

UPDyce DATE Academy

ISSUE NO 12

JUNE 1990

10 YEARS ON...

In August, we shall be ten years old. It's not very old for a school and we certainly still think of ourselves as a 'new' school. The aims we set ourselves ten years ago are as appropriate now as they were then:

-to provide a wide range of interesting and enjoyable educational activities which will provide pupils with opportunities for:

-the development of the basic skills, knowledge and understanding required by modern society, and...

-the development of their own particular abilities, talents and interests to the greatest extent

within a structure which allows for the differing needs of individual pupils

in an atmosphere which encourages the development of self-respect and respect for others.

We were, and still are, keen to emphasise enjoyment, development, catering for the individual, self-discipline alongside the more traditional aims related to skills, knowledge and understanding.

The Inspectors' Report which will have been published by the time you read this refers to our aims as being "well-judged" and states that "Dyce Academy in large measure meets the aims which it has set itself". This is very reassuring for us.

Some of our 'bright new ideas' of ten years ago have become well-established in the school and have been picked up by other schools; for example, the long teaching period, adults in classes, detailed reports to parents. Other bright ideas did not gain sufficient support to develop, e.g., 'A' Levels and the Dyce Academy Association.

An important feature of the school has, we believe, been our willingness to look at new ideas sensibly and critically. If we believed that something had a real chance of improving the quality of education then

we would be willing to give it a try. We have not, however, jumped on 'band-wagons'- you may have heard of first-level guidance and TVEI. We have discussed these but as yet remain unconvinced as to their merits.

Over the ten years some things have changed very obviously. For example, we opened with one computer: we now have about one hundred. S4 pupils now leave school with 5 Grades rather than 0 Grades. Many changes, large and small, have taken place throughout the school. They have not, however, led to any major change of direction; they have been changes thought necessary to bring us closer to achieving our aims.

The final paragraph of the Inspectors' Report does suggest that, so far as they are concerned, we are moving in the right direction:

"There is a remarkably strong team spirit among staff, who provide an environment which effectively stimulates learning, encourages responsible behaviour in pupils and creates a congenial atmosphere in which good relationships among pupils, teachers and other adults flourish."

Teenagers don't appear to have changed much over the last ten years but the society they move into after school does seem to have changed. This in itself is not a problem, but it is likely to become increasingly difficult to reconcile the values implicit in our aims with the values implicit in British society in the 90s, if present trends continue. But that, as they say, is another story.

FIELDWORK IN MODERN STUDIES - DUNDEE VISIT

"Provide a wider range of learning experiences" said the 'experts' as we embarked upon our Standard Grade course last year. Part of our response has been to include a one day field trip to Dundee made possible by road improvements south of Aberdeen - it seems to take about as long to cross the 'Ring Road' as to get from the Bridge of Dee to Dundee. Armed with clipboards and worksheets of black and orange (football fans will see the significance of these colours), 34 excited pupils and 2 harassed-looking teachers set off at 9.00 to sample the Dundee Project and to discover the 'City of Discovery'.

We had a rough idea of what to expect. We had actually studied Dundee in class before and this made for good preparation - the pupils already knew quite a bit about the places we were going to visit but for most of them this was the first time they were actually going to see them. Dundee until now had been either an occasional football excursion or an inconvenient speed restriction on the way back from Edinburgh.

If the pupils thought this was to be a bit of a 'skive' then their hopes were soon dispelled. Worksheets even had to be attempted on the way down as they struggled to control their handwriting at 70 mph while considering the political ramifications of the Brechin by-pass. (Do YOU know?)

It was a relief to reach Dundee and it was soon apparent that Plan B would have to be put into operation. The low

cloud would make it nonsensical to climb the 'Law', and so this was left until later. We headed straight for the Waterfront - one of the key features of the Dundee Project. From there it was a walk along to see present and proposed developments - across to the railway station - land slip at Carnoustie - thank goodness we didn't go by train - and across the covered walkway to invade the City Centre. Here, the pupils were set free to do their own investigating while finding some time to have lunch. The Wellgate Centre seemed to be the most popular place visited as we took the Pepsi Challenge (free of course) - several times over - they must have known we were Aberdonians!

