

NOVEMBER 4th, 1954

THREEPENCE

SAME OLD STORY

Poor Showing at Union

"... Union meetings to which only a few nitwits with political ambitions go... largely a waste of time."

Last Thursday's Union meeting provided the Union with a grand opportunity of putting this judgment to the test.

The newcomer to a Union meeting, on learning of the thousand or so full-time undergraduates and even more postgraduates and part-time students, may have been staggered at the gathering in the Old Theatre at 6.45 of some 65 students to take decisions that in the words of a correspondent in the last issue "affect us all and should be considered by us all". He would soon, however, find that no one else is surprised at the attendance and all seem very happy that a quorum—of 60—was present.

Question Time

The early part of the meeting was promising. Questions to Officers are the counterpart of Question Time in Parliament and properly used they are of great value in keeping officers up to scratch. The answers, however, are often ragged and one sometimes doubts if the officer concerned knows all he might about the subject. The main questions were by one member who seemed annoyed at an Officer for ordering Calendars to sell to members without consulting Union—or him; and by another who tried to bring into the light a telegram sent by the N.U.S. Officer to the President of N.U.S. in Moscow. But after the President had assured the Union the officer had apologised, the officer himself denied it! This unsatisfactory conclusion led one to wonder if questions were so useful after all, as no one seemed willing to offer any explanation on what was obviously an important topic.

Real Business

The real business of the Union meeting is to discuss motions put forward by Council or two members of the Union. Last week there were two motions on the Refectory and on the LSE delegation to NUS Council. These were the only items discussed and when the quorum was successfully challenged at 9.15 there remained outstanding a lengthy motion on U.L.U. and the election of a delegate to N.U.S. Council.

The Refectory motion suggested that the variety of courses be cut to save money, that a School subsidy be demanded and outside caterers approached. This policy united all (or most) sections of opinion on the need to do something, but the most interesting aspect—that of the justification for a subsidy—was sidetracked. The motion was passed but no one seemed convinced that this was the solution to our troubles.

Political Undertones

More interesting to the student of Union meetings was the motion on the composition of the N.U.S. delegation. The motion looked harmless enough but it soon became clear that the important thing was

what the motion left out—or rather who it left out. This was the N.U.S. Officer, Mr. Sweet. The issue turned on whether Mr. Sweet, whose political views are known to be rather extreme, was the ideal person to represent the Union at a national gathering. But, perhaps to avoid an embarrassing situation, the opponents of Council preferred to argue that the N.U.S. Officer should go as a matter of principle. One felt, however, that were the N.U.S. Officer not Mr. Sweet, there would have been little fuss.

The speeches were largely designed to hide the political undertones, but they rarely succeeded. From the large number of speeches praising the N.U.S. Officer one concluded that either Council were unjust in not selecting him or that a large section of L.S.E., or rather Mr. Sweet's views. Unless it was just a coincidence that most members sat in a solid block on one side of the house (the left), one suspects the latter. A vote was at last taken and Mr. Sweet became a delegate.

Sweet Nothings

Now someone proposed another amendment to the original motion—presumably to remove Mr. Sweet from the delegation. The President refused to accept and promptly it was moved that the President leave the chair. In no time this became no confidence in the chairman for refusing to listen to points of order and for not allowing the seconder to speak.

The block on the left now turned its wrath from Council on to the two innocuous-looking individuals who seemed to be unaware of, or to ignore, those members who wanted to "get on with it". Their view was inevitably rejected by a large majority but they did not seem to mind.

Waste of Time?

What had been achieved in 2½ hours of speech, question and answer? The issues had on paper looked important, but most speakers were more intent on confusing than clarifying the issues.

One came away feeling unsatisfied; that no one had achieved anything; that the views aired were not original but mere repetitions of a "line"; that the members present were the least representative; that a small minority seemed to use and abuse Union meetings for political ends.

