

Inside Your

NENE SCENE

LATE JANUARY 1985

Vol. 2 Number 6

CONFERENCE EDITION



All the latest News about forthcoming Executive posts; Plus SPORT, ENTERTAINMENT and a Special Review of 1984 with quotes from those famous and those not so well known. PLUS A CHILLING ACCOUNT OF 7 Nene students at NUS Conference in BLACKPOOL!!!!

EXECUTIVE CLAMPDOWN ON TROUBLEMAKERS. by Stephen Walker

Following various incidents of misconduct at some of last year's social events the Union Executive have re-emphasised their commitment to banning individuals concerned. This term there will be stricter observance of individuals renowned for trouble in the past. Union President, Mike Pearce, spoke this week to Nene Scene about this particular problem. "If we find out who are the people involved in this trouble then an immediate 28 day ban will be enforced."

He later said that "a line should be drawn between people having a good time at events and others going over the top". Simon Lambert, General/Entertainments Secretary, was equally concerned about the problem. "There are a lot of people close to being banned at the moment. There's nothing wrong with people getting drunk but I do object to people getting drunk and then abusive. Why can't they just fall asleep."

However, did he think a ban would be effective?

"Well, 28 days should be a minimum. However, people who get away with this type of exclusion should count themselves very lucky".

Is 28 days really long enough?

"Well, some nightclubs would ban individuals for life." said Simon.

In a reference to students who repeatedly dodge paying admission, he was equally as firm. "Anybody who attempts to enter Avenue without paying can expect a fortnight ban from all N.C.S.U. events.

The Union currently employs two bouncers at Avenue, and although trouble has been less than in previous years, their presence, according to Union Welfare Officer, Rosie Darragh "is still very much required."

How do our problems compare with others?

"In comparison to other places, there is not too much trouble, but there is a big difference between enjoying yourself and causing a disturbance. Hopefully people will keep the possibility of a ban in mind." said Ms. Darragh.

People who do get banned will however have an opportunity to appeal against the order placed against them. The Union at present have a reciprocal agreement with the bar at Park with the effect that a ban at Avenue will also be effect at Park Campus.

FOR ALL THE LATEST

Union NEWS - SEE INSIDE.

At last the First edition of 1985. Welcome back for another fun packed term, which by all accounts will prove to be as busy as the last one was. Firstly, we've got Rag Week and the Elections lined up plus N.U.S. Conference in March and a Demo in Finchley at the end of the month. From Union News (right) you can see that the Exec. have already been involved in discussing matters which may prove to dominate the forthcoming weeks. The problem over the library has not simply disappeared since bags were ceremoniously banned by Mr. Wilson, Chief Librarian. In fact, students have already noticed the contents of their own bags disappearing. Already one poor student's lunch has been nicked by some hungry individual. Therefore students' should obviously not leave anything they consider of value in their property outside the library. It also seems ridiculous that in the technological 1980's a more advanced system that actually works could not be used.

The Exec.'s commitment to monitoring what can only be described as anti-social behaviour should not end simply at discos and other social events. Last week one individual, or individuals, emptied the entire contents of a video machine with a key and walked off with approximately £70. Whatever the rationale behind such acts, it is certainly illogical. Stealing your own Union's money is like cutting off your hands and then complaining you cannot write. The money should have been spent on maintaining and improving student services.

On a more cheery note to end with, Sean Silver, former President raised over £600 at the weekend for his Operation Raleigh trip. Thanks to students, local firms and individuals.

Well done.

Stephen Walker

UNION NEWS

Elections.

Nominations are now open for the positions of External Affairs Officer and Avenue Representative on the S.U. Executive. The nomination closing date is 22.1.85. at mid-day. Anyone can stand and vote for External Affairs position and only Avenue students can stand and vote for Avenue Representative. Voting begins on Monday, 28.1.85. and closes on Friday, 1.2.85. If you wish to stand or you want any information on these positions please come into the S.U. Office. The yearly Executive elections will begin in March. Nominations open on 25.2.85. and close on 8.3.85. There will be three hustings, one at Park and two at Avenue. Voting for the positions starts on 18.3.85. and ends on 26.3.85.

E.G.M.

The motions from the E.G.M. were passed by the Executive. N.C.S.U. will donate £50 to the Corrymeela Organisation in Northern Ireland, which will be raised by a special event. It will also affiliate to the National and local campaigns against Social Security Cuts. It was agreed that the plaque re-naming the Avenue S.U. Building, the Mandella Building, will be mounted before the next O.G.M. on the 14th March.

Rag.

Rag Week will begin on 9th March. There is a meeting on 22.1.85. in the L.L.T. at 12.45 pm. to discuss events. The theme is Drag Rag and it should be an active week with lots of student participation.

UNION NEWS

Compiled by Rosie Darragh

New Deal.

It was passed at the Christmas National Conference that there would be a Day of Action on 30.1.85. N.C.S.U. are planning to go down to Finchley (Mrs. Thatcher's constituency). More information will be available at a later date.

The next N.U.S. Conference will be held on 25.3.85. until 29.3.85. We will be sending along delegates.

Library.

Everyone must have noticed the new arrangements in the Library. Due to increasing theft of books the Library have decided not to allow bags into the Library. Leaving bags outside unguarded is not a satisfactory solution. Money is being made available for lockable lock-up lockers and hopefully a new detection system will be looked into.

White Elephant 'Bus.

The Students' Union realise that the morning bus is too small to seat all the students who wish to use this facility. We have been in touch with Northampton Transport several times with little success. Mike Pearce has written to the secretary of the Transport Committee of the County Council complaining about this. He is going to make a verbal complaint next Thursday at a meeting of that Committee. This should hopefully result in a larger bus being laid on.





news desk

STEPPING UP THE CAMPAIGN

Following the emergency motion at NUS Christmas Conference and recent events involving PNL students - the jailing of two students, threats of tougher penalties and the refusal by the courts to allow the Polytechnic to give Patrick Harrington individual tuition - NUS is stepping up its work on this issue.

