

BEAVER

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FCS LEADS ULTRA VIRES PROTEST

A DECISION taken by the Union General Meeting last term to make an annual donation of £100 to South African Liberation Movements has created a storm of protest on the grounds that the payment would be ultra vires.

The Federation of Conservative Students contacted the Conservative Central Office for clarification of the matter. It was drawn to the attention of the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers who wrote to the General Secretary. Sir Michael stated that since the LSE Students' Union is, according to the Union Constitution, a charitable body, it should act in the interests of its members.

A payment to a South African Liberation Organisation he asserted, would not come under this heading and for this reason he has deemed the allocation made to be ultra vires. The Attorney General went on to say that should any payment be made "a very grave view of the matter" would be taken.

In view of the advice from the Treasury Solicitor and other legal sources, the Senior Treasurer, Keir Hopley, stated that he could not and would not make any payments. There has been much criticism of the Senior Treasurer for his decision on the grounds that he has been mandated by the Union General Meeting to make payments.

At the UGM this week, the proposer of the South African Motion, Nico de Beer, felt that controversy was distracting attention from the actual issue. He put forward a motion to delay payment while a legal means was found. "We do not want to break the Law", he said. Meanwhile he planned to set up a scholarship fund for black students at LSE and that he would invite Sir Michael Havers to be its Patron.

In response to the motion, an amendment was put before the Meeting by Dominic Freely and backed by the FCS. The amendment called for the money to be used expressly for the scholarship and not donated to the Liberation Movements. By opting for this latter course money would be made over exclusively for the Fund and in this

way those for whom the proposal was originally designed to benefit would continue to do so, but the payment would be intra vires.

This amendment was accepted and steps are being taken towards setting up the Fund in the near future.

MARGARET
CAMERON-WALLER



Picture: Paul Fender Photography

J. K. Galbraith Address the masses—see page 6

LECTURER ASSESSMENT

—A BEAVER REPORT

THE frequent disillusionment with lectures and classes at LSE is often taken to be an incurable institutional illness, but surely the improvement is not an impossibility. . . .

For the sixth year running, Christine Whitehead has handed out to her Economics A2 students a 'Course Evaluation Questionnaire'. This consists of several questions such as 'Do you find the lectures comprehensible?' and 'Have you found the classes useful?' Generally it is supposed to be an indication of how her course is being received and understood.

"Of course," she says when asked, "the answers tend to be rather predictable, however extra comments students make on the questionnaire are looked at with particular interest. With such a large audience it is impossible to satisfy the whole market. Generally I find the questionnaire of some usefulness—although I don't expect the results would have been much different if I had done it only once every three years. To a certain extent it helps fill the lack of student/teacher feedback."

So at least one lecturer is attempting to find out what her students think of her course. A lightning tour of the departments

however seems to show that such concern is unique. Most staff/student committees appear to have spent long periods discussing the possible introduction of departmental surveys. Those that have succeeded however have met with limited results.

With this in mind, would it be a good idea if such surveys were generally introduced? Steve Pound, General Secretary, evidently thinks not. "Bowling to tokenism" is how he succinctly dismisses the idea, though commending Christine Whitehead's individual example. "Dissatisfaction with lectures is not widespread in the school," he feels, "but when lecturers are bad they are very bad. In such circumstances students should not keep silent, or at best moan. They should think in terms of boycotts or at any rate come and see the Student Union Executive."

Matthew Price adds:

In America, student assessment of lecturers is far more common than in England. Don Phillips from Oberlin College, Ohio said that his college had a scheme in which it gave out a confidential questionnaire which grades lecturers on such criteria as accessibility, clarity and performance. This information is then used to assess lecturers and

to help make decisions on promotion and tenure.

At Wesleyan University, Connecticut Bob Seifort said that they have schemes for assessment. One, a handbook which gives a critique of courses from a student point of view and secondly a questionnaire that is used for assessing the potential of lecturers for promotion. He says that the problem is that often the response is only about 50%.

Dave Sieger of Brown's University said that his college has a questionnaire and that some courses have actually been dropped due to student criticism and others were changed.

Ideas like this seem a long way from being accepted at LSE. The anthropology third-year students ran a questionnaire which was filled in by all undergraduate students, but one student said that she did not think that it had made any difference.

The Sociology Department is considering having some sort of lecturer assessment. Professor Robert McKenzie at his last meeting of the Sociology department mentioned the Ohio University method of lecturer assessment. One cannot help feeling that if all LSE academics had the same attitude towards students as Professor McKenzie

then the problems of students would be far less as it is essentially a problem of communication and the will to listen to student problems. The spread of questionnaires would aid student/lecturer communication and hopefully to the greater understanding of student problems which would mean both lecturers and students getting more out of courses.

TIM JUDAH and
MATTHEW PRICE

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We apologise for the reduced size of this issue, due to production difficulties caused by the rail strike. We are also very sorry about the purple headline.

IN DEFENCE OF THE ARMY

Dear Editors,

PAUL GARDNER'S contribution in the November 25th edition of BEAVER came as a pleasant surprise. As an Ulsterman I have often found that views expressed from this side of the Irish Sea tend to be superficial and unhelpful. Mr Gardner's contribution was a refreshing change, bringing a new and interesting dimension to this debate. However, I was greatly dismayed by the response to his letter in the following issue.

Neither Mr Wright and Mr McManus in reply seemed to have read the original letter with any degree of understanding at all. David Wright had

the gall to describe the arguments as "bizarre" and then to proceed to a truly bizarre argument of his own; if South Africa really did resemble Northern Ireland it would surely not receive the world condemnation that it does today.

His solutions tend to lie in the direction of a ritual "blood cleansing", in which the loyalist community would either be exterminated or gored into submission once the British Army has been withdrawn. Apart from the obvious immorality of such a solution, it completely ignores Mr Gardner's correct assumption that the most likely result of withdrawal would be the emergence of a homogeneously protestant, totalitarian state under the likes of Ian Paisley. It must be obvious that the role of the army in

Ulster is essentially bi-partisan; it attempts to protect both sides from the tyranny of paramilitary gangsters.

Bellew MacManus's letter displays the same old tired misconceptions. He too ignores Mr Gardner's appeal to look to the present and having dragged up a few historical half-truths proceeds to the same conclusion as David Wright that the only answer lies in civil war. He callously disregards democracy by a facile comparison between the number of votes cast for Bobby Sands and the number cast for Mrs Thatcher. The relevance of such a comparison in a country where there are more than those two constituencies quite escapes me.

If applied only to Northern Ireland it seems to me to pro-



vide some sort of argument for letting Mr Paisley take control since he has the largest share of the vote.

He ends on a fine revolutionary note calling for "Mr Gardner and his friends" (who does he mean?) to take their "understandings, their guarantees and their initiatives and go home". A great many people in Northern Ireland would think it more

appropriate to send Mr McManus and his friends, with their money, their guns and their empty rhetoric back home to their side of the Atlantic.

