

The Beaver

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News Summary

No confidence in Marriot

Lee Marriot, the LSE Conservative Association's internal vice-chair, has had a vote of no confidence passed against him by his own organization.

Marriot came under attack at a meeting of the LSECA for his comments at the Union General Meeting on February 14, where he described gay sex as "the thin end of the wedge for acts of paedophilia and necrophilia".

Chris Pincher, Chair of the LSECA supported Marriot, claiming that the vote was unconstitutional in that no advance notice was given. He also praised Marriot in that "he had the guts to stand up and speak for what he believed in".

Marriot has so far had a controversial year. Earlier this term he was replaced as NUS External Affairs officer in a by-election after he allegedly failed to carry out any of his duties. His name was conspicuous by its absence from the list of Conservative candidates for the forthcoming SU Elections.

It is not clear if Marriot will be forced to resign.

Academic angers FRG

The German Ambassador lodged a complaint with the Foreign Office last week in response to a paper written by an LSE academic which heavily criticizes Germany's role in the Gulf War.

The article, "Cheap Excuses, or Life, Death and European Unity" was written by Dr Alan Sked for the anti-federalist Bruges Group. In assessing the European Community's reaction to war, Dr Sked is skeptical of the German government's claim that its constitution forbids the deployment of German troops in the Middle East. The constitutional objections, he claims, were "invented" because German public opinion was reluctant to see German troops involved in the war. He continues that Germany's willingness to pay for the war but not participate in it means that her role is to "disburse funeral grants to British, French and American mercenaries."

The German embassy confirmed that the document had been discussed during a meeting between the German Ambassador and Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg. The Ambassador had drawn the Minister's attention to the article and "the Bruges' Group treatment of one of Britain's closest friends and allies." The Foreign Office were keen to play down the exchange, saying only that the article had "been mentioned in conversation" and stressing that since the document was nothing to do with the Government, there was no justification for an official protest.

Dr Sked's article has also aroused the interest of the German press, with both Frankfurter Allgemeine and Die Zeit carrying stories concerning it.

Choice students visit LSE

Last Thursday, the LSE saw a visit by some 90 inner-city school-children who took part in activities as diverse as a Drama Workshop, a lecture with Fred Halliday and a visit to the UGM. The group of 13-16 year-olds were here at the instigation of Choice; a society set up to encourage underprivileged children to participate in higher education.

The visit began with a welcome from the Director and a further speech from Jon Hull, Social and Services Secretary. This was followed by tours of the School and lunch.

The afternoon was taken up with lectures by Christopher Hill on Europe and Professor Halliday on Iran. Also on the agenda were 5-a-side football matches and a drama workshop. The day ended with a quiz and a disco.

Reaction to the visit was positive. "It's friendlier than any of the others we've been to," said one of the visitors.

Juanita Shepherd, Chair of the Choice group, was also pleased. "It was very hectic but great fun," she said. "The kids all really enjoyed themselves."

Court Reforms Proposed

Michiel van Hulten, a leading member of the DSG, has proposed serious changes to the operation of both the Standing Committee and the Court of Governors. In a two-page document, he claims that Standing Committee meetings are "essentially undemocratic".

The membership of the Standing Committee is drawn from the Court of Governors and is intended to oversee the day-to-day running of the LSE. At the present time student leaders are excluded from these meetings.

Hulten would like to see the inclusion of student governors in the future.

Hulten's proposals were presented to the committee at the latest Standing Committee meeting. Initial reactions to the proposal were said to be "positive", with the Committee promising to discuss them.

However, the School has pointed out that this would mean giving Students some control over matters such as staffing and funding of departments. In response to this, it has been suggested that there be two meetings of the committee, one open to students and one dealing with such matters in private.

Compiled by Peter Harrad and Richard Stevens

Vote rigging allegations within Labour club

Woodfield chosen amid party infighting

by Edward Bannerman & Juanita Shepherd

Allegations of vote rigging abound after a heated Labour Club pre-election meeting last Monday where Kandy-Sue Woodfield was chosen as Labour's General Secretary candidate.

The meeting, held at the top of the St. Clements Building, broke up in a fury when some in attendance claimed that non-members had taken part in the vote for sabbatical candidates.

At the start of the meeting, the Chair, Anita Dockley, declared that the vote would be taken from a membership list prepared two weeks previously. On this basis, she disregarded the votes of some of those present and declared Gareth Roberts as the Party's nominee on a vote of 16-14.

Strong protests and a challenge to the chair forced her to recognize some individuals not on the list, and the recount was won by Woodfield 19-16.

Supporters of Roberts stormed out claiming that the meeting had been "packed" with Left-wing elements who backed Woodfield's campaign. Among the alleged illegitimate members were Greg Pasco, Zoe Sellars and Joan O'Mahoney.

Pasco has identified himself as an "Independent Green" for many years, but is known to be an associate of Woodfield. At the meeting, Labour Club member Daniel Trump attempted to pass money to the Treasurer, which he claimed Pasco had given him as a membership fee two weeks previously.

O'Mahoney also took part in the first vote despite admitting afterwards that she was not a member of the Club.

Sellars had been a member for the two previous years, but had since lapsed her membership.

Labour member Gary Lidington, who had voted for Woodfield, claimed to be "disgusted" by the decision. "There was something very dodgy about the way the meeting was conducted", he said.

Veteran member Nick Cox commented, "People should seriously consider the impact of voting for someone who at least acquiesced, if not conspired, in the rigging of an election. With these doubts hanging over her [Woodfield], it will be hard to make the Union look credible".

Members are now asking why, given that similar disputes have occurred in the past, nothing



Kandy-Sue Woodfield speaks for divided Labour Club

Photo: Alex McDowell

has been done to tighten up procedures at the selection meeting.

In response, Dockley said that "this is a problem that has got to be addressed."

Roberts made no secret of his disgust with the situation. He believes that there was a campaign within the Labour Club to stop him being selected because he is a moderate.

Roberts said, "There are serious problems in the Labour Club. It was diverse and dynamic but now it is just factionalized."

There were rumors that Roberts would stand as an independent candidate but he said "I still have loyalty to the Labour

Club and Kandy is an excellent candidate. If I had stood it would have been for all the wrong reasons and would have gone against everything Labour have achieved in the past few years".

Woodfield expressed annoyance at the "very, very ineffective chairing". She added that it was "a horrible way for it to happen to Gareth". Although Woodfield did not dismiss the fact that she could lose because of the events she hopes that people can forget what happened and vote on the ability of the candidates. In true diplomatic style she said "If I lose, well, that's just politics".

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ELECTION 1991 : Candidates,

General Secretary : Middleton on the job.

The issues

What is your party's current position of the War in the Middle East?

Conservative Association: "We believe that the war in the Middle East is justifiable. If the international community did not stand up to Saddam Hussein's aggression then no small country could feel safe. Its important to note that the coalition is made up of Western, Eastern, and Arab nations, and the conflict is taking place to facilitate the imposition of UN resolutions."

Democratic Socialist Group: "When the DSG was founded, one of the things on which we agreed was that we should focus on those issues directly affecting students and their education. The problem with "international" issues, we felt, was that it was

- a) difficult to affect them, and
- b) difficult to agree on questions which are often essentially moral in nature.

Many people base their support for or opposition to the war on moral grounds. It would be inappropriate and undesirable to try to achieve some kind of moral consensus: the Labour party has shown how impossible that is. However, individual members of the DSG are always happy to give their own point of view, and contribute to the various debates."

Labour: "Labour club policy on the Gulf calls for immediate withdrawal of troops from the Gulf and also to condemn Saddam's invasion of Kuwait and the human rights abuses. The policy calls for a campaign to condemn 'blood for oil' and blames war on imperialist aggression."

SWSS: "First off we completely oppose the war in the Gulf. Events recently have shown that it has nothing to do with democracy and more to do with the U.S. exerting itself to impose its hegemony through Bush's "new world order."

Oil is crucial to this, as even the most jingoistic would agree. Therefore, we call for "no blood for oil". Secondly, we believe that any U.S. solution would create more dictators and cause even worse conflict in the region.

Should the LSE Student Union Disaffiliate from NUS?

Conservative Association: "Our opposition to the NUS is based primarily around its insistence on compulsory membership. As a person I should not be forced to join an organization especially if I disagree with their policies. We also object to the giving of money on our behalf to the NUS. The student union can find better uses for £15,000 than giving it to an organization that gives nothing back."

Democratic Socialist Group: "A national union of students has an important part to play in the representation of student interests. The NUS, however, has proven itself unable to fulfill this role. Its conferences are dominated by the infighting of politically irrelevant and insignificant factions, and its campaigns have not had any tangible successes in the past decades."

NUS reform is very necessary. Delegates must be democratically elected. Conferences must be structured in such a way that they can follow the order paper without interruption. The format of conferences ought to be reconsidered: too many political factions use the NUS as an excuse for a paid gathering of their own. Finally, the NUS must adopt the constructive and imaginative approach to campaigning which the DSG advocates at LSE."

Labour: "No, students should campaign to transform the NUS into a fighting union. Only by doing this can we make effective the struggle against the vicious Tory cuts."

SWSS: "SWSS's position on NUS remains the same. We believe in a fighting union, unfortunately NUS needs to be kicked into action more often than not, that depends on how strong union organization is on the college. Something that SWSS fights for consistently."

What is your party's current position on the Director's Vision?

Conservative Association: "The Directors Vision is a Curates Egg, it contains both good points and bad points. The idea of "visions" is new to the school, but it is a concept which, he believes, is important to the future of the LSE. In general we react favorably to most of the proposals, but the final decision must solve many of the problems as well as take many of the opportunities that these ideas bring up."

Democratic Socialist Group: "We think the vision is exciting and necessary, but at the same time we are worried about its implications, especially for the Undergraduate school and its less economically viable departments."

Labour: "The Director's vision seems to advocate quantity not quality. Following the Director's abortive attempt to introduce top up fees this kind of attack on students is not surprising. The S.U. should immediately start to campaign to forestall all attempts to implement these proposals."

SWSS: "Vision or Apparition? Does he see moving statues too? Once again it appears two tier education is Ashworth's real vision. The postgraduate centre of excellence would exist to create "ruling class Eurocrats". We need to oppose the "vision" and demand a decent education system with equal access for all."

"In brief, to be a good General Secretary, what is needed is someone whose first priority is not always campaigns. Ideas, concern, and integrity are important. But what is needed is pragmatism, maturity, and capacity for hard work."

A good General Secretary must be able to represent all the members of the student union not just a small sub-set. This requires a special kind of temperament; constructive and ap-

proachable not confrontational and intolerant.

The new General Secretary must also remember that there are two sides to the union. Representation and the campaigns which arise are vital. But so are services-because they are the main point of contract between students and their union, and because their profits are certain to become ever more important in making the rest of our activities possible.

The treatment by student officers of this union has been blighted by incompetence, ideological hang-ups and a refusal to take advice from the outside. This union has been reinventing the wheel for years and getting it wrong, time and time again. The next general secretary will be required to be a genuine administrator. The day to day business of the LSESU must be the top priority.

It seems to happen that most

candidates and some voters see only the first word of the job title (General..., Senior..., Social...) . A general can lead us to great things, or into great disaster. My recommendation? We don't need a general to lead us into political battle. We can do that on our own. What we need is a secretary to ensure the survival of the union."

The Candidates ...

Name: Michiel Van Hulten

Party: DSG

Year: Msc Public Admin.

Home town: Lelystad, Netherlands

SU Experience: Overseas Officer 1988-1989, Chair Constitution Committee 1988-89, Student Governor 1990-1991, Carr-Saunders President 1988-1989.

General Secretary

"Two weeks ago the Director revealed his vision for the future of LSE. It contains many sensible and exciting ideas: improved facilities, a larger site, a more European-orientated school. But some of the school's key features must be preserved: undergraduates and graduates taught by the same teachers in the same buildings, a great variety of undergraduate courses (not just economics, politics and law), and admission regardless of financial status."

"The Students Union must help to shape the Director's vision. Imagination, creativity and constructive debate will be crucial if we want to have an impact. At the same time, the Union must develop a Vision of its own future - how can it provide the best welfare and commercial services, conduct imaginative and constructive campaigns, and debate all issues critically?"

"These are the major challenges that lie ahead. The DSG's approach to politics makes it possible for them to deal with them effectively."



Name: Helen McCarthy

Party: SWSS

Year: 1st

Home town: London

SU Experience: None

General Secretary

"I am opposed to war in the Gulf and have been active in the Anti - War in the Gulf society."

"I think 1991-2 will be a very difficult year for all of us. The government, whether it is Labour or Tory, will be faced by a recession exacerbated by war costs. They will do all that they can to make ordinary people pay. That will mean job losses, cuts in health and education and increased poll tax bills."

"This union will need a Socialist General Secretary to defend students' interests next year. A vote for SWSS is not a vote for a bureaucrat who'll do it all for you. It's a vote for an active union where all students can be involved."

"I have always fought oppression and discrimination in all its forms and will continue to do so. A vote for me represents a vote for welfare and not warfare."

Name: Ali Nikpay

Party: Independent Green

Year: 2nd

Home town: Teheran, Iran

SU Experience: Welfare Officer, ASC member

General Secretary

"Most people in this university don't bother to vote. It is the voice of this silent majority that I am representing. For an effective union we need efficient management that is accountable to us all. No longer should decisions be made behind closed doors by self-interested individuals. I spent a year as an executive officer trying to change this. I now realize that only a strong General Secretary can take on this challenge. Welfare and genuine environmental reforms are urgently needed. The school must take student interests fully into account. Primarily, we must press for reform on issues that affect us daily rather than spend time and resources on revolutionary crusades."

