

# BEAVER

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NEWSPAPER of the LSE STUDENTS' UNION

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FREE

## STUDENTS v BOARD

"The Times" classified column 1984

### WANTED: STUDENTS FOR THE LONDON SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE ECONOMICS & ENGINEERING (known as LSE)

It is deeply regretted that we are no longer able to offer courses in sociology, anthropology, philosophy and social psychology, however we are pleased to be able to continue to offer courses for undergraduates in elementary economics leading to a degree in "Higher Capitalism."

We have one course now open for post-graduate students— "Engineering applications of economics."

Fees are being maintained at an economic level:

£6,500 p.a. undergraduates.

£10,500 p.a. postgraduates.

Self-financing students need not apply as unfortunately we have no hardship funds available.

For the post-graduate course a good first degree is no longer necessary.

The above advertisement for the LSE in 1984 may seem like a joke to many students who are perhaps unaware of the serious implications of the present Government's policy on education. This policy reflects a trend, described in the "Guardian" (16.12.76) as

"University students are layabouts, postgraduate students are worse and

overseas postgraduate students are worst of all."

University education is at risk, the new fees recommended for next September represent an astronomical rise, self-financing students will obviously be the hardest hit and it is by no means certain that students with grants will have their grants raised correspondingly. Already it has been stated by the S.S.R.C. that they will have to limit their number of awards to post-graduates.

#### NEW FEES:

| Undergraduates | Postgraduates |
|----------------|---------------|
| Overseas £650  | Overseas £850 |
| British £500   | British £750  |

The LSE, because of its unique composition (50% post-graduates, large number of overseas students), is more vulnerable than other universities to such dramatic fee rises. The new fees will mean that 30% of the LSE income will be from fees, compared with 13% this

year, unless the LSE manages to meet its student targets its income will thus correspondingly drop. It is difficult now to forecast how many students will leave if the fees are increased but there is no doubt that of the 530 British self-financing and approximately 795 Overseas self-financing students many of them will not be returning to finish their courses or to commence a new course.

It is patently obvious that in order to prevent these new fees increases being implemented academic staff and students must work together to fight to preserve the right for education for all and the existence of the LSE itself.

The Students' Union has presented recommendations to the Academic Board Meeting on 9th February, when it is expected a decision will be reached on tuition fees. One of the SU recommendations has been that any decision on fees should not be made without full consultation with all interested bodies, including the Students' Union and thus they have called for a postponement of any decision.

Some members of the Academic Board have shown interest and appear to be willing to give active support to the students' proposals. However, when the students delegation goes into the Academic Board meeting on Wednesday, 9th February, it is fairly obvious what the reaction of the majority of academics will be.

"Yes, we sympathise with your case, yes, we hate discrimination but if we don't raise the

fees where will we get the money from?" The answer to this unfortunately doesn't lie secretly buried in some cupboard in Connaught House because the School simply has not thought of any alternative plan and is relying on the fact that they will "be able to continue to attract good students" however high the fees maybe. The quotation is from the GPC's blue paper on tuition fees which recommends to the Academic Board that "regrettably they, and the School had no real option," but to increase the fees.

### WE SAY THAT THE SCHOOL HAS A REAL OPTION AND THE OPTION IS NOT TO INCREASE THE FEES.

Support Meeting at 1 p.m. in the New Theatre on Wednesday, 9th February before the Academic Board meeting.

British students, postgraduates and overseas students all come because the Academic Board's decision affects YOU personally.

THE Hellenic Society hold a different perspective which is set out below:

#### RIGHT TO EDUCATION

"No person shall be denied the right to education."

This right is virtually denied to all those, mainly overseas students, who otherwise meet the academic standards but cannot afford the fees to study in this "international community of scholars." It is regrettable that very soon the only qualification required for admission to LSE will be candidates' financial situation.

It is inadmissible that students will have to interrupt their courses and depart. We are afraid that such a decision will effect a general scientific and moral degeneration of the School.

#### DEMOCRATISATION OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Economic crisis is coupled with a deepening crisis of all institutions. Democratic rights suffer severe setbacks at all levels. We believe a way out from the crisis lies with the strengthening of democratic rights through a process of open discussion.

(Continued on Page Five).



MORT SAHL, the legendary comedian, satirist, writer, Kennedy speechwriter and entertainer will be making an exclusive live British appearance in the LSE Old Theatre on Monday, 14th February. His visit to this country includes an interview on the BBC TV Michael Parkinson Programme on Saturday, 12th February and a Press Conference to tie in with the publication of his latest book, "Heartland".

## I.S. SMASHED IN L.S.E.

THE by-elections to the L.S.E. union executive last Tuesday produced a devastating victory for the Conservative candidate, Margot James, and for the Broad Left candidate Mick Wood, who is a member of the Labour Party.

Both candidates got in on first preferences alone. There was an unusually high poll, nearly 650. Ms. Wanda Goldwag, General Secretary, commented that this was amazing for a place which was supposed to be apathetic. The votes were distributed as follows:

- \*Margot James (Con.) ... 258
- \*Mick Wood (Broad Left) 231
- Nina Rapi (I.M.G.) ..... 66
- Bonnie Vandesteeg (I.S.) 47
- Richard Bennet (I.S.) ... 48
- \*Elected.

It is unprecedented in recent times for a Conservative to top the poll, especially in a hotly contested by-election.

When the Returning Officer, Mr Christopher Hall, announced the results to a tense audience jubilation broke through the ranks of the moderates. In a parody of Auberon Waugh's "Fascism smashed in New-

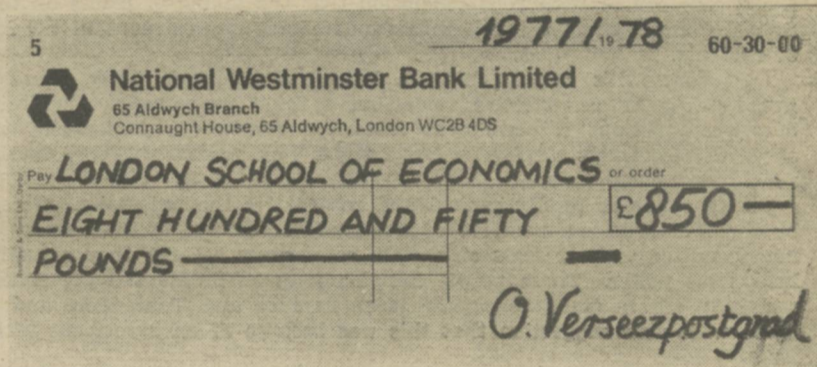
castle" after the I.S. there beat the National Front by one vote in a Parliamentary By-election, a conservative was heard to remark that the "International Socialists have been smashed in the L.S.E."

Mr Wood, a Post-graduate, was quietly confident throughout. Neither Miss Rapi nor Miss Vandesteeg turned up for the count. Mr Laurie Solkin was heard to comment after hearing of the showing put up by the I.S. candidates "The comrades will have to pull their fingers out".

Miss Jackie Gladdon, a member of the Executive, said, "These results have strengthened the position of the Moderates on the Executive and will hopefully bring the Executive into closer touch with the rank and file of the student body."

Mr Stephen George, also a member of the Executive commented that "Margot won with a mixture of charm and organisation." Of Mick Wood's victory he said "A post-graduate presence is helpful."

Bruce Fell



# MORT SAHL AND ROY HARPER See page 7

# LETTERS . . .

## Ezra pounds on

DEAR SIR,—I have been so impressed by the brave sentiments expressed in the letters of Cooper and Goldwag ("Beaver," January 18th) as to believe now that their claims do not go far enough. As Cooper suggests, and Goldwag would concur, homosexuals should have their own pubs, clubs, and other facilities, along with opportunities to advertise them. They should, indeed, have a right openly to recruit for the movement. But they would not object, surely, to extending to the more retarded, though still worthy, members of the student population of non-homosexuals some facilities also for propagating their sexual preferences also, and for recruiting potential heterosexuals. And, come to that, there can be no reasonable justification for discriminating against those whose profound feelings incline them toward animal contacts.

Again, it is undeniable that a Friendly Society of Sadists would add a desirable dimension to the growing spectrum of sexual opportunity, which group would be admirably supplemented by an Association for the Advancement of Masochistic People. And talking of Goldwag's "autonomous revolutionary movement" of non-heterosexuals against capitalist oppression, there is no reason to stop there. For it would surely be grossly unfair to preclude the formation of social centres for those whose sexual proclivities are predominantly anal, or for those having a strong partiality for what we discreetly refer to as "oral sex." Indeed, should the occasion arise, some minimal provision ought to be made for those ardent innovators who might come to cultivate "nasal sex," or "aural sex," or—who knows!—"gas-pipe" sex.

Having the matter in proper perspective, we recognise at once that charges of discrimination can be avoided only by permitting advertisements informing the public of the location of private rooms for those whose orgasmic relish is confined to the solitary convenience of masturbation—aided and enhanced as it is today by the burgeoning assortment of electric-powered gadgetry that is one of the finer fruits of technological progress.

Another consideration now demands urgent attention. I observe, with sorrow though not without understanding, that the homosexual fraternity continue to have vestigial reservations about the overt and exclusive use of the word homosexual; that they have, in consequence, conscripted the once-poignant little adjective "gay" to their admirable movement, with the concomitant disadvantage to members of society at large who are becoming diffident about using the word in polite conversation. Yet, granted the persistence of this bourgeois inhibition against calling a spade a spade, it would be absurd to desist from cramping the English language a little

more in order to promote causes so deserving of humanitarian approval—provided, always, that we exercise prudence.

