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26 OCT 1977
OF POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC SCIENCE

This is a reply to Jim Gee's article in the last BEAVER.
The Editors, Beaver. Oct. 12th, 1977
SIR,—Your perceptive correspondent Jim Gee does not know the half of it. Being now jaded with merely chasing students out of tea-rooms, and issuing "tirades" against colleagues, I am moving to the incorporation of the Troublesome Student Ritual Disembowelling Society as a constituent of the Athletics Union.
Disembowelings will take place in Lincolns Inn Fields (scene of executions in the past) on Wednesday afternoons, which is the traditional time for sport at LSE. Since the main quarry would be those he describes as students "with a genuinely inquiring and critical frame of mind," Mr Gee himself would be quite safe, and possibly willing to provide as an accompaniment *Airs on a Gee String*.
Yours fraternally, comrade,
KENNETH MINOGUE.

STAFF CRISIS!

Beaver reveals the figures behind the controversy over staff pay — you have a right to know.

LAST Wednesday afternoon the Executive finally decided to agree to the claims of the three trading staff for an extra £500 per annum.

The resulting decision was so confused that today the Finance Secretary is still not sure exactly what he is to pay the staff.

The Executive, in their wisdom, decided to vote the increase after discussion which can only be described as chaotic. They did not know all the points at issue and it is doubtful if some of them wished to know.

Some of the better informed members of the Executive think that their decision will cost the Union £700 per annum; in fact, it will cost nearer £2,000.

It must be pointed out that the increases in the pay of the trading staff comes out of their own enterprises' funds (usually used to keep the Union going later on in the year).

A lot of the arguments centred around Ted, the bar manager, who is undoubtedly working longer hours than stated in his contract. What the Executive do not realise is that they have eroded Ted's differentials, vis-a-vis the other two trading staff. No longer can such an important issue as staff pay be left in the hands of such an irresponsible body as the Executive.

Staff pay is a fundamental problem in this Union. Excluding the trading staff their wages take up 35 per cent of the budget. At a time when this Union is having to face cut-backs, the proportion of the budget taken up by the staff salaries is increasing. Could we not see a time when all our budget goes in staff salaries?

We should not give our staff a bad deal. But the rises over the past year have averaged 20.4 per cent while the national average has just been announced as 8 per cent.

There is no rationale behind the scales of pay, no consideration of the financial problems of the Union. Remember student unions are not immune to bankruptcy.

Zombies like Roger Galloway (who also doubles as our Publications Officer and is therefore responsible for all our content) base their politics (sic!) on an inability to examine problems and an ability to grasp at all opportunities for advancement. It is all too easy to support pay rises unconditionally.

The Publications Collective did not decide lightly to publish the details on staff pay. The decision was taken after due and careful discussion in the Beaver Lodge.

We appreciate that this will upset certain members of staff but we ask if there is any particular reason why they would like their pay kept secret? The staff in this Union were a vocal element; at the last Executive meeting where the decision was taken, there were no fewer than five members of staff present (out of a total of eight).

We consider it part of our duty to our readers to inform them, which is why we risk the wrath of the staff. Staff pay is a problem which is crippling this Union. The least you deserve is the figures.

THE BEAVER COLLECTIVE

STAFF PAY

TRADING

	Sept. 1975	Estimated Feb. 1978
	£	£
Three Tuns Club (Ted)	3,217	5,450
St. Clements (Joan)	2,973	4,990
Shop (Kate)	2,810	4,960

ADMINISTRATION

Admin. Secretary (Emma)	4,469	6,510
Permanent Secretary (Cheryl)	3,298	5,000
Finance Secretary (Tom)	4,577	6,680
Financial Assistant (Angela)	—	4,110
(Appointed 1976).		

WELFARE

Welfare Officer (Elana)	3,623	5,670
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STOP PRESS
Union Meeting last Friday passes sections of Executive Report which ask for increases in staff salaries. After impassioned debate, vote was (if I remember correctly) 144-99. Results of Finance Committee Elections:
DAVID SOUTHWELL
PAUL SMITH
JANE BROCKLISS
RICHARD SHACKLETON
—All elected.
Paul Smith elected on a pledge to cut Central Administration—which is principally made up of staff pay.



NO FUN

The Case for a Sabbatical Social Secretary

MOST students agree that the recent New Students' Ball was a great success. Doubtless this term's extensive programme of bar socials, lunch-time entertainment and major Saturday concerts will be greeted with similar approval. However, those people who are aware of just how much effort is required to organise such an entertainments programme (utilising a mere four per cent of the Union budget) realise the urgent need for the job of Social Secretary to be made a sabbatical one, in view of the sheer number of hours the last few social secretaries have had to devote to their job (literally a six-day week commitment) the rate of academic casualties has been far too high.

The present Entertainments Committee is maintaining the LSE's very high reputation for student entertainment. Its programme of free events in the Union Bar and Old Theatre is not merely financed by the initial Ent Budget but by profits from major concert promotions.

With more time and resources at his disposal a Sabbatical Ent Officer could further increase the profitability of Ents—at the same time paying off his or her cost to the Union. The next logical step would be a continuation of the current diversification of Ents activities to liaise and overlap with the Union Bar, Film Society, Beaver and Union Societies in general. Improvements in communications between different areas of the Union would clearly ensue.

By the standards of other London colleges, the LSE's Union's resources and facilities are very poor. Rather than massive expenditure on

fixed items a far more sensible investment would be in a person with the time and energy to make the best use of existing facilities. The appointment of Sabbatical Ents Officers is now the norm rather than the exception throughout the country.

LSE might well be fortunate in being located in the heart of one of the world's greatest entertainments centres, but if you're trying to live on a grant, then cheap or free entertainment in your own college, and the chance to stop LSE becoming a hollow walk-in/walk-out institution can only continue if a Sabbatical Ents Officer is appointed. The potential for Ents expertise being used to benefit all areas of the Union, Post-graduates and Halls of Residences is almost limitless, as is the range of services which Ents is now endeavouring to offer.

Returning to the question of academic casualties, the situation is currently so acute that no student (however apolitical and well suited to the job) is prepared to undertake the enormous workload and responsibility incurred by being Social Secretary. To maintain LSE Ents reputation and to expand current activities still further, there is just one solution—the appointment of a Sabbatical Ents Officer whose one year escape from academic constraints would enable LSE Ents to give LSE students a much better deal. Come to the Union Meeting this Friday and have your say.

ANDY CORNWELL
A Non-Sabbatical Social Secretary.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CAPALDI & ALLEN

CINE CENE

STOCKYARD

Wed., Oct. 26th, 8 p.m. **THREE TUNS BAR NITE** WITH Stockyard a nine-piece funk-soul-rock band, including three very upfront female vocalists plus an appropriate mood setting disco courtesy of Colin Anderson (S118 Anytime!) your jovial disco co-ordinator. Admission free.

JIM CAPALDI

Wed., Nov. 2nd, 7.30 p.m. **OLD THEATRE.**

A major Ents exclusive; the sole London appearance by Jim Capaldi and his new band—The Contenders. (Note especially the date since most concerts of this nature have occupied the Old Theatre on Saturday nights).

Jim Capaldi was an integral member of Traffic who at their most inspired produced some of the finest British music of the last decade. He has since released two solo albums: "Oh, How We Danced" and "Whale Meat Again", with another due soon on Polydor Records. He more

recently achieved success in the charts with more commercially orientated singles. His partnership with the former leader of Traffic, Steve Winwood, was resumed on the latter's excellent solo album. One can only hope that Winwood will choose to make his long overdue return to the British stage via Jim Capaldi's appearance in the Old Theatre . . .

