

BEAVER

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N58
18 JUN 1976

NEWSPAPER of the LSE STUDENTS' UNION

No. 148 JANUARY 20th, 1976 FREE

GOING, GOING

Resignations from Executive mount up

ANOTHER member of the Union Executive has resigned.

Last Wednesday, Andy Milner, International Socialist, who carried responsibility for Post-graduate students, handed in a letter declaring that he no longer wished to hold the position, and explaining his reasons for his action.

Milner's resignation means that four people have now withdrawn from the executive since the elections last year, out of a total of twelve members—or ten if the two sabbatical officers are excluded. Jan Schling, representing Overseas Students' interests, handed in his resignation at the beginning of this term, Wyn Tolman (Shop and Florries) resigned at the end of last term, and Phillipa Langton was never able to take up her position.

Of the four departures, two gave as reasons the considerable workload that the job entailed, and the conflict that inevitably resulted between executive responsibility and personal academic work. Andy Milner, on the other hand, felt the Union Executive, and the Union body in general, to be ineffective and moribund; in his letter, he complains of "general inertia in the Union", and states that the only student body worth having would be "a demonstrating, fighting union, a union of sit-ins and occupations, a union of the streets and on the streets . . ." Both reasons bring to the fore crucial issues currently facing the student body, if there is to be any hope

of successful functioning of Union in the future.

Mr Milner's criticism is linked to the all-too familiar theme of student apathy. He chooses to find the cause of this in the "kind of 'centre' politics" represented by the independents on the Executive. They, however, point to the improving facilities that people at LSE this year enjoy—expansion in the shop, the bar and in welfare. Apathy resides not in the Executive but in the student body itself.

The second issue raised is that of sabbatical posts. If the time and energy that serving on the executive takes up makes it impossible to keep up with academic work, then there is a serious case for making more Executive positions sabbatical—particularly those positions which carry a very heavy work-load, Robin Cooper (Welfare) has already suggested that his post should become a full-time job, for which the elected member should receive a full grant, as do the two current sabbatical officers.

The objections from an already financially-squeezed union are obvious. In addition, Pete Timmins (Senior Treasurer) fears that asking for any more sabbatical posts will seriously jeopardise the Union's position vis-a-vis the LEA system. A further problem is that of dividing responsibility between the executive member, and paid Union staff if the welfare or "Shop and Florries" member of the executive were to become full-time. At

least one Union employee fears duplication of roles and ambiguity.

Another suggestion is to make the publications member on the executive a sabbatical, and to expect that position to incorporate the jobs of editing "Beaver", producing the Daily News, and working on the SU handbook over the summer vacation. Most colleges now recognise the need for sabbatical editors of their newspapers, and the idea is not new at LSE. Last year, as editor Pete Timmins sug-

gested strongly that a full-time position be created, and "the result could only be a success."

Furthermore, he convincingly argued: "As for when the sabbatical (editor) should be introduced, next academic year would catch the new LEA grant and the fit organisational strength that has been built up this year." (His fears as Senior Treasurer seem something of a volte-face!) A further ad-

vantage would be that such a person could also co-ordinate advertising, thus in the long run perhaps not proving to be solely a financial liability.

Such discussion of the Union's problems cannot be fully discussed here, so page three has been devoted to further arguments and analyses.

N.T.
S.D.



NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

Do we really want a third newspaper?

ON 16th February, the LSE as one of 800 student unions affiliated to the NUS will receive "National Student", a free newspaper aimed at uniting and strengthening the student movement. Through it the NUS hope to awaken interest in student politics for the great number who are alienated from the executive hierarchy. However the production of such a newspaper gives rise to questions concerning the financing of the project and whether we in London really need a third newspaper in an already crowded situation.

The cost for this first edition is estimated to be about £1,150 plus £300-£400 costs to distribute it to the student unions. The appearance of this large sum apparently from nowhere is very interesting because only a month ago at the Scarborough Conference the Executive were bemoaning the fact that they had little finance and it was because of this that they opposed the reprioritisation of finance for the setting up of an ENTS department of the NUS.

Considering that ENTS all over the country lost well in excess of £500,000 last year it is arguable that the sum allocated for "National Student" could have been better used. Doubtless if the venture is a success there will be further magical conjurings of money to continue it. At the moment an issue will be produced once a term, although again if it is a success there will be further

expansion with perhaps as many as three or four a term.

The NUS hope that through this nationwide communication, student unions will realise that they have much in common and it can serve as a point of identification. A great many students could benefit from the NUS if a better relationship existed; it is not helped by the great amount of centralisation in London. The NUS can only achieve benefits for students if people are willing to participate in the campaigns and people are often unaware of them because of inadequate information. A constant and accurate source would be of immeasurable benefit to the NUS as a campaigning organisation.

Charles Clarke has been appointed editor for this first issue and before you all groan that this is the kiss of death, it must be pointed out that an editor's role is dependent on the type and amount of material submitted. "National Student" could quite easily degenerate into a forum for the political hacks so it is up to you to publicise the events which you are interested in and which you think will interest others. Access to the columns is open to everyone and the NUS are stressing that this is a sincere attempt to integrate as many as possible into the movement because they are concerned about the politically apathetic as well as the active.

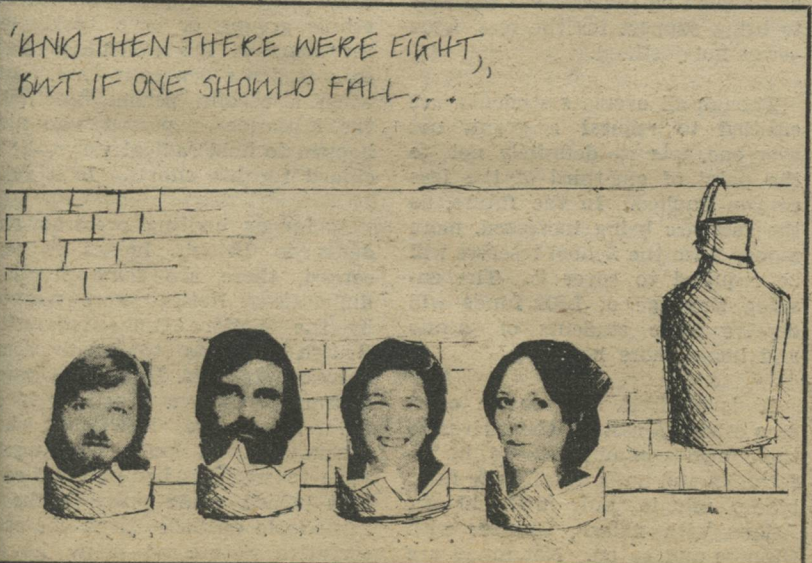
Looking at it pessimistically

"National Student" could pose a threat to student union papers all over the country; so many depend on advertising revenue for their survival and a newspaper that reaches all student unions could seriously place in jeopardy their viability.

In London this situation could have disastrous consequences; at the present moment there is a dearth of adverts for the student press and any that there are, are creamed off by "Sennet". The result for "Beaver" might not be too bad for we receive a hefty union grant but newspapers which are self-supporting could feel the pinch over the coming year; even "Sennet" might be seen to falter.

Perhaps it is unfair to criticise a venture which has barely got off the ground but it is quite clear that a lot more thought is necessary before "National Student" becomes the newspaper NUS desire. It remains to be seen whether the excellent intentions bear fruit because if handled properly this paper could fill a gap; that is one of communication. Anyone interested in contributing to "National Student" should contact either Frances Beckett or Leslie Morphy both of whom are at NUS at Endsleigh Street. Copy deadline for the first issue is Friday, 23rd January which does not leave much time for writing. Remember the success of this venture relies largely on you as students.

A.C.



LETTERS . . .

China—free and democratic?

DEAR EDITOR,—Miss Tilley's letter in the last edition of "Beaver" consists of two main sections; the first, maintaining that there is no such thing as a free press, and the second, claiming that even though the Soviet Union is a totalitarian state, China is truly socialist and a land in which democracy and economic freedom prevail.

I intend to reply to some of Miss Tilley's convictions. Firstly, by the term "free press", I do not mean that all Western reporters are completely free to write whatever they like about whatever they like. As a Conservative, I would nonetheless, argue that these constraints are in no way as rigid or stifling as those which affect East European, or, for that matter, Chinese reporters. Also, with a very limited number of exceptions, such as Spain and Chile, Western governments do permit newspapers to criticise their actions, to expose their corruption, and to campaign for their removal.

Secondly, I really cannot imagine how someone as otherwise intelligent as Miss Tilley can actually believe that China is as she has described. Her attitude towards what must surely be the most totalitarian and undemocratic political system in the entire world suggests an absolute suspension of her critical abilities. If one considers oneself to be a Marxist, then surely a socialist government is, by definition, one which represents the interests of the working class. This being so the Chinese Government should enjoy the firm support of the vast majority of the people and so they do not need to be deprived of their freedom of speech.

Yet in China, since 1949, some sixty million people have been liquidated by the Chinese equivalent

of the KGB on the grounds that they were "counter-revolutionaries", "political and moral degenerates", "homosexuals", "speculators" etc.

Like many Conservatives at LSE I believe that China is an even greater threat to the West than the Soviet Union, for it is the former that proclaims the inevitability and desirability of a thermonuclear war. In their propaganda, the Chinese leaders belittle the threat and horrors of a nuclear war, maintaining the atomic bomb is a "paper tiger".

Sir Keith Joseph in his brilliant criticism of command economies, did not refer to either China or the Soviet Union by name. He simply said that we in the West do not need machine guns or minefields in order to prevent our people from emigrating. As far as I am aware just as many, if not more, brave individuals have lost their lives attempting to swim across the waters from mainland China to Hong Kong as have perished on the barbed wire of the Berlin Wall.