Thus, those still steeped in old fashioned heterosexual fantasies might well be called the "dulls" by the fashionable establishment of "gays." Yet, in the interests of sexual tolerance, and in order to inspire emulation and experiment, euphonic terms should be adopted for all the different sexual groupings.

Reference to the heterosexuals as the "glads" would tend to put them on a par with the "gays." Dog-fanciers might rejoice in the appellation "the jollies" (with its demure connotation of a collie). On the other hand, anal addicts might opt for something more stirring, such as the "oompahs." While those more elective bisexuals, a *fortiori*, those multisexual paladins who disseminate their favours impartially among all known animal life (and possibly plant and insect life also) might usefully be known, respectively, as the "sports" and the "all-rounders."

It is perhaps unnecessary to add that the wearing of sweaters by students designed to indicate clearly the range of their sexual enterprise will go far to foster that much-needed impetus toward unfettered sexual experimentation that will, eventually, enable him, her, or it, to realise to the full, his, her, or its, God-given potential.

Finally, I feel obliged to admit, in deference to our unbounded ingenuity, that these modest proposals for the encouragement of meaningful relationships between things animate and inanimate be regarded merely as an earnest of that impending break-through into a world of unlimited erotic delectation—a rich heritage to be passed on to future generations of things, large and small, mobile and immobile, by the intrepid sex pioneers of today. Let us hope, too, that ere long we shall witness the introduction into the University curriculum of a wide variety of courses on the techniques of sexual achievement; and that serious research be undertaken in the new science of "sexometrics" designed to measure the multitude of factors that contribute to enlarged appetite and enlarged capacity.

Would it be too imaginative to foretell the emergence of a **fundamental equation of sexual felicity**, arising from extensions of the Johnson and Masters kind of research, one that will determine the magnitude of O (orgasmic sensation measured in milli-orgats) as a complex function of  $X - X$  being a vector of critical factors, prods per second, surface drip, tensile cling . . . , plus auxiliary factors such as gender, species, or make of instrument.

EZRA MISHAN  
Professor of Economics

## Pizzaburger

## Pissaburger ?

DEAR EDITOR,—I felt it was about time that someone wrote to you regarding the extortionate prices charges in the Pizzaburger. I'm sure it is not my imagination that the sizes are diminishing and the costs rising. [So am I.—Ed.] What were once well-done beefburgers are now charred exteriors housing rare flesh; similarly the pizzas are cooked on the outside but not on the inside. Of course I can be countered by saying no-one forces me to eat there but it is a question of Hobson's choice. The Refectory and Florries are closed, the Robinson Room has even higher prices albeit for better food, and Wrights appears to have turned into a refuge from all the catering facilities so that it is impossible to find more than a single seat.

For a place purporting to be at the service of staff and students I feel that the Pizzaburger offers very little and could be considerably improved through, for instance, another cook to ensure that the food is at least cooked; to have just one who is rushed off his feet at the best of times is pure folly. Many times people have turned away after seeing the queue and in the knowledge that allowing two minutes' wait at least for every person, lunchtime will be over before getting served. I am sure many people hold this view but accept the situation as undesirable but unavoidable. However, I am also sure that if the prices were reasonable and the food cooked properly in a decent time that there will be a much more favourable reaction.

Love,

ANTON CHAPMAN  
(no relation)

## Conned in committee

DEAR EDITOR,—May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your headline story of last week, "Committed to Committees". A piece of journalistic brilliance, littered with insights worthy of far greater men. I can only concur with your conclusion that the taking of places on the School Committees will result in a fundamental improvement in the lot of students.

Of course it's a pity that we have not achieved parity, thereby guaranteeing us an effective voice, but I think we must not overrate ourselves; perhaps a permanent minority reflects our importance as students. Obviously a misprint but I think your "compromised" solution should read compromise.

I denounce as totally cynical and rebarbative the suggestion offered by some ill-informed members of the student community that we were not permitted to hold seats on certain committees because they actually held some power. These people completely underestimate the principled and lofty stance of administrators such as Pike and Dahrendorf and I agree with your suggestion that this was because of an agreement with NUS.

I look forward to the day when we take our rightful place in the administration of the School. We can look forward to the demise of the Students' Union as the Executive (especially the General Secretary)

will find their time and energy taken up in the administration. The Union will become a mere organiser of elections.

With no accountability, mandatability or recall the Union General Meeting will of course be circumvented and our delegates can work untrammelled by the student voice. "Much relief from the Administration" seems to be a most eloquent way of expressing this.

Of course, working in the Committees we will become closer to the Administration and will come to see things from their point of view. Oh, Committees even our resident Marxists will come to realise the necessity of public expenditure cuts. The most unnecessary confrontations which have taken place in the past will disappear.

The dawning new era will see the separation of government and mass. With no recall, no communication between students and delegates, plus the fact that the delegates will tend to see the situation from an Administration perspective, all this will mean that the links between the student body and its representatives will be severed. Hopefully the student body will then relapse into that indolent stupor which is the mark of all well governed masses.

In conclusion may I respectfully add that this "long-awaited break-through" is everything that the rational, non-political, Tory-voting average student has been waiting for.

Peacock.

## Sun sets over Carr-Saunders

THE poor culture-vultures of Carr-Saunders hall have recently been forced to accept rationing of the quality Press. The local newsagent, hearing of the sad financial state of the hall society funds, decided to try and force payment of the large outstanding debt by restricting supplies of the expressly sunny mail papers and swamping the hall with copies of the Torygraph. The newsagent must be a real bum to put the knockers on these tit-les.

Who said we live in class-

conscious society these days? A leading Electra Glider in Blue (who?) with vast experience in putting letters back in letter-boxes recently made a star appearance in Jennifers Harpers & Queen's Diary. Perhaps this deb-it will put the Lotus back on the road?

## Gillette profits down

Following the top ENTS roadies' example of applying and being refused by the Civil Service, that other ex-hackovarian Deans has been looking for a job (of work). Rumour has it that his refusal by Gillette has resulted in a policy of boycotting all Gillette products—or perhaps his natural Scot-

tish tendencies are coming out? Anyway, it's better than picketing a leading bank with interests in South Africa when you personally have an account with them, even if you are a leading Anarchist.

## Capital con, pooh pooh

The Winnie the Pooh Society has been suffering severe difficulties in its attempt to obtain recognition within LSE. The Constitution Committee did not accept that characters from the book could be officers of the Society and then poor Mart Heffelump Peacock was done out of full chairpersonship by the resignation of the Boss of the Constitution Committee and

so the Committee did not meet to reconsider the fate of the society. Furthermore, the knitting machine won by Film Society Pooh was never supplied by Capital Radio and so it was not possible to knit the costumes. It looks like the political wing of the Film Society has come to the same fate as its sporting branch—the three-member Ski Club.

Has Pooh taken Welfare to heart, or just to dinner at the P.O. Tower?

## Political images updated

Chairman of the LSE British Workers' Alliance recently fell from office and has decided to stand for the Court of Gover-

nors as a Tory. Watch out Margo, one wandas whether the Sabbatical Intelligence network knows about this one. At the other end of the political spectrum, one notices the new fashion for short trousers—the end for wilce—on political tactics?

## Roger the dodger

Suppose you held a picket and nobody came—you could censor the mandated executive and perhaps change the composition of the executive for the last five weeks of term. Where better to send the opposition than the Home Office, and where more logical to picket than the Prison Officers' Association?

# SNIDELINES

# NUS success

THE Government has dropped its plans to remove the legal right of students to social security benefits during the short vacations. As the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill began its committee stage last month, the Government withdrew Clause 13 of the Bill—the Clause which would have put students outside classification as 'unemployed' during Christmas and Easter vacations. This 'back-down' by the Government signifies a major success for the NUS Campaign against Clause 13.

At very short notice, the NUS Executive organised a lobby of Parliament on the day of the Bill's second reading, and detailed representations were put to DHSS officials as well as individual MPs. LSE's "Carry on Claiming" Committee played its part in the NUS Campaign by collecting signatures for the NUS petition and delivering letters of protest from LSE students to over a hundred individual MPs.

An attempt by the Government to move a

retrograde amendment to the Bill was also defeated in committee. The amendment sought to compel the Department of Health and Social Security, when assessing student claims to supplementary benefit, to assume that all LEA award-holders receive full grant. This would have changed the present position where DHSS has discretion to pay more benefit to award-holders who can show that they are not receiving full parental contributions. The Government may try to reintroduce the Amendment at the Report Stage of the Bill, but judging by its reception so far, there is a strong probability that it will again be defeated.

NB: Would all students who are appealing against DHSS assessments of their supplementary benefit claims during the Christmas Vacation, please leave their name, address and telephone number at the Union Office (S102). The "Carry-on Claiming" Committee would like to contact them.

Jean Kennedy

# Another boring article

THE Committee on Student Representation decided to advise Union to accept the School's offer but has severe reservations about it. The main problem that we foresee is that of mandatability, how we can make sure that people attend Committees they are elected to and implement Union policy on them.

The only satisfactory way of exercising control over members of the School Committees is that they should be subject to the same rights and duties (right of recall, etc.) as the Executive members are. If the system is to work, people who break Union policy must be removed from their position and a by-election held by the same method as the original election. We would, however, state that we are unsure whether or not the School would accept such a by-election, and would suggest in the event of the School refusing to accept the new representative that we remove ourselves from all Committees on the grounds that we should have the power to decide who our representatives are.