As Paul Gardner says, the only solution to the problem of Northern Ireland lies in the present. It is futile to grapple with yesterday's mistakes.

David R. Gibson

THE ECONOMISTS' BOOKSHOP SECONDHAND DEPARTMENT

ABSE (ed.): MY LSE Robson Books, 1977	95p
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BELL: THE DIPLOMACY OF DETENTE Martin Robertson, 1977	£1.95
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LEE: MODERN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING (second edition) Nelson, 1975	£2.50
LEONTIEF: ESSAYS IN ECONOMICS Blackwell 1977 (two volumes)	each £2.00
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McCAULEY: COMMUNIST POWER IN EUROPE 1944-1949 Macmillan, 1979	60p
McLELLAN: MARX'S GRUNDRISSE (second edition) Macmillan, 1980	£1.50
McNEILL: THE METAMORPHOSIS OF GREECE SINCE WORLD WAR II Blackwell, 1978	£2.00
MANT: THE RISE & FALL OF THE BRITISH MANAGER Macmillan, 1977	80p
MILLER: MICRO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF MONETARY POLICY Martin Robertson, 1978	£1.95
BUCK-MORSS: THE ORIGIN OF NEGATIVE DIALECTICS Harvester, 1977	£1.95
PATTERSON & SCHOTT: THE MEASUREMENT OF CAPITAL: Theory & Practice Macmillan, 1979	£2.00
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CAVACO-SILVA: ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF PUBLIC DEBT Martin Robertson, 1977	£1.50
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WITTGENSTEIN & THE VIENNA CIRCLE: CONVERSATIONS edited by McGuinness Blackwell, 1979	£1.95
WITTGENSTEIN: LECTURES (two volumes), 1930-1931 & 1932-1935 Blackwell, 1979 & 1980	each £1.95

SPRING BOOK BARGAINS

NEWS IN BRIEF

THERE are plans for a blood transfusion unit from Charlotte Street Hospital to visit LSE every six months. This follows a visit to Charlotte Street by the General Secretary to see an LSE student who was attacked following a robbery and had to have a seven-pint transfusion. The hospital mentioned to him that there were problems obtaining enough donations so it is hoped that as the unit will be at LSE, students will help the hospital with its donor shortage.

Once the present stock paper is used up in the shop the Students' Union will be switching to recycled paper after recent

contact with Friends of the Earth.

The Union Shop will also soon be stocking "beauty without cruelty" cosmetics.

It looks as if September Resits may become a reality after Wednesday's meeting with the General Purposes Committee at which students presented a paper in its favour. The Director and the Pro-Director said that he would put it to the Academic Board.

Passfield Hall has acquired a new television, much to the joy of the inmates who say it will take their minds off the food.

They would also like to point out to the LSE the recent statement of William Whitelaw on overcrowding in British prisons.

Charges for some photocopying machines in the library have dropped by a massive one penny.

The latest SDP tactic seems to be hiding members in Labour Club Meetings. While planning the next revolution in Steve Pound's office it was noticed that Mitchell "Invisible Man" Sandler was listening in, Steve excused himself with ageing eyesight but said that this could be Labour's greatest threat.

MATTHEW PRICE

EDITORS RETIRE

ALAS, the time has come for the present BEAVER Editors, Colin Bates and Margaret Cameron-Waller to announce their retirement and to sink back into the obscurity of the Library.

We should like to thank all those who have helped us over this past year and particularly the Union staff for coping when we could never be found. Nominations will be opening shortly to elect the new students to the post of Supremos of the LSE newspaper.

WATCH YOUR BAGS

THE Assistant Manager of the Aldwych Branch of the National Westminster Bank, Mr Mike Dobson, has expressed concern about the number of LSE students who have had cheque books and cheque cards stolen recently. So many thefts have taken place on the School premises or in the Library that the culprits may well be students themselves.

There is a tendency for students to be careless about their belongings in the School environment perhaps in a spirit of trust, perhaps in the belief that a thief would not operate in such a public place. However, the cards have been taken, usually with the victims' other possessions left untouched.

Although they are personalised and coded, cheque cards are thought to be worth about £60 on the black market. Students are advised to take greater care with their bags and briefcases in future. Mr Dobson has particularly stressed the importance of keeping cheque books and cheque cards in different places.

CHRIS COLLET

TEAM TRIUMPH

A TEAM from the London School of Economics has made it to the semi-finals of the Inter-University Management Game, a knockout business competition run annually by chartered accountants, Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

'ABC Ltd' is one among only 25 teams to survive the first round, from an original entry of 181 teams.

The semi-finalists have been split into five groups of five teams and the winner of each group will go on to take part in the finals in London's Hilton Hotel on April 5, 6 and 7.

At stake is prize money of £1,750 to be split between the winning three teams and their respective University Departments.

The outright winners will also become, for one year, custodians of the Management Game crystal ball—a priceless aid to management decisions!

The Game is played by post, each team representing a trading company. At the start, all the teams have identical balance sheets. Problems and trading conditions are set by DH&S and success is judged in terms of rate of return on money invested in each company at the outset.

Conditions are as true to life as possible—the teams have been faced with a relentless slump and credit has been hard to come by.

The organisers say that inexpert cash management is a widespread problem—so far some 10 per cent of the 'companies' have gone into liquidation.

Photo: Pericles Boutos



Margaret Ramsay and Michael Gill in "The Threepenny Opera"—For Review see page 7

SIMON NEEDS HELP

THE Simon Community is an organisation which helps the single homeless in London. Recently it has set up a new night shelter in Camden Town which takes in fourteen people each night. Apart from giving these people a meal for the night, it tries to refer them to long stay hostels or to invite them back to Simon the next night.

Simon needs volunteers to help out at the shelter once a week or fortnight. The work basically involves talking to the

people who stay at the shelter and attempting to give some odd jobs. The shelter opens at 8.00 pm and it is hoped that volunteers would attend the meeting held at midnight and stay at the shelter overnight.

If you are interested in helping could you contact Joanne Evans at Rosebery Hall or ring directly to the Simon Community on 388 6006.

IDENTITY CRISIS

AT a meeting of the Social Democratic Group last Monday,

it was decided that the Group should change its name to the LSE Alliance Group.

The Alliance consists of a high number of Liberals and it was for this reason that the Social Democratic Group should change its name. Members were anxious to resolve outstanding constitutional difficulties so that they can proceed with the development of the group's policies.

Alliance Group Chairperson, Mitchell Sandler, is calling upon all students who want a progressive efficient Union to come and join the Alliance irrespective of their national party affiliation.

BEAVER

Newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union, East Building, Houghton Street, London WC2.
Tel: 01-405-8594.

