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BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
STUDENTS' UNION

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The Economist

Look at it another way



No Right turn... pro-GLC march

Independent Sweeps Finance Committee Elections

After much campaigning, discussion and nail-biting, not to mention much laughter, the initial results of the Finance Committee Elections announced on Thursday night showed Michael Moszynski (Ind) to be the clear winner, having obtained 168 first-preference votes.

LIB	ALEXANDER	5
CON	BETTER	89
LIB	GIBSON	17
LIB	LESTER	17
LAB	MacMAHON	111
IND	MOSZYNSKI	168
LAB	SNELL	131
IND	STOTEN	23



Michael Moszynski

Non-transferables 19

The count had to go through eight stages of the transfer vote before Snell (Lab) and Better (Con) were announced as the other two successful candidates.

Michael Moszynski attributed his achievement to his long-standing campaign "for students as students" and added that, "the time of the party political block vote is moving towards the past. Independent Student is very grateful to all those who helped in our campaign. It is a victory for reason rather than party political dogma."

The total number of voters was 588, a significant increase from last year, when only 313 students submitted their vote.

Labour saw its share of votes fall from 52% last year to 43%. Commenting on the election, Snell (Lab) said, "42% is good, it's not bad. Perhaps we would have hoped for it to be higher." Other Labour supporters present said that no erosion had been made into the Labour vote, but that former Conservatives, as well as Liberals and other "centrist" voters had found a home in Mike Moszynski. For his part, David Better (Con) insisted that Thursday's results were a "moral victory for the anti-Labour vote".

With all eyes now turned towards the Sabbatical elections this March, we will all just have to wait and see how lasting this "moral victory" is...

These results were obtained before the recount of Friday Jan 27.

NALGO SOLIDARITY STRIKE

25 LSE administrative staff went on strike last Tuesday, in order to join fellow workers protesting at the Government's proposal to abolish the Greater London and other metropolitan Councils. They attended a march some 26,000 strong which went from Hyde Park Corner to the South Bank, composed of members of all the Unions involved in local government. All of the LSE contingent were members of NALGO, (National Association of Local Government Officers), which has a strong membership among LSE staff. The Union made a call for voluntary, unpaid strike

action and Dawn Muspratt, NALGO branch secretary, said she was "very pleased at the marvellous response" which she got from her members.

Since the action was not directed against the LSE the fears among students that library and other services might be closed proved unfounded and members of other Unions covered for the people on strike. The main aim of the protest, as Christiane Ohsane, one of the leading lights in the campaign to save local democracy said, "is to show it's not just a question of unions defending their members' jobs, but of making the public

aware that as consumers of the services our members provide they will lose out in the long run." The Tory Government claims it can save £370M by abolishing the GLC, making attacks on spending in such areas as arts, community relations, development, housing, employment and transport. In order to pursue its monetarist policies the Government is trying to centralise control over public spending in order to regulate the money supply more tightly. This means that many services will be run by unelected bureaucrats in Whitehall. There is the added advantage for the most radical right wing Government

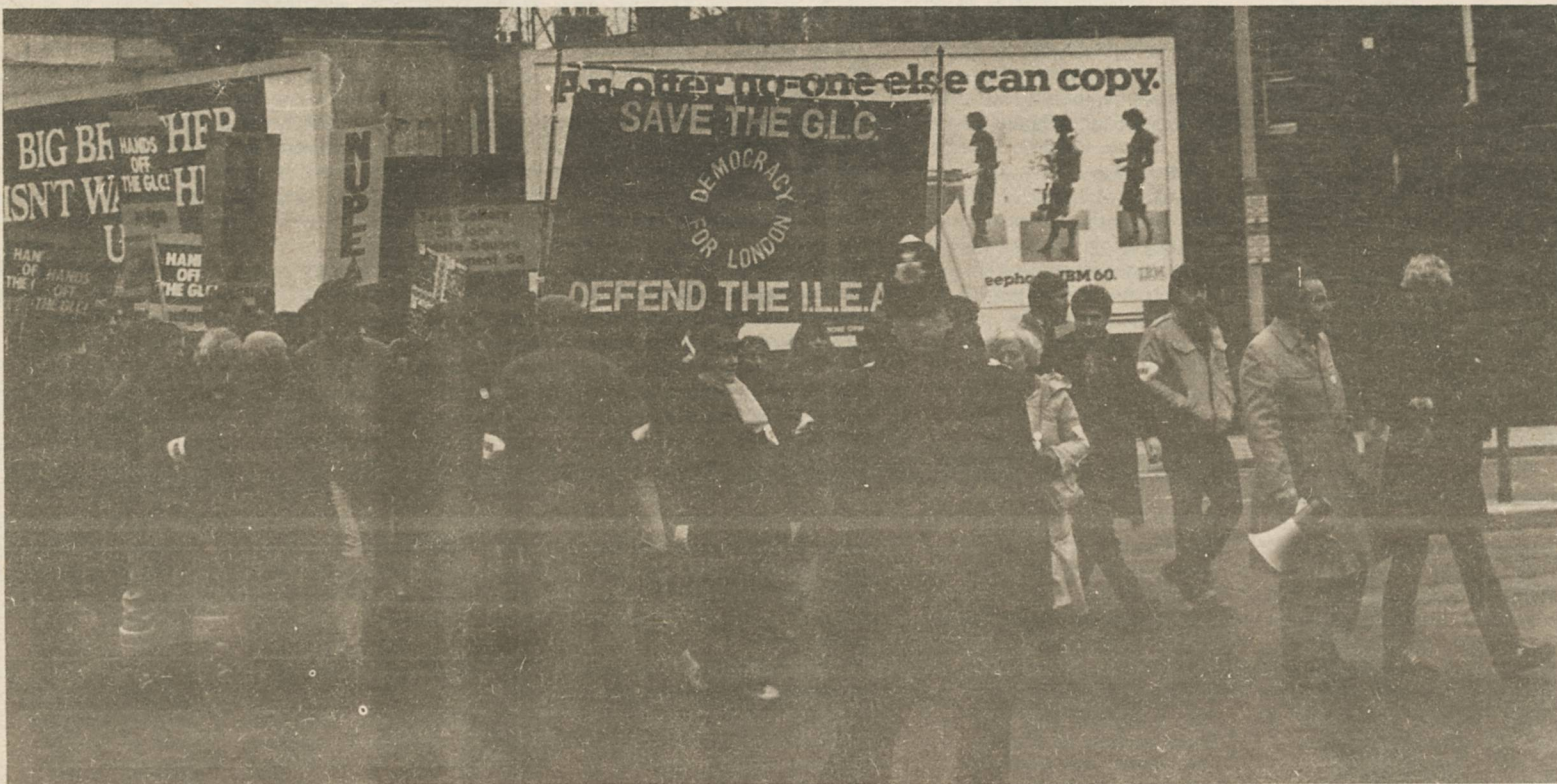
since the war of destroying the Labour Party's main power base outside Parliament: Labour control nearly all the 6 metropolitan Councils which provide a focus for opposition to the Government's policies of cutting services, closing schools, hospitals and colleges. The GLC, just across the river from Westminster, tauntingly displays a tally of London's unemployed.

As Londoners, all LSE students will be affected one way or another if the GLC is destroyed, a fact recognised by the numerous students who attended the rally. The GLC at present operates a policy of subsidising transport fares in

order to keep them low - a policy which will almost certainly fall before the Government's onslaught; many of us already have problems finding cheap and decent accommodation even though this is higher on the Council's list of priorities than it would be under the economy driving control of Whitehall.

The abolition will not go ahead until 1986, and since more industrial action is likely to take place between now and then, **Beaver** will be monitoring the situation with an eye to student's interests.

Simon Morris



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Letters

Abrogating free speech 'counter-productive'

Sir,
I found the otherwise excellent series of articles on anti-racism week seriously marred by their disregard for freedom of speech. The author indicated that oppression of a political minority can be justified if the group advocates inegalitarian and therefore undemocratic values. This view is both fallacious and counter-productive. Abrogating anyone's right to free speech undermines the very egalitarian principles we profess to be fighting for. If we oppress any group today, we

set a president (sic) for tomorrow – a president (sic) likely to be used by the bigots against weak minorities.

Yes, racism should be fought. The Newham 8 must be given justice. The police must be made accountable for their actions. As for organized bigotry, we must expose it and drain those groups of all credibility. Instead of gagging the Nazis we should allow them to choke on their own racist vomit.

Yours,
David K. Howe

Lucas and Freely 'hypocrites'

Dear Sir,
We have once again been shown the hypocrisy for the likes of Dominic Freely and Ed Lucas. Freely spoke out against the 'No Platform' motion which was passed by our Union. His opposition was based on his belief in freedom of speech for all, he even told me that he supported free speech for both Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA. Yet he tried to use that same 'No Platform' policy to get the Union Budget defeated on the

infantile grounds that the cover had a picture of Karl Marx. Ed Lucas, you may remember, made an impassioned plea to defeat the 'No Platform' motion, again on the grounds of free speech. The last Liberal Focus reiterated this position. Yet there was Ed Lucas, for all to see, voting in favour of Freely's childish motion. At last we see them for what they are – self-righteous hypocrites.

Yours,
Gerard MacMahon

'High-Handed' reply to UGC?

Sir,
Recently the School passed on to the Students' Union a Circular letter from the University Grants Committee (UGC): "Development of a Strategy for Higher Education". The document included a letter from the Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, as well as a wide-ranging questionnaire to which answers were invited for submission to the UGC. Answers have indeed been given in a "draft reply" prepared by Senior Treasurer John Donkersley and General Secretary Debbi Hindson. However, there has been no discussion in this matter within the Union. There has not even been consultation of the Academic Affairs Officer and the Academic Council. Now, the two Sabbaticals have even sent their reply to the School before anyone else in the Union has even considered it! Little wonder that the Flower Committee expressed disquiet about their action at its meeting on 11th January.

In our view, much of what the two Sabbaticals have written is inaccurate, presumptuous and singularly unhelpful to the debate on Higher Education. A few instances of their ineptitude will suffice:

The two Sabbaticals start by a cynical questioning of the motives behind the letter, to which the Union was asked to reply. They state in particular: "the reason d'être behind this debate is not some high-minded well-intentioned desire to see a better education system, but an exercise in ascertaining how universities can cut costs. How do they know? And are not a better education system and a more efficient education system synonymous with each other? Furthermore, the two Sabbaticals state that they "do not intend to give replies to those questions designed to elicit how cuts can be made..." Why not? And on whose authority do they claim to commit the Union to a negative stance which excludes debate about possible economies? If

cuts are to be made, this Union should have its say; if the Sabbaticals will not take this opportunity, then what right have they to campaign for greater Union consultation on Academic matters?

Later, the two Sabbaticals launched into a foolish attack on the "General Course" in existence at the LSE, describing it as "a hardly vigorous course which basically gives rich American students an attendance record and an opportunity to see Europe". They had obviously forgotten a reply to the Director, Professor Dahrendorf, sent to a particularly objectionable letter Miss Hindson had written to The Sunday Times about the LSE. In it, he spoke of the General Course as one which attracts some of the best students to the college and he also asserted that there were no academically questionable courses in existence at the LSE.

The two Sabbaticals implicitly criticized the LSE for launching a drive to attract more overseas students to the LSE. Later on, they contradict themselves by admitting that if the number of overseas students is constant or reducing, the effect will be harmful. In any case, overseas students contribute much to the success of the LSE both as a centre of academic brilliance and as an international institution.

Space does not permit more detailed examination of the flaws of this reply. The first and principal reason for this letter is to draw attention to the high-handed and undemocratic way in which this reply was drafted. Perhaps wider consultation through the Academic Council will result in a reply which will more accurately reflect the truth as well as the real views of the students of the LSE. It is completely unfair that these issues are decided on our behalf behind closed doors.

Yours sincerely,
Philip Groves
Robert Shrimmsley

Paul

Sir,
From a purely personal point of view I find the recent controversies over the vacancy of the post of Bar Manager at the Three Tuns absolutely disgusting. It is completely beyond my comprehension why Paul was not the automatic selection for the job. Of course I do realise that matters must first of all be complicated by intellectual lightweights who seem to revel in such disturbances. I am perfectly aware that, as far as is possible, sentiment should not become involved when Union money is at stake. However, it is on the very issue of financial viability which Paul's greatest attributes lie. Finally, his down-to-earth manner and downright crudeness has endeared him to all of us hopeless souls who frequent the Three Tuns in an effort to escape the intellectual rigours and pretensions of life at the LSE. So come on all you stupid little bureaucrats, pull your fingers out and give him his job back.

P.S. Who the hell is Alan Medlock?
Yours soberly,
Stuart McPhail

'a tragedy'

Last Thursday the Student Union voted to try and reclaim the money they had already paid for London Student. I personally find this a tragedy for the following reasons. As a member of London University I like to read a paper which does not concern itself with LSE. Similarly, London Student carries a lot of up-to-date London news, particularly of events involving students which Beaver has neither the resources nor the mandate to cover. Whatever Robert Shrimmsley may say, London Student is not a biased rag. I personally think it could be more radical, but that would not lead me to campaign against it. On a totally non-selfish note, which I know will find little sympathy with the likes of Mr. Mozinski, I think we ought to continue to affiliate to London Student so that it can continue to exist in its present form and provide a student newspaper for those colleges in London (who are in the majority) who do not have a proper paper. Beaver is the best college paper in London, but that does not mean London Student is not worthwhile and interesting. It also gives another angle, and as people supposedly interested in getting as much information as possible, we ought not to allow parochialism to dominate.

Pat Hayes.

NUS, 28 QUESTION, and 'The New Deal'

At the end of last term, the University Grants Committee sent a document to every university in the country, under the heading of "The 28 Questions". This document, however, is not some academic discussion into the role of tertiary education, but is an attempt to discover the best means of implementing cuts. The misleading title is cunningly used to disguise the real motives.

