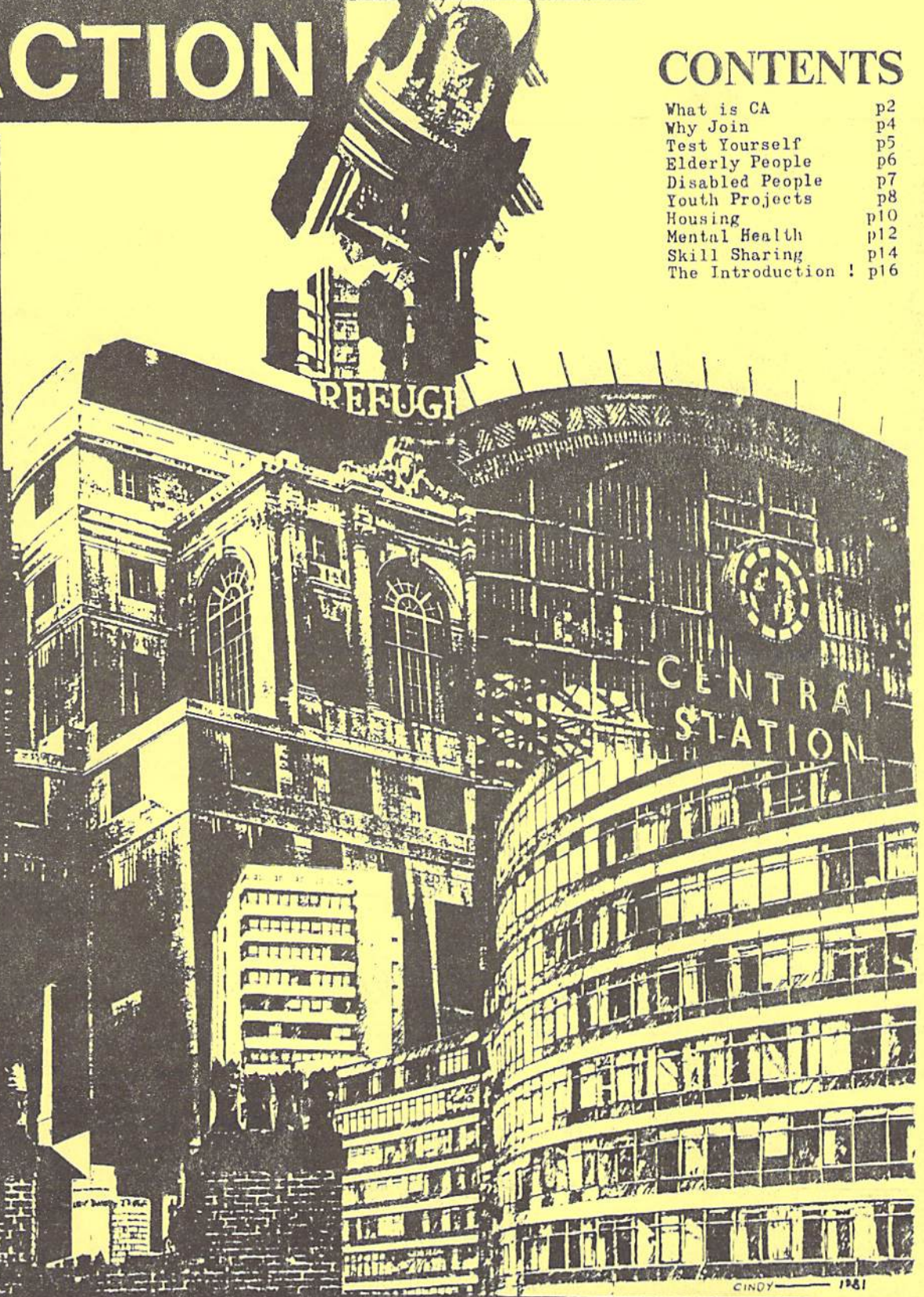


COMMUNITY ACTION

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ACTION GUIDE

C.A. is about being involved and having contact with people. It's about visiting old people, teaching people to read and write or improve their maths; helping kids at youth clubs and adventure playgrounds, or making sandwiches for the Night Shelter residents.

It's about ACTION now to help people help themselves!

Community Action is not about token efforts or do-gooding. It's not about salving consciences. It's about recognising problems in our society and trying to do something about them. It's about being involved and caring - and most importantly TAKING ACTION.

if you think we've got the right idea, but you don't know where to start, come up to the Community Action Office and find some ideas which will get you out meeting people. With all of our projects we encourage people to find out what's going on before they make any commitment to come along every week (or every two weeks). If you've never been to a

psychiatric hospital or played on an adventure playground come along to C.A. and we can arrange it before you can say "Beam me up, Scottie". Don't be afraid about not being able to find the time because of course work and exams. We've had years of experience of fitting together the needs of the community alongside the needs of the university. Between us there's always enough time to do both! So..... don't hesitate, while you're still thinking about it, come up and see us now.

C.A.'s main aim is to create a more acceptable and caring society by helping people to help each other. In the long term we would like to make ourselves redundant, but until that time comes and whilst we are still being asked for help, there is a need for us and we have an important part to play.

C.A. acts as a link between students and the people of Manchester, and through projects involving both students and other members of the community, an attempt is made to raise awareness of other people's problems, and the chance of broadening experience is given.

EXAMS -- WILL REGULAR CA VOLUNTEERS BE EXEMPT ?

Top level administrators from both the Union and the Institute are discussing the possibility of exempting regular Community Action volunteers from their exams. In this unexpected move UMIST appears to be showing its appreciation of the splendid contribution to the community that students have made over the past years.

Moreover reports from the Palace suggest that the Duke of Edinburgh has also, unofficially, lent support to the revolutionary idea. Speaking, we assume, of the CA activists he is reputed to have said, "They have suffered enough already"

Our inside sources tell us that meetings to discuss the 'no-exam' proposals are being held regularly, but that no final decision is expected until next July. Until then, students are advised to proceed with their studies as usual.

But why take risks for next year ? Get involved with CA today !

(with thanks to Salford CA's paper)

NO EXAMS !

The basic qualification you will need for these volunteer jobs is a concern for other people: the willingness to listen, to understand and to accept other people without criticising them (though you may be highly critical of some things they DO). The technical knowledge can and will follow when it is required. The workers within various projects can help you with points of detailed information for you to use and pass on to others.

The Organisation

C.A. differs in many respects from the other groups within the Union. We do not offer you unlimited quantities of free beer or pretty little membership cards, because we are not a club, society, learned body or the like - we have no membership fee, for instance.

We feel that by being a member of this Union, you are automatically a member of Community Action - whether or not you participate is your choice!!! WE HOPE YOU'LL TAKE IT.

C.A. can be viewed as a volunteers' bureau, an information centre, and a pressure group to get things moving both within the Students' Union and within the local community.

We have no hierarchical structure and no set policy on what we think about various issues. C.A. is composed of individuals who are involved for numerous reasons and D4 is a place where you can air your views without fear of offending anyone!

D4 is C.A.'s base - it is at the top of the stairs, turn right, in the Students Union building. Our phone number is 6 (from outside the Union)-36, and no ideas, offers of help, enthusiasm are rejected.



