

# K R E D

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UNIV. OF KENT  
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CANTERBURY

Wednesday March 14th 1990

Issue No. 118

## Walk for Wat!

### Fight the Poll Tax!

1381-1990; A History of the Poll Tax in Britain.

On Wednesday, 28th March, people from all over Kent will set off from Canterbury and walk to London in opposition to the Poll Tax which comes into force on 1st April.

The walk which is expected to take three and a half days will attempt to reconstruct the historic advance made by tens of thousands of Kentish people in June 1381, and which led to the eventual defeat of the Poll Tax when it was last introduced in this country.

The facts surrounding the 'Peasants Revolt' of 1381 are often very vague since with the exception of one historical source, [the Anonimale Chronicle], all contemporary accounts are based on hearsay. There is no doubt, however, that the events of June 1381 led to the almost collapse of the old order, [feudalism and serfdom], leaving only anarchy in its place. The 'People's Revolt', as perhaps it should be known since it attracted mass popular support from all social classes, saw the governing classes in many areas helpless and bewildered. It was perhaps the nearest this country has been to revolution.

England in the late fourteenth century was suffering; not only was it still engaged in the Hundred Years War but its population had been drastically reduced as a result of the Black Death. Life was short and perilous; everybody was on their own and protecting one's own interest took priority.

Canterbury at this time was a very important town, being not only the 'capital' of the Church of England, but also in terms of its trading activity. The majority of the population lived in the villages surrounding Canterbury and no-one was allowed inside the city walls unless they had proof of employment there. If caught without proof inside the walls, you would have had your ear nailed to a horse-cart and be literally dragged out of the town!

And so it was that Parliament in 1380, in order to finance the war, made a radical mistake. It ignored two decades of no direct taxation, and instituted a level tax of 3 groats [1 shilling], on all citizens over the age of fourteen. It was a preposterous idea since under the ancient agricultural system many peasant farmers possessed no cash income at all. Considering the great difference between the rich and the poor it made no sense at all, and one wonders how Parliament seriously expected to impose it.

As expected, there was enormous evasion of the tax in 1380 and the population of England 'fell' by over a third. The shortfall was so clear to the government that it required action. Tax collectors were sent into Essex and Kent and were met by resistance from villagers, and it is at this point that Wat Tyler enters the story. Accounts vary but it seems that he was a tiler from a village just outside Maidstone. He was interrupted at work one day by his wife who came running, screaming hysterically that the tax collector had arrived at the house and was demanding a total of 3 shillings for themselves and their daughter. Wat returned to the house where a blazing argument ensued. The tax collector refused to believe that their daughter was under the age of fourteen and to prove his point lifted the girl off the ground, pulled down

her knickers, and proclaimed she was over the age of puberty. Tyler by now had had enough; he picked up a stick and smashed the collector round the head. One account states that 'his brains were scattered around the room'

Tyler gathered some followers and proceeded to march on Canterbury where they occupied the town on the night of 10th June. The following day they set off for London to raise their objections to the King and all along the route they attracted and compelled support with a Robin Hood spirit that appealed to a sense of rightness. Marching via Maidstone, Rochester and Dartford, the rebels ransacked houses of the rich and freed prisoners from the jails. Led by Tyler, John Ball [an egalitarian priest] and Jack Straw, tens of thousands of Kentish people arrived outside London on the evening of June 12th and camped on Blackheath. They were joined by a rebel force from Essex who had heard of the march from Canterbury and who also numbered tens of thousands.

The following morning the rebels gathered at Rotherhithe and demanded to be met by the King. The fourteen year old King, Richard II, against the advice of those around him, decided to meet their demand and set off by barge from the opposite side of the Thames. It soon became clear, however, that there was no way in which they could safely land, and unable to make themselves heard, turned their back on the crowd and rowed to safety. Incensed by this, the crowd poured towards the city of London, crossed London Bridge and entered the city. Again, much ransacking and looting took place, and the Savoy Palace, residence of the much-loathed John of Gaunt, was burned to the ground. It is unclear where the sixty or so thousand rebels slept that night. Suffice to say that much ale was drunk.

Advisors to the King suggested that an army of loyalists should go and massacre the rebels in their drunken sleep, but with only a small force of loyalists in London at the time, the King decided to meet them the following day and concede to all their demands. They met in a large open space at Mile End, just outside the city, where the King was confronted by over sixty-thousand rebels. He heard their grievances and gave them his word that he would adhere to them, saying that he would have letters written, bearing the Royal Seal, which they could take back with them to the villages from whence they had come. He urged all but a few representatives to return home and many, respecting the King's word, did so.

Whilst this was taking place, another group of rebels, including perhaps Tyler himself, invaded the Tower of London and beheaded



Saying no to the Poll Tax 1381

## This Man is a Racist



Simon Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury and also Chancellor. Along with three or four others, his head was placed on a spike, and displayed on London Bridge, like the heads of traitors. This lost the support of many rebels, but there were still thirty thousand of them who slept that night outside the Tower.

London's morning sun rose bright and clear on the following day, that memorable Saturday, 15th June, 1381. The rebels remaining in London refused to accept the King's word and demanded to be met again. The King, having no alternative, told the rebels to assemble at Smithfield, where he would again listen to their requests. The King, on arrival at Smithfield, rode straight up to Tyler, at the head of the rebels. Tyler got off his horse and greeted the King as an equal. He then proceeded to list their demands, stopping only to order more beer. One of the King's party recognised Tyler for a thief and proclaimed this to the crowd; Tyler responded by attacking the man, only to be held back by the Mayor of London. Not wishing to see such behaviour in front of the King, the Mayor struck Tyler to the floor with his sword. Tyler was immediately surrounded by the King's men and was stabbed twice through the chest, unseen by his rebel army. Ironically enough, they thought Tyler was being knighted.

Tyler found just enough strength to turn his horse, and with a despairing cry of 'Treason!', rode halfway across the open space to slide helplessly to the ground, in full view of the assembled crowd. A hush fell over crowded Smithfield. It was a critical moment for all concerned. The fourteen year old King, without hesitating, rode up to the crowd and stated to them that, with Tyler dead, he was now their natural captain and anyone who would follow him should do so. He turned and set off, and after a brief hesitation, the crowd followed the King, leaving their leader lying mortally wounded on the ground of Smithfield. The party was over.

Richard returned to his mother at the Royal Tower, and proclaimed 'Today I have recovered my inheritance, the realm of England which I had lost.' The status quo was resumed but the Poll Tax was never again collected. Until now.

The March, which is organised by Whitstable Against the Tax, culminates in a national demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, 31st March. For further details of the walk and the demonstration, please contact Phil on 0227 3722234 or Kevin on 0227 710932.

Kevin Terrill.

The British Nationalist Party (BNP) is a Fascist organisation, that is, it is an extreme right-wing and authoritarian organisation which has views akin to Hitler's nazis. The BNP want to rid the country of "the Prey People" or anyone that is not from "the fatherland" and of British stock. In a policy statement issued when the BNP was originally formed in April 1962, the intention was to create "a racial Nationalist folk state...embodied in the creed of National-Socialism and uniquely implemented by Adolf Hitler". The party publish leaflets such as "Holocaust News" in which one headline read "Holocaust Story an Evil Hoax." Members of the BNP organise attacks against Asians, Blacks, Jews, and anyone they see as not of British stock. Reports of such attacks are regularly given in publications like "Searchlight" and "On Guard" both fighting fascism. BNP members have been convicted under the Race Relations Act.

In our library works a man called Denis Whiting, a self-confessed member of the BNP. He comes into contact with students every day, and has access to lists of student names. On a campus with 25% overseas students, the Student Union regard this as extremely dangerous! Last year the library entered into a verbal agreement with the S.U. that Denis Whiting would not generally come into contact with students. However, this year the library denied any such agreement was ever in existence. At present, trade union policy on campus is to defend Denis Whiting as he does not do anything in breach of his contract of employment, and therefore there are no legal grounds for his dismissal. Like any member of staff, the trade unions will defend their membership against arbitrary attacks by University management.

The S.U. is in a difficult position in campaigning against Denis Whiting, from a legal point of view. This article is intended to inform you, the students, that this man is in your library, and is a fascist.

The S.U. Executive

# KRED ● SHORTS

## WORLD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (SUPPORT) GROUP

### EVENT: DISCUSSION

"Development Agencies: Is their work a waste of time and money?"

