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The Beaver

Independents win the day

Amid controversy over campaigning, Independents dominate Students Union elections

By Emma Bearcroft and Hans Gutbrod

The results of the Students' Union elections were announced last Thursday, amongst controversy surrounding the campaign of Fazile Zahir, the General Secretary elect. She won with a total of 519 votes, 103 more than the DSG candidate, Antonia Mochan. Third came Razia Shariff from the Umbrellas Group.

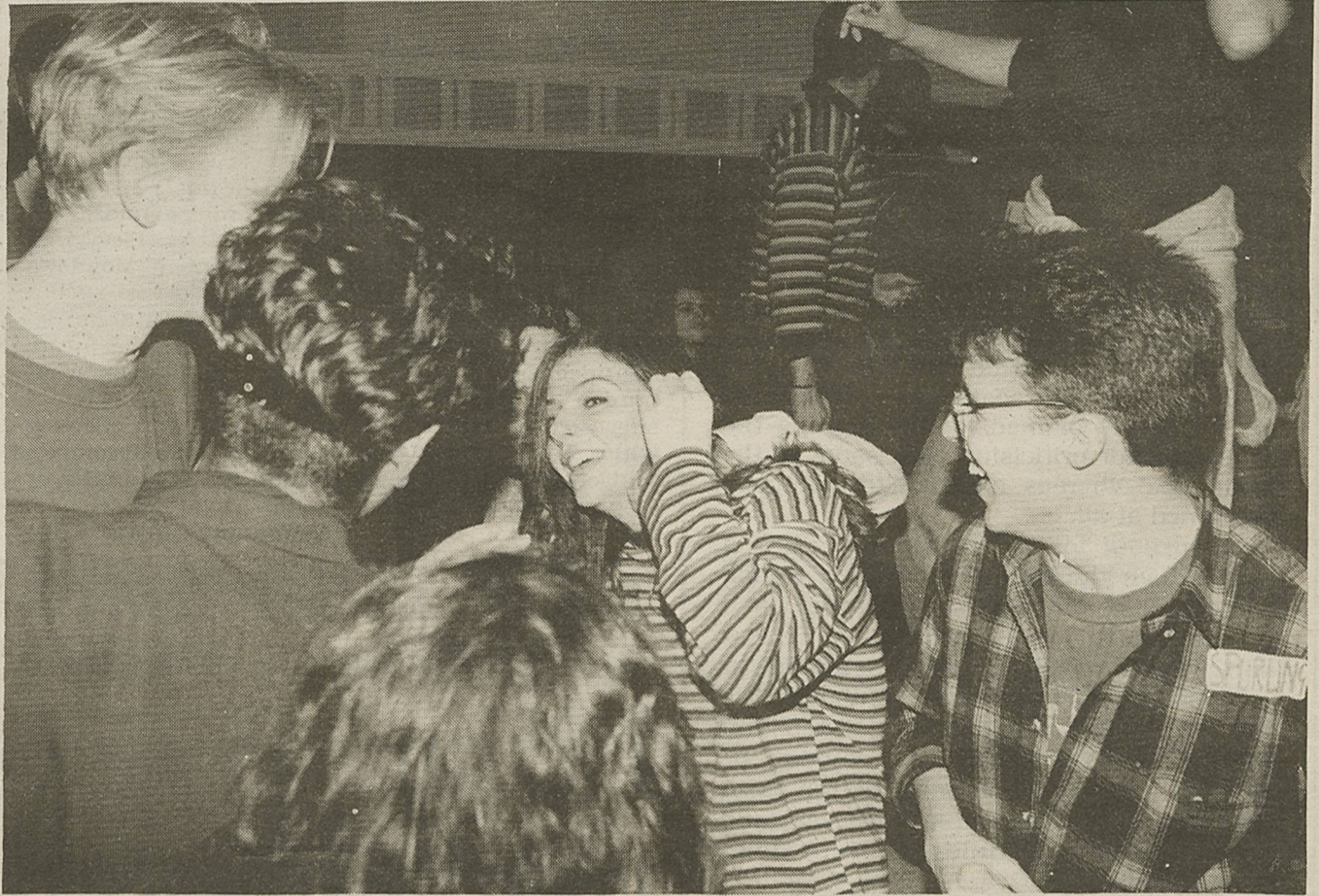
Zahir has come under heavy criticism for the way her campaign was run, however. According to a former General Secretary who was present when the results were announced, it was the first time that a future General Secretary was 'booed' by several of the persons present. Zahir's popularity amongst the voters apparently is not matched by the feelings of most of the students involved in student politics. One student who holds a high position in the Students' Union suggested that Zahir had pursued an "opportunistic, deceitful campaign."

The present General Secretary of the SU, Michiel van Hulten, felt that "Faz's campaign was extremely objectionable. Firstly by putting up a lot of money breaks the tradition of campaigning with equal means, i.e only with paper allocations. Secondly, she basically hired a homeless person to walk around Houghton Street like an idiot, carrying a bill-board: it's degrading basically."

Other concerns were voiced about balloons which Zahir had released in some of the School's room. Accusations of lying directed at Zahir were clearly and deliberately implied in statements from different sides, and from many of those holding office in the Union.

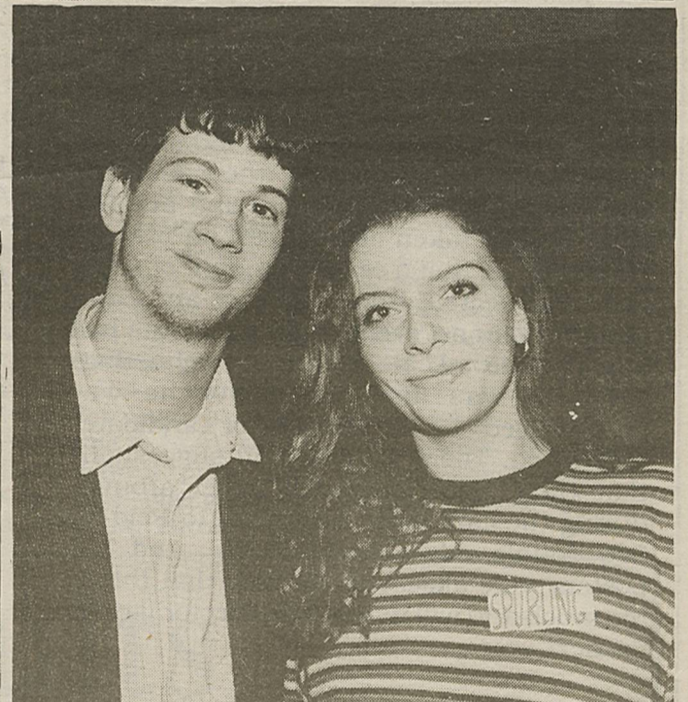
Zahir dismissed those accusations. She maintained that there had been "misunderstandings" on both sides and that "both sides had been unclear about what was necessary", and "regretted" that a "well-meant attempt" at campaigning had had such consequences. Speaking after the results, Zahir said "I don't believe that I lied to Simon," and "you can ask Simon, my campaign has been the cleanest...I haven't slandered anyone in any of my speeches." Despite this there have been suggestions, by some in the Union, of an attempt to censure Zahir next year.

Next year's Finance and Services Officer, formerly Senior Treasurer before the adoption of the new Constitution earlier this term, is Jon Spurling, who also ran as an independent candidate. James Pearson from the Umbrellas Group came a close second, winning each round of the count of single transferable votes, except for the last and decisive one. In his speech following the results Spurling said, "I thank the other candidates for a clean and reasonably fair election campaign. Maybe this ends the era of balloon and



Students congratulate Fazile Zahir (above) on hearing of her victory. Zahir, the new General Secretary, will lead the executive along with Peter Harris, Equal Opps/Welfare Officer

(below left), Jon Bradburn, Ents and Societies Officer (below centre), and Jon Spurling, Finance and Services Officer (with Zahir, right). Photos: Steve East



lollipop policies at the LSE. I would like to do my job as an independent."

Jon Bradburn, currently President of the Athletics Union, was voted in as Entertainments and Societies Officer on an Independent/Umbrellas ticket with 550 votes. Neil Andrews came second. Pearson, speaking for Bradburn, who could not be present when the results were announced said "our cam-

paign was not based on lollipops, balloons and gimmicks." He also thanked the Campaign Manager for the Umbrellas, Quinn Morgan on Jon's behalf.

The fourth sabbatical post of Welfare Officer which has been newly created, will be held by Peter Harris from the DSG, who received 36 more votes than Daniel Godfrey, a 'mature student' who ran his campaign on a "What's Left"

ticket. Harris thanked the other candidate, who he felt "maybe shouldn't have run with the Left Society", as well as everyone for their support which he would "continue to need next year". He went on to say "I don't believe in lollipops, I don't believe in a homeless man standing in Houghton Street, I'd rather do it myself; I'm not a Eurosloane." Following his speech, Harris suggested

that the DSG "do seem to have opened up the Union quite by accident."

The election campaign has been described by this year's sabbaticals as a "campaign without issues." This is also seen as the reason why the focus of many observers has turned on the "dirty" parts of the campaign. Steve Peake, a

Please see Elections, page 2

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The rest of the election results, and some real news(?), in *News* pages 2-3

Machiavelli takes a look at the election winners, in *Campus* page 4

Michiel & Co. explain why you should vote on April 9, in *Opinions* page 7

Neil reviews Douglas Adams and some singles, in *Music* page 12

Two really big photos, a war, a short article and Harry, in *Sports* page 16

Independents dominate Sabbatical Elections

Continued from page 1

Masters student who was not running in the election, received condemnation and from some quarters heavy and public abuse for distributing a leaflet, in which some candidates had been scathingly criticised. He was especially blamed for not signing the leaflet and for criticising only some of the candidates whereas others had not been mentioned at all.

The turnout for the voting was 1290, a figure which the Returning Officer, Simon Reid described as "very disappointing when you consider this was approximately 50 less than last year, despite the increase in student numbers and the more visible campaign." He also felt "it was disappointing when you consider that the people who couldn't be bothered to vote will probably be the same people who will turn around next year and complain that the Union Officers don't represent them."

The Returning Officer viewed the campaign in general as being "the most childish in recent times", and felt that "many candidates' actions were unworthy of students." Reid stated that considerably over 50 protests were made to him during the campaign, many of which were "upheld, and punitive actions were taken against certain people." He explained that a certain amount of paper was "confiscated" from Ron Voce and Zahir and that "almost every single candidate had papers removed." Reid felt that the hustings turn-out was also "low", but he was "encouraged" by the number of candidates who stood. There were several suggestions that there was "too much paper around" during the campaign; according to Reid 50 000 double sided sheets of A4, and 710 posters were allocated. He feels that this is too much and will re-write the electoral rules for next year.

School takes control of Housing Association

Union rid of 'unnecessary financial burden'

By Pernilla Malmfalt

Last Monday, LSE Director, Dr John Ashworth, 'quite happily' accepted the Students' Union's earlier proposal for the School to take full control of the Housing Association. General Secretary of the Students' Union, Michiel van Hulten, stated in a recent article that the Housing Association proved an "unnecessary financial burden" for the Union. He suggested that at a time when the Union faces budget deficits "it has to stop pouring money down the drain".

The take-over by the School is merely an "on-paper-transition" and did not cost the School anything; it simply means that

the School is now the sole owner of the student house at Mile End, and thereby responsible for its management.

It is now up to the School to decide whether to retain or sell the house. The Head of General Secretariat at the LSE, Mr Neil Plevy, who was present at Monday's meeting, said that such a decision was entirely dependent upon the future market conditions: "what the School wants is to opt for the most cost-effective way of providing accommodation for students or members of the School community". In the event that the house proves to be a loss-making project, the School will sell it and use the money more effectively to help the student accom-

modation problem. Should the School decide to sell the site, the Student Union will receive any part of the profit which belongs to them. Mr Plevy stressed the fact that the School is "always on the look-out for accommodation that is cost-effective", whether it is a Hall of Residence or a house.

Another option open to the School is to use the house to accommodate young academics or researchers at LSE who are in a better financial position to afford the rent. One of the reasons the house has lacked tenants is because it is "fairly luxurious" making the rent unaffordable for the majority of undergraduates.

The Student Union is

"pleased" with the School's decision and Van Hulten pointed out that the withdrawal from the Housing Association, together with the allocation of funds from the Task Force, will mean that Union's budget will be on its way to break-even.

In 1988 the Students' Union set up a scheme to raise money for the Housing Association whereby a penny for each pint sold in the Three Tuns Bar went to the capital funds. This amounted to approx. £5000 per year and the money from the "penny-in-a-pint" scheme, which will still continue to run, can now go directly into the Students' Union funds and be used more effectively in other areas of student services.

Lilian Penson Hall management questioned

By Hans Gutbrod

Fee increases at the Lilian Penson Intercollegiate Hall of Residence have caused anger and have resulted in calls for an enquiry by an independent body. In a "Critique on Fee Proposal for 1992/1993" students claim that there has been an increase in Hall Fees of an overall 10.6%. According to the figures given by Senate House this is the highest overall rent increase of all Intercollegiate Halls. Some of the almost 500 residents do not wish to make open allegations of mismanagement, as they feel that it is "unproductive" to pull the affair down to a personal level. But they

nevertheless maintain that they are paying too much and that the money they pay is not being used efficiently. Claims by the management that the increase in fees was due to under-investment in the building in the past is dismissed by the students. They point out that according to official figures actual premise expenses have gone down by more than £30 000. On the other hand variable expenditure has increased by over 36%, or almost £250 000 in only two years. Staff expenditure is also considered too high by the students. "We do have the same expenses for staff as International Hall, but we are only half

the size" was what one student said. It is hoped by the students that they will be able to bring up the issue at the meeting of a Intercollegiate Accommodation Committee. Students from Lilian Penson Hall have made an effort to inform the student body in the University of London of their problems. They claim to have presented their critique to LSE General Secretary, Michiel van Hulten, as well as to the ULU President and the Presidents of King's College, SOAS and Birkbeck College. The LPHRU feels that the whole affair has to be examined with the "professional scrutiny of a management consultancy

firm".

Up to now the management of the Lilian Penson Hall has refused to accept the proposal. When contacted, Julie Armstrong, Bursar and Acting Warden of the Lilian Penson Hall has said that the "7.5% increase plus contributions" reflects the average increase in other halls of residence. She added that from her viewpoint which included the standpoint of the management "any allegations of mismanagement" had to be "refuted".

First results from attempts to resolve the issue are expected this week.

