

ARRESTED : FIFTEEN STUDENTS

Six from LSE arrested at anti-Baker Demonstration

by TOM PARKER

Fifteen students, six from the LSE, were detained by police during Tuesday's Day of Action against the "Great Education Reform Bill" (GER BILL). All were released later in the early hours of Wednesday morning, after being charged with a variety of public order offences. The most serious of these, assault, faces first year LSE undergraduate Louis Dale who is accused of attacking a female police officer. All fifteen will be appearing in court in the near future: the first case comes up today.

The demonstrators began gathering opposite the Department of Education and Science (DES) building at around one o'clock. The LSE contingent, two hundred strong, marched across Waterloo Bridge holding up southbound traffic before joining the rally which was attended by around two thousand students. More than twenty London colleges were represented (though Imperial was conspicuously absent) and a speech was heard from Patrick Young, NUS Vice President of Education. Petitions from the various colleges were then collected (incidentally half the LSE ones had been left behind) and handed into a member of Kenneth Baker's personal office.

Once the petitions had been handed in the event began to lose direction. Some students tried to disrupt the passing traffic and the police placed a cordon around the rally. Scuffles broke out and one demonstrator was arrested as students tried to break through the cordon to cross over to the DES building. This was the only arrest to occur during the official NUS London rally. The police were eventually overwhelmed and began to let demonstrators slip across the road where a "sit in" was staged outside the main entrance to the building.

The "sit in" lasted for around 30 minutes before the idea of marching on the Houses of Parliament began to take root with the demonstrators. They were later disowned by NUS officials who had already made a poor show of managing the official event.

Despite this unexpected development the police reaction was deliberately kept low key as they contented themselves with trying, ultimately unsuccessfully, to keep demonstrators off the road. Only one arrest occurred during the march - the result of a brief clash with police. I was a witness of the incident and it appeared to me that the police had arrested the wrong man.

As the demonstration approached Westminster Bridge it became clear why the police



A first year LSE student being arrested on Westminster Bridge after clashes with police during the demonstration last Tuesday.

had been so little concerned by the unofficial demonstration. Two roadblocks sealed off the bridge and the whole glorious procession was brought unceremoniously to a halt. There followed a twenty minute period of confusion among the demonstrators as they lost all sense of their original purpose. It was suggested that Kennington police station should become the new target of the march but there was no real sense of leadership and eventually all but the most committed demonstrators drifted away. One police officer explained that the bridge had been closed to enforce a "sessional order of Parliament" - being that no demonstrations are allowed within a certain radius of the House when it is sitting.

By four o'clock the police had reopened the bridge and it seemed like it was all over when the remaining demonstrators, numbering about two hundred in all and consisting for the main

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NUS London Censured in UGM

by ANDREW CORNWELL
and MARK MOSHER

LSE students have voted overwhelmingly to censure NUS London after accusations that there was a lack of leadership and refusal to defend students in the face of improper police behaviour on last Tuesday's Day of Action.

The emergency resolution was passed at last Thursday's UGM, following considerable bitterness towards the NUS London leadership. Allegations were made that NUS stewards departed early from a demonstration outside the Department of Education and Science, leaving the protest without leadership. In addition NUS London failed to provide a member of the executive as a speaker - an NUS London employee spoke instead - and the stewarding

arrangements were reported as "feeble" by many of the 300 LSE students present. When the majority of students decided to march towards Westminster no official organisers were present. Arrests followed soon afterwards.

Students at the demonstration were given a phone number by NUS London organisers for national NUS solicitor Michael Moore. Moore told the Beaver that national NUS was never informed by NUS London of the demonstration, let alone that he was the solicitor responsible for representing the arrested demonstrators.

"We were not informed by NUS London and so were unable to follow our normal policy of providing prior legal advice to demonstrators and coaching for stewards."

Thus, when 15 students were arrested and taken to Kennington

Police Station, they were unable to reach a solicitor. Some forfeited their right to see a duty solicitor from the Crown Prosecution Service because police told them a NUS lawyer was on the way. LSE student Annie Dixon said "The police claimed an NUS solicitor was on his way to see us but no one ever showed up". She and the other students held were then denied the right to any kind of legal advice.

This was not the only questionable piece of police procedure. Another one of the arrested LSE students, John Goodman says he was asked by police to sign a piece of paper on the promise of being released "within half an hour." The paper turned out to be a "confession" that he had verbally abused his arresting officer.

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THE BEAVER

Some thoughts on the White Paper

Would you buy a used car from Kenneth Baker? Well, maybe that is a question that should be given some thought, at a time when the campaign to oppose the forthcoming government legislation gathers momentum. Because if this becomes law, the Secretary of State for Education will effectively be alone in command of all aspects of higher education, disregarding academics and students alike.

What all of us should know is that this legislation will change virtually every aspect of our lives as students. But most of all, it reduces educational institutions to mere capitalist firms; the words one comes across most frequently in all the government literature surrounding the White Paper are terms such as "efficiency", "serving the economy", "improving management" or "contractual agreements". This is, we feel, the worst threat of all.

Universities do not exist to make a profit. They are part of those basic bastions that exist independently of economic and political realities. Just like the health service or even defence, the instruction of future citizens cannot depend on marginal profit rates or efficiency. This is these sentences are so dangerous, sentences like: "Payments of grants [from a local authority or from central government] from public funds does not imply, in the Government's view, unconditional entitlement to support from the taxpayer" (Paragraph 4.16 of the White Paper). are so dangerous. What they really mean is that only "quality" courses deserve funding, only "quality" courses deserve to exist.

But there is a hitch. *Who is to judge quality?* No one could deny that some courses are better than others. But what the Baker Bill proposes is for "the Government on behalf of the public" to "ensure that systems are in place to promote and give effect to the commitment [of quality] and to monitor the results" (Paragraph 3.5). The message is clear. It is Kenneth Baker who is to decide about excellence.

That is bad enough. What is even worse, the guidelines used are, for example, "the fitness for purpose" of courses, "how they meet the needs of employers", "the achievements of students" or "the quality of teaching". All of this, of course, decided and judged by the government. What is at risk is, quite simply, academic freedom.

The sovereignty of the universities is put further at risk by Baker's striving towards contractual relations between the institution and its funding bodies. What is a contract? In the words of the DES report, "contracts are mutual agreements". Translated into English: "we give you money and you, in return, provide 'quality' higher education, and if you don't . . ."

The contracts will also "have to specify clearly and with adequate precision the educational services to be provided by institutions in exchange for an appropriately determined payment". Quite a task for university directors, as they are given absolutely no hint as to what the level of funding will be.

We wish them good luck.

As Baker imposes his iron grip on British education, in a manner basically incompatible with democracy, all members of the educational community must oppose the Governments lethal legislation. Lethal to academics, lethal to students and lethal to the country.

Use the form-letter provided by The Beaver to write to your MP, and ask anybody you know to sign it. Also, copies of the Government's proposals can be consulted in the library, in the offices of SU sabbaticals or at The Beaver.

Losing Sight of the Issues

Dear Beaver

Are there any free thinkers in British Society? I would never have thought to ask this question when I arrived on English soil, two months ago. As a general course student, on leave from an American University, I was eager to become involved at the LSE. The reason I chose the school was that I heard it contained a broad spectrum of political views and had a high regard for social issues. It is ironic that these very things which I sought, should now be responsible for my current state of cynical disillusionment.

Today I am of the position that the LSE has no political views. Sure students scream at each other a lot about politics, but nothing which is said can be considered original and nobody participating learns anything. Rather than being an arena for informed debate, the School is in reality a battleground between antiquated ideologies.

That large sections of the Student body have been brainwashed is slightly disconcerting. What really bothers me, however, is that these fanatics insist on thrusting every social problem, every issue, every aspect of student life into the political realm. One only needs to observe the weekly Union meetings to see my point.

Upon first attending a Union meeting, I was amused to find that students sat on either the left or the right, depending on their political affiliation. 'Kind of cute,' I thought to myself. "Like a junior parliament." At the time, I did not realise how much truth there was in this statement.

Almost every topic brought up at Union meetings develops into a major political confrontation. Insults are traded and tensions rise, but little gets accomplished.



OK, I'll admit that the LSE has done an outstanding job of protesting domestic and international injustices, but what about attempting to improve the quality of student life? Should this not be the primary concern of the Union? With the exception of tackling the housing shortage problem, the Union has done little to address student needs.

Another striking example of how politics have corrupted student life was evident in the recent elections. Everywhere one looked during the election, one saw campaign posters imploring people to Vote Labour, Vote Tory, Vote Whatever. One woman, who ran for a position on the Court of Governors, attempted to solicit my vote. When asked about her beliefs, she replied "I stand for everything that's on the Liberal platform."

Now perhaps I'm hasty with my accusations, but shouldn't these individuals be campaigning for student concerns? Why bring national politics into the picture?

My advice to these students who insist on engaging in petty ideological disputes is as follows; divorce political issues from social concerns whenever possible, the two are not always synonymous. Leave the political debates inside your respective party meetings, people are tired of hearing them. Don't be afraid to question your own beliefs and to compromise on issues. Finally, and perhaps most importantly . . . relax!

Yours
Daniel F. McLaughlin

Nursery Working Party ●●●●●●

Dear Editor

It is always distressing to be censored in a Beaver editorial. It is even more distressing to deserve it.

Despite your editorial last week my fault was not to agree, either to the compromise produced by the Nursery Working Party which I felt was unfair, still less to agree to the even more unbalanced solution which the Director finally implemented. I did not agree to the former and spent over an hour - as the only student present - arguing against it. Clearly the minute taker was asleep for one hour of a one hour and five minute meeting. I would not have agreed to the Director's final solution, had he deigned to tell me it, but he didn't. I then tried to raise the matter on the Court of Governors but the more pressing matter of a wine and cheese necessitated cancelling less important business!

No. My fault was a far larger one and one which goes beyond the immediate issue of the Nursery. I made the implicit assumption that you could deal with the School in good faith. Unfortunately this is not the case. When the Working Party reached it's solution I felt it was bad, I said it was bad but I thought (for I had been told by members of the Administration) that any deal was better than allowing either the Academic Board or the Finance Committee to simply close the Nursery. I did not think that my comments would go unminuted, the report of the Working Party

would be totally altered and that the School would then have the hypocrisy to claim next year that their solution was agreed by all.

