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BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

No. 129B MARCH 14th, 1974

'TO PRETEND THAT THEY (STUDENTS) 'ARE THE SAME... IS SIMPLY UNREALISTIC'

-Roger Alford illustrates staff elitism at L.S.E.

AGAINST S.C.R. MOTION

IN 1972 a motion to open the Senior Common Room (SCR) and the Senior Dining Room (SDR) to all members of the School was defeated by a large majority. The present motion proposes to open only the SDR, but its underlying aim is the same, and the case against it is essentially the same, as that which led to the defeat of the earlier motion.

The SCR and the SDR both perform a most important function in allowing teachers, distinguished academic visitors, senior administrators and librarians to mix easily together for the discussion of academic and other matters of common interest and for occasional relaxation in congenial surroundings. Without this the School would lose something which most members find very valuable, and the SDR is as important as the SCR for this purpose.

All of us wish to see student refectory facilities greatly improved, and in due course Strand House will help to make this possible. But because there are about eight times as many students as there are members of the SCR, any attempt to improve matters in the short run by opening the SDR to students must be expected to lead to a worsening of the facilities for members of the SCR about eight times as great as the improvement for students. This would be a quite disproportionate loss to SCR members for a slight and temporary gain to students.

The need for more facilities where staff and students can mix may also be put forward as a reason for opening the SDR to students. One of the main

purposes of the Robinson Room was to provide such facilities; but recently the Robinson Room has been under-used, and the SCR Committee had to play an active part in stopping its opening hours from being seriously curtailed because of this under-use.

A further argument has been that staff and students are both members of the university and should therefore share common facilities. But it is simply a fact that staff and students are significantly different populations in terms of age, duration of stay at the School, academic attainment, income, responsibility for others, etc. They are, of course, complementary populations and in many cases there is mutual friendship and high regard; but to pretend that they are the same, and that therefore the same refectory and social facilities will be equally appropriate and acceptable to both groups, is simply unrealistic.

The message is clear. The staff, given their age and stage, can reasonably expect to have their own facilities such as the SCR and the SDR. Student refectory facilities should, and in due course undoubtedly will, be improved; but there is no case for opening the SDR to students, which would worsen the situation of the staff out of all proportion to the gain to students.

Finally, the ideological argument for common facilities for staff and students must be rejected by any person who is willing to consider the facts. The motion before the members of the SCR should therefore be rejected, as was the earlier motion.

ROGER ALFORD

FOR S.C.R. MOTION

IT is some time — May 1973 to be precise — since a group of 39 signatories submitted the attached motion to the Senior Common Room Committee asking that it be put to a postal ballot of SCR members.

The Committee were not prepared to accept it as it stood and asked that a series of amendments be made; the signatories felt that it was not the Committee's place to amend or edit motions and asked that it be presented in its original form.

This was not agreed to and finally seventeen of the original

signatories submitted a request under Rule 9(b) of the SCR calling for a General Meeting of the SCR to discuss the motion. The Committee felt against calling a General Meeting and finally agreed to put the motion in its original form; they requested that this be accompanied by two statements, one for and one against the motion and we, as two of the original signatories, have composed the brief note which follows in support of the motion.

In 1971 the S.C.R. considered and rejected a proposal to admit all registered students of the School to full membership. The current proposal is more modest — that full use of the eating facilities on the fourth floor of the main building should be available to all who work or study at the School, but that the S.C.R. proper (the lounge with periodicals) shall remain the exclusive preserve of SCR members and their guests, as at present. We believe that this compromise

should meet the need expressed by many members for a place where confidential conversations may be conducted.

The arguments in favour of ending the exclusivity of SCR eating facilities were discussed in some detail in 1971, and so need only be touched on here. They include:

that opportunities for easy and informal contact between staff and students will be markedly improved; that the gross disparity between the facilities and service available to different sections of the School population will be reduced; and that a real source of a sense of injustice and a bar to the development of a sense of community will be removed.

We urge our fellow members to vote for the proposal, and so remove an anomaly which does the School no credit.

MIKE REDDIN
JONATHAN ROSENHEAD

BEWARE

"Beaver" regards it as essential that a notice be printed reminding everyone at LSE that there are examinations next term. You may be excused if this fact has escaped your attention.

BEAVER SAYS...

MR R. F. C. Alford's Darwinianism is as badly argued as its elitism smells. First he sees an implicit policy ("the underlying aim") where none exists ("the current proposal is more modest"). Secondly he seems to think that an enrichment of academic life is only possible by the exclusion of much of its brainpower.

Thirdly, his disgusting egotistical approach to the use of LSE facilities ("opening the SDR to students must be expected to lead to a worsening of the facilities for members of the SCR about eight times as great as the improvement for students") displays a self-centred shortsightedness.

If staff eat in the refectory which is missing rich students who are in the SDR, do they not benefit? As an Economics freak, Mr Alford's approach to life shows a certain intellectual schizophrenia. Fourthly, why would the gain to students be only "temporary"? Fifthly, has the Robinson Room been under-used, as he claims? Students on going to the RR at dinner-time have found little food left and most of the seats filled by staff.

Mr Alford's sixth major point is that "staff and students are significantly different populations". With students who are older than some of their lecturers, students who have qualifications of greater variety than their "superiors", students who

have had richer experiences than their "leaders", there is the possibility that they may be "significantly different populations" but not in the direction that Mr Alford thinks.