MPs respond to Ashworth

By Beaver Staff

First reactions to the School's campaign on Student Poverty were received by LSE Director Dr John Ashworth last week. Responses came from the Education spokesmen of the two opposition parties after having received details on the findings of the LSE Review Group on Student Poverty. The findings were also sent to Kenneth Clarke, Conservative Education Spokesman, who has yet to reply.

Both MPs, Labour's Jack Straw and the Liberal Democrat, Matthew Taylor

outlined their respective party's policies regarding higher education. Both parties want to double the numbers in higher education, and believe that this should be paid for largely by an increase in public expenditure, whilst Jack Straw claims that there is still room for funds to be released through further efficiency savings.

The opposition parties both promise to abolish student loans, and introduce housing benefit. The Liberal Democrats would provide income support in the summer holidays, whilst they would abolish

the parental contribution to the grant, something that Labour believe should be maintained. Neither of the two parties actually commits themselves to an increase in student grants. Jack Straw, suggests that Labour wants a "fairer" system.

In closing Matthew Taylor said that the Liberal Democrats would not be afraid to put a penny on income tax to fund their education policies. It was not possible to report the Conservative policies, as no letter had been received from their Education Spokesman.

Security guidelines proposed

By Beaver Staff

Following the recent bomb scare at St. Catherine's House as reported in last week's Beaver, the School has asked students to be more diligent in where they leave their personal items. The School is concerned that the extensive access allowed to School buildings could cause a potential threat. With the general elections on 9th April, the School feels that IRA will increase their terrorist campaign, therefore both the School and students must act responsibly.

The Beaver Classifieds last week printed the

School's "New Security Guidelines", which Mr. Coops, Head of Site Development and Services, hopes every student will pay attention to. In addition to these measures, Mr. Coops emphasised the problems caused by students who leave their bags outside the Library in attempts to avoid cloakroom queues. He continued that "One student was seen trying to put their bag on the roof of the library entrance." The cloakroom is being rebuilt over the Easter holidays to include a secure drop-off point for bags and until then students are asked to place their belongings in the cloakroom or their lock-

ers.

The School is also considering temporarily removing rubbish bins from the lobby areas of all buildings. Other areas with greater public access, such as the Quad, will be looked at in this context. A concern of Mr. Coops is that if rubbish bins are removed, then the Environmental Code of the School will suffer. Again the School stressed the importance of students being concerned about campus environment and hopes that students will find alternative bins in which to deposit their rubbish.

MP calls for Bill of Rights

By Julian Sykes

In the first of a series of "Charter 88" Sovereignty lectures, Gordon Brown, Labour's Trade and Industry spokesman, said there was an urgent need for Constitutional reform. The discussion about constitutional reform, and in particular proportional representation, has become of increased importance as opinion polls suggest the high probability of a hung parliament after the General Election on the 9th of April.

Brown said that constitutional change was at the heart of the debate about the political future. He added that "all over Europe, East and West" there were attempts to reorganise the relationship between the citizen and the state. Constitutional change would help protect individuals against state power and help advance individual liberty. Brown argued that the change was especially needed as the last thirteen years had witnessed a growth of state power, state secrecy and an unprecedented centralisation at the expense of both the community and the individual.

Brown maintained that in a democratic society individuals needed protection against all vested interests. A danger to this arose from the natural development of accumulations of power within all societies.

In his view socialists in the twentieth century had been slow to realise that the state itself had become a vested interest. Thus socialists themselves had to limit and democratise the state instead of seeing

it as the answer to all the problems of a society. Brown insisted that Britain needed a Bill of Rights possibly modelled on the European Convention. This Bill of Rights should contain provisions for the freedom of information and it should also ensure that the security services were accountable to the parliament. Brown thought that Freedom of information would enable proper public debate to take place and ensure that the widest democratic consultation and participation could take place.

He claimed that Mrs Thatcher's attempt to build a different relationship between the individual and the state had been based on the idea that there was too little individual freedom because there was too much government. For Mrs Thatcher's concept the individual in the market with as little government as possible was the best guarantee of individual liberty. However, Brown argued that as well as individual rights, people needed a "strong community, a community that served the aspirations of individuals yet also provided the bonds and collective provision, the sense of solidarity and security that an individual in the market place lacks".

According to Brown, constitutional reform was a way of rebuilding the ideas of community and protecting the individual against the state. In his view the present development in Scotland of a Scottish Constitutional Convention that embodied those ideas provided a model for both Wales and Regional government in England.



Sked remains enigmatic between the two Dutch "Ministers of Boredom"

Photo: Steve East

Sked debates European integration with Dutch minister

By Julian Sykes

On Thursday the 5th of March, Dr Alan Sked and Piet Dankert, the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs, were invited by the Students' Union to debate the possible development of a United States of Europe. To a packed audience in the New Theatre, Dankert speaking first, argued that Treaty of Maastricht was an essential step towards European integration. He expressed his hope that Britain would use its Presidency of the Commission, which begins in June, to complete the remaining legislation for the internal market. He suggested that the recent acceleration of European integration is in marked contrast to the period of "Eurosclerosis" of the 1970s, which was characterised by the frequent

use of national vetoes. These had almost completely stopped the moves towards further integration.

Dankert said that a large integrated market was necessary for the development of new products, and for this it was necessary to have common legislation. Competition between different countries, therefore, should not be allowed to exert a downward trend in social legislation. In his view, a vital part of this integrated market was a single currency, otherwise Europe would be at a disadvantage in competition with the US and Japan. He believed that to have a single currency would necessarily involve institutions at a central level, rather than relying on intergovernmental co-operation. Such developments to-

wards monetary unions were a logical follow-up to the internal market, Dankert said.

Alan Sked, Senior Lecturer in International History at LSE, vehemently opposed the idea of a "United States of Europe". He congratulated Dankert on his "honesty" in pointing out that in a united Europe the internal affairs of one country would no longer be the foreign affairs of another. This would be the reality of a "United States of Europe" warned Sked, who preferred Europe as it was, namely a diverse state system. He suggested that attempts to move towards greater European Union would lead to a "bureaucratic bloc". According to Sked, we already have a "proto Euro superstate" that has its own anthem, flag, currency and

diplomats. All this was leading to the emergence of a new nationalism rather than, as is often argued, overcoming nationalism. Sked felt that a "United States of Europe" was contrary to European ideas, and as the recent experience of Canada and the Soviet Union had shown, multinational states did not work. Sked claimed that a "Eurostate" was the explicit ambition of Jacques Delors. He continued that not only would this be "incredibly bureaucratic" but that also many of the present policies would prove to be extremely expensive, especially for Britain. He concluded by insisting that if "we don't want unaccountable and bureaucratic centralisation we should leave national decisions to national governments".

Election Results

Executive non-sabbatical officers

Womens Officer

Tesher Fitzpatrick

Independent Feminist

Overseas Students Officer

Sara Collins

The Umbrellas Group

Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer

Chaudhuri Reza Zulfigar Mahmud

The Umbrellas Group

Six members elected on a slate (committees to be decided later)

Dave Jones

Independent Anti-Racist

James Brown

The Umbrellas Group

Phoebe Ashworth

Conservative

Martin Lewis

Democratic Socialist Group

Dominique De-Light

What's Left?

Quinn Morgan

The Umbrellas Group

Constitution and Steering Committee

Ralf-Yves Zurbrugg

Liberal Democrat

Jonathan Fenton-Fischer

Democratic Socialist Group

Orjan Helland

Democratic Socialist Group

Pedro Miguel E.M. Fernandes

Democratic Socialist Group

Emma Bearcroft

Shokat Akbar

Democratic Socialist Group

Geoff Robertson

Returning Officer

Chris Short

Independent

Finance and Services Committee

Adrian May

Alexia Vassiliou

Andy Baly

The Umbrellas Group

The Umbrellas Group

What's Left

Entertainments Committee

Robin Jouglah

Christine Fritsch

Dowshan Hunzah

What's Left?

The Umbrellas Group

The Umbrellas Group

National Union of Students Women's Conference

Delegate

Fiona MacDonald

Independent

Observers

Razia Shariff

Louise Grogan

Jamsheda Ahmad

The Umbrellas Group

Democratic Socialist Group

Democratic Socialist Group

National Union of Students Spring Conference

Delegates

Fiona MacDonald (Ind.), del. leader

Razia Shariff (Umbrellas)

Fazile Zahir (Ind.)

Robin Jouglah (What's Left?)

Toby Johnson (DSG)

Observers

Dave Rich (VFM-P)

Michiel van Hulten (DSG)

Erik Mielke (Cons.)

Busy Beaver

The Worst of Busy Beaver

If Jeremy Beadle can do the best of 'You've Been Framed' every week, I don't see why I can't do the best/worst of Busy Beaver. It is the last Beaver of the term and to celebrate this fact here are some of the real low points from this infamous column which has single-handedly slashed the Beaver readership by 50%.

18th November: ...still juicy is the infamous wager amongst our heavenly sabbaticals, Rip van Winkle, Chancellor Tubby, and McMuffin, as to who would be the first to use their office for procreation purposes.

The winner of this bedding bet resides in E206. Busy Beaver isn't saying anymore, except that she's taking the "social" part of her job to new extremes.

25th November: Last Friday saw two new members joining the Carr Saunders infamous "Round the Block" club. For those of you not in the know, to join this club you have to run round the Carr Saunders block...naked. The Duncan Twins successfully completed this awesome task (and on such a chilly night too).

2nd December: Congratulations to President Brownie upon being acquitted for harsh accusations

that he had merely doubled the legal alcohol limit whilst "in control" of a motorised vehicle. The AU honcho had to suffer, with great emotional turmoil, this cruel and terrible injustice for many long, dark months. Fortunately justice prevailed, and although failing all the scientific tests, he was rightly let off on a technicality.

2nd December: Busy Beaver would like to express its sincere apologies to Social Sec. McMuffin after libelling her in last week's column. It was printed that she has had five men since starting her term of office. This is, in fact, completely untrue and

so to avoid any law suits or general bad feeling between the aforementioned column and the SU sabbatical officer, BB will hereby retract last week's slanderous statement and state categorically that McMuffin has not slept with five men since becoming Social Secretary, it is seven.

9th December: Goings on at Passfield recently include Charles 'The Gentle Giant' climbing the drain pipes, falling off, and leaving his glasses on the roof; the Mad Queen Beaver running round the garden T-shirtless during the Passfield party; a Duncan Twin running round Passfield completely naked (is this The New Round the Block Club?); and a "wicked" food fight. BB has been informed that the latest societies at Passfield are the Real Ale Society, The Leaf Man Appreciation Society, and the Faggot Soc. (for those that appreciate the taste of faggots). Yes, Passfield is

definitely catching up Rosebery as the saddest hall in London. If you think your hall is sadder, let BB know.

27th January: No more will be said of the AU barrel where things seemed to have got quite jolly. To answer a couple of questions...yes, it was President Brownie stark bollock naked in Houghton Street, and yes, they did do 'the conga' through the Old Theatre during a lecture.

27th January: The Busy Beaver Award for Acts of Complete Disgustingness must go to the Tall Guy of the LSE's finest fifteen who drank a bucket of Campy's vomit last Saturday. What more can I say?

3rd February: ...the Karate Kid's lightning-fast, razor-sharp reactions took over and he brought his elbow back in a swift Bruce Lee move to quell the attacker. Unfortunately, the elbow connected with an innocent female by-stander rather than Baby

Lemonade....The Karate Kid, not content with debilitating one poor sod, then decided to try out his martial arts out on a wall. The wall won. The bandage comes off next week hopefully.

2nd March:...the tri-party secret meeting was to take place over a meal at that great and proud British institution, the Aldwych Tandoori...now, what talks actually took place, I'm not too sure. The problem was that my disguise as a popadom was so cunning and believable that I was very nearly dipped into a pot of mango chutney and eaten.

And finally...3rd February: C'est tout, as they say in Sardinia. Keep that gossip rolling in. And remember, all you party-people, to watch out Beaver's about!

B.B.

Machiavelli

General Secretary: Faz Zahir (Ind) stormed this vote, winning by more than 100 from Antonia Mochan (DSG). However, her apparent popularity has been overshadowed by the way she ran her campaign. Was it really necessary to employ a homeless person to walk up and down Houghton Street wearing a sandwich board for the whole day? Her balloon antics caused annoyance to the school and the SU alike, and the lollipops were nothing more than a cheap campaigning stunt. The whole campaign was negative, devoid of real ideas and patronising at best. (??) However, she is undoubtedly more interesting than Michiel, and her public speaking ability should maintain support in the UGMs. It remains to be seen whether she is capable of providing real direction to the Union next year.

Finance and Services Officer: Jon Spurling (Ind) narrowly won from James Pearson (Umbrellas). But questions abound over his politics. Is he just a boring administrator, or does he have real ideas? Will he allow himself to be dominated by Faz? And is he capable of developing his own personality? Undoubtedly, he is a nice guy who likes Guinness and a pipe, but this isn't really sufficient for a political leader. Boring but competent at best, and he is going to have to work hard to raise his profile.

E/Opps and Welfare: Peter Harris (DSG) maintains the DSG Sabbatical presence. Peter is a genuine guy, who is committed to the causes that he serves, but is really very boring. Despite his attempt to liven himself up through wearing silly jumpers, it remains to be seen if he is suitable for this essentially campaigning role, and if he will turn into another Michiel van Hulst.

Ents and Societies Officer: Jon Bradburn (Umbrellas) destroyed the rest of the field (about as well as he did the AU office during the Barrel) and provided the Umbrellas with their first Sabbatical. Deep down, however, he is little more than an alcoholic rugby player who is unlikely to show much imagination in his choice of events, and will do little to raise the profile of the Umbrellas next year, or of multi-culturalism in general.

Overall, the turnout was pathetic (20%) and the DSG lost its grip on power. Will next year's Sabbaticals follow the Ashworth/van Hulst decline into mediocrity? Only time will tell.

Finally, how well will the Sabbaticals get along? At the moment, it looks like Peter and Faz will be at each other's throats, whilst Jon Spurling will be acting in the role of mediator. Jonny Bradburn, however, will probably be too pissed even to care.

The Alternative Letters Page

Joe Lavin reviews his fan mail (not!)

This week, I'm going to take some time to respond to all that mail my loyal readers have sent in. I must say that it's incredible how many stacks of mail I get each and every century. But I want to assure everyone that I do in fact read every piece of mail I receive. For instance, yesterday, I was flooded with an amazing mass of zero letters, and I took the time out of my busy schedule to read each every one of them. So keep those letters coming, and let's get to answering some.

My first letter is from an Ann Lavin of Princeton, Massachusetts, way over in the U.S. of A. Glad to know I'm being read all the way across that big lake. And Mrs. Lavin's question is, "Are you eating well?"