"There has" said a great UK politician, "been many Judases, but never before has someone betrayed Christ, supped with Caiphaz, dined with Annias, dined with the Romans and then proclaimed himself the one and true Christ." Stand up LSE Administration and give me again that speech about why the Student Union should fairly represent the School's case, stick consistently to any agreements made and report honestly what happens at any meetings. Go to hell!

If the Administration (and I write as someone who likes some of them) wants to command the respect of the students, alumni, the academic staff and the non academic staff who actually run the place they should practice what they preach. An administration which doesn't and which is seen not to, will find that in times of trouble, when it needs all the loyalty, support and money it can get, that its Members feel that they deserve neither their loyalty, their support, nor least of all their money.

The LSE has my loyalty, will probably get my support and my money (well maybe) but it won't be because of the Administration but in spite of it.

Yours sincerely
Rory O'Driscoll
Senior Treasurer 1986-87

Play Action?

Dear Editor,

It's Tuesday the 17th of November and I'm sitting in the library having just crossed an NUS picket line. I am not particularly proud of what I've just done but my motives are these:

Firstly: I oppose the proposed Education Bill because I believe education should cross all the boundaries of class, and privilege. However a half-day strike is a shallow and futile gesture which carries very little weight at all.

Secondly: I resent the attitude of some pickets. I come from an area which bore the brunt of the miners' strike. There was violence on the local picket line, armies of police and pickets were drafted in from the other areas; emergency kitchens had to be set up to feed the hungry and aid such as winter clothes was given:- the miners and their families, right or wrong, went all out to protect their livelihoods and their jobs. After seeing all this struggle I find it difficult to look at a well off (nobody at the LSE is on the headline) well fed picket revelling in words such as "scab" and "blackleg" and relishing the "coming struggle". I firmly believe that if they knew the weight these words carry in a community like mine they wouldn't use them so lightly.

No matter how sincere, they're playing at striking, playing at picketing. They're losing nothing from this strike, it's not hurting them. It's a game!

Name not supplied.

Police Brutality

Dear Editor,

Attending the UGM, 19/11/87, I noted in the "discussion" concerning the NUS led education demonstration a tendency to attack the police. Implicit in the remarks made was the view that the police are systematically racist and brutal. What particularly disturbed me was the large measure of approval that appeared to be associated with this view, even by those not normally associated with the marginal politics of the extreme left.

It should be obvious even to those with the dullest intellects that if you ignore an explicit request made by the police, you leave yourself open to arrest. The manner in which you accept that arrest is obviously going to some extent dictate the way you are treated in custody. The police are human and so there will be cases where frustration and anger play a part. While it would be wrong for me not to condemn isolated cases of police over-reaction, it is far more wrong for these cases to be taken as evidence of a service generally brutal and generally racist. It is sad that so many LSE students appeared to have accepted this propaganda. The police do a hard job, generally well, they are never going to be in the right because they are always in the middle.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Clayton

Enniskillen Bombing

Dear Sir,

Why did your columnist "At the Union" (16th November edition) refer to the victims of the Enniskillen bombing in inverted commas? Is there some doubt as to whether people were in fact killed or injured? What else could he mean?

Yours faithfully,
Rose Gibson

The Beaver

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Stuck to the wall of the Old Theatre, on each side of the stage, there was a yellow balloon. In black letters, there was written: "This contains glasnost for Soviet Jews". This I didn't understand. I thought they contained hot air. Certainly, they were not alone.

Cyprus, we were informed last week, was one "issue" that the UGM discusses regularly without gaining any great understanding of what we presume to pass judgement on. As such, it might be seen to be one of a stock of such matters enjoying to a greater or lesser extent a dubious fate. Those others, NUS, the Middle East, and Northern Ireland, were prominent in last Thursday's events. Their "debate" served, again, to underline the problems inherent in viewing the UGM as "entertainment", and its incoherence once it moves away from more obviously "business" matters.

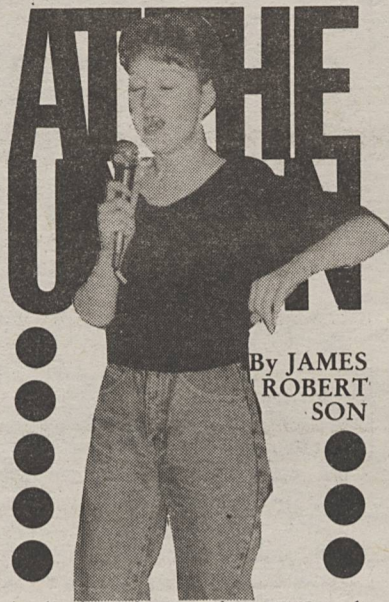
First, however, the "business". This was helped by the fact that the PA system, although "a bit tinny" (Imogen) and given to some unfortunate feedback, was actually working; and by the presence of all three sabbaticals for the first time in three weeks.

Thus, Randall led us through a few details of a "very promising" GPC meeting, where the School had re-affirmed its "long-term commitment" to the Nursery. The package: no closure; "no cuts"; the acceptance of the loan debt as "not liable on the Nursery"; with the School willing to negotiate and accept SU "input"; was hailed by Randall as a "considerable victory". Experience of the track-record of the School suggests that this remains to be seen. One should not plan offspring on the basis of this information.

Justin, in turn, offered us the opportunity to write to the City Guilds, as a "trial run" for a system for "begging for money... from everybody". Ford suggested that his "lost 4 stone had returned, via Wrights, and sought to deflect criticisms through the promise of a Tequila Nightmare Night, an Italian Night ("to spread culture"?), a Third World First benefit, and the much touted Bay City Rollers gig (and party). There was some less than warm encouragement for the prospect of the LSE Christmas Ball. Richard probably showed the limits of his progressive tendencies by explaining this as the other side of the coin to his promotion of "left-wing and lesbian theatre" (sic). "My job is to put on entertainment

for everyone and that's what I've done this year." Unfortunately, this failed to explain just who the Ball is supposed to be for, and why it costs, ahem, £22. There are many who might suggest that if you have £22 spare, it might be much better spent on the Third World First gig. Christmas spirit and all that...

We then moved on to Emergency Resolution No. 1 concerning the "Westminster 15" arrested on the "NUS" demonstration two days previously. The Friday (20th) deadline meant that the motion to go to Winter conference, criticising the "lack of



By JAMES ROBERTSON

leadership" by London NUS and calling for pressure "for a fighting Union" was given priority.

Randall, the first speaker for, characterised the NUS Day of Action as "a complete and total farce". The NUS demonstration was "so ineffectual" that it led for calls for "alternative forms of action".

Some students were treated "badly" by police, "as per usual". With some of the charges being quite serious, there remained the need for legal representation. On a wider level, Randall called for an end to NUS "factionalisation", for the union to "get our act into gear" in the face of the Baker Bill threat.

The second speaker talked about police lawlessness, in the face of which "we have no rights". She called on students to show support for those arrested, some of whom are in court in less than a fortnight, and one of whom faces deportation.

A rather different view came from a speaker against the motion who claimed "people just wanted to sit in the road and have a good time... a few ran across the road and got arrested... (their) just deserts." Not surprisingly, this analysis of the situation did not go down too well in Phil Evans's summation.

Phil (whose experience of these situations, he suggested, saved him from the heavy hand of the law) reminded the meeting of the "democratic right to demonstrate". He rounded angrily on plummy cries of "boring", suggesting that not all could revert to the powers of money and patronage enjoyed by the hecklers.

The victory of the motion - an amendment was passed calling for NUS to pay legal fees - and its dispatch to Conference was never in any doubt. The support for the students, again, remains to be seen.

The uselessness of the UGM as a tool of education, in its wider sense, was more forcefully brought home with Emergency Motion No 2. Also aimed at NUS, this called for "mutual recognition" of the rights to "National Self Determination" of both sides in the Arab/Israeli conflict.

Vague, unannounced, and hardly likely to be given a calm, considered forum for discussion, it is difficult to see what purpose it

served the SU. The first speaker for the motion spoke of the need to encourage "progressive Zionists and Palestinian Nationalists".

This went down fairly well. Indeed, sometimes it seems that the only thing more disliked than an idea ahead of its time, in the UGM or elsewhere, is one touted by the SWP, or rather SWSS. The central issue of debate, as taken up by Nic Cicutti concerned the question of "mutual recognition", and the role of the Israeli state.

These were issues which the motion failed to address. Moreover, discussion was not helped by the contentious style of the protagonists and the screaming of the mob. Thus, checklists were traded off. Cicutti talked of the Palestinian dispossession; the West Bank and Gaza; Chabra and Shatila. The Chair of the UJS, Paul Frosch, given outside speaking rights talked disparagingly of the "comrades in the corner"; of the SWP (sic) having only "a recipe for eternal war"; of their being obsessed by the idea of a "World Zionist Conspiracy", contentiously citing the case of Sunderland Polytechnic; of the history of the Camp David Agreement; of the aftermath of the Six Day War.

The summation returned to the question of "National Self Determination", which, it can be argued, is almost seventy years out of date (ask Woodrow Wilson). To misquote E.H. Carr, it ignores the fact that there are those prepared to fight to defend the status quo, and therefore those who feel that they must seek force in order to change it.

The motion was carried almost unanimously. It would be surprising if anyone could explain what they did next. The debate took great liberties with history and with the politics of International Relations. In this sense it was shameful.

Stock Issue No. 3. Northern Ireland. Circa 1.50pm, we finally moved onto the purple order paper with business motion 4:1 on the British presence in Ireland. The critics of the "British occupiers of Ireland" were pitted against the critics of the former's "petty politics".

Again, "truth" was in the eye of the beholder. Any attempt to try and understand the situation in its proper historical and political context (as, in our work, as students, we are enjoined to do) is lost under the howls of those who talk about "justifying" murder and who enter the stale debate about "freedom fighters" and "terrorists".

