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FEES REPRIEVE But L.S.E. Still Hit

THE Government is expected to announce before Christmas that it has revised its plan to raise tuition fees.

Without specifying exactly what concessions she will permit, Mrs Shirley Williams, the Secretary of State for Education, has rejected proposals to increase fees to £750 and £650 for all postgraduates and undergraduates respectively, and has decided to retain the present system of charging different amounts to home and overseas students. The change brings little comfort, however, to those who think the consequences of raising fees may be especially grave for LSE.

A recent issue of "Sennet" claimed that the School is in danger of losing 400 undergraduates and as many as 75 per cent of its postgraduates. If this were to happen, the article im-

plied, the total number of students might next year fall from this year's 3,600 to under 2,000.

This estimate is based on statistics released by the Department of Education and Science at the beginning of November. Mr Gordon Oakes, the Minister whose responsibility it is to oversee higher education, announced that the rise in tuition fees to £750 would cause the number of home postgraduates in universities to fall by between 3,000 and 7,000, and of overseas postgraduates by between 1,000 and 3,000.

Firmer restrictions

Earlier in the same week, Mrs Williams had confirmed reports that her Department was considering a policy which would impose even firmer restrictions on overseas students hoping to come to study in Britain. The aim of a circular which is about

to be sent to colleges of further education and local education authorities is to clarify the position of overseas students in the light of immigration legislation laid before Parliament in 1973. Whereas students holding letters of acceptance from British colleges have hitherto been issued with visas on entering this country, the circular will now recommend colleges no longer to accept overseas applicants before they have obtained entry certificates from the British High Commission in their country of origin.

Catastrophic

The combined effect of these two policy proposals on student numbers at LSE could be catastrophic. Last year, 997 overseas students were registered in one postgraduate capacity or another, and a further 340 for first degrees. If none could afford

the increases, the School's number of full-time and occasional students would fall from over 3,600 to about 2,300, and if all self-financing home students were lost, that total might fall by another 200.

The reprieve which the Government's changed policy appears to bring about will make little difference to LSE. Because the School has an exceptionally large proportion of overseas students, retaining the present differential fee system will help a correspondingly small percentage of its members. Self-financing home postgraduates, who will be the main beneficiaries of the change, account for only about four per cent of all those registered at LSE.

This year's fall

Last month, the General Purposes Committee was presented with a report comparing this

year's registration figures with last year's. The number of full-time students has already fallen from 3,148 to 3,027. There are 58 fewer undergraduates and 26 fewer postgraduates, the discrepancy between this aggregate and the greater overall decline being accounted for, presumably, by Diploma students. There are no figures available for overseas postgraduates, but the number of overseas students registered for first degrees shows only a very slight drop, from 340 to 337. The report feels able to conclude that "there is no indication that increased fees were reducing admissions at this stage." What it might have done better to emphasise, however, was that, "at this stage", it had only been three months since Mr Mulley announced the increase.

John Emerson

CARRY ON CLAIMING

NUS is launching a major "carry on claiming" campaign in retaliation to the attempts being made to disqualify student entitlement to supplementary benefit during the Christmas vacation. The object of the campaign is to mobilise all students to exercise their legal right to claim, in order to highlight the hardship that has been caused by the changes in the composition of the students' grant.

What are the changes?

(1) In previous years the student grant has contained an element of £3.18, intended for maintenance during each vacation week of the Christmas, Easter and Summer vacations. Starting this academic year there is no element included for the Summer vacation.

(2) The vacation element has been increased to £11.35 per vacation week of the Christmas and Easter vacations.

(3) Students unable to find work during the Christmas and Easter vacations are entitled to claim supplementary benefit

from the Department of Health and Social Security. In the past this benefit has been paid less a deduction of £3.18 as the vacation element already paid to students in their grant. Now, however, that deduction will be increased to £11.35, which means that those classified as "non-householders" (ie living with parents) by DHSS will have the whole of their supplementary benefit extinguished by this deduction. Those classified as "householders" are entitled to a higher rate of benefit, but they too will suffer a grant reduction in the amount of supplementary benefit paid to them, because again £11.35 will be deducted.

Implications

The point of the NUS "Carry on Claiming Campaign" is to show that the deduction of £11.35 by DHSS is invalid, because it assumes that all students are receiving a full grant. A survey recently carried out by the Department of Education and Science shows that 73 per cent of students do not re-

ceive the full amount of parental contributions they are entitled to. This means that DHSS are assuming income that students are not receiving. Many students will therefore be left with no money this Christmas. Vacation work will be almost impossible to find because of the present economic conditions. The Post Office for example had 100,000 temporary Christmas jobs for students last year; this year they expect to have none.

It is vital then that all students who do not receive the full amount of parental contributions, continue to claim supplementary benefit, and appeal if they are disqualified from receiving benefit. The Students' Union will be issuing leaflets containing details of claiming and appealing.

Vacation grants

Undergraduate students who are in receipt of a United Kingdom maintenance grant (including minimum award holders) are eligible to apply to the school for a grant to cover days

spent studying during the Christmas Vacation. The studying may take the form of directed reading or essay writing, and may be undertaken either at a library or at home. All eligible students are urged to claim a vacation grant this year, as this may well be their only source of income this Christmas. Application forms are available from the registry now, and should be completed and counter-signed by tutors immediately, as the closing date for applications is **Friday, 26th November**. Payment is not usually made until the start of next term, but if the specified studying is completed and the tutor can be found to give approval, then application can be made to the registry for payment during the vacation.

Other sources of money

LEA hardship allowance

Local Education Authorities have powers to give "discretionary vacation hardship" grants

to their award holders during vacations. The maximum award is now £16.15 per week. However, when making this award the LEA will take into account the vacation element of the grant, which will be £11.35 over Christmas and Easter, and this will be deducted from the grant.

Unemployment benefit

First-year students who have worked for a substantial period before beginning their studies, and other students who worked for most of the summer and or Easter vacations last year, may be entitled to Unemployment Benefit. This benefit is based on National Insurance contributions that were paid whilst working, and is at a higher rate than supplementary benefit. If in doubt, then claim by registering at your local office of the department of employment.

Loan from LSE

LSE will make loans of up to £25 to students in financial difficulties. Applications to the registry.

Jean Kennedy.

LETTERS . . .

T. Unionouists?

DEAR EDITOR,—In reply to JAI, page 3 last "Beaver", this person states that members of the Trade Union Studies group are, "Trying to pack the Constitution Committee". This article also infers that because one of us, namely Richard Bennet, has been put forward for the EC elections, and another is President of Carr Saunders, that we are somehow taking over the LSE Union.

This of course is a wrong assumption: the real reason for our activity in the Union is because we have always involved ourselves in and held positions of responsibility in the Trade Union movement, and we realise only too well the possibilities of an active LSE Union which can actively fight not only for better grants and conditions but also in the wider

area of Government cutbacks in Education which directly affect those grants conditions and the choice of a job at the end of it.

To do this we first of all need a much more disciplined branch where we can freely discuss the business of the day without some reactionary fool ruling the chair out of order every five minutes, or calling a quorum when they know they are going to lose the vote. There are many students at LSE who will not turn up at meetings because of this child-like attitude by the minority. If students wish to be heard as responsible people they first have to act as responsible people and second, take responsible positions in the NUS to bring this about.

Ron Bales,
Trade Union Studies

Anarchist Addenda

DEAR EDITOR,—The recent article in Beaver, concerning Spain, was little more than communist propaganda. It failed to give an account of the strong anarchist movement in Spain. Ever since May 1937, when the communist led assault guard attacked the C.N.T. workers in the Barcelona telephone exchange, relations between the communists and anarchists have not been so friendly.

After the civil war had been officially abandoned, the anarchist movement continued both industrial and armed resistance to the Franco regime. This was certainly a factor in Franco's refusal to send any more than volunteers to fight for the Nazi cause. During the war this resistance helped many refugees from the Nazis escape to Spain, just as after the war they helped many flee from Franco.

Recent years have seen the establishment of the C.N.T. with surprising success. There have been various problems but now the C.N.T. has become the main organisational expression of anarchism in Spain. Many of the C.O.A. (Autonomous Workers' Councils) have joined it. Also it is working in conjunction with non-industrial groups such as those who have been confronting that Spanish working women suffer.

All this activity has arisen without the influx of foreign capital that the communists have enjoyed. The reappearance of the anarchist movement is a product of the present-day Spanish working class, many of whom are wary lest the communist party becomes the heir of Franco's despotism.

Fabian Thompsett.