The Committee also noted the high number of ex-officio places being offered to the General Secretary and other members of the Executive, and felt that there was, therefore, a danger of concentration of power and of information in the Executive and especially on the General Secretary. We also noted that if the General Secretary does sit on five major and a couple of minor Committees the nature of the job and therefore the work load on the Senior Treasurer and other members of the Executive will be radically altered. We did, however, feel that there was an advantage in having the power to remove someone's job if they work against Union policy on these Committees and that the General Secretary was probably the only one with the time to do the research and co-ordination necessary for effective student participation on these Committees' administrative framework.

In order to ensure that all student representatives are not isolated from the mass of students and that all students have an opportunity to know and con-

trol what is being said and done on School Committees, we suggest the following:

- (1) There should be an open meeting every month of all students and their representatives called by the General Secretary to discuss matters concerning School Committees.
- (2) Meetings of representatives on specific Committees should also be held so that students can discuss matters to be put on the agenda.
- (3) A caucus meeting should be held just before the School Committee meets to discuss what position should be taken on the matters on the agenda.
- (4) The General Secretary shall produce a written report to be presented to Union each month on what has occurred at these student meetings and on the School Committees themselves.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEES POWER BASE?

The major problem facing student representatives is that with the present School offer they will miss the two most vital steps in the decision making apparatus of the School, namely the Academic Board and the Standing Committee of the Court of Governors. This could lead representatives into either not knowing what is going on or continually objecting to decisions that in effect have already been carried out because they were made on Committees we are excluded from.

This Committee emphasises the need to continue to press for representation on all School Committees especially the Finance Committee, Academic Board and Standing Committee of the Court of Governors, and until this offer is met our representatives on the Court of Governors will have to be particularly vigilant in demanding the release of information and must refuse to accept any decision from another Committee when students have been excluded from this decision taken on it and have not received any

relevant information on the matter.

In conclusion, we feel that the whole matter of exercising democratic control over the representatives on School Committees comes back to the effectiveness of the Union and its commitment to fight for the rights of students.

We would also suggest that the Committee on Student Representation continues to meet on a regular basis (when called by the General Secretary) and that it should report at the end of term and at least termly thereafter on the progress towards the winning of our full demands and our continuing participation in the scheme.

# Budget

MANY LSE students may recall the budget meeting last term, where this year's financial allocations were discussed and finalised. You may have thought that is the lot or words of a similar nature, but due to "Popular Demand" (and the need for a submission to the Court of Governors for next year's per capita fee) you will have the chance to attend another budget meeting, on Friday, February 18th, at 3 p.m.

Again, the decisions are yours, it's your Union, your money, and your priorities. It's for you to ensure that substantial sums of money are not wasted, inefficiently used, etc.

The budget will be available at least one week before the meeting, as will hopefully the consolidated sheet for the Financial Year 1975-1976, so be there, voice an opinion, come and see me with any questions, suggestions, etc. in my office, S104, before the meeting on the 18th. If you don't make the decisions about your union then someone else will, because you have abrogated your rights and responsibilities.

John Cruse

# Fell Tells

THIS article intends to be an analysis, albeit polemical, of the plight of being a student at the L.S.E. and to indicate the three solutions which are generally pursued, only one of which is really acceptable.

In order to fully appreciate the nature of the problem it is necessary to note the most common approach students take to their passage through this great and illustrious institution.

First years come starry-eyed and full of enthusiasm from wherever, eager to enjoy the not inconsiderable delights of a university existence. The concept that "life begins at university" is still a truism for many. They thus smile sweetly at all for the first few weeks, establish contacts and begin to familiarise themselves with London and the L.S.E. The rest of the first term and very often the second is concerned with re-aligning one's friends and acquaintances until one establishes a select group of like-minded persons—or close approximations.

The second year is perhaps the most trying, though I have not yet experienced the third. Here disillusionment with one's course, lecturers, and a good many of one's acquaintances sets in. Disillusionment with the course because the lack of knowledge one has often allows only the weaknesses of one's subject to be seen, not the strengths. Disillusionment with lecturers is not total, but greater familiarity with a wider range makes one more critical. Of disillusionment with one's acquaintances more anon.

Third years are concerned with what will happen when the nemesis finally comes and they have to get a job. They are usually so preoccupied with their post-graduation arrangements and final examinations

that they devote little time to much else.

The L.S.E. is perhaps unfortunate in having the environment it does. Because it is in a city centre it does not lend itself to being a focal point of social activity. Because its students live scattered all over London and there are so many of them, no sense of community has been allowed to develop. For students there is no routine and nothing tangible by which to measure progress or achievement, so boredom and disillusionment are virtually inevitable.

These factors are crucial as it leads to people being judged as stereo-types. People stop expecting to meet anyone interesting and so stop making the effort of trying to appear interesting themselves. Thus a vicious spiral is created.

At the beginning I proffered three solutions, one of which was acceptable. The first solution is to become depressed, overwhelmed by the difficulties one faces, and to wait for the moment of departure, in the meantime hating the place and most of the people in it.

The second "solution" is to find escape in frivolity. Not really satisfactory and tiresome for the rest of us. There is the danger of wavering between frivolity and depression.

The third solution is to escape. This is often done by establishing interests and a circle of contacts outside the L.S.E. Alternatively some develop themselves within the institution—by running societies or becoming hacks. However, these people face contact with the depressed and the frivolous. But only this second category of the third solution goes anyway to rescuing the L.S.E. from its apparent fate of being haunted by those who adopt either of the first two "solutions."

Bruce Fell



**LIFE IS A LONG  
ILLNESS CURABLE  
ONLY BY DEATH**

# 'BLOODY SUNDAY'

ON Sunday, January 30th, 1972, a Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association march in Londonderry was diverted from its intended route through the predominantly Protestant, and therefore hostile, city centre. The confrontation which then developed led to a short gun-battle in which thirteen Catholics were shot dead by the British Army.

The immediate press and television reaction was dramatic. The only known facts were that there had been a Civil Rights march, that troops had fired, and that 13 civilians, but no soldiers, had been killed. Inevitably, the impression was one of soldiers running amok and firing on unarmed, peaceful demonstrators. Parallels were drawn with the march on the Winter Palace in 1905, and the day was at once christened "Bloody Sunday". On the following day, the Government invited Lord Widgery to investigate the incident, the case became *sub judice*, and further comment on the facts was suspended.

By the time the Widgery Tribunal reported in April, the IRA had had the propaganda field to itself for 11 weeks, and the first, sensational impressions of the day's event had become ingrained in the repertoires of all self-respecting student activists. Last week, five years later, the LSE Union had to watch again as the custodians of its collective conscience paraded this same, hoary old myth, although this time they didn't even have the decency to cover its shame with as much as a tatter of a fact.

NICRA had hoped that 15,000 would turn out for its illegal

demonstration against internment. At 2.47 pm, however, the organisers decided they could delay no longer, and 800 marchers moved off through the Creggan and Bogside. They gathered supporters as they went, and by the time they reached the northern edge of the Bogside, their number had risen to over 3,000.

At this point they found that the Army had erected a line of 26 barriers across every entrance to adjacent Protestant areas. The leading column turned right from William Street into Rossville Street, leaving behind a group of some two hundred teenage boys (whom the IRA had organised into a disciplined "Derry Young Hooligans" force) to taunt the Army. The DYH continued down William Street, and attacked Barrier 14. The time was 3.37 pm.

The troops responded to a shower of stones, iron firegrates and sharpened metal lances, with a controlled volley of rubber bullets. The Hooligans brought up a prefabricated, corrugated iron shield; the troops drenched them with a water-cannon; the Hooligans threw CS gas grenades; the troops fired more rubber bullets.

A few minutes later, at 3.51 pm, the first shot of the afternoon was fired, from the direction of Rossville Flats, at a squad of soldiers clearing away some wire from the Presbyterian Church. It struck a rainwater pipe on the wall above their heads.

Widgery's comment:

"A large number of witnesses gave evidence about this incident, which clearly occurred, and which proves that at that stage there was at least one sniper, equipped with a high-velocity weapon, prepared to open fire on the soldiers."

Simultaneously, the Hooligans began throwing "nail bombs"—six-inch nails bound round a stick of gelignite—at soldiers moving across William Street. Cornered in a derelict house, a corporal and a private opened fire at men they thought they could see lighting bombs, and two fell wounded. Widgery found no evidence that these two men had been preparing mis-

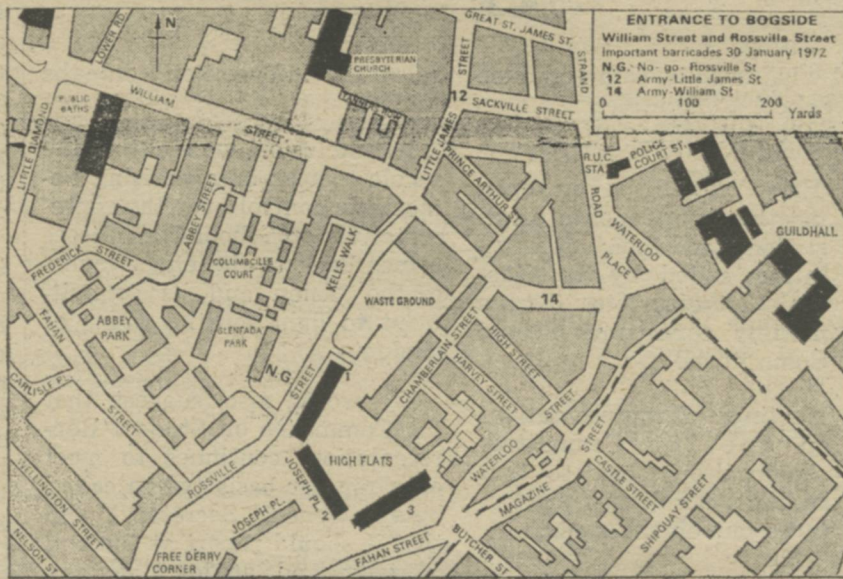
siles, although he accepted that nail-bombs had already been thrown and that the soldiers saw men ready to throw more.