Under pressure from the School, the Senior Treasurer and General Secretary produced a draft reply over Christmas based on Students' Union and NUS policies of opposing any cuts and reorganising the system of education in this country. However, the deadline for replies to this document is March 31st. Therefore Labour members of the Students' Union Executive proposed that we should produce our own independent reply to the document. We believed that the School would largely ignore our report, selecting

JD on the 'factual inaccuracies' of BEAVER

Dear Editor,
Erm, I'm afraid that I am having to write to you again to correct certain factual inaccuracies which have again cropped up in Beaver. Most of them seem to stem from Malcolm Love, who will forever stick in my memory as the person who offended staff more on his first day in the Beaver office than any person in recent history – dumping a load of posters outside the doors of a secretary's office and being rather rude when asking for outside lines from the switchboard. I would mention the fact that he's rather obnoxious but that's irrelevant.

Anyway down to the old factual inaccuracies.

1) Bad research. I did make the full implications of ultra vires payments clear. Those implications do not include – as Malcolm stated – the loss of charitable status. To lose our charitable status we would have to pass the motion at a Union Meeting, change our

constitution, gain the agreement of the School and possibly 101 other things. Manchester University Students' Union renounced their charitable status – it means that you have to pay Corporation Tax.

The primary legal implications of an ultra vires payment is that I get surcharged. The consequences are personal rather than collective.

I would go into the other legal arguments but they are rather technical.

2) I was not on the CND demonstration on the 15th November as the Beaver diary claimed. I had been on the earlier one, sitting down in Whitehall and the Strand where there were no arrests, but after this didn't expect much to happen on the 15th. I was in fact watching a film at the time.

I do not intend, as stated, to have a career as a barrister or solicitor so I wouldn't particularly mind having a criminal record of any sort, especially

where I consider that there is a strong principle at stake – or that the law is wrong. Nuclear disarmament is something that needs to be pressed by all means possible and we should give people doing this our utmost support. For myself, I don't think that a criminal record will affect me when I return to the family business of kelp exportation from the Malvinas.

Can I again reiterate what I said in an earlier letter:- credit all articles, get rid of the Beaver Diary – its just anonymous gossip and bitching that does nobody any credit. Beaver is generally starting to improve but this is through being a 'student newspaper' rather a rag with pretensions to be the Times or Guardian. Oh, please scrap the 'Stars' as well – they are as out of place as Richard Bacon would be in my local WMC.
Yours in comradeship,
John Donkersley.

Actual size of budget surplus 'understated'

Sir,
I must protest at the high-handed way in which Senior Treasurer John Donkersley has attempted to first cover up, and then explain away, the large surplus which exists in the 1982-83 Student Union budget. Those students with any knowledge whatsoever of accounting principles must be appalled by the dexterity which the Senior Treasurer has found in playing with facts and figures.

Three items in the budget have been used to manipulate the actual size of last year's budget surplus. First, the DHSS contribution refund, which has been questioned several times at different Union meetings. Second, the purchase of a computer system, perhaps a necessary expenditure, but for which no proper allocation has been made. Last, but not least, the Students Union by now famous, but non-existent cleaning bill, which has been subject to perhaps the most obvious manipulation of all.

The DHSS contribution refund, a minor, paltry sum of £10,042, was placed for safekeeping in the Student Union reserves. No plausible reason has been advanced for this action. On the Student Union Income Statement there is a sheet entitled INCOME. The DHSS refund is income. Interesting that no mention of it is made in the entire 15-page income statement. Plans to spend this money have been proposed and rejected several times.

Income is basically money received during the current period. How can the Union spend money it hasn't received?

The Student Union is now in the process of acquiring a computer system. Actually, though, that's not quite true. What is happening is that someone is buying a computer system with Student Union money. It's interesting that £11,800 can be earmarked for a computer system without the Union ever voting on the purchase. Makes you wonder what other money is being spent without the Union's approval (or knowledge?).

Where did the money to finance this expenditure (nearly 7% of the entire budget) come from? It turns out that for three years the Student Union has been paying a cleaning bill for which it should not pay. This money has finally been refunded. Instead, though, of being treated as income and then added to reserves, the money has seemingly disappeared. The only realistic place it can go (to keep with good accounting principles) would seem to be reserves, and would therefore also be considered as surplus. However there is no mention in either the income statement or the trading accounts balance of the money being placed anywhere, except as a provision for the purchase of a computer.

The Student Union Income Statement shows these figures:

INCOME –	£179,708
EXPENDITURE –	£173,167
SURPLUS –	£ 6,541

An independent accountant asked to look at these items returned these figures:

INCOME PER SU DOCUMENT –	£179,708
EXPENDITURE PER SU DOCUMENT –	£173,167
SURPLUS DHSS CONTRIBUTION REFUND –	£ 6,541
CAPITAL COMMITMENT –	£ 10,042
TREATED AS EXPENSE –	£ 11,800
RESTATEd SURPLUS –	£ 28,383

It would seem that the DHSS refund and the cleaning bill refund are being "hidden" in order to understate the actual size of the 1982-3 surplus. These questions must be answered. Why has the 1982-3 Student Union budget surplus been understated by £21,842? Why has a provision for a computer system been made from specific money, namely the cleaning bill refund? Who is responsible for the shoddy accounting techniques used to manipulate the size of the surplus? These are questions which must be answered.

Sincerely,
David Better

only specific items which suited their needs, thereby justifying claims that the document was produced in "consultation" with the Students' Union.

The same Labour members are now producing a questionnaire on education, in consultation with NUS. In line with Students' Union policy, we do not wish to reply to any document that is aimed at cutting education. Instead, we aim to take the "Great Education Debate" into a different sphere. Not only are we going to question funding but also the type and provision. Fundamental questions will be asked about the breakdown of our institutions into a single education scheme, and the very nature of the examination system. This is part of the NUS "New Deal" – a radical attempt to influence the restructuring of the education in this country. A booklet outlining the NUS strategy is available from the General Secretary. Contributions and com-

ments are requested in order that a reply can be formulated. We are not only saying "No!" to any cuts, but are hoping to offer a radical alternative based on the belief that, "Education is a right not a privilege".

In short-term, NUS has made a number of demands for improving student living standards. However, in a recent meeting, Sir Peter Brooke, Under-Secretary for education, told Neil Stewart and Sarah Veale that there would be no significant improvement for living standards in the foreseeable future. He warned that as long as Britain maintained a commitment to NATO, all other budgets would have to be cut.

The Government is proposing to cut minimum grants from £410 to £205, increase the main rate of grant by only 4% (approx. £2 per week compared with £5 demanded by NUS), change travel costs to a flat rate, severely handicapping students who have to travel to

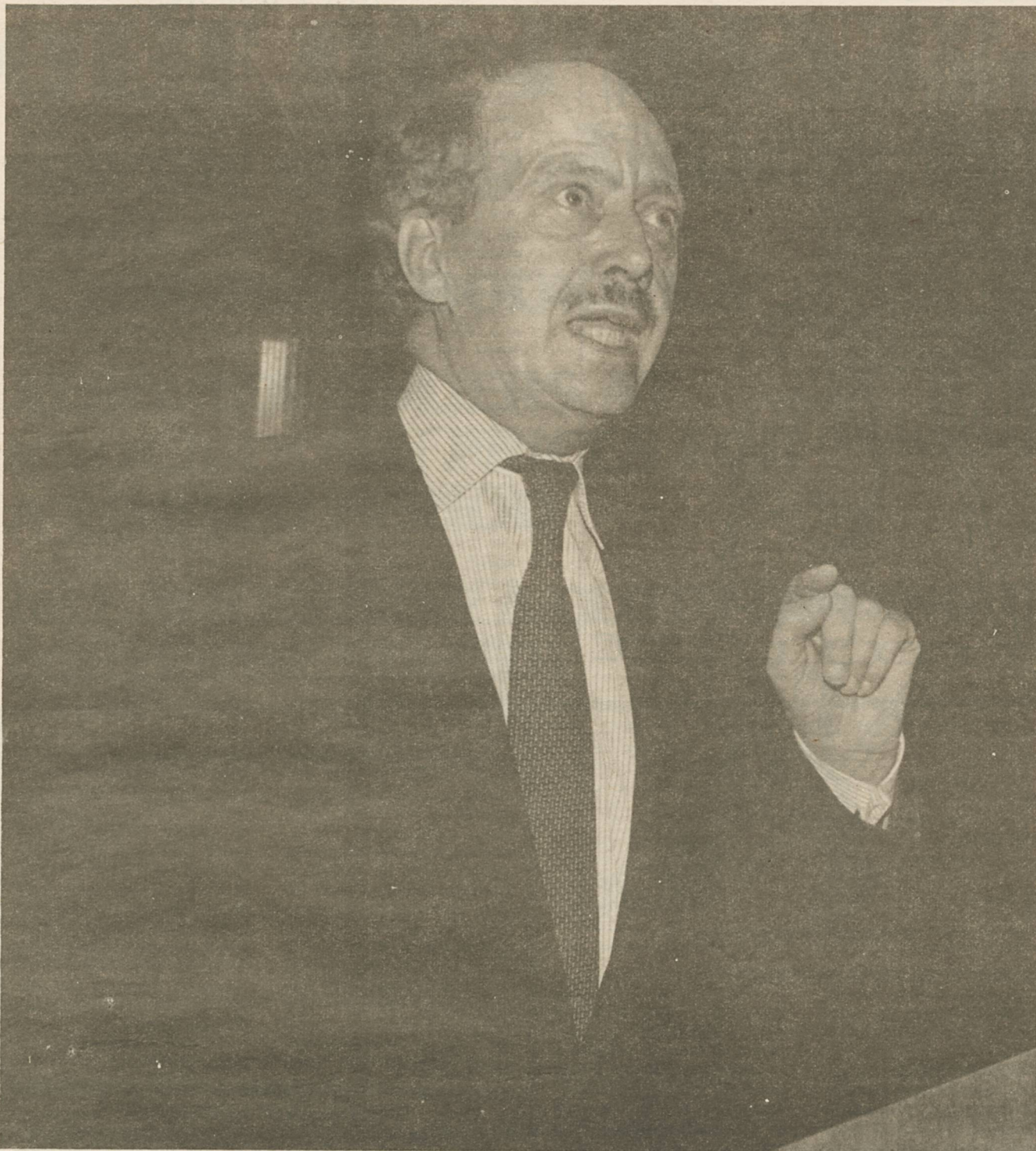
college from other parts of the country. Additionally, the Government is proposing to give grants to students in Further Education.

NUS is asking for a £30 a week minimum grant for all students, £5 per week (£6 in London) increase in the main rate of grant, to keep the present method of student travel costs, and for independence for all students. These issues affect all of us, and we must support the campaign for education.

Similarly, Professor Dahrendorf is attempting to hide the real level of cuts at LSE. By a subtle process of privatisation – the School charges overseas students more than the Government's suggested level – Dahrendorf is lessening the LSE's dependence on the UGC. However, this is turning the LSE into a private institution which discriminates against overseas students, and is suffering from falling education standards.

Kevin Cooper, NUS officer

DAHRENDORF :



Prospects for Liberalism

The first political 'guest' speaker of term was the Director, Professor Ralf Dahrendorf. He spoke, at the invitation of the Liberals, on the subject of 'Prospects for Liberalism'.

That, anyway, was his supposed subject. He seemed to speak more on that what exactly Liberalism is, rather than on its prospects. This was no problem, however, as he kept a respectably filled New Theatre's attention and interest at least sufficiently for them to be eager to ask questions afterwards.

In examining the last generation of liberal thinkers, such as Hayek, Professor Dahrendorf saw their role as essentially defensive, in terms of their defence of liberty and human rights. The modern liberal thinkers have, he said, produced new issues which are more aggressive, positive and non-defensive. The old battles have been virtually won, with very little attempt left to justify totalitarianism on intellectual grounds.

Professor Dahrendorf provided examples of this new strand in liberalism in two specific fields: those of affirmative action to ensure that underprivileged groups can take up their human rights, and in the increased attention

paid to local initiatives instead of centrally-based ideas. On the first of these, he stated his admiration of the American program of Affirmative Action to the benefit of minority groups. This policy has provided special educational programs at schools and universities, and requires employers to provide reasons if they employ white workers instead of blacks or other ethnic groups who apply for jobs.

He stated that at LSE the qualifications required from members of disadvantaged groups were perhaps less than for others. He sees education as playing a key role in the implementation of 'real' human rights, along with employment. He also identified a possible reason for the comparative unpopularity of such measures in Britain - their name of Positive Discrimination.

Professor Dahrendorf stated that one of the areas of difference between liberalism and social democracy (referring to the philosophy in general, rather than to the SDP) is in the role of the state. Social democracy depends upon a benevolent state - a state that can be an instrument of progress to a better country. He believes, however, that benevolent government is an

illusion. It is at the localities that traces of tomorrow can be found, he said, new ideas do not come from the centre.

He identified several examples of such local initiative in Britain, the Nottingdale Technical Institute, and community developments in Glasgow arising from a Festival Society being two of them.

Government money is needed for these projects in Britain, as there is no tradition of 'private' funding, unlike in the USA where the Ford Foundation, through the Local Initiative Support Corporation, funds many projects. Professor Dahrendorf saw a need for autonomy for these schemes, but not for privatisation. He saw no purpose in strings being attached to Government money.

The first, and most politically difficult, question asked concerned the Student Union's new policy of 'no platform' for racists and fascists. Professor Dahrendorf started his reply with the statement that he had no intention to interfere in the affairs of the Students' Union. He did, however, make his personal opposition to this particular policy decision fairly clear. He stated that one of the factors that made LSE special was the wide range and divergence of views that can

be heard and expressed within it.

"I would very much like," he said, "to hear not only Tariq Ali, but also Enoch Powell."