Thursday 15th March

Darwin Lecture Theatre 2

7.30 pm

with

Frank Furedi: Chair of developments studies UKC

Alison Barrett: Oxfam Research and evaluation department

Steve Dawe: (Chairperson)



Exhibition of new commissions at University

Two famous artists with close campus connections are exhibiting newly commissioned works in the Gulbenkian Theatre at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

The internationally renowned artist, Graham Clarke, has been specially commissioned to produce a limited edition etching of Canterbury and the University, and Tessa Henderson's watercolours of the University, also specially commissioned in this the University's Silver Jubilee year, are also on display.

Graham Clarke, who lives and works in Kent, has a daughter who is currently a student of Drama at the University, and Tessa Henderson's father was the architect responsible for some of the first buildings to be put up at Kent - one of seven "new" Universities founded in England in the 1960s.

The exhibition is held in the Foyer of the Gulbenkian Theatre and runs from Wednesday 28 February to Saturday 24 March. Admission is free. Prints are available from the Information Office.

For further information please contact:

The Silver Jubilee Office, Cornwallis Building

or  
Helen Harrison, Information Office



On March 16, Sir Patrick Mayhew Q.C., M.P., the Attorney General to Mrs Thatcher's government, will speak to K.U.C.A. in DLT1 at 7.45 p.m. His subject will be the future of the legal profession, but he will accept questions on any of the Government's present policies.

Sir Patrick is, of course, a member of the Cabinet and this is an invaluable opportunity to speak to such a high ranking minister.

The meeting is open to all members of the University regardless of political belief.



## Knife Attackers Jailed

Two youths who attacked a UKC student last December were recently jailed by Canterbury Crown Court. Anthony Chambers (17) of St Stephens Road, Canterbury and Benjamin Holton (aka Ackerman), aged 18, were sentenced to two and a half years each in a young offenders institution, for their attack on student Syed Aziz. Syed was threatened at knife-point, assaulted and then robbed of money and a watch. (See KRED 110).

A second victim of the attackers was 33 year old sales representative Claude Jallit, who was cut on the face and robbed.

Counsel for the accused spoke of the pair's shame and depression since attacking Syed and Mr Jallit. Counsel for Holton in particular referred to the pair's poor living conditions in a squat, and hunger, and Holton's alleged attempts at suicide while in custody.

Paul Waters



## Vivisection Doubled in 1992?

Following the awareness of vivisection on campus it has been disclosed that animal experiments could be doubled by 1992, according to a European proposal for increased use of animals in cosmetics testing. Tests would become compulsory for all unproven ingredients, including even honey and lemon.

In 1988, nearly 17,000 animals were used in tests and then killed by the cosmetics industry. This is only a small fraction of the 3.4 million animal experiments conducted that year which were mainly for medical research. It is the aim of the Animal Rights Groups to reduce, refine and eventually use other methods of testing - however, this number will increase if this draft EC directive goes ahead.

Fortunately Britain, aligned with Germany and Holland, oppose this directive. A recent opinion poll showed that in Britain 85% of people oppose animal tests for cosmetics and toiletries and 58% would choose not to buy such tested products. The Body Shop and Beauty Without Cruelty, which conduct no animal experiments, have already declared that they will stop trading. Let us hope that there will be enough groups supporting them in order to prevent this from happening.

The Animal Rights Group in UKC apologise for having to postpone the debate on vivisection. It should now take place on Thursday, 26 April - everybody is welcome.

Lisa Thompson (K)

Monica Golt (K)

## "Nicaragua No Pasaran"

a film by David Bradbury  
showing 8.15pm, Wednesday  
21st March at The Canterbury  
Centre,

St. Alphege Lane, Canterbury  
Tickets £2 on the door



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## Pro-life, Pro-choice or just Pro-paganda?

Debate on Abortion: Rutherford 1/3/90

All the arguments made were both coherent and articulate. On the one hand, Michelle Carlisle argued with the conviction of someone who knew exactly what she was talking about, backed up by a series of statistics and moving quotes from those who had their lives changed by exercising their right to abortion.

For the opposition; it is hard to find someone who breaks the Victoria-Gillick-Bible-bashing image of a "Pro-Lifer" so much as Dr Margaret White. Sensible, avowedly socialist and a devout feminist, she presented the main thrust of her arguments:

Abortion is not the solution to female emancipation. It is a cop out that allows men to maintain their dominant position in society and cheapens the role of women, in particular mothers, who are seen as shadows in the light of the modern working woman. Further, abortion involves the murder of an unborn child, necessitated by society's failure to provide proper social support for mothers and facilitated by the widespread dehumanisation of the baby: Why does a baby suddenly become "a foetus" when it is not wanted? A baby is alive before an abortion and certainly dead afterwards so why do people refuse to recognise the death of an unborn child?

Michelle Carlisle and Emma Guion recognised that abortion is never an ideal option, it is a back-up, which should be held in the context of better sex education and more widespread access to contraception. However, abortion allows women to decide if and when they become pregnant, providing greater female emancipation and a more dominant, self-defined role in society. A safety-net for women and a guarantee against unwanted children.

Priorities then come into the question; how can you calculate the incredible burden to mother, family and society and weigh this against the right to life of the child?

The question of therapeutic abortion was then raised (which is one necessitated by the threat to the life of the mother if the pregnancy was allowed to go "full term"). This procedure was fully endorsed by the pro-life speakers, a fact which visibly shocked Michelle Carlisle.

The pro-life speakers held the moral high ground and Dr White's arguments on the death of a "something" in the womb and the baby-foetus terminology question were astute and never properly answered by the pro-choice speakers. However, the pro-choice argument still held greater validity than those of their opposition. They admitted that abortion is not an ideal solution and they laid great emphasis on the larger social conflict involved.

The pro-choice lobby lost the debate 14:10, though only because the pro-life team managed to mobilise more of their supporters. They also lost the argument of the debate. Abortion is not essential to reproductive rights. However, it is essential as one of the few props to women's status in society. A major defence against the social hegemony of male-orientated, male-defined attitudes.

Further, in light of the present attitudes towards the provision of social services and community care, is it really plausible to expect that women's potential in society will not be forced down by the weight of sexual stereotyping and the blanket endorsement of "family values" if abortion was criminalised?

600 women a day have abortions in England and Wales. 600 very hard decisions not to take on the responsibilities of parenthood, often in the light of previous parental experience. Should an all-embracing national policy be formulated to determine the results of 600 daily, separate, crises, all with varying causes and complexities?

The whole problem revolves around the question of contraception. Not only "Is abortion contraception?" but also the social role of contraception. Pro-choice explained their policies with energy and clarity; the base-line being the need for further sex-education and access to contraceptives.

The pro-life movement, however, is composed of a number of groups. There is an ultra-progressive wing of liberal socialists who condemn abortion as a tool of male domination and the wanton destruction of new life. This group is married to a reactionary, conservative, Catholic dominated wing who wallow in the virtue of their own family values.

I talked to Mary O'Rawe after the debate. "The pro-life movement doesn't have an official policy on contraception, but then it doesn't have an official policy on a lot of issues that are nothing to do with abortion." Another issue inadvertently slipped into the conversation.

"I couldn't believe it," she confided to her friend next to me, "when she (Dr White) endorsed therapeutic abortion. I'd really have to question the validity of that, I was going to say something but you can't really."

Careless talk, Mary O'Rawe, costs good propaganda.

Christiaan Hofman

## RUSSIAN INTERPRETERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Any students, lecturers or otherwise able to speak Russian and willing to act as interpreter for a group of Hockey students visiting the University 29th March - 5th April from Baku Azerbaijan, Please contact Sports Fed Office extension 3074 IMMEDIATELY.

# LETTERS

## Do I stand a loan?

Dear Kred

We are hearing a great deal against student loans lately, yet most of this comes in the form of rather brash slogans and very dubious 'facts'. It seems to me, and to other students I have spoken with, that merely to shout 'smash loans' on such a basis will achieve very little. The present SU campaign against loans seems to be based on nothing more than just not wanting them. This impression is only reinforced by the rather bizarre predictions about their effects on the poor and statements about the 'real intentions' of the government in introducing them. To me all these arguments are wholly beside the point. They do not touch on the real injustice behind them. To get at the real reason why students have a right to grants we need to try to understand why it is the duty of the community to provide them.

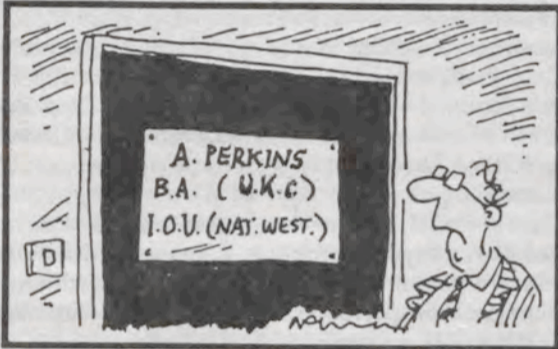
It seems to me that two fallacies underly the loan scheme, one about the nature of higher education, and one about the nature of grants. The first of these is the false notion that higher education is a kind of 'market product' consumed by individuals for their own private satisfaction. The second false notion is that grants are a cost to industry.

