

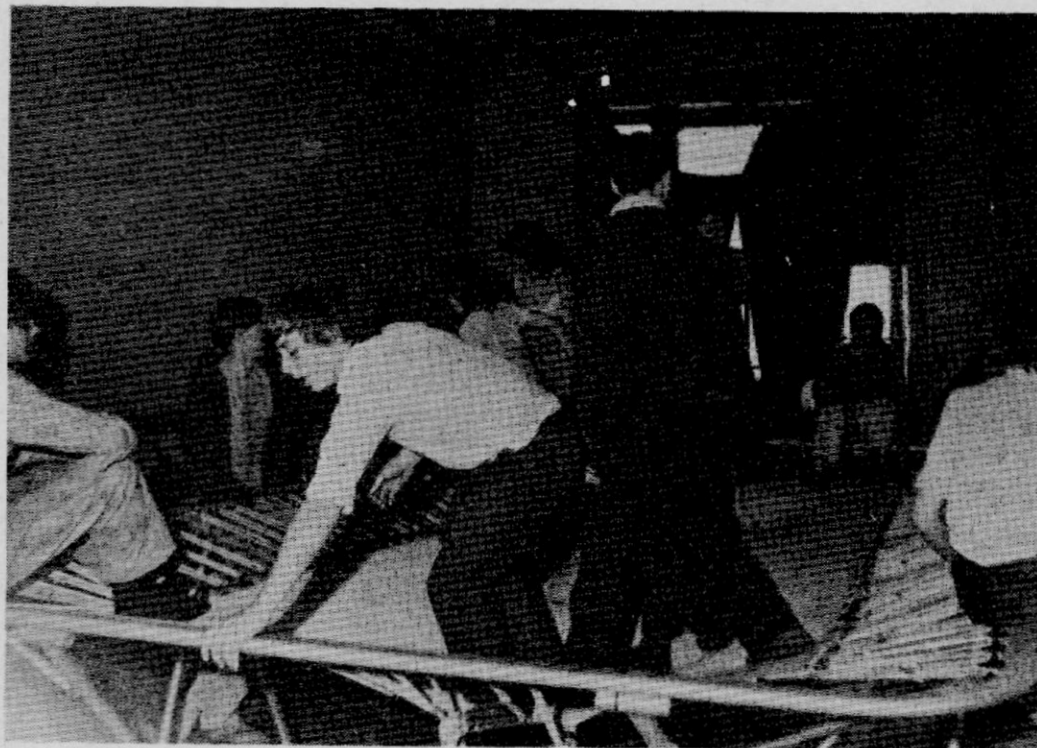
LIVERPOOL Free Press

News you're not
supposed to know

No 3

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 29

4p



These children are some of 25 who won't have to sit through lessons they don't find interesting or helpful.

- They are the new students at the Scotland Road Free School, which opened last week. The school hours and curriculum are decided democratically at a meeting of students and teachers. All lessons are voluntary.
- The Everton Red Triangle Club is being used for lessons, but the kids won't be stuck there all the time. With the teachers they arrange outings to follow up their interests.

The school is just one of several projects run by the Scotland Road Community Trust.

MORE VICIOUS ALLEGATIONS



Civic Centre: £7m price rise shock

The myth of Liverpool's housing surplus, exploded in the Free Press last month, has been attacked as "vicious allegations" by the leader of the City Council.

No doubt this month's big news report - equally vicious, equally true - will be condemned by Ald. Steward. It is:

1. The proposed civic centre will cost 70% more than publicly admitted. Inflation has pushed the cost up from £10million to £17million.
2. This information has been suppressed. Councillors and public have not been told the true cost. The figure has been hushed up to prevent opposition to the enormous white elephant growing.
3. Colin St John Wilson, the architect, will receive 6% of the total capital cost, and has already been paid £500,000. His total fee will be more than £1 million. But neither the public nor councillors have any idea how much will also have to be paid to quantity surveyors, the service engineers, or the structural engineers.

The true story about the civic centre is on pages five and six.

Open and shut case

Corporation official phones Lower Lane police station, asks where the keys of Walton Bridewell are.

"At Walton Bridewell," comes the reply.

"Oh no, that closed down last September," official says.

"No, it's still open."

Worried official gets on to the Organisation Department.

"Didn't Walton Bridewell close last September?" he asks.

"Ah, you're wrong there. It closed in January."

Meanwhile the police at Walton are wondering if someone forgot to tell them something.

SUN GETS BURNED

The 'soaraway' Sun soared close to a disaster with its latest promotions gimmick - the Super Soccer Stamps.

After distributing 25 million small stamps with pictures of soccer stars, they noticed some had been printed upside down.

So the bright Sun came up with another bright idea... They



£10 reward for No. 430, which has Pele's head upside down.

offered £10 reward for each of these upside down stamps.

"There's not more than 100 around and most Sun readers are too stupid to know whether Pele is on his arse or his elbow," said one Sun publicity man.

But then the flood started. And in one day the Sun owed readers who sent in these stamps £6,400.

A hurried board meeting was called by the angry Rupert Murdoch, owner of the Sun, and next day the offer was stopped.

Some readers claiming £10 for stamps found their letters had mysteriously disappeared. But all Sun readers should hang on to those faulty stamps. Under the Trade Descriptions Act, the Sun may have to pay out... for no time limit was put on the offer when it was originally announced.

Another soaraway success for the Sun!

Gee! Mac

With news of a top level 'industrial mission' to America with none other than H Macdonald Steward and Liverpool's Town Clerk, Stan Holmes leading the field, comes a note of top level fallibility.

Steward calls the 'mission' a "top level public relations exercise." (Nothing less - nothing more).

The mission in fact wrote to all those firms in the North West which are subsidiaries of American companies, to ask if they could visit the parent company.

The purpose, according to old Macdonald, was so that "I can persuade them that the time to think about expansion is during a depression."

The thought of an aging English alderman influencing the investment decisions of monopolistic American corporations is somewhat far-fetched.

Unfortunately in their zeal, the 'mission' wrote to Burmah Oil to ask if they could visit the parent company in America.

Burmah replied in scathing terms that they hadn't got a parent company.

They are not an American subsidiary. They are, in fact, a wholly independent British company.

Not a very good start for a "top level public relations exercise."

Free Press v City Council

(Round Two)

"Vicious and unwarranted" was the hysterical reaction of Alderman MacDonald Steward, leader of the city council.

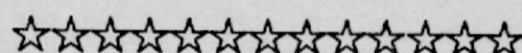
"Abhorrent," cried the equally hysterical Alderman Bill Brown, deputy chairman of the Housing Committee.

All because the Free Press revealed the contents of the secret report on Liverpool's housing crisis that had gathered dust since January.

The report was background information to the policy statements that were due to have been presented in the spring of this year.

But they were not presented. The people of Liverpool pay the wages of Mr Francis Amos and his planners so they are entitled to know what his department is doing. The Free Press told them.

Stan Holmes, Liverpool's Town Clerk, sternly lectured the entire staff of the planning department (nearly 150 people) about loyalty to the corporation after we had revealed the contents of the



housing report.

Along with every other senior officer in the corporation, he has a phobia about the public learning too much about corporation affairs. The officers are worried because of pressures from their political lords and masters.

MacDonald Steward said there was no secrecy about the report. The Echo gleefully headlined his statement as their own opinion: "There was no secret about this report," they said.

But if it wasn't secret, why was Ald Bill Sefton, the Labour leader refused a copy? Why did the Free Press have to provide

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