Producers: COLIN BATES and MARGARET CAMERON-WALLER

Cast:

MATTHEW PRICE	JEREMY ROSENBLATT
CHRIS COLLET	KATARINA SARLVIK
PATRICK HARVERSON	SIMON GARFIELD
TIM JUDAH	NIC NEWMAN
DINA RABINOVITCH	NICK JONES
SHEILA CURRAN	CHRIS ARMERO
NIGEL RACINE-JAQUES	TONY DONALDSON
PENNY MARSHALL	

Snooker Player in Background:

MATTHEW 'THE LAD' BRETTLER, QC

Contributory Negligence: DAVE BEARMAN

Music: STU O'NEILL

Choreography: KEIR HOPLEY

Vocal Backing: KATE DAVIES & THE BALCONY QUARTET

Next appearance: FEBRUARY 9th

Nic Newman would like to thank Emmerdale Farm for the loan of a cloth cap.

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MACE VICTORY FOR DEBATERS

THE LSE Debating Society first team has qualified for the regional final of the Observer Mace Debating competition, generally accepted to be Britain's best debating event.

Justin Webb and Ian Draude won their place at the first round match held at Grays Inn on Wednesday night. The LSE's second team have their match at Grays Inn on Monday.

The Debating Society hopes people will come and support the team in the final. Supporters should meet at 6.15 outside the St Clement's Building on Thursday, January 28th for the debate at University College at 7 pm. Other events include:

Tuesday, February 2nd: This House would abolish public schools. 1 pm. S169.

Wednesday, February 10th: Competition (see below).

Tuesday, February 16th: This House believes killing people is wrong. 1 pm. S169.

Tuesday, February 23rd: This House advises dissatisfied members of the Labour Party to join the Conservative Party. Proposed by Reg Prentice, MP. Opposed by Tom McNally, MP. 1 pm. Venue to be announced.

Tuesday, March 9th: AGM. 1 pm. S169.

SPOTLIGHT

SOUTH AFRICA — ON THE SPOT REPORT

ON returning from South Africa I was a little apprehensive about the reaction that my visit there would provoke from my politically conscious friends here in England. Perhaps too I was a little ashamed that my principles weren't strong enough to make me refuse the offer of a free ticket to sunshine and beaches—because I would be giving money to an undeniably racist regime and thereby supporting it.

The response to my visit has been pretty unanimously voiced by all as being one of disapproval; tolerant disapproval on the part of my friends (who tend to make allowances out of love) and active disapproval from acquaintances. The response of those of you reading this article is also probably one of a similar nature — if you respond at all—you will be disapproving.

Having now seen apartheid in action, I'm pleased that people here feel strongly enough about the system to react in this way to my visit, but what worries me is the amount of students who have a trigger response of disgust to the words "South Africa" and "apartheid" compared to the amount of students who have a well thought out and informed reaction of disgust to them. It is probably true that a reaction is better than none but I'm not convinced that this blanket reaction actually gets us any closer to the abolition of apartheid.

I would hope that no one here would begin to defend the political system in South Africa, which is one based on racial discrimination and segregation, but I think we should all try a little bit harder to understand and thereby to change it. The condemnation directed at South Africa is often narrow and unthinking, and can be harmful to the cause of the abolition of apartheid.

Of course we should condemn the system, but we should give some intelligent consideration to the nature and the purpose of our condemnation. If we condemn the system in the right way, we could do a great deal to alter it, as it exists today—increasing the social, economic and political opportunities of the Blacks and Coloured communities. If we condemn it in the wrong way, we may do a great deal of harm.

At the moment our condemnation takes one of two forms. The first is the use of sanctions both economic and social to manifest our disapproval of their system, and supposedly shock the white leaders into changing it. Economic sanctions, as the Zulu leader Buthelezi said, often take employment away from the Blacks and do more immediate harm than good.

It is difficult to assess what long term effects they have, but I would doubt they shock the



Whites into anything more than increased nationalism. Social sanctions, such as "No South African rugby players here, thanks" do little except make the South African rugby players even more determined to win. Indeed, sending a country to virtual "coventry" does not encourage them to question their political system, but rather makes them defensive and unflinching in their assertion that it is correct. It makes them determined to prove the rest of the world wrong.

The second form is one of undercurrent negotiations with those Blacks and Coloureds who want to change the system by means of violence. Obviously this encourages revolutionary activities, and what is worse, activities controlled by the Super-powers who wish to gain control of this land rich in minerals, and strategically placed on the Cape-Oil route.

Their activities anger the existing government still further and make it less willing to listen to the "self-interested" and interfering forces from out-

side and from within South Africa.

Even if these revolutionary movements were of a sufficient strength to pose a significant threat to the government, are they ready to govern South Africa? Or will they just become a puppet government for an outside power. . . . The USA or Russia perhaps? The standard of education amongst the Coloured and African communi-

more cause important damage to the potential development of leadership amongst those we wish to help.

If refusing to play sport with South Africa, or to eat their peanuts does little to help change the situation, and encouraging the Blacks to use violence as a means to overthrow the existing system is potentially and politically dangerous, then what should we, who feel so strongly opposed to apartheid

them that we have to communicate. We should not show our disapproval through silence or through encouraging revolution, but by telling them that their political system is based on a racist premise and that it is abhorrent. We should encourage communications with them, welcome rugby teams and welcome students here to study and talk to.

Where possible we should encourage the ever increasing number of white students who object to their own system. There is such a sizeable movement of White objectors at Capetown University (Vitz) that Botha will no longer speak there.

These are the people we must reach, and encourage, because they are the people who can have and will have the power to change the system peacefully and who can give equal opportunities and provide educational facilities for the Blacks and the Coloureds. It is with them that we must exchange ideas and thereby infiltrate the front line of White South African leadership.

The emotional and intellectual disgust which we feel for apartheid is encouraging to see but we must take it a step further. We must do something about it, put it into action so that apartheid is abolished. It is only a pity that while we write articles here and boycott South African activities and foods, people in South Africa suffer, because we haven't the power to change things. Only the South Africans have that power — the Whites through constitutional and social change and the Blacks through violence. We must try and reach the former first, to change and to avert civil war. Of course, if they don't listen to us, and don't change anything, then we must waste no more time to show our condemnation through other means.

Penny Marshall

SURREALIST FATE?

TO a packed audience in the New Theatre, the Neo-Surrealist Society staged its first event of the year: a presentation of four films each indicative of a certain facet of the surrealist movement with the exception of the last.

"Le Ballet Mecanique" by Ferdinand Leger and "Entr'Acte" by Rene Clair were both films of the middle 'Twenties — the height of the movement's fame. Both are interesting in that all their serious aspects are all but lost to us. Surrealism as a movement in art and culture represented a rejection of European 'rationalism' and was supposedly a means of 'reuniting the conscious and the unconscious realms of experience so completely that the world of dream and fantasy would be joined to the everyday world in an absolute reality, a surreality'.

In the irrational world of the 1980's though, these films seem badly dated and their philosophy is lost on us. They appear as early experiments with film and images more reminiscent of 'Playschool'

than a serious artform. Even with the collaboration of Man Ray, whose photographs, or rather 'photograms' are still celebrated, these films seem nothing more than amusing curiosities.

