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ENTSECUTIVE ELECTION

TODAY (Tuesday) those who are new to the LSE will for the first time be able to exercise their democratic right and vote for the new member of the Executive in charge of Entertainments. This post has been vacant since the beginning of term due to Jim Armitage's failure of exams last summer.

An Executive election is one of the few times when more than a handful of students take part in the political processes of the LSE Union. In order to aid you (we stress not influence) BEAVER presents a brief run down of the candidates and the issues at Stake on this most important day. We felt this was due as many of you are probably saying "what election" as you read this front page.

This is the first time in at least three years that the Broad Left have not put up a candidate. This is just indicative of the malaise which is so prevalent amongst the Left groups.

At Union meetings so far this term the Right have been unusually successful partly due to the poor showing of the Left groups and partly due to the revitalised Tories under Margo James, who has been going through the LSE like a dose of salts, metaphorically speaking; if she had stood she would undoubtedly have got the male sexist vote.



RICHARD BENNETT: From his long list of credentials it is quite clear that Rich will get the hack vote. He has been a Shop Steward for the past five years and a Shop Stewards Convenor for the last two. He has also been on the Executive Committee of the Lowestoft Trades Council and Chairman of Lowestoft Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians. At LSE he is a member of IS, more mundanely he is a supporter of Rock Against Racism (see page 7) and a committee member of the Industrial Relations Society. Obviously he has the knack of getting elected so if you fancy him to represent your views help him keep up his record. He has not been to any Ents meetings this year so obviously his interest is merely political and of not much use to Ents.



MICHAEL FISHER is a totally different kettle of fish (unintentional pun). A defeated candidate at last summer's Executive election, he is chancing his arm again, this time as an Independent Conservative and Ski Club chairman—an unusual banner. His campaign manager has been Paul Brown, which guarantees all of us a bit of fun but probably not too many votes for Michael. Another candidate who has not crossed the threshold of the Ents room but he has actually been spotted at a concert. His posters proclaim his membership of the Beaver Clique but this is a surprise to us.

He doesn't believe in political intervention in Ents as (he maintains) many socialists advocate—he points to the nationalised industries to see the result. Perhaps someone ought to tell him that no one wants to nationalise Ents.



PEACOCK is perhaps the best known of the candidates. He follows in the tradition of Michael Fisher in that he stands under a strange title. Peacock's particular contribution to incongruity is his being an Independent (Anarchist). He contributes to Beaver regularly, and is a Junior Treasurer on the Finance Committee representing Publications. He has made a couple of appearances on the platform of Union meetings as he is Vice-Chairperson and the Chairperson seems to have her rulings questioned fairly frequently. Trade Unionists are in abundance at this election because Peacock is one too—this time with the TGWU. He spreads his own brand of anarchism, which differs completely from the conceptions anybody else might hold about it. However, if you like the idea of an Anarchist who has been attracted to the bright lights of politics, Peacock is your candidate. He is one of the very few political activists in the LSE.



LAURENCE SOLKIN seems to be the most suited for Ents if you just look at the candidates involvement in that organisation. He is a regular attender of Ents Committee meetings and helps before, during and after concerts. His appeal is broadened by his declaration of being an Independent Socialist and being a member of National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) but this seems to be the sole extent of his hackery and he has never been very active on union campaigns. Perhaps he is using these banners to gain votes, not the first time this ploy has been tried and it is debatable whether it works to the advantage or the disadvantage of the candidate. Laurie might find that appealing to everyone could lead to mass-alienation but then again the mentality of LSE voters is such that thoughts like that would never cross their minds.

ANTON CHAPMAN

L.S.E.'s FRENCH FARCE

UNTIL this year the LSE Language Department offered BA Degrees in Languages, Linguistics and French Studies. The School decided last year to reduce its expenditure by closing the Language Department. Despite protests from staff and students this decision was implemented and no new first year students have been admitted to the Department this year. So when the present 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students have completed their courses, the Department will cease to exist. A decision has recently been made by the School to keep the teaching staff together as a unit although it is not yet clear what their function will be when present students have completed their courses. The closure of the Language Department, is an out-

standing example of how the Government's education cuts are affecting LSE.

Repercussions of the decision to close the Language Department have become apparent. When the closure was originally announced it was also said that the BA French Studies degree would continue, but would cease to be administered by the Language Department. It has been transferred to the jurisdiction of "The Centre for International Studies", which is not a department of the School, but an administrative committee which administers an inter-disciplinary post graduate course. What was not announced, however was that the BA Degree in French Studies was to be of a completely different nature. The old course was based on language and literature; the new course is much more broadly

based (it includes Government, History, International Relations, with very little actual French).

The School has described the new degree as follows: "It marks a revolution in Honours courses in Languages in the University of London. It is also unique to LSE" (quote from next year's School prospectus.) Yet another first for LSE, then? Another achievement to add to its list of academic successes? The only trouble is that the school forgot to tell the new intake of students that the revolutionary change had been made. The majority of the present first year students had no idea that the degree structure had changed until they actually arrived at LSE to take up the course. They had applied, been interviewed for, and finally accepted for, a BA French Studies degree based on language and literature. Nor did the School

see fit to tell the teaching staff of the language and literature course that the revolution has come. They found out at the same time as the new first years, when they arrived on LSE's doorstep for the new term. Is this yet another example here then of Dahrendorf's policy renowned from last year, i.e. "that no final decision will be taken until the widest possible consultations have been made"?

The new first year students have clearly been very badly treated by the School. Some of them turned down offers from other colleges or universities to come to LSE. Had they known the real nature of the course they might have chosen to go elsewhere. One of them has already left the course. The rest have been told to make the best of it. The new course has obviously been thrown together at the last

minute. It is a shambles of timetable clashes between compulsory and optional courses. It seems that the revolution came to LSE in haste.

The Students' Union has made representations to the school with a view to allowing these new students to follow a language and literature course. Some progress has been made. Extra translation classes have been set up, and the choice of first year options has been widened.

Professor Dahrendorf has promised to look into the possibility of keeping 2nd and 3rd year language and literature options from the old course open to this year's first years. This may well mean that options will have to be taken at other colleges. This is the very least that the Director can do.

LETTERS . . .

Anti-abortion

DEAR EDITOR,—I don't know who the hell wrote that logical and statistically correct article on abortion (last edition of Beaver) but whoever it was has succeeded in writing the most one-sided document I have ever read in the whole of my life. She (I presume it was a she or possibly a member of the Gay society) has committed the age-old offence of ignoring one point of view. Hell, she didn't even mention the fact in many people's minds (not just religious maniacs but also sound sensible people with a high degree of medical training) abortion is just another word for a highly specialised type of murder (with a capital M).

The sentence "A vociferous minority who are against abortion for religious reasons are

trying to impose their own code of ethics—denying each of us to act according to our own conscience" particularly bugged me because if we were all allowed to do what our consciences allow, I for one would go around annihilating every member of the NF and also any particularly enthusiastic members of any extreme socialist party I could find and I think even she will agree that that would just not be practical.

Besides she also fails to say just what the hell is wrong with contraception. How many of that famous 144,000 (1975) just happened to find Johnny had a hole in him?

A (drunken) male chauvinist pig

COCKY

DEAR EDITOR,—It appears that while elephants never forget, peacocks certainly do. A certain columnist of yours writing under the headline "A Peacock-eyed View", in this year's first issue of "Beaver" expressed the view that the Executive exists for itself. Furthermore, he continued that the committees of the School could be run more effectively without the Executive, yet he has now taken it upon himself to stand for a post which will confer upon him the chairmanship of one of those committees which he feels could do without him.

Sheree Dodd

Realistic reality

DEAR EDITOR,—The amazing complexity of international and national issues tend to defy comprehension. The layman is fed incessantly with the inevitably biased newspaper reports which prejudice his stance with a subtly flavoured rationality. Television "faithfully" recreates all the major and potential disaster areas around the globe in our living-room thus imbuing our illusory knowledge with a sense of realism. Over-simplistic reporting thus succeeds in shielding the layman from the many tired complexity of conflicts and sub-conflicts which is so glibly termed as a "crisis".

Television journalists and various experts of dubious origin attempt to oversimplify the issues in question and portray the economy as a series of varicoloured curvating curves and jagged lines. These "pretty" pictures penetrate our subconscious which in turn give rise to the notion that we know exactly where the economy is heading as well as the intricate mechanistic processes which perpetuate it. Apart from being outdated and inaccurate this sort of reporting is tantamount to credible lying and, in my opinion, is doing society a disservice.

