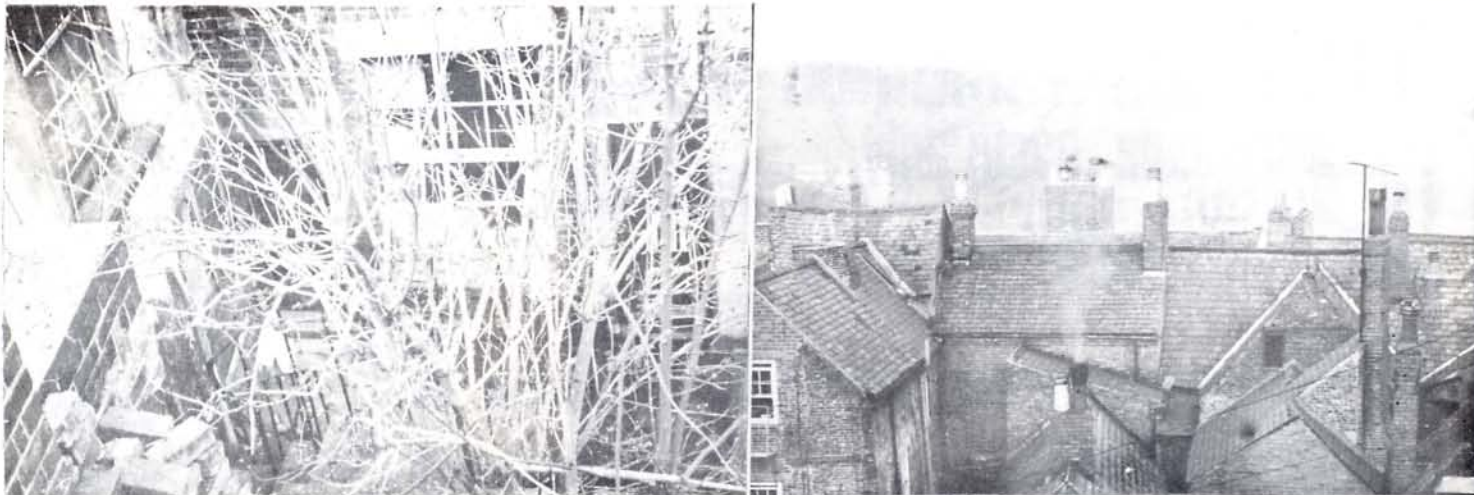
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Love to y'all.





## University Challenge

The next victim of Durham University's large building programme will probably be Saddler Street, one of the few old city streets left intact since the sacrifice of many parts of old Durham by the City Council to the so called ring road.

The plan is to gut all the buildings from the Buffaloes Head to No.52A and replace them with a new University Book Shop and a much enlarged Buffaloes Head with a modernised interior including, it is said, a trendy cellar bar. Behind all these buildings and extending as far as Moatside Lane there will rise a new block of bed-sitters for the students of University College built on the land now occupied by the British Legion Hall and other buildings, all of which have lain derelict for many years.

Anxious environmentalists have been assured that the facades of all the buildings on Saddler Street will be preserved. Yet there are those who, bearing in mind the abortive attempt to preserve the facade of the buildings fronting Bailey Court, the utterly tasteless extension to Hatfield which looms over the Bailey like a wall of a hospital corridor, and the destruction of the ancient interior of Abbey House, view the possible rise of another University Barracks with concern. When confronted with such views, the University (staff, students or administration) invariably express feelings of hurt disappointment that its economic benefit to the city, its occasional charitable handouts to local people and its general civilising influence should be received with such ingratitude.

As an illustration of the University's concern for the welfare of the city, the Sutton site (which is what the University calls the proposed Saddler Street development) will, according to Ian Graham, the Registrar, provide City people with improved facilities by clearing the slum area and extending and improving the Buffaloes Head. Actually the University is not exercised over much by any considerations of the

city's needs. It wants a new book shop, whether the city does or not, it wants extra students accommodation and it will have to knock down the Buff's and the building next to it in order to gain access to the rest of the site; hence the negotiations at present being conducted with the brewery to reach some sort of agreement whereby the pub will be demolished and rebuilt by the University. There will be nothing in it for non-student residents of Durham unless they have a taste for academic literature and the money to indulge in it, though they will be able to use Moatside Lane which will be clean and tidy and enhanced by a University Barracks some four storeys high. We wish the University would merely state its real objectives and stop wasting our time with ridiculous excuses.

As for the Buffs; many of its regulars would prefer to keep it as it is. Some of these are themselves students but they won't be here long enough to do anything about it and that only leaves towns people - who don't matter any way. When interviewed by Grumble, the manageress of the Buffs said she preferred students as, apparently, they cause her much less trouble than the young local residents. These she has no time for, they fight, leave their wives, abscond from work and shirk other responsibilities, while the students who inspite of being in roughly the same age group have none of these responsibilities, she pities because they cannot find accommodation easily. Neither can non-students. Naturally she hopes to be reinstated once the project has been finished.

Spokesmen for the University in this instance are Mr. Ian Graham, the Registrar and Mr. Boobyer from the Surveyors Department. The University, they say, is improving a slum area which, Mr. Graham insists, no one else is prepared to do. This raises the question of who owned the land before the plans were finished. Mr. Boobyer was a little vague but thought that all the property had been acquired

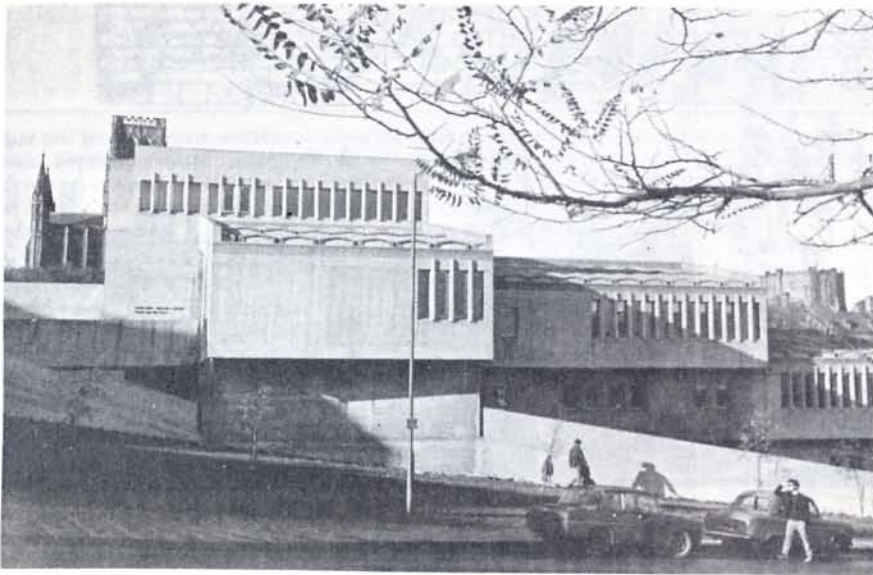
recently with the exception of a few of the buildings facing Saddler Street and he did not think that the University had been granted any land at its foundation in 1832. He also volunteered for no particular reason the information that there had been no Compulsary Purchase. On the other hand, Mr. Graham insists that the University received large land grants from the last Prince-Bishop in 1832 which included the land on which the Sutton site is to be built, with the exception of the British Legion Hall and the Buffs. If this is true, who then is responsible for the deterioration of the site into slum conditions? The British Legion Hall is still in a usable condition apparently, but when two local people wrote to the City Council asking if they could use it as a Community Centre they received no reply.

So the project is seen as a laudible attempt at slum clearance and carries, as Mr. Graham proudly pointed out, the approval of the Fine Arts Commission. It is to be hoped for the sake of the reputation of this body that they did not see the scale model currently on display in Old Shire Hall.

It may be of interest to some people to know where the money for this project is coming from. Mr. Graham pleads dire poverty and claims that he has had to launch an appeal for donations from graduates of the University. He has also applied for a grant from the Department of Environment on the grounds that this is a slum clearance project that will improve the appearance of the city etc, etc.

Nothing can be done to prevent this destruction of another corner of the old city of Durham, for the plans have been approved and building will probably begin once the Buffs has been sorted out and the money gathered together - probably some time in 1974. Meanwhile rumours emanating from Queen's Court suggest that the University has some development plans for the site of the Fine Arts Studio and other buildings in the vicinity.





## C'EST LA VIE (French – the knaas)

Over the past ten or so years the University has carried out an enormous plan of development and redevelopment at the expense of acres of rural land to the south of the city and of many old streets and buildings in the city centre. The whole question of the University's expansion, its devious causes and its evil effects was discussed in an excellent article in *Ferret*, a University alternative newspaper, which existed about two years ago. This pointed out that the University was virtually a monopoly buyer of certain land in Durham because of two acts of Parliament. One apparently reserves large quantities of land either for agricultural purposes or for acquisitions by the University, which land is said to be useless to farmers because they have long since moved out of the Urban area. The other act, the University and Colleges (Estates) act of 1964 which applies to

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham only, allow – among other things the exchange of plots of land with other land owners. Mr. Graham denied categorically that either of these acts had ever been used in Durham and yet claimed later in the interview that the University had exchanged some land behind the prison for land in New Elvet. He also said that he could not call to mind the amount of land owned by the University in Durham but later, when defending the University's economic role in the city, he claimed that it paid a third of the rates. So the amount of land it owns must be considerable.

Mr. Graham insists that the University is the city's benefactor. Commenting on the disastrous appearance of New Elvet he reassured us that it would look fine once Elvet Riverside 2 had been built and when "The city does its bit" and completes its own development on the far side of

Elvet Bridge. Then says Mr. Graham the river bank will have continuity ...there will be a pleasant riverside walk which the local people can enjoy. The mind boggles.

The University, of course, is not the only offender – Milburngate House and the loathsome Woolworths and Marks and Spencer buildings bear witness to this. It is merely one of the three most powerful institutions in Durham, the others being the City Council and the Church (which is not involved in this issue since it presumably wants to preserve the Cathedral and its environs). But it ought, as an institution of learning, to be enlightened and reasonably aware of its environment and the people who live there. Instead it looks exclusively to its own interests and is engaged in fact if not in spirit in a carve-up of the city with the far from enlightened city council (see *Ferret* 2).

Ian Graham wants to know who complains. He hears no complaints because he thinks the city is the Council and a handfull of tradesmen who benefit from the purchasing power of students and people who attend conferences. The students don't complain because they are too immersed in their own interests – more so than students from many other Universities. The people who lose are people the University scarcely know exist. They don't live in the city, because no one can, because the houses are being knocked down and rents are rising phenomenally. They are the people who live on the borders of the city in housing estates provided for them by the Council; people who work all week and are allowed into the city on Saturdays to fight their way along crowded pavements to the shops and those pubs that are left; who wait in endless dreary bus queues; who sometimes mourn the passing of an old haunt but feel powerless to do anything about it; who are cheated and taken for granted; whose needs are largely unknown and whose opinions are not really taken into consideration – ever.

## Part Of The Union

Muther Grumble would like to congratulate Mr. Giles Radice on winning the Chester-le-Street bye-election with a vastly reduced majority. Mr. Radice, educated at Winchester and Oxford, and who lives in Kings Road, Chelsea, may seem a strange choice as Labour candidate for a seat that has always been regarded as a Miners one, but all is explained when it is realised that Mr. Radice is a full time official of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

Some time ago the GMWU, or

Cunningham's gang as they are known, set about gaining control of the constituency for the Union and its members.

They suffered a setback at first when John Cunningham, Andy's son, stood as Vice President of the local Labour party and was defeated, but that didn't stop them for long.

Cunningham next set about systematically gaining control of the divisional Labour Party. Affiliated Trade Union branches are represented on this body by one person for every 100 members, up to a total of five representatives. So, as soon as a GMWU branch reached 500 members, Cunningham split it.

Thus, while one pit might only have five representatives for 2,500 men, the same number of GMWU members could claim 25 reps.

Clever isn't it?

By this year the GMWU had also got all nine seats on Chester-le-Street's executive.

Cunningham's mob also gained control over several wards in the constituency – by any means possible.

For example they discovered that the Nettleworth branch had not been keeping its minute books, so it was deprived of its vote at the selection committee.

So it's hardly surprising that Mr. Radice was selected as candidate. Although there was a great deal of opposition within the local Labour party, and particularly among the miners, to Cunningham's power games, democracy being what it is they couldn't do anything about it.....



I.C.I. Plastics Division have a newspaper called 'Plastics News' and the last issue of this had a centre page spread that proclaimed in big letters to be 'The truth about plastics and the environment'. The article attempts to convince the reader that plastics are not an environmental problem.

It says there are, 'circumstances where plastics actually assist in the disposal of society's waste products', and later goes on to say, 'plastics play a major part in the fight against pollution - plastic sacks, dustbins and domestic bins have made a valuable contribution to checking noise, dirt and smell involved in waste collection and disposal'.

I fail to see why it's alright to make plastic containers for everything from butter to car oil just because they make plastic dustbins as well.

The article tells you how most plastics, contrary to popular belief, rot under natural conditions, but fails to say how long that is going to take. It also says that plastics burn but has to admit that this is only in proper industrial incinerators.

Then it goes on to say that plastics should be disposed of in holes in the ground,

'gravel and sand quarrying and other similar operations continually provide holes which need filling in for land reclamation'. Imagine in years to come it might be possible to quarry plastic.