The Registrar Replies

DEAR EDITOR,—May I make some comments on the article on fees in the issue of Beaver dated October 19th? The requirement for a fees declaration is, a long-standing arrangement, and is not linked to the increases in fees with which Universities have had to cope in recent years. Its primary purpose is to provide a prior indication of who will pay a student's fees, so that, if they are being paid by someone else, for instance a local education authority, the student can start his course and the fee account be sent to the authority.

As for information, the 1976-77 handbook was printed in May 1975 and clearly states: "Current fees are stated below: they may not be valid after 1974-75." You will realise that the School, in common with other universities, has to prepare its prospectuses for publication nearly 18 months before the applicants who read them will enter the institution.

The fees of £650 and £750 are not a *fait accompli*. The former Secretary of State for Education and Science proposed these fees in July 1976 and at the time of writing this letter they remain as proposals made to the University Grants Committee and the local authority associations.

There has been no change in the position regarding payment of fees by the term rather than by the session. The Undergraduate Handbook is sent to all candidates for admission and says "Students are

normally expected to pay fees by the session, but for those who find this difficult, payment by terminal instalments is permitted." The Calendar, which is given to all newly-registering students, states that payment by instalments is permitted and it has been the practice to accept termly payments during my eight years at LSE whenever a student wishes to pay in this way.

The form confirming the availability of funds serves a useful purpose for overseas students as well as for the School. Without it, many students would have been unable in past years to get authority to take money out of their home country—it also serves to remind parents about the need to maintain an adequate level of support for their sons and daughters at the School. Its fundamental purpose is to ensure that students do not come to London with inadequate resources.

Universities are not pleased by the prospect of having to ensure that a much greater proportion of their revenue comes in through fees: we recognise the implications of the projected fee levels to which reference has already been made and see only too clearly what they will mean for applicants from many quarters, not all of them from overseas.

Yours sincerely,

G. Ashley,
Registrar.

Pregnancy

DEAR EDITOR,—Re last issue's "anti-abortion" letter. A short Elementary Statistical Theory exercise: if overall (weighed average) the contraception failure rate is two per cent (i.e., two pregnancies occur per year in every hundred women using contraception) and if the period in a woman's life where she is fertile, sexually active and does not want children lasts twenty years (say from 20-25 then 30-45, but this period is longer in the real world) the probability of an unwanted pregnancy, assuming equiprobability, during a woman's life is: 2/5. (Of course risks are not evenly distributed, they vary with the method used and experience of the user, age, natural fertility of the individual).

That is the basic flaw in the "what is wrong with contraception" argument against abortion. To end speculation about what is considered by some to be extremely relevant in the abortion debate, may I add that I am both a 'she' and a member of the Gay Culture Society.

Andrea Duffy.

Halls!

DEAR EDITOR,—Ben Watson should be a journalist. His lucid piece "Halls Of Misery" in last "Beaver" was a well written mixture of myth and fact. The myth that nearly made me fart (and write this letter) was in his comparison between the residential halls and boarding school. The offending passage reads: "The main difference is that whereas in one the parent

pays the fees . . . in the other case the student pays the bill out of his or her pocket and . . . it amounts to well over half of their total revenue."

Come off it Benny, the State owns my pockets and yours too. This land ain't got much but compared with other countries the system of education finance is bloody great. If you go west young man, it costs about 25 buckeroos just to apply to a US University; "wanna prospectus? — around 8 green ones to you".

In most cases the State gives you gelt when you're suffering—when you're old, sick, out of work, poor, disabled, or have kids—we get a grant and an education. I do wish my present from Brent had more writing on it but at least I don't forget where it came from.

Yours much relieved,

T. C. Morris

SNIDELINES

KISS ME AL

LEADING Nelson impersonator Ali Newton sailed into Plymouth fist of war last week at Rosebery Regatta. Laugh-a-minute Al was in stitches (and still is) and is launching a new craze in eyepatches. Sporting a natty little black number this week, one is tempted to remind Admiral Newton that Trafalgar Day was five weeks ago.

A TORY IN WANDALAND

Ever eager to know what the Tory party are up to (as we all are) a leading general secretary wandad into the great unknown expanses of the Tory party steering committee. One wandas whether she was seeking nomination for the vacant post of

chairperson following the fall in the value of stock.

A CUDDLY THRUST THWARTED

Leading LSE ego-tripper (tripped up?) got himself into deep water with the women's group over his recent union election promotion of Thruster and the ski-boy Cuddles. Voyeurs of artistic publicity were thwarted in their searches for the historic documentation of this election by the fact that they had become collectors' items and were hard to come by (were they that explicit?).

INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH SCOTTIE

Top Beaver contributor (or that's what he puts on his re-

cruitment posters round Carr-Saunders) Adam Scott, was beamed from the starship Finance Committee by Captain Cruse of the USS Union Meeting into total oblivion to join the ranks of the totally unknowns which have included Phil Swan, Gordon Mowat and John Endoby. A hint from Peacock is that you should bring at least one friend along to vote for you Scottie. Over and Out.

A WILDE NIGHT FOR TOWERING INFERNO

Following the SNP clan gathering in the Fitzroy Street Flats last Saturday, the Wilde man—acting the proverbial elephant—accepted a 25p bet to

streak round the Post Office Tower.

It's a pity that Scotland does not boast its own Olympic sprint team, since it was felt that he should have won a brass monkey for the way he left two security guards standing erect.

GOD IN HIS HEAVEN

Glad to see those Gods of the Union, Wombat Pete, sidekick Crispin and the boy Wells have taken to sitting in the gallery during union meetings and watching over the affairs of mere mortals, or as the old Bornean proverb goes: "the more fools there are up there—the less there are to fiddle with the affairs of men." Could this mean fewer guest appearances

of Mart Peacock now that Mr "no-confidence-in-the-chair" In-grot has elevated himself to the rank of full god?

BORED LEFT

The sudden appearance of two non-aligned bored left members makes one wonder if the species Leftus Boredom has not actually died out in LSE. Our intrepid reporter, acting on information received, recently cruised into the finance committee and spotted a rare breed of Leftus Boredom—The Abstanis Drivis engaged in abstaining from a vote of support for fellow rare species Johnis I'm-a-fair-man Crusis. Rumour has it that other members of this endangering species have resurfaced in the Labour Club and CP.

Union news and views

400 Decibels Soc

WHICH Union Society do you think is responsible for the overwhelming predominance of "heavy rock" (I'm not too good on the jargon) among the music concerts held in lunchtimes and evenings at LSE, and subsidised by your funds. One presumes of course it would be the "heavy rock society." Well, brace yourself for a shock. There is no such society! You may be forgiven for thinking ENTS in some obscure way stands for rock music society, but no, it's a shortened version of entertainments, shortened version meaning the curtailment of everything less than 400 decibels.

Who then is responsible for the lack of traditional English music? The Traditional English Music Soc? — Indian music? — The IMS? — Political music? — The Broad Left? — No! Once again it's the responsibility of ENTS.

In short, ENTS must consist of a few white middle class, insular, blinkered and presumably also earmuffed, teenage heavy rockers, pursuing their own interests and boosting their own egos (occasionally they are allowed to touch the 'stars') with our money. And it's not just a little of our money. Last year £200 alone was spent on lunchtime concerts. Another £500 loss was made on evening concerts. I assume they have budgeted for an equal loss this year, though I am assured they always "try" to make a profit even after "drinks for the Band."

Obviously ENTS would reply that there is no demand for "African Dance and drum workshops" or the "occasional Sitar" and even if there were, there are societies specifically dealing with the various cultural groups who should provide such entertainment. If this is so, then maybe they would like to forego some of their loss and donate it to such societies to stage their own gigs. Maybe £50 for the Tawney Soc for "Old English Industrial Songs" and £100 to the India Society for "modern Sitar." It would be gratefully received. But on the whole, I'm sure most societies would rather use the expertise of ENTS in the field of entertainment, but see that expertise put to far better use by diversification of the interests of ENTS, to include music for which they claim "there is little demand" but I claim there would be less loss and most would find it more entertaining. Let's entertain all of the people some of the time.

I'm not saying "smash Ents" (though I might admit to occasional sympathy with the cry), I am saying hammer ENTS until they meet the demands of all the minority groups, not just the heavy rockers' minority group. If you would like a particular type of music, let them know forcibly. They should not be just interested in rock music. Its members are members because they are interested in entertainment. That's why the society gets such a large chunk of the Union Budget. If the present members of ENTS were only interested in 400-plus decibels, they would surely form a 400-plus society and manage to provide the same ragged electronic crap perpetually on a much reduced budget while ENTS got on with the task of entertaining us all.