The Jim Capaldi band comprises such respected names as Alan Spenner on bass, Tim Hinkley on keyboards and Gerry Conway on drums and reports from social secretaries at colleges where the band have already played would suggest that there is a great night's entertainment in store. Capaldi's set has reportedly included such gems from the Trafficers as "Low Spark of the High-heeled Boys" and "Light Up or Leave Me Alone." Support act for the entire tour is a relatively new band JAPAN. You are strongly advised to purchase your tickets **IN ADVANCE** for £1 each from the Union shop. A few will be retained for sale on the night at £1.20.

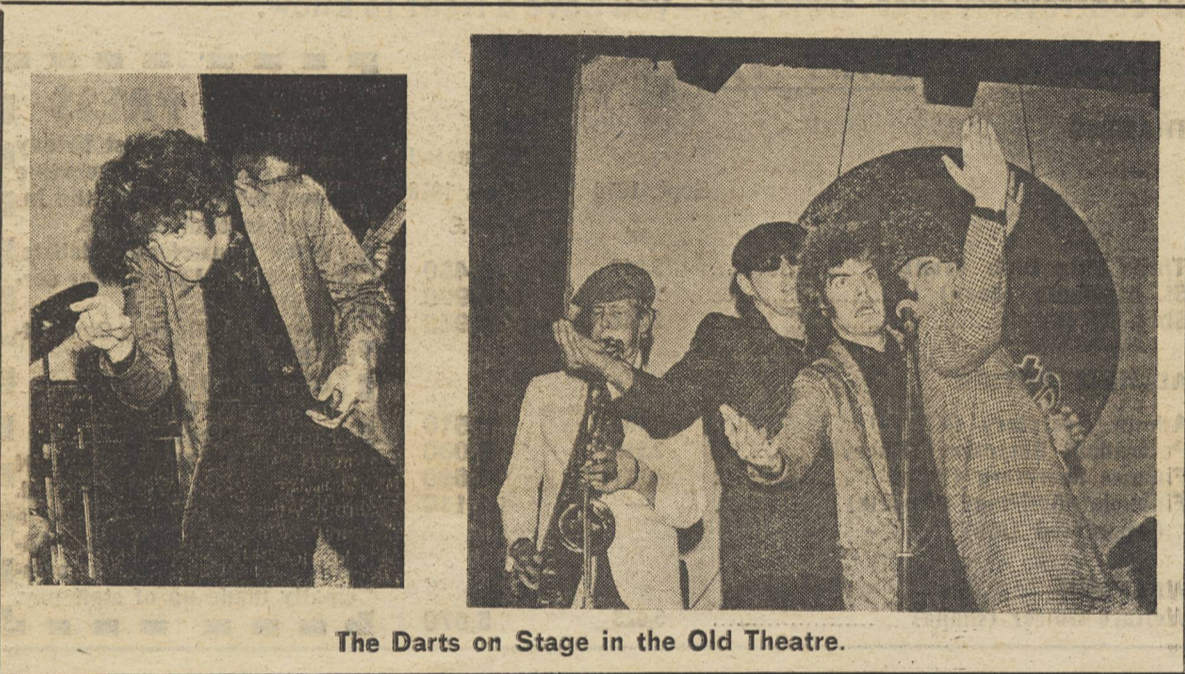
IT has come to the notice of the editors that their staff (both of them) spend a lot of time in West End Cinemas when they should be laying out the paper. We have decided to capitalise on this fount of information and bring a short review of the cinema world to you. The West End is expensive but, unless you want to wait a year until the film you want to see appears at the local fleapit, it is worth the extra.

The best serious films on at the moment are: "Cabaret" for those who like musicals with a political message; "Caddie" an extremely sensitive Australian film following the life of a woman on her own before and during the depression; "Taxi-Driver" the story of a man driven psychotic by the world about him; "Mean Streets" a semi-documentary portrayal of the Italian underground; "A Bridge Too Far" another war film but the best of its kind; "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" a moving and hilarious tale of life in a psychiatric ward.

On a lighter note, Woody Allen has a virtual monopoly with "The Front" "Everything you always wanted to know about sex" and "Annie Hall". We also recommend the cartoon "Fritz the Cat" but "The Nine Lives of Fritz the Cat" is not so amusing. For the Bond fans among you "The spy who loved me" is a must. "Fun with Dick and Jane" is a situation comedy about an executive class family who turn to robbing banks to maintain their standard of living.

"Pumping Iron" is a semi-documentary concerning the art (?) of body-building. Schwarzenegger is the lynchpin of the film with his natural humour. Films to avoid are Fellini's "Casanova" which is boring and not even erotic. Unless you like a laugh steer clear of all films with the word "Emmanuelle" in the title (there are about ten on the market). The editors have sat through them all, and they should know.

SIMON WHITNEY



The Darts on Stage in the Old Theatre.

REVIEWS

"LOVE YOU LIVE"

The third side of this new live double album from the Stones is so good, it could almost have been recorded in the Old Theatre. It's the back to blues roots side, recorded in a small Canadian club, and consequently it's these tracks which are likely to please the purists. Indulgence creeps in on some of the numbers but these unique Keef Richard intros and razor chords on "Honky Tonk Women." "Happy" (best track) and "Tumbling Dice" remain as pure magic. With Keef up for life in Toronto and Jagger's attempts to assess the New Wave appearing out of touch, one wonders where the Stones will go from here. Most ironic quote on the album, "Keef's straight tonight." In many ways this is still an obligatory pass-the-Newcastle-Brown-party album.

FRIDAY, NOV. 4th, 8.00 p.m.

THREE TUNS BAR THE PLEASERS

THE PLEASERS play a kind of Merseybeat that has been revitalised by some highly danceable New Wave energy. Another FREE Ents/Three Tuns bop! If by any chance you have seen good new bands that would be just right for a bar social then tell me or Colin Anderson.

SATURDAY, NOV. 5th, 8.00 p.m. **DAEVID ALLEN and PLANET GONG**

Wrong again, kids! This ain't no Beaver spelling error and has nothing to do with an Irish comedian. It's none other than the world's first "space-punk" band led by the co-founder of **SOFT MACHINE** and leader of **GONG**, Daevid Allen.

Yes, the firework freakshow will be in town on Saturday, November 5th as part of Planet Gong's Floating Anarchy Tour. The band includes Gilli Smyth on space-whisper and those Free Festival funsters, "Here and Now." Daevid has a new album out soon on Charlie Records, "Now is the Happiest Time of your Life" and has promised to perform numbers from numerous past Gong albums.

Special supporting attraction includes **VINCENT CRANE'S** new band (ex-Atomic Rooster and Arthur Brown), African drumming, a real ale bar, pizzas and hamburgers plus appropriate lights and "sounds". An intriguing night's entertainment is clearly on the cards. Tickets are already selling fast

at £1.00 advance from the Union Shop.



Daevid Allen

"HOLIDAYS IN THE SUN"

—Sex Pistols (Virgin)

A nice single from the most persecuted band in the land, the Sex Pistols (or the S.P.O.T.S. if you're from the G.L.C.) eagerly fills the gap before the long-overdue release of their first album "Never mind the Bollocks—here come the Sex Pistols."

"HOLIDAYS IN THE SUN" hasn't the immediate impact of the earlier singles, but the Pistols maintain the tension and energy and the unique lyrics/vocals, from Finsbury Park's biggest hero since Charlie George, Johnny Rotten. Let's hope the Pistols are given the chance to perform in London soon.