P.S. If you're a UMIST student over 21 and have a three-year clean driving licence, then you can drive the mini-bus, and you're a resource we badly need.



OUR OFFICE

Community Action has an open membership and thus the facilities and resources that are at our disposal are open to all. It is important to note that C.A. is not just about using your time and energy. We too can provide resources - it's a two way process; any information, facilities or contacts that we have, we can pass on to you. But remember, we are as interested in what you have to offer us, as you may be interested in what we can offer you.

First off, C.A. employs a full-time worker, Paul, who co-ordinates the different projects, answers the telephone and tries to keep the filing system in order (amongst many other things),

The resources split into two types, firstly facilities for use; secondly useful information and contacts. Under facilities, we have our own office with telephone, access to artwork, poster and leaflet-making facilities, printing and photo-copying machines and a 12-seater minibus. Lastly, but very importantly, an efficient kettle and a constant supply of tea-bags and coffee!

Our Newsletter Communiqué

Every month we produce our own newsletter. If you give us your name and Hall address, you will get a copy delivered free every month. Even better, would you like to report, headline, edit, layout, or tackle the technicalities of printing? Well then, come along and see Phil, the Editor. Don't worry about that Grip upstart - we get the stories that matter first !!!

Introducing Community Action's NEW RESOURCE CENTRE

We now subscribe to over thirty-five local and national magazines; they cover issues right across the board, from Civil Rights to Mental Health; from voluntary activities to nuclear power and more importantly they are here for YOU to read.

We also have a growing book collection which, like the magazines, cover many topics of concern to CA activists. Again, these books are available for you to read. Finally, we have also begun collecting pamphlets, leaflets and information sheets on a wide variety of issues, including: racism, women's politics, education and much, much more.

Below is a list of the magazines we currently subscribe to: if you have any suggestions as to other publications, please let us know. Thanks.

NATIONAL MAGAZINES

- RIGHTS! (Newspaper of National Council of Civil Liberties)
- PEACE NEWS (for non-violent revolution)
- SOCIAL WORKER TODAY
- NEW SOCIETY
- MINDOUT (National Association for Mental Health)
- SCRAM (Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace)
- UNDERCURRENTS (Magazine of Radical Alternatives & Community Technology)
- SCAN (National C.A. Newsletter)
- COMMUNITY ACTION (politics of Community Action)
- NATIONAL STUDENT
- CAMERA WORK
- THE LEVELLER
- SPARE RIB (Women's Politics)
- INVOLVE
- ROOF (Shelters' Housing Magazine)
- ROUGH JUSTICE (Homelessness Magazine)
- SELF HELP HOUSING

LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

- INFORMATION BULLETIN (G.M. Council for Voluntary Service)
- VOLUNTARY ACTION MANCHESTER (Manchester C.V.S.)
- UMIST TIMES
- GRIP (of course)
- HEALTH LINK (Manchester Community Health Council)
- CONTACT (Civic Trust for the N.W.)
- MARC TIMES (Manchester Area Resource Centre)
- G.M.C.H.A.R. (Campaign for Single Homeless)
- 42ND STREET (Manchester Community Mental Health Project)
- MIND NEWS (Manchester Association for Mental Health)
- LIFELINE NEWSLETTER (Lifeline Drug Advice)
- COUNTYWIDE (Greater Manchester County)
- MANCUNION (City of Manchester)
- LINK-UP & LEARNING EXCHANGES (Linkup)
- MANCUNION MOSIAC (Manchester Council for Community Relations)
- HARD TIMES (Manchester Play Resource Unit)
- LEVENSHULME POST)
- WHAT'S ON IN HULME)
- CHEETHAM CALLING)
- WITHINGTON REPORTER)

Community Newspapers

THE RESOURCE CENTRE
"COME UP AND SEE IT SOME TIME"
OUTSIDE THE C.A. OFFICE

INFORMATION IS POWER... PASS IT ON!



HOW DOES THE WAR ON POVERTY?

I'M WINNING!



THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN SO MANY BEGGARS IN THE STREETS?



THEY'RE LOSING!



"COME TO THE PEACE AND QUIET of the C.A. RESOURCE UNIT (outside the C.A. office)"

EXCUSES!



AND ANSWERS ↓

1. You can do a lot in a year, not only helping people who need it, but seeing another side to life in this country.

2. This applies to anything you'd rather concentrate on - but an extra couple of hours a week helping on an adventure playground is useful AND keeps you fit.

3. The classic excuse. As above it need only take a couple of hours a week, it's just a matter of priority. If you can't afford the time now, it's unlikely that you ever will.

4. We're all here to get a degree. But you can get so much more from University than just a degree, and the experience you can gain with C.A. and the things you will learn will make you think and develop your mind more than any textbook can. An education in the true sense of the word.

5. There are lots of ills in society, and if you go to 'help out' at some project neglected by the authorities, such as a Soup Run or at a mental hospital, and leave it at that, you are in fact helping to maintain those ills. But if you care enough you won't leave it at that - you'll want to do something to change the situation - and that's a political decision.

6. If you mean we don't spend our time sitting round discussing Marx, then you're right and we don't want to change that. But we're aware that we're not perfect! and we have to get involved yourself - we'll need your help to change it.

7.'dump' estates, homeless families, lack of facilities for kids, dossers, out of touch councillors, huge empty office blocks....

8. Is this question worth answering?

Mark:

"Can you imagine sleeping under a railway arch, which is damp, life-infested cold and obviously unfit for, for what? We put men in a hole such as this, and the other Nightshelter is not much better!

Community Action aims to inform students of the problems within Manchester. Housing for example, is a CRISIS situation within our city. Old people are often left alone to fend for themselves and "rest in peace"; and as for the Handicapped - why should we have to wait for a special year before anything gets done?! These are three areas in which I am involved particularly, although informing people is only the first step.

In a university of over 4,000 students, we can make a great impression on Manchester, and through the COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICE students can be linked with community projects - projects that are of direct benefit to the old people, to the kids, to the physically and mentally handicapped, to the mentally ill, to the single-parent families. You and I can help these people directly by committing our time. "

Mel:

"I joined C.A. at the beginning of the year with no real knowledge of how it worked and what went on. Since then lots of projects have started and interest has grown a great deal.

I think C.A. is necessary, an essential part of the Union as it provides a link between UMIST and the City of Manchester. It is very easy for students to lose touch with what goes on outside Manchester but through C.A. a channel is kept open for students to join in the life of the city.

At the same time we want people to enjoy themselves. It's no good if people don't enjoy it as they stop being a good influence or a good worker in a project. No one is forced to take full responsibility for a project because it has to fit in with the course, so everything is kept in moderation. You can choose how much time you want to put into it.

I enjoy C.A. as it gives you a chance to socialise with students, while at the same time you can feel you're doing something worthwhile and that other people are grateful for the effort you put into it. "

so you think you are aware....?

DO YOU REALLY CARE?

HOW AWARE ARE YOU ?

Test yourself with these questions.
The ratings are at the bottom of the page.

Q1. If you see someone lying in the middle of the road, would you:

- (a) Walk on past and ignore them.
- (b) Get help if you were the only person nearby.
- (c) Get help anyway. (Come on, be honest).