And the answer is a big resounding not really. I must say, though, that this was a particularly good weekend, as I only went to Burger King twice if we don't count the time I had french fries at two in the morning. Besides, that was at McDonald's, so it shouldn't count. I'm also definitely into this peanut butter and jelly (jam, for all you non-Americans) thing, which I'm quite excited about. You get your protein and your sugar all in one. What could be better than that?

My upstairs neighbor Dave wrote in (Actually, he asked in conversation, but I didn't get any mail that day, so I'm counting it anyway) to ask "What was the name of the station owner played by Gordon Jump on the U.S. television program WKRP in Cincinnati?" I, of course, had no clue, because I've

had a life. Still, the name is on the top of Dave's tongue and also Kirsten's and a friend of mine's tongue, so this Gordon guy really gets around. Anyway, if any readers have any inking to the answer, please pass it along, and Dave will be quite happy. (I think it was Mr. Carlson. — Ed.)

By the way, I apologise. That whole thing about having a life isn't exactly true. You see, WKRP was

go to?" Well, you see, it's not really a church. Catholicism is kind of different over here. It's more like a house. It's ah well called St. Bob's or rather St. Robert's.

"I never heard of that saint."

Well, he's a British saint. He's the one who, um, kicked the snakes out of Britain.

"That's Saint George and Ireland."

A Mr. National Westminster wrote a nice bank statement to me over the weekend to inform me that I have one pound, 44 pence in my account. I guess that's not really a question, but it was my only mail this weekend.

on television when I was eight or nine. I'm an only child living in the middle of nowhere. (Actually, Nowhere borders my town on the south.) Therefore, I was probably out playing with my imaginary brother Trevor. We used to have a lot of fun creating our own television programmes, although after a while I started to move behind the camera and left the acting side of things to Trevor.

A David Lavin from Princeton, Massachusetts (Wow, what a coincidence! Do you know Ann?) writes in to ask, "So have you been going to mass over there?" Ah, yeah, sure. All the time. Really. Honest. He writes further, "What's the name of the church you

Well, Bob's the original. Let's move on to another letter. A Mr. National Westminster wrote a nice bank statement to me over the weekend to inform me that I have one pound, 44 pence in my account. I guess that's not really a question, but it was my only mail this weekend. Someone else got a package, but they wouldn't let me see it.

And a Mr. Trevor Lavin writes in to ask, "So what do you think about this British election thing?" Good question, Trevor. I was just wondering the same myself. I think Bush is screwed if Buchanan gets over forty per cent, and I just don't think Paul Tsongas is a truly national candidate. Oh, you mean, the

British election. Sorry. I think the guy who slept with his secretary will get the male vote.

Someone was telling me that the BBC has to spend an equal time covering all the parties in the three week run up to the election. I'm not sure if this is true, but the concept really confuses me. I can't help wondering what happens if John Major has a really exciting day and Neil Kinnock just kind of sleeps in and hangs around the house for the day.

"And now the news. John Major met with President Bush, President Yeltsin, and Pope John Paul II as he flew to Washington, Moscow, and Rome today. Also, at a lunchtime press conference, he announced the cures for both cancer and AIDS. Tonight, he is expected to have a whole lot of sex with both Madonna and the girl from Baywatch.

"Meanwhile, on the Labour front, Neil Kinnock tried to hit his snooze button this morning but turned the alarm off instead and didn't get up until well past noon. He left the house at two after showering and spending 20 minutes flossing his teeth. After which, he arrived at Whitehall and really did nothing of any interest. That's the news. Good night."

Finally, one other reader who wishes to remain anonymous writes in to ask, "Hey, don't you have anything better than this rubbish to write about?"

And the answer is a strong resounding not really.

The Final Cut

Sofie Muchardt on the Cinematic Society's first film

This week marks the launch of the LSE Students' Union Cinematic Society film, "A Perfect Cut". This production was written, directed, acted, and edited by LSE students, the project being the first of its kind here at the school. All of us that have worked on the film hope that it will be met with support and enthusiasm by the student body and the staff.

The making of the film was by no means an easy task. Over forty people and 10,000 hours were involved in producing eight hours of unedited film. This has now been edited down to about forty-five minutes. No phase in making the film proved to be easy however, what was to constitute the most difficult part of the film was the actual shooting of it. Scheduling the filming timetable was a nightmare: all the cast as well as the two producers and directors had to sacrifice a considerable amount of time and put in tremendous effort to meet the deadlines. The two directors were finally satisfied after many repeated takes and viewings: the quality of the finished film could not be compromised. Next the editing had to be done: piecing the various sequences of film together was a painstaking task, one which required god-like patience from the editing team (not to mention pints of black coffee and hundreds of cigarettes!) Our special thanks to the staff in the A.U. Lab for being so helpful and also for putting up with all the "animated discussions" in their editing room!

The film "A Perfect Cut" will be screened at the end of this week, Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March at 5pm in the Old Theatre. This is an exclusive LSE preview before the film is shown at the NFT in July. We hope that you will come and see it - plenty of entertainment is guaranteed for the modest price of £1.50. The Cinematic Society Executive would also like to thank all the Cinesoc members without whose support there would have been no Union funds to make it all possible.

Big Benefit at Issue

Steve Lee Hooker invites you to enjoy a day of entertainment

On **Saturday 21st March** at the LSE a Benefit Festival has been organised to bring together people from all backgrounds to help **The Big Issue**.

The doors to the Quad will open at 4pm where you will encounter Visual Art, Video, Market Stalls and Performance Art. A feast of live music will provide the main entertainment of the evening. The **Spanking Bishops** will begin the line-up at about 7.30pm, they

are an up-and coming thrash-metal band.

Before the next band arrive on stage there will be more entertainment with Visual Art and an open mike-stand for people to be "Famous for five minutes" - if they have a song to perform or a few jokes. This will be held in the bar at the back of the Quad in-between stage events. The next band up will be **God's 200** who already have a cult following with their

"Living Colour"-type music and are well-worth the ticket money alone. Again leading up to the main event the open mike-stand will be in action during this time. In the Quad there will be more different things going on to do with Performance Art and Video (never a dull moment!).

The main event is the Californian band **Blue Dye Fire** (if you miss them here, you can catch them at the Mean Fiddler two days later

on Monday 23rd March) with their music which seems so hard to pigeon-hole as their songs seem to be varied, ranging from "ordinary waxer" Neil Young-ish to spirits (Black Sabbath-ish). But this band is highly entertaining and extremely raunchy (they're pretty good-looking) - bring your cameras girls!

Blue Dye Fire decided to organise this festival themselves, as they know people who have been, or still are

homeless. They're trying to raise a little more cash towards the efforts that **The Big Issue** already provide. At £2-a-ticket this is more than just good value, it is an absolute give-away, expect one of the warmest, friendliest atmospheres you're ever likely to encounter. It's all about friendship irrespective of your colour or your background or whether you have a roof over your head or not. Get a ticket, it's well-worth it!



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The Beaver

This year's Students Union election campaign really has been a special. The DSG last year promised to open up the Union. There was one way in particular in which they succeeded. More candidates than ever before stood for Sabbatical this year. They were either hoping for election victory and notoriety as there remained no clear winner throughout the hustings and general proceedings, or they were disgruntled that much of the work that the Sabbaticals have done has been behind closed doors. Therefore, it seems to most of the students here at LSE that they have been doing nothing for the whole of the academic year.

One thing which is disappointing is the volume of dirty tricks and slander campaigns that went on as part of the election. This is ridiculous. Students are not children and have minds of their own. Most of the people in this place are intellectually capable enough to see through the propaganda going on and still make a fairly informed decision. So, why do it? It is a waste of time to go around being destructive. If all of that energy was put into constructive things instead then think how much more would be done. As for Steve Peake and his personal electioneering battle against just about everybody who was standing. It simply gave people the idea that they should either not vote at all because all of the candidates are corrupt, or that the venerable Mr. Peake is an immature senseless person who really ought to have seen this election for what it really was and not have taken himself so seriously.

At the end of the day, this was a Student Union election and not one of national importance. That does not mean that it was not significant in any way; far from it. The Union is probably the easiest forum to which students here have access to air their views and get something done about issues that they find important. However, the people running were not professional politicians and should really therefore not have used the same extent of dirty tricks.

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Time to Declare... this man is boring

Madeline Gwyon ploughed through the autobiography of David Owen

What a touching gesture it was for David Owen to write an autobiography for the general public. Obviously such a work must be in so much demand that I was so glad when I was sent a copy to review without even asking for it.

Autobiographies tend to fall into three categories. The first consists of those lives which are genuinely interesting to read about. These works are humorous, full of insight and can be value for money. Then there are those which can be useful. These works get put on the coffee table so that all the neighbours can see that one's intellect and literary knowledge stretches to the lives of the greats. These works can even be interesting. Then there is the third category. These are those wonderful books written by individuals who believe that they should be written about, rather than the publishers approaching them. Such literary masterpieces tend

to include details of being bullied at school as a youngster for being boring, pompous and pedantic, and by revealing that one's lifelong ambition was to collect 1970's ties. These are also the books in which the authors go on at great length about their fathers being a major influence in their stamp collection.

This is an opportunity to win a great prize. Anybody who believes that this particular work of literary acclaim by one of the world's most undynamic politicians (apart from the ultimate Mr Grey) is genuinely interesting can have the copy. Unfortunately, you will have to retrieve it from the fireplace first and piece together the ashes.

Having spent the first half of this article being completely rude about the author, I ought to say that there are interesting facts within the book. As a piece of history it is worthwhile and if any of you study politics or wish to get into

politics then it can be regarded as a relevant textbook. Unfortunately, Owen has been marred by the election of 1987 and his stand with Davis Steel. The election never worked because of the identity crisis the party experienced with two leaders running together. The jokes abounded about which one of them would occupy the master bedroom at number 10 if they ever got in to power (which nobody believed to start with). Following this, Owen was further ridiculed when he refused to leave the sinking ship of the SDP and his credibility suffered irreversibly.

The most interesting parts of the book occupy the second half of it, not least because this is when the political manoeuvres start to appear. The tales of his family life as a child are boring, not least because the entire family seemed wrapped up in Welsh County Council poli-

tics and were so absorbed that his early attitudes were shaped in a rather unorthodox manner. His marriage and family life with his children makes touching reading in parts, but only in parts.

Basically, if you are interested in British party politics and especially the rise of the Liberals in this country then you might find this book somewhat of an interesting read. If not, I would not touch it with a barge pole. However, so that I am not completely negative about the whole thing, I would like to take this opportunity to say that there are some amusing photographs in the book which are a great deal more interesting than the text. It amazes me that David Owen looked exactly the same at the age of 21 as he does now. How did he do it!

Time to declare, by David Owen was published on 5th March by Penguin books and is available priced £7.99.

Post Haste

Letters due to E197,
by hand or internal
mail, by 4pm
Wednesday

Date Rape on Agenda

Dear Beaver,

Thank you for addressing the issue of date rape in last week's issue. It is important to emphasise that date rape is still rape. The incidents of date rape within the LSE have probably always existed, but have never been given proper treatment within the press and School Administration. Hall Warden's are mistaken in their attitude that little can be done to prevent rape given that students are likely to bring guests into their rooms, but Hall Wardens must take more responsibility for the activities of the Hall Committees.

Excessive bar subsidies have implications for those drinking and those who don't. Hall parties should be properly stewarded on the various floors. Hall Committees should act more respon-

sibly, instead of just promoting "stomach pump parties" as seen with the posters for a Connaught Hall disco, they should also be responsible for raising awareness among their residents and ensuring their safety.

Fiona MacDonald
Social and Services Secretary.

The Abseilers Revolt

Dear Beaver,

Re: Hans Gutbrod, John Much and friends

Thank you for the opportunity to go abseiling and for the opportunity to have our photographs taken whilst suspended from the main building. However, as we have not yet received copies of these infamous prints which were due to be posted in Houghton Street the following week, we would like to know a) where they have got to and b) if someone knows of their whereabouts could they please either display them to be claimed, or make it public knowledge as to where these photographs can be collected. Preferably before the end of term.

Yours
Disgruntled abseilers.

Connaught Hall Fights Back

Dear Beaver,

I am writing to complain about the front page article on the 9th March, "Party poster causes offence". Mr Van Hulsten is clearly out of touch with normal students and has no sense of humour. The party was trouble free, everyone enjoyed it and it made a profit equalling that of LSE Rag Week. The main reason for this was a successful advertising campaign led by the catchy and humorous posters.

Also I find offensive and cowardly the fact that he complained to everyone except those on the Connaught Hall Committee who are responsible for four parties this year, providing students with what they want: attendance totalling over 2,000 this year.

Finally, if he even ventured into the bars during drinkwise week he would have found a majority of students ignoring it anyway, especially at LSE's Roseberry party. How can this man even be considered as an Ents and Social

Secretary. Perhaps in future, LSE might consider hiring the Connaught Committee to arrange Rag Week, if we want to make a profit that is.

Paul Blunden
LSE Connaught Hall Resident.

A Very Silly Letter from a Picky Bastard

Dear Beaver,

In response to last week's article "Contemporary Nomenclature" I would like to be extremely picky and fastidious and point out that Tolkien's book was the Simarilion and there is no Mega City 4 in 2000 AD, only Mega City 1, Mega City 2 and Texas City and also the titles are named after the Beatle of whom they are taking the piss.

Yours,
Picky Bastard

General Election Special

Michiel van Hulten gives his view on why we should all use our vote on April 9th.

Last December, 24 members of the LSE Court of Governors signed a declaration noting "with grave concern the increasing financial difficulties facing students in Britain today. We believe that any realistic system of financial support for students must include provision for decent housing and maintenance. We therefore call upon Her Majesty's Government to restore student entitlement to housing benefit and to provide students with adequate financial support."

On 9 April, the students of the LSE (those who can

vote in this country, that is) have a chance to send the Government the same message.

Government policy towards Higher Education has had all the hallmarks of 'words, not action'. The Government's loan scheme is an expensive flop. The cost of running the scheme is very high, and the loan does not compensate for lost benefits or the freezing of the student grant at 1990 levels.

Students have been deprived of housing benefit, unemployment benefit, income support, and the vacation hardship allow-

ance. The Access funds, set up to replace them, are clearly inadequate. Despite some changes to procedures allowing colleges to raise investment for accommodation, there remains a shortage of adequate, affordable housing for students. Students' rights to secure improvements from private landlords have been weakened.

Similarly, childcare continues to be a major financial burden on parents, and everywhere there is a shortage of places. Without decent childcare facilities, women and men with children will continue to be

deprived of an equal chance to pursue a degree course.