"THIS IS WHERE I CAME IN"

—Van Morrison (Phonogram/London)

You needn't be a fanatic of Van Morrison to appreciate the moving power of these unearthed pre-Astral Weeks classics. Van reportedly cracked up during the recording studio sessions owing to personal hassles and musical frustration. "T. B. SHEETS" is the recollection of his bedside experiences with his T.B. stricken girlfriend and as a stream of unsuppressed emotion then this epic track says it all. An almost frightening album which only makes his last vinyl offering seem sterile by comparison.

TROUGH IN THE THREE TUNS!

Cheap Cow Pies and Pasties and other culinary delights served from a hole in the wall

Compare OUR Prices

PLOUGH-HORSE LUNCHES	- -	35p
PATE & FRENCH BREAD (Posh Meat Paste)	- - - -	35p
PASTIE & BEANS	- - - -	28p
SCOTTISH EGGS from Devon	-	21p
GALA PIE (Vile and Ham)	- -	21p

EXTENDED HOURS FROM MONDAY, OCTOBER 24th

Monday to Friday - 12 to 2.15 p.m.

Monday to Thursday - 5.15 to 8.30 p.m.

CHUTZPA!

AT present there is a wave of anti-Zionist feelings sweeping through universities and polytechnics all over the country. It is being fed by GUPS (General Union of Palestinian Students) and ultra-Left political factions.

Unfortunately this is being translated by many colleges as an excuse to ban the Jewish Societies. Last term York and Warwick and Salford universities severely restricted the activities of their Jewish Societies. Last week SOAS also barred Zionists and in so doing argued that "as one of the United Nations resolutions of 1975 described Zionism as racism all Jewish, Zionist or Israeli Societies must therefore be banned!"

NUS President Sue Slipman condemned "the restrictions on the democratic rights of the Jewish students". Peter Butterworth, President of SOAS Students' Union, and Left-wing Tribune supporter, said last week that he thought "the students did not consider the implications of disallowing minority students from having their own societies."

It is obvious that such action is contrary to every policy that both this Union and NUS hold dear with regard to free speech. It is, without using too

emotive a phrase, a "negation of the democratic rights" of Jewish Societies to participate in campus activity and to be able to hold meetings peacefully without harassment.

At LSE, there is a large functioning Jewish Society whose membership, far from being racist, is very active within the anti-Fascist field. I would hate to think that a Jewish Society card could not be issued because the Jewish Society does not have the right to exist.

It is interesting to note that GUPS are quite prepared to use a UN resolution favourable to them "when it suits them"—but try and raise the UN resolution giving Israel "the right to exist" and one might as well be talking to a brick wall.

The ludicrous situation which has developed has grown to such proportions that some Jewish organisations have been forced to seek legal advice over the refund of that part of their tuition fees transferred to union funds. Why? Because they are actually giving money to unions that are hell-bent on the destruction of the Jewish Society in their college.

HARRIS RAPHAEL

A new Messiah?

MR ARTHUR LEWIS, MP, in his capacity as chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Committee for Freedom of Information, has recently written an article entitled "Freedom of information as an Aid to Economic Recovery".

From the title one would have expected a much more interesting article. It is unfortunate that a man of Mr Lewis's calibre (and let's face it you don't stay as chairman of the A.P.P. Committee for Freedom of Information for two and a half years without calibre) should have descended into petty political bickering.

He begins by attacking those who attack others. "It is a characteristic of human beings to invent reasons. . . . The scapegoat most in vogue today is the TUC." Immediately he defends the other side of industry: "Profit motivated industrialists are another target for attack . . ."

Confrontation is out. And so it was with a slight giddiness with the thought that maybe someone is writing sense that I turned over the page. Mr Lewis

does not have any original ideas. His scapegoat is the Government, the oldest scapegoat of them all.

His panacea is increased production. The reason that we do not have increased production is heavy taxation for those who do work and rewards for those who don't.

Mr Lewis is convinced that increased productivity will work:—

"Everyone knows that the economy would/could boom if industry were permitted to function unhindered by the Treasury.

"Insufficient productivity is indeed a major part of our current problem.

"Freedom of Information legislation will reveal the actual mechanics of our economic difficulties."

Obviously, Mr Lewis is not at liberty to reveal what is being kept secret, but in his capacity as chairman of FIC he should not be telling us what to do about the economy. After all, "everyone knows . . ." So where is the secrecy?

S. B. WHITNEY

Let them drink coke!

OUR rulers, from Dandruff to Denis Healey, are always telling us about the need to "make sacrifices". These sacrifices, we are told, are "for the benefit of the country as a whole".

In the case of LSE, perhaps it would be more accurate to say "for the benefit of the members of the Senior Common Room" who, according to a circular which has come into our hands, are planning the formation of a "Wine and/or Dining Club."

Says the circular, apparently unaware that LSE "can't afford" even to educate overseas students, "A Wine Club would have as its purpose the organisation of wine tastings, the combination of members' expertise (sic) in wine selection to assist the Catering Manager in the selection of wines for the staff bar." So now we know!

JAMES GAUSSEN

A meeting for all those who have shown interest in reviving Clare Market Review will be held on Wednesday, October 26th at 14.45 in room S.066. It is very important that everyone concerned should attend.

Observed during an Exec meeting—Jon McColl madly trying to lick and seal an envelope. The secret, Jon, is that self-sealing envelopes do not take kindly to this sort of treatment. We would have thought that all self-confessed bureaucrats would have known this.

Weary Wedgie

COMMUNISTS came under fire from Energy Minister Tony Benn when he visited LSE this month.

Speaking at the start of a nationwide National Organisation of Labour Students' recruitment drive, he claimed that "an internal democratic force does not exist in the Communist Party—it's all fixed."

After pointing out the defection of Jimmy Reid from the C.P. to Labour, Benn said: "The Labour Party should be a magnet attracting those who believe in Socialism and Parliamentary Democracy."

While accepting that "there should be a debate about ideology between different schools of thought", he attacked the Revolutionary Left in general because "they see Parliamentary Democracy as a fraud".

"They think that until they can wean the Labour movement away from its belief in Parliamentary Democracy all we will have is a series of betrayals," he said.

"But my opinion is that they will not succeed in weaning the British working class movement away from its own history."

And this sense of optimism was again made apparent when Benn concluded that "with the economic slump so grave we are going to draw young people into our Party in very large numbers."

KAREN

Obituary

THE hijack failed, the hostage was murdered and the three leading members of the Red Army Faction died, either killed or through suicide.

Their struggle was against the forces of the State. Terrorism is a form of struggle used when all other methods have failed. Against the background of State repression they sacrificed their lives fighting for a more just society.

Terrorism is a weapon used by the State. The conditions under which captured members of the RAF were incarcerated can only be construed as terrorism.

We worship the RAF which razed Dresden and Hamburg to the ground and attack the RAF which fought for its principles.

The RAF were bloody and ineffectual—practically the whole of its life was spent in attempting to rescue its comrades. But in their fight against the repressive instruments of the State we believe no-one can condemn them.

MARTIN, CAROL & ED

Librarity

A student was found walking dazed about the main library yesterday. After medical attention had been administered, the student revived sufficiently to tell his awful tale. The student, who wishes to preserve his anonymity, claims to have found single-handed the very book he was looking for.

Crowds gathered as he lay outside the old Theatre recounting the terrible, frightening experience of actually finding a book on the shelf. The librarian was heard to mutter, "It's simply not possible," and many sceptics in the crowd nodded in agreement.