Consider what higher education really is. Firstly, it is obviously part of the cultural activity of a community, and therefore not a part of its economic activity. It is the passing on to new generations the accumulated knowledge of previous generations. We need to be very clear about this. Without education all the knowledge acquired in the past would be lost, and each new generation would need to begin again from nothing. Thus in a very direct sense education is the activity of preserving the sum of human knowledge. There is no means of preserving knowledge except through passing it on. Secondly, it is obvious that the sum of accumulated is not the private property of any individual. To whom, for example, does language belong? Obviously no discipline studied at a university is the private property of any individual. It is the common possession of the whole community. Without it we should not only be poor, we should be barbarians.

Consider next how it is naturally funded by the community. From whence come the skills and developed talents that enable industry to produce, science to discover, medicine to heal, law to order, the arts to nourish, philosophy and religion to enlighten? Clearly from the sum of human knowledge. The economic activities of the community depend absolutely upon all these kinds of knowledge. Remove them, and industry halts. Therefore education, since it enables the community to function, naturally funds and supports itself. In no sense whatsoever is it a burden upon the economy. The greater the access to education, the greater the material, cultural and spiritual wealth of the community.

Because this government cannot

see the nature of higher education as whole, as a self-resourcing cycle over generations, as a cultural process that arises naturally through a society being a society, and as a benefit to every individual both directly and indirectly, they cannot see the damage that will result from impeding that natural cycle. If it is true that students ought to pay for higher education, then it must equally be true that children should pay for primary education, for the two levels of education are in no way different in kind, only in extent, and one can only draw an arbitrary line between them in deciding at what point a debt is incurred by the student. The simple truth is that if any debt is incurred by



receiving education, then that debt is repaid through providing education to the next generation. And you cannot break a generation down into individuals who have incurred a greater debt than others. Yet this is precisely what this government is arguing. Instead of understanding the self-resourcing cycle of education, the government has taken the purchasing process of the market as a model and likened education to a commodity bought in a shop. Yet I wonder how many people can really see that this is a false analogy.

Certainly it is a part of a government's function to facilitate conditions of just trade, but this is neither its first nor its greatest duty. The primary duty of government is to ensure that those advantages that naturally arise through a community being a community are enjoyed by all. This means that no section of the community is entitled to monopolize any part of that natural advantage, and neither should any section of the community be obliged to buy access to any part of that natural advantage. In principle, student loans break with this primary duty. Loans seek to ensure that one section of the community receive the advantage of educated persons (employers for instance) while another section (students) meet the cost of education. Such an arrangement is patently unjust and divisive. It is no less absurd than to argue that each member of the armed forces should pay back to the state the cost of his maintenance during training. If anyone who is in favour of the introduction of student loans thinks the armed forces are a false analogy to students, then I challenge them to demonstrate it.

Those who are against loans simply because they do not like or want them ought, I believe, either keep silent or reason their position through, for unless students can argue their case from a proper understanding of the principles involved (rather than inane slogans), then I fear we shall lose the argument, at least until the day when we get a more enlightened government. The principles involved, as I have tried to demonstrate, demand that we look at the issue from a higher perspective than merely that of students.

Joseph Milne (D)

## The Controversial Heart!

Dear Kred

The debate continues! It seems that the presentation of homosexuals in the recent UKC Dramatics production of *The Normal Heart* has raised (or lowered, as the case may be) the political awareness of certain UKC students.

I resisted the temptation two weeks ago to reply to James Price's letter "Well I didn't enjoy it" on the grounds that reaction to such an issue, all be it in my opinion negative reaction, is better than no reaction at all. But E. Mead's letter in last week's KRED was so appalling and politically naive that I felt compelled to write in defence of the production.

I have many differences of opinion with James Price's letter (too many to go into in this letter) but two major points cannot pass without my comment. Firstly, he stated that "The character of Tommy Boatwright... is totally needless in terms of the construction of the play and only serves to pander to the heterosexual audience's idea of a bitchy queen." Tommy Boatwright is one gay character out of eight portrayed in the play and the character's very purpose is to highlight this fact. "Bitchy queen(s)" do exist but they are by no means wholly representative of the gay community, just as a James Bond-type character is not wholly representative of the straight community - as Ned says in the play, "the media always dramatises the most extreme". I would question the use of the word "pander" in context of the audience: I have spoken to many heterosexuals who saw the play and the last thing they felt was "pandered to". I think Mr Price's comment insults the intelligence of the audience, whether they be straight or gay and I feel particularly concerned for James' gay politics if he felt that the play was a freak show for a heterosexual audience.

Secondly, I must question James' statement that the scene of Ned and Felix's first date was "turned into high farce under the hands of the director". Serious as James may be, I feel that his opinion is as outdated as the Middle Age scholars who saw laughter as "an offence against God, a negation of the example of Christ, and a peril to men's souls". Comedy and laughter is not used by Kramer (the playwright) to give the audience "another opportunity...to laugh at homosexuals" but to heighten the reality of the scene in a dramatic context. Comedy is one of the most effective dramatic mediums and often serves to sharpen an audience's perception. Being able to laugh at our misfortunes does not negate their seriousness or credibility.

James' letter should have been headlined "Here's and excuse to tell the readership of KRED that I'm 'an openly gay man'". I sense a severe case of paranoia!

E. Mead's letter was even more trite and does not deserve half as much critical analysis. The statement "how is a straight actor to suppose how a homosexual would act and feel?" is totally ludicrous and an ignorant generalisation. Has E. Mead ever heard of ACTING? Who is E. Mead to presume who in the cast was straight or gay? Is E. Mead saying

## The Sitwell Slot

The future ain't so bleak

With all the problems of the 'Thatcher, Thatcher Money Snatcher' administration the Institute of Sitwellian Analysis was asked to look into some of the major problems and come up with some sane, practical solutions. I have obtained a leaked document of some of the proposals suggested and here highlight a few of the domestic, political, financial and sexual ideas in that moment.

### 1. DOMESTIC

Problem: No loo paper holders.

Several of today's run down bathrooms are absent of vital loo paper holders. The result of this is that people put the loo paper on top of the loo and too frequently the roll falls into the loo.

Solution: The government is to give out low interest loans to provide holders and government ministers will create a Select Committee in the Bogg which will organise inspectors to regularly visit and check the holders.

### 2. POLITICAL

Problem: Unfair Poll Tax

The Poll Tax is not determined by one's ability to pay.

Solution: The Tax should be levelled according to people's dress sense. An Independent Dress Commission is to be set up headed by leading trend setters, Michael Foot, Mother Teresa, George Formby and Cliff Lazarenko. The Commission will ascertain the degree of charges as well as the discounts for the less fortunate in the community (e.g. the No Hoppers Category: those who wear white socks with suits).

### 3. FINANCIAL

Problem (a): Loans

Solution: The current government bill on loans should be dropped and cash should be given to students on an alcohol related basis. Students with a larger capacity to drink will be given extra money at weekends. Their capacity will be measured by their ability to drive after drinking eight pints of Theakston's Old Peculiar.

Problem (b): Rent Rebate

Solution: In future the allocation of rent rebate will not be related to wealth, instead one's diet and health will be taken into account. People who eat muesli, fruit, drink fresh apple juices and indulge in aerobics will receive no money, moreover they may be liable to a fine of up to four hundred pounds. On the other hand those who can claim, with backing that they have eaten more than eighteen kebabs, drunk over twenty-three pints and watched more than seventy-two hours of television in a day will be given a full rebate and may qualify for a community award.

### 4. SEXUAL

Problem: Orgasm Faking

This is a problem that many people today have become increasingly aware of. Both men and women have attempted this procedure to convince their partners that they really are excited during intimate moments.

Solution: The Institute recommends that the Laboratory of Orgasmic Research should, with money collected from nunneries and monasteries, provide unsuspecting partners with orgasmastobes. During acts of nookie are placed on suspected faker's forehead these small gadgets will detect the true nature of the sighs (etc) emitted. If suspicions are correct the orgasmastrobe will light up and make a noise similar to that of a siren. This should subtly alert the misled partner.

