



Send your letters to Liverpool Free Press, 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.

## Letter of the month

I NOTE with a great deal of dissatisfaction your article concerning this company in the recent issue of your paper. My dissatisfaction is very fairly founded in that there is not one paragraph in your article that is accurate and that by publishing errors and misleading information, it can do nothing but make matters much more difficult for management to manage.

From the structure of the latter part of the article it is apparent that you have no understanding of business and might I therefore suggest that you appreciate the circumstances involved in running a business before endeavouring to comment on it.

I am pleased to say that our employees here are aware of the extension in trade which has taken place and the situation that surrounds

**BEAR BRAND**, the Liverpool hosiery firm, is in trouble again. Any day now the 300 workers, mostly women, could face the sack.

The government has turned down a new plea from the company for help.

It was only a year ago that the government bailed out this Woolton

*The story in last month's Free Press*

this company now is of the build-up into a viable entity which is the totally opposite extreme of the company which required money to meet the losses that you refer to last year. —**MERVYN E. SMITH**, Managing Director, Bear Brand Ltd, Allerton Road, Woolton, Liverpool L25 7SF.

● *Bear Brand called in a receiver a couple of weeks after Mr Smith sent us this letter.*

Christine Moore. Best wishes — **HAZEL NASH**, Public Health Advisory Service, Care House, Bigland Street, London E1 2ND.

## Come here, Joe!

I HAVE just read your article about Joe Morgan in the January issue. I would like to know if Mr Morgan gets a transfer to a house or flat of his choice.

We have been trying for almost two years to get a transfer and have been told it is impossible as we are adequately housed. You know what the Belle Vale flats are like.

I would like Joe Morgan to get transferred here, see how he would like it. But seeing he is a former Labour housing chairman, he will be treated better than we are.

I also wrote to Merseyside Improved Houses, and got no reply. Of course I have no connection with the city council like Mr Morgan.

Let me know what happens please. —**G. GRAY**, Dauntsey Walk, Belle Vale Estate, Liverpool 25.

"Another of these frightful meetings drew to a close, circa 11.55 (so much for guillotines and early nights).

"I wish my successor a jolly year ahead. What about a male Hon. Sec. next time around? With absolutely no regrets that this is my last Liverpool Liberal Party meeting. — **PENNY CROCKETT.**"

*Liberal Party minutes — from the Free Press in January.*

## A Liberal dose

REGARDING the article on Liberal Party minutes (January 1976). You will understand my surprise when I discovered that a small dose of purgative Party medicine which I had prescribed for internal use had been applied externally, where it had no relevance.

This was not only nonsensical and irresponsible; it was unintelligent. It might have endangered the general health of any other Party patient, and moreover, the child who removed the pills from the shelf would have deserved serious reprimand — were it not that examination reveals the Liberal Party in Liverpool to be in robust health.

Indeed, Maytime will show the benefits of strenuous winter exercise taken by many hard workers both within and outside the Liberal Council Group when others lie dormant. The cheeks of Liverpool will carry on glowing under the Liberals.

I understand from a phone conversation that I have missed the possibility of my reply being printed in the February issue — but seeing as the original ACM (November) minutes didn't get in till January, it would be nice to reply in March. Yours truly — **PENNY CROCKETT**, ex-secretary, Liverpool Liberal Party, 15 Jermyn Street, Liverpool 8.

**JOHN FORAN** of Walton had an argument with his wife that made him so mad he later put his fist through a shop window.

"Then I saw a fellow laughing and I ran up to him. He put up his hand and I thought he was going to hit me, but the more I think of it he must have been going to put a chip in his mouth. I hit him. I'm sorry," he said in court.

*From last month's 'Freep' column. It didn't amuse one of our readers...*

## Not amused

AS A READER of your Liverpool Free Press, I was not amused at 'Freep' making a huge joke about John Foran having a row with his wife and going out and getting drunk and putting his hand through a shop window and then hitting out at an innocent man passing by.

I thought this joke was in very bad taste. 'Freep' wants to finish his joke by telling how Foran put that man in hospital for three weeks with injury to his nose, jaws and cheek bone. And the shop window he broke was no joke to my son and daughter-in-law who had to put up with the mess of the window, clearing bits of glass from the broken window.

I like a good joke and can take a joke. Do you think 'Freep' would enjoy it if it had happened to him? —**Mrs E. GANNON**, Brayfield Road, Liverpool 4.