The WRP have organised a branch meeting to bring out the masses; meanwhile the FCS have gone into consultation with Ms Thatcher. Despite motions of censure from the Union, Professor Dahrendorf is unwilling to offer guarantees against any recurrence.

GUY ELLIOTT



THE Editors of Beaver had an idea recently that it would be a good idea if the various student unions scattered around the country could keep in closer contact with each other, basically by organising a system whereby student newspapers are sent to other colleges. Each paper can then print a round-up of news and views from other colleges to inform their readers of what is happening around the student world. This is what this column is all about. Each issue will contain a COLLEGE COLLAGE from now on, so if you want to know what is going on this is the column to read.

If you occasionally open your eyes while walking round LSE you will probably be aware that a student from Hull University, Anrij Klymchuk, is being held by the Soviet authorities on a charge of anti-Soviet agitation. Not surprisingly "Hullfire" is full of the story and an investigation they have carried out into Klymchuk's background suggests very strongly despite the way the writer tries to distort his findings, that Klymchuk is in fact quite probably guilty of the offences he has been charged with.

McGarel, from the Polytechnic of Central London, was full of articles about the motions of censure being put in against their Union President. The original problem concerned the engaging of an administrative officer. Questions were raised as to who had the responsibility for making the appointment and the newly-elected President took the retiring President to court over the matter. It was because of this that the new President Randy Fields had his position brought into question, but the motion of no confidence was defeated by 256 to 179.

NEPAM, paper of the North East London Polytechnic, informs new students that last year saw the introduction of compulsory security passes and check-points, and furthermore a mobile group of security guards.

The Last Edition, produced by Oxford Polytechnic, includes two interesting articles. One is about the proposed introduction of a pay-as-you-eat (PAYE) system in a hall of residence. This avoids the problem of students being charged for meals they do not eat. It's an idea worth looking into for the LSE halls.

The second article reveals how the Director proposed to pay £10,000 for a unique collection of cookery books, not for their educational value but as an investment. Strong protest persuaded the Governors to only make £5,000 available.

Speculum, the Charing Cross medical students newspaper, reveals that the latest research has led senior Medics to define an alcoholic as "someone who drinks more than his doctor".

Footnotes, produced by Ealing College of Higher Education, tells its readers how Willie Whitelaw nearly spoke at the college but refused when he found that they were in occupation.

R. KITCHEN

MEN BEHIND BARS

The Story of Jimmy Boyle — Criminal or Victim?

PENOLOGY is a subject which in my opinion is still grossly neglected by student politics and protest. The reasons for this are obvious. Very few students come into contact with those directly affected. I doubt if more than a couple of people who read this article will ever find themselves in prison, and if they do it will be probably one of the softer prisons, not one of those designed for the hardened working class criminal, such as Peter or Inverness.

When prison is discussed, it is usually a side issue for example in the context of some very politically restrictive regime, such as Chile or the USSR. Radical students rarely

consider the ordinary criminal, who acts out of mainly selfish motives. This is undoubtedly because the problem touches on certain unpleasant truths, which they consider best left alone.

Earlier this year I moved into a small community in Edinburgh, where ordinary "straight" people lived on equal terms with ex-convicts, ranging from the habitual thief to those who had committed the most violent of crimes. In spite of my radical views, deep prejudices based on my largely middle-class upbringing and years of exposure to the one-sided "shock-horror" media, made my gut reaction a mixture of apprehension and distaste.

But in spite of occasional ups and downs (which are inevitable when people are trying to readjust to normal society), the experience was a very happy one for me. There is a real feeling of responsibility and trust between people of very difficult backgrounds. Naturally enough, it aroused my interest in the broader issues of crime and punishment.

The problem is articulately expressed in Jimmy Boyle's autobiography, "A Sense of Freedom" and John McGrath's excellent play, based on Boyle's life, "The Hard Man", which was first performed in Edinburgh earlier this year.

Jimmy Boyle is currently serving at Barlinnie prison's special unit. Only two years after being involved in a fight with screws for which he received an additional six year sentence (and, a beating which nearly caused his death), Boyle was having his collection of sculpture displayed in the Edinburgh Festival. "Scotland's most violent man", had been transformed into an articulate writer and an able sculptor. How? Because for the first time in his life people began to treat him as a human being.

Boyle's early life was typical of the hardened criminal. Born and raised in the Glasgow Gorbals, his criminal path began virtually as a toddler when he would go "raking midgets" (sifting through more affluent peoples' dustbins) and continuing with shoplifting and breaking into bubble gum machines.

In a deprived area such as the Gorbals being a thief is one of the few ways to gain an identity—if people want things cheaply they know who to go to. As the criminal's career progresses, so does his status.

Institutionalised

Rather than making the criminal a more acceptable human being, orthodox punishment and prison in particular usually make him worse. He goes from approved school through to Borstal and on to prison. This has two effects. First, being locked up with other criminals extends his contacts and broadens his criminal horizons. Secondly, he is steadily institutionalised. His energies are concentrated on getting through the system without being seen to lose his nerve in the face of authority. He blames everything on the screws and is never forced to examine himself. When he leaves the regimentation and inhumanity of a penal institution he has gained nothing. He tries to maintain a tough exterior, but, feeling inwardly insecure he will automatically turn to his only

friends, those in the criminal underworld.

By the time Jimmy Boyle had all this behind him, and was finally, though unfairly, convicted on a murder charge, his only reason for existence was his determination to fight on. To lead the easy life of an arse-licker was to lose his individuality and therefore any reason for living. There followed a series of clashes with screws, leaving Boyle physically wrecked and with more time added to his sentence. It reached such a point that he would cover his naked body in his own shit since this was the only effective means of forcing the screws to keep their distance.

Helpless

There is not much to pick between Jimmy Boyle's violence outside and that of the screws inside gaol. But Boyle's stand demonstrates how helpless the individual is if he should dare to challenge the legally protected violence of the State, especially when it is hidden in a tomb of secrecy such as a prison.

Is it really necessary for prisoners to be put through the brutality of the regular prison system before they are entitled to any respect? Prisoners are being fed through the old system in greater numbers than ever before.

All progressive forces should write in exposing the evils of this manifestation of state power, and press for reform.

However, the reformist position is not enough. It is the social and economic environment that breeds crime that must be attacked: in the words of George Bernard Shaw, the law is there to defend the thieving of the rich from the thieving of the poor. No government is either willing or able to reform that environment out of existence.

ED WALKER
LSE Anarchist Group

Thailand today

The Fight Against Repression

THIS short article sets out to give a brief background to the evolution of Thai politics for the past four years. Like most students in developing countries, Thai students of the past four or five years played a very decisive role in toppling the military rule of Field Marshalls Thanom and Prapas in October 1973. With the economic slump of the early '70s and the repressive rule of the army which had been going on for dozens of years the Thais felt that they could tolerate the hardship inflicted on them by

the ruling classes no more. With the leadership of the National Students Centre of Thailand (NSCT), which is now banned, the Thais demanded an end to the military rule.

The students and the ordinary people staged several demonstrations. Each time they attracted more and more support from every quarter including a part of the Establishment. The situation in October 1973 became so threatening to the tyrants and their sup-

porters that they decided to take the most drastic measures against the students and demonstrators. On the 14th October 1973 the government ordered the troops to clear out every demonstrator. This was to be one of the most tragic days. Hundreds of innocent people were killed while crying out for freedom, democracy and a better living standard.

