CACTUS

EDITION No.3

price 2p



EDITORIAL

This issue is designed to stun you; all you have to do is roll it up and hit yourself over the head with it.

We are glad to report that we had a larger sale within the school than the Daily Mirror (it has been pointed out to us that we don't sell the Daily Mirror within the school but we are not discouraged.)

Extracts from the paper have been read before the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and other Popular South London pubs.

Reaction was overwhelming but we believe it was a fascist plot to get us to reveal our real names so we willcontinue to work under (or over) our pseudonyms.

We welcome to our ranks the one and only Mr. Dyslexia. Many have believed it adisease in the school but we are sad to inform you that it has taken on human form.

signed,
Miss Spelling

Glottal Stop

Mustapha Gossip

GLadys Gruntfuttack (deceased)

Scotch Clutchpenny

Mr. Dyslexia luv,
John.

5th. YEAR COUNCIL

In the 5th. yr. there are two representatives from each form who attend the Council meetings. The jobs of the reps. are to tell there forms what has been discussed at the Council meetings and to bring forth points from the boys.

The 5th. yr. Council meetings are held every Friday lunchtime in Room6. The Chairman of the Council is P.J.Coke. At the meetings we discuss first the points from the School Council meetings and what we disagree with we bring up again at the School Council meetings until we feel satisfied. Then we discuss points which are brought up by the reps. from the boys in their form.

The 5th. yr., however, has succeeded in one main topic: the condition of the toilets. It was suggested by Mr. Gregg at our last School Council meeting that the Open Air toilet in the Lower School should be completely demolished and that a new vandal-proof one be built in its place, This was voted on and was carried so we gained a great victory.

The 5th. yr. now has a common room in which they can play games and do their studies at I2.30p.m. every lunchtime. This was another point raised at the 5th. yr. Council meeting that is now in operation and the only way it can be a success is if boys come in and contribute.

I would like to thank all the 5th. reps. for the work they are doing and I hope they will continue it. As for the 5th. years thank you all for what you have contributed and I hope that you will many more contributions so that we can gain victory after victory and make Wandsworth into a great school not only for ourselves but for those who will follow.

Thanks again,
P.J.Coke.

ADVERTISEMENT

WANTED: Kamikazee pilot

Experience essential.

Apply M. Murphy. (4S)

THE INTER-6TH. FORM COMMITTEE

The Inter-6th. Committee (Wandsworth, Mayfield, Elliott, Southfields, Putney High) is now well under way.
Already we have held a disco at Elliott which was very successful and raised about £45 which will be used for Committee events.
The next events planned are sports matches. Each school will host a different sport after school. These sports will be open to all 6th.-formers and teams will be made up, on the day, of people from a mixture of schools.
The first sport will be hockey and it will be at Mayfield School on 23rd. March at 4.30p.m. Hockey sticks will be provided if you do not have your own. Any 6th. former interested should just turn up on the day.

THEY ARE AT it AGAIN!!

BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE MURAL PAINTERS have started work again after the Winter on the Mural in Town Hall Road. If you want to help paint or cement the cracks, please contact Amanda Webb at Battersea Arts Centre. Tel: 223-5356.

CAPPER

by A.Wakefield 3nu.

He walked in the room eager and bright.
But everyone laughed at the amusing
sight.

He so weak, as if just being born.
He tried to teach, but we just scorned.

He shriveled down into his chair
He just sat there, looked and stared.

We played and shouted at the fool
He prayed and whispered at the form.

RECORD REVIEW

R.Jamnadass (Sr)

I'll be here in this paper reviewing recent L.P's and to start off with I have chosen my favourite group, QUEEN. I am going to review'A Day at the Races'. The tracks from Side I are Tie your mother down, Take my breath away, Long away and You and I. Side2 Somebody to love, White man, Millionaire waltze, and Drowse and let is cling together.

SideI opens with my prediction for their new single 'Tie your mother down' which is just great with heavy disco beat. It is described by the Times as sheer bloody poetry.

The next track is 'You take my breath away' which as any of the 50 odd boys from Wandsworth remember, is a slow track which is heartbreaking. 'Long away' follows and goes straight into 'You and I', both are follow ons to two of the tracks on the 'Night at the Opera' album.

Side 2 begins with their recent single 'Somebody to Love' which was in my opinion a bad choice for a single, it should have been 'You take my breath away'. 'White man' follows being the B side of their single. The Millionaire waltze which is lazing on a Sunday afternoon follows this. The comes 'Drowse' which is an odd track because listening to it.there seems to be no meaning. The last track 'Let us cling together' is ACE and is helped by some Japanese lyrics and is a good finale.

To those who reckon that it is just a copy of 'A night at the opera', think again. This is a great album in its own right and for all those Queen fans (and non-Queen fans) happy listening.

See ya until the next time.

NIGHT CAP PART 3
by C.LYDEN-COWAN

"Not guilty," was the reply.
Witness after witness said they saw him come out of the driveway on the night in question.
"Read aloud the words on this card?" echoed round the room, he did
"Graham Castle of Brookborough Mansions?"
"Yes," was the feint reply.
"Is it not true that you wre seen on the night in question at the house and is it not true that your fingerprints were on exhibit one?"
"Yes," he said.
"Then, your Honour, I rest my case." siad a jubilant prosecution officer.
Three hours later the jurymemerged
"Will the foreman please stand? Have you reached a verdict on which you ae are all agreed?"
"Yes," said a tall woman looking at Graham.
"Guilty."
"Graham Castle you have been found guilty of two murders of the first degree, it is therefore my duty to sentence you to forty years imprisonment. Take him away." said a solemn judge.
"I am innocent!" was the yelled reply as he was carried awayx.

Is he really innocent? If so who did kill Jessica Bentley and Dr. Marcus Cope. Find out in the final part.... in the next issue.

Dear Cactus,

We've heard of your need of poem and
verse
So we've written this story, not good
but worse.
And we hope you'll like it, not jeer
or curse
(And we also hope your bowels won't
burst).

Our story's of Ernie that methy supran
Who was caught in the Library half
way betweer
The bookcase he filled up with waste
from his
spleer
The books they, were swimming no dry
patch was seen.
(And that was the end of his wonderful
scheme.)

Paul Arnold.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

RAIL

Travel to Europe with Transalpion and save upto 50% all year round. To get the saving you must have;

(I) Student card or a declaration by the Educational Authorities.

(2) Any young person under 2Iyrs.

For both proof will be required;

HOW DOES TRANSALPION HELP YOU TO SAVE

You save money when you ~~make~~ buy your tickets because it is the largest student and youth rail travel operator in the world. They take more students to more places in more trains more frequently than any other operators.

They've have 14 officers and hundreds of adgents all over Europe. So they are able to negotiate extra special money savers e.g.
£8.05 to any Belgium sta.
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£9.95 to Paris
single.

WHAT YOU GET.

All tickets are provided with free seat reservations when possible. You can return at any chosen date, all tickets are ~~xxxxxx~~ valid for two months. Stop-overs during the course of the journey are not allowed except within Italy and Spain. ~~X~~

REFUNDS.

When a unused ticket is returned within a month of issue, money will be refunded immediatly. The cancellation fee of 20% of ticket value or a minimum of one pound will be charged.

INSURANCE.

The insurance is valid for 3 months at a cost of £2.50 which covers cancellations, loss of baggage, medical expenses and personal injuries.

Some examples.

COPENHAGEN-Daily-£7.15 single
£14.30 return.
ANNECY-Daily-£26.60 single
£37.25 return.
NICE-Daily-£36.00 single
£48.00 return.
And many more.
Prices end April 30th 1977. The prices quoted are the latest available. They will increase only if forced by situations beyond company control.

Holiday in Shepherd's Bush.