At 3.55 pm, when all the marchers had moved down Rossville Street, the Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment requested permission to arrest the rioters still in William Street. Only at 4.10 pm, however, a time fixed precisely in a photograph by the Guildhall clock, did armoured personnel carriers begin to enter William Street. As they approached the waste ground, the leading APCs fanned out, and men jumped out to arrest the rioters. Apart from the isolated shot at the soldiers by the Presbyterian Church, it was at this juncture that the shooting began, and it was during the subsequent twenty minutes that all thirteen people were killed, and thirteen more wounded.

sulted in deaths. The first, a sergeant and eight men, stopped under the northern end of Block 1 of the High Flats, in a position shielded from the Rossville Street barricade, but dominated by the windows of the three ten-storey blocks, only 50 or 100 yards away. The overwhelming evidence that they were fired on, from the flats was not contested either by Father Daly, an important eye-witness sympathetic to the Bogside's case, or by The Sunday Times Insight team, who interviewed one of the IRA men involved, a member of the Creggan section of the Officials.

The soldiers in the courtyard fired 32 rounds in reply. One 17-year-old boy was killed and a number of others wounded. Widgery was "entirely satisfied that the first firing in the courtyard was directed at the soldiers."

A second group of soldiers, after



The situation in the waste ground was confused. When the APCs were spotted, everyone began to run, a few into the courtyards of the flats on either side of Rossville Street, but most streaming through a barricade of concrete blocks to the comparative safety to be found behind the flats. Most of those who were killed, died on or near the barricades. That some of the gunmen fired on the troops from the flats and the Rossville Street barricade is now admitted by the IRA, and accepted as being beyond doubt. The only question is who, in the confusion, fired first.

Three groups of soldiers were involved in the incidents which re-

making several arrests, had halted at Kells Walk, in front of the Rossville Street barricade. Here they came under fire, took cover, and returned the fire. In this case, it is not entirely clear who fired first, but no-one disputes that both sides were firing. Seven men died, either on the barricade or close behind it.

It was this incident which gave rise to allegations that the troops fired on an unarmed crowd. About five hundred people were still listening to speeches at Free Derry Corner, a road junction some three hundred yards from Kells Walk, in direct line behind the Rossville Street barricade. Some shots over the barricade passed uncomfortably close to the meeting, although

fortunately no-one was hit. Lord Brockway, who was making a speech at the time from the back of a lorry, acknowledged in his evidence to the Widgery Tribunal that no shots had been deliberately fired at this crowd.

A third group of four soldiers was then sent from Kells Walk to head off some men seen running from the barricade and taking cover in Glenfadda Park. Another thirty people who were already sheltering in Glenfadda Park took fright and scattered. Whether or not there had been firing here already, Lord Widgery described the shooting by the soldiers as "bordering on the reckless". Five men were killed. Forensic tests later showed that two of the five had used a firearm, and one was found to have four nail-bombs in his pocket.

No-one has ever claimed that the British Army was blameless, but "Bloody Sunday" was not an unprovoked attack by soldiers on innocent, unarmed, oppressed civilians. All the deaths occurred in the immediate vicinity of the Bogside defences. When the shooting began, full-scale rioting had been in progress for about 40 minutes and, in view of the sensitivity of the spot, it is not unreasonable to assume that most bystanders moved away before the first shots were fired.

Widgery had no doubt that the IRA fired first, and it would be surprising, indeed, had they not. Both Provisionals and Officials had long boasted that Free Derry was a "No-go" area, defended by their gunmen against both police and army. For months, in contrast, the Army's responses had been generally restrained. Between August, 1971, and February, 1972, 2,656 shots were fired at them, and only 840 by them in return. In the same period, 456 lethal nail and gelignite-bombs were thrown, and there had been 225 explosions. On January 30th there were as many rounds fired at the troops as by them. The IRA shot badly, and the Army, trained to use cover and to cover each other, were more accurate.

John Emerson

## Paying the price of peace

IT was interesting to have read in the last issue of Beaver an English schoolboy version of the Provisional Alliance "Peace with Justice" slogan for their sort of peace that is a bad joke in Ireland. In fact the story seems to have added a new perversity to the old Brit trick of "playing the Orange card".

There is no denying the fact of discrimination against the republican population at all levels during the fifty years of Stormont Rule; though this was not the cause but the effect of sectarianism, maintained and supported by the Catholic Church, various Protestant churches, and more importantly the British ruling class. This is not altogether unusual and can be seen elsewhere in

the promotion of tribal, ethnic and religious differences throughout the world—especially before the sun decided to set—in order to secure the profits of British imperialism. But in Ireland, especially in the North, this sectarianism which had been maintained to protect landlordism was quickly seized by the middle class to divide workers particularly in Ulster and Derry.

Keeping this in mind, is it surprising that issues that are vital to the working class are often forgotten when it comes to Northern Ireland. For instance today, according to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, 38 per cent of the housing is unfit for human habitation; in education the sectarian

school system has never started to do away with the 11-plus exam; in unemployment up to 30 per cent of some towns are out of work, while on average wages are three-fourths that of Britain and prices significantly dearer.

Against this background is the daily horror of Provo and "Loyalist" bombings and sectarian killing, with the steady tally of British Army murders and harassment just to keep the show moving. Is it surprising that united class politics is struggling? That the British media has suddenly switched from the sectarian politics of SDLP and UUUC toward the apolitical and scantily supported "Peace People". Or that the ultra-left in Britain seems a

bit tired with the reality that their call for instant revolution is ignored by the working class.

What can be done? The answer lies in the breaking down the sectarianism both in the North and the South of Ireland. The two most effective ways to help further this struggle is to support the Irish Congress of Trade Unions "Better Life for All" campaign and the Northern Irish Civil Rights Association's Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. This means putting pressure on this "Labour" Government to take the initiative for political action to implement these proposals, especially those for the NICRA Bill of Rights. It is during a time of creating this political

groundwork when the British Army must withdraw, and Britain resume its social responsibilities in Northern Ireland; Britain must NOT be allowed to withdraw its costs while keeping its profits like it has done in Southern Ireland—or for that matter South Africa.

It is only through class politics that a thirty two country Democratic Socialist Republic of Ireland can be created, not through some absurd ultra-left notion that right-wing Provo bigots are going to liberate Ulster. If I may suggest to romantic English schoolboys that when they get serious it might be of more help if they start working for a democratic socialist republican—England?  
M. M. Gallagher

# ROGER:

## Profile of a Revolutionary

WELL, if the "New Statesman" can run a series entitled "The Slippery Pole" about politicians who never made it, why can't "Beaver"? Our series, then, is intended to give you insight into those people you know and love from Union General Meetings and what better place to start than with ROGER GALLOWAY.

Roger comes from a Rhondda Valley mining family. His grandfather was a true activist, imprisoned after the Tonyandy riots and arrested after the General Strike; he was for some time (1937-9) a Communist member. He was however asked to leave the Party when he disagreed with the Russian line on the Second World War as an "inter-Imperialist" war. Ironically this line was changed in the following year.

Roger's father worked his way up from the bottom grade of the Met Office and is now senior forecaster at RAF St. Morgan (Cornwall) and a trade union member. His mother worked to finance her college education and is now a teacher and local organiser of the NUT.

Politics first began to interest Roger at his 6th form college. He was involved in the 6th form committee and at one point arrested for vandalism (ripping down Tory posters . . .). Now his politics have moved away from the Labour Party towards Marx and he regularly reads the 'Morning Star.' In the 2nd year he was banned from being president of the Committee by the Headmaster and turned from politics for a while to drugs and writing poetry. He then spent three months in a wholesale firm, where he joined the TGWU. Roger joined the IS (SWP) in his first year at LSE.

THE Bar was crowded and noisy but Roger had insisted that he needed his lunchtime drink nonetheless (he drank rum and black); undaunted we began:—

**US: What do you consider to be the role of students?**

ROGER: You can't have an absolute role—it depends on the objective and ideological circumstances. In the 'twenties and 'thirties there was privileged education, you know, at Oxford and Cambridge. All those people who went into education, came out and became lawyers and capitalists. Essentially they were bigots. They were on the side of the ruling classes in the General Strike. They ran trains with their bloody Oxford scarves flapping behind them. After 1945 that's when it started to change, right. Fantastic boom in capitalism—on the one hand an increase in technological know-how, on the other hand there was the idea of the Welfare State. This meant that education was needed to bring in a new level of people who would go to the polytechnics and technical colleges. More and more people from the middle and working classes could afford to send their children to universities and polytechnics. You can't see students as a class because they've no relation to the means of production. I see them as transitional. The role of students is in the battle of ideas and in 1967-68 there was a fantastic sort of interest in Left-wing ideas, although at the same time there wasn't any crisis. This isn't linked to the economic situation—it's divorced from it.

**US: But how much do you think the battle of ideas was stimulated by the fact that students in the 'sixties were bored—they had everything a lot easier?**

ROGER: I think they were really interested, they had a real conscience and a belief in socialist ideas. But I haven't finished about the role of students. Now it's changing. Things that were taken for granted are coming under attack. Not just financial attack but ideological attack.

**US: Do you think you should . . .**

ROGER: Shut up, I'm trying to finish. They want students to go to Imperial and into industry and this sort of thing. When it comes to social work and sociology and the arts—those are the ones being cut. So as well as the fight in the battle of ideas now you've got to fight actively as well. You've got to fight racist fees. You've got to fight liberals like Dahrendorf.