"What about longer library hours, cheaper bar prices and better access? Why don't we have a graduation ball? The Students Union must deal with such issues now. Our representatives must take time to tackle out problems, not just theirs."



Name: Chris Pincher

Party: Conservative

Year: 3rd

Home town: Wombourne, South Staffs

SU Experience: ULU, GUC, General Purposes Committee

General Secretary

"I am standing to offer increased opportunity and choice to the student community. I want to end the monopoly supply to the Bar by NSSO and to tender out the bar and shop franchises to the find the cheapest suppliers of goods for students."

"I believe that the pay of sabbaticals should be cut and that the remaining surplus should be used for the housing association. I also believe that we should completely cut our affiliation with the NUS because does not benefit us and it is ultimately utterly useless."

"Finally, I believe in the freedom of speech for all. I wholly defend the right for all groups to invite speakers to the LSE in the knowledge that they will be free from the harassment of those not prepared to listen before they judge. I am standing on a platform of support for Free Kuwait and Allied Action."

Name: Kandy Sue Woodfield

Party: Labour

Year: 3rd

Home town: Southampton

SU Experience: Welfare Representative 1989-90, ASC Exec Representative 1989-90, Student Representative Health Service Committee and Working Party for Disabled Access.

General Secretary

"The role of General Secretary is to campaign actively for student welfare, to represent student issues and build a strong united union."

"As the SU welfare representative, I initiated a disabled access campaign, campaigned for equal opportunities on and off campus. As an executive rep on the ASC I gained invaluable experience of staffing and services issues. Alongside the Labour club I have actively campaigned against continued government attacks on student welfare and access to education."

"The Director's 'vision' to expand the faculties of the LSE should be encouraged. However, I feel there are serious implications for student welfare and the academic structure of the school. If elected I shall work to ensure that real consultation with the students takes place before any radical changes are made."

"My vision of the LSE is of an integrated community of all students. A community committed to equal opportunities and free of bigotry."



Campaigns, and Issues

Senior Treasurer : Taylor on finance.

Social Sec. : Hull on entertainment.

"In many ways the Senior Treasurer's job is more clearly defined than the other Executive Positions. There are many things that you have to do, for example, produce the SU Annual Budget and the Annual Budget Submission to the School. In addition, the responsibility of raising money for various events is always yours. However, the post of Senior Treasurer, like any other on the SU Executive, is largely what the holder makes it. So you can be a first-class bureaucrat, sitting in your room pouring over accounts and signing cheques, or you can get involved in the broader work of the Union. That

means providing advice and assistance for societies and students. It also means being actively involved in campaigning. Too many sabbaticals have become so engrossed in the bureaucracy of the Students' Union that they cannot see beyond it. Committees and administration are an integral part of the job. However, they serve a means to an end. They are not an end in themselves. Moreover, they are not always the most appropriate or effective means of achieving our goals. Sometimes compromise and negotiation work, but not always. You have to be prepared for confrontation.

Finance is often viewed as the boring aspect of the Students' Union, yet it is the crux upon which everything else hinges. If there is no money there are no services, and no campaigning. Yet conversely, the continual decline of the SU subvention from the School has shown, if there is no campaigning, there is no finance. I hope that who ever is Senior Treasurer next year will take it on as a political and campaigning post, and will not merely be a hand to sign cheques."

Name : Woody Bild
Party : SWSS
Year : 1st
Home Town : London
SU Experience : None

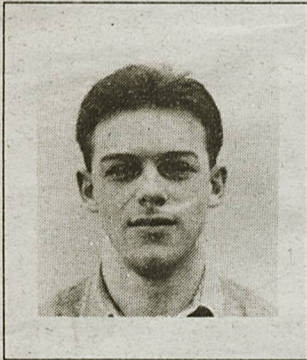
Senior Treasurer



"I am a member of the Socialist Workers Party, a first year undergraduate law student, and have 'O' level mathematics."
"I have been actively involved in building the anti-war campaign in the college, and will continue to do so as my overwhelming priority."
As a SWSS sabbatical officer I will campaign for a union committed to withstanding attacks on union funding and autonomy, and absolutely against Ashworth's market-led vision. If that means outright confrontation then so be it. We are many, they are few."
"As Senior Treasurer I will campaign for funding for political societies to bring the LSE in line with other colleges. I will actively campaign against racism, sexism, and homophobia and for the involvement of all students in union affairs."
"I hate Tories."

Name : Dominic C. Bourke
Party : Conservative
Year : 2nd
Home town : Darlington
SU Experience : Chair of LSECA. On General Purposes Committee and ULU GUC

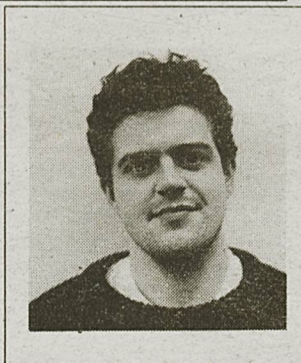
Senior Treasurer



"The Conservative Party candidates differ from those of other parties, in that we actually state what we are going to do. The other parties put forward their usual picture of vague principles which are supported by everyone and woolly sloganing which means nothing to anyone.
"The key points on which we stand are :
1) Longer opening hours for the Three Tuns, it's lunacy that students can't spend their time and money in a Student Union facility and have to go elsewhere.
2) Longer opening hours for the library, we are here to study, most universities have longer opening - we should too.
3) A cut in sabbatical pay. This can only help sabbaticals, as it will bring them more into line with students"
"On Thursday 28th I urge all students to vote for the only person with new ideas Vote Dominic Bourke. Vote Conservative."

Name : Toby Johnson
Party : DSG
Year : 2nd
Home town : Peterborough
SU Experience : Social Secretary, Rosebery Avenue Hall. Vice-chair, Rag Committee.

Senior Treasurer



"The post of Senior Treasurer is one that is often seen to be secretive and unapproachable. If elected to this post, I intend to fulfill the aims of the DSG in making the union more accountable to the students. To achieve this, I will let the students know exactly how their union money is being spent instead of limiting financial discussion to the annual budget meeting.
It is important that the three sabbaticals elected are people who can work together and work with the school. Over the past two years we have seen the union stagnated by conflict, making it impossible for anything new and constructive to be achieved."
"The DSG has an excellent record of working for the students and has always defended equal opportunities and the right for people to express themselves without intimidation. If elected, I will continue to actively support this and student welfare in general."

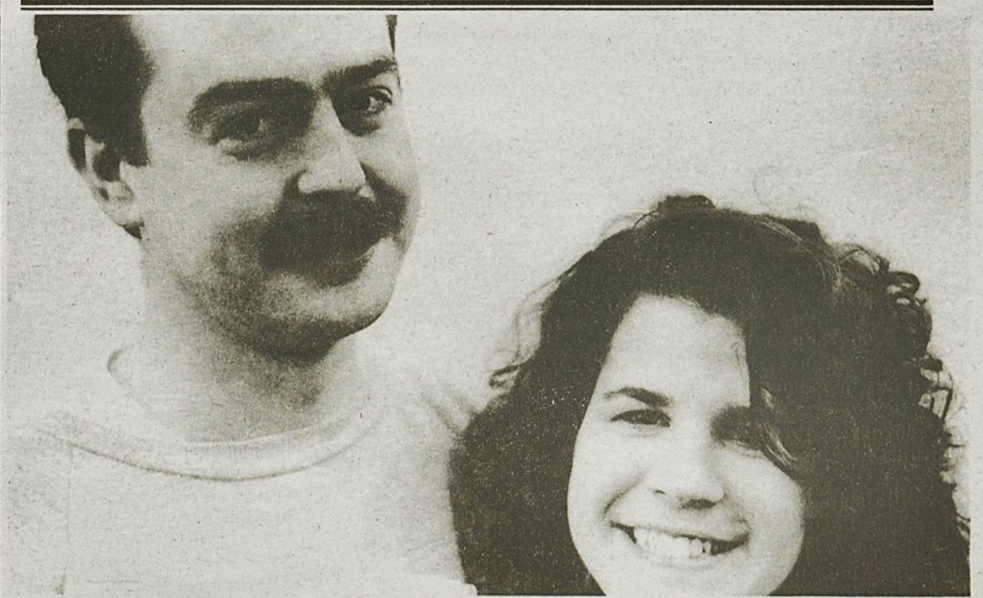
Name : Leandro Moura
Party : Labour
Year : 3rd
Home Town : Rio, Brazil
SU Experience : Overseas Officer 1990-1991. On Finance Committee, 1990-1991. On Committee for welfare of overseas students, 1989-1990. Executive Representative on Joint Union Representative Committee, 1990-1991.

Senior Treasurer

"The post of senior treasurer is not only administrative it has an important role to play in campaigns. Campaigns often hinge on finance, and the financing of the union is a campaign in itself."
"An increasing number of students next year means that S. U. resources will be further stretched. If elected I will campaign on two levels. Firstly to increase the level of funding from the school in line with the number of students and inflation. Secondly I will continue to improve upon the efficiency and expansion of S. U. services started and built upon by recent Labour sabbaticals. In doing this I will not let the welfare services be downgraded, many students cannot survive without the advice of our excellent staff."
"My experience as overseas students officer amongst other things, qualifies me for the post. My commitment to all students home and overseas speaks for itself. All students deserve a fair deal and I intend to get it for them."
"For a strong team defending education and your services; building an effective union and fighting for your rights - VOTE LABOUR!"



"The job of Social and Services Secretary is often seen as the lowest of the three sabbatical positions. However, the job is exhausting and complex. The only phrase that comes to mind is 'There are just not enough hours in the day.'
In addition to planning social events, the Social Secretary has to sit on all Students Union Committees, including ASC and Finance. Moreover, he/she is responsible for presiding over the various society's functions and for the Safe Transport scheme. As is evident, the Social Secretary is different things to different people.
In this column I have been asked to say 'What it takes to be a success.' This would be pompous/arrogant of me to say I knew. In some ways this year I hope that I have done some things right, but I know I have made many mistakes. The only advice I can give is I hope my successor brings to the job new ideas (much needed), enthusiasm, determination, and an ability to make sure that the Social Sec is not the forgotten post that it sometimes can be.
Good Luck and make the most of what can sometimes seem like a living hell and others be truly satisfying. It has been a valuable experience. Thank you for letting me try my best."



Name : Dermot Boyd
Party : Independent
Year : 3rd
Home town : Dublin, Ireland
SU Experience : Chair of the Students Union 1990-1991

Social Secretary

Name : Fiona MacDonald
Party : Independent
Year : 3rd
Home town : New York, USA
SU Experience : Served on two Rag Committees, Chair of the Multi-Cultural Committee

Social Secretary

"I see my role if elected as Social and Services Secretary as providing a high standard of entertainment for students both present and future, while at the same time representing their interests on the executive and other committees."
"I believe myself to be very capable of this job and able to carry it out with efficiency. Having been involved with ENTS over the summer break last year I already have the ground base to achieve this. I have a working relationship with the cafe and the union shop through my position in the Three Tuns bar. I believe these services to be extremely important and will work to maintain and improve them."
"Having support from many diverse and varied groups, I will actively support equal opportunities in events organized in order to represent them fully. I intend to run ENTS on a profit making basis and plough any profits back into the union to improve services."
"For these and many other reasons, I think I make the best choice for Social Secretary."

"My campaign is about rejuvenating the involvement of students. There is a vast amount of student talent which can be encouraged by an accessible Social and Services Secretary. The union has secured the use of the Old Theatre after its renovation. I would promote the Old Theatre and the Quad as London venues to bring in popular and alternative cabaret, comedy, theatre and music.
"It is to the union's advantage for the Social and Services Secretary to put on promotional events that will make money and can be used to improve union services. The revamping of C018 to include a bar will be 'the new LSE venue' that students and societies can exploit for better disco, football nights, cabaret, movies, Karaoke. The under use of safe transport means that we need to publicize this service to the users - women. I want to use the position to initiate awareness about student issues - for instance having benefits for AIDS charities.
"Sabbaticals working together could do much to revitalize the social life of the school."

The other races...