As the judge passed sentence I had a very weird feeling that I would enjoy every minute (wrong I was). As I left the courtroom I saw some other people who I knew. I tied to see them but it was all to no avail. They took me from the waiting room to this red van which had three men inside. They were quite old men, 40-50 years of age. So off we went, there were six other people also in the van. It took about thirty minutes to get there. As we reached Wormwood Scrubs (oops , sorry, Stamford House) we went into this room , where this man put us into different houses. I went into O'Hare first, and I tell you now, it was no holiday camp. Up at 7a.m., bad at 9p.m. You couldn't smoke if you were under 15yrs., you had to fold up your blankets and sheets, so you make what they call a bed block. The beds were really bad. (You could sleep better on the floor than the beds there.) So the days dragged on, but I never went to school there because it was a load of rubbish. So I used to lie on my bed most of the day. When I did go I had to do very hard work in the gym.
So I advise none of you stupid little boys to get sent there.

THE END.

Letters

Dear Cactus,

in reply to the letter from Tony Bryant and the Senior Prefects, on the matter of the School Library; we would like to say that we did not intend to make it sound as though the 6th. year council resolved this matter. We would like to apologise for any misunderstanding caused by this argument.

A. Wellbelove

What's On in Battersea

Fri., I8th. March. 8p.m.
"What is so funny about Jokes?"
at Lady north Hall,
Ravenna Road, S.W.I5.
Adm. Free½

FRIDAY I8th. March. 7.45p.m.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA.
The N.Y.J.O. plays material from any source - rock, the blues, Latin or basic jazz and has played all over the world.
Battersea Town Hall,
Lavender Hill, S.W.II.
(Box office. 223-5356)
IO a.m. and 6p.m.
Adm. 64p. and 50p.
half price for O.A.P's , students and children.

Wed. 30th. March. 8pm.m
"The Canterbury Tales"
a musical production performed by pupils of Battersea County School, at the school ,
Culvert Road, S.W.II.
Adm. 25p - tickets from the school.

Thurs. 24th. March.
Fri. 25th. March. 8p.m.
The Moving Picture Show presents Seven Samurai and other stories.
Battersea Arts Centre,
Lavender Hill, S.W.II.
Ad. 65p. Half price for students and children.

Fri. I8th., Sat. I9th. March. 8p.m.
DABUO? The African Dance Company of Ghana presents a programme of dance which is a fascinating study of virility, fertility, battle and limbo dances with its accompanied drum rhythms.
Battersea Arts Centre,
Lavender Hill, S.W.II.
Ad. £I, half price for students.

Sunday, 20th. March, 2.30p.m.

Sat.-I2th March - Sat 2nd. April

"CHILDHOOD" - an exhibition in which young and old are invited to take part to add their own memories of chilhood to those already depicted. The exhibition includes a Batmobile, giant silver insects, three-dimentional pop art-style seedy seaside cafes, 8ft. high photographs and games in which the visitior is invited to participate.
In the Gallery,
Battersea Arts Centre,
Lavender Hill, S.W.II.

WHAT'S ON EVERY WEEK AT THE BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE.
LAVENDER HILL, S.W.II.

Monday- 4p.m.-5p.m.
Art.
Tuesday- 4pm. - 5p.m.
Drama
Wednesday- 5p.m.- 6p.m.
Pottery
(9-I4yrs. must be booked.)
4p.m.-5p.m.
Puppet workshop
(bookable)
Thursday- 4p.m.-5p.m.
Art
4p.m.-5p.m.
Puppet Workshop
(bookable)
Friday 5pm.m 6p.m.
Darkroom (must be booked)
Saturday- 2p.m.-5p.m.
Extra mural projects - outings etc. contact Amanda Webb.

Adult Workshops.
Mon. 2p.m.-4p.m.
Painting and Drawing
Tues. 2p.m.-4p.m.
Pottery (bookable)
Wed. 7p.m.-9p.m.
DREADER (reggae dance)
7p.m.-9p.m.
Life-drawing.
7p.m.-I0p.m.
Pottery (bookable)
Thurs. 2p.m.-4p.m.
Craft
7p.m.- I0p.m.
Dramam
7.30-9.30p½m.
In Motion
(Contemporary Dance)
Fri, 2p.m.-5p.m.
Darkroom (bookable)
7p.m.-I0p.m.
Darkroom (bookable)
Saturday. 2p.m.-5p.m.
Theatre Street Group
(Drama I4-I8yrs)
Sunday IIa.m.- I.pm.
Clown and Acrobatics
(family workshop)
2p.m.- 4p.m.
Family Puppet Workshop
3p.m.-5p.m.
Silk screen workshop
3p.m.- 6p.m.
Jazz Workshop.

GNU ENTERPRISES PRESENT "APRIL FOOLS" CONCERT
Wands Sch. (Main Hall) 30p

ADVERTISEMENT

BUY A CATAMARAN FOR £2. Ring me at 874-9091 ASK FOR JJ

FOR SALE: A JUDO KIT OR SWOP Judo kit for Karate kit. See: M. RICKWOOD 4L

BLACK DOOM by S. MANNING GS

The darkness sprang up suddenly that night; one minute the sun radiated golden shafts of brilliance, that caressed the dusty windows with glittering rivers of amber and painted the walls of my room with opaque-scarlet fire, and the next, an ebon wall of night covered the sun like a monstrous black monolith.
The sudden change from light to darkness, startled me. I was awe-struck at the impossible change. Never had I seen such a metamorphosis from day to night. Usually the blackness crept slowly from the ground and washed over the sun in a deadly embrace. That night, however, it was though some hideous creature had risen up from the depths of some unknown hell, to plunge the World in eternal darkness.
I peered out the window. All was black. There was no sign of any light. No moon shone through the blackness, no starkight shimmered in the evening sky, nor did the lights from the houses opposite, pierce the wall of night. Even the houses themselves, were lost in the ebon wilderness. Nothing was visible!
I began to feel strange; as though I were cut off from the rest of the world. Only the one small light, hanging from my bedroom ceiling, kept me from the nothingness of night. Only my bedroom existed. Even the hall, leading to my door, was wrapped in a cloak of inpenetrable darkness. I was trapped in a black abyss; the only speck of light in the world!!
The night stared at me with large, dark unseeing eyes. It was clawed at the window with grisly, intangible, black talons, lusting for the cowering light. I stared back at it in disbelief. My mind reeled, my face went white with horror. The darkness was coming through the window! It oozed between the gaps in the wood, , like some foul, thick black liquid. It flowed over the panes and slopped down the walls. It rose sluggishly into the air, defying gravity. Slowly it began to fill the room. It flowed over the cupboards, radiator, bed and drawers. It crawled over the floor, covering it with thick black slime.
My mind screamed with terror. I ran for the door, but the blackness oozed in. My legs collapsed under me and I lay in a cowering heap. I glared up at the light. The darkness was like a huge black monster, engulfing each tiny beam with ravenous hunger.
It flowed over the bulb until the last vestige og light was gone. The blackness rushed at me; a whirling ebon sea of [redacted] doom! As it washed over me, I felt its suffocating icy touch. Cold beads of sweat burst on my forehead and trickled down my face. Panic assailed me ; my blood froze amd my marrow chilled. I clawed at the darkness like some rabid animal, biting, slashing, kicking. The black devil swirled about me, heedless of my frantic ravings. Its cold, clammy touch bit deep into my body, sending an icy pain up and down my body. It ravaged my head, desperately trying to get at my brain. It sucked at my skin with rasping bitter caresses, that left my body painfully numg. Then I screamed like a thing condemned to writhed in Hell, for all eternity . My teeth bit into my bottom lip. Blood trickled into my mouth , which frothed , with crimson foam. The thing was entering my head!
As it wormed its way through my mind, I screamed and gibbered like a madman. I clawed at my face, trying desperately to tear the demon from my brain. Blood streamed down my face. Still I tore, heedless of the pain, which was as nothing compared to the advance of that unholy creature. It felt like a thousand freezing spikes were being driven through my mind. My brain burned with ice-fire. Never had anybody felt such hellish agony!
In a final desperate attempt to escape that terrible pain, I haf-pulled, half-dragged myself to my feet. My plan had been to outrun that icy torture, but my legs were numb and useless. Instead I just staggered about like a man in a trance, banging into walls and furniture. My hands knocking over objects and painfully hitting the walls. I heard the a bone crack as my left hand smashed into a solid object but instead of a red-hot pain, I felt an agonising numbness shoot up my arm.
ty. I could feel my brain going dead. Blood oozed from a hundred cuts, and my body was numb, bruised and blistered. The darkness was winning!
Slowly I was dying. All I could Do was stumble about, bruising even more. Finally my legs began to buckle again. I fell to the ground, knocking over things in my desperate attempt to stay upright.
I heard objects crashing to the ground, then suddenly the room exploded in a

Cont. on next page

THE WALLS HAVE EARS

by MUSTAPHA GOSSIP

RUMOUR HAS IT THAT..

