

Not A Lot Going On

The last NALGO Devon Branch Executive Meeting on 18th March, went off quietly. So have the majority of such gatherings over the past 6 months, the short period over which I have been a departmental rep.

In all honesty being a NALGO rep. is not quite the glamour-job that you may have thought. The 80 odd representatives are a grey-faced placid lot, and are not really that representative. For example, at the last meeting only two dozen turned up, only 3 of whom could possibly be below 30, only 4 women and the vast majority drawn from the more senior positions. One often gets the feeling that the leading executive members act as a buffer between the workers and management, arguing the management case with greater conviction than that of the employees.

There are 3 personalities who dominate proceedings and while their dedication and input of work are beyond reproach they are also responsible for the tone of the meetings.

Bill Copp presides over the meetings with boyish relish, all grins and giggles. He certainly knows the procedure but often finds himself embroiled in the debates, although this is probably inevitable as the Chairman is also a negotiator and representative for the Executives and hence has cornered the market in useful information. He has an uncanny ability to get hold of the wrong end of the stick in arguments as well as often becoming impatient in discussions in which he is not interested. At the recent meeting Bill curtailed debate on the level of subscriptions in the lower pay scales with uncommon wisdom, "Well as there aren't many part-timers (on this level) the rise in their contribution is not very important".

Harry Ball, Honorary Branch Secretary, is the work horse of the team. The amount of graft required of him is in no way rewarded by a modest honorarium. Harry has the habit of allowing his head to sink low into his chest and of clapping his flattened hand to his brow. His

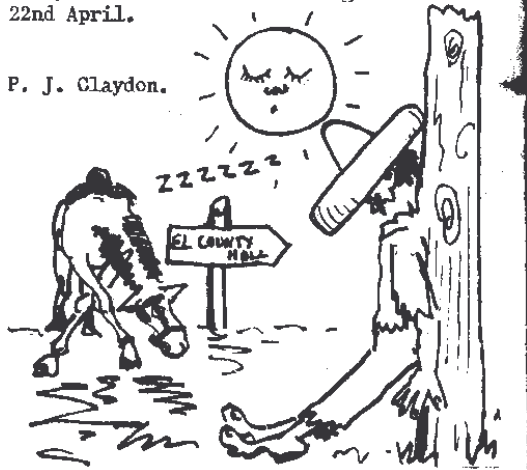
voice crawls out from between sandpaper tonsils. These are the marks of a man who has been butting and talking down the brick wall of management for a life time. Equally he stoically accepts taking his role of taking the butt of the asides thrown out by his more eloquent colleagues. Perhaps the presentation of a pair of binoculars in honour of Harry's contribution in the past in some way rectifies the balance. It was at least the only visionary act of the evening.

George Barnes, Chairman of the Staff and Services Committee is the brain behind the throne. He guides the discussion back on course when, inevitably, logical discourse is lost in expressions of prejudice. Sadly George is often right but you (and presumably the management) are never quite sure what he's got up his sleeve - who is he working for? He shows no passion despite the flashing toothy grin which instinctively concludes every word of sensible guidance.

The meeting was a back-slapping, somewhat complacent affair. It could all be different after reorganisation however. NALGO can achieve changes in working conditions only if people who are prepared to work and fight will stand in the new elections later in April. How about you?

See you at the General Meeting of 22nd April.

P. J. Claydon.



STAR MAN

by Astral Freaks

- ARIES : Your sign represents the ram, whose efforts in the past few months are now appearing in the fields. Now is your time to see your efforts fulfilled - in a contribution for the magazine.
- TAURUS : Beef may be expensive, but mental effort is cheap & easy to prepare. Why not try & cook something up for the Mag - you'll enjoy it.
- GEMINI : Poor Gemini the inherent schizophrenic. You may have felt up till now that a part of you has been unfulfilled. This is the month to give it rein and let's see the results in the Mag.
- CANCER : You'll probably be feeling a trifle crabby this month. Write to us about it and it'll make you much better.
- LEO : Leo's are extrovert people & full of enthusiasm - so why not share it with your more lethargic colleagues via the Magazine. It may inspire them.
- VIRGO : Your artistic talent is infinite, though you tend to dream rather than act. The Scorpio (ed.) influence this month will make you extraordinarily productive.
- LIBRA : Always vacillating and never coming down off the fence. We'd all love to know what goes on inside a Libra's head - so write & tell us.
- SCORPIO : We Scorps are a race apart. Intelligent, beautiful & creative. We must, for once come down from our ivory tower & show the lesser mortals just how great we are.
- SAGGITARIUS : The Archer, who always gets straight to the point. People like you are needed in the production of a magazine.
- CAPRICORN : Jesus was a Capricorn, but not all of us can be Jesus. Don't fret you Cap's, don't feel inferior to your more illustrious fellow - you can all contribute something to our lives through the magazine.
- AQUARIUS : Oh dear, I hate to tell you about your month. Best stay in bed with a crate of Newcassel Broom & a supply of Beanos - & don't forget to write down your thoughts under those conditions - we'd love to hear them.
- PISCES : Your love life & financial situation will be excellent this month. Take time from counting your money & anything else you may be doing & tell us about your exploits.