Women's officer	Antonia Mochan, DSG	
Overseas Officer	Joan O'Mahony, Independent Socialist Feminist	Bjornar Jensen, Conservative
Postgrad Officer	T.S. Yeow, Labour	
Executive	Martin Raiser, DSG	Michael McGrath, DSG
	Claire Morgan, Conservative	A. Cattley, LSE-Greens
	Ron B. Voce, Independent but aware	William Shepherd, DSG
	James Houghton, Conservative	Ian Prince, Conservative
	Stuart Wilks, Independent	Eugene Isaac, Labour
	Dave Jones, Independent Anti Racist	Jed Marsh, Labour
	Graham Burnby-Crouch, Labour	
	Peter Harris, DSG	
Returning Officer	Simon Reid, Independent	
Junior Treasurer	Ludwig Kanzler, DSG	Thomas Vosa, Ind. LSD
	J M Spurling, Independent (Totally)	Sujata Aurora, Labour
Constitution Comm	Lucy Matthews, Labour	Tom Catan, Labour
	Ali Nikpay, Independent Green	Rhiannon Hordley, DSG
	Sam Patel, Ind. Liberal democrat	Chico Ferreira, DSG
NUS National	David Rein, Freedom not Oppression	Rick Livingstone, Labour
	Sam Patel, Ind. Liberal Democrat	Martin Rajah, DSG
	Daniel Trump, Labour	Helen McCarthy, SWSS
	David Rich, Levi's 501 Hahaha	Mel Taylor, Labour
	William Shepherd, DSG	
NUS London	Ron B Voce, Independent But Aware	Jed Marsh, Labour
	Sam Patel, Ind. Liberal Democrat	Sujata Aurora, Labour
	Farasat Latif, Labour	Michiel van Hulten, DSG
	Woody Bild, SWSS	
NUS Women's	Caroline Clarke, Labour	Sujata Aurora, Labour
	Ivana Bacik, Ind. Socialist Feminist	Antonia Mochan, DSG
	Joan O'Mahony, Ind. Socialist Feminist	
NUS London Women's	T S Yeow, Labour	Antonia Mochan, DSG
	Mel Taylor, Labour	

Beaver Election Staff

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Commentary

Union Jack

"Diane - it's one forty-three on a Monday and I have something strange to report. I was just sitting in the Three Tuns club, enjoying a quiet doughnut, when suddenly there was a loud rushing noise around my ears. I felt light-headed. Around me, people's movements slowed, then stopped altogether. The sounds of the bar fell away, until there was only silence. I looked cautiously around. An albino giant was standing behind the bar. He looked at me sorrowfully. 'It's happening again,' he said softly. I didn't understand at first, but as he repeated the message the light dawned. Elsewhere in the LSE, something terrible was happening."

Last week's episode in the LSE's surreal soap opera cunningly revealed the solution to one mystery and swiftly plunged us into another. Viewers have been on tenterhooks for weeks for the Labour Club to finally reveal who its sabbatical candidates would be, and at last we finally found out. You've got to hand it to the producers. Not many people had suspected that all along it was the two gentlefolk of the left, Kandy Sue and Leandro, who were plotting to get the nod.

But spare a thought for the more devoted fans of the show, who love dressing up as their favourite characters and chanting along to the script. Those who were expecting an Episcopo-Roberts landslide, and had already invested in woolly hats and dungarees (for the gurlies), and leather jackets and stick-on scars (for the chaps) will be particularly irate.

But whilst the nominations were a surprise, there's no getting away from the fact that the show has been suffering from a distinct lack of originality of late. To boost viewing figures with yet another Labour Club carve-up smacks of desperation, and the "Who chopped GR?" plot lacks the appeal of earlier mysteries. Still, it's nice to see some promising villains in the shape of Sujata Aurora and Daniel Trump hovering in the wings.

The Labour Club are deservedly the stars of the show but last week, mindful of the forthcoming acting awards, all the parties were wheeling out their favourite characters. Michiel van Hulten, who many dismiss as an aging ham, proved his critics wrong with one of the best performances in Thursday's extended hustings episode. Perhaps aware that many would like his contract with the show terminated and that this might be his last performance, Michiel gave it his all. "We are the right group to lead the LSE into the future," he thundered. Wonderful stuff. He could almost have been a normal person.

No such doubts with the next scene, featuring one H. McCarthy, who delivered with wonderful conviction a bizarre rant which managed to link the Gulf War to Tory education cuts. The professionalism of Ms McCarthy's performance was highlighted by the performance of Ali Nikpay, who clearly hadn't learnt his lines properly. The script was sweeping and melodramatic, but Ali's delivery was sadly not up to the task. "I have seen a corrupt union, a greedy union, a self-interested union," mumbled Ali. You could sense the people switching to the other side.

Chris Pincher, another old hack who many would like to see retired, gave an aggressive interpretation of some very old lines. Chris suffers from having to portray one of the show's more unrealistic characters - a Tory who cares - and whilst his delivery was good, you could sense the interest just wasn't there. That changed with the entrance of Kandy Sue Woodfield, the Labour Club's new darling. Critics had previously been divided on Kandy's ability to cope with the transition from bit-part player to romantic lead. Her nervous performance on Thursday seemed to prove the sceptics right, although much could doubtless be attributed to first night nerves.

As the episode drifted to a close, the Senior Treasurer sub-plot soon proved itself to be much weaker than the General Secretary power struggle. There didn't seem to be much to choose between the four protagonists, although there was a nice surreal touch by the Labour Club who wheeled up a comatose Leandro Moura to incoherently dribble into the microphone.

"Diane - it's two thirteen on a Thursday and I have just encountered the albino giant again.

"Thanks for the tip-off about the Labour Club carve-up," I said.

He looked at me strangely. "Labour club carve-up?" he said. "I was talking about these bloody elections."

Rag Week - so furlong much to answer for

Dave Jones is unrepentant

It's that time of year again. Just as everyone has sorted out their schoolwork, options and who to vote for in the elections we have to put up with the LSE Charity week. That's right - Rag Week '91 will begin on the 2nd March. Is it an excuse to escape lectures and classes for a week? Yes; will everyone be able to take part? Yes; and will Jon Hull be able to stay off alcohol until the end of the week? Probably not.

So what are we aiming to do? Basically raise money for charity. This year we are hopefully donating money to Comic Relief, Amnesty International and Choice. At the moment, due to the war, the government has frozen all aid to most 3rd world countries. Whether this is because they want more money for defence or because they don't want to give to would-be Iraqi supporters is unimportant. Unimportant, that is, to the poor and starving of countries such as Ethiopia, which faces the threat of a larger and more destructive famine than that in 1985. The money raised for Comic Relief will go to help this. At present people are being held in prison throughout the world under severe disregard of their basic human rights. This has been frighteningly apparent recently when we have seen military police storm SOAS; yet no sign of John McCarthy. Amnesty International "campaign for the release of people who have been imprisoned for political, religious and other conscientiously held beliefs."

Choice is a project that promotes higher education within inner-city areas.

And what fun things have we lined up for you this year? Well, the week kicks off with the return of karaoke in the Tuns on Saturday 2nd March. A star comedy act of Jennie le Coate and Jack Dee (compere of stand-up America), hits the Old Theatre on the Monday, while Tuesday sees the egg-throwing in Houghton St. The infamous Treasure Hunt starts at 6 p.m. (for 24 hrs) on Tuesday (sponsorship forms from Jon Hull's office). A Jailbreak starts at 2 p.m. on Tuesday with sponsorship forms also from Jon Hull's office. At 7 p.m. on the Wednesday there is a multi-cultural evening in the café/quad with food, fashion and dance. Thursday involves an all-day bar, pub quiz and auction. The penultimate event will be a sponsored hitch-hike to Paris on Friday the 8th March. To finish it all off there will be a Tequila party in aid of Rag on Saturday 9th March. Throughout the week there is a charity cycle ride to Sheffield organized by Stuart Wilkes.

Our Rag week cannot be classed as 'traditional'. We believe in complete equal opportunities and consequently will not

be producing an offensive Rag Mag. The Rag Mag will not alienate anybody as we feel it is not clever or hard (or funny) to be sexist, racist, homophobic, etc. International Women's Week is coincidentally the same week as Rag Week. So we hope to work with this and promote awareness towards it.

Finally, if anybody wants to get involved, Rag Meetings are on Tuesday at 5 p.m. in E206 (only one left!). We will have a stall in the Quad each lunchtime where you can enquire about the week, or ask myself or Jon Hull in E206. Remember to buy a T-shirt and Comedy Ticket; HAVE FUN.

Dave Jones

Michiel van Hulten (DSG) - Well Saint, once again the veteran of the Union pulls out the stops. This man must be favorite for he's had many transfers and has played in every position except Right Wing. He's the man for me, Saint. 3/1

Kandy Sue Woodfield (Labour) - Greavsie, old mate you must be joking. This one a good, solid old-fashioned left-winger. Only real problem; she's weak at the back. 9/2

Ali Nikpay (Ind. Green) - I'm not sure about this one. I don't know, Saint, whether green describes his political opinions or his state of mind. A touch of a thespian about this one. In fact, more theatrics than Anders Limpar. 12/1

Chris Pincher (Con) - Well, this one is the long shot. There is no imagination in the middle and he always misses open goals. 25/1

Helen McCarthy (SWSS) - Once again only one line and they are always caught offside. Some nice touches but has to be left on the subs bench. 25/1

Toby Johnson (DGS) - An unknown this one. No-one really knows where he's come from. Doesn't on first look seem to be an out and out

sticker but who knows. 10/1

Leandro Moura (Lab) - The mellow face of the Labour Club, a suspicion of hippiedom but altogether a solid midfielder. Has to be favorite to direct the team. 2/1fav

Woody Bild (Con) - Sounds more like Neil Kinnock than the 'Welsh Windbag' himself. Saint, these boys are solid on the right but no width out on the left or center. The tory line up has been weakened recently with the departure of well known right siders, this leaves them short of energy!! 25/1

Soc Sec - Over to you John Motson.

Dermot Boyd - 'Saddam' of the Tuns as he is known as. Only question arising really does he have the legs to go all the way? Not short of friends but at the end of the day, its a game of two halves and the real football doesn't begin until the end of the 90 mins. 5/1

Fiona MacDonald (Ind) - According to her campaign she'll give us a good time - the question is - will that be a honeymoon period? Lots of ideas, and rose like a Salmon in the hustings to take the initiative. Presently at 2/1

Women's Week

International women's week is a worldwide celebration of women's struggle for liberation and equality. This year the focus of the L.S.E.'s women's week will be on the diversity of the women's movement around the world to redress the balance of the British women's movement which has, in the past, suffered from the narrowness of its perspective. In presenting a vibrant and exciting display of international sisterhood and solidarity we are aiming to provide a broad base of appeal for all women at

the L.S.E. We are all too aware that women's issues at the L.S.E., whilst voted on, are not thoroughly discussed - it is easy for people to support women's issues in an attempt to be 'Right-on', its another thing to really understand why these issues are important. Our aim for this week is to raise more issues and to educate all students on their importance - we want to provoke debate and discussion. The issues we will address are topical and relevant to a cross-section - black, white, lesbian and

straight.

The current emphasis of the women's movement is on cultural diversity, yet the global capitalist economy continues to relegate third world women to an oppressed position - to address this issue we have the Palestinian writer Dr. Karmi to speak about the changing focus of international feminism.

We invite all students to join in our week long series of events, debates and discussions: to help us celebrate women's lives and the women's struggle.

The Women's Group

WARNING
UNATTENDED
PACKAGES
WILL BE
DESTROYED



SAM

SAM FISHNICK '91

The theory and practice of commuting

There is a silent army of L.S.E. students who commute every day from their prim suburban residences to this Kafkaesque monstrosity. Some believe, misguidedly, that these students commute so that they can shy away from the glamour of metropolitan life and hide away in the safety of their paternal home. In fact L.S.E. commuters are the brave few who battle against all conceivable odds, through the jungle of the British Railway system. Commuting is an art, and as with any art there are many skills to be learnt.

Firstly, the commuter must be able to answer the same cru-

cial question every morning: 'Can I conceivably get into college today?' In answering this question one must assume, due to ancient rolling-stock, an inefficient electrification programme and incompetence on the part of management and staff alike, that the answer is 'no'. The commuter should not even contemplate traveling unless he or she has very strong evidence to believe that, against all probability, the trains are actually running that morning.

Once at the station the commuter is faced by a second di-

lemma: 'On which part of the train is one most likely to find a seat?' This question should not even be approached. Unless a sudden plague has hit all city workers the chances of finding a seat are virtually next to nothing. One possible solution may be to move house to the location of the first station on the line. Then it might just be possible to find a seat.

If, against all probability, you have found a seat and the train is happily crawling its way towards central London you might wish to relax by reading a newspaper. Given the notorious speed of rail travel I might suggest that you should read the longest paper you can find, perhaps the 'European' but only if you don't mind

falling asleep. However, the solution isn't as simple as this. Living, as I do, in Essex one has to be careful over the choice of paper. The 'City Boys' with whom I share the train are able to detect that I don't quite fit in. In such a situation the 'Sun' is often the best choice. However if one is looking to impress, particularly a member of the opposite (shall I be as bold as to say) sex this isn't the best option. Given the reticence of the average commuter do not ever attempt to engage such a person in conversation. Instead other devices can be used to attract their attention. One popular move is to always carry a copy of 'The Times' with the crossword completed. Then one can appear to solve the puzzle in seconds flat and then, discreetly, display the solution to the astonished populace. This never fails. An early morning ego boast can sometimes be a necessity.

Once the commuter has, at long last, reached his or her destination he or she is faced with a final dilemma: 'Shall I rush in order to catch the Tube?' To this question there is no answer. If you do rush it will turn out that the next train is not due for ten minutes and you will be able to breathlessly watch all of those people you pushed out of your way in your hurry walk onto the platform. If you don't rush then an underground train will be leaving the station just as you are walking onto the platform. Then another train won't come for half an hour. It's just one of those situations in which you can't win.

Finally, lets look at the case for and against commuting:

- For:
- 1] It's cheaper than living in London.
 - 2] It gives you a chance to escape from all off the people you can't stand the sight of.
 - 3] It gives one an excellent excuse for missing lectures and classes. It's also the best excuse for why you haven't finished your essay yet i.e. 'Sorry but I was stuck for five hours between Barking and Upminster yesterday.'
 - 4] If you spend all of your time in London you'll go mad.
- Against:
- 1] It takes ages.
 - 2] You will have to leave parties early if you want to go home and if you don't you will have to sleep amidst a sea of beer cans.
 - 3] If you commute you'll go mad.
 - 4] Err....that's it.