Above all one regretted that this situation was built on the apathy of the student body as a whole. Last week's meeting was "a waste of time" (even for the political nitwits), but must this always be so? The issues are real and they deserve the consideration of every member. True democracy is not merely the right to a say, but taking advantage of that right.

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



COMMEN. BALL SELL OUT

by Ken Pearmain

All tickets for the Commemoration Ball will be sold. After they have been offered for sale in the college for a fortnight or so, they will be sold to selected outside bodies to ensure that income is maximised. Do not leave the buying of your ticket late; they may all be gone.

The reasons why there will be a sell-out are obvious. The dance will be held in the Royal Festival Hall; it is the social occasion of the L.S.E. year, and the price is low, 22/- double.

The main reason in the reduction in price is that the price is exclusive of the buffet. I feel that few people want this facility at the cost of adding another 21/- to the price, especially considering the number of people who dine out before arriving. Those who want the buffet can still buy refreshments for cash.

Radiant Gathering

Derick Mills and his orchestra will be providing the music. This choice was prompted by the many requests for his reappearance following his success at the Going-Down Ball.

Braden on the 11th



Courtesy "What's On"

Our Honorary President in a senile and pensive mood as he appeared in "No News from Father".

He gave me an excellent meal. He asked me questions about L.S.E. Students' Union. He talked about the world of show business; of the stage, Cinerama, radio and commercial as against B.B.C. television. He gave me his views on humour; we are amused in spite of ourselves at the cruel—make the criterion "be funny above all, don't worry about being clever". He talked of advertising, of how to keep one's private life private. He spoke of the law and, better, law reform. He spoke of his last play and of his next. He talked of his wife and of her success. He kept me amused, interested, absorbed.

I introduce Bernard Braden.

S. Africa Expendable?

Disclosure at Labour Society Meeting

Addressing a crowded meeting of the Labour Society last Friday, Fenner Brockway, M.P., speaking on Labour's Colonial Policy, disclosed that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers decided, at their last meeting, that the Gold Coast and Nigeria should be granted Dominion status, even if this resulted in South Africa leaving the Commonwealth.

Outlining his own proposals for the policy that the next Labour Government should pursue as soon as it assumed office, Fenner Brockway said that the crucial need was for a psychological revolution. A London Conference of representatives of all the Colonial peoples' own organisations should be convened in London, opened by the Prime Minister himself to make clear its historical significance.

The object of the Conference would be to decide the date when each Colonial territory should achieve full self-government. The Government should not impose its own policies. Policies for the transitional stage should be worked out by discussion between the Colonial representatives and the representatives of the Government.

Colonial Freedom

After the Conference, separate Commissions should be formed to formulate detailed plans for each Colony. Instead of having as their Chairman officials of the Colonial Office, with the "old" idea of Empire engrained in them, these Commissions should be presided over by the ever-increasing number of Colonial experts in the Parliamentary Labour Party, who were even now gaining valuable experience in the Movement for Colonial Freedom (of which Fenner Brockway is Chairman) and who were committed to the liquidation of the Colonial empire and to the ideal of full equality.

Fenner Brockway went on to draw attention to the fact that this country has never adopted the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights for its Colonial territories. This was a disgraceful omission, and should be rectified at the first opportunity.

Freedom from deportation; rights of assembly and free speech; the absence of press censorship—these were all things we took for granted as essential components of democracy, yet we denied them to the great majority of our Colonial subjects.

Frightening Alternatives

A world U.N. authority for Colonial development should be set up at once, and the Government should release the frozen Sterling Area assets of the Colonial territories for their social and economic development. The extension of educational facilities and health services were prime necessities. Where concessions were granted to private commercial enterprises, a strict time limit must be imposed. Far too many had been granted in the past, for periods as great as 99 years.

In conclusion, Fenner Brockway said that the cost of what was needed would be immense, and our own standard of living was bound to suffer, for a short time at least. But compared with the frightening alternatives, everyone would benefit immeasurably in the long run.