The above extracts are from the report entitled "Give us a bottle of wine and I'll write anything". It was commissioned by the Green Chicken Alliance and will be published in full in April. Copies can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed Ferrari with a cheque for £42.00 (inc p + p) to The Institute of Sitwellian Analysis, The Kyle, 4 Roseacre Close, Canterbury. (Please allow eight years for delivery).

that only homosexual actors are capable of playing homosexual roles? I sincerely hope not, if only for E. Mead's integrity as a human being. I wonder if E. Mead would question the work of Ian McKellen ('an openly gay man') who regularly in the course of his work has to portray heterosexual men? The analogy of Olivier blacking up as Othello is completely irrelevant with regard to the argument and is representative of attitudes which should have died long ago, along with E. Mead's sexual politics!

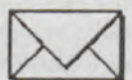
As director of *The Normal Heart* I fully expected some negative responses but I did not expect them to be based on such weak premises. What I cannot appreciate and did not expect was the sweeping generalisations and presumptions which they both make.

Many people who came to see the play, straight and gay, have expressed positive reactions to both the play and the UKC Dramatics production. I would therefore argue that James Price and E. Mead are firmly and quite rightly in the minority with regard to their criticisms.

Matt Tombs (Director - *The Normal Heart*)

Dear Kred,

Well done! Another fab Sitwell Slot! Is there a fan club? If not, can me and my girlfriend have a signed photo of William Sitwell and the Kred team? Lots of Love,  
Gillian Shitsgel [E] &  
Miriam Slipsbill [E]



Dear Kred

May we take this opportunity of extending our thanks and congratulations to our Social Secretary, Gin Keith. The variety and frequency of excellent gigs have certainly been the best since we arrived at the University over three years ago.

The diversity and foresight she has shown in attracting bands has been excellent. Not many universities could do better. We would urge students to actively support gigs on campus, so this excellent year can continue.

Yours sincerely  
Stuart Lowry (D)  
Geoff Hill (K)  
Simon Nicholl (K)

# KRED Election Special

The Hustings are over, the votes have been cast, SOC have run out of beer and next years Student Union Sabbaticals have all been chosen. In this special feature KRED profiles the elected officers as they outline their plans for the Union in 1990-91.

## Bryan Davey President 1990-91



**Experience:** May '88 - June '88: Rutherford JCRC Internal Rep.  
June '88 - June '89: Rutherford JCRC Secretary  
June '89 - present: University Council Representative  
Aug. '89 - present: Social Sciences Senate Rep.

### What the job involves

The job of President is to lead and co-ordinate campaigns, and be a representative for students at this University. It is therefore important to be aware and open to the needs of all students, and campaign both on external and campus issues. I see the following campaigns as the most important in the year to come:-

### A Central Union Building

To get cheaper food and drink, and stage better entertainments, our long term priority must be a Union building. At long last, the University has ear-marked a site for such a development, but surely, in its Silver Jubilee Year, it should be giving us some of the £3 million needed for such a Building. We must pursue in the next year, all possible means to finance such a facility.

### Housing

With the introduction of the Poll Tax in April, landlords will no longer pay rates on their properties. However, rents are not falling in line with this change, if anything they are increasing. One reason is because of the severe housing shortage in the Canterbury area. Next October, there will be at least 300 students homeless.

The new accommodation being built by the University will not even match the rise in student numbers. Clearly, we must pressurise the University into buying, and building, more accommodation at reasonable rents.

### Safety

The University has been forced by students to improve safety on campus. However, we must keep up the pressure to ensure all students are safe. It is important that emergency alarms are provided in all study bedrooms, and that students are educated about personal safety, and issues like rape.

Most importantly, we must make sure the University does not backtrack on the agreements made with the Students' Union.

### Loans and Tuition Fees

The Student Loan is a farce - costing more than the grant system to implement, well into the next century. It discourages the less privileged from entering higher education. By October, it will either have been defeated, or will be a reality. Therefore, we must also focus on the possibility of Tuition Fees, which are another attack on the principle of a Free Education, and further reduce representation of those groups already under-represented in further education.

### Poll Tax

From April, all full time students will have to pay £60 for local services, via the Poll Tax. There has been no corresponding increase in the grant, but instead we face losing housing benefit and Income Support.

The Poll Tax is grossly unfair, and I support all resistance to the Tax. Personally, I will not pay it when it is introduced, as I believe mass non-payment is the most effective way to defeat the Tax.

### N.U.S.

The National Union of Students is our vital national link. It has led campaigns against the Poll Tax and Student Loans, and has secured the Banks' withdrawal from the Loans Scheme. It also provides legal and welfare services. It, for example, co-ordinated legal representation for me, securing my acquittal of charges resulting from my arrest at Westminster Bridge.

Disaffiliation will only lead to our isolation, and conflicts with our need for a strong Students' Union.

### Environment

The S.U. has led a successful campaign on recycling in the last year. Its continued success depends, though, on co-operation with the University authorities, both providing better facilities and using more recycled products.

I have been a member of Friends of the Earth for 5 years and I hope to work with the Environment portfolio to increase students' awareness on other environmental issues, like Acid Rain, Pollution and, locally, the Broad Oak Reservoir Scheme.

### Services

The Library facilities are clearly inadequate. There is a need not just for more books, but also more photocopiers, and a review of the current fines system with a view to extending Reserve Section loans to 11 a.m. College Libraries are under-used and could be improved by concentrating on essential texts, and opening for longer hours.

Catering: The Breakfast system is unfair, all residents paying for a service that few use. We must examine the possibilities of extending breakfast hours and an "opting out" system, so those who don't use the service, don't pay for it. Queues for meals are worse than ever, and increasing student numbers will only make matters worse. While I was President of Rutherford JCRC, we successfully achieved staff increases in the Dining Hall. I hope to extend vending facilities in Parkwood, and if elected, I will endeavour to improve catering facilities generally, across campus.

Other Services need improvement, and have perhaps been neglected. The Bus Service has markedly deteriorated. The result has been higher fares, long journey times, and a poor peak time and early morning service. We must extend the Late Night Minibus Service, and lobby the local bus company to improve services.

Similarly, Car Parking is also inadequate. I have led a campaign for additional spaces and garage facilities adjacent to Rutherford, for which the University is now seeking planning permission. But clearly this is not enough!

### Why me?

I believe I am approachable, friendly and dedicated. My experience coupled with knowledge of student issues and University bureaucracy, shows my willingness to lead and represent students in a strong Students' Union.

## Helga Swidenbank Women's Officer 1990 - 91



The role of Women's Officer is a political one, and a position which entails the representation of, and a responsibility to, all women on campus. The post involves the recognition of the fact that women are representative of diverse political leanings. Since my first year I have been involved in student politics on the Student Union Executive, as Executive Officer and Vice-President for Welfare, and as Executive Officer Women's. I am an active member of the Women's Group, the Reproductive Rights Group, and the Positive Images Group on campus. I was also active in the occupation of the Registry last December. The position of Women's Officer has enormous potential to challenge and make significant changes in attitudes on and around campus.

**ARIGHT TO CHOOSE** is essential. Women face constant attacks on their right to choose whether or not to have an abortion (the embryo research bill). It is essential that the Student Union has a Pro-Choice policy. I would act to condemn any legislation limiting such a fundamental choice.

**SAFETY** on campus must not be neglected. The success of the occupation must be built on. The University must not be allowed to compromise the demands agreed to.

**AWARENESS** of the complexities of issues such as rape is essential. Workshops to inform women, and men, of the realities of acquaintance rape should be provided along with provision for counselling for the victims of assault.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT** guidelines exist but students have been kept in the dark. These guidelines should be issued to all students, and a forum provided for those who have suffered from harassment of any kind.

**POSITIVE IMAGES** of homosexuals have been severely affected by the introduction of Section 28 a few years ago. It is important that the homophobia which exists in society and on this campus is actively challenged.

**CHILD CARE** provisions exist. Student parents must be informed and supported to facilitate their full participation in University life.

It is important that our Women's Officer is active in all aspects of Student Union politics. My involvement in the Students' Union has also meant my involvement in other political campaigns.

**LOANS** must be defeated through an effective anti-loans campaign. If loans are not defeated this year their introduction will create an educational system which will discriminate on the basis of income, and thus create an even more elitist and exclusionary system.

**POLL TAX** must be fought. Students cannot afford to pay such an unfair tax in addition to Housing Benefits being removed, grants being frozen and loans being introduced.

**DISAFFILIATION** will mean the end to effective representation for you. Students need a national voice to fight challenges to our education.

Finally, it is important that everyone on campus is involved in women's issues. The Women's Officer is central to the process of challenging the sexist attitudes which exist on campus. The position of Women's Officer demands some one who would be committed politically and personally to the job.