The afternoon was divided into two parts. Firstly a tour around the Black Ness Development Area - scene of the old jute mills and Dundee's industrial past. What was happening now? New businesses are opening, old tenement properties are being rebuilt with mosaics on gable ends. By now the cloud had lifted and we had just enough time to climb the 'Law' (by bus of course - we're not Geographers) and see for ourselves the magnificent view of Dundee and its surrounding area.

All in all, a very worthwhile day which everyone seemed to enjoy. We relaxed on the way home by listening to the sorts of music pupils must have borrowed from their parents. Did the pupils behave themselves? Of course they did - it was parents' evening afterwards!

Tom Ferguson

CULLENARY DELIGHT

On Friday 25th May, a party of four teachers and nine senior girls set off for a training weekend in Cullen. The purpose of the visit was to check over the residential centre there and try out some of the activities which P.7 pupils from our feeder primaries would be engaged in during their visits in June, which form part of their secondary induction.

Ms. Steele had promised us all a weekend of sun, sea and fresh air and we certainly weren't disappointed. The weather was absolutely glorious the whole time we were there, such that Danielle and Ingrid even went swimming in the sea (but why did they keep their clothes on?)

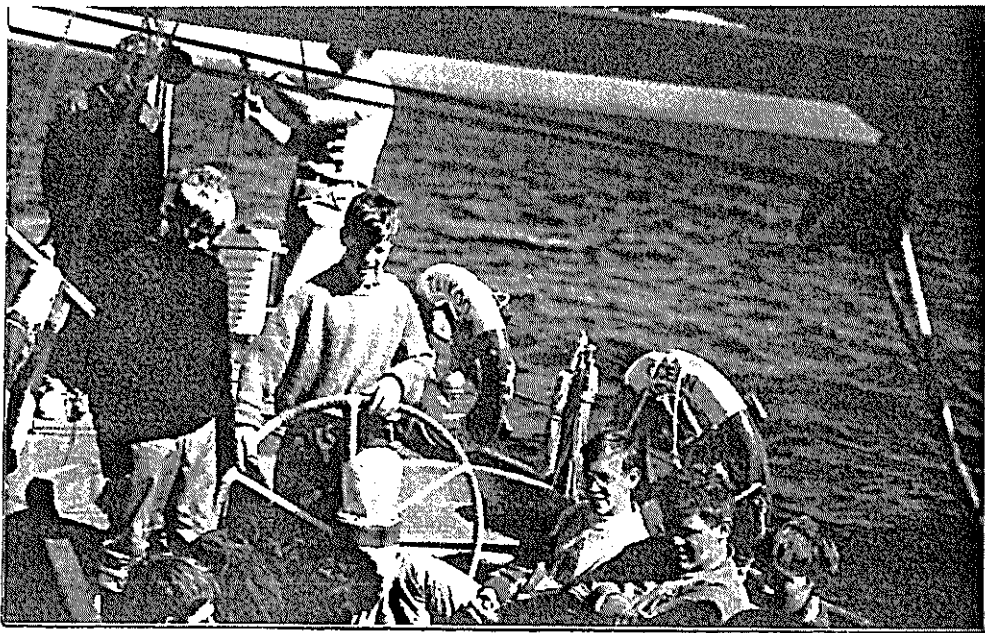
A lot of the weekend was spent, healthily, out of doors walking here, there and everywhere, and consequently, by evening, we were all rather tired. Nonetheless, we never quite managed to get to bed on the same day as we'd got up!

Evening entertainment was provided largely (how else?!) by Mr. McLean whose party tricks were responsible for a few red faces later. Even though he received a little help from Ms. Clark, everyone agreed that no-one could hold a candle to "Paul Daniels" McLean when it came to livening us all up!

One memorable feature of the stay was...no, not Mr. Niven in shorts... but the marvellous standard of cuisine provided by the girls. Their range of culinary skills never ceased to amaze (similarly their appetites, particularly for ice-cream!)

All in all, we spent a thoroughly pleasant weekend in comfortable surroundings, enjoying good company, excellent food and beautiful weather. Wish you'd been there!