**US: Do you see it as an attack on just overseas students or on the student body as a whole?**

ROGER: On the whole student body, but basically it's the overseas students. They're the ones who can be deported at the stroke of a pen. If Dahrendorf gets something up his nose, or a hangover, or something and he sees so-and-so's name and he can send a report to the DES. So that's the role of students. Fighting back. But not just mindlessly. Fighting back but with Socialist ideas, because that is the only way.

**US: In that case what do you consider to be the role of the NUS?**

ROGER: What you must say is that it's not individual students who are under attack. So

that's why you need NUS—a national organisation. But what you don't need is the NUS leadership.

**US: What you would prefer to see is a more militant leadership?**

ROGER: Yes, obviously. It's the I.S. who are really fighting. Some day people are going to say, "Look at these Broad Left wankers, they sit around on their arses, they sometimes even go against occupations." They don't advertise occupations, then they claim to have led them. But they didn't—it was the rank-and-file students. The argument that NUS isn't democratic enough is a total red herring. The main thing is that the sovereign body is the Union floor. I'm not interested in abstract democracy and abstract liberty—that's what the bourgeois Press puts out and the FCS. There should be participative and collective democracy, because that is the only way forward. Everybody can put a little cross every three months. What is that? It's nothing really. How can you fight back that way? If everything is related to the Union floor, the sovereign body, that's what I call democracy.

[At this point Roger was prompted by Jim Gee.]

Yes, um, technical advice, like.

**US: What are your views on the FCS then?**

ROGER: Well, you know, in Norway in 1938-39 there was a bloke called Quisling. There were people waiting in the wings known as Quislings. They would take power and destroy all the structures. Any sort of democracy. And basically that's what the FCS are—they're Quislings. They want more cuts. They want to make immigration controls even worse. Some parts of the Tory Party even talk about repatriation. What do the FCS actually do? Why do they call Quorum at Union meetings? Why do they try to put off inexperienced speakers? Why do they call for more plastic democracy? They don't want students and workers to think for themselves. They want them to be told.

**US: Why are more students FCS members than anything else?**

ROGER: Because they only have to sign on every year. O.K., you've got a lot of Tory ideas especially in a place like this where people are studying accountancy and things like that. But you don't fight for overseas students with a few wine and cheese parties. Anyway, I don't really want to talk about the FCS because it leaves a nasty taste in my mouth.

**US: Who do you consider to be the working class?**

ROGER: They're the people who are right into the means of production or who work for social wealth—teachers, doctors—but this is obvious. I think it's much more relevant to ask who the ruling class are. Those who control the means of production and benefit from it. I think you can define the ruling class into the armed forces, police, civil service, judiciary, the law, the nationalised industries and of course the bosses. I get on well with the village policeman—he's a nice bloke—he stays in the pub till about two in the morning. You can't say individuals are wrong—it's the State apparatus. [At this point Roger got rather

heated.] Who the fuck elected a judge? To be a judge you have to be a barrister and to be a barrister you've got to have friends in high places. Who are these judges? They're fucking senile, they're doddering! I was in court once and he was fucking snoozing! You can't legislate to change it, the working class has got to seize power and fucking smash the State.

**US: Do you believe in revolution?**

ROGER: Yes, obviously. But you're asking in the abstract. You've got to see it objectively. If we really built a Socialist Worker Party we could have hundreds of thousands of people on the streets and they'd bring in the tanks, machine-guns; they'd shoot them down. How can the working class stop this? In the last analysis—I am a pacifist, but a realistic one—the



only way the working class can ever achieve power is through force. The way forward is to build a party in the working class. It's no good two men and a dog trying to take over the country. The I.S. is made up of 87 per cent working class and 13 per cent students. We're just normal people when it comes down to it.

**US (stifled giggle): Not pathological then?**

ROGER: No—whatever that means. Like I said before, I'm not very good at long words.

**US: Why has the I.S. become the S.W.P.?**

ROGER: Previously we've been a pressure body but now we've been forced to act as a party. We've got to be really organised—an alternative to the reformists. We don't go in for all this great January the first—a rock band in Alexandra Palace—no, we just quietly become the S.W.P.

**US: Is your working-class accent real or cultivated?**

ROGER: I'm flattered. But I'm not conscious of having a working-class accent. I just speak and that's how it comes out.

**US: Do you play for laughs at Union meetings?**

ROGER: Play for laughs? No, it just comes out—some people are born humorous. I'm sarcastic, satirical like. But what it is, you can't help laughing at some of the people in the Union like Paul Brown and Peacock—you've got to laugh, haven't you? Stupid questions annoy me because it's a waste of Union time. There are three main things at the moment. Firstly the overseas students question at LSE; we've got to mobilise people. Then there are the women—the E.G.A. hospital and the abortion campaign. Thirdly, there's the problem of how to put the I.S. forward.

[Roger then left us for an Executive meeting.]

Liz Balties and  
Carol Saunders

## STUDENTS v BOARD

(Continued from Page One).

However, we believe that our attendance at the Academic Board meeting, which will actually discuss our academic future, constitutes the minimum self-defence we can exercise.

Of course, in order for this presence to be effective we need access to all relevant information affecting the decision process.

### OUR POLICY

(1) We don't want to play the role of the political avant-garde; our goals are realistic. We are interested in becoming active in the problems, grappling them for a positive solution which will really concern the entire academic community.

(2) The problem of fees is one for the entire academic community including everyone interested in working in a place which conceives education not as a privilege but as a right. On this basis it seems to us that the problem should be discussed in the area of our particular work, in lectures, in classes, in tutorials, with teachers and colleagues.

(3) In our fight a significant role would be played by OSAC with active Union support. It is necessary for society to discuss the problem, to build a policy, to proceed to an allocation of duties. Their collaboration may take various forms: meetings of their executives, co-

organisation of an International Day and may conclude to the federalisation of OSAC.

(4) On the basis of our right to take part in the making of a decision which directly influences us we ask the following points from the Academic Board:

(a) Right of speech to the delegation of OSAC throughout the Academic Board proceedings.

(b) The full recommendation of the PGPC and the documents on which it was based. All the documents (budget, etc.) which directly concern the economic policy of LSE.

(c) Postponement of the decision in order to acquire the necessary time for one student committee to form its proposals.

(d) Extraordinary meeting of the Academic Board three weeks after February 9th.

(e) Our other goals: abolition of the quota system; and policing.

We believe we should incorporate those demands in the logic of participation and corresponsibility and ask the whole Academic Community to come along.

### CONCLUSIONS

We call on the whole Academic Community to defend its rights to education corresponsibility, and free speech as the minimum means of defence to this most unjust attack.

# NEWS IN BRIEFS

## Dandruff quits Shock horror revelation

RUMOURS that Prof. Ralf Dandruff (no relation) has been planning to "quit" a well-known London college were being strongly denied last night.

The rumours had originated from the fact that Prof. Dandruff is nowadays never to be seen at the college. Most of his time is spent flying around the world and serving on special Government Committees which "investigate" such diverse subjects as the macabre happenings in the City; the effect which the distribution of free contraceptives among children in primary schools would have on Britain's population in the year 2000; the corrupting effects of Mrs Mary Whitehouse on the population of Britain; and the degree of uselessness of countless Committees which investigate such bizarre and irrelevant subjects as the ones above.

**STOP PRESS:** Early this morning Prof. Dandruff issued a statement in which he "deplored" the "spiteful speculative tittle-tattle which has been fomented by subversive trouble-makers who wish to taint the reputation of the world's most brilliant academic. I am very happy, thank you very much, to continue flying around the world meeting distinguished people and having dinner with them, serving on all these amusing Government Committees and generally pontificating on matters I know nothing whatever about.

"Furthermore", Dandruff added, "If these baseless rumours continue to circulate in this irresponsible fashion, I will have no choice" — and here he turned purple and foamed at the mouth — "but to resign as Director of this School".

## LSE Bores Award

The award for LSE's most boring lecturer 1976-77 has gone to Mr Kurt Klapptrap. This is

the twenty-third year in succession in which Mr Klapptrap has won since the award was founded 23 years ago.

This year, as before, there was a long and distinguished list of lecturers nominated by LSE students. But, as usual, Mr Klapptrap has won hands down.

Presenting the award, a plastic plaque inscribed with the words "... for your services in making Economics even more boring, unintelligible and difficult than usual" Mr Arthur Hack, the presenter, spoke of Mr Klapptrap's "supreme talents in his ability to cause students to skip his lectures, and make those few who do bother to turn up fall asleep. His tedious, repetitive style of presenting his right-wing propaganda—which, in characteristic good humour, he describes as facts—is, I may safely say, unequalled anywhere else in the School, and I would guess, in Britain, perhaps even the world.

"Never in the field of human achievement have so many been bored for so long by so few—if I may paraphrase Churchill, another great bore. Mr Klapptrap while you may not be very successful in indoctrinating your students with your propaganda—only a fool, after all, could be taken in by such pathetic trash—and although none of your students ever learn anything from you, your supremacy in boring them is undoubted". (Laughter and clapping).

Thanking the School for the award, Mr Klapptrap said emotionally: "I am deeply honoured. I will happily continue to bore all of you for as long as you allow me to—and, of course, for as long as you continue to pay me a not inconsiderable salary for my splendid efforts in this respect."