## Further action

IN A RECENT issue of your paper an article appeared under the heading "A mother writes from Belle Vale". This concerned sewage coming up through a bathroom. While agreeing with your general comments concerning organised groups, it may have been useful to suggest the possibility of taking action under section 99, Public Health Act 1936.

Practice notes on the procedures involved are available from us, and we have in the past worked closely with some groups in the Liverpool area, including John Linden from the Vauxhall Community Law Centre.

Please let us know if there is any further information we can provide. A letter has also been sent to Mrs

## O'HALLIGAN'S PARLOUR

Peter O'Halligan  
O'Ceán Halligan  
Charles Gilmour Alexander  
The no-star cafe with the five-star waiters and a new consino of hideous lino  
18 MATHEW STREET  
LIVERPOOL 2

# Education: what the cuts mean

ONE OF the ways Liverpool City Council plan to save £2,800,000 by the end of this month is by imposing restraints on school spending.

And there are more drastic plans to cut £1 million from the education budget for the coming year.

The decision to ban schools from spending any money left from funds already allocated to them for this financial year, has led to all sorts of idiocies:

- Instances reported to the Free Press of:
  - Badly lit schools sending in requisitions for light bulbs because stocks had run out. Only to receive the requisition back stamped "DO NOT ORDER".
  - Schools being issued with disinfectant, but not allowed the mop heads with which to apply it.
  - Cases of duplicating machines being ordered, or in need of repair, and heads being told to use the machines of neighbouring schools.
  - Projectors at the Teachers' Centre without bulbs.
  - Schools with cameras and no film to put in them.
  - The Central College unable to make repairs to its photostat machinery.
  - One school had the whole of its English requisition turned down — a decision later rescinded.

Deputy Chairman of the Education Committee Councillor Ian Porteous has said that the freeze was imposed because there tended to be a "spending spree" at the end of every year when heads discovered they had money left in hand.

In imposing the ban, there was "no intention schools shouldn't be able to get the requisitions they required. Only that there should be an overall control."

Officials in the Education Office had "misinterpreted instructions" he said, but the situation "is not chaotic and the nonsenses which occurred have been eradicated".

At a meeting of the Education Committee on February 16 the chairman, Councillor John Bowen, admitted that requisitions had been cancelled by "over-zealous officials in the education department."

Last year, 1974-5, out of 36 metropolitan districts, Liverpool came 36th in its spending on books, stationery and materials for each primary school pupil, and 31st in its spending for each secondary school pupil. Estimates for 1975-6 show no significant change.

The present budget proposals for 1976-7, announced to head teachers last month by the Director of Education will, if approved, have a disastrous effect on the education service in Liverpool. Schools are to get the same allocation

as last year plus 15% extra for inflation. Because inflation has been running at 25%, this means a further reduction in real terms.

And it is not only schools which are affected. Educational provision is inadequate at many levels. Effects of cuts are widespread and will mean a lowering of standards in nursery schools through to further education.

For example: **NURSERIES:** Despite the shortage of day nurseries and a need for nursery classes and pre-school facilities, Liverpool has cut back on the training of nursery assistants. Jobs were found for only four nursery nurses graduating from the Mabel Fletcher Technical College last summer.

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS:** Infant schools cannot take in all 'rising fives' because they lack the extra staff and resources to do so.

Even in 'good areas' there are still classes of over 30 pupils, both in infant and junior schools.

No attempt has been made to reduce class sizes by utilising teachers who are unemployed.

There is a shortage of ancillary staff. Regular maintenance work is not being carried out. Buildings are allowed to fall into disrepair before money is spent 'patching up'.

**SECONDARY EDUCATION:** Head teachers who have more staff than they are entitled to on a strict teacher/pupil ratio, have been asked to cut down over the next two years.

However, this does not take into account that in many large, split-site comprehensives, many of the staff are not engaged in full-time teaching. This includes heads, deputy heads, wing heads, career staff and year staff, whose work has become increasingly administrative.

**SPECIAL SCHOOLS:** Northumberland Special School for Girls, threatened with closure this summer on economic grounds, has recently had large sums of money spent on it.

Before Christmas the school was painted inside and out. Workmen are at present putting in fire doors and installing a new toilet for the kitchen staff.

**POLYTECHNIC:** No revenue increase for equipment, materials, travelling or

visiting lecturers.

