

Thousands March to Oppose Alton

LSE Student arrested during last Thursday's Mass Demonstration

by SHANTANU MITRA

Thursday's demonstration against David Alton's Abortion Bill, called to coincide with the vote by MPs on whether to give the Bill a second reading, culminated in 23 arrests as hundreds of protesters assembled outside Parliament. One LSE student, Anna Hall, was among those arrested, but she was released with a caution shortly afterwards. As the Beaver went to press, it was not known how many of the 23 would be charged.

The demonstration had, up to then, been largely a success for the anti-Alton lobby, with an impressive turnout of around 5,000 and the presence of national TV cameras. A potentially troublesome situation had already been defused at Westminster Bridge as the demonstrators made their way to Parliament.

Thousands of students from all over the country assembled at around midday at ULU, from where they proceeded to march to the Houses of Parliament, via the South Bank. Conveniently the marchers stopped on Kingsway at 1 o'clock, at which point the UGM voted to suspend standing orders to lend support to the demonstration.

By the time the march reached the South Bank, official stewards were struggling to maintain control. Around 50 demonstrators attempted to cross Westminster Bridge on the road, and were prevented from doing so by a line of police, backed up by horses. Traffic was held up for 20 minutes as demonstrators sat down on the road. The same tactic had led to fifteen arrests at the demonstration against the Education Bill, but this time the protestors dispersed without any arrests being made.

Most of the marchers then assembled at Parliament to lobby MPs. It was opposite the House of Commons that the arrests were made, mostly for public order offenses.

Concurrent with the lobby of Parliament was a rally at Westminster Central Hall, with speakers including David Steel, Rosie Barnes, Wendy Savage and Jo Richardson, as well as speakers from Spain and Eire, where abortion is illegal.

The SDP's Rosie Barnes, herself the mother of a handicapped child, argued that in certain cases, abortion can be for the protection of a severely handicapped child as well as its mother.

Harriet Harman, Labour's front bench spokesperson on health,



Photo: Rebecca Dutton

drew attention to expenditure cuts in the Family Planning Service and called for abortion on demand up to 12 weeks, since this would reduce the number of late abortions considerably. She said that late abortions were undesirable but occasionally necessary because pregnancies were sometimes not correctly diagnosed before 18 weeks. We should treat women who need late abortions "with compassion and care, not penalise them with the criminal law".

Leonora Lloyd, of the FAB campaign, said that those MPs who will vote with Alton represent "an unholy alliance of those who totally oppose abortion and those who favour a compromise at 24 weeks. No one actually supports the 18 week time limit."

The lobby of Parliament took place at a time when the Alton Bill appears to have majority support in the Commons. The latest reports suggest that the Bill will be passed, but with an exemption clause for handicapped foetuses. Any compromises will have to be thrashed out in the Committee Stage, but Mr Alton has already indicated that he will not accept any amendment to reduce the time limit to 24 weeks instead of 18.

Randall and SU Threaten Action on Divestment

by MARK MOSHER

Last week the Student's Union demanded that Connaught House speed divestment procedures to prevent a breakdown of relations between students and the administration. In his strongest language since last year's occupation, General Secretary Nik Randall urged the school to "come clean" on the issue of divestment in a letter sent to the LSE Press office. In his letter, Randall insisted that the school provide a full progress report on divestment for a joint meeting of the student governors and school representatives, to be held on 23 February. The Student's Union is attempting to discover why shares in several companies with dealings

in South Africa have not been sold.

In a *Beaver* interview, Randall criticized the school's "slow progress" and said that any further delays could jeopardize the "constructive relationship" between the Student's Union and the School. Randall emphasized the risks that continued slow progress could have on the smooth conduct of other student-school projects, such as the Housing Association. Randall said that he thought student and staff opposition to Apartheid remained strong and, in effect, "should speak for itself".

The School's opinion on the most recent round of divestment talks remains vague. On last Thursday the Administration failed to issue a previously prom-

ised statement on divestment and at the time of going to press the *Beaver* had not received any comment from the School. Sources close to the Administration say that Connaught House is concerned about a further deterioration in the situation.

Researchers at the Ethical Investment Research and Information Service (EIRIS) have said that 25 South African related companies in LSE's investment portfolio violate the School's investment ethics code. The desired effect of the ethics code is to prohibit the School from investing in any of the 185 companies on the London Stock Exchange who have extensive dealings with South Africa.

THE BEAVER

Anarchy and Apartheid

There exists on the hard left a mythology that refuses to be buried. It goes like this. The people get conned by the promises of reformist leaders, liberals or pseudo-socialists, into cooperation with the authorities. Just at the moment of greatest "mobilisation" (their word for activity) the masses are persuaded to accept negotiation with the bosses, promises by ministers of future action, or arbitration by a committee of experts. So the trusting workers or students or demonstrators go home and think they have won. But of course their leaders then "sell them out" behind closed doors to the delight of the militants who can now hope for a flood of converts from those disillusioned with the "lackeys of capital" or (worse) "bureaucrats".

At this point the scenario tends to go a bit wrong, as the embarrassingly minute size of the revolutionary groups shows. But just occasionally, often when the issue is seen as a "moral" one, ordinary people as well as the "comrades" get angry and take direct action.

This is what is very likely to happen if the LSE Court of Governors continues with its present attempts to sabotage the process of selling the shares it owns in companies that deal with South Africa. Last year, after an occupation of Connaught House that was of record length, the School agreed to divest from apartheid. They did so reluctantly, and with an insistence that divestment was carried out in their own convoluted fashion without publicity.

Student Union leaders played along with the administration's game, accepting there would be some delay but confident of eventual victory. But now, thanks to the plodding progress of selling shares and new rule changes pushed through the Court of Governors before Christmas, their faith seems in vain. So the Union's General Secretary, and especially its Postgraduate Officer Avinash Persaud, turn and face their members as empty-handed as the proverbial reformists.

Their position is made more uncomfortable thanks to a remarkably clumsy threat by the School to sue the Union for crippling damages should it in any way support a repeat of last year's (popular) occupation. Nothing could be more calculated to unite students against the administration than the prospect of losing their welfare services, Athletics Union and societies budgets through such heavy handed action. And nothing could be a more generous gift to the militants. Last year's occupation was official, disciplined, had widespread support across party lines - and was half-successful. A repeat this year, which we hope can be avoided, would be unofficial anarchistic and widely supported - and would be disastrous for both Union and the whole LSE. *Unofficial* because of the legal threat. *Anarchy* because there would be little to lose in the face of the School upping the stakes so significantly. *Disastrous* for an institution 20 years on from 1968 (cue TV crews) and in financial difficulty (cue loss of government grant, donations, etc.).

Whether or not the administration thinks students have forgotten about the torture and brutality of Pretoria's fascist regime as media attention has switched elsewhere, LSE is wrong to make threats and wrong to stall divestment. Students have not forgotten the call of the anti-apartheid movement and the ANC for sanctions and divestment. (Nor has the world: the US Congress passed its toughest measures yet to isolate apartheid before Christmas.)

They are not only wrong, but foolish too. If the administration expects the SU to help in other matters, such as housing, it should be prepared to keep its promises to leaders who co-operate. Otherwise myth will become reality and an Occupation Committee instead of a Code of Conduct Committee will meet on the sixth floor of Connaught House.

The solution lies with the Director. He must at last take a lead and respond to the Union General Secretary's request for a full statement on the progress of divestment to the next meeting with Student Governors. And he must reassert LSE's total commitment to ending its links with South Africa.

Fascism?

Dear Beaver,

A.J. Wood is right to criticise the habit of socialists for their habit of equating all the "isms" of the right as meaning the same thing. In his letter last week about fascism, it was about the only thing he got right. He writes of fascism seeking "racial harmony in its nation": but this seemingly humble proposal contains within it two self-evident features of what fascism seeks in practice.