## Sennet's last days— special probe

Senate House, Monday.  
Many people here feel that Jack Jones' call for 1977 to be

the "year of the Beaver" is inappropriate. While Beaver is not the most healthy paper in existence, its condition is certainly better than that of a sickly, tired, limp organ called Sennet. After its non-appearance on some past weeks, and its "appearance" recently as a four-page sheet of adverts and "articles" describing student affairs which everyone knew all about three weeks earlier, and which no-one would be interested in even if they hadn't, whispers are being circulated to the effect that Sennet will soon have to pack it in.

The editor, with all the brazen confidence of the captain of the Titanic, naturally denies all this. So do all the various nondescript hacks who "write" for the rag. Possibly they are correct: Sennet may merely be reduced to publishing biannually a one-page issue consisting entirely of adverts.

In any case, this subject is almost as boring as the Great Debate on Devolution. We will no doubt see as time passes. And most people (except the poor hacks involved) probably couldn't care less one way or the other.

## Apathy Rules—O.K.!

LSE's latest Society, the LSE Apathy League (a branch of Monty Python's British Apathy League) has a confirmed membership of more than 99 per cent of LSE's students, a recently published survey has revealed. It is now applying to LSE Union for funds to provide for its members. Asked what he wanted to use the funds for, the Society's President (unelected unanimously) yawned that he couldn't be bothered to say. When told that he could not have any money unless he did, he replied "Oh sod it, it's not worth the effort". However, it is believed that the things he has in mind are ear-muffs for those who can actually be bothered to go to lectures, beds for people who are particularly "shagged out" after another day of doing nothing, and spe-

cial "force-feeding mechanisms" so that those who can't be bothered to eat will not die of starvation. (On the latter item, however there is a problem over whether anyone will bother to operate the machines.)

Trouble has arisen over the method used to achieve such a large membership, however. The technique was to make students who did not want to belong to the League "contract out". However, very few people knew about this because nobody could be bothered to tell them. Only a small handful of activists found out. The only non-members, therefore, are a handful of union hacks and careerists.

LSE AG's President, whose name temporarily escapes me (it is not even certain that he exists), in a press release issued last night, lashed out at what he described as "the fascist Student's Union who are exploiting thousands of ordinary students who just want to get on with the business of doing nothing." He later added, "I speak for the Silent Majority—who are silent because they cannot be fagged to open their mouths. My members," he went on, his face contorted with yawns, "will stop at nothing to achieve whatever we are attempting to achieve—indeed, they will do nothing to achieve it".

As we go to press, we have just heard that the Chairman of LSE's Conservative group has given his "full-hearted backing to that chappy who stands for the right of students to do what they want to do—in this case nothing. Why should students be debarred, for instance, from voting in Union elections just because they can't be fagged to attend the meetings and haven't the faintest idea what any of the issues are about. This is just typical of this Socialist government, restricting our liberties by nationalising the railways... sorry, I seem to have got my notes mixed up..."

James Gausson

## Poetry

THE LSE Poetry Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month between 1 and 2 in the T.V. Room, for informal speakers and readings of members' own poetry. All students and staff are invited to come along any time.

### The Romance of the Road

O MY love is like a red, red Suzuki,  
That roars at eighty miles an hour.  
O my love is like a kind of melody,  
That's sort of wailed by "The Four Loons",  
Marvellous new group.

O my love wears safety pins through her nose  
And dyes her hair purple, green, and black  
O my love reads the glossy magazines  
About pop singers  
And all dishevelled wandering stars.

O my love reads poetry  
Like I read Urdu,  
O my love will knit at public hangings  
And screech with laughter too.

O my love is like a red, red 90 c.c.  
That roars at eighty miles an hour  
Up the sweaty roads  
Under me.

William Prendeville  
LSE Poetry Group

### A Rather Sad Poem

WE are sitting opposite each other,  
You are dressed in red, and from your attitude  
I think perhaps it is a penitential colour.

You are trying to read  
but the furrow of your brow  
that cuts too deeply  
bodes no success in your endeavour.

Sometimes, shyly, you half smile at me  
and I shyly half smile back.  
There is the end of our communication.

One might wish for more,  
I am sorry we have not spoken  
But, after all, we are both young women.

M. R. Pillsbury

### Insecurity, LSE-style

IN the cloakroom glances meet,  
glance off again, averted.  
Eyes flicker with the fear and hope  
of being recognised, or greeted.  
Only the cloakroom attendant's eyes  
look squarely across the counter at those  
he knows, yet does not know.

Conversation is the shuffle of raincoats,  
snap of cases, buttons' click.  
Such nervousness is scorned by the wireless' electric crackle:  
a housewife telling a bored DJ about her terminal cancer.  
All around, ears are averted.

# LEGALISE IT!

ON Friday, January 28th, a motion was passed at U.G.M. pledging support for Release's "Decriminalisation of Cannabis Campaign." The campaign marks the culmination of ten years' work in the field of Drugs and the Law by Release, a government aided organisation, which was set up in 1967. Since those days of 1967 and Woodstock, when if you fell over in the mud you got stoned, the situation hasn't changed. Despite extensive research into cannabis, the laws concerning possession, trafficking and taking of the "evil weed" are still the most open-ended in the country.

The Police have the right to stop and search you if they believe you are in possession of drugs, firearms and if you have committed a theft. Frequent episodes of Police brutality, when suspected drug-takers or dealers are searched are notorious among smokers, yet they fail to make the front page of such bastions of Civil Rights as the Daily Telegraph or The Times. The Police don't seem to mind the publicity surrounding busts either; witness the Windsor Free Festival when hundreds of Police officers from the Thames Valley Constabulary invaded Windsor Great Park to turf out the temporary residents who had gathered to enjoy the music, vibes and atmosphere of an otherwise peaceful event.

The arguments surrounding cannabis are many and often emotional, but there are certain aspects of the matter which can be taken as fact:

- 1.—The long-term consumption of cannabis in moderate doses has no harmful effect.
- 2.—It is non-addictive.
- 3.—The risk of progressing on to harder drugs like heroin, cocaine, etc. is exaggerated and there is no reason for retaining control over it. In the Guardian two weeks ago a leading expert on drugs at a London Hospital stated that prospective drug-takers would take virtually anything that is available.

4.—There is little evidence to suggest that it results in crime.

This is not to suggest that cannabis is a totally harmless drug. Young takers are said to lose ground academically, it does impair driving ability and there is a risk of industrial accidents. But don't forget that all these effects could be attributed to drink.

A conservative estimate of the numbers of regular cannabis users in Britain is five million, one-eleventh of the population, but figures of six to eight million users seem much more realistic since the previous survey was conducted some time ago. That means six million people a year are breaking the law. The mockery of the present drugs laws is in their discriminatory nature of implementation. A man busted in London for possessing 600 Thai sticks received only a fine yet in Cambridge a girl busted with 3½ ozs. of dope received a prison sentence of three years in Holloway.

One could go on listing reasons why the present laws are ludicrous. Too much public money is wasted every year in trying to enforce an outdated and outmoded law. The Wootton report of 1969 suggested a relaxation of the laws but the report was shelved by the then Home Secretary, James Callaghan. Since then nothing has been done.

Is it right that 10,000 people a year are busted just for possessing a harmless plant and that thousands more are subjected to harassment by the Police? Why are our prisons filled with people whose only "crime" is to have smoked this plant? Why has nothing been done in Britain when 19 states in the U.S.A., Holland and Columbia have decriminalised possession of dope?

**Reform Cannabis Laws now! Five million smokers can't be wrong!**  
(For more information contact Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, London, W9, or phone 01-289 1123).

**LEGALISE IT. DON'T CRITICISE IT!**

# ENTSNEWS AND REVIEWS

## MORT SAHL

MORT SAHL'S career has shown him to be essentially a pioneer, although his notoriety in this country has often been overshadowed by Lenny Bruce. As a one-line psycho-analyst, his comment on Richard Nixon is magic: "Would you buy a used car from this man?" The personal list of firsts that Mort Sahl can claim is staggering; he was the first comedian to work totally improvisationally; the first to be profiled in *The New Yorker*, *The Reporter*, *Playboy*, *Esquire* and *Time*; the first political satirist to have his own syndicated television show; the first to cover the Republican and Democratic National Conventions as an accredited correspondent; and the first entertainer to write speeches for a President of the United States. Helicopters were even sent to pick up Mort's latest one-liners for Kennedy to use in campaign speeches! Since the target of a satirist is whoever is in power, the elected John Kennedy soon became fair game for Mort Sahl's savage wit. He still takes more risks than any British comedian, or even Private Eye.

Sahl's latest book, "Heartland," is a continuous monologue in which the FBI and CIA are blasted with deadly and accurate humour, the Kennedy assassination is examined in absorbing detail, and in which Sahl justifies his belief that no subject was too sacred to be kidded.

In short, Mort Sahl warrants your attention both as a world class entertainer and as a man who really **does** have something to say.

LSE Ents are bringing you this exclusive opportunity to experience him in action on Monday, February 14th at 8.00 p.m. Tickets are £1.60 in advance from the Union Shop (£1.30 on presentation of a valid LSE NUS Card), or £2.00 on the night. Phyllis April-King's subtle blend of poetry and humour will complete the evening's entertainment. See our advertisement in *The Sunday Times* for more details . . . !

Andy Cornwell.

## Exclusives

WITH the exact details currently being finalised, this unique chance to witness the sheer power of an artist of Harper's calibre is set for the last week in February. Even though other colleges with a date on his tour are paying around £600, LSE Ents. has been offered ROY HARPER & CHIPS free in return for allowing the concert to be filmed for screening on television! Since this must be a strictly internal concert (with the exception of one hundred invited members of the press media and music business) only LSE students will be given the opportunity to pick up free advance tickets from S.118. An example of the man's status is that he is expected to sell out the 2,800-seater New Victoria Theatre at up to £3.00 a ticket next month!