So I beg the "Tawney Society," the "India Society," the "Mountaineering Club," the IMG, any individual, to crowd ENTS meetings and force them to diversify.

I also appeal to you to start asking questions about ENTS and their Budget. For example:

(1) If ENTS is a Union Society and claims to cater for our demands, why does it spend £140 on outside advertising in order to make a loss at a concert?

(2) Does the existing ENTS warrant a room of its own, complete with telephone, or could this room be put to better use by the Overseas Students' Action Committee, or our Academic Affairs Officer?

(3) Could ENTS please publish and circulate a complete and detailed account of every penny it managed to use last year?

(4) Please, ENTS, deny or defend the perennial rumours of misappropriation.

(5) Would you welcome and follow up any forceful suggestions of alternative concerts?

One last point: who said ENTS was only for music anyway?

B. L. W. Kirkman

Free enterprise campaign

THE Labour Government has realised that the best way to smash private enterprise is to destroy profits, thus forcing every major enterprise to turn to the mercy of the State for finance.

Why are profits so important? Profits form new investment, ensuring employment, a higher standard of living and long-term security for workers. Profits create the wealth from which we secure every social benefit, if you want to see cuts in public expenditure on a long-term basis, cut profits, profits are the source of the nation's wealth.

The pressure towards profitability is of paramount importance in the efficient running of a company, in that it imposes a discipline and internal cohesiveness in its search of a common goal. Also it is a measure of efficiency, there is no other indication of whether resources are being utilised to the maximum or wasted.

The repeated failure of cen-

trally organised industry to determine the needs of the economy or the demands of the consumer needs no reiteration, except to note that some of the Communist satellites have learnt the hard way and are now cautiously reintroducing the profit motive as a guide to what ought to be produced.

The loss of free enterprise means not only the loss of economic efficiency but of something more valuable, we lose our individual freedom and independence.

The alternatives involve authoritarianism, whether it is the authoritarianism of the corporate State, or the variety to be found in Eastern Europe. That is why the defenders of private profit are also the defenders of political freedom.

Workers are faced with two alternatives: a society in which they may choose their own lifestyle through market demand or a society in which the market is

determined by orders from the centre.

The latter form of society is being enforced upon us by Mr Wedgwood Benn as part of his great plan for industry.

When centralisation takes over, decisions which should be purely economic become open to political pressures, for example, a factory is built not where it is needed, but where an energetic politician has lobbied for it to be built. Capitalism is by no means perfect, indeed State intervention is both necessary and welcome as a curb on monopolies and in its function as a support to the weaker members of society.

What we face today is not a crisis of capitalism but the attempts of socialism at undermining private, profit-making industry. Each individual who values freedom and wishes to maintain reasonable living standards for everyone has a duty to support free enterprise.

Kay Forrester

Rev. reveals all

"HOPE is a very important thing today," says the Rev Paul Lewis. "The Christian and the Marxist share a hope for the future; while the Marxist sees this in terms of 'men' accomplishing things, the Christian is more realistic as man cannot change himself, and sees it in terms of men co-operating with God."

Many students may be unaware that LSE has a vicar at all, let alone one with a political and social conscience, and an awareness of student problems as has Paul Lewis. Recently he has been drawn into the limelight by the suggestion from the General Secretary and Senior Treasurer that he help in some way with Welfare, and is delighted with this opportunity to help Elana, the Welfare Officer. He is very much open to further suggestions of how to be used, and for the meantime will be meeting students in the community room on Tuesdays between 2.00 and 4.00 (free tea or coffee).

He feels that there are lots of lonely people at LSE, and sees the community room as "basically just a place for people to pop in and talk." But don't be apprehensive—he's not out to proselytise.

"I don't want people to think they are being nabbed and converted. The Community Room is for peace and quiet, or just to talk. I don't want people to be frightened off!"

Contrary to popular belief, the Rev Lewis is not paid by the School, and has no official function. He sees this as an advantage: "I have no official recognition from the School. I'm allowed to come in but I'm very much on the fringe. I can help people more because I'm not part of the establishment. Who can people go to? If they go to the Health Service, they don't always want to see a psychiatrist. Tutors are rather pressed by their timetables. Somebody who listens is very important—more than somebody who tells people what to do."

I asked Mr Lewis how he viewed his role at LSE. Listening is one of his top priorities, and helping people to be more themselves. He is interested in people becoming more "human." — "I am concerned with wholeness of body, mind and spirit—words like 'soul' don't communicate, but there's more to man than just body and mind." On a more practical level, however, he sees himself as the leader of the Christian Societies in conjunction with his three colleagues, the Catholic, Methodist and United Reform Church chaplains.

Mr Lewis is in LSE from Tuesday to Friday each week. On Tuesdays he holds an informal service, Agape (Room 404, 1.00 p.m.), which often includes non-biblical readings and poetry, and is followed by coffee and cheese. Usual turnout is about 15 to 20. On Thursdays he helps with the Christian Societies' bookstall outside the library. The

Eucharist is celebrated on Fridays (Room 509, 1.00 p.m.).

The Christian Societies are basically ecumenical but Catholics hold a separate mass (Room 404) and rejoin the others in the Beavers' Retreat.

The Christian Societies also hold meetings in Carr Saunders and Passfield and have a termly weekend in the country, and Mr Lewis holds a discussion group for academic and administrative staff on Wednesdays. For the benefit of the uninitiated, there are, in fact, two Christian associations at LSE, but Mr Lewis works mainly in conjunction with the Christian Societies.

There is also the Christian Union, which is of a more evangelical nature.

Mr Lewis is certainly aware of some of the problems at LSE, like loneliness, which he blames in part on the lack of a focal point; this is brought home to him by the remoteness and inaccessibility of his own office (1 Portsmouth Street).

He is very conscious of the difficulties faced by overseas students: "When people come from different cultures, it is very difficult to adapt. This is a reciprocal thing as people from this country find it difficult to relate to somebody of a different culture."

"LSE is an ideal learning situation. We have so much to learn from people of other countries, but often this opportunity is lost." Mr Lewis is certainly speaking from experience as he worked with the West Indian community in Tottenham for a time as a curate and was subsequently transferred to a theological college in Barbados. One of his mottoes is to "comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable," and he sees social and political awareness as inseparable.

Whilst even Christians have differences of opinion, he feels it is essential to have views and "not just wash one's hands and escape—this isn't what the Christian Gospel is about."

Lastly, I asked Mr Lewis if the Church did in fact have any relevance today; he was most emphatic: "The Christian gospel does provide a way of seeing life with a purpose. The task of the Church is to proclaim what God has done through Jesus Christ. People think of Jesus as abnormal and us as normal, when in fact it is the other way round. We have to grow like him, and it is only then that we become truly human."

M. G. Butterworth

P.S.: If you want to tell the Rev Lewis what you think, he can be found at his home, 12 Woburn Square, WC1, between 9.00 and 11.00 a.m. most mornings. (Tel. 01-637 1975).

BOB SWINGS TO BEAVER

MR McKenzie's life at LSE began with unofficial visits to Harold Laski's lectures in 1945-6. He became a graduate student in 1947, and was then appointed to the post of teaching assistant. He became a full-time member of the staff in 1949, and has been at LSE ever since. About London he declared: "I think it is the most interesting city in the Western world and the School is in the world league of great Universities." However upon the rumour that he was a member of the Communist Party in his youth, McKenzie proclaimed categorically "No. When I was a student leader I was opposed to what would now be called the Broad Left Alliance between the Marxist and the Social Democratic element."

