

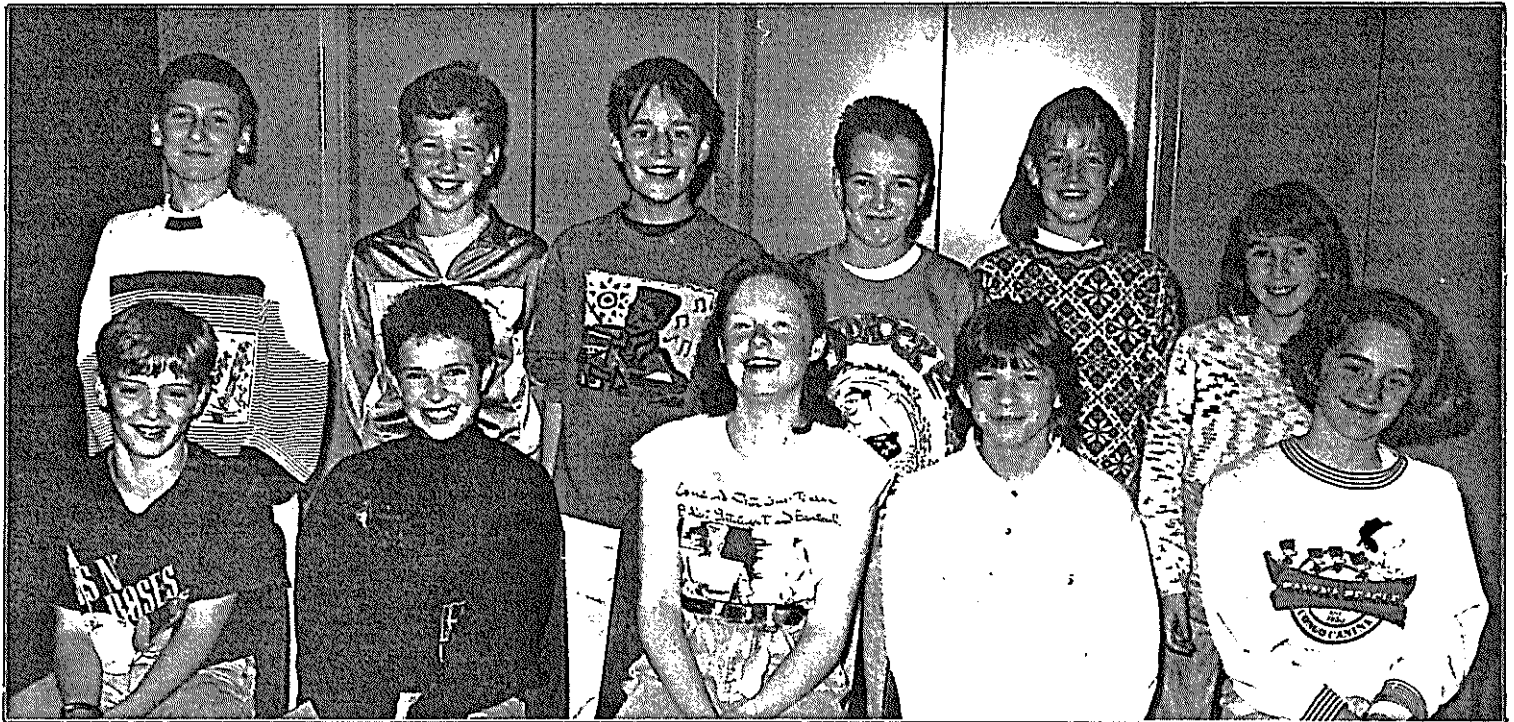
# Dyce UPDATE Academy

NOVEMBER '89

ISSUE NO. 7

## BE A CHIMPANZEE?

## NO PROBLEM!



"Wanted: First Year pupils who are extrovert, outgoing and confident, who have a reasonable general knowledge and who would enjoy appearing on television."