Contained in this paragraph is the claim that an Economist knows the individual minds of both groups; perhaps Mr Alford should contact the Psychology Department with the news of his latest scholarly triumph. "Finally the ideological argument for common facilities for staff and students must be rejected by any person who is willing to consider the facts." What is the "ideological argument"? He doesn't say. What are the "facts"? We can't see any. Mr Alford "should therefore be rejected".

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The SCR motion was defeated by 226 votes to 71. Judging from the motion against, it seems that none of the staff are sufficiently committed to equality or treating their students as intelligent beings. Could this be the reason that LSE is such an unstimulating dump?

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STUDENT NEWS : LETTERS

Dear Beaver,

I would like to draw your attention to certain discriminatory practices in LSE's own Careers Advisory Service. Having attended the LSE in 1971-2, I recently visited them for advice and information about jobs going in my field. The woman behind the desk told me that they only had information about two jobs in this field, and both specified "men only."

When I expressed surprise at the fact that the Careers Office would accept such a discriminatory advert, I was told "but if we refused it, a male student who might have wanted the job wouldn't have his chance." I then asked if they ever received job adverts "for women only". The interviewer brightened. "Oh yes, so you see it is quite fair." Were these jobs of similar nature and/or pay, I asked. Well, they didn't keep records, but they were mostly, you know, teaching and administrative assistants (i.e. fancy secretaries), women's kinds of things you see.

Could I at least see these "men's jobs" she had mentioned? It wouldn't hurt to apply and see what happened, would it? Well, they couldn't really do that, you know. Their job was simply to pass on to students any job notices they received from employers, and whereas "SOME women MIGHT want men's jobs", this wasn't really their business, and if that wasn't what the employers had asked for, well... they are there to serve ALL the students you know... don't want to alienate anyone...

Is this the kind of service that LSE students want? (And—interesting question—does the Careers Office also accept notices of jobs "for whites only"?). Do you, men students at LSE, want to accept jobs that your women classmates were barred from even applying for? It is hard enough finding a decent job in this society

anyway, and men students might not wish to further restrict their chances.

What are YOUR priorities? Have you, or will you, refuse to apply for a job this season? Have you told them why?

How many other women students or ex-students have had this experience? And how much are they keeping back from us? Have you ever asked the Careers Office if they were failing to tell you of vacancies they knew about because of your sex?

Other questions need to be asked: Has Union, with its male-dominated Executive, even bothered to pass one of its standard "We deplore" motions on the issue of anti-women discrimination in LSE? Much less ever questioned why only one-third of LSE undergrads are women and only one-tenth of the graduate students? Or wondered about the paucity of women lecturers LSE employs, except in Soc Admin? (Three cheers for the first to explain why not Soc. Admin.!).

Could anyone—maybe the women's liberation group—investigate the number and types of job notices that Careers Advice receives—and passes on—in "male only" and "female only" categories?

Such protests would be the first step only. I would suggest that one goal should be to stop the LSE from propagating any discriminatory employment notices. (Students could then move on to LSE's own internal discrimination against women!).

The LSE as a university does have a reputation, justified or not, and if LSE's Careers Advice were to refuse to accept such adverts, some employers might even take notice of it.

But have any LSE students taken notice of this yet?

In sisterhood,
LOUISE JACOB

DESPERATE NEWS

HEARTLESSLY and viciously cutting out the most demanding of cases, I calculate that the Overseas Students' Fund, NEEDS, at the barest of minima, £968. To be fair to the applicants, the fund should be £3,380; all it commands at the moment is £550.

After reading the 34 letters, one feels cruel when judging between the poverty stricken and those too poor to qualify for the title—especially when the task of calculating what each deserves it bounded by an artificial upper limit of £120 per person.

JACOSS has done nothing other than suggest that one of the poorest Student Unions in the country transfer money from its reserves into the Fund. In terms of individual wealth JACOSS is in the best position to raise the necessary loot. If the Miners' Support Group can be so successful, why not JACOSS? This point becomes more cogent when one is informed that JACOSS is pressing the LSE authorities to lower the £1,000 income requirement—the only effect that such an action could have is to increase the demands on the Fund in 74/75.

In order for the Fund to be in a position to meet these demands it has to be in a respectable financial state before the beginning of the October term. It must not be left to that limping ghostly hope, "charity" to try to fund the needed cash.

One further point—if Union is to be entirely fair a relief fund for UK students is vital. Another job for that administrative sloth, the Executive. In the short term you can do much to help people—please send your donations to the Union Treasurer; the fund needs £3,380 or more...

ENTS NEWS

ENTS has run into some rather awkward financial difficulties. Plans for further free concerts, and free bar nights have thus had to be postponed, as a result of a lack of funds.

The first concert of next term, however, features the old American blues act who were such a great success at L.S.E. on their last visit, SONNY TERRY and BROWNIE MCGHEE. This concert is on Wednesday, May 8th and it will be an early evening concert starting at 7 p.m.

The whole season of concerts looks to be really encouraging with proposed visits by LIVERPOOL SCENE, the following Wednesday, WEATHER REPORT on Saturday, 1st June, and the FEETWARMERS on June 22nd.

It is hoped that L.S.E. students will support these concerts, turning out in large numbers for "Summer Ents".

Wanda waves 'bye 'bye

To: General Secretary and the Executive Committee and the Students' Union.