"Un Chien Andalou", Bunel's 1928 masterpiece made with Salvador Dali is much more of a success relating in no uncertain terms to Bunel's untempered fascination for gratuitous cruelty and eroticism, making this certainly the most stimulating film of the evening.

The last film was Alain Resnais' long and rambling "Last year at Marienbad". This picture takes us out of the realms of surrealism and into "Le Nouvelle Vogue" of the unorthodox but influential French films of the 1950's. It is a strange and ethereal film tracing the relationship of a man and woman seemingly trapped in a hotel or memory of 'another age'. It is in fact a splendid creation possibly recalling Beckett's "Godot" but certainly Marguerite Duras' classic novel "Moderato Cantabile". It thus

comes as no surprise to find that the film's dialogue is written by Robbe-Grillet, an exponent of the parallel development to the 'nouvelle vogue' — i.e. that of 'nouvelle roman' and also that Kesnais did indeed film Duras' book 'Horshima mon Amour'.

TIM JUDAH

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE

presents . . .

Mon, Feb 1st, 1-2 pm—
Speaker from the ANC, rm S 017.

Tues, Feb 2nd, 1-2 pm—
Sahara Action Committee —
"Self-determination for West Sahara", S 017.

Wed, Feb 3rd, 1-2 pm—
Speakers from PAC and BCM,
New Theatre.

Thurs, Feb 4th, 12-1 pm—
SWAPO/NSC, S 017.

Fri, Feb 5th, 1-2 pm—
Eritrean Peoples' Liberation
Front, S 017.

GET SET FOR...

NUS WEEK OF ACTION

Compiled by Katarina Sarlvik

NALGO discontent

THE LSE has a policy of freezing as many posts as possible when they become vacant. For the students this can only mean a reduction in services. When specialised teaching posts are lost there is a reduction in the number of options for courses. The following letter from the library staff illustrates the effect that freezing of posts has had there.

NALGO members in the Library are at present campaigning to get frozen posts filled.

There are a whole number of frozen posts in the Library but the ones causing most concern are the three Library Assistant posts in the Reader Services Department. Much of the work in Reader Services is covering counter-duties, i.e. work directly with the readers, which cannot be postponed if there are staff shortages. The staff in the Reader Services are still expected to run the same level of service with three staff less than usual. This means more hours on counters, and less time to do "behind counter duties": it puts pressure on them and has inevitably had an ill-effect

Monday, 1st March – Delegate lobby of Parliament

Tuesday, 2nd March – Lecture and class boycott
(University Sector)

Wednesday & Thursday – Other institutional walkouts

Friday, 5th March – National Demonstration

on the library service. It is part of the problem behind the growing discontent amongst students with the library service. We believe that this situation cannot carry on indefinitely.

NALGO first took up the problem of the three frozen posts in the middle of last term. We were then told that the posts would be filled from the redeployment of staff from the reclassification unit, which was due to finish at the end of last year. We pointed out that this would involve the 'down-grading' of these staff and would subsequently cause problems. Finally we held a meeting of NALGO members in the library and after much discussion, we agreed that unless there were new proposals, both for the re-

deployment of the reclassification staff and the filling of the library assistants' posts, we would 'work to rule' i.e. not cover for the frozen posts readers' services, as from the first day of this term.

Since the beginning of the New Year the problem of the redeployment of the reclassification staff has been resolved, but that of the three frozen library assistants posts has not. At the last LSE/NALGO Joint Committee it was proposed to set up a Working Party to look into the resources of the Library. This will consist entirely of library staff. We have two representatives from NALGO and we will be pushing for the recruitment of more staff because we feel that this is the only solution to the problems to be discussed. We also stressed that the

Working Party should meet and come up with a satisfactory solution within three weeks of the beginning of term, or we would be obliged to carry out our original proposals of working to rule!

The problem of frozen posts, obviously is not confined to the library, but affects the whole School, and will continue to do so, due to the cutbacks imposed by the Government on universities. It is NALGO's policy to fight these cuts and we must ensure that we are united in this effort.

BARBARA HUMPHRIES
(NALGO, Library
Staff Representative)

DAWN MUSPRATT
(Branch Secretary
NALGO)

GRANT POVERTY

THE Government are proposing two measures that will affect student grants for next year. Firstly, the rise in the full grant will be 4%, which at a time of double figure inflation means a substantial cut in the real value of the grant. This will affect all students who receive a grant. The second measure will affect those who receive part of their grant in the form of a parental contribution. This contribution would be expected to rise by 15% to form a greater proportion of the grant. The problem is that many parents do not pay their contributions. NUS estimate that some 80% of parents do not pay the full amount due.

This is only the latest in a series of measures to erode student grants. Over the last 20 years, the real value of grants has fallen by 21% and two-thirds of this has taken place since the Conservative Government came into office. We know that this Government resents paying grants to students and has already looked into the possibility of replacing the grants by loans. We would probably be faced with the introduction of such a system for next year, had Government investigations not found that the initial outlay would be greater than for continuing with grants. So one thing we can be sure of is that the reductions in grants proposed for next year is just a step on the way to further reductions. The result

will eventually be that students whose parents do not have private fortunes will live in poverty. Obviously, this is a serious attack on the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of people to benefit from further education. At this early stage, we must make crystal clear to this anti-student Government precisely where we stand on this issue.

KATARINA SARLVIK

Overseas students the victims

OVERSEAS students have consistently had to bear the brunt of education cuts through higher fees to subsidise losses suffered by colleges through the last decade or so.

Today to have the "privilege" of an education at LSE it costs overseas students £2,700 in fees alone, and the part-time fees are the highest in the country. This attitude has meant increasingly that more overseas students at LSE are RICH and WHITE, and the college has lost a lot of third world students who can no longer afford the fees.

It is certain that this year, overseas student fees will once more be increased; how much

is as yet unknown, although a substantial increase is rumoured. This coupled with the new additional cost of health care for overseas students will undoubtedly put fees beyond all but the excessively rich.

Last year's increase in overseas student fees was met by a prolonged occupation of Connaught House. It is hoped by all those people who are concerned with this matter that the support for the occupation by the student body is again

shown for action that might take place, over the following weeks in conjunction with the Cuts Campaign and the NUS Week of Action. Only through a massive response to these actions will either the Government or the College take note of the students' grave concern over the new round of "education cuts". It is no use relying on anybody else to save your education; you must campaign against the cuts — now.

ADAM HOLMES

THE DEVALUATION OF DEMOCRACY

The Lords have turned the clever scheme
Of cheaper travel on the Tube
To such a costly nightmare theme
And twisted us like Rubik's Cube.

But who has voted-in the Lords
In our so-called 'democracy'
—Yet they with autocratic swords
Have power to wound the GLC.

Let us who take the Tube insist
That we for want of justice ask:
Why should the House of Lords exist
With power to take us all to task?

© N. Racine-Jaques, 1982.

