

UP *you* *Academy* DATE

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ALARMING!



On Thursday 14 March the school was visited by members of the North Aberdeen Crime Prevention Panel. One of the Panel's current initiatives deals with the distribution of personal alarms, and the school was asked to become involved. Through its Social Education programme pupils passed on the names of relatives and neighbours who would find a personal alarm useful. Over 120 alarms will be distributed soon, and our picture shows Mrs Bruce (front right) and Mr and Mrs McWilliam being presented with the alarms, when they came to school for the afternoon.

LET THE GOOD DYCE ROLL

or

Six Go A'Trainin' at Dyce Academy

At certain times in the year the corridors of learning at the Northern College echo with the question - "What school have you got?". Congratulations or commiserations flow liberally and students retire to the solitude (and destitution - but we won't go into that) of their rooms. There they prepare lessons for their forthcoming school experience, or drink vast quantities of alcohol in drowning their sorrows realising, when it's too late, that the two actually go well together.

Some time later, armed with promises from the college that Principal Teachers and Teacher Regents are loving, caring individuals, devoted to the well-being and comfort of those new to their profession, the students stride forth into the real world. There they find traffic queues, timetables, influenza, violence, pollution, exhaustion and finally - they arrive at school.

While they could hardly be described as the magnificent six, the student teachers, at Dyce from 6 February to 15 March, did bring with them a wide range of experiences and backgrounds including Chemistry, Drama, Modern Languages, Art, History and Religious & Moral Education, with a bit of English thrown in. And while they couldn't be described as 'magnificent' they could be described as 'six', a number which bears testimony to the positive willingness of those at Dyce to take students under their wing.

And once there the students soon realised that, on the whole, the college hadn't been far wrong in its description of Principal Teachers and Teacher Regents. The 'loving' was perhaps a little strong (thank God) but 'caring individuals' was nearer the mark. The ethos at Dyce is one of co-operation and communication, with both pupils and staff, and this was most certainly extended to the students during their time in the school.

Being their second school placement the students had, at last, got past the stage of hiding their wine-gums whenever a teacher went past. A shout in the corridor might bring an involuntary reflex resulting in embarrassment but, relaxed as it is, these incidents rarely occurred at Dyce. In fact, during the six weeks, some of the students had an opportunity to display talents which far outstretched their already obvious and considerable skills. Mr Kemp's film star impressions, for instance, left a great deal to the imagination (but were contagious - witness Mr Young's unforgettable 007) while intellectual discussions about such institutions as the Muppets, Stingray and The Woodentops, occurred on a daily basis. All of which, the secrets of the staffroom, reveal a relaxed and supportive picture that well describes the students experiences of those at Dyce.



Our happy students

But Dyce is of course, a centre of learning and, in their own separate ways, the students experienced this in each of their departments. Mr Kemp stressed the supportive attitude of the Science Department and really had only one criticism - that the music played to announce the last five minutes of each lesson was not Iggy Pop's 'Lust for Life' or something from the Clash. (How about something from Bunsen and The Burners?). Miss Keenan, meanwhile, expresses great respect for a school which has a subscription to The Fortean Times and other than that says how much she has enjoyed her time at Dyce. Miss Greaves says it's been fun in RME and that she has enjoyed her many discussions with both pupils and staff - even though her 'technical skills are a bit duff' - but that's another matter. The photocopying skills of Miss Tucker, however, have improved enormously during her time at Dyce - though she refuses to take total responsibility for either the destruction of the Rainforests or, more importantly, the demise of the Modern Languages Department's photocopying budget. Mrs Morland's determination to fulfill a long held ambition to teach Art at secondary school level has been 'strengthened' by

her experience in the school and she feels, as a mature student, that she has made a good start towards proving that 'old dogs can learn new tricks'. Mr Plant discovered at Dyce how Drama should be taught in school and has had a great time being part of a department that he feels is second to none. His only regret is in having to leave so soon.

Being a student is probably not the easiest thing in the world. New faces, new places, new timetables, new ideas, new ways, new days - and all before lunch - make it an exhausting experience. But in an environment such as Dyce, with the friendship and support that is offered there, the experience can be, and was, a pleasant one.

To finish in traditional fashion - the students would like to thank both staff and pupils for giving them a positive and happy experience at Dyce and to wish them all the very best for the future.

PS Mr Kemp is taking no more orders for his knitted ties - his granny is now exhausted!

(The Students at Dyce Academy - February/March 1996)

ASDA'S GREAT COMPUTER CHALLENGE

Voucher Total Update

Since the voucher scheme started on 22 January we have managed to collect 2440 vouchers.

We would also encourage you to keep collecting vouchers during the Easter Holidays. The vouchers will now also be issued up to 26 April 1996. 4000 vouchers are needed to enable us to claim a computer for our school - keep saving!