I HEREBY resign my position as a member of the Executive Committee of this Students' Union. I feel that I can no longer fulfil adequately my responsibilities for the welfare of L.S.E. students and do sufficient academic work to enable me to remain at the L.S.E. after this summer. Indeed I feel that my performance of Welfare duties until now has fallen short of the demands of the job. I have neglected the accommodation problems of L.S.E. students and the special problems of overseas students and disabled students, to concentrate on the nursery, the refectory, the establishment of Niteline and the Community Room. Despite doing only my job I have had to ignore my academic work resulting in a threat of expulsion from my Department. The demands made on an Executive member responsible for Welfare are so great that it is impossible for any one individual to meet them all let alone meeting them all and keeping abreast of academic work. I came to the L.S.E. to study and not to be an unpaid welfare officer and that is what I now intend to do.

This resignation becomes effective on 15th March, 1974. I wish to thank that small but exceedingly hardworking and loyal group of people who have helped me to achieve what little has been done for the welfare of L.S.E. Students.

WANDA BROWN

See "Beaver" comment on Page Three.

See you Saturday

THERE has been a campaign to stop the British Lions rugby tour of South Africa in operation for a long time now. But it is only since the advent of the Labour Government that it looks as though the campaign will succeed.

Several Labour M.P.s have signed a letter calling for the cancellation of the tour and have pledged that the Government will not supply any money to the Rugby Union for the tour.

But YOU have to show that you are against British sportsmen supporting apartheid in your name. There will be a demonstration on Saturday, March 16th, outside Twickenham Rugby Ground, starting at 1 p.m. BE THERE.

A street theatre group will be present and demonstrators and spectators alike will be addressed via a loud-hailer. But most important of all, you will be there to make your presence count.

JULIAN BRUTUS.

THE RISE AND FALL OF JULIAN STARDUST

THE news that Ziggy Hall was quitting hit the world like a bombshell last week when "Beaver" splashed the drastic exposé across its front page. The thought that the man who brought glamour, emotion and theatricality to Union, could leave us must have stunned many a heart. Of course there had been rumours but all were dismissed as promotion stunts.

Theatrics were his trademark, yet his farewell was as simple as it was moving: "I have come to the conclusion that it is on balance desirable that I should voluntarily relinquish my duties..." It is indeed typical of a man of so few pretensions that his farewell was of only one page. The last despairing breath of the "Woodstock nation": "There has not been a modicum of love in evidence at any Union meeting I have thus far attended."

"And he was awful nice, really quite paradise."
"I can recall being laughed to scorn when... I asked whether Walter Adams was the enemy..."
"Don't take it baby, lay the real thing on me."
"I can recall the hatred and scorn when I exhorted Union members to donate from their own pockets to... the workers at Con Mech."

"Make me baby, make me know you really care."
"I recall the ridicule when I suggested..."
"The bitter comes out better on a stolen guitar."

His spell in office may have been short but it was crammed with drama and occasional near hysterical theatricality. The timely (and coolly calculated) outburst of emotion at the election meeting, the ludicrously emotive "that man and that woman" speech, the subsequent spuriously verbose apology, the tactically cunning introduction of "amendments" (which he well knew to be totally unconstitutional) to the payment to Mr Greig — who could forget those reports, so brief and succinct?

"He took it all too far, but boy could he play guitar."
And time and again it worked!

"So we bitched about his fans and should we crush his sweet hands?"
Behind the showman, there was a conscientious worker. It must be emphasised that he put one hell of a lot of work in to try and tackle the responsibilities of Senior Treasurer. Before his election the Broad Left tried to scream and shout as loud as possible that the job had to be sabbatical. At last Julian has agreed, but why, oh why, did he take so long to say?

"So natural—religiously unkind."
Why, too, did genuine political differences have to be transformed into paranoia against the Broad Left which was continued in his valediction? He correctly quoted us as pointing to his "bombastic and verbose assaults on all socialists within the Union" and proved our point by a 14-line pedantic attack on "the B.L. and Ultra Left" for "pedestrian boredom of demagogic speeches."

"Cried so much his face was wet, then I knew he was not lying."
I feel I must reiterate the work put in and point out his skilful handling of Professor Cyril Grinwell and his advisors.

"Ziggy played guitar, jamming good with Wierd and Gitty."
Despite this, his advice to accept £5.40 cap in hand without even trying to register disapproval, typified his approach to Union politics.

"So where were the soldiers while the fly tried to break our balls."
"It would be foolish for me or anyone else to go on believing that Union will get any stronger... given presently dwindling attendance rates." Bloody true!
"So inviting—so enticing to play the part."

Perhaps I should apologise for this article, but, Julian, you're not the only one who can use dramatic, over-emotive terms in this world.

"Hey man schooldays insane."
"Hey man my work's down the drain."
"And I'm sucking up my brains for the words."
PAUL COCKFREL—with apologies to David Bowie.

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CRUEL SCHOOL

IN one of the most boring letters of resignation ever tendered by an Executive Committee member, Wanda Brown (Welfare) has thrown in the towel, effective from March 15. Wanda's only deficiency was a lousy literary style.

In work-rate and pursuance of her duties she has been one of the few effective officers the Union has possessed. It seems a massive pity that Wanda has such an acute conscience. One of the reasons she gives for retiring is that certain areas of the job have been neglected to favour others. This is inevitable when one considers the size of the Welfare problem.

What is disturbing is the appalling attitude of the LSE to Executive Officers—particularly Welfare ones. Jane Ayton, the previous Welfare Officer, has retreated to the country before the glowers and threats of her Department. Another of Wanda Brown's reasons for terminating her employ was "a threat of expulsion from my Department."