Weinberg Back on Council

Profile

by Christine Merritt

Reared in the backwoods of New York, Bob Weinberg, our new Vice-President, is at present studying for his M.Sc. Econ. or his Ph.D.—he himself is not yet sure which one. However, in an attempt to secure one of these degrees, he is engaged in writing a thesis on "Workers' Control", with particular reference to the role of Trade Unions in nationalised industries.

He obtained a Fulbright scholarship to enable him to study here after getting a first class honours B.A. in history at Yale. During the third year of his course he was given permission to drop lectures and instead write a thesis on the American Socialist Movement.

He was President of Yale Union ("the only Bevanite president at Yale") from May, 1952, to January, 1953.

Due to the resignation of Brian Watkins at the end of last session, it was decided that a bye-election should be held for the post of Deputy President. A similar situation arose about the same time last session, when Mr. Watkins resigned from the Social Vice-Presidency, and the election this session was remarkably similar to that in 1953, when Miss Greta Burningham was elected. This time there was no lady contesting the position and the campaign was hence the duller in memory. There were three candidates: Mr. Alan Brooke-Smith, Mr. Richard Lustig and Mr. Robert Weinberg. The result of the election was a walkover for Bob Weinberg, polling 218 votes as against 41 in favour of Alan and 36 for Dick Lustig. The successful candidate presided (or is it deputy-presided?) over a meeting of Union Council before his election had been made official.

Mobile Campaign

There the matter should be allowed to end except that we must give credit to Mr. Brooke-Smith for his publicity. The Sunday before the campaign started, he rang up the Returning Officer (Master of the Rolls as far as Passfield is concerned) and inquired how liberally he could interpret the word "posters". Mr. Thompson said the sky was almost the limit, and the result was a magnificent "mobile" in the Three Tuns. The sooner more candidates realise that enterprise at least makes people more cheerful the better. It won't get them any votes (did it) but such novelties are most praiseworthy.

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Reform

We understand that an amendment to the Constitution is being considered which would alter the year of office of most of the Union officials to run from June to June, instead of from December until December, as at present.

The situation now is that on Union Council, three Vice-Presidents are elected to serve for two terms. The President, Deputy President and General Secretary are elected at the end of the Michaelmas term and serve for one year. When this council meets for the first time, one of its first tasks is to co-opt, subject to Union approval, a Senior Treasurer, who also serves until the following Christmas.

Several disadvantages to this system are immediately apparent. The most important is the difficulty of serving the last term of one's year of office. Taking this year as an example, the Deputy President resigned before the session commenced, due to the requirements of military service. The Senior Treasurer resigned after a few weeks, since, also having graduated, he has a full-time position in the City, and the President, while not as yet relinquishing his office, is also working elsewhere and must confine his Union activities to the evening or weekends. As the three Vice-Presidents only took office at the end of last term, the General Secretary is the only member of Council combining both a knowledge of Council affairs throughout the statutory year with an ability, despite the approach of Finals, to devote the proper amount of time to his task. (The inevitable result is that he has been doing tasks meant for others as well as his own, and his health has suffered.)

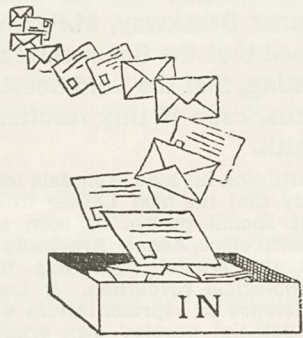
The new proposals would to a certain extent reduce the likelihood of this happening. Candidates for election at the end of either their first or second year would know that their term of office would end with the close of an academic year, and therefore there could be little chance of an officer leaving college before his term of office had been concluded. Also, by being elected before the Long Vacation, he would have time to learn his job before the new session began.