Newspaper columns are full of the most absurd advice to Mr Healey ranging from total nationalisation to a suspension of fundamental rights. It is this sort of irresponsible public opinion, proliferated by simplistic reporting which is making the task of government and administration so much more difficult. An assiduous newspaper reader assumes the mantle of

an expert simply on the basis of an editorial, whereas he is no nearer to a solution than he ever was. The aggregated effect of the phenomenon results in a public opinion which is superficial and unfair to the administrators who are finally responsible. Furthermore this public opinion is a fertile breeding ground for inciting extremist emotions because the actual solution is clouded by an esoteric veil of mysticism.

To distinguish between morality and moralising, however, one must submit to the fact that a news report will almost certainly be biased—one way or another. Furthermore I think it is wrong to condemn this bias because journalism is a subjective art and an individual's opinion will almost always fall on one side or another of the ideological divide. In addition to this it forms a basis for healthy discussion and debate which can only serve to clarify the issue in question.

Simplification tends to truncate the complexity of a particular issue and is therefore equivalent to misrepresentation. It is indisputable, however, that a programme of totally objective and comprehensive reporting is almost impossible to implement. Therefore its philosophical integrity must be compromised in favour of a more pragmatic solution. Consequently, instead of expecting journalists to present the issue in all of its majestic complexity it would perhaps be more feasible to make a conscious effort against simplification.

S. Mehta

BEAVER invites contributions for this letter page. We offer a free and non-censored outlet for the cross fertilisation of ideas. Bring them to S116. (Please keep them fairly short, i.e. not more than 250 words, so that we can include as many as possible).

In defence of Inds.

DEAR EDITOR,—It is interesting to note the ubiquitous rumours labelling "Independents" as being Tories in disguise. Being an Independent, a personal comment will not be out of place.

It is true that Tories have sometimes masqueraded as Independents—but an absolute generalisation is falsehood. Many independents have their own personal beliefs—beliefs which do not fall into the usual category of LSE politics.

Take this year's Student Executive, for example:

(1) Sheree Dodd is an Independent Labour Party sympathiser.

(2) My own beliefs have been deeply influenced by the life of

Christ. Consequently on many issues there exists genuine sympathy for the left while on others I have fundamental differences.

And apparently, though subject to correction,

(3) Julia Davenport and Jackie Gladden are apolitical, while

(4) Julian Ingram is an SRP sympathiser (Students for Representative Policies — a Labour-cum-Liberal Students' Organisation).

In other words, "Independents" are Independents as long as they are independent of existing LSE political parties—overtly or covertly.

S. George

IN REPLY

IT is nice to see the person whom I classify as independent replying to my letter in the last Beaver. At no time did I make "an absolute generalisation" on independents but to consider the Athletic Union executive member as being apolitical is to ignore the facts, especially her voting record at Union meetings. I would agree with Stephen's last paragraph wholeheartedly but certain members and candidates in the by-election might be embarrassed by chairmen of political parties within L.S.E. revealing their membership lists. My conscience is clear; is Stephen's?

J.A.I.



Here is a picture of the Ents Party, mentioned in couched language below in Snidelines. We have it on good authority that the presence of the editor of this organ was due solely to journalistic reasons. We are also informed that the remarkably long cigarette is merely a photographic error.

SNIDELINES

FISHING FOR VOTES

THE ski-ing club had a party in deepest Cricklewood last weekend in a vain effort to try and buy some votes in the Union election. The ski-ing club committee invited people to come to this party disguised as Horatio Nelson and kiss-me-quick Hardies to avoid being recognised by the Young Liberals. However there appears to have been a break down in communication between the left hand and right hand of the committee since he forgot to ask any LSE potential voters along.

CIVIL SERVICE THINKS BIG

Top ENTS roadie is having serious doubts about the Blow-me-quick image mentioned in the last issue and in consequence spent all last Friday

doing an Intelligence Test to try and join the Civil Service. Obviously the civil service is thinking big this year.

SNP LUNATIC FRINGE

Leading silly person Mungo (I know all about publications coz I did it last year) Deans is being attacked by psychiatric warfare of the lowest level. Because of his intelligent attitude towards the importance of union meetings, certain unnamed union hacks have made an appointment for Deans to see the School psychiatrist. Significantly it took him a minute to work out it was a hoax . . . or was it. Paranoia rules Y'tas.

ELECTIONS FOR NEW ENTSEX

Ever weary of the union's current financial squeeze, ENTS have recently combined their business with pleasure, holding

their election for new Entsex at the same time as their monthly sherry party. The motion was put to the floor and the problem tossed back and forth as everybody wrestled with it. We just hope they came to a firm conclusion.

A CHINK OF RED LIGHT

Gordon (lost causes) Mowat spread the conflagration of revolution to Portland Place last Sunday to join the demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy. However Mao-Rat as he's known to his mates, found the windows boarded up and the Capitalist Roaders all gone to the country for the weekend. Could this be Maoists Ratting on their friends.

5 ROUNDS OF APPLAUSE

A Big hand for ex-hackademician James Blackburn who's

reputed to have visited Uganda on five separate occasions this term. Competitors can obtain vital track form from Consoc Committee.

POLICE STOP STUDENT FOR STEALING ROLLS

Not wanting to be economically rock bottom yet requiring a soft touch, a leading Dick from Fitzroy Flats procured three rolls from a leading Big Distributor in Roseberry Hall. On the way back home, an inquisitive policeman on asking their purpose was told they're soft on the bum. Rumour has it that Dick's going to Black-ett . . . the supplier that is.

BROADS LEFT FOR DEAD?

I.S. it true that the broads have been left for dead in the LSE?

CASH CRISIS—STUDENTS KNIT TOGETHER

The leading LSE capitalist and accompanying salt recently cashed in on the airwaves and walked off with a Capital knitting machine. Later the happy couple were urged by Capital to knit together and form a joint stock company, Glen Co.?

CRUISIN' FOR A BLOWIN

Johnie (I'm no wombat) is in imminent danger of a mind blowing experience from the mouth of the sexy head eater and his sidekick lesser God Ingram. nb—for elucidation—it all comes out at union meetings.

Union news and views

HALLS OF MISERY

I GUESS everyone is pretty sick of complaints about the levels of the fees at the LSE halls of residence. However, despite the fact that most of you have probably already turned over to the more entertaining and juicy Snidelines I shall persevere.

Residents at the Halls are now paying £525 a year (about £17.50 a week) for single rooms—double and treble rooms are obviously slightly cheaper. This comes out of a total income of about £955 a year, which is supposed to maintain us for an additional eight weeks during the Christmas and Easter vacations.

Hence if you are a so-called "independent" student and have quit your parental home for good, you may find you are paying another eight times £17.50 for accommodation during the holidays which brings fees up to £655, leaving a mere £290 to spend on books, clothes and other odds and ends.

This is obviously extremely hypothetical but since the recent rise in grants students are no longer allowed to collect supplementary benefit during the short vacations. This new policy of the Government is absolutely crazy because working on the assumption that there are only X number of jobs to go around, it is in their own interest to keep students on the dole when it means paying out only seven quid instead of anywhere from twice to four times that much.

However, it seems strange that we are allowed to sign on during the summer when there are so many more seasonal jobs available in agriculture, the construction and tourist industries which are particularly suited to the unqualified and unskilled student.

Anyway, getting back to the point of the article—Hall fees—it seems to me that residents of Halls are treated in a very similar way to pupils of those majestic pillars of English society—boarding schools. Like schoolboys they get everything done for them; for example, bedrooms are cleaned once a week and the linen is washed—even the food is cooked to the same magnificent standard. The main difference is that whereas in one the parent pays the fees which usually amount to a relatively small portion of their total income, in the other case the student pays the bill out of his or her own pocket and, as explained above, it amounts to well over half of their total revenue. Personally I feel that the sheltered life led by students in halls is just an extension of "the playing-fields of Eton" and all that, and as a result slightly cut off from reality. Instead of being out in the "wide open world", I find myself in the same situation I was in at school.

If the only reason you came up to university was to work and play, fair enough, but don't bother to read the rest of this trash. Personally, however, I

came (admittedly firstly to get a degree) but also in the hope of finding some kind of transient stage between school and the rest of my life. The only thing which I find I have had to face up to that I have never really experienced before, is an acute financial problem. There are obviously three ways to solve this:—

- (1) Live very cheaply indeed;
- (2) Campaign for an increase in grant;
- (3) Find some practical way to lower the Hall fees.