We must intensify the pressure on ILEA and the Polytechnic to ensure that other students don't have to be taught with Harrington, and also pressurise the Polytechnic to enforce their disciplinary code against Harrington following his racist remarks on Thames TV. We must also take up the issue of Harrington in its broader context and develop our anti-racism campaigning generally to ensure that the climate in our colleges is one where the ideology of the fascists and racists will be challenged and not gain any ground. Harrington cannot be seen in isolation and all aspects of anti-racism work must be prioritised, encouraging all our members to get involved in a major "students against racism" campaign.

No Sir Keith, no!

NUS has produced window/bumper stickers protesting about the government's proposals. It was produced at the time of the advertisement placed in the *Times* to encourage parents to join in the fight against the cuts to the grant and the introduction of tuition fees. Copies of this sticker are still available.

USE THE STUDENTS' UNION FACILITIES

Give Support

NUS is organising a women's lobby of parliament on February 6 to highlight discrimination against women, particularly in the areas of access to education and unemployment.

Education cuts, throughout the lifetime of the present government, have fallen disproportionately on women.

Thirty per cent of those unemployed in this country are women. However, this figure does not reflect the one million women who are unable to register as unemployed by the discriminatory social security regulations which do not allow people who are looking after children to claim unemployment benefit. Of the 30 per cent registered as unemployed, 28,200 of them are aged between 20-24.

The lobby is being organised as part of the general "New Deal" campaign and it is essential that women and student unions start organising for the event now. Further information and a more extensive briefing about the issues involved will follow and "NUS News" will carry details of the event. A meeting has been arranged with Jo Richardson, MP, in the Grand Committee Room in the House of Commons on the day, and this will play an intrinsic part of the lobby.

Student unions are not always generous in their support of women-only events, so why not present a motion to your General Meeting urging support, both financial and moral, for the lobby?

For further information contact NUS.

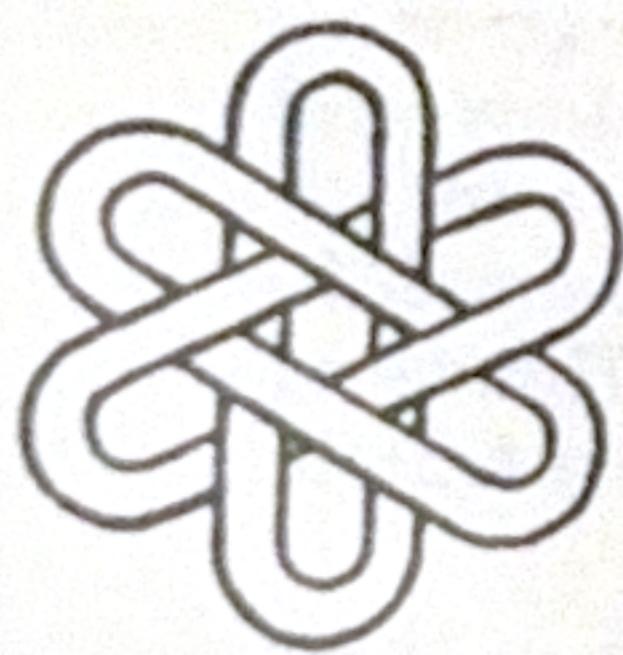
GRAPEVINE

STOP PRESS !

On January 17th two video machines were broken into in the Students' Union Coffee Bar. Approximately £70 in cash was taken and it appears the thief or thieves had access to the machines with a key. This is the first time these machines have been broken into and this has dealt a severe blow to Union finances which even at the best of times need to be closely maintained. The money stolen is part of the Union's weekly revenue from the gaming machines. However, thankfully, two other machines remained untouched.

Union Treasurer, Dave Scott, naturally very concerned about the incident, said: "It is disgusting that this should happen. The point which should be made is that the money taken does not simply belong to the Students' Union but to all students at College. It is money which should have been spent on student services." He later said: "The Police have been called in and as far as we are concerned the matter now rests with them."

Following this particular incident, the Union will be clamping down on vandalism in the Coffee Bar on machines and pool tables as well as on individuals who take it upon themselves to attempt to fiddle the machines.



So why not send a really soppy and very embarrassing message to someone who won't have a clue who it's from but would be really surprised if they found out.

SPECIAL FORMS are available from the Union Office and for a mere 40 pence you can send up to 25 words.

All forms must be returned by FEBRUARY 6th for publication on the 14th.

SEAN HALFWAY IN "OPERATION SILVER".

A former Union President and now Operation Raleigh volunteer is halfway in raising the necessary finance to subsidize a trip to the South Pacific in March, 1986.

Sean Silver has 11 months to raise £2,000 which must be reached approximately 12 weeks before he is due to fly off. To date his own fund raising scheme has included writing to firms and charitable trusts which has proved to be very forthcoming. However, now he is appealing to Nene students to dip into their own pockets and help him out.

Sean was lucky enough to be selected to go on the venture out of an initial 2000 people from all walks of life who applied. One of only 7 Northants people selected, Sean has started his campaign well and on Friday, 18th and Saturday, 19th January a successful sponsored Darts Marathon was held at the Whyte Melville Pub. Other sides that will hopefully lead to more finance include a sponsored absail and a marathon game of trivial pursuits.

What, however, will he be doing in the South Pacific?

"Well, I will be involved in community work which will include a study of local navigation patterns and study of wildlife and birds" said Sean who spoke to Nene Scene this week.

"I will also be helping to build health centres and repair storm damage which should be rewarding," he said later.

In conclusion he said "I would like to thank all those who have helped me out so far and would like to remind them that places are still available up until 1988.



(above) Rosie Darragh, Mike Pearce, Robi Whitmore and Tracey Harding enjoying the delights of NUS conference in Dec

CELEBRATE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY WITH THE HELP OF NENE SCENE.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It has been brought to the attention of some Nene students, or those who use the library anyway, that there have been various developments since the Yuletide celebration. Gone is the holly, the mistletoe, the glitter and now we must revert to the home truths of real life. It is not that people object to the systems instilled in our institutions, it is just that maybe they could have been thought about first.