A boy went to the medical room recently with a broken leg and Mrs Whalley gave him a 'Junior Disprin'.

Stan Honor "fashioned Tony Bryant out of wood.

Ron Bedford has found his 'pot of gold'.

Last time Fiona Wade was at a concert she was thrown out by the bouncers.

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT.....

Andrew Bowyer has strange things in his socks!!!..feet?

Mr Lincé ventured too far into the organ and got caught by the 'Wurlitzer'.

OVERHEARD IN THE CHANGING ROOMS.....

If Mike Kouzaris really is responsible for all the people he calls "Son" the Guiness Book of Records would like to get in touch with him.

RECORD REVIEW

Jammy (Sr)

(Pink Floyd) Animals

Animals has four tracks, is an allegorical L.P., and will inevitably be compared to 'Dark Side of the Moon'. The words are strong and they ask ~~xxx~~ questions. The instrumental interludes are at times powerful; Gilmour's guitar work predominates. It asks questions, but never really gives the answers.

This is a powerful, and thought out album. It will be as big as 'Dark Side'. For your information the tracks are: Pigs on the Wing (part one), Dogs, Pigs, Sheep and Pigs on the Wing (part two). Who are the pigs, sheep and dogs? You must decide for yourself. This album may disturb some of you. But for the people who care about good music and for those who just like noise, buy it! I did and I have enjoyed every bit of it.

See ya next time.

ADVERTISEMENT

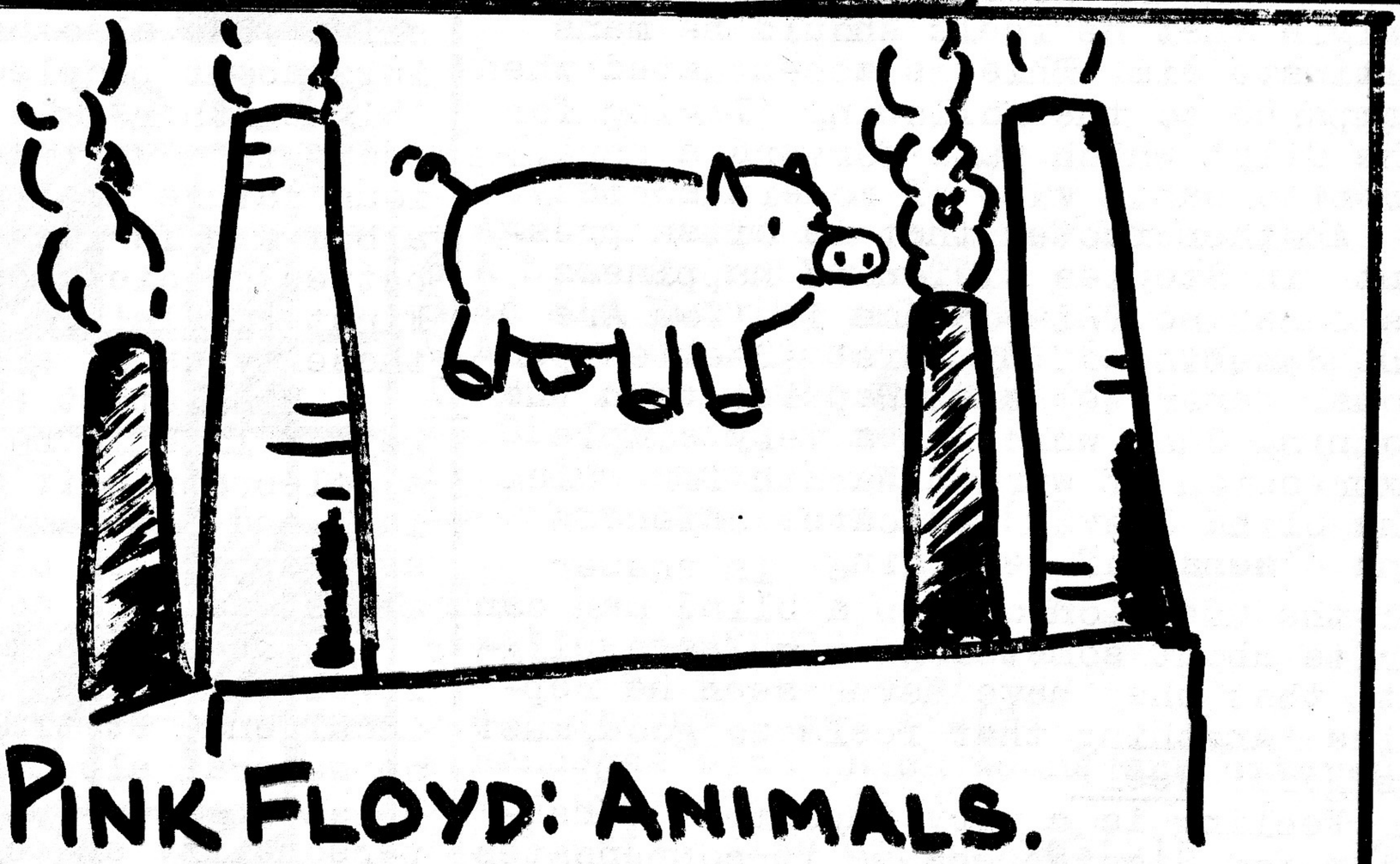
WANTED

Good home for puppies, must have garden. Very sweet. Tel. 874-2136

TRASH

Andy knew he was different ever since the day he was hatched. His thoughts ~~xxx~~ were of his boyfriend as he sat there tapping the ceiling with his fingers, whilst listening to his Max Bygraves record. His eyes wandered around the room, so he got up and placed them back in their socketts. As he slithered across the room an idea came to his foot. Perhaps it was the redness of his noses, or maybe it was because his scales were shiny ? But he knew this wasn't the reason. He couldn't understand what was different about him. Perhaps if he looked in a book he could find the reason. He picked up his 'Problems Book' with his tail and held it to his stomache to read, but still he couldn't find the reason. He felt ready to commit suicide. He spread his wings and felt like flying until he dropped.

Then suddenly he saw what was wrong with him! His friend, who had just come into the room, was reading something. At last he knew what was different; he didn't have a copy of CACTUS!!



"S'Wonderful"

" by Somebody who wishes to remain anonymous!

Unquestionably the most successful musician, both artistically and commercially, of the seventies must be Stevie Wonder. A blind, black boy from the back streets he must be the perfect example of the fairy-tale 'rags to riches' story. For all these things to have happened there must be a special person behind it all and I wonder whether it is possible to examine what special talent it is that has enabled him to reach this pinnacle of success. I do not know a lot about his personal life but I believe that it is possible to discover a lot about the man through his music.