SEE **YOU**

**NEXT
MONTH**

BACK IN SERVICE

This is the first issue of the new NALGO magazine. But it's not just for NALGO, it's for everybody to contribute to. Obviously for the first issue we've had little material - hence the rather thin nature of the publication. Next month we hope to increase our size - but that depends on you, readers.

Few of your editorial staff have had much experience of magazine publishing, so your comments, ideas and criticism - for or against will be most welcome. We especially want people from the various departments to contact us and to collect contributions and gather ideas from their colleagues. Also we would like news of retired members and social news of members which will be of interest to the rest of us.

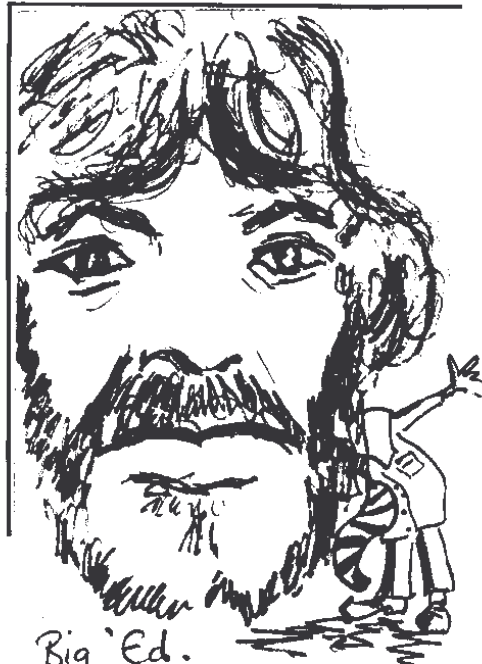
The next issue will be out in the middle of May along with "Public Service", so contributions in by the date stated at the end of this piece. We cannot guarantee to publish everything we get, as paper is still in short supply, and - we hope - the response will be good. Nor can we guarantee to publish contributions in their entirety or without some editing.

The magazine is open to everybody with something to say. We don't expect you to agree with all we publish, nor do we expect to agree with all you contribute - but we will be happy to receive and print anything for or against the editors' views. If you disagree with anything, for God's sake don't just sit there fuming and saying nothing - get up and kick us in the teeth (meaphorically speaking preferably, though positive reactions of any kind are what we are looking for) After all we, the editors, are only human, having our own views and values, but it's not our intention to sit on the fence and be non-committal. We're sure we'll rub people up the wrong way at times - but indignation is a healthy emotion when given an outlet - and now you have one.

Give us your contributions, as we cannot exist without them. So send us your stories, news, invectives, poems, drawings, ideas for future articles - in fact anything and everything. We also hope to run a classified ad. section, and list as many cultural, social and sporting events as possible - so tell us your wants and what's going on in your area.

Send your contributions to:-

- Magazine Editors, c/o Room 190, County Hall, Exeter: (tel. 77977 ext. 450)
- by 26th April
- written contributions preferably typed on A4 paper - though this is not essential.
- note drawings in colour won't be reproduced in colour.
- please put your name, department and 'phone number with your contribution.
- anonymity will be respected.



Ria Ed.

RUBBISHY REWARDS

Local Government reorganisation has given us all a chance to do long needed spring cleaning. Certainly here in the Planning Department the amount of disposed maps, plans, letters and other rubbish has been phenomenal. Multiply this by 1,600 or so - the number of planning departments under old style local government - and no wonder the Friends of the Earth have been up in arms about recycling waste paper.

According to the Friends, 90% of used paper is wasted - this represents about 350,000 tonnes a year out of a total consumption of 30 million tonnes. With prices offered of £22a ton for mixed papers and £24.50 a ton for newspapers local authorities are literally throwing money away.

Surprisingly Devon County Council is one of those few authorities which sell their waste. 95% of all waste paper is sold for recycling. Since before Christmas the collectors were carting away $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 tons a week. From the beginning of the month the collecting lorry has been to County Hall virtually every day carrying off more than twice as much as a normal weekly load.