I have attempted to answer the points raised by Miss Tilley in her letter. But insofar as this was intended as a criticism of my letter ("Beaver", December 1975), she seems to have missed the main point entirely. The bulk of my letter was spent in attacking what I regard as one of the greatest threats to Western democracy, namely, the world communist movement. Noticeable by its absence from her letter was any comment on this viewpoint which is held not only by Conservatives such as myself, but also by a very large number of people who consider themselves to be on the left of the British political spectrum.

T. J. DONALDSON

DEAR EDITOR,—I believe that Chris Tilley's letter on Press freedom missed a fundamental point in T. Donaldson's thinking. The whole argument on whether or not we have Press freedom in this country compared with the Soviet bloc and China was too narrow in its approach. The basic point is not Press freedom in itself but freedom to hold and disseminate opinions contrary to those of the State. Press freedom may be restricted by such things as the Official Secrets Act and editorial policy. It should be obvious to all that certain papers tend to have certain views on politics and policies and understandably editors are reluctant to print anything that goes too far against this slant.

I do not believe that this is desirable but there is nothing really wrong with it. If one disagrees with a particular slant one is free to buy another paper. Morning Star, Socialist Worker, Militant etc are freely available even if they are not available in the average High Street paper shop.

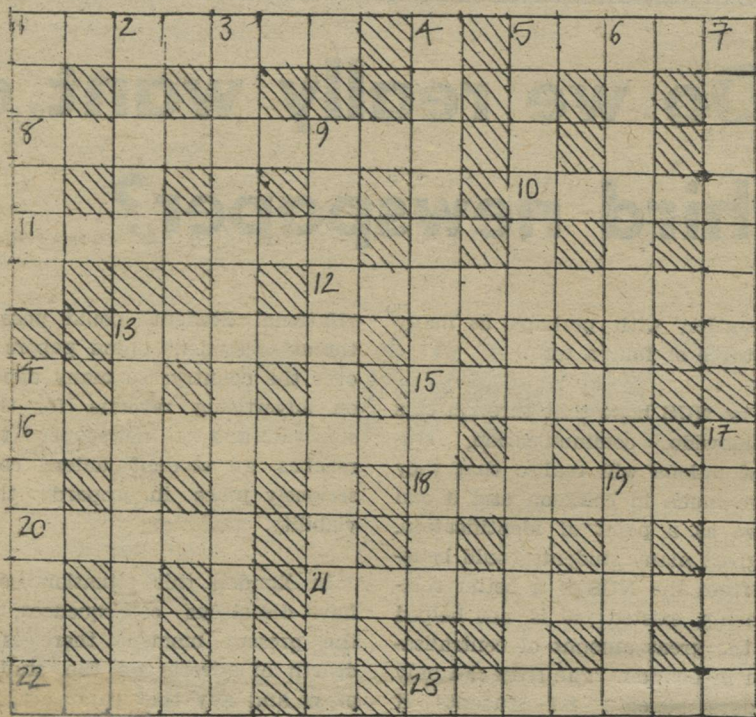
The situation in Russia and the so-called Socialist countries is

quite the opposite. The Government controls all the papers and other mass media and all must adhere to what the Government lays down. Furthermore, an individual is not free to use any other means of expressing his views as the sale of paper is controlled, duplicating and printing facilities are not available and the KGB and their ilk are alert to arrest all who dare to disagree. This control extends to the prohibition of the import and distribution of unapproved foreign literature and the jamming of foreign radio broadcasts. (Have a look on one of the Left bookstalls on Thursday and see where most of the literature is printed).

The Left advocates such a situation in this country (under the front of "workers' control"). In order to gain and hold the power they crave, they must have control over all the means of influencing peoples' minds. Those who care about freedom of speech have a duty to oppose those who seek to destroy it, whether extreme Left or extreme Right.

ROBERT HAYWOOD

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 No odds in half a horse at this period of the day!
- 5 Basic message in the mess
- 8 Issue that's hard to handle—don't drop it you might get mash.
- 10 One is in trouble—what a row!
- 11 Disruptive activities as good as rests.
- 12 Looking closely for this board.
- 13 Girl with hesitation for payment period.
- 15 Sounds like sleepers' medicines!
- 16 Shakespearian pouts.
- 18 Writes—or just edits in confusion.
- 20 You can look at this doctrine either way.
- 21 Motive force of an era—or is it simply a feeling of determination?
- 22 Siren leads to oxidation product.
- 23 Animal hesitates with kind of junction between beats!

- 1 The IS curve—lacking a bit—but gives these values!
- 2 One-time rat goes wrong for surplus.
- 3 O, a rising nation—what turmoil!
- 4 Old-fashioned calls when there's a toss-up.
- 5 Fashionable team gets the boot reversal.
- 6 Beings composed of tents, for instance—add one.
- 7 What you 'ave for breakfast?
- 9 Put together equator for instance—mass production.
- 13 US town from a shortened monarch's state.
- 14 Extinguish insect—go south with backward military man.
- 17 Give the beasts a direction to weigh things up.
- 19 The composition of two articles—Macbeth, for example?

N.T.

DEAR EDITOR,—A recent correspondent wrote that "China is a true socialist democratic republic with a command economy." China may have a "command economy" and be a socialist republic, but can any country, where not only are the basic political rights of association, expression and assembly denied, but also where there is neither freedom of dress, nor occupation, and even a matter such as the location of one's residence is decided by the state, be referred to as a "democracy"? Is not this loss of freedom too great a price to pay for a form of economy or type of republic?

MUNGO DEANS

Library Inefficiency

DEAR EDITOR,—I recently received back an application slip for a book from the reserve stock with a written comment—"Sorry, can't be found." On being asked about this, library staff insisted that the book was not on loan to staff, nor on the missing book list, nor was there any record of it being borrowed and not returned to the library. It had just disappeared.

So, when might a replacement be obtained? Well, it seems that three years must elapse before the book is accepted as missing, and only then—if it is still in print—will a new copy be obtained. Not really much use!

Does the system strike anyone else as just a little inefficient?

NIKKI TAIT

Reply to Shah

DEAR EDITOR,—May I impose upon your columns to make a reply to Mr Shah's comments on my article. Mr Shah's legalistic arguments concerning the status (recognition by UN members; US recognises Pinochet—sic!) prior to independence recalls Portuguese insistence that their colonies were part of metropolitan Portugal! Legal status does not necessarily confer legitimacy.

Mr Shah's suggestion that the people of Bangladesh, under their undisputed leader Sheikh Mujib, whatever their subsequent disillusionment with him (and, however, transitory their aspirations), did not genuinely seek independence is truly a "distortion of history." Nobody who followed the events in Bangladesh after Mujib's election with a 90 per cent majority can seriously question this fact.

I do not know if the Indian army

committed atrocities in Bangladesh, but that hardly exonerates the Pakistani army. All bourgeoisie armies are alike in fundamental intent and purpose, which ultimately is repression at home. The Indian army has its mutilated skeletons too. I remain faithful to the aspirations of the people of the sub-continent regardless of territorial divisions. The overwhelming majority have one common interest, transcending religion and national chauvanism, and this is food and dignity; and one common enemy: their respective bourgeoisie and the characteristic attempts to contrive artificial antagonisms.

The allegedly educated should really be more honest about the utility of bourgeoisie nationalism in protecting their class interests at home. Truly the poor have no country.

G. SEN

O/seas students' fees

DEAR EDITOR,—I am a "moderate", yet I feel that the criticism levelled at the Broad Left—that it was exploiting the overseas students to bring support for the fees' issue—was not justified.

Though all overseas students are entitled to request a grant, not everyone gets it—definitely not to the point of one-third of the fees as you implied. In the future, as the fees are being increased, more money from the School reserves will be required to cover it. The ensuing shortage of LSE funds will deprive more students of grants and hence more hardship.

It is noticed that many overseas students restrict themselves to their own communities—so in refectories and halls usually one finds blacks mingle only with blacks, Asians with Asians, Chinese with Chinese and so on. Not many are

willing to step forward and propose practical suggestions as to how one can achieve a better cultural integration among the various ethnic groups, or be a spokesman for some of the difficulties overseas students generally face. And when a certain person does take the initiative—a person who may happen to hold radical views—he is chided for his efforts. Is it fair?

As far as inviting overseas students to British homes is concerned, there are some practical difficulties. Notices were put up by the Welfare Office requesting British students to invite some overseas students. How many came forward? Only a fraction, if at all. Many are indifferent, but others, out of politeness, would have to seek his/her parents' consent—which could prove to be a formidable obstacle, given the conservative nature of many house-

Union news and views

Union failing:

FOLLOWING the recent resignations from the Exec. and the very poor attendance at last term's union meetings, many students feel that the union has now even ceased to be a political forum and is in fact breaking up.

Furthermore certain members of the Exec. actually resent students commenting on this apparent break-up and dismiss all criticism as immature and destructive.

I should like to suggest that LSE has unique factors influencing its union and that these factors, by their very nature, lead to cyclical variations in the level of student interest in the Union.

Firstly, there are 40 per cent postgrads in the LSE student population of 3,700, and very few postgrads get involved in the union. Secondly there are 1,340 overseas students in the LSE, a far higher proportion than any other college in the UK, and many of these are not interested in an essentially British male culture dominated union.

Thirdly, the LSE has no campus and very restricted hall accommodation and thus does not benefit from having large campus-based crowds who get interested in the union for lack of other entertainment. In addition many other activities compete for student interest in London. These special circumstances are strongly augmented by the fact that the LSE is really a social science school, and does not benefit from the diversities of larger multi-faculty colleges.

It is for these reasons that only a minority of LSE students are interested in the union. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that students who are interested in the union tend also to be politically motivated and delight in using the student union meeting as a forum for political speeches. Many people who feel that the role of the union lies in promoting student welfare are, because of this, deterred from attending meetings. It is for this reason that UGMs now have to be called fortnightly in the vain hope of obtaining a quorum. Nevertheless, this weekly interval probably defeats its own purpose because it results in longer agendas and quicker boredom.