Do the library staff really think that an employee on guard at the entrance and exit them being one and the same, will prevent the sad demise of their stock, or is it that there really is nothing better to do inside Dewey and its decimal meanderings. Maybe the guard is there to prevent anything being brought into the library, thus controlling the demise in the necessity for bags, carriers and other portable amenities.

You see the system works like this. You have a cartload, (bagfull) of books files, pens, calculators and other little bits of stuff, which you have to carry in your arms and pockets and carefully and quietly place them at your desk. Meanwhile, outside in the lobby these mysterious carrying implements increase and strangely seem to reproduce. Plain sailing? What is the problem? Apart from needing 10 arms to carry everything, nothing except that as the petty pilfering and destruction continues inside the library, the opportunity now arises outside too. Bags that suddenly for no scientific reason seem to disappear. Does the guard watch for the bag baggers too?

What then is the solution? Buy less bags and carry the books. Initiate a cloakroom service for the bags - but no, that would be too costly.

Return to the old system? Surely inadvisable as the Authorities that be must be seen to be active. Or what about the introduction of separate workrooms where the library law does not rule.

This seem feasible, should the space be made available. Or more likely, is the continuation of the present watchful eyes of the librarians, though surely they will get bored after a while and even may suffer from the many back ailments being stood up all that time. Shifts in between 11 hours? What of the honest and faithful?

Yours, Alf Higginbottom.

Dear Sir,

It is at the beginning of a new year that many people make promises to deprive themselves of all those things which tend to keep them sane and tolerable. This is a process which never fails to amaze me, particularly as such actions often result in people committing nothing short of manslaughter in order to remain true to their resolutions. More often than not, a resolution will last for a maximum period of two weeks. The termination of this contrived masochism is probably due to one of two reasons; either "I've got to have a cigarette or I'll simply die", or "Have a cigarette or I'll bloody kill you." the latter reaction caused by the incompatibility of yourself with other people caused by the lack of your emotional prop.

The theory behind the making of a new year's resolution is to deprive oneself of a factor which one believes is the stumbling block in making oneself a better person. Needless to say, the removal of this factor is a positive move on your part to strive and achieve the goal of the perfect person.

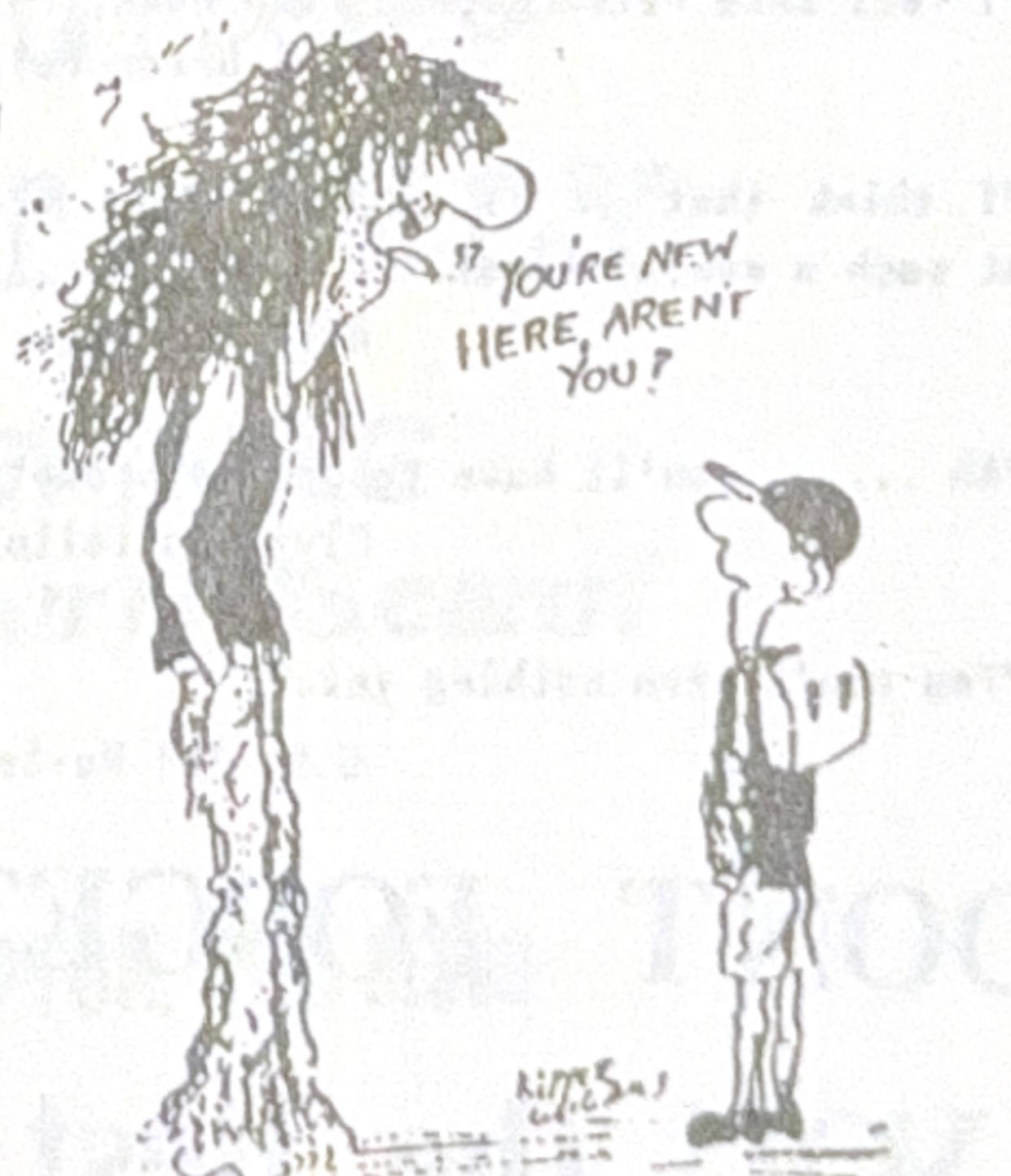
But more often than not this period of personal torture brings about a reaction in yourself of certain behaviour, which may suddenly cause a lack of friends and an increase in personal enemies. So, on reflection, your personal crusade to achieve top in Division I of the Perfect Person League may cause a relegation placing in other people's opinion.