Scott Kelly

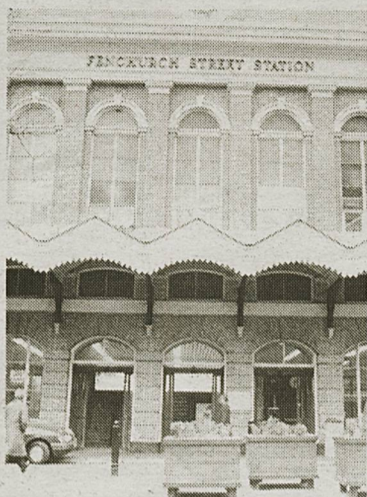


Photo: Karl Penhaul



Photo: Karl Penhaul

diary

This week Peter Greenaway directs: 'The Belly of an L.S.E. student'

Scene one: (The Brunch Bowl: Dive Dayshus is sitting surrounded by his cronies and his girlfriend. At the next table another student sits quietly eating while studying a musical score.)

Dive: 'Come on eat up luv eat up your grub or I won't take you to the Thai societie's **'Thai food evening'**. So tuck in or you'll miss a **five course sit-down dinner with live music on Thursday the 28th in the Quad at 7:15 p.m.'**

Girl: 'Dive leave me alone, I don't like this food'

Dive: 'That's your trouble you ain't got no taste (spots her looking at student at next table). What you looking at him reading music for?'

Girl: 'I wasn't'

Dive: 'Oh yes you were, come on lads lets leave this place'

(Dive leaves girl, she goes over to music-lover)

Girl: 'What are you reading?'

Music-lover: 'Music, it's my greatest love. In fact I'm going to the **Jazz societies meeting and Listening session between 5-7 p.m. on Thursday the 28th.'**

Girl: 'Really, that sounds much more interesting then anywhere Dive takes me'

Music-lover: 'Why don't I take you to see **Patrick Dunleavy taking on 'Democracy in Britain: A health check for the 1990's' in the Old Theatre at 5:30p.m. on Tuesday the 26th?'**

Girl: 'Oh yes please.'

Scene two: (The doors of the old Building are shown in perfect symmetry. The Music-lover approaches the waiting Girl)

Music-lover: 'Your friend Dive just tried to kill me by stuffing the scores of Bach and Handel down my throat'

Girl: 'You mean...'

Music-lover: 'Yes, (here's the only joke) I've got great music inside of me.'

Girl: 'I think I know why he did it. You've been taking lots of photos around the L.S.E. recently haven't you?'

Music-lover: Yes I'm entering the **Photo competition organized by the photo soc. All entries must be in by the 1st of March and can be left outside the dark room in the East Building'**

Girl: 'I think one of those photos could be a clue in a terrible crime Dive's involved in that's really important but can't be discussed at any length here (This is a rather laboured reference to the 'Draughtsman's Contract')

Music-lover: 'Do you think it was the one I took at the **Art Society's Drawing class which meets every Wednesday in C018 between 6p.m. and 8 p.m?'**

Girl: 'No, Dive would never go there.'

Music-lover: 'What about the one I took at the **Latin Dance class that meets every Tuesday at 7:15 in the Quad?'**

Girl: 'Dive wouldn't have been there, he has two left feet.'

Music-lover: 'Could it have been at the **Drama Workshop with Alan Mariot on Wednesday at 2:30 in C108?'**

Girl: 'I can't see Dive going to that either'

(As they pause a three legged zebra walks past.)

Girl: 'Did you take photographs when **Teddy Taylor spoke for the L.S.E.C.A. on Tuesday the 26th?'**

Music-lover: 'Yes I did.'

Girl: 'Well Dive was bound to have been there'

Music-lover: 'Let's find the picture while the camera follows us to the sound of Michael Nyman's repetitive music.'

Scene Three: (A rotting swan floats down the Thames. Nothing else happens.)

Scene Four: (Dive and his gang find the Girl and the Music-lover in Houghton Street.)

Dive: 'Well I've finally found the two of you. Boys, grab him!'

Music-lover: 'Wait a minute Dayshus. I have evidence to suggest that you are, in reality, Kyle Maclachlan, desperately trying to escape from a career as David Lynch's alter-ego by appearing in a Peter Greenaway film'

Dive: 'How did you find out?'

Music-lover: 'I found a picture of you drinking coffee and eating cherry pie.'

Dive: 'And it was damn fine cherry pie as well. I suppose this means I'll have to go back to severed ears and incoherent plots.'

Girl: 'Never mind.'

Dive: 'You know what this will mean?'

Girl: 'No.'

Dive: 'I won't be able to take you to be **Dr Norbert Walter talking about 'Trends in the EMU debate' at 5:30 p.m. in the Old Theatre on Thursday the 28th.'**

Girl: 'Oh well, perhaps you can take me out for a cup of coffee sometime.'

THE END.

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ULU TRAVEL



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The Beaver

Last Monday lunchtime there were an awful lot of concerned students about. In obscure rooms around the school packed meetings of political societies chose their sabbatical candidates, with varying degrees of integrity, for this week's election. One place where students were conspicuous by their absence was the Old Theatre in which Director John Ashworth expounded upon his "Vision" for 2020.

It would not be appropriate here to relate once more the central themes of the document (see last week's issue) or to comment on the issues raised (there will be time for that later), but what is of more immediate concern was the apparent disinterest of the vast bulk of the student body.

Apathy is nothing new in student politics, as hacks in their more candid moments will admit, but the Ashworth vision - irrespective of its merits or lack of - is something that should interest us all not only as present students but as future alumni, employers and even prospective parents. Even those whose selfish myopia does not extend beyond getting their degrees should share the Director's concern about the future standing of the institution whose name appears at the top of their certificates.

There are however more fundamental questions to be addressed. The whole notion of a Student Union is based on the assumption that we as students have a genuine interest in the running of the school. If only forty of us turn up (mostly, in classic student style, late) then the whole legitimacy of the LSESU as an institution will rightly be challenged.

It is not enough simply to plead poor publicity (The SU should have produced its own), or to claim with any integrity that short-term concerns with individual political careers outweighed the longer-term interests in the collective good of the school (what attempt was made to reschedule the meetings?).

Thus far the Student Union and its sovereign body the UGM have not distinguished themselves in their contribution to the debate which the "Vision" has engendered. It can only be hoped that next week will see those candidates whose concerns go beyond mere self-advancement coming forward to react constructively to the Director's statement. Indeed a response (positive or negative) should be central to their campaigns, and if not, they should be harried at the Hustings until they have thought of something.

It is currently thought amusing to scoff at the student excesses of our parent's generation. Unless we now show a greater interest in the world around us, and less in our CV-building, we risk the contempt of our children whose very welfare as future students is jeopardised by our neglect.

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First Hand "vision" The Director explains why he had a

Higher education in the UK, like much else in education, is in a state of flux - much as it was when the School was founded nearly a century ago. This seems an appropriate time, therefore, to ask a number of fundamental questions like what is the LSE for? Why is it here in Houghton Street? Why is it in the University of London? - and so on. We need to go back to our roots to see if the answers that our founders gave to those sorts of questions still hold true. This is what I tried to do when I spoke in the Old Theatre to my colleagues on the 12 February, and to a special meeting of the Students Union on the 18 February.

I called my talk "The LSE: A 2020 Vision" because I think that we need to lift our eyes off the immediate pot holes ahead (important though it is to avoid them), and look for a moment to the horizon to make sure that we are going in the right direction. Of course I don't claim that I can see the future any better than anyone else. Which of an infinite number of possible futures will be the one that becomes reality just cannot be predicted. But what can be done is to survey those possible likely futures, to decide which of them would be the "best" and then work out what it would be necessary to do in order to make sure that it is

that future - and none other - that becomes reality. So when I talk of a "vision", that's what I mean - a description of the possible future that would be best for the LSE.

My ideas are described in the paper I wrote and which has been circulated widely amongst the School's staff, and is available to anyone who wants it. In my experience no single person is very good at this sort of thing, and the best "visions" are those that result from a genuine debate amongst a large number of those personally and immediately involved. That is why we shall need to debate the issues for the rest of the academic ses-

sion. At the end of the day, the only "vision" that I am interested in is the one my colleagues will be committed to and are prepared to work hard to make happen. It would be good to think that the "vision" is also the one that appeals to our students.

So what we would really like would be the views of your children - but since I don't suppose many of them are around yet, I hope that you'll try and imagine what it is that they would most want and need from us in the future and tell us.

John Ashworth

Post Haste

Letters to E205 by hand or internal mail by 3pm Thursday

The Green Position

Dear Beaver,
Within the LSE Greens there has always been an underlying tension between

those who advocate full participation in all Union affairs as a fully fledged political party, and those who have an instinctive distaste for the hackery and petty in-fighting that mar union politics, and would prefer us to operate more along the lines of a society. Sadly, this year the division has been great, with the result that both elements have become somewhat disheartened, and unsure as to what our role should be. Our rather poor showing in the election for NUS/External Affairs Officer demonstrated the need for a fundamental review of our position.

After much debate and soul searching, we have agreed that the most honest and realistic way forward is to drop the pretence of being a fully political party like the others, and to stand candidates for selective positions only, where we are able to offer a distinctive contribution, for example in the post of Environmental Officer, and on certain key committees. By limiting our political role, we shall avoid the splitting of the centre vote that has occurred with the D.S.G., with whom our elected officers have found themselves working closely. Furthermore, we shall also be free to devote more time to activities like last term's Ecology week; events which, though they may not appear overtly political, nonetheless serve to bring about the changes in people's attitudes that are essential for a more certain future.

Yours faithfully,
Tim Rayner
Chair, LSE Greens.

Criticism of Beaver

A letter to the Beaver "in disgust". Ideally a University magazine should be informative on issues of interest to the student community. The "Beaver" is funded predominantly by the Student Union body. It should therefore assume responsibility to embrace the variety of subjects which arise within a diverse

mixture of under and post graduates.

In the process of attempted "satirical" humour, the "Beaver" has degenerated into personal attacks. Whilst respecting the editorial rights of the "Beaver" we believe it has been hijacked by a minority who use the magazine for their own cynical attitudes. Any "hack" who manages to get off their backside to promote; disabled access, gay rights or equal opportunities is accused of careerism or worse still - political opportunism. Having addressed the important issue of the forthcoming sabbatical elections, the magazine gave a "Saint and Greavsie" review of candidates, and made no attempt to analyse the issues at stake. In what appears to be a deliberate attempt to promote debate the "Beaver" willingly provides a platform for the racist and homophobic views of the less desirable members of the student body. Whilst acknowledging the right of free speech we believe the "Beaver" resorts to sensationalist and trivial "reporting" with little sympathy of the issues it is addressing - re "Union Jack".

In last week's "Beaver", the reader is subjected to two pages of "reviews" which are best left in the more capable hands of "Time Out" and "City Limits", a very obscure "Diary", "Union Jack" and some bloke talking to himself about Spaceman on the back page.

Political infighting is made the subject of front page news (NOLS article 3 weeks ago). Over the forthcoming election period we hope the "Beaver" will attempt to address the seriousness and complexity of the issues which face the LSE.

The LSE student body are an intelligent, diverse group of people and should not have to rely on this comic for important information. As a group of people who relish giving out criticism, we hope you accept ours in return.

With love,
Julia Buxton
Katy Episcopo

Beaver Replies

Dear "Julia" and "Katy", Whilst we are pleased to have any feedback, the Beaver feels that your letter contradicts itself. You ask that we embrace "the variety of subjects which arise within a diverse mixture of under and post graduates". It is with this in mind that the Beaver is divided into a number of sections. Union Jack for example is one person's humorous political sketch of what happens in the Union. Similarly "Saint and Greavsie" appeared on the campus pages which are obviously designed to be light hearted. You appear to be demanding a "magazine" entirely consisting of news on the issues you find important. Anyone who

looks at our news pages this week will see that in election week we have of course devoted a lot of space to drawing out the candidates on the issues. Furthermore, should political infighting occur, however offensive it may be to you, we merely report it, not cause it. The collective challenges you to provide evidence that we have ever advocated homophobic or racist views. We report their existence as believers in free speech and because the best way to defeat such bigotry is to publicise it.

Since you expect cynicism from us - is it any coincidence that you choose to voice your criticisms only at election time? If you felt so strongly about Beaver's contents why have you not come to our collective meetings to contribute ideas and articles? We pursue an open door policy; the Beaver, written, produced, and run by volunteers, has humour and the arts because unlike yourselves we, along with the majority of students, feel that there is more to student life than politics.

Choice visit

Dear Beaver,
As Chairperson of the LSE CHOICE Society may I take this opportunity to thank the many people involved in making the first LSE CHOICE Day visit such a success.

Special thanks must go to the Director, Prof John Ashworth for welcoming the pupils and to Dr Chris Hill who gave up his time to put on a special lecture.

Thanks also to Jon Hull, Mel Taylor, Ruth in admin, Donal and Gayle whose time and effort made everything run so smoothly. Last, but by no means least a mention for Sophie, Rick, Gareth, Steve, Steve B, Charlie, Amrit, Maya, Harsha, Shan, Richard, Kurt, all of Gayle's friends in Sociology and anyone else who I've forgotten who helped supervise the pupils during their visit and made their time here so enjoyable.

Jaunita Shepherd
Chairperson of LSE CHOICE Soc.

Wimbledon fans strike back

Dear Daphne, c/o The Beaver,
Your disparaging remarks about Wimbledon FC (issue 335) reveal a combination of gaucherie and ignorance which is deeply worrying in an elite academic institution. Apart from the mishap against Shrewsbury to which you tastefully refer, the

flower of South West London have been doing very well recently and are cheerfully placed, as they have been for some years, in the top half of the first division. And Vinnie Jones has moved on from Leeds United to Sheffield United, with whom he will be returning to the faithful few at Plough Lane on 23 March.