Q2. Your next-door neighbour is a little old lady who keep herself to herself. Do you:

- (a) Respect her privacy and don't interfere.
- (b) Pull the legs off her cat and grease her path.
- (c) Check on her from time to time so see that she's alright.
- (d) Know her nearest relations/doctor in case of emergency. (you're only fooling yourself, you know)

Q3. A dossier asks you for the price of a cup of tea. Do you:

- (a) Tell him to bog off.
- (b) Report him for begging and loitering.
- (c) Insist you have no money on you.
- (d) Take him to a cafe and buy him a cup of tea.
- (e) Launch into the ins and outs of claiming social security.
- (f) Give him the money and tell him to bog off.

Q4. How do you react to someone having an epileptic fit in the street. Would you:

- (a) Hold them down.
- (b) Put a handkerchief in their mouth to give them something to bite on.
- (c) Make sure they're not in any immediate danger, and leave them to get over it.
- (d) Phone for an ambulance.
- (e) Leave them alone.

Q5. You are walking home at night and notice a car kerb-crawling beside a woman who is trying to ignore the people in the car. Would you:

- (a) Follow at a distance.
- (b) Throw a brick at the car and run.
- (c) Offer to walk with the girl to her home.
- (d) Run and phone the police.
- (e) Ignore the situation.

Q6. Some kids slash the tyres on your bike. Do you:

- (a) Throw bricks at them.
- (b) Report them to the police.
- (c) Resign yourself and try to bike off nonchalantly.
- (d) Try to get hold of the kids who did it and reason with them as to why they shouldn't do it.

Q7. You are asked to share a room in a hall with a foreign student. Do you:

- (a) Ask to be moved.
- (b) Introduce him/her to fish and chips.
- (c) Find out how to make a decent vindaloo.
- (d) Take him/her under your wing and show the sights of Manchester.

Q8. There is a painful sounding row going on next door. Do you:

- (a) Turn up the stereo.
- (b) Phone the police.
- (c) Thump on the wall.
- (d) Go round and try to placate the argument.
- (e) Wait and see what happens.

Q9. Someone in a wheelchair turns up at a disco. Do you:

- (a) Think "what a looney".
- (b) Think "what a good idea" and get one yourself.
- (c) Carry on as usual.
- (d) Offer to get a drink from the bar.

Open-top bus!

Part of the Freshers' Week programme includes a coach tour of rainy Manchester. And for the more lively of you there will be the CA open-top bus, doing the same route but having more fun. First come, first on-board.

scores:

- Q1. (a)3, (b)3, (c)1
 Q2. (a)2, (b)3, (c)1, (d)4.
 Q3. (a)3, (b)3, (c)2, (d)2, (e)4, (f)2
 Q4. (a)3, (b)3, (c)1, (d)1, (e)3, (f)4
 Q5. (a)1, (b)3, (c)2, (d)4, (e)2.
 Q6. (a)3, (b)3, (c)2, (d)4.
 Q7. (a)3, (b)2, (c)1, (d)4.
 Q8. (a)2, (b)2, (c)1, (d)4, (e)1
 Q9. (a)3, (b)2, (c)1, (d)4.

how well
did you do?
**TURN TO
BACK PAGE**

'OLD PEOPLE NEED YOUNG PEOPLE'

Imagine you are housebound - you can't get out to the shops, the cinema, the pub, but most importantly, you've no-one to talk to. For many people this isn't an imaginary situation - it's real. The Old People's Christmas Party which we run is proof of how much it means to an elderly person to have a Friend. But is once a year enough? There are always people to visit if you want to spend an hour or so befriending an old person. We get phone calls from old people who've been to our Christmas Party, asking if we know somebody who could just come and talk with them - loneliness and boredom can be killers - so we never want to say no. Visiting is not the only thing we can do, we can also take them out to the theatre or to the countryside, help do odd jobs, or the gardening. In whatever hall of residence you live we can guarantee that there will be an old person who would like to see you within 5 minutes of where you live!!

PARTY WINS!

If C.A. ever gets into the Guinness Book of Records it must surely be for the lightning speed with which it transported about 180 old people to UMIST and back home again for the OAP's Christmas Party which took place (in case anyone hadn't noticed) on Wednesday, 10th December between 2p.m. and about 6.p.m.

The planning took ever so slightly longer - in fact about 6 weeks. Way back in October, a meeting was held at which everyone who entered the room was pounced upon by Paul and "persuaded" to help. (Sorry, dearest, didn't mean it). And so it was that a bunch of victims emerged with the job of organising transport, entertainment, food and donations. Some of us spent hours up in the C.A. Office wearing out our fingers running through the yellow pages to find likely scrounging victims, others sat hunched over the A-Z book planning out routes for drivers, whilst still more set about finding entertainers to keep everyone happy for about 3 hours.

Despite a few headaches and minor panics, the whole organisation went very well. The great day arrived and so did the happy pensioners, totally oblivious of the frenzy going on in the wings. The food which had all been prepared that morning (the crusts were nice weren't they Phil?) was kept back until about quarter to five - this proved to be a bit unpopular with some of the old folks who apparently had not eaten any lunch in anticipation of a feast! As fast as the goodies were dished out, they disappeared into mouths, or doggy bags bought along especially for the occasion.

If you think you might be one of the team of lunatics who will be running the party next year (and let me tell you it's fun) reflect on this, for some of the old people we invite, the Christmas Party is one of the few times they get out. We get phone calls from old people as early as August asking us not to forget them, when we deliver the invitations. So if you can drive, make sausage rolls, sing, dance, dress up as Father Christmas, deliver Invitations, write convincing scrounging letters to local firms then make sure you tell us so!



O.A.P. MOBILISATION

Like it or not, many of Manchester's old folk have definitely been mobilised this year - not through any "CA Wonder Pill" or the odd bit of surgery, but by a few of us getting together with a minibus and a picnic and transporting our friends out of the city.

Project Mobilization is a new project which started this year. It involves taking OAPs out on minibus trips to the countryside.

As a result of the Old Peoples' Christmas Party we have a large list of over 200 potential "Hell's Grannies" just waiting to be mobilised. In fact, WE name the place and THEY want to come - Disley, Lyme Park, Styal, Tatton Park, and yesterday we went on an expedition to BLACKPOOL. We can guarantee that YOU will be given a great time.

All have been a resounding success and we have as much fun (if not more) than the old folk. The organisation is easy, so if you are interested, please call in and name a place - we can book you a van and driver and put you in touch with as many elderly Mancunions as you can cope with!

Hopefully, this is a project that can really get going this year - especially if some "older" students would like to do some van driving. You need to be 21 or over, with a "relatively" clean driving licence, and three year's driving experience. It's great fun once you master it and all help will be greatly appreciated.

IT'S UP TO YOU !!!

Trevor Butlin

"My Dear Friends,

I write to thank each one who took my two friends, also myself on the beautiful outing in the coach to Blackpool. We all had a very nice time and the weather was good too. May I give you very special thanks to Elizabeth for the lovely cake and sandwiches she so kindly made for us, which we all enjoyed. Please convey my thanks to Mark, Two Davids, I have just forgotten the other gentleman's name. Please remember me to Andreas. God bless you all.

Lots of love, May.

P.S. Will write again soon. Hope you all keep well. "

ACCESS CAMPAIGN



Ann McAviney is helped up the steps of the Barnes Wallis building in her wheelchair, watched by Tomi Bruno (at revolving doors), Mark Patchett and Paul Robertson.

