

# INFORMER



Malcolm McDowell in 'O Lucky Man'. See Films, March 27.

## SMALL ADS

Rate: 3p per word

**HIKINS.** Born February 18, Liverpool Maternity Hospital. Daughter, Jennifer Frances. Vive l'amour.

**PENGUIN/PELICAN** books bought. —Royden. 153 Edge Lane Drive, Liverpool 13.

**FOR SALE.** Large shop plus living accommodation (3 beds, bathrm, living rm, etc). Needs redecorating and minor repairs. Situated in centre (more or less) of Workington — an industrial (steel) town on coast and in sight of Lake District. Price £2,500 ono. Contact: 30 Melbreak Ave, Cockermouth.

**ACCOUNTANT** offers book-keeping service, full or part-time. —Taunton (051 228 4530).

**FREE YOGA** classes. Tues: relaxation Yoga postures. Wed: open spiritual conference (introduction to meditation). Thurs: philosophy (theory of Yoga). All at 7.30. Ananda Marga, 8 Ullet Road, Liverpool 8. (708 7335).

**JOINER** for hire. If it's broken I'll fix it. Any job considered. Very reasonable rates. Telephone 708 0860 evenings.

**CANADIAN** writer with three books published, in Israel taking his Masters, is planning an exploratory trip to England in mid-March. Would like a female escort to introduce him to English poetry readings, rock concerts, good jazz etc. Write Barry C. c/o Hebrew University, Givat Ram Campus, Shikunei Ha Elef 3-3-14, Jerusalem.

**Lenin Sweeps the World** (V. Denl). Large 3-colour litho. Printed and published by CPB(M-L). Only 30p each from October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

**PHOTO-COPYING.** A4 and foolscap. 10 copies 30p; 25 copies 75p; 60 copies £1.20; 100 copies £1.60. — Impact Resource Centre, Waterloo Building, Cases Street, Liverpool 1. (051-708 7172)

**Artwork** from China. Posters, book-marks, handcrafts, greetings cards. Obtainable only at October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

**PEN FRIENDS** wanted urgently; all ages. S.a.e to: Pen Society, (X 99), Chorley, Lancs.

**The Worker.** Fortnightly newspaper of CPB(M-L). Obtainable from October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

**LONDON BASED** Socialist theatre group need versatile actor, preferably with musical and other skills. Talented amateurs welcome. They also need an administrator, with typing, to arrange bookings, funds, and publicity.

Both people should have a serious political and long-term commitment, and trade union experience is an advantage.

Contact: Broadside Mobile Workers' Theatre, 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London SW1N 8NJ. Tel: 01 730 5396.

**ONE-TON** van and 11-stone driver for hire. Very reasonable. Distance no object. Andy: 708 0860 or 708 7174.

**SILK-SCREEN** printing. Pretty cheap. Especially for community and Left groups. Posters, banners, T-shirts, cards. Anything unusual considered.

Billy, Andy, Rick 708 7174; 708 0860. **OPEN HOUSE** the proposed coffee bar/exhibition area in the Open Mind workshops desperately need people to help set it up and run it. Commitment and an ability to survive on nothing essential. 39/41 Manesty's Lane, Liverpool 1. 708 7174.

## FILMS

### What to see . . .

Mon 8 Mar. **DIARY OF A MAD HOUSE-WIFE.** (USA, 1970). Dir: Frank Perry. Featuring Richard Benjamin and Carrie Snodgrass. The housewife's 'madness' is not insanity but anger at her uptight husband's attempts to maintain the status image she so detests. Plenty of laughs but the humour only underlines the basic agony. —MFIS.

Tues 9 Mar. **DIARY OF A MAD HOUSE-WIFE.** (See Monday).

Tues 9 Mar. **THE ROUND-UP.** Dir: Jansco. —Melanoma Films, Art College, Hope St, 6 p.m.