So ran the announcement in the daily bulletin to attract pupils to audition for Scottish Television's 'Fun House'. For those of you not in the know, 'Fun House' is a popular children's quiz and game show in which boys and girls compete in action-filled games and general knowledge rounds to earn points. At the end, the winners collect their prizes by racing against the clock through a giant three-storey Fun House filled with obstacles and a variety of prizes.

Anyway - STV wanted us to provide six boys and six girls for them to audition. There was a slight problem, however - over sixty pupils turned up at the Drama Studio in response to the advert in the bulletin. Over a couple of lunchtimes these volunteers were put through their paces. They were asked to sing and dance, do really silly things, answer general knowledge questions and

give reasons as to why they could and should represent the school. They were superb and the Drama Department had a really difficult job in reducing the numbers to twelve.

Eventually, six boys and six girls were chosen to represent the school at the audition on Friday 27th October. Lynsey Gibb, Dawn Elrick, Amy Raeburn and Ray Robertson (1A), Scott Flippence, John Donald and Dave Roberts (1B), Richard Esson (1C), Alison Edwards, Sandra McGregor, Lindsay Mackay and Andrew Dunn (1D) spent 90 minutes with the producers of the programme, talking about themselves, playing games, doing impressions and watching video material of the programme. They had a lot of fun and they all got a Fun House pen and ruler. We'll have to wait for a couple of weeks to see if the producers choose a boy and a girl from Dyce to appear on the show. They're visiting 70 schools and they'll only pick teams from 26 of them. We wish our pupils luck and once again thank ALL the pupils who showed interest in this project.

# THE STORY OF MY LIFE SO FAR

If you thought that the Italian paparazzi were persistent, then you have yet to meet the UPDATE editorial team when they have half an empty column in their newspaper, and the presses are ready to roll. Judy has pinned me to the wall and taken a photo in which no doubt my eyes will be closed, and Dave has taken my well-worn curriculum vitae and callously torn it in two. Clearly, they want The Truth...

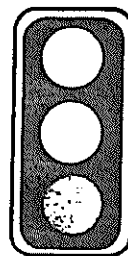
I have always been something of a wanderer, a trait triggered off in childhood when I was born in Edinburgh but largely brought up in Skye. I began teaching in a Clydebank junior secondary, which used to be Strathclyde's initiation test for all young teachers. I moved from there to a girls' boarding school - that was some move - and continued teaching in Forces' schools in Germany, Cyprus and Hongkong. My promotions varied from Special Assistant - are there still any of these about? - to Senior Mistress, a post which brought ribald comment from the rude soldiery in the nearby barracks.

My teaching experience abroad was always enjoyable but probably at its most exciting in Cyprus in the mid seventies, when the Turks invaded the island. I learnt an interesting statistic about our school. By day it could sit six hundred children, and by night it could sleep one thousand refugees and two hundred goats. When I returned to the U.K. I applied to Keith Grammar School because it was the only advertisement in the paper that weekend, and got the job. And that's me, more or less up to date.

My most recent move to Dyce has not been a culture shock, since both schools have similar four period days, the pupils are equally chirpy, and the staffroom conversation is on the same serious cultural level. Members of staff have been very welcoming and helpful, and I am delighted to find that by chance I have joined the school in this, its tenth year. I look forward to the celebrations!

Mairi Steele

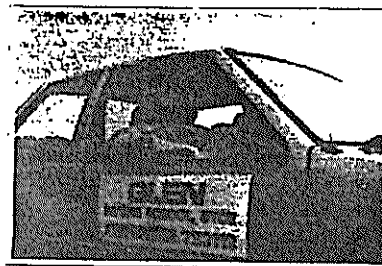
Assistant Head Teacher 2



GO  
with

# GLEN

## DRIVING SCHOOL



Proprietor: Ian McLean  
tel: 0224 723112

## SWIMMING

On 19th September Hazlehead Academy hosted the Aberdeen District Council David Wilkie Swim Trophy. Fourteen teams were invited to take part in this inter-school relay competition, with Dyce Academy being represented by Ailsa Campbell (S6), Lindsay Davidson (S5), Angela Barber (S4), and Rachael Michie (S1).