## SWSS Petition

We, the undersigned, would like to say that we have serious misgivings about the effectiveness of the 'Off the Shelf' Campaign and therefore with the Campaign Against Pornography. In voicing these doubts, we have no intention of - and do not believe that we are - oppressing anybody, despite what Ms Guion wrote in last week's addition of Kred. We believe that both the exchange of views in Kred and the Debate on Pornography that took place two weeks ago between members of CAP and a speaker from the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) have been valuable in raising the issue of pornography; that Ms Guion should attempt to denigrate this does CAP no credit whatsoever. CAP constantly reiterate the statement that they do not believe pornography causes rape; Ms Guion states that "porn is...the permission, direction and rehearsal for acts of sexual violence." The latter statement implies that porn is the theory and rape the practice. If Ms Guion is correct, then a natural progression would be to call for the banning of pornography, which is something we fundamentally dispute; we do not believe that the state or the judiciary should have the power to decide what is or is not 'obscene', or to perform any other censorial function, as we have seen time and time again that such legislation is used against the oppressed and in favour of the ruling class. We believe that pornography is a symptom of women's oppression; whilst we are opposed to this symptom, we do not believe that if pornography is no longer available in W.H. Smith, women's oppression will be alleviated. Our aim is to fight the root causes of women's oppression, and a good way of starting this is by defeating the current attacks on abortion rights, loans and the poll tax (which will have drastic effects on women).

We would like to see the current discussion on pornography expanded to include the views of other people as we believe this can only be constructive in the fight against women's oppression and against those who rule the society which causes women's oppression.

Shaila Duggal (SWSS)  
Anita Grover (D)  
Karen Tiernan (K)  
Elaine Jones (WS)  
Helga Swidenbank (E)  
Nikki Fraser (K)  
Jo Constable (K)  
Sarah Harrison (D)  
Laura Baker (D)  
Sarah Brown (E)

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# 1990 - 91 Sabbaticals

Election Correspondent **Christiaan Hofman**



**Jason Phillips**  
Social Secretary  
1990 - 91

Jason Phillips has been selected as the new Social Secretary. Already it is clear that the next sabbaticals will face many problems; Jason underlined his opinion that the most pressing of these will be those posed by the non-existence of a union building capable of holding large scale events. But can anything be done about this abysmal situation?

The only answer, to keep smashing the intransigence of the University bureaucracy. The present sabbaticals have tried, presented plans and bullied the administrative hierarchy, however whereas we envisage a two year time scale, they are still talking about the next decade.

The only disappointment that Jason had about UKC (and Jason has been here four years) has been the attitude of the administration. UKC is now regarded as a limited company by those who run it; the "conference-centre" mentality is seemingly all-pervasive, even in the arguments concerning the construction of the new Japanese College.

Alternative entertainment seems to figure high in Jason's priorities. Not "Alternative" alternative but cabaret-West-End-and-coach-trips-alternative. Plans to bring big bands to Kent may be doomed to failure so Jason is taking Kent to big bands playing in London.

Glasnost will hit the ents in a big way next year. Polls conducted through Kred will give you the chance to decide what sort of bands will be provided at UKC and what type of major entertainment in London will get the Jason-Phillips treatment. Coaches to concerts may be joined by coaches to hit West End productions and venues on the cabaret circuit.

Of course, policies for greater participation only work when people participate. Jason will not let apathy rule at Kent next year and considers the occupation of the Registry to be a case in point; at the right time and in the right circumstances Kent Students need no prompting to act. It also underlines the necessity for a strong and influential Student's Union; to encourage and focus such action.

On the campaign; "Horrible, for some it is an ego trip but I HATE seeing my face plastered all over college walls." Thanks must go to Anita Grover, "Paul from Keynes", Justin and Julia and many others who made up the 40 strong election team.

Christiaan Hofman (Election Correspondent)



**Paul Hewitt**  
General Secretary  
1990 - 91

Paul Hewitt [recently voted General Secretary] may appear to be many things but before all else he is a socialist. And a Democratic Socialist at that. He holds a good deal of contempt for the radical left or the "revolutionary" left and criticises the policies of past Sabbaticals as being "too involved with fighting the revolution and not giving enough time and attention to the real needs of the students".

He won his campaign convincingly and cites the more extreme socialism of his opponent as an important factor, which made him less of a real threat. Paul was, however, glad to have an opponent and is worried about the increasing phenomena of the uncontested election and the ever lower turnouts at the ballot box. After three years at Kent [studying Law and French] he chose to run for a sabbatical position because he felt he should "do his bit".

Although he has been campaigning for the Labour Party for a number of years he considers that the General Secretary's position is not a party political post. One of his main aims next year will be to build on the present policy of "openness" and bolster the position of the Union by giving it a more personal approach. He intends to "rooms-job" the colleges next Intro Week, make the Union, more accessible to normal students and publicise the policies and functions of the Union through KRED and other means. The aim of all these familiarity exercises is to increase student participation in the Union; something which has proved very elusive in the past and may yet defy the energetic but perhaps over-optimistic new General Secretary.

However, he is a man who will put his money where his mouth is and will not be paying the poll tax this year, although he understands the reasons why people might feel they have to. Furthermore, he will continue to campaign against the imposition of the tax as well as highlight other new problems to students. The termination of housing benefit for students off-campus will be one of a number of campaign issues.

On other issues; he is worried about the type of campaign that town residents are waging against the construction of the new Japanese college [i.e. racist]. "Would they complain if it was a German college?" Paul is, incidentally, strongly opposed to German re-unification since it is "far too soon" after the war to forget what happened.

He intends to supplement the campaign for a proper Union building with the creation of an alternative prospectus to send to potential students [Kent and York are the only universities without central Union buildings]. It is not until you affect the earning potential of UKC, he points out, that anything gets done.

## Thatcher's Albatross

The British economy at present is in some difficulty. It has the largest debt to other countries in its history and prices that are increasing faster than our main competitors. Recession in the next two years is almost inevitable as the government attempts to reduce consumer spending to restrict imports.

The cause of this crisis, however, is more fundamental in its implications than is generally suggested. It is not simply that Nigel Lawson gave away too much money over the last few years. The increase in demand simply highlights a deeper problem. What we are witnessing is the return of "stop-go", a problem which has been the main concern for all governments since the early sixties.

The underlying cause of stop-go is the uncompetitiveness of British producers. It was noticed in the early 60's that Britain's economy didn't grow as fast as its main competitors (about 2% a year) and that consequently it was slipping down the league table of industrial nations. The cause then was old technology and under-investment. The reasons given for this were many: lack of vision and lack of interest by British capitalists, defensive attitudes by the workforce, poor management, poor sales performance etc.

Successive governments attempted to induce faster rates of growth by increasing the money people had to spend, the intention being that industry would increase its output to mop up the extra money. The result, however, was that people bought imported goods because they were better value than the home product. Increased spending brought increased debt and the government had to take the money away from people again to stop them buying imports. The central economic issue for governments for the last thirty years has been how to overcome this problem.

The performance of the British economy at present may be estimated from the following figures (quoted from William Rees-Mogg's article 'Creating money to buy trouble with') in the Independent on October 9 of last year. Out of the increase in money from '85-'89, only a fifth produced increased growth, a third went into higher prices and just under a half went on increased imports. The underlying problem is the poor performance of industry and it calls into question the whole strategy of the government during the 1980's.

The response of Labour and Conservative governments to this problem differed in the last thirty years. Labour governments believed in 'managed capitalism.' Consequently, they offered industry cheap money and wage restraint as an inducement to invest whilst attempting to steer it into production for export and into growth sectors with tax concessions and grants. A lasting achievement of the Wilson government was, perhaps, the creation of large monopolies such as B.P. and British Airways, which enhanced the export performance of the economy. Nevertheless, the reconstruction of the economy was not drastic enough and 'export led growth' never materialised. By the late sixties the problem had reappeared.

By contrast, the Tory solution was devised by the Heath government though it was not put into practice until the early eighties. This was to create a harsh economic climate which would drive inefficient 'lame duck' companies out of business. When the economic climate eased, the efficient firms would expand and new ones would copy their methods. Industry would emerge 'leaner and fitter.' In contrast to Labour's strategy this was a 'free market' solution. The theory was a kind of Social Darwinism where the principle of the 'survival of the fittest' would ensure that the firms that survived were competitive. In its fully developed Thatcherite version, the motivation to overcome this harsh environment was to be supplied by 'the enterprise culture.'

What actually occurred was as follows. A tight money policy in the early eighties produced a deep recession from which the economy began to recover in early 1982. Between then and 1986 the rate of growth averaged 2%. This was not spectacular but the recovery was tentative everywhere. British investors tended to invest abroad where the economies were stronger. The uncertain conditions and the lack of guarantees on consumer spending by the government deterred longer-term investment.