Stevie is a deeply religious person whose very intraverted, indeed almost other worldly faith, when translated into music and words creates, for me, a tremendously stimulated effect. Songs such as 'Heaven is Ten Zillion Light Years Away,' from the F.F.F. album and 'Jesus Children of America' from Inner visions are, although extremely original and unusual, very successful and move me much more than the rather banal 'Have a Talk With God' from Songs in the Key of Life.

All good things for Stevie seem to have religious connections. In the popular 'Isn't She Lovely' itis the gift from God that he is thankful for and in 'I love Every Little Thing About You' from Music of My Mind, God is the only one that he places higher than his lover. It is also important in his very smooth and special 'Vision' it is the 'milk and honey land' of biblical origin that he feels should be mans ultimate aim. This is accentuated when compared to the following 'Living for The City' which puts forward a hard, down to earth view of modern society.

Another facter that is often present in Stevies vision of happiness is sunshine. This occurs in 'You Are the Sunshine of My Life' (Stevies personal favorite) and 'Happier than the Morning Sun' which is a very simple expression of warmth. Warmth for which the blind Stevie indicates safeness and a sense of belonging. In answer to the question of how a blind man can write about something, such as sunlight, that they have never seen he replies 'Anything that feels so good, must be good! Feel!

Feeling is a very important sensation for Stevie because it compensates for his blindness.

Many of the tracks are expressions of pure emotion and touch a note in me that no other artist can reach. There is such a lot of 'soul' in these tracks that I need to ask myself how they have become so commercial and popular, I believe that there are two good reasons for this: Performance and context.

Stevie is such a renowned artist famed for his vocal prowess as well as his mastery of several instruments that his records would sell even without the marvellous songs that he writes. The musicianship on all tracks is unbeatable and the arrangements are excellent. But I feel that the second point, context, is equally important. Each album is so thoghtfully planned that all really 'souly' songs are placed between two less specifically 'black' songs and is therefore even more successful. Unlike so many of todays songwriters he genuinely does write albums and doesn't merely preduce collections of songs. A definate develepement can be traced through his albums of the seventies.

'Music of my mind' is a tremenously unified album that deals almost totally with the differing aspects of Stevies love for women. This is followed by 'Talking Book' In which he pits the dreamlike romance of 'You & I', 'I Believe (when I fall in love this time it will be forever)' and 'looking for another Pure love' with the harsh realism of 'Maybe your Baby' and 'Blame it on the Sun' (another song in which he is unhappy because of' the sun that didn't shine'). He also begins to air his feelings about peoples' Superstition and 'Big Brother' is a protest song. Having made his move towards songs of a serious nature his 'Innervisions is an album of his ideas and ideals for a better soiciety and 'Fulfillingness First Finale' is a synthesis of all these types of albums.

His latest albumI 'Songs in the key of life' is not so much an album as a celebration, it abounds in varied musical and literary ideas and would probably appeal to classical and jazz fans almost as much as pop fans.

The only complaints that can be levelled against him is his over-indulgence at times. Many of the tracks on several albums could afford to be a lot shorter. But I believe that the personality and charisma of the man is great enough to winn over these deficiences.

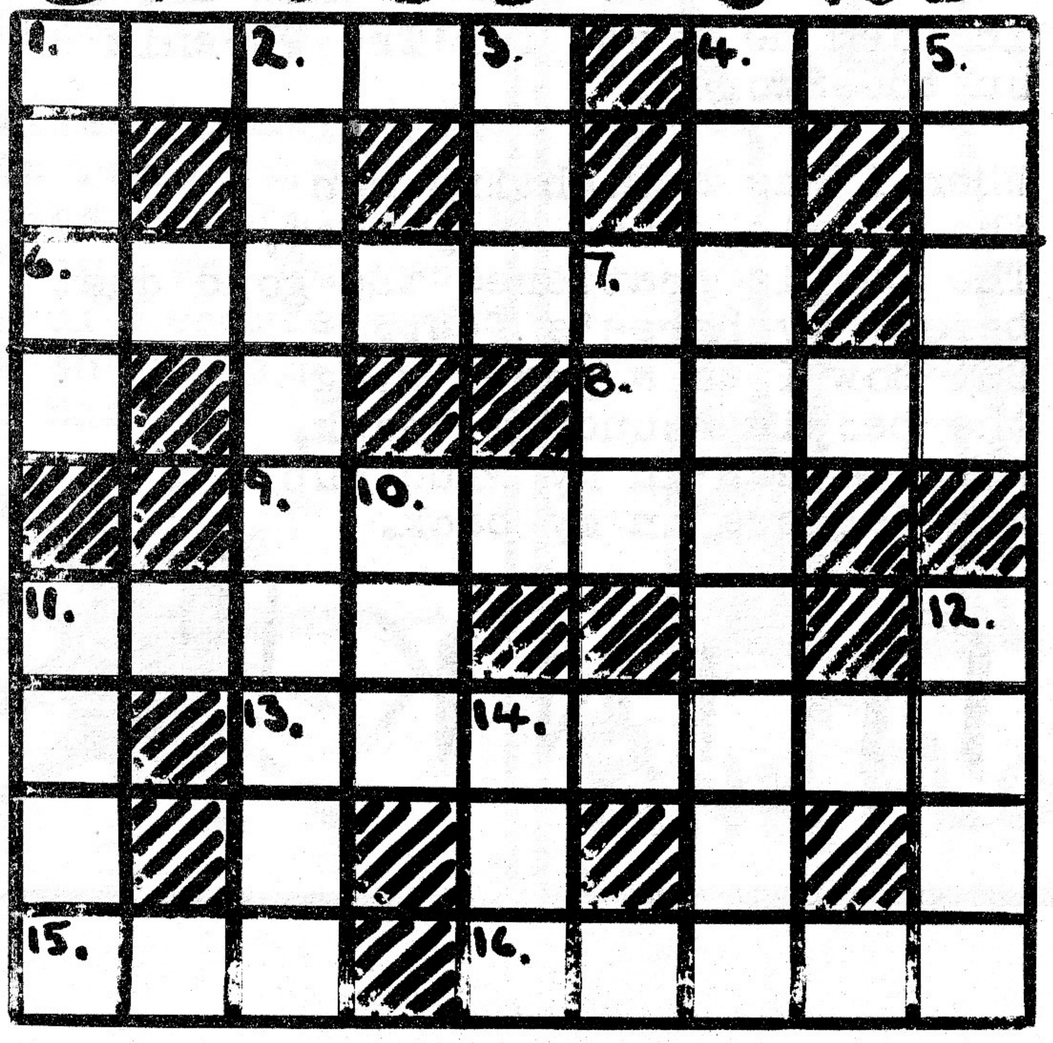
He is a very special man because he doesn't critisize our modern society destructively but puts forward very feaseble alternative ways of living and works hard to break down barriers between black and white. But he can be angry at times ('Why must MY COlour, black, make me a lesser man' and 'You havan't Done Nothing').

Having risen over the past decade and a half from 'the nappy headed boy' of the early Mowtown Reviews to the most highly respected musician in the modern pop world I cannot see his uninterrupted rise being halted as long as he can keep moving forward (he is already years ahead of other artists) and does not let his artistic aims be curbed by commercial demands.

I hope that from this I have been able to give you an insight into a very special man who is much more than a mere pop singer.



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. A viper (5)
4. Another word for a quick bathe (3)
5. A Spanish nobleman (7)
8. An old Russian ruler (4)
9. A town of France famous for tapestry (5-
11. The abominable snowman (4)
13. Of enormous size (7)
15. A drunkard (3)
16. Concerning the nose (5)

DOWN

1. Little Algernon (4)
2. A writer of plays (9)
3. A fisherman uses one (3)
4. Bandages with which wounds are covered (9
5. A young salmon (4)
7. Estimated time of arrival (3)
10. The edge (3)
11. Great longings or Japanese coins (4)
12. To inform (4)
14. Adult males (3)

BOOK SHOP

Miss Speed would like some boys from any year to help out as monitors in the bookshop. They would have to come into the bookshop regularly one or two days a week from 12.30 to 1-00pm. Also shortly there will be a new stock of books coming in. Come along and if you don't see the book you wanted then we will order it.