When asked to assess the effect of the Reagan Administration on Civil Rights in the United States, especially in light of the sacking of half the members of the Civil Rights Commission, Professor Dahrendorf pointed out two consequences. Firstly, companies no longer believe that they have to conform to the regulations of Affirmative Action. Secondly, he stated that concern for the size of the budget deficit has led to withdrawal of support programs, which has in turn led to the "privatisation of poverty", with soup kitchens once more in the streets of America.

Finally, he was asked about the liberal credentials of the Liberal Party in government in West Germany. He replied that he saw "elements of Liberalism" in their policy. This is characteristic of Liberal Parties everywhere, however, as there are many constraints on Liberalism that have to be overcome in government, that do not necessarily affect parties in opposition.

Malcolm Lowe

Matthew Price at the Union



So far everyone has been saying Orwell was wrong and that 1984 is nothing like 1984. They should come to the LSE where this term the Union has been experiencing a new form of language: Donkerspeak. Its most astonishing feature is known as responsibility vapourisation. "It wasn't me I tell you," pleads our noble Senior Treasurer, "If you're talking about the person who wouldn't give Payul Whittaker the job, I've never heard of him, it must be some other filthy swine." Or alternatively, "Don't ask me, I just sign the cheques... what strike?... that's the Social Secretary's responsibility."

Unfortunately, the Social Secretary was none too constructive either, as he did not follow the other sabbaticals in keeping his own council. Dave Bull is doing so much to appeal to the populist vote one would think he was going to stand for a second term. Dave spoke out as Paul's friend. There are though, many friends of Paul Whittaker, unfortunately we have only one Social Secretary; it would have been useful to hear him. Dave Bull also mentioned that a member of the Admin. Sub-Committee resigned because he did not like what was going on. We must presume Mr. Bull meant procedurally, though surely the logical course would be to stay on the Committee and fight it out. Dave Bull never specified properly why the resignation took place: maybe he should if he wants

to make political capital out of it.

In all this the General Secretary said nothing, and gave little cause for confidence. Paul Whittaker has obviously been treated badly and tactlessly, though it is up to the elected officials of the Union, both the Sabbaticals and the Executive members to decide. Union employees have no manager, which gives them more autonomy, but the price to be paid is a less professional management: that's a hazard of the job.



Donkerspeak

In between the excitement of no platform for racists and fascists motions, Save the GLC Day, and discussions about bar managers, we have the occasional commercial breaks when our friend Mr. Donkersley tells us about an offer from the Union this year. Below is Mr. Philip Groves of the Advertising Standards Commission and the Viewers and Listeners Association. Not only is the Donkersley Budget grossly misleading, Mr. Groves tells us but, (and at this point he is the male incarnation of his ultra-Catholic ally, Mary Whitehouse) it is immoral and evil. Once again Philip launched into the 'Women's Right to Choose Fund'. This is the politics of conviction, but who will it convict next and what choice do they have?

(STOP PRESS)

A new bar manager has been appointed, subject to his references being satisfactory. He was selected from a short list of 5 taken from 29 applicants in an interview on January 24-25th. There was a general consensus that the successful applicant was the best person for the job in the eyes of the Selection Panel, which included the assistant bar manager.

The new manager, who cannot yet be named, comes originally from the Irish Republic and has 16 years of experience in bar management.
- Statement from John Donkersley, Senior Treasurer.

Mmmmm.... Man that's got to be
Herbal High Smoking Mixture

HE'S RIGHT, THIS PERFECTLY LEGAL HERBAL SMOKING MIXTURE IS GOOD FOR YOUR PIPE/BONG OR FOR ROLLING UP. GIVES A HAPPY MOOD; RELAXES AND BRINGS ABOUT GENERAL EUPHORIA WITH NO LOSS OF IDENTITY OR ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS. EXCLUSIVE AND SPECIAL FORMULA DERIVED FROM COMPLEX HERBAL CONSTITUENTS CULLED FROM MANY CONTINENTS. ONLY FROM THE S.A. THE ONLY HERBAL 'POT' THAT ACTUALLY SMELLS GOOD; TASTES GOOD AND PRODUCES NO ROUGH SIDE EFFECTS. MAN YOU GOTTA BELIEVE IT. TRY SOME WITH YOUR FRIENDS; IMPROVES ENJOYMENT OF MUSIC/ARTFORMS/CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, SOCIAL MEETS, ETC. ETC. GIVE YOURSELF SOME SPACE WITH THIS NON-HABIT FORMING COOL HERBAL MIXTURE. TRY SOME ONE AND YOU'LL TRY IT AGAIN.

YUPI Sling me some of this Herbal High in a re-saleable plastic sash bag. I just gotta give it a run.

SEND ... 1 oz POUCHES HERBAL HIGH at £2.47 per ounce to NAME..... ADDRESS

OR CALL IN AND COLLECT - TUESDAY through FRIDAY

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4-8 BURLEY LODGE ROAD LEEDS

(WANTED)

A student to write computer programme for the ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS QUESTIONNAIRE. Programme will need to use SCSS for cross-reference and analysis of results. Fee negotiable on a) the programme b) punching in results. For more information contact John Donkersley, Senior Treasurer, in E205 or call him at 405-8594 x31.

NUS Easter Conference in Hull, April 16-19. Closing deadline for motions or nominations for National Executive 17 Feb. NUS Local Day of Action on Feb 23. Carnival/Rally and Day of Action on March 10.

NO PLATFORM : Confrontation in Store?

As from last term the Union has assumed a policy of 'no platform' for speakers deemed racist or fascist. Undeniably it's a very important step for the Union to have taken, yet opinions remain deeply divided as to its merits.

The proposal came from members of the Action Committee against Racism and Fascism (ACARF) after events in their anti-racism week last November had been sabotaged and high-ranking members of the National Front had attempted to disrupt a meeting. ACARF representatives Simon Ellis and Richard Scott spelt out their reasons why they felt the 'no platform' policy dealt best with tackling the problem of racism at the LSE:

"We feel sure that there exists a highly-organized underground network of N.F support at the School, and by not allowing racists or fascists to speak we feel we can stop this disease from spreading. Equally, we cannot allow racist speakers the credibility that speaking at the LSE would give them. Of course it's a partly symbolic gesture but this type of mentality needs to be kept at bay at all costs."

However, FCS chairman Philip Groves bitterly disagrees: "Naturally it's very serious when the NF attempt to break up meetings, but I don't think the 'no platform' policy even attempts to deal with the problem in the correct way." (which he enlarges upon elsewhere in the paper). "I think it sets a very dangerous precedent when certain factions using their block vote can determine who or what others can listen to."

ACARF refute the suggestion that this is an anti-democratic policy:

"Listen, the NF don't believe in democracy, just violence and hatred; if they ever came to power freedom of speech would be the first thing to go. Denying the NF the right to speak is exactly what they tried to do to us when they attempted to break up our meeting. "We don't abuse this policy,"

continues Ellis, "calling someone a racist or a fascist is a very serious thing; they're not words that should be thrown about carelessly. Remember, a two-thirds majority is needed from the Union body if the 'no platform' is to come into operation and we feel that will provide sufficient safeguard against abuse."

Groves also expressed a worry that 'no platform' would interfere in academic freedom. "After all," he said, "certain staff must hold purely academic theories on race that certain ethnic groups might find offensive, equally what would happen if a prominent politician, alleged to have racist or fascist views came to speak at LSE on an entirely academic matter?"

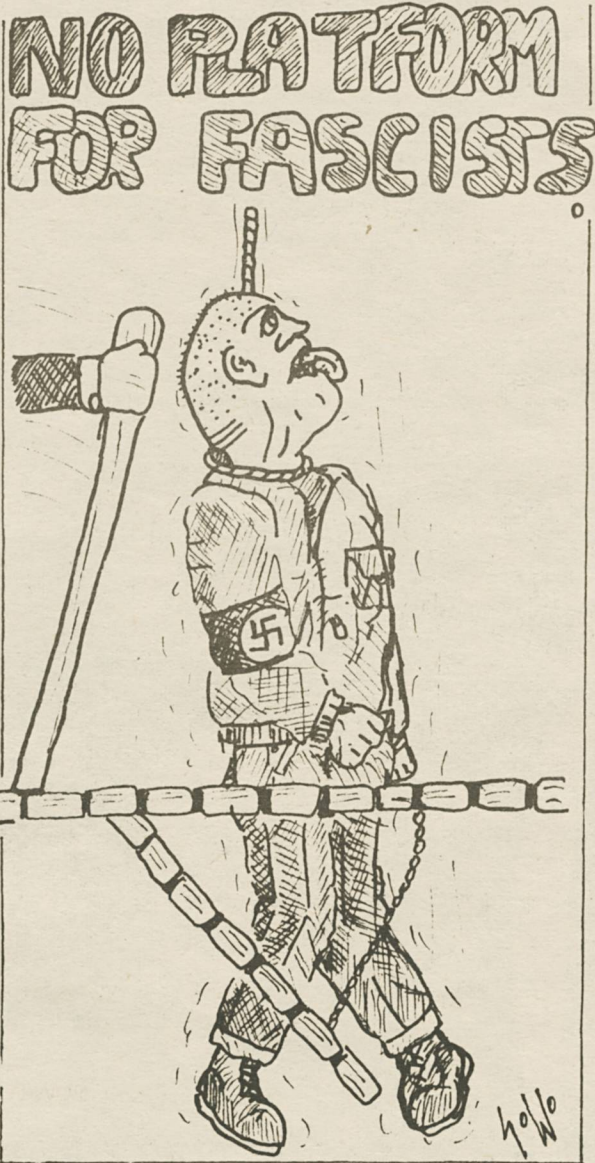
"Obviously 'no platform' is not designed to hinder academic freedom," Ellis replied. "We will have to consider situations thoroughly when they occur and whether 'no platform' is appropriate."

Groves' dismissal of the policy remains unmoved. "No platform is wrong; in seeking to protect minorities a policy has been formulated that ultimately comes out against them. It's something I could never see the FCS calling for, unless the speaker advocated violence. Indeed were the Union to impose 'no platform' on a meeting which I had a part in organizing I would ignore it."

The left will have to choose their ground very carefully; support for them over this is far from unanimous."

ACARF however see it as a very important step towards fighting racism at the LSE and fully justifiable.

"I'm sorry, but this is an issue where not opposing the threat is, in effect, the same as encouraging it. This is a concrete expression of this Union's firm and unqualified



opposition to the cancer of racism, and brings us into line with the majority of S.U.'s and even the Young Liberal Conference."

Perhaps the last word ought to be left with the Director, Ralf Dahrendorf, who usually pursues a non-interventionist line in Student Union affairs. In response to a question at an LSE liberals meeting, he said

the following:

"It's always been characteristic of LSE with its privileged location that we hear as many points of view as possible. I would just as much like to hear Tariq Ali as Enoch Powell. However, I have no intention of interfering in Student Union policy."

James Bailey

'TOTALITARIANS IN OUR MIDST'

The 'No Platform for racists and fascists' motion, narrowly passed at the UGM of 8th December last, is a glaring example of the creeping totalitarianism which has become a hallmark of the Labour Club at the LSE. In my view, this motion is 1) unwarranted 2) anti-democratic 3) an implicit incitement to violence 4) supportive of illegality 5) supported by the enemies of free speech 6) irrelevant to the problem of racial prejudice. Allow me to substantiate these charges.

1) A motion which seeks to deny the right of free speech to people whom 2/3 of a Union meeting define as "racist" or "fascist" has nothing whatsoever to do with the disgraceful disruption of 'Anti-racism week' by members of the National Front. What was at issue after those unfortunate incidents was not the right of free speech but the problem of how to prevent an outside organization from deliberately sabotaging a Union activity at the LSE. Furthermore, the "Union resolves" part of the motion did not even refer to the NF, referring instead to "racists and fascists" presumably whoever the Labour Club labels as such. In the past, these have included Sir Keith Joseph, Timothy Raison and Enoch Powell, none of them advocates of racial discrimination or racial violence. But even if someone who believes in racial discrimination is invited to the LSE, his right to free speech must still stand however unpopular his opinions prove to be. Incitement to

violence, of course, is a different matter and is covered in law.

2) A motion which gives one or more political groupings - when they are in a majority in one particular Union meeting - an excuse to silence political opponents can hardly be called democratic, even by Labour Club standards. Yet that is exactly what this motion does; when 'No Platform' was in existence before, Labour Club members used it to try to silence speakers they disapproved of. And they will no doubt try it again. Two traits of totalitarianism are an intolerance of political opposition, amply demonstrated by the Labour Club; and a debasement of language with labels such as "fascist" being pinned on anyone who does not hold the "correct" view on immigration or another issue. Those who show themselves to be "ideologically unsound" will be pushed into line or bludgeoned into silence. Stalinism.

3) The motion contains an implicit incitement to violence for it talks of the Union's support for "those who take direct action against racists and fascists". The support of 2/3 of a Union meeting is not necessary for such action which could, presumably, range from assault and battery to murder. Anything is permitted, so long as its aim is the destruction of the offending viewpoint. How Sartre would have loved it! These are, indeed, the fascist tactics of the left at work, demonstrated at the LSE by the attacks on Conservative

politicians in recent years; demonstrated nationally by the thuggery and intimidations seen recently in the Brent Council chamber and on the NGA picket-line.

4) The motion is supportive of illegality both because of its incitement to violence and its stated ban on certain categories of speakers. The Common Law does not provide for the trampling of freedom of expression. The Union has not right, either in law or under the Charter of the School, to prevent a student, academic or visiting speaker from being given a platform at the LSE. As Academic Affairs Officer, I will be ready to defend the precious right of academic freedom if it ever comes under fire. As Chairman of the LSE Conservatives, I will not hesitate to use the forces of law to ensure that whoever we invite is allowed to speak and to be heard, no matter what the Union, the Labour Club, SWSO or anyone else says about them.