The great advantage which the present system might seem to have is that officers whose duties end in their third year have the time from Christmas onwards clear to devote to preparation for their final examinations. Yet of this year's Council only the General Secretary was so placed: the other members were third-year students who combined good degrees with the duties of office.

Thus the new proposals would seem to offer several advantages and would bring the Union into line with the practice adopted by the vast majority of Students' Unions throughout the country and by the National Union of Students itself. There may, however, be drawbacks which we have not mentioned.

Apology

We apologise for several errors in our engagement announcement in our last issue. The name of Miss Susan Spence's fiance is Peter Wyatt and not Brian, as we stated. Further, he is working in a library at Lewisham and not Clerkenwell. We understand, however, that the engagement still remains intact.



WHO IS THIS GUY?

To the Editor of "Beaver".
Sir,

News has just reached me which causes me deep concern. As one directly involved, I feel I should make my own feelings clear. Each year—each year, that is, except *this* year—as the 5th November approaches, I have looked up, and observed a great number of conspiratorial groups, all plotting the same traditional act—the ritual sacrifice by fire of an effigy of myself.

I have, as many will know, had some personal experience of the workings of the law. In criminology I am, it is true, only a layman, but, the way I look at it, "my" annual destruction is intended as a warning to disaffected elements, symbolising the fate of all plotters of sedition. It also offers a fairly harmless outlet (this is a newer idea) for those destructive urges that lurk within us all, and which might otherwise be directed towards the overthrow of the State.

November 5th, 1954, is nearly here—and what do I see? Nothing at all! My festival suppressed; my bonfires metaphorically stamped out! In my own opinion, for what it is worth, the representatives of authority have, once again, adopted a short-sighted policy that threatens the very foundations of State security.

Some may ask, who am I to speak thus. I, Sir, am a patriot—the victim of agents provocateurs. No State ever collapsed because of mere gunpowder. But this latest ban may well herald dire disaster.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,
No Address. GUY FAWKES.
Timeless.

SOUND THE TRUMPET

The following effusion arrived anonymously in "Beaver" office. We think it worth publishing, even though it contravenes our "no pseudonyms" rule.

An L.S.E. student has been elected secretary of the University of London Liberal Federation. He is Stan Broder, of the Law faculty.

"Liberals are badly needed today", he said at the Annual General Meeting.

"Tories are conserving Socialism. You can see that in the London Transport monopoly which 'denationalisation' did not touch.

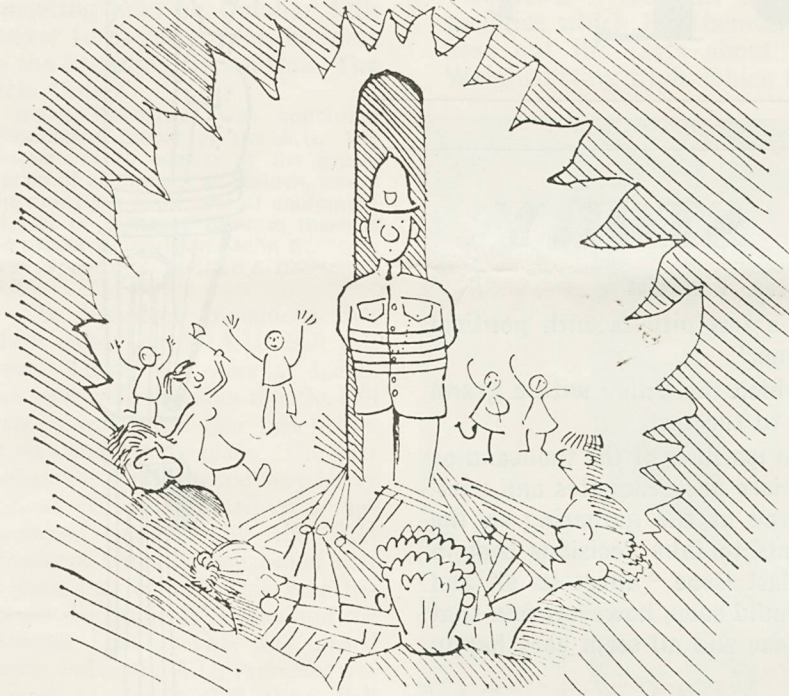
"The Labour Party is a Tory Party. Look at the way in which it swallowed, hook, line and sinker, the Tory idea that rising prices are caused by rising wages.