A very creditable performance by the girls - especially as this was a mixed team event - saw them finish runners-up to the host school. Well done!



# COMMENT

Many of you will have read in the local press that Dyce Academy was the first of the Region's schools in which the DSD defaulted in their cleaning contract and were replaced, meantime, by another cleaning company.

Everyone connected with the school was relieved when the difficulties which had arisen in cleaning the school were 'resolved'. The school was rapidly becoming filthy - but not because the cleaners were not doing their work. In fact, the few cleaners left were working harder than ever. The problems arose because most of the school's cleaners had resigned. The new world of privatisation meant that they were being offered less pay to do more work. The hourly rate was reduced and the number of cleaners working was reduced. No surprise that the quality of cleaning was reduced. Time will tell whether things have really been 'resolved'.

The blame does not really rest with Grampian Regional Council. The problem is just another example of the way in which the public sector is suffering for political reasons, of the double standards which operate in Britain today. Private business can decide whether to employ cleaners or whether to contract out cleaning, and can decide what rate to pay. Organisations within the public sector do not have this freedom. Legislation has been passed to force local authorities to privatise a number of services, including cleaning. Government imposes severe limitations on spending to "save public money". They do not impose the same limitations on themselves when it comes to finding money to advertise such things as the launch of water privatisation!

Local authorities can reasonably be expected to be accountable. But to whom? The electors - in Grampian in our case - or the Government? How would private business react if it had to become accountable to the Government to the extent that offices could not be cleaned properly?

Is it too much to ask that local authorities be allowed to run their own affairs and let the Region's voters decide whether they're doing a good job or not?

## AN INSPECTOR REALLY IS CALLING

Many of you will remember that a general inspection of Dyce Academy was planned for February 1989 but was called off because of staffing difficulties in the Inspectorate.

Plans are now being made for an inspection between 13 November and 8 December. I don't think this one will be called off!

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR GROUPS

A number of groups operate outside normal school hours - usually at lunch-time or after school - which give pupils the opportunity to develop interests further or broaden their horizons.

Physical activities include aerobics for senior pupils, badminton, basketball, canoeing, weight-lifting, football and ski trips in winter.

The Music Department offers a wide range of activities: brass band, wind group, recorder group, percussion group, and the school choir.

A Scripture Union group meets weekly, and the Environmental Club meets throughout the year. A Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme group started in the school this session, and theatre outings are arranged from time to time during the year.

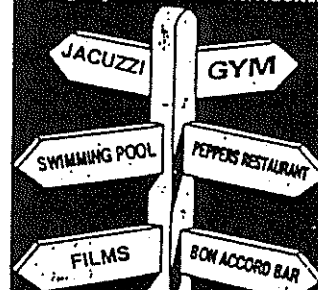
## What are you doing this weekend?

If the prospect of mowing the lawn on Saturday afternoon and washing the car on Sunday morning doesn't exactly fill you full of anticipation, why don't you give yourself a well deserved break.

With either a "Family Weekender" where children under 19 stay free, or "Two's Company," where couples can enjoy a romantic "get away from it all" weekend.

Just imagine one or two nights accommodation in a four star Holiday Inn with full breakfast. Plus use of all the facilities and entertainment offered by Aberdeen's leading hotel.

\* Children stay free if they share your room. Maximum 2 adults, 3 children per room.



**Holiday Inn®**  
**Weekender**

ABERDEEN  
Riverview Drive, Dyce, Aberdeen AB20AZ

# THE PSD EXPERIENCE



This year, for the first time, two SCOTVEC modules in the Personal and Social Development group have been run for the Christmas Leavers class. The courses involved are Communication (Written and Spoken) 1 and Work Experience 1. It was hoped that the class would benefit from working with a flexible team of staff, in areas which would allow for negotiation, and in ways which would allow maximum contact with people and organisations outside school.