Finally, the Government has enabled Universities to consider the introduction of tuition fees. At the LSE, that challenge was beaten off in 1990, but the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals recently restated the case for top-up tuition fees. Introduction of fees will lead to an elitist, narrow-minded and ill-financed education system - it is not what uneducated Britain needs in the 1990s.

The National Union of Students last year

launched a campaign, Target 70, aimed at marginal constituencies where the student vote can overturn the sitting MP's majority. The aim of the campaign is to make MPs aware of NUS's five central demands: repeal of the loans scheme in favour of grants, restoration of benefit rights, adequate, affordable housing, free childcare and opposition to tuition fees.

Student poverty should not be the first priority of any government: there are groups in society who are far worse off. When you vote on April 9, therefore, you should not look at poli-

cies towards Higher Education in isolation from parties' manifestoes. But it is a fairly safe bet that a vote for a candidate who supports the NUS charter is a vote for a fairer and more just society. Students in Britain today have a unique chance to vote for policies which will provide everyone with equality of opportunity. Don't lose that chance - vote by postal ballot if necessary: they are available from the SU reception, and need to be returned to your town hall by Monday 23 March.

It's time for yet another election

Adrian May looks at what LSE students can do to help

The thought of another election after the events in Houghton Street last week must be quite off-putting for many. The fact that April 9 marks a national election means that it should get our full attention, not least because many of us will be first time voters, and especially because this is a first class opportunity to express our concerns about the state of the higher education system in this country. Interestingly, due to the abnormally long gap between the last election and this one, there will be more first time voters than in recent history.

Of course there are other important issues - some of them I believe are more important. However as a student, as you will see below, you are uniquely placed to make a stand on the higher education issue. It is not the most certainly not the intention of this page to tell you who you should vote for - that is your decision, and you are thus urged to examine the education policies of the three main parties to help you.

Don't forget that the issue is not merely that of student poverty. It is the issue of higher education funding as a whole. Under current proposals the higher education system will be put under severe financial pressure, and quality standards are bound to fall. It is thus important that you consider this alongside the issue of student poverty which for many of us is a very

serious issue, and is bound to get worse. The student vote is thus as important now as it has ever been.

What can you do?

First of all, if you are a British citizen, you have your vote. Make use of it. There will be an opportunity to register for a postal vote all this week so make use of that facility if you need to. Voting is especially important in the NUS "Target 70" constituencies, where the number of registered student voters exceeds the majority of the sitting candidate, whatever his party. Here students have a real opportunity to make their presence felt. This list, on the right, will also be available outside the Student Union reception all this week.

Secondly, and most importantly, you can challenge your candidates on the higher education question. All this week outside the Students Union Reception you will find a list of questions that the Director, John Ashworth, and General Secretary, Michiel van Hulten asked all three education spokesmen (replies from two of them are reported in the News section this week). The issues to tackle candidates on are in many cases obvious, but you may find these questions a helpful guide. Ideally you should send your questions to all your parliamentary candidates and their constituency offices if possible, and you should find their addresses on their publicity.

Do not underestimate the effect of this. If a significant majority of us do write or

speak to the candidates it will have an effect. Not every candidate will be able to answer all the questions, so they will seek the advice of their campaign offices. If campaign offices find a large number of their candidates asking for help, it will quickly become a major campaign issue. Indeed every national newspaper and all the party chiefs know that LSE students may well be asking for clarification on education policies, so the ball has started rolling. Our Press Officer, Iain Crawford, worked for a consortium of six environmental groups at the last election, and by using the letter writing tactic he tells me he helped bring the environmental issue onto the political agenda. If you are from abroad, and are staying in the UK during the election, you can still play a part. Candidate meetings will be held all over the country, and so you are urged to attend these to let your voice be heard, and remind candidates what a good education system could potentially become if properly supported.

Do not miss this opportunity to participate in this election. Do not restrict yourself to the vote, but attend the candidate meetings that will be held all over your constituency - they will be both interesting and fun. Go, and tell the candidates and voters about an issue that as a student you are uniquely qualified to talk about.

NUS Target 70 List

In all these constituencies, the number of registered student voters exceeds the majorities given on the right.

Constituency Name & Region	Party	Majority	Constituency Name & Region	Party	Majority
NORTH EAST			LONDON		
Bradford South	L	309	Brent East	L	1653
Halifax	L	1212	Hammersmith	L	2415
Leeds NW	C	5201	Hampstead & Highgate	C	2221
Newcastle uTyne Central	L	2483	Hornsey & Wood Green	C	1779
Stockton South	C	774	Islington So. & Finsbury	L	805
York	C	147	Lewisham East	C	4814
EAST MIDLANDS			Southwark/Bermondsey	LD	2779
Derby North	C	6325	Streatham	C	2409
Derby South	L	1516	Woolich	SDP	1937
Leicester East	L	1924	Kensington	C	815
Leicester South	L	1877	SOUTH WEST		
Mansfield	L	56	Bath	C	1412
Nottingham East	C	456	Bristol East	C	4123
Nottingham North	L	1665	Bristol South	L	1404
Nottingham South	C	2234	Kingswood	C	4393
SOUTH EAST			Oxford East	L	1288
Brighton Kempton	C	9260	Oxford West & Abingdon	C	4878
Brighton Pavillion	C	9142	Plymouth Drake	C	3125
Croydon N W	C	3988	Plymouth Devonport	SDP	6470
Portsmouth South	C	205	WEST MIDLANDS		
Southampton Itchen	C	6716	Birmingham Northfield	C	3135
Southampton Test	C	6954	Birmingham Selly Oak	C	2584
EAST ANGLIA			Birmingham Yardly	C	2522
Barking	L	3409	Coventry South West	C	3210
Cambridge	C	5060	Crewe & Nantwich	L	1092
Ipswich	C	874	Hereford	C	1413
Norwich South	L	336	Walsall South	L	1116
Thurrock	C	690	West Bromwich	L	983
			Wolverhampton N E	C	204

LSE students likely to vote Labour in April general election

During the Student Union elections at the London School of Economics, a survey was carried out amongst the 1,300 voters to determine how they would vote in the national elections on April 9th.

The Labour party would become by far the largest party in the House of Commons if LSE students could determine the outcome. 31.2% of the students did not express a preference for any party. Of those who did, 38%

backed Labour, 31% supported the Tories and 20% Liberal Democrat. 5% would vote Green and the Scottish and Welsh nationalist parties polled 2.3% between them.

Of these students who expressed a preference, the majority of those who would back the Conservatives were overseas students.

Of overseas students, 22% would vote Labour, 33% Tory and 27% Liberal Democrat.

Once the voted of these

students not entitled to vote in the British General Election were eliminated, the support for Labour was undeniable. 44% of British students would vote Labour, 30% Conservative and 18% Liberal Democrat, while 5.5% would support the Green party.

Many of those who supported the Labour party and the Liberal Democrats said they were prepared to vote tactically if their first choice stood no chance of winning.

Our Beloved City

Although devastated by poverty and degradation, Calcutta remains an enigma. Ran Chakrabarti explains.

In Calcutta one does not survive upon pale emotions. Indeed the heart-breaking business is to know upon which emotions to draw. Compassion, contempt, awe? Anger? All four have their place and so too do an endless list of others. Calcutta is an inventory of imponderables; you step out of the plane and it hits you, moments earlier one was trying to add up the contrasts of the huge sprawling suburban mass and the gleaming white church spire breaking the palm trees of the Bengali jungle. Nowhere else is India's fiery dawn as ominous or pronounced as it is here. Calcutta assaults the senses.

Few people have ever said anything nice about Calcutta; to Lord Clive, it was the most wicked place in the universe, though admittedly, he had only England and Madras to compare. Kipling referred to it often as the "City of dreadful night", (he said the same of Lahore, for he was a repetitive man). Indeed, he had an ambiguous relationship with the city, but what made it so dreadful to him, that of Eurasian whores in the backstreets, was more of a reflection of his philosophy of imperialism rather than the city itself. It was, however, a prophetic epithet. For Calcutta has become a byword in contemporary journalism for all the horrors of a teeming third world megalopolis.

It is from the taxi that one initially experiences how the other half of humanity lives. Calcutta is potholed streets and festering pavements. Doctor, lawyer and pavement dweller alike all coexist here, an uneasy symbiosis between the haves and the have nots. There is almost a feeling of sorrowful romanticism as life continues, and in its own kind of peculiar way, flourishes, amongst the crumbling grandeur of a rich architectural heritage. It is how I would imagine London to be after some terrible disaster, with society some-

how climbing out from the rubble and making do, as best it can.

Indeed, there are few places in Calcutta where the westerner can walk more than a hundred yards or so in the certainty that he will not have his charity invoked upon. It is an unpleasant experience to be exposed to, you taste it in the doorways of Kingsway, and in Lincolns Inn, but this is a far more sinister and Dickensian experience. A small boy clumps around the pave-

gested grass in his stomach, of people scavenging amongst the most horrendous degradation in the hope of finding something putrid, yet edible. It is the story of the boy, so weak, that the dogs begin to pick at him before he is dead.

The destitute mark the extremes of Calcutta's poverty, but nearly a third of its people live in the slums, the huddling rows of ramshackle dwellings which line dim, stinking alleyways, pierced by shafts of light. Life somehow man-

ages to cling here, amongst the stench of open drains. It clusters, around standpipes in an almost religious pursuit of personal cleanliness.

People soap down, squat, clean their teeth, comb their hair, having just defecated in the gutter.

The Monsoon arrives in Calcutta in early June, it drowns the intense heat and humidity in an ocean of rain which without, Calcutta would

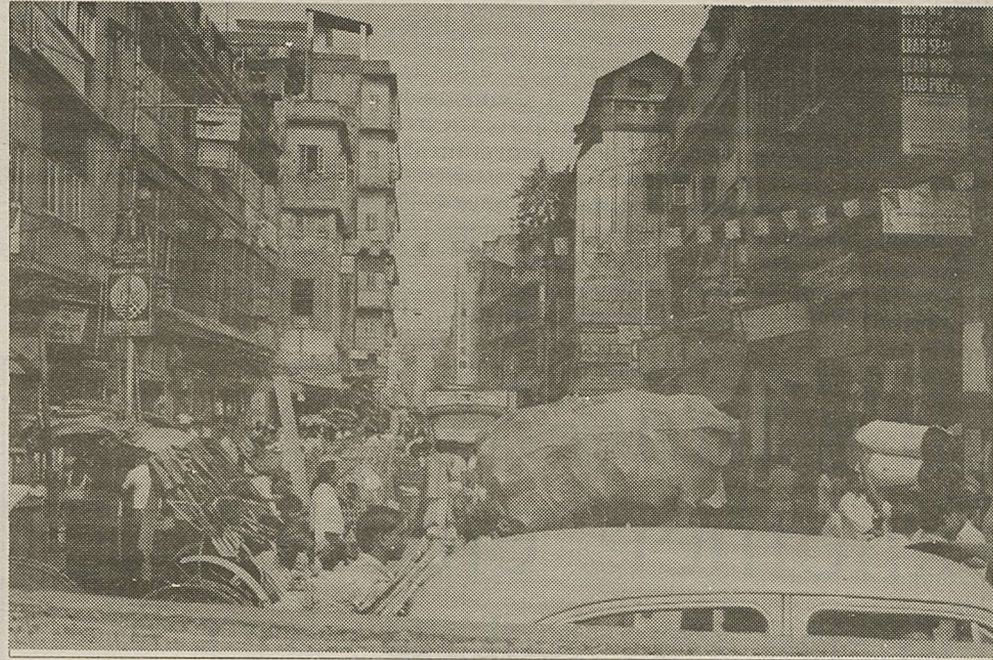
explode into anarchy and chaos. The city takes on a somewhat Venetian inclination, courtesy of an antiquated drainage system. Calcutta walks home waste deep in storm water and horror stories of disappearing pedestrians through open manhole covers are commonplace. Inevitably, it is the penniless buster dweller which is the helpless victim of the rains, but each year the city amplifies its sense of togetherness and contingency

plans are made which have in the past fed and accommodated more than a quarter of a million people for

several weeks on end. Indeed, there is something quite remarkable about how Calcutta copes with crisis, and how it can manage to stretch its

soil. The colonial legacy of Calcutta is unescapable, Strand Rd., Clive St., Dalhousie Square, Waterloo St., Harrison Rd., Curzon St., Victoria, New

anonymous cluster of huddling humanity. It is sinister, and indeed, coupled with the clatter of the Rickshaw over Calcutta's cobblestones and with the ac-



meagre resources to almost infinite lengths. It is something that social planners in the west could well take note of.

It is indeed difficult to ignore the realities of Calcutta but it mustn't be forgotten that it is also an immensely rich and beautiful city, albeit somewhat unevenly distributed. The great white marble palace at Victoria still stands proudly and majestically even though somewhat out of context with much of the city. The cathedrals of St. Paul's and St. John's, the elegant Government House, the Gothic law courts, the huge Writers building once housing the East India Company's army of scribbling clerks, now the bureaucratic mawhinery of Calcutta's marxist custodians. Calcutta's architecture, marks the inheritance of a bygone era,

Market: it could almost sound like London.

Calcutta breathes amongst its intoxicating air in the still pleasant gardens of Victoria, and the huge grassy expanse known as the Maiden; they are the city's lungs, a centrepoint for sporting activity, political rallies, whatever. During Sundays and public holidays it becomes an ant's nest of picnicking families and cricketing schoolboys. Towards evening it is conducive to romantic walks, as the light fades, silhouetting the magnificent outline of the Victoria Memorial.

But night comes quickly here. There is no lingering twilight, darkness comes almost as if by one foul, cloaking swoop. Calcutta is dim by night, an infinite expanse of flickering lights in no recognisable pattern. No one knows how many

companioning jingle of its sleighbell, there can be no more haunting an experience throughout this city.

Never have I spent a day in Calcutta that I have regretted. I would like to reaffirm and make this perfectly clear. Undoubtedly there are good days and there are fearsome days, but neither those good days, inevitably the ones of most laughter, nor the worst, necessarily dedicated to tragedy. Days are jumbled, as jumbled as Calcutta's contrasts.

Whatever degradation is heaped upon this city, whatever act of corruption or pragmatic blunder is inflicted upon its 14 million citizens, nothing seems to diminish its gutter instinct for survival. Tottering on the brink of apocalypse though it may be, somehow, almost as if by divine intervention, it manages to

regulate itself within the final boundary of no return and still squeeze life out of every continuing day: Calcutta is indestructible. But where will it all end? To declare upon Calcutta's poverty is to make no declaration at all. It has all been said before by a thousand people in a hundred tongues, like taking temperature of a corpse, it is a futile exercise.