I don't mind economising, but you have to cut down a hell of a lot to live inside such a small income and if the Government has any more money to give to students, it should be allocated to those attending polytechnics and specialist institutions like art and agricultural colleges rather than raise the full grant. At present, the full grant is almost unheard of outside universities and non-university students often have to live in cramped and crowded conditions which are hardly conducive to earnest study.

So that rules out (1) and (2), leaving only the third solution. For what students are getting (if they attend all the meals which nobody does), the fees are probably fair, but that does not alter the fact that they are more than the average student can afford. Hence the only solution is to live in a slightly more spartan manner and cut down on the luxuries.



ROSEBERY HALL CANTEEN

There are three unnecessary services which could be withdrawn completely—cleaning the rooms, cooking and washing of sheets. These are all equated with paid labour and it could be argued that we are doing our bit to help the unemployment problems by paying to have things done for us, but I don't think this argument really holds water because cleaning staff and cooks are always in demand.

Students would obviously use up some of their invaluable time but I think we all have plenty of time to spare. If cooking facilities were provided for students, three birds would be killed with one stone, because not only would it save money, but male (and female) residents could learn how to cook (an invaluable asset in these days of sexual equality) and we could lie in bed past nine o'clock without thinking, "Damn, there goes another fifty pence worth of scrambled eggs."

These changes would obviously take a lot of time and cost a lot of money but surely in the long run they would be worth it. Many universities already provide this same type of accommodation. Bath, for example, charge only £80 a term, which includes all utilities and excellent cooking facilities. In the next few years, with inflation etc, the purchasing power of students' grants is going to get smaller and, try as they may, that magnificent protector of our liberty, the Students' Union is not going to be able to do anything about it.

But do not fear, when the Broad Left is here, public spending will be doubled and students will find themselves, along with the unemployed, physically disabled and old-age pensioners, amongst the wealthiest citizens of England. (The trick is not to think about the taxes we shall all be paying or the IMF loans.)

BEN WATSON

Union elections

WELL, they're back again. This time its only a by-election, folks. The idiots who think they can bring salvation to the Union are quite a mixed bunch. Laurie has secured not only the Ents backing but also the unofficial Broad Left backing and is assured of I.S. second preferences. This begs the question of why the Broad Left are not putting up a candidate in these elections. The simple fact is obvious to any Union hack and that is they don't exist as a cohesive, campaigning body.

The I.S. candidate is a member of the trade union studies course (already represented as president of the Carr Saunders society and trying to pack the constitution committee) but even with the increased I.S. support they cannot get over the "other" socialist vote which will vote for Laurie. The only chance for the right wing is between Michael Fisher (Ind. Con.) and Peacock (Ind. Anarchist). Peacock is probably the unknown quantity in this election. If his anarchist stance can draw enough additional votes on the turnout he may be able to beat Michael Fisher and the I.S. candidate on first preferences, the transfers of Michael Fisher might well bring him over quota. This will depend upon Fisher getting less votes than the I.S. hack.

It is, therefore, imperative that Peacock lobbies madly for the I.S. transfer to cause dissension among the left wing and generally smear Laurie in the hustings. If this seems as a prophecy to you all, it is, because this was written late on Tuesday afternoon a whole week before the election.

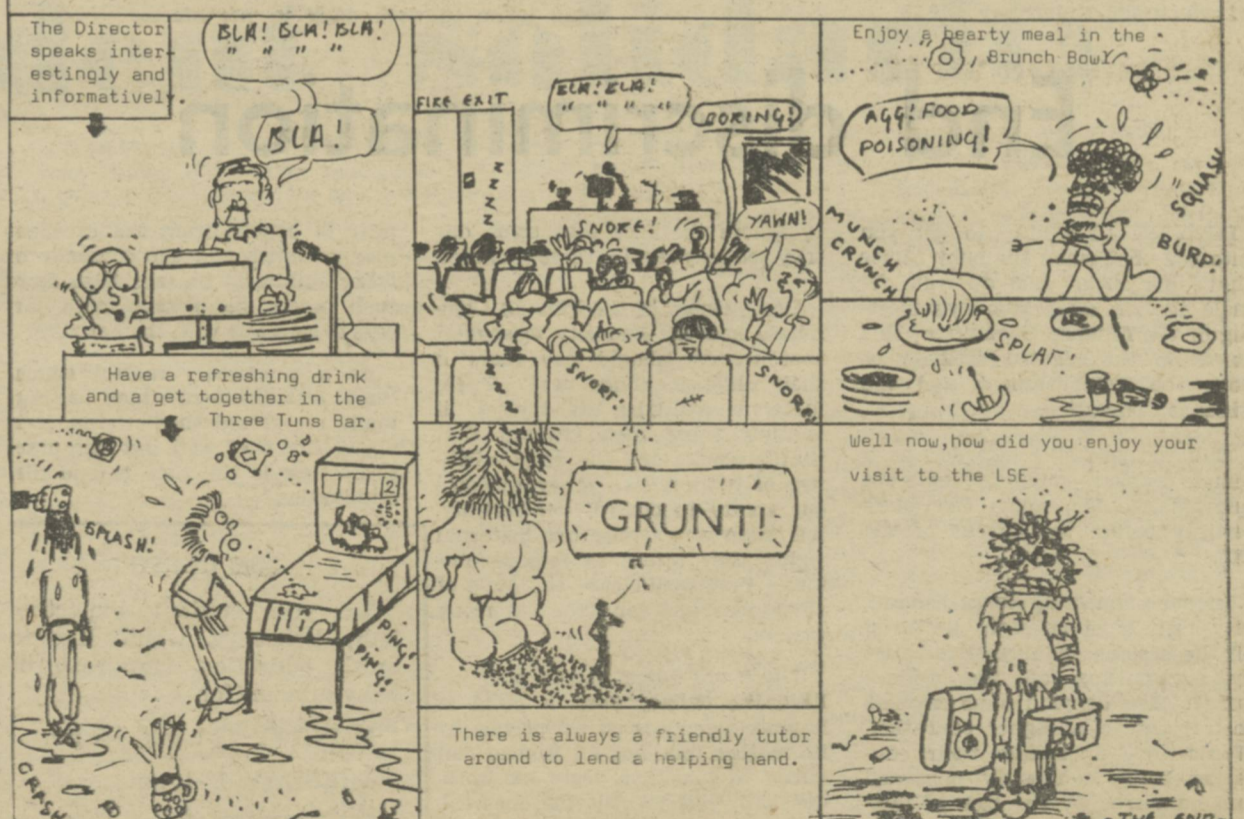
This is your lesser god signing off for tonight.

J.A.I.

L.S.E GUIDE

NO. 1

BY ADAM BROWN



KIDS NOT CUTS

Nursery threatened by Finance Committee

WOMEN with children have a right to a higher education—an accepted liberal premise, yet one that seems to be conveniently ignored by the Administration and the male dominated union finance committee (excluding Peacock). There should be no discrimination in welfare against those with children. The Union follows an anti-discrimination policy on the overseas students' issue, so why should they attack the paternity/maternity right of students?

Mature students are, by the very nature of their situation, unable to participate in the activities which alleviate university life, e.g. theatre, cinema and sports. Hopelessly inadequate grants preclude babysitters. What right have the School and the Union to exacerbate the strain on student parents?

LSE nursery was set up in February 1976 after a long struggle. The Students' Union recognised the right of mothers to a higher education before the administration, and subsequently helped establish the CES nursery in January, 1975. Dahrendorf agreed in principle to the setting up of the nursery after his office had been occupied overnight by the Students' Union, but only for 2-5 year olds, mainly because of the higher costs involved in caring for the under twos, and wished to use the basement of Parish Hall.

The Students' Union wanted a baby nursery in rooms S75 and S78 which they occupied for a day. The LSE nursery was eventually set up in Parish Hall for the 2-5 year olds.



THE nursery—charity for parents who shouldn't be here anyway, or a much-needed service essential to the needs of student mothers? Well, I don't know which side you take but the Finance Committee was certainly split on its level of commitment to the nursery.