An amendment suggested that "the primary responsibility for the (Enniskillen) bombing rests with the British state". This was like asking a 2-year-old to discuss nuclear physics.

The motion was left on the table. "How many people can you piss off in one week?" asked an exasperated American between the Middle East and Northern Ireland motions. If you too were pissed off, you might seek to resolve this problem by addressing some of your own prejudices, and thinking about what you actually vote for. Talk about pissing in the wind.

NUS London

From page 1

Goodman was not let out until 6 hours later.

On arrival at Kennington that night, SU General Secretary Nick Randall was faced initially with a refusal by police to name any of the LSE students that were being held. Two days later New Scotland Yard told the Beaver that only 3 had been arrested in connection with the anti-Baker demonstration. In fact 3 charges of obstruction, 2 of threatening behaviour and one of assault had been laid by the time the LSE students were released later on Tuesday night. NUS London claimed that it had too many "meetings" arranged on the night in question to send anyone to Kennington to investigate.

The first case to come to court is today, when LSE's Louis Dale appears on an assault charge, alleged by "police to have hit the arm of a woman police officer". This is the most serious charge but concern is also felt for Shane Mohabier, a black South African student from the London College of Printing who is faced with deportation if found guilty of obstruction. A campaign is being organised this week to have these and all other charges dropped. It will include a demonstration outside Horseferry Road Magistrates Court on Wednesday December 2nd.

The emergency resolution also committed the Students Union to follow past precedent and pay all fines and legal fees arising from the Baker Bill demonstration. This will be done through the "Students Union Club" which was set up to make such "political" payments and was used when students were tried, for example, during the Miners' Strike.

Meanwhile the campaign against the Baker Education Bill is to continue, with national NUS organising a lobby of Parliament. This time it will be legal for students to demonstrate outside the House of Commons. LSE students are clearly hoping that national NUS can organise such a protest better than their counterparts in London did last week.

LSE students arrested

From page 1

part of various left wing college groups, dashed onto the south-bound carriageway of Westminster Bridge blocking the road and then staged the second sit down protest of the day. The bridge was sealed off once more and police lines were strengthened and redrawn.

The impasse lasted until ten minutes past five when the demonstrators, frustrated by further inactivity, decided to try and break through the police lines and cross the bridge. As the demonstrators stood up and linked arms the police prepared to finally take action to break up what was left of the demonstration.

As the students tried to outflank the police, officers charged into the leading group and arrested 15 students (6 from LSE) who they judged to be ringleaders or had allegedly tried to put up a fight. Those arrested were then taken to join the two arrested earlier at Kennington police station.

fifth COLUMN

By Paul Wood

Last week I was trying to find out which of the political groupings looked the oddest. A very difficult task, but not quite as hard as finding out what the Liberals at LSE stand for. Last week I went to a Liberal meeting. There were eight people there. Two of these were outside speakers. One was myself. The meeting lasted exactly ten minutes. What can one write about that? Nothing at all, which is why I am going to write about the N.U.S. day of action.

I would not go so far as to say that the lunch time protest meeting which marked the Day of Action could have been held in Wright's. Let's just say it could have been organised by the Liberals. Infact I arrived to find that a bearded man was addressing the meeting. Beards, in my experience, very often denote membership of the Liberal Party so there may be some truth in the rumour. The huddled masses were told that the Education Bill was "the final nail in the coffin of Higher Education" and marked "the end of the period of expansion in...". These statements met with a general murmur of approval from the crowd. An NUS speaker gently chided the LSE for having such a poor turn out. There was general agreement that the event had not been publicised sufficiently and that people did not come because they "did not know what the Bill was about".

I suspect that those present at the gathering knew just as little as those who were not there. There was the usual sprinkling of SWSS and RCP who turn out whenever there is an opportunity to make faces at police officers and some Labour Club members: in short, all those who oppose the Bill because the Tories (scum!) thought of it.

I don't really object to their opposing the Bill. I don't object to people marching to Westminster Bridge and sitting on it if that is what amuses them. All I wish is that is they would change the speech. The Speech? You know the one which goes "this vicious Tory Government has systematically and viciously introduced vicious cuts which will discriminate (viciously) against women, ethnic minorities and possibly old age pensioners (tag on students here)". Of course this was exactly what we got at the Day of Action meeting. Why must they talk of the nail in the coffin, the end of the line, the swinging axe when - I hope that some readers will not find the intrusion of reality shocking - spending on education has increased in real terms every year since 1979 and when the Bill proposes to increase student numbers by fifty thousand?

Loathe as I am to defend any Tory Government I feel that complaining about cuts is not the answer. I am sure that there must be things wrong with the Bill (and I can think of a few things offhand), but the present coalition and their reasons for objecting to the Bill, not to mention their tactics, will do nothing more than bring a smile to Mr. Baker's face.



L.S.E.
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Higher Education Bill meets Opposition in Parliament

The argument against Kenneth Baker's proposal from Labour and the Liberal Party.

by TOM PARKER and MARK MOSHER

"The Education Bill to be published on Friday 20th November is potentially the most threatening piece of legislation produced by any British government for the last forty years, not just to the education system but to the future of Britain and the nature of our democracy."

Paddy Ashdown MP, Liberal Spokesman on Education.

The education system in Britain today is in a sorry state; 1,791 schools have closed since 1980, public spending on education has been cut from 14.2% of the budget to 13.1%, only 31% of British school children go to higher and further education, which compares unfavourably with 60% in West Germany, 80% in the USA and 90% in Japan, and lastly even Taiwan can boast more first-time applicants for jobs who have degrees than Britain.

The government believes that Kenneth Baker's newly introduced "Great Education Reform Bill" will reverse this downward trend but the methods they propose seem inconsistent with this declared aim. The Beaver has interviewed the two opposition spokesmen for higher education, Paddy Ashdown (Liberal) and Andrew Bennett (Labour) and both were happy to expand on the reasons why their parties were so opposed to the GERBILL.

Mr Bennett told The Beaver that the Labour Party was "absolutely appaled" at Mr Baker's Bill. The party's main contention was that the Government has avoided the central issue in higher education which is the need for more funding. He does not believe that the proposed "contracts" which industry will increase the level of funding but will serve more as an excuse for reducing the level of public expenditure on education.

His second point is a more philosophical one - that the bulk of today's problems ("with the exception of AIDS") are a result of an over-emphasis on technology which the government proposals will take still further and that perhaps solutions to many of these problems lie in a greater awareness of social and interactive skills.

The Labour Party also believes that the Universities Funding Council may well withhold funds from the block grant which would otherwise be given to Student Unions. There is also concern that the GERBILL fails to tackle the increasingly serious problem of university accommodation, particularly applicable to the LSE, and Mr Bennett points out the government's refusal to fund or even contribute to university accommodation projects like Butler's Wharf.

Lastly the Labour Party is especially hostile to the introduction of student loans, mentioned in the 1987 Conservative election manifesto, which may well join government legislation in the new year. The party is worried that the prospect of student loans will deter working-class families from



considering higher education out of a reluctance to place themselves in debt.

While Labour is still to form a coherent campaign against the GERBILL, the Liberals, no doubt as a result of their more compact size, have published an alternative to the Baker Bill called "Choice Without Privilege" which was written by Paddy Ashdown and Alan Leaman.

In a Beaver interview Paddy Ashdown highlighted the areas relating to higher education that the Liberals would be concentrating on in their forthcoming campaign against the Bill. The most "pernicious" of all Mr Baker's proposals that Mr Ashdown singled out was the proposed involvement of industry in the running of higher educational establishments and he pointed out the failure of the government's prepared inner city technical colleges.

Also threatening "to the very nature of our democracy" is the proposed concentration of centralised authority in the hands of the Secretary of State. There is no provision for any limiting authority within the Bill and the advisory role previously filled by the outgoing University Grants Commission (UGC) has been dropped from the duties of the incoming UFC. Bearing in mind the "litany of dismal failures" that have characterised Conservative education policy over the last eight years, Mr Ashdown likened giving control of the education system to Mr Baker to "asking King Herod to chair the Save the Children Fund".

Mr Ashdown said that the public could be sure that the Liberals will campaign for an increased degree (when it exists at all) of state funding for post-graduate students for their current plight is completely ignored by the GERBILL. The Liberals see post-graduates as the future for English scholarship and Mr Ashdown said their great concern was that the Tories were putting this in jeopardy. Like Mr Bennett he was concerned that industrial demands on education institutions to produce more scientists would lead to the undermining of the arts and humanities which, the old government White Paper (Higher Education: Meeting The Challenge) pointed out, are essential to a civilised society.

Finally, Mr Ashdown echoed Labour concern over the threate-

ned introduction of student loans. He further acknowledged that the present level of funding is utterly inadequate but he stressed that if this proposal is to be defeated the NUS is going to have to come up with a new alternative to the current system of student grants. The system is becoming increasingly more difficult to maintain and it is going to be impossible to deflect the government from at least some measure of reform in this area.

Before we left Mr Ashdown we asked him if he had any advice he would like to give to students who wish to fight the Baker Bill. "This Bill is not going to be defeated in Parliament. I would say to students join with the parliamentary opposition because the pressure you can bring to bear from outside, not just through demonstrations but more usefully by lobbying MPs and bringing home to some thick-headed Tories that they are liable to lose their seats if this Bill is pressed through Parliament. This can only be done through writing a flood of critical letters and by visiting your local MP's constituency surgery to register your opposition to the Bill."

Nursery survives

by ANDREW CORNWELL
The LSE administration has retreated from its previous position on the Nursery and the future is now looking far brighter with a promise that cuts will be avoided.

Pressure from the Beaver, and from student representatives on the General Purposes Committee, which met last Thursday, has resulted in assurances that the loan debt of £48,000 will not be treated as a liability in assessing financial "efficiency". Due to increased occupancy rates much of the financial gloom hanging over the Nursery has been lifted. The Students Union will not now be expected to double its contribution, as we reported last week.

The victory on the Nursery was welcomed by Union officers, with General Secretary Nick Randall crediting the success to student pressure over the past year which included a threat of occupation last session. Although no long-term guarantees have been given it is hoped that this is the last time students and parents will face a threat to the Nursery's future.