The waste is graded. The most valuable waste is computer paper and other refuse is graded even down to orange peel. The only stuff of any importance that cannot be reused are the foils used for printing maps. These are incinerated.

It's not just the big producers of rubbish like local authorities that can benefit. Most of us read newspapers everyday and groups of people could easily get together to collect our domestic refuse. In Topsham for example, the Sea Rangers collect old newspapers, and the firm in Whimple, which serves County Hall, will also be willing to pick up anything offered to them.

So if you already are part of a collecting team or are interested in starting one up then write to the magazine and we'll hope we can get something going. Unfortunately it is impossible to bring your papers to County Hall

as the storage facilities are already full, and the fire risk is too high.

Recycling paper is no longer a campaign by the more eccentric of people it is a dire necessity and above all lucrative.

Crèche

Ideas

How many wives would like to work but are unable to because of children? A lot of firms are realizing that mothers of young children are eager to return to work and so they have organised creches where young children can be left under the care of trained nurses. Is there any demand for a similar scheme at County Hall or at any of the area offices? This is an issue that can well be taken up by NALGO if there is a known interest.

And not just on creches - are there any other issues that we can campaign for on your behalf?

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of NALGO.

ED.

COUNCILING OUT

is democracy important or necessary ?

This is the first of two essays on the running of local government. This month I shall write about councillors and in the next issue the topic will be corporate management.

What is a councillor ? Usually he (occasionally she) is unknown (even to those who voted for it). Usually it is only interested in itself, only a few exceptions are concerned about their electorate other than at election time. Do you know your councillor ? If so, what has it done for you ? Do you know where to contact it ?

The title of this essay queries the importance & necessity of democracy. Before developing my argument - just what is democracy ? Classically it meant government of the people by the people; and when the ideology was first fully developed in Ancient Greece, "the people" meant those who weren't slaves, under a certain age (30 I think) or women - a pretty narrow field. Today it means all males & females over 18 (except for certain classes of people). More democratic you may say - but do "the people" today have more say than they did in Ancient Greece, where decisions were made at assemblies of all those eligible to attend. There was a mandative democracy while ours is a representative democracy. Because the Greek executive had a mandate from the people, they were obliged to give the goods or get out. Today, our elected ones are there merely to represent us, and God knows what they can get away with in our name.

Let me say now that democracy in its most ideal form is unworkable - and anything less than ideal is obviously not democracy, but merely an illusion. If this is so - and I believe it is - then why not give up the pretence that we live in a democracy - at least in the realm of local government. In this sphere so called democracy is a hindrance. Much valuable time is lost and schemes abandoned or mishandled because of the vested interests of councillors. Paying them won't make them any less subjective. If you wish to pay the decision makers, why have councillors at all ? You already have paid professionals who know far more about what's going on

than do councillors. Since the professionals do all the ground work why not let them take the next logical step, and make the decisions. This ties in very nicely with corporate management. The only danger of combining the executive & legislature functions is that corruption is easier & more effective (viz Nixon). But an oligarchy is more acceptable (though not necessarily better) than a dictatorship. A body of rulers of equal strength can cancel out the megalomania of individuals such as Nixon or our own ex-P.M. Heath.

Hence local government will be more effective without councillors, and with executive powers given to the corporate management staff. The main problem is selecting the staff, who will have to be above reproach - not necessarily omniscient, but socially aware, in fact a breed of Platonic philosopher Kings.

Further Reading:-

The Sunderland Study : HMSO London: 1973.

PLATO: The Republic : Penguin Books pp 36-39; part VII; 327-349

garden tips -

With Alistair.

Q : How do you stop rabbits digging up your lettuces ?

A : Hide the spade

COMPETITION !

WIN

FRONT PAGE RECOGNITION

by entering the

NAME THE MAG

CONTEST

Contributions in by April 26th please

to address on page 4

'LEAVERS' THRASH 'STAYERS' IN SEVEN GOAL THRILLER

Last Thursday at the Exeter University football ground a classic encounter took place between two teams of ageing juveniles, thinly disguised as footballers.

A large crowd (approximately 8) had gathered to see the contest and under an overcast sky, saw the 'Leavers' win the toss and elect to attack the Spion Kop end. The game started at a breathless pace, which lasted approximately 5 minutes, and then settled into the boring, slow moving pattern which lasted for the first 30 minutes. This stalemate position was cracked in the 30th minute when the 'Stayers' mounted an attack on the right wing. The ball eventually reached the penalty area, after particularly lucky play by M. Smith and the rest of the 'Stayers' attack.