When the estimates were prepared for this year's budget by Pete Timmins (last year's Senior Treasurer) they were automatically exaggerated as part of the negotiations with the school. Unfortunately this year our *per capita* grant is nearly £13 less than expected. This means that savings have to be made of approximately £9,000. There has been a deficit on the Union budget for the past three years and so the Union has no great reserves to fall back on. Also ideally it would be nice for the Union to have some money for the changeover to Strand House. In essence, then, the budget needs to be apt.

However, the situation has changed radically and Welfare desperately needs all the money allocated for the CES nursery under the unamended budget. This amounts to £4,610. Some members of the Finance Committee were talking of a reduction to £4,000. What this would mean in effect is the jeopardising of the whole CES nursery.

The CES nursery is vital to the needs of the LSE because it provides baby places. Although it is hoped that the LSE nursery (run by the School) might provide baby places one day, there is a desperate need for them at the moment. It is hoped that the number of baby places at CES might be increased by one (there are four applicants already). As baby places are in higher demand than toddler places (for kids two to five) then the number of baby places we are allowed by CES nurseries depends on how many toddler places we take. To complete the rigmarole the LSE nursery is cheaper than CES nursery (which is not subsidised) and so, to encourage parents to take up the toddler places (so that we can get the baby places, remember), the CES nursery has to be quite heavily subsidised.

Well, now that it's all so beautifully clear, it must be stated that any cuts could mean the collapse of the CES nursery (which serves a number of other institutions).

It is in the light of this information that the proposed cuts should be seen. The nursery could be seen as an expensive luxury for an extreme minority of students. Alternatively it is perhaps more reasonable to see it as an essential service, without which the parents would not be able to continue their education.

But is the latter the way the majority of the Finance Committee see it? To them it is just another section of the budget to be manipulated and cut. John Cruse ("We must make cuts") and Julian Ingram ("Who cares about babies?") both proposed cuts but prize places must go to Stephen George, who proposed cuts of £410, and Chris Hall ("Who wants a nursery anyway?"), who proposed cuts of £610.

The only supporter of Welfare at the Finance Committee was Peacock, who argued that the nursery was the most important section in the budget and as such should be given absolute priority over other sections of the budget. That is, the cuts should be distributed over the rest of the budget.

The result was deadlock and so the decision was postponed, which was a pity because Welfare desperately needed a decision regarding CES nursery. The Finance Committee cannot continue to think purely in terms of figures—bugger the budget—we must realise this money we spend has far more important consequences than depleting cash.

Facilities for mothers

THERE are two available nurseries, the CSE nursery at Chandos Place and the LSE nursery. The CES nursery is a private concern, and the only nursery in this part of London which takes babies who are not toilet-trained; in fact, they take children from the age of 3 months. There are facilities for 25-30 children, 5-7 of whom may be babies. Four babies and three children from LSE are there now, compared with 13 for 1975-76, due to parents dropping out for the following reasons: (a) rising costs and (b) the opening of the LSE nursery. There is an extra baby place at CES for which there are four applicants. To ensure an option on the baby places, LSE must place so many 2-5 year olds there. Originally, the fees were £10 a week, but have now risen to £17.75, of which the Union pay £10.75.

The LSE nursery could take 15 children, but only seven places are used. Charges are £5, £8 and £13.50 a week according to income; the vacant places occur in the lower price brackets.

The need is for better facilities mainly for the under-tuos; as a recent questionnaire showed: seven places are required for two-five-year-olds and nine for the under-tuos. This is only the tip of the iceberg.

Here are some cases to illustrate the need:—

Age of baby in October 1976
9 months old
17 months old

Other information concerning the parent

She has been accepted to the LSE but the taking up of the place depends on nursery arrangements.

She is a student here. The husband was employed when the child was in a small private nursery. The nursery closed for lack of funds in March. Unsuccessful attempts to find a child-minder led to the husband ceasing his work and having to go to Spain where the paternal grandmother will look after the child. The mother is now under the new stress situation of a divided family.

7 months old
Single parent working locally at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund would use commercial nursery if available or pay outsider fees at the LSE. The child is being taken to work daily in her office.

End discrimination

"THEY'RE all willing to get you into bed—but when the baby comes that's our luck," said an irate female student after Monday's meeting of the Finance Committee; this sums up the bigoted attitude of both the Establishment and the Finance Committee.

Children are still regarded as a female problem—an unfortunate but unavoidable one, much like one's fertility before the advent of the Pill.

In our supposedly equal community men have no right to shrug off the problem of nursery facilities by economising on the welfare budget, thus denying some mothers their right to a higher education. Would they appreciate their education being constantly burdened and hampered by the lack of facilities or the care of the under-fives? Most of them conveniently forget

or ignore the fact that some day they too may require these facilities.

One member of the Finance Committee had the audacity to suggest that women should pay more if their child is under two! These ludicrous attitudes are typical; it is time these men realised that that children are the responsibilities of both sexes. They welcome our ability to control our fertility, but when we exercise our maternal rights they refuse to remove obstacles that would ease the onus of child-rearing for the working woman.

There are some people who believe the fallacy that a child is happier when reared exclusively by its mother, but not all women can afford to take five years off work. One only has to visit the cheerful, colourful CES nursery, to realise that the kids are happy. They ap-

pear to benefit from the excellent play facilities and the company of other children. So let's have more such places and permit more parents to continue with their studies.

As a supposedly radical educational establishment which has formally recognised these rights, it is about time they were put into practice. Now is the time to end discrimination!

JOB OFFER

3rd year student, expecting baby February, would like to finish education and requires baby-minder for

MONDAY 12-1 pm, 4-5 pm

TUESDAY 12-1 pm

THURSDAY 11-1 pm, 2-3 pm
Offers to Elana.

'Maturity'

ANOTHER example of the discrimination against children is shown in the case of the mature student who took his eight year old son to the ULU swimming pool, whilst his wife was in hospital. After inserting his two 10p pieces, the attendant refused the son admittance and to refund the money. The mature student complained that he was being discriminated against, to which the attendant replied, "you're not acting very maturely." The senior administrator at ULU stated when told of the incident, that constitutionally, children under twelve were not allowed on the

premises—adding as if to soften the blow, "We obviously do turn a blind eye to this."

There is a special arrangement whereby children in the ULU nursery use the pool 10-11 am on Fridays. The Senior Administrator suggested that the children of students might use the pool by prior arrangement with the attendant if there were other free hours, of which there are very few. In no way did he feel that children could be allowed to use the pool when athletes were training. Nothing further has been done.

THE SPANISH SAGA

ONLY a year ago, General Franco decided that five Spanish youths, accused of "terrorism against the State," should be shot. Just two months later the executioner was dead and his old associates had inherited the collapsing structure of an old-style fascist state as well as the typical capitalist common factor of 20 per cent inflation and one million unemployed.

However, crises do not take place in a vacuum, just for their own sake; rather they are connected to the balance of social and economic forces in society.

ALLIANCE

The fascist regime was established in Spain in 1939, after three years of civil war, by an alliance of the industrialists with the pro-capitalist class, the still strong landowners closely linked to the army and the church. It was an unholy alliance since it united two social classes with very different interests and perspectives.

They had a common cause only in that they both feared the increasing momentum of the forces of the "Popular Front"; they were conscious that a socialist revolution would mean the end of both.

This contradiction within fascism's own ranks has been a factor underlining all the zig-zags made by the late dictator in the last decades. Things became clearer when direct opposition against the regime began to appear in the late '60s and particularly in the '70s. To many industrialists, the key question was to enter the EEC, and as long as the political system did not change, that was impossible.

This process of dissent within the old unholy alliance culminated in the participation of sections of the democratic bourgeoisie in the "democratic junta" (July 1974), which included the Popular Socialist Party, the Carlist monarchists, the Workers' Commissions, and the Communist Party.

REPRESSION

The other side of the fascist state has been the repression and "primitive exploitation" of the Spanish working-class.

After the defeat of 1939, most democratic parties collapsed.

However, one has to give just credit to the Communist Party left practically alone in the struggle, till the late '60s when New Left groups appeared.

Struggle was extremely hard during the '40s and '50s and Communists were executed or sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Change came with the organisation of the workers' commissions, elected in factory assemblies to deal with particular problems. They functioned independently from the official state trade union, and in practice ceased to exist once the problem had disappeared.

In the early '60s, backed by the Communists, the Workers' Commissions managed to co-ordinate activities at state level. Their members decided to stand for election to the official trade union on the shop-steward level, allowing them to reach broader sections of the working class and weakening the official trade union. This represented a form of semi-legality and the government attempted to incorporate the Commissions into the official trade union. That they

failed is all too clear today.