It appears that the LSE is somewhat myopic in its view of student performance: they consider the student in isolation, not taking into account the

benefit students as a whole obtain from the existence of such better motivated fellows. If the LSE is intent on destroying the Student Union and the students themselves (see the LSE and die—sorry, commit suicide) it has certainly built up a store of powerful knowledge in how to exercise its bias.

As an Executive member you have a choice—do the job and face expulsion or, be like the majority of the Executive, hypocritise over the ineffectiveness of the Union. Some people are bastards.

P.T.

SNIDELINES

I DO NOT WISH to embarrass that dedicated Third World Socialist and preposterous buffoon of Union Meetings, Mr S. K. Adalja, but I do feel he should be advised against the folly of allowing his socialist principles run so wild that they may come to damage his financial interests. Only recently he succeeded in having Rothman's cigarettes banned from the shelves of Carr-Saunders Hall on the admirable grounds that the said company uses Rhodesian and South African tobacco. But I consider this strange behaviour coming from Mr Adalja. His latest stock market investment, I'm told, is in I.C.I., a company whose second largest export market is South Africa, and which has a share of 42½ per cent in African Explosives and Chemical Industries, a concern in its turn having a fully-owned subsidiary in Rhodesia.

I THINK IT HIGH TIME the students at LSE appreciated how absolutely devoted to their academic well-being our splendid academics are. Mr Klappholz, of the Economics Department, is a perfect example of dedication to duty. In order to improve his lamentable knowledge of economics, he renounced the privilege of lecturing to several hundred students between two and three on Tuesday, March 5th, and attended instead a lecture given at the same time by a mysterious Mr Coates.

Considering Mr Klappholz's undoubted good intentions, I am certain that the hordes of disappointed undergraduates will forgive him for entering the realms of dishonesty by having the cancellation notice say he was ill.

THE STAUNCHLY LEFT-WING head of the politics department at Leeds, and author of that tedious book, "The State In Capitalist Society," Ralph Miliband struck a double-fisted blow at the capitalist establishment when he descended from the provinces recently to lecture at LSE. No doubt considering his revolutionary task only half-done by a display of his socialist mastery to a packed Old Theatre, he also committed the brave and defiant act of parking his communistic maroon Rover 3500, complete with personally-initialled number plates, on double yellow lines for the duration of the lecture. After such a subtle denunciation of the whole free enterprise system, I hope Professor Miliband spent an enjoyable time at his second home in working-class NW1.

I FEAR that plump and affable Professor "Bob" McKenzie will have to look to his laurels if he wishes to retain his well-paid communications work. The notoriously fickle TV world may come to prefer the younger and, if I may say so, more photogenic Dr Bernard Donoghue of the Government Department, now that the latter seems to have friends in high places. He was spotted the other day rushing from Mr Wilson's private jet at Heathrow. One begins to wonder whether the BBC will continue to pay huge sums for Professor McKenzie's highly-scientific "swingometer" (salary for this general election around the £10,000 mark) with such an energetic rival on hand.

My customary total sympathy with the Women's Liberation movement wavered for a little while when the Editor told me some silly girl had complained over my usage of the adjective "bespectacled" in reference to Wanda Brown last issue. "He wouldn't use it if he was writing about a man," she squealed, assuming at once that the writer of the column is a man. I am, of course, but I still think it an idiotic complaint. Comments, dear readers?

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO S116, DIRECT TO DAVE SHORT OR VIA ANY MEMBER OF "BEAVER" STAFF.

Anarchists 4 Poperians 1 Students 0

REPORT ON A 3-D GAME

AFTER the tragic refutation of Professor Imre Lakatos on February 2nd, at the age of 51, the Philosophy Department has been presented with the real world task of replacing the leading light of post-Popperian thought. The problem has been made harder by the lack of following lights, in a field the LSE has rigorously ploughed alone.

At one point it seemed the only course of action was to invite back Karl Popper, a retrograde step, especially when Lakatosian criticism of Popper's latest works, "senile rambling", was remembered.

PUZZLE

It now seems that a vigorous anti-Popperian-Lakatosian is being invited to bring in the required brio. Feyarabend is described as an "epistemological anarchist" and now seems to be inheriting a department that is more in agreement with his views than at first sight was ever suspected.

EXISTENCE?

The Philosophy Department's main reason for existence is its students. Any definition of that department includes the students. The "department's" invitation purports to come from the department—not so. The students have not been considered, consulted or even spoken to. That seems a little anarchistic. But perhaps philosophers don't think too much.

P.T.

STREAK-IN

ANOTHER blow was struck against Mrs Whitehouse and all Right-minded people on Monday, March 4th, when a publicity grubbing gnome of dubious intelligence rushed naked around the LSE. This revolting Botticelli babe, appeared in the "Beaver" Office at 10, demanding a camera for his 1 o'clock stunt.

The assembled scoop reporters looked down on this trivial event and informed him, this was not the offices of the "Sun", "Express", "Mail" or "Mirror" but one of a highly respected thoughtful rag. The generic gnome further blotted his copy by speaking in ruins, but that is to be expected from emaciated globules. He retreated to his plan of action.

For mankind he would rush around displaying his portals to all who saw him coming or, his angry infantile powdered-but-tocks to those who viewed his retreat.

That's how the LSE has finally been denigrated. His

name is unknown, his frustration increased, his antics ignored. He left behind his fishing rod and a bad smell. He also left behind the germ of an idea.