Catriona Wilson



WEST COAST TRI 1990

This year, it was five days' walking on Skye - the isle of mist and midges - and a five day sail from Kyle to Oban.

On Skye, we saw no rain or midges; it was cloudy but dry throughout our stay. Our mountain camp for four nights was three miles up Glen Sligachan, a spot with spectacular views of the Cuillin Range and a couple of lochans close by for our swimmers.

As we had an expert mountaineer with us from Grampian Outdoor Education Department, some of our 'walking' was more interesting than it might otherwise have been. Our first day took us up a very spiky mountain, Sgurr nan Gillean, by an "interesting" route - a good head for heights was required for much of the walk and a rope was used in a couple of places. Our second day was a little tamer but involved crossing the 'bad step', a slab of rock sloping straight down to the sea. It was on this day that we met some tourists from the 'Hebridean Princess', a cruise liner. They had been sent ashore by launch to a landing stage near Loch Coruisk to visit a "wild and desolate spot where they would be lucky if they saw a sheep", or so the captain had said. They were greeted by a party of

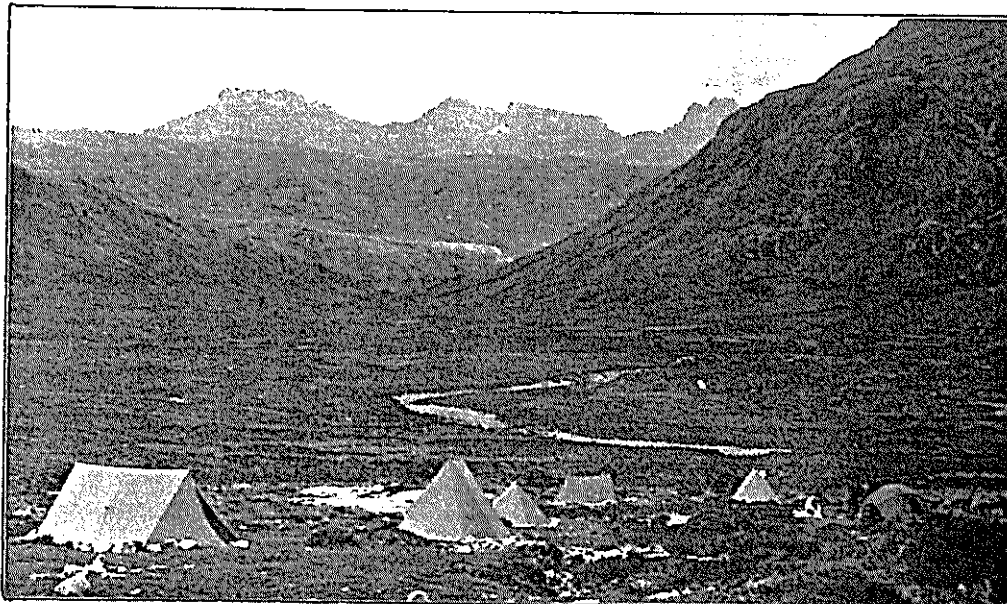
18 hillwalkers from Dyce! I think they're still rather puzzled as to how we got there.

We all enjoyed living away from civilisation for a few days but after four nights we moved to an organised campsite where we could have a shower and some refreshments to prepare most of us for 'The Sail'.

We met 'Taikoo', our 72 ft. home for five days at Kyle, and sailed on the first evening to Isle Ornsay back on Skye. Over the next four days we were to cover 180 miles, almost all of it sailing; our engine was used very little. To Tobermory on Mull, Armagour on Coll, Scalasaig on Colonsay, Seil Island and finally Oban. Initially, most of us had some sea-sickness but we very quickly found our sea legs and soon learned to sail the boat under various conditions - some very windy. The standard of catering of the Dyce crew was exceptionally high, and so we all ate very well.

Once in Oban we boarded a 'Super Sprinter' for home, tired but happy and looking forward to next year's "Westies".

M. Taylor



DYCE ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD

This will be the last opportunity we, as Board members, have to communicate with parents before the summer break.

We have now met six times since the formation of the Board in November 1989 and are now in the position of discussing and making decisions on issues relevant to the day-to-day and long-term running of Dyce Academy.