FIRE, EARTH, AIR AND WATER



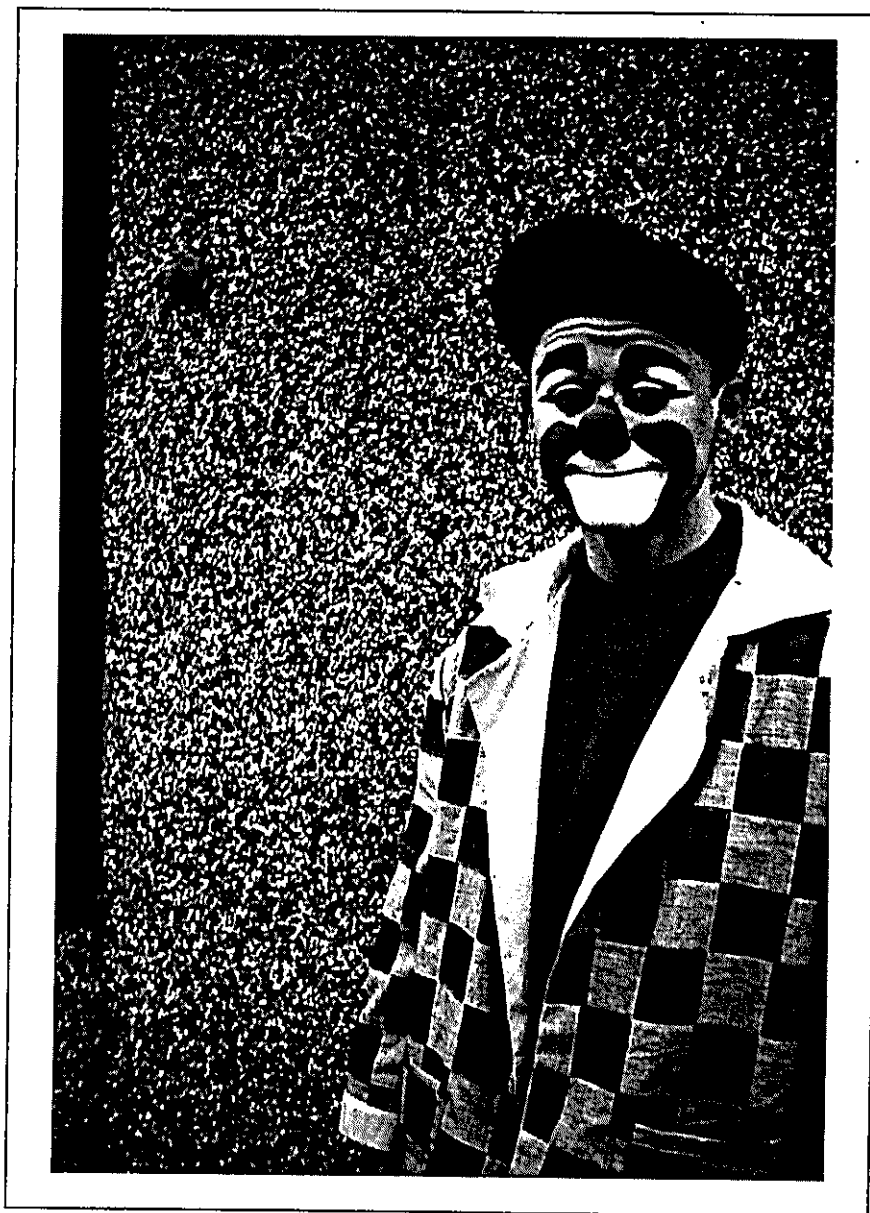
Congratulations to Maija and Tracy of 2B whose creative Art work on the exciting theme of Fire, Earth, Air and Water was the Grampian Regional winner (age 12-14) in a National Art Competition. Both girls will receive a specially designed winners certificate and a Glasgow Museum's merchandise pack including super books and other 'goodies'.

The competition was sponsored by the New Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow - opening in May. The girls' work will now be judged along with other Scottish Regional winners - if they win this they will be invited to attend the exciting opening ceremony with celebrities from the world of Art.

Good Luck!

DAVID NIVEN

CLOWNING AROUND



Tweedy the Clown has become a familiar name in the North East of Scotland due to his appearances in Haddo Youth Theatre since 1992 and at the Exhibition Centre at the Bridge of Don. However, not many people might realise that this is former pupil Alan [redacted] whose mother, Ann, still works in our Community Office.

Alan's astonishing career clowning around has taken him to all parts of Britain. In 1993, his love of the entertainment world was given a boost by his work in Butlins in Ayr, as a Redcoat running Kids' Clubs, and taking part in cabaret. At the end of the summer season he joined "Smart Alec Productions" in Minehead, playing the part of a six-year-old called

Whizzer. Averaging three shows a day for the whole winter season was no joke.