The massacre of the Thai people stunned the whole country. There were cries of protest against the government. The ruling generals were deeply divided. One notable, General Kris, who was then the commander in chief of the first army, came out against the action of the two tyrants. General Kris became popular overnight. And with the request from the Royal Palace, the two tyrants had to flee the country. A new Prime Minister was appointed by the King to take care of the country and to hold a general election.

The Thais then had three years of democracy. Freedom of speech and of writing was restored. The ordinary people could air their grievances without too much fear of intimidation. Peasants and workers were relatively more represented in Parliament. The three years of democracy were years of hope. People's awareness of their rights has increased to an unprecedented degree.

The rise of the Thai working-class into the political arena which used to be reserved only for generals, Thai aristocrats and wealthy businessmen naturally caused discontent among the powerful members of the ruling elites. Ways and means were desperately sought to discredit the Thai students and popular movements. There were waves of political assassinations. None of the murderers were ever arrested.

For further details and offers of help please write to the Ad Hoc Group for Democracy in Thailand, 103 Gower St, London WC1.

FILM ON THAILAND: "THEY WILL NEVER FORGET" will be shown sometime this week. Keep an eye open for the posters.

Monte or bust

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE ACCUMULATED CAPITAL A/C DEFICIT IS?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROJECTED DEFICIT IS?

(See bottom of page for answer)

99% of students asked these questions said NO!!!!

It's a sad fact of life, but LSE Students' Union is faced with a financial problem for the second year running and for identical reasons. Last year the Senior Treasurer presented the budget late, due to circumstances beyond his control, but within the control of the Students Union (yes, you guessed it, the occupations). This meant that the school's reply was not contested and went through on the nod, and we ended up with a per capita fee that was substantially less than was asked for.

This means that we have to produce a crisis budget, like last year to adapt our planned spending to our actual income. Now this doesn't mean "cuts" as we aren't reducing any actual expenditure, neither should it mean a restriction in the activities of the Union.

However the major problem arises when items out of our control rise by more than the rise of the per capita fee (17.4%) i.e.

Wages 20% + rise

NUS Affiliation 110% + rise

Welfare 34% + rise

This means that we have allocated resources away from other areas to finance these rises. This has been happening over the past few years and will continue to happen in the near future. This has meant that the Actual position of Publications, Ents, Societies has been held constant, ie in real terms it has fallen back.

As we must accept these facts in the short term we must again "cut" the flexible budget heads in real terms to finance the Inflexible budget heads. The fact that we have no control over these areas makes a farce out of budgeting procedures, for the areas where most students come into contact with the Union is in the areas we are forced to cut. Not only that, but we are unable to finance the sort of campaign we would like to mount, ie

(1) LSE Nursery for under two's;

(2) Fees campaign;

(3) Student Union Autonomy.

What we have to ask is whether our allocation of resources is right and if not what are we doing to do about it.

IT'S YOUR MONEY, YOUR CHOICE, AND YOUR UNION.

JULIAN INGRAM

005,500 (2)

005,500 (1)

ANSWERS



UNTIL this summer I thought that Russia was probably not such a bad place to live in, and that Press reports and articles about it were exaggerated, reflecting the media's general antipathy to socialism.

A mere ten days in the country has changed my mind. From what I and others saw, the press is probably guilty of understatement.

I was on a Pennworld camping holiday. The brochure had spoken glibly about the typical Russian having "a more boisterous sense of fun than most . . . cities like Leningrad and Kiev are anything but drab . . ." and implied that Russia was really quite a libertarian and jolly country generally. Obviously nobody had fallen for that, but we were all shocked by the quite extraordinary drabness and general unpleasantness of almost everything we saw.

The currency restrictions are almost unbelievable. Upon entering Russia you have to declare all your currencies (having passed through northern Europe and Scandinavia, most of us had half a dozen currencies or so). You have to keep a receipt of anything you buy in the shops (a lot of them did not accept Russian currency)—for you also have to declare your currencies when leaving Russia, and account for the difference from when you entered! You cannot take Russian roubles either in or out of Russia, and—of course—must keep receipts when changing foreign currencies into roubles.

The reason for these rules is that the Russian authorities are terrified of foreigners doing "deals" with Russian people. And it was obvious to us that Russians themselves were desperately keen to do deals with us. Not a day passed without various members of our group being approached by people asking for T-shirts, jeans (especially), chewing-gum and all sorts of "degenerate bourgeois" goods which are virtually unobtainable in Russia. Quite ridiculous prices were offered—for example £60 for a pair of jeans. The snag, of course (aside from the dangers of being caught) was that Russians could only pay us in roubles, which could not be taken out of the country (and are useless abroad anyway); and one could not change roubles back into foreign currency without accounting for where one got the roubles from in the first place (remember, you needed a receipt). So the only thing you could do was spend the roubles in Russia. But souvenir shops and many goods-selling shops only accept foreign currency—so virtually the only thing you could do would be to spend roubles on booze!

And talking of booze, the Russians must surely take the biscuit for the filthiest drink around (except, of course, their vodka). The beer was sheer gnats piss (though it was fortunately cheaper than Swedish beer which was £2 for less than a pint!), the red wine was like Sarsons malt vinegar only more so, and the champagne was—excuse me a minute while I puke!

Naturally, with Russians so keen on Western goods, it was not safe to leave any possessions on the camp-site when we were absent. Thieving is rampant, and we heard several horror-stories about people who had had all their stuff ripped off.

The camp-sites were, in a word, barbarous. The nastiest aspect were the bogs, which eschewed seats in favour of footmarks! One squatted precariously on these, trying not to breathe the hideous-smelling air. Some bogs were "equipped" with open wastepaper bins for used bog-paper—the Russians tended to use newspaper!—apparently because the pipes were too narrow to flush bog-paper through. Actually, some of the bogs were even worse than the ones described above, but good taste forbids me from describing them.

Whether Russian people have to endure such conditions in their own homes is an interesting question. Judging by the outsides of many of the houses—"shacks" would be a more accurate description—I'd have thought the answer was yes. The emotive phrase "police state" is certainly apt. For there was really no part of Leningrad or Moscow one could go where there were not several uniformed men patrolling around in a menacing fashion. Their presence was, quite simply, intimidating. One could never feel at ease, always having to be careful of what one said or did. Indeed, I was arrested on a camp site for the terrible crime of "stealing" my own clothes off the washing-line (Fortunately I was let go when another member of my group explained that, no, I was not Russian and, yes, they were my clothes).

Obviously, there were bright aspects of Russia—we went to a marvellous ice-ballet in Leningrad and a Ukrainian folk evening in Moscow that was quite dazzling after the dreariness of most of the surroundings. (Though the circus in Moscow, which we expected so much from, was a real flop—jugglers dropping their tools, high-wire trapeze artists plummeting like lemmings on to the safety net, etc.). And admittedly, the reason why so much of Moscow and Leningrad's buildings were covered in scaffolding was because of their preparations for their "Jubilee" later this year, marking 60 years since the Revolution. We were able to obtain "The Times" (as well as, naturally, the "Morning Star") from hotels—indeed, we could just walk into any hotel and use all the facilities (i.e. bogs) regardless of the quality of the hotel—something that would be unthinkable in this country. And we were relatively free to walk around the cities as we pleased, and take photos of most things ("You will get out of the coach and take photos!" said one of our Russian guides on the official tour of Moscow).