However, it reached the feet of Minerals Mead, the man surely to take Alan Gilzean's place in the Scottish attack in W. Germany this autumn, who lashed an unstoppable drive past the unfortunate Lev Wyeth.

Ten minutes later, with the 'Leavers' tiring, the ex-Yorkshire badminton star Thorley played a hopeful pass into the penalty area. The 'Leavers' defence were mesmerized and for no apparent reason watched the ball go into the net. Lev Wyeth was again unsighted due to the fact that his 'Noddy hat' had slipped over his eyes.

The score then, at half-time was 2-0 to the 'Stayers' and they went in, for their oranges, full of confidence for the second half.

The crowd had now diminished to 2 following a skinhead raid during the first half.

The second half started at a cracking pace and the 'Leavers' team completely overwhelmed the opposition. Two fine goals by Elsie Crump and Terror Beaumont

gave Phil Watts, in the 'Stayers' goal, no chance.

With the score 2-2 the only really dirty tackle was committed. Geoff Poad was catapulted about 6ft. in the air by a particularly nasty attack by Kung-Fu Thorley. Poad recovered but unfortunately the 'Stayers' penalty area was left with a rather large depression.

The pace of the game was really hotting up and it was end-to-end action. The 'Stayers' went into a 3-2 lead through a goal by Mike Harding, who had worked hard throughout the match (most unusual this, as he never does any other time).

In the closing 20 minutes the action was almost too rapid and the crowd of one nearly fainted, and with 15 minutes left Collins smashed a left-foot drive past Watts despite lethal attacks from Limpalong Puttock and Creepy Claydon.

Claydon had already cleared a shot off the line due to the fact his legs are twice as long as any normal persons.

The score standing at 3-3, a bit of needle crept into the game but admirable refereeing by Pete Hunt kept the game under control. His only mistake was to award a scrum after he alleged the ball had been 'Knocked on'.

With 5 minutes left both teams had resigned themselves to a draw. But no account had been taken of Richard Stevens who surprised the 'Stayers', the 'Leavers' and himself with a wickedly deceptive 55yard lob which left the 'Stayers' keeper stranded again. So the final score was 4-3 to the deserved winners, the 'Leavers'.

/continued

<u>WEATHER</u> :	Overcast turning to rain; visibility poor.	<u>'LEAVERS'</u> 3-4-5	
<u>GROUND</u> :	Hard & Gritty	J. Wyeth (8)	Made many fine saves, safe & sure.
<u>REFEREE</u> :	Pete Hunt (7) : firm but fair.	M. Scott (7)	Started off at centre-forward but played well at left full back.
<u>'STAYERS'</u> 4-3-4		A. Stone (9)	Held defence together, good distribution.
Watts (8)	Fearless, made 2 world class saves	G. Poad (7)	Good in the air, provided bulk at the back.
K. Thorley (7)	Played above himself, good goal marred by vicious tackle later.	T. Beaumont (8)	Good goal: linked well with the attack.
J. Claydon (6)	Big hoofed giraffe, made one or two good clearances.	R. McCallister (7)	Ghosted in & out of play, deceptive turn of speed.
M. Harding (7)	Made good attacking runs on the left, good goal.	T. Philp (7)	Enthusiastic, but bad tackle on Smith.
S. Church (7)	good tackling back, incapacitated due to Golden Virginia.	Sir Robert Peel (6)	Very polite but lacks drive.
R. Puttock (6)	Injured early on, but did not impare his attacks on the opposition.	M. West (7)	Alias Fred Binney played well, with good runs down left.
B. Nute (6)	Worked hard but ineffectually sprayed passes everywhere.	B. Collins (7)	Good goal but a trifle slow, wore wrong coloured shirt.
R. Holman (10)	Midfield dynamo, played well but not dirty enough.	L. Crump (8)	Good goal, good distribution & lovely red trousers.
M. Smith (7)	Penetrating runs down the left wing - too fat.	R. Stevens (7)	Good goal, deceptive, eager & skilful.
A. Mead (8)	Good goal, very effective but missed a sitter.	D. Shaw (7)	Stalwart work on the right wing, posed problems for the defence.
A. Topham (7)	Injured after 50 mins, but delicate footwork impressive.	<u>GAME VERDICT:</u>	Should have been played at Wembley.
D. Richardson (7)	Streaked down right wing fetching & carrying.		

This Magazine was compiled and edited by

RONNIE PUTTOCK

who wishes to thank the following who
contributed in various ways:-

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The boys and girls in the basement - for printing

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Mrs. T - for tea & sympathy

STOP PRESS

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Mr. Pridmore,
Room 250,
County Hall,
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