After an emotional 18-month exile in the USA, Harper is back with a new band called CHIPS. Musicians include Henry McCullough (ex-Wings), Andy Roberts (ex-Plainsong), Dave Lawson (ex-Green-slade), Dave Cochran (a remainder from Trigger), and John Halsey (Hinkley's Heroes and Fatso).

Roy Harper is rated a world class acoustic guitarist but his essence lies in his ability to produce songs of frightening intensity and depth. He borders on the

## ROY HARPER

brink of insanity and genius and hence his live performances have gained a reputation for being unpredictable and erratic. The Old Theatre should provide the kind of intimate atmosphere on which he thrives and should enable the audience to experience the energy and conviction of Harper at his best.

The Lord's Prayer (1973) was intended as a last will and testament following his grave illness soon after completion of the film "Made," whilst a work such as "Twelve Hours of Sunset" was recently given full orchestral treatment by David Bedford at the Albert Hall. Roy Harper has played significant roles in the respective careers of Pink Floyd and Led Zepelin and he commands the respect of many contemporary artists. Lyrically he is always pushing ideas to the limit, arguably displaying megalomaniac ambitions. He tackles politics, religion, western civilisation, social evils and love from a unique stance. Harper is far more than just Britain's paramount stoned freak poet as examination of any of his work will reveal.

LSE Ents is justifiably proud to be able to give you the chance to experience the magic of Roy Harper "In Concert," so make the most of this offer.

Harper will be appearing on either Thursday 24th February or Monday 28th February supported by the Albion Dance Band.

## ENTS NEWS

"OCEAN" continue the Ents trend towards diversification by bringing "the best thing out of Jamaica since 'erb" down to the revitalised Three Tuns Bar on Tuesday, February 8th, immediately following the Film Soc. presentation.

The arrival of reggae music at the LSE is long overdue. With a lineup who have individually worked with such established talents as Bob Marley and the Wailers, Toots Hibbert, John Lee Hooker and Howlin Wolf, it is not surprising that Ocean are creating favourable reactions from both audiences and the music press. It is free yet again thanks largely to the Saturday concerts consistently producing profits. Make a date for the Three Tuns Bar when you've finished watching the film on Tuesday, February 8th.

If this venture proves successful then a new band called 90° Inclusive should be bringing their Band of Rastafarian reggae to the same venue on a film night towards the end of February.

"ADVERTISING" . . . Thursday, February 17th, 8.30 p.m.

Formerly the Cambridge-based "Duke, Duke and the Dukes," this band will doubtless be performing a selection of "New Wave" R'n B-

based rock in the Three Tuns Bar even though they prefer to be described as a cross between Frank Sinatra and Sparks.

Point of information: our resident punk, CHRIS H'LL, is now available to give any aspiring LSE punkettes the lowdown on "Advertising" and how to rub shoulders with Robert Plant at the Covent Garden Roxy . . . !

Future dates for your entertainment are: Saturday, 5th March: 5th, Arthur Brown, Paul Brett, Keith Christmas, etc. appear in a "Release" Benefit; and Friday, 11th March, which should see a concert featuring John Hartford and Clover. Additional information always available from S.118, along with offers of cheap (bulk purchased) Cassettes, Disco Hire facilities, and general "What's On" information.

Thanks are due to Pete Thomas and John Vincent (the lighting crew), Lol Lovett (in the Treasury Dept.), Colin Anderson (graphics), Neal (Disco), Max Poore (culinary delights), Ted Cater (liquid refreshment) and to Mark, Naff and Div for basically being around at the right time. More work goes on behind the scenes than you would ever imagine. Sod Ents. Indeed!!!

Andy Cornwell.

## Der Rosenkavalier

TO stage over 15 performances of a single opera in just over a year, featuring two complete casts, might seem excessive. Not so when the opera in question is the English National Opera's production of 'Der Rosenkavalier.' It has been widely praised since the first performance two years ago, and all the evidence at a recent performance at the Coliseum supported this view.

Careful research by that prolific producer, John Copley, gives this period piece a conviction not found in other productions. The cast, always strong, now offers a more polished version of the opera than even a few months ago. Intelligent conducting by Mark Elder and sensitive playing by the ENO Orchestra at times lends the score a magic heretofore unknown.

The plot concerns the ousting of

Baron Ochs, a fat, elderly suitor to Sophie, a wealthy merchant's young daughter, by the young nobleman Octavian, who is at the time having an affair with the Feldmarschallin, a princess of twice his age. It is a successful blend of lyrical and comic elements. These are exemplified, on the one hand, by the sage and gracious character of the Marschallin and, on the other, by the commedia dell'arte troupe at the levée, the Italian intriguers, and the ostentatiously foolish Baron Ochs. The distinction was brought out well in this production; the levée in particular was well staged.

Ava June's rendering of the part of the Marschallin, the most difficult in this opera, has filled out nicely; she projects the many facets of the character more convincingly, allowing herself greater freedom of

WEBER is most remembered for "Der Freischutz." In it is contained the essence of romanticism. Within it are pictures of nature and village life, but evil powers predominate. With skilful tone colouration the audience is drawn into the abyss of darkest evil, and afterwards brought out again.

The opera has been called absurd; this is certainly not so in this production, and there is a constant feeling of tension. The wolf's Glen scene was truly macabre, rather than hilarious, and skilfully directed lighting effects added to the drama. The sets were stark and bare throughout, drained of colour, trees without foliage, a room whose main decoration is a cross, the costumes, dark and rustic, well designed to blend in with the atmosphere of the production.

The singing was mostly excellent. Caspar (Kurt Moll) was sung with great force, soon appearing to be an evil character. In the wolf's Glen scene he is the central character and his strong, dark voice adds suitably to the evil. Rene Kollo sang Max with passion, but his singing

was marred by rather stiff acting. Hanelore Bode, in her debut role at Covent Garden, sang Agathe with some style. Lucia Popp clearly overshadowed her as the bright and spritely Annchen. She sang charmingly and successfully lightened the gloomy atmosphere.

Richard Van Allen sang a grave Cuno, Donald McIntyre, his clothes in marked contrast to those of the other men, a princely Ottoman.

The chorus of bridesmaids sang attractively, with the solo passages well executed, the chorus as a whole performing as a cohesive ensemble—their mowing of Max at the beginning was especially effective.

"Der Freischutz" contains much spoken dialogue and this can get in the way of the music. However, the spoken passages were performed with much zest and added rather than detracted from the work.

Colin Davis conducted the Covent Garden Orchestra, which played immaculately, contributing to a really first-rate performance.

RODELINDA was performed in concert version by the Handel Opera Society. Although much is lost in its not being staged, Rodelinda, consisting mostly of a series

of solo set pieces is much more suited to the concert platform than would be the highly dramatic "Belshazzar."

It is hard to project a character without sets and costumes, and at times it was possible to lose track of the action. Nevertheless, the singing was excellent, conveying the varying moods present in the opera convincingly. Elizabeth Harwood quickly became the strong-willed, emotional Rodelinda, Kenneth Bowen the usurper Grimoaldo, Anthony Smith the wicked Garibaldo. Anne Wilkens played Berarido, originally a castrato role. Her singing when in sorrowful vein was particularly beautiful and lingering.

Handel wrote some sublime music for this part, and as Wilkens sang in belief of Rodelinda's broken faith, you could hear the silence between the notes, the audience frozen by the sensation of unworldliness.

There was fine singing from Della Jones as Eduige and Rodney Haresty as Unalfo sang his one aria with much style.

The orchestra under Charles Farncombe, produced an exhilarating sound with its Handelian tones, with solo passages on recorders and flutes played very well. Altogether it was a most successful evening.

Jonathan Richmond

expression while keeping strict control. Octavian was played by Josephine Barstow, who is clearly comfortable in the part. She uses her considerable acting ability to good effect: one moment she is the coltish young nobleman, striding about the stage with immature bravado, the next she plays Octavian disguised as a maid. She was in good voice, though her diction was sometimes faulty.

Dennis Wicks was delightful as usual as the bovine Baron Ochs, and Joy Roberts gave a wonderfully pure and clear-voiced account of the part of Sophie, Ochs's bride-to-be.

Among the minor roles, Derek Blackwell as an Italian tenor, and Judith Turner as Sophie's duenna gave particularly gratifying performances.

"Der Rosenkavalier" (in English) returns with a different cast to the Coliseum for six performances from February 10th to March 1st inclusive.

Michael Cleary

## The Point

"THE POINT" is a fantasy and is such that anyone from eight to 80 can go and enjoy the show and find something to amuse and entertain them. For the kids it is a fable which stands up on its own, while for an older audience the point of the play is summed up by Bernard Miles who steps forward at the end to explain that everybody has a point to their lives no matter what anyone else may think, and that it is perfectly valid to be different.

It is a very strange and weird

show, yet it succeeds. There is much in this production to admire: one could write an entire review about the athleticism and vitality of Wayne Sleep's performance. Wayne Sleep is a dancer with the Royal Ballet, yet he shows that he can do more than just dance—he can act and sing in an effective manner to say the least.

Oscar James and Paul Aylett also turned in impressive performances—the latter operated a dog puppet with great realism. The effects were superb, with the costumes occasionally being quite outstanding. The lighting by Mick Hughes was first class and was particularly memorable during the Leafman scene.

Paul Wilce

# Sexism in the Press

ON Wednesday, January 19th, an interesting venture took place at Central London Poly. Advertised as "Press Meets the Public", it was taken by the chairman as a triumph for Polytechnics over Universities. As editor of "Times Educational Supplement" and an associate lecturer of the Poly, he did not lack personal interest in the proceedings.