Firstly, since no one has ever come up with a definition of what a Nation is, it is impossible to talk of "national unity". Yet this elusive concept is a backbone of fascist ideology. Can A.J. Wood name a Nation-state that has a linguistic, religious, and racial homogeneity? There are none, and for a political ideology to stake itself to such a hollow concept as "national unity" is an indication of how limp the fascists sense of reality is. Furthermore, since when has a nationalist movement existed that has not had at its core a desire to be rid of an "other". One can not "create" a sense of unity without first locating an enemy; if there isn't one outside, one must be found within the nation-state. If racial differences are not to be the enemy in Woods' fascist regime, what is?

Secondly, the possessive and autocratic nature of fascism is shown in Woods' choice of words: the fascist seeks racial harmony in "its" nation. So the nation is the property of the Fascist? Wood tells us that Hitler should be treated as an aberration of fascism, but why should we be so generous when it seems Hitler was following the same habit that Wood has, and considered Germany as "his". "His" in the sense that a child "has" a bag of jelly-babies from which he throws out the yellow ones, gives away the black ones, saves the green ones for later, and makes himself sick on the orange ones.

If Hitler is not representative of fascism, how about Mussolini, or that great lover of civil liberties, General Franco? I know what Wood will say, that they too do not represent fascism because they strayed from the Truth, that of the European leaders who have declared themselves fascist, not one has been aware of what his ideology was really about. So who does understand fascism when Hitler and his colleagues didn't? Wood at the LSE does.

Tom Elliott

Greens fight back!

Dear Editor,

I just read the article about the LSE Greens in last week's issue. Unfortunately, the article fails completely to investigate or objectively criticise any green policies. Instead it thrives on preconceived myths and prejudice; it isn't even written well enough to be taken as a joke. Can this article really come from the same man who once (not very long ago) said: "Greens and Labour must work together. Give me your policies and I'll put them in our manifesto"?

Instead of listing all the factual inaccuracies, I'd just like to make a few points.

1. There is much more to green politics than the environment.
2. The Green Forum has always been non-party-political.
3. The Greens don't have a "leader".
4. I'm not a landlord.

Yours sincerely,
Fabian Borcke



They get verse!

Another day at college

To try and expand my knowledge
Go out for a smoke

What a joke
Supposed to be working

Really just shirking.
Lecture at four

What a snore
Out for some drinks

Student life stinks
Totally pissed

What have I missed?
David Pankhurst

Nikos Returned Home

Dear Beaver,

He could have been a friend. His name was Nikos. Like many others he had come across many miles from a far away land to this bastion of knowledge and tolerance. Unlike some he was not here to waste daddy's money. Unlike some he worked hard and yet he was fun.

He was only twenty-two, so young. He was eager to learn the foreign ways of this land. He wanted to go places and he worked towards that. He had made friends, not too many - he was studying so hard.

And then, two days before he was flying home for Christmas he was hit by a Bike. A hit and run accident they said - and the murderer is on the loose. So, he returned home only he will never go back.

I did not really know him. His name was Nikos. He could have been a friend.

Yours sincerely,
Stavros Makris

Dear Beaver

Let me clear up a couple of points: 1) I have a mortgage on a two-bedroom terraced house in Colchester. It's not a recent acquisition: I bought it 5 years ago. I committed this sin after my local Council (Conservative) told me that my previous six years on the housing waiting list meant nothing to them. They were too busy selling council houses to rent them out to the homeless.

2) My trip to Italy cost the grand total of £125 for a return flight. I went to look after an infirm 70-year widower who lives there on his own. My father.

I am sure it is more amusing for your readers not to know these facts. After all, you have a role in confirming the stereotypes people believe in, including the one about socialists who "don't practice what they preach".

Perhaps an apology is in order. Were I not to receive one you might in future miss out on other juicy tit bits (heard the one about the Swiss bank account?). Oh, and congratulate your journalist: talent like that belongs to "The Sun".

Yours in comradeship,
Nic Cicutti

Nursing the NHS?

Dear Editor,

We full heartedly support the nurses in their desire for wages that truly reflect the debt society owes them for their dedication and hard work.

However, linking expenditure on the NHS to changes in GNP as the Press Officer of the Royal College of Nursing argued for at the LSE UGM (14th January) will do little to solve the NHS funding problem.

"Demand for the NHS is partly "counter-cyclical": it rises when GNP falls and the economy turns into recession and vice versa. It is during acute recessions like the past one that occurrences of stress-related complaints such as heart disease, respiratory problems and depression multiply most rapidly. These complaints represent the major part of NHS care. If spending kept in line with GNP therefore there would still be periods of lengthening waiting lists and endlessly postponed operations.

There are no easy solutions to the inescapable political question of how much we spend on health care. But one way the Royal College of Nurses could help the future of the NHS is to join with others in agreeing on an objective way of assessing the "costs" - in terms of lives and suffering - of underfunding. This will make those political choices facing us all the more clear.

P.S. We welcome the unexpected return of serious debate at the Union!

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Rajendra Persaud (The Maudsley Hospital, London)
Avinash Persaud

Free Classes For Women

The LSE offers free classes in self defence and assertiveness training for women. Assertiveness training teaches you to be assertive rather than either aggressive or over-deferential in situations that usually make you feel nervous or shy.

A lot of the course is aimed at building up self-confidence in the way you look, feel, think and behave, so that you can handle difficult situations (and people!) more calmly and successfully.

Assertiveness is not aggression - an assertive woman can communicate freely and directly; she can take charge of her life and she can act in a way that she herself respects.

Self-defence classes are of great help to all women, particularly in a city like London. These classes can help you practically, by teaching you how to handle difficult situation, and also be increasing your confidence. You do not have to be super-fit to do these classes, and they are also good fun!

These classes are open to all women students and staff at the LSE and are free.

Times of Classes:

Assertiveness Training
Thursday 5.00p.m. - 7.00p.m. in S075

Friday 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m. in A141

Self Defence all classes in C018 (Basement of Clare Mkt Building)

Monday 2.00p.m. - 3.30p.m. 3.30p.m. - 5.00p.m.

Wednesday 11.30a.m. - 1.00p.m. 1.00p.m. - 2.30p.m.

Friday 12.30p.m. - 2.00p.m.
Becky Faith

THE BEAVER

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AT THE UNION

by JAMES ROBERTSON

"They should shoot those fucking wankers." The man in the little baby Suzuki van was not happy as he finally edged round the Aldwych. A few, doubtless vital seconds of his, doubtless vibrant, life had been interrupted. It was not right. It was not fair.

Indeed, it was not the Old Theatre. We were out in the cold.

What of the Union Meeting? There wasn't.

As I wandered in, just after one, it didn't register regarding the number of empty seats. Last week's minutes were ratified, although "Those Asleep" (Imogen) comfortable outnumbered the Fors and Againsts.

The General Secretary then came to the mike to outline "a few problems with John Moore" (regarding the proposed LSE/New Statesman debate). There are those, growing rapidly in number, who suggest that this is nothing that either an injection of humanity (I'm sure you can get this on BUPA), or the sack, or, indeed, both, could solve. Randall was reflective, admitting that Moore "could be yesterday's man" by the time he ever finds his way through our illustrious doors.

Closer to home, there was the matter of the Missing Union Banner. It's "technically theft", warned Randall, "I might have to get nasty". This gave rise to not a little merriment. "Nasty Nick to Nick notorious banner nobblers"? -we can hardly wait. The rest of the General Secretary's Report was given over to outside speaker Ricky Shields who spoke on Aboriginal rights in the context of the "holocaust ... genocide" which forms the backdrop to the



current Australian Bicentennial Celebrations. This is a holocaust that is still happening. Shields spoke of "Extermination 1988", including the forcible sterilisation of women, and deaths in the hands of the police, on average, once every fifteen days.

Shield's message was simple "we want our land rights." He sought us to address the question of the actions of our "bloody cousins". A motion: "Australia-Nothing to celebrate in 1988" remains on the order paper.

Justin's report offered us nothing apart from the fact that Searchlight, the current edition thereof, is now available from E297, and that Brighton beat Southend 4:2 the night before. Not altogether surprising, on current form, I'd say: his report was "just about ratified" (Imogen).