Open up campus to 'forgotten' students

This year, the United Nations has deemed, is the International Year of Disabled People. It was decided that at Community Action we ought to take part in the implementing of any of the aims of the Year which we could. The U.N. has set out four broad aims:

1. Increasing awareness of the needs, abilities and aspirations of the disabled people.
2. The participation, equality and integration of disabled people.
3. The prevention of disability.
4. More positive attitudes towards disabled people.

A group of us set about interpreting this and relating the aims to UMIST. It was decided that what was generally needed was awareness of the disabled as people. To bring about this awareness, a week was set aside to concentrate our activities which would be based around a campaign to implement a report, now two years old, which was carried out by C.A. and the Welfare Office, which detailed minor changes which were needed to make our campus accessible to wheelchair users. The campaign was also aimed at making IYDP and its aims known to students and was to involve 7 students going around the campus in wheelchairs to show others the difficulties involved and to publicise a General Meeting motion on Thursday of the week, calling for the report to be implemented.

EIGHT able-bodied students confined themselves to wheelchairs to prove that Manchester University was a "no-go" area for the disabled.

They are campaigning for work to be done — which two years ago would have cost £10,000 — to open up the campus at UMIST to the disabled.

The eight members of the university's Community Student Action Group attended lectures for three days in wheelchairs.

And their verdict was only minor changes needed to be carried out for wheelchair students to study normally.

At the moment, said 18-year-old management scientists student Paul Robertson, there are no wheelchair students because life would be impossible for them.



International Year of
Disabled People

The Logo chosen by the United Nations represents two people holding hands in solidarity and support of each other: it reflects equality, hope and support.

Other C.A. activities with IYDP have been a talk with Dave Rodgers, who is himself disabled, which brought over to at least some, the problems of access. Also a slide and tape presentation in S.A.H. during campaign week, concerning the personal experience of a disabled person.

A major project has been organised with the Polytechnic and the Manchester IYDP office to stage long-term integrated social events on a Friday night at Cavendish House (Poly Union) starting with a special launch, but hopefully continuing into natural integration on a long-term basis.

We are still trying to set up a combined physically-able/handicapped sports event, with the Athletic Union participating.

Any other ideas, comments, questions, see Paul R., Mark P., Fay, Julie or come to the C.A. Office.
PAUL R.

It is quite easy to help old people - most of them are grateful.

It may be harder to help disabled people or tramps - "We can manage thank you", they'll say.

But what about kids?

Not toddlers, but kids assured enough to know what they want and expect to get it. Noisy brats! Vicious vandals! Little b*s*a*d*. But they're depraved you know. Keep them off the streets, out of sight. Happiness is..... tarmac surrounded by a wire fence?

There will always be new kids, always fresh energy. Ready to pull the rug from under your feet. To let down your tyres. So next time two aged punks meet and complain about the kids of today - no sense of values you know - sit back and wonder.

So what do we do with kids? Perhaps we could run beside them, but could we take the pace?

KID'S STUFF

There are many varied types of activities involving kids. "Kids" themselves, as you may have noticed, range from toddlers to teenagers. Activities are usually on a specific, narrower range of kids, for example infants, because children need different types of attention and activities at different ages.

Projects with kids can be either regular, for example a playgroup, or "one-offs" like a summer camp in the Lakes. The following is a list of different kinds of activity with kids. It isn't complete because there are dozens of projects in the Manchester area. We have up-to-date details in the office which you should look at for more information.

Toddlers: Play groups - usually informally organised by parents.

Nurseries - more formal, may be Social Services.

Pre-teen: Youth clubs - usually 8-14ish age range. May have a paid worker. Sports, dancing, social events.

Late teen: Wimpys! also some Youth Clubs, groups. Pubs.

There are also groups like the Girl Guides but they aren't really in our line of business (though more details could be got from Scout and Guide things via the Students Union).

But we do organise (jointly with Owens C.A.) Kids Camps for those of you who don't have a deep desire to dress up in uniforms, along with like-minded kids. Last year there were two Camps. The first, a 50-50 mix of handicapped and able-bodied kids on an adventure week in the Lakes. The second was in North Wales, during the summer vacation.

Finally, we run our own Kids projects:- these can be getting school children to look around UMIST campus, running our own kids Disco or setting up a play-group. If you read on you will find out about these projects in much more detail.

There is a shortage of places for kids to play in the area to the south side of Chorlton, especially around Stockton Road where the battered wives refuge is situated.

A summer playscheme has been running for several years with some student help. We approached Noel and Sandra and some of the other parents who had been involved in the playscheme and asked if they thought it would be a good idea to run a playgroup during the rest of the year. And so "Stockton Road Primary Club" was born. Although Noel and Sandra do all the day-to-day organisation now, we put in quite a bit



of work to get it started. This consisted mainly of pestering people for grants to buy equipment and pay rent, and chasing round to find a room to hold it in. The search for premises was harder than expected - the Co-op was too far away, the Liberal Club were thinking of selling up, the Catholics floor had exploded (something to do with damp parquet?!) and the scouts weren't insured for outsiders, and the Buddhists said kids didn't give good vibes!

Despite all the early setbacks, we started up last year, and things are going pretty smoothly now. Although the playgroup is designed not to depend on students, our help is very much appreciated as well as any new ideas for activities. Playing with twenty-odd kids for a couple of hours can be a shattering experience, but you'll enjoy every minute of it - it's great fun to let your hair down and pretend to be young again! Seriously though, it's much easier to communicate with kids than psychiatric patients or homeless people, and there's no need to commit yourself to coming regularly, so coming to the playgroup is an ideal introduction to C.A.'s work.

SUE HALFPENNY.

C.A.'s Uni-tours.....

We're also concerned that kids from under-privileged areas get a chance to see round the university. We need people to help organise tours of UMIST so that they can see some of the uses of science and technology. It's often the only chance they'll get of seeing round our ivory tower. If you can help us set them up come up to D4!!

FOR ALL THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN NOT STAND
WORLD OF SPORT OR GRANDSTAND - WE NOW
HAVE SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

9

How do you feel about working with kids ?
You love them ? Great ! Well, read on.
Every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4 we run a disco
for kids up to 13 years old in the hall next door to
St Gabriel's Hall and opposite Hulme Hall.
"Socials" (a wonderful and loveable bunch of people -
that includes us) supply the disco equipment and DJ,
and we (the helpers) set it up, take it down, mingle
with the kids and help them to enjoy themselves, sell
crisps, pop, sweets, and generally fool around.

Unfortunately numbers have dropped due to the
Disco's original venue being condemned - a slight
case of dry rot ! We are hoping to build it up to
about 100 and hope that the Disco enjoys the success
it originally did.

The Disco was set up to enable parents to get
rid of their kids for an afternoon, and also for the
kids to escape from their parents. It has been
running for about 2 years now and we would like it
to run for a few more yet ! But to do that IT needs
YOUR help. So come along and say hello - we will be
very glad to see you. Look for us in the CA office.

Good luck in your first year at UMIST, don't
worry, we have survived it.

Love, Denise and Katie
XXXX

If you answered "Can't stand them" to the
original question, there is always the film on BBC 2.