Should you care to accompany me on that day, or sooner, you will learn the meaning of discernment.

With warm wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Professor N.H. Stern.
Economics Department, LSE
(Is this a hot sexy date for Daphne? - ED.)

Dear Beaver,
Without being boring (for I fear Daphne has a monopoly on that), I'd like to reply to what I found a sad piece of journalism.

Daphne calls Wimbledon, "an unwholesome football club" and gives no reasons for doing so, apart from the "reported" bonus given to Big Fash, a reference to Vinnie Jones.

Dear old Daphne (who bears a striking resemblance to Agatha Christie) also says that Vinnie Jones is at Leeds - no he's not, love, he's at Sheffield Utd with 7 other Wimbledon rejects.

Yours,
Andy Baly.
(We'll have less of the "love" young man - Daphne)

Islamic Soc. critical of school

Dear Beaver,
The Islamic Society feels that the LSE Administration has been very uncooperative in assisting the society in arranging security for the Islamic Conference held on Saturday 16th February.

Despite the fact that the conference attracted leading delegates from the PLO and the Movement for Free Kuwait, and leading academics from Harvard, Cambridge and LSE, we found the school very reluctant and hesitant in coming forward and assisting us.

Given the potential attraction to the conference, we feel that the LSE Administration showed a lack of responsibility, when they knew full well of the security risk.

Despite this we would like to thank the members and the friends of the society who came in and helped with security to make this conference a huge success.

Waqar Hussain
Publicity Officer of the Islamic Society

Still waiting for the Spring

Sonia Lambert Interviews Algirdas Saudargas, Foreign Minister in the Lithuanian Nationalist Government.

"I think that we already have more democracy in Lithuania than I have seen in the West. Would your people go to defend your parliament against tanks and arms? That is democracy, that is real democracy."

Lithuania may need much from us, but not, apparently lessons in democracy, according to Algirdas Saudargas, Foreign Minister in the Lithuanian nationalist government. Since leaving Lithuania after the violent events of last month, he has met the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany to seek their support. Help for the Lithuanians, however, has hardly been overwhelming. The Althing, the parliament of Iceland, voted recently to recognise Lithuania's independence, but the minister is not optimistic that other states will be quick to follow suit. "It is possible," he said, "that Britain, especially now that it is involved in the Gulf, can't contemplate such risky political steps."

The Gulf War is, of course the crucial point, and the reason why Lithuania has been forgotten. To many, the complaints made by Mr. Saudargas are directed against the wrong side - last decade's enemy, as it were. For the people of the Baltic states, the Cold War issues may still be very relevant, but to the West Mr. Saudargas' anti-Soviet rhetoric, justifiable as it is, sounds curiously anachronistic.

The minister would like to see tougher action against the Soviet Union on the part of the West. "Sanctions are necessary but that is not enough. Now is the moment to stop this war machine, when it is hesitating." He believes that

stronger political expressions of disapproval are also called for, and that relations with Mr. Gorbachev should be more cautious. "I can already see some signs of this - not so much the stopping of aid but the significant distribution of aid, not just to the central government but also directly to the republics and to the Baltic States."

On the whole, however, things are likely to get worse before they get better, as far as

he can see. "The Soviets were ready to fulfil their plans under the shield of the Gulf War. Now they have stopped and are waiting for a new escalation in the Gulf conflict. We are entering a period of troubles."

"They wanted to seize our parliament, to overthrow our government, but they failed because our people defended the government. Now the process is still going on, but it takes hidden forms. For example, under the cover of the fight against black market profiteers, they authorise the KGB to intervene in many of our affairs. Gorbachev was very well

"Would your people go to defend your parliament against tanks and arms? That is real democracy."



aware of all this. He is at the top of the totalitarian system, yet he will always be controlled by this system - by the Communist Party, the KGB and the Army.

Gorbachev's personal responsibility for this is not the question. The business is on his conscience, however much he personally is involved."

"They may make a new attempt to attack Vilnius parliament, and they may not stop there. They could go further to regain the territories they have lost," insists Mr. Saudargas, in an attempt to rekindle the sort of fears that are rapidly dying out in the West.

There has been widespread concern about the reemergence of nationalism throughout the Soviet Union. Often an inspiring force when it is relatively weak, nationalism can of course have an ugly side as well. But Mr. Saudargas believes that these problems are engendered by the central government itself. "They invited the problem." Lithuania, on the other hand, has "always been a very tolerant nation, and so it is strange to hear accusations on the Soviet side against Lithuania".

Lithuania does not contain large minority groups within its present boundaries, but is nevertheless concerned about the issue. "We are

creating a civilized society where all the rights of minorities are assured. Of course there are always problems between minorities. Recently we

changed our law on minorities, so that non-Lithuanians can also use their language in offices and schools. The Jewish minority organised an exhibition of Jewish culture, and it was the first such exhibition to tour the Soviet Union. The Poles are also reviving their identity - establishing schools and so on, which they never had in Soviet times. We have economic problems, and we need Lithuanian schools as well, but you can read hope into the fact that the local government in Vilnius decided not to build a Lithuanian school but instead to build one for Poles."

No-one has greater reason to be aware of the fickleness of media attention. "The mass media operates according to psychological rules, and I understand that when British soldiers are fighting in the Gulf their relatives are concerned. But nevertheless, after the beginning of the war public opinion adapts. The press must be fed by new events. You can even get used to the bombing - it sounds cruel, but we also live in a cruel situation. It is sad that only the bloodshed in Vilnius created great publicity. Why is it only bloodshed that makes the issue worth discussing?"

Like many Lithuanians, the minister is a deeply religious man

with an almost evangelical sense of purpose. "I am a Christian," he says solemnly. "I see this not so much as a fight between East and West or between North and South, but between good and evil. Technical progress changes the shape of the world, and morality can use this. Publicity can be a good weapon against evil, even Hitler wanted to hide the atrocities which were being carried out. It was possibly the publicity that saved Vilnius parliament on the 13th of January. If something like that had occurred in the 1940s, nobody could have saved the lives of the government, nobody."

"But if we get used to it and we can't distinguish between what goes on on the screen and in real life, then we can't tell what is the Gulf and what is a video game. The world becomes smaller because of communication and we must make sure that this is used for good and not for evil."

The plea made by Mr. Saudargas is rather simple. "Really we need a peaceful time to establish democratic institutions. We don't need two hundred years to evolve these institutions, as you had in Great Britain. Nowadays we can adopt the already well known mechanisms, and we only need a few years to get them working".

Unfortunately, while the eyes of the West are turned away, and while our sense of outrage is directed elsewhere by the media, it seems unlikely that Lithuania will get even that.



"Gorbachev is at the top of the totalitarian system, yet he will always be controlled by this system."

"Why is it only bloodshed that makes the issue worth discussing?"

A Tale Of Five Cities

Stuart Wilkes takes a bike ride (what else) around wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen.

I once read somewhere that the last Brit to take any interest in Copenhagen was Nelson - he destroyed it in battle in 1807. Thankfully it doesn't seem to show the scars too badly and I'm sure that in between Nelson and myself there must have been a few fellow countrymen who stumbled upon the delights of the city. For those of you who haven't, and indeed for those of you who have, allow me to take you on a brief tour around the capital of the Kingdom of Denmark.

It's a warm summer's day so I wish to conduct this tour by bicycle. Those of you who know me will not find this surprising, but there is actually a good reason. Copenhagen is just embarking on a 1990's version of the free bicycle scheme, initially attempted in Amsterdam in the 1960s where the bicycles were white and later in La Rochelle where they were yellow. Having learned from the failure of these

projects the practical Danes have designed special bikes and got local business men to cough up the money. (I know not if the scheme is actually in operation yet, but let's pretend.) Having found one of the special racks we both place a 20 kroner deposit in the slot and pull out two of the heavy bikes, which carry advertisements for the sponsor. So starting off from the central station (Hovedbane-garden) we head east along Vesterbrogade.

Soon we pass "Tivoli", the giant amusement park in the center of Copenhagen. Tivoli is a landscaped park which houses bars, restaurants, a concert hall and all the fun of the fair. About four million people, four times the population of Copenhagen, visit Tivoli every year. Personally I never really liked it so let's head on!

Continuing along the road we come to Radhuspladsen, the town hall square. Stopping for a moment we see the town hall and a rather ugly looking fountain on our right, and advertising all around us. This time it is of the neon variety, and what ever the ethics of it all it looks very impressive at night. Heading on we cross over into the pedestrian street, Stroget, which is in fact the longest pedestrian street in the world. It is also 1.8 kilometers of rampant commercialism, so having dragged you away from a tourist shop selling miniature vikings, we weave our way

through the crowds until we reach Cafe Europa and take a right.

There are lots of nice buildings we could stop and take a look at, like the Castle, the Royal Library and the parliament, but I've got an idea in my head, perhaps a reaction against all the commercialism, and as we cycle across the bridge into Christianshavn I begin to waffle on about a hippy commune. Soon we reach a canal and I say "Doesn't this remind you of Amsterdam" to which you reply "yes" which is a good job because that's what King Christian IV wanted it to look like. Then you foolishly remind me about hippies by mentioning drugs and off we go again.

Slightly bemused by all this talk about hippies, things probably make even less sense as we cycle through a big gate and into a crowd of tourists. Apologising to the people concerned, I suggest we walk instead and start to

illegal in Denmark, actually. Unfortunately I cannot print your reply here.

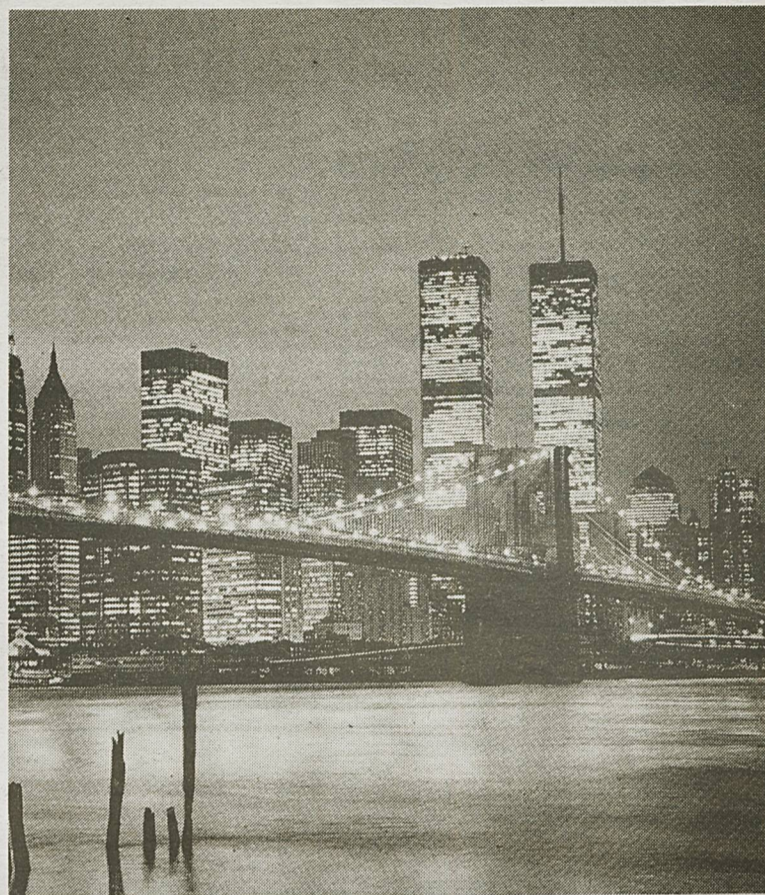
Christiania contains several bars, a restaurant, a bicycle shop and lots of funny looking houses. But there is no time to look at it all now so off we go back the way we came, returning to the Stroget and turning right towards Kongens Nytorv, the King's new square. To the right again and we arrive in Nyhavn, a trendy part of town where open air cafes line up along the canal to offer you a beer for 40 kroner. Reminding you of the exchange rate, your thirst disappears and I point to the house where Hans Christian Anderson used to live. I knew this to be a mistake the moment I said it. "Can we go and see the little mermaid?" Yes, OK, OK.

Turning left at the bottom of the canal we head along the waterfront, past the ferries that go to Sweden



explain that this is Christiania, the aforementioned hippy commune, which was an old military base taken over by hippies in 1971. Christiania is one of those places you either love or hate. Lying so close to the center of the city it is often blamed for all the crime in the Copenhagen, not that there is that much. However, many Danes seem almost proud of Christiania as evidence of their tolerance. Obviously you're not that sure, the packs of big dogs and long-haired people seem to be making you nervous. Recalling your mumble about drugs, I guide the way to a pathway where several of the long-haired people are selling something. As we get closer your eyes seem to light up at the sight of huge tablets of Moroccan black. As you negotiate a deal in fluent and unfaltering hippy-speak, I remind you that it is not cool or hard to take drugs and that it is

and Norway and along the quay until we reach a fountain much more impressive than the one we saw earlier. The huge fountain depicts a woman on a plough driving oxen into the great jets of water and represents a story from Nordic folklore which I haven't got time to explain. Lugging the heavy bicycles up the steps we pass some pretty gardens and finally reach den lille havfrue, the little mermaid. "Oh, its very small isn't it" you remark with disappointment. Well what did you expect a little mermaid to look like? Noticing the time and remembering your earlier request for beer, I declare we must hurry and hurry we do, right to the other side of town arriving at the Carlsberg brewery just in time for the 2 o'clock tour. After all its time someone else did the talking!