It would be especially embarrassing for the administration to go back on its word after the Chancellor of the University of London, Princess Anne, referred to the LSE as a "nursery" for future talent in a letter giving her patronage to the Butler's Wharf Hall of Residence scheme. Glossy copies containing the unfortunate word have been widely circulated to the press and within the LSE.

VOX POP

How do you feel about the White Paper and the students action taken about it?

by FABIAN BORCKE and PHILIPPE PAPAPHILIPPOU



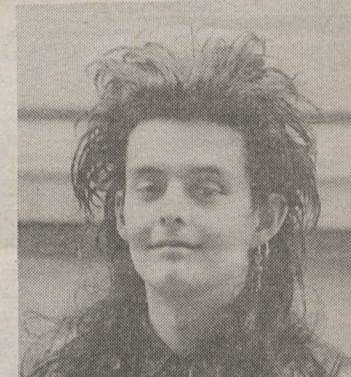
Francis von Habsburg

I stand totally behind the government's proposal. The student action was a total flop as shown by the total lack of people who turned up and the minimal response to the pickets. Neither NUS nor LSE protestors will prevent the Bill from being passed.



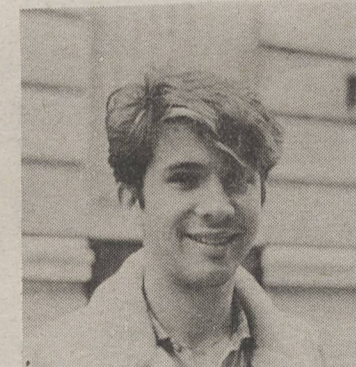
Perul Agarwal

I think the action was half hearted because the staff and the academics weren't involved. It involves their futures as well. Instead of striking against the government in a unified effort, we were striking against our teachers who primarily don't support the White Paper either.



Pete Walker

Obviously I disagree with the White Paper. As for the action - well, I doubt if it's giving Kenneth Baker sleepless nights, but then what else can we do?



Trev, The last bastion of apathy and ignorance

What's all this about the White paper? What exactly is it about? If it has anything to do with the Student Communist Socialist Revolutionary jerks then it must be a load of crap.



Maximilian Jarrett

I'm a foreign student and I don't know a lot about it. I thought the action was good and attention grabbing though.



Lesnah Hall

The Baker Bill is an attempt to exclude the majority of the population from higher education. Plato would have been proud of the Tory concept of education. Fight for the right to be educated, or else the working class will be forever held down.



Helen Iacovou

I agree with the campaign against the White Paper. It's a shame that so many people in the LSE don't care about anyone else's education but their own. The apathy is electric.

Understanding A Much Debated Issue

by STEPHANIE GAINES
On Friday, November 13th, a major contributor to the craft report on "Good Management Practice in Public Sector Higher Education" (and a former consultant to the National Advisory Board for Public Sector Higher Education) discussed the most important issue confronting students today, the GREAT REFORM BILL (now part of the GERBILL).

Cuthbert stressed that the White Paper's successful passage will affect students enrolled in polytechnics, colleges, and universities most, yet the focus has been on secondary students. Cuthbert then explored the history behind the present views of the goals of the educational system. In 1966, another white paper was published, establishing the polytechnics, and commencing what he called "the binary system". According to this paper, education needs more emphasis placed on applied/vocational skills, while the administrative aim was to "concentrate resources"; providing less institutions for higher education. According to Cuthbert, this was "a complete failure in terms of policy" for student demand for education is strong. In the 1970's the government successfully closed down approximately forty colleges, also irritating polytechnics by exercising too much control in their operations. The problem of intervention was investigated, and in 1982 the Good Management Practice Studies was published.

All major constituencies were represented in this study, and they came to a consensus that local authorities were exercising too much control over the polytechnics, and they should be granted more autonomy. Meanwhile, the Department of Education and Science (DES) was working on what became the White Paper and this became the overriding opinion of the direction of higher education. Failing to acknowledge the importance of local funding, they decided polytechnics and colleges should be self-reliant entities, "Completely ignoring the local authorities interest," and attempting to implement a "politically infeasible" project, according to Cuthbert.

The White Paper is a radical departure from the Green Paper published in 1985. While the Green Paper criticised higher education for being too philistine, it defined personal growth as the main purpose of higher education. The White Paper, said Cuthbert, "tries to get entrepreneurial skills into every aspect of education" Thus, it states the following intents of education: 1) To serve the economy more effectively. 2) To pursue scientific research and humanities and 3) To forge a closer link with commerce.

The White Paper also considers the financial responsibility of the government in supporting education. The paper states that the government is "confident it can provide various sectors towards fulfilling their roles in higher education." In other words, believes Cuthbert, "no more money will be allocated". The paper states that "higher education is expensive" and complains of "high student support costs". Cuthbert drew attention to the emphasis

placed on costs, rather than quality. In fact, the White Paper's stance on quality is hypocritical. Though the authorities believe that universities display the most room for improvement, their suggestions for change are directed towards the polytechnics formerly declared efficient.

To improve the quality of higher education, the White Paper proposes the following administrative changes: the formation of a University Funding Council (UFC), to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC). This council will be smaller, and comprise of an equal number of academics and non-academics. Secondly, the system of grants would be replaced by contracts; and idea "not fully thought through" according to Cuthbert. Thus the notion of contracting which would entail releasing money only when funds are in accord with the goals of the government, has been temporarily suspended.

Cuthbert fears the future of higher education for the attempted link between its purposes and the goals of a market-orientated society. Secondly, the transfer of ownership to the colleges, universities and polytechnics, in order for them to become autonomous legal entities holds great uncertainty. The joint ownership of educational institutions by local authorities and education officials is complex, and legal difficulties as a result of this separation will ensue. This issue of "opting out" of local control is the most contentious, said Cuthbert. It is the most problematic aspect of the bill, and delay in its passage will alter the timetable for other proposals in the white paper. There is talk of establishing a "skeleton bill" according to Cuthbert, and exploring the details at a later date.

April 1st, 1989 is the crucial day for the handing over of ownership; when our educational institutions will become full owners of the means of all their assets and liabilities. In the meantime, the following changes must be adopted: the institutions must become legal corporate bodies, adopt new governing bodies, decide what changes will be made in the academic programmes to suit the new goals of the government, and appoint new staff members to implement these changes. Further, existing accounting and payroll systems must be overhauled. The educational officials will also have to anticipate expenses for the date of turnover, and adopt their budgets accordingly. This will bring a period of "frenetic change and chaos," said Cuthbert. The government is asking for too many radical changes without granting adequate time for planning.

Concluding, Cuthbert stipulated it is clear that the government wants to concentrate its resources, and he suspects that some polytechnics will have to merge. Those that lack legal support have a history of financial mismanagement, and prove difficult to merge are in a danger of extinction. On a day-to-day basis, students at LSE won't feel the effects of the White Paper, but Cuthbert emphasized the overriding market-orientated theme that will see students in more utilitarian courses.

Day of Action Ignored



Photo: Jennifer Clapp

by MARK WYNNE-JONES
The half-day boycott of classes and lectures, which took place on Tuesday 17th November, passed without incident. The attendance of lectures throughout the morning was only marginally lower than on a normal working day. By 10 o'clock there were no more than a dozen students picketing in Houghton Street. Though more turned up as the morning progressed, they were still unsuccessful in persuading other students to stay away from their lectures.

As Chas Begley had pointed out at the Union General Meeting the week before, there are many foreign students at the LSE who are "paying through their noses for their education", and a badly organised boycott was not going to keep the foreign students from their work.

While most of the picketing students were positioned on the steps of the Main Building, ob-

structing pedestrians on the pavement, some moved to the library, and urged students to boycott their lectures by not entering the library. Though this had no effect, picketing outside the library was not part of the original plan for the protest.

A survey which took place in Houghton Street that morning, showed that of the 200 students questioned, 34% were unaware that the SU was holding a day of action in protest of the Government White Paper on higher education; 60% did not know of any specific proposals contained in the White Paper; and over 50% felt that the protest was of no use at all, a feeling shared by the General Secretary who described the Day of Action as a "waste of time".

The boycott ended at 12:30 pm, and since work was still in progress on the Quadrangle, the speakers were obliged to make their speeches outside. The four speakers were Gordon Archer (NUS

National Executive), Paul Flather (ILEA member for Tooting), Malcolm Keight (AUT) and Tim Harrison (NUT Membership Official). Phil Davis was asked at the following UGM why there had been no female speaker. He managed to fumble a reply explaining that the speakers were the only ones available.

Once the speakers had finished, there was a half hour break for lunch before the demonstration made its way across the river to the Department of Education and Science. The LSE Day of Action was over, though few noticed it. In contradiction to Mr Patrick Young's (NUS Vice-President of Education) list of 22 universities throughout the country that had shutdown (which included LSE) there were, in fact, no shutdowns. This confirmed that Tuesday 17th November was very much a day of inaction, the only real action happening on Westminster Bridge.

This form-letter is designed for you, your family and friends to sign and then send to your local MP at the House of Commons, Westminster, London. Overseas students should send the completed letter to Mr. Frank Dobson MP, member for the School's local constituency.

London,

Dear.....,

We the undersigned wish to register our strong opposition to the Government Education Bill (GERBILL) introduced into Parliament on Friday, November 20th 1987 by Mr. Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

We believe that this Bill represents a serious threat to the independence of Higher Education, and that it contains nothing that is likely to improve the dire situation our country's universities, polytechnics and colleges are in.

As your constituents, we hope that you will help students fight Mr Baker's proposals, and represent our reservations in Parliament.

Students Union of the London School Of Economics

British Justice in the Dock

by SHANTANU MITRA

One of the most politically sensitive cases in British legal history, that of the six Irishmen imprisoned 12 years ago for the Birmingham pub bombings which killed 21 people and injured 162, is currently in progress at The Court of Appeal. Less well publicised, but equally controversial, are the cases of the Guildford Four and The Maguires, all convicted of involvement in the spate of IRA bombings on the British mainland which stunned the nation in that year. Significantly, in view of the doubts which exist in all three cases, all of the trials were conducted at a time of mass hysteria

over the bombings in particular and the Irish in general.