But all in all, I will remember Russia as a land of scarcity, endless queues (I remember waiting with two girls in a restaurant for 25 minutes—and we hadn't even got the menu by the time we gave up and walked out!), putrid loos, dullness and repression. In fairness, though, when I got back I met someone who had visited Russia, staying in a hotel, and she had a totally different—and far more favourable—impression of the place. Which, I suppose, goes to show that it's safest to go and decide for yourself. But never again will I support those fellow-travellers and dupes who think repression only exists in right-wing dictatorships.

JAMES GAUSSEN

AFFILIATION to the NUS costs our Union over £6,000 a year and the benefits are negligible, or so I believed last year. But during the summer vacation I took the opportunity to visit the Soviet Union with an NUS organised and subsidised group and found it a very rewarding experience.

The national Press tends to regard Russia as a country notable only for its repression and the size and the technical efficiency of its armed forces which they emphasise represent a persistent and extremely dangerous threat to the West. This is obviously true and it is quite right that it should get a lot of publicity. But I think it is a mistake to concentrate entirely on the bad side and ignore the good.

One does not need to be a historian to know that Russia was an extremely backward country and industrialisation was only just starting to spread at the beginning of the century. And we all know that Russia is one of the top industrial nations in the world now, but we neither know what effect all this has had on the common people, nor what effect the simultaneous pressure put on the people by a repressive government has had.

Their material standards of living have undoubtedly improved. I did not get the opportunity to see a typical residence (if there is such a thing) but by and large housing conditions from the outside looked to be of a reasonable standard. In Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, we saw some appalling slums in the old town but new buildings were gradually replacing them and the Soviet government has to be praised for the progress it has made since the "liberation" (sic) of Lithuania in the early 1940s. It is worth mentioning at this point that whereas Soviet people we met were for the most part extremely reluctant to criticise or even discuss some aspects of Soviet government, few Lithuanians go to the trouble of pretending that they have anything but hatred for the Russians. One feels that Lithuania is an occupied country rather than part of the Soviet Union.

Consumer goods in Russia are still scarce. The shops tend to be large, spacious and virtually empty of everything except people. They stock only a small range of goods, and these are usually only the basics. It is almost impossible to judge how expensive the goods were because of the complexity of finding a realistic exchange rate, bearing in mind the relative differences in the cost of living between Russia and Britain.

Accommodation in Russia is cheap (Moscow students get full board for about £4 a month) but clothes are expensive, and the black market does a roaring trade in Western clothing. In Moscow and Belorussia we got sick of youths coming up to us and asking if they could buy our jeans, shirts or jackets, offering up to £75 for a pair of worn jeans. We were appalled by the degradation that this must cause to the Russian people. Obviously the people offering to buy our clothes were middlemen but somebody was eventually buying them. Chewing-gum is another thing, well publicised in this country, which is unobtainable in Russia. Youths would offer up to one rouble, nearly £1, for two sticks of Wrigley's. However, if one regards chewing-gum and western jeans as luxury goods, then the people are not too badly off. They seem to eat well, a point of great significance, if one thinks back to the conditions of the 1920s.

And what about repression in Russia? Obviously the Army and police are far more conspicuous in daily life than their counterparts in this country. And as for the secret police, well, they are undoubtedly there, and equally clearly the Russian people are very frightened of them. Most of the people we met were members of the young Communist Party, and therefore could be trusted to tell us nothing and keep quiet on anything they were less than happy about. Few people felt safe enough to voice doubts in public and two Siberian lads, with whom we had a private drinking session one night, even denied that they had heard of the saltmines, which have such an infamous reputation in the West.

By and large, though, it was very difficult to ascertain very much about the underlying feelings of the Soviet people. Our interpreter, who spent the whole two weeks with us, told us about her own life and interests but, being in a very trusted position, it was impossible to get her to criticise the system under which she lived, and incidentally did very well. There is a distinct middle class in Russia whether the Soviet authorities care to admit it or not.

But obviously two weeks and visits to three cities cannot give anybody a real view of Russia. However, it can tell you a great deal about the country and if you ever get the chance, go—it's well worth all the problems involved in getting through the Russian customs.

RICHARD KITCHEN

FASCISM: The Fight Continues

Fight on all Fronts!

OK! Babe so now you're fighting racism!

So you were there on August the 13th. Down in Lewisham blocking the racist thugs. Some young thug standing behind those noble boys in blue. Provoking us all with his nazi salute. Horror and violence as the sky turned red, bricks beginning to fly. Horses in among the crowd. Riots shields. The State prepared to show us rabble that you can only go so far.

So you were there (or should have been) to show the fascist thugs that they were not going to march through Lewisham. So you were marching on Sunday the 16th through the fascist stronghold of the East End to show our strength. We will not allow them to spread their malignant lies and racist filth.

So my fellow students at the LSE are calling for an Action Committee against Racism. We need to unite and fight the desirous tactics of the ruling class and racism. But just what are we fighting? Combatting racism involves a lot more than appealing our guilty consciences by marching through the streets.

Racism manifests itself in many ways. The NF are merely exploiting a major reality of this society. The fact that this is a racist society. We have to combat racism as it permeates individual relations. But we also have to accept that racism is institutionalised by the State.

It was Stokely Carmichael in 1966 who first highlighted the different sorts of racism that black people face.

"It is important to this discussion of racism to make a distinction between the two types: individual racism and institutional racism. The first type consists of overt acts by individuals, with usually the immediate result of the death of the victims, or the traumatic and violent destruction of property.

"The second type is less overt, far more subtle, less identifiable... the overall operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus does not receive the condemnation that the first type receives."

He goes on to give us a graphic example. "When unidentified white terrorists bomb a black church and kill five black children, that is an act of individual racism, deplored by all. But when in that same city, Birmingham, Alabama, 500 black babies die each year because of lack of proper food, shelter and medical facilities; and thousands more are destroyed and maimed physically, emotionally and intellectually because of conditions of poverty and discrimination in the black community, that is a function of institutionalised racism."

That was 1966 and America but I can cite you a personal case of the way black people in Britain are discriminated against in just one way, the area of housing. I used to live in Deptford, a multi-racial area. I used to walk passed a block of really dilapidated flats on my way to college. It gradually occurred to me that the inhabitants of the flats were slowly changing. As the white families moved out the black families moved in.

People would say: "look what happens to property when the blacks move in". A good way to justify not giving them decent homes. Less than two miles down the road the council had built a mammoth housing estate. Of the two thousand families re-housed there only was one black.

Education is another area of exploitation. Why is it so many West Indian kids end up in ESN schools? Just how many British

born black people get to attend this revered institution? We all know about the problems of young blacks trying to get jobs. A vicious circle. They can't find jobs because there aren't any. Yet they are all social security scroungers according to some.

The racist quality of the media is another area of concern. If you were to believe the garbage from the editorial of the Daily Mail you would be convinced that the country is overrun by blacks, taking all and giving nothing. After all aren't all muggers black?

Even "reliable" police statistics confirm such a belief. It is rarely mentioned that "mugging" was well known in England before black people arrived. Mugging rates in Glasgow (not many blacks there you know!) are the highest in the country.

The contradictions in this society work in many weird and wonderful ways. Even the Labour Party incorporates such contradictions. On the one hand they have established a definite anti-racist stance. I'm sure many of the rank and file members are excellent proponents of the cause.

Yet at the same time the Labour Government is sitting on a Green Paper "On The British Nationality Law." A document that seeks to extend the powers of the 1971 Immigration Act. As one militant black organisation put it, "The Green Paper should be seen as another stage in the systematic erosion of black peoples' right, living and entering this country, as exemplified by the Immigration Acts of '62, '68, and '71." Not even the Left Press has exposed this one.