Arguably, the government's economic philosophy did not take account of the effect that weakening the economy and denying government support would have on the recovery itself. Britain's industries were now smaller and lacked the kind of financial base which allowed them to take risks. As a consequence they could not expand sufficiently to meet demand when spending was increased. Other countries continued to grow more quickly. In the mid-eighties Italy passed Britain in the league table of industrial nations. Manufacturing industry, the single largest sector of the economy, didn't recover to its previous levels of output until fairly recently and then from a smaller base.

It was the conventional wisdom of the mid-eighties that the decline in manufacturing was not important because it was compensated by expansion elsewhere, primarily in financial services. This has proven mistaken. The growth in finance was in part boosted by factors such as the liquidations in the recession which caused funds to flood into the financial markets, the rise in house prices caused by the drift south, increased mergers and takeovers which attract speculative money and the general volatility of markets caused by extra money chasing high interest rates. These factors are all related to the recession and temporary in character. The attempt to internationalise the markets to finance the increase in manufacturing in South East Asia and parts of the Third World has only been partially successful. As the oil surplus has decreased and finance suffered, the deficit in the rest of the economy has taken hold. This is a structural problem not merely a question of money supply.

The chart shows the difference between the actual deficit and the deficit not counting oil and finance. The point to notice is not only the alarming rate of escalation of both but the way the gap between them is narrowing. Oil and finance are compensating less and less.

During the eighties personal income has risen rapidly. Much of this, however, is accounted for by redistribution: from those who lost their jobs to those in work, from public spending to private spending, from north to south. Rates of growth of the economy as a whole were not high until 1987, at which point they produced the return of the old problem. We enter the nineteen nineties, therefore, with a large doubt hanging over the government's economic strategy. The Institute of Directors has taken to blaming the Church and the Universities for criticising the enterprise culture. Products of the enterprise culture, such as retail chains like 'Next', however, could never form the major props of the economy. The real failure is the lack of research and development in the growth areas of the world economy by the large corporations. The exception to this, perhaps, is the arms industry, though this has enjoyed a more buoyant market than most during the militarised eighties. In the modern era size is still an advantage as 'niche' firms like 'Next' are now finding out. This situation is likely to be worsened by the single market in 1992 since it will increase competition further. Totally free market economics may well have been a blind alley.

Ray Kelly (R)



## Small Report

Firstly a reply to the comments made by Andy Jackson (R) about the BES gig in Keynes Dining Hall. Your implication is that the BES put on the gig and deliberately misled people in order to make themselves some money, I quote "You have proved yourselves a bunch of hypocritical, materialist, monetarist, middle-class con men-true children of the 90's". I'd like to stress that not one member of the BES made a penny out of the gig and if anything several of them probably shelled out a few quid through the odd phone call, stamp or whatever. This is however incidental, the main point to be borne in mind is that the Soul II Soul event was just part of a week's events, the point of which was not simply to provide cheap and plentiful entertainment for the denizens of campus or town but to highlight the life of one of the greatest and most imaginative thinkers of the twentieth century.

The Annual General Meeting took place last night in Rutherford dining hall. Various motions were discussed including ones on housing, education, animal rights, Further Education and the Universities silver jubilee. An entertaining evening all in all which included a guest appearance by Stephen Twigg the Labour candidate for the National presidency. The next Union general meeting will take place in week 3 next term so if there is anything you think the Union should be doing then get in a motion by Thursday of week 2, see a sabbatical or SOC if you need advice on procedure. In the mean time I'd give up attending UGM's for lent.

We are sending delegates to the NUS conference, the vote on which individuals will be going as representatives will take place on Wednesday lunchtime and dinnertime. The motions which have been prioritised (and therefore most likely to be discussed) are the development of Further Education College Student Unions and the Embryo Bill.

Finally, a word by way of reply to Joseph Milne's letter on the Union's campaign on the loans issue. Firstly I'd like to thank him for pointing out some of the finer philosophical arguments against the proposals, they are well thought out, clearly argued and, in my opinion, certainly valid. However, it is not always possible through limitations on time and intelligence on the part of the Union's officer's to come up with such well thought out and thought provoking arguments. For obvious reasons they don't work well on posters or on marches but should you need a job as a leaflet compiler then drop in and we'll sort it out.

Finally, finally, there is a march against the Poll Tax leaving from Herne Bay Pavilion at 10.30am this Saturday morning going to Whitstable followed by another on Saturday the 24th through Canterbury. Stuff the Poll Tax. (sorry Jo!) Mike Schofield

# FILMS



## FRIDAY

### Gorillas in the Mist

Sigourney Weaver Bryan Brown Julie Harris  
 John Omirah Miluwi  
 Directed by Michael Apted  
 Col • Sind • 15 • 129 mins •  
 This is the true story of anthropologist Dian Fossey who single handedly focussed world attention on the plight of the endangered mountain gorillas of Central Africa. Sigourney Weaver powerfully plays the determined lady devoting nearly twenty years to observing and trying to protect the gorillas who live in a small area in the Verunga mountain range, which extends into Rwanda, where she established her Karisoke Research Centre. Her dedication gradually turned to obsession and the isolated naturalist was transformed into a bitter warrior. Ultimately paying the heaviest price for her commitment and proving for all time that the most dangerous and destructive animal on this earth is man.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

# THE BLUES BROTHERS

ENTS ... ENTS ... ENTS!!

The wonders of college bureaucracy will never cease to amaze me!

Our third and final Euphoria which was booked for Eliot Dining Hall at the beginning of January was double-booked with the Hellenic Society's cultural night. So we have moved it to Eliot JCR [no other dining halls available] on SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH - make sure you get there early to get a ticket and don't miss the final rave this term.

Belated apologies go to all those students who felt ripped off/let down/pissed off by the 'misleading' advertising for Euphoria '65. Saturday night will be non-stop house with guest D.J.s plus livesampling from a bright new 'house' hope 'Milestones'.

Finally, I hope that you've all enjoyed some of this term's entertainment and thanks especially to my regular gig-goers [they know who they are!] for making it all worth while.

saturday 17th march  
 eliot jcr 8.30pm £2  
 with guest dj's & live  
 sampling from "milestones"



## MEGA!

### MEGA CITY 4

The Darwin Dining Hall was barraged by viscous sampling as Basti took the stage on that fateful night - Wednesday, 28th February. They threw themselves about stage in a maddening frenzy as they began to build an imposing wall of noise. A driving bass and rhythm gave support to screeching guitars and a saxophone, while the combination of chant-like male vocals and an airy female voice added the finishing touches. It was an incredible wall that they tried to construct. It sounded like a mutant, incestuous union between the B-52s and the Butthole Surfers. However, sadly enough, that wall began to crumble. In the rubble there only remained a rather tedious, heavy indie-sample-rap type sound. It got old rather fast, plus the band lost their energy and spontaneity. Basti's departure wasn't too well noticed, especially since the crowd was eagerly awaiting the star attraction.

And Mega City 4 deserved the attention. Since forming two years ago, they've clawed their way up the rock and roll ladder to a respectable rung. Lately, they've been supporting a number of the major alternative rock bands that have been in London and headlining many of their own gigs. M.C.4 also have an LP out [which is worth the few quid you can pick it up for] on Decoy Records, called "Transphobia".

The music that Wednesday night was prime melodic post-punk rock and roll; tight, fast and with killer melodies you just had to hum along to. Mega City 4 loved what they were doing and they made it come through as clear as the screaming guitars. Even though there were a few technical hitches, they kept the music going and didn't slow down themselves. The crowd picked up their energy and the front of the stage was soon swimming in a sea of thrashing fans. It was definitely a fun night for everyone, even though there could have been quite a few more students present. Hopefully, the cloud of musical apathy that reigns on this campus will soon lift and the scene will improve.

Cheers

Guy Smiley [D]

## Well, I found it boring.... -

### The legend of the Holy Drinker

This well-praised by cinema critics Ermanno Olmi film tires one out when watching it. The film fails to attract the viewer's attention, by its disintegrating plot, its melancholic messages and its alienating, moody environment. The failure of the plot lies on the fact that it moves in and out of the past so that the viewer can get confused about the parts that belong to reality and the parts that are simply the hero's memories. The film is apparently shot in Paris but Paris is no longer the romantic city, as we view the hero sleeping under bridges and moving in a series of melancholic cafés in which certain persons help him change his life, but only temporarily.