5) The 'No Platform' motion had among its most committed supporters people who have not always proved terribly anxious to ensure that free speech prevails over tyranny. Only a week before that motion was discussed, John Hall physically attacked Michael Moszynski during a Union debate on the NGA-Stockport Messenger dispute while Simon Morris, standing threateningly in front of a number of Conservatives, bawled obscenities in an attempt - with others - to drown arguments he did not want to be

heard. It is interesting that those who voted for the motion included students who tried to shout down Michael Heseltine and Dr. Joseph Luns when they came to the LSE last year. Not only is the right of free speech affected here, but also the right of a person to hear someone whom he or she disagrees with but nevertheless wishes to hear.

6) It is regrettable that this motion is wholly irrelevant to the problem of racial animosity which the 'Anti-Racism Week' was rightly designed to draw to our attention. Racial prejudice and racial attacks, the real causes of the isolation felt by so many coloured people in Britain, were not touched upon by a motion which concentrated instead on the denial of free speech. Yet even if it was the odious and violence-inciting NF which this motion were to be instrumental in silencing, how sad - through this process - to give them the added credibility and sympathy which they could otherwise never enjoy! It is no solution to match one kind of intolerance with another.

What a shameful totalitarian motion this was, contravening the non-partisan principles on which the LSE itself was founded and has thrived. Totalitarians are in our midst. Such people must always remain free to study at the LSE. However, in defence of liberty, let us be vigilant in ensuring that they never impose their evil ideology on the rest of us.

Philip Groves

POLICE REPRESSION : TORY RESPONSE TO RECESSION

A contingent of more than 25 L.S.E. students were among 3000 who demonstrated on Saturday, January 21 against the Thatcher government's Police and Criminal Evidence Bill which should receive a rubber stamp approval in the House of Commons. The march wound its way through the backstreets of Lambeth and Clapham, neighbourhoods all too acquainted with the powers of the Metropolitan Police. The protest culminated in a rally at Trafalgar Square, where among those addressing the crowd were organisers from the National Campaign Against the Police Bill and representatives from the Labour Party, National Graphical Association, the Greenham Common women, and the Newham 8 Defence Campaign.

In many ways the Tory legislation does little more than confer a cloak of legitimacy on the routine abuse of existing powers yet it also marks a real erosion of individual and collective liberties and a further concentration of power in the hands of the central state. In particular, the bill effectively revives the so-called "SUS" law by extending the authority of the police to stop and search persons on whatever grounds a constable might deem reasonable. Furthermore, a person taken into custody would be subject to detention without charge for up to 96 hours, at the same time being denied access to legal advice for 36 hours. The police may arbitrarily conduct strip searches and even intimate body searches. The question of "medical supervision" has yet to be resolved, though it would be a token

concession to the lobbying efforts of the British Medical Association.

The provisions of the bill serve to introduce the tactics of the Royal Ulster Constabulary used in its systematic harassment of the nationalist community in Northern Ireland, a campaign justified in the media as a war on terrorism. The police, of course, will be ordered not only to keep a still more vigilant eye on us as individuals but to be prepared to strike at collective organisations including the trade unions. The dispatch of more than 500 riot police to Warrington in defence of the maverick media darling, Eddie Shah, offers further proof of the government's resolve to stifle any resistance to its capitalist solution to Britain's economic crisis.

The government seeks to placate an understandable populist fear of increasing street crime, a fear orchestrated by the press and undoubtedly fueled by the racialism endemic to British society. More importantly, however, the Tories know that their calls to rejoice at economic recovery ring ever more hollow, especially in the inner cities. The spectre of the 1981 explosion still haunts the Home Office as it seeks to criminalise sections of the West Indian and Asian communities and sharpen the tools of repression that might well be necessary to bring the trade union movement to heel, and shatter the defiance of the Greenham peace camp in the name of freedom and the cause of capital accumulation.

George Binette
LABOUR CLUB Political Education Officer.

NEW BEAVER EXCHANGE

BEAVER is starting a new page in which students will be able to advertise services or goods for sale or rent or wanted - books, flat shares, lifts, etc. Please submit your personal ad by 4pm on the Tuesday before publication - Tue 6 Feb for next issue.

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The Beaver Collective ask you to submit your copy as early as you can. Due to our chronic shortage of typists, whenever at all possible, please submit your copy (to E204) typed and double-spaced.

Next issue due out on MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY

On Thursday, January 19th, the LSE Jewish Society collected hundreds of signatures on a gigantic birthday card to Anatoly Shcharansky, prisoner of conscience.

Anatoly Shcharansky is a Soviet Jewish mathematician who applied to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel in 1973. He was refused, and dismissed from his post at the Moscow Research Institute. In 1976 he became founder member of the Moscow committee which monitored the Helsinki agreement on Human Rights. This group was headed by Dr Yuri Orlov, and also included Andrei Sakharov. Having suffered constant harassment from the KGB in the form of Surveillance, raids on

his flat and frequent imprisonment without charge, he was arrested in March of 1977 and held for sixteen months without trial (contrary to Soviet law) and then tried in a court in which he was denied the lawyer of his choice. He was sentenced to three years in prison followed by ten years in a labour camp on a strict regime. He has been subjected to persistent spells in solitary confinement and has been kept throughout on a starvation diet containing no meat or butter. As a result Shcharansky has in six years become emaciated and according to the latest reports he has become half-paralysed.

HIS FLIGHT IS THUS EXTREMELY URGENT.

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"Socialists of LSE, Unite!"

by Iqbal Wahhab

This is a challenge to all Socialists at the LSE: let us unite into one single power bloc which is capable of effective action rather than scatter and hide away and achieve nothing. Immediately the sceptical reader will be thinking, "broad left alliances don't work", but this argument itself is a compliment to the idea of a broad left; it implicitly agrees with it in principle, but correctly points out that experience has shown the need for a more carefully planned alliance. The proposal is for LSE Socialists to unite - let us look first at the principle behind it.

Perhaps the best way to do this is to adopt the Socratic method of learning (ie extracting latent knowledge). Look at the following questions:-

1. As a Socialist, who do you feel is the main enemy facing you today?

a) The Tories.
b) The revolutionary/reformist Left (delete according to preference).

2. As a student, do you think it wise that the LSE has around half a dozen Left-wing organisations who are so antagonistic towards each other?

a) Yes.
b) No.
3. As a Socialist at the LSE, do you believe that many Left students are put off from involving themselves in political activities here as a result of this diversity?

a) Yes.
b) No.

If you respectively answered b), b), a) then you are well on the way to being convinced of the need for a broad left alliance at the LSE. Let me explain. Too often Left wing organisations believe that their policies are unique. Recently a student belonging to one of the revolutionary organisations at the LSE told me that his party believed that the only way to win the Post Office workers dispute was through all-out action. He didn't seem to realise that both the Communist Society and the Labour Club recognise this as well. This is an issue of national politics and though it

has its relevance, we must, for the time being, concentrate on student politics because it is here that the broad left alliance is most likely to succeed.

Take the most obvious example, the spending cuts in higher education. No Socialist will approve of this savage onslaught, but what action do we take to show how we *disapprove*? Do we besiege Connaught House? Do we show our solidarity with the Polytechnic of Central London by joining in their occupation? The fact is that we don't know *what* to do and there is no fluidity between the various organisations at the LSE so that we can discuss the best strategy. The result of this can be realised by recalling one specific case in point; the student union meeting of 10th November this year, where the Socialist Worker Student Society motion calling for an occupation failed miserably. Who opposed the motion? - The Labour Club. Why did they oppose it? - Because there had been negligible discussion beforehand as to the feasibility of the proposal.

Therefore it can be seen that the need for a broad left alliance is obvious. The next question is how will it work, but before this is considered, we must have a new name; the 'broad left alliance' conjures up images in too many minds of previous attempts at the LSE to unite the Left which, for one reason or another, did not work. The point of a new name is not a futile one; it is not simply a case of old wine in new bottles. A new name helps provide new optimism for the future. Let us call it the LSE Socialist Society. Why I have chosen this name I will explain later.

How, then, will the LSE Socialist Society work? Firstly, the meetings will be open to all Socialist students - unlike the current situation at the Labour Club, whose meetings are *supposed* to be open to all, where Socialist Worker Student Society members who have arrived to inform the Club of this or that are immediately

ejected. The doors have to be open to all Socialists. Secondly, after a consultative constitutional meeting, we will publish a declaration of intent, which will state that Socialist students at the LSE will no longer be divided when it comes to action against curtailments of the rights of students in particular and the Tory government in general; the situation of 'divide and rule' will end. Thirdly, and most importantly, we will define our specific function. The LSE Socialist Society will have in its initial stages be used as a forum for debate, but only to the extent that all significant voices of opinion can be aired in order that members know how and where they stand. In the initial stages debating must go no further. The next major move will be to demonstrate to the rest of the LSE that Socialism is back on the agenda here, and this can be done by a variety of means - but this article is not the best place to discuss particular details of strategy. With a few successes under our belt, we will feel confident about our methods, optimistic about the future, and at the same time be able to respect each other's political identities.

The guiding force behind the LSE Socialist Society will be a national organisation itself called the Socialist Society. This is not imitation; what I am proposing is the LSE can learn from where the Socialist Society went wrong. The Socialist Society was created in 1981 and was intended as a forum where Socialists of all ilks could meet and discuss their points of view. This, all went according to plan for about a year, after which members became disillusioned, and who can blame them? How many times would you be prepared to sit through practically identical debates? Debate was all they did (apart from publish the odd pamphlet) and this brought their downfall, because the organisers felt too scared to propose any action, to adopt a programme - in fact, they were too scared to do anything more than

debate.

What the Socialist Society did do, however, was to attract a good deal of non-partisan Socialists, for whom it proved an excellent starting ground for political involvement. This is another lesson we at the LSE have to learn; there are undoubtedly hundreds of students here who are Socialists but are confused as to which, if any, body to join. However, the LSE Socialist Society will not have as its main duty to offer students a showcase of political platforms; it will rather draw the previously non-committed student into the mainstream of political activity.

But can it work? Rather than give a pathetic answer in the affirmative, let us look at the reasons why it may not work. The main contention is that the various political groups are too diverse in their outlooks ever to unite. But does this not smack of purity rather than effectiveness? What use is it in a university to strictly obey a rigid set of rules of political conduct when the type of institution we are in is characterised by the exchange of ideas? Without the exchange of ideas there can be no effective practice.

What then is the first step? The first step is for the politically active to go back to their societies and debate the need for a unified Socialist force, and then write to *Beaver* proclaiming their allegiance in principle. This in particular is a challenge to the Labour Club - the largest of all political organisations at the LSE - to broaden their outlook. An equally important move needs to be made by the non-aligned Socialist: write to *Beaver* and express your disillusionment with Socialist politics at the LSE. These are the initial steps, and without wishing to indulge in grotesque phrases about moving from acorns to oaks, it must be said that the movement can and will grow from there.

Socialists of LSE, unite - you have nothing to lose but your weakness!

Filling Your Face

The "deservedly popular" (London Illustrated News) Last Days Of The Raj Indian restaurant lies within easy reach of the L.S.E. and also remains within reach of the students' pocket, at about £20 for two, including wine, for that special occasion.

Too popular really for its own good, the cramped two room restaurant was never less than packed for the entire duration of our visit. Having eaten there it is easy to see why. The menu features familiar dishes - Tandoori Chicken, Koormas, Roghan Ghos - interspersed with chef's specialities and local (it is actually a Bangladeshi restaurant) variations. The food is well prepared and served hot, many dishes straight from the oven tray, in over-generous portions.

The service merged chaos and courtesy, we were squeezed in despite not having booked on a night when they were patently full, abandoned part-way through ordering for more pressing matters elsewhere, but never forgotten - each course followed without delay, despite the pressure.

Bad marks? Tinned peas, I think, in the Muttar Paneer, no ice bucket for the wine (though it was chilled) and some of the other diners, who seemed to take the name too literally, lording it in a haze of brandy fumes and cigar smoke.

If you like Indian food, a booking could be well worthwhile, and being a cooperative

with vegetarian dishes the restaurant is also ideologically sound. All credit cards.

Popularity has also afflicted the Melati, a Malaysian restaurant in Peter Street, Soho, which copes rather less well. A busy night makes bookings irrelevant and the lack of a double door in the present weather is a severe disadvantage, as people hang round trying to get in and loom over you, selecting from the menu while waiting for a table. Catch it on a quieter night, however, and you may well be delighted with the extensive menu on offer, again including vegetarian dishes. I would particularly recommend the fried noodle dishes. Despite the crowds and delays, the service still manages to be attentive and helpful. If you forgo the almost obligatory but pricey Satay for hors d'oeuvre, you should again manage to stay well within £10 a head, including wine. Those of delicate palate should note that the food is surprisingly strongly spiced, those of delicate hearing will wish to avoid the "ethnic" background music of middle of the road Top 20 hits. Credit - Access, Barclay Card, Diners.

Alan Peakall

The General Secretary, Debbi Hindson, wrote a letter of condolence to Mr and Mrs Cairns, parents of LSE third-year student Paul Cairns, who died suddenly of heart failure on 4 November 1983. Three representatives of LSE also travelled to the funeral with a wreath. Below is a letter which Paul's parents sent to us all:

Dear Students, Both Betty and I would like to thank you for the floral tribute and kind thoughts of Paul we received on his recent passing. This, together with the attendance of the three girl students at the service in St. Dominics, Glasgow, greatly helped to ease our pain.

As you will appreciate we love and miss Paul so very

very much and it is difficult to foresee much of a future without him, however we are happy with the knowledge that he derived so much pleasure from his time at the LSE and in participating in some of the student body's activities, for this we thank you very much.

We fervently hope that the Union continues to represent its constituents and speaks out against injustice. We also pray that all of you will attain your personal goals and we ask that you keep to the forefront of your minds that at home you have parents who love you and in return only wish to be loved as well.

God bless, David and Betty

FREE RADIO SOCIETY

The Free Radio Society, one of the newest societies at the LSE, has recently made an acquisition that could completely revitalise the state of entertainments within the Halls of Residence.