Answer to Crossword in Edition no. 2.

Across: 5. DUAL 7. REAR 8. LINEN 9. SEEP 10. PENT 11. ROTA 13. RUIN 15. ISSUE 16. DANK 17. ELSA.

Down: 1. ADDS 2. PALESTINE 3. VENEZUELA 4. BRAT 6. LIP 7. REP 11. RIDE 12. RUE. 14. NEAT.

ADVERTISEMENT

Are you patriotic?
Then buy some Queens Jubilee Stickers.
Only 15p for 24
Available from the Library
(Crispin Lyden-Cowan)
at less than 1p each.
It must be the bargain of the year!

EVEN THE BLIND CAN SEE...

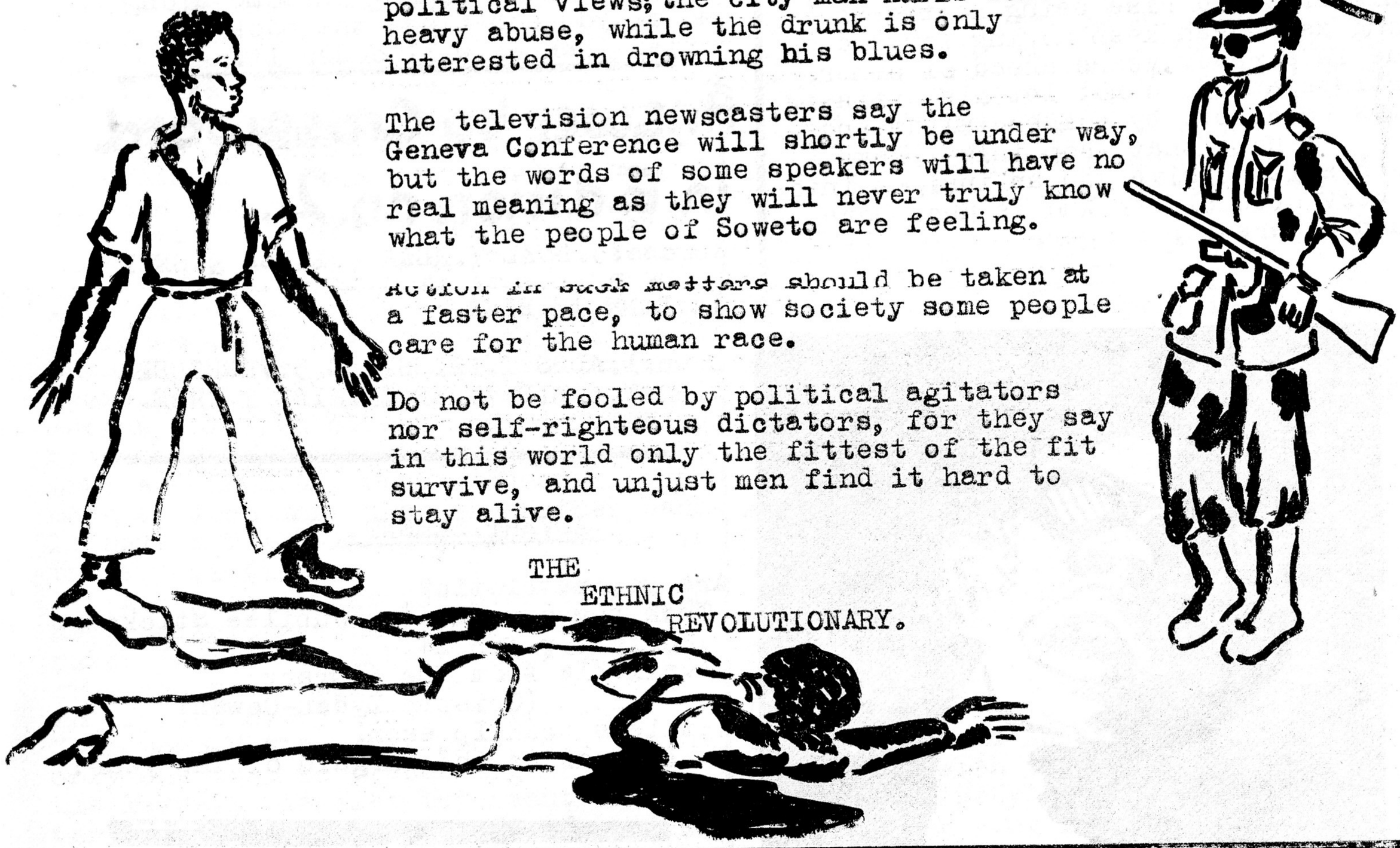
The year is 1977, the streets of Soweto are filled with blood. Bodies are buried here, there and everywhere, but if you bury them quickly who will care.

Such happenings make front page news, which only leads to more exchanges of political views; the city man hurls some heavy abuse, while the drunk is only interested in drowning his blues.

The television newscasters say the Geneva Conference will shortly be under way, but the words of some speakers will have no real meaning as they will never truly know what the people of Soweto are feeling.

Action in such matters should be taken at a faster pace, to show society some people care for the human race.

Do not be fooled by political agitators nor self-righteous dictators, for they say in this world only the fittest of the fit survive, and unjust men find it hard to stay alive.



There is no information on Careers this time. There will be a special article in the edition after ~~the~~ the Easter Holiday.

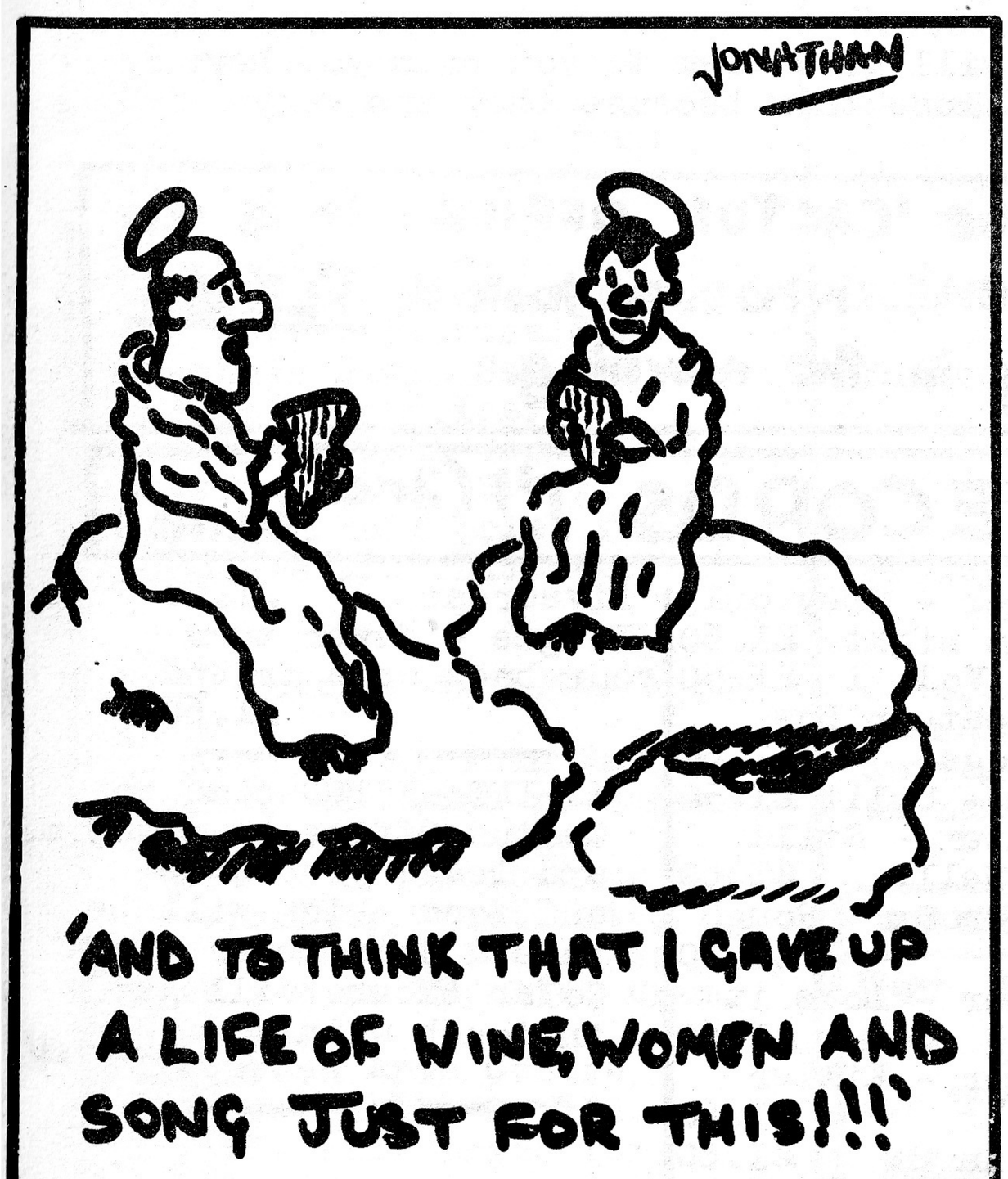
Robert E. Howard summed this all up in poem he wrote for 'The Phoenix on the Sword'.