Events today are taking place against this historical background. "Democratic Co-ordination" is a joint platform of about twenty political parties from left and right. It did not appear in a vacuum; Franco and his generals did much to create the conditions which have culminated in the formation of the "Democratic Co-ordination." This explains the policies of Franco's heirs, the so-called "reformers," who pretend to win over sections of the bourgeoisie by reform. The question is straightforward: can you reform fascist institutions into really democratic ones?

The answer is no. The democratic opposition insists that the only way of stabilising a democratic regime is by changing the institutions of the State, by abolishing the fascist corporate appointed parliament, the official trade union, the "supreme party" structure and the secret police.

"POPULAR MOVEMENT"

Reforming apart, the other



THOUSANDS of communists at an "illegal" meeting in the summer of the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (linked to the Spanish Communist Party) which police could not stop for lack of policemen to disperse the crowd. Police, however, attacked small groups of people as they were going home after the meeting. The events took place in a town of the industrial belt of Barcelona.

factor determining the policies of the cabinet is the growing strength of the popular movement, particularly of the working class. This implies that even if strikes and demonstrations are illegal, their strength is such that the government is helpless. During the summer, in a week of action in support of the Amnesty, there were over 100 demonstrations held on the same Sunday. The Government could not prevent them all, so concentrated on those held in Madrid and Barcelona. Meanwhile, 150,000 people marched the streets of Bilbao, and 100,000 those in Valencia—each of the two cities having a population of under half a million.

This conquest of rights through force proves the decay of fascism started well before Franco's death. If we were to date it we could point out the first generalised strikes following the organisation of the workers' Commission on the state level, 1961-63. The decadence was intensified in the early '70s with the increased momentum of the working class movement, and the open opposition of sections of the bourgeoisie and of professionals and an increased number of intellectuals and artists. Franco was only one of the pillars of fascism, his disappearance meant that the building was weaker but it did not disappear with him.

"CONQUEST OF RIGHTS"

This "conquest of rights" will have great importance in the coming months, and has indeed already become the most important determining factor. Most decisions of the cabinet are linked to events like the general strike last January or the Post Office strike in September. Undoubtedly it might be this kind of mobilisation that could bring the cabinet to accept the opposition's demand for a democratic breakthrough, not to reform the fascist state but to change it to a really democratic one.

As proposed by Democratic Co-ordination this "democratic breakthrough" could be nego-

tiated with the Government or with those ready to negotiate. Undoubtedly the present "reformist" Cabinets have their own contradictions: fundamentally between those who still support reformism as a solution and those who are more sceptical.

The point with the negotiation is, that the opposition has to be open-minded enough while at the same time maintaining honest democratic standards. "Democratic Co-ordination" has pointed out the following three-point programme as the basis of any negotiation:

(1) Total Amnesty for all political prisoners and exiles.

(2) Formulation of a provisional government that would ensure democratic liberties for all political parties and trade unions without exceptions; the rights to demonstrate and to assemble; and a free Press.

At the same time, provisional governments will be established in the three nationalities regulated by the Autonomy Laws passed by Parliament during the Republic in the 'thirties.

(3) Election of a constituent Parliament on the basis of free universal suffrage. This assembly will draw up a constitution then will cease operating and new elections will take place for a legislative Parliament regulated by the new constitution.

With a consistent programme and growing mobilisations, the strength of the democratic opposition may well be increased in the coming months, further changing the balance of forces in its favour. History is not made in articles and offices, as the Thatchers and the Callagans would like it to be. History is made in the streets.

The joint alliance of the three main trade union movements (all involved in Democratic Co-ordination) has so far already predicted a "hot" autumn and on the initiative of the Workers' Commission has called for a 21-hour General Strike on November 7th. One should not, however, try to predict much further.

Staff-student solidarity

A "CODE of practice," designed to regulate the future conduct of academic hostilities, has been signed by the NUS and the Association of University Teachers. Although student unions and local branches of the AUT are thereby expected to maintain some sort of regular contact to inform each other about any contemplated action that might impinge on their respective interests, nothing has as yet been done at LSE to implement the agreement.

The document states that the AUT local association ought to give NUS full warning of any "direct action," "where this is feasible." Students "should ensure reasonable conduct" during any protest, and avoid all intimidation of academic and administrative staff. The persons and property of staff, the agree-

ment continues, ought to be safeguarded.

The AUT emphasises, of course, that this in no way implies their support of student action, only their recognition that direct action often happens to be an ingredient of union policy. The NUS, for their part "wishes to indicate" that a union should only take direct action when negotiations have failed, the action is approved by a General Meeting, is non-violent, and when the aims are in line with NUS policy. Somewhat ambiguously, on the other hand, the NUS promises invariably to support any union if requested to do so.

Mr Laurie Sapper, General Secretary of the AUT, and Charles Clarke, President of the NUS, two prime movers in the debate, have justified them-

selves on the grounds that what they have done may alleviate some of the difficulties involved in running a university.

Mr Sapper emphasises that the agreement does not sanction occupations, sit-ins or demonstrations, and that to concentrate on the ethics of the code is merely to ignore the realities of the situation.

Charles Clarke says that his purpose is to improve relations between students and teachers, and to co-ordinate action in pursuit of policies held in common with the AUT. He also thinks that the agreement will improve the quality of university education and perhaps even change the nature of sanctions which are applied. Consultation, he says, will lead to "a deeper consideration, on both sides, of the effects which any action will have and so a more

critical assessment of the kinds of tactics which are effective in any given situation."

Both academics and students at LSE seem to be largely unaware of the recommendations made by their national representatives. John Cruse, the Senior Treasurer, had not even heard of the agreement, and it was Jacky Rushforth, member of the Union Executive with responsibility for Graduate affairs, who was able to produce a copy of the memorandum.

Mr D. J. Sinclair, Chairman of the local AUT branch at LSE, who might be expected to have known about the agreement, was surprised to learn of the proposals for the first time from a report in the national press.

Implementing the provisions of the agreement would almost

certainly not facilitate the smooth conduct of academic hostilities. In that respect, the code is unimportant. Yet, could LSE's Union Executive not put the provisions to better use? The preamble of the memorandum which they have received suggests that co-operation might, in certain circumstances, benefit both students and academics, and at a time when both groups are agreed in supporting demands for higher student grants and lecturers' salaries, and in opposing public expenditure cuts in education and the raising of overseas students' registration fees, would a grave AUT voice on the Joint Union Representatives Committee, not provide the weight and substance which students' rather shrill and excitable cries often so conspicuously lack?

JOHN EMERSON.

Sporting Beaver

U.A.U. MATCHES

THE University Athletic Union competition preliminary rounds are being played on Wednesdays, November 3rd, November 10th and November 24th. On the 10th and 24th we are taking soccer, rugby, hockey, netball, squash, badminton, table-tennis and golf teams to Guildford and Canterbury respectively. The coaches are due to depart at 10 a.m. and spectators are very welcome (at a cost of 50p return). We will be returning at 6 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. If you wish

to go, please come to E.65 and sign your name up with Will Evans (E.V.P.) or Al Newton (Gen. Sec.). You do not have to be an A.U. member to enjoy a very cheap day out and support the school teams.

AL NEWTON (Gen. Sec.)

P.S.—We also have home matches on the 3rd against Sussex if you wish to come out and support (cost 30p).

What to join and where

LSE GOLF CLUB

THE LSE Golf Club has facilities at Malden Golf Club, which is within 40 minutes distance from LSE, by train from Waterloo.

If you are already an experienced golfer, just go down there, show your AU Card and you can play. However, if you are a beginner and would like lessons please see the notice board in the Concourse Area.

If you would like any further details please contact me through the pigeon holes outside the AU Office:

S. D. MEHTA

LSE SKI CLUB

DESPITE rumours to the contrary, the Ski Club is alive and throbbing. There has been much behind the scenes activity to try and get a definite programme arranged. Unfortunately there seems to be a malaise affecting many companies in this country; in that I wrote to many firms asking details of their holidays, films, entertainments etc, which they promptly ignored.

So with little help from various firms, the provisional programme is as follows: A Ski Film to be shown (Tourist Boards and Timetables permitting) on Thursday, November 4; weekend Ski Trip to Scotland sometime in February, and when time permits I will investigate the possibility of plastic ski slope training. For those living in the vicinity of Holloway, visit the Michael Sorbell Sports Centre, as they have a moving ski slope there.