Views of the Prestwich Project

Once a week the routine on the "adolescent
unit" at Prestwich Hospital is disrupted, when the
teenagers are taken to Duchy House in Salford to a
Youth Club, still in its infancy. We thought the
best people to tell you about it were the people
involved, so we asked Andrew (Aged 14) and the two
nurses Jan and Pete, how they saw the Youth Club.

"Every Tuesday is Youth Club day as there is nothing
more important happening. We always ask what we
are going to do, but nobody usually knows till we
get there. Two members of the staff come with us,
Janusz and Pete and some indispensable students, Simon,
Ann and Simon who play table-tennis, darts and play
records. Some weeks we have a disco, which is most
people's favourite (especially Leny!)
Tonight we had a discussion with 42nd street and in
the future we hope to have more interesting visitors.
In the future, we have plans to visit theatres, see
concerts, form our own band, and perhaps take over the
world !"

Andrew D. Leary.

"Oh well, it's Tuesday again, all the kids are
complaining that they don't want to go and once they
get there, not wanting to come back. Well, all I
can say is luxury - we didn't have Youth Clubs when
we were kids - they ought to be damn grateful - oh
yea, students, oh God not more students - can't do
anything without falling over one of the bloody
students....."

Pete

"Well I think the kids are absolutely wonderful,.....
enthusiastic, pleasant, jolly and ever so kind and
helpful. And as for those devoted students...well
words fail me!! My, how I do enjoy Tuesday evenings.
Bye,

Janusz.

And so do we!

YOUTH PROJECTS



GINGERBREAD is a nationally organised
self-help association for one parent families.
Their aims are to draw one parent families
together to share the problems they face and
to socialise, to draw attention to the
difficulties facing one parent families and
to try to change the attitudes and laws
regarding them.

The South Manchester group have recently
approached us for help. They have regular
meetings twice a month and need people to
babysit so that parents can have a chance to
attend the meetings and new members have a
chance to join. So they are looking for
people who would be willing to babysit for
them at least twice a month on a fairly
regular basis - the first and the last Tuesday
in each month. This means of course that
there would be at least two evenings a month
when you will have no distractions and no
excuse not to do a little work.

If you are interested then pop into the CA
Office, D4, anytime and have a chat about the
project with Paul Baker, Sue Halfpenny or
myself.

Please do consider this seriously. Imagine
what it would be like not to be able to go
out and meet people, or just spend an evening
down the pub with a few mates. Two evenings
a month isn't a lot to ask, really, is it ?

Sophie



Don't be just
"Another BRICK in
the wall" !



SALFORD WELFARE RIGHTS

The Welfare Rights Stall has been operating in Salford Market for the past eight years.

It provides free advice and information on all manner of problems; housing, employment, tax, benefits, redundancy, etc., and is an informal way for people to find out their rights.

Most people, and Salfordians are no exception, often feel bewildered and intimidated by the bureaucracy of officialdom. A market stall is informal and the "positive, helpful attitude" (hopefully!) of the volunteers encourages people to ask for advice when otherwise they might not have bothered.

No appointments are necessary - it's as easy as doing your shopping!

The stall goes out on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and enquiries at the stall average about seventy on Saturdays and fifty on Wednesdays. The people that man the stall are all volunteers and about half are students.

Each day is split into three shifts, of a couple of hours each, and a shift has two volunteers at a time.

New volunteers are needed all the time and training sessions are arranged, as and when people feel they want them - but you learn as you go along on the stall.

Cheers.

CAROLINE CATERMOLE.
Welfare Rights Organiser.

student HOUSING

As a student, you will also be requiring a new place to live from time to time, and may need a bit of technical advice about landlord hassles on the odd occasion. There is scope for developing a service of students advising other students on housing matters. We have the information and help you would need for such a group, and we have records of similar groups previously at UMIST and around the country. There are roughly 60,000 students in Manchester and half live away from home, which explains why there are so many private landlords still in Manchester, when they have left other areas such as Rochdale. Landlords like students because they all have an income, so that three students living together will have more money than a family of three with one person working. Students are also a mobile population, which means that the landlord doesn't need to worry about someone living there as long as usual. It is easier to put the rent up if there is a new group of tenants every year. To many people, students are no better than bad-mannered tourists - they force up the prices and crowd out the buses! Your involvement in your community with the help of Community Action will give you an extra and sincere reward while you are at University, establishing many lasting friendships and proving to some of the people of Manchester that students aren't all bad.

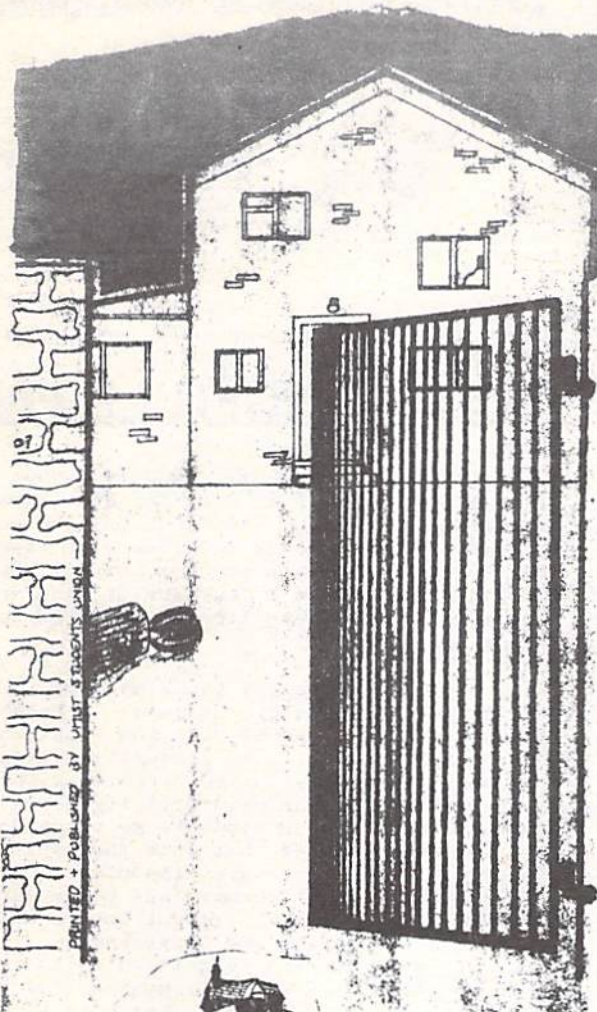
HOMELESS

HOUSING HOMELESSNESS TENANTS RIGHTS NIGHT
SHELTERS CRASH PADS PROTECTED TENANCIES
RESTRICTED TENANCIES HARD TO LETS PRIORITY
NEED DAY CENTRES ARREARS CONTROL GROUP
HOMES ADVICE AGENCIES EMPTY PROPERTY
SHORT LIFE UNITS REHABILITATION STATUTORY

The list could go on and on! All this jargon, yet most of us have somewhere to live - If it is all so complicated how on earth did we manage?

There are so many answers to that question. Firstly, when looking for somewhere to live we need money for deposits, rent in advance, moving in costs and lots of other little things. Secondly, we need help from friends or relatives who can drive vans or cars to move furniture, help carry beds upstairs and so on. Thirdly we need information - we need to know where a possible empty flat is, perhaps a friend is moving out, a slip of paper from the Accommodation Office, a Students' Handbook with advice on finding and keeping somewhere to live. And fourthly we need time. Time to look around, to bargain with the landlord or landlady, to collect furniture, to book vans and to get friends along.