The Third Musketeer, Richard Ford tried to tell us a joke (I forget) and offered us "culture", ie Berkoff's "The Greeks" on Wednesday week (3rd Feb.), and also, well, "Pussy Galore". Surely the latter by their name above contravene the Union's anti-sexism policy and should not be



invited to ply their trade on Houghton St?

All this took about 10 minutes. Then Phil, the external Affairs Officer pointed out that we should all be on the Fight Alton Bill March, so, by a two-thirds majority the meeting was closed. By a measure of good timing, we wandered out of the Old Building, the march could be seen going past as it wound its way around the Aldwych en route to Westminster.

I read in this week's New Society that 1 in 4 women have an abortion at some time. As I wandered across the Aldwych to catch up with the march I counted the women sitting blankly in the cars being help up by the police; 1,2,3,4; 1,2,3,4 : 1,2,3,4.

As the marchers headed off over Waterloo bridge, some of the pent up traffic was released. Vehicles and "normal people", going about their "normal business", swarmed into the spaces to reclaim the Aldwych for "normalcy". 1,2,3,4 : 1,2,3,4. 'I didn't think people demonstrated any more,' said one old man as the LSE SWSS banner went past. At least he'd never needed an Abortion.



New Union Logo: a chance for immortality

The Students' Union like any other organization has a need to promote its own identity. Our functions of representation and provision mean it is important that we distinguish ourselves from the college authority. We deal with a large number of outside commercial and political organizations and while any Students' Union is an integral part of University life it is not simply another department. Traditionally we have used the college emblem on all our correspondence and, while the services we provide are often confused with college services, even by students.

Many other Students' Unions have recognized these problems and have begun to produce their own independent emblem or "logo". There are many benefits for such a move, students become aware of what their Union is doing for them, outside organizations are clear as to whom they are dealing with and some of the autonomy Students' Unions used to enjoy is returned.

The LSE Students' Union shall be running a competition, open to all, to produce a new logo. There will be a display in the Quadrangle which will hopefully give you a few ideas. Entries should be distinctive and eye catching. There is no need to restrict yourself to black and white, a third colour can be used.

Justin Russell (on behalf of the SU Executive)

Hand in entries to the Treasurer's office, E204, by February 12th. There will be a single winner, who will receive not only immortality but also £25. The SU Executive will judge the competition. Good luck!!

BEYOND THESE WALLS

by TOM PARKER

The Wild West

Next time you hear someone delivering a polemic on how boring law students can be I hope you will remember the cautionary tale of one James "The Gun" Jacobs. A little while the worse for drink this mild mannered lawyer was possessed by an urge to go out and to terrorise the good people of Bristol. Armed only with his trusty water pistol he strolled into a local shopping centre and opened fire on unsuspecting passers-by. Within minutes the police had received ten calls from panicking shoppers all reporting that a gunman was loose in Clifton Down. With memories of Hungerford fresh in mind the police were quick to react. The area was sealed off and armed police officers were sent in to locate and arrest the gunman. As one might imagine they were not too amused to find James with his water pistol and refused to see the funny side of the incident. James has been charged with threatening behaviour.

Catch 22

Six weeks ago this column carried the story of Boris Nadgomy, the Russian refusenik whose attempts to emigrate to the west have been supported by Oxford university students. Well, this week Oxford campaigners received word that Boris had received an exit visa but it soon transpired that it did not extend to his family. The Soviet authorities have now claimed that the Nadgomys are in possession of state secrets (sound familiar?) and for this reason they will not be allowed to leave Russia. Understandably, Boris does not feel that he can leave his family behind and at present will remain with them in the hope that external pressure may persuade the Russian authorities to relent. Oxford sources are far from optimistic but they will continue to campaign for a fairy tale ending.

Over sexed, over-paid and over here?

An unprecedented number of foreign students are now attending universities in Britain, according to a report from the University Grants Committee. Approximately 42,000 foreign students, paying an average of £4,000 a year each, are engaged in part- or full-time study in Britain. Foreign students now represent 14% of all students and 39% of postgraduates. The reports indicated that enrolment of South East Asian students in particular is on the increase. More than a quarter of all foreign students in Britain come from Hong Kong, Malaysia or Singapore.



Ross's ramble around the LSE

"If anyone saw someone wheeling a silver Suzuki off Houghton Street, please contact Rick Walker (2nd year Geog.) or put a note in the Beaver office (E205). The bike was stolen from right outside the main entrance and we must all act to stop recurrences of this type.

Simple Swisso Says . . .

Well, we had to wait all the way until Thursday for the first action of the week. After the dodgy two-thirds majority we all tramped off, flower clad, on a guided tour of London colleges and the National Theatre. It was then that the huge gathering went for the world record in Simple Swisso Says.

First of all Swisso says "Cross the bridge, cross the bridge". No response? Then Swisso says "All sit down", so we all sat down, then up, then down, then across the bridge, then across another bridge.

The lobbying and chanting then continued with forces from all over Britain battling against the "fascist pigs". They were a bit heavy handed at times and it was a shame about the arrests - but at least one was good enough to tell me the way.

Back to the LSE . . .

The Jackal Strikes Again.

The victims this time are the Women's Group. One of their best banners is now also under a ransom demand. The threat is the same as for the Students' Union banner, but as the Women's Group haven't yet placed a substitution cost for the banner no price has yet been placed on the 'vital bits'. The SU has remained remarkably firm over its stance and the silent war of waiting and high tension is developing.

By the way, can everyone please stop hassling me over a beloved emblem - I merely convey the information I receive - I am not The Jackal!

Music Maestros

One of the special events of this year's exciting Rag Week is the pop quiz. This will take place on the Wednesday in the Tuns, which is open all day.

Interest is high and an unusual array of specialist subjects and entrants has already been promised:-

"Slick Scandall (Gen. Sec.):
Justin Russell (Sen. Treas.):
Dick Ford (Soc. Sec.):
Union Executive:
Liz Wheatley (SWSS feminist):
Rebecca Faith (Women's Officer):
Shivani (RCP):
Francis Von Hasbeen (Aristocrat):
Chas Begley (B'Staad):
Imogen Tranchill (Chair):
SWSS Team (?):
Phil Evans & Charlie Seward:
UGM Select 200:

Of Bedsprings and Water

Pistols . . .

Once again things at Rosebery Hall are beginning to take shape. Having finally recovered from the drunken excesses of Christmas and the New Year, everybody has now settled back into the debauched ways of hall life. The current craze is water pistols. This was apparently started by a "mature" student who received one for his birthday. At night, much shouting can be heard on all floors and it is now a favourite pastime of many students to stalk the corridors soaking everything in



sight before having to reload.

A good trustworthy water pistol is the small transparent plastic model which is extremely accurate and can be had for the princely sum of 50 pence. It has, however, come to certain victims' attention that there are a few students using the battery-operated automatic (and expensive) variety. You know, the sort of thing that appeals to Americans. This constitutes an unfair advantage and will inevitably lead to an arms race, which is bound to end in tears! On a point of information: Did you know that these advanced pieces of military hardware can cost over ten pounds each? That is equivalent to the price of a bottle of Blue Label Smirnoff. I ask you . . .

Another nocturnal event has this week revolved around the activities of the screaming lady of the third floor. Residents have been kept awake by a strange noise which can only be described as a long, lustful groan punctuated by high-pitched cries of "no . . . yes . . . no . . . yes . . . no . . . oh, go on then . . .". This mysterious event takes place between 1am and 3am every night. It is now a hall custom for people to congregate outside the door of the lady in question and listen to this lively activity, presumably while keeping their hands clasped firmly to their . . . water pistols. (Just a few more examples of what normal people at a normal hall of residence get up to in a normal week.)

P.S. A mention for Annie.

Housemartins
Redskins
Fat Boys
Talking Heads
Swing Out Sister
Sister Sledge
Blue Mercedes
Dire Straits
Madness
Haircut 100
Simple Minds
Rude Boys
Bad Manners

Carr Saunders

The residents of Carr Saunders Hall regret to inform the public of the passing away of the Nemesis Machine after a short illness. We all hope its soul will find peace in the great arcade in the sky and that it will find comfort in the knowledge that its memory will live on forever in our hearts. It will be sorely missed. A short service of commemoration will be held in the bar on Tuesday 26th January - open just to family and close friends. Send no flowers, but rather donations to F.R.A.N.T. (Find Roger a New Toy), the charity set up to help victims of the disaster.