On the same page of 'Plastics News' was an article about I.C.I.'s



'watchdog' committee on pollution Dr. George Veal, the Plastics Division representative on the committee is quoted as saying,

"I.C.I. has an obligation to conform to legal requirements, and it has a duty to continue to improve the environment. The minimum quality of the environment which the community is prepared to accept is rising. We have a duty to ensure that the environment with which we are associated continues to improve, but this must be at the right pace. The firm has got to be one of the leaders in this field, but at the same time it must not price itself out of the market."

The watchdog committee is concerned with the, 'proper disposal of solid, liquid, and gaseous wastes so that pollution of the countryside, of streams, rivers and estuaries, and

of the atmosphere is avoided. It also considers problems of noise, smell and dust.'

With regard to the general public that maybe, but what about the workers at I.C.I. plants.

For example at I.C.I.'s massive plastics plant at Wilton on Tees-side they seem to be having a bit of a pollution problem in the finishing plant, where they make Propathene (indestructible plastic).

The finishing plant is a large, single storey, open plan building which has no proper ventilation or extractor fans, There is a lot of machinery, and about fifty or so people who work inside.

However, also inside, and working 24 hours a day, are about 15 diesel fork lift trucks and so there is a permanent thick blanket of smoke and diesel fumes in which these people have to work. That is apart from all the dangerous, highly inflammable and explosive chemicals they have to work with anyway.

Apparently there are electric fork lift trucks on other parts of the site but these are not as fast or efficient as the diesel ones.

When the workers complained an I.C.I. official came along to investigate. He put an instrument up the exhaust of one fork lift, he took a reading and said that it was well within the safety level. So it would seem that a person could work for eight hours with his nose up the exhaust pipe and come to no harm.

Who's kidding who?

Don.



# WORKERS CONTROL ?

"Workers Firm Pulls In The Cash". The article in the Evening Chronicle the other day seemed to imply that the workers of Leadgate Engineering had struck another blow for 'Workers Control' and the 'Right to Work'.

When Stibbes of Leicester decided to close down the Leadgate Engineering Factory because it was

uneconomic, 80 of the 300 strong workforce decided to carry out a sit-in to prevent removal of the machinery.

After 5 months they claimed victory. The parent company agreed to 'loan' the plant to the remaining 29 workers, so that they could run the factory themselves.

The orders were to be supplied by Stibbes, with whom the workers have 'a very constructive relationship'. In fact the former boss, Mr. W.A. Reed is still there acting as 'consultant'. Workers control?

In fact a militant sit-in to prevent removal of machinery has been converted into a work-in which

has solved all the company's problems. Their loss making factory has been rationalised with a vengeance (only 10% of the workforce survives).

The Evening Chronicle put one side of the story: "The gamble which the parent company was not prepared to take seems to have paid off, and the 29 strong workforce is reaping the benefit."

The Chairman of Stibbes put the other side: "The trouble (has been) that we have had great difficulty in selling the factory. This exercise will at least show that there is a working unit here on which someone can build."



# COUNCIL LEAK

Mr. Case and his family moved to the North East 4 years ago. As he had nowhere to live he was housed temporarily in a Council hostel for problem families in Birtley.

After a year Chester-le-Street RDC gave him a Council house in Pelton. When he moved in Mr. Case noticed a crack in the ceiling of one of the bedrooms. He reported it, but nothing was done. Gradually the crack spread the whole length of one wall, and when it rains water runs down the walls, soaking the curtains and bedclothes. The room is unusable - even in dry weather there is a 2' wide damp patch the whole height of one wall, and damp patches on the opposite wall.

Mr. Case claims that neither the Council or Welfare is interested in his home because his family is classed as a 'problem' one as he spent a year in temporary housing.

Two years ago Mr. Case wrote in desperation to the Journal's Action Desk. They replied that the house was due for modernisation soon, and not to worry.

It is rather difficult for Mr. Case not to worry. He has chronic bronchitis and asthma, and has been unable to work for six years as his doctor insists that he should stay on the Sick register. His wife also suffers from chronic asthma.

Being on the sick Mr. Case gets just over £17 a week, and pays £2.88 a week rent. From this he has to clothe and feed a wife and two daughters aged 12 and 14. Recently he had to keep one of his daughters home from school because he couldn't afford to get her a pair of shoes.

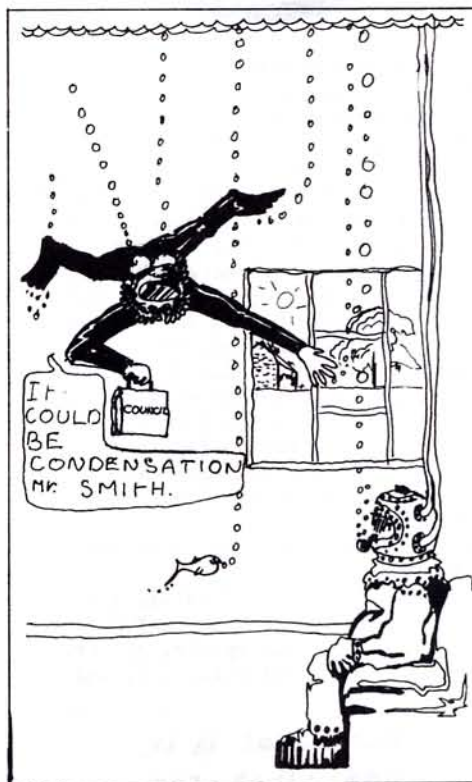
The Social Security gave him £1.50 to buy a pair.

Because of his condition and the condition of the bedroom, Mr. Case is sleeping downstairs in a cupboard just big enough for his bed.

His wife and two daughters sleep in the other bedroom upstairs.

When they called in the Health Inspector he remarked - with genuine insight - that the cupboard was an unhealthy place to sleep, and suggested that Mr. Case should sleep in the living room.

Mr. Case said it was very draughty. The Inspector replied that of course it was, otherwise the fire would go out.



We decided to ring up Chester-le-Street council to find out why they were ignoring Mr. Case.

The Surveyors Department (repairs) had never heard of Mr. Case. There was no record of any complaint. Did he have a ticket? A what? He

should have got a ticket with a number on when he made a complaint - if he hasn't got a ticket then he probably hasn't made a complaint. But he's been complaining for 3 years.....Well, we haven't any record of it.

The Health Department wouldn't talk to newspapermen, but the Town Clerk would.

At first he couldn't remember Mr. Case, but when we mentioned that he had to sleep in a cupboard he did remember. 'Oh yes, the Health Inspector went to see him about a year ago - he seems to have rather a phobia about sleeping in draughts'. He didn't know anything about a hole in the ceiling, but said he would get an Inspector to look into it.

A few days later we rang back. Apparently the Inspector hadn't seen a hole in the roof, just a small hairline crack in the ceiling, that a bit of Polyfilla would mend - nothing serious. Admittedly there was a stain, but no real dampness. As it was an internal crack it was Mr. Case's responsibility. But surely, we pointed out, as there was dampness running down the wall it was reasonable to expect that it was coming in from outside, in which case it was the Council's responsibility? Yes, he agreed, in that case it would be, and the Inspector would go back when it was raining. Meanwhile it was suggested that Mr. Case sleep upstairs - asthma and bronchitis and all.

Quite incidentally, we have heard that Andy Cunningham's luxury home in Chester-le-Street is carpeted in the same carpet as Durham County Hall. We are sure this is not true.

housing queue.

David Constantine, secretary of Durham Cyrenians, was present at the meeting but was not allowed to explain the Cyrenians' intentions, and was only allowed to speak in answer to direct questions - and thus still remained an unknown quantity. At the meeting no decision was taken as it was decided to have a meeting between the residents, the Council and the Cyrenians.

It is important that once the Cyrenians are established in premises not only are they likely to get help from the Social Services, but are eligible for a grant from the County Council from funds made available by the government to assist voluntary groups in this field.

In the meantime David Constantine says 'we hope to open a small hostel for six to eight people within the next fortnight.'

The Cyrenians is a voluntary organisation which exists to help the homeless and the needy. For some time the Durham branch has wanted to establish a small hostel in the City.

After some night research around the city they decided that Durham did not have a vagrancy problem and so concentrated their efforts on setting up a hostel rather than a shelter. The aim of the hostel is to be a therapeutic community where single men who find it difficult to function in society can live for as long as necessary. For example men whose homes had broken up or those discharged from mental hospitals or prisons.

Although the Social Services, Probation and Police Departments are all in support of the scheme, one of the main stumbling blocks seems to be the City Council, through their lack of knowledge of Cyrenian activities and lack of

## Cyrenians

help in finding suitable accommodation. It is 18 months since the Cyrenians first put forward their proposals to the City Council, and last week there was a Council meeting to discuss the possibility of the Cyrenians using St. Catherine's House in Allergate as a hostel.

Apparently local residents object to the hostel on the grounds that it might endanger the nice environment of Allergate. At the Council meeting Ald. Bell said that 'no matter how good the Cyrenians are, and I believe they have got good intentions, they are an unknown quantity.' Ald. Bell also suggested that people who live outside the city could stay in the hostel in order to jump the



The inquest on Henry Whisker, a prisoner in Durham Jail who died in Dryburn Hospital last December, appears to have succeeded in calming the fears of anybody who might have been disquieted by the case and to have killed any interest the local press might have had in the affair.

The chief difficulty about this inquest, and the reason why it had been adjourned for a police investigation, was that Henry Whisker's father had noticed bruises on the body - on the face and knees - and also a cut on the nose. So the Prison's chief medical officer, prison warders, some student nurses and a policeman were assembled to disprove any allegations of foul play.

Dr. Fidian, the chief medical officer of the prison, gave some interesting evidence. He said that the first time Whisker complained of ill health was on Sunday 10th December, when he had a sore throat and a raised temperature but showed no signs of pneumonia. The doctor prescribed a cough medicine and told Whisker to stay in bed. By the next day there were signs of bronchial pneumonia and Dr. Fidian said he prescribed an anti-biotic which caused the patient's condition to improve considerably by the afternoon. But by 9am. the following morning Whisker had developed bronchial pneumonia again, his face was cut and bruised and there were patterned bruises on his knees. Dr. Fidian recommended he be transferred to Dryburn Hospital - where he died early the next morning. (13th December)

Two prison officers gave evidence to the effect that Whisker had fallen out of bed while delirious and had landed on his knees and face, thus causing the injuries his father had noticed. The patterns of the bruises on the knees apparently coincided with the weave of the plastic bedside mat.

Another prison officer who had escorted Whisker to Dryburn (to prevent him from escaping?) testified that he had spent most of his time in the hospital in a state of fighting delirium. Two student nurses confirmed this and



were asked to relate in some detail how they had to prevent him from getting out of bed and how his strenuous resistance caused one of them some minor injuries. Other witnesses included a policeman, who had seen the body shortly after death and who, for some reason, was in possession of the very mat that Whisker had fallen on to while delirious in the prison hospital. This police officer was apparently stationed at Peterlee and had been summoned to the hospital in the capacity of special investigator. He saw the body before Whisker's parents were asked to identify it and stayed around afterwards to comfort and, of course, to reassure the bereaved. It was only at this point in the hearing that the police investigation into Whisker's death, which according to press coverage seemed to be the most important part of the affair, was mentioned. The same policeman was also the spokesman for the enquiry.

Having heard the evidence from these people, the coroner gave a verdict of accidental death and

with it his assurances that the matter would be pursued no further. The only person who had raised any objections was Henry Whisker's father, Mr. Christopher Whisker. He was not allowed to make a statement since he had made one at the previous hearing but was able to question the witnesses, which he could not do very constructively because he had been given no legal advice and was not represented at the hearing by a solicitor. He could only try to put his case but was invariably silenced by the coroner on the grounds that he was making a statement.

No doubt the hearing was conducted with the utmost legal propriety, but this did not make the treatment of Mr. Whisker any less offensive. He was made to look like an ignorant upstart and a trouble maker by a gathering of educated people who ought to have known better than to allow a man to be persistently confused by their own expertise.

There is, of course, no particular reason to doubt most of the evidence given by the witnesses, which, in any case, centered mostly on what happened at Dryburn Hospital; (and by the time he was admitted, it seems the lad was too ill to survive). What should have been the main point of the enquiry was hardly discussed at all. How it was that in Durham Prison a healthy young man succumbed to acute bronchial pneumonia in two days and, when hastily transferred to a general hospital, died? Perhaps Dr. Fidian could have been more informative on this point, particularly if questioned by a solicitor. A large number of Whisker's fellow prisoners felt strongly enough about his death to arrange a sit-in. Why did none of them give evidence? - or does a conviction destroy a man's credibility for ever?

Many aspects of this affair remain scandalously un-explained simply because the people most concerned were unable to fight and people capable of fighting were not interested. Law, we are told, is designed to protect the weak from the strong.

## HELP

TYNESIDE CYRENIANS are seeking four full time workers for the next four to eight months to help in running an overnight shelter for homeless single people.

The hostel tries to create a caring atmosphere for those most underprivileged in society. Good humour, stamina and patience desirable. Subsistence allowance payable. Please write to the Secretary, Tyneside Cyrenians, 16, Leazes Park Road, Newcastle 1.