Ill luck for foreign students

UNDER existing regulations on NHS treatment foreign citizens can get free treatment if they are "Ordinarily resident" in the UK or are intending to stay for more than one year, if their country has a reciprocal agreement with the UK, or if they fall ill while on a visit to Britain. They do not get free treatment if they had the condition when they came here, eg on-going diabetes, or if they came to the UK specifically to get treatment.

Under the government proposal all non-permanent residents would be charged, apart from those from countries with reciprocal agreements. The DHSS claim that this will end any supposed abuse of free treatment by overseas visitors and save some £5 million.

There are many objections to this scheme:

* the DHSS have themselves admitted that there is no evidence of abuse of the NHS by overseas students

* the proposals will not save £5 million as money will be needed to administer the scheme and chase up bad debtors

* the new rules will be tremendously complicated — for example, a person from New Zealand falls under the reciprocal agreement rule and will be entitled to treatment, but one from Australia will not.

* it is mainly people from the poorer developing countries who will be affected. For example, many Commonwealth students would not get free treatment while a visitor from Eastern Europe would.

* some overseas students may be able to take out insurances, but many will not be able to afford this in addition to high university fees. In addition, no handicapped student without a private fortune would ever be able to come here

* the implementation of these charges is likely to be racially discriminating. It raises the prospect of coloured people, whether visitors or residents here, being questioned as to their status when they are ill and seeking treatment

* finally, these proposals are the first step to establishing a National Health Service based on a medical insurance, where the quality of treatment would be dependent on the ability to pay.

NHS DAY OF ACTION:
29 JANUARY—PICKET OF A
HOSPITAL IN THE MORNING
AND OF THE DHSS IN THE
AFTERNOON.

KATARINA SARLVIK

Nott a well-kept secret WIT, SARCASM & INSIGHT

IT was Thursday the 14th when I realised that some sinister operation was being planned under the very noses of LSE students. I was scurrying around the buildings, searching for a good news story when I noticed an FCS poster which said: "Urgent, all members check pigeonholes for details of Mark Thatcher's whereabouts." This was very odd. Only ten minutes before then I had been told on 'Nationwide' that the search for the Prime Minister's son was still on. To make sure I had my facts right, as is the duty of every good journalist, I rang Mrs Thatcher. She confirmed my information.

I rushed to the pigeonholes and rapidly searched through several boxes for an FCS newsletter, but I could not find a single one. Curiosity gripped me. What was the meaning of the poster? What secret scheme were FCS perpetrating? I paused for a moment and then it clicked. There were some plain sealed envelopes in the pigeonholes of exactly the same type as those I had seen the FCS Secretary buy only three weeks ago. These envelopes, I was almost sure contained the FCS newsletter, but why were they sealed?

When I came in on Monday, I could sense an aura of mystery in the air and I knew this had to be the day when the FCS plan, whatever it was, would be put into action. I kept my eyes open for a clue and it was outside the Old Building that I found one. Two policemen were patrolling up and down Houghton Street. What on earth were they doing there? I looked around. A crowd of two or three left-wingers were gathering,

preparing to chant "No Police on Campus". I took my opportunity quickly and asked them why they were there. "We're here to guard a politician" was their curt reply.

Suddenly the jigsaw seemed to fit together. Obviously, for the first time since Timothy Raison was ejected, a Conservative MP was being smuggled into the School.

The next step of the investigation took place at the 'Beaver' production meeting. We were discussing forthcoming events at LSE when one well-informed 'Beaver' correspondent let the cat out of the bag and announced to a shocked audience that a Conservative MP would be speaking at one o'clock that day.

"I know," interjected 'Beaver' supremo, Margaret Cameron-Waller, "it's going to be held in the Vera Anstey Room." And then a most amazing thing happened. She turned towards me and winked at me... What was the meaning of this signal? Was it a sexual invitation? Or was it to inform me that the Vera Anstey Room was a red herring? I assumed the latter but still could not believe that such a nice girl was involved in so dastardly a scheme.

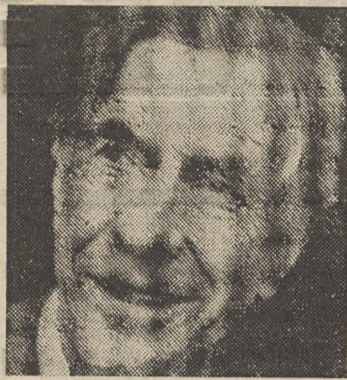
After the meeting I followed Margaret to see where she would lead me, but I lost her amongst the swarming bodies at the entrance to the Old Building.

It was then that I was hit by a stroke of luck. I spied from the corner of my eye a group of shifty looking people, whom I assumed to be Conservatives, slipping into the St Clements Building. I followed them to an inconspicuous classroom and walked in unobtrusively. Imagine my surprise when John Nott MP,

PROFESSOR J. K. Galbraith is a strange American. Sarcasm is not normally an American trait but Professor Galbraith uses it frequently and with great effect. This he demonstrated to an audience which was literally hanging from the light fittings of the Old Theatre on Tuesday, 14th of January.

Welcoming his audience to "a major breach of London fire regulations" Prof Galbraith went on to describe Prof Hayek as a "man of comprehensively archaic views" the latter curve as being "in its operative range entirely freehand of origin" and the freemarket revival as being "romantic, or less tactfully vacuous".

A major breach of the London fire regulations it may have been, a major breach of the audience's political preconceptions it was not. They undoubtedly enjoyed his stinging attacks on Profs Friedman Hayek and Laffer, but were not made to feel uncomfortable by even the slightest glimmering of socialism. Free market revivalists however would have little to fear from Prof Galbraith if his attacks purely consisted of acid wit. What makes Prof Galbraith so dangerous an



adversary is the carefully structured analysis on which he based his lecture.

Prof Galbraith is what the Americans call a liberal and what we have come to term as a Social Democrat. He believes that Britain and America have turned away from the economic and social consensus policies pursued by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Premiers Macmillan, Wilson and Callaghan. He identifies as the cause of this departure the failure of "consensus" governments to

manage demand effectively. When faced with the politically difficult task of increasing taxation and reducing public expenditure the courage of consensus government has failed them, they have preferred instead to use monetary policy which Galbraith believes to be impossible to regulate. It was to this point that he returned in his conclusion, setting the challenge for the supporters of the consensus.

Consensus governments will return and when they do must be prepared to control inflation with prices and incomes policy and summon up the courage to manage demand effectively.

Time magazine once described a work of Prof Galbraith as being a "Vague essay with the air of worried dinner table conversation", it was blind of them not to have noticed something much deeper...

A.C.W.F. & D.W.F.

The text of Professor Galbraith's speech reproduced in the Spring Edition of Millennium, Vol XI, No 1, copies of which are available from Room A 117 in mid-April.

infamous Defence Minister, should walk in behind me. I was wide-eyed with amazement and disbelief. I rubbed my eyes and looked again. There he was, closely followed by Nick Fernyhough, FCS Chairman.