"Only Liberals," concluded Stan, "say that prices are deliberately put up by protective taxes on food."

(Signed) S. W. BRODER,
(Secretary).

University of London Liberal Federation,
36 Lower Clapton Road, S.E.5.
October 26th.
(and the best of luck!)

Frying Tonight . . .



As seen by D. R. W. Jones

The Mood of the Coffee House

Fox in a rhapsodic mood

Coffee houses have fast become recognised as important integrating factors in London's diffuse bohemian underworld (sociology freshers please note). Dilletante intellectuals; pseudo-literateurs; itinerant guitarists and a motley of jazz club fans, students and nondescript bearded and semi-shaven characters haunt the cellars every evening.

What is the secret? Why this strange attraction for society's idiosyncrasies?

The bohemians of all capitals have their haunts; London, no less than the others, has Soho. But the semi-outcasts of Society: those transitory people like ourselves, who are ever on the borderline and have no real claim to recognised status, must have focal points; meeting places; Coffee Houses. The majority of students, still hiding under the wing of parental status, avoid Bohemianism; it is all vaguely impenetrable or childish, but the student who feels his position as such (three years of statusless irresponsibility) will be sympathetic with these strange, uncouth, nervous, intense people.

Three Qualities

What are they like, these Coffee Houses? They come in three qualities but with subtle gradations which make precise classification impossible. First order coffee houses are little more than elaborated snack bars. Here the underworld creatures venture, but not as to a home; merely in a friendly, hurried visit. Usually full of city office girls in for a quick meal, they may arouse excitement in the neophyte (Pardon!—Editor) by

PRETTY GIRLS OF L.S.E.

To the Editor of "Beaver".
Dear Sir,

Having mounted the stairs which lead to your office rather too many times to do my health any good, and having still failed to see you, I must write.

Am I to carry on the "pretty girls" service? I would like to, and there is a definite demand for it.

The L.S.E. building has never been regarded as beautiful but as a substitute for a feminine face it is entirely distasteful.

IRVING TEITELBAUM.

(We apologise to our erstwhile photographer for not having contacted. For the benefit of others as well as he may we say that present editorial policy does not consider that pretty girls are worth spending 22/6 on, especially in student life—and this applies to other things besides photos. Still, many thanks for your offer, Irving: we'll get in touch with you soon.—The Editor)

The State of the Union

On October 21st the gloom of the Old Theatre was relieved only by the presence on the platform of "Juliet", while even she could not quite compensate for the inordinate length of the speech in which Mr. John Hipkin attempted to convince the Union that if a speaker is making a good speech he should not be asked to sit down!!

After the minutes had been read and signed, matters arising dispatched, officers questioned and their announcements made; and after the Union had been assured that Mr. Tony Pelling was not a member of King's Union (can we say the same for the Editor of "Beaver"?) the meeting proceeded to the debate on private motions.

Lively Discussion

Three private motions were tabled at this meeting, on the standard of Public Business; the rules governing the distribution of society propaganda in the refectory, and the sad state of the University Union. All three motions were ultimately withdrawn, though some lively discussion (rather too lively in view of the fact that Miss Lesley Line, Vice-President of U.L.U., was present) took place on the last motion.

It transpired that Mr. Eric Thompson had no confidence in the officers of U.L.U. . . . neither had anyone else but it was Mr. Colin Sweet rather than Mr. Thompson who gained the sympathy of Union when in his usual practical manner he rose to suggest a more constructive policy. In fact so sympathetic was Union that it was willing to bear with Mr. Sweet's comrade, Mr. Marshall Harris, when, with the Red Flag flying almost visibly over his head, he denounced the "undemocratic" nature of U.L.U. It was after 8 o'clock when the motion was finally withdrawn, after three desperate attempts to amend it by Mr. Stanley Broder, a newcomer to Union politics.