These are the reasonably firm details to date, an annual party (which is essential) will be arranged nearer the date, and more film shows can be arranged. If you have any more bright ideas, or want to be a general dogs body, by helping with the organisation, you are being desperately sought! Come to the Athletics Union Office, and you won't be disappointed.

M.F.

BADMINTON CLUB

The Badminton Club meets every Tuesday and Wednesday in the Gym (East Building) from 2 to 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join the club; any standard from beginners upwards.

This year we have a full fixtures list with five teams, in the U.L.U. league; two men's teams, two mixed teams, and a ladies' team.

We compete in the U.A.U. championships, and this term play three matches against Sussex, Surrey and Kent universities.

LSE SAILING CLUB

The Sailing Club of the School own three Firefly sailing dinghys which can be used by any club member. They are kept at the Welsh Harp reservoir, N.W.9, where we share facilities with all the other colleges, giving you the opportunity to meet students from other colleges both on the water and in the bar. Students interested should contact the club captain through the A.U. pigeonholes.

SOCCER CLUB

The Soccer Club runs four league sides in the U.L.U. League of the U.L.U. Cup competitions, of which the 1st and 2nd elevens also play in the U.A.U. competition. To join the club, see Al Newton, the club captain, or just sign up on the availability list on the club board in the St Clement's Concourse Area.

Matches are played on Wednesday and Saturday, teams being posted on Monday and Thursday respectively. Training is on Monday (4-6 p.m.), and Thursday (10 a.m.-12 noon), with an extra session on Thursday (7-9 pm) for the first and second team squads. The standard of ability covers quite a wide spectrum and we hope to field a fifth eleven for friendlies regularly.

AL NEWTON

Mr. Fred Ford-King

MR FRED FORD-KING, the head groundsman at the School's playing fields at New Malden, has retired and emigrated. Fred has served the School and Athletic Union happily and with great ability and loyalty for the past 25 years. As any member (past or present) of the Athletic Union will testify, the pitches and wickets have constantly been of the highest quality and Fred took great pride in the fact that the grounds cannot be bettered by any club or college in London. His willingness to offer help (and occasionally criticism) endeared him to many and it is with great regret we note his departure.

The Athletics Union would like to wish Fred, on behalf of all its members, the greatest happiness and success in his new life in Australia, for after several years of waiting

WOMEN'S BOAT CLUB

Women, liberate yourselves on the Thames; join the LSE Women's Boat Club. We are all beginners but there is coaching, and boats and lots of enjoyment. We row twice a week for a couple of hours. We will be racing later on this year against the other women's clubs.

Contact Lisa Lynch, 580 6338 ext M.67.

MEN'S BOAT CLUB

Don't row if you prefer to kick a ball. But for those who enjoy exercise and a chance to win pewter tankards, rowing is for you. We row for enjoyment twice a week: Wednesday and one morning, Saturday or Sunday.

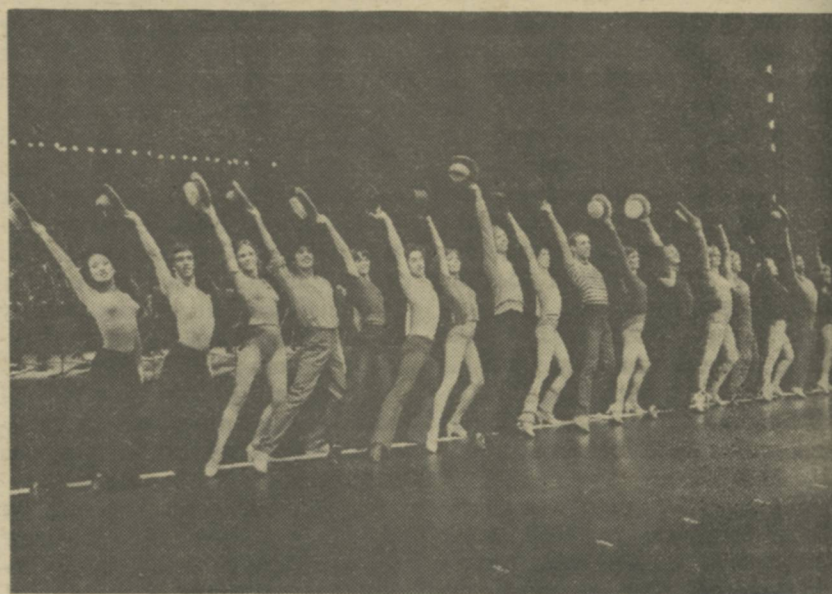
Contact us via Athletics Union or call Charles Baden Fuller on 736 6669.

MIXED HOCKEY

This is our second season of mixed hockey and we can only hope that we can continue to build on last year's promising start. We won about 70 per cent of our matches, which sounds quite impressive and is a good example of "how to lie with statistics"! Actually, even though our aim is to win, because without that it is hardly worth competing, basically we have a good time, enjoy playing the game, are "incredibly good sports", eat the teas provided by the opposition and occasionally by us, get to know London and each other.

DEBORAH SINGERMAN

REVIEWS



A CHORUS LINE

THE most exciting production to have opened on the West End stage this summer is the American musical "A Chorus Line" at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

The show is about an audition for eight members of a chorus during which the audience learns something about the pasts, hopes and fears of the boys and girls trying for the places. All the characters in the play are based upon real people, with for example, the fallen star trying to start all over again being based upon Donna McKechnie, while the part of the Puerto Rican homosexual is based upon the life and experiences of the co-writer, Nicholas Dante.

"A Chorus Line" is impressive from many angles, not least in the way that it succeeds without sets and costumes. The score, by Marvin Hamlisch, includes several very good numbers, although only one could be described as being a show 'stopper,' while the show uses Drury

Lane's new lighting system to the full.

The most impressive effect, though, is the use of mirrors at the back of the stage, especially in the spectacular finale. The highlight of the show though is the choreography, which is refreshingly imaginative compared with recent British musicals. If there is one department of the show where the generally superbly high standard drops, it is the dialogue, which on occasions is a little weak.

The cast, including the understudies, is very strong, which is hardly surprising considering that between five and six thousand people were auditioned for the show over a period of eight months throughout the United States.

It is really inappropriate to talk of stars, but no review could pass without making mention of the performances of Loida Iglesias who plays the excitable Puerto Rican, Diana; Mitzi Hamilton who sings one of the show's most memorable numbers; and Tommy Aguilar, who plays the character Paul San Marco to great effect.

PAUL WILCE.

IF you like *Romeo and Juliet* played as a comedy, then the Dolphin production at the Shaw Theatre is for you. A sense of tragedy is lacking throughout, most notably in the performance of a flippant Romeo (Brian Stirner), though his exchanges with Mercutio (Michael Feast) it must be said were witty and polished. Juliet (Angela Pleasance) was convincingly girlish, though her moments of high emotion were somewhat overdone at times. I liked the nurse (Lila Kaye) though even her effervescence became annoying near the end of a play when the tragedy was transformed into a tiresome sequence of events which I wished would hurry up and end.

More entertaining though certainly not outstanding was a new farce by Joyce Rayburn, *Out on a Limb* at the Vaudeville. Without revealing the plot, the story concerns an unfaithful husband with a spare pair of legs, a frustrated wife with an unspeaking mother, and her schizophrenic boss played marvellously by Hugh Paddick. Ian Carmichael gives a polished if characteristic performance as the husband whilst Phyllida Law as his wife steals the show, especially when drunk. But it is all light-hearted harmless fun and worth going to just to see the pianist suddenly appear from nowhere.

IAN CALLOW

SKYFALL by Harry Harrison.

ACCORDING to Kingsley Amis' introduction on the sleeve of the book, Harrison is "incapable of writing a dull sentence". Well this book proves him to be wrong: it is very slow starting and does not begin to get interesting until about page sixty.

The story has a well-worn plot, that of a joint American-Russian Space Project going wrong. It has

a novel twist in that instead of just the crew of the spaceship being threatened, a large area of the earth could be destroyed by the crashing spaceship.

Despite the beginning the book builds up to an exciting climax as it is revealed that politics had not only helped cause the accident but are also preventing the rescue. Verdict: wait for the paperback.

G. THOMAS



ENTSNEWS

Old Theatre. Saturday, 13th
November. 7.45 pm.