If the film is successful in something it is its portrayal of a failure. But the hero's failures can remind us of our failures and make us depressed for quite a long time after watching the film. Andreas Kavtak, the hero, has always been a failure in his life evidently. In the past he had an affair with one of his friend's wife, Karoline and he murdered her husband when the latter tried to attack her. In the present, we see Andreas sleeping under bridges and drinking a lot. An old man appears and gives him 200 francs as a loan under the condition Andreas returns them to little Therése in a church. Every time Andreas gets some money in his hands, however, and tries to return them to Therése who appears to him as a vision he fails to do so. First, he meets Karoline and buys her an expensive dinner, then, he meets an old friend who books a hotel room for him and also gives him a suit. Later on, he has a love affair with a dancer and when at last, he is at the chapel holding the money in his hands one of his friends asks for a loan. Having failed to pay his debt to Therése, Andreas goes to a café and starts drinking. The vision of little Therése appears to him once more and denies to take the money from him. Andreas dies from a heart attack having failed to pay his debt and be a man of however.

The film has portrayed a failure but it took so much time and effort to do so that the film itself is a failure. So for those who still went to watch it, I have a piece of advice to give: Be patient....

Rebecca Shiekkeri (K)

## Wooden Furniture?

Stroking the peach like complexion of Michelle Pfeiffer's inner thigh, I thought about that evening. My fellow Cleft, Trevor and I had gone to see Furniture. Immediately they set the stage ablaze like a thousand suns with their truly banal mediocrity. We were instantly unenthusiastic by their drab presentation and the downright vacuum-like pointlessness of their musicianship.

The set continued, the beer ran out, and our patience thin. With our last Marlboro locked between our lips, our eyes gazed stagewards and the truth suddenly hit us like a bolt of lightning. Furniture were awful.

The music was like a grey day in Slough (i.e. lack-lustre to the point of being suicidal). The only composition of note was the Stillborn "Brilliant Mind", this was dragged protesting from its chipboard grave in a flow of indifference. As for the rest of the set, spending the evening with Sir Geoffrey Howe, a dead llama and the collected works of Michael Barrymore would have been more entertaining.

As Furniture left the stage we were left stolid. We would strongly recommend that the only furniture worth bothering about is the stuff you buy from MFI.

The Cleft Twins (E)

## Frown On The Town!

It is quite a miracle for me to admit that I really didn't enjoy a musical, but 'On The Town' at the Marlowe Theatre managed to perform that task last week. The original show played its very first performances in 1944 based on an idea by Jerome Robbins, with a score composed by Leonard Bernstein and book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Indeed, it received some fine reviews at the time and the New York Times called it 'the freshest and most engaging musical to come this way since the golden day of Oklahoma.' I had only seen the 1949 film in which a lot of the music differs, but I still had quite high expectations of what the musical would offer. Unfortunately, the Marlowe production, produced and co-directed by Malcolm Knight, failed to fulfil these expectations and produced a disappointing evening.

The story of 'On The Town' is pretty simple. Three sailors, Ozzie (Steve Aliffe), Chip (Joseph Matheson) and Gabey (Steve Grant - yes, him of Tight Fit fame) have 24 hours leave from the Navy and are able to spend it in New York. While they are there, they fall in love with, respectively, Claire De Loone (Zalie Burrow), Hildy (Rebecca Clow) and Ivy Smith (Meriel Bradley). There is no criticism here, musicals are not always known for their complex story lines, and when involved in them the spectator should have no problem in suspension of belief as people consistently break into song and dance. But the way the twenty-four hours in New York was approached by those involved in the staging of this production, really made it a day too long.

For what professed to be a professional production, much of the direction, scene setting and ordering of choreography only appeared amateurish. And that is not to criticise amateur musical productions to any extent, but this supposedly had the resources, talent and facilities of professionalism. Where was it?

The use of a backdrop and strobe lighting to cover scene changes were crude and amusing when they shouldn't have been. In the musical number 'I Get Carried Away' the ordering of song and dance wasn't balanced and the choreography seemed to want to use the 'Primitive Man' dance from the film which seemed unexplained and out of place. Much of the action jarred or appeared too staged. In addition it was difficult to feel for the characters; when Gabey sang 'Lonely Town' or imagined Coney Island, there was no immediate empathy, concern or sympathy.

A few of the musical numbers got by - 'Some Other Time (Oh Well!)' was nice, but others were rendered too quickly or couldn't be heard. There seemed to be elements of talent in the cast, Rebecca Clow and Maggie Beckit could be noted, but no performances linger in one's memory.

It is easier to just criticise the production and avoid the basic musical itself, but that seems slightly unrealistic. I do feel a different approach would make it a much more successful and sophisticated musical to enjoy on stage, but on the other hand, despite its respected authors and pretty high reputation, it was unfortunately one of the least memorable ones I've seen in a long time. One's interpretation would have to rest on balancing the weaknesses of the Canterbury production and the material it had to use.

I may have departed, casually humming 'New York, New York', but this was not a particularly enjoyable or entertaining evening. I've liked several Marlowe efforts but the West End on my doorstep will have to start weighing up what wins the continuing match between commercialism and quality.

So now I've completely criticised a musical evening at the theatre ... I need a good lie down... ta ta.

Lisa Martland (K)



## A Dangerous Cruise

### BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

This long awaited film that reveals at last the truth about Vietnam not only to the American public but to the world in general. After a lot of Rambo movies rubbish, our mind has been confused as far as Vietnam is concerned and we perhaps thought that the war in Vietnam consisted of a series of brave military actions in defence of one's country. This film tells us not only the truth about Vietnam but the truth about war in general. What the film does with a series of highly disturbing images in which one views death in all its phases as children and women get killed alongside with soldiers just by mistake, is to tell us plainly that war is no good. War is bad.

Tom Cruise in an almost certainly Oscar winning performance plays a Vietnam veteran, Ron Kovic. The story of Ron Kovic's experience in Vietnam is a true one and becomes the story of not only all of Vietnam's veterans but of all war veterans in general. We watch the life of Ron Kovic who was ironically born on the fourth of July, the day of the American independence.

At first, we see him as a child getting birthday presents on the day of the American independence. As he grows up, he gets uneasy about things. He falls in love with a girl but also wants to join the Marine forces and go to Vietnam in defence of his country. A friend tries to warn him about the possibility of getting killed in the war. Ron does not listen to him and we soon see him fighting in Vietnam under cruel conditions. The war hardens Ron as he sees children get killed by mistake and as he himself kills a fellow soldier accidentally in an ambush. Later on, he gets hurt and is paralysed forever. The war scenes, especially the scene in which Ron gets hurt, are very lively as we watch hands and legs getting blown up.

On his return home, Ron gets in a Bronx hospital and survives under horrifying conditions. He finds out that he can never walk again. He is also impotent. Going back to his family, he feels isolated from everyone. He also thinks that his sacrifice for his country is not appreciated. Gradually as he tries to put the remains of himself in order, cutting off booze and violent scenes with his mother, he realises that the Vietnam war is a fraud. The Nixon government is a fraud. Ron joins the demonstrations against the war and tries to make the best out of his life. In 1976, we watch him speaking to a large crowd about the truth about Vietnam. He says that after all these years 'he's back at home'.

The film is a definite success. Tom Cruise's great role performance adds to its success. It may not be a pleasant film to watch, but then, what film about war and its horrors is?

Rebecca Shiekkeri

### Torch Song Trilogy

Virginia Hamm wants a child, but the odds are stacked against her. She's single, given to emotionally masochistic relationships with immature men... and she's a Jewish professional female impersonator named Arnold Beckoff.

This is Torch Song Trilogy by Harvey Fierstein, that can be seen at the Guibenkian Theatre next week (March 15, 16, 17) presented by UKC Dramatics.

This is a play, not about sexuality, but love; the need to love and to be loved, a feeling common to most people, homosexual or heterosexual. "I hear about heterosexual's feelings for each other, and it seems to apply to my feelings for men, so I assume I got it from the same place." (Ian McKellen)

The play first opened in London in 1984, with Antony Sherr in the lead role; "this play must be the funniest as well as the most perceptive, exuberant and painful for years, about inversion and the disorders of modern love" Daily Telegraph "an important description of a gay man in a post-aids world"; but this play can not be dated. It is becoming more relevant today than ever before, as Britain becomes more oppressive, not less, and because many still suffer in secrecy and silence. But why must people be forced to live this way? We don't ask people who are not gay, to talk about their marriage, not to wear a wedding ring, not to send out wedding invitations, not to have photographs of their family in their wallets, and heaven forbid, not to show affection in public; so why must these restrictions be forced on certain people and not others?

There are people today being cruelly oppressed by others who, in their own ignorance do not know what they are doing and sadly there are those who know exactly what they are doing, "but imagine a world the other way round; every movie, book, magazine, TV show, commercial told you that you should be homosexual, but you know you're not...." Would you stick your ground and live a life that you believed correct, that you knew was right for you?