This process of deterioration provides political extremists and opportunists with a potential foothold on the union, and they use this to seize Executive posts. Naturally this incenses the moderate factions and an "independent" backlash ensues. Once in power, the moderate factions have very few policies after they have succeeded in their aim of ousting the extremists. Finally, due to outside pressures their interest wanes, since they are not motivated by strong political considerations.

Thus the cycle comes full circle, and apathy sets in. This all goes to show that student politics are a thankless task and for lasting success better motivation is required rather than sheer reaction against extremists.

P.B.

LAST term was marked by a general lack of interest in the Students' Union, culminating in the pathetic participation in the Festival. For this reason "Beaver" is publishing a series of articles suggesting the factors that lie behind it and solutions that may exist. It is hoped that any political group or individual who wishes to contribute will do so in the next issue, the copy date for which is Monday, 26th January. The usual formula applies—any opinions expressed being the opinions of the writers.

More sabbaticals—the answer?

IT is imperative that we have a Sabbatical Welfare Officer at the LSE as soon as possible. Why is this? We need to expand the welfare services which the SU provides and this can only be achieved by making the Welfare post on the Executive a full-time one. Anyone who takes on the responsibility of Welfare will find that their involvement is so heavy that they have no time at all to follow their academic studies.

A Welfare Executive officer cannot function properly as a part-time student and part-time welfare officer. The welfare facilities offered by the Union have grown enormously over the last few years and rightly so, but welfare is not a static thing; it must continue to grow constantly, giving a better and better service.

At the present time I attend no fewer than ten different committees, and have been involved with the nursery, playgroup, accommodation for students, jobs, administration, publication ordering, decorating the Welfare and Community rooms, Christmas decorations in the SU and the Festival Week. Obviously I wouldn't do any of these things if they didn't interest me but what I am saying is that they are far too much for me to do and still study for a degree.

A sabbatical would help to expand the Welfare facilities but not impair the extremely good work

already being done by Elana Ehrlich. The sabbatical could devote more time to committee work around which the school seems to revolve, on forging links with outside charities, helping run the Charities Week, running the nursery accounts and dealing with the financial matters pertaining to welfare, such as preparing the annual budget and spending the money wisely.

The sabbatical would also augment the Overseas Students' Executive Officer (who has just resigned due to overwork amongst other things) by arranging trips (like the successful one to Stonehenge and Salisbury) and meetings of especial interest to overseas students. The sabbatical could also help with accommodation at the beginning of the School year when we get flooded out with people seeking accommodation, and handle the advertising for vacation jobs.

The sabbatical could also publish a weekly news-sheet informing students of the facilities available in the Welfare Office and of the advice which they can obtain there.

I shall be putting a motion to the Union in the next few weeks. I sincerely hope that you will come to the UGM and decide to make Welfare sabbatical.

ROBIN COOPER
Executive Member
responsible for
Welfare.

WITH the coming of the new system of financing for the Students' Union, many students are planning a large increase in total Union expenditure. They want to buy a van, get a few more sabbatical officers, expand this, increase that.

There are several reasons why expansion above the present standards which are recognised, should be resisted. Firstly, the expansions proposed are piecemeal additions to services already offered. It may be that better value for money could be obtained by other, different methods.

Secondly, the suggestions do not take account of the changes of the past two years, that are still working themselves out. For instance, the role of the General Secretary and the Administrative Assistant is still being formulated.

Dear Mr Timmins,

On reading your devastatingly persuasive letter in the last "Beaver," I now find myself in total agreement with your arguments. I now see that my views were socially immature and that the Union is really the centre of LSE student life.

The Union is indeed lucky to have such a persuasive senior treasurer as Mr Timmins.

D. CHOCKLEY.

The Anarchist alternative

O.K., so you don't like the Student Union. The meetings are a waste of time, where hysterical political hacks rush about on stage pontificating on the oppressed people of the Gilbert and Ellis Islands; it costs a lot of money keeping it going and the only thing it's good at is growing.

The alternative: you don't need a Union, repeat, you don't need a Union. Bloody Anarchists, what sort of an alternative is that? It's an alternative which doesn't blow £40,000 a year, doesn't organise for you, or endeavour to speak for you (how can somebody claim to represent such a diverse body as students?).

Perhaps the Union does perform some useful functions (it is a possibility). The Friday meeting seems to amuse some people, even the Executive appears to make some people happy—when they resign from it.

The S.U. is an artificial and harmful institution, which does a great deal to damage the life of the LSE. Imagine a situation where if you wanted to achieve something, you had to do it yourself, rather than complain about the Union. The Union, merely by its existence, saps the co-operative forces of students. Take it away, and there is the prospect (which I find attractive) that students—rather than paid and bored administrators—could do their own organising.

There is a great deal of good work that seems to be done by the Union. Welfare facilities, for instance, but these could be more real and productive services if they were functions of the student body rather than the Union.

The Union screws money out of the School itself. Fair enough, but the natural position, between School and students, is one of confrontation. After all it is in our interest to get as much as possible out of the School, while the School ("na-

turally") desires to minimise its handouts.

The Union, by drawing itself into the administrative structure of the School, becomes one of "them". (They say Pete Timmins is practising the famous Pike smile). Have you noticed that in a lot of situations the Union will take the side of the School.

At the moment there's a rumour that something called "apathy" is stalking our corridors. This is a natural phenomenon and cannot be blamed on the refectory food. The Union saps any degree of energy from the student body. Take the Union away and the result would be—dare I say it—student activity.

Genuine student radicalism is based on the more mundane issues of life. Even LSE students do not know where the Gilbert and Ellis Islands are, but they know the price of tea in Florries.

"The only 'solutionism'—Anarchism".

PEACOCK

Tories on right track?

THE year 1976 promises to be a good one for Conservatives at LSE, following the excellent progress made in 1975. It did not escape the notice of the IS/IMG that the largest audience for any political speaker last year was for Sir Keith Joseph, MP. Nor can the Left fail to see that their stranglehold on UGMs has been eroded—as has the far Left's grip on unions throughout industry. Congratulations to the workers at British Leyland for putting the Mole (one of Vanessa's fun revolutionaries) firmly in his place—bottom of the pile. Congratulations also to moderate students at LSE—by no means all of them Conservatives—for putting control of LSE Union back where it belongs—in the hands of the moderate democrats.

Why the increase in interest in Conservatism? Two reasons may be advanced. The Conservative Party

is both pragmatic and democratic. Pragmatic in that the Party is able and willing to adapt to changes in society, instead of perpetuating the policies of 19th-century political thought. In this respect, is it any wonder that the first woman to become leader of a major political party is a Conservative? Lady Howe, deputy chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, will be talking on women in politics and society generally here at LSE, on April 27th, as a guest of LSE ConSoc.

In a democratic party, policy decisions filter upwards from the "grass-roots"—and are not dictated by the leadership. Conservative students are able to influence policy—the Federation of Conservative Students is represented on policy-making committees—and all all Conservative students can participate in this debate—come along

to the Conservative open forum on January 23rd to air your views. William Van-Straubenzee, MP honorary vice-president of the NUS) will be speaking at LSE on February 2nd about student politics.

What of the future of the Conservatives? At LSE in 1976, Conservatives will be active on a wide range of issues directly affecting students. If you want to help, come along to the open forum (January 23rd). Dr Rhodes Boyson, MP, will be giving his views on the future of the Conservative Party, here at LSE on February 9th.

Everyone's voice must be heard, and the Conservatives' role at LSE in 1976 will be to make sure that the voice of Conservatives is heard loud and clear, even above the din of "fun-revolutionaries".

ROSS GRAVELL
Chairman, Con Soc

Death of Franco—death of Francoism? P

After 36 years of his special breed of thirties fascism, Spain is without Franco. Clearly, the biological wonder had made extensive plans for the extension of his Falangist State. While his trachea-tube was drawing its last breaths of oxygen, his ultra-right supporters, (aptly known as 'the Bunker', after Hitler's last defence), moved at a frenzied pace to systematically terrorize the general populace into accepting their plan for Francoism without Franco. In 'Operation Lucero', gangs of hoods calling themselves 'Guerillas of Christ, the King' and other such names, were given free rein by the armed police, Civil Guard, and Social and Political Brigade, who, in plain clothes, make up a significant proportion of these groups. Roaming the streets and brandishing arms in broad daylight, they beat victims senseless; arrests ran between 50 and 100 a day. Suspected dissidents were rounded up, tortured, and held without charge for ten days — the legal limit under the new anti-terrorist law imposed last September in time to condemn to death 11 so-called terrorists.

Strike action

It might appear that opposition was stilled. However, an examination of the era preceding Franco's death, and the growing unity, of anti-fascist forces in virtually all sectors of Spanish society reveals the futility of any 'Operation Lucero'. In the years 1973-5, Spanish workers engaged in more strike actions than any other country in Europe — all of them illegal. When the underground workers' commissions moved last spring to demonstrate their strength by standing candidates for the official Musso-

lini-style government's vertical syndicates, they registered a stunning victory, when three-quarters of the incumbent shop-stewards were voted out of office.

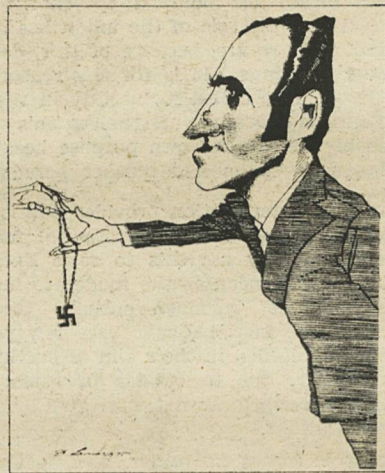
With over 200 priests arrested in 1975 the Spanish church has gone beyond its role of tacit complicity to active participation in the struggle for human rights in Spain. Lawyers, journalists, academic staff and students play an increasingly significant and courageous role in the opposition — as evidenced by the preponderance of ultra-right threats and attacks against them. The Basques, Catalans, and Galicians, like the Spanish working class were routed in the Civil War. For them, any talk of reform is useless until they have been allowed at least the same rights of autonomy that were accorded them before the Fascist victory. Opposition to the regime in these regions is a foregone conclusion.