These include issues such as:

- school trips
- four-term school year
- school lets and liaison with community education
- S3/4 curriculum
- capitation allowance
- communication with parents
- training for School Board members

Again we would like to stress that Board meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. The following is a reminder of the locations where the agendas and minutes can be viewed six days before the Board meets:

Community noticeboard in Fintray

Post Office in Newmachar

Library in Dyce

Noticeboard at the swimming pool at Dyce Academy

If you wish to contact any of your Board members you can do this at the following numbers:

- Susan Montgomerie - 724420
- Isobel Dempster - Newmachar 2536
- Anna Smail - 723214
- Gordon Skinner - 791270
- Christine Rance - Newmachar 2826
- Tom Ferguson) - 725118
- David Pyle)

Date of the next meeting: Monday 25th June at 7.30pm in the Staff Centre, Dyce Academy.

DAVID WISEMAN APPEAL FUND

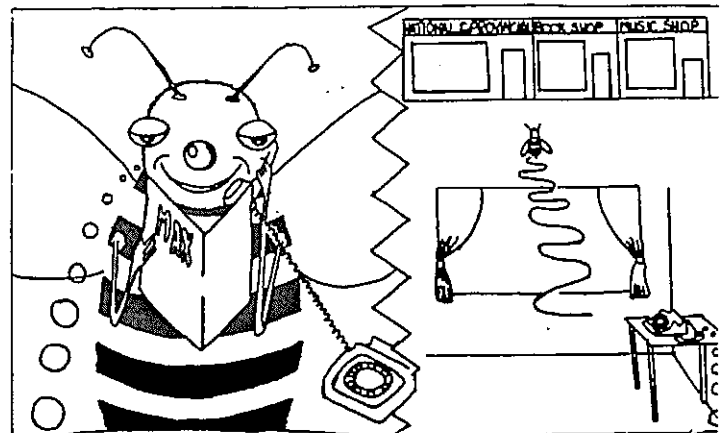
In 1986, a road accident took place just outside Aberdeen which left a young man severely brain damaged and mentally and physically disabled. He has recently started to respond well to treatment at a special unit for such patients, but £60,000 is required for a further year's treatment. The David Wiseman Appeal Fund Committee has been set up by the Rigblast Group. A raffle has been organised and tickets can be obtained from Rigblast in Pitmedden Road.

GO with GLEN

DRIVING SCHOOL



Proprietor: Ian McLean
tel: 0224 723112



HELLO BEATLES! Have you seen this new account from National & Provincial Building Society? - Access to your money at over 3,500 Link Cash Machines, interest calculated daily, SO YOUR MONEY MAKES MONEY, convenience of M.A.X. the talking computer, SO THAT YOU CAN HAVE A TRANSACTION FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AT ANY TIME DAY OR NIGHT, FREE M.A.X. Pillock, FREE Products Insurance, FREE Legal Advice Line, FREE.....

Hello He Are you there..

M.A.X.

MULTI ACCESS EXPENDITURE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE TELEPHONE ABERDEEN 644154 OR CALL INTO THE LOCAL OFFICE

National & Provincial Building Society, 230 Union Street, Aberdeen AB1 1TL

MAKE A BEE-LINE TO M.A.P.



CLINT EASTWOOD - SOLD FOR £9!

How can you raise £2,300 in just over three hours? Hold a Fun Auction, of course. Well, that's how we did it at Dyce Academy on the evening of Friday 25 May. Of course, to say it was done in three hours isn't exactly accurate. Nobody has actually dared to sit down and count up how many hours were spent knocking on the doors of local businesses, collecting items, writing to celebrities, making up the catalogue, producing publicity material, setting up the auction and on all the other jobs that had to be done. Hard work or not, however, the members of the Ten Year Committee were certainly pleased with the total raised and I know at least one committee member who intends to use the idea to raise funds for another worthwhile cause.

So how was the money actually raised? Well, thanks to our superb auctioneer, Alan Hutcheon, there was never a dull moment throughout the whole evening, from the moment he sold the first 'lot' to depute rector David 'I didn't even bid for it!' Pyle to the moment the hammer fell (not literally) on the last 'lot', a large bottle of wine. The bidding was fast and furious, some items going for more than was expected while many of the bidders went home at the end of the evening with a real bargain or two.