Thur 11 Mar. **THE GOLDEN COACH.** Dir: Renoir. —University.

Fri 12 Mar. **BOESMAN AND LENA.** (S. Africa, 1973). 'An extraordinary movie to have come out of South Africa. Not because it is a condemnation of racist policies but because it is really and almost Beckett-like study of the misery of human existence.'

Fri 12 Mar. **THE CANDIDATE.** Robert Redford as the aspiring senator in Michael Ritchie's perceptive political study. 7 p.m., Ellesmere Port Library. Admission free.

Fri 12 Mar. **WEEKEND COURSE** to mark 50 years of the film societies sponsored by the North-West Association of Film Societies. With Dilys Powell. Burton Manor College, Neston. £10.

Mon 15 Mar. **THE BITTER TEARS OF PETRA VON KANT.** 'A work of untarnished originality'. —MFIS.

Tue 16 Mar. **THE BITTER TEARS OF PETRA VON KANT.** (See Monday).

Tue 16 Mar. **TIMES FOR.** —Melanoma Films, Art College, Hope St, 6 p.m.

Thur 18 Mar. **SILENT RUNNING.**

"Tremendous end to our film season. Should not be missed" — Halton Film Soc.

Thur 18 Mar. **GOING HOME.** Eccentric New York film makers Adolfo and Jonas Mekas return to their birthplace in rural Lithuania after 27 years in the USA and record their visit with great warmth and humour. —University.

Thur 18 Mar. **THE ADVENTURES OF GOOPY AND BAGHA.** (India, 1968). Based on Bengali fairy tale written by his grandfather, this film is a light-hearted departure from Ray's traditional style. —Deeside.

Thur 18 Mar. **ORPHEE.** (France, 1950) Dir: Jean Cocteau. —Birkenhead.

Fri 19 Mar. **THE LAST AMERICAN HERO.** Much neglected American film depicting the rise to stock car fame of North Carolina mountain boy Junior Johnson. —MFIS.

Fri 19 Mar. **A DAY AT THE RACES.** (USA, 1937). Although MGM diluted the concentrated anarchy of the Brothers' Paramount films with musical and romantic relief, there is still enough energy and invention here to satisfy the most fervent Marxists. Buster Keaton's COPS and Harold Lloyd's NEVER WEAKEN complete the last of this series on American comedy. —Ellesmere Port Library. 7 p.m. Admission free.

Fri 19 Mar. **LA BONNE ANNEE.** Unusual love story set against the background of an exciting jewel robbery. [Booking to be confirmed] —Heswall.

Sat 20 Mar. **SOLARIS** (USSR, 1972);

Dir: Andrei Tarkovsky. One of the most highly acclaimed science fiction films of recent years. —MFIS.

Mon 22 Mar. **SAVE THE TIGER.** (USA 1973). Dir: John G. Avildsen. Featuring Jack Lemmon, Jack Gilford. A day in the tormented life of a city executive. With the old established order disappearing before his eyes, Harry Stoner finds that far from being king of the urban jungle he is its victim. Virtuoso performance from Jack Lemmon. —MFIS.

Tue 23 Mar. **SAVE THE TIGER.** (See Monday).

Fri 26 Mar. **MY CHILDHOOD/MY AINFOLK.** Dir: Bill Douglas. Arguably the most remarkable film from a British director in recent years. —MFIS.

Fri. 26 Mar. **ARTISTS** and their work. Programme of short films: Blast, Franz Marc, Monet in London, Francis Bacon, Turner, Lautrec and a film about sculpture. Birkenhead Arts Association, Williamson Art Gallery, Slaty Road. 7.30. Admission free.

Sat 27 Mar. **O LUCKY MAN!** (G.B., 1973). Dir: Lindsay Anderson. Featuring Malcolm McDowell, Helen Mirren. Lindsay Anderson tilting at the establishment in his own inimitable way in the further adventures of Mick Travis, the hero of 'If'. —MFIS.