Passfield

Passfield authorities were not surprised to hear this week that one of its inmates spent an enjoyable weekend in a Parisien jail. This ginger-haired rugby player was heard to comment after his ordeal (including an unsuccessful strip-search), *it was a pleasant change from Pissfield.*

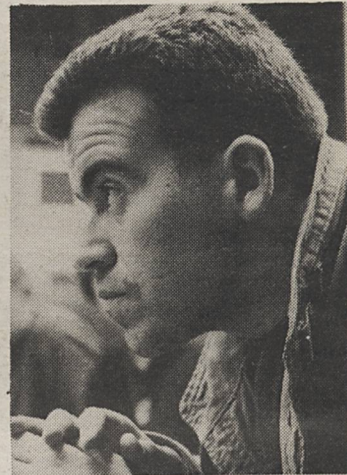
Closer to home, Stavros Water Rat Makris celebrated his birthday and discovered that life goes on after forty. *I can now relax and look forward to menopause*, stated this zany zorba of the LSE. Meanwhile, The Beaver has heard rumours that the **Fighting Irishman** is on the wagon. Is this part of his preparation for the Hall Bowl? And on the subject of the Hall Bowl, are Carr-Saunders, men or mice? While the powerful Passfield squad has been practicing every Sunday on Regents Park, the Saunders crowd has been watching EastEnders.



Finally, Mark Mosher's attempts to rule the world took a step backwards this week when he became editor-in-chief of **The Beaver**. He hopes his new responsibilities won't detract from his womanising antics at Pissfield. P.S. Who is the Moses look-a-like in 99A?

C SOCIETIES RNER

by STAVROS MAKRIS



David Owen MP, returns to the LSE on his annual pilgrimage to the *never settling cement* as a guest of the **LSE SDP** on Monday, 25th January in the Old Theatre, the Old Building at 1:00pm.

Victor Orlik, Editor of **Soviet Weekly** is the guest of the **Grimshaw Club** on Tuesday 26th January. His evaluation of the Soviet View on defense and disarmament after the Washington Summit, due to current interest, is more than likely to attract a large audience both from within and without the International Relations Department. Entrance is free, but in order to be guaranteed a place get there early. The venue is Room A 85, The Old Building, at 6:15 pm (**Incidentally, the Club's trip to Russia is SOLD OUT**)

John Moore MP, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services is the guest of the **LSE Conservatives** on Wednesday 27th January. He will be speaking on the *National Health Service*.

Paul Krugman Professor of Economics, MIT will be talking on *An Imperfectly Integrated World* as part of the Lionel Robbins Memorial Lectures. Professor Krugman will in fact be giving three lectures on 26th, 27th and 28th January, all at 5:30pm in the Old Theatre, the Old Building.

The **LSE Macintosh User Society** holds its Organisational Meeting on Wednesday 27th January at 3pm in Room L109. Members should attend the meeting and the elections to follow. Newcomers are welcome as always.

The **Graduate Student Committee** meets on Wednesday 27th January in the Graduate Common Room. All graduates should attend for the elections to be held for Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

The **Lesbian and Gay Society** meets on Monday 25th January at 6:30pm in Room S401 to discuss Clause 28 and the finances of the society. For more information call Rob Lunginbuhl 674 4360.

Leave Takers Ltd the Italian City Break Specialists have offered to the **Italian Society** and its members a 5% discount on any of their holidays. For further information contact the President of the Society, *Maria E. Candilio* herself "in person" or through the Society Pigeon Holes in the S.U.

The wonderful **LSE Drama Society** are staging on 1st, 2nd and 3rd February in the Old Theatre, The Old Building **Sexual Perversity in Chicago** the play on which the film *About Last Night* was based.

Good Pay for Typists

The Beaver needs typists. If you have a couple of hours to spare on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons, come along and earn some (much-needed) cash and have a sneak preview of *The Beaver* in the process! Anyone interested should see Jon, Mark or Julian in Room E205 (above The Cafe).

It is expected that LSE thespians will outdo the performance of one Rob Lowe and Demi Moore.

The Society will be hosting a Wine Reception on 4th February: all are welcome.

The **LSE Hellenic Society** would like to remind its members of the *crucial* Basketball Game for the European Championship coming on Wednesday 3rd February in Crystal Palace. The result is a foregone conclusion but it should be an enjoyable game.

Victor Orlik may give *food for thought* to many a thinking student but what most are likely to *recollect* about this week will be their performance at the **Tequila Society Party**, which will be staged in the **Three Tuns** and the **Quadrangle Greenhouse** on Saturday 30th January. Late Bar extension till midnight. As always member not in *Tequila Uniform* will be charged admission (rumoured to be as high as £1.00, members dressed not in loud fabric are likely to be allowed in for around £2.00) *Live Entertainment will be provided by the Tequila Jailbirds!* If you have been to other *T.S. Parties* and have learnt your lesson you will either get there early or not at all!

The **LSE Guinness Society** is also staging a **HUGE PARTY** but more news about that in next issue - only if you have survived the **Tequila Lot** . . .

The **LSE Wine Society's** next tasting is an impressive array of *French Whites* selected with loving care by Robert Crisps himself. The meeting is to take place in the old familiar venue (S421) and the tooting is to run from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Thursday, 28th January. Members and non-members are invited to attend this once in a life-time experience for a mere £2.00. Incidentally, as an incentive for the members it has been announced that the society on the same night will be discussing the trip to the **Loire Valley** and the organisation of a **Wine Tasting Course**.

On February 6th a special **Disco** has been organised in the **Three Tuns** as part of the **Cricketers Ball**. The Party is open to all and its aim is to raise money for the **LSE Cricket Club** which *needs* it.

Some societies exist on paper but nowhere else. One of them seems to be the **Fabian Society**. What do they do? Won't somebody tell me? They were at *Fresher's Fair*, collected names and money and since then . . . **NOTHING**.

THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1987 ... Published in London ...

Summary: Loyalist critically wounded ... Fire victims and bereaved are promised help as Thatcher calls King's Cross public inquiry ... Cause of disaster remains a mystery

Water catch row ... Parachute inquest ... Car sold for £5.5m ... Reagan silent ... Thatcher mission ... Summit move ... Angola mystery

INSIDE: From steel to snacks in Consett ... FASHION: Gothic revival ... SARAH HOGG: Lessons of crash the US has failed to learn ... GORE VIDAL: The imperial messenger bears bad news

UK 'obstructing pollution plan' ... DNA testing backs immigrant claims ... SCHOOL FEES: Your child's education is priceless. Our expert advice is free. ... Run Babbitt, run Babbitt, run, run, run ...

Paul Wood meets Anthony Bevins, Political Editor of The Independent



INTERVIEW

On my way to meet Anthony Bevins I read about a Poll conducted to find out what people thought of the various professions. Journalists came second from bottom in the "approval ratings". Only politicians were lower in the public's esteem. "I wondered why this was. In the saloon bars of England, or the columns of a Paul Johnson article you can find one answer: the arrogance and chauvinism of the press. People, it is said, are sick of seeing grieving relatives having a microphone thrust under their noses in order to get a thirty second comment for the evening news. They do not like doorstepping, the invasion of privacy, the

treatment of the Royals, the fabrication of facts, and the printing of "interviews" which have never taken place (The Sun). They do not like the vile way that reporters carry on their trade.

But what do the Public know? To get a more informed opinion I went to see the Political Editor of the paper which set out to be different: The Independent.

Anthony Bevins told me what it was really like in Fleet Street: "There are three things to remember about journalists. Firstly, they hunt in packs; the scum. Secondly, journalists as a profession are cowardly, and thirdly, they are also very lazy."

He elaborated, "After a press conference they will all get together in a scum to decide what the intro. or news angle will be, because they don't have the courage to trust their own judgement. Editors are also cowardly. They like to have the same story on the front page. If they have an exclusive which is better than the story the others are running, they will take it out, through insecurity."