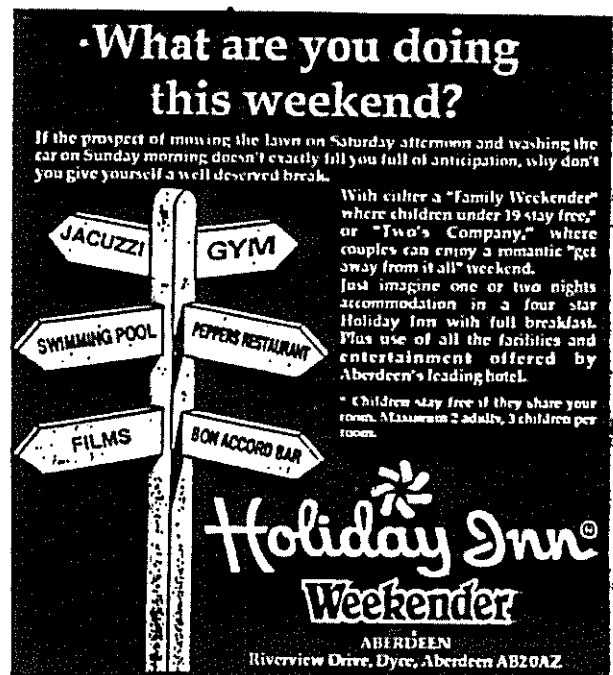
Through a personal connection in the school we had received a wealth of material from heavy metal group Iron Maiden, enough to divide into seven lots, which together raised £258. Their Tour Collection (programme, tour itineraries, laminate passes and sweat bands, most of it not readily available to the public) prompted the highest bid of the evening at £110 and a much deserved round of applause from the audience.

Signed copies of books from the likes of Wilbur Smith, Clive James, Victoria Holt, John Mortimer, James Bolam, Jeremy Paxman, and Esther Rantzen proved very popular while poor old Max Bygraves could only raise £3 with his signed LP - this was £3 more than we could get for a collection of three signed photos of comedian Michael Barrymore, actor Hywel Bennett and enteratiner Cheryl Baker.

Posters, T-shirts and records donated by film companies were quickly snapped up, while donations from furthest afield, an autographed photo of Clint Eastwood and an autographed badge from Liza Minelli, went for £9 and £3 respectively.

We, of course, must thank all the local businesses, businesses outwith the immediate area, parents and staff who donated items for the auction - without such support, the event just couldn't have taken place. Most importantly, we must thank those of you who turned up on the evening - without you we wouldn't be £2,300 better off. It has to be said though, that the majority of parents didn't support this event, either by donating items or by coming along to the auction itself. As happens too often, it has been a small group of parents and staff who have raised this sum of money which will benefit all the pupils at the Academy. It's a pity more don't support such efforts, but to those of you who do, thanks a lot.

Some of the money raised will be spent at the Fun Day (on prizes and on refreshments for all the participants) and the Ten Year Committee has yet to decide whether to put the balance into the School Fund or to purchase a specific item to mark our Tenth Year Anniversary : any suggestions?



What are you doing this weekend?

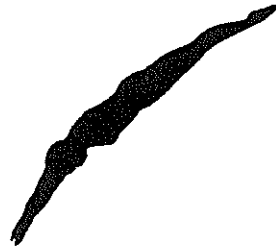
If the prospect of mowing the lawn on Saturday afternoon and washing the car on Sunday morning doesn't exactly fill you full of anticipation, why don't you give yourself a well deserved break.

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



FUN DAY

As you will read elsewhere in UPDATE, some of the money raised by the Fun Auction was intended to be used for the Fun Day. As planned, on Friday 22 May, the Fun Day got under way.

Every register class (and the P7s from Dyce, Fintray and Newmachar) had been asked to raise a team for each of the following events: Fun Sports, Water It's a Knockout, 5-a-side football, Targt Golf and the Triathlon. Points were awarded in each event, and the winning classes were as follows:

- S1 : 1B
- S2 : 2B
- S3 : 3D
- S4 : 4E

Prizes will be awarded to each class.