# TAKEN FOR GRANTED

## 3 Articles On The Games

## Education Authorities Play

# The New Local Authority Con Trick

Education authorities in the North East are busy approving a new system of grants for students staying on at school over the school leaving age. The new scheme is recommended by the North East Council of Education Committees for all local authorities in the area.

THESE NEW SO CALLED "MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES" MUST BE UNIQUE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WELFARE SERVICES IN THAT, AT A TIME OF RISING COSTS AND A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT TO HIGHER GRANTS, THE NEW SCALE OF ALLOWANCES EFFECTIVELY CUTS THE ACTUAL CASH AMOUNTS OFFERED TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN STAYING ON AT SCHOOL OR COLLEGE.

First the new scheme will award grants only to students of 16 plus in place of the existing scheme operating from 15 plus. A student staying on to take 'O' levels, or CSE, will not now be eligible for a grant. A student staying on to take 'A' levels will be eligible for only two years of grants instead of the existing 3 years of grants. A full years grant has been wiped off the income of any family who managed to qualify for a Maintenance Allowance.

But the new scheme is so mean that few families will manage to qualify for a grant anyway - and the larger the family the less likely are they to qualify. Most families on Social Security will have an income too high to qualify:

According to the North East Council's of Education Committees

own miserable estimates it takes £41 a year over the current Social Security level of payments to keep a student at school over the age of 16.

But the scale they propose offers unemployed parents with 2 children (one of 16 and one of 13-15 and receiving Social Security Benefits of £18.10 a week) a grant of only £27 a year to keep the 16 year old at school - i.e. £9 a term!

For unemployed parent with 3 children, receiving Social Security Benefit of £21.50 a week - the grant offered is NIL!

Further the new scales ignore the fact that Social Security Benefit will be increased in the autumn, so that the few families that do qualify for a grant now will be priced out of the scale by the new benefits.

In the autumn a family with 2 children will receive benefit too high for them to qualify for a grant.

In order for a family to qualify for a grant under the new scales they would have to be living below the official starvation level - i.e. to qualify for the payment of S.S. Supplementary benefits - but NOT to claim them.

The North East Council in recommending the new scales to local authorities are proud of their cunning in making the scales even more mean than they seem. They admit that no allowance is made for the raising of the school leaving age to 16 and boast that:

"It is also worth noting that the D.H.S.S. (Supplementary) Benefits will be increased again in April or May 1973 if recent procedure is continued, and this will reduce the amount the Authorities will have to pay if they accept the above scheme."

And even further, when means-testing the family income for the purposes of calculating any grant, regard is to be taken of any exceptional or special needs allowance awarded by Social Security. Thus, the education grant will be reduced if any member of the family is in receipt of:-

"sick pay...family allowance... workmen's compensation, disability and civilian injury pensions... maternity allowance...constant attendance allowance (for the chronically bed-ridden)...and allowances paid to blind or tubercular persons..."

Thus, for those families, any meagre grant they may have obtained will be reduced in the event of any family infirmity or adversity.

Any family with the father working will be quite unable to qualify for any grant - no matter how poor his wage, because the operation of the Family Income Supplement will put them well outside the scale of allowances.

These new scales which are now in the process of being accepted by most North East local authorities are not only unjust they are inhuman. They



represent a public insult to thousands of working class families trying to survive on Social Security. They reveal the insensitivity and indifference of local councils who parade their concern for helping poor families to keep their kids at school but who in reality offer an insulting scale of grants designed to operate below the official starvation level.

The South Shields Education Authority which has just decided to accept the new scale with minor modifications, is typical of this hypocrisy. Last summer the Education Committee shed hysterical tears because, they claimed, the South Shields Trades Union Council's leaflet, "A School Leavers Guide to Survival", which explained what

Social Security Benefits were available to school leavers, would entice students away from school. Now that the committee have the opportunity to take action to encourage students to stay on they have decided instead to add to the financial inducement for them to leave by cutting their grants.

This is the sort of hypocrisy which brings local politicians and local government into public ridicule and disrepute. It is the inevitable consequence of a system of local government which allows our local councillors to live in a phantasy world of statistics created by the official bureaucrats remote from working class realities.

There is now an incontestable social case for ALL students, at school or at college, between the

ages of 16 to 19 to receive a grant at least equal to that which they would receive were they to leave education and stand idly on the street corner on the dole.

The speeds with which grants will be brought up to this Social Security level will depend on how effectively students can organise themselves to take action in support of this demand NOW.

Jack Grassby.

Note: the new recommended scheme was accepted by South Shields Education Committee on 26th February.

## Discretion Is .....?

For the past few months the National Union of Students has been strenuously campaigning for a better deal in student grants. This is hardly surprising when you take a look at the grants system and the way it works, as in most cases it is mean and sometimes ruthlessly barbaric especially to the poorer student often from a working class background.

Probably the biggest injustice in the system is that not every student receives a grant. Under-graduates, Student teachers and similar advanced students are automatically given one, but students on, 'non-advanced' courses such as OND, ONC, O & A levels only receive a grant at the discretion of the local authority.

Those who do receive a discretionary grant (and many don't, leaving them to pay their own way through college) find that they differ throughout the country, ranging from about £400 - £130 per annum but never reaching that maximum student grant of £445. So if a student happens to live in an area where the local authority are

either tight or hard up he could find himself up to £200 a year out of pocket.

Gateshead give their 'non-advanced' students living at home £200 per annum (£4 a week), £285 (£5.50 a week) to those studying elsewhere and £320 (£6 a week) to those studying in London. The extreme meanness of Gateshead Education committee compels a student to be financially dependant on parents, many of whom just can't afford this burden so forcing the student to either give up the idea of further education or do without many of the necessities at college. When the chairman of Gateshead Education Committee, Alderman Chris Wheatley was asked about being mean in respect to student grants, he said, "We are on the generous side if anything", I wonder if he'd let any of his kids live in London on £6 a week? Probably not. But most likely he's got enough money to subsidise their way through college whereas a lot of poorer families just couldn't afford to do this, thus restricting higher education to the rich.



Another section of students hard hit by the grants system are married women. If their husbands are working the maximum grant they can receive is £275 per annum and this is subject to a means test on her parents...Imagine. This puts her in the predicament of being dependent on both her parents and her husband and incurring all the accompanying hardships.

The N.U.S. also want the abolition of the means test which vets students parents and requires them to pay 10% of what they can earn above £1100 per annum towards their kids grants. Here again the student is financially dependent on parents.

Because of inflation the maximum grant for 'advanced' students of £445 per annum which was set back in 1968 has been continually eroded away, until now it is estimated that to bring it back to the level it had in '68 an increase of £100 is necessary before Sept. '73. And because of continuing inflation the N.U.S. wants a 'price index', to be introduced to the grants system so that each year grants can be corrected to this 'real' value. An excellent idea and one that should apply to all fixed income groups such as Pensioners and Unemployed etc.

The heart of the recent N.U.S. campaign has been to introduce new policies to deal with the inconsistencies in the present



Digby Jacks.





system. Enforcing their point, rent strikes in 44 colleges and effective refectory boycotts in numerous other colleges have taken place and a National strike of all students with protest marches through major towns was planned for Feb. 21st, meeting behind the Central Station. About 5,000 students turned up for the march through Newcastle early on a cold Wednesday morning. The mood was good and everyone seemed happy, chatting away or watching the continual fashion show. A flock of what seemed like hundreds of street sellers flogging every conceivable brand of heavy political press descended upon us and proceeded to enlighten anyone with half an ear to listen. But the sight of hundreds

of identically printed banners being distributed from the back of a Union bus took a little of the validity of the march away for me. After all here we were, campaigning for more money and someone's just spent a small fortune on these banners. Like saying you're against pollution and go working for Coca Cola...but.

It took about half an hour of singing, chanting, handing out leaflets, photo clicking, screaming, calling Ted and Margaret all the names under the sun, traffic disrupting through the streets of Newcastle before we all pulled into the courtyard of the University Union Building.

Speeches followed and Digby Jacks, N.U.S. president warned us

that the Tory Government was trying to make higher Education, 'the preserve of the wealthy', and that the idea of giving students loans instead of grants was as much a disincentive to the working class people as the present means test.

After this there were several other speakers then Mr. Roland Boyde, M.P. and Labour party spokesman on Higher Education told us that his party 'both recognised and supported the need for better grants, and suggested that 16-18 year olds should also receive a grant. Hope he remembers all this when he gets into office, more than likely he'll have an attack of amnesia just like his mates.

The next speaker not only showed us the light at the end of the passage but gave us the key to unlock the door. 'Join up with the workers', the T.G.W.U. Representatives pleaded. To me that's the only way the students can win the fight for better grants, after all, students can go and strike forever and the only people effected would be the students themselves, but with co-operation of the workers who hold the economic power of the country the story would be different. But how can students get the support of the workers when they won't even support their brother workers. The gas men are a case in point.

The gathering split up (just in time for dinner) and at the invitation of the last speaker several hundred of us popped over the road to the Civic Centre to see the Director of Education.

But by the time we got there the crowd had lost its impetus and leadership and what followed was a half hearted attempt at a sit in. We all dispersed and went our separate ways.

Bede.

## Second Class?

Technical college students have always (and in every sense of the phrase) been regarded as second class students. Less money is allocated to Techs so they naturally do not have the resources of Universities or Colleges Of Education - and there is a reason for this.

Inevitably most University students are assimilated into the management structure of industry whilst the overwhelming majority of Tech students are destined to fill the roles that their parents have - they are fated to be on the shop floor for the rest of their natural lives (or unnatural lives depending on your viewpoint.)

Naturally both governments and local education authorities want to spend more on University students both educationally and recreationally in order to lead them to believe they are something special. (In effect, these students are being bribed; they generally behave them-

selves when they leave college. Today's students are tomorrow's bourgeoisie, apart from the hoi poloi of the working class.)

It is not insignificant that the majority of University students are not raving left wing militants; they traditionally come from the middle and upper classes and as students are in a privileged position in society: in effect they are little else but parasites. In return for a life of privilege they willingly work to preserve the status quo when they finish studying.

Society can, on the whole, allow these students to have political organisations, as, on the whole, within the university context there is very little chance of a mass change in consciousness amongst these middle class students: at best the majority turn out to be liberal socialists, liberals, or Tories. The percentage of militants is very small, and even among these



quite a large number are mature, working class students with industrial experience.

On the other hand Student Unions (and in particular militant ones) are in the main stamped out in Techs. It is overtly dangerous to allow



engineering apprentices to achieve any kind of left wing consciousness; they might carry it back to their factories and cause real trouble.

Durham Tech students are privileged in that they do have a Union which is active, has funds and its own offices. It is the only Tech in the area in this position. Within most Tech unions the Principal is president and controls the funds, the mail, and the executive committee. The executive at Durham is in the fortunate position of having a free hand in running the Union, the Principal being more libertarian than most.

The effect of this position is that the Tech union appears to have a greater degree of rank and file support than the University union (at a recent demo the Tech had 300 students supporting it, the University had 40) and is much more militant (half the committee are ex-workers.)

Because it appears to be moving in a leftward direction (left of D.S.U. - Durham University Union - certainly) there are naturally attempts to suppress it. These attempts come not from the majority of lecturers, but from a minority. In particular one particularly nasty and vicious art lecturer (a non-unionist himself) has on occasions directly threatened students, in particular young girls.

Yet it is not only some lecturers who object to Unions within Techs. The Durham County Education committee allows unions in Techs but makes damned sure they are underfinanced or not financed at all. Compare Durham Tech's five shillings per year per student fee, levied directly from the members, with D.S.U.'s £13 per year per student composition fee given to them from the L.E.A.'s. No wonder we can't give our members the social facilities they want. We must fight to achieve the same level of finance as the University students.

Discrimination also occurs in the area of academic freedom. All students at Tech are required to register twice a day at nine o'clock and 1.15 in order to qualify for grants, no matter whether they have any lectures that day or not. If you have the temerity to ask what you should do for the rest of the day you are told 'work in the library.' Being highly optimistic 100 students can use the library at once and maybe 20 can use the Union's own study room. The library facilities are lousy and I prefer to go either to the University Library or go home. Yet this is technically wrong according to the rules.

The general attitude among lecturers is that Tech students are irresponsible, immature and not to be trusted with any form of academic freedom. What happens is that a form of self-fulfilling prophesy occurs: if lecturers refuse to trust students they react in an obvious way; they become untrustworthy and tell lies to cover up where they have been. This is not the students' fault: if

people would trust us we would not break that trust. All we ask for is the same degree of academic freedom as University students.

Yet it does not end there even. The University students regard us as second class citizens. Its all very well for them to make friendly noises and mutter about it being 'policy' of D.S.U. to integrate Tech students fully into D.S.U.



If they really wanted this why haven't they done something about putting the policy into effect. The excuses given are both nauseating and endless. It can be suggested that the truth is that they are just plain scared. If we had equal representation on D.S.U. we would have 15 voting reps, generally enough to swing votes on important issues. At the moment they can exclude us on the grounds of financial commit-

ment: we just can't afford to give the amount of money the University students can.

Finally again on finance, the grant structure for Tech students is really discriminatory. Our grants are purely discretionary and much lower than University students'. The fact is that we are there to study: society becomes more technical and demands higher and higher qualifications and expects us to study for them. If society demands these qualifications then we demand a decent standard of living while we are studying for them.