Not having any Dettol to hand, it flourished and can be seen eating people of every hue and inclination. This violent offspring of the magic gnominalist has spread through the LSE and begun to sing, viz,

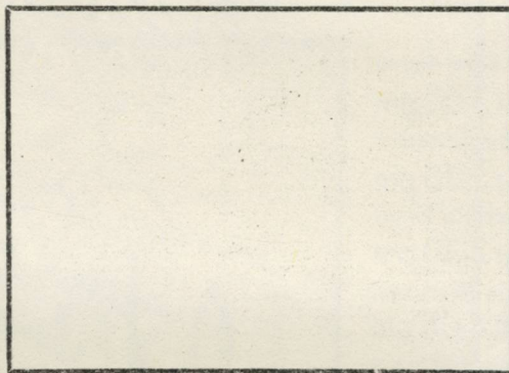
"I'm a trol fold-e-roll, I'm a trol fold-e-roll, I'm a trol fold-e-roll and I'll eat you for supper."

Various people have now ceased to exist. These are to be awarded Distinguished Union Meddles (DUMs) for being distinguished and remembered.

They are:—

- The Inhabitants of the Library, J. Hall and W. Brown,
- Mr. R. Alford,
- It's Dahrendorf and,
- All LSE TV stars.

Further awards are to be announced.



A CENSORED RUDE PERSON.

SMEAR

Guess who's on the Editorial Board for "Sennet", whose last issue included: A Quotation from Enoch Powell on the front page; a two-page apologia for Portuguese oppression and genocide in Mozambique; a description of the fascist Caetano as "a cautious pragmatist"; an

advert for the Army Officer Corps and an advert for ITT?

Non other than our very own anti-imperialist stalwart Mansoor Kazi (Communist Party of the Old Kent Road would-be Marxist-Leninist).

B.L./P.C.

APPOINTMENT?

There is a lack of information about the offer Ray Richardson (Economics) has received from the Wilson Government. Is he an advisor to D. Healey and H. Lever?

Beaver wishes someone would confirm it before Harold calls the next General Election. The glory may be brief.

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PROFESSOR ZITA ALBES, psychologist, grandmother and a former Hungarian aristocrat is busy working some of the most unconventional "miracles" in British Education.

The devil she is purging is one that has only fairly recently been given a name by educationalists and psychologists... dyslexia or word blindness; the inability to read or write.

Take for instance eighteen-year-old Gareth Roberts, a bright and creative young Welshman passionately concerned about the problems facing his homeland.

He has just taken "A" level English and Sociology at Brighton Technical College, and has been promised a place on a pre-entry course for young journalists at Cardiff.

Yet two years ago Gareth was written off as ineducable because he is a dyslexic. His condition was caused by brain damage and the normal educational channels refused to take him on.

Only Professor Albes recognised Gareth as a gifted young man and in the words of friend and colleagues, worked a miracle based on patience, understanding and not a little faith in herself.

Few people have experienced the misery of being unable to read or write. Picking up a book or idly reading an advertisement are automatic functions for most of us. But our philosophies, technology, work and play are tightly governed

by this ability and without it the modern world is a cold inhospitable place.

A lack of communication leads to frustration and bitterness and even deep emotional or psychological disturbance.

The Department of Education and Science has estimated that up to five per cent of Britain's 11-year-olds are illiterate or semi-illiterate, and how many of these have dyslexia is still not known, says the Professor.

The odds against such children successfully integrating into society without help are high indeed. Car-magnate Henry Ford and actress Susan Hampshire are two dyslexics who made it. Others are not so lucky.

Seemingly there is no provision in our education system for such people. Although many of the children have high I.Q.s they are labelled retarded out of ignorance. In school they stop absorbing formally presented knowledge because they can't keep up with the reading and writing. Overworked teachers give up trying to communicate with them and very often the children are targets of fun for their class mates.

Professor Albes is determined to eradicate such ignorance and has established a large family group of dyslexic children in a small converted Brighton Hotel.

Most of them came to her barely able to read or write. Some could not talk or walk properly and others had serious personality disturbances.

But like Gareth they are not only fully literate but studying for exams and careers. Karen Aberg, aged 15, from Cobham, Surrey, is taking CSEs and hopes to become a nurse. Nigel Paxton from Brighton has applied to join the Merchant Navy; two of the boys are studying horticulture at technical colleges; one is doing mechanical engineering; others catering... all children previously regarded ineducable.

Professor Albes was born into the Hungarian aristocracy 53 years ago, a part of her life which she insists has little relevance to her present work... "I am what you see I am now."

Nevertheless, she was one of the few women in her country to go to university and graduate in Psychology.

She has worked with disturbed adults and children for 25 years, with the International Red Cross and United Nations.

Perhaps it was the sight of children desperately needing help streaming out of concentration camps and into refugee camps which led her to become one of the very first pioneers to work in this field.

She certainly experienced many political and social upheavals which scarred Europe precipitating much human suffering.

"When I came to England I knew this is what I wanted to do. Not only lecturing, writing and talking, but creating this group here, which can be seen and touched". The small Brighton hotel fitted with beds

and other facilities seemed ideal.

The children, mainly in their teens, are paid for by parents, local authorities and about half are subsidised by the Professor.

Before accepting a child, the parents have to agree to trust the Professor and sever all communication with their youngster for a time. Otherwise Professor Albes says her work will be

she added, her face broadening with pleasure.

