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INMATES take on a team of pris- on officers in a tug of war during Barlinnie's Funday yesterday. Not everything that the prison- ers miss from the outside world was available inside the jail, but it was a start. If the event did not exactly throw open the doors to the outside world, they surely swung open and closed more often than is usual for a Sunday. On playing fields towards the

back of the prison complex, the families of around 25 inmates joined them for an afternoon of intermittent sunshine and threat- ening rain. They were Barlinnie's category C prisoners, many of them first offenders and most un- lucky not to be in more open prisons. In marked contrast to the usual regime of two half-hour visits each month, families were welcomed to the prison for more than five hours

yesterday and the prisoners had a chance to kick a ball about on a football pitch some of them had never seen. With benches laid along the side of the park and the inmates' chil- dren joined by a non- denominational troupe of Chris- tian youngsters from Youth With A Mission, it was not just the uncertain weather that gave the event the atmosphere of a Sunday school picnic.

It had been designed to begin the prison's Scottish Kids at Christmas Appeal but lack of sponsorship meant that it ended up costing rather than raising money — not that anyone seemed to mind. With many of the men due home before Christmas anyway, their own children were more concerned with joining in the games that had been organised by the Barlinnie PT instructors.

The staff had given their time to run the event and a number of local bands also donated their services to provide a soundtrack to the afternoon. If what was really annoying the young man with only six weeks of his sentence to go was that he was missing Dire Straits at the SECC, then Replay doing their hits The Walk of Life and Sultans of Swing was a welcome substitute.

MEN CLAIM

MEN are victims of sugge- behaviour at work, a survey yesterday. Cohe, the health of its male members returne. They complained that the pr were mainly male nurses.

GREENS GO

THE Scottish Green Party concept of a fully-indepen- involvement with the current the final day of its annual endorsed its declaration that take back control of its own part of the "international sovereign state".

PLEA ON CZ

THE USSR'S rulers and the their change of heart by solvin twentieth century", what real family. "Were they all shot in favoured version has it," aske director of Burke's Peetage. his son, killed them, as later

BABY SAVER

A E1 device invented by a I babies' lives was launched at plastic hand-held pump, which babies, was devised by Angus A-levels at Trent College, nea manufactured and is expected

MOD denies nuclear sub safety claim

THE Ministry of Defence yester- day denied claims that eight nuclear submarines based at Faslane have been banned from visiting foreign ports because of Government fears of an accident happening abroad.

The report, which appeared in a Sunday newspaper, was based on allegations believed to be con- tained in a documentary to be shown on Thursday by Thames TV's This Week team.

It is understood that a civil servant claims in the programme that the Government's Nuclear- powered Warships Committee gave the order after cracks were found in the nuclear submarines' reactors.

The civil servant is also be- lieved to be claiming that a nuclear reactor accident is less likely to occur at Faslane because the reactors on the submarines are not run up to full power while at base.

However, a spokesman for the MOD said yesterday: "The sub- marines are not banned from foreign visits. They will continue to go on them on a routine opera- tional basis and most recently they have all visited the United States."

He declined to comment on whether the reactors on the sub- marines were run on full power

while at Faslane, saying this was "an operational matter".

The spokesman also replied to claims that Polaris submarines were leaving Faslane on patrol without full safety clearance and with only temporary safety certificates.

"They are maintained in accor- dance with rigorous safety standards and with the endorse- ment of the Nuclear-powered Warships Committee. We would not allow any submarine to go to sea if we did not consider it safe to do so," he said.

However, Mr John McFall, Labour MP for Dumbarton, said

he would be raising the safety fears with Defence Secretary Tom King and the Commons De- fence Select Committee when Parliament resumes next month.

"I first raised the issue of cracks in the reactors myself last November and I have been pur- suing it ever since. It has been a frustrating experience. The Min- istry of Defence says nothing unless it has to," said Mr McFall.

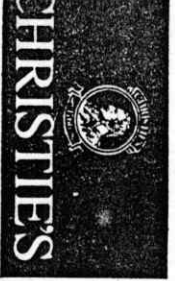
"My concern has been for the safety of submariners, workers on the base, and my constituents."

Press spokesman for Scottish CND the Rev. Adrian Rennie

said: "The history of the Mod's dealings with the press in Scot- land means that we can take their initial comments to any crisis with a large bucket of salt."

Mr Rennie yesterday proposed an emergency motion at Scottish CND's annual conference this weekend calling on the Govern- ment to recall Polaris submarines to Faslane to shut down their reactors.

Four members of Christian CND, two Dominican nuns, a teacher, and a peace worker were arrested and charged with van- dalism yesterday after allegedly painting a Biblical quotation in Hebrew outside Faslane camp.



Inquiry into BCCI devours council funds

THE Western Isles Coun- cil will be told this week that its budgets may be too small to cover the costs of the independent inquiry into the BCCI affair.

According to an internal report, the inquiry, con- ducted by Professor Alan Alexander of Strathclyde University, has cost the council £8700 so far. The report states: "These costs are required

administration and legal services' budgets but it seems unlikely that such provision will be adequate."

The council is scheduled to meet tomorrow for a special ballot to elect a convenor to replace the Rev. Donald Macaulay

Plea for forward thin care of elder

THERE are more long- stay beds in the private nursing home sector than in National Health Service hospitals, a seminar for home operators was told at Perth at the weekend.

But executives of the Registered Nursing Home Association fear the rapid disappearance of nursing homes as temptations arise to place patients into the

"We will be keeping a very careful watch on the situation because 18 months is not a long time for us to have changes made before we are faced with a fait accompli. We will be fighting for some form of protection and