The meeting was, as Miss Lesley Line later impressed upon us, very poorly attended, and few fresh minds were brought to bear upon the intricacies of student politics. The only spark of enthusiasm came from Mr. Ron Henderson (ex-president of the A.U.), who could not be restrained from casting an illegal vote although it was only to abstain.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Public Business session took the form of an "Any Questions" session, the object of which was to familiarise freshers with student politics, but there were very few freshers present and the questions came from people such as Mr. Harvey Babiak, who not only is not a fresher but who, rejoicing in his hard-won B.Sc. Econ., was not even registered as a student of the School.

The discussion was predominantly serious in tone, and was to a large extent coloured by party politics with Fred Jervis and Frank Panton on the right and Roger Barry aided and abetted by Colin Sweet and Marshall Harris from the left.

John Martyn, while he said little, managed to keep the peace and Miss Line, though saying even less ("I am an athlete not a politician") looked charming—and she has an excellent French accent, too!

MARGUERITE WATKINS.

* * * *

Thursday, 28th October.
Lab. Soc. moves a motion;
Motion from the floor,
That at the Cardiff Council
Sweet may speak once more.
Thompson challenged quorum,
Challenged very late;
And then the well-packed meeting
Had to evacuate.

E. J. T.

Good Mornings Begin With...

by J. K. Williams

"But yet I know, where'er I go,
That there hath passed away a glory from the earth."

We are all aware of the fickleness of fashion, of the vagaries in man's quest for beauty, and therefore in the interests of progress my lament will not be too loud or too long. There has, however, been a change within these hallowed walls that cannot go unnoticed and must not go unsung.

I refer to the passing of the "beaver", not the little fellow who decorates the entrance to the "Three Tuns", and the breast pockets of so many proud blazers, or even this illustrious disseminator of school scandal, but that more noble feature which has adorned so many handsome and distinguished countenances.

Robson's Quips

What tonsorial masterpieces must have entered these portals of fame not even the most mature student can recall, but some of us have fond memories of that hairy growth which John Webb used in earlier days to stifle his vociferous amusement at Professor Robson's merry quips. Others may remember the silvery majesty and noble dignity of the beard sported by John Lumbers, erstwhile Boat Club captain. And who could forget the Victorian severity yet paternal benevolence of that achievement which was the pride of Albert Schofield. (Was it in the interests of the comfort of a certain Miss P - - H - - that this last vestige of the old regime disappeared?)

Decadent Age

That this is another sign of the decadence of our age I would be the last to admit. Let us say rather that it is a direct result of the younger age composition of our student body. I cannot but regret, however, that state of affairs which has seen the passing of a glory unspurned by Zeus, Homer, Hingwar and G.B.S. in favour of the now prevalent natty little tufts which suit better our smartly cut suits and neatly rolled umbrellas.

Your Move

The L.S.E. Chess Club, after years of unenthusiastic members and unsympathetic Senior Treasurers, looks forward to a more successful season. The Freshers' Tea proved an unexpected success and club membership is consequently higher than it has ever been. The team now includes three ex-county players and numerous ex-school captains. The Pugh (Intercollegiate) Cup is definitely within grasp and Chess Club officials optimistically believe that never again will the summer come when they will feel impelled to post the league tables upside down!

Pssst

Oh Davie!

Message received in Union Office for Chairman of a political society: "Meeting glamour puss main hall 6.15. Hope to see you sometime today". Who is Glamour Puss?