The class has worked in a variety of ways, sometimes individually, sometimes in pairs, at other times in groups of three or four. They have arranged for themselves, usually by telephone, visits to Crombie Mills, His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen Box Office, the Drama Department of the College of Education, and various clothes and record shops in Aberdeen. They have spoken to a variety of people - the fashion buyers of Marks and Spencers, the residents of Old Folks Homes, as well as the staff of the organisations mentioned above. Many photographs have been taken, and all students have appeared before the video

camera, talking about themselves and the projects they are involved in - no easy thing to do.

With some tutor assistance, students have organised for themselves work experience placements in industry. These have ranged from traditional choices in catering, hairdressing, painting and decorating, motor maintenance and office work, to the more unusual placements in glass-blowing, community care and a theatrical production. The contacts made have in a number of cases led to the offer of a job.

All this sounds most impressive, and of course it's not the whole picture - as with all new courses, there have been ups and downs, and some students have got more out of the course than others, simply because of the effort they have put in. On balance, though, the course has been a qualified success for most students, not just in terms of any final certification gained, but in terms of some growth of confidence in themselves, and in their ability to cope with the demands of dealing with a wide cross-section of people once school days have ended.

## THE SMOKE BUSTERS CONFERENCE

On Thursday 26th October I and two other Smoke Busters set off at 10 a.m. with Mrs. Searle to the Aberdeen Arts Centre for the first Smoke Busters Conference. We arrived at the Arts Centre at 10.30 for some juice or coffee. Then at 11 a.m. we went upstairs to the theatre for an introduction from Dr. James Friend, Chairman of Grampian ASH. We then heard a short talk from Yvonne Stephenson-Robb, the Smoke Busters co-ordinator. Two senior Smoke Busters, Ewan McKinnon and Isla Goldie, then told us about the morning and afternoon sessions of the conference.

Alison Hillhouse gave us a talk on how smoking affects our lives and how we can say no. Alison is also a member of ASH. At 11.25 Councillor Nicol Stephen, Chairman of Grampian Development Awards, gave a talk on the dangers of smoking. One of the celebrity guests was Robin Galloway,

Northsound DJ and Grampian TV presenter. He spoke about "A cool view of smoking". The second celebrity guest was Nicky Campbell, Top of the Pops and Wheel of Fortune presenter. His talk was entitled 'A Fashionable Habit', as Nicky used to smoke at school, when he was 12. He has now given it up.

At 12 noon we were separated into our workshop groups, where we discussed how to say no to cigarettes and how to stop people from starting to smoke. At 12.30 we had a buffet lunch, which we all enjoyed.

In the afternoon we went back to our workshops to continue our discussions. Brian Grant from Aberdeen Football Club presented trophies to Smoke Busters who had travelled as far as Ayrshire to spread the word. The conference ended at 3.10 and we all headed off home after an enjoyable day.

Wendy Sangster 20



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT



This month we hear from June Smith, Principal Teacher of Music.

I've often been asked, 'Why on earth do you want to teach Music?' The answer is not a simple, straightforward one.

If we look at the history of Musical Education we find it almost as old as Man himself - playing a part in both the working and recreational sides of life. Music holds a key to the past and can bring to life thoughts and emotions felt by our ancestors, and perhaps holds a legacy for the future.

What has all this to do with music making at Dyce Academy? Really, not much except that both as musicians and educators we recognise the power of the subject. We try, as far as possible, to bring to our pupils a unique experience - the creation of sound - organised and pleasing to the ear.

There are two sides to a Music Department: the curricular (the work of the classroom), and the extra-curricular (the work outside the classroom). The most important of these is the work in the classroom. It is here that we introduce our children to the magical world of sound. All pupils will experience in their first two years a wide range of instruments from the basic recorder to the latest in technology, the Atari Music Sequencer and Noteator. 80% of the time is spent in practical pursuits with the main aim being the production of a recognisable musical performance both as a soloist and as a member of a

group. We try as far as possible to include as many different musical styles into the classroom so that the pupil may develop a wide taste in music.