Whereas previously the radio station run by Tony Smith and Henry Leak has been heard only by a limited number of students at very infrequent intervals, the purchase of a new transmitter with a broadcasting range of fifteen miles means that students all over London will be able to listen to and take part in a radio station run by their own colleagues for their own entertainment.

The Free Radio Society was started by former Social Secretary Nic Newman when the LSE's old disco console became available. From his room in Passfield, Nic broadcast for a few hours on Sunday

evenings with a limited audience. But with the arrival at the LSE in 1982 of Tony Smith and Henry Leak, the Society underwent a major increase in popularity. In February 1983, the Free Radio broadcast non-stop for fifty-five hours in Passfield Hall, raising £200 for Rag Week. It is hoped that this year's Rag Radio will raise even more for Rag Charities, and it will certainly be heard by a vastly increased audience.

The new transmitter should mean that instead of only broadcasting in one hall of residence each week, the radio station should be heard by LSE students all over London, stimulating their interest in joining and helping to develop the society even further.

Nick Briski, Free Radio Society Secretary.

LSE DEBATING SOC

(LSE DEBATING SOC) The two winners of the Inter-LSE Debating Competition were:

JOHN PUTSMAN RORY O'DRISCOLL They also represented the LSE for the first time in the

World Debating Competition in Edinburgh, in the beginning of January.

They achieved the remarkable feat of coming SEVENTH out of 82 teams from around the globe. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

LONDON STUDENTS GAIN RADIO STATION

From January 15th, London Students will have their very own radio programme on LBC. The weekly slots will initially consist of 5 - 10 minutes of student news and views, and will be presented by a changing team of London students, assisted by LBC full-time presenter Clive Bull.

At the end of last term, a group of students from 10 London colleges discussed the possibility of setting up a student-run radio station. However, problems over the funding of this venture led them to approach existing London radio stations. LBC responded favourably to the offer of a regular student slot, and will be broadcasting them every Sunday afternoon this term. The programmes will be compiled by members of the newly-formed London Colleges Media Committee (LCMC), a group of students interested in broadcasting.

The members of LCMC feel that the scattered nature of the London colleges - both in the University and in the public sector - leads to a lack of communication between stu-

dents, who are often unaware of the variety of London academic institutions and of the issues that concern them as students. Currently there is no radio programme specifically aimed at the 100,000 plus students in London. The voices of the smaller colleges, in particular, are rarely heard. It is hoped that the initial 5-10 minutes slot will grow into a longer programme. LCMC is a newly-formed group and would welcome any form of help in compiling stories and researching programmes.

The programmes can be heard at about 2.30pm every Sunday on LBC (261m/1152Khz or 95.8Mhz). For further information, PLEASE CONTACT: PAUL CRONK (01-387-3611).

STAFF - STUDENT COMMITTEES

The Review Group on Staff-Student Committees set up last year by the Committee on Undergraduate Studies will be formulating its report shortly. It is examining the way the system is working and what improvements need to be made. So far, it has received interesting replies from students and academic and administrative staff.

It is still not too late to contribute, if you wish to add

your view to those already expressed. Whatever your course and department, your experience of the SCC system and how you think it could be improved will be most welcome, even at this late stage. Please send your views in writing to Nicholas Sims, Chairman of the Review Group, in A231 as soon as possible.

Philip Groves, Academic Affairs Officer

STUDENTS SPEAK

At this year's first meeting of the Union's 'Flower Committee' it was suggested that there be a renewed 'September Resits' campaign concerning education. While the Flower Committee generally welcomed the idea, there were doubts expressed as to what such a campaign would actually achieve. The next major meeting of the Academic Council to discuss this will be on Tuesday 7th February. For the moment, NUS officer Kevin Cooper is preparing a questionnaire on the 'resits' issue for distribution around the halls. Its results will be a good guide of current student opinion.

As regards the 'Resits' issue, what is currently being examined within the committee system is how students who fail exams due to illness

or bereavement are being helped. The issue poses the Union a dilemma which might not be solved through the same type of campaign and occupation as last year. The way the School works, with such a high regard for departmental autonomy, means that resits may never be 'imposed' on departments which do not want them.

So, which way forward? It is your decision. Come to the Academic Council and air your views or send them to me through my pigeonhole in E297 in writing so that they can be given full consideration. The greater the initial participation, the more representative will be the decisions taken as to what form a campaign should take.

P. Groves Academic Affairs Officer

ROSAMOND LEHMAN Speaks of Women and Love

Few people have to cope with publicity at the age of 82 – but novelist Rosamond Lehmann is one of them. After her popularity in the 1940s and 50s, when her romantic novels and risky private life made her something of a notorious figure, she went out of fashion, and her looks went out of print. In the late '70s they were all republished by Virago and became bestsellers again, and now two of her novels have been made into a 90-minute film for BBC TV, (to be shown during the second week of February).

"Weather in the Streets", directed by Gavin Miller, with Julian Mitchell of "Another Country" writing the script, stars Lisa Eichorn and Joanna Lumley as unlikely sisters, and Michael York as Rollo, the man Olivia (Lisa Eichorn) falls for.

Rollo is weak and married – to someone else: But Olivia is convinced by him. And the one-time rebel who rejected the values of her sister's predictable world is seen giving up all of her individuality in an effort to enter it herself, and win Rollo. Suddenly, Olivia finds herself accepting all the double standards, and obeying all the rules of clandestine love. "It's a very sad thing how much men make women cry" Ms Lehmann writes, and one finishes the novel feeling all Olivia's humiliation and loneliness.

The film will undoubtedly be a period piece, but Ms Lehmann believes the present vogue for her books is due to more than a Bridesheadian nostalgia for the Twenties and Thirties.

"Affairs of the heart don't date. That's why my novels are popular today. Women will always search for lasting meaning in love. I think liberation has made it more difficult for women to be happy in love. You have too many choices now. I'm not sure marriage will survive all these changes but I am sure that the desire to be loved by one person will last.

"I write about women's disillusionment in love, and it's as painful as ever although the cause may have changed. Today women are unhappy because they can't reconcile a career with a relationship. When I was writing they were unhappy because they were bored and frustrated wives.

But the feeling of hurt is the same, and that's what I write about."

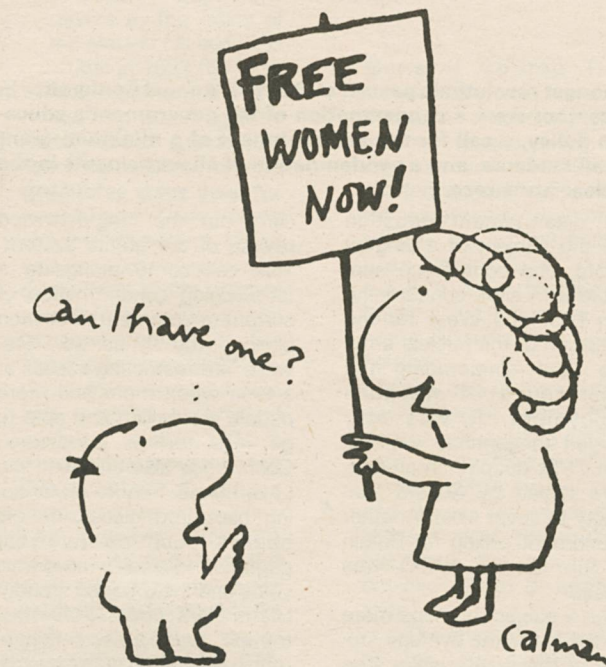
Ms Lehmann feels young women place too much emphasis on sex. "Sex is often a barrier between men and women. Most of the problems and breakdowns of a relationship stem from sex. Friendship amongst women seems tremendously strong though. You all seem so loyal and unjealous of each other. You should concentrate more on that side of your relationships with men."

And what about men? "I believe women feel much more poignantly in love than men".

Not the words of a great feminist, you'd think, and Rosamond Lehmann doesn't call herself one. ("I don't believe in labels.") But she's often been heralded as one by others, and she's certainly done much to highlight the plight of women in love in her books.

Her first novel was printed at the time of her first divorce in 1930. Both caused a sensation; and before she'd even had time to realize she was single again, she was hailed as an emancipated woman. Her second marriage to Wogan Phillips also ended in divorce, leaving her with two young children to bring up. This time he left her.

But Ms Lehmann didn't give up on love: "I suppose it was recklessness that made me fall in love again." Her new love was the poet Cecil Day Lewis. Their relationship lasted several years and she was shattered when he ended it abruptly in 1949. Day Lewis was married with two children. "I remember two years of complete despair. It took all the courage I could command



to start a new life for myself."

After that she disappeared from public view, until the late '70s. The new Rosamond Lehmann is a changed lady. The rare beauty of her forties and fifties has been replaced by the gentle serenity of old age.

"I'm lucky to be living through such acclaim. Most novelists only receive this amount of attention after they've died!"

Does she think about death at all?

"Yes, but since the death of my daughter in 1958 I have become convinced that there is life after death – reincarnation." Now much of her time is spent convincing others of this. She is Vice-President of the College of Psychic Studies

in London. "I have no fear of death at all."

At 82, Ms Lehmann looks ready to cope with any amount of publicity that comes her way, but is she looking forward to seeing her novels televised?

"Yes, although I'm a little apprehensive. But very flattered. I hope they'll be more than just soap opera. I trust they'll be as faithful to my books as possible. In a way I'm surprised I'm as popular with your generation as I am. The television film won't change that."

All of Ms Lehmann's novels are available in The Economist Bookshop
Penny Marshall

Women against rape

On Monday 14 November, Judit Kertesz came to talk in the Women's Centre about the work of Women Against Rape. On one level, the name, Women Against Rape is misleading since the group is not solely concerned with the issue of rape. Rape is seen as simply the most extreme manifestation of violence towards women; a violence which takes many forms, physical, moral, social and economic, which is widespread and often semi-institutionalised. Given this view, rape functions as a metaphor for all social relations in which women are subjected to humiliation, oppression and enforced economic dependence as well as physical violence which stops short of actual rape. The group, therefore, while functioning as a pressure group on all questions relating to rape, campaigns actively on many other issues of direct relevance to the status and treatment of women.

Women Against Rape was formed in 1976 by a group of friends who met together to take about the significance of rape in women's lives. A number of conclusions emerged from these early discussions. First, there is a profound sense in which all women, whether they have personally suffered sexual assault or not,

are victims of rape. This is because we all have to live with the fear of being raped – there are places we cannot go, things we must not do, ways in which we cannot behave if we want to avoid exposing ourselves to the risk of rape. If we fail to observe these rules and do get raped, it is only too clear from the evidence from the response from a large section of society – male and also, sadly, female – is simply "It is your own fault". Thus the threat of rape imposes a significant restriction on women's freedom. The implication of this reasoning for the founders of Women Against Rape was that there were potentially vast numbers of women who would be prepared, if made aware of the situation, to take action to improve their safety.

A lot of thought was also given to the cause of rape. Why do men rape women? Is it in their nature to do so – some kind of biological imperative over which they have no control? This kind of explanation did not, and does not seem plausible. And yet men not only do rape women, they all too frequently seem to get away with it. The experiences of women who have tried to bring charges against a man for rape only to find the legal process turning into an investigation of her character,

her sexual history and her general moral credibility as a plaintiff as well documented. The police and the courts appear reluctant to convict on a charge of rape and make it as difficult, daunting and humiliating a task as possible for a woman to seek the support of the forces of law and order when she has suffered serious personal violence. Analysis of the situation suggested that, whatever the motivation of the individual rapist, the underlying causes of rape were related to the low status of women in society, itself a function of women's financial dependence on men. Physical vulnerability clearly plays a part and were more women to acquire the techniques of self-defence, the incidence of successful rape might decrease, but as long as women's economic status makes them financially dependent on men, they will remain targets for male frustration and violence.

Judit Kertesz made special reference to two issues of current concern to Women Against Rape; the campaign to criminalise rape in marriage and the question of violence against women in the sex industry. There is now considerable support in the political establishment for the criminalisation of rape in marriage and a Marital Rape Bill was in

fact put before Parliament in the spring, although since it fell with the dissolution in June, its future is now uncertain. The significance of giving legal recognition to the concept of rape in marriage may prove to be psychological rather than directly practical, but the effects of similar legislation in the United States on the way in which rape cases in general are conducted suggests that the consequences could be far-reaching. The crucial point of such a law is obviously that it will recognise a woman's inalienable right to dispose of her own body. Perhaps also, if it is accepted as plausible that a woman may withhold consent to sexual relations within the intimate context of marriage, the police and courts will be less prone to infer consent to sex in situations outside marriage, simply because the woman knew the man who raped her, or had been to a party with him, or accepted a lift in his car.

The situation of women in the sex industry is somewhat problematic, and there are sections in the Women's Movement who see prostitution and pornography as prime causes of violence against women. They tend to concentrate on blaming prostitutes, strippers and nude models for

New "Wiser Links" Project for Women

Women constitute half of the world's population, perform two-thirds of its work-hours, receive ten percent of the world's income and own only one per cent of the world's property.

On 17th January Kristina Stimakovits came to the Women's Centre to talk about the Wiser Links project. The scheme came into being mainly as a result of the difficulties Kristina experienced as a community worker, when she ran a Women and Development course, in obtaining information about women in the Third World. Wiser Links was set up to assemble and exchange information on the problems of women in Third World countries and promote transnational links between women so as to develop practical ways of helping women in other countries. For example, Wiser Links is currently arranging a Spanish translation of an English technical manual for a Peruvian women's centre which is working with rural women's groups in Peru and helping them set up an electrical parts maintenance scheme.

One of the project's main concerns is to publicize the

way that Western development aid either excludes women altogether, or else relegates them to the mother/housewife category. The fact that 50% of development projects in Africa for women are in the field of home economics becomes laughable in the face of statistics which show that women actually produce 95% of village food in Kenya. Women have suffered as a direct result of the fact that most development programmes, apart from the smaller community-based ones, have tended to encourage cash-crop production. This has meant that in places like Gambia, where women have traditional land rights, this land has been taken from them and given over to monoculture which employs mostly men. From a position of independence women have been pushed into one of dependence. There are, however, encouraging signs that women are now beginning to be taken more seriously, particularly by the smaller development agencies who are adapting their projects to the local context.