The Fun Sports consisted of a series of races (obstacle race, crab race, egg and spoon race) which were held on the playing field despite a downpour only hours earlier. Likewise, the 5-a-side football was held on rather damp pitches; nevertheless, some close games were seen, with one game being decided by a penalty shoot-out!

The Triathlon attracted around forty pupils who had to swim six lengths of the pool, run round a circuit of Dyce, and then cycle along the river path - a distance of six miles. No shortage of very sore muscles next day!

It's a Knockout was held in the Swimming Pool. Pupils had to take part in a raft race, a balloon race, and an obstacle race, which involved swimming over and under rings, and climbing over a huge inflatable yellow submarine!

In the Games Hall, pupils were trying hard to hit a golf ball into a series of boxes - this also proved to be a popular spectator sport. On the other side of the Games Hall, entertainment of a different kind was available - the Bouncy Castle! There were long queues throughout the afternoon, with pupils of all ages waiting to leap about!

The Drama Studio was the venue for the stalls - cake and candy, books and

bric-a-brac. Pupils also enjoyed playing the various games of chance going on here. Free juice and crisps were available for all pupils participating.

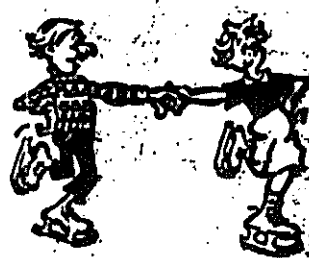
The Ten Year Committee would like to thank all staff who took part in whatever way, the Community staff for looking after It's a Knockout, BP for the use of their Community Bus, and our 'jannies'.

Finally, a big thank you must also go to our pupils, who joined in the spirit of the afternoon in a good-natured manner.

Ten Year Committee

ABERDEEN ICE RINK

GET YOUR SKATES ON !!



OPEN FOR NEW SEASON
FROM FRIDAY 10 AUGUST

SESSION TIMES FOR FIRST
TWO WEEKENDS ONLY :

<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
10 am - 12 Noon	10 am - 12 Noon	12.30 pm - 2.30 pm
1 pm - 4 pm	1 pm - 3 pm	3.30 pm - 5.30 pm
5 pm - 7 pm	4 pm - 6 pm	
8 pm - 10 pm	7 pm - 10 pm	

Open over last week (Monday - Friday) of School Holidays.

Please telephone for further details, times, etc. :

Aberdeen Ice Rink
Stoneywood Road
Dyce
Tel. (0224) 724454

CURLING



During the Easter vacation two teams of third year pupils took part in the Inter-Schools Curling Competition which is sponsored by the local chemist D.M. Wood.

Each team member had taken part in the General Studies Curling course during the recent session. We decided to enter a 'strong' team as our first team and another team of willing volunteers as our second team.

It was disappointing that only two other schools were able to provide teams, so our second team was vital to a full day's game.

The play was keen during each match and all depended on the final end. Our first team missed winning the trophy by one point but Westhill Academy were worthy winners.

Both Dyce teams were worthy losers and thoroughly enjoyed the day's curling.

Back : L. to R.: Stuart
Christopher Steven

Front: Steven



L. to R. : Lynne

Rachel

Anne Jane

, Joanne

GOING BEFORE THE PANEL

I'm pretty sure that if I were to do an Esther Rantzen, and stop people on the street to ask them what they knew about the Children's Panel, I would get many blank stares and "Don't know." And yet we in Scotland have a juvenile justice system which is admired and studied by legal experts from all over the world.

It began twenty years ago, when Lord Kilbrandon was asked to head an inquiry into how we dealt with young offenders. The result of his findings was that he rejected the traditional, formal juvenile court methods. Instead he suggested a much more flexible 'child-centred' approach which would deal with children who had been ill-treated as well as those who had committed an offence.

His team had two slogans, on which they based the new radical method. One was 'Look at the whole child, not just the offence'; the other, 'When a child is in trouble, the whole family is troubled.'