The extra-curricular work is really the cream on the cake, where pupils are encouraged to develop the skills they are using in the classroom. The lunchtime and evening groups allow both pupil and teacher to experiment with their art form. The groups run are widely varying, given the time available. Each lunchtime from 12.30 - 1 pm the noises coming from the department are usually pleasant: activities include a brass band, a wind band, a percussion group and the choir. Pupils undertaking certificate music are encouraged to practise in their free time during intervals and part of the lunch break.

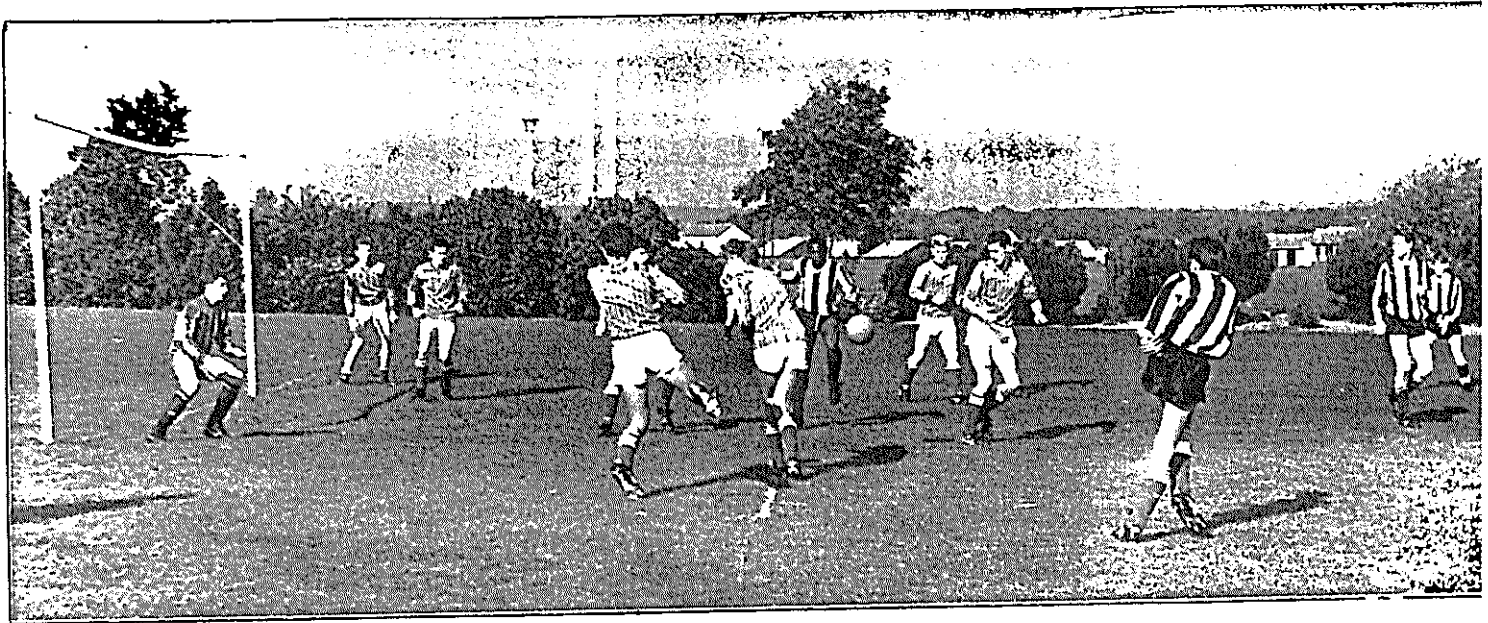
Two evenings each week the department opens its doors to the community. Monday night is Orchestra night when all age groups meet with one aim in mind: to make music together. On Wednesday evening the Community Choir have their turn and can be heard trying their hand at many kinds of vocal works from Mozart to the Beatles.