It is easier to love Calcutta, than to like it.



the administrative palaces of a once imperial capital of a once glittering European city conceived upon Indian

people sleep out on the pavement, but you are never far from the acrid smell of street fires with its

No means no. Not maybe, not yes. No.

As awareness of date rape rises, so too does the occurrence of incidents in and around the University of London.

Madeline Gwyon looks at this growing problem.

Date rape is a growing phenomena - mainly because it has only just been recognised as rape due to the difficulties of classifying someone's act in private as a crime. In many circles it carries the same associated problems as wife-battering. It is often hard for the woman to come forwards and complain about something which largely occurs behind closed doors and with no witnesses. Many women involved think that they must have acted in some way to provoke the violation.

The concept of date rape began in the United States as more and more women involved became angry that there was little or no sympathy for them in the law when such crimes occur. It is the same sort of situation as rape within marriage, only less complicated. Once rape occurs within any sort of relationship, problems of definition are strung along with that. The prime example being when she wants him to stop and when he does not wish to. Often, the male involved in such cases believes that he has done nothing wrong.

A typical scenario would go something like this: boy meets girl and they agree to go out on a date. Both parties enjoy themselves throughout the evening and feel relaxed in each other's company. He then either escorts her back home or she agrees to return to his house for a coffee. The next scene in any of these events remains grey. However, it all boils down to one thing - he goes further than she wishes him to, or he refuses to stop in the throws of passion - and it all ends in tears.

Last week's news article in the Beaver which reported date rape to be on the increase at LSE sug-

gested that it often occurs where alcohol is involved. This can indeed be the case but is by no means always so. In American universities where reported incidents of this nature are high, the legal age for consuming alcohol is 21, which means that most of the incidents of date rape which occur there do so when both parties involved are sober. Many men and many law courts have argued that the woman may cry rape afterwards regretting the decision that she made at the time to consent to sex. However, rape of any nature is such a traumatic event. Those who have consented and later regret their decision are not likely to cry rape as most women these days know at least one friend of theirs to whom this has actually happened.

girl's 'no' as a 'maybe' and then a 'maybe' as a 'yes'. There is more pressure from society nowadays to get men to acknowledge that

would be a lot of alcohol involved and stated then and there that she did not wish to have sex with him that night. They went for a meal

in the slightest. The unfortunate fact is that there is still a desire to cover up what is going on to protect the integrity of the college,

or the hall of residence, or the male students involved. Throughout the term there have been reports coming from Canterbury Hall that a number of the female students have been sexually harassed at the very least after parties there when male students from other halls are still roaming around the building. However, Bursar of the Hall denied that anything had happened. This denial problem is not unique to Canterbury and the sooner that people realise they must accept that the problem exists in order

that she has no intentions of consenting to sex then this will eliminate many of the reported incidents which occur 'in the heat of the moment'. When men are aroused and the score has not been laid down from the start, their automatic reaction is to make full use of the influx of testosterone that they are experiencing, and of their erection. If they are aware from the start that sex is out then it does not help their erection much. However, it has been spelled out to them loud and clear what not to make good use of. Unfortunately, this did not help much in the case of the female students described above. Here it seems to be more a question of the man believing that he could "get away with it". There are still too many people in the world who operate under those guidelines.

The rules for trying to prevent this sort of thing from occurring in the future are simple. For men, the fact is these days that of a girl says no, she means no. That also means that she should be able to say, "this far and no further" without coming up against opposition or pressure. However, it doesn't really matter how liberated and considerate the male is. The onus remains on the women to state clearly what the ground rules are in plenty of time to prevent misunderstanding - deliberate or otherwise. Having said all of that, there should be no reason why anybody should not be able to go out and have a thoroughly good time whilst keeping all of these tips at the back of their minds. Communication remains at the heart of all relationships, sexual and platonic.



Listen, you. When I say no, I mean no.

when a girl says no, she means no.

In one incident of date rape which occurred to a University of London student this term the story which unfolded was sadly familiar.

The female student agreed to go out for a meal

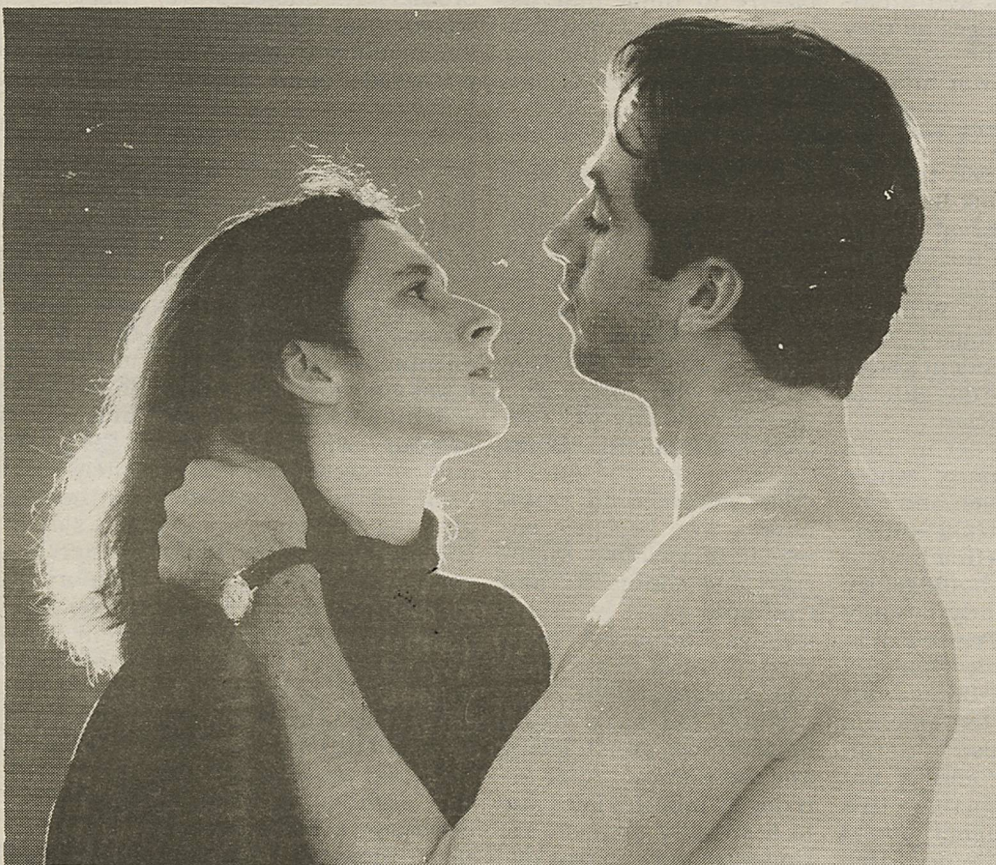
and had some wine with it. They then went on to a bar and a club and had a few more drinks and generally enjoyed themselves. After this, on her part, there is a blank. She remembers nothing from the time they left the club to the time she woke up the following

morning in his bed. She realised that intercourse had taken place and was devastated. She had clearly spelt out her wishes the previous night before having any alcohol so as to prevent anything of this sort from taking place whilst she was under the influence, yet it still took place. Six weeks later she has not properly got over the incident. Reminders are always there. The

The unfortunate fact is that there is still a desire to cover up what is going on, to protect the integrity of the college, or the hall of residence, or the male students involved.

to solve it, then the sooner we can progress in trying to eliminate as much as possible the number of incidents of this nature which take place.

However, the fault in these circumstances does not always rest with the man. If the woman has made it plain from the start



Let's go this far and no further

The overriding change in attitude which has occurred over the last decade or so is that it is no longer acceptable to interpret a

with the male student. When the plans for the evening were unfolding shortly before they went out, she realised that there

man sees that he did nothing wrong and she can hear the comments of his friends backing him up.

None of this is unusual

Cape Bore!

De Niro's no hero but Hannibal the Cannibal's more scary, say Stevan Lee and Jerome Harris.

Martin Scorsese's latest creation, *Cape Fear*, presents an impressive cast-list and was preceded by even more impressive reviews. The film follows the attempts of defence attorney Sam Bowden (Nick Nolte) to protect himself and his family from Max Cady (Robert De Niro). Cady has emerged from jail a hugely built, self educated and newly monied man who blames Bowden, his old defence lawyer, for deliberately suppressing evidence beneficial to his case during his trial fourteen years ago for the violent rape of a sixteen year old girl. Having lost fourteen years of his life, the unreconstructed psychopath

makes it clear to Bowden that he seeks revenge... "I'm gonna show you loss".

The apparently respectable Sam Bowden and graphic designer wife Leigh (Jessica Lange) are in fact far from perfect, and Cady exploits their weaknesses in order to attack Sam. Most interestingly he reaches Sam's fifteen year old daughter Danielle (Juliette Lewis) by recognising her vulnerability which can largely be blamed on her less than sensitive parents. With a little lay teenage-psychology... "you're not happy are you Danny"... he wins her trust.

Whilst the Bowdens are not immediately sympathetic characters, the ounce

of sympathy we might have had for Cady - he is poor white trash pitted against snobbish affluence - wears off in the second part of the film. Our loyalties are not divided for long and once they are placed firmly with the Bowden family, the characters fail to develop further.

Cady is like a pit-bull in his relentless persecution of Bowden and his family, his psychopathic nature, his magnificently muscular physique (De Niro worked-out for three hours every morning during the shooting of the film), his apparent indestructibility, his imperviousness to pain, and the fact that no-one could prosecute him, could

have made this man your worst nightmare. However, although Cady is a despicable character, the normally superb De Niro fails to make him as sick and psychologically frightening as Anthony Hopkins' Hannibal Lecter. At times it is easy to forget he is a paedophilic killer. Although the fact that Cady is supposed to be almost superhuman allows us to suspend disbelief at his prowess, parts of the film verged on farce. The scene in which Bowden and his wife slip about in the pool of blood surrounding their dead P.I. was no-doubt intended to convey desperate hopelessness, but the audience clearly interpreted it as a

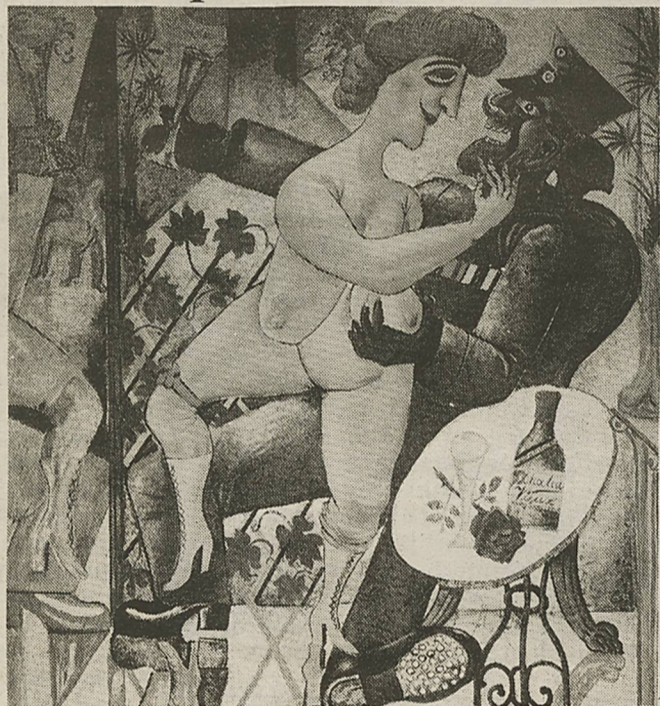
welcome interlude into slapstick comedy, laughing raucously.

The cinematography is terrific, featuring disturbing slips into negative exposure and camerawork which built up an atmosphere which was unfortunately let down by the unimaginative performances of the main actors.

Of course it is easy for a film so hyped as *Cape Fear* to be a disappointment, but there seems little excuse for Martin Scorsese to choose to direct a remake embued with cliché, that is only scary intermittently and which fails to build up suspense all the way to the rather overdue and predictable climax.

Death, Destruction and Beauty

Dix exposes the twentieth century at the Tate Gallery



Memories of the Mirrored Rooms in Brussels, by Otto Dix. Courtesy of Tate Gallery

Otto Dix is certainly one of the foremost painters of this century. Few who have heard of his name can disassociate from Hitler's renowned dislike for him. He is a twentieth century German legend and his paintings, now brought together in a unique exhibition show remarkable insight and depth of feeling.

This exhibition at the Tate gallery takes the viewer through the different painting periods of his life and reflects on his changes in attitude, for example following his life in the trenches during the First World War. Much of his earlier paintings show the influence that Van Gogh had on his work - sweeping brush strokes and attention to the images as they appear on the surface. However, the war and the

many horrific scenes which Dix witnessed later encouraged him to portray the often brutal side of life. This does not simply mean that he liked to paint scenes of death and destruction, but rather that his work tries to show the emotion coming from within his subject.

In contemporary inter-war Germany, Dix was most renowned for his portraits of native notaries and was able to show their characteristics through his painting. However, the work which most moved me concerned the First World War and later his interpretations of the concentration camp to which he was sent towards the end of the Second World War. It is bizarre to think that the trenches of the Great War could possibly portray beauty as they were scenes

of such horrific destruction. Yet, Dix manages to bring across the ironic sense of artificial beauty that they could represent. Similarly, his scenes from the concentration camp show the suffering on the faces of the subjects whom he painted leaving the viewer entranced by the strange beauty of the works.

My favourite work from the exhibition has to be the "Memories of the Mirrored Rooms in Brussels", painted in 1920. Contemporary influences in painting are very evident here as the distortion and the caricature of the work brings across the somewhat absurdity of the wartime brothels. The subject is of a naked prostitute entertaining an officer in one of the mirrored rooms in the

At A Glance

Film

Cape Fear
general release

Fried Green Tomatoes
general release

Theatre

Importance of Being Earnest
at the LSE

Cabal and Love
at the Lyric Hammersmith

Exhibition

Otto Dix
at the Tate

Books

Vox
by Nicholson Baker

Brussels 'Crystal Palace' and the grotesqueness of the work really makes it intriguing to view.

Dix certainly remains one of the more talented painters the century has had the pleasure to see and this exhibition at the Tate is the perfect opportunity to both admire his work and to appreciate a fell for his contemporary German life-style.

The exhibition runs from March 11th until 17th May at the Tate Gallery (Pimlico tube).

Madeline Gwyon

Lyrical Love in London

Perspective on the new adaptation of Schiller's 'Cabal and Love'

David Paisey's translation of Frederick Schiller's "Cabal and Love" is the tragic story of the love between a young major, Ferdinand von Walter (Christopher Hollis), who is also the President's son, and Luise, the daughter of a simple musician.