Mon 29 Mar. **PARALLAX VIEW.** (USA, 1974). Dir: Alan J. Pakula. Featuring Warren Beatty, Paula Prentiss. Witness to a political assassination begin to die in mysterious circumstances and attract the attention of journalist Joe Frady. —MFIS.

Tues 30 Mar. **PARALLAX VIEW.** (See Monday).

### where to see it

**BIRKENHEAD LIBRARY FILM SOC** Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at Williamson Art Gallery, Slaty Rd, Birkenhead. Membership details: Music Dept, Central Library, Borough Rd, B'head. Tel: 652 6106.

**DEESIDE FILM SOCIETY:** Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at MANWEB Training Hall, Carr Lane, Hoylake (5 mins from Hoylake Station). Membership details: D. Henshollow, 130 Frankby Rd, Newton, West Kirby.

**HALTON FILM SOCIETY:** Irregularly on Thurs at 7.45 p.m. Membership details: Bill Gallan, 4 Tarvin Close, Runcorn. Runcorn 75628.

**LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY CINEMA CLUB:** Thursdays 8 p.m. in University Lecture Rooms Building, Crown St (off Brownlow Hill). Membership NOT restricted to people at university. Details: Dr Ann Thompson, English Dept, The University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: 709 6022.

**MERSEYSIDE FILM INSTITUTE SOCIETY:** Mon, Tues, Fri and sometimes Sat., in Merseyside Film Theatre, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool. Showings at 6 p.m. and 8.15 unless otherwise stated. Membership details: Hon. Sec., MFIS, 45 Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX.

### FILMS— LATE NEWS...

**PRESCOT FILM CLUB** Bryer Road Community Centre, Prescot. March 13: **THE FRENCH CONNECTION.** 7.30. Membership 40p per year then 20p per film.

April 21: **MASH.** 7.30 p.m.

**RED STAR FILM CLUB** Leo McGree Centre, 39 Shaw St, L'pl.

March 19: **CHAPAYEV.** 1932 Soviet classic. 7.45. 35p.

**OCTOBER BOOKS** 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2. March 10: **ONE MAN'S CHINA** Pt 1. March 17: **ONE MAN'S CHINA** Pt 2. 8pm. All welcome.

## BEER

### Tony Wilson

BEER is one of the few consumable products which the customer has to take on trust, since at present there is no legislation to compel accurate listing of ingredients and strength.

CAMRA maintains that the beer drinker is entitled to this information as many of the beers he drinks have considerably changed in strength and composition and very rarely for the better. It's high time the brewers were brought into line with the rest of the food and drink trade.

Malted barley, hops, yeast and water are the only substances which should be found in a brewery, but it is now more widely known that many "raw grains" infiltrate our national drink.

These are defined in the EEC Draft Directive on Beer (1970) as "unmalted barley and wheat, maize grits, broken rice, and starch obtained from maize, non-durum wheat and rice". We also know that many brewers are using hop extracts and powders as well as, or in place of raw hops.

CAMRA, in its recent submission to the Food Standards Committee, recognised that these substances are probably inevitable in order to contain costs, but that their total should not exceed 30% of the total grist and that the exact percentage should be declared, and made available on request along with full lists of ingredients in every retail outlet.

Clearly stated at the actual point of dispense should be the original gravity and the alcoholic content by volume of the beer. To the lay customer this is one quickly recognisable method of determining the value for money and strength of what he is drinking.

Any reduction in gravity saves the brewer material costs and excise duty and so long as these figures remain undeclared, lay the brewing companies open to charges of deception. The Consumers Association discovered that one brand of

beer dropped in gravity from 1043° in 1960 to 1036° in 1972 whilst continuing to be marketed under the same name.

Back in 1972 the 'People' newspaper discovered that one of our large brewers offered the same liquid under different names (and sometimes at different prices!). In such ways, and encouraged by advertising campaigns stressing strength and virility, the public can be conned into thinking their beer is an unchangingly worthwhile product.