In the face of the defiance, it must be recognised that no amount of imprisonment, torture, 'Guerillas of Christ the King', Social and Political Brigades, or CIA connivance can stabilize the phantom monarchy of the Bourbon cretin, Juan Carlos. It must be understood that the 'new government' consists entirely of Francoists — from the former Falangist and ambassador to Britain, Manuel Fraga, Minister of the Interior, to 'the Butcher of Malaga' Prime Minister, Arias Navarro, and arch-Fascist Labour Minister, Solis Ruiz, the Government functions solely to retain its power. When it announces its desire for democracy ('without rup-

ture') it is talking about survival. There may be political associations, there may even be elections with the 'new government', but the participation of the Communist party and those elements to the left of it will be forbidden. The left in Spain is entertaining no illusions.

Spain seething

Last November's 'indulto' (pardon), which Spaniards refer to as



'insulto', is reported by the legal press to have let out but 200 of Spain's 2,000 political prisoners. No one forgets, least of all Marcelino Camacho, internationally famous leader of the workers' commissions, who has spent 16 years in prison, that the man who lets you out of prison has the power to put you back in again. And the left is moving. Spain is seething, preparing now. Calling for democracy

with rapture and amnesty for all political prisoners and exiles, the parties, broad coalitions such as the Democratic Junta and the Democratic Convergence, and the workers' councils are on the offensive. December 10-12 saw no less than 110,000 industrial workers (legal press figures) engaged in wild-cat strikes throughout Spain for amnesty and political freedom. By December 22nd there had been 300 different actions calling for amnesty since the death of Franco. Among these are demonstrations outside Madrid's Carabanchel prison, Barcelona's Model Prison (almost daily now), and various political prisons in the Basque Country. Over three thousand demonstrators assembled at the Montserrat Monastery outside Barcelona — to demand amnesty and political freedom, and to hear hunger-striking Father Luis Maria Xirinachs. The Nobel Prize nominee has since been arrested for leading demonstrations outside Barcelona's Model Prison. Even chickens have been used to further the movement; a number of them have appeared in several Spanish cities bearing small signs reading 'Amnestia', and 'Libertad'.

Victory for Metro workers

The recent strike of Madrid metro-workers has set the stage for 1976. Paralysing Madrid for four days, and assisted extensively by area workers and the people of Madrid alike, it ended in a smashing victory for the metro-workers, who had previously been receiving £24 a week. It should be noted that the army refused to go any further in its interference than the

running of the metro. This is reminiscent of their refusal to carry out last September's infamous executions — leaving it to the security police. The Spanish army is clearly not the monolith that it had been feared to be. The Democratic Military Union now claims 1,000 active members and sympathizers out of 20,000 officers. At the time of writing, Madrid is experiencing the greatest wave of organised dissidence since the thirties, and it is spreading to the provinces. The march of 4,000 down Madrid's Gran Via on January 11th was described by the Falangist daily Arriba as 'a spectacle never seen in post-Civil War Spain'. Numerous other demonstrations took place on Sunday and strikes of banks, railways, metal, textile, and chemical industries have been called for Monday. At present, the 50,000 workers of ITT Standard, and Chrysler are continuing their strike of two months.

George Orwell wrote 'few Spaniards possess the damnable consistency that a modern totalitarian state needs'. The patrons of Francoism without Franco seem to recognise this fact. However, as the Francoist system dismantles itself it will be impossible to prevent those who bore the heat and burden of the last 37 years from claiming what is theirs. The appetite for change increases with the eating. In Spain today there is a surging will that is grounded in reasoned optimism. Juan Carlos escucha! El pueblo esta en lucha! This year in Madrid, and Barcelona, Guernica, La Coruna, Sevilla . . .

T.B.

Scotland — the way ahead

THE high-handed and naive manner which has continually accompanied United Kingdom involvement in Scottish domestic affairs was typified by the attitude of the recent NUS conference at Scarborough towards devolution and Scottish nationalism.

The conference quite correctly stated that the White Paper proposals fall "far short of the legitimate aspirations of the Welsh and Scottish people" and also very sensibly recommended that "Scottish Universities must be controlled by the Scottish Assembly". My objection is that, like most of the rest of the United Kingdom, the N.U.S. has entirely missed the point in the devolution debate.

Why should any particular geographical area of this British nation have a considerably different system of government to any other? Why should all English parliamentary business be dealt with at Westminster while some Scottish business is dealt with elsewhere although the English-dominated Parliament retains ultimate control over Scottish affairs? In 1707 Scotland entered, of her own will, an "equal partnership" to form Great Britain. If the devolution proposals are enacted her status will be raised from that of an English colony to that of a dominion.

The decision to give Scotland a different system of government to England is an important acknowledgement of the fact that even after over two hundred and fifty years we have been unable to consolidate the Acts of Union and remove the considerable differences between two originally separate countries.

There are the obvious geographical and demographical differences between Scotland and England which naturally also vary from region to region within each

country. Then there are the Scottish banknotes which are so often not recognised here, although English notes are readily accepted above the border. The legal systems are different. The Scottish educational system was proud of its uniqueness until very recently when the Westminster government decided that if the "new improved" English system was not going to work the superior Scottish one must not either. Scotland has her own national church, whose General Assembly (as the Kilbrandon report notes) has for hundreds of years considerably affected public opinion by commenting on affairs of state.

Scottish growth

Until 1970 Scotland was weaker economically than most of England. There was a traditional reliance on heavy industry, particularly coal mining, steel production and shipbuilding. The recent growth areas have been in industries such as oil, whisky, forestry, electrical production and tourism with fishing, wool and agriculture retaining some importance. Edinburgh is fast becoming a European financial centre.

The structure of the Scottish economy as a whole is different to that of England. There are peculiar problems of population and transport in the north and stagnation in the industrial west. By the early seventies Scotland had slipped into the vicious circle of industrial decline whereby, because there was no industrial opportunity at home, the talented left, thus assuring that there was even greater decline in future. There are still more people leaving Scotland than entering her, although the reason for this is beyond my comprehension.

Why should Scotland and, in particular, Glasgow (the erstwhile

second city of the Empire) have so stagnated? The answer owes a great deal to the fact that economic policy suitable only for south-east England was thrust on to the markedly different Scottish economy.

It is frequently stated that even after political independence comes (as it undoubtedly will) the economic links with England will be as strong as ever and, indeed, there should be inter-relation where mutual benefit is obtained. The Scottish government however will be able to apply specific solutions to specific problems and to encourage international trade in a manner beneficial to Scotland. It should be pointed out to those who argue that Scotland would be unable to harness multinational oil companies that the stubbornness of Shetland County Council initially achieved more than Whitehall's servile "begging bowl" manner. As a current example of differing interest, I quote the present fishing dispute with Iceland. Scotland, with her primary reliance on in-shore fishing, would be better served by declaring her own two hundred mile limit and then negotiating reciprocal terms with other countries.

There are those who used to say, and continue to say, that Scotland's economy is such that she would be unable to "survive" on her own. First, nations always "survive" in economic terms, albeit at a lower level. Secondly, Scottish oil may prove to be the elixir; possibly it will not. The Kilbrandon report, however, states quite categorically that there is no reason why Scotland would not be a viable economic unit even without the presence of oil. Thirdly, is Britain going to survive? Those supposedly sagacious economists who ten years ago dismissed Scottish Nationalists as cranks now see

them as rats deserting a sinking ship—still contemptuous but now comprehensible.

What of Scottish politics? Despite the fact that, without Scotland, England might never be burdened with a Labour government, the Scottish electorate is not necessarily enamoured with the dogma of the British Labour Party. The Labour majority was thrown up because of the electoral system and the dichotomy presented by the two basically English parties with their alien traditions. In urban Scotland there has long been a tradition (which is radical in British terms) of valuing independent thought and effort, the improvement of society on account of individual advancement through education and merit and the belief in "a man's a man for a' that". Consequently, there may be a chance of avoiding the worst of the damage being done by the "them and us with irreconcilable interests" attitude which is permeating all sections of British society. As for the present strength of the Scottish National Party, neither the government nor the opposition even dare to test it in the polling booths.

Finally, what has prevented the integration of Scotland, England and Wales to form an effective Great Britain? The answer is national consciousness whose existence is the ultimate criterion for determining the existence of the nation itself. This sense of nationhood is probably now greater in Scotland than it has been for two hundred years and, perhaps unfortunately, to be a Scottish patriot it is now becoming necessary to be a Scottish nationalist first. It is time for each of us to ask ourselves to whom we owe our primary allegiance: to Scotland, to England, or to Great Britain?

We are now presented with the spectacle of Westminster politicians

running round an ever-decreasing spiral in order to prevent the will of the Scottish people from manifesting itself in independence. Having brought a temporary respite in the rate of English decline by mortgaging the doubtful value of Scottish oil the Labour government is still looking tearfully at its Scottish majority. The delay in establishing a Scottish assembly would appear to indicate that the Cabinet have accepted the inevitability of Scottish independence and are now seeking to postpone the evil moment. This postponement in itself may bring independence nearer. In any event, because of the conflict of sovereignty between Edinburgh and Westminster the nationalist cause will be strengthened by devolution of any form.

Scottish talking shop

Devolution itself falls between two stools. Without full political control a Scottish parliament can be no more than a talking shop fatuously discussing routine administration which would be better dealt with by the Scottish Office. There is no long-term alternative to replace integration (which has failed) or independence.

Independence will come. It will not be a child of the right (as some scare-mongering Scottish Labour politicians claim). The independence movement draws its support from all sections of the community and from followers of all political beliefs; (socialists, possibly, are rejecting "socialism in one country" in favour of socialism in two). It is not my wish that citizens of England should find it necessary to interest themselves in Scottish domestic affairs. Nevertheless, I hope this article has given an insight into them, not merely through the facts herein but rather through the bias inherent in their presentation.