The play is set in 18th century Germany, where the power driven and corrupt president (Gil Sutherland) believes that his son, Ferdinand, should marry a suitable lady. Lady Milford, the Prince's mistress (Adrienne Thomas) is the chosen bride, but Ferdinand is too much in love with Luise (Sarah Burghard), and is not prepared to sacrifice this love for a higher social position [Hang on, this story sounds familiar - Ed.].

The angered President

plots with his charming secretary, Wurm, and devises a plan to give Ferdinand no choice in his future. Luise's nts are arrested and she's blackmailed into writing a letter to Ferdinand, confessing an affair with Von Kalb, the horrendously over-the-top, but amusing, Court Chamberlain. The letter is then presented to Ferdinand, who becomes enraged with jealousy, frightened and confused, and confronts Luise with his feelings. The pace of events then increases until both contemplate suicide.

That's the basic plot, however we aren't giving any more away. After arriving 20 minutes late (due to a security alert on the Underground), it was difficult to relax and enjoy the play. However, once we'd worked out what was going

on, we were able to enjoy the quality of this small theatre companies' performance.

The play was performed at the Lyric Studios in Hammersmith, which had an intimate quality, in that it was easy to feel you were watching the performance in your own room. The audience were freely seated, but sat mostly together, allowing the cast to capture the audience fairly easily.

There were excellent performances from the President and his Secretary, their relationship almost like those of "Yes Prime Minister". The musician too also adds to the humour of what is otherwise a fairly serious play. However I felt that Adrienne Thomas' interpretation of Lady Milford was excessive, causing me to

lose interest in the plot, and left me, and other members of the audience having a nap.

Overall, the play was quite enjoyable, but if I didn't write this review, I might have found it easy to fall asleep [That's all those late nights, that is - ED]. The play is definitely for those who enjoy the slightly more serious side of the theatre, rather than the more humorous side, so if you prefer lighter entertainment, then perhaps you should look elsewhere. ["Cabal and Love" is currently playing at the Studio Lyric Hammersmith until 28th March].

By Zoe Clements and Raj

Earnest Drama at the LSE

Gavin Gillham reports on the Drama Soc's most recent production

Having already enjoyed the Drama Society's two previous offerings this academic year, "The Butterfly Queen" and "Vinegar Tom", I have news for you about their latest offering. It's good. Their play is a production of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest".

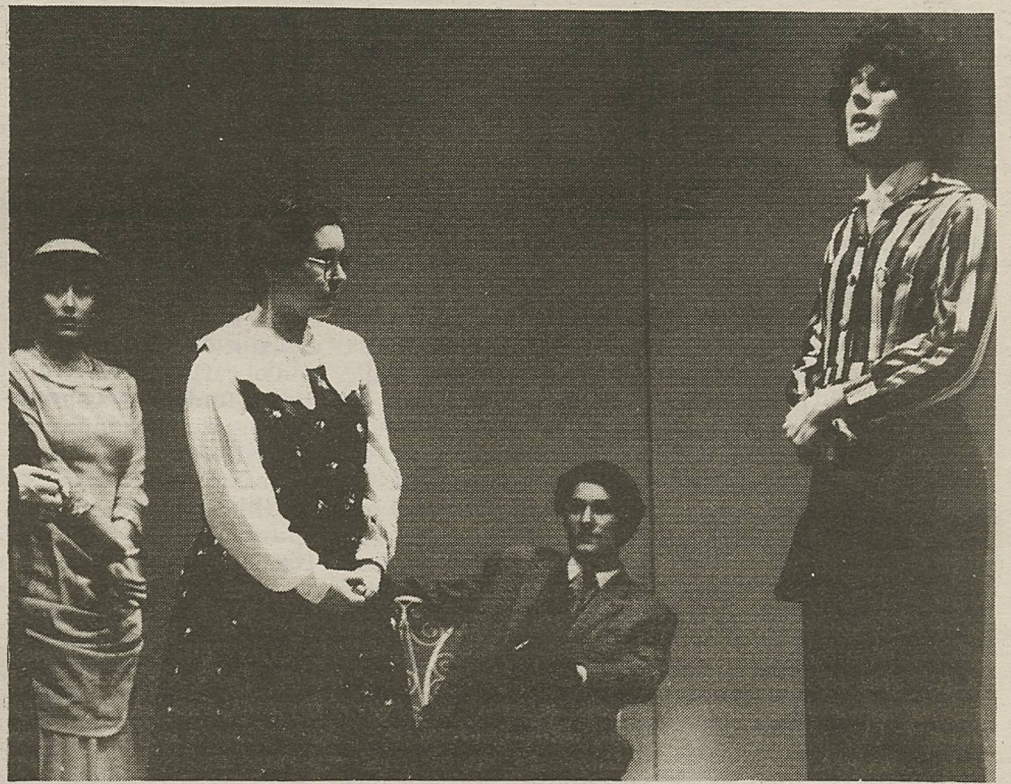
All of the actors/actresses had a good stab at 'upper crust' accents, and that in itself was worth watching! A few of the players stood out as being particularly good, here I refer to the ease (some would say the worrying ease) with which Justin Deaville handled being cast as Lady Bracknell. He really pulled it off, giving his 'old matron' character the air of authority required for the part without turning it into a drag act.

Timothy Critchley, playing a cad-like character with the unfortunate name of Algernon, seemed made for the part. Thom Reilly handled his dual role of reverend/manservant very well, making both his characters visually comical. All praise also goes to Spencer Moulson, Zara Parness, Sarah Thorne, Katherine Davies and Paul Douglas (who seemed to have a hard time of it with audience titters).

The play itself is a great satire of Victorian attitudes. It is the farcical story of two men, neither of whom are called Earnest. Both though try in earnest, to act the part of Earnest or else have their names changed to Earnest, in order that their respective girlfriends will treat them with earnest, as Earnests

(gettit?) [No, and stop all those crap puns - ED] John's real name turns out to be Earnest, and he finds that he is related to the other Earnest (who is Algernon) and just about everybody else too, come to think about it, including his fiancée. This small matter of possible incest is never really resolved, so much for Victorian standards! It's still a 'spiffing' play though, and the script is an ideal mix of humour and poignance.

Be sure not to miss their next production - "The Life of Gallileo", playing on various days throughout this week. I can't think of many plays that you can go and see for two-fifty and then chat with the cast in the pub afterwards. Take my advice: be there or be left out of The Culture Club.



Justin/Bobby "Rock on Tommy" Ball as Lady Bracknell (right)

Photo: Steve East

Sex Talk

Nicholson Baker's new novel, 'Vox'

Apparently, according to those promoting the work, this is the latest book which has been storming America. However, seeing as the promoters of new books seem to say that anyway, I was rather wary about a novel about telephone sex. After all, what is telephone sex? If you read this latest gem from Nicholson Baker, believe me, you will soon find out.

His previous works have been critically acclaimed as being well written and accurately descriptive pieces of fiction. This is definitely a piece of fiction. Whether or not it is accurately descriptive or not I cannot afford to say because on my students grant, hanging on the phone on an 0898 number

for four and a half hours just to find out seemed rather unrealistic.

However, the book is good. True, it is very smutty, but there again it is about a conversation about sex so I suppose smut is a vital ingredient. Nevertheless, I do confess to not being able to put it down. This is not anything to do with me being strange and perverted. Many people who have pinched it while I have been out of the office have also said the same thing. He's called Jim, she's called Abby and they talk about everything from how they like to masturbate to their ultimate sexual fantasies to the best time they have ever had a sexual encounter. This may sound tame

but it still gets the old heart beat going a bit (or the estrogen of testosterone depending on which way you look at it).

Vox is actually rather a hard book to describe apart from saying that it is about sex and it is quite interesting. It is definitely good reading although £7.99 is probably far too steep a price for something that can quite easily be read in a couple of hours. I suppose if a reference book that can double as a novel is what you are looking for then you might be able to afford to think again.

Vox is available from all good bookshops now. Published by Granta.

Madeline Gwyon

Fried Green Tomatoes!?

A good sentimental Hollywood film

What a heart-warming tale this was. For those prone to get an attack of the weepies during a film, please take plenty of the old Kleenex with you. This was definitely one for the cry babies of this world. Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe has been nominated for two Academy Awards - and rightly so. This is a well polished production which does outclass much of the sentimental trash that Hollywood is prone to producing these days.

Kathy Bates, as the overweight and unloved middle-aged housewife, Evelyn, and Jessica Tandy, the sweet old dear whom she befriends at the local nursing home, Ninny, anchor the whole tale together in a touching manner.

It all starts when Evelyn arrives at the home to visit

her husband's aunt and is obviously an unwelcome visitor. While her husband carries on chatting to the woman, Evelyn gets talking to Ninny and is immediately enchanted by her tales of youth at the whistle Stop cafe. There is everything here. Murder, wife-battering, death by misadventure. However, these events are significant but not of paramount importance as the whole tale is one of friendship and togetherness. Pukeable as this may seem, it is far from it. The acting is done so well that the plot really gels together despite the number of flashbacks depicting the tales from the good old days.

Anyway, the result of these tales of nostalgia is to restore some self-confidence and self-respect into Evelyn and to help her

construct a better life for herself in the present by learning from the many tales which Ninny has about the past.

However sweet and corny this all sounds on paper, it is nothing but a well made and well acted production which brings a tear to the eye and a smile to the face. However unsentimental a viewer you are too, you are also likely to enjoy it. The only word of warning that I might have is that it is really not suitable for those vegetarians amongst you who are squeamish about 'exotic' varieties of meat. Otherwise, it is worth a peek, even at London prices of cinemas.

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe opens on Friday 13th March and is on general release (or at least I think so).

Madeline Gwyon

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And Thanks for All the Fish

Neil Andrews reviews this week's singles.

Single Of The Week Spinal Tap: Bitch School (MCA)

They're back! Back!! BACK!!! Having left Polymer records, the Tap have linked up with MCA to produce this, their first single off the new album 'Break Like The Wind'. With the beginning of a new chapter of their careers, Spinal Tap have enlisted some of the best available musicians to help them make their comeback, but they've hit controversy already with this new release. 'Bitch School' has apparently upset a lot of militant women's groups because of its 'supposed' sexist lyrics but the band refuse to accept this and lead guitarist Tufnel has stated: "We've heard that people have commented that 'Bitch School' is sexist. But basically, if you listen, you'll hear what it really is. It's about dogs - about training dogs! The three of us love dogs. Read the lyrics - 'You're so fetching when you are down on all fours.' How can you misconstrue that?". Erm, yes. Okay, Nigel. I believe you. Oh, by

the way, they're looking for a drummer for their British tour because no airline would give their present drummer, Ric Shrimpton, insurance.

Yet Another Single Of The Week.

Jesus & Mary Chain: Far Gone And Out (Blanco Y Negro)

I heard this for the first time this morning while lying in bed listening to Simon Bates' radio show and it's fucking brilliant. Hop onto the Rollercoaster as it passes your way because you'll probably won't see a better concert all year. Trust me. If you need proof listen to this record a thousand and one times as the drum machine relentlessly wafts beats over your head to the sound of controlled feed-back and super-shite singing.....time for my medicine. Matron, the curtains if you will.....

Terrorvision: Thrive EP (Total Vegas/EMI)

Accompanying this press release was a fax addressed to the A & R people at EMI records concerning the

state of the flat where the band used to live. Apparently, following an inspection of the said premises, the estate agents are looking for re-imbursement for stains left on the carpet. They cannot remove the blood stains. Where they came from nobody knows? Anyway, back to the record. Terrorvision have been described as a combination of earthy metal with a hint of funk-tinged sleaze, mixing a contemporary cocktail of gnawing catchy toons. But the four tracks on this release, 'Urban Space Crime', 'Jason', 'Blackbird' and 'Pain Receiver', are beyond the comprehension. Travelling at around 75mph the words are barely audible and the tunes are non-existent. That's why it's a great record.

Max: Hold On (Red Dot Records/Warners)

Produced and recorded by Trevor Horn, this record sounds okay until the lead vocalist starts singing and then it's downhill all the way. Whatever market this band are aiming for they've



Spinal Tap: 'Have you seen our drummer.'

cocked things up a bit because the record is so bland but that'll probably make it a hit. Expect to hear this a lot on the radio because that's all this record is good for, I'm afraid.

Kingmaker: 'Celebrated Working Man' (Sacred Heart)

The last time I reviewed anything by Kingmaker I slagged them off and annoyed Antonia Mochan and her flatmates. But because I never listen to a word anyone says in regards to these pages, I'm going to slag them off again. Originally released in January '91, it's been very hard for

all those band wagon jumpers out there to get hold of a copy but I cannot understand why they are bothering, the record's shite and contains the usual dross of a guitar, bass and drum solo. Yawn. Kids today, eh? There's no pleasing some people sometimes... (By the way, I lost)

Love is in the Air

Carter's new album previewed

Why couldn't I be invited to a KLF press conference? I'm sure the clientele would have been better than the dregs that turned up at the Carter do. London's indie fanzine writers had been enticed out of their bedrooms by the chance to speak to Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine and hear the new album ('1992 The Love Album' out on Chrysalis on May 5th). Most had, especially for the occasion, not washed for many weeks and donned their finest German army parkas. Despite Carter's music not being indie shite with a 'dance element' and having a good deal of fusion originality they still haven't managed to break out of the hardcore indie market. This suggests their recent chart success might be momentary. Hearing Carter speak it's little wonder why they haven't broken out of this limited market. At root level Carter still seem to be concerned with their original indie market and genuinely don't seem to realise that they have made, in the last year or so, a massive breakthrough into the mainstream (shock horror!).

On one level the fact they haven't realised this is good. The new album is very much a Carter album and retains the

sparkling ingenuity that gave Carter the edge over 'there's always been a dance element to our music' bands. Its ten tracks take the accessibility of '30 Something', combine it with the snappy fury of '101 Damnations' to give a new but definitely Carter album. From frenetic, chainsaw guitar songs like the opening track '1993' to slower, chainsaw guitar songs its all gripping stuff and it has a point. Jimbob and Fruitbat say that their songwriting technique hasn't changed, "there's still a panic a few days before we get into the studio!" and they both despise raw acts spending millions on albums that could have been done for less (citing a particularly bloated raw act who recently spent a year and several millions recording a crap, live studio album in Berlin. Clue: it's not Nick Cave.). The lack of change in songwriting technique shows on '1992 The Love Album' but that's a compliment to their...er... unique style.

Ride have said that Carter were one of the bands that opened up the charts for them and other bands of their type. Oh well, I s'pose you can't really hold that against Carter but if they lost some of their cliquy ideas then I'm sure you'll have a much better band. The single ('The Only Living Boy In New Cross', released soon) is good,

cliquy but good. It definitely is not another 'Bloodsports for All' and it just might be another 'Rubbish', I hope not because the album that backs the single up is a surefire winner.