"New York, New York - so nice they named it twice". **Fiona Macdonald's** guide to the culinary delights of the celluloid city.

"He loved New York City. He idolized it out of all proportion. No matter what the season, to him the City still existed in black and white, pulsating to a Gershwin soundtrack." Woody Allen set this scene of New York, encapsulating his sexual frustration. The desperation he feels is reserved exclusively for those who can afford arty luxuries. The music fades, and the colours of a less lusty city come into focus. The real Central Park is a place where the real thrill is a high on drugs, and glazed eyes with hands outstretched wait not for Annie Hall, but rather for the sanctity of a needle.

Perhaps these people were hopeful starlets who came to N.Y.C. in search of the glam, glitz, rock and roll image so often portrayed in the movies. Frank Sinatra serenades us to wake up in the city that doesn't sleep, to the tune of a hooker screaming down the hallway at her pimp and your cockroach Al (named after a favourite taxi driver) jumping into your glass of "watta". "No wundah it doesn't sleep already! Could you sleep in dis neighborhood?"

"What is the difference between Americans and live yogurt?"

"Live yogurt has more culture." (Thanks Jon.)

You can leave the yogurt and tofu burgers to the silicon-injected West Coast, New York is the city of wide streets for all those wide bodies who religiously study the three Cs - calories, cholesterol and cream cheese (a bonanza for bagel lovers).

Every corner deli beckons with pastrami on rye and pepper steak

subs. Just remember, if you don't want to be seen as the Englishman in New York, when in doubt put maple syrup on EVERYTHING. Bacon sandwiches will never be the same again. The continent in search of culture usually makes the mistake of going to the International House of Pancakes. Your first clue that this is a con is the blue and orange decor. The second is the waitress, who snaps her gum to the tune of Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer". Do you want blueberry or maple syrup on your eggs? Here you will also find the "bottomless cup". Don't let your imagination get out of control, this is not a new bra design for Madonna, but an endlessly refilled cup of brown paint stripper that the locals call "kwaaffee". I recommend the cheese blintzes for your cholesterol quota, but if you want to avoid the trendy international eateries, try the street vender on Broadway and 42nd, where you get double the pleasure from one chilli dog - initially the taste bud confusion, oh why the torture, and then the revisit two hours later, usually in the form of heartburn. (Other forms of bodily revenge are easily disguised by the existing pollution). Natives know better than to concern themselves. "Ulsahs? My ulsahs have ulsahs, so whatz anothead chilli dawg?"

And finally, some hints on the vocabulary of New York's finest. Heroin(e) in NYC is not the same as in "Gone with the Wind", crack is not a gap in the sidewalk, and John is something to take a piss in, not to take the piss out of.

"It's our city and we've got to live too" **Chico Ferreira** on how, in Sao Paulo, where poverty has reached epic proportions, life can still go on with a vengeance.

The stream of foreign tourists that insist on visiting Brazil every year, despite their embassies' frightening tales of robbery and violence, remain largely oblivious of Sao Paulo. Those who do see it, having come from the idyllic beaches of Rio or the outlandish architecture of Brasilia, wonder why they bothered. Overwhelmed by the seemingly endless agglomeration of grey buildings, the noise and fumes of some four million buses and automobiles, the absence of green and the immoral contrast between ostensive luxury and abject poverty, they barely hide their relief when they reach Guarulhos Airport on their way out again.

Sao Paulo is the largest city south of the equator. When you arrive by plane, it takes over ten minutes to fly over it, before you land. Its population is more than double that of London, and far more multi-racial. Like the rest of the country it is more black (and "mestizo") than white. It is the third largest Japanese city in the world, and one of the largest Italian ones. Internal immigrants from every corner of the country reach the city in their thousands daily, mostly through the Tiete bus terminal (which makes Victoria coach station fade into provincial insignificance). Their dreams of a better life will

hardly ever come true. Although the State of Sao Paulo accounts for nearly half the country's GDP, and the city alone for a similar proportion of industrial output, poverty is the rule rather than the exception.

Brazil boasts the third worst income distribution on the planet (after Honduras and Sierra Leone), and this is nowhere more evident than in its largest city. The "favelas" (shanty towns) abound, but their inhabitants are no longer the least fortunate ones. The debt-stricken "lost decade" of the '80s has engendered an underclass of homeless, destitute men and women who can't afford a place to live, even in the slums. Next door, and generally an armed security guard and a few dogs away, the rich enjoy comforts which would leave most wealthy Europeans feeling frugal. From satellite dishes and swimming pools to armies of maids, there's very little that money can't get them.

But if you will find a middle class, in the continental rather than British sense, anywhere in Brazil, then you will do so in Sao Paulo. Visitor find it odd how we manage to lead a "normal" life in the face of such inequality, but we do it rather well, I must say. In the absence of European weather or any closing times, and

benefiting from a blend of African rhythm and warmth and "Latin" ways, we have a nightlife unrivalled in my experience of London, New York, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Buenos Aires etc. Cinema and theatre selection are very large by third world standards, and there is more food and live music around than you can ever hope to see. The 100 or 200 km drive to favourite beaches is not seen as significant, and many Paulistas enjoy a swim rather more often than many Ca(Rio)cans.

But lest your LSE-trained social conscience start to fret, we are doing our bit to change the world. Our elected mayor is the first ever Marxist woman to get such a job in the country. She won't manage to reduce disparities to anywhere near an acceptable level, in her four years, and work for a better city and country must remain at the forefront of our minds. But, you see, it is our city and we've got to live too. We will always have time for a few antarctica beers in the evening, right in the middle of our overcrowded city. And most of us, regardless of what part of the world we or our parents came from, just wouldn't care for anything else.



Stephen Cviic gets the best of both worlds - but misses out on a lot of sleep, in Madrid, a very Spanish city.

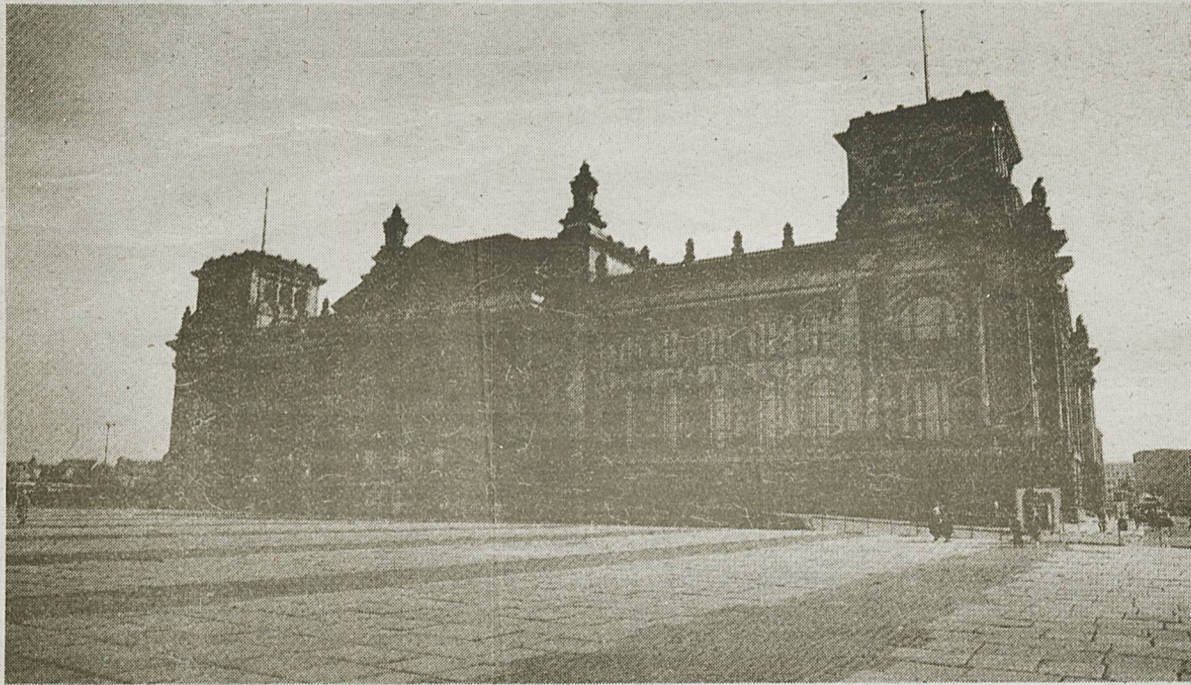
You often don't learn very much about a country by visiting its capital city, but in Spain you do. Madrid (unlike Barcelona, its cosmopolitan rival) is very Spanish. This distinctive local flavour is all the more surprising when you think that Madrid was a sort of sixteenth century Canberra - a small town suddenly picked out of a hat to be filled with state bureaucrats, precisely because it was in the middle of nowhere. Even today, the new suburbs pushed out into the nothingness have a grim, synthetic quality completely at odds with the spontaneity and vivacity of the center.

Madrid is both very Spanish and also a modern capital city, but its people will not accept the bland internationalisation of their culture, so they indulge in a daily battle to get the best of both worlds. They keep to the basic outline of the Spanish timetable - up early, long lunch break, home late, out late, bed late - but, being stuck in the middle of a city they omit the vital sleep in the middle of the day and then sit in bars late at night with their eyelids drooping into their beer, but without the resolve to mend their sleepless ways.

Still, it's understandable that going out should be a religion in a

city that has such attractive bars. In the day-time, the best thing they do is food, especially the shellfish that are somehow as fresh here, in the most landlocked part of the country, as they were when the Galician fisherman netted them at dawn, hundreds of miles away. If the bars during the day are full of spit and sawdust along with food, at night a different breed emerges, pumping out loud music and large quantities of beer. Some of these bars are truly stunning architectural creations with gangways, marble pillars and huge chandeliers. On a good night you may also encounter Latin American musicians: my favorite place always had a Cuban band on Thursday nights, and it didn't matter that they played the same songs every week, people just danced away and tried not to tread on each other's toes.

The people of Madrid come from all over Spain - from the Basque country, from Anslucia, from Galicia, from Extremadura. They all retain a loyalty to their own region, and so it is perhaps not surprising that Madrid is thought of as "un gran pueblo", a big village. It is as friendly and welcoming as you would expect a village to be, yet it is a city. Maybe its people really do have the best of both worlds.



"Berlin is changing, but the place is used to it". **Martin Raiser** on the city where German unity faces its greatest challenge.

Looking out at a snowy Islington I realise that my most vivid memories of Berlin are in winter. Then the cold seizes the town like a foreign army, lurking on every street corner and seeking entrance at every door. Then you can smell the coal heating, a filthy cloak falling over the city from the East....

Berlin is not beautiful. There are few romantic back streets, and little of its imperial architecture has survived the war. But traces of a former dignity can be seen around the old central boulevard Unter den Linden, and the Prenzlauer Berg recalls the flavour of the 1970's Kreuzberg, the center of artists, students, squatters and the traditional working class.

How can I describe Berlin? It's not so much a town as an agglomeration of villages, each with a changing role over time. The residential areas of Schoneberg and Charlottenberg became the center of West Berlin,

and it will take time before businesses and services, pubs and restaurants move back to Alexanderplatz and Friedrichstrasse. Kreuzberg, at the furthest eastern end before, enjoying independence at the border of communism, suddenly finds itself an attractive investment for up and coming property speculators. The last no-man's land around the Potsdamer Platz is being solicited for the new Mercedes Benz headquarters.

Berlin - that is where German unity faces its most direct challenge. It's where the contrast between the capitalist West and its poorer brother in the East is most striking. Many expect social discontent and violence to break out first in the town, and fear the increasing vulnerability of German democracy were the government to move to Berlin. Others see a decision against the traditional center of German political culture as a slap in the face to the ambitions of

the East for development.

The funny thing is, Berliners probably care the least. Over the two and a half centuries of its existence as an urban center, Berlin has attracted a mix of people creating a very individual identity. "Ich bin ein Berliner" express a genuine feeling of self confidence that one can sense on every street. Berlin has always seemed a nonconformist, somehow different place to me and not just because it was a haven for those who wished to avoid their military service. No bars are like those in Berlin, open all night until breakfast, shabby, no chairs, bottled beer. No town has such huge pavements, transforming streets into open fields...and few towns have three opera houses!

Berlin is changing, but the place is used to it. It has an openness to it, and will give an unpretentious welcome to all.