MUNGO DEANS

Progress for Covent Garden

COVENT GARDEN—in the past immediate image might have been of bulging bags of vegetables, business deals conducted in ribald Cockney slang, simply the stale smell of rotting fruit pervading the entire area by afternoon. However, Covent Market has now moved, and it might be assumed that with it would go the life and purpose of the area, leaving behind a desolate and devitalised part of London. In fact nothing could be further from the truth. Not only has the removal of the market unearthed a large and apparently active residential community, but it has also given the opportunity for redevelopment, and the expansion of interests latent in the area.

EXISTING COMMUNITY

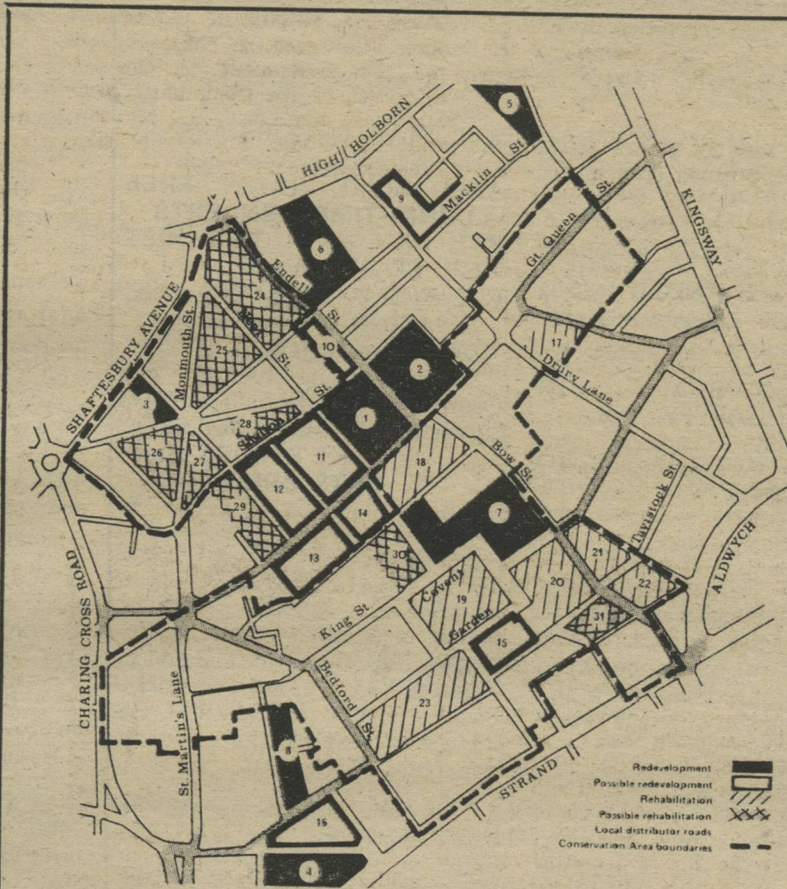
It is seldom realised that when the decision to move the market was taken, the population of Covent Garden (the number of private households) was about 3,000. It was slightly unusual in terms of age-structure, household size, and mortality; a high proportion, nearly 50 per cent, were of pensionable age, with one and two-person households accounting for nearly 80 per cent of total households, while children under 15 years numbered only 11 per cent of total population. Thus on the one hand, there was a relatively small

(less than 25 per cent), highly mobile sector of the community, composed mainly of young households, on the other, was a high proportion of elderly residents who had lived in the neighbourhood for at least 20 years.

In addition to permanent residents, Covent Garden also had, and still has, a large "temporary" population; on average, another 3,000 people stay at night in the various hostels, hospitals and hotels in the area. The "doss-houses", Bruce House and Parker Street Lodging House, alone account for a third of this total, providing accommodation for men otherwise homeless. Many of these people are over 65, and quite a number (about 20 per cent in Bruce House) have now become "permanent" residents, staying for as long as 10 or 15 years.

GLC POLICY

Now that the market itself has moved, much of the burden of redevelopment has fallen to the GLC. Not only are they the local planning authority, but they are one of the three housing authorities, owning and managing a third of all homes (Camden and Westminster are the others), substantial owners of land, including the market area itself, and Covent Garden also falls within the jurisdiction of ILEA on such matters as education.



GLC plans for development in Covent Garden.

- Redevelopment.** Work under way or approved.
- 1 Odhams 102 GLC homes.
 - 2 MEPC offices.
 - 3 164 Shaftesbury Ave. Offices and 15 Camden homes.
 - 4 Coutts Bank offices.
- Proposed Redevelopment**
- 5 Newton St. 48 Camden homes; offices.
 - 6 Dudley House 126 Camden homes; offices, open space, etc.
 - 7 Royal Opera House extension.
 - 8 Peabody, Bedfordbury 76 new homes; commercial.
- Possible Redevelopment**
- a) Sites being examined by the GLC as opportunities for housing gain through mixed use redevelopment.
- 9 Bell Hotel site housing, shopping, commercial.
 - 10 Nottingham Court housing with some commercial.
 - 11 Pouparts/Mercers housing with mixed uses, open space.
 - 12 Mercer St/Langley St. housing with mixed uses, open space.
 - 13 Long Acre/Floral St. mixed uses with housing.
 - 14 Langley Ct/James St. mixed uses with housing.
 - 15 Jubilee Market housing, commercial, shops.
- b) Site where some redevelopment is expected.
- 16 Charing Cross Hospital to be decided.
- Rehabilitation** Work under way or approved.
- 17 147 Drury Lane (formerly Nathans).
 - 18 James St/Long Acre/Floral St. replace existing uses.
 - 19 Central Market Building restoration for shops, studios.
 - 20 Flower Market basement Theatre Museum.
 - 21 Wellington St/Catherine St. Mixed uses.
 - 22 Duchess Theatre block. Mixed uses.
- Proposed Major Rehabilitation Scheme**
- 23 Henrietta St/Maiden Lane new courtyards; more housing.
- Plans available to view at 1-4 King Street, WC2.
* Report in more detail available.
† Report to be available at a future date.

On housing the policy has been two-fold; to improve the conditions for the existing residents, ensuring rehousing where absolutely necessary, and, secondly, to encourage a higher population by offering new housing, converting old commercial and ex-market buildings in particular providing new family units and better facilities for children.

Much is still at the proposal stage, but plans for Odhams site and Dudley House are almost complete, and work should start in June, aiming to create new homes for 600 people. The Peabody Trust, owning various estates in the area, has also drawn up schemes for redevelopment, and plans to convert the Shelton Street warehouse are under consideration. It is also hoped that hostel accommodation will be extended, possibly to include student lodgings.

RESIDENTS' ACTION

As important as GLC planning is the emergence of action by the community itself. Attempts to provide open space and recreation ground, has resulted in individuals developing small areas of derelict land as "gardens" — notably a well-tended Japanese garden, sadly only temporary. To brighten the area up while it is under construction, children at St Paul's School have been painting the screens temporarily surrounding the Central Market Building, and while the road in front of the Church itself is closed, a lunchtime theatre is held under the Portico.

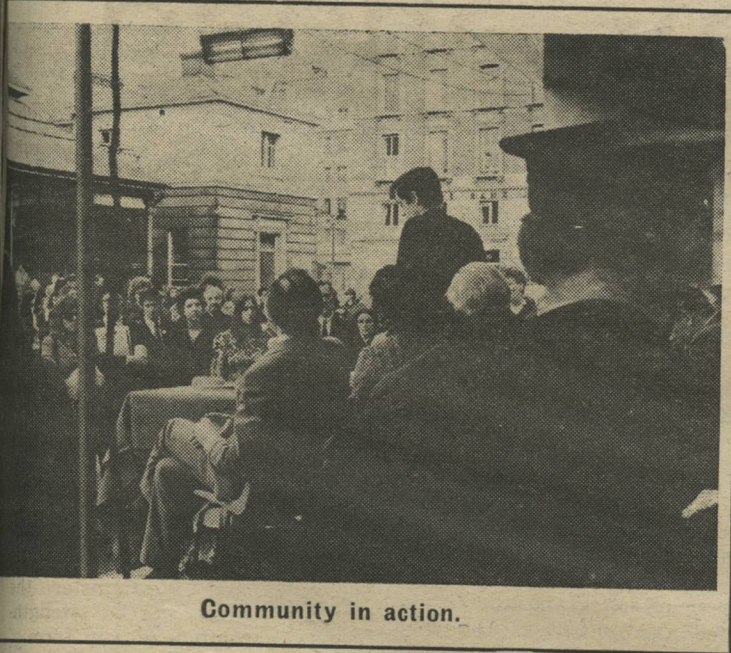
The GLC is trying to aid community action by supporting expansion recreational facilities, such as the Oasis swimming baths, and by allowing the new Jubilee Market to be housed for the moment in one of the old market buildings,

which they now own. Efforts are also being made to encourage new shops into the area, and to retain local shopping centres, like Drury Lane.

Covent Garden is also in the centre of London's theatre district; besides the Opera House, Drury Lane, the Fortune, and the theatres in St Martin's Lane are all nearby. The old Flower Market, therefore, makes an ideal home for the British Theatre Museum.

It is of course still early days, and there is the real danger that plans will be sucked down into a bureaucratic quagmire, and never be enacted. However, at the moment, progress seems good and a genuine attempt to understand residents' views seems to be under way. It is worth paying a visit to the GLC offices in King Street, or just deviating from the daily path to LSE, and taking a look.

NIKKI TAIT



Community in action.

Down your market...

Wembley Market

For anyone living in North London, or near a station on that end Bakerloo line, a trip to Wembley Market can prove to be well worthwhile. It is easy to find—shoppers on Sunday mornings surge out of tube station with much the same enthusiasm as their sports-counterparts, and if you follow them down the well-trodden path to the base of the stadium the air is littered with the familiar sights of stalls, ice-cream vans, and sellers of hot roast chesnuts.