Only a few of the children suffer dyslexia through brain damage — a carefully worked-out ratio — As a group they are so well adjusted it is almost impossible to tell which is which.

The children are warm and polite to each other as well as the staff and visitors, not through force but because they

Miracles

negated and the child confused. "Those parents who see the value of our work are very co-operative with us and we have a very close contact with them," explained the Professor.

Having assessed each child, she sets about solving their emotional and personality difficulties before attempting to solve their physical dyslexic problem.

She strips down their personality and helps them to find their confidence and true selves, using environmental therapy.

"Do you know some of these children have never crawled or cried before," she says sadly. One teenage boy in her care could not walk downstairs without being held by the hand, when he first arrived.

"It's great now just to see him have the courage to run,"

have decided this is the best way to organise their lives. Newcomers soon learn that swearing and rudeness isn't tolerated and a system of democratic self-discipline has evolved within the family quite naturally.

If any of the children do wrong and it worries them, he or she simply calls the group together for a meeting. Without embarrassment the offence is discussed openly, the motives dissected and a course of action agreed. Usually the offender is given a small chore if the group thinks a punishment is necessary.

Although this initially needs great courage, Professor Albes firmly believes such honesty helps the children to come to terms with themselves. A person who broods when they have done wrong eventually becomes convinced he has done nothing wrong at all, and probably aggressively defensive when he

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is found out, says the Professor. This way the children learn to express themselves confidently during adversity.

Collective responsibility for each other pervades the college's whole life — and it's the children who finally say whether a child is accepted into the group or not. To the Professor's surprise their decision nearly always corresponds to her own. "Everything that we are supposed to do and not do

CHRIS TILLEY

we discuss, whether it is for the general benefit or not. We had the problem of smoking. We discussed this and it was the general consensus that smoking was something we didn't want to accept here".

Having learnt to live with themselves and each other the next task for the children is to come to terms with a world they have always seen as hostile to their problem.

There are normal school activities such as art, drama and music and discussions on everything from politics to sex. . . . "Like the Frost programme only better" says the Professor impishly.

Some of the children do need physiotherapy to combat clumsiness caused by slow brain reactions and Professor Albes has devised special exercises.

Fourteen-year-old Paul Sutherland-White unabashedly gave a demonstration. Down on all fours he crawled in perfect co-

ordination in a straight line from one side of the room to another, teaching the brain and limbs to work in unison.

Other exercises include writing rows of circles and shapes in rhythm to music . . . co-ordinating hand and brain and getting flow into the hand-writing.

When it comes to the eventual reading and writing, each child is given a programme geared to individual needs. Some dyslexics have an optical problem which stops them reading the alphabet characters — only one-third of the letter's actual shape may register. One-third of the letter 'O' could be taken for a 'D', 'P' or even an 'R', so some of the children have a special alphabet. They are taught to concentrate three times as long on the letter until they get the rest of its shape.

To help pull down the barriers they have against words the Professor takes the lifeless word off the page and into their immediate world.

The letter 'C' is not just the signature character for COW but a world in itself . . . it means milk, leather, grass; so while the children are learning to read they are also being introduced to farming, economics and so on.

Each child is clearly aware of their individual handicap through discussions with the professor and illustrated wall charts of the brain. They know they are different, but the difference is no longer unconquerable.

When the children take part in further education classes outside Downlands, the staff carefully go over the lessons with

them, checking there is nothing they have missed through slowness.

They recently built a model village reflecting an ideal community . . . perhaps for dyslexics of all ages.

And this is the Professor's hope too. "We do have plans for expansion. What we want now is a patron who is interested and feels that what we are doing here is right. We haven't got all the answers, but if we can get a group of people together, interested in the same things, we can get results." Eventually the school hopes to be run by a trust with recognition from the Department of Education and Science.

The Professor added: "That is still not the answer. For our work we also need teachers and psychologists". In fact the Professor is negotiating to buy a small village on a private estate. She faces competition from other would-be buyers and is still searching for other opportunities.

Professor Albes' drive and stamina is exhausting and awesome. Although she is a small woman with medical problems, her spirits never seem to sag or her charm fade. She would love to see her approach to teaching, allowing children free expression and democratic responsibility, in all schools.

She once remarked about 16-year-old Paul Storey, who was recently sentenced from the slums of Handsworth, Birmingham, to 20 years in prison for mugging and murder: "Give me that boy for six months and you will not find him the same person."

Catching her penetrating gaze it is easy to see why.

ABEL-SMITH

PROFESSOR ABEL SMITH of the Social Administration Department is involved in a current breach of contract case, *Tibbitts v. Cambridge University Press*. His part in the matter began when asked in the summer of 1972 to advise on the publication value of the "Politics of Medical Manpower", a critical review by Dr Adrian Tibbitts of some aspects of the National Health Service, which includes chapters on the medical hierarchy; emigrants and immigrants; the conditions of junior hospital doctors; and ideology and doctrine.

With the approval of the Cambridge University Press's representative, Mrs Christine Linehan, he took it upon himself to consult a "great friend" of his, a senior doctor in the Department of Health and Social Security, to check out "the accuracy of some of what he says". By November 1st, 1972, Professor Abel Smith came out against publishing the manuscript in its present form. Dr Tibbitts's negotiations with the C.U.P. had dragged on since April, 1970 and he had already very substantially revised his original manuscript, "Out of Practice" to achieve the form in which his work was presented to our professor. His cited opinion contrasts with that of another referee, Dr Millerson of the sociology department at Leeds, who thought even "Out of Practice" worth publishing and commented that Dr Tibbitts had "performed wonders in the original manuscript" in producing "The Politics of Medical Manpower".