I asked about the lobby system. Membership of the lobby allows journalists to attend the non-attributable briefings given by Mr. Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's Press Secretary.

"An Editor is covering his back when he tells a journalist to use the lobby. He knows that the story will be the same as in other papers. Without the lobby, the journalist must use his own judgement - which entails risk."

The Independent has opted out of the lobby. It can, he says, find out what is said from other journalists and always attributes the quotes. In this way, he hopes to avoid being manipulated by Mr. Ingham.

An example of this manipulation was the Westland Affair. After the leak of Haver's letter doubting Heseltine's veracity The Sun ran its "You Liar!" headline and everyone else, even The Guardian, followed suit. No one focused on who had leaked the letter, or why.

This was because of the lazy tendency in the profession. "Few will bother to cross check a story fed to them by Bernard Ingham. They will take Press Releases and feed them straight into the typewriter. They won't sit and think of angles on a story and ask, why have I been fed this?"

At that time Bevins was working on The Times and when Heseltine issued his rebuttal in the evening, he re-wrote the story to focus on the leak. However, despite numerous attempts, he could not get the later edition to run the new version. He says that there was no conspiracy needed to make the papers all tell the same story. The atmosphere created by the lobby and the failings of the profession means that the "pack will

all chase after the bait together".

Mr. Bevins has been in newspapers long enough to know what he is talking about. In the early '60s he was doing a BSc.Econ. in the Government department along with Robert Kilroy-Silk and Richard Shepard. He left with a third to do VSO in India and returned to join the Liverpool Post training scheme. He became its London Political Correspondent and then moved through a succession of jobs on the nationals. He thinks that the Independent is very different. "There is little knee-jerking and hysteria... and there is a maturity which I missed elsewhere in Fleet Street."

Elsewhere journalists must play tricks for Editors who are the agents of proprietors who are often motivated by political and financial interests. A TV story in The Times will be, he says, motivated by Murdoch's broadcasting interests and ambitions. The same is true of a football story in Robert Maxwell's Daily Mirror. The Telegraph is what you read if you want know the current Ingham line.

I reminded him that The Guardian has no single owner. He replied that it had suffered from lack of competition. It had become "stolid, stodgy, lazy and unexciting", but he thought that it had woken up a little since The Independent had come on the scene.

Having heard what was wrong with the competition, I asked him how he did the job. "You must read everything, since they don't always announce what is important. And if you read the press releases and white papers and debates you may spot some inconsistency". He pulled out of his bag a bundle of papers which contained the following Monday's front page story. Buried in a 1985 White Paper was a new remit for the security services to tap not only the traditional subversive, criminal or espionage targets but also to tap in furtherance of the Government's Defence or Foreign Policy. This would allow the tapping of CND members. No announcement of this was made and in subsequent statements this new area of tapping was not referred to.

I asked him why he had wanted to be a reporter. "I wanted a job where I wouldn't be telling people what to do, say or think. I wanted not to be in command."

He left The Times when it changed from a "serious, reasonably objective paper under Harry Evens" to a "broadsheet Daily Mail".

At The Independent he finds that he works hard in a mentally demanding job and most importantly can practice a "pure journalistic style" where attention can be paid to the essence of the story with no political bias or other pressure.

The Milkman cometh...

Employers around the country have this month begun their annual travel on university campuses for graduate talent, a search known universally as "the milk round". However, the traditional milk round is spilling over as employers stretch the rules in their competition for high-calibre graduates.

Despite complaints that it is an administrative nightmare and costly in both time and money, the milk round between January and March remains the centrepiece of the recruitment programmes of most established graduate employers.

"On-campus recruitment remains the most effective means for employers to reach large numbers of good graduates, provided it is properly managed and the universities are carefully targeted," said Helen Perkins, Personnel Coordinator at British Steel and Chairman of the Association of Graduate Recruiters, in an interview with The Times.

"It accounts for up to 50% of graduates recruited by many organisations, including my own, and there are additional spin-offs which give regular participants a sizeable return on their investment."

The normal routine by which graduate recruiters make students aware of their presence is through career information seminars in the Autumn term, organised either by themselves or through organisations such as the Industrial Society.

First interviews are conducted on campus, during the present term, and second interview on their own premises during the Easter vacation. A top-up recruitment exercise usually follows in the Summer.

In recent years, however, a shortage of high-calibre graduates has begun to erode this tidy approach. Many students, more confident of their ability to find

work, are now postponing their job-hunting until after they qualify, instead of taking part in the Spring milk round. Owing to the lack of student demand, one of the leading university career services last year had to cancel up to 30% of its employer visits.

As a result, the Summer recruitment fairs held around the country during June and July are now assuming a far greater significance. By 1985 the most important of the fairs, organised by the University of London, was three-quarters as large as its entire Spring milk round. Last Summer, the fair attracted more than 150 employers and 8,750 student applicants.

More controversy seems now imminent, as there is growing pressure from some employers to increase recruitment activity during the Autumn term of the students' final year.

Under a code of practice agreed between the Association of Graduate Advisory Careers Services, the National Union of Students, and the Association of Graduate Recruiters, recruitment in the Autumn term is confined to legal and accountancy trainees. In practice, however, an increasing number of financial employers are taking advantage of this loop-hole to preempt the recruitment activities of their industrial counterparts.

Some financial employers - mainly foreign banks - have gone even further and offered candidates financial inducements of up to £2,000 to sign with them well before the Spring milk round - although last October's stock market crash greatly reduced this practice.

Compliance to the code of practice is also being reconsidered by industrial and public-sector organisations. As a report published in 1986 by the Institute of Manpower Studies commented: "Employers' willingness to regulate thier recruitment activities has been dependent on knowing

that, except in a few specific shortage areas, there has been more than enough graduate talent available.

"The forecast reductions in graduate output and increased demand from employers have produced a new situation. Against the wishes of the majority, more employers are likely to be conducting autumn interviews, and it is inevitable that even more will swiftly follow suit."

Events have proved the institute right. Last month London University broke all precedents by organising a Winter recruitment fair. It attracted more than 500 students and 72 prominent employers, including Allied Dunbar, Arthur Andersen, the BBC, Coutts, BP, the Cranfield Institute of Technology, and most of the high-street banks. "Some of these may be technically in breach of the code of practice," claims Michel Syrett, editor of "Manpower Policy and Practice".

A substantial increase has also been seen in the number of Christmas vacation courses offered to graduates, with many organisations making offers of employment with a deadline for acceptance in the first week of January.

As far as the opinions of those at universities are concerned, academic staff from a wide variety of institutions are expressing concern about the time students spend looking for jobs, at the expense of their studies.

Neil Harris, Senior Career Adviser at King's College, London, says: "A number of firms use assessment centres which sometimes take two or three days of a student's time, coupled with more final interview off-campus in term time. This means that some students are missing large chunks of the penultimate term of their degree courses."

"Academics are finding their classes depleted and laboratory work involving students working

in teams is often frustrated because the whole team may rarely be present."

Then there are the students' views: a report published last month by the Oxford and Cambridge University Industrial Societies suggests that Oxbridge students at least continue to support milk round activities in the Spring. Of 201 students interviewed at Oxford and 138 at Cambridge, two-thirds regarded the milk round as a good practice.

The best time for interviewing from the finalists' point of view was during the Spring term, though many said they would prefer to be interviewed after finals.

Most said they would be willing to take numeracy and personality

tests; to participate in a selection exercise of two or more days; and to undertake group tests during interviews.

The report also sheds interesting light on students' attitudes to job offers. A number of specific companies, mainly banks, management consultancies, and accountancy firms, were named as having made early bids, offering incentives and expecting early replies.

The large majority of students thought that these organisations were justified in making early offers to high-potential candidates. Fewer thought it fair for them to offer incentives and even fewer thought the organisations should expect an early reply.