And the market itself? Fairly good with a good selection of goods, it has a serious air of business and respectability. Fruit and

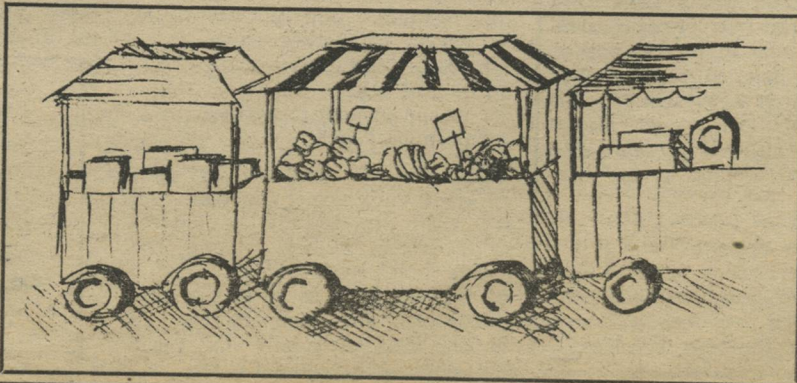
veg, fish, and other perishable goods seem generally reliable, though large savings come in clothes and household goods. There are some cheap "denim" stalls, an excellent crockery stall (not, for a change, devoted to complete tea or dinner sets, but selling separate bowls, plates, mugs, etc), and a wide selection of kitchen equipment. Also notable—a stall specialising in electrical plugs, fuses, adapters—and it is extremely useful if old equipment breaks down, since the range of gadgets appears to stretch back to the time electricity was invented.

Sundays—nearest tube, Wembley Park.

Covent Garden Jubilee Market

The Fruit and Veg market may have moved but in its place, and in line with the general Re-

development Scheme, there is a new lunch-time market. It is only a short walk from LSE, so there are no fares to offset small price-



savings, and it is worth going across just to pick up cheap green-grocery. One stall has a wide selection at very low prices: for example, large and not over-ripe pineapples were going at 35p last week apples were 2lbs for 20p etc. Judging by the queues at the jellied eel stall, these too are very popular, though other fish seems to fluctuate wildly from day to day.

As much as look at the clothes, and they fall to pieces, but don't miss the daily auction at the Strand side of the market—worth just watching wary housewives battle it out. The rest of the stalls are fairly standard, but there are small savings in household goods, plants, etc.

N.T.

ENTSNEWS

FIRSTLY, thanks to the Faithful Few who turned up to see the very fine Festival Ball last term — including such guest artistes as Bill Bruford and Co. To those of you who didn't make it, please come and tell us who you want to see, what sort of Ents YOU want—IT'S YOUR ENTS. Andy Cornwell, Ric Rees and myself, are always in the Ents room at lunchtime. Come and air your views.

Anyway, there's a full and interesting term coming up. Not all the gigs are finalised yet, so watch out for minor changes over the coming weeks.

Ents Reviews:

Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen Tales from the Ozone

ANOTHER classic truck drivin' album from the ol' Commander and the boys. As usual the material is a mixture of honky tonk r'n'b and country music, all beautifully played with fine harmonies. Particularly notable tracks are the opener "Minnie the Moocher" with the Tower of Power horns; the chunky "Lightnin' Bar Blues" and the album's closer "Gypsy Fiddle" which is just that—a remarkably fine album.

Vangelis—"Heaven and Hell"

A classical rock album from Vangelis, a Greek keyboard player who used to be a mainstay of Aphrodite's Child along with Dennis Roussos. Whilst Dennis is on his island in the sun, Vangelis takes his 17 keyboards and the English Chamber Choir on a journey from Heaven to Hell, building up grandiose themes over ethereal vocabulary. Outstanding track on the album is undoubtedly the break in the "Heaven and Hell Suite", "So long ago, so clear", which was written with Yes's Jan Anderson and features him on vocals. As a complete album I'm not sure it de-

SAT., JAN. 31—HENRY COW,
SAT., FEB. 7—ISOTOPE—Both with "Release" for Watchfield festival.

FRI., FEB. 13(!)—NATIONAL HEALTH—London debut for this fusion of 'Hatfield and the North' and "Egg".

SAT., FEB. 14—VALENTINE'S BALL—JESS RODEN BAND (First JK appearance for many moons).

FRI., FEB. 20—SNAFU . . . IN AID OF CHARITY.

SAT., FEB. 21—MUD ????? TO be arranged . . .

serves the generous acclaim it's had from the critics. Many parts of it are very beautiful whilst at other times the music is barely sophisticated. Promising . . .

Snafu, "All funky up"

Snafu's third album is unfortunately full of the faults that spoiled the first two. The problem is the production on some tracks, whilst with others, the material just doesn't seem strong enough. However, again Snafu have come up with some fine, funky sounds and surprisingly it's the material they've written themselves that really stands out. The slide based "Bloodhound", a major feature of the live set seen twice at L.S.E. in the last 12 months; "Deep Water which is vaguely Steely Dan-ish and "Dancing Feet" are all magnificent which makes "All funky up" worth its price if seen in Revolver Records review racks. Next time maybe they'll make the album they're really capable of.

RICHARD REES

Strange days "Nine parts to the wind"

Although 1975 was not a very good year on the whole, one of the most brilliant new bands to emerge must have been

SAT., FEB. 28 — WIDOW MAKER . . . debut of Ariel Bender's new "mob".

FRI., MAR. 5—FRUUPP. and

SAT., MAR. 6—HORSLIPS—To celebrate Irish New Year.

ALSO SOME GREAT FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

FRI., JAN. 23 — GUITARIST GEOFF BRADFORD.

FRI., FEB. 6—The return of the AMAZING Strange Days . . . see album reviews.

There is a fine chance to see Country Joe McDonald at New Victoria on January 23rd.

MIKE STUBBS plus ENTS CREW.

STRANGE DAYS. Rooted firmly in English music, stylistically similar to Genesis, Fruupp, Yes, etc, with the right backing, they could fill the huge void left by the effective departure of Genesis.

This debut album, may not be earth shattering, but is a good and worthwhile addition to anybody's collection. Eddie Spence plays powerfully, as he moves with exceptional fluency from piano to Hammond to Wurliitzer to synthesizer, with no loss of expression or feeling. As he exchanges lead phrases with Graham Ward (on guitar) the two work in perfect harmony. Ward's vocals do not protrude, and the lyrics are not as naive as they at first sound. For example: "Eighteen tons of indescribable filth, found in a cowshed yesterday, Hard core porn, of the dirtiest form; have you anything more to say?"

Originating from "the unlikely region" of Barnsley, STRANGE DAYS are a hard working, talented, honest group, with more than average charisma and ability. They deserve to be big, and maybe, quite soon, they will be. YOU can see them FREE in the Old Theatre on Friday, February 6th at 1 pm.

MIKE STUBBS

JAZZ: An alternative consumption

FOR all of you who thought that British Jazz consisted of three-hour jam-sessions in the Shaw Library (or Kenny Ball's Jazzmen), the concerts on Fridays 16th, 23rd and 30th of January should be a pleasant surprise. Despite almost total exclusion by the media, the London Jazz scene is one of the most fertile in Europe. The LSE Jazz Society concerts, featuring John Stevens' "Away" (16th January), Derek Bailey (23rd January), and Synthesis (30th January) represent music from the more avant-garde area of the Jazz spectrum.

Last Friday's concert featured John Stevens' band "Away". John Stevens is one of the original exponents of the free-form idiom in Great Britain and although his band "Away" is equally influenced by rock music, Stevens' principal work has been in the avant-garde music field.

The second concert on the 23rd of January features the solo guitar playing of Derek Bailey and a reading from two Cambridge poets, John Wilkinson and Charles Lambert.

Described by Anthony Braxton as the "most amazing guitarist on the planet", Derek Bailey's uncompromising and dedicated approach to guitar playing has earned him a large following in this country and in Europe. Disregarding conventional ideas on harmony and melody, Bailey is acknowledged as a leading exponent of progressive jazz. Bailey's career has stemmed from an early association with John Stevens' "SME" to duo work with saxophonists Evan Parker and Anthony Braxton. His only other appearance at LSE was three years

ago when he played with Lol Coxhill and Henry Cow.

An essential musician in British jazz, his solo approach to music should provide an enlightened evening for those interested in jazz and guitar playing in general.

It is not often that there is a poetry reading at the LSE. However on the same bill as Derek Bailey are two modern Cambridge poets, John Wilkinson and Charles Lambert. Their previous readings include appearances at the National Poetry Centre in London and the Cambridge Poetry Festival. Samples of their work can be found in several poetry magazines and also in their forthcoming books. Their work is influenced not only by their Cambridge environment, but also by such modern American poets as Ed Dorn, John Ashberry, Jack Spicer and William Bronk.

The third concert (January 30th) features "Synthesis", a recently formed quintet featuring two saxophonists, a keyboards player, a guitarist and a drummer. All are highly proficient musicians and they double on various instruments including bass guitars, flutes and synthesizers. The music composed by keyboard player Philip Hodge borrows lightly from such diverse influences as Miles Davis, Fred Frith, Schoenberg and Frank Zappa. The resulting sound is firmly anchored in a contemporary Jazz-rock idiom.

The three concerts offer an interesting alternative to the commercial aspects of that multifaceted spectrum called "entertainment". These concerts on the 16th, 23rd and 30th January all start at 7.30 pm. Admission is at the lowly price of 70p (60p for Jazz Society members). We only hope that you choose to sample and enjoy the concerts.

SPORTING BEAVER

In the issue before last, this column included a report of a meeting between some administrative members of the Athletic Union and myself. Besides the discussion already reported, one other important idea was forthcoming. It was felt that Beaver was somewhat unrepresentative, in that it did not cover one major aspect of student life — namely sport. However, the point was made that since Beaver comes out fortnightly, it would not be sensible or worthwhile to cater for a sports section. Instead, after considerable debate, it was decided that a more viable proposition would be a twice-weekly sports news-sheet on the lines of the current Beaver Daily News. This, it was felt, would ease administrative problems for the sports clubs' secretaries and could be distributed alongside the Daily News.