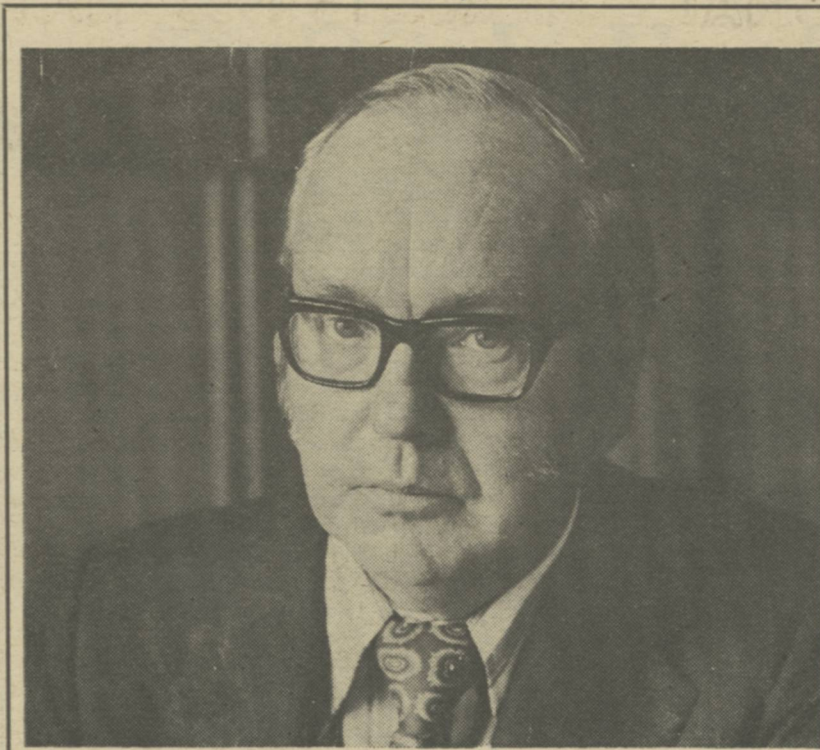
Regarding his career in political broadcasting he explained that it originally began with radio in North America: "In North America local radio began before there was national radio. Five independent stations existed in Vancouver, and it was easy to get on to discussions on the radio. You would go as a delegate to a student conference and be broadcasted. When I got here I was on £14 a month, which was the allowance for ex-service students, and I got a chance to do some broadcasting for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and American CBS. I used to help my allowance by doing freelance political broadcasting. My first television broadcast was when the BBC was doing a programme in Canada and I got involved in that. It grew from there." An interesting sideline for all supporters of the Labour Left is that when McKenzie began his radio career, Tony Benn was a radio producer at the BBC before regressing into politics. No further comment . . .

Beaver requested an opinion as to whether the BBC is politically biased: "I would not accept that it was in any sense a

biased organisation. In the past week or so I have interviewed Lord Hailsham and Andy Bevan, Trotskyist youth officer of the Labour Party. Its brief does involve however a primary responsibility to reflect the debate that exists in Parliament between the established parties. The public should, by this very powerful medium, be informed about the parties they will be choosing between in an election. McKenzie then went on to mention the controversial programme "Open Door": "The BBC gets into trouble with people over these programmes. One of the problems is that there is, in my view, too little access because there are too few local and other forms of broadcasting. My preference is for total access. We are proud in this country of "Open door" but in New York they have two open channels on a first-come-first-served basis. GLC politics ought to have more coverage in the mass media and also more access."

We asked, whether he considered TV had any effect on politics: "When people are asked where they get their information about politics, TV is named first ahead of the Press. The studies that have been made show that watching TV does not have a strong partisan influence one way or the other. People who watched TV during elections were better informed but voting patterns appeared to be the same."

"Beaver" then ventured to ask whether McKenzie considered that we should have a more open system of government: "We have almost the most secretive system of government in the Western world apart from the Vatican." He then went on to stress this silent element of British politics by recalling the so-called "Sunshine Acts" in the USA which specify that most federal public bodies will now have to open their meetings to the public. "There is an in-



Professor Robert McKenzie

stinctive British view that the more secretive government is, the better." He spoke of the renowned "anonymity of the Civil Service" and added that "every party pledges itself to open government and never does."

He had some explicit comments to make about corruption in British politics: "I do believe that there is far more corruption in British public life than meets the eye. I think there is a tendency to assume that the whole system assumes absolute integrity. "It is also assumed incidentally that the country has a totally uncorrupt police force. It is not easy to be vigilant in a secret system of government. In addition we have allowed financial institutions in the City to be far too self-regulating. There is a tendency to assume that we are all gentlemen together." It seems the British assume far too much. Concerning further exposures of corruption in supposedly high places he declared: "I think we have only seen the visible tip of the iceberg."

We then moved on to discuss

the warmer pastures concerning LSE and all things academic. "Beaver" asked if McKenzie felt there should be more open entry to University: "I am worried that the social background of LSE students has hardly changed in forty years. The proportion of students with working class backgrounds hasn't changed much, this is my first concern. Secondly when you add blackness to this problem of background, the problem increases—I have not yet had an indigenous West Indian student. I think we should be looking at this and believe we ought to seriously consider the American idea of "positive discrimination". I believe that if you can get a C or D grade from a "bookless" home, that is a black, broken or working class home, that may be a greater achievement than a B grade from a "booklined" home. If we decide to admit students with inferior qualifications we should be prepared to give them extra assistance, i.e. in tutorials." He mentioned that Israel is experimenting giving a year of pre-university training. "I think that we are building up problems for the future by our present policy, repeating the previous American pattern, especially regarding West In-

dians who are less motivated towards education than Asians, for instance."

"Beaver" then introduced the somewhat delicate question of examinations, remembering that McKenzie's Sociology Department has a more popular examination system. On the subject he said that he considers himself a "reformer" in assessment methods, and that in his student days he was "assessed by certain work during the year and at the end of each year," which he thought was "a fairer basis". "You were building up credits based upon performance." He considers that the reason for the prevalence of traditional examination techniques is that "people who run universities all got Firsts under the old system therefore they tend towards being conservative." In passing he mentioned that Japan seemed to be moving forward, unlike Britain, despite the fact that "everyone gets unclassified degrees, and they promote the academic staff by age not achievement." However, McKenzie would not go so far as to advocate that system!

We then asked if he thought that students are now more politically aware: "My impression is that students are less politically interested than say seven or eight years ago. We are much closer now to the early 60s situation." There was mention of the recent "Economist" survey, in which it was stated that university students are more politically conservative than their corresponding age group outside the university environment. University students are certainly "less political and less radical," than they were a few years ago.

McKenzie finished with some heartwarming comments for all those students with international aspirations: "To an almost unique degree to become a member of the LSE is to become a member of a world wide association." And were you aware that in Tokyo there are 300 members of the LSE Society. And remember this: "part of the joy of the place is that we have links all over the world."

Fiona Pitcher
Anton Chapman

... And Beaver swings to Murdoch?

A BID by Mr Rupert Murdoch, head of the News International newspaper empire and proprietor of the Sun and News of the World newspapers in Britain, to take over Beaver, the well-known student newspaper, has "fallen through", it was reported last night.

Mr Murdoch, it is understood, was keen to acquire Beaver not merely because of its reputation as a serious and brilliant journal, but also because of the vast profits which he believed he could make from it. "I believe I could turn a loss-making situation into a profit-making situation," he claimed.

Asked how he had proposed to

make a profit out of Beaver, Mr Murdoch said that he wanted to "liven it up a bit."

This was interpreted as a thinly-veiled reference to Mr Murdoch's notorious policy of filling his newspapers with pictures of undressed women, plus trivia galore.

Why, then, has the "deal" fallen through?

Reliable sources have led me to understand that the principal cause was the disagreement between Mr Murdoch on the one hand and the writers and editor of Beaver on the other.

It seems that one condition that

Mr Murdoch laid down was that, under his proprietorship, any journalist exhibiting "left-wing tendencies" should be excluded. "It seems to me that Beaver has fallen into the hands of a group of left-wing extremists," he stated, citing the fact that not all writers for Beaver were paid-up members of the Tory Party.

Mr Murdoch had also wanted the prerogative to appoint and dismiss the editor and writers of Beaver, as well as being able to veto any material which he deemed "inimical to the interests of the people of this University, i.e. the Director, the Court of Governors etc, and indeed my good self for that matter."

This, Mr Murdoch had claimed, was "absolutely vital", if the freedom of the Press was to be preserved. "In all too many cases that vital liberty is being destroyed," he alleged, citing the situation at The Sun where some "subversive elements" had actually had the temerity to demand that the people working for a newspaper should have some say as to what sort of newspaper it should be.

So Beaver's future hangs in the balance. Various proposals are being mooted: for example, a colour supplement; the acquisition of some big companies which would subsidise the paper; doubling the current

price; printing on recycled loo paper [this plan has been dropped, on the discovery that this already happens—Ed.]; and the Anarchist Group has suggested "doing your own thing"—blank sheets of paper would be distributed, and people could then write what they wanted to read.

Our resident philosopher adds: Saving Beaver? This does depend, does it not, upon whether Beaver already exists, empirically, as an entity in its own right, or whether it is a figment of my (or your) imagination, always assuming I exist . . . what is life, anyway? [Keels over and dies].

James Gausson

SO WHAT'S NEW?