The lesson to be learnt therefore is to strive towards a resolution which is primarily attainable with as little risk for strife for those people around you.

For example, my new year's resolution this year is to never drink Aardvark's urine. Apparently this resolution should be easily attained as they have stopped selling Cordier House Wine in the bar.

Happy New Year.

El Presidenti.



QUOTES OF 1984 (and even 1985!)

You may have missed them, but we certainly didn't, the funny ones, the serious ones and the downright silly ones.

"You are obviously a subversive".

F.C.S. National Official to N.C.S.U. Exec. member.

"I think it is really funny"

Gen/Soc Sec. Lambert on Park Bar closure.

"I'll have a quote for you in 15 minutes".

Exec. member, Rosie Darragh.

"Well, well, this will upset a few people, won't it?"

President Pearce on Nene Scene Questionnaire.

"Bog off, Bogeybrain".

Kevin Turvey on B.B.C. T.V.

"N.C.S.U." are about as much use as 17 demented Irishmen."

College Lecturer.

"Where are the other 16?"

Nene Scene Editor.

"Look, I've missed a few meetings, I'll admit."

Clubs and Societies Secretary, Gavin Middlewood.

"Archbishop Makarios to the Union Office."

Marc Robertson let loose on the tannoy.

"I think most normal students would agree with affiliation."

Former Rag Co-ordinator, Gwyn Dolphin.

"The biggest enemy of a Students' Union is not necessarily the Tory Government but complacency and apathy."

President Pearce.

"It's a pity people don't really know what N.U.S. gets up to."

Paul Green, co-founder Nene College F.C.S.

"To say that Nene Forwards are outstanding would be like saying the Pope is Catholic."

Dave Schofield, Nene College Rugby Captain.

"Future attractions include The Clash, Sade and Patrick's soiled underpants."

Flash, S.A.S. Supremo.

"I'm afraid you'll have to get off your backsides, put down your cups of coffee and start protesting."

Paul McKim on the New Deal.

"I feel sure Peter didn't rush home, fall upon his bed and cry himself to sleep."

Paul Green following a poster campaign directed at Peter Tatchell.

"I think that it is such a shame that Mr. Green and all should stoop so low as to enter gutter politics at such a menial level."

N.C.S.U. Exec.

"Ah you'll have to see my promoter about that one."

Elvis Costello on being asked to play a gig at Nene College.

"You ain't seen nothing yet."

U.S. 'B' Movie Actor, Ronald Reagan.



A CHEEKY VIEW OF 1984
SEND A CAPTION FOR THE
ABOVE PICTURE. ALL SUITABLE
REPLIES WILL BE PUBLISHED.

**DON'T FORGET NENE SCENE brings
YOU the Best! ON VALENTINES DAY.**

JANUARY 1985 FEBRUARY 1985

ENTERTAINMENTS

COLLEGE EVENTS.

Friday, 25th Jan. - Tom Walton's 21st at Avenue.

Saturday, 25th Jan. - PETER ZENNER, Hypnotist and Mindreader. Limited tickets on sale at £1.50.

Tuesday, 29th Jan. - Flat Earth Society are showing Ghandi and The Lord of the Rings in the J.C.R. Free Admission.

Friday, 1st Feb. - Party at Avenue.

Saturday, 2nd Feb. - Martin Oram + Disco at Park. Free until bar closes then 75p.

Weds. 6th Feb. - R.A.S. Late, Late Christmas Party. See posters for ticket details.

Friday, 8th Feb. - Party at Avenue.

Saturday, 9th Feb. - Disco, J.C.R.

Thurs. 14th Feb. - Masked Ball/Fallopian Tube - Dining Hall.

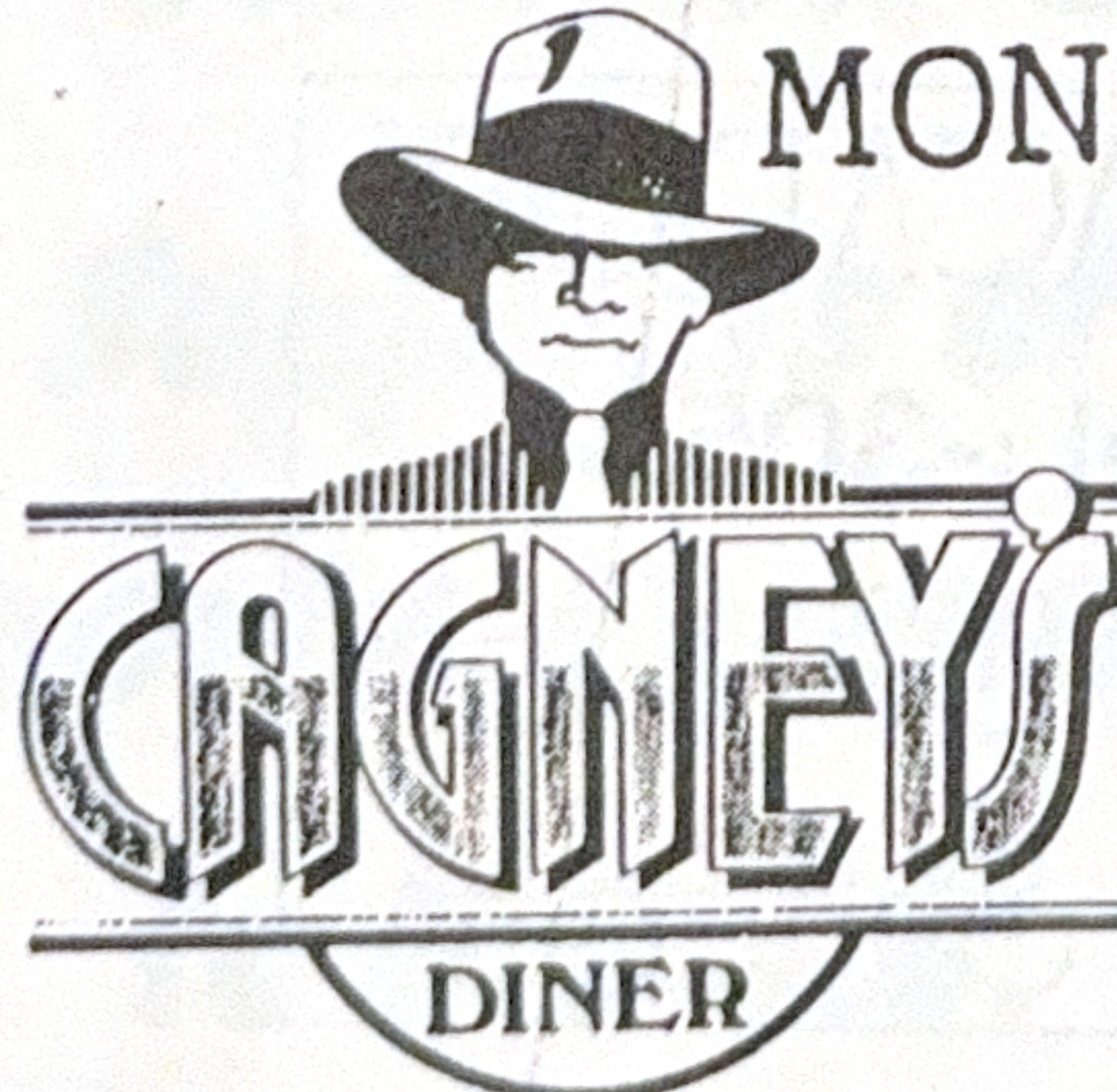
NENE LECTURES.