By March 1994 Alan had returned to Ayr, this time writing and appearing in his own shows. Within a few weeks he was offered a job with Zippo's Circus promoting the show in local schools and hospitals all over London. Alan is quick to point out that there are no animals in this circus. A big break came when the main clown took ill and Alan stepped in; for the rest of the season, he performed in about half the shows. By this time his acts included driving a little car which fell to bits (surprised?), and a haunted house gag which had the topical Jurassic Park theme.

By the winter of '94, Alan's talent to put on a colourful show, with entertainment for all age groups, won him the opportunity to form a trio with Zippo and Alexis; that's when his stage name "Tweedy" was created. Another major triumph was soon to follow, when Tweedy won sponsorship from Nintendo as "Kid Clown". He plunged himself into promoting Nintendo's products, by touring London for a year. Success continued the following year for Tweedy, as Zippo's Circus laughed at the way to the bank with a £48,000 cheque from the lottery to help train performers for life under the Big Top. Not exactly the clown jewels but

enough to ensure plenty more work for Tweedy!

Tweedy has always remembered less advantaged children, taking many opportunities in his own time to bring the thrills and spills of clowning to their homes and hospital wards. He recalls with great delight the surprise he had when he was given an award in recognition of his work with the handicapped and the underprivileged children at the World Clown Convention of 1995.

Over the years his fame has spread; his television appearances include "Disney Adventures", "Good Morning TV", "Big Breakfast", as well as Children's BBC and on various cable channels.

Did you notice his full colour picture in front of "The Guardian" - or the one in front of "Private Eye", with John Major's brother? Or in the "Today", or "The Sun" or the "Daily Express"?

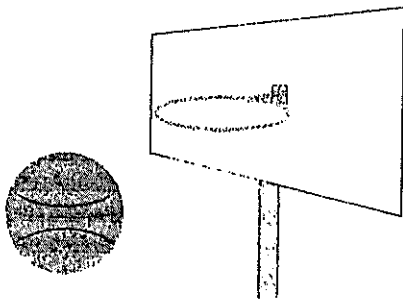
Weighted down with his new costumes and props (Alan says thanks to Mum and Dad for these) Tweedy is off back down to Zippo's again. He'll spend time training with his trio in Winchester, as well as perfecting his own act. Maybe next year he'll be spotted by Cirque De Soleil.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls - what do you do on a Thursday lunchtime? Nothing much? Why not come along to the Games Hall between 12.20 and 12.55 and join the girls basketball club? All girls between S1 and S6 are welcome. At the moment there are 12 girls from S2 - S6 coming along (where are all the S1 girls?). We practise some skills, then play games. The main aim is enjoyment, although hopefully the exercise will benefit everyone. If there is enough interest we may get some friendly matches arranged with other schools or against the boys team here!

Come and join us - the more the merrier!!