During my days as a fanzine writer we were always supposed to pick up the breadcrumbs off the bigger journo's table. Carter know the importance of staying loyal to their most loyal fans even though it isn't very important anymore. Despite the drink running out the minute we got their and Carter's late arrival it was obvious that this was a committed band. Jimbob and Fruitbat said that Club Carter (their version of, well, Club Kylie I suppose) is getting 'unfeasably large' and it takes up all their spare time. can you imagine any chart band saying their spare time is taken up with answering fan mail? Added to that, this is the band that attacked Phillip Schofield! This is the band that cover Miserable Mozzer's 'Panic' (Hang the DJ, Hang the DJ, HANG THE DJ!) on the b side of 'The Only Living Boy in New Cross' and this is the band that Smash Hits hate! Wouldn't it be good if everything in life was as reliable as Carter?

Selman Ahmad

When Smokey Sings

Smokey Robinson's new album

What the hell happened to Smokey Robinson? Then again, what happened to all the other Motown stars like Diana Ross and the Supremes, Martha Reeves & the Vandellas, Edwin Starr, and the Temptations? In retrospect, they were simply part of the 'Motown Sound' which effectively died in the early '70s, with most of the stars simply having used the 'house band' (a similar method to that of Stax/Volt records in the South), and only Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder have emerged with any credibility and originality of their own.

Nevertheless, it was Smokey Robinson and the Miracles who provided the initial base for the dynamic rise of Berry Gordy's Motown Records, with classics such as 'My Girl', 'Tracks Of My Tears', 'Shop Around' and 'I Second That Emotion'. But by the mid-70s Smokey's musical career seemed, quite frankly, dead.

Then, in 1992, Smokey decided to quit Motown and come up with his first solo album for a record company other than Motown - 'Double Good Everything'. Unfortunately, it sucks. Okay, I tell a lie, it's not that bad. The problem is there's nothing on this record that even tries to be original. As far as instrumentation goes, it could date from the early to mid-80s, with Smokey's band doing a very convincing impression of a very aver-



Smokey: Cool, or what?

age band - though, to be fair the sax player has some neat solos, and there are some good bass lines.

The songs range from unremarkable pop ballads to attempted modern R'n'B (which Was (Not Was) do in a similar style, but far better). But Smokey's songwriting talents remain intact, as does his excellent voice (ranging from high tenor to soprano) - it is the voice which is the sole redeeming feature on many songs, such as 'When a

Woman Cries' for example, where the voice fits in excellently with big gospel piano chords.

Maybe it's the band that's the big problem. Smokey should have perhaps used guest musicians, like Aaron Neville did to great effect on his last solo album, but then again Aaron Neville isn't much of a songwriter. Of course, a Smokey Robinson album could never be bad, but it could be a lot better than this.

Jon Fenton-Fischer

Return of the Mad Axeman

Here it is, another Voce retrospective. What were you doing August Bank Holiday 1983. Me, well I was at the Reading Festival when it was an all weekend heavy metal bash. On Friday night, we had Budgie, on Saturday night, it was Iron Maiden, with their whole 'Number Of The Beast' stage show. Closing the show on Sunday was the Michael Schenker Group (MSG). I was looking forward to this as I had seen MSG at the Cornwall Colosseum with friends and with Gary Barden reported to have left, I wanted to see if the new geezer could hack it. On they came and surprise surprise there was Gary.



MSG: They're hard.

What a great end to a perfect pissed weekend. That was 1983, and when in 1992 I was given another eponymously titled album by MSG (there has been 2 or 3 if you count MSG 2) to review. Apart from age somethings have changed. Schenker has removed himself from his European roots and firmly esconced himself stateside, somewhere in LA with Robin McCauley, who sang on the Far Corporations cover of 'Stairway to Heaven', on vocals now on vocals. It has been 13 years since I first heard Schenker on UFO's 'Phenomenon' including the classic riff of 'Doctor Doctor', this liaison lasted six classic albums as the precocious young Schenker already tagged a guitar hero, moved first back into his brother Rudolph's band the Scor-

pions, before going solo.

On his first album he showed his rifting years were not over and he moulded together a band that for the next few years were hard to beat. He toured extensively on the backs of the follow up album 'MSG 2' and 'Assault Attack'. His coup de grace was the classic live double album 'One night at Budokan' originally available only on import at £16. Then either I grew up or I just lost touch, but MSG seemed to disappear only to reappear a couple of years ago with a whole new set up releasing two great albums, 'Perfect Timing' and 'Save Yourself'. Now if we were sitting comfortably lets turn the 'lights out' and prepare for the 'Assault of the Mad Axeman'.

This is another American rock type album, barely a Euro riff in sight, but this is no problem as the eleven

tracks on the CD, oscillate from rocker to ballad and back again. There is no classic riff song, like 'Ready To Rock' of MSG 2, but this doesn't need it. Schenker no readily acknowledges that he is an awesome guitar player with more subtle licks and nuances throughout the songs that is liked in America, rather than the bludgeoning riffs of the European bands. Long may the McCauley Schenker Group stay stateside if they continue to churn out this classy rock. Who says 'Rock is Dead... Long Live Rock'.

One more thing come over and tour its been a long time. Lets see the 'Flying V's' and the 50 watt Marshalls. Doctor, Doctor Please...!

MSG is available on all formats and is currently on release.

Ron Voce (who else)

Like a Daydream

Ride plays Leeds University

Here is a review with a difference in that this gig did not take place in London and so it will either encourage you or put you off going to see them at Brixton Academy in the near future. On Friday the 6th I was at Leeds University to see Ride. Ride have been around a while now but until the release of their 'Nowhere' album their only claim to fame was a Peel session, a couple of EPs and the fact that they went to the same school in Oxford as Adrian Vetta (Who he? - NA). After the success of 'Nowhere' the band took a year out to be "ordinary people again" and are now back with their new album 'Going Blank Again' which was released last Monday. Ride are very much a band you either love or hate. Their unique brand of noisy indie guitar music is far from pretty with most of their songs only keeping shape

due to very strong rhythmic drumming and the band's ability to switch and blend melodies between guitars so well.

The gig started with Verve continuing a rather disturbing trend I have seen recently in being quite a good support band. However, despite Verve playing music fairly similar to Ride the audience seemed more concerned with waiting about for the the main event. After subjecting the crowd to fifteen minutes of an obscure projection show (pictures of exploding TV sets, men walking on the moon etc.) Ride started with their last single 'Leave Them All Behind'. When released, this song sounded very bland but live it seemed far better. The band then played a set which interspersed most of the songs from the new album with those from 'Nowhere' and the early EPs. Of the

new songs played 'Mouse-trap', 'Chrome Waves' and especially 'Not Fazed' stood out above the rest. The older songs played included 'Dreams Burn Down', 'Like A Daydream', and three worth the £6.50 ticket on their own, 'Vapour Trail', 'Perfect Time' and 'Drive Blind'. Much of the newer material seems slower but it is still the same old Ride, the music material just isn't the same as 'Nowhere'. Ride ended the gig after playing for nearly two hours though it seemed much less. I was a little disappointed the band didn't fit in either 'Seaguu;' or 'Chelsea Girl' despite repeated calls for them from the crowd but I would recommend anyone who is a fan to see the band on the 27th March (What's this? Free advertising? - NA), if you're not a fan go buy the albums first and then see them.

Giles Monnickendam.

Me Ears are Alright

Desmond Dekker proves Maxell tapes are crap

Desmond Dekker - Powerhaus Saturday, 29 February. Who?

You've heard his music, that's for sure. You know that 'Vitalite' advert? Or the 'Maxell' 'Me ears are alright' one? Well that's our Desmond. That one song (The Israelites) being arguably (yeah I'll argue) his only famous song, and that being over ten years old (actually over twenty, number one in 1969), I was expecting a nostalgia show given by an old has-been for a crowd of old Ska (What about Bluebeat) fans.

This expectation wasn't changed by the small bunch of people sitting around at 9.30 waiting for something to happen. Something happened; the support band played, they were crap - a sad, completely incongruous jangly indie band who sounded like The Cure did when they discovered FX pedals. Probably. So 'Smells Like Some Ghost' will probably be famous soon, I expect. Never mind.

...Anyway they finished, and when I looked around from my fourth consoling pint I discovered with pleasure that the crowd were no longer a small bunch of people, but instead a large bunch of people. Also there were not, as I expected, old saddoes (like me eh!) trying to recapture their twenties, let alone their youth, but for the most part under twenty-five.

At about 11.30 the band came on. No Desmond... Ah there he is! I thought, 'Bloody hell he's looking good for his age!'. Then I realised that the guy on stage was the backing singer and warm-up man.

Oops. Anyway Dezza came on to heart cheers and impressed everyone, even me, and I'm dead cynical. Yes, this was a nostalgia show but it was vital as if this were all material off a new album (like Desmond Dekkers Greatest Hits!); they played all the old faves - '007, Unity, Music Like Dirt, The Israelites (of course), and loads of others. It was an hour and a quarter set with three encores.

The warm up chappie from the previous paragraph certainly knew his stuff, i.e every one was wiggling out on the dance floor by three songs into the set. And by that I don't mean moshing, slamming etc...-there was no feeling of aggression like you normally get at concerts amongst the crowd (and no, no one [well, not many] had been taking dope-like this mood had been created entirely by the music). As far as I could tell, between bouts of shaking my booty, there was no one around me not having a good time. Except that one guy who was standing to the left of Dave, but I think he'd just been dumped, so he doesn't count.

Apart from the two or three hours between me going out and Des coming on, the entire day was fantastic, really. Seeing one of my childhood heroes (I've been a fan since I was seven), (well that makes you nearly thirty by my reckoning) rounded off perfectly the first sunny day in five months. Yeah. 'Perfect' as Pop Larkin wouldn't say. Because he's crap.

Moving on from Desmond Dekker in a tangential way, does anybody out there like

'The Darling Buds of May'? (And fancying Catherine Zeta-Jones doesn't qualify as liking the show.) If, like everyone I've ever asked, you don't like it WHO'S WATCHING THE FUCKING SHOW? Twenty million viewers don't just spontaneously materialise on a Sunday evening at 7.00, so something funny's going on. Even if you included a large proportion of OAP's (who are, let's face it, more likely to be watching 'Songs of Praise'), Children and other statistical minority groups, it still wouldn't make up twenty million. I blame the government myself. And the parents. And television. And that's another thing - it's been said before, but what's happened to all the white dog shit. You used to see it everywhere as a kid, but its all gone! Strange things are happening in Whitehall, I suspect - memos being circulated concerning the removal from the streets of dog shit with any aesthetic value. They leave all the smelly, sticky brown stuff of course.

I think I'm off the point, but it's a thought isn't it - 'The Darling Buds of May', one of the worst programmes ever on the telly gets twenty million viewers from nowhere... At the same time, white dog shit disappears from the streets of the U.K. I suspect the two are connected somehow. I'll think about it a bit longer and come back to you on it. Meanwhile, to get back to the point, go and buy a Desmond Dekker record and chill out, because too many people are in too bad a mood. Man.

Chris Longridge.

On a Road to Nowhere?

David Byrne's new solo album

With Talking Heads, David Byrne mixed his own fish-eyed view of the world with American Pop Culture. Now, with "Uh-Oh", he fuses the South American sound found on his last solo album "Rei Momo" with the eccentric pop sound he cultivated so well in the eighties.

The frantic opening of the first track, "Now I'm Your Mom", is Byrne at his best, poking around at our sensitivities. The subject is a man telling his children that he's had a sex change. Other more traditional Byrne themes emerge later on, including madness, power, God (referred to as "you old fart"), prime time TV and Washington D.C.

All are approached with the contagious humour of the Latino style and never-ending Samba.

A huge variety of instruments are employed on the album, including Surdu, ago-go and shakere (whatever they are), all are thrown on top of layers of acoustic guitar, percussive, synthesiser and trombone. Even the odd squaking electric guitar can be found. Gone is the terse, hard-hitting style of earlier work. This is the never-ending evolution of the odd man of pop, those who want another "Psycho-Killer" or "Once in a Lifetime" will be disappointed, but listen hard (and objectively) and this is the perfect addition

to a Talking Heads collection.

Tracks like "Tiny Town" and "Walk in the Dark" contain all the qualities of a "True Stories" or "naked" track. Byrne rants like a lunatic, voice ranging through shrill, patronising, loud, quiet: everything we've come to expect.

Drop your preconceptions about World music and listen to the album and you'll feel exhausted (the latino rhythms are unremitting), but you'll be smiling. Byrne said "It was the easiest album of my life to make", he was happy when he made it, and it's impossible not to be infected - hear it now.

Paul Sheppard

ACCOMMODATION**LSE ACCOMMODATION**

1992/1993.

Application Forms for LSE Halls, Flats and houses, along with University of London Intercollegiate Halls are currently available from the Central Accommodation Office (E296) and the Housing and Welfare Office (E297).

The closing dates for applications by continuing students (undergraduates and postgraduates) are as follows:

LSE residences (halls, flats and houses)

30 April 1992

Intercollegiate Halls

31 March 1992.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

A shared flat at Carr-Saunders Hall.
Private bath and kitchen.

Available for full-time, male LSE student.

Room available from

March 21 to July 2.

Cost £500 (approx. 15 weeks at £33)

More information:
call 071-580-6338

Room F3/5 (Kamel) or Room F6/1 (Heba)

**Postgrads and mature students.
FLAT TO LET.**

A self-contained, fully-furnished flat with 2 double bed rooms.

Large lounge and dining area.

Security entrance.

Zone 3 LT and BR

£600 p.c.m., excl. bills.

Available now, ring 081-902-7626

(24hr ansafone)

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN NUMBER!!

WOMAN WANTED

to rent own room and share facilities with 1/2 women and cat.

Pleasant, well equipped, spacious flat in Fulham with garden.

£70 per week inclusive,

from beginning of March.

Vegetarian preferred. Call Sally on 071-381-1912 (eves and Weekends).

Flatshare for Male.

Excellent location,
close to Oxford Circus.

(20 min. walk to LSE.)

Share large room in
2nd. floor flat.

£45 per week + bills.

Call : 071-636-4053

SHELTER NIGHTLINE

For temporary accommodation,
help and advice on housing
emergencies and general
housing advice.

Freephone 0800 446 441

Weekdays (6pm to 9am).

Weekends (24hrs.)

FLUENT FRENCH-SPEAKER REQUIRED

for conversation practice.

Postgrad preferred.