21.2.85. 7.30 p.m. 'The Future of Trade Unions', George Bain.

NENE COLLEGE KARATE CLUB.

Now training in Humanities Open Space on Tuesday and Thursday, 5.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. All new members welcome!

Contact K. Wellman-Smith.



MONDAY NIGHT ONLY
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COLLEGE FILMS

WEDNESDAY 23rd Jan. - TOMMY starring Roger Daltrey, Peter Townsend, Keith Moon

SUNDAY 27th Jan. - FRENCH LIEUTENANTS WOMAN starring Meryl Streep

WEDNESDAY 30th Jan. - FOUL PLAY starring Goldie Hawn

SUNDAY 3rd Feb. - POLICE ACADEMY (To Be Confirmed)

WEDNESDAY 6th Feb. - THE POSTMAN ALWAYS KNOCKS THREE starring Jack Nicholson

Arts Centre.

Jazz.

31.1.85. - The Stems. £2.

7.2.85. - John Williams Octet £2.50.

Films:

29.1.85. - Mean Streets, Robert de Niro.

5.2.85. - Taxi Zum Klo - 'erotic comedy'.

12.2.85. - Heaven's Gate - Kris Kristofferson and John Hurt.

Theatre.

1.2.85 - Graeae in Frankenstein - 7.30 p.m.

Royal Theatre: Up to 2nd Feb. - Dick Whittington.

6th Feb. - Wait Until Dark.

Lings Forum.

24.1.85. - The Pope of Greenwich Village (15)

28.1.85. - Tightrope (18)

4.2.85. - Comfort and Joy: Good Tidings of (PG)

Derngate

At Derngate Leisure Centre, Guildhall Road, (24811) at 7.30pm. unless otherwise stated

Derngate:

31.1.85. - at 1 p.m. An International Lunchtime Concert: Bernard d'Ascoli - Piano.

£2.

2.2.85. - Northampton Symphony Orchestra. Beethoven Evening

5.2.85. - Taxi Zum Klo - 'erotic comedy'. £2. - £4. 50p reduction for students.

12.2.85. 7.30 pm. - Chas E. Hurt. Shalamar £4.50 -

4th - 9th Feb., 7.30 p.m. Snoopy - The Musical. £3.50 - £5.50.

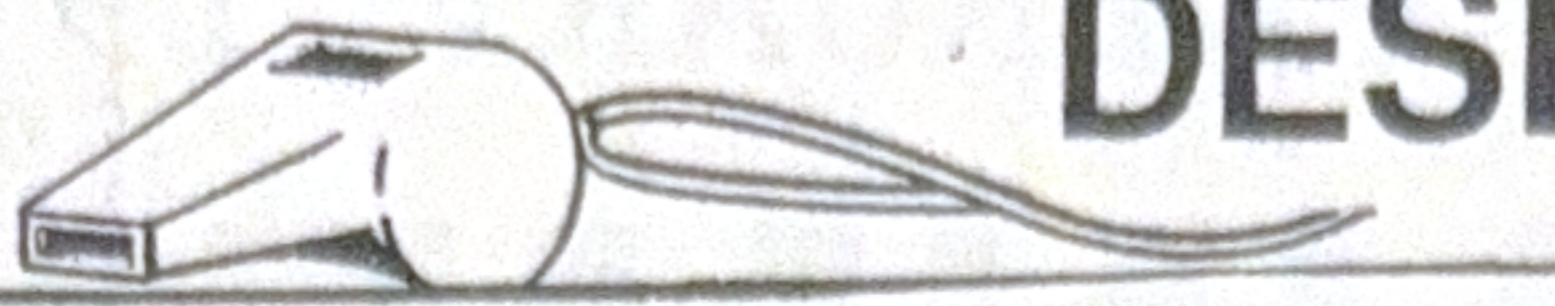
12.2.85. 7.30 pm. - Chas E. Dave. £5.50 - £7.50.

16.2.85. 7.30p.m. - Boomtown Rats, £3 - £5.



16 COLLEGE ST., NORTHAMPTON. TEL 31389

SPORTS DESK



NENE COLLEGE CRICKET CLUB.