Torch Song Trilogy, can be seen at the Guibenkian Theatre next week, and tickets are available now.

# KRED

# SPORT

## Rowing Club give Head

### UKC Rowing Club

The Heads at Henley and Marlow having been postponed earlier in the term due to bad weather, both the two men's crews and the women's crew at long last set off for the Medway Head of the River.

Once there, the boats were assembled and the various adjustments made before a short warm up. The men's first crew (Rob Taylor, Dave Dejong, Paul Taylor, Jason Murray with Cathy Falkiner as cox) were off in the first division of the day. However, due to a last minute change in the order of the middle pair, they could only manage a frustrating time, although they could console themselves with the fact that they finished third out of fifteen at the Exeter University Head earlier this term.

In the second division of 40 boats the men's second crew (Steve Twell, Dave Ziegler, Tom Kier, Rob Newman, with Karen Lawson as their vocal cox) and the women's crew (Cathy Falkiner, Pol Kellet, Lucy Amis, Janine Collins, with Sue May as cox) competed. The men's second crew surpassed their own expectations by finishing second in their category on the 3500m course, being pipped to the post by just 3 seconds. The women's crew, despite catching an early crab, also finished a creditable second in their category with a gutsy row.

Considering that neither of these crews had rowed competitively this season due to the weather, it was an admirable showing, and special mention must go to Steve, Pol, Lucy, Dave, Karen, Cathy, Rob, Sue and Janine, who put in a lot of overtime the day before the Head loading up the trailer - an eight hour marathon due to a boat falling off the trailer and to the minibus and trailer getting stuck under a bridge! They all showed resilience in the face of extreme embarrassment.

Rob Newman (K)

## Not just a Beach Game!

### Volleyball

Forget football, forget hockey, forget rugby, UKC has a new sporting force! Having so far swept all before them in the local league and winning a tournament held at Brunel University, the Ladies Volleyball team destroyed the opposition to win the U.A.U. Volleyball Championship at Bangor.

After making an early start to the day, in order to arrive in Bangor in time to play at 6 o'clock, UKC found that their opponents, Birmingham, had not yet arrived. However, following the subsequent 2-hour delay, after waiting for Birmingham to arrive, UKC proceeded to overcome the Birmingham team 2 sets to 0 (15-10; 15-8), thus setting the tone for the week-end.

UKC's first opponents on Saturday were Loughborough (rumoured to have a National League Division 1 player), followed later in the day by Exeter: both followed the same path as Birmingham (15-13; 15-9 and 15-13; 15-5 respectively).

After the Exeter game, however, the organisers of the tournament decreed that UKC should play their semi-final against

UEA immediately (the only team to have won a match against UKC this year) only giving 15 minutes rest after strenuous complaints by the UKC coach, Colin Willcock. Despite this handicap though, UKC were in good form and defeated UEA in straight sets (15-9; 15-7).

The final, against Manchester, was scheduled for 12 o'clock on Sunday, but true to form did not get under way until 2. This delay did not seem to matter though as UKC stormed through the first set to win it 15-5, but Manchester (despite the absence of their National League player) fought back to win the next 2 sets: 15-13; 15-7.

At this point it looked as though UKC would end as runners-up, but due to superb support from the bench and 'Southampton's Men's Squad' plus UKC

supporter Dave Shea, UKC showed great resolve and determination to win the next set 15-9 and so level the set score at 2-2.

Under immense pressure, but with 'loud' support (thanks Southampton!), UKC edged ahead in the final set. Playing superbly and with a good solid team effort UKC took the final set 15-11 and with it the Championship Trophy, proudly collected by Captain Jane Lawrence.

Therefore it is congratulations to: Jane Lawrence (C), Stefania Albonetti, Barbara Capellmann, Arshia Faridani, Hanna Heikkila, Barbara Krengel, Meike Kuhnert, Helga Michaelis, Francoise Riera, Edith Sandrin and Colin Willcock (coach). Alan Russell (R) Volleyball Secretary

### Kred Report on Environmental Destruction

#### THE FATE OF THE NORTH SEA

The recent North Sea Ministers conference in the Hague has now ended with some degree of optimism, but then the last two times it met also similar conclusions.

In 1984 the conference agreed 'to work towards an end of dumping of polluted materials in the North Sea.' Again in 1987 an agreement was signed to 'phase out the dumping of industrial wastes by 31st December 1989', with the exception that inert materials which cause no harm to the marine environment could be dumped. So what is the result of these two statements? Every European country stopped dumping of last year. Every country except the United Kingdom.

In the UK instead of stopping all dumping, of even lowering the amounts of polluted matter that enter the North Sea, we just chose to dilute it. The Government did set restrictions on the amounts of dumping which could take place by British industries, but these have been regularly and openly broken with only a few prosecutions. Five European neighbours have made objections about the U.K. Government and its policy on sea dumping, but these have been ignored.

On the European Market 100,000 chemicals are registered, and of these just 22 are on the Government's 'Red List' - these are substances which Government inspectors have agreed are dangerous to water and where emission should be controlled. Other countries have higher standards, the EEC blacklist contains 129 chemicals which give cause for concern.

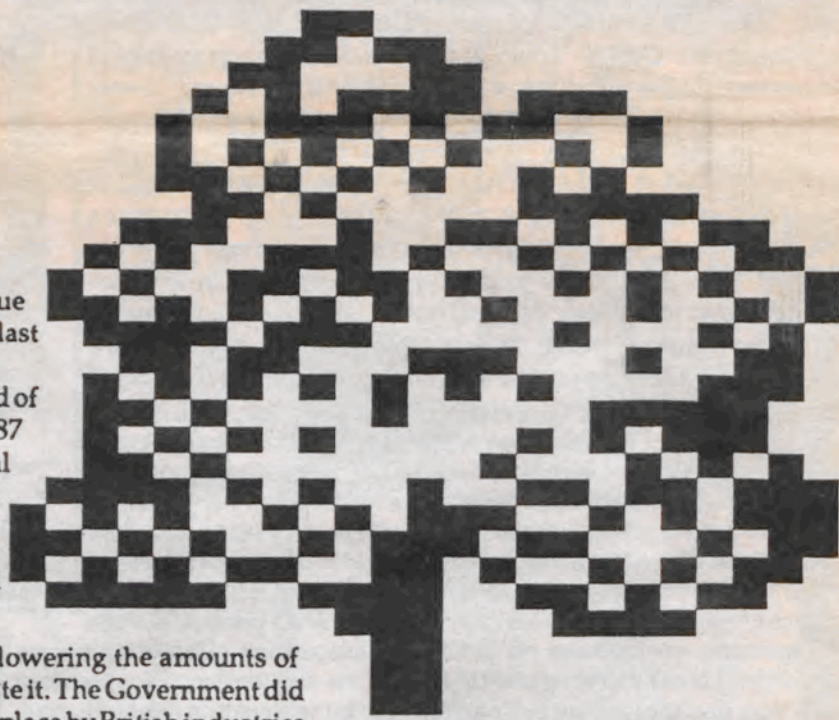
Sewage sludge is the result of treating raw sewage which contains many of industries waste chemicals. The UK produces 30 million tonnes of sewage each year. Of this 50% is recycled for use as fertilizer and 20% disposed of on land, but that leaves 30% being dumped at sea from 14 different sites. While other EEC neighbours have all completely stopped their dumping of sewage sludge at sea the British Government is seen to justify the action and allow such toxins as mercury, lead and cadmium to pollute the marine environment.

Toxic waste is still burnt at sea, just off the North Yorkshire coast. Such practices were only stopped by Germany last year after continuous campaigning. The overall result of such pollution is cancer in fish and the possible link in the food chain to man. Large areas of sea have now become dead due to lack of oxygen caused by algal blooms.

Nobody seems to know what chemicals are being dumped in the North Sea. Nor do we know exactly what the combined effects they are having. Instead of prohibiting any dumping at sea the UK Government are content to just monitor the situation, by which time it might be too late.

The achievable aim must be to stop all discharges to sea by the year 2000, but this objective requires action now. The next North Sea Ministers' conference is in 1995. The only way it will be able to state that no dumping takes place in the North Sea is if you continually campaign and highlight the need for action. Don't let the North Sea die.

David Carr (D)



**LUCKY DRAW: 2 RETURN TICKETS TO ATHENS**

**LUCKY DRAW: 2 RETURN TICKETS TO PARIS**

**BRKKK CULTURAL NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**ELIOT DINING HALL**

**8:00 PM**

**FORMAL DRESS**

**PRICE MEMBERS... £ 5.00 NONMEMBERS... £ 7.00**