M. Wynne-Jones

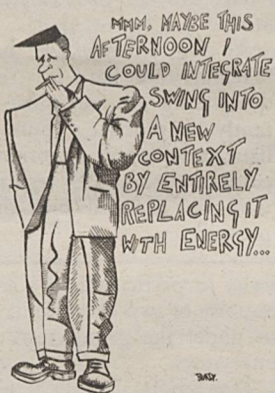
Jazz

Jazz Jottings.

Just having the usual Wednesday eve game of solo water-footer in the bathroom and what should come winging its way from my pal Tim at Recommended Records but . . . My God, an Anthony Braxton/Derek Bailey record! And a corker too.

Its on Victo, is called *Moment Precieux* (The Victoria and Alberville parts 1+2) and was recorded last year at the Actuelle International Music Festival. Dour Sheffielder Bailey is a hero of the international free music community and saxist/composer Braxton speaks of him as some kind of prophet. A mysterious messenger from another world sent to enlighten us to Another Way. A more unlikely hero you could not wish to find, certainly the guitarist himself has no such pretensions. Last year he commented "Yes, I'm aware that most people don't like the music I play. And no, it doesn't bother me too much". Such simplicity and straightforwardness of approach also characterise something of his notorious and wonderful guitar technique. Along with Last Exit's and Freddie Frith Bailey is amongst the handful of genuine innovators on that instrument since that lovely boy Jimi Hendrix. On this disc his amplified guitar is, as usual, and so on and so on . . . a little more extrovert here than of late as well.

Golden boy of modern jazz composition, Braxton, on soprano and alto saxes is also on terrific form on this date and he too is unusually forthcoming, even aggressive. Brax usually gets classified as "cold" and "European influenced". If the albums with veteran ex-Hard Bopper Max Roach haven't dispelled such myths by now then this blows them out completely. He



plays like a demon. This will be in my 1987 top ten without a shadow. A fine record from two severely underrated musicians, the lads should be over the moon. Make them richer and buy a copy.

New transfers. Venture, Virgins new "innovative global music" label, have released *Twilight Dreams*, the 3rd LP from trumpeter Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy. Bowie's distinctive brash trumpet has been heard in an awesome array of black music contexts (jazz, free improvisation, circus bands, blues,

you name it) but he is best known for his 20 year association with the magnificent Art Ensemble of Chicago. All these strands are pulled together in Brass Fantasy, an eight piece brass band plus drummer, who blend a peculiar, distinctive and frequently genuinely amusing musical brew. Quite beyond categorisation. This has a much closer production than the other two and at last enables us to get right in the midst of all those bristling horns. Mmm yummy . . . Though the dark beauty of the ech-swathed horns on the 1st LP, *I Only Have Eyes For You*, make it still my favorite, the light hearted and headed playfulness of this disc make it very fresh and pleasurable. Even, to use that most hated of words in jazz, *entertaining*. Try Bob Stewart's uncannily fluid funk tuba on *I Am With You* for a start. *Duke's Fantasy*, the title track and the arrangement of Rod Temperton's/Michael "White-Boy" Jackson's Thriller also reveal Trombonist Steve Turre to be a sensitive and sophisticated large group composer and arranger. My only reservation is with *Personality* which, apart from reminding me of the breathtaking William Breuker Kollektive, unfortunately dives into parody so deeply as to skim the surface of banality. A careless own goal, otherwise a good game.

Michael O'Suilleabhain's The Dolphins Way, also on Venture, is a delightful album of "Irish piano improvisations". Sounds unlikely I know and I must admit that I never knew such a thing even existed, but I can imagine this would be a welcome newcomer to many turntables.

But its a game of two halves, and what's this? Another Anthony Braxton Quartet album? Where do they all come from? And what's more, who buys them all? And why? Difficult questions all. Anyway, this one with David Rosenboom on the piano, Mark Dresser on bass and Gerry Hemingway on drums and is called *Five Compositions (Quartet) 1986* (Black Saint). It shows Braxton in a very different and much more typical context than the Bailey album. Though his own playing, indeed that of the whole group, is faultless, and though it is certainly highly original, I don't know what emotional or intellectual input there is there. The typically incomprehensible sleeve notes suggest there must be a lot (I think), but I'm afraid it fails to reach me. I can respect the bloke but I can't love him. This said, *Five Compositions* is clearer and tighter than much of his 70's quartet stuff so it might well make a good place for the new listener interested in this brilliant and confusing musician to start. But really I'm out of my depth here, and there's the final whistle! So I'll stop.

See you behind the bilsheds, bikesheds rather (must stop typing with gloves on), Big Love, Dick.

Music

Michael Nyman Band

Michael Nyman's band played his music with the enthusiasm and excitement it deserved. Best known for his music for Peter Greenaway's first two films, Mr. Nyman has also achieved substantial success as a writer of music for the N.T., two operas, and music for television advertisements.

The Michael Nyman band has been playing his music since 1981. They obviously love it, and play with a passion which at times almost verges on the unprofessional. The violinists are more like Dexty's than the LSO, with tapping feet and broken horse-hair. They conveyed a sense of excitement that I found totally contagious. The bassist appeared to have a particularly acute case of Knopfler's syndrome (twenty-four facial expressions between each twang); I tried not to look at him. The trombone and saxophone were wonderfully disruptive and brash-noted, vainly trying to push apart the rest of the band. The total effect was just wildly alive.

It is impossible to write of this music without reference to Mr. Greenaway's films, especially "A zed and two noughts". After the concert Mr. Nyman told me that he intended his music to be an entity in itself, so that one could enjoy a concert without thinking "Great, but where are the pictures?". In my mind he has succeeded to a large extent.

The originality of the Greenaway-Nyman partnership lies in the weaving together of the music, images, words and concepts in such a way that they each reinforce each other, all seemingly at the forefront simultaneously. I saw Zoo three times, and like a well-read book, each viewing revealed new insight into the film. The music played an important part in this. It is often discordant and forceful, without being raucous or unapproachable. Neither merely atmospheric nor passively supine, it enters at unexpected moments; it adds another level to the film rather than being a warning of a change in mood or a reinforcement of this change. And yet it is complete in itself. It is rather like a full and empathetic character: it was introduced in the film, has links with it, but loses nothing of itself from the separation.

Other than the music from Zoo, the band played a selection of other music by Mr. Nyman, some specially written for the tour. *Water dance* was a wonderfully exciting piece, comprising three movements, *Stroking*, *Gliding* and *Synchronising* seemingly based on four chords. I bought the tape and after listening to it half a dozen times was annoying all around me by incessantly and manically humming it. Mr. Nyman's music is unfortunate in that it appears to the devotee to be eminently hummable; it is not.

Tony Maggs

Indie Column World Music

Chart music has in recent years steadily moved closer towards the BBC1 daytime radio playlist and last year, with a very few exceptions (Smiths, Cure, House Music) it became a complete JOKE. The big record companies can put out any boring worthless old crap and chances are that BBC1 will hype it into the charts (BeeGees, Bruce Willis etc). Sadly, most legal radio stations support this disgraceful system because they are afraid of losing listeners by experimenting. Being constantly exposed to this trite rubbish the general public don't realise that there is other music, interesting REAL music around; hence the vicious circle closes.

For this purpose, a bunch of independent labels that specialise in WORLD MUSIC started working together with a common aim: "To push, shove and promote WORLD MUSIC into record shops and living rooms all over the UK". The WORLD MUSIC campaign runs from October until Christmas 1987 and the labels involved were: Cooking Vinyl, Earthworks, Globestyle, Hannibal, National Sound Archive, Oval, Rogue, Sterns/Triple Earth, Topic, WOMAD and World Circuit.

The World Music Catalogue includes about 50 albums from all over the world (Albanian folk music, Zairean soukous, Malian kora etc.) and practically all of them are very recommendable but



Unfortunately, the indie music scene has declined too. Most bands are now trying to recreate styles that were around in the late seventies/early eighties (Orange Juice, Buzzcocks, Joy Division) or even before that (Sixties). As indie music is getting more and more repetitive, the real music fans are looking for alternatives and are turning increasingly towards WORLD MUSIC, music from "outside" Western pop cultures. The phenomenal success of the Bhundu Boys has shown that there is quite some interest in African music and considering that the Bhundu Boys are only an average band in their home country, one realises that there is a great potential for so-called "ethnic" music in Britain even though the big radio stations are trying to oppose this new trend (Capital Radio for example, reduced Charlie Gillett's program, the only program on Capital that plays WORLD MUSIC, from 2 hours to 1 hour a week).