If you would like to know more about Wiser Links, contact Kristina at 176, Archway Road, London N6.

FROM THE WELFARE OFFICE :

Welcome back to the new term. The Welfare Office is still here to help you sort out all your problems, don't hesitate to contact it!

HARDSHIP FUND

Are you broke? Did you spend so much over Christmas that you are struggling to keep body and soul together? If so, the Hardship Fund could help solve your problems. Application forms are available from the office, and should be returned by WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY.

Interviews start Monday 6th February.

Money will be paid out to recipients towards the end of February.

ACCOMMODATION

Lots of people are looking for accommodation, but there is lots available. Basically, this is good news for lookers.

N.B. All students taking up Hall places this term are responsible for payment, even if you leave the Hall, unless you can find a replacement

NIGERIAN STUDENTS – SOS

If you have been having trouble transferring currency since 31 December 1983, and have no funds to meet living costs, you are advised to claim Supplementary Benefit, under "Urgent Cases, reg.21.1a". Unfortunately there are

the violence done to 'other' women, while ignoring the far more systematic violence inflicted on the women who work in the sex industry. Women Against Rape, together with Black Women for Wages for Housework and The English Collective of Prostitutes, have published an open letter to all women on this issue, in which they stress the dangers of this approach. Firstly, there is no real evidence to connect either prostitution or pornography directly with violence against women outside the sex industry, therefore, to concentrate on this area is to obscure the much more important argument about women's economic status. Secondly, attacks on the sex industry often take the form of moral condemnation of the women who work in it without any attempt to understand their reasons for doing so – for many, if not all the women, these reasons are economic.

Eleanor Edwards

some conditions related to this:

1. You must have previously maintained yourself independently.
2. Your funds must have been unexpectedly cut off, and there is reasonable expectation of their resumption.
3. Claims are limited to a period of 42 days.

If in doubt, claim, as entitlement would be established by appeal.

UKOSA reckon you should be okay, so good luck. Any problems, contact the Welfare Office.

As regards LSE fees, request special flexibility from the School.

HALF TERM PLAYGROUP

This will function as usual, in the week starting 20th February. Helpers are needed for this, and if you think that you could be of any use, please get in contact with the Welfare Office.

Apologies are expressed to parents of those children traumatised by scenes from 'Watership Down' on day 1 of last term's playgroup. All videos will be carefully vetted for death and destruction before being shown this time.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

There are no further developments as regards those of you being charged overseas fees, whilst receiving a home student grant. This practice is still legal and operative. The Welfare Office is trying to monitor the numbers of such cases.

BICYCLES

Have any of you cyclists experienced any difficulties as regards parking your bicycles as a result of the changes in Houghton Street? If so, please contact the Welfare Office, so that any improvements needed can be determined.

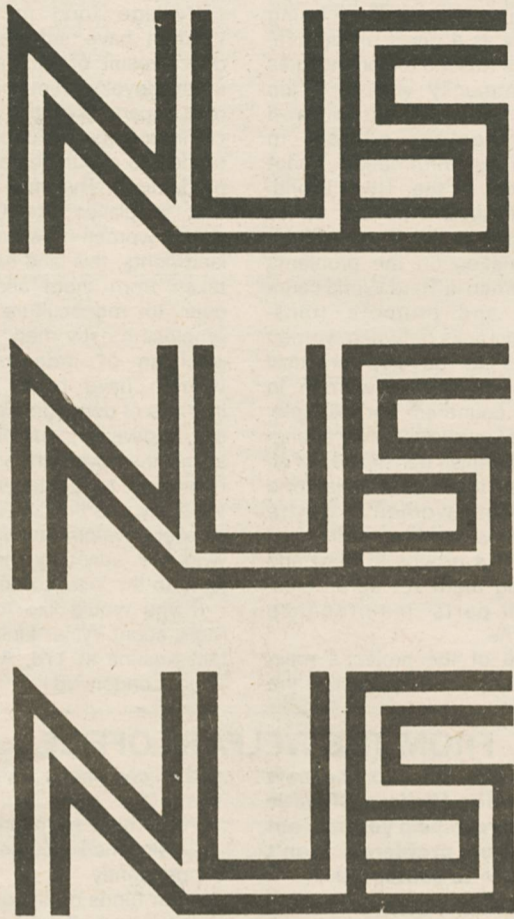
APOLOGIES

Phil Wood, the Welfare Assistant, has slipped a disk in his back, and as a result there have been some delays in the running of the Welfare Office. Apologies are expressed for these delays. The Office is running as normally as possible, this being made possible by students helping out. Thanks are offered to these helpers.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Information concerned F1D is available at G.P.O.'s and D.H.S.S. offices – on leaflet D11. There are copies of both form F1D and leaflet D11 in the post to us.

NUS CONDEMNS TORY EDUCATION POLICY



Amongst resolutions passed at the NUS Annual Conference in December were a condemnation of the government's education policy, a call for the establishment of a minimum grant for all students, and a condemnation of all participants in the nuclear arms race.

The disarmament question was the subject of a lengthy debate, and conference supported a motion 'condemning both East and West for the escalation of the nuclear arms race' and condemning the latest round of weapons deployment. It was also decided to continue working with CND, despite an amendment tabled by Salford University to sever links. Another amendment calling for Britain to pull out of NATO was passed.

But a subject perhaps more immediate to the average student is the grants issue. The conference resolved to extend the call for a minimum £30 per week to all students, not just those in further education; to campaign for the abolition of means testing on parental contributions, and to fight moves to abolish travel awards. The general feeling was that the present system of awards was unjust in many respects, and NUS President Neil Stewart said that Conference was challenging Sir Keith Joseph to

carry out the long-promised review of the grants system. This call came alongside a far-reaching condemnation of current government education policy – the Tories, said Stewart, 'are restricting access at a time when more and more people are willing and able to go into further education'. Conference also criticised the Leverhulme Report for bringing back into discussion old bogeys such as two-year degrees, four-term academic years and the dreaded student loans system. A further motion was passed condemning education cuts and calling for increased publicity for the resultant falling academic standards.

Following an NUS Executive Committee meeting this month, it was announced that this year's campaign for a 'New Deal' for students would concentrate on six areas – grants, housing, travel, access to education, facilities in colleges, and unemployment. The NUS considers that in all these areas conditions have



Neil Stewart, NUS President

changed to the detriment of students, and has stated that 'employment prospects are now such that students should

no longer be prepared to put up with poor living standards whilst at college'.

Julie Hill

Last year's General Secretary, Tony Donaldson, discusses major reforms he believes are needed in Union administration, based on a report he wrote with Simon Taylor and Rick Young.

Most people will not be aware of the issue that has been causing controversy among the in-crowd of the Students' Union this term. Little information has come to light and very few can have bothered to read the constitutional amendments that have appeared at the top of the union meeting agenda papers for the past five weeks. Well, what is this all about anyway? Don't stop reading now, or you may never find out.

It doesn't seem worth thinking about standing at the queue in Florries, but someone, somewhere, must organise the various services on offer. In theory, the policy decisions which affect the general aims of the services are taken by annually alternating committees of students while those policies have to be made to work by permanent members of the staff. In turn, the union's employees are employed by and responsible to a sub-committee of the SU Executive misleadingly entitled the Administration Sub-Committee (ASC). This body consists of the General Secretary, Senior Treasurer and three part-time members of the Executive, and has responsibility for all matters relating to the union's employees from pay and conditions through to promotion. Possibly by now you are wondering what qualifications these five people need to have – well, the short answer is that they need have no qualifications or experience

whatsoever. Similarly, the Services Committee that is intended to co-ordinate and plan the activities of three trading services with a combined turnover in excess of a quarter of a million pounds is composed of students who need have no relevant skill or experience. Odd eh? Well, between 1980 and 1982 due to the efforts of the ASC and the Services Committee, Florries lost £24,000 which is more than twice this year's increase in the Student's Union grant.

Although this system was intended to be a cheaper and more democratic method of organising the union, as time went by it became apparent to both SU staff and officers alike, that the organisation was creaking under the strain. In February a review of the organisation of the SU was conducted on behalf of the Executive. This was conducted by the then Senior Treasurer Rick Young with two other union officers and three

members of the union staff. Immediately four main areas of concern were identified, the ASC and Staff/Students relations, the Services Committee's shady workings, the lack of continuity and forward planning in the SU and the lines of communication within the SU. Finally, in May 1983 a report was produced.

The report is a long document which has probably been read by less than fifty people and to summarise it is difficult. Still, it contained five points:

- 1) Student sabbaticals find themselves occupied in attempting to deal with personnel matters and SU bureaucracy which they are not qualified to do adequately. Meanwhile, the jobs they were elected to do – campaigning, organising student representation and developing the involvement of other students in the union are left undone.
- 2) The ASC meets infrequently and, to put it crudely, its members are not competent to manage staff. This has led to inconsistency in the union's employment conditions and distrust of students' ability to run this aspect of the SU efficiently.
- 3) That an efficient and fair personnel policy demanded that the union employed someone to develop such a policy. Somebody to fill the role of advising the ASC on its decisions, ensuring they were carried out, and seeing that staff grievances were dealt with promptly, that staff reviews are conducted and

that staff are informed about all decisions relating to their jobs rather than the present chaotic system. This person would act as the ASC's 'agent' while the policy decisions remained firmly in the hands of students.

4) That the failure of the Services Committee was apparent to all. With the increasing demands for resources being placed on the union's block grant, we need to ensure that the services do not become a financial drain on the union's funds. This demands competent and efficient co-ordination and policy decisions made on a longer term basis. Continuity and efficiency could only be increased if the Services Committee was advised by someone with experience and the implementation of its decisions passed to someone with the time and ability to carry them out.

5) That something had to be done urgently to improve liaison and communication both between officers and staff and between students who use the SU's facilities and their representatives. Creating a more coherent structure could only improve this situation.

Many criticisms have been levelled at the report. To deal with the more spurious first:

- 1) It is claimed that this system would be undemocratic – this of course presupposes that the present system, where sabbaticals can use their monopoly of information to make the committees into rubber-stamping bodies, is

democratic. The report is arguing that we should be making *informed* democratic decisions and that the structure should be geared to having these decisions implemented.

2) It has been claimed that with an extra sabbatical and other minor reforms to the existing system we can overcome the problems. This suggests the problem is time and not lack of relevant experience on the part of SU officers. From personal experience, I think that this blatantly misses the point and could only lead to more confusion and more mistakes.

3) All other colleges 'are trying to sack their managers'. On the contrary all other SU's have a senior member of staff, NUS recommended staff structure (even those involved in opposing the appointment of NUS' chief executive admit it is the manner of his appointment rather than the idea of a chief executive to which they object). One college president replied "of course we have a senior administrator, what are you running at LSE, a hippy commune?"

The more substantial objections relate to the cost and implementation of the report. On the question of cost, we have to look at the real cost of not having a senior member of staff in terms of sabbatical time, costly mistakes (remember Florries) and botched administration by students. Finally, on the question of implementation, there is no doubt that a lot of work has to

be done to try to dovetail the proposed structure into the existing staff structure. But, it can be done and the circumstances dictate that we cannot dodge this difficult decision any longer.

Implementation of the report will not act as a panacea, nor will it be at all easy. Unfortunately the alternative, of stagnation and inefficiency, will only succeed in dragging the union into a deeper administrative mess. At a time when we desperately need a union geared to defending us from the attacks being launched on higher education we can't afford the present situation and it is time for radical solutions.

The salary of most student union administrators in comparable student unions is in the range of £11 – 13,000. At present LSESU is in a position to afford this following a combination of a healthier turn out in last year's services accounts, a block grant increase of £10,000 and the resignation of a senior member of staff. The return on this investment could be measured not only in terms of improvements in services administration leading to increased efficiency but also in terms of freeing up to forty per cent of the General Secretary's time and 90% of the Senior Treasurer's time thus creating the 'fourth sabbatical' that the present Executive think we need.

EDUCATION : ANY QUESTIONS?

The University Grants Committee, the body which allocates government money to the universities wants to know what you think about education. At first sight this seems like a very worthy idea from a group of quango-bound bureaucrats not normally known for seeking sage advice from the inhabitants of this side of Houghton Street – or from the School's administrators for that matter.

However, 'Circular 16/84', alias 'The 28 Questions', alias 'The Development of a Strategy for Higher Education into the 1990's', asks rather loaded questions of the Universities. Rather than seeking our views on, say, the development of a comprehensive higher education system, improving access for mature students or women, or even the curriculum, it begins by asking what the universities would do in the event of declining resources. Instead of promoting a great debate on education the main point of the questions seems to be to identify the areas where Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, can make his cuts.

Already the universities, along with the rest of education, has suffered from the first round of cuts begun in 1980. The LSE has already suffered enough from this. It has perhaps the largest class sizes in the country, many academic staff have not been replaced and there has been an even greater proportional drop in the number of porters, secretaries etc. Teaching has suffered, the reliance on private funding has increased. Not surprisingly, few replies – the LSE's included – look likely to fall into the trap of telling the UGC where its 'savings' can fall.

A draft reply has been drawn up by the General Secretary and myself to be used as a discussion document to kick off the debate amongst students and to provide a few facts and figures.

Before we are required to reply to the UGC in March you will consult, in meetings, that we will be organising, through debate in *Beaver* and elsewhere, or by talking to the people involved directly. I also challenge all the political groupings, including my own, to produce in detail their views on what sort of education system they want, both here at the LSE and nationally. I would like to see students reply to the UGC not with platitudes, or instructions on how Sir Keith can chop off the arms and legs of our education system, but with a critique of our current system, an expose of the damage already done at the LSE, and with a radical

manifesto for a democratic, egalitarian education system of a high enough quality to last into the next century.