The Meeting had no sooner begun than, suddenly, the door to the room swung open with a crash. In strode a group of stern-looking left-wingers who had also found out about John Nott. They took up position at the back of the room. My mind flashed back to the time when swarthy anti-hero, Krish Maharaj and his avid band of followers forced a Conservative Home Office Minister out of the Building.

The Conservatives in the room shuddered and a bead of sweat trickled down Nick's brow.

This is where the excitement subsided and John Nott launched into a repeat of his Robin Day interview speeches. Afterwards assorted audience members kept asking the same question, couched in different words, trying without success to get Mr Nott to criticise USA Defence and Foreign Policy. However, barring the content of the speech and debate, the event itself was a raging success.

Conservatives were cock-a-hoop at getting their first Cabinet Minister to speak at the LSE for ten years.

Socialists were congratulating themselves over discovering the 'behind closed doors' meeting and turning up in force to argue their point of view. I too was delighted in achieving the scoop of the year and in covering a story soon to be heralded as a masterpiece of investigative journalism.

P.S. I was having a cosy little chat with the man who actually determines John Nott's policy, John Wilkinson, and he asked me to remind LSE students to buy his new book on Strategic Studies and Defence Policy which will be coming out shortly.

NICK FROMINGS

SO YOU WANT TO BE A SABBATICAL ?

EVERY year twenty or so hopefuls push themselves forward under a variety of labels for the Union's three top jobs. Do they realise what they are letting themselves in for?

They stand for varying reasons. Some for amusement value, others to accelerate the impending revolution. Many lust for personal power or glory. Without doubt, however, the major factor influencing people's decision is pure self-interest. People fancy a year away from studying, a salary, a comfortable office with two telephones, a hot line to the director—who can blame them? GOOD FOR JOB PROSPECTS!!! But is it all it's cracked up to be?

It's a job with pressures and responsibilities many people don't realise. Being the employer of full-time members of staff (all older than yourself), managing three services, dealing with company reps, school admin., the porters, the police—the list is endless. It is a very powerful job particularly out of term when there are no students to provide a check. We have to take decisions like whether to discipline members of staff or award

pay rises. If things go wrong we carry the can (cf. John Munford and the Handbooks).

It is also hard to come to terms with the fact that you are not a student and it can be lonely, particularly working over that summer period when there are no students about. When they are about people get at you and resent your position. It is easy to get depressed.

The workload is seasonal both in nature and size. The summer is a time when there are no students to help or advise, there is little urgent work to be done and it is hard to motivate yourself. Having few records to work on (sabbaticals are notoriously bad at filing — K.H. excepted) is a problem. It is hard to know how much work needs to be done or whether things will be ready in time. For me, the end of September, beginning of October was a time for working under intense pressure with long hours (70 plus per week). A variety of challenges were in store, public addresses, worry about plans working smoothly, dealing with unforeseen difficulties (a strike on the Thames on the day of the riverboat disco), meeting vast amounts of people, liaising with the school, outside organisations, student hosts etc. Eventually the work-

load gets easier as contacts are made and mistakes learned.

My idea of a model sabbatical involves the ability to work hard, the ability to communicate or delegate, the ability to be decisive having fully considered the facts, the ability to look beyond your department and your politics, the ability to be open-minded and to try and talk to students from all backgrounds and not to shut yourself off into a clique.

No potential sabbatical can hope to have all these qualifications but I hope, that when considering whether to stand or not, they realize the wider implications of the job and are prepared to take on the responsibilities of employing 20-odd fulltime staff, managing three commercial services with a combined turnover of over quarter million pounds per year, as well as the responsibility of serving the best interests of all LSE students—home and overseas, postgraduate and undergraduate.

I have found it at times a very depressing and dispiriting job, at times a very exciting one. It is always interesting, but fundamentally it is what you make of it — no-one tells you what to do. It has personally done me the world of

good and I don't regret doing it for a moment — but I would never restand.

Nic Newman

Beaver Moles have come up with a short list of likely sabbatical candidates:

SOCIAL SECRETARY:

Dave Bearman, Glyn James, Steve Virgin, Andrew Dell, Nick Jones, Bob Jones.

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Dave Bearman, Steve Pound (restand), Ed Lucas, Paul Walker, Dave Rose, Matthew Brettler, Ed Jacob (restand), John Munford (restand), Danny Finklestein, Nick Fernyhough, Mick Coleby.

SNR TREASURER:

Dave Bearman, Keir Hopley (restand), Rick Young, Jon O'Neill, Melanie Nazareth, Julian Ingram.

Do you want to take part in LSE's own Debating Competition? It will be held on Wednesday afternoon, February 10th. It will be a knock-out competition and you will be told in advance all the rules and debate titles. If you wish to debate with a specific partner you must send in a joint form. YOU DO NOT NEED TO HAVE ANY PREVIOUS DEBATING EXPERIENCE TO ENTER THIS COMPETITION. If you send in a solo form we will pair you with someone. Just fill in this form and put in the Debating Society pigeonhole (East Building).

1) I wish to debate with my partner in the competition
We are :
Tel : and

2) I wish to debate in the competition. Please find me a partner.
I am :
Tel :
Please state if you are a postgraduate.

We would like all entries in by February 1st. Late entries by phone only to 202-6966. Replies will be placed in your East Building Pigeonholes (if you are a postgrad it will be in the Graduate Common Room). Please keep your eye on your pigeonhole.

Early entrants include Steve Pound entering as a team with Edward Lucas!

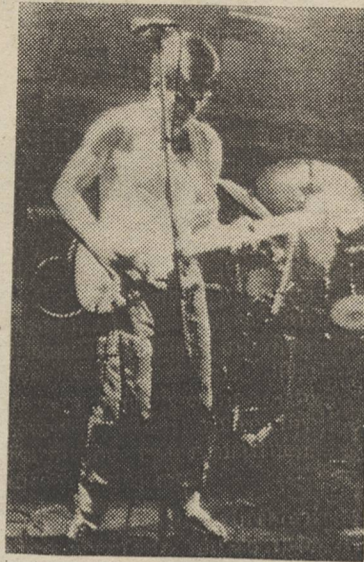


SLINGING MUD WITH RUDOLPH

THE penultimate Friday of last term saw LSE Ents' effort to bolster the Christmas festivities—two films and two bands. Despite the cancellation of the main feature, "Thunderbirds are Go", which obviously caused great upset among the many International Rescue fans in the LSE, the evening progressed with the usual beer-swilling jollity characteristic of such events.

People were still arriving when "Diamonds are Forever" had already begun—a measure of the countless people who had never seen the film before and had obviously rushed to get there and secure a good seat. Still, the film did provide good clean escapist fun for those who like that sort of thing.

The other offering in the Old Theatre was an Elvis Presley film, the title of which I've forgotten—which shows the impact it made! Yet another Presley performance where Elvis again proves that he should be remembered for his songs and not for his acting.



Pics: Nick Jones

In between the films, more entertainment was provided in the Haldane Room by BIM and MUD (or more correctly Les Gray and backing). Despite their monosyllabic names both gave popular performances—although very different.

