

# Taxi war flares

All over Liverpool the figures 0101 are appearing painted on end-walls and fences. It is part of the frightening taxi war amongst private operators in the city.

Not so long ago Eagle Taxis proprietor Carl "0202" Crawford ran foul of the planning laws by sticking small posters advertising his firm all over the place. The present spate of graffiti is harder to trace to its source.

Not a million miles from Lime Street there is a taxi firm with the telephone number 709 0101. The law says that anyone who benefits from flyposting can be fined. But 0101 could be anyone. The only trouble is that now the 709 is being added to the other digits.

So perhaps the law will descend. Especially since we have reliable information that if the present campaign goes on, a third taxi operator plans to add the words "is last" to the telephone number.

## Watchdog meeting

Watchdog is holding a public meeting to discuss relations between the police and the public nationally and locally at Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street on Thursday 18 November at 7.45.

Speakers will include Tony Casson, chairman of NCCL in Manchester, Gus John who is writing a Penguin Special on the fuzz and Ivan Limmer, NCCL's field officer, plus one or two men from Liverpool who have suffered at the hands of the police.

The meeting is open to all but Watchdog particularly hopes trade unionists and members of tenants association will turn up. Details: Lyn Ellison, 51 Bryanston Road, Liverpool 17. Tel: 727 4842.

# Messin' about on the river...

Once every six days a neat, brightly painted vessel slips out of Manchester docks and makes its way down to the Mersey on a 24-hour round trip that must be one of the strangest voyages on the river.

The ship, called the Salford City in celebration of its owner - Salford Corporation (it carries the corporation's coat of arms on its funnel to advertise the fact) - is a familiar sight to riverfront workers.

In fact some have wondered why the ship has been allowed to continue its dubious operations in an increasingly polluted world.

For the Salford City carries the North-West's most exotic export -

## The Dumpers

eleven hundred tons of human excrement from the 120,000 people living in Salford. And it dumps it straight into the waters of Liverpool Bay. The service has been operating since before the war and it is admitted that 50,000 to 60,000 tons of untreated turds are dumped into the bay every year by Salford corporation.

Salford officials are quick to point out that Manchester Corporation has two ships doing similar work, and Salford has often helped out by

carrying Manchester excrement. In fact Manchester is expanding its fleet and Salford will be left with spare capacity for the Salford City and its crew of three deck officers and three engineering officers. The corporation hopes to remedy this by offering the ship's services to other local authorities - and make a tidy profit on the side.

It's a strange situation for a responsible public authority to be profiteering from the dumping of filth in the sea; but it is some indication of how far the local authorities have strayed from their role as defenders of public health and welfare.