Cast your minds back to the summer when the sun (what's that?) shone and the thought of snow was only a preoccupation of the many migrating Eskimos. Yes, folks, under the layers of that white mass people were enjoying one of life's great traditions, the only sport in which you can play for three or five days in the sun on the turf, with the willow, and still end in a draw.

Cricket is always well loved in the heart of Boycott country and so that love affair is likely to continue as we wander further afield of the best wickets in the country, the striking miners and the folk lore second to none. What I mean to say is that there is a cricket club here at Nene and things are just beginning to happen.

Although our facilities are not the best in the country for home matches, fixtures are busily being arranged at both a competitive and social level. Anyone who knows one end of the bat from the other is welcome to join us in our campaign, the more the merrier.

There are pre-season nets that are to begin (hopefully) on 19th of January. They are held in the Sports Hall of Kingsthorpe Upper School on Saturday mornings from and their love for the game,

10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. i.e., just after dinner time. Although whites are essential for the matches, serious or social, all you need is pumps or trainers on a Saturday.

For the more serious these sessions can be used as vital pre-season practice, and for others it can be used as a way to unwind the weekend or even to be introduced to the game for the first time.

Do come along, what better way to relax once the hassle and pressure of the exams are finished?

Dave Schofield (Captain).

FOOTBALL CLUB: SUMMARY AND THE FUTURE.

The lads are having a good season. What more can you say? Fifth in the First Division of the town League, undefeated therein and with games in hand.

The majority of this season's team came together last season and it is through these formatory years that the basis was laid for a strong foundation for the 1984/5 season. There is a great team spirit, jovial Birmingham wit blending well with the nonchalance of the Welsh and gallant flippancy of the Londoner. Although you can easily pick out individual players, all the squad should be commended for their attitude and their love for the game,

not just in the First XI but in those who train every week under the watchful eye of Dave Schofield who only plays once the opportunity arises.

Although the College is out of all the Cups, the League is the big prize, the carrot dangling teasingly like the sword of Damocles. The First XI is a pretty settled squad and those who deserve a special mention are Lambert, Mills and the skipper, Caulton. Simon Lambert was scoring at the same rate as Ian Rush at one stage this season, though he has dried up a little lately, but is a pleasure to watch. Aldam Mills, though thinking of a transfer was selected for the Midlands Colleges and the South of England, which is not too bad really and Andy Caulton also represented the Midlands.

It is hoped that the level of success continues well into the new year and that the lads can continue to enjoy the game as much as they have in the past. The title is the aim and with such a gallant set of lads, who is to bet against them. Certainly not me.

It must be added too that a little more support from fellow students would be much appreciated.

Good luck for 1985.

K.C. Cambridge.



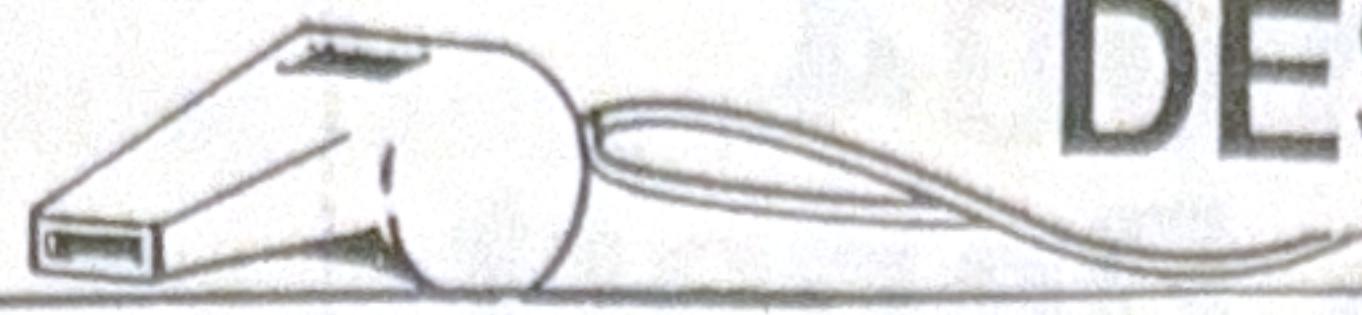
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SPORTS DESK



RUGBY CLUB, SUMMARY AND THE FUTURE.

Although not many people may know it (or bothered) the Nene College Rugby Club are enjoying one of its most successful seasons to date, their run of ten consecutive wins only one behind the all time record of that vintage year, 1982/3.

So far the Club is unbeaten defeating such distinguished opposition as Bedford College, Trent Poly and Trinity and All Saints College, the last team from Leeds, in a thrilling cup-tie. We are now in the last 16 of the British Colleges' Cup, Edge Hill providing the opposition in the very near future.

Representative honours should always be made known and it is with pride that Nene can boast four players for the Midlands Colleges XV (Paul Broadley, Dave Gibson, Tim Daniels and Dave Schofield) all of them forwards hinting that this is where the power is in the Nene XV. The last two were also chosen to play for the North of England Colleges, honour indeed. It is felt that if others from the College had attended the trials then the numbers could have been higher.

One person who could not attend do? I know, says Colin Bradbury, the trials was flying winger, let's go and watch a game. Nick Grecian. After playing the options were numerous, first class rugby for the Aston Villa v Watford, Luton Saints (Northampton) he was v Southampton, or Leicester selected to play for the Anglo- v Stoke. What a disappointment, Scots (the Scots who play the first two were postponed, in England) in the regional so it had to be Leicester championships in his home v Stoke. country, making an impressive debut against Edinburgh.

What then of 1985? Well, cafe as a cup of tea was in it must be hoped that jonce order. From then on it was the thaw has come that we plain sailing, hamburgers can further our success in at 60p were a great disappointment the Cup and extend our unbeaten although the pies at 56p were run. The defeated R.A.F. very entertaining and it was Champions from Brize Norton mooted that Stoke City would will have things to say about probably stand more chance that, but there is a good if they fielded 11 pies. spirit in the Nene camp and

things should be okay for now, though next September does not look too promising. Freshers with talent (fellas that is) do not grow on trees.