SUCH was the success of COLOSSEUM II's last appearance at the LSE in both musical and financial terms that the band will be returning with a new streamlined four man line-up on Saturday, 13th November. The basic nucleus of musicians remains JON HISEMAN (drums), GARY MOORE (guitar), DON AIREY (keyboards), and recent addition JOHN MOLE (bass).

Since the reformed Colosseum made their London debut at LSE, last November the band's progress has included the release of an album, numerous radio appearances, a well received set at this year's Reading Festival and two recent sell-out concerts at the Marquee. Browsing through some old Ents files I discovered that Colosseum once received the princely sum of £625 for one appearance in the Old Theatre in the halcyon winter of 1970!

Searching for a suitable musical category (whilst at the same time avoiding the usual clichés) invariably proves difficult. To many people Colosseum II are synonymous with the current wake of "jazz-rock" which has proved popular at the LSE in the past. Tickets are exceptional in price even by national college standards. £1 each—available from the Union Shop.

LAST EXIT

Free Lunchtime Concert. Old Theatre. Friday, 12th November. 1.00 pm.

LAST EXIT are a relatively new band who have amassed a sizeable following in their home area, Newcastle, and who have headed south to seek fame and fortune via a recording/management contract in London. Friday's lunchtime concert re-



Jon Hiseman of Colosseum II

verses this term's trend towards the heavier, raucous end of the rock spectrum and moves on into the mellower, and some would say subtler, realms of contemporary music (maybe more suited to lunchtime listening). Give the Three Tuns, Florries and work a miss for an hour and wander along to the Old Theatre. It's free!

A REMINDER: The Ents disco equipment is available for hire to LSE students' societies at a price of £8.00 per night inclusive of D.J. and records.

LASTLY a word of thanks to those indispensable first years who have shown interest in the running of Ents and who have already experienced the pleasures of humping speaker cabinets at 3.30 am or braved the heady atmosphere of a lunchtime in S.118.

Andy Cornwell

ALBUM REVIEW

RITCHIE HAVENS (A & M).

"The End of the Beginning."

THIS album leaves me a trifle confused. If you've seen the Woodstock movie, or survived the actual event, then you'll

be aware of Ritchie Havens' ability to add his frantic energy and stamp his own musical identity to the songs of other writers thus giving them new meaning. However, the new A & M album is seriously lacking the conviction which made his earlier interpretations such essential listening.

Instead he adds nothing to such a well known standard as "I'm not in Love" or to songs by Dylan, Steely Dan, Doobie Brothers, amongst others. Those of you in possession of a decent hi-fi will no doubt appreciate the smooth production which covers up the inadequacies of too many of contemporary album releases.

No wonder John Peel turns to Reggae when he's O.D.'ed on the clinical product churned out by those who've forgotten the essence of rock and roll, and been hooked on the modern recording studio. I can understand why Ritchie Havens considers that other writers express the emotions he feels better than he can himself but I'd like to hear more from his own pen.

Andy Cornwell

— with inspiration
from Derek Sherwin

COMING SOON . . .

ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE

THE recent trend of giving Oscars to deserving films meant that Ellen Burstyn won an Oscar for her title role in this film. You probably remember her as the only thing worth watching in the Exorcist but happily she is extended a bit more and very successfully in Alice. Strong support comes from Kris Kristofferson, a blossoming actor who seems to sneak into movies very frequently these days even though his acting style (if it can be called so), is somnambulistic to say the least.

TAKING OF PELHAM 123

A cut above the routine sort of suspense thriller (e.g. Towering Inferno, Juggernaut, Airport 75), and this is due to Matthau, in the central role. Although in this he is a more serious role he still finds time

to exercise his tremendous comic talent. The situation of being trapped in a train coupled with the fact that it is underground is perfect for claustrophobic suspense, and this film milks the formula dry.

FRENZY

Generally regarded as a lesser Hitchcock, nevertheless there is so much detail in his films that it is still a joy to watch a true master of the cinema in total control of his medium. Many of you will recognise the settings as it takes place in and around Covent Garden. Hitchcock appears very near the beginning for those of you who want to look for him. Also watch for an amazing tracking shot through a house as the murderer disposes of his latest victim which is then juxtaposed with a hilarious sequence of a detective combatting his wife's exotic

cooking. Cinema aesthetes note how the shots are from a low angle when the hero is in joyous mood, whereas when he is on the run the shots are downward.

THE FRONT PAGE

This is taken from a Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur play and was first made in 1930 by Lewis Milestone with Lee Tracy and Adolphe Menjou, then again in 1940 by Howard Hawks with a reversal of roles, Rosalind Russell taking the reporter's role and Cary Grant playing her boss. This is the 1974 Matthau and Lemmon version and those of you who saw "The Odd Couple" (if you didn't you missed 100 minutes of tremendous comedy) will accept this as sufficient recommendation to see this. The recreation of the period is totally convincing right down to the minutest detail.

Rock against racism

WHEN Eric Clapton uttered on stage "I used to be into dope... then some foreigner pinched my missus's bum, now I'm into racism... it's much heavier, man", many people at his Birmingham gig must have turned their heads, and wished that they had not seen and heard such a comment.

However, for two socialists, turning their heads was NOT enough. They wrote a letter to Melody Maker, condemning such comments, particularly as Clapton made his reputation imitating these self-same foreigners. They also condemned the racist and overtly Fascist remarks made by David Bowie in Sweden.

The response from the music world, through both letters and statements, was so outstanding that it was felt that a campaign should be mounted, fighting against any manifestation of racism in rock music. Rock against Racism was born.

However before we continue, we must look briefly at the history of "rock" music. (To discuss and analyse the progress of contemporary music and to separate all its multiple influences is a task beyond this article. Of course, should a RAR group be set up at LSE, such topics would have the much fuller treatment that they merit.)

To continue—the evolution of blues styles has been well documented; so too has the way in which they became harsher and dynamic as the singers made way to the Northern cities of America. The integration with the stylistic instrumentation of jazz led to the first innovative urban musical force after World War Two—rhythm 'n' blues.

It was a pure manifestation of black culture, and as such could not be made into a commercial proposition in the white owned American recording industry. "To have black singers on white radio, actually singing to a white audience, would be an insult to the All-American Way of Life"—or so thought the recording executives.

Their answer — respectable geographics like Bill Haley copying Ivory Joe Hunter's classic R 'n' B song "Rock around the Clock". The watered down lyrics and sexuality of the originals, usually by Louis Jordan and Wynonie Harris, were peddled as finished products to the white audience—in the form of rock 'n' roll.

In the early sixties, the Tamla Motown movement again brought black music more concretely to the fore, with Smokey Robinson and Marvin Gaye leading the way.

Again we saw the commercial interests probe their way in, isolating the music from its cultural and ethnic origins as the money-men took over. However this time it was a black-owned company in the white business world; a maverick that was soon welcomed as it was absorbed into the capitalist environment. The Motown cor-

poration, as it expanded, started suppressing individual musical expression in pursuit of safe profits. The result was, in the words of "Rolling Stone" magazine, "opportunistic commercial albums... of the worst sort!" It further prompted NME to say "The decline of Motown was what happened to the days when black music was black—and not his mush of vacuous muzak and pretentious drivel".

These are but two examples of what happens to progressive musical culture under a capitalist system. The present situation is equally depressing.

The question that must be asked is: "how is racism incorporated into a musical mode of expression—a mode of expression originated by ethnic minorities? This occurs precisely because big-business has OBJECTIFIED rock music from its grass-roots origins and influences and has made it a separate commercial entity. Thus allowing racism to rear its ugly head in three ways:

- (1) In the actual business itself—where black musicians are very low paid (Motown used to pay white session musicians twelve times as much as black ones.)
- (2) At the whim of artists and performers, who have a vast audience that has no control over them... and
- (3) In the actual audiences themselves, who at reggae and soul concerts are harassed and beaten by police; or at carnivals, such as at Notting Hill, where high spirits and exuberance are misinterpreted by police.

To summarise:—

Rock music — reggae, soul, funk, jazz — is with us every day and night — wherever we go. It is the music of the black and white urban working class.

But it is not sacred, it is a product of its environment; money rules, not music, and superstars mean superprofits. Isolated "guitar gods" and their record company executives care nothing for the world of the unemployed school-leavers, and the beaten up black kids. They care about market-exploitation and tax problems in the Bahamas.

In the first place rock music came from the experience of living under "the system." FOR US it must be part of the struggle to change the system.