Early this year the Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, decided that enough doubt existed over the evidence for the Birmingham Six case to be referred to the Court of Appeal. Thus, after 13 years the six men find themselves with the chance of exoneration and release if they can satisfy the judges that the evidence presented against them in 1975 did not prove their guilt "beyond reasonable doubt". Their case appears to be strong, but have their chances been affected by the recent bombing at Enniskillen?

Certainly the Enniskillen attack has produced a surge of public

outrage similar to that which swept the country in 1974, but Joe Clarke of the London Campaign Group for the Birmingham Six said that, in his view, this would not affect the outcome of the case. This belief is based on the fact that Appeal Court hearings do not involve juries, and the verdict will be reached by three judges - Lord Chief Justice Lane, Lord Justice O'Connor, and Lord Justice Brown. "One wouldn't expect three judges of such eminence to be influenced in any way by Enniskillen," he said.

Of greater significance for the Birmingham Six is the fact that Enniskillen has swayed the Irish government to the extent that it is

now virtually certain to ratify the new Extradition Treaty between Britain and the Republic. Until last week the Irish government had pledged to withhold ratification of the Treaty for a year, pending certain reforms in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland and satisfactory resolutions to the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and the Maguire cases. According to Joe Clarke, the Irish government was understandably reluctant to extradite its countrymen to the North, where they might be held without trial on grounds of suspicion, or tried without jury. Before Enniskillen, he believes, Eire was quite sincere in its intentions not to ratify the Extradition Treaty, but since Enniskillen the pressure from Britain and abroad has been so great that it has had to give way in order to maintain political credibility.

It is still not clear, however, that the Irish government's change of mind over Extradition will weaken the position of the Birmingham Six. Irish objections had more to do with British justice in N. Ireland (particularly the jurisdictionless Diplock Court System and the Prevention of Terrorism Act which is regarded with deep suspicion in Eire) than the Birmingham Six case. The Birmingham Six have themselves asked that no link be made between the Extradition Treaty and their case by the Irish government - all they want is individual justice. Clarke said he did not expect Enniskillen to influence the outcome of the case, although he stressed that this was a personal view; another member of the Birmingham Six Campaign Group described Enniskillen as "an unmitigated disaster" for the six men. The Northern Ireland Office declined to comment on the Irish government's new stance on extradition, but a spokesman said that they expected Enniskillen to have "no ramifications at all" for the Birmingham Six case.

There are three immediate reasons why the appeal has come about. The first is the World In Action documentary in 198 which first highlighted serious flaws in the evidence presented against the Birmingham Six. The second is the book "Error of Judgement" by journalist MP Chris Mullin, who has spent a decade researching the case. The book contains an interview with the men who claim to be the actual Birmingham bombers, in which they provide detailed information about the bombings. The third factor was a sworn affidavit by ex-PC Tom Clarke, who came forward in November 1986 to verify the men's claim that signed confessions had been beaten out of them.

This claim has been strengthened in the last ten days by policewoman Joyce Lynass' admission that she witnessed the beatings, but was afraid to say so at the time. The men's case will rest more crucially, however, on doubts concerning the validity of the scientific evidence. Confessions were obtained from the men largely on the basis of forensic tests which showed traces of nitroglycerine on them - an indication of recent contact with explosives. It is being argued that the test used by Home Office forensic scientists Dr. Frank Skuse, known as the Greiss test, was invalid because a positive Greiss reaction is also produced by nitrocellulose.

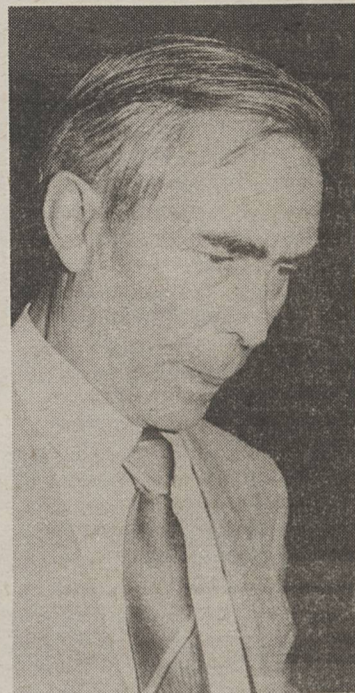


Photo: Photo News Service Old Bailey

Saddle Up For The Cycling Campaign



Cyclists have a rough ride in London - mainly because transport policy traditionally keeps them by the way. Roadbuilders don't consider them, road-users don't comprehend them, and road-repairers don't seem to care how much those gaps in their work hurt. Consequently very few people cycle - though almost all can. Compare that with a majority of the population (including the young, many of the old, and seven out of every ten women) who don't drive because they can't and see how inequality rules the road as it is.

Sadly, the powers that be don't mean it when they say "Get on yer bike!". The road lobby is Britain's most powerful pressure group, responsible over the past 30 years for keeping cycling as close to the kerb as possible; seeing it more as some side-interest recreation than as a real transport alternative to the fume and fury of larger vehicles. Wear'n'tear on the road by cycles is practically nil, so cycles are of nil interest to the road lobby. Heavy-as-possible lorries - or at least lots of cars - are preferred by the lobby because they do road damage. That means regular business for the road-repairers it partly represents.

In practice, it's not so much potholes that put people off pedalling, as the hazard of being hit and the horrible pollution in a city traffic system designed for, and dominated by, motor vehicles. Arriving hot and sweaty, and sooty - no matter how happy to have survived the journey - is no fun way to start the day. The

additional problems of cycles parking, of vandalism and theft, cement the majority's case that cycling to school, or workplace, or wherever, simply isn't cool.

But it is! Cycling makes so much sense - especially for students. Cycling saves money, saves time, spends calories, and is ecologically sound.

London isn't such a bad place for biking really (thanks largely to recent initiatives by local borough councils and the late GLC). But it could be made better - especially in and around the Houghton Street area. That's the main thrust behind this week's launching of LSECC 88, the Cycling Campaign.

Conceived and co-ordinated by the Green Forum Transport Committee, LSECC 88 has as its main goal to get contractual agreement by the end of this academic year for concrete improvements to existing cycle-parking facilities at LSE.

In addition, we will be campaigning for local council implementation of our proposals to link LSE with High Holborn (around Lincoln's Inn Fields to the north) and the River (around Aldwych to the South) by properly sign-posted, smoothly-surfaced cycle lanes.

A big part of our campaign will be increasing people's awareness of the benefits to both the individual and the community, of biking, as well as highlighting the ecologically debilitating effects of exhaust fumes and irresponsible driving.

In particular, we aim to encour-

age overseas students to take part in pedalling, to overcome the nuances of British road conventions (riding on the wrong side is easier than it sounds); also to encourage British foreigners to London to see the safer side of cycling. Free instruction from the City of Westminster Road Safety Centre, advice on legal matters in case of theft or accident, and serial-number stamping of cycles by the police, have all been arranged for next term in an effort to arouse awareness of, interest in, and support for, the Campaign. Also, a series of videos, exhibitions, and lectures by experienced environmentalists (including special discussions on the problems of verbal abuse and general harassment of women cyclists), and a trick-cycling display to boot. Finally, there will be a workshop offering help with repairs, where to buy and sell secondhand bikes.

On Tuesday 24 November we will be conducting a survey to find out how LSE students and staff get to school, at what cost, and why - why not cycle? For LSECC 88 to get off on the right pedal - to be strong as a political force - we need accurate and extensive data indicating latent support for cycling. Our correspondents will be positioned outside the entrances to the main building and the library between 8.30am and 6.00pm, and will be wearing bright "cycle safety" vest.

Your co-operation with our brief questionnaire will be greatly appreciated.

LSECC 88

This is a substance found on playing cards, cigarette packets and bar surfaces, among other things. Skuse has since been retired on grounds of "limited efficiency".

On the face of it the men have a strong case, but is it realistic to expect that they will be exonerated on these grounds? In 1980 Lord Denning ruled against an application by the six men to take out civil assault proceedings against West Midlands Police. In his judgement he described the prospect of the six being set free as "an appalling vista", because it would mean that the police were guilty of perjury and violence, and the Home Secretary would then have to refer the case to the Court of Appeal. This was undeniably a disgraceful statement, but it may be that Lord Denning was merely giving voice to an opinion widely held among members of the judiciary, police and politicians. Moreover, an important factor in the Home Secretary's decision to remit the case to the Court of Appeal was undoubtedly the growing level of international awareness of the case, and the pressure brought to bear on Britain by the European Community and the U.S.A. as well as Eire. This international consensus has been highly embarrassing to Britain.

Could it be, then, that the appeal is largely a token gesture, a concession to international pressure and liberal minds? Joe Clarke believes such scepticism is unfounded. International interest in the case, rather than a genuine concern to ensure justice for the six men, might have been the decisive factor that led to the appeal, but for some reason the exoneration of the Birmingham Six is by no means unthinkable, for it would repair the considerable damage inflicted by the case on the reputation of British justice. Clark points out that the Home Secretary may have been influenced, in his decision to send the case to the Appeal Court, by a delegation consisting of respected establishment figures such as Lord Scarman, Cardinal Hume, Merlyn Rees and Roy Jenkins.

Meanwhile the appeal continues, amid the outcry over Enniskillen. It is to be hoped that the six men, who may have been the unfortunate victims of even greater public outrage thirteen years ago, will receive a fairer hearing this time.

Sense & Sensibility

Andreas Whittam Smith Editor of *The Independent*

by SIVAN LEWIN

Last month *The Independent* celebrated its first birthday, but more importantly for its Editor, Andreas Whittam-Smith, it was the first month in which the newspaper reached its target circulation and turned in a profit.

The product of a minor public school, national service and Oxford, Whittam-Smith is as unlike a Fleet Street Editor as you could imagine; tall and quietly spoken, a man who doesn't like arguments. Over the years he has worked on every national daily newspaper in this country: the *Financial Times* for a year, *The Times*, for two years, *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian* and most recently on *The Telegraph* as City Editor.