Kilbrandon went on to use what he saw as the strength of the family in his new Hearing System, which had some similarities to the family courts in Scandinavia. In each region, groups of adults, the Children's Panel, were given basic legal training. Now, when a youngster is caught offending, or is offended against, three of those adults sit down at a Hearing with the youngster and parents. They discuss what went wrong, and lay down ground rules for the future. The Panel also gives protection and support to children who have been abused or neglected. They can deal with babies of one day old, to late teenagers of eighteen, though sixteen is the usual cut-off point.

So why do Scots not know about their special system, quite different from anywhere else in Britain? The main reason is that it is confidential. Newspapers do not publish details of Hearings, and Panel members do not chat about their cases, so in general terms procedures go on quietly, without the community being aware of them.

I became a member of the Moray Panel twelve years ago, and after serving on a number of its organisations and committees, I was invited to become Chairman of Grampian Children's Panel. This is an interesting appointment for a teacher, because the education authority and the Panel traditionally do not 'get on'. They do not always see eye to eye over truancy cases. Having knowledge of both sides, I hope to a certain extent to be able to build bridges between them. Perhaps instead, both sides will throw bricks at me! Either way, I will have achieved a kind of unity.

Mairi Steele

STAFF NEWS

John Booth, one of our technicians, moved to Aberdeen Technical College at Easter.....Anne McMillan, who worked as an auxiliary assistant, left just after Easter to return to nursing.....Just after Easter, Marza Robertson moved from the Home Economics department to Torry Academy - another victim of our falling roll; soon afterwards, she was appointed to a Senior Teacher post at Bridge of Don Academy.....Two other members of staff have been successful in gaining Senior Teacher posts: Rhona Smith, from our own English department, at Dyce Academy, and Dave Lindsay, from our Chemistry department, at Hazlehead Academy. Both posts will be taken up after summer.....At the end of this term, Sandy May, from the Art department, will be retiring.....After the summer holidays, our first Principal Teacher (Computing Studies) will take up post - Patricia Mitchell who comes to us from St Machar Academy.