However, no further advance has been made. Where are the enthusiastic members of the A.U.? I look forward to replies or further sug-

gestions and conclude that club secretaries do excellent voluntary work but could they not help themselves to help themselves?

D. Lowry

THE "GREEN DALE" ROMPS HOME

At the end of last term, a number of students took part in a three-cornered darts match against a porters' team and a team from Mr Payne's (one of the porters) 'local' the Green Dale which generously donated a cup for the occasion. Nevertheless the team did not go home empty handed because they won the match convincingly. The director Prof. Dahrendorf graced the occasion with his presence and presented the trophy to the winning team.

The porters hope to make this a yearly event in the hope of promoting better relations with the students which they feel have been lacking since the 1968 Troubles.

Cheap' n tasty

ON returning to my flat after the vacation, I naturally found that the cupboards were bare, and being a little short of cash until my grant arrived, I could only afford a few very basic items, so I had to improvise; here's what I came up with.

VEGETARIANS SAVOURY

PIE—serves two

- 2 eggs.
- 2 oz (min.) grated cheese.
- 2 cups milk.
- Onion powder/1 sm chopped onion (optional).
- 1 crust plus 1 large slice of bread.
- 2 large tomatoes.
- 3 medium sized potatoes/1 sm packet of instant mash.
- Knob of butter.
- Pinch of salt.
- 1 teaspn French mustard (optnl).
- 1 ovenproof dish.

Slice the crust and ordinary slice of bread into eight triangles, and fry them (preferably in butter) until golden brown. Using the crusts first, use between 4 and 6 of the triangles to cover the base of the dish, put remaining triangles on one side. Now, mix eggs 1 cup

of milk, cheese and onion together, and pour over the crusts in the dish. Place in a moderate oven until solid (about 15 mins). Whilst this is cooking, peel and boil up the potatoes ready to mash with 1 cupful milk, butter, salt and mustard (omit the milk if using ready mash). Now slice up the tomatoes, and arrange in rows on top of the egg mixture on removing it from the oven. Spread the potato over this until completely covered and furrow with a fork. Place back in the oven until the top is browned, then remove and serve after arranging the fried bread in a "nice" pattern. IF YOU MUST EAT MEAT, arrange three sausages on top of the potato before the final browning.

Nice alone or with a green veg or side salad.

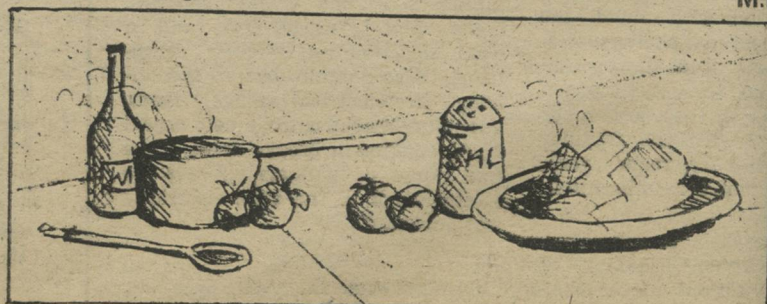
CHOCOLATE SAUCE

- 6 tablespoons icing sugar.
 - ½ pint water.
 - 3 tablespns cocoa (unsweetened).
- Place in a pan and boil (stirring) until it goes shiny and dark. Delicious hot or cold.

CARAMEL COFFEE SAUCE

- 4 desertspoons sugar.
 - 1 cupful water.
 - 1 teaspoon coffee.
- Mix sugar and water in a pan, then heat until it goes sticky and brown, dissolve coffee in a little water and mix in. Serve hot or cold.

M.D.



Reviews

COMING SOON

AT LSE FILM SOCIETY



Scene from Zardoz

MAGBETH, Cert X.

Thursday, 22nd January.

Jon Finch, Francesca Annis.
Directed by Roman Polanski.

Don't be put off by the artistic overtones, Roman Polanski and Kenneth Tynan have streamlined the old Shakespeare play into a 140 minute orgy of sword clashing, clubbing, kicking and all-in wrestling. The film opens gruesomely enough with the traditional three witches kneeling on a beach and fondling a fore-arm, a dagger gripped in its hand. From then on, it's action all the way until finally Macduff slices off Macbeth's

head. A film buff movie with hordes of blood and guts thrown in for a bit of interest.

DEATH WISH, Cert X.

Tuesday, 20th January.

Charles Bronson.

ULTRA modern story of multiple rape and death which leads Charles Bronson to take on the whole of the New York underworld in an effort to avenge the death of his wife and withdrawal from reality of his daughter. Bronson is acclaimed a popular hero for killing off the New York muggers and the film became an instant box office success.

MAGNUM FORCE, Cert X.

Tuesday, 27th January.

Clint Eastwood, Hal Holbrook, Mitchell Ryan. Directed by Ted Post.

Another blood and guts movie, with some really gory killings, crashes and shootings. This is a very recent release thriller in which individuals with overwhelming charisma and uncommon dexterity with firearms have more chance of tidying up society than the established forces of law and order.

ZARDOZ, Cert X.

Thursday, 29th January.

Sean Connery, Charlotte Rampling. Directed by John Boorman.

It is the year 2293 in the post cataclysmic world. Sealed off from a polluted world of warring Brutals and Exterminators, the ever youthful elite, known as the Eternals, led by the beautiful Consuella, are concerned with the growing internal decay of their brave new world. When Zed, an unexpectedly resourceful leader of the barbarian Exterminators, is permitted entry into their vortex the long surpassed death wish takes over. This film is a compelling vision of the possible future with recurring echoes of the Arthurian past and the magical world of Frank Baum.

Come back, Sir Arthur

Sherlock Holmes's smarter brother (A)

THIS is the sort of picture that is better to wait for at least until the LSE Film Society puts it on. Of course it might not come to the School, but you won't have missed much.

Gene Wilder looks painfully bored as he meanders his way through the plot—plot, perhaps, is too strong a word. Marty Feldman is superb with his rolling eyes and self-conscious mannerisms. However he has been treated badly by a script, which was probably written in the back of a car on the way to the studio.

The film does have its moments. When for example the two heroes join a polite society ball with the seats of their trousers torn away. It is rather difficult to explain why, but it involved rotary saws, prisons and breathing in!

At times it even breaks into song and dance routines, and these do provide some light relief. Could be the "bounce" that they perform will be the craze of the year, but I doubt it.

The plot, as you might guess from the title, has something to do with the "real" Sherlock Holmes, although he does not even provide a good source of jokes. For instance "No my brother is not Sherlock Holmes—his christian name is Sheer Luck!" (You think that's bad, you should hear the rest). At times the humour verges on impressionism with the case of the fight on the roofs of racing carriages, the occasional shop sign looming out of the mist, to add its contribution to the chaos. But don't take my word for it; go and see the film at the Carlton, Haymarket.

Old Vic presents 'Plunder'

PLUNDER, I'm afraid, is one of those farces which instead of being revived, should have been given the kiss of death decades ago. Set in 1928, with the usual crop of country houses, jewels, gentlemen swindlers, and boorish policemen, it's a play which your local amateur dramatic society would feel very much at home with.

Frank Finlay (whom you can also see in "Bouquet of Barbed Wire") and Dandy Nichols (Alf Garnett's "silly moo") are frankly disappointing, though Trevor Ray manages to last

the play well, with his single melancholic expression.

The "hero" D'Arcy Tuck (played by Dinsdale Landen) positively shines as he stumbles and stutters his way through the play. The dialogue is trite, superficial and, at times, highly amusing. The mere appearance of D'Arcy with his slicked-back hair, parted down the middle and his idiotic grin sent even a Three Tuns-hardened LSE student into hysterics—even if he did afterwards denounce "the bourgeois nature of this status perpetuating crap."

The Power of the Purse

By David Coombes et al

THIS book sets out to study the effectiveness of the control exercised by European parliaments in budgetary decision making and represents a response to a practical problem—the establishment of budgetary powers for the European Parliament. The approach to this problem adopted by the contributors, including political scientists, economists, public lawyers and parliamentary officials, is to study different aspects of parliamentary control of the budget in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland in the hope of discerning specific trends which may be related to the European Parliament.

Although the theme of European integration is held firmly in mind by the contributors, they none the less discover fundamental variations in the control exercised by parliaments from one country to another. Nevertheless this does not prevent David Coombes from making some generalised comments, applauding the publicity which is afforded to politics by some Parliaments' activities and stressing that in some cases Parliaments are able to assert themselves on budgetary matters.

In spite of the fact that firm lines are not laid down for the European Community's constitution makers to follow, the book remains an excellent text for students of comparative politics.

S.D.

The Politics of Communication

By Claus Mueller

IN "The Politics of Communication", Mueller analyses the effects of a political system held together by promises of material benefits, and other coercive measures. When such a situation arises, it is imperative, or so he postulates, that the system has control of public information and communication. It is this control that has produced many of the problems of society in the modern capitalist world. He bases his ideas on work undertaken in various fields—linguistics, social psychology, sociology, political science, communication research—but the interpretation and conflation of these studies is very much his own, throwing new light on currently expounded viewpoints. Indeed, in his introduction he himself recognises that many of his conclusions may be controversial.

It is, however, unfortunate

that much of the book is dominated by lengthy sociological jargon. For example, sentences like

"Concepts such as plausibility structures, socialisation strategies, language codes, ideological configurations, political impression management, and legitimating and counterlegitimating rationales provide a better grasp of political behaviour and its underlying motivational basis than an analysis that restricts itself to the usual factors", may not have much meaning for the uninitiated. The book is, moreover, primarily concerned with issues arising in the United States of America, and thus somewhat limited in its general scope.

Nevertheless, it is a positive and forward-looking study, and for those prepared to master the torturous style, a stimulating book.