* * * *

Man Bites Dog

The normal Saturday night farewells at Passfield Hall took on a new turn last Saturday when Miss R*s*m*ry S*nds bade farewell to her escort on the steps and disappeared inside at 11.45. Her first duty was to soothe the fevered brow of the Editor. Yoicks

* * * *

Wake Up at the Back There!

Who was the Sports Editor who turned to a lecturer as she was demonstrating something on the blackboard and inquired, "Hey, you, are you watching?"

* * * *

Cockles and Mussels . . .

Congratulations to President John Martyn, who has just started a job in Market Research. Smithfield or Billingsgate?

Mr. R. A. BUTLER

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, President of the University Conservative Association, but whose most vital function is, of course, as a member of our Court of Governors, spoke at a meeting on Tuesday, 26th October, to a crowded audience in University College Cloisters. Introduced by the chairman, Terence Groome of L.S.E., Mr. Butler at his most urbane, dwelt first on the unsavoury origins of University College, being built on a rubbish dump, and known in its earliest days as a "stinka-ma-lee". He quoted deftly from T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" ("April is the cruellest month") regarding the Budget, and lightly ran over the policy of the last three years of Conservative rule, pointing out that our financial position had improved quite considerably.

Socialism Bankrupt

The accent then shifted to Youth, which, so Mr. Butler said, would find the Conservative Party the most modern, progressive and idealistic. Socialism was now a bankrupt creed.

We were, he believed, at the beginning of a great new period in the life of our country which, utilised properly in Europe and the Commonwealth, would make us once again a powerful nation. Let the youth of Britain put their skill and lives into this great aim. We have to take the risk for success, and its benefits will increase the National Wealth, so that we all (including the needy) can have our share.

W.U.S. IN ACTION

by Roland Freeman

Help for Indian and Pakistan students who suffered losses in the recent floods . . . new equipment for a Yugoslav Polyclinic . . . scholarships for African medical students . . . a student health centre in Haifa—these are just some of the projects proposed by the World University Service, and for which your help will shortly be asked. For International Students' Week (November 15th-19th) is traditionally the time when a special effort is made to raise funds for some of the many projects designed to assist students in less fortunate circumstances than our own.

L.S.E.'s W.U.S. Officer, Merle Beech, has arranged a programme of activities, including a Film Show, on Monday, 15th (produced by

L.S.E. Film Soc.), a Flag Day on Tuesday, a Lost Property Sale in Room 8 on Friday, and yet another USIKUGOMA for the following Friday.

"Usikugoma" is popularly believed to mean: "Night of Festivities" and in addition to dancing there will be a series of cabaret turns in which L.S.E. students from all parts of the world will take part. Last year's show was one of the outstanding functions of the Michaelmas term and a heavy demand for tickets is anticipated.

The target figure set by W.U.S. is sixpence per student; I hope all readers of "Beaver" will help us to beat this figure by a substantial margin.



A SCENE IN THE LECTURE ROOM AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY, JERUSALEM.

This scene is typical of the crowded conditions in universities and colleges in Israel. One of the projects during International Students' Week this year will be the raising of funds to purchase prefabricated buildings to be sent to ease the overcrowding of Israeli students. The prefabs. will actually be used to provide living accommodation for the students.

APOLOGIES FOR L.S.E.

(With our own apologies to Miss Marghanita Laski and "The Observer")

I DIDN'T want to come to L.S.E. but . . .

- I've always kept a beaver as a pet.
- I didn't pass Latin at school.
- I wanted to meet a Communist.
- It's handy for theatres.
- It's the only London college with three bars.
- You can get hold of the "New Yorker".
- Lectures aren't compulsory.
- The squash courts are on the premises.
- You can smoke in the study rooms.
- My boy friend is here.

EVA STIASNY.



Our Star of Merit this week to Tony Pelling, the General Secretary, who has issued a directive to all societies reminding them that the pigeon holes are not the places for conducting publicity campaigns. My, how that boy works!