"Education is a right, not a privilege" is written on the Students' Union banner. There is now an opportunity for us to give these words substance and for us to examine the Education we receive. Can we meet this challenge?

LSE LTD, – THE LEGACY OF DAHRENDORF

In the 1970's the LSE expanded in a small way from 3,003 regular students in 1971-2 to some 3,222 in 1978-9. It was a period of relative stability in the number of students, in the LSE's general policy, but with some retrenchment after 1976 through essentially short term cuts.

However at the end of 1979, it was apparent that the Universities would be facing cuts from the new Government, through the Universities Grants Committee. The LSE's strategy for minimising the effects of the cuts – or as some would argue, to implement the cuts – was outlined in a paper by the Director, Professor Ralf Dahrendorf: "LSE: first steps in a New Situation."

This paper outlined how the LSE would cope with a 5% cut in home student-fees, the implementation of discriminatory overseas students' fees and a cut in SSRC grants to students.

In the following years the LSE's policy and make-up changed. Student numbers increased to a peak of some 4,415 regular students in 1981-82, the bulk of which were high fee paying overseas students, and the plans outlined in 'First Steps' implemented.

The strategy to be pursued under "First Steps" involved reducing expenditure and increasing income in the following ways:

Reducing Expenditure

1) **Vacant academic posts, and later all vacant posts, were left unfilled.** This later changed to filling 1 in 5, then 1 in 3 vacant posts. As the Director admitted this would produce larger class sizes. In three years class sizes in fact increased by a quarter. The teaching staff were not proportionally the worst hit – when secretarial and porting staff vacancies fell they were invariably not the 1 in 5 that were filled – porters lodges were closed, academics shared over-worked secretaries. The Language Studies. **Depart-**

ment disappeared as a degree teaching department

2) **Maintenance almost ceased** – especially repairs to the fabric of the already old buildings – until in 1983 the UGC had to come to the rescue with specific grants.

3) **Less well qualified teaching assistants and graduates were used for teaching.** They were cheaper source of labour and in some cases students were in the unusual situation of being taught by their friends of the same age. Inevitably students from overseas who had travelled to England because of the LSE's international reputation felt disappointed at second class teaching.

4) **The Library survived some cuts but it failed and still fails to have enough basic textbooks and core reading material in the Teaching Collection,** and is under pressure to reduce its acquisitions policy. This would make it less of the National library that it is supposed to be.

Increasing income

1) **Overseas students** are charged above the Government recommended minimum fee. This provoked widespread protest, prolonged student discontent, and a move marked restriction of students to the privileged classes abroad. Students applied in larger and larger numbers for support from the School and to the Students' Union Hardship Fund. The Students' Union is experiencing increasing Hardship Fund applications (and grants) even now. It is certainly not uncommon for overseas students to be working illegally, and as a result to be exploited.

There have been cases of students working 20 hours a week and starting work at 7.00 am... Their academic work of course suffers – as do their families – to pay the rest of their fees. To actually cope with the widespread level of hardship the School raised its student support funding from £68,000 in 78/79 to £196,000 in 82/83. One less well known aspect of the School's new admissions policy was to give precedence to those home students who were not competing for courses demanded by overseas students. This meant that British school leavers in cer-

tain subjects stood a worse chance than those in others because they had to compete against the money LSE badly wanted.

2) **General Course** The General Course is primarily a way of attracting dollar income to the LSE. It might once have had some academic justification for its existence, the only reason for its expansion was monetary. The LSE's own handbook implies that the course is rather different from other courses.

"At the end of the course each General Course student may request a certificate of registration. This certificate lists the lectures and classes for which the student was registered, but does not include a detailed record of attendance"...

... The student may write up for four examination papers...

This, hardly vigorous course which basically gives rich American students an attendance record and an opportunity to see Europe, has been criticised. Home students resent its students – who they see as gaining the paper benefit of the LSE's international name and reputation, without the hard work they themselves put in. There are not even any precise entry requirements. Except payment of fees, of course.

"First steps" ordered a review of admissions procedures to double the number of General Course students. In fact there was an almost three fold increase between 79/80 and 82/83. General Course fee income now stands at over half a million pounds!

3) **Publicity** The LSE launched a drive to get 400 more overseas students. This included trips to School representatives to selected U.S. and Canadian Universities, special approaches to foreign governments, posters and letter writing. There was also a course set up to improve the ability of English for those Overseas Students who had difficulty. Obviously by widening the 'trawl' for Overseas Students to those who had only basic knowledge of English the possible number of overseas students increased.

Rumour has it that the LSE also produced promotional video tapes beginning "Study in the atmosphere of Dickens..."

4) **Diplomas** were created for overseas postgraduates who would not have the time to finish an MSc. In addition short courses, one term courses etc., were to be set up e.g. four week course for Mexican Civil Servants, the pre-law semester.

5) **The LSE 1980's Fund** was created with a target of £2m for student support to enable overseas students to come to the LSE with the help of fee waivers. The School was in fact getting more fee income in all events from overseas students, than a Home Student, and obtaining contributions from Governors, alumni etc. to make up the difference.

6) **Outside funded organisations and groups concerned with Academic research** include the Centre for Labour Economics, the International Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines, the Decision Analysis Unit, the Business History Unit, the Demeic Project, the Tokio War Trials Project, the Centre for International Studies, SSRC Centre in Economic Computing, Economic Documentation and Research Centre, Government and Opposition Publishing, Institute of Manpower Studies, the Pasfold Fund, Population Investigation Committee, Resource Options, Statistics Research Division, British Sociological Association, Mime Project.

These measures were implemented adeptly with the assent of academics and little opposition from campus unions – the exception being NALGO in the Library and the Students' Union on Overseas Students, the effects of the measures minimised the effects of cuts of the 'providers' of education but maximised the effect on the consumers. **The LSE is now in a state where further cuts will start to make the fabric of School life crumble.**

What Next? "First Steps" had subsidiary proposals which were to be implemented in the long term or when necessary. These included:

a) **Diploma courses** for overseas students on the lines of a postgraduate general course.

b) **Special courses** of many kinds, notably for mature students.

c) **Self-financing courses** in areas which the School has a special expertise (MSc in Ripping-Off Overseas Students, perhaps?).

d) **Reduce catering outlets.**

e) **Cut subsidies for nursery.**

f) **Reduce cleaning** to 2 rather than 5 days a week.

g) **Reduce entertainment** (presumably including the Students' Union).

h) **Reduce fixed costs** e.g. by disposing of one of the buildings.

i) **Reduce part-time teaching budgets.**

j) **Set up LSE consultancy company** (the ultimate in privatisation).

k) **Offer special programmes** for selected U.S. universities.

l) **Reduce teaching input** (even larger classes but larger lectures).

m) **End certain courses.**

n) **Postpone sabbatical leave.**

o) **Charge differential fees** by subject, or by personal means.

p) **Raise the fees for Research Scholars and outside Library users.**

q) **Persuade alumni** to leave money in wills (get Dahrendorf using hard sell techniques upon people on their death bed?).

r) **Introduce 2 year Undergraduate course** ("Licence").

Do we really want LSE to develop along these lines? How did Dahrendorf get away with implementing this programme?

The answer to these two questions are the same. Once the Director had deflected opposition to the increase in overseas students fees by blaming the Government and producing hardship aid at no net loss to the LSE, the students were unable to find an accessible goal. They lapsed into a policy of monitoring the cuts and campaigning against the worst aspects. The inevitability of cuts was accepted – the School's rôle in them ignored. The only tactic that would have prevented them would have been a public and open refusal to implement them by the campus unions, by the Director, and by the School.

The University Grants Committee – the body which dispenses money to the Universities – is about to implement another of Keith Joseph's round of education cuts under the guise of a great debate into 'Higher Education into the 1990's'. Do we take Dahrendorf's road or do we resist?

John Donkersley

AIIESEC LSE

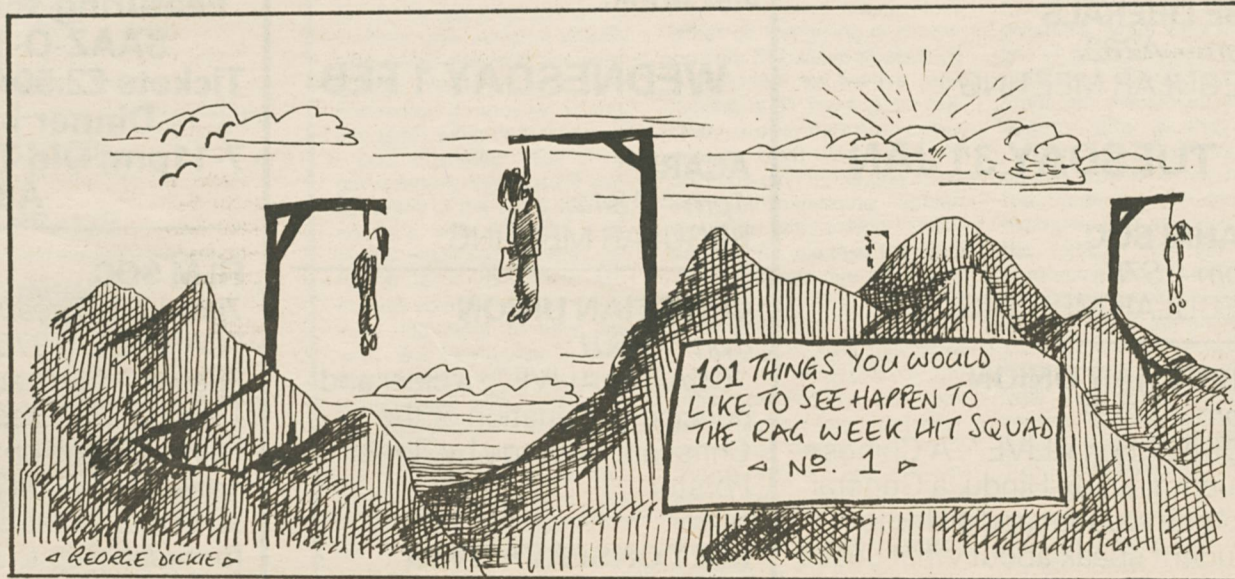
The LSE's much increased interest and involvement in AIIESEC this year has been applauded by the AIIESEC national president, Sir Monty Finneston. At the national conference in Southampton over the Christmas break, Sir Monty Finneston presented to the LSE a trophy for "the most improved committee" in the country.

AIIESEC at the LSE has greatly stepped up its activities this year. Already there has been a "Contact Talk" (where a day is set aside for students to talk informally with Personnel Managers and recent graduates from industry), numerous trips to firms

and financial institutions, and many social events, including two free parties at Xenon nightclub.

For the rest of the year there will be many more events including a trip to Switzerland. There is also the chance of working for a foreign company over the summer vacation.

AIIESEC is currently the largest society at the LSE (with more members than the Labour Club!). However, there is still room for more members. If there is any one who wishes to get involved with AIIESEC there will be information about meetings etc. on the noticeboard in the Brunch Bowl.



SOCIETIES & THINGS

MONDAY 30 JAN

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY JEWISH SOCIETY

1pm - S075:
"Jewish-Christian Dialogue".
Joint Meeting with Rev. Graham
Jenkins, Sec. of Council for
Christians and Jews.

CATHOLIC SOCIETY

1pm - S401:
REGULAR STUDY GROUP

LSE CHAPLAINCY

12:10 - Chaplain's Office:
MIDDAY PRAYER

CHRISTIAN UNION

1pm - S601:
QUESTION PANEL. The panel of
Roger Forster, a well-known
evangelist; Carl Dallas, member
of the Communist Party and
writer for Melody Maker; and
Phil Hague, a badly-dressed
Third Year, will not give glib
answers to your questions but
are prepared to speak the truth
about what they believe and
stand for.

LSE CONSERVATIVES

1pm - S421:
REGULAR MEETING

COUNTER-COURSE on MARX

1pm - A698:
Prof. DESAI presents this series
of weekly lectures on Marxian
economics. All welcome - no
prerequisites.

DANCE SOC

1pm - C018:
EXERCISE and DANCE CLASS
with Evrol Evril, from Pineapple
Dance Studios. Only 75p.

GAY SOC

1pm - E298:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR

GRADUATE OFFICER

1pm - E197:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR

LABOUR CLUB

1pm - A40:
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

LSE LIBERALS

1pm - A282:
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY 31 JAN

BAHAI SOC

1pm - S78:
REGULAR MEETING

CHRISTIAN UNION

1pm - S017:
"DEAD then ALIVE". A Chinese
student, an ex-Hindu, a General
Course student and a Home
student speak about what Jesus
Christ means to them, and why
they believe in Him.

GOVERNMENT SOC

1pm - A85:
BERNARD CRICK to talk on
George Orwell's vision of 1984.

LABOUR CLUB

1pm - A40:
CAROLINE FLINT, NOLS
Women's Officer.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS OFFICER

1pm - E195:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR.

PSYCHEDELIC ACTION

1pm - TV Rm:
REGULAR MEETING

CHRISTIAN UNION

8pm - Haldane Rm:
CONCERT. Several Christian
bands will be playing. If Jesus
Christ was only a good man or a
prophet, why have talented
musicians decided to use their
skills to tell others about Him?

FILM SOC

7pm - Old Theatres:
"OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR
(1969) With Ralph Richardson,
John Gielgud and John Mills.
Attenborough's directorial debut
makes interesting viewing after
his latest SDP blockbuster. A
musical fantasia about World
War One set on Brighton Pier is
an attempt to simultaneously stir
your sentiments, evoke
nostalgia, and make you react
against the obscenity of war.

The PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Announces its . . .
**GRAND CHEESE AND
WINE PARTY**
In Room A506 at 5pm
Members free, guests
50p.

Bring your camera, bring your
photos and discuss them with
the committee and with other
members. There will be studio
lights and a tripod, so you can
try your hand at portrait
photography while you eat
and drink.

WEDNESDAY 1 FEB

ACARF

1pm - A344:
REGULAR MEETING.