Surely it is no accident that the official Tory candidate at Stetchford was elected on a racist platform not too dissimilar to the National Front. In fact the NF candidate was jubilant that this was so, when he was interviewed after the infamous results. Racism is everywhere.

It is not surprising that the workers at Grunwicks are predominantly Asian. Working in sweat shop conditions and then denied the basic right to organise a Trade Union.

The task of combatting racism involves much more than just taking on the National Front. Racism is implanted deep into the fabric of this society. Banning the NF is like taking an icepick to an iceberg. We've got to chip away at every level if this vast edifice is to crumble away. We must fight on an ideological level, on a personal level. We've got to get involved everywhere. Within the LSE, rooting out the racism within this place. We should organise in our communities. Join our local anti-fascist, anti-racist campaigns, broaden the struggle.

To stay silent is to take sides.

There can't be a neutral stance in this struggle.

Gally Ward/Anti-fascist student

The Front and the SWP

IN BEAVER, Jim Gee of the IS/SWP devoted a page-long article to a frequently incoherent defence of the SWP's policy of physical confrontations with the National Front. Our purpose in replying is not to indulge in a "dialogue" with "the Left." We intend to expose the utter bankruptcy of the SWP's strategy and draw crucial political lessons for the future.

GEE'S METHOD

Characteristically, the SWP "separates" issues and believes they can be fought one by one, with separate policies. Thus they have separate black workers', women's and "rank and file" groups—the hallmark of middle class protest policies. To "link" these up all that is required is to bellow "militant direct action." Thus Gee claims "But for the hardcore fascist members of the National Front only one argument is successful—physical force."

THE POLICE & THE FRONT

The WRP and the Young Socialists have argued that the National Front is an organised group of police marks. Prior to the Red Lion Square battle in 1974, "Workers' Press" warned that the Front had detailed joint planning sessions with the police.

Every one of the confrontations results in the arrest of scores of anti-fascists, free publicity for the Front and a field day for the capitalist press. Martin Webster (Observer, Sept. 11th) declared his enthusiasm for the anti-fascists' tactics, which play into his hands. This could not have been more apparent than in Manchester where 19 arrests failed to prevent Webster and his 3,000 police defenders. Time after time we see the spectacle of the heroic cadres of the SWP urging on their "troops" in the manner of generals, delivering up the black youth into the hands of the police. They combine this with an avidity for interviews with the capitalist press.

We insist that the principal danger comes from the forces of the State. We base this on irrefutable evidence. From the revelations in the Sunday Times we know that in the last phase of the Heath government, plans were drawn up for regional military seats of government. Jack Jones has also spoken of the dangers of "strong-state" preparations and extra-parliamentary armies in this period. Gee's

own guru, Tony Cliff devoted a chapter of his potboiler (The Crisis) to this question, and further documentation is to be found in a Penguin book called "The Technology of Political Control."

In the light of the relationship of the NF to the police, the irresponsibility of Gee's statement that "if the NF did anything badly out of step with ruling-class plans or committed a major outrage then the police might take some action" (sic) becomes apparent. This is no "slip" on his part. The SWP supports the use of the Public Order Act and heralded the "banning" of the recent Front march in Manchester as a great victory—before Webster and the boys in blue decided to bypass it. (It is touching to note the SWP's support for the police wage claim. "They ARE fellow human beings after all".)

The way to fight racialism is by going into the trade union movement and demanding the establishment of black and white workers defence squads—not by substituting a single group for the working class in the mistaken belief that fascism is trampling all over Britain.

On the one hand the SWP adopt a slavish worship of every spontaneous struggle; on the other hand they have a deep pessimism as to the revolutionary nature of the working class.

HISTORICAL DISTORTIONS

Running through Jim Gee's article are a series of extremely confusing comparisons between the NF of the 1970's and Mosley's Black-shirts. But the growth of fascism in the 1930's followed a string of working class defeats internationally in the 1920's and early '30's under the "leadership" of Stalin's Comintern. Today the working class is undefeated. Also, Mosley received considerable aid from the Fascist International; he had the backing of large sections of the aristocracy, of industrialists such as Morris, and for a time had a free hand with Rothermere's Daily Mail. The NF possesses none of these strengths.

Even more serious is Gee's suggestion that the German working class brought about its own defeat in 1933. No mention is made of the crisis of leadership brought about by the Third Period of the German CP, which split the working class by denouncing the SPD as "social fascists." Ironically, much of the article addresses itself to the latter-day Stalinists of the British CP. For Gee the crisis within the working class is not the problem of revolutionary leadership; on the contrary "The key for the Left(?) is to show ourselves even more determined than the fascists" (his emphasis).

On the question of the class origin of fascism, Gee is equally silent. Marxists understand fascism as a movement of sections of the petty-bourgeois and proletarian elements driven to despair by economic and social crisis.

This movement can only achieve power through a pact with the capitalists, and the absence of revolutionary leadership in the working class. For Gee, Fascism was the product of "Hitler's ravings" and "Mussolini's empty waffle." As Gee himself states, "It's about time the Left was clear".

By protecting the Lib-Lab coalition the SWP is perpetuating the same racialism it claims so vehemently to "smash," and contributing to the confusion. The SWP claims to prefer the Lib-Lab coalition on the basis of the anti-Marxist concept of the "lesser evil." It is worth remembering that the SWP refused to call for the bringing down of the TORIES on the basis that this was "premature." As one of their supporters, a docker's steward blurted out, "You'll never get a General Strike in this country. The working class are an apathetic load of buggers."

It is only possible to speculate whether the SWP is still clinging to the prediction made one year ago at the LSE by their favourite ex-public school chap Paul Foot that 1977 would see an upturn in the economy. Don't worry about the government, he said, "that's all a lot of waffle." How "militant".



N.F.—Martin Webster and John Tyndall

ATHLETIC UNION

THE AU is once again in full swing. At the time of writing we are just over a week into term and most clubs are functioning once again. The trials last week went very well indeed, with over 150 people turning up at New Malden to play football, rugby and hockey, and about forty people at the badminton trials.

This Wednesday (October 12th) we are putting out six football teams, two rugby teams, and this in itself is indication that sport at LSE is on the up, but we are also hoping to put out two hockey teams (men) and another rugby team later in the term.

Hockey

This year there has been a wonderful response for the men's hockey club, with 30 people (according to our figures, though not necessarily agreeing with the Athletic Union's idea of what we should have) professing willingness to play. This has meant that, instead of always trying to scrape up the eleventh player, we are actually able to choose two sides and enter them into competitions.

Jill Arnold seems to have been moving heaven and earth to create a women's team but so far has not quite managed to scrape up a side; so if there are any girls who have ever lifted a hockey-stick reading this, she would be very glad of some support. There is also the added attraction of a mixed hockey team for those wanting a bit of exercise on a Sunday; there are many matches already arranged. Finally if there is anyone at all still interested in joining the Hockey Club, there is still plenty of room and you will be most welcome.

CHRIS DIZER (Captain)

Badminton

The LSE Badminton Club uses the Gym from 2 to 6 pm on Tuesday and from 2 to 5 pm on Thursday. During these times our facilities are open for the use of club members. Anyone is welcome to join and come along from beginners onwards. For the really keen we run five teams—two mixed, two men's and a ladies' team. We play matches at the ULU League on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Football

Ten women met last Monday to found the Women's Football Club. We now meet every Monday in the Gym between 1 and 2 pm. The sessions will be with women only, and we will be playing five-a-side football. There will be a coach from the men's club. Most of us are complete beginners, and we hope that all women interested in playing football will come to the sessions.