"Julie"

Our new Permanent Secretary of the Students' Union is now installed in the mountain fastness of the Union Office on the third floor. She is Miss Juliet Easton (or Julie to Presidents of the Union, General Secretaries and Editors of "Beaver").

Miss Easton is a Londoner by birth, but was removed at the age of three to Sidmouth in South Devon. After leaving school, she went on to study for her H.S.C. at a tutorial institute. After following this with a course at a secretarial college she spent two months in the London offices of a variety company, with which she later went on tour. Her principal duty here was to repel aggressive bobbysoxers from the stage door.

After this she spent some time doing mannequin work before coming to L.S.E. A full life for someone who is only eighteen!

This Week's Suggestion

Two ideas for the School administration. First, could doorstops be fitted to the swing doors of the Old Theatre? When students decide to leave a lecture before it ends, the banging, particularly on the mezzanine floor, as the doors swing shut behind them is a great annoyance to those remaining. Secondly, we are informed by our elders that the armchairs, at least in the Geography Room, have springs which ain't what they used to be!

"BLOOP" REVISITED

How many members of L.S.E.'s Film Society stood outside the Tivoli watching for luscious Gina Lollobrigida during the Italian Film Festival last week, or frantically queued for seats, cannot be estimated—third year Sociology students may like to take a sample.

"Beaver" was, however, allocated a precious press ticket, and though we would like to give readers some impressions of the Festival itself, we will concentrate on the two films not shown to the general public: "Camilla" and "Picasso". *En passant*, we would like to mention that two of the best films premiered last week have secured exhibition in London cinemas: "Neopolitan Fantasy" at the Marble Arch Pavilion, and "Bread, Love, and Dreams" at the Curzon.

Our reason for discussing "Camilla" and "Picasso" is not so much for the sake of the films themselves, but that they illustrate the problem that any expanding film industry—as the Italian obviously is—must face and consider if it is really anxious to capture an appreciable foreign-language market.

True Documentary

First, "Picassa", the documentary. This in pleasing Furonia-color, directed by Luciano Emmo, as all that a documentary should be. It introduced Picasso, and then gave an outline of his life's work, returning to the present to show the painter amongst the potters of the Midi, and allowing us to watch him at work in his studio. This was a film of a kind eminently suitable for export—a true documentary, where vision was more important than the spoken word, which could have been dubbed in any language (the copy which we saw had an English sound-track). The background music, specially composed, was most apt—one or two traditional Spanish instruments being used—though, appropriately, a few bars of Stravinsky's *Sacre de Printemps* were quoted when the film showed his first attempt at "modern" painting.

Foreign Appeal

The showing of "Camilla" we feel to have been a mistake, which did little good to the industry it tried to promote. This was not an exportable film.

Here we came upon the whole crux of the issue of the foreign film; that, to appeal to an audience unfamiliar with its language, it must be conceived in visual terms (or, of course, be concerned with sex!).

A film depending on dialogue which cannot be squeezed adequately into a sub-title is a disastrous failure. This tiresome domestic comedy, hastily and unworthily sub-titled in Italy, was not for a British audience—we have seen the same kind of thing over and over again as a typically low-cost Hollywood production picture, and we found it unbearable in Italian. If the Italians realise this limitation, they will have a greater chance of success—for their best films are very often not only that, but the world's best as well. G. P. G. N.

THANKS

The issue of this edition of "Beaver" may well be delayed by one day at least. This is not due to our printers, who continue to be most long-suffering. The fault is that of the editorial staff, who carry the can back for everything. Without the help of such willing beasts of burden as Messrs. Babiak, Fox, Newfield, Pelling and Thompson it would never have been produced at all. As if anyone cared.

Dancing

As the latest of L.S.E.'s social activities, it is proposed to form a Modern Ballroom Formation Dancing Club. Probably this spectacular display of skill is best known to readers through the medium of TV. "Beaver" feels that this ambitious enterprise deserves success, and it is to be hoped that a sufficient degree of proficiency can be found in the School.

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