NATIONAL SOCIALISTS 1933, NATIONAL FRONT?

MOST readers of *Beaver* are aware of the recent growth of the extreme right-wing in the British political process. In the coming elections the National Front proposes to put up over 200 candidates for Parliament, allowing its coverage in the mass media to be equivalent to that of the major political parties.

Though the National Front and its leaders have repeatedly denied that they are a fascist organisation, the similarity between their party and programme and that of the National Socialist Party which came into power in Germany is remarkable.

Fascism is an embarrassing subject in the European political vocabulary, and many explanations have been given for its cause by Western writers. The most famous, and the most palatable to Western liberals is the one which analyses fascism simply in the German context. Much has been written about the German psyche, tracing the root of the fascist outburst in the 1920s and 30s as being of a specifically German experience.

The second school of thought as exemplified by Franz Neuman, is the socio-economic one which maintains that the origin, rise and rule of the National Socialists manifested a crisis of capitalism, whereby the industrial elite forged an alliance with the middle classes to counter the increasing power of the working class. This alliance was the Third Reich and hence its ultra conservative-authoritarian orientation. Though both these schools of thought contribute something to the understanding of the fascist phenomenon, they ignore an important aspect brought out by Bracher.

Fascism a European Phenomena

Bracher claims that National Socialism cannot be viewed in purely German or purely economic terms. It is in fact a European phenomenon, and has its basis in totalitarianism which is possible only in a completely industrialised, centralised state. As such, true fascism can develop only in such states where the government is extremely powerful and the individual is atomised with no centres of traditional authority to mediate between him and the power of the state. Western industrialisation with its emphasis on mobility, the nuclear family and secularisation and long-term economic planning is the ideal environment.

This operational environment is common to all of Western Europe and Bracher's thesis is that given the required impetus of economic and social crises, fascist takeover is possible in any European state.

To realise how easily such a thing could happen in Britain, an analysis of the main features of Nationalist Socialism is illuminating.

Bracher reduces the ideology of the Anti front to be a combination of four tendencies:

- (1) A new essentially imperialist nationalism.
- (2) A conservative authoritarian glorification of the all-powerful state.
- (3) A nationalist statist aberration of socialism seeking to combine social romanticism and state socialism.
- (4) A volkish community ideology based on race which beginning as simple xenophobia turns into a radical biological anti-semitism.

National Socialism=N.F.

Taking these criteria as a starting point, a comparison of National Socialism in Germany and the National Front in Britain today can be attempted.

(1) The emphasis the National Front places on Nationalism is unmistakable.

Stuart Balfour in the October issue of "Spearhead," the Front magazine, says of the British people, "It is clear now that they will fight, fight to the end to preserve that one supreme value, their nationhood. The "common" people have a common set of values. These values are deeply rooted in their whole being by history, by tradition, by colour, by nationality, by birthplace and most important

of all by that binding heritage which they commonly share their nationhood."

(2) As for the conservative, authoritarian glorification of the state, liberal democratic government comes under fire by Spearhead in Oct., 1976:

"In the last few years the role of Parliament has come under increasing scrutiny and criticism. This is partly the result of Britain's submerging her identity in Europe, with the consequent limitation of the powers of national government as well as the demands for devolution by the Scots and Welsh 'nationalists'."

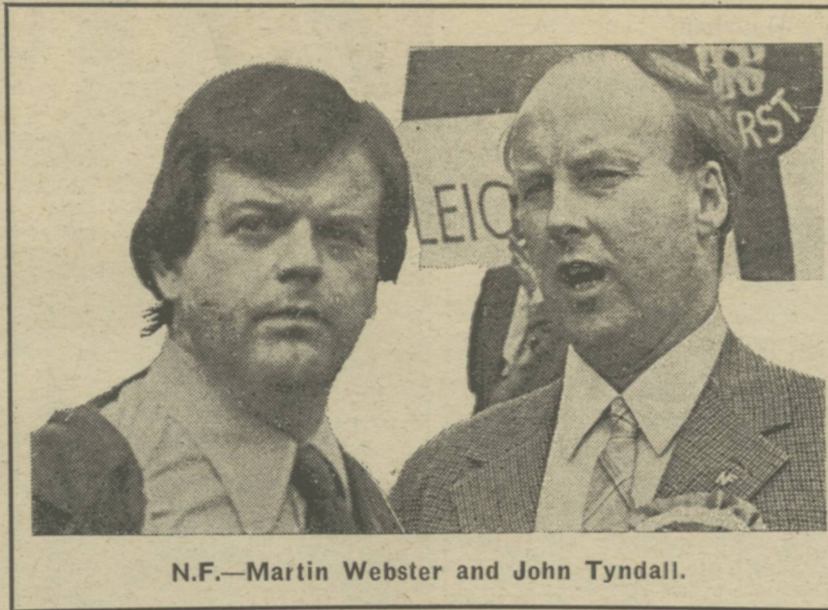
The case for a "volkish" community is an even more significant connection between Britain today and Germany in the 20's and early 30's.

Anti Semitism in Germany had flared due to certain specific causes:

(1) In Germany as a result of persecutions in Russia and Poland and the improved conditions in Central Europe there had been an increase in Jewish migration. This factor closely corresponds to the influx of coloured minority groups into Britain after the Second World War.

(2) Also Anti-Semitism was a welcome distraction from the serious economic and social problems of the early years of the Second Reich. The harassment of coloured minority groups in Britain today seems to be of a similar nature.

(3) Anti-Semitism was in Germany a manifestation of a rejection of western liberal thought, with whom the Jews were connected. This is true of the National Front today where



N.F.—Martin Webster and John Tyndall.

the coloured minorities are seen as being part of the socialist bogey that the National Front likes to play up.

Quoting again from "Spearhead": "Anyone who loves Britain and the British way of life must have been appalled at the mouthings of the Communist - Marxist - Trotskyist speakers who polluted the Trade Union Congress by their pro-alien outpourings."

Just as the growing conflict between the reality of an industrial urban world prone to crises and the poetic glorification of rural virtues, irrational life forces was linked to the repellent figure of the urban commercial Jew, so today the fall in living standards in Britain is linked to the coloured foreigner.

The N.F. in power

Having reached this point in the development of this thesis, I would like readers to suspend disbelief in the Coleridgean sense and assume that in a few years time the National Front assume power in Britain, what would be the consequences of such a change in government?

Two consequences are immediately apparent, i.e., the end of democratic government as it has existed in Britain so far, accompanied by the persecution of minority groups.

Serious though these changes would be they would not compare with the sort of international strife that such a change in British leadership would engender in the world.

Bracher has pointed out the necessarily militaristic aspects of fascism. This is a factor clearly elaborated for all who want to see, in the thinking of the National Front, John Tyndall, the leader of the front, has been for the past couple of months writing a series of articles entitled "British Defence—Time for New Thinking."

His statements are an eye-opener for anyone suffering from the misguided notion that a fascist takeover of political power in Britain need not involve anyone but the British.

In the Sept. issue he says—"Military thinking in Britain must therefore be interlocked with political thinking and the mutual isolation between military and civilian society must be no more, the two must see themselves as interdependent."

In the October issue the theme

is further developed—"Our first priority for defence then must be strong political leadership and a political leadership and a political system which gives to that leadership the necessary power to meet defence requirements in the very widest sense of the term. These requirements mainly are—

- (1) Military leadership and thinkers of the highest calibre. These can only be produced if the armed forces are given the necessary status and prestige within the national community for them to attract men of the best brains and talent.
- (2) All necessary funds for research experimentation and development in the most modern war technology.
- (3) The development on the home front of all the necessary industries to supply a modern war machine.
- (4) The creation within the nation of a climate of vigorous patriotism, defence consciousness and interest in military affairs.

(5) The institution of a reserve system whereby the whole of the manhood of the nation of military age can be quickly mobilised and trained for the event of a major war."

Britain the Super Power

The ominous nature of British fascist thought is unmistakable. This article is not meant to be an in depth study of the consequences of control passing into militaristic hands but a few points are worth considering.

Despite its economic problems Britain still possesses a fairly sophisticated industrial substructure. Britain is also a nuclear power.

As should be obvious to anyone by now, such a combination can be extremely volatile in the wrong hands.

It is, I think, ludicrous for industrialised states, both communist and capitalist, to be as concerned as they are over nuclear proliferation in under-developed Third World states.

What the international community should worry about at this stage is nuclear power in the hands of industrialised but dissatisfied states which can mobilise their armies and maintain a war effort for a longer period of time than states with no industrial substructure.

