

CORRESPONDENCE

TOWNIES

Dear Editor,

I seem to recall a rather eye-catching, headline in issue 13 of the "Sun", I mean Loughborough Student. It went something like "murdering, hate-crazed, psychopathic Town killers set upon Loughborough Students." What with reports of bullwhips, meat cleavers, Chieftan tanks, atomic warheads and all the other weaponry involved it was certainly stirring stuff.

I do realise the incident as it happened was very serious and merited full coverage as an indictment of the University Security Force. But why use the phrase "town thugs"? Fair enough, the attackers were from town, but why not call them non-student, or something similar? Also the use of the phrase "townies" is hardly very tactful. "Townies" may be a widely used phrase, but intimidating in the student newspaper that people who were born, live and work in Loughborough are somehow so different to the elevated people who study there is surely very wrong. The majority of people at the Technical college, some of whom might have read a copy of Loughborough Student are from the town. Anything that propogates the "us and them" idea is surely very bad.

There is nothing wrong, I suppose with a nice sensational headline to boost sales, but it is a pity a little more discretion was not used in the writing of this article. I'm sure the article could have retained all its "shock-horror" impact without seeming so anti-town. I realise this was not intentional but it had a rather unfortunate flavour.

Yours sincerely,
Alan Issler.

A

Dear Jane,

I have been asked by the Executive to write to you about a matter arising out of the Loughborough Student article on Campus violence. Much has already been said about the implications of what has been written, and I shall not repeat what has been previously discussed. The matter we are concerned about, though, is the use of the word "townies" in the article.

We would like to draw to your attention the fact that the majority of students in the Technical College live locally and frequently more easily relate to the town than the college. Such people would be most offended by any aspersions that "townies" were undesirable on campus.

The article of course has its merits since it draws attention to an unwanted state of affairs and to the presence of thugs on campus - whoever they be. But we hope you will no longer permit the mis-use of the expression

Yours,

Dave Dixon,
President

P.S. You may publish this letter if you so wish.

OPUS MAGNUM

OPUS MAGNUM (spot the pseud and win an exciting evening in the E.H.B. with Max Bygraves).

We reckon that by now most of the new recruits have realized, as we have, that they've chosen the wrong university. O.K., so the grass is always greener, but we've seen more life in a mortuary than we've encountered during our entire first term at sunny Loughborough.

By the way, before you start griping about making more effort and joining the Loughborough Swan-Uppers club, it should be said that considerable effort on our part has failed to extricate any form of enthusiasm.

It's not so much the place itself, although the geographical location could be improved (like getting Wimpeys to tow it a hundred miles further north), it's the effect it seems to have on the people. We have witnessed the downfall of perfectly normal piss-artists who have degenerated to a progressive and inexorable state of vegetation. Nor can it be said that this miserable existence is quintessential to the microcosm of a university.

So it'll give us good degrees, and we ought to be thankful for it, but who the hell wants to waste four years of their lives getting good degrees (yes, four - we're on mech - what a giveaway!) if in the process their social awareness and aesthetic values are reduced to nil? That's just not what we're here for, these should be the best years of our lives rather than a limbo void between the ages of 18 and 22.

So what is the solution, other than resorting to reading serbo-croatian at Aberystwyth, once this consolation prize for runners-up in the "UCCA" contest has finally gone to pot? Speaking of which, what has become of the afore-mentioned "insidious weed" and why should the apparent demise thereof

be local only to Loughborough?

Let's face it lads and lasses, if either of you are reading this, it all boils down to indifference, but then who cares?

Yours, feeling a bit sorry for ourselves,
2 Mech students.

Ed's reply:

Be fair - there are many clubs on this campus, with hundreds of people running them, and involved in many activities - if you've found no-one to join in them with you, you're obviously friendly with the wrong sort of people - try going to something that interests you without the support of your 'mates', and you may find the people are more congenial - or, if you've found nothing yet to interest you, try starting a club of your own for something that does. You're dead right - University is a social, not purely academic education - but it involves a bit of self-help as well.

RAG RACISM AND SEXISM

To Whom it may concern,

As students and student representatives from the Art College, we would like to point out that the Rag committee should seriously consider omitting Racist and Sexist jokes from its Rag Magazine and point out that proceedings are already in progress against various Rag Magazines around the country under the newly constituted race and sex discrimination laws.

On a campus with such a wide range of nationalities and beliefs we hope that it would make sense to all concerned with the editing and production of the Rag Mag to make allowance for racial differences and strive for a healthier type of humour that is less likely to insult and offend our brothers and sisters on campus.

Sincerely,
Graham Burrell EAVP
LSU
Pete Mosely, Chairman
RAC, Art College

BLACK HOLES

The local police have discussed the dangers to road-users of the removal of traffic hazard warnings, road-works signs and flashing beacons with L.S.U. It is felt that risks may be imposed on drivers, cyclists and pedestrians in the neighbourhood by inconspicuous road repairs.

Although it is most unlikely that students are to blame for all the incidents of theft around the town, since some have occurred in Ashleigh Drive, the "culprits" are probably on our own doorsteps on some of the occasions. While the Students' Union does not wish to dampen high spirits, we would like to warn you that the police regard the matter very seriously, as was shown by the fine imposed on a Leicester University student only this week.

We hope that students will assist the local contractors in the display of warnings around road-works, so that the highways are safe for all.
Dave Dixon.

RAG

RAG 76

Rag Mags will be issued from the Rag office on Feb. 1st.

Anybody who wishes to go selling rag mags can collect Rag Mags and Collecting Tins from the Rag office only. It will be necessary for you to bring with you your N.U.S. cards, or university I.D. card. Rag will pay some or all of the petrol costs of the people who go off selling rags.

The Rag office is situated at the back of the Schofield building, and times of opening will be published later.

Also available from the office will be Raffle Tickets, T. Shirts, and Sponsorship forms.

STUNTS

Clive Winstanley - Faraday 3D IO
Jes Alambett - II5 Ashby Road

The "all new rag 76" brings you some new events - the real ale beer festival, Drink-a-pub dry, and Sedan Chair Race, and possibly a slave auction.

We will as well be expecting everybody to wear an article of odd clothing - e.g. a hat, tie, pair of odd shoes at some time during rag week - those who do not enter into the spirit of these silly clothing days will be fined!

In addition we will be manning the traditional favourites - 3-legged pub crawl, 24 hr. hitch-hike, Drag and Rag queens, and other stunts which are being organised by individual halls.

All these stunts are for fund-raising as well as for your amusement so please participate. If you have any ideas for more stunts or queries we would be pleased to hear from you.

STOP-PRESS

It is now planned to hold a dinky car endurance race in the town centre if you like to partake in this, get in touch with Rag soon.