However, people first have to realise that there is more to African music than the Bhundu Boys, MUCH more!

there are a few absolutely essential ones.

DANCE! CADENCE! (Globestyle ORB 002) is a classic compilation of Cadence (or Zouk) music from the French Antilles. It is the kind of music that Europeans would describe it as "High-Life" probably because it's tropical rhythm makes it extremely dancable. An even better Zouk compilation is Hurricane Zouk on Earthworks (EWW 2).

The Indestructible Beat of Soweto and Thunder Before Dawn / The Indestructible Beat of Soweto vol.2 (Earthworks) feature the best mbaqanga music (Township music - the hard-edged South African urban blend of traditionally inspired music) that is currently available. This is the raw sound that Paul Simon ("Graceland") and Malcolm McLaren so lucratively commercialised.

Wende Zako by the Real Sounds (Cooking Vinyl COOK 04), a Zimbabwean band who toured Britain extensively last year with ecstatic reactions, is a very fine album with an outstanding track "Dynamos vs. Tornados 3-3" (a John Peel favourite) which surely must be the best football song ever.

Film

The Bee Keeper

General Release

Angelos Angelopoulos is one of the three Greek directors (Kakogiannis and Gavra being the other two) who have broken free of the limits of their home market and hit the European. And while Costa Gavra, who for many is the best *French* director, does not limit himself to purely Greek themes, the others do.

Angelopoulos's latest offering *The Bee Keeper* was first screened in London as part of the London Film Festival and is now on general release. *The Bee Keeper* is a very Greek film. Essentially it is a road

The old man leaves home for his annual *Bee Trek*, what he finds is a young girl in jeans and a parade of old forgotten, betrayed friends. The girl is the kind one meets in Greek Megalopolis, free and loose and uncaring. The friends are the kind one visits in mental institutions; caricatures of life. What matters to Angelopoulos is the land not the people, at least not all the people. Spiros is of the land, so Angelopoulos watches him. The girl is of the airwaves. The conflict is one of Time and Memory. He has lived his Time, she has no Memory.

Once the Queen Bee is freed, she flies high up. There the Drones wait. She chooses one, only one. And they Mate. And then he DIES.



Fatal Attraction

Adrian Lyne is making progress. You'll remember that Lyne, who directed *Fatal Attraction*, provided us in his previous effort, the glossy "9½ weeks", with the feature of Kim Basinger melting away under the fond fondlings of Mickey Rourke. However, not once did Rourke remove his trousers.

Well, someone obviously explained the facts of life to Lyne, for while in the process of getting Glenn Close pregnant, Michael Douglas duly removes his trousers. However, what nobody seemed to have explained to Lyne is how to make a good film.

The world which Douglas and Close move in has not changed much since Rourke's and Basinger's time; for it is the same circles of New York yuppie-dom, with

fancy lofts, Japanese restaurants and steamy, uninhibited sex.

The loft is where Ms. Close, some kind of publisher, lives; the Japanese restaurant is where she meets Michael Douglas, a successful lawyer; and the resulting sex is, well, steamy and uninhibited, taking them through precarious positions in peculiar places.

What was supposed to be a one weekend fling while the wife and kid are away turns into a nightmare for all concerned. It turns out that Close is a raving homicidal maniac, with Douglas incapable of escaping her prongs, however hard he tries. And gradually, what had started as a mad bonking session on the kitchen table, then evolved towards a tumultuous psychodrama, ends up as any other horror film.

Granted, Lyne knows the tricks of the trade; he builds up the tension well, directs his actors effectively and has you on the edge of your seat. However, he is telling a most ludicrous, and what is more, highly objectionable story. Choosing not to shed (or is he not capable of it?) any positive light on Glenn Close's character, Lyne takes the easiest way out: he turns her into a loony, thereby destroying any of the redeeming features of her and her situation.

It has been said that "*Fatal Attraction*" is setting out to revolutionise sexual behaviour in the 1980s, even dubbing it a "post-AIDS film". If this is the case, monogamous is certainly the thing to be, and many white rabbits will die in the process.

Narr'Havas

Sammy and Rosie Get Laid

Sammy and Rosie Get Laid is the story of Sammy (Ayub Kahn Din) and Rosie (Frances Barber) their open marriage and its close with the arrival of Sammy's father Rafi (Shashi Kapoor) on the night the Notting Hill Riots of 1986 begin.

Rafi comes in search of hot buttered toast and laughing policemen – the England he left behind twenty years ago – and the woman he loved, Alice (Claire Bloom) who still waits for him. But time has moved on. Nothing is the same. West London appears to be "twinned with Beirut". Sammy and Rosie are not loving children. Their lifestyle comes as a sharp shock to his old colonial attitude. He is befriended by Danny (Roland Gift) who becomes his guide through the streets of an alien London.

Sammy and Rosie is written by Hanif Kureishi and directed by Stephen Frears the same team who produced *My Beautiful Laundrette*. It is a film, not so much about any one person, but about the myriad types of modern London. They are it's stars. Sammy and Rosie have a party, they invite their friends.

"The usual collection of social deviants, communists, lesbians and blacks, with a sprinkling of the mentally subnormal to get the dancing started."

The canvas upon which Kureishi paints us his picture of London is large, and ultimately, he fails to paint a coherent picture. *Sammy and Rosie* is a progression from *My*



Beautiful Laundrette, explaining similar themes of race and sexuality. Finally, it is unclear precisely what he is aiming at, who he is attacking or praising.

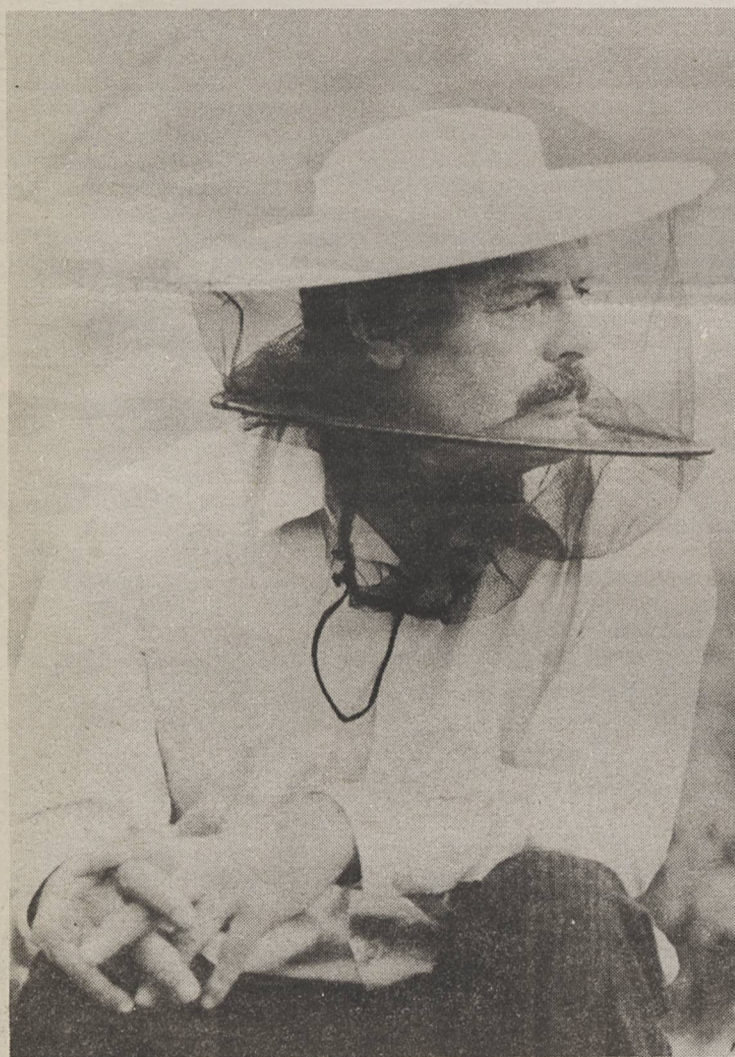
The film, though, has a huge saving grace. Its main themes, the two pillars of the plot, are sex and violence. It also has a sensationalist and rather silly title. It makes no apologies for its content. In fact, it revels in them. Not only do Sammy and Rosie get laid but Rosie and Danny, Rafi and Alice, Sammy and his lover, and various members of the supporting cast. Rosie, Rafi and Sammy all do it at the same time, on one split screen, to music. Sammy munches a Big Mac and masturbates as he sips a milkshake and snorts cocaine.