When I was a fighting man
the kettle drums they beat,
The people scattered the gold dust
before my horse's feet.
But now I am a great king
the people hound my track,
With poison in my wine cup
and daggers in my back.

Stop and think! Why are you worrying about where you're going to get money for this and that. So maybe you won't get a tape recorder or that new jacket you've always wanted. Why kill yourself with worry over not being in the fashion? Better by far to be comfortable than uncomfortable just to please others. Who cares what people think? We have only got a short life, enjoy it. You may find that people like you the way you are so don't try to be something you are not.

THINK!!!

blinding flash of brilliant white light. I flung my bleeding and broken hands up to my face, to shield them from the incredible brilliance.
Light flooded my room, pushing back the thick darkness like a huge white tidal-wave. Then with a sudden blindind explo sion the white light vanished.
I sat there, my head spinning, my body aching. I tried to get up but the orde-al had been too much for me. I collapsed. Darkness once more flooded my mind, but this darkness was warm and pleasant, it soothed my aching brain.
When I came round, God knows how many hours later; I found myself lying on the floor of my room, on the carpet of dried blood. My whole body was caked in crim-son. Everytime I moved, one more cut opened and oozed blood. My body was one big sore, though the pain was surprisingly less than expected.
I looked about the room. The furniture was sprawled over the room, as were blankets, sheets, drawers, clothes, shoes, books and a hundred other things, and there at my feet was was the object of my salvation. I laughed, a long inhuman laugh; to think such an object, such a simple man-made object, could defeat a nonhuman demon, To thimk that the sudden blinding light of a camera's flash-bulb, could beat back the Devil himself, made me laugh!



THE WALLS HAVE EARS

BY ALPHA GOSSIP

RUMOUR HAS IT THAT.....

George Polhill has been seen doing strange things with some Ist. and 2nd. formers in the Recerding Room. It has been requested that he either stops it or registers it as an official after school activity.

Will Wilson will!!!!!!

The article that is being passed around the school should read 'Michael Buxton has written lots of theses about the English Revolution not 'lots of faeces about the English Revolution'.

Ron Bedford has been very flattering to Alice since the last edition of 'CACTUS' hoping that he would not appear in this one. Hard luck Ron, Alice doesn't write this column and you're not my type!

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT....

Norton Tayler's copy of the 'Daily Honky Tonk' was stolen from room 39- could the culprit please return it to him behind the bicycle sheds at 3.30p.m.

Wandsworth School has discovered a cure for insomnia - Dennis Wallace.

Alice Szeja is being manipulated by Dave Souter - and he can't be touche for it.

Overheard (in Gym Block lavatories) "What does Bridget Eastman mean when she says 'Only I5 sixth formers at a time?'"

WRITE FOR 'CACTUS' — WE ACCEPT ANYTHING!

CAREERS' GUIDE

APPEAL TO ALL 3rd. Years.

Please be patient if you are still ~~xxx xxxxx~~ waiting for leaflets. You have just about cleaned out the Careers Room.
4th. Years; Your turn next term.

CALLING ALL PARENTS
We shall soon be circulating a questionaire to all parents and would be very grateful if you would fill it out. With the information provided we should be able to give a lot of useful and often unpublished advice. ~~xxx~~

TO ALL LEAVERS
How often have we heard people say "If only I had known that.... it would have saved a lot of heartache etc."

FURTHER EDUCATION

If one takes the trouble of reading the lists of Colleges of Tehnology, Colleges of Further Education, Art Colleges, Schools of Drama, Polytechnics etc. it quickly becomes evident that thare is just about everything for someone irrespective of interests, aptitude, or academic ability. Quite apart from the better known courses there are some studies which appear to be 'one off' in every sense of the word. The fact that they exist reflects that such skills are not only useful but that students so trained are in demand at at the end of the course.
Unfortunately, many leavers appear to be status conscious than interested in the content of the course they are aiming to follow and the target they will eventually reach. On most courses at advanced study you are trained to see your subject in very broad terms and unfortunately the world of work just does not present very many opportunities for massive and exciting schemes of work. Most jobs are fairly routine and ones ability to succeed is not only the know-how one possess but also ones adaptability to cope with the jobs in hand in an efficient and well organised manner. So give a realistic, long, hard look at the course before joining it.

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

I have now received your numbers and will give them to you when you have your second interviews. Please do not lose them because they are very IMPORTANT.

STOLEN: one typewriter from the 'CACTUS' OFFICE. It is an essential part of our equipment. Whoever took it PLEASE return it to ART Room 1 early in the morning.

FOR SALE : RECORDS !!! (2nd Hand)

Jeff Beck Group £I.50
Stephen Stills Manassas (DBL) £2.80
Led Zeppelin 4 £I.60
Led Zeppelin I £I.60
Isotope - Illusion £I.60
Amon Duul Live £I.60
Pavlo's Dog - at the Sound of the Bell £I.60
Upp £I.60
Derek and the Dominos live (DBL) £3.00
Johnny Winter - Saints and Sinners £I.60
Edgar Winter - They only come out at night. £I.60
Cream Live Vol. I £I.50
Andy Fairweather Low
Labooga Rooga £I.60
Groundhogs - Split £I.50
Johnny Winter - Still alive and Well. £I.60
Jeff Beck Group - Rough and Ready £I.60
Alice Cooper - Love it too Death. £I.60
Alice Cooper - Killer £I.60
Led Zeppelin 2 £I.60
Janis Joplin (DBL) £2.80
LiveCream £I.60
Bidgee - Never turn your back on a friend £I.60.

IF INTERESTED come to Cactus Office at 3.30p.m. and leave your name and form which will be passed onto Peter ~~Xxxx~~ Colah 6M who will get in touch with you.