SPOTLIGHT

Some more news of pupils' achievements

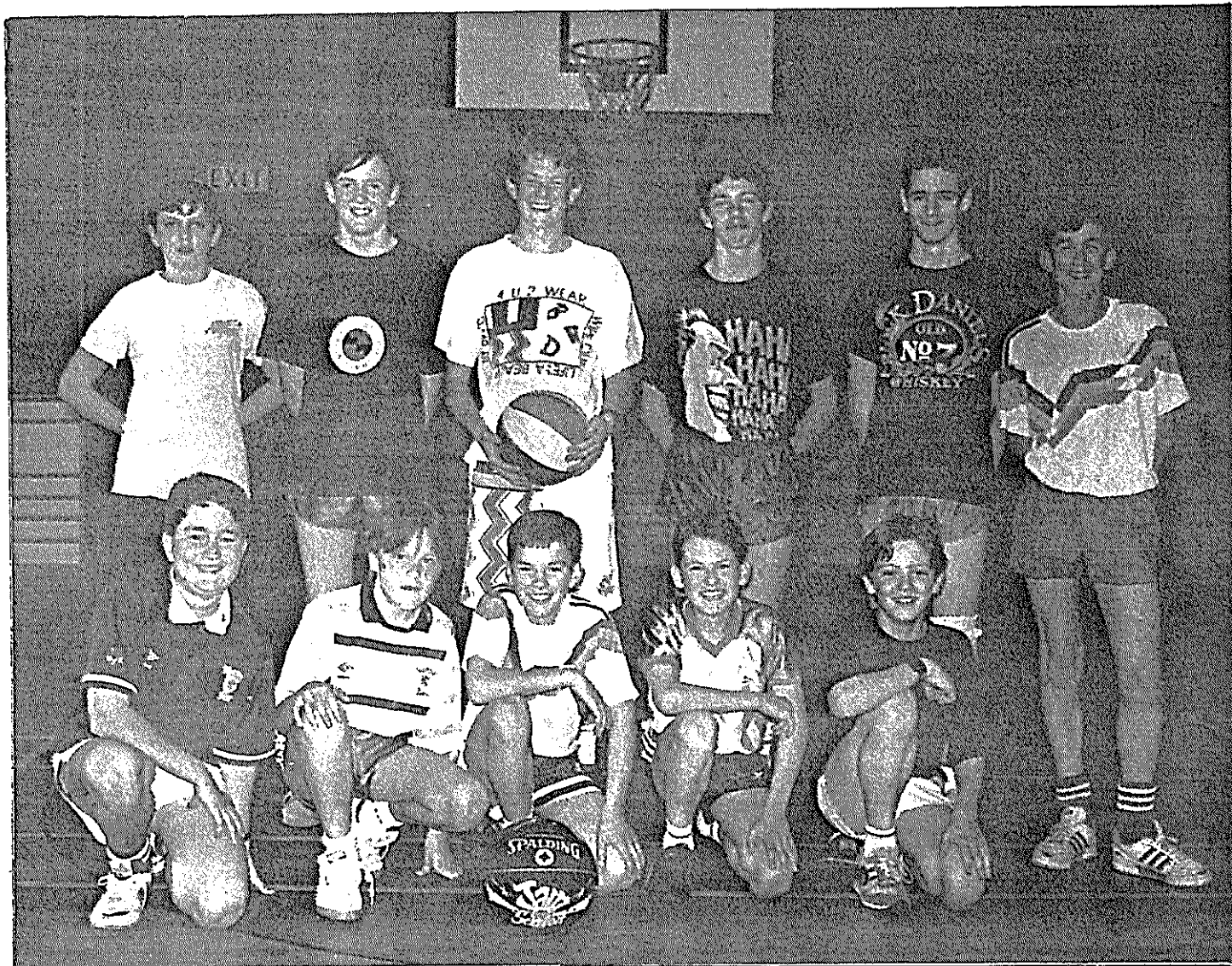
Five pupils, now in S5, Susan Whyte, Jacqueline Sim, Tracey Duncan, Helene Shirreffs and Duncan Marjoribanks, too part in the Copthorne Hotel Careers Award Scheme. They were asked to devise a promotion to encourage customers to eat in the hotel; they chose an airlin theme which allowed them to provide varied menus from different countries. Whilst not winning, the team showed commendable qualities of energy and co-operation, working with minimum supervision. It is to be hoped that their interest in this area will continue, and provide the impetus to make theirs a winning entry next year.

Richard Cantlay of S5 is our resident squash enthusiast. He is a member of two clubs, and so far this year has taken part in a number of national competitions. The opposition is stiff, but Richard remains hopeful that his big break is not far away. His dedication is obvious, and next year's competition plans are already laid. Good luck!

Charles Donald of S6 has recently been awarded a Bursary in the General Duties Branch of the R.A.F. as a Pilot. Congratulations and best wishes to him.

Finally, congratulations go to Fiona Leggatt of 2B who took second place in the junior section (13-16 years) at the annual festival of Scots fiddle music in Elgin on 16 June.

MONEY IN THE BASKET



PUPILS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Back : L. to R.: Douglas Barry Craig Alexander Stuart , Paul

Front: L. to R.: Barry Lee , James Mark , Scott

On Thursday 26th April the school basketball team challenged the staff to a game in order to help them raise money for new strips. Money was to be raised by sponsoring the pupils for every 'basket' they scored.

In the match the pupils found difficulty in combating the slight height advantage of the staff. Time and time again, Alan 'Tornado' Thorn and Brenda 'Le Mistral' Urquhart breezed through the pupils' defence to score, whilst at the other end, the presence of Tom 'Harlem Globetrotter' Ferguson effectively blocked the attacks of the more diminutive pupils. As a result the match ended in a 38-8 victory for the staff - no quarter given or asked for.

Anne McIntosh, coach of the school team, informed UPDATE that the satisfactory sum of £120 has been raised. She expresses her thanks to all pupils and staff who took part.

DIARY

- 25-29 June: Staff and pupil delegates attend 'Caretakers of the Environment' conference in Bristol.
- 26 June- 5 July : School Trip to Austria
- 29 June (3 pm) : End of Term
- 21 August : Start of new term for pupils
- 31 Aug- 2 Sept : School Trip to Edinburgh Festival

EXCURSION DAY

1 JUNE 1990