Good luck for 1985 fellas.

K.C. Cambridge.

On arrival at Leicester it was decided to look for a

What then of 1985? Well, cafe as a cup of tea was in it must be hoped that jonce order. From then on it was the thaw has come that we plain sailing, hamburgers can further our success in at 60p were a great disappointment the Cup and extend our unbeaten although the pies at 56p were run. The defeated R.A.F. very entertaining and it was Champions from Brize Norton mooted that Stoke City would will have things to say about probably stand more chance that, but there is a good if they fielded 11 pies. spirit in the Nene camp and

The tea was 22p a cup and was very nice too. Mars bars, crisps, chewing gum, mints and Wagon Wheels were all devoured in great quantity. We even saw 20 policemen queue for a cup of tea and then leave without ever getting served. Very strange!

The food, it must be said, was extremely entertaining. They certainly know how to pull the crowds at Filbert Street; but one thing's for sure - Leicester City and Stoke will, without doubt, bring a new depth of boredom to 2nd Division football next season. Steven Kidney.

SOCCER

NENE COLLEGE SOCCER CLUB.

What a disappointment! Friday night at 8 p.m. your game for the following afternoon is called off, what do you

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December 1984 Conference Report

NEW DEAL - LOTS OF FUN BUT NO BED.

On a fresh December morning our delegation left Northampton and headed north-west, despite protestations from Rosie, who reliably informed us that Blackpool was somewhere South of Watford.

At last we arrived worse the wear for the Northern Riviera's abysmal one-way system which was not helped by lack of parking spaces and our driver's wanton desire to drive at high speed in never-ending circles. Our enthusiasm to park as close to Conference as possible proved a little excessive, as on our return to the minibus, Mr. Pearce's parking ticket collection had increased by one. N.U.S.'s well renowned efficiency was clear apparent at the hotel. Our number being 7, our bed allocation totalling 6. From this situation our President deducted that we had a problem. Various concoctions of different sleeping arrangements were suggested but none proved satisfactory. Eventually after hassling various National Officials the oversight was corrected. Conference had an auspicious beginning. Phil Woolas, N.U.S. President, began with an introductory speech which was repeatedly interrupted by many 'extremists' boeing and not unsurprisingly asking for his resignation. On the first evening there were various workshops on N.A.B. and the differences in funding between P.S.H.E. and the University Sector. Mike spoke at the latter commission and said the Poly's and Universities should really have a combined strategy on N.A.B. He also showed concern about 'snobbery' that still exists between some Poly students and F.E. students. One interesting point that emerged was that N.U.S. are to prioritise their attack on N.A.B. It also seemed clear that if Poly budgets are cut, then the University sector would be next. Many of those present agreed that the Government would try cuts by the 'back door' using mergers of educational establishments as their main weapon.

Following this commission, there was an interesting University sector debate involving Peter Brooke, Tory Minister, Tom McNally, S.D.P. M.P., and Andrew Bennet, the Labour Education Spokesman. Brooke was very much on his own as both the two other speakers repeatedly attacked Government policy on students' awards and travel grants. McNally said a fully independent study of costs was needed and N.U.S. must continue its campaign to fight the changes. Bennet said all education establishments must be adequately funded.

In the late evening there were many caucuses ranging from Conservative students to R.C.P. students plus various other political meetings.

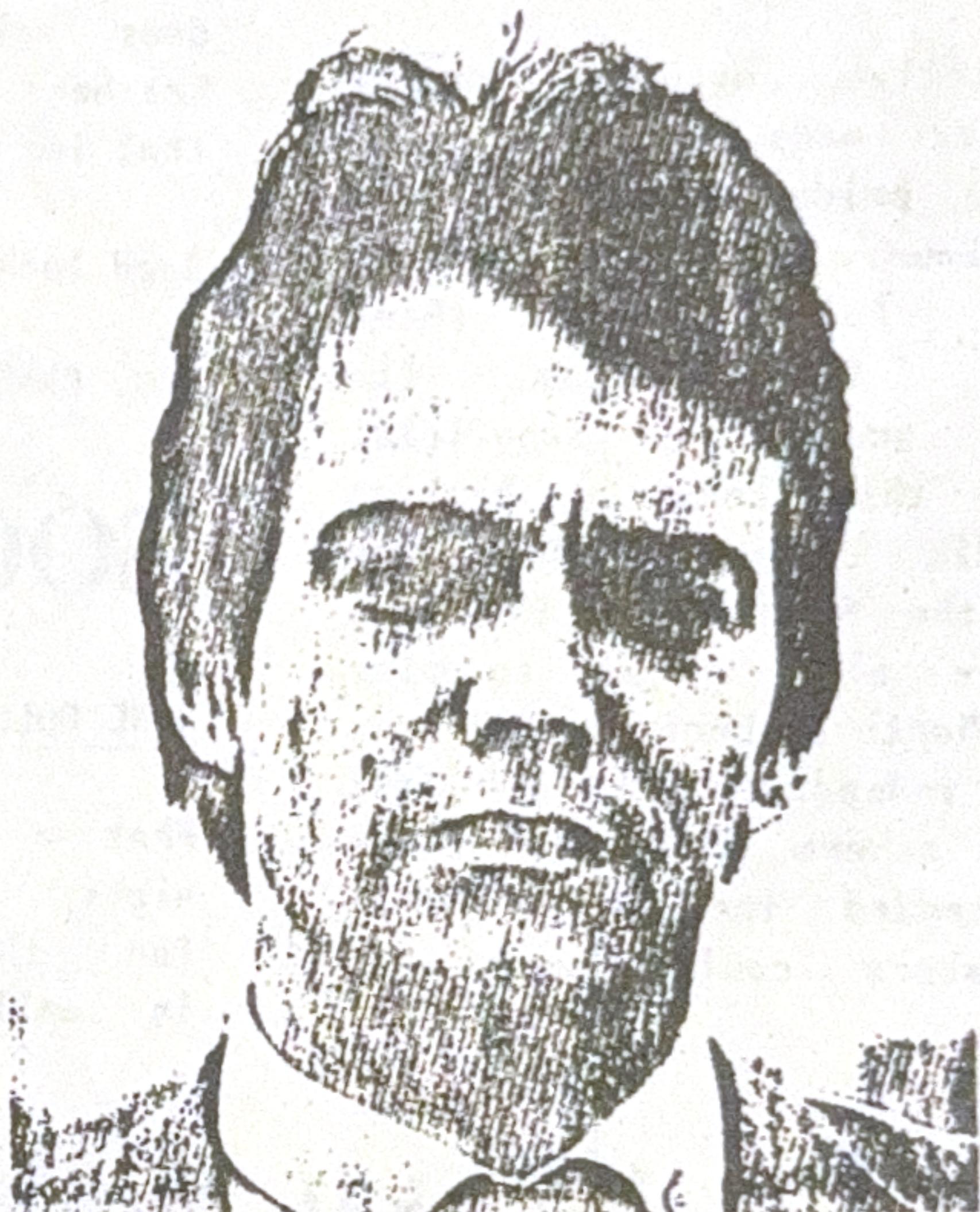
Paul Foot of the Daily Mirror spoke at an N.U.M. support meeting and was in excellent form. He stressed that the strike was as solid as ever since its beginning and that unlike 1926 we have seen the real liberation of women since they are involved in all aspects of the conflict.