So, to find somewhere to live we need money, friends who can help, information and plenty of time. Yet there are many people within our community who lack one or more of these "door keys" - they are as important as your front door key for getting into a home of your own. So there exist places like the Night Shelter for homeless people, mainly men, over 25 years old.



Manchester Night Shelter

A short extract from the Night Shelter Annual Report:-

"Over the last year the staff at the Nightshelter have become more aware of the ways in which the Shelter may well be actually harming the interests of its users. The particularly pernicious problems are the gradual gnawing away of the users' motivation to improve their position; institutionalisation owing to the lack of independence and privacy; and the rapid onset of depression that often occurs when someone is forced to use this building. These are, in the main, caused by the conditions at the Shelter, namely that residents still :

- do not get adequate sleep;
- do not have any privacy or security;
- have to put up with unhygienic and sometimes noisy conditions;
- do not have adequate meals.

These conditions are inherent in such a large, unsuitable building. The decision to replace Manchester Night Shelter by a range of smaller accommodation was taken because it was so apparent that the building was actually causing problems."

This will be at least two years, so how can we help? Following a chat with a couple of the workers we realised that for little effort we can really help many of the men directly. So, on Sunday evenings we are now providing a meal for the men, we shall continue with our 'runs' to provide furniture and basic utensils for the men moving out into council flats, we shall set up an occasional working party next term to help clean the building up (as much as possible), and we shall try to run another jumble sale.

Comanche are also becoming involved providing cakes and biscuits, but the more students there are, the more we can do. Housing and Homelessness are very serious issues, but that doesn't stop us having a lot of fun - have you ever cooked a meal for over sixty men before? IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN OFFERING ANY TIME AT ALL, PLEASE CALL IN AT THE C.A. OFFICE - YOU NEEDN'T COMMIT YOURSELF, JUST COME AND FIND OUT!

MARK PATCHETT

The Night Shelter is an old almost derelict school. It is damp and sometimes smells. There aren't enough beds for everyone there - some men sleep in chairs and on tables. A doctor and volunteer nurse help part-time. The rent helps pay the staff wages who provide the essential support for the residents. However there is always more to be done - a meal instead of a cup of tea, taking a sick resident to the casualty department, simply listening to someone who wants to talk, organising fund - raising or planning special events for Christmas. A simple task for new volunteers which provides a gentle introduction to the squalor is buying the bread and filling for the butties, then selling them at cost price (literally only a few pence). With this a meal costs less than a cup of tea in a cafe in the centre of town. If this is all you could do to help them you might rightly feel next to useless. Fortunately as you get to know more about the residents, the Night Shelter and homelessness in general, you could start to develop your concern and thoughts in terms of, say, winning and providing a better form of home for people who have spent so many years there. Whatever else, it isn't true that there is nothing for you to do

PRINTED + PUBLISHED BY UJAT STUDENTS UNION



PSYCHIATRIC:

Our work with the Social Therapy dept. of Springfield Psychiatric Hospital has been going on for a number of years now, and is both enlightening and socially rewarding. Our activities in the past have included whist drives, pub crawls, play-reading groups, theatre visits, art groups, yoga sessions, etc., but there is scope for far more, dependent on people's interest and our commitment.

If you've never been to a psychiatric hospital, it is worth a visit. It is worth several visits to get to know the people who live there and to discover for yourself just why such an institution exists.

We leave UMIST Union, usually on Tuesdays, at six o' clock, and after a meal in the hospital canteen we go along to the Social Therapy department for the evening's activities. Before going home, a sociable drink in the hospital staff social club provides time for informal discussion and support and general throwing around of ideas.

But it is important to realise that, as with all voluntary work, your involvement benefits yourself as well: whatever help you give to an inmate of the hospital, you, yourself, can benefit just as much. So come along with your own welfare in mind, with a view to extending your experience of life by meeting with people whose histories may be so different to your own.

CONTACT KATH

A FIRST TIME VISIT

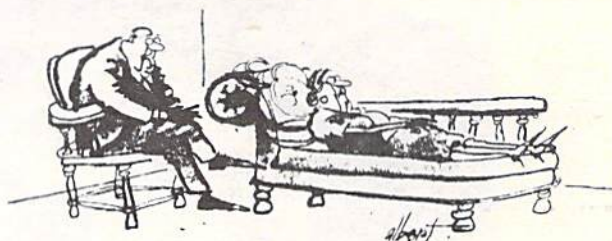
SPRINGFIELD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL:

"The rain had stopped by the time we got there. Springfield: it's a pretty grim-looking place that used to be a workhouse. "Some of the guests have been here since then", says Dave, matter-of-factly.

A meal in the staff canteen, then it's over to the social therapy department. The moment of truth, and there's no-one swinging from lampshades or burbling inanely. They are all genuinely pleased to see us. Annie produces a bundle of birthday cards from her friends. And so the evening whist drive begins.

As you rotate round the tables, you begin to get to know who's who. There's John, who never says a word, a Dr. John, who told me he was a Lieutenant-Colonel in India, Lord James, with his recently bestowed honour, and the excitable French lady who won the toffees.

Then it's bedtime for them and time for a much needed pint for us. These are the people that our society has chosen to reject and they are also the ones who need our help. Will you? ☺



"You're in need of more love, care and gentleness. Try changing your washing up liquid."

THE SPRINGFIELD PROJECT

Five million people annually (about 1 in 11) consult their G.P. for some form of mental illness. About 600,000 people receive specialist psychiatric services each year. But for such a common problem, mental health is still surrounded by an aura of ignorance and separation - keep 'them' away from us normal people.

The Social Therapy Department of Springfield Psychiatric Hospital in North Manchester is concerned with the treatment of the mentally ill, and Community Action has been involved with the department for some years now. The main activity is on a Tuesday evening when students go along for a whist drive and to chat with the patients. Pool and table tennis are also played. Other activities which may take place during the year include things like trips to the theatre, to the pub, and play-reading groups. What happens to a large extent depends upon the level of commitment of those who go along. Perks that come with the Tuesday evenings include a subsidised meal in the hospital canteen beforehand and a few drinks in the social club afterwards.

Most people suffering from mental illness have withdrawn into a world of their own. The hospital tries to counteract this by involving the patients in the day-to-day activities of the place, and by providing the facilities for crafts and interests such as candle-making, and a pets corner. These can help to some extent, but equally, or even more important, is providing the human contact which many of the patients lack. Some of the patients are in and out within a month, others, through old age and nowhere else to go will be there until they die, often without any relatives or friends to visit them. This is where you can help by coming along on a Tuesday evening. And, incidentally, you may find that you do yourself some good too by breaking down previous misconceptions and broadening your outlook on life.

Being a student can either be leading a very "narrow" life in which the only other people you come into contact with are students with very much the same background, life-style, etc., or, it can be a time for extending yourself so that you actually learn something about life before going into the big bad world to look for a job. Do come along, even if it's only once to see what a psychiatric hospital is like.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health is the phrase used to cover the areas of both Mental Handicap and Mental Illness. The two are in fact very different but between them form the twilight zone of the hospital service - getting under 20% of the budget for about half the patients and normally using out-dated facilities and buildings (ex-work-houses well set away from the local community are very popular).