### GGGGG

The 'Caledonia' reported to be going from strength to strength since re-decoration and reprieve of the real ale there, due in no small way to the locals, CAMRA members, and RLPO members making their views known, and to the landlord and Higsons for paying heed to their customers' wishes. I wish others would take note — even more, I wish customers' wishes were heeded in the first place!

### GGGGG

Allied Breweries' annual report contains some fine words on how they donate to the preservation of historic buildings, yet right here on Merseyside their Tetley constituent continue to drag their feet on the preservation of the 300-year-old outbuildings of the "Buck i' the Vine", Ormskirk.

### GGGGG

British Rail have had great success with real ale re-introduced at certain stations in London and the south. CAMRA Merseyside have requested that the newly re-vamped bar at Lime Street should receive some of the real stuff, and we are hopeful of the outcome. Perhaps, like the steam engine, they shouldn't have got rid of it in the first place?

● For full details of CAMRA contact the writer at 9 Hooton Road, Aintree, Liverpool L9 4SF (Tel: 051-521 5967).

**JABBERWOCKY.** 8 p.m. Overton Hall, Wirral Country Park, Thurston. A look at Philip Larkin. Music: Concertina and accordion played by the Stapledons. Poets: John Curry and Alasdair Paterson. Wed. March 10.

**POETRY EVENING.** Thurs March 18, 8 p.m. Crosby Writers' Club, Crosby Central Library. Spencer Leigh and local poets.

**MERSEYSIDE POETRY CIRCUIT** Wed 24 March, 8 p.m. Halewood Library, Leather Lane. Local poets with guest Lee Harwood.

**POETRY WORKSHOP.** Wed March 24 at 8 p.m. Jabberwocky, Burton Manor College, Neston. Work of three Mersey-

## POETRY

side poets — Honor Bickford, Lohn Clifford and Susan Williams — will be read and discussed.

**MERSEYSIDE POETRY CIRCUIT.** Thurs March 25 at 8 p.m. Why Not? Pub, Harrington Street, Liverpool. Lee Harwood and Henry Graham read their poetry.

**MERSEYSIDE POETRY CIRCUIT.** Fri 26 March at 8 p.m. Southport Arts Centre, Lord Street. Lee Harwood and Henry Graham read their poetry.

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH** Service — can it survive? Hear the views of a Communist Party junior hospital doctor who is a council member of MPU (ASTMS). Tues March 9. Leo McGree House, 39 Shaw Street, Liverpool 6. 7.45 p.m. [An open meeting organised by the education committee of the Merseyside C.P.]

**BIG FLAME** National Film Tour. Fight the cuts and unemployment. Public meeting with B.F. speaker. Plus a new film about the struggle for working class power in Portugal, "On the Side of the People."

Tues March 9 — Dove and Olive Hotel, Speke, 8 p.m.  
Wed March 10 — Tower Hill Community Centre. 8 p.m.

**A RADICAL EDUCATION NETWORK** has recently been formed in Liverpool. It is intended as a Marxist/alternative education grouping, independent of any single political group. It will seek to engage in its activities as many people as possible who support, either actively or

## POLITICS

passively, 'left' or 'alternative' politics.

At this stage there is deliberately no formal set plan of how the network might operate.

In the long term there is a possibility, given the likelihood of the virtual disappearance of most conventional adult education due to the 'axe', that the network could extend itself into much wider subject areas and become a form of alternative 'evening classes' or 'university'. For further information ring 263 2880 or write to Clive Dilnot, 128c Sheil Road, Liverpool 6.

**THE CAMPAIGN** Against a Criminal Trespass Law hasn't yet set Merseyside alight, though it should interest all activists who use direct action to promote their causes, and everyone fighting to defend living standards. Interested? Ring Mandy or Rick 7087174.

# ZIGZAG

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