BIM being the support, came on first and soon captivated the audience with an energetic, inspiring set. Their strong, catchy songs (in particular "Romance") went down well. Those who saw them during the Freshers conference knew what to expect: others found out—a solid performance by one of the most talented young bands on the London circuit.

MUD gave a lively and danceable rendition of their former hits and '50's numbers—that's one view. The other would say that it was just another example of a band fallen (and still falling) from previous glory, trying hard to match their old form—which is just the thing that brings in the LSE students: the chance to see big names years after they were big. Other gigs throughout the term featuring more relevant and exciting bands were poorly attended by students from the

LSE, yet well favoured by the more discerning punters from outside. One can only hope that this fidelity to the old favourites will not continue to discourage students from going to gigs featuring less well known bands who provide more inspiration and excitement than the now jaded names of the past.

N. S. JONES

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Friday, 12th February: Alternative Showcase: The Stargazers, Lady Blue and Subway Sect, Capt. J. J. Waller (escapologist, strongman), The National Revue Company, Jive Shakespeare. Entrance £1.50, 7.30 pm start.

Band Showcase: A Blue Zoo, The Passage, 45's, Beatroots, Birds with Ears, Pookie Snackenburger. Six Bands, One Price £1.50, 7 pm start.

February 23rd: Alexi Sayle and The Electric Horseman (Robert Redford film). £1 adv, £1.50 door.

February 27th: Rag Ball with films, Star Wars and Jaws.

March 13th: Z Movie and two supports.

TELEGRAM: TO BEAVER OFFICE.

CITY KIDS WERE FRENCH STOP DR. FEELGOOD WERE GREAT STOP AMAZING STOP FANTASTIC STOP ETC. STOP THAT'S ALL FOLKS STOP DEADLINE TO MEET STOP LOVE AND KISSES STOP . . . END.

RAG WEEK

THIS year's Rag Week will take place between February 22nd and February 27th. Preparations are now getting under way. Anyone who would like to help—meetings will be held every Thursday at 12 noon in CO18—anyone who cannot make that, see Dave Bearman in the Ents Room.

HEAVY ROCK SOC DISCO

YET ANOTHER BOZOID, BRAIN BASHING BOOZING SESSION

will take place on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5th 7.30 pm

THREE TUNS BASEMENT

"You bring the heads, we'll supply the walls!"

INSTANT COFFEE THEATRE

INVITES YOU TO A

THEATRE WORKSHOP WITH AN EXCITING MIX OF IMPROVISATION, ACTION PAINTING, DANCE AND MIME.



29 JAN

8PM-10PM
2 NEAL'S YARD WC 2
COVENT GARDEN
ADMISSION: £2
(UNWAGED: £1)

ART-COM1 01-348-7409.

LSE DRAMA SOCIETY

PRESENTS

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW

By Joe Orton

on

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27th

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28th

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29th

in the OLD THEATRE

at 7.30 pm

Tickets: 50p

THRU'PENCE A-GO

IT was in my opinion a towering achievement to produce this colossal work in the limited time available. The performance I saw was received by a packed audience that clapped and cheered enthusiastically.

The 'play with music' lasted three hours. At times it was a bit rough and ready; entrances and exits could have been tighter; songs occasionally got a little out of time or key; actors sometimes were more concerned to say their lines than to act and re-act. But these were incidental to an evening which never dragged, never bored, an evening when the strength of the personalities on stage pumped the story over the footlights with an adrenalin level that the late Mr Brecht would have warmed to. Priorities were in the right place; a play of guts was performed with guts.

Great credit for this all-round success must go to the director, George Papaconstantinou, who managed to balance Brecht's sense of bitter sarcasm with his need to alienate the audience from the subject matter, in an 'Epic Theatrical' way. There were ways I felt he could have gone further. Certain songs might have jolted the audience even more given stronger choral support. Scene changes could have made a political point in themselves and cut the action up in an anarchical way had they not been done in rather polite dimmed lighting, but in bright light exposing the stage workers. But his real talent lay in bringing forth strong performances and creating a sense of space and ease in a variety of flowing scenes on a stage the size of a postage stamp.

Of the performances, I personally liked Mike Gill as the villain hero MacHeath. He carried this major role off with commanding presence and flicked out his lines with razor sharp wit. Given more performances I felt he would have found a greater emotional variety especially in the treatment of his women—I was left in doubt as to whether he saw each one of them as totally exploitable objects or not. The Peacham Family also appealed to me. Graham Branton as Mr Peacham conveyed convincing paternal sarcasm although he could have injected more of the ruthless villain into him. Penny Marshall was Mrs Peacham and Gaynor Day the modest Polly.

Particular scenes that I found memorable were those involving the bumbling antics of the gang and the prison scene with Polly MacHeath and Lucy (sung forcefully by Janet Samols). Its varied levels of dramatic effect in words and music exemplified what was best about this fine production. Without listing all the cast, which they deserve, here are other contributors to the show's success.

Musicians: Chris Best, Chris West, Julian Dean; Costume Designer: Clare Hyde; Producer: Mike Zoghbi; Stage Manager: David Sydney; Lighting: Neville Bissember.

John Newton

LONDON SOCIAL SECRETARIES BAND TALENT COMPETITION

Entry forms are now available. At least one member of the band must be an LSE student. Top prize as last year is free studio recording time.

LSE's heat will probably be at Carr Saunders Hall on Friday, February 5th. One or two bands will progress to the semi trials at Kings.

Bands wishing to enter please pick up a form from E206. Closing date for entries is Monday, 1st February.

THE LONDON ARTS

FAY WELDON

THE ROSENBLATT INTERVIEW

HAVING slipped on the ice one cold December morning, it was with added trepidation that I arrived at the doorstep of "Britain's most hard-hitting feminist novelist." After all, would she "hard-hit" me, a mere male? But the door opened and there was no time to worry about what would await me.

A rather roundish lady sits on a sofa dictating various notes to a secretary; self-consciously I join her on the sofa, though soon comfort takes away my thoughts of what might well happen. And at last we begin.

"When I was young," says Fay Weldon, "all I ever wanted to be was a ballet dancer, though at one time I wanted to be a doctor."

She talks in such gentle tones, obviously deliberating upon every thought before she speaks.

"Writing can be so very hard indeed, especially with the difficulty in actually getting published, since unless you are in fact published you cannot be a writer."

Is writing your means of escaping at all, a way of sorting out your own life?

"Oh no, not really; I do think it quite wrong to impose one's own frustrations of living upon other people; it would be so unfair. People tend to assume that what I write in my novels I have actually experienced, but it really isn't the case. Fiction means that one makes things up; one has to, otherwise one will lose friends by writing about reality.

The thing about writing is that there are just no limitations, and that's what I like about it. It is quite a difficult process, yes; but like anything the more one does it, the easier it becomes."