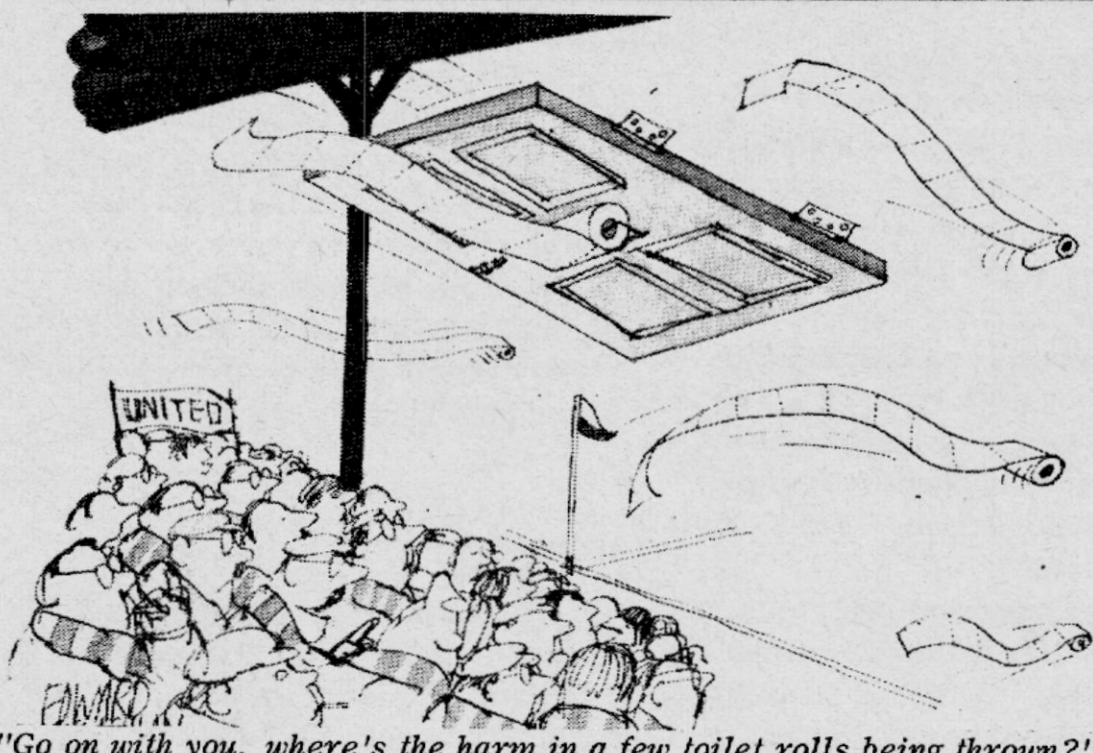
Investigations into the effects

"In the past many people seem to have thought that once a pollutant had been dispersed in the sea, the problem associated with it had been solved. The sea's capacity to degrade and dilute waste is enormous, but it is not infinite....there is evidence of local effects on the growth of marine plants in the polluted areas along the Durham coast and in Liverpool Bay."

-The 1971 Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

of pollution are in fact being carried out in Liverpool Bay, for it is believed that the tides merely carry any waste dumped in the sea back into the river.

But Salford Corporation remain undeterred. They will go on dumping filth into the sea until someone forces them to stop.



"Go on with you, where's the harm in a few toilet rolls being thrown?"

## Helping the needy

PAY INCREASES for the big boys go on unabated while lesser working mortals are browbeaten into accepting nothing more than 9 per cent. Sir Kenneth Keith of the Hill Samuel Group takes the ruling-class biscuit with an increase of 860 per cent, his salary going up from £5000 last year to £48,000 this.

The Steel Corporation may be on the verge of bankruptcy but there is enough left in the coffers to give

chairman Lord Melchett a 120 per cent booster from £11,250 to £24,822. Another lucky fellow is E Markus, chairman of Office and Electronic Machines, who has been given a 100 per cent increase, from £5000 to £10,000 a year.

At the bottom of the scale comes poor H D B Lorraine of Charrington, Gardner, Locket and Co. He got just 15 per cent. He ought to get a new suit - the directors must think he's the office cleaner.

# Finding out about the birds and bees

How do Liverpool children find out about sex? Liverpool schools don't seem to be giving them much help at the moment.

A survey in the Liverpool Echo showed that of all the schools asked, not one was taking the BBC Merry-go-round sex education series for primary schools.

by Yvonne Ford

Many parents are too embarrassed to give their children more than the baldest facts, and still stammer and mumble about birds and bees.

While kids are bombarded by nudity and all sorts of sexual undertones from the telly and films and adverts in the papers, the simple facts about sex techniques and contraception are not presented anywhere. The Kama Sutra is obtainable from their local newsagent but an accurate, easily read book about sex that would help school children isn't.

Help is on the way for Liverpool children. The Teachers Advisory Committee has just appointed a steering committee to look into the subject of sex education in local schools and report back to the education committee. It will, however, be a long process.

A more immediate form of help is being offered to teachers, parents and anyone else interested, including school children, by the Merseyside branch of the Birth Control Campaign.

A one-day symposium is to be held on November 20 at the Royal Institution, Colquitt Street. The speakers will include teachers, psychologists and a planner of Granada TV sex education programmes.

There will also be an exhibition of books, film strips and other visual aids on the subject. Admission is by ticket (50p) and lunch is provided at an extra cost of 40p.

Enquiries: J E Pilbeam, 68 Hough Green, Chester.

# The Little Red Schoolbook: 4

The Little Red Schoolbook is obscene, we're told. But most people who have not read it probably have a very inaccurate idea of what it is really like. The sections which don't deal with sex or drugs (most of the book, in fact) have hardly been mentioned in the Press. So here is another extract, reprinted to help Free Press readers make up their own minds about it.