The work of the Music department is exhausting but all the reward we need for this effort is when we can see the pleasure on our children's faces as they achieve that much sought after goal - success!

# FEATURED MATCH

DYCE ACADEMY V. GOSPIE HIGH SCHOOL

TEAM: P. Hentze, S. Cook, S. Duncalf, M. Wells, K. Murray; E. Walker, D. Weaver, R. McBain, D. Watt, A. Baldwin, I. Nicholson; Res. K. Holmes.



A massed Gospie defence blocks this Roy McBain effort with Andrew Baldwin ready to pounce.

The men from Sutherland made the long journey to Dyce on Monday 2nd October for this 1st round U-16 Scottish Cup tie but after 15 minutes the game was virtually over as Dyce stormed into a 3-0 lead. A shaky Gospie defence found itself being carved open time after time by an impressive-looking Dyce team in which the midfield trio of Roy McBain, Drew Weaver and Ewan Walker were particularly prominent. By half-time it was 5-0 with two goals apiece from McBain and centre back Michael Wells plus an own goal.

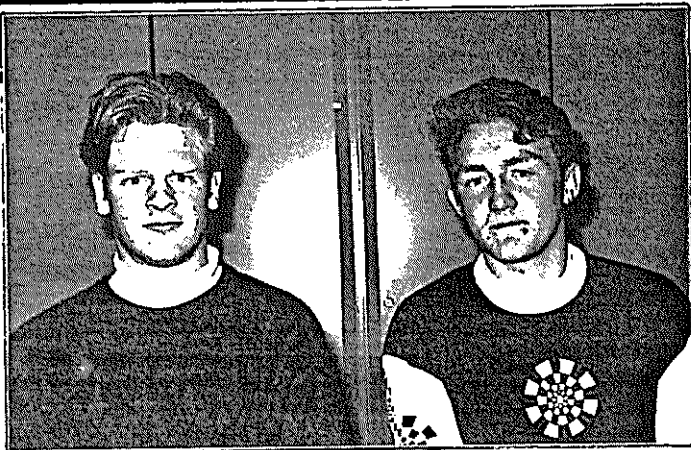
In the second half Gospie began to find their feet a bit, partly as a result of Dyce easing off the pressure, but a solid back four ably marshalled by Stephen Duncalf and Michael Wells protected goalkeeper Paul Hentze from

most of the rare Gospie raids. Five minutes from time man of the match Drew Weaver hammered home a 20-yard beauty to emphasise Dyce's superiority in all departments. With almost the last kick of the game Gospie's Cairney did find a chink in the home defence's armour, stealing in to score a consolation goal for the North side. Mr. Gillies' old school team could now leave for home with at least something to show for their nine hours of travelling.

Overall, an accomplished team performance from Dyce in which the home side were consistently first to the ball, more skilful when in possession, and more resolute in tackling - often against physically larger opponents. Finally, despite claims by Ivor Nicholson to have set up at least 5 of the goals, we in UPDATE remain unconvinced.

## SCOTTISH CUP CONTINUED

Both U-13 and U-14 teams have won their way through to the second round of the Scottish Cup too. Firstly, the U-13s reversed an earlier league defeat from Northfield to win through 2-0 with goals by Gary Cruickshank and Jamie Willox, whilst the U-14s defeated a weakened Linksfield side 6-1, which has former Dyce Academy depute rector, Stewart Philp, in the role of coach. (That's not the reason they were weakened, by the way!). Dyce's scorers in what was a comfortable victory were Derek Reid and Scott Crabb with two apiece, Paul Matthews and an own goal.



Footnote to the U-16 Scottish Cup game.

Congratulations are due to Drew and Ewan who have been chosen to take part in trails for the Scottish Schoolboys U-16 team at Largs in November.