Fay Weldon's success is astonishing, especially since she herself wasn't published until the age of about thirty. Presently, a play of hers is running in New York; two of her most recent novels, "Praxis," which was short listed for the Booker prize, and "Puffball," have deservedly received the title "bestseller." Both books describe marriage from the woman's point of view, her

heroines are women whom men do not understand and are thus cheated by life because of man, sexism etc. and inevitably they take on the role of "victims." To many, Fay Weldon is seen as the great bastion of feminism, an idol that other women look up to.

I asked her why there was a need at all to write about woman.

"Well, my dear, there is a very genuine struggle in equity between the male and the female. Women spent the whole of the nineteenth century reading male novelists and I feel that male novelists belong to times past and that now there is a very great need for men to suffer a few insults from women. All men ever wrote about, and still do, for that matter, is male dominance and power and of course their sexual fantasies; now, isn't that silly of them. Nowadays, men don't really know what to write about, and at last tables are beginning to turn. Men find self-awareness very difficult; they are less able to come to terms than women are."

Yes, I think I unders...

"But I don't want you to understand; it's very kind of you to try; but what you don't realise is that women are now at war with men; man must not attempt to compromise his position; war is war, he must retain that 'macho' image so that there must be a fight on very equal terms. He has to continue misbehaving, he must not change."

As a woman, what considerations do you in fact have on the topic of marriage?

"Well, if man were to really become woman's companion, in that he might begin to understand her, I do feel that then there will be an end to eroticism; so, for eroticism to survive, marriage mustn't work."

"Ah," I begin, then you want to have your cake and eat it, don't you? After all, woman obviously wants her 'macho' man for her sexual fantasy but she will kick him for being 'macho' when it suits her."

"So what. Look my dear, woman is being no worse than man, is she? Men have been allowed to 'fuck' and not make



Fay Weldon: "All I ever wanted was to be a Ballet Dancer"

love, and woman is never allowed to do that. Now, woman is basically doing the same and men dislike her for it."

But you yourself are married. How's your married life? Presumably it is a 'workable' marriage.

What the hell is a workable marriage?

Presumably one where two people accept each other's individualities and understand one another's differences.

"Alas, then my 'unworkable' marriage persists. I stay married because I rather fancy him."

There seems little one can say to that.

A coffee, a breather; sunlight hits the coffee table through the opened window. I asked Fay Weldon whether she could accept the feeling among some men that they would in fact be happy to stay at home while their wives went out to work. "I suppose you'll find that chauvinistic."

"No, not at all; I rather like chauvinism; like eroticism, it's entertaining."

Am I being 'wound up,' I wonder; should I jump to the bait; but instead I ignore it.

"I can accept that men don't actually want to go out to work

and I do think some women will be delighted to find such partners."

And conversation ensued, though as morning became afternoon is gradually petered out.

"Is writing a good thing," I finally demanded.

"I'm not really sure; one of my children at school was asked by her teacher why her mother wrote such filthy books. Perhaps then writing is a socially dangerous weapon; Russia is no doubt right to imprison such people, I think."

And daytime traffic drowned the sounds of Fay Weldon's laughter.

Then she took me to her door and thanked me for my visit.

"It was fun," I reassure myself.

"Call me Auntie then."

"I will." And I glide away over the ice, having been made aware of the feelings of my opposition.

[*Watching me, Watching you,* Fay Weldon's latest book was published last May by Hodder & Stoughton, price £6.95. In September 1982, her new novel, *The President's Child* will be published.]

white features and hands are faintly blurred; it is an eerie, lovely picture.

Most of the paintings are serious character studies with little humour among the exhibits. There are notable exceptions such as Tom Dewhurst's almost grotesque 'Butcher's Boy'.

Old people feature strongly as subjects. I particularly liked Jenny Polack's 'The Artist's Grandparents'. Granddad looks a trifle crusty but it's a pleasant change to see an image of old age which doesn't focus on misery and deprivation.

JANE MARTIN

LA RONDE

MUCH publicity has surrounded the opening of La Ronde, what with a television play about to be shown and a simultaneous opening at The Royal Exchange, Manchester; this is probably because it wasn't until late last year that the termination of the copyright permitted its playing anywhere. When first performed there was much objection since at that time the "sexual act" on stage was hardly permissible.

"La Ronde" itself means a dance, where one partner takes another in succession, and the opening scene shows the soldier taking the prostitute, then in the subsequent scene the soldier takes the parlourmaid; it follows like this throughout the play until in the finale the Count takes the very same prostitute as in the beginning.

It is a highly entertaining play, full of much comedy and obvious sense of humour, though of course Schnitzler was himself sending up the whole business of "sex". In the second half, what with the changing partners and the repetition of the "sex act" the play itself dulls, though admittedly this does not take away the skilful acting of Susan Fleetwood as the young wife, Richard Pasco as the humorous poet and Barbara Leigh-Hunt as the delightful actress.

DANCE

THE Royal Ballet is currently presenting in its repertoire 'Manon,' choreographed by Macmillan with the brilliant music of Massenet; it tells the simple story of Manon's love for Des Grieux while another, Monsieur GM, has been promised Manon.

Merle Park as Manon gives one of her most stunning performances ever; in the pas de deux with Wayne Eagling as Des Grieux in Act I, she deals with the often intricate choreography with such alacrity and control, giving the total effect of her great love for him. In the pas de deux of Act II, once again the dance reaches perfection, Wayne Eagling's movement being so fine and well measured.

As the tragedy becomes more obvious towards the end, Merle deftly changes from the beautiful woman of before, to the dying prostitute that she has been depicted as being. It is this ability to change her roles, and to change them so very well, that earns her the mark of a very able performer.

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PRIZEWINNING PORTRAITS

LADY Diana Spencer gazes placidly down from her prime position on the walls of the National Portrait Gallery. The painting was almost irreparably damaged last year but artist Bryan Organ has patched up his royal subject beautifully.

Passing quickly by Prince Charles and the Queen herself to the exhibition where prizewinners from the N.P.G.'s portrait competition are on display.

Emma Sergeant from London won the first prize for her triptych

style work 'Alone in a Group.' The artist's family and friends cluster around a table eating and talking; although a gregarious gathering at first sight, more than one in the group is curiously isolated. It is an intense and complex painting, but I was more drawn by the second prizewinner, Rosalind Outhbert, and her excellent portrait of 'The Reverend A. Grange'. We look up from below as if in awe at this impressive and impassive figure. The austerity of his surroundings is accentuated by the harsh light which comes from the window behind him. Even the plants on the sill are almost leafless; dry and woody. The Reverend could so easily be a re-

tired headmaster—his face is expressionless and the reflection from his spectacles effectively conceals any emotion in his eyes. Only his loose-limbed, rather awkward posture suggests he may not be as self-possessed as he appears. Look out particularly for his beautifully painted hands.

Among the Special Commendations awarded by the judges is 'Tina' by Robert Wraith. Surely the artist had the Mona Lisa in mind when painting his beautiful dark-haired subject. Her serenity and grace have the same timeless quality. She is seated in an artist's studio with no real clues as to the age she comes from. Her clear