

# The Guardian

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Police confront students on the march against student loans at Westminster Bridge on November 24, 1988

## Police agree £22,000 for demo injuries

**Duncan Campbell**  
Crime Correspondent

**A** FORMER student has been given £22,000 by the Metropolitan Police in settlement of a damages claim for injuries caused during a police horse charge on the National Union of Students' mass lobby of Parliament in November 1988.

Maria McAndrew, now aged 24, of Stepney, east London, was a student of English at Middlesex Polytechnic when she took part in the protest against student loans.

About 15,000 students approached Parliament from three directions. Police halted the marchers on Westminster Bridge, and mounted police charged to disperse them.

Scotland Yard said the police had been pelted with coins, bottles, and poles and had responded after demonstrators refused to disperse.

Demonstrators said the charge was unprovoked. Ann Clywd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, who was a witness, said police horses were brought in without warning.

There were 69 arrests, and 50 people were charged with public order offences. More than 100 — students and police — were injured.

Mrs McAndrew, who brought the action in her maiden name,

Franklin, had been with her father at the crowd of students at County Hall, home of Greater London Council.

"We heard screaming, rumbling noise, and reaction was to turn," she said. "But it wasn't for people to get away."

She was trampled by a horse and had emergency surgery on her left leg, with a hoof-shaped scar. She suffered a severe post-traumatic reaction.

"No one I have heard the police giving before they charged," Mrs McAndrew, who is a public relations firm.

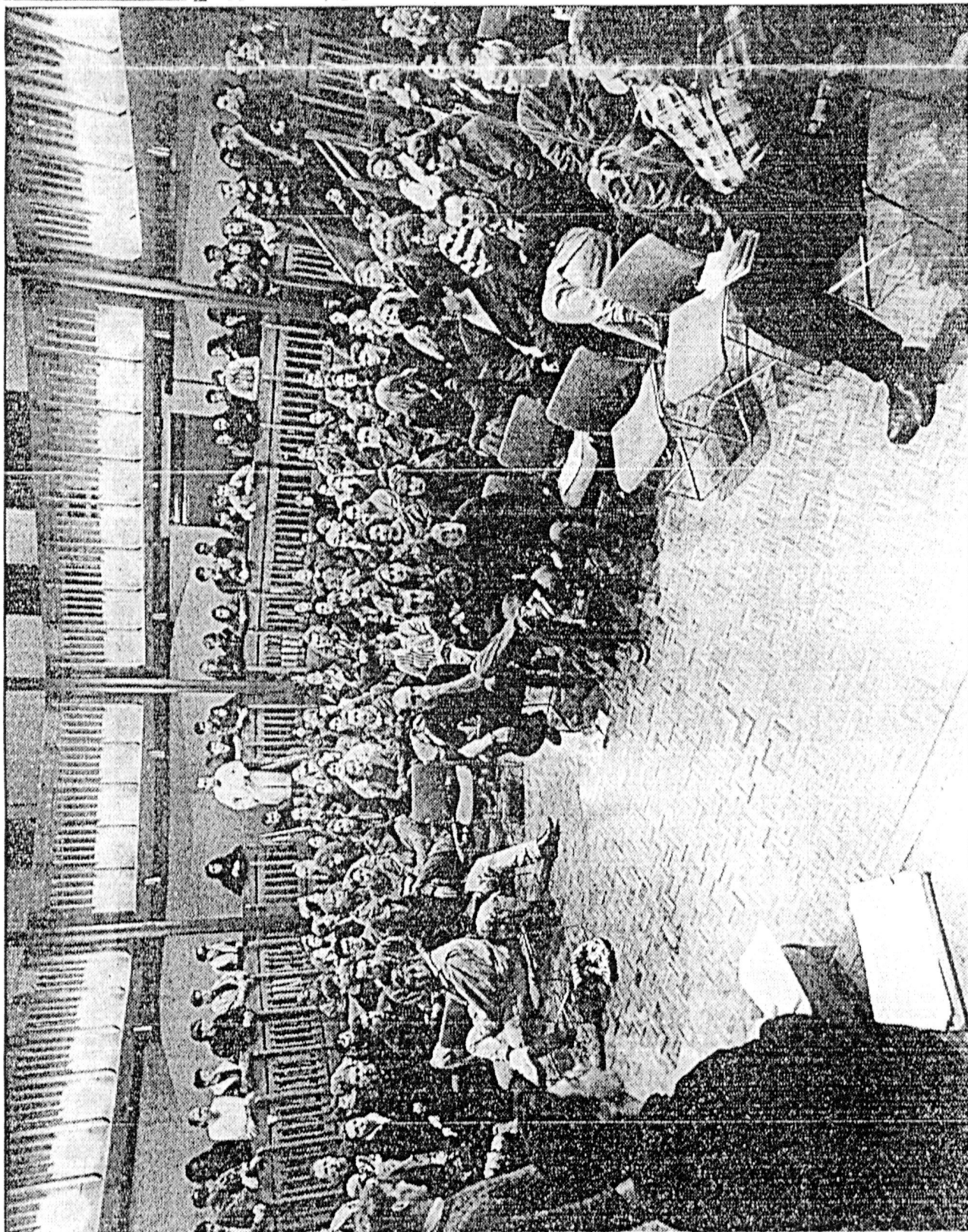
"I believe an inquiry should be held without delay into the use of horses and other mounted police in such situations."

She started her action immediately after she left hospital and the case was delayed for trial when she was reached. She has given her legal costs as £12,000.

Her solicitor said that the police had followed their own guidelines in dealing with a crowd that was blocking the means of escape.

Scotland Yard confirmed a settlement had been reached. The police do not accept liability.

### HOME NEWS 3



... 800 students at Middlesex polytechnic, which is about £2 million in debt, staged a sit-in yesterday, at the art and design centre in north London, saying it would continue until the director David Melville concedes demands including reopening a site to reduce overcrowding; reinstatement of staff and a new system of student fees. Last month the firm, art department staged a two-day sit-in over course changes. PHOTOGRAPH BY GREGG DEGEN