But to end, the worm is turning, the starvellings are arising. In line with a general mood Tech students are beginning to see through the myth of capitalist society and are getting angry.

Not only the authorities but the middle class liberals in the Universities must beware; the time will come when the boot will be (and not just metaphorically) on the other foot: Tech students are beginning to learn one great basic lesson: IF YOU DON'T HIT IT, IT WON'T FALL. We are now moving into a period at Tech where we will hit IT and THEM, bloody hard.

O. Nanism.

Bishop Auckland Technical College which has a fair proportion of female students makes no provision for one of the basic bodily functions of such students - the college does not possess a sanitary towel or tampon dispenser. Are the women who attend the college so well organised that they have no need of such a machine or don't they menstruate? Maybe they just don't do it in college hours!

The Registrar (a woman) was unaware of the absence of the machines; was concerned but is "unable to provide one until the next financial year". Meanwhile girls, keep a note of your dates and should you slip up - hard luck!





# GRAPPEMINE

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

### Films

#### BLYTH

##### TATLER CINEMA

Beaconsfield St.  
15th March for 3 days  
(open to the public)  
S FOR SEX & WIFE  
SWAPPING - FRENCH STYLE  
both X's  
March 18th for 4 days  
(Members Only) - FENNY  
WISE, SHE WAS A FLOWER  
IN A GARDEN OF SENSUALITY,  
MINI SKIRT LOVE & ALMOST  
POWERLESS TO CONTROL  
March 22nd for 3 days  
(open to the public)  
THE ALF GARNETT SAGA (AA)  
with Warren Mitchell &  
THE BALLAD OF CABLE HOGUE  
25th March for 4 days  
(Members only) - COMPUTER  
GAME & BED OF VIOLENCE  
29th March for 3 days  
(open to the public) - THE  
DIRTY DOZEN (X) with Lee  
Marvin & Ernest Borgnine

##### WALLAW CINEMA

Union St. Tel 2504  
18th March for 7 days  
TALES FROM THE CRYPT &  
THE CRISSON GANG  
24th March - Family  
Matinee. THE WOODEN  
HORSE OF TROY & FRONTIER  
SCOUT  
25th March for 7 days  
FEAR IS THE KEY &  
TRIFLE CROSS

#### DURHAM

##### CLASSIC CINEMA

North Road, Tel 3184  
March 11th - BUTTERFLIES  
ARE FREE & MONTY PYTHON'S  
- NOW FOR SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT  
March 18th - FUZZ &  
HICKEY & BOGS  
March 21st - SEX, LOVE &  
MARRIAGE, & PERMISSIVE.

##### DURHAM FILM SOCIETY

Meetings in Room 140,  
University Arts Building,  
Elvet Riverside at 7.30  
March 22nd - AN EVENING  
OF SHORTS

##### PALLADIUM

March 11th for 7 days  
TALES FROM THE CRYPT &  
THE FIEND

March 18th for 3 days  
OMEGA MAN with Charlton  
Heston - A & also  
DOOMSDAY - U  
March 21st, 1 day only  
WOODSTOCK  
March 22nd for 3 days  
DEATH IN VENICE with Dirk  
Bogarde - AA  
March 25th for 7 days  
MECHANIC with Charles  
Bronson - AA also  
IMPASSE - A  
April 1st for 7 days  
FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD  
with Julie Christie - U  
April 8th 1 day only  
THE SWEET BODY OF DEBORAH  
& FRECKLES both X's  
April 9th for 6 days  
THE HAITIAN JOB with  
Michael Caine - U &  
MONTE CARLO OR BUST with  
Tony Curtis - U  
April 15th 1 day only  
MASQUE OF RED DEATH with  
Vincent Price & COMEDY OF  
HORRORS, both X's



April 16th for 6 days  
W.D., PINOCCHIO & MY DOG  
THIEF - U  
April 22nd for 4 days  
NIGHT CORNER with Marlon  
Brando - X, & RIDER ON  
THE RAIN - AA  
APRIL 26th for 3 days  
LOVING FREE with Nigel  
Davenport & Susan Hampshire  
U, & DAD'S ARMY - U  
April 29th - 2001  
A SPACE ODYSSEY

#### NEWCASTLE

##### APOLLO CINEMAS

Shields Rd, Byker  
Apollo 1  
March 11th - NICHOLAS &  
ALEXANDRA  
March 18th - BUTCH CASSIDY  
& THE SUNDANCE KID, &

#### MASH

March 25th - CLOCKWORK  
ORANGE  
Apollo 2  
March 11th - CABARET  
March 18th - SWEDISH FLY  
GIRLS  
March 25th - RYAN'S  
DAUGHTER  
Apollo 3  
March 11th - LOVE  
VARIATIONS  
March 18th - GREAT  
DICTATOR  
March 25th - CULPEPPER  
KETTLE COMPANY

##### CLASSIC CINEMAS

Westgate Rd. Tel 23232  
Classic 1  
March 11th - GETTING  
STRAIGHT  
March 18th - PORTNOY'S  
COMPLAINT  
Classic 2  
March 11th - 200 MOTELS  
March 18th - IMAGES & THE  
VIRGIN & THE GYPSY  
March 17th - late night  
ALICE'S RESTAURANT  
Coming soon - Classic 1 -  
THE VALACHI PAPERS, Classic  
2 - THE GARDEN OR THE SINZI  
CONTINIS.

##### ODEON CINEMA

Pilgrim St. Tel 26718  
March 11th - WHEN 8 BELLS  
TOLL  
March 18th - TRAVEJS WITH  
MY AUNT  
March 25th - PSYCHOMANIA  
& THE BABY  
April 15th - CHARLOTTE  
WEBB  
April 22nd - SNOWBALL  
EXPRESS

##### TATLER - BYKER

March 11th - PLATIGNUM  
PUSSYCAT  
March 18th - CARNY GIRL  
March 25th - GIGI GOES TO  
FOT  
April 1st - KINFOLK  
April 8th - LETS PLAY  
DOCTOR  
April 15th - PRIVATE  
AFFAIR

##### TATLER CLUB

Northumberland St.  
Tel 26814  
April 1st for 7 days  
ART OF GENTLE PERSUASION  
& THE SINGLES  
April 8th for 6 days  
IF YOU WANT IT & HONEY  
April 15th for 7 days

USE THE BACK DOOR & SOFT  
SKIN ON BLACK SILK  
April 22nd for 6 days  
OBSCENITY OBSCENITY &  
PLATINUM PUSSYCAT  
April 25th for one day only  
EROTIC URGE & THE DEPRAVED  
29th April for 7 days  
ELEANA & DIVORCE LAS  
VEGAS SYTLE

##### TYNESIDE FILM THEATRE

Pilgrim St. Tel 21506  
CINEMA 2 (Members only)  
March 15th-17th - HAMLET  
by Kozintsev  
March 18th - DAYS & NIGHTS  
IN THE FOREST  
March 19th-21st  
TWO WAY STRETCH & ONLY  
TWO CAN PLAY both with  
Peter Sellers  
March 22nd-24th - KING  
LEAR by Kozintsev  
March 25th - A GENERATION  
March 29th-31st - RICHARD  
III with Laurence Olivier

#### NORTH SHIELDS

##### CLASSIC CINEMA

Russell St. Tel 72974  
March 18th for 7 days  
SWEDISH FLY GIRLS & ON  
THE SIDE both X's  
March 25th for 7 days  
DRACULA A.D.1972 with  
Christopher Lee & Peter  
Cushing - X & TROG(AA)  
March 17th - INVASION OF  
THE BODYSNATCHERS - AA  
& CASTLE OF EVIL - AA  
March 24th - MACHINE GUN  
KELLY & DINOSAURUS - A's  
March 31st - COOL HAND  
LUKE (A) & A PLACE TO  
STAND (U)

#### SOUTH SHIELDS

##### A.B.C. CINEMA

Ocean Rd. Tel 61503  
March 11th - FREEDOM FOR  
LOVE - X, & EVERY NIGHT  
OF THE WEEK - X  
March 13th one day only  
THE LION IN WINTER  
March 18th for 2 weeks  
CLOCKWORK ORANGE

#### STOCKTON

##### THE DOVECOT

Dovecot St. Tel 611625  
March 16th - THREE MEN IN  
A BOAT - U  
March 23rd - ALPHAVILLE -  
AA





April 6th - THE BALLAD OF  
JOE HILL - AA  
April 20th - THE FLIGHT  
OF THE DOVES with Ron  
Moody & Jack Wild - U

#### WEST MONKSEATON

#### CLASSIC CINEMA

March 18th for 7 days  
INNOCENT BYSTANDER with  
Stanley Baker, Geraldine  
Chaplin & Donald Pleasance  
also CAPTAIN APACHE  
March 25th for 7 days  
WHERE DOES IT HURT? - X  
with Peter Sellers also  
THERE'S A GIRL IN MY SOUP  
with Peter Sellers & Goldie  
Hawn.

#### WHITLEY BAY

#### CLASSIC CINEMA

Park Rd. Tel 23505  
March 18th for 7 days  
OOH YOU ARE AWFUL with Dick  
Emery & S.W.A.L.K. with  
Jack Wild - both A's

## Rock

#### NEWCASTLE

#### CITY HALL

March 12th  
SLIM WHITMAN  
March 15th  
TONY BENNETT  
March 16th  
PROCOL HARUM  
March 18th  
BLACK SABBATH  
March 20th  
STATUS QUO  
March 21st  
KING CRIMSON  
March 22nd  
STRAWBS

March 29th  
ROXY MUSIC  
March 30th  
HIGH LEVEL RANTERS  
April 15th  
NEW SEEKERS

#### MAYFAIR

Fri March 27th  
DARYL WAY'S WOLF &  
JACKSON HEIGHTS  
Fri March 30th  
SPIRIT & FUMBLE  
Fri April 6th  
SPENCER DAVIS & BRUSH

GUILD HALL - Quayside  
March 16th - 8pm - lam  
GARY MOORE BAND, HARLOWE  
& IMPULSE DISCO  
March 21st - 9pm - lam  
BRIDGET ST. JOHN, PRELUDE  
& CHRIS & CHRISS

## Theatre

#### BILLINGHAM

#### FORUM THEATRE

Till 17th March - WE  
BOMBED IN NEWHAVEN - 7.30  
27th March - 7th April  
THE DOUBLE DEALER by  
Congreve - 7.30 pm.  
17th March - 28th March  
THE NATIONAL HEALTH - 7.30

#### GATESHEAD

#### LITTLE THEATRE

March 14th - March 17th  
WHEN WE ARE MARRIED at  
7.15 pm.  
March 21st - March 24th  
CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS at  
7.15 pm

#### NEWCASTLE

#### THEATRE ROYAL

Grey St. Tel 29494  
Until March 17th  
HALF A SIXPENCE - 7pm  
(Sats. 4.45 & 8 pm.)

#### UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Barras Bridge Tel. 23421  
Until March 31st  
THE TEMPEST - 7.30 pm.  
Saturdays - 8pm.  
April 15th - April 21st  
FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS to  
be presented at lunchtime

#### STOCKTON

#### DOVECOT

Dovecot St. Gel 611625  
March 28th - March 31st  
THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE  
by Brecht at 7.30 pm.

April 11th to April 14th  
as before.

#### SUNDERLAND

#### EMPIRE THEATRE

Tel 73274  
Until March 17th  
SONG OF NORWAY - 7.15  
Saturday matinee at 2.15

## Folk

#### Mondays

Ye Olde Cross - Ryton  
Village. Trad Club 8.00pm  
Bay Hotel - Cullercoats  
at 7.30 pm.  
Bridge Hotel - Durham  
City Singaround (free)  
Swan Hotel - Heworth  
at 8.00 pm.  
The Millstone F.C. -  
Heddricks Mill Road,  
South Gosforth.  
Honeysuckle - Coatsworth  
Road, Gateshead.  
Sunn Inn - Stockton  
Royal Hotel - Hexham,  
8.00 pm  
Bay Hotel - Whitburn

#### Tuesdays

Black Horse Hotel -  
Billingham.  
Blagdon Arms - Cramlington  
Road,  
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.  
Dunn Cow Inn - Bedlington  
Greyhound, - Hedworth,  
Jarrow.

#### Thursdays

Salutation - Framwellgate  
Moor, Durham City.  
Ladle Hotel - Middlesboro  
Bridge Hotel - High Level  
Bridge, Newcastle at 8.00  
Chillingham Hotel -  
Chillingham Rd, Newcastle  
at 7.30 pm.  
Railway Hotel - Darlington  
Redesdale Arms - Otterburn  
Sunderland Supporters Club  
(Folk and C & W)

#### Fridays

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

#### Saturdays

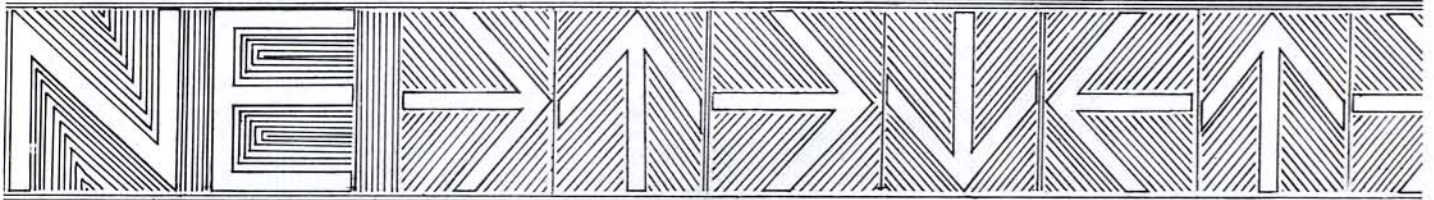
Barley Mow - City Rd,  
Newcastle at 8.00 pm.  
Chesters Hotel -  
Sunderland.  
Albert Social Club -  
Middlesboro  
Golden Cock Hotel -  
Darlington.