The incentives for adopting an aggressive international stance are in the short run for Britain fairly substantial. The threat of war could, as in the case of Germany, wrest considerable international concessions.

Ultimately however there has to be a point of no return. The war game has a deadly logic of its own and the catastrophe that may result cannot be contemplated.

Saboohi I. Ahmed,
3rd yr. B.Sc.Econ.
Int. Rel.

The march



Shown above is the LSE contingent taking part in last Wednesday's Anti-cuts Demonstration. Estimated at about 50,000, the March included members of NALGO, CPSA, SCPS, NUT, CHSS, The House of Commons and NUS.

Students in Politics:

A Problem of Contradiction

BACK in February 1968, in the aftermath of student unrest at LSE and other Universities, Kenneth Minogue, Senior Lecturer in Political Science, wrote an article in "Beaver" concerning the role of students in the governing of the University. As this is still a matter of serious contention at LSE—as there are still many committees on which there are no Student Union representatives—it seems a useful exercise to examine what Minogue was saying during those turbulent times, and to ascertain whether or not the bitter political wrangling has furthered the student position.

In this article entitled "Government no task for students", Minogue stresses the following:

"Possibly the main student disqualification is the fact that most students spend no more than three or four years at the school. They lack consequently, that salutary caution that most of us have who realised that we shall still be here in some years' time. We are slow to rip up the foundations for fear of the bricks falling on heads. Hence we realise that the University cannot be governed in convulsive twitches responding to the enthusiastic inexperience of each new student generation... students have to pass examinations. This often makes them anxious. They have a short-term interest in making it easier... Many of our students have little sense that a University is peculiar and unique as an educational institution... They fail to realise that much of the value of a University consists precisely in a certain remoteness from minute to minute excitements. They do not know that a University is (among other things) a pool of knowledge, memory, and skill, of great value in outlasting ephemeral passions and fashions... and student pressures commonly run counter to it."

Though it is accepted that extracts from what may be a carefully constructed article can construct a totally different meaning to the original, the above is, I feel, a fair reflection. This being so, it will inevitably provoke taunts of "reactionary" or the more "in" word at the moment "Fascist"! Granted much of what Minogue is stressing does not do much to enhance what John Griffith called "LSE's reputation as a radical and progressive institution"; yet he makes a most salient point in his analysis of the contradictory position of the student of Politics and Social Sciences (two really wordy subjects) who finds himself in a totally abstracted environment, offering refuge from the real problems in the comfort of the academic ivory tower.

This position presents major problems to the student political activist. As Blackburn in his "Student Power" and Crick and Robson in "Protest and discontent" (both compilations of the sub-culture of student movements and radical thought) point out that the particular structural conditions and social aura suitable for such radical movements have their own



Student Unrest.

characteristics that have remained dormant or latent through the civilised ages without being a major social force as such... (They may have been used in precipitatory functions).

But what of the individual student political groups? It needs sensibly to concentrate on the left side of the spectrum, for though it may be ascertained that in student politics apathy in fact rules, the left is generally felt to hold more sway than the right.

The situation in LSE offers itself as a prime target for analysis. Being a school of Political Science—at least in part—it obviously attracts the more extreme factions of opinion. This leads to a centre that will inevitably be composed of a tight-knit group of people passionately and politically concerned. It is not a mere ephemeral phenomena for these students, as Minogue suggests.

This passionate group of which I spoke above however faces the excruciating problem of contradiction. Minogue is right that all academic institutions attempt to engender a certain remoteness from everyday life. This has undoubted benefits in that it is more easy to work free from external pressures than subject to them. They should also allow for expansion of the mind "unpolluted" by the vagaries of the "big bad world" (This is idealistic, of course, but perhaps not a bad idea).

Where the contradiction comes is that politics requires experience of that "big bad world". The student politician protected from the realities outside can dream his ideals, but never really be taken seriously because it is recognised by those "in the know" that they

will feel better after meeting with reality. This produces a circular argument that denies the students any real say in any real matter of importance. And unfortunately in most cases this is true.

Today we are seeing the emergence of ultra-left political factions such as I.S., using a broader base than mere student affairs to form their platform.

"3 years a student, 40 years a worker" is a very real social fact that is perhaps more relevant to the student politician than even the dogmatic strains of I.S. realise.

The problem facing the student politician is how to formulate ideals—that can be pure in abstraction—and immerse oneself in the real world where the ideals are supposed to operate. It is of course a long recognised political problem. I believe the student political movement—in shedding itself of dogma and direct conflict with the authorities for conflict's sake alone—can make deep inroads into this solution. And the academic fringe who look down wistfully upon upstart students, shaking their heads in stern seniority may well loan themselves from the experiences of the unfortunate Clark Kerr, Director of Berkeley, California during the troubles of the early sixties.

"The protest and outrage of each generation of undergraduates is one of the most predictable controversies that we know. The participants go through a ritual of hackneyed complaints almost as ancient as academe, whilst believing that what is said is radical and new."

(Kerr, 1963 Bodkin lectures)
"They took us completely by surprise..."

(Kerr, January 1964)
David Lowry

REVIEWS

Handel Opera Society

THE Handel Opera Society exists to give stage productions of the dramatic works of Handel, many of which have not been performed professionally in Britain since the composer's death. Each year the Society has a short season at Sadler's Wells, this year putting on an opera, "Ariodante", and an oratorio, Belshazzar.

Ariodante's story is extremely complicated, in true operatic tradition, and the singing was generally of a high standard. Patricia Kern successfully conveyed the changing moods of Ariodante, lightly and charmingly singing "I taught my heart to fly" when all is well, movingly singing "For without her I shall die" when all seems lost.

David Bacon comes across as a benevolent king and James Bowman, despite the somewhat gormless expression on his face, succeeded in playing a suitably evil Polineno. The acting by the singers was good—the madness and despair expressed by the rejected Ginevra was particularly dramatic and effective—though I feel that the inter-relationships between the characters could have been portrayed rather better. The ballet sequences by students of the Ballet Rambert were stylishly executed, adding to the overall excellence of the production.

"Belshazzar", based on a biblical story, is rather different in tone from "Ariodante". Although really an oratorio, it is acted out with much drama, the action being an important facet of the work. The chorus has much to do, for it plays three groups. Each group requires the creation of a different atmosphere: hedonistic Babylonians, determined Persian soldiers, solemn Jews, and in this a great degree of success was achieved. The interaction of sentiments is of central importance: the noble Daniel, Cyrus and the Jews and Persians generally, played against the ignoble Belshazzar and the rest of the drunken Babylonians.

Richard Hill made Daniel an imposing character and his fine singing was clearly appreciated by the audience. Ann Wilkins made Cyrus a most effective man; not an easy task when of the opposite sex. Belshazzar, played by Raymon Remedios, is seen to be intractable and through effective singing and acting his increasing obsession is clearly apparent. It is particularly praiseworthy in this production that the singers acted as well as they sang.

Excellent performances like this can only encourage once-reluctant audiences to enjoy Handel and other composers who have been in obscurity for too long. Sadler's Wells Theatre is in Rosebery Avenue and is well worth discovering. It has a varied and interesting programme (at the moment the Salzburg Marionettes are on there) and at the absurdly cheap price of student stand-by tickets, it is a source of entertainment not to be missed.

Jonathan Richmond

LAND FOR THE PEOPLE — H. Girardet

"Land for the People", compiled by Herbert Girardet. (Crescent Books, £1.20).

THE book's central theme is the need to change the emphasis of our society. It is no longer viable to think in terms of increased industrialisation. We must increase our food production without the use of fertilisers that require the import of raw materials.

The critique of present agricultural policy is impressive. The reader is presented with a well-documented and succinct argument that shows the inability of various plans to deal with shrinking world markets and increasing world food prices.

However, its practical suggestions are less well thought out. There seems to be a certain amount of confusion as to how a more rural society is to be achieved, through legislation, popular action or magic. The land question is not explored in conjunction with other issues, and only partial solutions are offered.

If it is used as an introduction, with its weaknesses criticised, it will enable the reader to get a firmer understanding of the problems facing this country and industrial society as a whole.

Fabian Tompsett

Encyclopedia of the Third Reich

Students of the history of the Third Reich will find a new book by the American expert, Louis Snyder, of great use. The book, rightly called "Encyclopedia of the Third Reich", provides the reader with a ready reference to anyone and anything of importance connected with this "fateful era" in German history.