He now presides over the shiny new offices of *The Independent*, where every desk has its own computer. Andreas Whittam-Smith left the *Telegraph* with two of his colleagues, Matthew Symonds and Stephen Glover, in the belief that the conditions in Fleet Street were ruining journalism. Thus *The Independent* set out as a new breed of paper that would be independent of other commercial interests, union restrictions and traditional production methods.

"The problem was that if there were technical problems around or Union problems writers could blame those problems for their own shortcomings. What I have tried to do is to make everybody responsible... The key is to put responsibility back onto the journalists."

Whittam-Smith's years on the City pages certainly taught him a thing or two about business. When he went to the City looking for financial backing he presented them with a carefully conceived

business proposition. In an interview prior to the launch he expressed contempt for the idea of a paper operating at a loss. "We have to be profitable; without that, we are nothing."

Asked whether the paper could ever really be independent of the financial dominance of City in-

towards a younger readership because it will at least experiment. And all logic drives you towards an affluent readership because it can spend on the goods which advertisers want to advertise. You can't launch a paper unless you are in that business.

"We did a lot of market research and got hold of the best journalists

"Of course you've got to go for a young market because only young people will change their minds. Newspaper markets are where consumer loyalties run deepest."

terests, Whittam-Smith explained: "They ask a lot of commercial questions but they never ask about the editorial. The truth is that the people running these institutions don't feel qualified to question it... the last thing they want to be bothered with is the political opinion of *The Independent*."

Before the paper was launched a lot of time was spent on preparation, working on dummy issues in order to identify problems prior to publication - a lesson learnt from Eddie Shah's bitter experience at *Today*. In many ways the whole project can be seen as an exercise in marketing, carefully aimed at a young audience, ABC1 social group, aged 20 to 40, otherwise known as Yuppies. Is it just a response to an untapped market?

"Of course, you've got to go for a young market because only young people will change their minds. Newspaper markets are where consumer loyalties run deepest. All the logic drives you

What sets *The Independent*... it is a bit like a football team which isn't labouriously coming all the way up the league and finally reaching the first division years later. It is as if we suddenly came into the first division as a team made up of players from all the other teams."

apart from the other dailies is its refusal to acknowledge political allegiance. Whittam-Smith believes that it is its political and financial independence which dis-

"Because we are a very young paper we are still developing our global view."

tinguishes the paper from its rivals. Others question whether it has a political philosophy at all. Andreas Whittam-Smith seems to express a dissatisfaction with political parties in general; "Sadly the only coherent, worthwhile opinions are those which you come up with inside the office and because we are a very young paper we are still developing our 'global view'." Above all he wants to see "institutions behaving sensibly... So if we write a leader about the Labour Party it would be based on the assumption that we want to hear a coherent, effective expression of left of centre views in this country."

Before the Election Whittam-Smith never opted for one of the parties: "When I came to the Election leader, when I really thought about it very hard I could see that when you go into the voting booth you often are influenced by quite personal things, not by a judgement of every policy. You might go in only concerned with a party's attitude to abortion or nuclear weapons or to education. And everything else will be irrelevant to you; you can't second-guess that." Either he espouses that feminist doctrine that 'the personal is political' or else he fears he won't be able to please all of the people all of the time.

This position doesn't seem to have done any damage, "as it turned out that independence, and not being attached to a political party does seem to have struck a chord with people."

Good sense itself seems to dominate *The Independent*, a

THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1987

Fire victims and bereaved are promised help as Thatcher calls King's Cross public inquiry

Cause of disaster remains a mystery

By James Cauty
The cause of the disaster which killed 31 people and injured 100 others in the King's Cross tube station in London last night remains a mystery. The Transport Secretary, Mrs Thatcher, has promised a public inquiry into the disaster.

A cat that...

Water cash row
Parachute request
Car sold for £5.5m
Reagan silent
Thatcher mission
Summit moves
Angola rivalry

UK 'obstruction' pollution plan

By Anthony...
The Government's plan to reduce air pollution in London has been criticised by the opposition as an attempt to obstruct the process.

SCHOOL FEES

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paper "written by sensible people for other sensible people."
"I have to be sensible, because I've got a lot of erratic near-

thing." If *The Independent's* circulation rises to around that of *The Times* or *The Guardian* we will be much more profitable than they are. I then want to put the profit back into the paper in every way... keep reinvesting in the paper."

The last two years have seen many new publications on the streets: *Today*, *The News* on Sunday, and *London Daily News*. Only two have succeeded economically *The Independent* and *Sunday Sport*. "What they've got in common is that they thoroughly understand the people they are writing for. I've got a lot of time for the *Sunday Sport*, I'm very happy to be yoked with it."
On running the newspaper he comments, "Its like an orchestra. Very few people want to conduct, most people want to be soloists, so they let people like me, who like conducting get on with it."

"I have to be sensible, because I've got a lot of erratic neo-genius type people who aren't the least bit sensible working for me."

just in a quieter, more gentlemanly - sensible way. He wants to increase the listings pages, double the arts, "I want a second person to Moscow, a third person to Washington."

"There are four papers which influence me, *La Repubblica* which has gone from 0 to 850,000 in eleven years and is now Italy's leading newspaper, *Liberation* in Paris, *El Pais* in Madrid, and the *New York Times* is the fourth. Those are my models, nothing in Britain... If you could take away a lot of the overwriting of the *New York Times*, inside it is the best paper in the world."
We are so much more efficient than the other papers, in every way. Everything is cheaper: printing costs, transmission costs, every-

Over the last year Andreas Whittam-Smith has proved himself a good businessman, and a good manager; but bringing *The Independent* into existence at all is a remarkable achievement. Although, as he admits himself, "if you are launching any new product, be it newspapers or soap powder you have to have a bit of luck. I think we just came at the right moment." Nevertheless it is admirable to have brought a breath of fresh air out of the tawdry decline of Fleet Street.

Andreas Whittam-Smith, editor of *The Independent*, will be speaking at the LSE on Monday, November 30th at 1.00 pm in A85.

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Jazz

Jazz Jottings. Ornette and other things.

Three cheers to that perennial explorer Ornette Coleman. His new double *In All Languages (Caravan of Dreams)* is simply magnificent, one of the greatest recordings of the decade, a real desert island jobby. But I'll try to keep this short because I could go on all day.

Ornette shook New York rigid in the 50's and 60's with a whole new conception of jazz and of freedom in music. Since then the alto saxist/trumpeter/violinist/composer's work with trios, orchestras, traditional Moroccan musicians and piledriving electric ensembles have continued to surprise and amaze everybody. In thirty years he has never taken the easy way, never put a foot wrong, never compromised. The first album in this set is with the original quartet – Don Cherry on trumpet, Billy Higgins on drums and Charlie Haden on bass and is a miracle. They haven't played together as a foursome for something over 20 years yet they gel and flow and hug and kiss as old friends should. And sometimes, tongues in mouths, they breathe the same air like long lost loves. On the title track Ornette is so personal as he breathes a fragile alto solo down my neck that I could just cry.



The second album is with the electric group Primetime who with twin bases, guitars and drums and Ornette on sax and trumpet, make an astonishing, enormous sound. If you have understandable prejudices against jazz rock or fusion, drop them! This is different. This is music never played or heard before. Music for the 80's and 90's. Sift through the remnants of modernism, or through our cynical, post-modern, neo-conservative culture and see how much you can find that dares to take such a step forward to new beauty. After a gap of some ten years from regular recording and against all the odds (Ornette's legendary stature as a musician is equalled only by his legendary incompetence as a businessman) Ornette has made a brilliant and extraordinary record. Welcome back Orny. Two steps ahead already.

Four steps actually, if you include *Song X*, his superb recent collaboration with everybody's favourite guitarist (except mine) Pat Metheny with Primetime. The group here is much tougher, a

complex interweaving of lines, a constantly mutating set of human and musical relationships. Bloody fantastic, full stop!

Ornette's old chum James Blood Ulmer, he of the "sounds like having your knees filed down with a cheese grater" guitar, has a newish album out on Blue Note called *American, Do you Remember the Love?* It's much less dense than previous recordings such as the recent *Phalanx* LP with hardblow-



ing ex-Mingusite George Adams and clearly an attempt at a wider market, and an extremely subtle and convincing one at that. Yet, however good his records are the ear crumbling splatterfunk of the man in person can never really be translated onto vinyl. One of the 1980's few genuine blues singers though and worth getting for that alone. Shannon Jackson on drums is quite wonderful too.

Speaking of Ornettish cronies, Primetime's virtuoso bassman Jamaladeen Tacuma has an album out as well, *Music World* (Grammavision), which was recorded in about five different countries. I've really got nothing much to say about it except that apart from Mona Soyoc's orgasmic vocals (and I do not exaggerate) on *Rouge* it really is a waste of time. Very modern, very Hi-Tech, very cosmopolitan, very dull. After demonstrating his rare talents as a bassist and composer on *Renaissance Man* and *Showstopper* this really does stink, (not as much as the ruthlessly honestly entitled *Cosmetic* album though!). It would be a shame to water all his imagination and ability down simply for the sake of commerce. None out of ten. Tut tut. Try harder. Can't fault him on haircuts though.

Finally, and this has nothing to do with jazz at all, thanks to that nice woman at Ten Records for sending me the *Black Britain* LP and the excellent *Edwin Starr 12*, *Whatever Makes Our Love Grow*. I'm a bit late on the BB one, because it's been out for ages, but I thought it was gutsy, deep and very funky. Good rhythms, good songs and they've obviously got their shit together on the production front as well. Yet for all that it's very earnest in an English sort of way and the politics are sometimes a little heavy handed. But still leagues ahead of the Style Council, who they sometimes sound like. That's all. Have a nice da-ay!

Richard

Music

Sewers to the Allstars

I just met the Doug Anthony Allstars at Victoria Coach Station, when we all missed the coach to Edinburgh. We began to talk, and I discovered that I – with the LSE based "60 Minute Review Company" – was going to a prestigious, central venue, while they seemed to have come all the way from Australia to go somewhere unheard of and well out of town. I did feel superior!