#### Sundays

Buffalo Head - Saddler  
St, Durham.  
Gosforth Hotel - Salters  
Road, Gosforth at 8.00 pm.  
Nursery Inn - Hartlepool  
Cannon Inn - Coast Rd,  
North Shields at 8.00 pm  
Marsden Inn - S. Shields  
Blacksmiths Arms - Swainby







## Jazz

### Mondays

Newton Park Hotel - Benton Rd, N/cle, Panama Jazz Band  
Crawley Arms - Swalwell  
Mighty Joe Young Band.

### Tuesdays

Piccolo Restaurant - Gosforth, River City Jazzmen at 8.00 pm.

### Wednesdays

Balmbra - Cloth Market, Newcastle, Saratoga Jazzmen  
Granby - Whitley Bay

### Thursdays

Nursery Inn - Hartlepool, Alex Hand Band.

Wheatsheaf - New York at 9.00 Open Jam session  
Diamond Inn - Ponteland  
Vieux Carre Jazzmen

Highland Lad Hotel - Stockton, Canal St. Dixie Jazzmen.

The Runhead - Ryton, Alias Smith & Jones.

Gosforth Hotel, - Gosforth N/cle Big Band mainstream group.

### Fridays

Granby Hotel - Whitley Bay, Vintage Jazz Band.

### Sundays

Red Hills Hotel - Durham City, Savoy Jazzmen  
University Theatre Bar -

N/cle. 12 to 2 pm. N/cle Big Band.  
Hardwick Hall Hotel - Sedgefield.

## Classical

Mon 19th March 7.45  
Northern Synfonia "Off the Beaten Track" concert  
Gulbenkian Studio, University Theatre, Durham.

Thurs 22nd March 7.30

Songs, piano pieces (with colour projections) by the late but avant garde Erik Satie - Meriel & Peter Dickinson - Peoples Theatre

Wed 28th March 8.00

BBC Symphony Orchestra play

Schubert "Symphony No.8," & Nielson (Inextinguishable Symphony) - City Hall, N/cle.

Thurs 12th April 7.45

Northern Synfonia/Geza Anda piano and conductor play Mozart (Symphony No.28 in C & Concerto in E flat) & Beethoven (Concerto No.3 in C minor)

Wed 14th March 7.30

Shipley Art Gallery  
Rosetti Wind Ensemble & Brenda McDermott - piano Gateshead.

Thur 15th March 7.30

Cathedral Library, N/cle Cathedral School Concert and Cathedral School Choir

Fri March 16th 7.30

Bede College Chapel, Durham. Music a Capella Music by Debussy, Haydn etc.

## Exhibs.

### DURHAM

D.L.I. Museum

March 17th - 8th April

2 Exhibitions by Ivor Abrahams. Sculpture, paintings, drawings & 3 dimensional drawings  
Also Robin Simpson, a Newcastle artist Tues-Sat 10-5, Sunday 2-5.

### MIDDLESBROUGH

UNIVERSITY CENTRE

37 Harrow Road

March 9th-23rd

Cinema City. 75 years of motion pictures, 10am-1pm & 2.30-7pm

### SUNDERLAND

ART GALLERY

Until April 1st

Works by members of the Beamish Hall Arts Group

### JARROW

BEDE GALLERY

Until 25th March

Northern Impressions by Len Stewart Mon-Thur. 10-3pm

### STANLEY

Beamish Museum

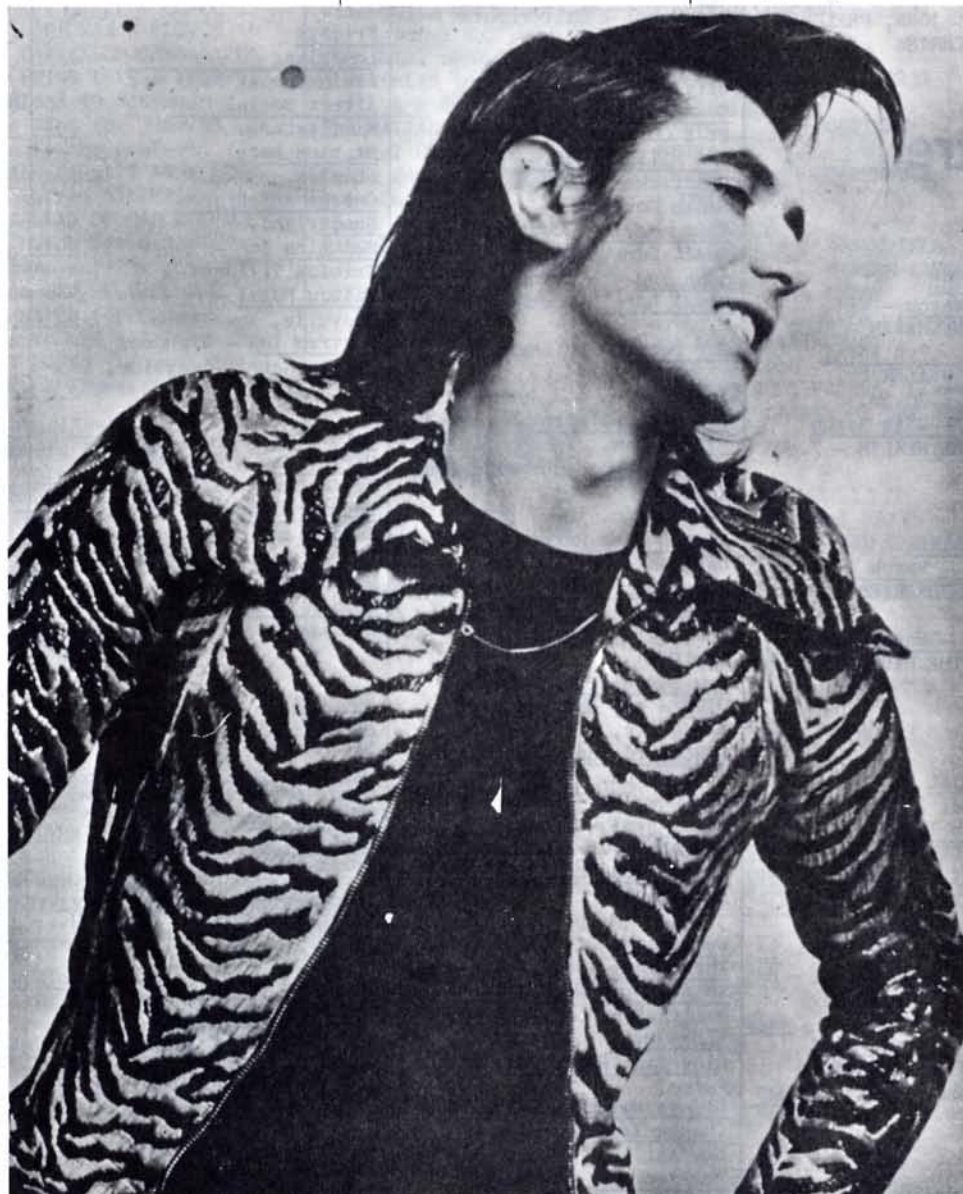
Tues-Sun 1pm-4pm

### WHITLEY BAY

Spectro Arts Workshop

Until 24th March

Spectro - a retrospective & prospective look at the events & activities of the workshop. Mon-Sat 10-6pm



Brian Ferry, Roxy Music.

City Hall N/cle March 29th.



# Straight from the parrot's mouth...

## con

In 1966, 11½ thousand cases of tax evasion were completed. A further 9300 cases were deferred due to pressure of work on the officials concerned. In 1969, 9000 cases were completed and 31000 deferred.

Out of 115 thousand tax evaders over the decade 1959-1968, 176 were prosecuted.

The InLand Revenue Staffs Federation have repeatedly asked for more manpower to tackle this problem.

Instead, the numbers of supplementary benefit special investigators were greatly increased, and Sir Keith Joseph instigated the Fisher Report on abuse of Social Security benefits.

In 1971 there were over nine thousand KNOWN cases of tax defraud (how many got away?) which cost the Exchequer nearly £12 million.

In 1971 5753 claimants were PROSECUTED for abusing their benefits; the sum involved was less than £300 000.

Social Security Benefit is £6.55 plus rent for a single adult or £10.65 plus rent for a married couple, minus as many deductions as possible. (Meagre increases will be imposed next October.)

Fiddling taxes is no more than a rich man's hobby, while fiddling the SS is all but a necessity for the poor man.

## click

On Wednesday 28 Feb. a small group of public-spirited individuals gathered outside Durham prison and waved at it in a friendly fashion. Imagine their surprise when, within seconds, a screw appeared in a window, camera in hand, and started clicking away feverishly. Nobody knows why, since not even the most devious mind could suss out any sort of offence from that and they'll hardly want them for their snapshot album, pretty as they are, or maybe they've got a special album for prominent Durham characters (paranoid thinks).

Whenever we rang up the prison to ask the governor, Mr. Steinhausen (honest to God, that's his name - jawohl Wilhelm), what he thought about this sudden interest in amateur photography, he was - we were told - not available.

## crunch

Ever bought a stale packet of crisps? Thanks to a Muther Grumble special investigation you can now find out how old they really are. On the back of all Tudor Crisps you will find a number - e.g. 11 AJ 32. The first two figures tell you the week of the year they were manufactured - thus 11 means the week beginning 12th March. The next letter tells you the day of the week - A being Monday, B Tuesday and so on. If your crisps are over a month old, refuse to accept them - they should have been sent back to the factory.

## clunk

They 'topped off' (as we say in the trade) the new extension to Trevelyan College the other day. There were T.V. cameras, and the principle at the top of a wobbly-looking ladder, and the senior woman sipping a pint of beer with evident distaste and a frozen smile on her face. No problem where they got the bricks from though, they seemed to be falling off the main structure with embarrassing frequency.

## abortion

Your own G.P. may refuse an abortion on any grounds or refer you to a consultant who again may refuse to abort just because he is a doctrinaire Roman Catholic.

You can then go privately to another doctor who can then arrange the operation on the health service - or you can contact the British Pregnancy Advisory service at 8 The Headrow, Leeds, S.E.1. Tel Leeds 443861, a non profit making organisation.

The going rate is £50 if you are within 12 weeks gone with the operation done in Sheffield, £65 if between 12 and 16 weeks gone; with the operation done at Birmingham or Liverpool, £85 if more than 16 weeks gone with the operation done at London or Brighton.

It is necessary to visit the advisory centre (and pay £10 down at the visit) and the abortion may be refused if good grounds.

But remember take action FAST.



Not just because time is costly but because delay can make the abortion impossible and damage health.

## thanks

Durham Claimants Union wishes to thank Lawrence for his donation which helped clear all the C.U. debts. Many, many thanks Lawrence. The C.U. still needs funds however in order to carry on. Leaflets, handbooks, S.S. Acts don't grow on you as some people seem to think. We need funds to buy them as well as travelling expenses, which can be really heavy when you're in Durham one day, Chester-le-Street the next, and Sunderland the following day.

Are you for us or against us - you can't be in the middle. If you're for, send a donation, no matter how small, to the C.U. at 13, Silver St., Durham.

As it is so much of a hassle getting a bank account, as we're a Union, but not a Union etc. etc., please make P.O.'s etc. out to P.Carroll.

## sam

The other week 'World In Action' did a programme on Sam Green, Durham Councillor, who is one of the first people in political life to declare themselves to be members of the Gay Liberation Front.

We congratulate Sam and 'World In Action' on the programme which must have done a great deal for the image of GLF.