Sammy and Rosie claims no

moral highground. All too often, British films seem to be involved in the search for the essence of England – a substance lost in history. Young white boys stroll bright green fields, eyes to the ground, desperately searching for a corner that still remains forever England. British films seem to share the same sentiments, from *Chariots of Fire* through *Another Country* and *Room with a View*, to Maurice and beyond.

Sammy and Rosie has neither the oil-slick sheen nor the picture-book production of any of the above. Its joy is its rawness. It has ragged corners and jagged edges. Its faults are many, but it remains vital, impassioned and relevant.

Ekow Eshun



movie, but a road movie with a difference. The road that Spiros (Martchelo Mastroggianni) follows is not just one through the Greek countryside, but one which tears and unwinds through the Landscape of Time. *The Bee Keeper* is *Memory Lane a la Grec*.

Spiros is a *beekeeper*, his father was one, his grandfather was one, his great-grandfather was one. On the eve of his daughter's wedding Spiros resigns from the school he teaches in. Soon after the wedding is over, he abandons family and home to follow the Seasons and the changing of the Flora, just like he has done always. The Trail that Nature leads is the Trail to Honey. Only this time Spiros leaves with a heavy heart. The incident which has led to this is not highlighted, as though it is not important, for Angelopoulos only cares about the Road and nothing else.

The choice of landscape and cityscape is one of bygone days, days which have come to be idealized in the uninformed mind and be confused with a set of higher, purer values. Yet what we are shown is degeneration. Once great neoclassical buildings are now falling apart in rot. Is this supposed to be a parallel to the Greece that was, to the Greece that is? The camera lens never allows a glimpse of the real modern Greece today. There are no signs of neon lights, electronic arcades, grotesque cement.

Angelopoulos is one of those directors who DO *director's movies*. His frame hardly ever moves as though life never does. His photography is stunningly beautiful as though life always is. His vision is incomplete although life's never is.

Stavros Makris

Football

LSE V: 5

KCH III: 2

The LSE team continued its unbeaten run in the league by winning on Wednesday against KCH.

David Janes, on his debut for the LSE team, scored twice in the

first half to give the LSE a 2-1 lead at the interval, and still the best was yet to come.

In the second half, a good through ball from Omar Kodmani sent Martin Weiss galloping down the left flank and he struck the ball well to score LSE's third goal. KCH pulled one back but a free kick at the edge of the penalty area dashed their chance for a comeback. Walid Eid took the free kick and struck a beautiful, curling, left-foot shot into the top right-hand corner of the goal. Jajar Gharibri then added to KCH's misery by scoring a good volley minutes from full-time.

LSE 1st XI 3

QMC 1st XI 1

Another league win for the boys in the yellow as the LSE football machine gathers momentum.

Under difficult conditions we had most of the first half but a brilliant save from their keeper and some desperate defending saw no score at half time.

After the break John "Dress-sense" Watson completely misjudged a ball back to Mr "Trivia" Scott and QMC were in the lead. Earlier in the season the firsts would have gone under, but the new level of optimism saw LSE surge forward. Pressure prevailed and Paul Wakefield won a penalty which Bobby duly converted. A few minutes later the boy Jones was there again, beating the keeper to the ball and knocking it into the net.

Mention has to go to the dire efforts at corner kicks. The Michel Platini boots just don't bloody work! Sorry boys, I'll stick to threatening the opposition.

Guys II 3

LSE III 1

A new look 3rd team took the field at Guys but although they had more than their fair share of the play, failure to convert chances into goals, as so often before, led to defeat.

Despite playing the first 15 minutes with three players lost somewhere in South London, the LSE managed to prevent the opposition from scoring, only to concede a sloppy goal once the full complement had arrived. The



home side's celebrations were short-lived though, as Phil Davis marked his debut with a well-taken opportunist goal two minutes later.

After half-time the LSE continued to take the game to their

opponents, with Nick Moreno and Pete Alexiadis impressive in midfield, and Rob Crampton working hard in attack. A penalty appeal was turned down and further chances went begging before sloppy marking again allowed Guys to score on the break. As the LSE pushed for the equaliser Guys added a third goal to give a final score hardly reflecting the commitment and skill displayed by the LSE.

LSE II: 2

QMC III: 0

The seconds started well against rather a slow opposition, finding themselves 2-0 up after quarter of an hour. The first came after Alex Hunt (the midfield hobbit) hit in a speculative cross which was deflected past a helpless 'keeper, and the second from Richard Korab who just can't seem to miss these days.

The rest of the half saw the LSE relax and only Matt Lonergan, the cheerful, crafty cockney from Southend, in goal, kept the lead intact.

The second half saw some solid defensive work, notably from Nick "poodle" Markham, and some promising forward play by the LSE, and the lead could easily have been increased but for some horrendous finishing by the captain whose only excuse was that his short legs got held down in the muddy conditions.

Rugby

Wanted

Will David Menard (1st Year IR Dept.) please make contact with the rugby club in the AU. Will any budding cricketers please come into the AU (E64) and leave their names with Dave Bridges.

Basketball

The LSE ladies basketball team made a good start to the championship by winning the south-east qualifying tournament at Surrey in December. Playing with only six members of the team and without their coach, both games were controlled by LSE with Elyn Underhill making strong post moves and Janice Clark constantly looking for fast breaks to penetrate the opposition's defences. Ceci Edwards and Vivian Chen supported the offensive moves well, whilst Sabine Tuikentaub ensured a strong LSE zone defence.

Victories over Brunel (43-13) and Essex (39-26) gave the team a place in the finals held at Newcastle last week. Unfortunately, LSE's performance in Newcastle was again hindered by the absence of their coach. An under-strength squad faced the three top university teams in England and, despite a spirited attempt by everyone, all the games were lost. The ball handling skills of Vivian Chen and Ceci Edwards, and the shooting of Bettina Wassener were a pleasure to watch, while Manuella Weiss and Daphne played good supporting roles. However, the teams from Bristol, Leicester and particularly Loughborough (with their giant centre) proved too much. When it came to team spirit, though, LSE came out on top!

HOUGHTON HARRY

As ever the Christmas/New Year football programme has thrown up much interest, though excitement has been in short supply. The league looks to be more of a procession than ever, with Liverpool seeming to be kings awaiting their crown. Their form has been incredible, with Beardsley now rivalling Barnes for the Kop's affections. However, even if they were to start losing, the chasing pack hardly has a frightening look to it. Arsenal, like last year, have shown a total lack of stamina (or a striker, for that matter!), Forest are "good, but not that good", while Everton and Man United have faltered to deceive. The other area of interest in Division One has been the goings on at Vicarage Road. Yet again, the major lesson: The Football League is about as organised and effective as the Students' Union.

The third round of the Cup must rank amongst the most uneventful of all time, with only one real shock - Swindon disposing of Norwich (Question: What is Dave Bamber's favourite novel and what is his leg measurement? All answers to Scotty c/o the AU. The first correct answer wins "One Hundred Swindon Facts" by G Scott.). Still, the great clubs are around to battle for a place at Wembley - Liverpool, United, Everton and Coventry (?).

Elsewhere in the sports world the British press could harp on about their favourite subject this weekend - "Plucky England glorious in defeat". Most seem to have glossed over one aspect of the France international - the best team lost.


The big event to look forward to is the Holmes vs. Tyson fight. Tyson's camp are denying rumours that Jack Johnson will be exhumed for the next defence! Harry's tip: Tyson to win in the second round.

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