Mental Handicap is associated with incomplete development of the brain. Some people become handicapped because of brain damage from accidents; others are born Mongols, but for the majority the exact cause of handicap is uncertain. Here the well-worn scientific argument between

genetic (i.e. from your parents) as against culturally/environmentally governed intelligence continues. Whatever causes mental handicap, it is permanent and normally is evident from early childhood.

Mental Illness on the other hand can afflict any of us. Some psychiatric illnesses, e.g. schizophrenia are supposed to be incurable, but most are capable of being tackled. The treatment of mental illness by drugs - as opposed to 'therapy' straight jackets or electric shock treatment is very much in vogue, although whether they have any genuine curative effect is uncertain. Much mental illness is associated with the breakdown of relationships with other people - this is where we as members of the community come in.

more details, **Mind**
newsletter

CAN WE FORGET?

One child in every 100 is born with some degree of handicap.

There are 1 million people in this country who are mentally handicapped, about one quarter severely so.

Mental handicap is not an illness - they cannot get better.

Mental handicaps occur in all sorts of degrees, sometimes they look 'different' e.g. mongolism, sometimes it is linked with physical handicaps, sometimes it is impossible to tell.

The mentally handicapped are mostly shut away either in institutions or in homes with no government help.

Less money is spent on the mentally handicapped per head than any other patient in the N.H.S.

The mentally handicapped are people with very real sincere needs and emotions who should not be ignored but helped and cared for.

New Venture Club -the mentally handicapped

For the first time (to my knowledge) Community Action has been involved in helping mentally handicapped people. The project started when an organiser of a self-help club for the mentally handicapped rang the office asking for a driver to take a minibus around North Manchester picking up the handicapped people from their homes to take them to a hall which the club uses, at Collyhurst.

From this request has sprung a very fulfilling project in many ways, with now up to six or seven students going along to the club which meets every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The project is successful because it is so easy to be so very useful. Between mentally handicapped people and the rest of the world is a massive void. Knowledge of the mentally handicapped is very limited and they are segregated throughout their life, only having contact with close family and teachers, other than other mentally handicapped people. This is such a shame because the mentally handicapped are extremely friendly, affectionate, and attention-seeking.

At the club the first part is taken up with 'activities'. These include painting, modelling, board games, etc. The second part usually takes the form of a disco with everybody "bopping" to the stereo.

At all times we are mixing, talking, and helping the members. This has the very useful side effect of freeing the mothers to sit back and have a yap and a cup of tea amongst themselves, as we take over. For the mothers this is possibly the only break they have from the constant watch and care which they devote to their children.

The club has between 10 and 20 members at any one time and is restricted by the fact that they have access to only two drivers and minibuses. The members are aged between 16 and 40 although this means nothing, as mental and physical age do not correlate at all.

If you would like to come along to see for yourself contact me (Marcella) in the C.A. Office at any time.

A second opportunity to fill the void that exists and help the mentally handicapped has now opened up. We have been contacted by the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children who require volunteers to help during the holidays by looking after mentally handicapped kids on holiday.

No experience is required, all expenses (board, lodgings, travel, etc.) are paid. You will only be required for two weeks. If you fancy helping out and in the meantime having a paid break and a fulfilling experience, contact me and I will give you further details.

SKILL SHARING ANYTHING TO OFFER?

A bit of a daunting title but the best we could think of. What this means is that we have skills, talents and other abilities that we might be able to share with others. After all there is no reason why Education should be a formal academic or competitive exercise, and we can all learn from each other. There are already some Community Action projects in this field, involving assisting with basic numeracy and literacy. We are involved with the NACRO (The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders) Education Unit (which there's an article on), with teaching English to immigrant women and with the Adult Literacy Project and if there's enough interest we can organise just about anything else we feel like !!!!!

Three accounts of working at

... NACRO

THE EDUCATION DAY CENTRE

It's Tuesday afternoon at the NACRO Education Unit. In a corner, two or three people are playing darts. The radio drones out the latest Piccadilly hits. People are draped in chairs, smoking or just talking to each other.

The maths workshop is due to start at 1 o'clock and the "euphemistically" called tutors are gathering in a huddle to split up to-day's pupils. The ratio of tutees to tutors varies from 1 : 1 to 4 : 1, from week to week and tutor to tutor. The maths standard varies from learning to count to a select group trying for O-levels.

I'm working with John this week - one of the students who has been coming for a long time. He started work yesterday, but is allowed time off to continue his maths. Over the full length of his time at NACRO he's improved beyond recognition. He comes now because he has learnt to enjoy mathematics, not be frightened of it.

You see, the same root causes, time and again, the initial failure to understand at school, teachers with either no time or no inclination to help the slower pupils, and the hardening of the pupil's attitude that "I can't do that".

The simple ability to check change in shops or on buses is an impossibility and the satisfaction that you can give to someone by giving them this ability is highly rewarding.

John and I go through square roots to-day and using square root tables. There's a coffee break half way through the afternoon, giving everyone a chance to talk.

At the end of the session at about 3.30, the tutors have a short meeting to discuss any problems they may have either with the books that are available or about

The Day Centre is based at the Education Unit in Hulme St., just off Oxford Rd. in Manchester. It is opened Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10.00am and 4.00pm and on Wednesday evenings between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

The courses offered at the Day Centre are designed to meet the needs of the individuals who come to the Centre so they may vary from time to time. The main topics covered are Reading and Writing, Maths, Basic Cooking and Domestic Skills, Welfare Rights, Job Hunting Skills, Social and Life Skills, Art, and House-hold repairs.

a particular pupil.

So what exactly is the NACRO Education Unit? NACRO stands for National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders and the Education Unit has been set up under the Local Education Authority to provide ex-offenders with the opportunity to learn some basic skills. Courses offered range from basic maths and English, through social skills (such as budgeting and cooking) to more esoteric pursuits, such as art and drama.

The Unit has four full-time workers whose jobs involve keeping the whole show on the road, and a number of volunteers who are the lifeblood of the unit.

What does being a volunteer involve? Probably the most important thing is commitment, wanting to share your accumulated knowledge with someone else and being prepared to turn up regularly. And it's not all one way: to feel someone learning as you teach them is an amazing sensation.

There are the bad times as well, when the pupil you thought was coming along well just disappears, never to be seen again, but the good times outweigh the bad.

If you want to volunteer, wander over to Hulme Street, just off Oxford Road and introduce yourself to the workers, Monday to Thursday 10 - 4 and tell them Alex sent you.

If you don't know Hulme Street, come up to C.A. office and we'll show you.



THE PROBLEM

One week I could be teaching a 16 year old how to spell 'friend' and the next I could be teaching a 50 year old man how to write the letter 'w'. Both have suffered from basic educational problems - at some point in their early learning years they strayed from the educational path and never got the chance to get back on it again. Both have learned to cop out, saying "I can't", and thinking up all manner of excuses to avoid learning.

You may or may not have seen the feature on 'Granada Reports' in April, but if you didn't, 'NACRO' stands for the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of ex-Offenders, although the people who take part include not only ex-offenders, but also people from local mental hospitals, and just anyone who wants to learn and who would benefit from the special facilities of the educational unit.