Three days later I had the smile wiped off my face in the fringe club when, whilst consoling a rather dejected Review Company who'd received a far from enthusiastic reception for their five minute cabaret slot, my attention was caught by the next act – three Australian condis who proceeded (in the words of the "Independent") to "Grab the audience by their hair, shake them up and down and give them a big kiss." Definitely not theatre for the passive. They use, in the true theatre of late tradition, the threat of violence to make the audience pay attention – the price of a momentary lapse being either the loss of half your pint down Paul's throat, or the removal of a leather jacket or handbag with the words "Thanks, the Orphaus'll love them!".

Among the torrents of abuse and razor-sharp counter-heckles, however, there's a lot of talent: three accurate extremely attractive close-harmony voices, and a vast repertoire of Golden Oldies. They hit you in the face with an awesome rendition of "Heard It On The Grapevine" – for dramatic effect a serious rival to Nick Kamen's underwear! But don't relax – still to come a heart-rending version of "Tell Laura I Love Her", and the truly pathetic "Billy Don't Be A Hero", in which Paul gives a charmingly convincing cameo performance as the girl who gets left behind. The "The Girl Is Mine" – if you're female and like the idea of having three grown men fight over you (and don't mind being called Sharon) then sit in the front row: it could be your fifteen minutes of fame. Existentialist rock and roll indeed!

It was all this that won them the 1986 Best of Fringe Award at the Adelaide Festival, and this that, by a

circuitous route, brought them to the Cafe, Houghton St., last Wednesday. They are Richard Fidlau, ("a lover not a fighter"), Paul McDermot, ("the cute rebel") and, Tim Ferguson, ("the handsome one") – in their own words.

"A group of terrified Australian boys who need more money for their mothers' iron lung."

I start with a simple question – "How did you first meet?" The reply – issued with the same disarming charm as the comment that all English food is slimey and inedible – was "In a sewer". It appears this was slightly more exciting than it sound, the Canberra sewer parties being, in season, the equivalent of London warehouse parties. However, their early attempt to become an "agit-prop" Marxist folk trio failed mainly due to the fact that there was no money in it, but also, they tell me, due to the difficulty for native audiences to reconcile their left-wing sympathies with the fact that they are all the graduate sons and the Canberra diplomatic corps. (However, if you believe that, you'd probably believe that Doug Anthony really was a disgrace member of an Australian Thatcherite government caught soliciting in Melbourne's red light area in women's underwear!).

After a radical change of style they spent 6 months earning enough for round the world air tickets, and now are supporting themselves as they go. Next week they head off to the States, and return in the Spring via the Adelaide fringe and Melbourne Comedy Festival. Back in Britain they will fulfill a series of pre-arrange TV engagements, and then prepare for a second assault on Edinburgh with, they assure one (and I believe them!) a totally new show. (Comies for Christ is the current working title.)

Anyway, love them or hate them, you're unlikely to forget them – and even should you want to, I predict that if things keep on going their way you soon won't get the chance.

Till then, who is Doug Anthony, anyway?

Annabel Smith



The Tales of the Silver Surfer



For the first time . . . since the dawn of memory . . . Galactus' will have been thwarted. But the planet-devourer still had one task which had to be performed. Norrin Radd, having betrayed Galactus, was to be stripped of his space-time powers! Henceforth, the Silver Surfer shall no longer roam the galaxies. He struck the Surfer with some manner of beam, and then was transformed into a living, raging fury of pure power, as the atoms in the air around him seemed to crackle in elemental disarray. Then, he disappeared via dimensional displacement, harnessing the forces beyond human comprehension to move his matter to a different galaxy, in search of worlds to satisfy his insatiable hunger.

Thus was the world saved by the actions of a brave few. But what of the Silver Surfer? Now trapped behind an invisible barrier, he had sacrificed a place in the heavens for the sake of mortals here below. No longer had he any chance of seeing the beautiful Shalla Bal, or his home planet of Zenn La. For the Surfer was born to soar, to ride the currents of space, not to be confined within a barren structure. Though the pathways of the stars were now denied him, his place was still in the skies above. Then, without a backward glance, the Silver Surfer willed his amazing board into the air, and mounted it with one prodigious leap. "Too long have I tarried! There is a planet to explore . . . new wonders to discover!"

Galactus had not actually deprived the Surfer of any of his Superhuman powers, but had instead created a huge barrier around the Earth, intangible to all but the Surfer. Thus, trapped, was the Silver Surfer to begin a new and different life. Feared by all mankind, and oft mistaken for an evil being, he was hounded by the forces of law and order, and distrusted by all heroes. Many times did he attempt to break the barrier erected by Galactus, failing as many times as he tried.

The tales of Norrin Radd's further exploits will be told in due course. But the story of Norrin Radd and the Fantastic Four is of supreme importance. That day marked the culmination of the first phase of this heroic age. On that day, humanity's representatives first proved themselves more than equal to the task of mastering the great challenges set to them by the cosmos. And this is why I have narrated to you this first volume of the saga of marvels, that you of Earth may recognise the greatness that is your heritage, and may strive to fulfil your noble potential.



Ben the Watcher

Film

House of Games

General Release

Like the black hole, Dr Margaret Ford's (Lindsay Crouse) private life is mysteriously vacuous. This is surprising for everyone, not least for Miss Ford herself, who as a result seems to be walking around in a trance-like state of abandon. Prominent psychiatrist and best-selling author, she just can't enjoy anything vaguely extra-professional: her only stimuli are the warped worlds of her patients. However, untimely Freudian slips in conversation reveal a habit she's acquired of unconsciously reliving their lives in her head. Which is harmless as far as it goes, i.e. no further than her head. But obviously that's much too good to last.

Pressed by the pleas of a compulsive gambler in dire debt, she goes off to the emponymous "House of Games" pool hall, only to find out that the man is also a compulsive liar: the debt is much smaller, the gambler-cum-liar's predicament much less dire. But the amount becomes irrelevant, and Miss Ford gets involved with the shady clientele of the "House", more specifically with Mike (Joe Mantegna), who deals out cards and street-smart wisdom in equal doses, impressing her no end. Which is the aim, and not for the most obvious



reasons. It would be a shame to reveal much more about what they do, what she does, what they do back and what she does back; let's just say that if she appears bemused at the beginning of the film, she looks positively concussed in the latter stages.

Playwright David Mamet has had his share of the good and the not-so-good in Hollywood. His scripts for such films as *The Verdict* and *The Untouchables* have been acclaimed, yet he suffered to see his play (*Sexual Perversity in Chicago*) turned into a vehicle for Rob Lowe's bare bottom and bad acting (*About*

Last Night). Here, in his first film as director, he has taken up the Woody Allen do-it-all-yourself school of cinema and pushed the concept to inspired nepotism. Actress-wife Lindsay Crouse does wonders as the tranced, stone-faced Dr Ford, and much damage to the public image of psychiatrists. Joe Mantegna and a host of other Mamet-mates are also fine as the "members" of the "House". But most of all, Mamet himself shines with this low-key, unpretentious and accomplished film. The whole thing *seethes* with intelligence. Ali Fassa

Theatre

The Cage Birds

LSE Drama Society

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, the Drama Society staged this term's premier presentation, *The Cage Birds*, directed by Martin Newson.

The play, written by David Capon, is an obvious attempt at a 'concept' play, itself a decidedly dodgy choice for an amateur production. The central theme is inherently pessimistic: six birds in a cage, each hiding their dependence on their own obsessive characteristics, and presumably disguising any idea of revolution against the evil cage controller. Enter the "Wild One", encouraging revolt against this dependence and oppression as she attempts to rip down the pathetic masks of the six pathetic birds. In other words, the stable dependence of the oppressed prevents revolution against the oppressor. Bound to annoy the marxists among us.

This seems to be a rather unadaptable play, in that this central theme is the only theme. The characters themselves are not fully developed: their role is simply to act as the oppressed, rather than as individuals. But where the play does allow room for manoeuvre is in allowing the director to create an atmosphere of pessimism, anger and frustration.

Personally, I think that Martin Newson didn't fully exploit the

chance to create an emotional mood. The finale, in which we see the revolutionary Wild One strangled by the Caged Ones, uniting not to revolt but to destroy the threat to their stability, could certainly have been further developed. The direction was solid enough to effectively convey the main ideas, though occasionally tinged by a melancholic neutrality.

The flow of the play was smooth and well constructed on the whole, and the performances varied from good to excellent. Despite being handicapped by a facetious script and stereotyped characters, the cast coped very well. Gena West and Jennifer Ellis were particularly convincing, even if the script dictated that their moods never varied. The all-black costumes of the faceless six contrasted well with the individuality of the Wild One. Very good.

Despite some faults, the most annoying thing about the whole production was that so few people turned up. A man who couldn't stop smiling, ten others, and me. This play was distinctly more solid than this review, and was very enjoyable, but no-one saw it. Such is the way of the culturally oppressed.

The London Film Festival

Max My Love – Nagisa Oshima

This latest offering from the director of *Merry Christmas* Mr Lawrence tells the tale of Margaret, a diplomat's wife, bored with her marriage and life in Paris, who has an affair with Max, a chimpanzee. The husband, Peter, persuades her to bring the lover home and what follows is a romantic, comical menage-a-trois, complete with jealous husband, nosy friends... reaching a satirical crescendo in the dinner party scene, where Max becomes highly affectionate, to the amazement of the guests.

Before you write this off as garbage or art-film, let me point out

that Oshima steers clear of both. Incidentally, there has been much controversy over love scenes (none are explicit, I assure you). As Charlotte Rampling, who turns in a wonderful performance as Margaret, argues the film is about "tolerance, about the conformity of society vis a vis change... The controversy comes from outside, because for Margaret it's, in a sense, very simple. She lives with Max – no problem at all."