Freeze on appointments of all part-time teaching staff.

Non-replacement of library, technical, portering and domestic staff.

**OTHER PROJECTS:** Everyman Theatre in Education Project has had the two teachers seconded to them withdrawn. It is still uncertain whether a Drama Adviser will be appointed or not.

**COLOMENDY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CENTRE:** Hundreds of Liverpool school children have benefited from the field courses at Colomendy in North Wales.

The present cost to a parent is £2.50 per week. This is to go up to £5.50 per week on April 1, with a further rise on September 1 increasing the cost to £10 per week.

How many parents then, will be able to afford to take advantage on behalf of their children?

● Already we have a depressing picture of the state of education in our city.

Cuts, savings, rises in costs only widen the gap of inequality.

Poorer schools with poor or uninterested parents will suffer even more.

Whilst the better schools can look to a strong and wealthy parent-teacher association to provide them with what the authority is not providing.

Denis Healey's announcement that the Labour Government intends to cut the grant to the Department of Education and Science can only worsen the problems Liverpool already faces.

Education takes up 64% of the total city budget, two thirds of which comes from the Government's Rate Support Grant. The other third comes from the rates.

But the Liberals, in order to stay in power are religiously committed to keeping down the rates. They were the only council in the country last year who actually reduced the rates.

Nick Beattie, spokesman of Liverpool CASE (Confederation for the Advancement of State Education) said: "It is scandalous to make everything else subservient to keeping down rates in order to be re-elected in May."

**FOOTNOTE:** Anyone interested in taking action over the cuts can contact:

L.A.C.E.E. (Liverpool Action Committee on Education Expenditure). Set up last July to monitor and oppose any deterioration in education provision in Liverpool. Includes representatives from trade unions and other organisations. Secretary: Kevin Donovan (708 0423, ext. 37, daytime). LACEE intend to lobby the City Council on March 17.

C.A.S.E. (Confederation for the Advancement of State Education). To join the Liverpool group send £1 to Noel Boaden (secretary), 15 Handley Court, Riversdale Road, Liverpool L19 3QS. (427 3646).

## Just a little extra

A NEW benefit, available from April 5, marks a grudging recognition of the special problems of one-parent families.

Child Interim Benefit (CHIB) is to be £1.50 a week for single parents with one or more children. It amounts to an extension of family allowance to the first child in one-parent families.

But not all single parents will benefit. Many are not in work and depend on supplementary benefit. If they claim the new benefit their supplementary benefit will be reduced by the same amount.

Eileen Edwards, North West Regional Chairwoman of Gingerbread (the organisation for one-parent families) called CHIB "diabolical" and said: "It's nothing more than a carrot to make it look as if the government is doing something for single-parent families, when in fact it will help very few."

She points out that CHIB is taxed — so those claiming will not get the full amount. And for those parents on low wages, it could just bring them into the tax bracket, wiping out any gain.

Anyone on a widow's allowance or widowed mother's allowance will gain nothing. Anyone who gets unemployment, sickness, invalidity or industrial injury benefit can claim, but their other benefit will be reduced by £1.50 a week.

Anyone whose marriage has just broken up, or whose spouse has been imprisoned will get no CHIB for the first 13 weeks of separation.

## ANANDA PRINTING

1-11 Hardman Street  
Liverpool 1.

Commercial work at reasonable rates, especially for community groups

Tel: 051-708 8248

## 'LIBERTY HALL'

Cindy's Club, 75 Victoria Street, Liverpool 1

Further details phone 227 2514

25p members, 35p non-members

Subscriptions: £1 for 6 months to T. Devaney, 66 Devonshire Road, Liverpool 8.

March 14: Sheila Rowbotham and Sheila Abdullah on "Some questions raised (but not solved) by the women's movement."

March 28: "To work or not to work, that is the question." Debate.

April 4: Film - On the Waterfront.

March 21: Flat County String Band

(Please note: after 10pm 40p entrance fee is charged by Cindy's Club.)



**CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER...**  
95 LARK LANE, L17.  
BUY AND SELL  
COLLECTABLE CURIOUS ANTIQUES  
SECONDHAND & ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS  
HANDMADE LEATHER GOODS

## BOOKS

28 BERRY STREET, LIVERPOOL 1

For Marxist classics

Women's and black struggles

Workers' handbooks

Plus wide selection of novels