The Clayhanger Trilogy

By Arnold Bennett

PENGUIN BOOKS have recently reissued this famous trilogy to coincide with a new tele-epic, obviously hoping that the tele-watching market that catapulted sales of the "Forsyth Saga" and "War and Peace" into the millions will do the same for Arnold Bennett.

The trilogy, which is already a modern literary classic, is based upon Bennett's own experiences of the Staffordshire Potteries in the late 19th Century, a period of extreme riches and soul-destroying poverty. The protagonist, Edwin Clayhanger, fights to rise above this overpowering environment, but must struggle against a tyrannical father and the disadvantages of his class. At the same time his heart is ruled by the destructive and turbulent pas-

sion for the emancipated, sensual Hilda Lessways.

Bennett is hardly an unknown commodity and it is difficult to give any new startling review of the trilogy. However, despite the new "tele" connotations, I still feel that Bennett's trilogy, with its realistic and detailed insights into a now alien society is as readable now as when it was written. Indeed Walter Allen in "The English Novel" has written: "He (Clayhanger) is one of the most attractive heroes in 20th Century fiction. Bennett who believed inordinately in the interestingness of ordinary things and ordinary people was never more successful in revealing the interestingness of an apparently ordinary man than in Edwin Clayhanger".

P.B.

London under siege

YOU may not have noticed it but London is under siege. All over the city restaurants, cinemas and retail outlets are preparing for the next round of bombings.

As in the Blitz, the siege is characterised not so much by heroism, but rather by bored indifference. Indeed, I met one restaurant owner (a Greek) who had not even heard of the IRA. However, restaurant frequenters have declined in numbers and the proprietors are certainly becoming more aware of the danger and its consequences. It does appear, though, that a great number of people seem unconcerned about the future activities of what Commander Healms of the Bomb Squad terms "the other side".

However, you may have noticed the sandbag frontage of the L'Opera in Great Queen Street. Mr

Caterino, the restaurant manager, provides a good example of the new security-consciousness of the restaurant owners. Within the last month the security measures such as the sandbag wall and wire-netting have been added to the front of his restaurant. As he says, these are "merely precautionary measures".

The main stores along Oxford Street are all exceptionally tight-lipped about their anti-terrorist security arrangements; Marks and Spencer think that as a Jewish organisation they are perhaps more vulnerable to the threat. I can assure them that all the other stores take the threat as seriously as they do.

It is difficult to dismiss the threat of future terror campaigns for their effectiveness for the Provisionals

cannot be denied. The English bombings can perhaps be seen as a factor in the destruction of Stormont and internment and at the same time the creation of the English people's desire to drop Northern Ireland.

Certainly the Belfast Brigade (a more extreme Provo section) feel the time has come for a resumption of the English campaign, although the Army Council feel that the political timing is not right. Recent losses in the Republicans' cell-structure over here could soon be replaced, and actions such as the introduction of the SAS may bring about a response of the same ilk. The conclusion could be—don't go to too many West End restaurants unless they have sandbag windows and waiters who check under the table.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF PLEBS?

WALTER HUGHES and his editorial team of librarians would like to announce the revival of their staff magazine, 'PLEBS,' which they hope "will make a valuable contribution to communication within the Library and provide a forum for lively debate." They "also hope to break down some of the inevitable barriers set up by the hierarchical staff structure."

The magazine, originally the brainchild of Christine Hogg—now Chief Cataloguer at the City of London Polytechnic, unfortunately declined after her departure from L.S.E. and has lain dormant since Christmas, 1973.

In accordance with its intention to amuse and provoke reaction by "reflecting the whims, opinions, heartburns and aspirations of its readers," the 26-page magazine is stocked with informative articles such as the opening page on the new premises at Strand House and an interesting comparison of libraries in the Eastern United States; profiles on five members of the L.S.E. library staff—more to follow in the next edition—and poetic reflections.

These are interspersed with witticisms such as helpful Norwegian vocabulary to enable you to understand foreign language technical texts, or the question: "Would you buy a used lift from LSE?" The latter refers to a table of statistics of the numbers of times library staff have been trapped in the University's lifts. Out of 82 subjects questioned, 25 had been

trapped at least once. "PLEBS" would welcome reports on students' experiences, to enable them to increase their data.

The main feature of the paper to which "PLEBS" staff would like to draw students' attention is the competition they are running, for which a first prize of two tickets for a West End play of the winner's choice, second prize of half-pound box of 'Milk Tray,' and third prize of a packet of "All Bran" (small) are being offered. The first prize will, however, only be awarded if there are at least two entries. Competitors are invited to submit essays on the following subjects:

"Open-access' in academic libraries—boon or bane?"

Entries, which can vary in length from 20 to 2,000 words, will be judged by the chairman of the Library Committee, Prof. Edey; the Librarian and the Editor, Walter Hughes; and should be submitted by April 30th.

Unfortunately, as "PLEBS" is an internal library magazine, only 88 copies will appear each quarter. However, the library staff will willingly loan you one of theirs and welcome any contributions.

The first edition contains a very amusing, imaginative description of the Teaching Library, by a student, which is subsequently contrasted by a member of the Teaching Library staff in a view 'from the inside.'

"PLEBS" awaits your news, views and essays.

MS

Welfare reports:

NURSERY

SINCE the last article in "Beaver", a group of students visited the CES Nursery. They were most impressed by the vitality of the children, the warmth and obvious commitment of the staff. On the way back, we stopped at the Parish Hall and were amazed at the contrast between the two premises. However, the comparison was helpful in allowing us all to visualise what the LSE nursery could become. In area space and lighting, it is not dissimilar to how the CES nursery must have looked originally as a basement with one window.

Although not all bills have come in yet, it is calculated that the Festival may have raised £100 for the CES nursery. This impressive amount will be most welcome and is further evidence of our gratitude for the services provided for our students' children, especially the under two-year-olds who find the most difficulty in getting nursery places.

The LSE nursery matron is now

Miss D. Stewart, who will be joining the School on January 19th. Her assistants are presently being interviewed. It is now anticipated that the nursery will be open from February 16th.

ACCOMMODATION

It is disturbing to note how many students are still in dire need of suitable accommodation. Although we have already spent the allocated budget sums on advertising for lodgings and do not expect to advertise again until the summer, we shall consider doing it if the present lists of available accommodation prove inadequate.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

The autumn term ended with a successful party at Carr Saunders with food and drinks subsidised by the SU's Overseas Students' Committee and the Carr Saunders Hall Committee. Special thanks must go to Chris Wells and his helpers behind the bar, especially during the half-price drinks period.

Many overseas students were invited to the homes of UK students

for Christmas. It seems to have been a mutually enjoyable experience for the lucky ones.

There have been enquiries about setting up a support group for Overseas Students to discuss some of the problems of adjusting to the LSE and London. The School nurse, Penny Rockley, and I would be very interested in meeting any other students who feel they might wish to participate in such a project.

PLAYGROUP

We are prepared to run another playgroup during the next half-term, but must have some idea of dates when parents would want it and the extent of the demand.

READERS FOR BLIND STUDENTS

The response to the call for readers has been pretty encouraging. Unfortunately there are occasions when people do not keep appointments. It would be appreciated if they could arrange for a substitute reader when this does happen, since people do depend on having material read before certain classes.

REST INSURED

THINGS are happening at Endsleigh. Worried by the increasing administrative costs they are facing, our own insurance boffins have hit upon a new plan—the six-month motor policy. But you may well appreciate that this will mean two renewal procedures a year—surely more administration. However, this has not escaped their notice and so the renewal procedure is to be simplified. What may interest you, though, is that

this new six-month scheme will, in most cases, be significantly less than half of the premium for the present annual policies. Endsleigh suggests that "in the present economic climate it must be attractive to policyholders only to have to pay half their annual premium at any one moment. Furthermore, the policy will also have advantages to the insurer as it avoids the necessity of guessing the inflation rate for more than six months

ahead. If you are interested, the new motor policy is called Studentplan-6 and there is a corresponding graduate plan. Gradplan-6. Of importance also is the fact that they will have a loyalty bonus rather than a no claims bonus, with the added "bonus" that it cannot be lost should the policy-holder suffer the misfortune of being involved in an accident.



SSCs

THE following dates have been arranged by various Departments:

- Government: Jan 20
- Statistics: Jan 22
- Sociology: Jan 20
- Social Administration: Jan 26
- International Relations: Jan 22

The Economic History Department is spreading the rumour that they have no students. The last two meetings of its Staff-Student Committee attracted no student representatives. The Economic History Department would like to hold some well-attended meetings because its members feel they would be of advantage to both Staff and Students.



THIS "BEAVER" was produced by Sheree Dodd, Martin Peacock, Nikki Tait, Michelle Dodd, Anton Chapman, Mary Sewell, with help from Richard Blackett, Mungo Deans, Paul Brown and all others.

All opinions expressed in the paper are those of the writers.

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R.B.

Classified

ROOM or small flat wanted for weekends—student couple based in Brighton need a place in London at weekends. We can contribute to rent or swop for a room near the sea in Brighton.—Ring Andrea Fisher, 01-235 8374.

DO you know what rights you have when buying goods from a shop? Would you know how to cope when threatened with eviction from your home, or know what to do when you have no money and no job? These and other problems will be discussed in a series of lunchtime lectures at King's College:

- Tuesday, Jan. 20th, 1.05-2.00 p.m., 3/B/20: "When you enter a Shop"—a talk on consumer problems by Prof. Guest (King's).
- Tuesday, Jan. 27th, as above, "Eviction"—by Les Burrows, of Shelter.
- Tuesday, Feb. 3rd, as above: "Getting Married"—by Mrs Fortin (King's).
- Tuesday, Feb. 10th: "Joining The Dole Queue," by Henry Hodge (Child Poverty Action Group).

We hope to start regular meetings of Gay/Homosexual people in College this term. Anyone interested should contact Wanda Goldwag Bia, U/G pigeonholes, or Georgina Neophytou, or Charlie Brown via P/G pigeonholes.