The first night in the hotel was enjoyable. Comrade Corcoran, Harding and Whitmore were otherwise engaged in socialising while the activities of Ms. Balavadjer have yet to be established. However, the following morning Mr. Corcoran was spotted at 8.30 a.m. (yes, that early) selling large numbers of the Morning Star near Conference floor.

The Sunday was dominated by the priority ballot and eventually Monday conference got down to the motions.

A New Deal motion was passed, but the National Executive received a lot of criticism over the Grants March Demonstration. A Miners Motion was passed but due to the shortage of time only in its initial form, leaving it somewhat weak and poorly structured. It did, however, result in a substantial donation.

If you thought Nene College E.G.M.'s were eventful, then you ain't seen nothing yet.



(Above) Phil Woolas, NUS President who was heckled in the opening moments of conference. Despite continuous interruptions Woolas still managed to control the proceedings well and prove to be a capable speaker and official.



1 1/4 MILLION
MEMBERS

Conference Motions

Miners' Dispute: Motion number 130

Main motion plus Amendment 1

The miners' dispute has developed into a major confrontation between the government and the trade union movement and should be given maximum and sustained support. Campaigns should be based around actions officially approved to the trade union concerned. Conference condemned the media's distorted and partisan view of the strike as well as condemning violence by all sides. The specific role of women was seen as important within the dispute.

CMs should be encouraged to provide practical support for the miners and ideas for doing so should be conveyed through "NUS News" and National Student, on the advice of the NUM. A donation of £1,000 should be given to the NUM. Speakers should be invited into colleges and areas and Miners' support committees should be set up. Calls for action by the NUM should be fully supported.

Student Financial Support: Motion number 139

Main motion plus Amendment 1

Conference believes that this government is attempting to make grants an area of major public spending cuts and that this is unacceptable. Their proposals would create an education system that has to be bought: a "mortgage on knowledge". The present grants system already contains a "loan" element in the form of bank overdrafts and the introduction of a loans system would double the debt students incur.

All young people should be financially independent at 16 and that those not receiving funding are based in Further Education (16-19 year olds). NUS believes that there should be a comprehensive review of student financial support.

Conference called for a reform of the grants system based on a realistic mandatory core grant for all students in FE and HE supported by a full range of reimbursements of actual costs on things like accommodation, books etc.

The National Executive are instructed to continue to campaign for a full public review of student financial support and to seek support for this from trade unions, trades councils, local authorities and youth organisations. Through the "Claim It" campaign, NUS should force the DHSS to make available to students *all* benefits which are available to non-students of similar income. The "Claim It" campaign is to be seen as a short-term method by which students can alleviate financial hardship and highlight the need to remove the tangle surrounding the welfare benefit system.

New Deal: Motion number 105

Main motion plus Amendment 1

Conference agreed the outlined proposals for activity during the second and third terms, and authorised the Executive to use funds available to finance the campaign as it sees appropriate. There would be continued opposition to any system of loans or attempts to abolish the minimum grant: any minimum being essential to students. The campaign for a minimum allowance of £30.00 for students in further education would continue.

Unemployment was seen as an integral part of the campaign as are teaching standards.

The Executive was instructed to make the New Deal a campaigning priority in 1984/85 in conjunction with trade unions and other relevant bodies. Government proposals to cut grants would be made an integral part of the "New Deal" campaign and a national petition, letter writing campaign will be started to oppose them. NUS will continue to lobby Conservative MPs, and particularly Members of the House of Lords.

Emergency Motions

Grants Demonstration November 28

The peaceful manner in which students set out to march on Downing Street to present letters of protest to number 10 was noted. The action against government proposals on grants received support from drivers and bystanders held up by the march. The police caused more disruption to traffic by closing Westminster Bridge and were abusive to both male and female demonstrators. Our democracy should ensure access to MPs and the Prime Minister for lobbying and complaint and police action on November 28 was an infringement of that democracy and as such should be condemned. The Executive was censured for its lack of organisation around this event.

Polytechnic of North London

Confusion surrounds the Harrington affair and it is obvious that the authorities are unable to cope with the situation and the jailing of two students gives further evidence of this belief. Money currently being spent on safeguarding Harrington's entry to the college would be better spent on education. It is believed that Harrington has a right to education, despite his fascist views, just as students have the right to refuse to be taught with him.

NUS should increase pressure on the directorate of PNL to remove Harrington to a location where contact with other students is minimised and disruption reduced. Demonstrative action should be taken against the directorate should it continue to shirk responsibility for Harrington and fail to take steps to resolve the situation. NUS should strengthen its support for PNL.



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