Not having received satisfaction over the reason behind the C.U.P.'s reluctance to publish after previously showing interest, Dr Tibbitts went on to bring an action for breach of contract. Letters in the dossier on the case show Professor Abel Smith's anxiety not to have revealed to Dr Tibbitts that the D.H.S.S. had been informally sounded out. The book contains an "abrasive approach" to some aspects of the N.H.S. Both Sir Keith Joseph and the professor received letters dated February 12th, 1974 from Dr Tibbitts asking for the name of the senior D.H.S.S. doctor so he could be called as a witness. Neither has answered.

The case continues.

DAVE SHORT

HOPEFULLY, THERE WILL BE A FULLER REPORT ON THE MATTER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "BEAVER", BECAUSE AT THE MOMENT WE ARE STILL SUBJECT TO THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE RULES OF SUB JUDICE.

Another escape

ALLISTAIR COE is the latest member of the E.C. to hand in his resignation. Pressure of academic work strikes again.

Alistair makes it quite clear that it is only because he takes his finals in the summer that he is resigning. Could he not have foreseen that when he stood for the election? "I had not expected to do quite so much mopping up!" His resignation is effective from next term because during the holidays he will be fulfilling the duties of Senior Treasurer.

Sitting in the Community Room, Alistair talked of his "profound disillusionment with the way Union is run." "The E.C. can only do what Union tells it to do, the E.C. can only report when there are quorate meetings," he said. "The only way Union can function in this situation is by flagrant disregard of the constitution."

There was no Union meeting at all last Friday; nobody seemed to want one. We talked of the lack of interest in Union meetings. Could it be because of uncharismatic leadership? "It's an insult to Union to say we need charismatic leaders in order to carry out policy," replied Alistair. Could it be because none of the motions

passed are very relevant to the students here?

"I thought the appointment of a Welfare Officer and the Overseas Students Fund were very relevant to students here," he said. (The Welfare Officers motion was promoted by the Union Floor not by any members of the Executive.)

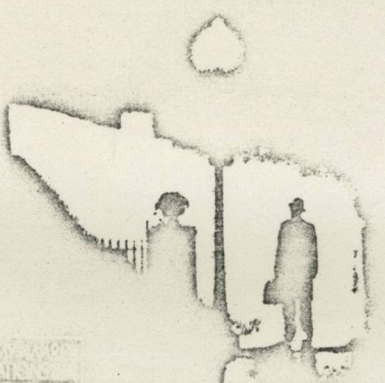
What suggestions did he have? "Sabbatical officers, I've said it before and I'll say it again. I also think that 'Beaver' should take a more constructive line."

Constructive? "Beaver" detests writing about itself but it has tried to be helpful, floating new ideas, introducing dispassionate analysis. "Beaver" has tried not only to reflect the better side of the L.S.E. and the Union, but has attempted to lead and inform.

At the moment certain members of the Executive are indulging in a circular argument. "The reason the Executive is demoralised is because the Union is in a bad state; the reason the Union is in a bad state is because the Executive is demoralised." Actions speak louder than words.

J.C./P.T./J.B.

WILLIAM PETER BLATTY'S
THE EXORCIST
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10 BEST PICTURE

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SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN FOR DIRECT HELP TO CENT. AFRICA

CHAIRWOMAN: Rt. Hon. Mrs Judith Hart, M.P.; GEN. ORGANISER: R. Shaikh Al Ard; LSE STUDENTS' REPS.: A. Oppel, W. Brown, S. Adalja.

HANDS OFF STARVING AFRICA

THE African scandal which our campaign is resolved to expose, is already bursting. It is a complex set of harsh natural conditions, continuing colonial legacy, a socio-economic, ideological and political tyranny imposed both from within and without upon the African people in most of its artificially created states, leading to mass starvation on a scale never known in history anywhere before. Only weaklings and the wicked can fail to be aroused to condemnation and generosity. But this appalling set-up has now triggered a genuine people's movement of liberation and progress. What we see in the student actions, peasant revolts and trade union strikes (100,000 took part in Ethiopia) is only the beginning of a movement determined to regain the control and ownership of African resources and place the destiny of Africa in the firm grip of the African masses. We, miles away from the scene, can never hesitate in lending our full support to this genuine democratic movement; but our support must not be confined to moral and political solidarity. More concrete support is needed and needed now.

Five hundred years of slave trade and colonial domination by the imperialist powers have made Africa one of the most retarded areas of the globe. For several centuries its manpower, the main component of the productive forces of a society, was shipped out of that continent to participate, with other workers in building the civilisation of the West. Then the continent itself began to be shorn of the values created by the labour of its people through direct foreign exploitation on its own soil and through unequal exchange. It was a case of systematic plunder; to perpetrate it, the full power of the metropolitan countries' state machinery was used.

Now, this gloomy period in the history of the African people is drawing to a close. The beginning of the dark period of African history coincides with the beginning of the capitalist mode of production. Its end will come about with the end of this mode. The people of Africa have crowned their fierce political struggle by the destruction of naked colonialism and the achievement of political independence of some sort. Alas, the prolonged tragedy has not stopped at that.