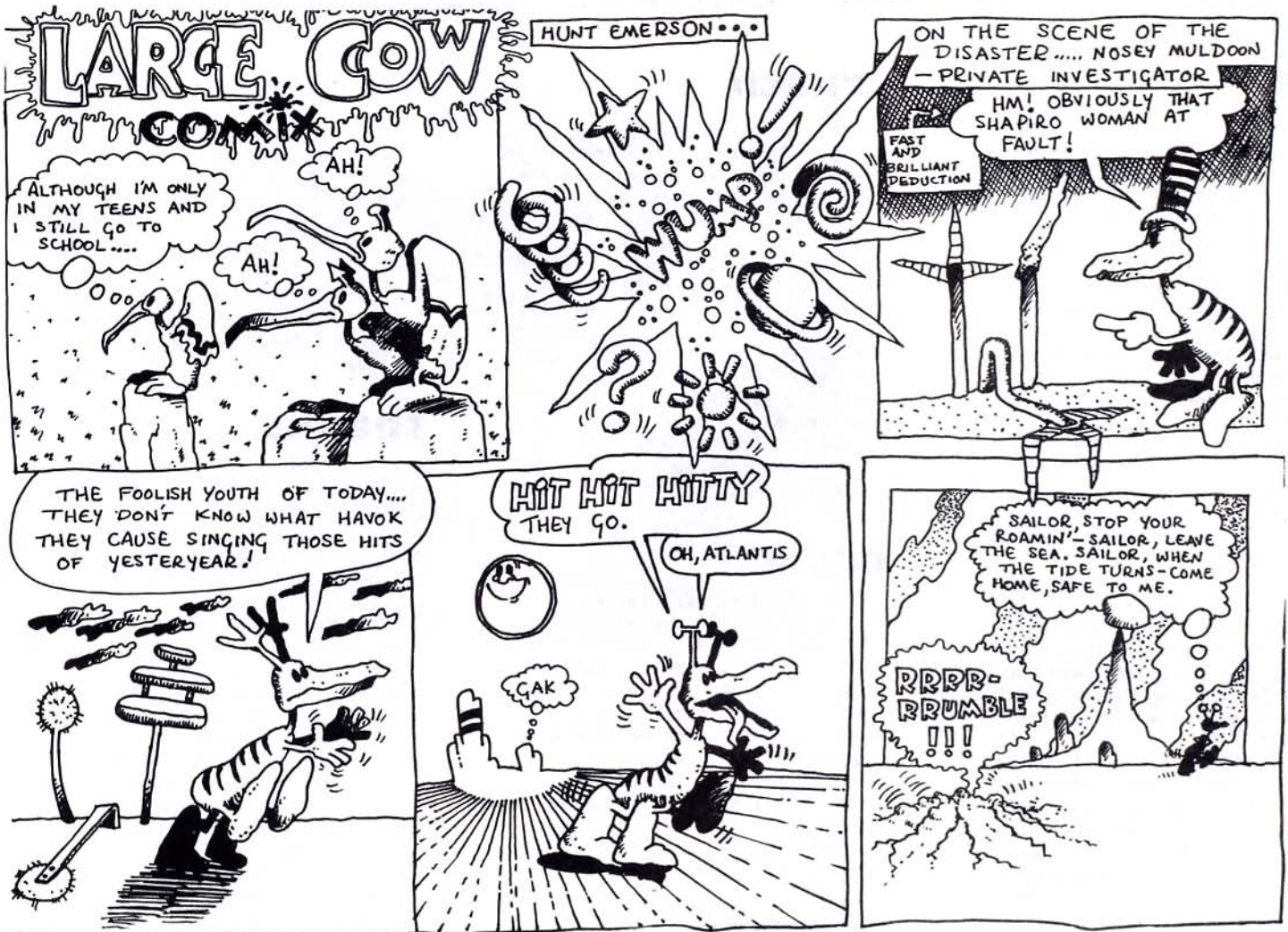
The film should finally have got rid of the idea that Gay people are freaks who talk with funny voices.

By contrast, Sam's fellow Councillors must have stepped out of the Stone Age. On the programme one of them said 'Can't these people be cured by pills or something', and another said he would never invite Sam to his house.

I don't suppose he'd want to go.







# Newcastle Free Info Service

Out of all of the many groups and organizations involved with, and working towards, an alternative structured society; I've always felt that BIT did one of the most important jobs that desperately needed doing. It was with this in mind that we started a free info service in Newcastle. Its function is quite simple: to give information on a large collection of subjects and organizations. We don't for a moment expect, or intend, to be able to either solve or answer all your questions; but we do expect to be able to put anyone in touch with the group or the person that deals with that particular problem.

The information we have ranges

from Women's Lib and Gay Lib through to abortions and contraception through to what to do if you are arrested and how to get your rent down to an acceptable rate...with a lot of things inbetween.

At the moment we do not have an office or a phone but we are available 24 hrs a day if needed.

These are the things you can do to help us:

1. Use us if you need information or just someone to talk to
2. Feed back information that you think we can use to pass on to other people
3. Any green or red shield stamps or ciggy coupons or spare bread or, in fact, anything you think can be of use to us such as typing paper or envelopes etc.

We realize that some people may find it difficult to come and see us because we're not on the phone but since we're not likely to be embarrassed at what you want to know, then you try not to be.

WE CAN BE CONTACTED AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES AND TIMES:

Monday - Friday...Ultima Thule Bookshop,  
22 Arcadia,  
Percy Street,  
Newcastle 1.

Nights & Week-ends....42 Cardigan Tce, Heaton,  
Newcastle 6.

# Frendz

Dear Muther Grumble,  
The main reason for the closure of Frendz was lack of capital and secondly lack of energy and efficiency in the people running the paper. It does not mean that the alternative press is dying, or that our alternative distribution doesn't work. It needed money and more energy but the system itself does work.

I feel so strongly that things are changing and changing fast which is why there are so many tired and boring people bemoaning the death of a movement which has left them behind. The alternatives have evolved and become integrated into our society. Just look at the spread of consumer groups, protest groups, industrial militancy. People in general are dissatisfied with what's going down and they need clear and unhysterical information to understand how and why things are fucked and, perhaps most important, what they can do about it.

Anyway I won't go on with the sermon but those are my, I think, important points which papers like Oz and IT are going to have to face up to and why I like MG a lot.

Love,

John May.  
(ex Frendz)



# LEGALISE CANNABIS

## An Open Letter To The Evening Chronicle

Dear Muther Grumble,

Please find enclosed a reply I wrote to the Evening Chronicle on March 1st. The article was entitled "Is it Safe to Legalize Pot"? When I sent my letter for obvious reasons I could not state my name and address and as the Chronicle says letters whose senders enclose their names and addresses will be the first considered for printing mine never appeared. However I really do not see this as the reason for my letter being rejected. If possible I would like you to enter this as an open letter to Chronicle readers. The letter follows:-

Dear Sir,

Your article, Evening Chronicle March 1st, stirred me into writing this letter. "Is it Safe to Legalize Pot"? you ask.

Well we feel we would like to make a few actual facts clear to you. What about the average consumer's intake of drugs in the forms of tea, coffee, alcohol, and tobacco? How about our consumption of chemicals/drugs in many foods?

You are talking about cannabis as if it were a relatively new discovery, when in fact it has been in use for decades in this country and centuries in other countries. In fact (one of ours) extracts from George Washington's Diary indicate that he was a user - seeing he grew cannabis at a nearby riverside.

The argument against cannabis is always its comparison with hard drugs i.e. cocaine, heroin, opium etc. Haven't we been learning about cannabis for a little too long now in your days of scientific technology? Can't you give us any definite facts about it's apparent danger? One wonders if this much money has been spent trying to prove the harmful effects of other "Household" drugs.

Being 'high' doesn't seem to have affected my time and distance concentration and seems to make one more aware of the important details.

Cannabis impares one's driving skill! Doesn't a few bottles of beer or a couple of double whiskies, and how many people drink? Isn't tobacco a stimulant? So when you're a little tense then have a cigarette and don't mention tobacco's harmful effects (you don't have to smoke cannabis with tobacco).

"My brain hurts!" Oh come now, my brain hurts continually, but

only through constantly trying to sort out from your so called facts, what actually are facts and what are a load of.....

Speaking as a regular user, I am afraid that I don't suffer from your so called side effects and I don't believe any of my friends or acquaintances do either. What are all these warning noises you hear? How about the warning feelings you get from a hard night's drinking? It does tend to disrupt your head and body, and I don't believe anybody can safely drive to work with a hangover.

Considering the number of "Pot smokers" then you should hear a very loud "legalise very soon", and I hope I can be one to make the shout grow louder.

Talking about different dosages up and down the country and the enormous variations of doses only shows that maybe one user possessed more cannabis than another or the "reefer" was made for more than one or two people.

Obviously somebody is into making money on the soon to be legalised cannabis plant, so instead of a tobacco or food company standardising our intake I suggest that one buys unadulterated cannabis and decided for themselves the amount required as does the drinker. I totally disagree with your statement saying that alcohol is used moderately and usually with food. Go into one of our pubs and I am sure you will find a very different atmosphere (and happier) prevailing as the evening goes on. Of course people feel drink effects and one judges how much is desirable. Haven't you been out for a few pints with the lads? Then you've never lived. Cannabis users as do drinkers judge the amount they require, and individual doses differ.

Cannabis as does alcohol requires sensible usage. Do we kid ourselves that nobody pops out from work for a dinnertime pint? Come off it, even your Police force and doctors do. I would like to correct you again, already a simple breath-test has been developed to detect cannabis users (U.S.A.)

I think on the balance, I would legalize cannabis. It seems to help people who use it be a little more foresighted and clear in their heads than you, sir, appear to be.

This is not an article but merely a reply to an article in the Evening Chronicle.



## Addresses

Cannabis Action Reform Organisation (CARO) has been jointly sponsored by NCCL and Release, and will campaign for cannabis to be supplied through authorised channels. For further information contact.

CARO  
65 Edith Grove, London, SW10

NCCL  
152 Camden High St., London NW1

RELEASE  
1 Elgin Ave, London W9

A group of people in the North-East want to start a branch of CARO here. If you'd like to help, contact through Muther Grumble, 13 Silver Street, Durham City, Tel. 61242.





## Groundhogs

You may have noticed in last months Muther Grumble an advert for Amon Duul II at the City Hall, with "Cancelled due to Illness" stamped all over it. Well (long pause after that ludicrously long sentence) Muther Sun Promotions (no relation) managed to get the Groundhogs to fill their vacant date. The show opened with Spyda, a local group, who were remarkably good, they still have a long way to go but to have created so much more or less original material from within the antedeluvian Newcastle scene is no mean achievement. They were followed by Ellis, a strange mixture of acned

(or hacked) childhood teenybop hero Steve Ellis, one time lead vocalist of topline underground freak band the Love Affair. Remember 'Everlasting Love' (pause while you wipe the page clean) and ex (and very much ex) looner Zoot Money. As a certain wise man said, 'es grown is 'air and gone underground! and what an awful band. I mean they wern't untogether, it's just they all seemed to be playing different songs. Before they started, Mr. Money put things on the right footing by saying 'we're not super-stars' and if that wasn't enough went on to add that it wasn't his Ferrari outside. Anyway I'll get on to the important bit. The Groundhogs. I think before I go any further I must point out that the Groundhogs are really Tony McFee + bass and drums - and that's about all you can say about the rest of the group, they are

there to back the 'master' and nothing else.

He opened with 'Split'. Now I must hand it to the guy he can handle a guitar and the band is tight and I started to enjoy things, but after half an hour of excerpts from Split, Hogwash, Thank Christ for the Bomb etc things got more and more monotonous. He used a variety of guitars but they all seemed to produce the same tone and then - wait for it - he moved over to a melletron. Wonderful I thought, the hall filled with rushing waves and howling winds but not much else, so he picked up his guitar again and things went back to tedium. As a final insult he made a pathetic attempt at 'The Star Spangled Banner' (immortalised by Hendrix) and after one encore went away, and so did I.

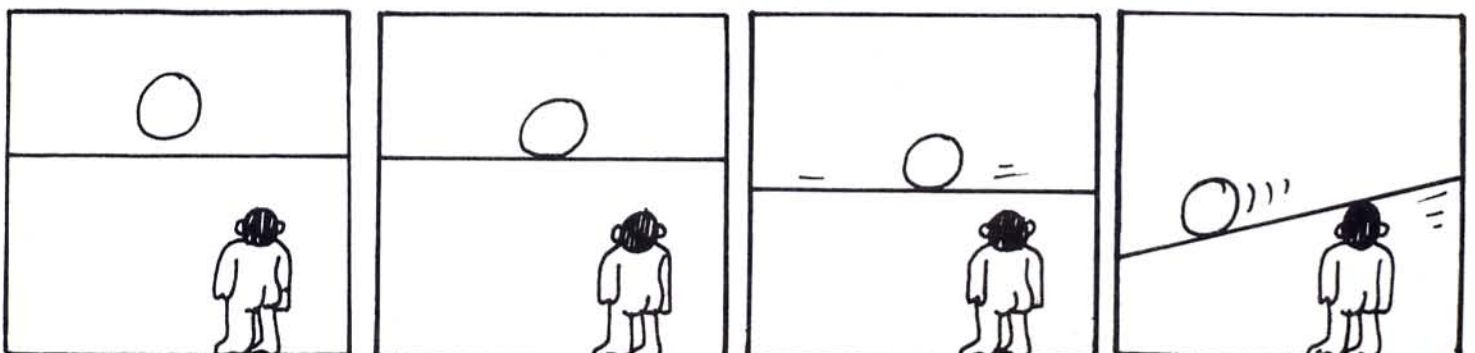
## The Incredible String Band

### NO RUINOUS FEUD - THE INCREDIBLE STRING BAND

This is the first String Band album to include their new member Gerard Dot. And as heavily published in the musical press it is also the first to be produced by Mike Herron, and so we are now being presented with the new look String Band designed to appeal to a wider audience. This, Mr. Heron thinks, can best be done by laying down a steady rythm, with the help of Greyhound (remember the reggae version of Moon River). As implied the album starts off with a thing called Second Fiddle (presumably played by the String Band) as Greyhound go through their reggae bit with little or no regard for musical content or anything else. A good begining you may be saying! to yourself and if you are you may be disappointed for despite Greyhound and Mike Herons production the true worth of this truly



Incredible band does manage to shine through notably on Malcom's Down Before Cathay and also on Turquoise Blue and Little Girl, two songs by Mike Heron. So far I haven't mentioned the other former member of the String Band, Robin Williamson whose irrepresible voice and musical composition has been remarkably reduced upon the last two albums and even more noticeably on this one. Robin's beautifully original style which relied heavily on a loose and often difficult to comprehend rythmic pattern, doesn't fit at all well into the new look String Band and his songs begin to sound somewhat smothered though his work imagery has lost none of its power. Altogether I find this a disappointing album though it has its brighter moments, but I shall be very carefull indeed about buying any more String Band albums if the present regime continues.