The basic issues concerned were (1) the lack of attention paid to homosexuals and the distortion of any report about them that does manage to get into print; (2) the style of writing and presentation of women by newspapers; (3) the questions, does the Press reflect public opinion or try to change public opinion? and (4) above all, how important is the profit motive, i.e. sales?

Alison Hennegan, President of C.H.E., most articulately and with a sense of humour, put the first point. Homosexuals have to do something really deviant, i.e. old man and young boy, in order to get a mention, and then the public reaction is hysterical, so homosexuals tend to be worse off than if they had been ignored. Unfortunately, "family papers" have not yet comprehended a relationship different from heterosexual families. Ms Hennegan also referred to the use of conventional language for describing homosexual activities—marriage of homosexuals is an anachronism.

Instead of the constant use of the abstract "he", how about "s/he" or else plurals "they", "their"? However, the main area of criticism centred around the description of women in terms of their physical appearance, age, marital status. Such phrases as "battling Granny" and "Redhead takes on honey-blond" (Barbara Castle in a debate with Margaret Thatcher) are degrading and ridiculous. How would Sir Harold Wilson have liked the title peroxide blond? Women's employment position in the

newspaper world is marked by low-status "soft" jobs. Most women who are employed by the Press unfortunately seem to hold similar attitudes to their male colleagues—in that the "tits and bums" of page three are merely viewed as something to please their men-folk and after all that's what women are on earth for anyway!

Roger Baker, editor of "Men Only", justified his job by saying that he needed the money. It is all worthwhile because sales are booming, forget about women being exploited by this commercial enterprise.

Jameson's speech spluttered in between shouts of derision from the audience. When it was pieced together a join was evident between desiring more sales, and trying to reflect public opinion and, in terms of certain "militant" projects e.g. looking into the state of prisons, changing public opinion. However, it is one thing for a Labour paper to look into such issues as prisons and another to print news questioning the 100 per cent viability of the family.

C.H.E. and N.U.J. Equality Committee not only have to fight the Press which perpetuates certain sexist attitudes, but also the "public" that holds these attitudes. The Press must try to bring a more balanced picture of heterosexuals and homosexuals; treat women as human beings; and run parallel to the fight carried out on the levels of education, legislation and the Women's Movement generally. Capitalism may not allow it, but democracy should and in the short run—if the Press is interested—the other "public" who are sickened by the Press at the moment may buy a new type of newspaper. And in the long run, the old "public" may well have been affected by the anti-sexist movement, and sales may flourish more than ever.

Deborah Singerman

## Picture exhibition

IF you happen to be walking through Soho during the next few weeks, why not drag yourself away from the sex-films, bookshops etc, for half-an-hour and take a look around the Photographers Gallery, which can be found in Great Newport Street (just off Charing Cross Road).

Throughout February there is a joint exhibition by James Abbe and Serge Lutens and, whether you're a "typical, cultured LSE student" (?) or a philistine like myself, it's well worth taking a look at.

James Abbe's contributions are a mind-boggling example of black and white photography.

The portraits display vividly a vast range of moods with amazing intensity, despite the fact that many simply feature a figure in a blank background.

Serge Lutens's display provides a stark contrast. His work has been exhibited all over the world and it's not difficult to see why. His pictures are haunting images of sensual, brilliant colour, sometimes hinting at eroticism, but always displaying a striking yet sinister beauty. Lutens uses his imagination in a remarkable fashion which almost compels one to try and interpret his pictures, and yet defies exact interpretation.

Richard Kitchen

## CHESS

Queen Mary College 2, LSE 3

THE chess team had a surprisingly good start to the term, winning for the first time this season against a team generally considered to be the best in the league. To be fair to QMC it must be pointed out straight away that three of their top players were unavailable for selection and on the night, two of their team did not turn up. The latter point being partially offset by the fact that our captain was taken ill a few hours before the game and was unable to play. As a result both teams defaulted on top board and QMC defaulted on board six.

The games actually played

were very even. Steve West playing on board two achieved an extremely good and rather unexpected victory against a very highly rated player. After a very even battle on third board we eventually went down, but a lucky win on board four cancelled out a loss on board five to equalise the scores of the games played, and the board won by default gave us the narrowest of victory margins.

Richard Kitchen

**If you haven't started work yet this term, why not wait until after Sunday, February 27th when the next outing is planned by the Union Welfare Committee to Woburn Abbey (Stately Home, Maze, Safari Park) or Oxford or Cambridge.**

**Watch the noticeboards for further details.**

## GOSSIP

LSE's representatives on the University of London Union's Student Representative Council have been invited to drinks with the Queen Mother. The Royal OAP as Chancellor of the University of London, is to visit ULU this month to inspect the Nursery and meet the SRC members over a few glasses of wine.

Quite a dilemma then for the LSE's representatives who are Broad Lefties John Cruse, John McColl and Jackie Rushforth, and Ultra-lefties Jim Gee, Roger Galloway, and Wanda Goldwag. Surely there is a blatant contradiction between their socialist principles and of fraternising with the symbolic personnel of the working class?

**I'm collecting silver paper** because it struck me how much pie and pizza containers, milk bottle tops, yoghurt container tops etc were being thrown away at LSE. And the silver paper is being given to **Guide Dogs for the Blind**.

If you have any silver paper at home, or seem to throw a lot away, could you collect it, and put it in the box in Florries near the entrance to the kitchen? I will empty the box twice a week.

This is a particularly useful form of re-cycling and does not involve a lot of effort to realise something of real meaning to blind people.

Raia Prokhovnik

## Down your way

A SHORT walk from the L.S.E. on the north side of Fleet Street at 17 Gough Square is the house of Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), the essayist, critic, journalist and lexicographer. Built around 1700, the house has been well preserved and is now a museum.

Johnson came to London in 1737 and worked as a freelance journalist with literary ambitions. In 1746 he was commissioned to compile a dictionary of the English language, and this he completed in 1755. He lived in the house at Gough Square from 1749 to 1759. There were, of course, dictionaries before Johnson's, and in England Bailey's dictionary was the most comprehensive, but Johnson thought it could be bettered. (Thus Bailey's definition in 1745 of, for example, "heart" as "the most noble part of the body" becomes for Johnson "the muscle which by its contraction and dilation propels the blood through the course of circulation and is therefore considered as the source of vital motion").

On the ground floor are the dining-room and parlour, where one can inspect a first edition of the dictionary as well as see oil paintings, engravings and drawings of Johnson and some of his contemporaries, such as Garrick, Chesterfield, Boswell and Reynolds. In showcases are several of Johnson's letters, his tea-service, walking-stick and other effects.

On the first floor are two more rooms containing paintings and engravings, and on the second floor is the library with a large collection of books about Johnson. In 1778 Johnson expressed a wish (to Boswell) to visit the Wall of China, and in 1922 Viscount Northcliffe ("father of modern journalism") donated a brick from the Great Wall to the museum, and it now stands in a showcase on the landing. In another room are yet more engravings, old maps and views of London and Oxford, and Johnson's will hangs framed on the wall.

Finally one reaches the garret where Johnson with his assistants put together the dictionary, which became the standard one used for over 100 years before it was replaced by the Oxford productions (Webster's first published in 1828).

THE seventh floor of the Clare Market Building houses the mysteries of the language laboratory. I refer to the mysterious nature of the language lab because very few members of the School seem aware of its existence. Yet it is for the use of all students. Open from 9.30 to 5.30, students are able to use recorded tapes to learn, or improve one or more foreign languages. Languages available include French, German, Russian, Italian, Spanish and Welsh.

If any students do want to use the equipment, they should have a word with Jane Fenoulet, the assistant, who will show them how to use the machines and advise on which tapes to use.

From the windows there is an interesting view of the domes of St. Paul's and the Old Bailey, rising over the rather Kafkaesque Board of Trade offices which make up the rest of Gough Square. During the last war the house was used as a club-room for firemen waiting for air-raids, and the garret was in fact damaged during a raid. There is not much contemporary furniture left, but from the exhibits one gets a good impression of Johnson's character and way of life.

The house is open Monday-Saturday 11-5; closed Sunday. Entrance is 15p for students, others 30p.

Jim Nason



THIS Beaver was produced by Anton Chapman, Martin Peacock, Carol Saunders, Liz, James Gausson, John Emerson, P.B., Richard Kitchen, Jane Thorpe, Sheree Dodd and Ralph Brown.

All opinions expressed are those of the writers.

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The Jazz Society presents  
A JAZZ WEEKEND

Friday, 18th Feb., 8.00 p.m.—  
Stan Tracey Octet.  
Mike Garrick/  
John Marshall Jasani.

Sat., 19th Feb., 8.00 p.m.—  
From Germany:  
Eberhard Weber's  
Colours with  
Charlie Mariano.  
Elton Dean's Nine Sense:  
Old Theatre.  
£1.20 each night for  
NUS members.

## AMNESTY

JOSEPH HENRY MENSAH, a former student at LSE, is currently serving an eight-year sentence of imprisonment and hard labour in Ghana. He was arrested in September, 1975, after writing a pamphlet calling for the free discussion of the economic policies of General Ignatius Acheampong's government.

The Ghanaian government charged Mr Mensah with sedition at his trial in October 1975. He denied that he had ever intended to incite the Ghanaian people against the government, but he said it was time to restore the people's right to choose their government by democratic means.

Amnesty International has adopted Mensah as a political prisoner and is attempting to obtain clemency for him from the Ghanaian government.

The LSE Amnesty International Action Group would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to help with Mr Mensah's case.