ARTS AGENDA

Arts Agenda

Exhibitions:	Beaver Rating:
MAN RAY: BAZAAR YEARS	☆☆
photography exhibition Barbican Art Gallery 071-638-8891 10 to 5:45 ev. day until 1 April	
GREAT IMPRESSIONIST PAINTINGS	☆☆
art exhibition Royal Academy of Arts 071-287-9579 10 to 5:00 ev. day until 14 April	
TURNER: THE FOURTH DECADE	☆☆
art exhibition Tate Gallery 071-821-1313 10 to 5:00 ev. day until 12 May	
STRIP SEARCH 2	na
Comic exhibition Willesden Green Library Center 081-451-0294 Until 26 March	
Theatre	
FESTIVAL SHORTS	☆☆☆☆
new plays from young playwrights Royal Court Theatre Upstairs 071-730-2554 6 pm ev. day until 2 March	
I THOUGHT I HEARD A RUSTLING	☆☆
by Alan Plater Theatre Royal Stratford East 081-534-0310 7:30 ev. day until 2 March	
IMAGINE DROWNING	☆☆☆
by Terry Johnson Hampstead Theatre 071-722-9301 8 pm ev. day until 5 March	
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE	☆☆☆☆
by William Shakespeare	
VOLPONE	na
by Ben Jonson Lyric Theatre Hammersmith 081-741-2311 8 pm mon to sat until 2 March	
NOONDAY DEMONS	☆☆
Man in the Moon Theatre 071-351-2876 7 pm tue to sun until 2 March	
THE MILLIONAIRESS	na
by George Bernard Shaw Battersea Arts Centre 071-223-2223 8 pm ev. day until 12 March	
Shows	
CAMPING ON THE ALDWYCH	☆
by and with Julian Clary The Aldwych Theatre 8 pm ev. day until 5 March	
THE KING AND I	☆
by Rodgers and Hammerstein Sadler's Wells Theatre 071-278-8916 7 pm ev. day until 30 March	
Opera	
THE TURNING OF THE SCREW	☆☆☆
by Benjamin Britten London Coliseum 071-836-3161 7:30 pm 26, 28 February	
Films	
POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE	☆☆☆☆
selected London cinemas	
KINDERGARTEN COP	☆☆
selected London cinemas	
DANCES WITH WOLVES	☆☆
selected London cinemas	
AKIRA	☆☆☆
ICA cinema	
SHORT TIME	☆
selected London cinemas	

- na - not reviewed yet
- ☆ - not too sad if missed
- ☆☆ - alright if you're in the area anyway
- ☆☆☆ - well worth the effort
- ☆☆☆☆ - be there or be square

One night in Bangkok

The King and I at Sadler's Wells

For those of you who have not seen the film version of this musical, it is the tale of an English school teacher (Anna) who goes to educate the wives and children of the King of Siam. Anna is trying to get the King to accept Western ideas, such as the importance of napkins at dinner and suitable undergarments for his wives!

From the opening line of, "Halleluadiddle," said in a hammy mock-sailor accent, the entire performance progresses rapidly downhill. Compared to usual Sadler's Wells standards, this appears a bit like an amateur dramatics production, especially the supposed Siamese pigeon English adopted by the majority of the cast. The King (played by Koshiro Matsumoto IX) tends to burble slightly through songs which makes the lyrics quite hard to follow. Too bad, he also adopted a strange squatting walk throughout, in the mistaken belief that this somehow made him look regal!

The jokes are of the tedious variety, mainly based around the King repeating the word "etcetera" and Anna showing her knickerbockers. The rest of the audience seemed to enjoy it, tittering at the right places and giving rapturous applause to mediocre singing.

I was torn between cringing every time the royal children burst into song, and wanting to join in, singing along to childhood favourites such as "getting to know you" and "I whistle a happy tune." Unfortunately, most songs displayed a certain lack of emotion. The only person with a decent voice is the King's chief wife, somewhat making up for other flaws... There were two redeeming aspects which made the whole thing bearable: the set, pretty impressive with lots of gilt and sumptuous backdrops (including a panoramic backdrop of ancient Siam), and the dancers in "Small house of Uncle Thomas." Here were people who could actually dance. This scene was completely different from the rest of the musical, featuring dramatic music and most inventive choreography.

Sadly enough, the overall impression is unoriginal and uninspired. One wonders why Sadler's Wells (usually renowned for its more modern, daring productions) bothered to stage it. The film "The King and I" was released in 1956; this production was virtually identical, and did nothing new. On the other hand, this is supposedly what makes it a real classic. Personally, I prefer the film version. On a faintly passive note "The



"Your knickerbockers on, etcetera, etcetera?" (Koshiro Matsumoto IX, Susan Hampshire)

King and I" is a bright and cheerful show (if a tad superficial). It is certainly not for those searching for a thought-provoking, intelligent evening out. It is

"nice" for the family and great for visiting grandmothers too. "The King And I" dance at Sadler's Wells until 30 March
Rhiannon Hordley

Mountain bondage at noon

A whacky tale of two over-zealous monks



"Noonday Demons"-two minds are better than one

Two monks on a mountain side, devoid of any sanity, disorientated, bedraggled, pallid, grotesque and alone. Fettered in chains, covered in dust, attacked by flies, surviving on seven black olives and a clay cup of muddy water each day. Praying, praying, meditating with an intensity which only solitude can condone. Chanting, streams of Latin flowing from their tongues, echoing in the bare mountains of solitude. Monk 1 believes in his heart that he has made the right decision in leaving all the tokens of civilization for his barren mountain abode. In addition he is completely convinced that his is the only soul existing

on his mountain top and Monk 2 is equally sure that apart from flies and the maggots burrowing into his flesh his is the only body gracing the desert landscape. The two monks finally meet each other and for a moment their empty lives stand still. Monk 1 wonders whether he is looking at a mirror. But no, what would a glittering piece of glass be doing in this place of desolation and emptiness. Monk 2 nearly suffers a heart attack or maybe it was just the maggots getting excited. Then comes the desire for each man to exert himself to claim territory and dominate the other. Now, the quiet rumblings of chanting at

dawn are quickly transformed into heated debate (in the monk mode) at dusk, on who owns what, and whose maggots are devouring whose skin. The end product is death, neat and simple, no place for two brawling souls in this hell, solitude is the norm, isolation the way of life. Nothing, nothing can interfere in this, only the maggots can see evil triumph as they eat their fill of cold flesh which once was streamed with warm blood. Noonday Demons is at the Man in the Moon Theatre, 392 Kings Road SW3 Tue-Sun AT 7.00

Cry wolf

There is a Universal Myth dear to the heart of every loner who knows he does not fit in the establishment. The search for oneself. And then there is an American Myth, the search for America itself.

In *Dances With Wolves* we are led to believe that the loner's search of America is equated with his search for himself. But the strength of DWW does not lie simply on this cornerstone truth. The year is 1864 and a war hero is rewarded by being exiled to a frontier post. The wild environment and its people confront him like nothing has ever before. This is not simply a clash of cultures, it is also a clash of identities. His survivor's instinct tempts him to approach and understand the Indians what he finds is contrary to his pioneer strong-headed values.

DWW is one of the very few movies to treat Red Indians with respect. So much so that the tribal name Sioux becomes unimportant. The name was given to them by their fearful adversaries for the way they terminated their enemies, by cutting their throats. The Sioux are cutthroats but Costner, for he is not only the protagonist but also the director, goes out of his way to highlight their life and plight. Predictably all whites are evil, except Lt John Dunbar (KC) that is. Even the cavalry, when it arrives, is of an evil disposition.

For a man whose break came with a role in *Big Chill* when his performance was left on the cutting floor, Kevin Costner demonstrates a fine ability to assume his hero's identity in those primitive times. Expect to hear more about this movie which is bound to be weighted down by public acclaim. See it before your friends and tell them all about it.

Stavros Makris

Japanese Bladerunner

Akira at the ICA

Nuclear annihilation, gang warfare, devastating telekinetic showdowns, apocalyptic religions, mass revolution and chaos, blood, guts... Walt Disney? Not quite, but Katsushiro Otomo's "Akira", a masterpiece of animated film owes as much to "Fantasia" as it does to "Blade Runner" or "Scanners".

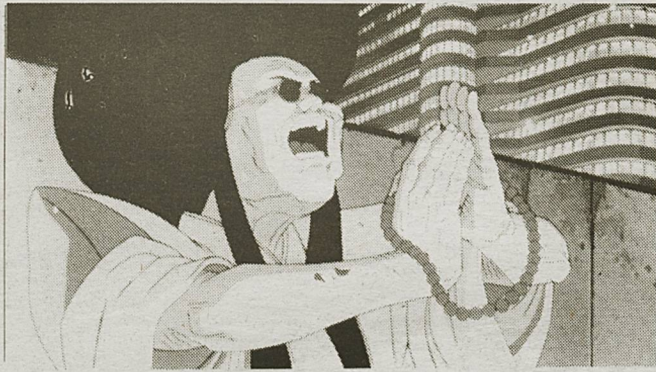
Comic buffs will have already spent hours immersed in the violent world of Otomo's highly successful comic-book collection of the same name:

A post-nuclear war Tokyo is a neon fantasy of glass buildings and super-motorways, arisen

from the ruins of the old city and now prey to a chaos of government corruption and public disorder. The population looks forward to the second coming of the mystical child-god Akira, possessor of so vast a power

that it unleashed the last war during its first coming. At this time the youngest member of a warring gang, the weak and insecure orphan Tetsuo discovers his own dormant mental force....

After years of intensive work by an impressive array of artists and technicians Akira has at last exploded onto the cinema



screen. Witnessing such a lavish splurge of visual imagination, one is awed by the vast, yet largely untapped potential of this creative medium.

Nevermind the characters being as two-dimensional as their image and the plot being shapelessly strung together as a series of one impossible cliff-hanger after the other? The stunning visual creativity and non-stop action, completed with a haunting musical score provides such a heart-stopping combination in a feast for the senses, that you will be sucked dry of adrenaline after this film.

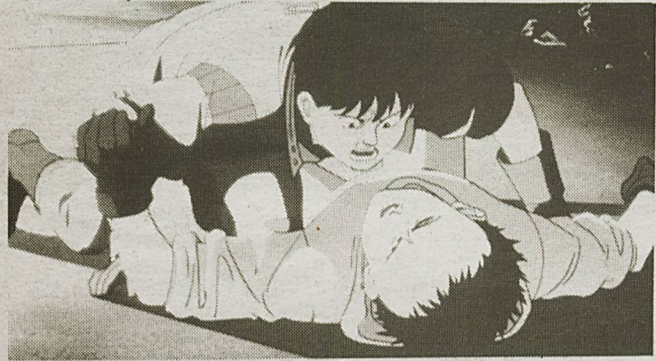
Perhaps the most shocking aspect of this film though is the sheer amount of violence it displays: As in many "Schwartz-

Rambo"-films, much of the humour stems from these scenes, black as sin, to be sure, but humour nevertheless.

Still, Akira is no mere mindless body count: In fact it reflects not only a variety of typical Japanese obsessions like the bomb-syndrome or the conflict between discipline and disorder as well as political corruption, but also it expresses a scathing criticism of the established order in general. These aspects must be digested a few hours after the film, however --- once you recovered from the initial impact.

"Akira" is showing at the ICA until 28 February.

Eduardo Jauregui



"Typical" scenes from post-nuclear Tokyo

Live and let die

Short time to live, short time to die

"Short Time" is about Burt Simpson (Bart's cousin perhaps), a policeman on the eve of his retirement. Mistakenly informed that he is dying of "Wexley Curtains" disease (presumably as in, "its curtains for you old bean"), he calculates that he is worth more to his family dead, when he is told that his insurance covers only death on active duty. He has visions of his sweet son Dougie rejected by Harvard for lack of funds. Losing his usual reticence he frantically chases any criminal method to do the deed.

And here's the rub, the killing

joke is that, no matter how hard he tries, and try hard he definitely does, he simply cannot get killed, although many around him to manage to execute similar deeds on themselves. He becomes instead an unwitting hero. As the blurb has it, "Getting killed is not as easy as it looks", an idea that should probably come with a government health warning. Typically he is just about to kick the bucket when he is told that it is all a big mistake.

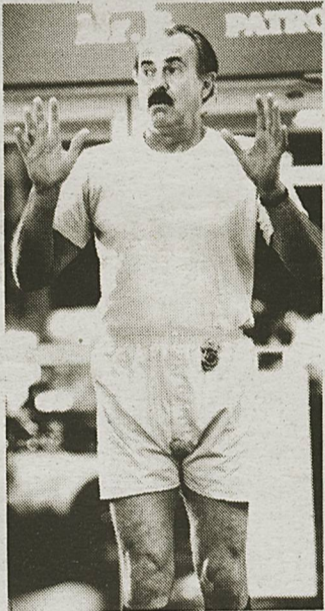
Despite being told that the plot is "pregnant with comic possibilities", there is very little

to laugh at. Its all a bit too contrived; the puns and other attempts at humour coming at the wrong times. Thankfully, I was spared the worst of the over-acting especially during those "touching moments in pivotal scenes", as I had forgotten my glasses.

The film closes with the moral "Live for today". I don't suppose that idea is lost on the average student.

"Short Time" is now punching a hole in screens around London.

Suhul Bocresion



Burt Simpson (Dabney Coleman) decides to tackle an explosive situation without weapons-or clothes!

Freud for beginners

Britten's turn of the screw at the Coliseum



Bewitched or not bewitched? Miles and Flora (Samuel Burkey, Rosemary Joshua)

Within the Italian-dominated opera-scene the name of Benjamin Britten has a certain sobering ring to it. Even for a Non-Englishman like myself, the works of this great composer have a fascinating appeal. Compared to the mainly light-

hearted Italians, Mr. Britten created a thrilling masterpiece of Victorian mystery:

Inspired by Henry James's short novel, "The Turn Of The Screw" is a mixture of haunted house and Freudian psycho-analysis, the story of a young

governess in the hinterland, who feels compelled to protect two orphans from the evil influence of certain ghosts. These ghosts, so it appears, have had "their evil ways" with Flora and Miles although it never quite becomes clear what exactly were

these evil ways... well that's Victorian morality for you, I suppose.

The governess's psychological battle, as thrillingly enacted by Eilene Hannan is only surpassed by the highly expressive and childlike enchanting facial expressions of Rosemary Joshua as young Flora.