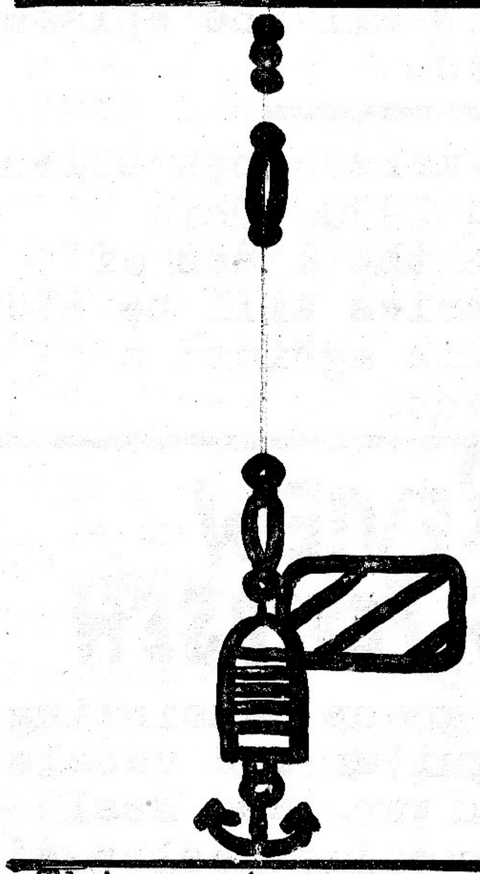
FISHING AROUND WANDSWORTH!!!

Apart from our well-esteemed River Wandle, which once held salmon but now only contains hard-fighting, rusty Tescoe trolleys and one eyed Bleak, most of the waters around Wandsworth hold reasonable fish. The following is one of the waters which are regularly bombarded with floats, legersand small brothers.

THE PEN PONDS & RICHMOND PARK

The ponds in fact are slightly larger than the ones your Grandmother hurls breadcrumbs in for her goldfish. There are two; a large weed-infested holocaust in which fish are either alcoholics or bondage freaks, and a small lake which produces much better angling. Consequently, we shall focus our attention on the latter.

In Winter small "Jack Pike" (1-5lb.) are dominant. Although generally neglected by young anglers, the Pike fights hard and are exhilerating to catch. Light tackle is adequate, your normal rod and reel being sufficent



This set up can be made heavier but never lighter. The heavier line is used in place of a wire trace.

When spinning search all depths, changing direction of the Spinner as well as the speed of return. Search near all underwater growth i.e. reeds erratically returning.

Believe it or not fishing does involve catching fish, so while you're twiddling your thumbs or whatever takes your fancy, a Pike may bite.

It will do so in no uncertain manner. Whatever you do hang on! This sort of Pike will not, however give you, your first lesson in water-skiing!

While playing your metal-comping Pike keep the tip of your rod up! This is to release the pressure from your line. Just in case the Pike attempts any despairing runs, ensure beforehand that your clutch is slightly loosened. This is to prevent line-breakage. Unless your Pike is toothless, to prevent him biting through your line, keep his head up.

In the unlikely event of the Pike remaining on the hook, place the landing net beneath the surface, and slowly draw back the Pike over the net. This process must not be rushed, otherwise your expensive 'Woolies' line will be smashed.

Before you next cast out the Pike will have to be removed! Whilst taking out the spinner, lay the Pike on the ground and force it's mouth open. This is not the time to be inquisitive, so don't go exploring inside it's mouth with a grubby finger! Place a small gag inside it's mouth and work th spinner out gently.

When returning Pike please do so with care and not as if you're hammer-throwing in the Olympics.

Unfortunately you will require a licence, price 50 pence from th following address:

SUPERINTENDANT,
Bog Lodge,
Richmond Park,
Surrey



Created?!!! by H. POTTER &
I. BALDWIN. 4T.

In the next edition Reach and Perch.------If you've caught anything notable last season LET us know.

(Ed. Excluding the clap.)

FILM THINGS

BY S.MANNING

For the past half-hour I have been trying to think of a good introduction for this issue's Film Things, but I still can't think of anything; so to hell with an introduction and onto the news.

There is to be a sequel to 'King Kong' called simply 'Kong2! The action takes place in West America and the heroine is a Red Indian girl.

There is also a new satire of 'King Kong' called 'Queen Kong'. Unfortunately the producer of 'King Kong'(Dino de Laurentis) has put a court order onto it for infringement of copyright. This means that it cannot be screened until the outcome of the court case is known.

The new 'Superman' film is slowly getting under way. So far two parts have been cast. Marlon Brando is to play Jor-El (Superman's father) and Gene Hackman is to play Luther (Superman's enemy). Brando is to get $3,000,000 for I4 days work,(the highest amount ever paid to an actor for this amount of time) and an additional $250,000 for each day over that.

There has been a lot of indecision over who will play Superman himself. So far at least five actors have been named to play the part; at the moment it is said that a virtually unknown actor called Sylvester Stallone(currently in the film called 'Rocky') is to get the part.

'Superman' has a budget of $25,000,000 and is to be made in Rome. The director is Dick Donner of 'Omen' fame.

Talking about the 'Omen(Dick Donner is planning not one, not two but three sequels to it; provided he has the same freedom from Fox as he had on the 'Omen'.

Back on T.V.,or rather not on T.V. is the 'Gemini Man' who (as you have no doubt noticed) has disappeared for ever from the screen. Like his predessor 'The Invisible Man' the 'Gemini Man was a total flop. Thee BBC are not even bothering to show all the episodes they have an option on.

The BBC are going to make a new science fiction series called I990. This series will not be on the lines of 'Space I999'. This series will be about the struggles of people against a totalitarian government.

THE HISTORY OF ROCK

FATS DOMINO

by T.LOWE

Of the five undisputed giants of Rock n Roll, Elvis, Little Richard, Fats Domino, Chuck Berry, and Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino is the most neglected and underrated.

He is underrated not only for the quality of his music and what he has achieved in terms of recording successes but also for his central role in the development and growth of New Orleans music. His absorption and transformation of the cultural styles in New Orleans into Rock n Roll has subsequentlly influenced countless other performers.

Fats Domino was born on IOth,May, I929 in New Orleans.

next issue; Elvis.