Fee negociable.

See Glenn at the LSE Union Shop (Mon to Wed am) or call 071 354 9055 after 8pm.

Schapiro Club
Wednesday 18th March
5pm, Old Theatre.

**THE TRIAL OF
CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS**

with

Dr. Mia Rodriguez-Salgado

(as Columbus)

Mr Michael Molyneux,

(as his lawyer)

Dr. David Starkey,

(the prosecutor)

Kenneth Minogue

(as the Judge)

A panel of students will act as jury.

Party afterwards, admission free,

ALL WELCOME!!!

LSE CINEMATIC SOCIETY
proudly presents:**"A Perfect Cut"**

Thursday 19th and

Friday 20th March.

5pm, Old Theatre.

Price £1.50

Tickets available in Houghton
Street/Quad this week (12-4)

THE ROCK CLIMBING CLUB

is off to

Cheddar Gorge, Somerset,

25th - 29th March.

12 places are available.

If interested,

ring Dan on 071-231-7725.

MATURE STUDENTS' SOCIETY.
NOW MEETS IN THE TUNS,
EVERY THURSDAY AT 1pm.**SPANISH TUITION**

GRADUATE NATIVE SPEAKERS.

one to one and groups.

Prices and hours to suit.

Contact Javier or Salva

071-820-0408

MULTICULTURAL

Thurs. 19th March. Would all societies who
want to have a food stall, perform national
dances, or put up an exhibition,
please contact

Fiona MacDonald in E206.

**NORSEMAN SOCIETY
PARTY**

The Underground

Thurs. 19th March.

Featuring two live bands,
but **no** bouncy castle.

BLUE DYE FIRE

PRESENT A DAY OF
FUN AND FESTIVAL

SAT 21st MARCH

Tuns and Quad.

**The South East Asian
Journal**

needs articles and
contributions- anything
welcome, on economic, political
and social issues: factual,
controversial, or humourous.
Put in S.E.Asian Soc. mailbox,
or see Jon Fenton-Fischer
by 20th March.

LOST NEAR UNION SHOP:

Brown patterned glasses pouch with
spectacles and pens in. If found,
please return to the porters lodge or
lost property.

LSE JEWISH SOCIETY

meets every Tuesday 1-2pm,
in the Vera Anstey Room

MULTI-CULTURAL EVENING

THURS. 19TH MARCH

THE QUAD,

7PM - 9PM

Food stalls, live music,
loads of fun.

LSESU PRESENTS:

"Feminism or Islam?"

(The Future of the Women's movement)

Fiona MacDonald vs Hassan Ali Imam.

Mon. 16th March, 5pm C120

MSS Night 1992

The Underground

Mon 16th March.

6.30 to 9pm.

ADVANCE WARNING!!!

END-OF-YEAR BASH 13TH JUNE 1992

At LSE sports ground New Malden.

All day bar/food/fun/frolics.

Marquee with live bands until 6am.

Champagne Breakfast.

Coaches will do round trips from LSE and Halls all day and night (included in the price of tickets)

Bouncy Castle/Tequila Promotion

LIVE MUSIC

Three Tuns
Thurs. 19th March 9.30pm
Peter Stewart
(ex-lead man of Vagabond Joy)
and his band sing
songs of love and Tunisia

LENT LEGACY

End-of-Term party

Friday 20th March
Underground/Three Tuns.
Disco and light show until Midnight
only £1

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Tues 17th March,

Three Tuns and
Underground.

HUGE

Guinness and Jameson promotion.

AFRO & EURO HAIRCUT BY RAHSAAN

AN EXPERIENCED AMERICAN BARBER

ONLY £3 !!!

Make an appointment today, call 071-387-0311
(Commonwealth Hall) Room G-40

The Latin American & Italian Societies invite you
to :

LATIN CONNECTION III

The main event of the LSE social calendar.
Thurs, 19th March at the LIMELIGHT.
Tickets on sale from Mon 7th March.
Alternatively, call 071-497-3127.

LSE COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT SOCIETY PRESENTS:

His Excellency Bernardo Sepulveda,
The Mexican Ambassador and Former
Secretary for Foreign Affairs (1982-1988)

SPEAKING ON:

The North American Free Trade Agreement
Tues. 17th March, 3.30pm,
Vera Anstey Room, Old Building.

NEW SECURITY GUIDELINES: IMPORTANT FOR ALL STUDENTS

In view of the current security problems which are being experienced in central London, the following guidelines are being adopted within the school:

1. No bags or other articles should be left unattended anywhere within the school.
2. Any unattended items may be removed and if necessary passed over to the security authorities for disposal.
3. Anyone depositing any item in the school cloakroom is liable to be asked to produce proof of identification.
4. No-one should accept any item which is not their personal property for storage in offices or personal lockers.
5. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported to the porters lodge in the main building (ext. 2000)

BEAVER CLASSIFIEDS

To advertise in the Classifieds section,
please contact James
in the Beaver Office (ext. 2870).
Alternatively, write down the information, and
drop it into the Beaver Office (E197).
This service is **free**
to all LSE students and Societies.
Please note that copy deadline is
Wednesday noon
for the following Monday's issue.

Houghton St. Harry

I was watching Home and Away the other day (as you do) and Alf mentioned Duncan to his wife. I must admit that I watch my fill of soaps, but I could not for the life of me think who Duncan was. It transpires that he is in fact their baby son. I finally recalled the birth which must have been somewhere in the mid '80's and yet he still hasn't emerged from his bedroom (you know, the one on the left as you come in the front door). Perhaps one day he will stride forth as a strapping 18-year old looking for his 'tinnies'. He obviously can't be too helpless, what with Alf at the store all day and Ailsa at the Diner. Spooky?

This next problem in continuity is one I can answer myself. When Pippa married the bold Michael there was a telegram from Stevo. He was the goon who thought he was an ironman and ran away to 'The City' or something. It seems to all the world that he was too lazy to turn up to his mother's wedding, nice one Steve. I know that if my mum was getting married she wouldn't mind if I stayed in bed and just sent a note, after all, what is university life about anyway?

All this is not as spooky as the BBC antipodean mystery of the disappearing children. As I recall, Jim has four children, Paul 'It's business' Robinson, Julie (an fuss-pot prone to tears), Scott (a blonde chanteur who looks like he should be in a Biblical musical) and Lucy (who changes skins more than a snake). Does Jim ever mention Julie or Scott? Always the first with the birthday cards then Jimbo? He is either a callous, hard man or a dopey bastard who can't remember how many kids he's got.

I would be a harsh man to criticise Aussies without looking at the plausability ratio closer to home. Take Eastenders as a fine example of London life. 'Hello, how are you?'. 'My boyfriend was put in prison for murdering the landlord of my local, but he didn't do it, it was the heroine addict across the road. Oh yes, my brother just told he's got AIDS, but apart from that I'm fine'.

The only true to life characters are Frankie 'He's nicked my motor' Butcher and his two sidekicks Peter 'Tweacle' Beale and Big Ron. I am a major fan of Ron's who is a genuine salt of the earth east-end hero. Famous for Geilgudesque lines like 'Pauline, I'm starving', and 'Bye luv', he stalks the streets of Walford in his sheepskin jerkin using his vast obesity to right the wrongs of Joe and Josephine public.

If I allow myself to return to the theme of plausability, one thing grabs my attention like Simon Collier's drinking ability, and that is the greatest soap of them all, the David Icke saga.

After his more recent admission to being 'a total wally' for claiming to be the son of God/Nostradamus with pearlers like Saddam Hussein is dead and Gerhardie's Mags'n Fags Emporium (Neasden) will disappear beneath a huge tidal wave. He then decided that he was a snowplough. Surely his own crystalball gazing talents will render his snow clearing ability useless as he can predict the snow and warn council gritters in advance. The is one very practical use of clairvoyance I think you will agree.

Equally noteworthy policies for his dangerously informed cult are such gems as North American Indians being advanced lifeforms from Mars. Sad, but true kids. For future trivia quizzes the Icke Did You Know? collection includes King Arthur as Jesus' true father and the devil being born on the moon. Let us only hope that Lucifer fails to find the World War 2 bomber while he's up there or we really will be in trouble.

The most spooky thing about David Icke is his claim, which is backed up by everyone, that he charges 1000 pounds per lecture. Many say that he is mad, Harry's view is that he would be mad not to be.

Battle of Smithfield

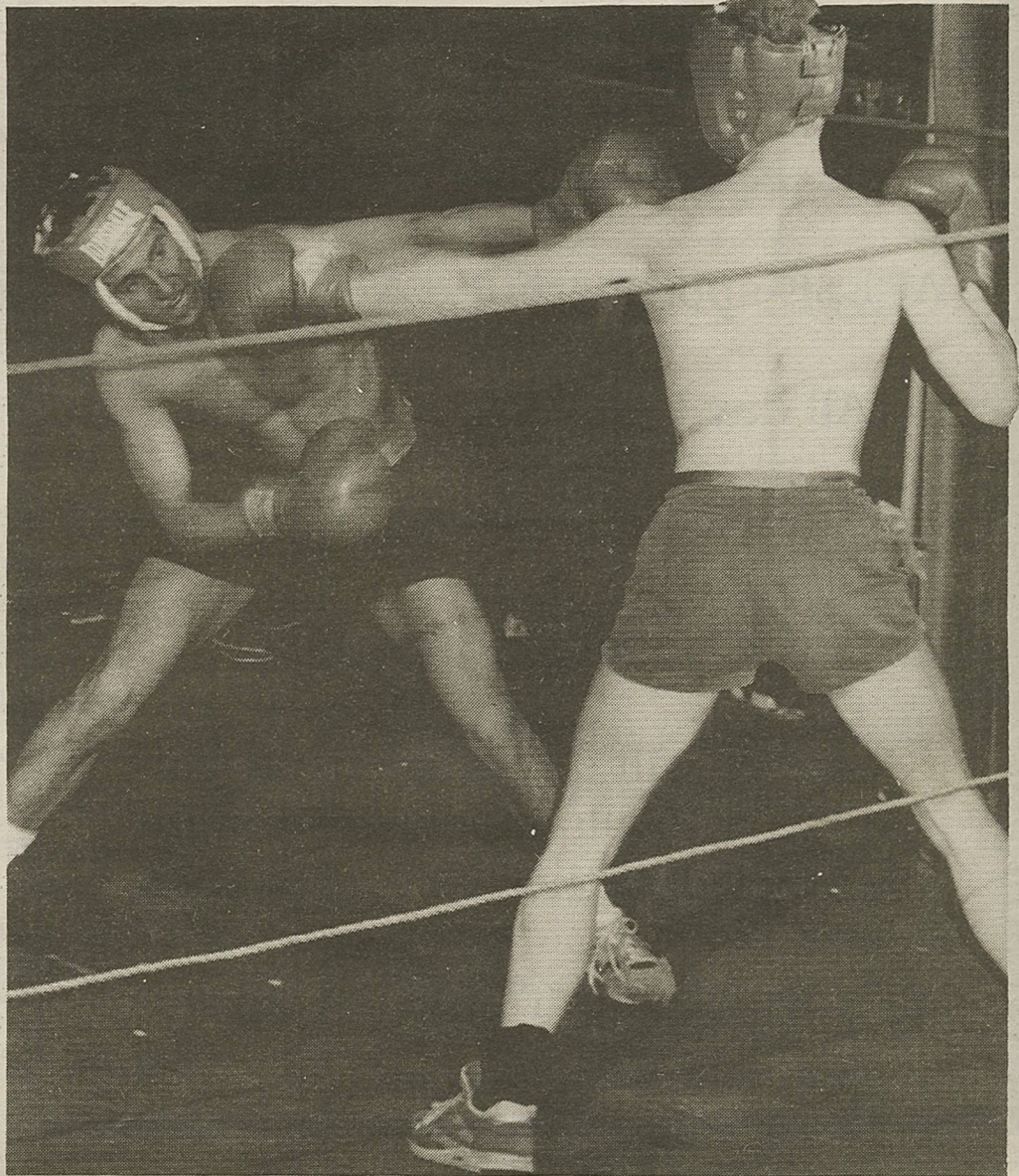
4:15 am, Smithfield Market. A small battle-weary group sat hunched around their tea and toast. There had been many casualties but the operation was a success. General Ryan and two of his loyal lieutenants, Cox and Ryder, congratulated the men. Only 12 had made it, Staples, Graveson, Price, Cleveland, Hitch, Pettit, Keane, Raymond, Webber, Eyre, Ormondroyd, and Mellor. Others were less fortunate. Some were posthumously awarded medals for a season's bravery: Keeble, Stalker (lard-man), and a fifth team unknown warrior.

Many had endured horrendous suffering on the way. The first man down, Tim Thomas, had been slain by a green-monster. Simon Collier soon met with the same fate but only after suffering "friendly-fire" at the hands of Cox, although a shell-shocked taxi driver did little to intervene.

Jepson's platoon became disorientated after a vicious mustard-gas (well, mustard at least) attack from the firsts and were last seen in a Bar Madrid Bomb Shelter around 1:30. They never returned.

The Fourths played to their weaknesses as ever, both a lack of pace and stamina (and shandy tops in the Tuns-Ed.) and after pitching their battle early they could only be regarded as canon fodder for the rest of the crack troops. Captain Randall did talk a good fight, but that is as far as his successes went.

Being a genuine veteran of the battle of Smithfield is something that a rare few can be proud of. It is the greatest feat in a season of blood-thirsty skirmishes such as the seige of Southampton, but one man has led by example throughout. I feel obliged to mention the name of this shy, unassuming individual who



Typical scene from a football dinner (Nigel got his photo in!) Photo: Steve East

begged us to respect his chosen anonymity, but as we all know, it's what the kids want to hear. Adam C. Ryder is his name, and he can hold his head high and say that it was his guidance that led no fewer than 5 of his troops into taxis home at 6 a.m.

Whilst on the subject of personal heroes of mine, my co-editor has just slipped out for his tea so I will take the opportunity to say what an all-round smashing chap he really is. Ever encouraging and always a smile and a friendly word, I must say that his presence

alone made my evening that bit more special.

As we return to the night of a thousand pints there are very thankyou's left to make. There is a small vote of thanks to the weary trooper who emptied his stomach into the ladies toilet sink. Another vote of thanks to the skippers who left with a wad in their pockets, and a big cheers for coming to the 38 sprinters who failed to see the course through, after all, it's not about sprinting it's about marathons.

Hockey team wins a game

LSE Ladies 7
Dickie Davies
School of Hockey 1

The LSE Ladies hockey team won by 7 goals to 1 (So they say-Ed.)



Opposition player falls off tightrope

Photo: Steve East