The whole act is brilliantly directed towards an emotional climax that coincides with the somewhat unexpected end of the opera. Until then the screw is mercilessly turning and friends of the supernatural will certainly enjoy the strangely thrilling sounds of Britten's composition, especially in conjunction with the remarkable adaptive, though simple stage-setting. Is it for real or just a figment of some over-worked women's imagination? Come on you hobby-shrinks, here the ENO is offering you a truly rewarding opportunity to sharpen your wits in terms of superstition.

"The Turn Of The Screw" is showing at The Coliseum

26, 28 February and 7,9,12 March

Thomas Cohrs

Noise Annoys

Do you know which band has had the most top forty hits without ever reaching the top ten? No? Well, let me enlighten you, as Peter Purvis would say. The answer is of course The Clash, probably the greatest punk band ever. During their eight or so years of existence they managed to reach the top forty eighteen times without ever gaining a place in the top ten. But now it looks as if they are about to lose this distinguished record with the re-release of their 1982 top twenty hit "Should I Stay Or Should I Go", the latest in a long line of soundtracks used to promote Levi's 501 jeans.

The single is the first Clash record to endorse a product on television despite many offers in the past. Last year, for example, British Telecom wanted to use the band's best selling single "London's Calling", which reached number 11 in 1977, for their 071/081 campaign but they refused. The decision to re-release the single on the back of the Levis' campaign ad has caused a certain amount of controversy. The b-side of the new record is a song by former Clash guitarist Mick Jones' new band B.A.D.II which has upset Joe Strummer and Paul Simonon. They wanted the record to be released in its original format as a double a-side, with "the Magnificent Seven" remaining as the second song, but because the song was mainly written by Mick Jones in the first place and because he was the main influence behind its re-release, he got to choose what went on the b-side of the new single, leaving his erstwhile colleagues slightly miffed with the whole project.

If the record does become a top ten hit it will mark the end of one of British pop music's longest standing records and the distinction will be passed onto somebody else. Prior to The Clash, the record was held by Louis Armstrong who had something in the region of twenty five hits before "Blueberry Hill" gave him his first top ten record back in 1965. Since then his only other top ten hit was "Wonderful World" which reached the top ten during the middle of the eighties.

Another recent record breaker was Elton John who notched up his first solo number one with "Sacrifice" after twenty-odd years of trying but this record is nothing compared with the one held by those "Young Guns" of rock The Who. They hold the unique record of having the most number of hits without ever having a number one record. Perhaps they should offer "Substitute" to Levi's before it's too late....

The choice for "Should I Stay Or Should I Go" is very bizarre to say the least. The Clash are the first artists to be used who are not black soul singers and they are actually alive to receive their royalties from their record's endorsement. With the exception of Ben E. King, all of Levi's previous choices had been pushing up the daisies for a long time before their records were used. Perhaps this marks a change in Levi's approach to their jean commercials. I wouldn't be at all surprised if their next commercial featured Gary Glitter singing "Leader Of The Gang" or Tom Jones singing "What's New Pussycat" instead of "The Godfather of Parole". Mr. James Brown singing one of his ancient offerings. Who knows? Who Cares?

Well, actually, most of the advertisement industry cares because they look at Levi's adverts closely and pinch most of their ideas. Music in commercials as become big business lately and the re-releases of "Old Classics" obviously has commercial benefits for all concerned. The recent success of Free's "Alright Now" only confirms this. But the advertisers have stiff competition from the releases of film soundtracks. At this present moment in time, for example, there are two offerings from the film "The Lost Boys" in the charts: Inxs and Jimmy Barnes "Good Times" and Echo & the Bunnymen's cover of the Doors "People Are Strange". Film soundtracks have become an important part of both the record and music industry. A successful film, i.e. Pretty Woman and Ghost, will spawn a successful album while a successful soundtrack album can help boost cinema attendances. Brat-pack film director John Hughes considers music soundtracks as essential because many of his films are aimed at America's MTV audience but many of his films have led to many British artists "breaking the States". Simple Minds had all but given up trying to make it in America before Hughes used "Don't You (Forget About Me)" as the main song in "The Breakfast Club" and subsequently gave the band their first US number one. Other bands such as The Smiths, Echo & The Bunnymen and New Order all experienced a certain amount of success on the other side of the pond after featuring in a Hughes soundtrack.

But enough about film soundtracks and back to the topic of Levi Soundtracks. One point about the use of The Clash which I haven't mentioned before is this: unlike Sam Cooke, Marvin Gaye and Ben E. King, you can actually slam dance to this record!!

Neil Andrews

Houghton Street Harry

Picture the scene. It's a hot summers day, and the whole country has come to a standstill. Everyone sits intently watching television as a British player serves for the Wimbledon Championship. Okay, You can wake up now. The way we act, getting excited if someone British loses against a big name player, hardly suggests any great upset over the next few years. Why? Call me simplistic (even though it isn't my name), but I have been wondering why we are incapable of producing good tennis players. Look at our "stars": John Lloyd is known as being Chris Evert's ex-husband, Sue Barker is still mentioned, but only because she had a "thing" with Cliff Richard, and Annabel Croft, who actually won Junior Wimbledon, is now mainly known for having a posterior second only to Arneka Rice's. Before anyone wonders why this is relevant in the middle of winter, it is because 2 weeks ago, Warren Jacques, the British Davis Cup Captain, and Men's International Team Director, was sacked, with eighteen months of his five year contract left to run. He was made the scapegoat for British Tennis's failures, and I do mean failures, because Britain has continued to lie in the depths of the international game. The Davis Cup team is still in the Euro-African zone and we do not even have a male player in the top 100. Our highest ranked player is Jeremy Bates, who is 156th.

Now, although I am not the world's greatest authority on tennis, it does seem a little hard to put all the blame on Jacques, rather than any on the players, for losing. It cannot all be because of the coach. As far as I can remember, we were not exactly doing that well before he came, and he did not really do badly by getting the team into the play off match for promotion to the world group in each of his three years. The fact that the team then lost is more due to the players' performances. I have a feeling that Jacques' outspoken views were not well received (when are outspoken views ever well received by the establishment?), and that the LTA wanted to get rid of him. Why they had just extended his contract I have no idea.

As I see it, the major problem with Jacques was that he did not really have a job description. He had this dual role, and no one knew exactly what he was supposed to be doing. Was he the Coach, meant to be on court helping and encouraging the players, or was he supposed to be a coordinator and administrator, forming the plans for the future of British tennis? Jacques states that he wanted to help junior players, as he said, "You can't just invent talent", and yet he was never given the juniors to work with. He felt a lack of commitment among coaches and senior players, and told people how he felt; hardly the way to make himself popular. But was he right? Was there a lack of guidance and commitment from both the LTA and the players themselves? There is also a ring of truth about Jacques' complaint that although the LTA appointed a foreigner (he is Australian), they "really want someone who can work in the system."

Apparently the LTA are now going to restructure the whole of the senior department of British tennis. I hope they know what they are doing, when they talk of actually creating two new posts. (I wonder then why they did not just keep on Jacques as the coach, and find someone else to take on the business side). Certainly it would be better to go for people who are not within the existing hierarchy, as they will presumably be more receptive to new ideas. One widely touted suggestion is that Jacques' number two (with whom he did not get on), Richard Lewis, will permanently take over as director of national training, with Mark Cox as Davis Cup Captain. That sounds a suspiciously safe bet to me. If desperate to take on someone British, how about David Lloyd, perhaps together with his brother John. As he says:

"The change must come from outside or abroad, not from the establishment who have run the game for the past twenty years"

Certainly splitting the business side from training is the only sensible response. But we will still need a good coach. The best idea is surely to bring in someone from abroad, who has a proven track record. Perhaps Bob Brett who has, interestingly, just stopped coaching Becker, or Ion Tirac, the Germans previous coach. Andrew Longmore of "The Times" suggests Edberg's coach, Tony Pickard, who is actually British, as the right choice. Yet he is not hopeful of this occurring in reality. Pickard, he says, is not exactly the required LTA "tea and cucumber sandwiches" man.

Really, all we can do is hope that the people who have the power will do the right thing. They could do worse than listen to Jeremy Bates on the subject:

"I don't see why we don't try something radical and new. Let's face it, we can't exactly do worse than we have been doing lately."

Wide Margin

LSE.....30
QMW.....4

Thins have changed for the LSE rugby team: gone are the old days of rigid discipline, intensive warm-ups and heavy defeats. On Wednesday the Firsts travelled to Theydon Bois with a new captain, new spirit and new match plan. The Captain was Dave Richards, the spirit was marijuana-induced and the new match tactic was the "F-Plan." This was an intricate and ingenious game plan which consisted of having eight fat bastards in the pack, and another seven fat bastards in the backs. Put into practice, it proved to be inspired and effective, as the LSE wobbled, squashed and rolled their way to an excellent victory.

The first half saw the LSE dominate the lineouts and scrums, while the backs tore into the QMW defence. The pressure was soon turned into points, as Paul "Fat Boy" Manson scored, following a run by Gareth "ex-Sabbatical-candidate" Roberts. By half time two more tries had been added, scored by Roberts himself and Richie "not-as-slim-



Photo : Alex McDowell

as-he-used-to-be" Grayson, following an excellent pick up.

With an 18-0 lead at half time many sceptics on the touchline doubted whether LSE's portly pack could keep up the pressure. Their doubts were soon proved unfounded as "Tubby" Nick Car-

ter and Joe "firm-but-rounded" Attila inspired the forwards by keeping the momentum flowing, squashing any hopes QMW had of a comeback. More tries followed, with Eddie "Flabby" Floydd, Chidi-the-Hutt and Marco all going over, the latter's

try being a reward for some excellent hooking. Some of the older boys, though, were a little upset at the youngsters' flagrant lack of fat wobbly bits. Fat is here to stay in the LSE rugby team. Gareth Roberts

Beaver Bookies

Horse Box

The highlight of the National Hunt Racing season - the Cheltenham Festival - is barely three weeks away, and it goes without saying that the fixture is a must for horse racing fans, general sports fans, and in particular students brave enough to try and bet their way out of any unwanted overdrafts. Even though picking winners is a notoriously difficult task due to the competitive nature of every race, betting odds are correspondingly generous and there are many worthwhile bets for those who look hard enough - last years 100/1 Gold Cup winner Nortons Coin being a case in point.

While I can't recommend any 100/1 shots in this year's race, the outsiders Party Politics at 40/1 and Twin Oaks at 33/1 (with Hills) are both worth an each-way interest, both having put together a useful string of victories earlier in the season. Favourite for the race, at a ridiculously low 3/1, is the nation's favourite racehorse Desert Orchid, but at 12 years of age, 'Dessie' is surely too old to win the race for a second time.

Like the Gold Cup, the Champion Hurdle is another wide open event but here I can pass on strong information about last season's runner-up Nomadic Way, a horse trained by the shrewd Barry Hills, owned by the even shrewder Robert Sangster and one which is very likely to go one better this year. Other horses worth following are Remittance Man, who runs in the Arkle Chase and Gaasid. The latter contests the first race of the three day meeting, the Supreme Novices Hurdle and is the best bet of the meeting; my advice to those who have no interest in racing apart from the financial aspect is to back this horse, watch him win, then savour collecting the 'readies'. Celebrate and forget the remainder of the Festival. Who said racing was a mugs game?

Turning from four-legged athletes to those two-legged ones, an epic heavyweight contest is in prospect this Wednesday at the Royal Albert Hall, when Gary Mason takes on Lennox Lewis with British, Commonwealth, European and a possible world title shot at stake. Bookmakers make Mason the slight favourite at this stage, but in my view numerous factors, primarily youth and class, will swing the bout in Lewis' favour. He was, by the way, the 1988 Olympic Heavyweight champion. As neither man carries a really heavy punch - in this respect favourable comparisons between Mason's and stablemate Frank Bruno's punching power are way off beam - I expect the bout to last into the closing stages by which time Lewis' greater mobility and ringcraft should have mastered Mason's more pedestrian and predictable style. Accordingly the generally available even money about Lewis' victory chances looks a safe wager, while those interested in longer odds are encouraged to speculate on a successful Lewis KO in round nine or ten.

Robert Smith.

Vocal Voices

The Beaver insight to the Merseyside derby.

The live Liverpool v Everton match, 17th February, marked what we hope will be a turning point in the history of football commentary. Bob Wilson came out of the closet and told us his opinions. It was a big surprise to find that 'our Bob' actually had any. Speaking on the felling of 'impish' Pat Nevin in the Liverpool penalty area, Bob lashed out, "I can't see how the Ref failed to give a penalty." Strong stuff indeed from the ex-Arsenal goalkeeper. Shocked Jimmy Hill immediately countered with, "The Referee was well placed, and from our position up here, it is difficult to tell." The exchange of words prompted an immediate flood of call to the Beeb as viewers were shocked that such opinionated radicalism was given full vent on prime time TV.

With the tumbling of the football commentators' 'Berlin Wall', there is a serious risk of Brian Moore stating something other than, "What this game needs now is a goal." Perhaps Ian St. John could leap into the unknown and tip a team other than Liverpool.

The footballing 'glasnost' has only just begun, unless we give our full support Conservatives led by Desmond Lynam could once again take us back into a dictatorship of meaningless remarks. While we can't be seen to be getting involved in domestic broadcasting decision making, we can suggest a couple of new voices in the commentary position.

1. Murray Walker, who can make even a postponed race seem exciting.

2. Ted 'Whispering' Lowe, to add a bit of gravity to the commentary.

Hopefully, in the years to come, perhaps as early as 1992, as employment barriers tumble in the EC, we could move to a Pan-European commentary standard. And with coordination from our European partners we can keep the footballing interest rate high.

Shaun Sethi & Jonathan Chambers