This superbly produced book is unique in its comprehensiveness which is hardly surprising in view of the fact that the author has given much of his academic life to the study of this period of Germany history. The book includes comprehensive bibliographies of all books and articles of importance. At £8.95 the book is well out of the reach of most students' pockets, but will doubtless find its way into the better history libraries. The book is published by Robert Hale.

Paul Wilce

ENTSNEWS

A CHRISTMAS
ROMP WITH MUD

Saturday, Dec 11th, 8 pm, Great Hall, City University, St John Street, EC1. Tube: Angel.

Basically LSE Ents secured the booking and City University have the best venue. MUD are one of the few successful chart-orientated groups who present a truly professional and highly entertaining live act. Their current show costs almost £1,000 a day to maintain on the road and requires around five tons of equipment. Students and staff are very welcome along with friends, brothers, sisters, parents and relations. Tickets are a mere £1 each to those in possession of a valid LSE NUS card, £1.20 in advance to non-LSE students, or £1.40 on the night. Hopefully, two other bands will be on the bill: "JUICE" and "90 INCLUSIVE" who are an intriguing new reggae act. This is perfect end-of-term entertainment and if enough people are interested coach parties can be arranged that will tour every hall of residence and arrive in good time at City University.

Come to the musical festivities on Saturday, December 11th

TUES, 30th NOV (14)
(in conjunction with Film Soc)
"VISITOR '20/35"

An impressive new jazz-rock-junk band à la Chick Corea, Larry Coryell etc. FREE! 8.30 in the Old Theatre immediately following the film "Fritz the Cat".

SATURDAY, 4th DEC., 7.45 pm
"JOHN MARTYN"

This booking is the envy of every other college in the country! LSE Ents has secured a

MUD



one-off concert appearance which marks John Martyn's return to the British stage after an absence of one year. For the uninitiated he is rated as one of the world's finest contemporary guitarists, having mastered the use of echoplex, feedback and harmonics to the point where he appears to be weaving as complex a web of sound as could normally be produced by three musicians. John's dislike for the music business is well known and this appearance is aimed almost exclusively at the

student audience, so please spread the word. Tickets are £1.20 in advance from the LSE Union Shop, although a limited quantity will be available on the night. Support act to be announced.

THURSDAY, 9th DEC., 7.45 pm
LSE/KCL Geography Association Dance
at the multi-purpose Hall in King's College.
"SPITERI"
and
"RAW FUNK"
Tickets 50p.

FRIDAY, 3rd DECEMBER
8.00 - 11.00 pm
3 Tuns S.U. Bar Night
"SPITERI"

We bring to the Three Tuns an explosion of genuine Latin American rhythms in the form of SALSA! Dismiss any Ed-mundo Ros images from your mind and prepare yourself for "Spiteri". Admission is free. SALSA is the traditional music form and rhythm pattern of Latin America, Cuba and Puerto Rica, reset for the expatriate populations living in the major American cities. The core of the band is two Venezuelan brothers whose history includes a hit single in their home country plus working with musicians of the calibre of Stomu Yamash'ta.

Remember to make a date for Friday, December 3rd and support the Three Tuns bar.

Andy Cornwell

immemorable but are nice to listen to. Perhaps this explains why McTell recently disclaimed the album publicly. With Christmas fast approaching, this album will be a nice stocking filler for avid McTell fans who would prefer to receive it as a present rather than buy it themselves.

Verdict: Good music and performance; poor McTell.



Ralph McTell: Right Side Up

McTell's recent rise to superstardom comes as no surprise to his followers who have spanned his performing and recording career from its beginning. McTell's latest album, *Right Side Up*, will be known more for its superb delivery and production than for its content. Aply supported by Danny (the human tripod) Thompson, Rod Clements, Dave Pegg and John (electric weather) Martyn, Ralph McTell demonstrates that his talent as a performer and musician can conquer a fairly indifferent set of songs.

The album provides an adequate beginning and finish in "San Diego Serenade" and "May you never"; neither is written by McTell, the latter written by John Martyn. "Weather the Storm" is a Kristofferson-like jumble of contradictions saved by a catchy chorus. "Naomi" and "Chairman and the little man" are very 'sixty-ish.

A glimmer of old McTell magic reaches out from "From Clare to here" (remember "Noble Savage", "Nettle wine", "Maginot Waltz", etc). The rest of the numbers are instantly

The Other Film Society

The existing film society at the L.S.E. fulfils the wants of a lot of students for commercial films but there seems to be a demand for a wider variety of film (with necessarily a lower profit margin). So we are undertaking an experimental project showing three films this term and further films next term. Next term's films will be chosen by members of the audience who show interest in the three films this term; the only criteria of including any film in the programme shall be a limited opportunity of seeing it and that it should be sufficiently interesting and controversial—the latter because we intend to have discussions after the showings and/or try to get people along who are actually involved in making films.

WINSTANLEY K. Brownlow/A. Mollo (90 min.) GB 1975

The film, set in 17th-century Surrey, is built around the attempt of a group of ex-soldiers and their families, demobilised and disillusioned now that Cromwell is seated firmly in power and promises of change have been forgotten, to build an agricultural commune, strong only in their belief that the common land belongs to the common people. Genuine 17th-century chickens and cows, the help and advice of Christopher Hill, the very gawkishness of the largely non-professional cast combine to give this film a very different sort of realism. (MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 7 pm, OLD THEATRE).

BLANCHE W Borowczyk (92 min). France 1971

"Blanche" is a romantic drama set in 13th-century France concerned with the loves, jealousies and misunderstandings between the occupants of a nobleman's castle. Made in a Romantic tradition (Borowczyk has not tried to make an authentic re-creation of the period), this is above all else a beautiful fantasy, contrasting with the harsh and ugly reality of Bresson's "Mouchette". Good acting, good sets, good use of period music, good film. (MONDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 7 pm, OLD THEATRE).

MOUCHETTE R. Bresson (82 min). France 1967

"Mouchette", like Bresson's earlier "Diary of a Country Priest", is adapted from a novel by Bernanos and recounts the bleak last 24 hours in the life of a 14-year-old heroine (a non-professional, as are the others of the cast). She is not a lovable character and any sentiment is left unstated in Bresson's precise economical use of film. But the film is powerful—one feels relief rather than any other emotion at the girl's suicide. A good film and a must if you haven't seen any Bresson—if you have you'll come anyway. (MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7 pm, OLD THEATRE).

Inside Radio London

HIDDEN away from the bright lights of London in Marylebone High Street is the nerve centre of the least well-known London radio station, B.B.C. Radio London. In fact to enter the control complex you must pass through the publicity office via what seems almost a black entrance. But what goes on inside?

The best way to exemplify what is Radio London is to examine its ethos alongside its sister and brother Capital Radio and L.B.C. The latter two more widely-heard stations cater for a different audience. Both are commercial. This fact is important as regards structure and the outlook of each station, for being commercial concerns means that listening figures are of paramount importance. There is also the enormous benefit of being able to promote wide-ranging and lucrative advertising gimmicks, thus allowing a large potential income to finance the use of big names (Everett, Aspel, at Capital *et al* at L.B.C.)

In contrast, Radio London is operative within the auspices of Aunty Beeb. There is a considerable amount of autonomy allowed—but all finances are channelled via the network corporation. The staff are, however, allowed almost unprecedented freedom in the making of their programmes.

At present Radio London is treading the dangerous trail between a local community station and a commercial station—"commercial" in the sense that it is pampering in part to what is apparently a widespread desire for popular music played at peak times. The danger lies in the fact that the more virulent

role, the community role it has within its grasp could slip away from Radio London.

The method of approaching the seemingly insurmountable problem of treating London as a community (a total entity) is one of both enterprise and compromise. What has developed is a series of "minority" programmes such as 'Fishing Club' or those directed at ethnic groups. Disappointingly the experiment of access radio, the only real form of community radio, is gradually being phased out—possibly because of the underlying competitive air that drifts in from the commercial stations, illogically giving the management the desire to compete directly with "popular" mass appeal broadcasting. The latter is easy: let's hope B.B.C. Radio London begins to revert back towards its erstwhile (if more difficult) policy of being a community station. Its value lies there—not elsewhere.

David Lowry



ODDS 'N' SODS

Beaver buggered

BEAVER is on the threshold of collapse. This is due to financial problems and is only one of many facing the Union, but perhaps the most important one. The result will be fewer and smaller Beavers in the coming months. However, this can be changed with your help. If BEAVER is given more money we will be able to function as usual on a regular fortnightly basis.