The decline and bankruptcy of the capitalist system intensifies its anarchy of production and distribution, while mounting a vicious assault on the world socialist system, the world labour movement and the national liberation movements. For imperialism cannot give way to a better and fairer society based upon the brotherhood of Man without resistance, which takes the form of a renewed effort not only to linger

on but also to expand. Thus there is a Second Colonisation of Africa.

While the people of Africa and other underdeveloped countries face the difficult task of strengthening their independence, eradicating the legacy of retardation they inherited from their former masters and closing the "development gap" with the other nations of the world — a very difficult task indeed — the imperialist powers are mounting a "comeback" to Africa which they had left in form but not in substance, except in certain strongholds, by the beginning of 1960s.

A Second Colonisation is thus being launched to tighten the octopus arms around their previous "dependants". The imperialists do not want Africa to eradicate its retardation as it is the source of their enrichment.

The newly-independent countries, for their part, are yet unable to break completely with the imperialist system. The increasing anarchy of distribution and its concomitant growing plunder — albeit without armies of occupation — have in consequence sharpened this conflict with its two theatres: one between the young African states and the imperialist powers, and the other between both of them, as the élite of the colonial arrangement, and the non-élite people of Africa: nomads, peasants and workers.

The latest tragedy of Mass Starvation is a direct consequence of this conflict and is unlikely to be stopped without a solution in favour of the African masses, a third of whom are now exposed unnecessarily to extinction and immoral neglect.

Little wonder that the governments of Central Africa are "unco-operative" with charity

organisations and their respective governments or even the U.N.

They have recently been accused of "excessive pride" and "undue caution". The facts, however, are different. These countries are rightly abhorrent of opening the door any wider to imperialist powers heavily represented in this so-called relief work. But while they are rightly keeping up this resistance, they are no less helpless in alleviating the plight of their 15-million starved (a death toll of 1,000 a day) than the seeming humanitarians and philanthropists.

These Africans have been carrying the burden of communicable diseases and malnutrition too long to endure a famine that has entered now its seventh year.

Should we, then, be equally hopeless or helpless?

A grass-root approach and a truly genuine and concerted action can offer a real solution.

Of course, the ultimate answer lies in Africa itself; for only the African masses can free themselves. But the forces of progress, enlightenment and democracy the world over can, indeed should, do a great deal for their brethren in Africa.

The civilisation of the West is based upon their labour, together with that of what now constitutes the rank and file of its labour movement; it is not much to return to Africa a share of the fruit of its own labour, let there be immediate, concrete relief without strings; let there be also long-term, interest-free, absolutely untied technical and technological assistance.

Our campaign is to rally people around this task and to pressure governments to achieve it. But we must recognise first and foremost that the salvation of the West depends upon the complete dismantling of all imperialist arrangements, starting with Africa. Free and direct help and sincere solidarity from the grass roots of the developed countries to the more severely exploited and oppressed grass roots of the underdeveloped countries are all that is required from us. The rest will be accomplished by the masses of Africa themselves.

On to you and your friends:

- * Fight against the present assault on the "independence" of the newly-born African countries.
- * Support the national liberation movements of Africa achieving and expanding greater independence.
- * Join the SCDH as a student, teacher, nurse, doctor or trade unionist; there is a great job to be carried out.
- * Show your solidarity, both politically and financially, now. Send your messages of support and donations to our account, managed by the National Union of Students.

MASS STARVATION IN NIGERIA GROWS WORSE

IT was reported that "the great drought in West Africa may be repeated on an even more devastating scale in 1974." This fear is voiced by many leaders of the African countries suffering the social effects of drought after years of systematic plunder, oppression and demoralisation.

Thus in addition to patriarchal and feudal rent, we see higher state taxes, rising food prices, speculation, hoarding, eviction of peasants, and the very governments suffering external blackmail. The worst of all are the massive profits expropriated by foreign companies, chief among which is Lonrho with its £23.8 million in 1973.

Crops have failed "almost totally" in large areas of North Western, North Central, Kanto and North Eastern States of Nigeria. The "Lagos Daily Times" printed an "SOS" message to the whole world to act, and launched its own relief appeal. Four million Nigerians are

There is massive migration of peasants and herdsmen. Some have already died on the way to the South. They either abandoned their cattle or, forced to take them with them, have died, cattle and all.

It is reported that "food is available to those who can pay" but 90 per cent of the population of Daura, for example, "had no money to buy any rice, beans or guinea corn"—according to their Emir in a talk to the "Daily Times."

The authorities, however, have shown a great sense of responsibility by suspending some major projects in order to devote the sav-



affected. Nigeria has suffered so much exploitation, because of its Biafra problem that it will never forget imperialist "soft" blackmail even at this comparably more critical stage. Therefore, only genuine solidarity, truly disinterested and brotherly, can be accepted.

ings to famine relief. But "all this is totally insufficient." Suspension of tax collection has been called for, and there is criticism of selling relief food instead of giving it free to the starving populace. Lack of transport is another failure of the authorities.

Added to all this, there is locust plague in the North Eastern State. But the Emir of Kano is more interested in the exactitude of the census figures. Touring his emirate, he told his people to stay in their villages for the census; and he complained that he could not force them to do so when "there was no food in the village."

The "New Nigerian" described the situation as the "greatest national emergency since the civil war"; meteorologists claim that "several months of dry weather lie ahead." The fabric of society is not going to change overnight, either. Meanwhile, the scandal witnessed in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, as well as the other countries of the Sahelian Zone of the Western coast of Africa continues.



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