RECORD REVIEW

by S. PETERSEN

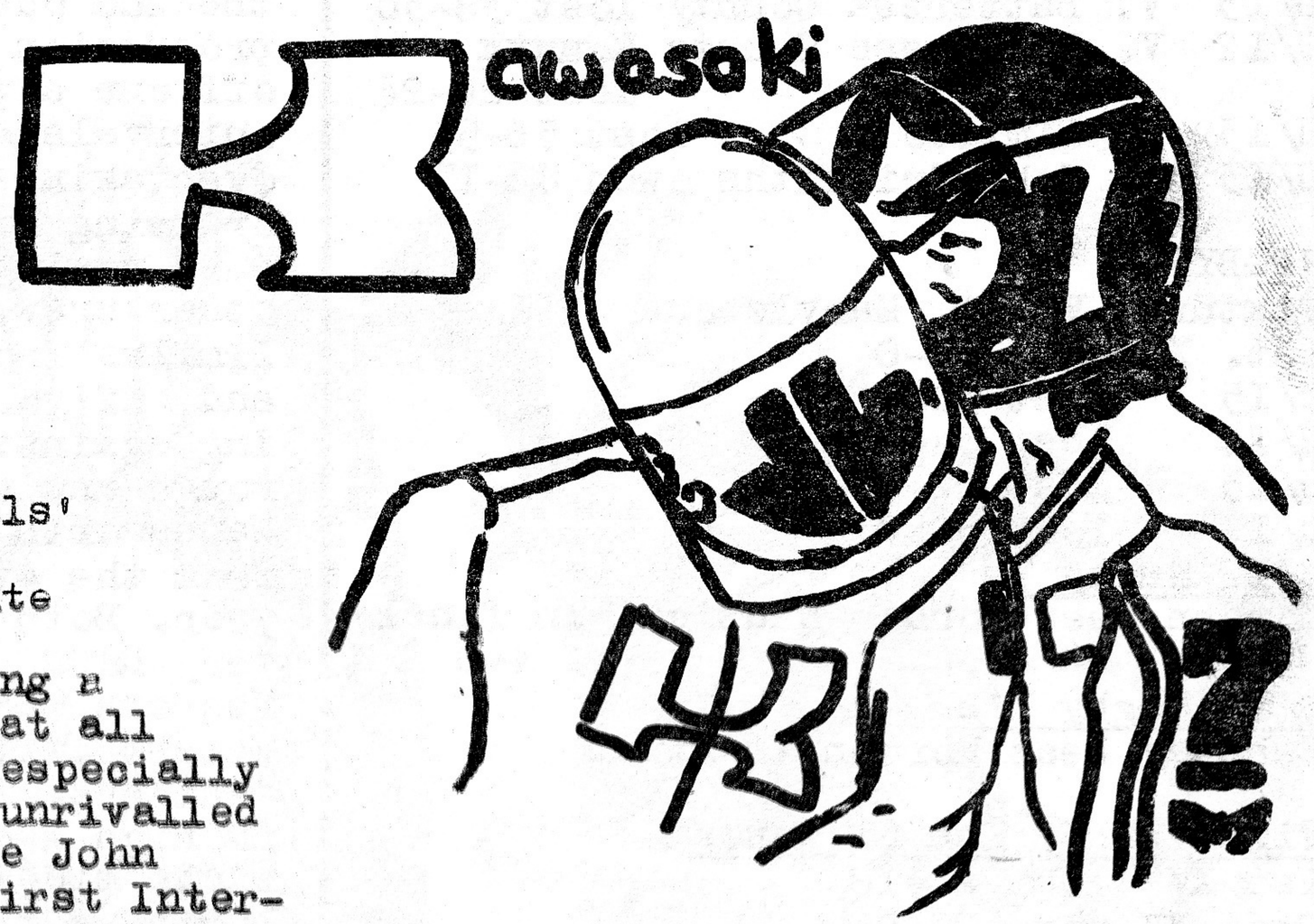
RUSH is an Canadian group consisting of Geddy Lee, bass guitar and vocals Alex Lifeson lead guitar, and Neal Peart drums. RUSH have just released a double album in Britain called 'ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE'. The music is Rock blended in with science fiction. Neil Peart attributes the lyrics which are excellent.(we are writing exactly what Steve wrote.) Tracks such as Twenty One Twelve are unusually put together. The tracks which highlight the album are Anthem and By-Tir and the Snow Dog which consist of the bass guitar being By-Tor and the lead being The Snow Dog. The battle between the two is brilliantly put together musically not forgeting the tapes which are used. The record is excellent. The musicians are each e extremely talented. Buy it!!!

Secrets of the Superstars

by Dave Coleman 4T.

MICK GRANT.

Mick Grant: Age 3Iyrs.
Born: Wakefield, Yorkshire.
Occupations: Engineer and professional motor-cyclist.



A miner's son - a gritty, skilful Yorkshireman with a deceptively casual manner. He began racing in I967 - Volocette then on BSA and Yamaha specials tuned and 'framed' by the famous Jim Lee. The 'initials' "JL" still emb;azoned on Mick's helmet are his tribute to his early sponsor.
From I97I-74 Mick was winning a races and breaking records at all the main British Circuits, especially at Cadwell where he has an unrivalled International tally. He gave John Player Nortons and their first International win xxx at Scarborough in I972, and completed that year as 350cc ACV champion, also 2nd, in 500cc and 4th. in 250cc ACV series. He was 3rd.in Junior and Senior TTs. In I973 he was sponsored by John Davidson, a Scottish manufacturer and proved his talent with such displays as double Ist at both Scarborough meetings: at theSnetherton and Malory Internationals: and four wins at the Brands HutchinsonI00: plus2nd place on a John Player Norton in the f.750 TT, at I02.56 race speed, featuring with race-winner Peter Williams in the BBC's "Power-bike" documentary. I974 saw Mick's first win on the TTs. - in the production race on the legendary "slippery sam"Triumph Trident:" plus two 2nds in the lightweigh and Junior TTs followed by the Scarborough International Gold Cup and the first I00mph lap at Snetterton. A strong I.O.M. protagonist, Mick is Vice-President of the TTs Supporters Club, (Mick Hailwood is president) and his finaest year has been I975 on his works 500/750cc Kawasakis under Stan Shento's guidance.

DEAR BUTTER (as opposed to MARGE)

Dear Butter,

I don't have any problems. What shall I do?

signed,
Straight.

Butter says: Invent one or I'll be defunct.

Dear Butter,

everyone calls me an angel. What can I do?

signed,
Gabriel (4T)

Butter says: Join the George Polhill Fan Club.

Dear Butter,

in court I was asked if I had a criminal record - I said'no' but I do in fact own Jimmy Osmonds' Greatest Hits. Does thi qualify?

signed,
Donny.

Butter says: Yes.

SPORTS PAGE

Edited by MARK SPEARING 4T

BASKETBALL

U/I2 V. John Griffiths won I6-4
U/I2 V. Elliott lost I8-I0
Senior V. Henry Compton lost 32-22
U/I3 V. Battersea County Lost 38-30
U/I2 V. Battersea County ~~County~~ lost 26-24
U/I3 V. Pimlico lost 56-55
U/I3 V. John Griffiths won 46-I7

RUGBY
Fixtures V. St. Marylebone
Ist. XV won I8-0
U/I5 lost 30~~-0~~
U/I4 lost 34-0
U/I3 lost 22-8
U/I2 lost 50-0

U/I2 Rugby 7s
Morden beat London Nautical in final 4-0

U/I4 Rugby 7's
Beaufey beat Morden in Final

Fixtures V, Kenmal Manor
Ist XV lost 24~~-I8~~
2nd. XV won 24-0
U/I4 lost I8-0
U/I3 won 72~~-0~~
U/I2 won I6-6

Soccer
U/I4 Cup Quarter Final v. Catford won 3-0
U/I5 v. Southfields (league) lost 3-2
U/I6 2nd XI v. Spencer Park (league) lost 5-2
U/I2 v. William Collins Morden Trophy Semi-Final won 4-0
U/I2 v. Archbishop Tennyson in Final won 2-I on penalties
U/I4 v. St. Micheals Morden Trophy semi-final won 3-0
U/I4 v. Clapham College in Final won 2-I on penalties

Fixtures v. Battersea County
U/I5 drew 3-3
U/I4 won I2~~-I~~
U/I3a won 9-0
U/I3b won 4-3.

GNU ENTERPRISES
PRESENT
"APRIL FOOLS" CONCERT
Wands. Sch. (Main Hall) 30p.

ROWING ROWING ROWING
This afternoon two crews from Wands. School will be competing in the School's Head of the River Race. In this race the 200 odd eights and fours race in procession against the clock, starting off one after another at I0secs. intervals. You might find yourself overtaking a couple of slower crews, or being overtaken by a faster one, or just rowing in a "vacuum", with no other crews at all. The course is I$\frac{3}{4}$miles from Hammersmith to Putney, and, if you get a fresh breeze blowing against a fast tide, can be a rough and uncomfortable journey. Wandsworth are represented by a four from the 4th. year and from the 5th. year. Both crews have been training very hard since September under Messers Mason and O'Farrell, running, weight lifting and rowing in all weathers. The standard of the competition is high - a few weak strokes in the ~~middle~~ middle of the course can mean losing a few places in the finishing order. A good result in this race would be an encouraging start at the season for both crews so let's hope for a good result.

Wandsworth School Fencing Report

Since the last report, G.Evans of 4M had qualified from the London section Age Group to the National Age Group Finals U/I6. He was unfortunately knocked out in the 2nd. round. His results were

	V.	D.	Pos.
Ist. round			
	3	2	3rd.
2nd. "			
	I	4	5th.

Last Wednesday, 9th. March, Wands. Fencers went to Moor Park to fence against Merchant Taylors School. This match turned out to be a close victory for Wandsworth with the final score being Wandsworth I9 and MTS I7. The teams consisted of three teams of three foil and one team Epee, the individual results of each team were

	V.	D.
Ist Foil	3	6
2nd Foil	8	I
3rd Foil	6	3
Ist Epee	2	7