### Intelligence

It's obvious that everybody's not the same at birth. But the differences at birth are not nearly as big as they become later. A strange thing happens: children who find learning difficult don't get more teaching at school, they get less. People say these children "can't cope with school" - instead of saying that school can't cope with them.

### But there are some differences

A school should be able to take into account many sorts of differences between children - for example, how quickly they learn. Nobody is bad at everything. There's always one thing you can do better than other things.

What a teacher expects of you

Do you know that what you learn and how quickly you learn it is very much influenced by what the teacher expects you to learn?

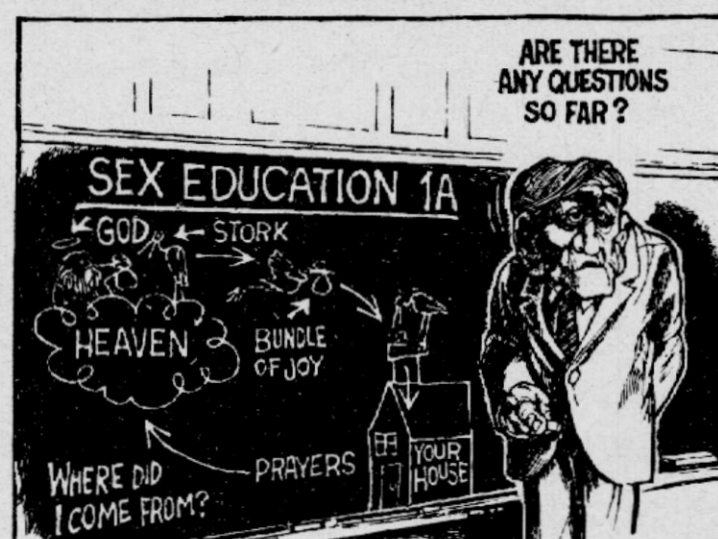
Do you know that when teachers are given false information about their pupils they are fooled? In a recent experiment in New York, teachers were told that one group of pupils were very bright and that another group were not very bright. The first group enjoyed their lessons and learnt a lot, the second group had less fun and learnt a lot less. But in fact both groups of pupils were an equal mixture of all kinds of minds and abilities. What they got out of their lessons was determined not by their ability but by what the teachers expected of them.

### What does "backward" mean?

Some children are so slow at learning that it's very difficult to give them the attention they need in ordinary classes. They are therefore put into special classes (called remedial classes) or into special schools.

### Streaming

Streaming is a form of rationing. Schools don't get enough money, so there aren't enough teachers and suitable buildings and equipment. The authorities think that the most efficient way of using scarce teachers is to put only pupils of a similar ability in each group or class - ie to stream them. Streaming is used both in primary and



Studies have shown that children from large families or poor home conditions are most likely to be put into the lower streams. Their real potential or ability to learn is likely to be just as high as other children's, but they haven't had the opportunity of developing their potential into an ability which the school can recognise.

Pupils put in lower streams resent it, and don't try so hard. Teachers expect less of them, so they learn less. School life seems petty and restrictive, and the school never really manages to get them interested in learning anything. As a result these pupils leave school as soon as they're 15 - only to

find that society has nothing to offer them except "unskilled manual labour"

But most British schools still use some form of streaming. Official studies and circulars have suggested that other methods might be better, but there will have to be a basic change in the attitudes of most Local Education Authorities before things will really change.

Meanwhile you may be able to do something about streaming in your school. Start a working group on it

### Your free time

Parents, teachers and other grown-ups often seem to be afraid of you. Afraid of the way you are, the way you behave. Afraid of the way you dress and, particularly, afraid of what you do when they can't see you.

It's natural and right for parents to want a better life for their children. What's not right is for them to try to force your life into a pattern that fits their own ideas of ambition and status. This can make it very difficult for you to be yourself and lead the life you want to lead.

Our society provides various places for your spare-time activities, such as youth clubs

Do realise that when people organise things for you it often means that they want to control you. They have plans for you. They have something they want you to do.