CHRISTIAN UNION

1pm - S601:
"DEAD or ALIVE": a clear and
concise explanation of the
Christian message by Roger
Forster.

LSE CONSERVATIVES

1pm - S421:
EXECUTIVE MEETING.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2pm - E191:
REGULAR MEETING.

GOVERNMENT SOC

1pm - L109:
REGULAR MEETING.

THINK TANK

1pm - E295:
DISCUSSION GROUP on how to
survive at the LSE: work, exams,
accommodation, etc.

WOMEN'S OFFICER

1pm - E298:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR.

DRAMA SOC

6pm - C018:
WORKSHOP: improvisations,
exercises, etc. A lot of fun -
everyone welcome!

AIIESEC LSE

4pm - tba:
REGULAR COMMITTEE
MEETING.

ATHLETICS UNION

4pm - East Building Gym:
REGULAR OPEN BASKETBALL
HOUR.

THURSDAY 2 FEB

BUNAC LSE

12:45 - Outside Old Theatre:
STALL: come and find out about
working in the summer in the
USA.

LSE SUNTORY-TOYOTA LECTURE

5pm - Old Theatre:
"MILLENARIANISM:
Jewish-Christian Interchanges in
Amsterdam, London and
Newport, Rhode Island." By
Prof. RICHARD POPKIN (Wash
Univ). Chairman: Prof. J W N
WATKINS OF LSE.

RAG COMMITTEE

5pm - TV Room:
Regular meeting. All welcome!

The PAKISTAN SOCIETY

Present
A MUSICAL EVENING
Featuring the Hit Group
SAAZ-O-TARANG
Tickets £2.50/£2.00
Dinner inclusive
7-11pm, Old Theatre and
A86

FILM SOC

7pm - Old Theatre:
"CARRIE". (1976). With Sissy
Spacek, Piper Laurie and John
Travolta. Directed by Brian de
Palma. Based on Stephen King's
novel. De Palma's inimitable
style manipulates the tension
formidably up to a final climax
that has never been equalled.
Carrie, a repressed, almost

outcast teenager discovers she
possesses unusual mental
powers which her mother claims
come from the devil.

FRIDAY 3 FEB

LSE CHAPLAINCY

1:05 - A612:
HOLY COMMUNION.

CHRISTIAN UNION

12pm - A506:
PRAYER and PRAISE.

CHRISTIAN UNION

1.05 - S67:
R.C. MASS.

COMMUNIST SOC

1pm - S53:
REGULAR MEETING.

ISLAMIC SOC

1:20pm - Basement of King's
Chambers:
REGULAR MEETING.

GAY SOC + LSE ENTS + OUTRAGE

Benefit for "Outrage"
Magazine
8pm - Haldane Room
£1.50 students - £2.50
else

Starring: Abandon Your Truth
- Gus Cairns - Rose Collis -
Consenting Adults in Public -
Simon Sanshawe - Gary
Hampson - Sean Mayes -
Rikki Beadle-Blair - Erick
Presland - Joan Richler - Craig
Snelling - Chris Ransome -
Carol Uszkurat - Lotte & Ada -

DISCO AFTERWARDS BY BIG MOMMAS

MONDAY 6 FEB

CATHOLIC SOC

1pm - S401:
REGULAR STUDY GROUP.

LSE CHAPLAINCY

12:10 - Chaplain's Office:
MIDDAY PRAYER.

LSE CONSERVATIVES

1pm - S42:
REGULAR MEETING.

COUNTER-COURSE on MARX

1pm - A698:
Prof. DESAI presents this series
of weekly lectures on Marxian
economics. All welcome - no
prerequisite necessary.

DANCE SOC

1pm - C018:
EXERCISE and DANCE CLASS
with Evrol Evril, from Pineapple
Dance Studios. Only 75p.

GAY SOC

1pm - E298:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR.

GRADUATE OFFICER

1pm - E197:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR.

LABOUR CLUB

1pm - A40:
REGULAR BUSINESS
MEETING.

LSE LIBERALS

1pm - A282:
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY 7 FEB**BAHAI SOC**

1pm - S78:
REGULAR MEETING.

CHRISTIAN UNION

1pm - Graham Wallis Rm:
"GLAD to be GAY". The
changing Christian
understanding of homosexuality.
Introduced by Richard Kirker,
full-time Sec. of the Gay
Christian Movement.

GAY SOC - LABOUR CLUB

1pm - A85:
PETER TATCHELL on "The
Future of Gay Rights".

**OVERSEAS STUDENTS
OFFICER**

1pm - E195:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR.

PSYCHEDELIC ACTION

1pm - TV Rm:
REGULAR MEETING.

FILM SOC

7pm - Old Theatre:
"TRUE CONFESSIONS". (1981).
With Robert de Niro and Robert
Duvall. Directed by Ulv Grosbard.
A splendid mutation of
Hollywood's long history of
detective classics has the two
best American actors currently at
work as brothers, one an
ambitious Catholic priest the
other a pushy cynical detective,
struggling through a mire of
corruption, murder and fagged
politics, and dragging out their
bruised affections, hopeless
loyalties and guilty memories in
40's Los Angeles.

WEDNESDAY 8 FEB**ACARF**

1pm - A344:
REGULAR MEETING.

CHRISTIAN UNION

1pm - SO17:
"UNEMPLOYMENT - a Personal
Response."

LSE CONSERVATIVES

1pm - tba:
STEPHEN DORRELL, MP.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2pm - E191:
REGULAR MEETING.

GOVERNMENT SOC

1pm - L109:
REGULAR MEETING.

THINK TANK

1pm - E295:
DISCUSSION GROUP on how to
survive at the LSE: work, exams,
accommodation, etc.

WOMEN'S OFFICER

1pm - E298:
REGULAR OPEN HOUR.

DRAMA SOC

6pm - CO18:
WORKSHOP: improvisations,
exercises, etc. A lot of fun -
everyone welcome!

AIIESEC LSE

4pm - tba:
REGULAR COMMITTEE
MEETING.

ATHLETICS UNION

4pm - East Building Gym:
REGULAR OPEN BASKETBALL
HOUR.

THURSDAY 9 FEB**BUNAC LSE**

12:45 - Outside Old Theatre:
STALL: come and find out about
working in the summer in the
USA.

RAG COMMITTEE

5pm - TV Room:
Regular meeting. All welcome!

ISLAMIC SOC

6PM - S75:
"ISLAMIC BANKING - Popularly
known as interest-free banking."
By Mr. ASARIA, MA (Econ),
ACCA, ASIS; adviser to Bank
Tejarat in London. All welcome.

FILM SOC

7pm - Old Theatre:
"MISSING". (1982). With Sissy
Spacek and Jack Lemmon.
Directed by Costa-Gavras. *The
director's first American picture
is in the tradition of his earlier
political thrillers and touched
enough nerves on release that it
prompted a furious rebuttal from
the US State Department.*
Spacek enters the nightmarish
under-world of the (Chilean)
military dictatorship to search for
her missing husband. Brilliant
portrayal of the grim paranoid
atmosphere of the streets after
curfew and a society coming
apart at the seams.

FRIDAY 10 FEB**LSE CHAPLAINCY**

1:05 - A612:
HOLY COMMUNION.

CHRISTIAN UNION

12pm - A506:
PRAYER and PRAISE.

CHRISTIAN UNION

1:05 - S67:
R.C. MASS.

LSE CND

1pm - A85:
"CHRISTIANS and the Peace
Movement."

COMMUNIST SOC

1pm - S53:
REGULAR MEETING.

ISLAMIC SOC

1:20pm - Basement of King's
Chambers:
REGULAR MEETING.



EVENTS PRESENT

FRI FEB 10th 7.30pm
RED GUITARS
HIGH FIVE
TELEPHONE BOXES
In The Haldane Room
tickets £2.50 advance
£3.00 on door
from Union shop
Houghton St. WC2
enquiries 405-8594
Temple/Holborn tubes

The **RIDING CLUB** is hold-
ing its **Annual Riding Holi-
day on March 16-18** : a
weekend of riding in the
Quantocks for any experi-
enced riders. Deadline for
bookings is **Tuesday 31**
January. Contact through
Riding Club pigeonhole.

The **CHRISTIAN UNION** is
holding a "Mini-Mission"
on **Jan 30-Feb 1** entitled
"Dead or Alive." If you
wish to help with the mis-
sion in any way, see any
Committee member.

Out - and about Jottings of a gay male at the LSE

Queen's University, Belfast. Outside, a group of religious fanatics sing hymns. On all the street signs they've stuck stickers saying "God wants righteousness, not gay rights". Students at the NUS Lesbian and Gay Liberation Conference form a counter-demonstration. They wear T-shirts with the slogan "Save sodomy from Ulster". Eventually the bible-punchers leave, threatening to return next day, vastly reinforced. They never do. A battle is won.

Inside, the NUS executive have decided to censor the debate. Despite the fact that Sinn Fein is a legal political party, with three MPs elected democratically to Westminster, they are not to be mentioned at all. Not even to discuss their gay rights policy. By threatening in effect to prevent gay interests being represented in NUS for the following year, the NUS executive get their way. A battle is lost. "I think I'm gay. Do I have to wear women's clothes?" Some young gay men, and women too, still believe they have to cross-dress if they're gay. Transvestism is a completely different issue. Most transvestites, in fact, are heterosexual. Many more people, however, still imagine that to be a gay man you have to be a campy Larry Grayson. The answer to that is to look around you. Remember, at least 10% of people are gay. Are there ten butch lesbians and limp-wristed fairies in your lecture group of 100 people? Being gay is being attracted to your own sex. It's got nothing to do with what you look like.

LSE Gaysoc used to be called the "LSE Gay Culture Club", because, it was claimed, the members of a "Gay Society" would meet simply for sex. Supposing that was the case, which it actually isn't, why the hell shouldn't people meet just for sex? Especially is they're young, and that's what they want.

Lots of people think being gay is simply having it off with someone of the same sex. It's not. It's who you get emotionally attracted to, who you fall in love with, who you choose your friends from. And who you want to have sex with. But you've got to have gay friends to share your experiences with, who know the gay scene, and understand the way you feel. Lots of sex can be fun, especially after years of repressing it. But developing a gay social life is an absolute essential in the long run.

London has many social groups for gay people new to being gay in London. It also has lots of pubs and clubs for

those more adventurous. One first year newly arrived from Wales had the following story. "I'd heard about Heaven (disco) before. So I went down there three days after I got to London. I didn't speak to anyone all evening. I just got totally pissed. Then afterwards I picked up a bloke at the bus-stop." Months later they were still together. A happy ending. Wish there were more like that. A word of warning on Heaven, though. It is notoriously anti-lesbian, and women will rarely get in except under the patronage of a man.

London Gay Switchboard receives nearly a quarter of a million calls a year. It operates 24 hrs a day every day of the year. Calls come in from all over Britain, and from all over the world. Yet the charity commissioners won't give it charity status. By contrast, there is a religious maniac who ensnares young gay men, and persuades them to believe that they are wicked and perverted, and promotes extreme unhappiness and despair wherever he can. This man's organisations are all recognised as charities. Any religious organisation automatically receives charity status - such as the Moonies. It's time there was a change.

Save Ulster from Sodomy! Such was Paisley's rousing cry, until some of his friends were revealed as having abused their authority by having sex with young boys in their charge in a boys' home. And until the European Court of Human Rights forced the Thatcher government to bring the law in Northern Ireland into line with the rest of the U.K.

It might surprise Ian Paisley to learn that male gay sex is not all anal intercourse. Indeed, there are many gay men who never indulge in it, either on the giving or receiving end. But we've all been so conditioned to believe that fucking is all there is to sex, that most people can't imagine what else you could do if you didn't. The only thing any self-respecting lesbian would do with a dildo (rubber penis) is hit you over the head with it. There are so many ways of making love without penetration.

Cruising is the activity of picking up someone of the same sex. For sex, and company, and on rare occasions, something deeper and more lasting. When I first encountered this procedure, I was delighted. I had always assumed that two strangers meeting for sex always necessarily involved a financial transaction, rather than simply mutual pleasure. But I think that's a reflection on a society

that treats sex as a commodity. Or in which people can always buy what they want if they're rich enough.

The Sunday afternoon tea-dance at Stallions Night-club is probably the best value for money in town. For one pound, you get as much tea as you want, plus sandwiches and trifle. You can sway to waltzes, charlestons and tangos, or just bop to the music. And when the disco proper takes over at 8 pm, you can stay on for free. And it's a complete mix - women, men, singles, groups, all dancing, talking, watching, or just drinking tea.

The Coleherne pub in Earls Court is probably London's oldest gay pub, going back twenty years or more. It has a macho, leather-jacketed, men only crowd. For the unwary walking home afterwards, there is an ominous new development. Pretty young men make advances to passers-by, and then arrest them for "persistent importuning". These men are police agents provocateurs. The police authorities all vigorously deny their existence. It's an unhappy omen for when the new Police Bill arrives. The police will then be able to hold people for up to five days without charging them. Meanwhile, they can search the premises of all the people in their address books, and then release the persons concerned, who will have no comeback. Comparisons with Nazi Germany, or modern South Africa, are not out of place.

Homophobia is usually muted at the LSE. But it is very widespread, despite the LSE's "liberal" reputation. Any number of people, from senior school administration to the Library, suddenly discover there are all sorts of rules or complications when they find out you're gay, or doing things for the Gaysoc. Gay events sometimes get overlooked or overridden - after all, they're not "important". Of course many people are extremely helpful, the Student Union being an example. And at last most of the notices stay up, unlike some colleges in London. It's still not good enough. But how do you fight someone who pulls a rule book on you, even though you know perfectly well they wouldn't do it to anyone else? And how do you stop lecturers like Dr. Badcock from interspersing in their sociology lectures anti-gay comments like "Keynes thought that an elite bunch of HOMOSEXUALS like himself could change the world". If only they could.

Richard Snell