

by MICHAEL WATTS

Secs orgy at Sheffield?

THE free concert at Sheffield University on Monday, June 21 (from 2 pm to 12 midnight) might turn into a massive convention (or confrontation) between most of the country's social secretaries and agencies.

The Sheffield entertainments committee have invited about sixty social secretaries — "everybody north of Potters Bar" — and the great majority have replied favourably. Representatives of all the agencies are expected to attend in force, too. Not Chrysalis, though.

"We asked them but they said they definitely would not come," Richard Fraser, entertainment vice-chairman, told me.

"We've had a lot of trouble with them in the past. There have been three major rows that I can think of."

Bands playing are Trilogy, Spirogyra, Patto, Swegas, Spontaneous Combustion, Hookfoot, Armada, Philip Goodhand-Tait and Blonde on Blonde.

Booze

They are playing for expenses and free booze. Sheffield, in fact, are paying out a total of £300. The entertainments committee has already received a grant of £80 from the union, together with a nominal amount for publicity.

This year's free festival follows the success of a slightly smaller venture last year, when £150 was paid out to bands. Fraser says that if it goes well this year they hope to hold a much larger event in '72. "Last year we were going to put on a festival on the scale of that at Bath, but we haven't quite got the contacts that Fred Bannister has."

These are not idle words. In the '60/'70 season the committee had a turnover of £36,000, which must make Sheffield one of the largest centres of campus rock music in the country.

Fraser is very optimistic. He says response from all concerned has been so good that they are having to put up the house full notices, and that means no more bands. "We don't want every small band in the country ringing up and asking to play, like last year. We just can't get any more in."

STOCKPORT Schools Union is not the only one of its kind, it seems. Bradford has had its own sixth form union for the past ten years.



HOOKFOOT'S CALEB QUAYE: Sheffield University gig

STUDENT STATEMENT

Twenty schools are members and the membership runs to more than 2,000, with every sixth former in the city automatically becoming a member. No membership fee is charged so the union, like that at Stockport, relies purely on its profit from the social functions to finance more gigs.

Ernest Dobson, the president, says they suffer from the same disadvantages as Stockport: no regular venues and no subsidy to cover any losses. They do have the moral support, though, of the local education director and a majority of the headmasters.

They have a straight front in organising stunts, marathons and hikes to raise money for charities, but the main purpose, he emphasises, is social. Bands booked in the past include

Wynder K Frogg, Graham Bond, Junior's Eyes, Blonde On Blonde and Groundhogs. Dobson would like Stewart Rigby of the Stockport

Union to contact him. His address is 37 Lingwood Avenue, Bradford BD8 9PR. Who knows, it could be the start of a national union.

This week's dates

THURSDAY
Alsager College, Stoke: Tir Na Nog
FRIDAY
King's College, Cambridge: Keef Hartley, Arthur Brown, Duster Bennett, Ginger Johnson, Stray and Oberon.
SATURDAY
Alsager College: Da Da Exeter University: Disco Bradford University: Roy Young Band Loughborough University: Rock 'n' Roll All

Stars Mary's College, Twickenham: Paladin Durham University: Humble Pie and Jericho Jones
MONDAY
Trinity College, Cambridge: Roy Young Band
WEDNESDAY
Brighton College of Education: Fleetwood Mac Loughborough University: Tekford Hall Disco Magdalene College, Cambridge: Slade

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