The result – a highly entertaining and affectionate black comedy. Moz



A Hungarian Fairytale - Gyula Gazdag

Gazdag's allegorical, anti-bureaucracy fairy tale begins with a night of magical love set to Mozart's *Magic Flute*, leading to the birth of the film's hero, Andris. Made on black and white stock – quite a rarity now – it is based on an odd (but real) Hungarian law which stipulates that every illegitimate child with no identified father, be assigned a fictitious parent on their birth certificate. When his mother dies, Andris sets off in search of this fictitious father. En route, he meets the civil servant responsible, who has rebelled against a life of bureaucratic lies, and a nurse, who has abandoned the system that prevents her doing her job properly.

In Gazdag's words, given such a "surrealist and strange law, the film couldn't be realistic" and hence, the film descends from realism (the best half in my opinion) into total fantasy, culminating in the final scene where the three escape a grim and unsympathetic world on the wings of a stone eagle.

Intervista – Federico Fellini

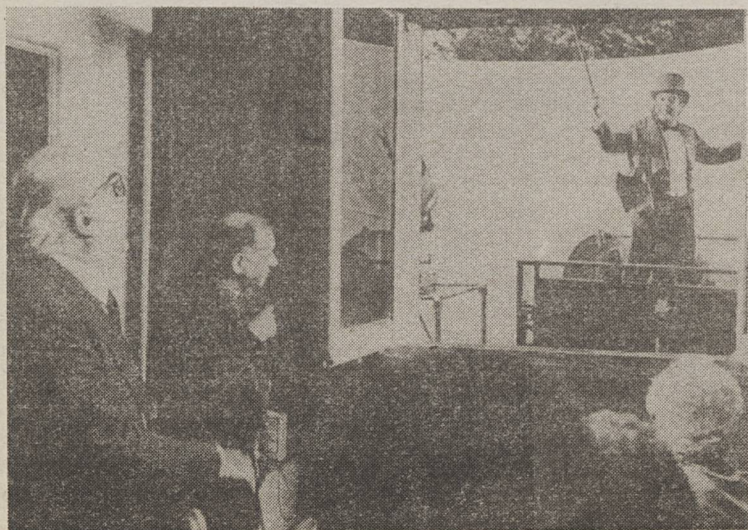
Perhaps the highlight of the festival, to date, is this highly unconventional canvas by Fellini. Planned as a tribute to Cinecittà Studios fiftieth anniversary, it is best described as a film to celebrate film – the desire to escape, to live in a world of fantasy and yet, the sorrow of inevitably succumbing to reality (a theme evident in Fellini's last work – *Fred and Ginger*).

Set in a dazzling world with extras, props, producers, assistant directors... all rushing around in a frenetic hive of activity, with the Maestro, Fellini himself, at work (hotly pursued by a Japanese TV crew in search of an interview) – it is both amusing and moving.

Never more so than in the reunion of Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg in the latter's villa, where scenes from *La Dolce Vita* bring back memories of youth and romance. They look on, desperate to live in the scenes and yet, almost thirty years of reality have passed – a bear can hardly fail to escape Ekberg's eye.

The compositional brilliance, style and elegance (and perhaps a little arrogance) with which such impossibly disparate material is held together is a hallmark of Fellini's genius (who co-wrote the screenplay, acted and directed this).

A real film-goer's film



Rugby

LSE 1st XV 9

Surrey 1st XV 25

Reflecting on our last UAU match against Surrey, one is tempted to remember the apres-match festivities rather than the game itself. As has been the case for most of our UAU matches, we ended up losing to a side we were quite capable of beating. And yet again it was a lack of aggression and concentration that led to our defeat.

In the first ten minutes of the first half we conceded two silly tries that put us at an immediate disadvantage. We battled back and at times played some good attacking rugby. Yet consistency was seriously lacking as we failed to cap good attacks with some points. Still, at half time, we were confident of victory.

Poor tackling and poor support were embarrassing features of our second half, allowing Surrey to run up the points on the scoreboard. We did manage to an earlier penalty by Mark Seaman, when Steve Kelley poered through the Surrey defence to score under the posts. This score should have been a springboard for an LSE comeback, and to a degree we did raise our game in the later stages. But it was all too late, leaving LSE with a dire record in the UAU competition this year.

LSE Riding

The two LSE riding teams (Liz Thomas, Maxime Tate and Michael Klein; Davina Jones, Veronika Gaskell, and Lisa Wolhouse) are preparing for their first competition, to be held on November, 25th, at the Lea Bridge Riding School. The competition in the Inter-Collegiate League is extremely tough this year – an unprecedented fourteen teams have entered. Both teams will have to give their very best and any support will be appreciated. (The competition starts at 3 pm.) Good luck to them.

LSE 2nd XV 4

Surrey 2nd XV 16

The seconds had a more spirited match against their Surrey opposition. Good forwards, with Ross Broadstock as replacement hooker, kept LSE in with a shout, right until the final whistle. The LSE's points came from a good move by Hugh Baker, whilst Surrey's points came from penalties and two rather lucky tries.

Although this defeat marks the end of an equally dire UAU competition for the seconds, the team has much to build upon and should do well throughout the rest of the season.

Following the match, the LSE players seemed to show more skill, speed and stamina than they had done on the pitch. The Surrey University Gun Club made its usual appearance, although there was a dissapointing absence of the infamous Surrey lynch mob. Gavin Pottinger won the shooting match, drank his prize, and then was "out of his tree" for the rest of the evening.

On the return journey good rucking and mauling led to Ross Broadstock being lynched more times than was good for him. Although handling was difficult in the confined space of a British Rail carriage, LSE showed a marked improvement in their play. At Waterloo, the LSE team also showed their pace, when a brilliantly concieved blind-side move was played at the ticket office. Julian Stevenson, in particular, showed that a fat prop can sprint as fast as a winger when chased by the "opposition".

Despite losing certain members through "injury", notably Gavin and Paddy, the LSE team continued with a memorable performance at the Beaver College party. With an American audience keen to pick up the rudiments of the game, LSE displayed great exhibitionary rugby.



Squash

LSE vs Surrey University

The LSE steamrolled Surrey University in the latest round of the UAU squash competition on Wednesday. The women's and second men's teams both won 5-0. For the women, Rina Einy gave away a mere three points while Jane Mugridge fought back successfully from being two games to love down. Veronica Gaskell also came from behind to win 3-1.

The second men's side won even more convincingly with not a game conceded. Robert Winter, Gary Teh and Adrian Dixon won in particularly impressive fashion.

The firsts had more mixed fortunes. Sachin Gudka snatched defeat from the jaws of victory to lose 1-3. The upset of this match was David Lee's defeat at the hands of an old adversary. David, who is as fit as he might be – though everything is relative, of course – lost in three fiercely contested games despite deafening support from LSE fans. The match was saved by the ever reliable Jason Fletcher and Paul Hainsworth with Ketan Raja hanging on to win 10-9 in the fourth game of his tussle.

Football

LSE V : 5

KCH II : 3

On the pitch, the LSE were up against a side that had not been beaten (yet!) in the league and the LSE players were also defending their record of five successive wins.

Simon Atkinson gave the LSE the lead in the first half, but the King's College Hospital team were able to equalize after a rare defensive mistake by LSE.

After the interval, the LSE withstood some early pressure from the opposition but a goal from Walid Eid, two from Jafar Ghanbri and one from Adam Lehman almost sealed the match for the LSE.

A resilient defense dismissed the hopes of a comeback by KCH and although LSE conceded two goals towards the end of the match, they came a bit too late.

Special mention should be given to the "gentlemen-like" behaviour of the players when they gave up their seats for elderly people on the bus.

Houghton Street Harry

Well, what a mundane week in the world of sport. Far from being a thrilling climax to the World Drivers' Championship, the Australian Grand Prix was a damp squib, with Piquet already home and dry (though he hardly made it a magnificent end as he failed to finish).

In the football world, Liverpool are beginning to run into difficulties. They dropped another two points at Manchester United on Sunday, and could easily have lost if United's finishing was better. (Is it true that Jon Goddard taught Clayton Blackmore the art of finishing?) More importantly Liverpool looked very ordinary, far removed from the unbeatable machine that played Newcastle and Everton earlier this year.

Meanwhile, Arsenal keep on winning. Norwich were the latest to fall, beaten 4-2 with all the goals in the first twenty minutes after the break. Another victory against Stoke in the Littlewoods Cup took their run to fourteen straight wins. One must remember last year when Arsenal had a superb run, only to drop away at the end. This year, however, they have much greater strength and depth, with players like Smith and Richardson having come in, and young players like Rocastle, Groves and Adams. Arsenal, therefore, have got to be in with a chance.

Turning to cricket, England's arrival in Pakistan was of secondary importance to the great Botham's Queensland visit. In with a good allround performance – a quick fifty, some tight bowling and several catches. The key question is can he keep going with all of Australia's temptations around him?

Congratulations to Ivan Lendl on his victory at Wembley. He really seems to be unbeatable at the moment, playing superb tennis. And contrary to public opinion, he is actually a nice guy. What a shame to see more British flops though. Surely with £7 million profits a year from Wimbledon entering the LTA's coffers, the public has a right to expect some sort of home-grown talent.

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Hockey

LSE II 0

Surrey University II 2

This was a disappointing result which did not reflect the team's performance. The seconds played with all the determination and skill they are capable of, and had they played like this previously against lesser opponents, then perhaps they would have gone further in the UAU competition.

Surrey, to their credit, made a number of quick breaks, catching out the LSE defence, which seemed to lack confidence at the start, although they became more sure of themselves as the game progressed and their play improved. Unfortunately, time was

not on our side as the game had to be shortened due to certain circumstances. Towards the end of the game the halves and forwards dominated the opposition, but just failed to put the ball away. The crowd cheered on the enthusiastic players, who refused to give up and played with full commitment until the premature end of the match.

Special mention must go to "woman of the match", Lucy Smyth, who proved that the days of downing a pint are not gone forever (Menna, take note!). Finally, a big thank-you to Neil for his cooperation and understanding.

Basketball

On Saturday 14 November, the men's firsts basketball team went to Oxford to play in an exciting and tense game, which for the second time running went into overtime.

With a greater depth of playing ability, LSE were much stronger in these five minutes. Timothy Carr clinched the game, scoring the last seven points – LSE's margin of victory. An excellent all-round performance by the team, who are now moulding together well and showing that essential desire – to win.