As part of that battle, racism must be fought whenever and wherever it emerges, whether it be in the utterances of the National Front, or National Party, or from the "respected" Enoch Powell, and his supporter Eric Clapton, or with discrimination against Overseas Students it

MUST BE SMASHED.

Fight Racism in Rock.

Black and white:

UNITE AND FIGHT.

LSE International
Socialists.

S. A. TEACH-IN

IT is evident that in the coming few years, Southern Africa will be an area of enormous change and perhaps conflict. At LSE, a social sciences school, only one course on Southern Africa exists, "The Spatial Analysis of South Africa" (Geog. Dept.). Many students and staff feel that more priority should be given in teaching to an appraisal of Southern Africa, an analysis of apartheid, and all that this system engenders, as well as the economic and military links between this country (or the EEC in general) and Southern Africa.

Many political groups at LSE are content to have an annual film or lunch-time speaker and leave the question of solidarity at that. Many departments are content not to teach; many national societies shrug off the question as not being part of their problems. But the time has come at LSE to build a massive solidarity campaign in support of the people of Southern Africa, many of whom are engaged in the struggle against racism, torture and the structures of mass exploitation.

With this in mind, a number of groups,

societies and different departments' students participated in a meeting last Friday to launch the first day of solidarity with the people of Southern Africa, Friday, December 3rd, 1976. Students agreed to canvass support for all teaching on that day to concentrate on Southern Africa, with ordinary lectures open to all, and a supplementary programme of outside speakers, films, theatre and music.

This idea merits all the support that can be mustered, whether from staff, students or the School. We urge you to speak to as many people as possible about the planned day of solidarity, obtain their support, and thus help to build the first stage of a solidarity campaign.

If you are prepared to assist in any way, please watch Daily Beaver for information on planning meetings, and attend them. These meetings are being supported by most political groups and national societies, but we need the extra support of SSCs and departmental societies in order to obtain staff support. So if you believe you can contribute, please come to the planned meetings.

Exhibition rip-off

READING by chance the "Time Out" section for exhibitions, I found an interesting entry, "Prostitution," presented by Coum Transmissions. The promise of a really good time on a lazy Saturday afternoon, admission almost free, and a nice environment too, the Mall, not Chalk Farm. You arrive there, find the place, and the story begins:

The membership fee for students at the ICA is £2 a year. It's a lot of money. You came out at the promise of "almost free," and now you have to have

membership. Standing around wondering what to do, finally you buy the membership card. Then you want to go in, again a surprise, 25p for admission, although you are a member now. O.K., you pay again.

In the meantime it had better be an extraordinary exhibition, for 225p. At first glance you see lots of photographs from towns in Italy, Germany and France. A girl in a glittering dress is hanging around on a scaffold stage, wallowing in foam rubber, a guy with a plastic bag over his head brandishes

unusual implements. In a glass case you can see rusty knives and a lot of bloody tampons.

The next pictures show a man in a muddy diving-suit, a girl with a scratch in her dark panty hose, crowds of spectators around. The next photographs are only variations of the same knitting pattern.

Then it becomes suddenly funnier. Two large notice-boards with articles from London's shallower newspapers discussing "Art" and the ideas behind the exhibition. But then the sophisticated climax: white boxes with pictures and stories about sex behind glass. Every visitor has to pull the pictures out to look at them. If you see one, you have seen them all. Common girls, boring stories, your nearest sex-shop is Eden.

The main theoretical links between the exhibition and prostitution were that I prostituted my energies and the ICA prostituted its honour.

BUDGET

AT the meeting of the Finance Committee on Monday, October 25th, it was agreed that a Budget meeting will be called on the 19th November at 3 pm, in order to present a new budget.

The reason why a new budget is needed is that the one agreed in February 1976 formulated a demand for a total of £84,000 but the Court of Governors has only approved a budget of £74,250 so that we face a short fall of over £9,500 if we proceed with the February Budget. The Students' Union for the last three years has had a financial deficit, so that our reserves in early September were only £8,000 and we had nearly £3,000 debts. Evidently, then, we cannot spend more than our income this financial year or we will go bankrupt.

This poses the problem of priorities, which areas should we reduce planned spending, where should growth occur etc.

The decisions are your responsibility, so come to the Budget Meeting, voice your opinions, ask questions of Finance Committee members, you're even welcome to come to Finance Committee meetings.

JOHN CRUSE

LISTEN SON I DONT CARE WHOSE UNION YOUR IN, YOU STILL DONT GET DISCOUNT ON A PACKET OF BISCUITS 4 SOME GREEN PAPERS.

A.P.H.



WE have been asked to inform you that "PLEBS" is holding a limerick competition. Entries should begin with the line:

"There was a young man (or girl) in Room Z" and should reach the Editor of "PLEBS" by Tuesday, November 30th. Any number of entries may be submitted, but printable entries would be appreciated! Anyone interested might like to know that Room Z is the Catalogue Hall and the nerve-centre of the Library—it is extremely untidy. Prizes will be book tokens.

Whilst appreciating the new catering facilities which appeared during the summer, it seems that one omission has caused some people a great deal of grief. So much so, in fact, that "Plebs", the magazine of the BLPEs, has devoted a whole issue to the passing of the LSE Rock Cake. You can't have your Rock Cake and eat it...

It has come to our attention that the Athletics Union has passed a motion (October 28th) approving the expenditure of £780 for affiliation to the "University Athletics Union." This body caters exclusively for male sports. This figure is reached by levying 25p from every male student at LSE. There was no similar appropriation for any similar facility for women's sports...



This "Beaver" was produced by Anton Chapman, Carol Saunders, Richard Kitchen, Peacock, Liz, Fiona, Katy, James Gausson, A.P.H., David Lowry, Sheree Dodd, P.B., Julian Ingram, Ben Watson, and Ursula (who kept the Editor going).

All opinions expressed in the paper are those of the writers. © London School of Economics and Students' Union, 1976.

Classified

OASIS RECORDS, formerly Revolver Records is now open under the management of Tim Oake, Newport Court, near Soho open market, basement of boutique called Envy. Brand-new albums from £1.50.

RAR's first dance: Friday, November 12th, at the Princess Alice, Forest Gate, up the Romford Road, E15.

Rock Against Racism with Carol Grimes and the London Boogie Band plus support band and sound system.

£1 to get in, 50p with a dole card. Remember the date and remember to come!

Any supporters interested in putting on a Rock Against Racism, write to us at 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Anyone wishing to buy cheap cassettes due to bulk purchase, see Andy Cornwell in the Ents room (S118). These are very good cassettes and are about half the list price.

One or possibly two tickets are available for the all-night James Gagney film show at the National Film Theatre on November 6th (Saturday). Anyone who is interested, please see Anton Chapman in the Beaver Office (S116). The price is £1.50 per ticket.

STATS S.S.C.

AN election will be held during the next two weeks of student representatives on the staff-student committee. Ten student members need to be elected as follows:—

- (1) Two first-year students who have stated their intention to specialise in statistics, computing or mathematics; and one member from each of the following groups:—
- (2) Second-year statistics students;
- (3) Second-year computing students;
- (4) Second year mathematics students;
- (5) Third-year statistics students;
- (6) Third-year computing students;
- (7) Third-year mathematics students;
- (8) Graduate statistics students;
- (9) Graduate O.R. students.

Nominations should be made on the form pinned up on the Departmental notice-board on the second floor of St Clements Building (next to Room S.220), on or before **Friday, November 5th**. A proposer and seconder are required from the group to which the nominee belongs. Nominations may be made only with the consent of the person nominated.

A meeting has been arranged for Monday, November 8th at 1 p.m. in Room S.221 and all are welcome.

PROFESSOR D. J. BARTHOLOMEW, Convener

Clare market review

CLARE MARKET REVIEW ceased publication about three years ago. We are now interested in starting up this magazine once more, though perhaps with a somewhat different style. Although we wish to include some creative writing (which formed the bulk of the former publication), we contemplate that greater interest would be generated were the content to be more varied. It is therefore proposed to include reviews of the arts and serious books, material of an academic nature (though, of general rather than of purely de-

partmental interest), interviews and other features.

There clearly is a gap to be filled as there is now no "serious" (I hesitate to use the word "intellectual") journal published by the Students' Union. Clare Market Review hopes to fill this gap. Would anyone interested in helping in any way please come to a meeting in the Beaver office, S116 on Monday, 8 November at 1.15 or contact us via U/G pigeonholes.

JONATHAN RICHMOND,
ANDREW MEADE.