When we become a little more experienced, those who want to will be able to participate in the inter-collegiate matches held in London.

Women's sport seems to be on the upsurge, due to an enthusiastic first-year intake and the work of Kath Binns. The sports involved are not yet known but much interest is being generated in hockey, squash, basketball and five-a-side football to add to the thriving netball team we already have.

We are also looking into the possibilities of running some new clubs; these include yoga, kung-fu, hang-gliding and parachuting. More details of these will be available at a later date.

All in all sport in LSE is looking very healthy at the moment.

PAUL WHITFIELD
General Secretary

Oarswomen

Ladies, come and join the Boat Club. It is about time that the LSE showed what women can achieve and, since women's rowing is still in its infancy, there is every chance of early success.

For all information concerning Boat Clubs contact David Coles, captain, via the AU pigeon-holes, or at 1 St John's Road, East Molesey, Surrey, or see the Boat Club notice-board in the St Clements Building—Concourse Area near the Union Shop.

Oarsmen

The LSE Boat Club welcomes new members, no experience necessary.

The LSE Boat Club is the official name for the Rowing Club: that is, its members engage in propelling boats along with the aid of oars and muscles, not wind and sails. The boats are kept at the University of London boathouse, Chiswick. This is open on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings and all day Saturday. However, crews can use the boats whenever the boathouse is open, if they can arrange to do so amongst themselves. Anyone who feels they are unable to devote so much time to training is welcome to come along to learn how to cox, that is steer—an ability which is always admired by other crew members.

For further information see Women's Boat Club.

U.A.U. REPRESENTATIVE

MANY of you, especially the new students amongst you, are probably more than a little confused by the structure of university sport in Britain. So, for the benefit of those of you who are interested, there follows what I hope is a comprehensive and comprehensible explanation.

The top body in university sport is the British Universities Sports Federation, or BUSF, which is supposed to be merging gradually into a co-ordinating body with the corresponding bodies in other fields of higher education within the structure of the British Student Sport Federation (BSSF).

The component elements of BUSF are as follows: Scottish, Irish and Welsh universities, Oxford, Cambridge, and London, and the University Athletic Union and Women's Inter-University Athletic Board (UAU and WIVAB). The relationships between these bodies is increasingly complex. The Welsh university colleges are also affiliated to UAU and WIVAB. Oxford, Cambridge and London are all members of WIVAB but not of UAU. WIVAB and UAU have a Joint-Liaison Committee and have been moving towards a joint administration for many years without actually getting any nearer to this goal. Meanwhile two London colleges, our-

selves and UCL, have affiliated to UAU independently.

Thus, the LSE now competes in the University of London's own internal league and cup competitions, whilst our men's teams compete in UAU and our women's teams compete in WIVAB, the latter through the U of L.

The UAU is organised into regions. We play in South-East, south of the Thames with Sussex, Surrey and Kent. For the first time this year, because of the group restructuring, two teams from this group will qualify in each sport to go forward to the next round. WIVAB, too, is organised into similar regional groups but, because we are affiliated to them through University of London, we must play in U of L's qualifying competition to get through to the WIVAB group.

By the way, we are not members of BUSF (remember BUSF?) ourselves but are represented in them through UAU, WIVAB, and U of L. Perhaps too this will give you an inkling as to why the AU has had to become increasingly bureaucratic, and I hope that you will be tolerant with your club officers if sometimes they are a little short of time to deal with you independently, especially at lunchtime. It takes a great amount of effort for a college to field its sports teams these days.

'SPORTS PERSON'S DRINKING GUIDE'

TOTTENHAM Court Road, gateway to the North and also to a pleasant evening of drinking. Due to the density of public houses in this area your roving reporters managed to sample only those ales to be had at the north end of this thoroughfare.

Our first recommendation is the Marlborough, in Torrington Place. Since the last academic year the interior has been refurbished while the introduction of "Directors's bitter" has made this a favoured watering-hole. For those of you wishing to remain in a standing position for the entire evening, we recommend, instead, the excellent J.C.,

Strong Keg, draught Kronenburg, or Tidy Guinness. Bar snacks comprehensive but not cheap. But our real favourite is the presence of a genuine coal fire.

West across Tottenham Court Road, a mere five minutes' crawl away, is that old haunt of many famous LSE rugby players, the Carpenters Arms (shut Sundays). To merge into the salubrious decor of the lounge we suggest a seven-piece suit. This is another place where one's thirst can be quenched by some excellent IPA.

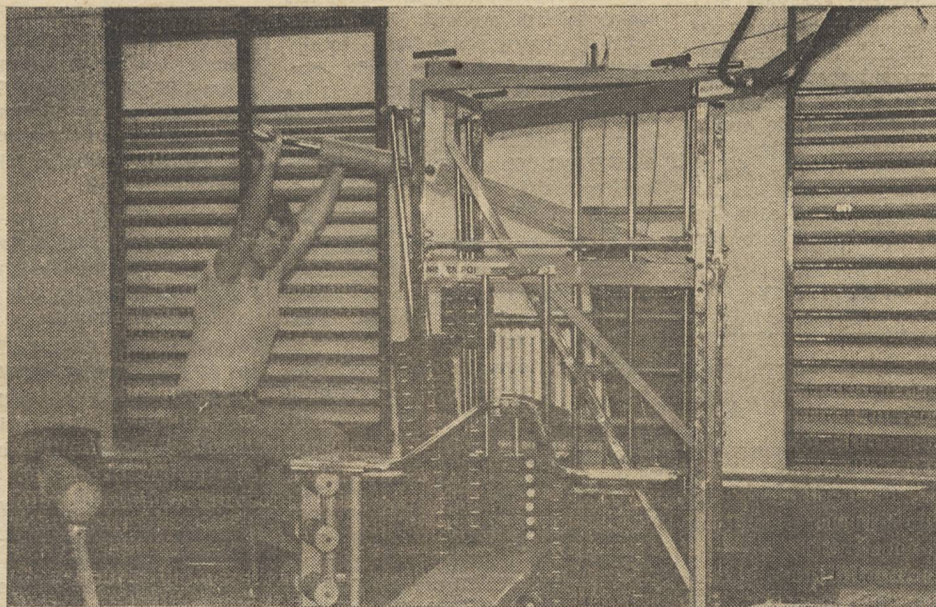
Talking of IPA, few of you spotted last week's deliberate error when we said that The George served Bass. We of course meant IPA—see if you can do better this week. Continuing the theme of IPA we arrive at the Adam's off Maple Street (by GPO Tower). A friendly little pub which also sells good Guinness.

However, these are oases in a veritable beer desert. Pubs we would avoid at all costs are the Cunarder, the Tower Tavern, the New Inn, the Roebuck, the Green Man (Euston Road), the Northumberland Arms, and the University Tavern. Neither can we especially recommend to you the two halls of residence in this area. Both are noted for plastic glasses, furnishings and beer. If you must drink in a student hall, try getting into Astor College (Charlotte Street) where at least the beer is cheaper and there is a plentitude of pulchritudinous nurses!

Finally, if you want to write to us about the column, or any aspect of it; if you want to congratulate us or just slag us, then please write to:—

Victor Volume and Arthur Ramrod,
c/o AU Office (enclose £5 notes,
used only).

Next issue: Roseberry Avenue area.



WEIGHT LIFTING: Wonder if he's passed his fizzical?