J.H.



Holly came from Miami, F.L.A.  
Hitch-hiked her way across the U.S.A.  
Plucked her eyebrows on the way,  
shaved her legs and then he was a she,  
she said hey babe take a walk on the wild side  
said hey honey take a walk on the wild side.

Candy came from out on the Island,  
in the backroom she was everybodys darling,  
but she never lost her head  
even when she was given head  
She says hey babe take a walk on the wild side,  
said hey babe take a walk on the wild side,  
and the coloured girls go do-do-do-do-do-  
do-do-do-do-do-do.....

Little Joe never once gave it away,  
everbody had to pay and pay,  
a hustle here and a hustle there,  
New York City's the place where  
they said hey babe take a walk on the wild side,  
I said hey Joe take a walk on the wild side.

Sugar Plum Fairy came and hit the streets,  
looking for soul food and a place to eat,  
went to the Appollo,  
you should have seen them go, go, go,  
they said hey Sugar take a walk on the wild side  
I said hey babe take a walk on the wild side.

Jackie is just speeding away,  
thought she was James Dean for a day,  
then I guess she had to crash,  
valium would have helped that pass  
she says hey babe take a walk on the wild side  
I said hey honey take a walk on the wild side  
and the coloured girls say do-do-do-do-do-  
do-do-do-do-do-do-do-do-.....

LOU REED: TRANSFORMER

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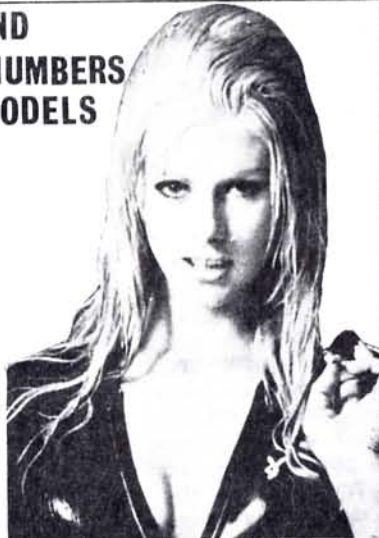
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# THE NORTH EAST MUSICAL

## Jazz

### The Navy Club, N/cle

"I GOT A RAGTIME DOG AND A RAGTIME CAT,  
A RAGTIME PIANO IN MY RAGTIME FLAT,  
WEARING RAGTIME CLOTHES FROM HEAD TO SHOES,  
I READ A PAPER CALLED THE RAGTIME NEWS,  
GOT A RAGTIME MOUTH 'COS I TALK THAT WAY,  
DREAM IN RAGTIME AND I RAG ALL DAY,  
GOT RAGTIME TROUBLES WITH MY RAGTIME WIFE,  
I'M CERTAINLY LIVING A RAGTIME LIFE."

Amongst the most esoteric of Newcastle's hidden worlds must be that of vintage jazz (broadly consisting of Dixieland, New Orleans and Ragtime). Since the demise of the New Orleans Jazz Club, Forth Banks, the scattered legion of jazz fanatics still come together in mysterious Lovecraftian premises.

One may witness such gatherings as for example the Navy Club, Bigg Market, which at my last visit was a sparsely decorated room shaped like the front of a battleship with a small stage at one end over which is hung a life saver, the whole being decorated in a battleship grey and navy blue. The whole mood is a classical 1930's Players advert.

One may turn up at such an impromptu gathering and encounter clarinet, trumpet, tuba, washboard and banjo playing, appropriately enough 'Salty Dog'.

The musicianship could well be excellent, featuring the mellow supple clarinet of John Saxelby

with that 'aged in the wood' timbre and the hot exciting trumpet of Clem Avery, a piratical figure whose weekly spot at the New Orleans Jazz Club was not to be missed. Most of these guys have been playing around together for more than a decade for the sheer love of it.

Someone who certainly 'leads a ragtime life' is the ragtime kid himself, otherwise known as Dave Kerr. As well as having an almost definitive collection of source material he is also the proud owner of a pianola (or player piano) - you know, stick on a roll and work the pedals and it plays 'original Jelly Roll blues'. As well as playing the player piano (recently featured on the radio programme Jazz North East) Dave is accomplished on washboard, drums and skulls (a 1920's kind of nickey nockey set of wooden things painted in red and gold) and is one of the few local practitioners of classic



ragtime.

Obviously one can't cover the whole jazz scene in one article but I cannot conclude without a word about the North's own Barrel-house Queen, Sheila Giles. In these profane days of microphones and P.A.'s it is fascinating to hear a singer who can project over a piano, bass and guitar etc., and still be heard at the back of the room.

Sheila sings in the Bessie Smith idiom with a liberal dose of Geordie public house folk-holler mixed well in. Though built on more delicate lines than Bessie and Ma Rainey, Sheila can put over a tune with the best of them.

You can turn to your What's On for more information. See you next time folks.

Mike Maurice.

## Cheap

## Food

For those on S.S., students grant or otherwise poverty held, perhaps the following summary of my eating habits might prove useful.

It's based on vegetarianism and a belief that canned/processed food is shit that uses up lotsa metal and paper.

Every week I buy: 7 pints milk 38<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>lb porridge 10p, 3lb whole-meal flour 18p, 3oz yeast 6p, dozen eggs 26p, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>lb nuts and raisins 8p, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>lb cheese 15p, 5lbs

potatos 10p, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>lb tomatoes 10p, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>lb mushrooms 15p, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>lb fruit 15p, 1lb brown rice 10p, 1lb lentils 10p, cauliflower, cabbage, sprouts, onions, carrots, turnips, leeks, beetroot, cookers - about 60p. In all about £2.50.

This does easily for a week for one, feeds an occasional friend or two, and usually there's assorted oddments left over.

Fresh veg. is cheap, full of goodness and prepared by you. Buy from the market. Take a large bag and have everything poured in (saves on paper). Cook in boiling water as quickly as possible in open pan. Save water for soup. Try grating veg. Invest in a pressure cooker from an Oxfam type shop.

Fruit - mostly 10p a pound, but see what's cheapest each week.

Breakfast cereal - porridge is the only decent one. Try making your own muesli: add nuts, raisins, fruit, milk.

Eggs - get only fresh farm, non-battery ones. Take your original boxes back for refilling.

Milk - is good, cheap, and comes in returnable bottles.

Cheese - cottage is cheap. The containers are a drag, but use the big 'uns as storage containers, plant pots, sandwich boxes.

Brown rice - can be bought in bulk (28lb) from most health food shops.

Take time to arrange the food on the plate, it makes it a helluva lot more appetising. Small mouthfulls (try chopsticks) and lotsa chewing make you full up.

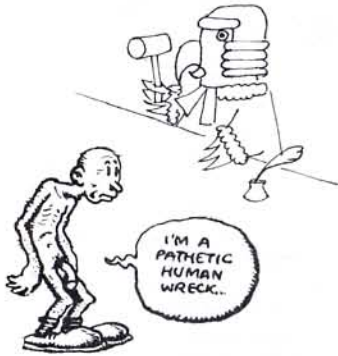
If yer a nibbler, chew a carrot, eat a peach (?), peel an orange.

I think I eat well and cheaply - and make lotsa interesting combinations of food.

Pete.



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Most new projects worth working on get going thanks solely to the energy of the people involved - some, however, require initial SEED-MONEY to get off the ground - for instance, BIT Information Service was Hoppy's brainwave, but it still required a £1,000 gift from Paul McCartney to really get it going. So for people with outrageous or constructive ideas that need money to be put into action, here's a NEW & REVOLUTIONARY 'CO-OPERATIVE COMPETITION' called

'THE ALTERNATIVE SOCIETY IDEAS-POOL'

## HOW WOULD YOU SPEND £ 1,250 ?

TELL US THE BEST WAY AND THE MONEY'S YOURS.

So please send in your ideas on how best to spend (up to) £1,250. Anyone can enter, it doesn't matter a bit whether you consider yourself part of the Alternative Society or not. There are no conditions as such, but the 'Ideas-Pool Attendants' are to be entrusted with judging which proposal sent in is the most imaginative and realizable and most in need of money. The 'Ideas-Pool Attendants' are a notorious but trustworthy bunch of people: Richard Neville of OZ, Germaine Greer of 'The Female Eunuch', Phil Cohen late of the London Street Commune, Nicholas Saunders of 'Alternative London', Jean Fraser of the Underground Press Syndicate and BIT Information Service, and Hoppy who's working with the Centre for Advanced Television Studies. Before giving money to any project(s), the following are the kind of questions they will ponder:

- (1) Is the scheme likely to be put into action and will the money be used to do this?
- (2) Will it help change or revolutionize British society in some way?
- (3) Will it help people fight their oppressions?
- (4) Will it help people expand their consciousness?
- (5) Will it help people communicate with one another?
- (6) Will it help people improve their environment?
- (7) Will it help build up Alternative Society structures anywhere in Britain?
- (8) Is something like it already happening or does it represent a new and inspired direction?
- (9) And so on - your scheme doesn't have to be all or any of the above, but you probably get the idea of the kind of schemes the Attendants will be looking out for.

Total secrecy and anonymity maintained if you ask for it, otherwise - and this is as important as the competitive bit above:

**LET'S POOL OUR IDEAS.** We're hoping later this year to print the most exciting 300 or so schemes in a 'BOOK OF VISIONS 1973', to act as an inspirational handbook for those setting out to change society and also as a guide for rich people and foundations wanting to know positive ways to spend their money. Any profits from this publication will be fed back into the 'Ideas-Pool' at the discretion of the Attendants. If the 'Ideas-Pool' is a success and other people follow the example of the anonymous donor who put up this first £1,250 specifically for this project, then it's possible the 'Ideas-Pool' will become a permanent alternative society organisation which will regularly give or lend money to new projects, a kind of free bank.

Notes: Send your scheme in on anything from a postcard to a couple of fooscap sheets before MARCH 31st 1973 to The Alternative Society Ideas-Pool, c/o Time Out, 374 Grays Inn Road, London W.C.1. Please put brackets round any bits you want kept secret and not printed. The Attendants may decide to split the £1,250 prize money up - how the money gets spent is totally at their discretion. They will announce the winner(s) in the alternative press throughout the country some time in April 1973. If you need more information, contact BIT INFORMATION SERVICE (01-229-8219).

Inter-Galactic Rhythm & Blues for your dance, party or concert, Phone News Fom Blueport at Newcastle 852109. Promotion Pip Warwick.

STREET SELL Muther Grumble and earn 3p a copy. You can be as rich as us!

2 students looking for cheap tandem. Contact 4, Hylton Rd, Newton Hall Phone Durham 5108.

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DURHAM BOOK CENTRE wants books and music  
DURHAM BOOK CENTRE wants books and music and records  
DURHAM BOOK CENTRE is in Vine Place Sunderland  
DURHAM BOOK CENTRE is in disguise at Durham New Market on Sat to purchase books.

Wanted Penguins - Wanted Penguins - Wanted text books. All for cash.

Girl wanted to share flat. Contact through MG

SQUATTING. The Family Squatting Advisory Service produce a newsletter 'Squat' available from Blackfriars Settlement, 44, Nelson Square, London SE 1. They are also making a complete folder of info, a 'Squatters Action Kit' which will be available for a small charge.

BIT INFORMATION SERVICE produces the only travel guide to all Africa. 'Overland Through Africa' (minimum donation 75p goes to BIT and Operation Omega for the liberation of Namibia) - it's for the hitch-hiker and cheap traveller, as is 'Over land to India and Beyond' (minimum donation 50p) which covers every inch of the route from Turkey to Indonesia. Both guides are constantly updated. From BIT, 132, Great Western Rd., London W.11.

At BYSANTINE on Saturday in Durham covered market. Gold & frankincense & myrrh & pure oil and essences & hand made jewellery & candles & herb incense & gum benzoin & lignealoes & henna & kohl etc. etc.

N.E. Rock & Roll Society. Meets Mon. Aventine Club, Cuthbert St., Gateshead (off Bensham Rd) & Fridays Newcastle Workingmen's Club, St James St. (nr Football Ground)

The Incredible Human Kite flies every Saturday near Durham market.

Urgent messages for MG Newcastle or help needed ring Jim at 813687

Good experienced professional drummer needs Cosmic Rock & Roll Band. Contact MG.

Back numbers of Muther Grumble available from 13, Silver St., Durham

Crashpads wanted urgently in and around Durham. Write to MG.

Castings or Oriental Tables, Buddhas, statues, masks, mandalas & all miniature carvings etc for sale. Very cheap. Contact MG

Stuart & Eileens Stall. Bigg Market N/cle. Candles, incense, Indian perfumes, leather goods, and big skins.

Books antiquarian & otherwise, large stock. The Bookstall, left hand side Durnam New Market.