JANICE MOIR

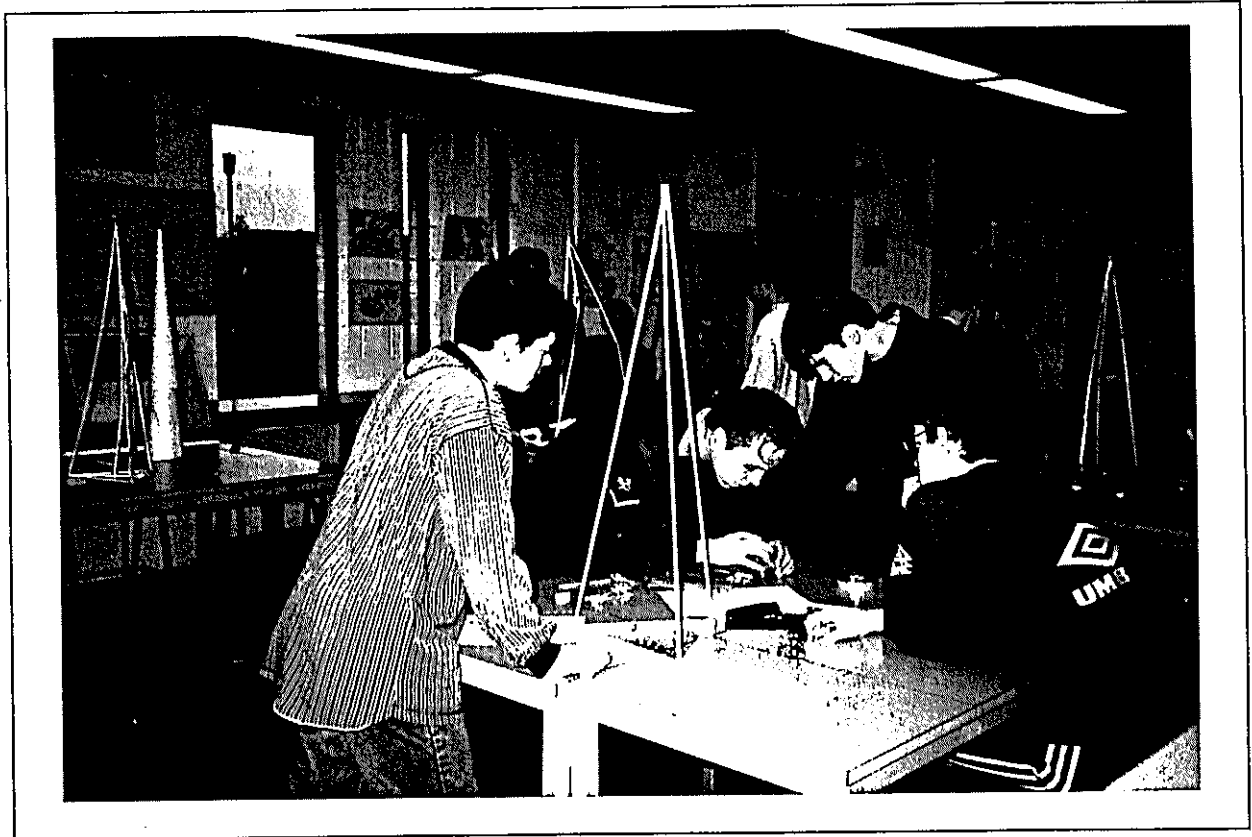


COURT REPORT - MARCH 1996

The Basketball season is almost over. Our S1 and S2/3 teams have only one more event to compete in and a tremendous season will be complete. Our S1 team have made excellent progress starting from a squad of enthusiasts with little or no previous experience and ending up with a string of victories to their credit. They revisited Ellon in late February and came back with two worthy victories over the host team and Bridge of Don. By the time you read this they will be able to tell you how they got on in their remaining tournament at Torry. Our S2/3 team await a rearranged tournament at the American School (postponed due to inclement weather) against the home team and Oldmachar Academy. Victory in both matches could lead to Dyce finishing Champions. Our senior squad completed their programme with the sorts of victories which made me bite my nails to the bone and would have put a smile on Mr Micawber's face, the margin in both games against Robert Gordon's College and Banff being one point in our favour. The winning point against Banff was a credit to the cool disposition of Fraser Robertson as he sank a free throw with only three seconds of the match remaining. The seniors have ended with only five victories and four defeats - a considerable achievement given the loss of key players throughout the season.

TOM FERGUSON

AN ARMY EXERCISE



Last term the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Mobile Display Team dropped into school and occupied part of the Technical Department for a day. The objective of this exercise was to gain and hold the interest of pupils and stretch their inventiveness to the full.

Classes were quickly organised into rival teams and, with strictly limited materials, set about designing and building the highest tower or the strongest bridge with little more than paper and glue.

The final load testing and assessment is usually accompanied by much hilarity from the opposing sides but the whole business is conducted in a friendly but competitive spirit.

The REME Display Team work well with young people of differing ages who obviously enjoy this fun-filled but stimulating exercise.

SCOTTISH INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS KELVIN HALL GLASGOW

Once again Stuart Mathieson put Dyce Academy firmly on the Scottish map by winning Bronze in the Under 16 Boys 400m at the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. Although Stuart's time of 56.39 and place were not as good as his Gold medal and record-breaking performance outdoors, he made a great effort and deserved his medal.

On a sadder note Douglas Cumming and Mark McDonald were put out in their heats. Douglas finished third in the Under-16 800m in a time of 2.21.75 but failed to make the final as a fastest loser.

Mark had no luck either. Missing the Under-16 age cut-off, he was flung into the Over-16 age group. To make matters worse he had the Under-20 and Under-17 Scottish Champions in his 1500m heat. He did well not to finish last and came home in sixth place with a creditable time of 4.47.3, nearly an indoor PB. So as the sun went down on Glasgow and the long journey home began, the boys looked back on a very enjoyable day out.

Note - Special thanks to Mark's dad who took the boys down and back and helped officiate at the event.



CANADA 1996 - ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

Why not join us for a final fling before we wing our way to the wilds of Canada?

Saturday 27 April

CEILIDH (licensed)

Price £5
Includes Buffet and Live Music

7.30 pm
Dyce Academy

Thursday 20 June

FINAL CONCERT

Price £2.50
Refreshments included

7.30 - 9.00pm
Dyce Academy

J. Smith