BEAVER is financed in two ways: from funds given by the Union and by revenue from advertisements placed in the paper. The latter has amounted to very little this year but then we have to compete with all the student newspapers in other London colleges, plus Sennet, plus the newly-formed National Student, which more import-

antly is distributed nationally. Our rates are competitive but our circulation is limited and obviously the advertiser is prepared to pay more to reach a much wider number.

The BEAVER Budget has in effect been cut as well. This was due to what amounts to a cock-up over the Student Handbook. This was supposed to be self-financing and for the first time, this summer, we joined a student-run space-selling agency. They contacted advertisers and took the ads and then gave them to all the London colleges. This system was meant to ensure that advertisers had blanket coverage of the London student market and that colleges could rely on substantial advertising revenue.

It now seems clear that the

agency were under-charging the advertisers and instead of our Handbook being self-financing, we have been landed with a bill of over £400. Due to the vagaries of our Union finance, the sum has to come from Publications under which the only real heading is BEAVER, and so we have had to foot the bill.

BEAVER urges you to attend the Budget Meeting this Friday and help pass a vote referring our part of the Budget back to the Finance Committee for an extra allocation of funds.

BEAVER is your newspaper and is totally dependent on you for support, so if you want it to continue being published, come along to the Old Theatre and make yourself heard.

ANTON CHAPMAN.

S.A. Day: Dec. 3rd

PROGRAMME

TEACH-IN

10.30 a.m. The Political Economy of Apartheid.
12 noon The International Dimensions of the Conflict in Southern Africa.

SOLIDARITY MEETING

1.30 p.m. Resistance in Southern Africa.
Speakers from the Liberation Movements:
Aziz Pahad (African National Congress of South Africa) on "The British Connection."
Nkosazana Dlamini (South African Students Organisation on "Soweto and After."
Peter Katjavivi (South West People's Organisation) on "The Struggle in Namibia."
A speaker from the Zimbabwean Patriotic Front on "The Significance of Geneva."

FILM

4.00 p.m. Granada TV's "THIS WEEK" Team Report: "South Africa—There is No Crisis."

BENEFIT CONCERT

7.30 p.m. SOUTH AFRICAN JAZZ with the "LOUIS MAHOLO UNIT." Tickets £1.

Table-tennis club

LAST year saw the revival of an organised table tennis club, and the response this year has been extremely encouraging with over seventy members.

The club has a dual objective—its social aspect, which makes playing standards immaterial. Secondly, its competitive aspect which caters for the pro-

vision of competitive matches and professional coaching.

The club meets twice a week—on Wednesday mornings between 10-1, and Fridays between 2-5. All the necessary equipment is provided by the club and new members are still welcomed.

H. JUMA.

(Captain of T.T. Club).

Carlyle's House

TUCKED away in a quiet part of Chelsea is the house of Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) who in his own time was acknowledged as a great philosopher, historian and essayist.

Although born in Scotland, he decided with his wife in 1834 to take up residence in London. After a long search for a house they settled on No. 5 (now No. 24) Cheyne Row, a three-storey building with attic and basement built in 1708.

Though his works are today little read, his house is open to visitors who may see it furnished as it was when the Carlyles lived in it. The rooms contain much of their original furniture and many of their personal belongings.

On the first floor is the library, where Carlyle wrote "The French Revolution." One can see his reading chair with adjustable book-holder, large book-cases and other interesting furniture. The wallpaper is a fine example of a design by William Morris—a willow pattern which looks as if each leaf was painted by hand.

Mrs Carlyle was keen on decalcomania, the Victorian pastime of pasting postcards and cuttings on to furniture, and there is a screen which is a good example of this.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the house is the sound-proof attic, which for a while served as Carlyle's study. He had become so irritated with the noise from neighbours' houses (parrot, piano, etc.) that he converted the attic into a sound-proof room. The sides were insulated from the outer walls of the house with narrow closets, and sliding panels covered the skylight. The room was not a success (parrot and piano could still be heard) and today rattles and hums as aircraft fly over and cars pass outside.

On the wall is an amusing letter to Carlyle from Disraeli which begins: "Governments should recognise Intellect."

Elsewhere are his clay pipes, hip-bath, walking stick, books and fire irons. He was also active in his garden, which today is filled by a huge fig tree and tool shed, but still worth a few minutes' visit.

To get there, take No. 11 bus in the Strand along Kings Road to the top of Oakley Street. Walk down Oakley Street, taking first road on right, then first left into Cheyne Row. Entrance costs 20p for students, and the guide book another 25p. (Proceeds go to National Trust).

The absence of electric lighting explains the peculiar closing time: Wednesday-Saturday 11-1; 2-6 or dusk if earlier. Sunday 2-6 or dusk. The house is closed during December and reopens in January.

JIM NASON.

LIBRARY

A STUDENTS' Union Library Committee has been formed. We hope to produce a questionnaire regarding suggestions and complaints about Library facilities and would like proposals for items to be included on this. If you have any ideas, please leave them in the Beaver office.

Library Committee meetings are open and details of the next will be in Daily News.

'New Poetry'

A NON-PROFIT making magazine of new writers and established poets. Single copies sell at 65p each. Subscriptions for one year £2.50. Send to:

Workshop Press Ltd., 2 Cullon Court, Granville Road, London, N4.

Football

(1) October 27th:

LSE II 5, Bedford II 4

FOLLOWING a catastrophic first half in which three dire defensive errors allowed Bedford to take a convincing but unworthy 3-0 lead, the comics showed their character when Jimmy Wignall banged in a hat-trick to level the scores within ten minutes of the restart.

Ten minutes later they took the lead when Nick Hely-Hammond converted from the penalty spot after a rather unnecessary hand ball. However, despite continuous raids by LSE, it was Bedford who scored next.

The LSE reply came immediately as Paul Knowles rammed in the winner to end Bedford's run of 29 games without defeat.

(2) Nov. 3rd:

LSE II 2, Sussex 1 (U.A.U.)

With a 6-0 win over I.C. III behind them since their battle against Bedford, the Seconds entered this game in an optimistic frame of mind that was not to prove unjustified. Dominating as usual in midfield and raiding powerfully through the tough Sussex defence, the Comics were denied a more convincing scoreline by the Lewes Town goalkeeper who was "guesting" for the day.

It was with some surprise and disappointment, however, that they saw Hely-Hammond's early goal pulled back just before half-time.

The second half was almost all one way traffic, although a brilliant save from Dodswell was required to keep Sussex out and it wasn't until the 83rd minute that Patterson scored the winner.

Much merriment followed as the victorious LSE team rallied well with the 2nd Rugby XI in the bar.

DESMOND HACKNEYED.

LSO festival

ON Saturday, November 27th, the LSO Women's Sub-committee is organising a day long festival at ULU with a social in the evening where 'Jam Today,' a new women's rock band, is playing.

Various events throughout the day include films, theatre and discussion groups, campaigning workshops, and practical workshops on running a theatre group, making posters and music.

The films are "Coup per Coup," "The James Whiter than White Show" and "Salt of the Earth." The Woman's Theatre Group are performing "Work to Role." Discussion groups are on "Self-help," "Images of Women in Media," "The Women's Movement—How? Where? What? WHEN?" The campaigning workshops are on sexism in education, Lesbians and "A Woman's Right to Choose."

Come along! — if you're curious or already committed: there'll be something to your taste. And enjoy a non-sexist bop in the evening!

Tickets from the Women's Group or at the door—50p for the day, 30p for the day Creche, available at ULU, Malet Street, 10.30 a.m.

CHILE

ON sale now is a small book entitled "Introduction to Chile." It is a very well drawn Cartoon History by Chris Welch which is consistently amusing and in places quite hilarious.

It costs the small sum of £1 and can be obtained from the Economist Bookshop or by contacting the Chile Solidarity Committee.



THIS BEAVER was produced by Anton Chapman, Peacock, Richard Kitchen, Carol Saunders, Liz, Hans, John Emerson, P.B., David Lowry, Sheree, James Gausson, Feee, and Katy.

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

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EXAMS

ALL Heads of Departments are at present considering proposals to change the examinations methods used in the School. It's odds on that few of them plan to consult students; so if you want to have a say in the manner in which you are examined, act now; delay, and the decisions will be taken without you.

Ask your Head of Department for a copy of the proposals s/he is considering. Make sure that the matter is on the agenda for discussion at your next staff/student committee meeting. If there isn't another meeting this term, then ask for a special meeting. Next ensure that your departmental student representative is on the Committee of Undergraduate Studies, and put forward your views when it considers the matter on December 6th.