The unit offers a basic English class as only part of a wide range of courses including basic Maths, pottery, cooking, sport and a new music class. The atmosphere is very informal, and sometimes verging on the chaotic, but always friendly. The students themselves enjoy it all, and the atmosphere is close enough to give them the attention they need.

The unit is run by five full-time workers, and the rest is done by the volunteers. The number of students to tutors ranges from at best 1-1 (usually mid-term) to 5-1, when the class usually develops into a group session with maybe a couple of people working on their own.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with any of the courses. You share your skills, and gain your reward through watching their progress (most of them can't believe that you are actually doing it for free). The unit is open from 10 - 4 Monday to Friday, and also for a couple of evenings a week. If you feel that you would like to help out in any way, either come into the C.A. office and see Phil, or call Del at 2, Hulme Street, 236 2604. It really is great fun and anyone who wants to help will be welcomed!

Sara Clifford.

NACRO EDUCATION PROJECT MANCHESTER

At first sight, a concept such as adult literacy (or illiteracy, depending how you look at it) does not appear to be one which causes much concern, the general attitude adopted being one along the lines of "it doesn't affect me" etc. However, this does not provide an excuse to not educate the illiterate or innumerate amongst us. In particular, there is one part of the community which requires special attention with regard to education - offenders (this "category" includes people who have not actually been imprisoned, but who are considered by the authorities to be "dangerous elements" in society, and therefore these people also warrant "special treatment"). The education of offenders is especially important in the Manchester area, where unemployment levels are usually well above the national average and where a number of penal institutions can be found, such as Strangeways prison to the north of the town.

With these problems in mind, an education unit, controlled by NACRO (the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders), was set up in September 1978 in a small building just opposite the BBC, to hold classes relevant to these "offenders", such as maths, literacy, art, cookery, English, etc.

In order to have more insight into the need for this type of educational establishment, it is really necessary to look into the type of education offered to "offenders" whilst they are still in prison.

In our penal institutions, education, albeit in a limited form, is often more accessible to the offender than it is outside. Moreover, education in the prisons and borstals is for many the most attractive way of passing the time - in the outside world, its content may be very similar, but it must compete for time with friends, family, a job, housework, and leisure pursuits. It is therefore not unusual to find that a prisoner may have great educational ambitions and may make great progress, only for him or her to flounder swiftly in the face of the complications and difficulties associated with the post-school education system.

One of the most important reasons for this is the cost of education to the offender - since prisoners are unable to pay for any education, (this is because the average prison wage is little over one pound a week), those prisoners who take "O" or "A"-level exams do so at no financial cost to themselves, whereas someone wishing to do the same thing "outside" will find that a full-time "A"-level course now costs around £200 in fees, excluding all the necessary books and materials. Adult education is rarely free, and thus many who have had a fair chance of making quite a radical change in their life, have been thwarted by this financial hurdle.

However, money is by no means the only factor impeding the continuation of education from "inside" to "outside". The institutional nature of a prison means that the student is situated on the same site as the classroom (give or take a few locked gates or doors!). This in no way prepares the student for the difficulties to be encountered in finding the correct classroom on the correct site, let alone overcoming the travelling problems!

Of course, these problems may equally well frustrate an offender who did not get involved with education whilst inside, or someone serving a non-custodial sentence, people who may begin to see education as a feasible and desirable activity to take up.

In the knowledge that the educational needs of offenders are often not met by the existing education provisions, NACRO has developed, with the probation and after-care services, education projects in Manchester, and also Swindon and Cambridge, and is continuing this work in many other parts of the country.

Here then, perhaps, is a solution to that age-old problem of adult illiteracy.

THE FINAL INTRODUCTION!

Welcome to Community Action (CA for short - yes, more undergraduate jargon!). We realise that you will have more reading in front of you from Freshers' Mailing than you will ever have to read in all your time here at UMIST, but before you skip onto the next magazine, please let us explain what CA is all about and where you come in. Everyone at UMIST is automatically a member of Community Action.

I am Mark Patchett, currently a first year (and hopefully a second year) Management Scientist, and I represent Community Action on the Union Executive. Hopefully you will find out later how the Union operates, but Community Action is a very important part of the Students' Union, and for many is the only contact with the "real" world.

When you come into the Union you will also find Paul Baker, the CA full-time worker whom we could not do without. As well as always being available in the office for a chat (when he is off the phone), Paul has his hands full coordinating our activities and being involved with many of the projects.

You will see that as a group we are involved with numerous projects in a large variety of areas, so whatever your interests (including drinking, sports, weekends away, etc) there are people in Manchester whether they are deprived, handicapped, homeless or simply lonely who would jump at the chance of even going to the pub, to a disco (or even to Blackpool!) with friends.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY ACTION

As you will have gathered by this time, there's a lot going on at the beginning of the autumn term, and it can be very difficult to work out what you're doing and how much time you'll have to spend on doing things besides course work.

If you're interested in C.A., please fill in this section below and return it to the Community Action Office in the Union. The information is to help us make contact, and you are in no way committing yourself or signing your life away.....

NAME.....

Term-time address (so we can contact you)

.....

Course.....

Project areas you are particularly interested in.....

Would you drive the minibus for C.A.?

YES/NO

Would you drive your own car for us?

YES/NO

You're welcome in D4 (C.A. Office) any time.

post: D4, Barnes Wallis Building, UMIST

Some of you will already be involved with various community projects and we will be able to put you in touch with similar projects up here, whilst the rest of you will be in a similar position to ours just a year ago. Manchester is a great city, with a lot to offer, but it has also got more than its fair share of social problems, and we aim to show UMIST students this "other side", as well as attempting to alleviate and ultimately SOLVE some of the problems. Far fetched - perhaps! But come along and see us for coffee (yes, free cups of coffee and tea) either during Freshers' Fair or anytime in our office on the top floor of the Union in room D4.

Overseas Students -- a special note.

We would like to give you a special welcome, especially as many of you will be coming to England for the first time. All that has been said and will be said, equally applies to yourselves, and Community Action has two extra advantages.

Firstly, we are a great way to meet people - students, other young people and indeed many different kinds of people within Manchester. Community Action is also a great way of seeing the other side of England - its not all glamorous! Perhaps more importantly it gives all students an opportunity to make a real contribution to our society.

We look forward to meeting you all this term.

ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS!

Best wishes,

Mark Patchett

awareness quiz

YOUR AWARENESS RATING:

Under 18

You're pretty tolerant. You like people and they interest you. You're trying...keep on..

18-25

You're a selfish and generally mean sort of person who doesn't care much about anyone else. Maybe you ought to volunteer for an intensive course in community action.

25 and over

You are either too good or not honest. You're in danger of being nosey, patronising and very unrealistic. Have you ever really tried to reason with kids who've just vandalised your bike!

P.S. Don't get too upset with your score.. most of the present C.A. people got..er.. not the right score anyway.

open meetings

Every Wednesday lunchtime from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm we have an open meeting where we talk about the projects we are running, projects we are thinking of running and anything else we feel like talking about. If you are not involved in any CA projects, come along and find out what we are doing and what we are like, whether you would be interested in helping in any of the projects anyway (either now or starting next term) and what our coffee (or tea) tastes like.

visit our Stall in the Freshers' Fayre