WANTED: All old stamps, ciggy coupons, trading stamps & old specs. They are worth money to MG and the CU. The glasses go to refugees.

So you think Christianity is a waste of time. So did I till I tried it. If you're interested in finding out the real facts contact George at Muther Grumble, 13, Silver St., Durham

ULTIMA THULE  
crowley - cohen - burroughs - dylan - genet - leary - viva - zen - poetry - magic - fiction - joss sticks - tarot cards - small press publications - all underground press - drama - eastern religions - records. 22, Arcadia, Percy St., Newcastle Tel 23679.



# GRAFFITI

## HELP, ADVICE, INFO

### CLAIMANTS UNIONS

Durham  
13 Silver St. Durham  
City, Tel. 01242  
Newcastle  
255 Westgate Rd., N/cle  
Weekly meetings Tues.  
afternoons at 2.  
S. Shields

Claimants Union is temporarily of no fixed abode - watch this space.

### CYRENIANS

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

### SAMARITANS

Newcastle 7272  
Durham 03737  
Sunderland 77177  
Middlesbrough S6777  
Hartlepool 2020

### WEST END TENANTS

At Elswick Action Centre  
Elswick Road, Phone  
39707

### OFF THE RECORD

Provide info and help  
Mon-Fri 7-9pm at 5  
Charlotte Square,  
Newcastle, Phone  
N/cle 2388.

### Want to talk to someone?

We will try to help you  
in any way we can or  
with any problems. Call  
at Muther Grumble, 13  
Silver Street, Durham  
City or phone Durham  
01242.

### Stockton Help

20 Laurence St. Stockton  
on Tees, Tel Stockton  
00607 for 24 hr. service.

## MAGS

Uncareers Produce a  
Directory of Alternative  
Work which contains  
examples of useful  
interesting work which  
doesn't exploit people  
and which is controlled  
by the people doing it.  
Contact at 205b Fenshore  
Rd. Birmingham S. Tel.  
021-440-4140

Proposed Projects in  
Democratic Work or  
Alternative Technology  
If you are planning or  
want to work in one,  
circulate through 'In  
the Making' a directory.  
71 Thirlwell Rd.,  
Sheffield, S8 9TF. 40p  
a year or 10p or S.A.F.  
enquiry.

### N.C.C.L.

Helps people defend  
their rights and  
investigates violations  
of those rights. Also  
produce some excellent  
pamphlets. 152 Camden  
High St., N.W.1.  
(01-603-8654)

### RELEASE

1 Elgin Ave. London W9  
(01-603-8654)

### BIT

24 hour free info & help  
service for young people  
and those trying to  
create an alternative to  
present society. We are  
interested in what's  
happening in your area -  
so let us know. BIT have  
changed their address -  
now at 137 Great Western  
Road, London W11.  
Phone 01-220-8210

### FAMILY PLANNING

ASSOCIATION  
Northumbrian Branch 'A'  
floor, Milburn House,  
Dean St., Newcastle,  
27020

### CAC

3 Blackwellgate,  
Darlington. Advice and  
information etc.

### RENT TRIBUNAL

If you're in a furnished  
flat and having landlord  
problems, the rent  
tribunal can give you  
security.  
Warwick House, Grantham  
Rd., Newcastle 2. Tel  
N/cle 010322

### BRITISH PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE.

See article on Page 15.

Stand. Quarterly magazine  
of new writing. Vol. 14  
No. 1 contains a 10,000  
word extract from the  
Russian film-makers note-  
book Dovshenko.  
Description of the war  
and the chaos in the  
Ukraine fighting the  
Germans. Available from  
Ivan Corbett, Durham.  
Subscription: 1 year (4  
issues) £1.25 (students  
05p) from 58 Queens Rd.  
Newcastle.2.

Ostrich: Ostrich 7 now  
out. New issue covers  
arts and community  
activities as well as  
poetry. Issued by  
Erdesdun Pomes, 10  
Greenhaugh Rd., South  
Wellfield, Whitley Bay.  
Contributions welcome.  
Cost 15p.

## GROUPS

### GAY LIBERATION FRONT

Newcastle GLF meet 8pm  
every Wednesday at 258  
Westgate Rd., N/cle.  
Sunderland Acting Sec.  
Howard Llewellyn,  
Students Union, S/land  
Polytechnic.

### CHE

Tyneside Meets on  
alternative Tuesdays.  
Contact Richard Webster  
17 Oxford Terrace,  
Gateshead. (Tel. 72660)  
for details.

Teesside Contact Frank  
Smith 57 Belmont Ave,  
Billingham, Teesside.

### PROF

(Preservation of the  
Rights of Prisoners) At  
06 Victoria Avenue, Hull.  
Produce PROF magazine  
available from them.

### FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Now hold regular  
meetings in private in  
the Percy Arms Haymarket  
Newcastle at 7.30 every  
other Monday. For details  
contact Colin Clewes,  
C/o Fullbeck Grange,  
Northgate, Morpeth.

### SOC'EM

Save our City from  
environmental Mess. For  
information contact 70  
Roseberry Crescent, N/cle  
7.

### TYNESIDE ENVIRONMENTAL

CONCERN Contact Colin  
Marsh, 6 Beatty Ave.,  
Jesmond. Tel N/cle  
S5014.

### DIVINE LIGHT MISSION

18, Holly Ave, Jesmond,  
Newcastle.

Audience Sunderland Arts  
Diary and Review Quarterly.  
Vol. 1 No. 1 out now  
Price 15p. Published  
from Ceolfrith Arts  
Centre, Frederick St.,  
Sunderland 78543.

Catonsville Roadrunner  
for the development  
towards a more human  
society: Religion & Power  
Politics as dehumanising  
society. 8p monthly or  
sub £1.25 for 12, 65p  
for six from 25  
Brundretts Rd., Manchester  
21.

COMMUNITY RADIO IN  
BRITAIN a practical  
introduction! Produced  
by Whole Earth Tools.  
Available from Ivan  
Corbett, Durham, or  
Ultima Thule, N/cle.  
PRICE 40p.

### SHELTER GROUP

Contact K. Murray,  
8 Monks Crescent,  
Gilesgate, Durham  
Tel 62007.

### COMMITMENT

(Radical Environmental  
Action Group) 26  
Grosvenor Road, St.  
Albans, Herts.

### WHITE PANTHERS

10 Fairview Ave.,  
South Shields.

### CLEVELAND COMMUNITIES

Related to the Dwarfs  
non-violent revolution  
through communes, craft  
workshops etc.  
John Hodgson, 25 Newcomen  
Terrace, Redcar, Yorks.

### RADICAL EDUCATION

Anyone interested contact  
Jon & Marcia Taylor, 5  
Astral House, S/land  
SRI 3DX.

### TRADES COUNCILS

Durham D.O. Ellison,  
11, Attlee Crescent,  
Haswell Plough,  
Durham.  
Newcastle Gordon  
Steele, 26 Garth  
Twelve, Killingsworth.  
Sunderland H. Mitchell,  
23, Springdon Rd.,  
Springwell Estate.  
South Shields 4, Westoe  
Village, South Shields  
Chester-le-Street C.M.  
Warner, 6, Weldon  
Terrace.  
Federation of Trades  
Councils (Teesside)  
F. Munroe, 7, Lumley St.,  
Middlesbrough.

### Spectre Arts Workshop

10, Station Rd., Whitley  
Bay. Tel W.B. 22336.

### INSIDE STORY

Monthly for 25p. "This  
beautifully produced  
magazine is a sort of  
anarchist Private Eye"  
Available from 3 Belmont  
Rd. London, SW4.

### COMMUNITY ACTION

Have now been going for  
a year. No. 6 costs 15p  
and has excellent  
articles on roads,  
housing and public  
health acts which  
apply to housing.  
Available from 7A  
Frederic Mews,  
Kinnerton St.,  
London SW1

### Commitment

Political ecology action  
group free newsletter  
available from 26,  
Grosvenor Road,  
St. Albans.

### YOUNG VOLUNTEER FORCE

c/o College of Further  
Education, Bath Lane,  
Newcastle, Tel 21371

### CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Contact the local secretary  
at 79, Woburn Square,  
Whitley Bay.

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. N/cle  
811876

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

### December 6th Group

Grew out of aftermath of  
Stoke Newington 8 trial.  
Contact via Compendium  
Books, 240 Camden High  
St., London N.W.1

### Drawing and Painting

Classes for beginners and  
advanced students. Special  
personal attention. Cost-  
what you can afford.  
Thur & Fri 1-4pm and one  
evening to be arranged.  
Shakespeare Hall, North  
Rd. Durham.

Ceolfrith Bookshop & Art  
Gallery will be expanding  
soon. At the moment they're  
still at 27, Frederick St.,  
Sunderland.

Faggots & the Revolution  
Gay's response to the  
straight left put downs  
of gay sexuality - Gay-  
prints I from Gayprints  
103/105 Market St.,  
East Ham. London E6  
price 15p (inc. postage)

Street Research Bulletin  
Excellent magazine for  
those who want to research  
for themselves where the  
power lies in our society,  
and what that power is  
doing. 15p from Street  
Research Bulletin, 5,  
Gallemore St., Salford,  
Lancs.

Science For People  
Magazine on alternative  
technology, community  
action and the links  
between science & politics.  
10p from BSSRS, 9 Poland  
St., London W.1.



FRIDAYS • SATURDAYS • SUNDAYS



THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE REFORM OF MARIJUANA LAWS

# MARIJUANA

WEED FROM THE DEVIL'S GARDEN!



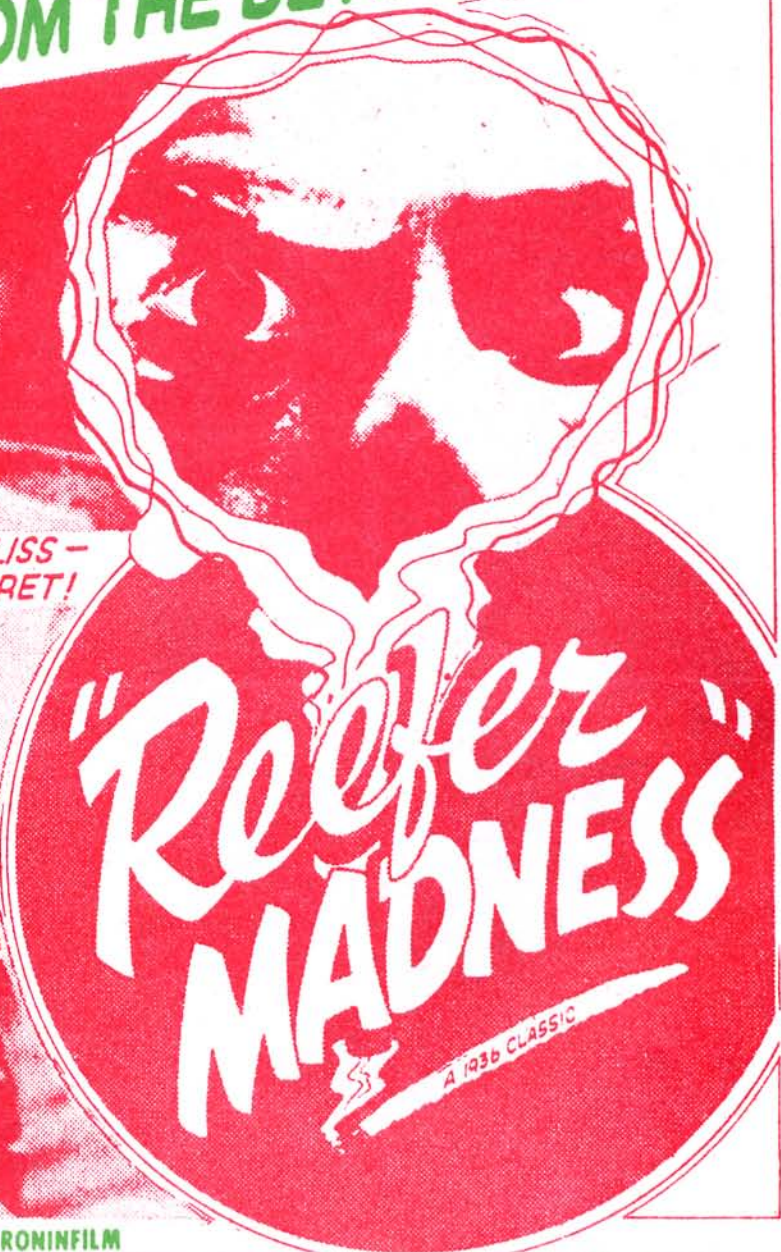
One MOMENT of BLISS —  
A LIFETIME of REGRET!



HUNTING A THRILL,  
THEY INHALED A DRAG  
OF CONCENTRATED SIN!



A NORML FILM FROM RONINFILM



WAKE UP AMERICA! HERE'S A ROADSIDE WEED  
THAT'S FAST BECOMING A NATIONAL HIGH-WAY!

**BLEEKER ST. CINEMA** 144 BLEEKER  
674-3210

This is an advert. from a Los Angeles newspaper. The film was made in 1936 as a propoganda film for the abolishment of marijuana. Now it is being shown by people who are raising funds to fight the current anti-marijuana laws, in California. Perhaps it is time for people to consider again the need for new legialation on cannabis in England. After all, everybody knows it, the people are smoking.