

BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

STUDENTS' UNION

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SCHOOL PUT PRESSURE ON UNION EVENTS

Report by James Bailey

Over the holidays the School has been putting pressure on the Student Union to restrict the number of Ents events and society functions held at the LSE on weekday evenings. Sources in the Union argue that lying behind this move has been a desire on the part of the authorities to promote the LSE as a venue for outside bodies, which they claim has manifested itself in the appointment of a Conferences Officer.

The saga began on December 19th when this officer, Mr Plevy, wrote to the Students Union refusing to confirm that either the City Roads Benefit on January 21st or the Music Coop party with bands on February 1st could take place. No reasons were given and when General Secretary, Dave Jackson, and Social Secretary, Phil Hague, attempted to contact Mr Plevy, he had unfortunately fallen ill, and was unable to meet them

before Christmas.

When the School reopened after the break persistent moves from the Union led to a meeting with the respective authorities on January 15th to discuss the situation which was by now reaching crisis point, with the City Roads Benefit only days away and its organisers still left on tenterhooks. Present were the Bursar, Mr McNaught-Davis, the House Manager (responsible for porters), Mr Strode and Mr Plevy, while from the Union came the three sabbaticals and the Union Administrative Secretary, Claire Turner.

The School's representatives began by reproaching the Student Union for its shortcomings over room bookings in the past before going on to lay down the rules for any future events to be held by the Union or its associated societies. These were that all room bookings would have to be filed at least 10 days in

advance and that any large student events will, from now on, have to pay for both cleaning and portage; the School mentioned the figures of £300 to £500 PER EVENT, though smaller society functions might be exempted. In addition to this they stated that C018 would have a definite curfew at 10.30pm. However, they confirmed that the two gigs could take place given certain provisos.

Since then, after Phil Hague informed the Union General Meeting of the School's intentions "to effectively stop all Friday night gigs" he was immediately summoned to Mr Plevy who told him that the Union had "misunderstood" what they had spoken about in the meeting and that £300 was only a vague figure, including portage and cleaning, and more definite figures would be available shortly.

The India Society recently

held a cultural evening in the Haldane Room and have been informed that they will have the dubious pleasure of being the first society to have to pay their way under the new regime. A bill and roster of charges are still awaited as we go to press.

The School's intention is to move any large society or Ents event onto a Saturday night which, in the eyes of the Union, would have a drastic effect on attendances as last term's string of financial disasters would seem to bear out. They would also be faced with the straight portage charge of £200 with cleaning to come on top.

The City Roads Benefit took place on January 21st and was ironically perhaps the best organised and attended gig held at the LSE for a considerable number of years. The Music Coop Party with Doctor and The Medics headlining is still set for

February 1st and is seen as crucial to the future of Friday night gigs. A high attendance can only put pressure on the School to change their minds.

When Beaver tried to contact Mr Plevy for his views, we were told that he was "not available for comment". However, there is a meeting planned for Tuesday January 29th between the School and the Union and doubtless this will clarify matters, though all sabbaticals are united to fight charges being levied on any Union society.

BELOW:
Rock Around the Clock, Serious Drinking, The Captain, Neil and The Red Guitars.



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LETTERS

A PLEA FROM THE EDITORS

While we have been gratified by the size of our postbag in recent issues, the volume and length of letters is giving us space problems. Please keep on writing but we'd be grateful if you could keep it brief.

OVERSEAS ANGLE IGNORED

Dear Editors,

I would like to point out my disappointment and bad feelings regarding a report by David F Gregory on Baroness Young's visit to FCS on Monday 26th November 1984, included in the last issue of the *Beaver*.

It is commonly accepted, I think, that each article or anything else being printed in this or in any other newspaper or kind of newsmedia, must be as accurate, objective and, at least, informative as possible for the benefit of the reader.

The report could have been described as having these characteristics if it had included or at least had just made mention of the important matters raised by overseas students concerning the amount and distribution of educational help offered to Commonwealth members - particularly for Malaysia - the attitude shown by HM Government towards a solution to the Cyprus problem during this year and the current state of the

unsettled problem regarding delayed and unpaid payments by HM Government for use of military bases in Cyprus by UK.

I believe that although these matters were totally indifferent to the speaker's theme - like many of the questions asked - could at least be mentioned in the report if one considers the identity of the speaker and the importance and connection of UK with Malaysia, Cyprus and the Commonwealth in general.

I believe also that the report - and I hope this was not an intention of the author - can be criticized on the basis of discrimination against overseas students; something unacceptable for LSE and even by the political ideas on which FCS was set up.

Let us hope for no such reports in the future.

Yours sincerely,
C Kalakoy

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

Dear Editors,

On Wednesday of this week, I made attempts to discover exactly what payments had been made by the LSE union to the miners. As I discovered, Dave Jackson had authorised payments for which there was no mandate. I did however, during my attempts to discover the nature of payments to the miners wrongly use Mr Gerald McMahon's name. I fully accept that I was wrong to do this and publically offer my apologies to Mr McMahon for my unacceptable behaviour.

Having said this, I do not apologise for attempting to discover the destiny and size of

payments by the union and indeed my findings vindicate my attempts but not the method I chose to use.

Yours,
Nigel Kilby

PS. As for the supposed fight with Kevin Cooper I did no more than step between Mr Cooper and Robert Shrimley when Mr Cooper and he became engaged in a struggle over the microphone plug. Indeed the rapidity with which certain Labour hacks attempted to create a fight situation does much to illustrate who the real culprits in the incident were.

NORTHERNERS PROTEST

Dear Editor,

We would like to express our horror, nay disgust at the Labour Club's Ferrymoor Ridings emergency motion. Not upon the actual motion but upon the patronising tone contained in its wording. For example, comments such as "that it would be of educational value to LSE students to learn about life and work in northern communities" lead many of us from the

north to feel that we are being placed under a glass case for the rest of the world to examine. We from the north, find life in the south "interesting" but don't feel drawn by an irresistible urge to investigate. Frankly we are bemused by why people in the south would like to investigate the north.

John Andrew Eddleston
Keith A Lord

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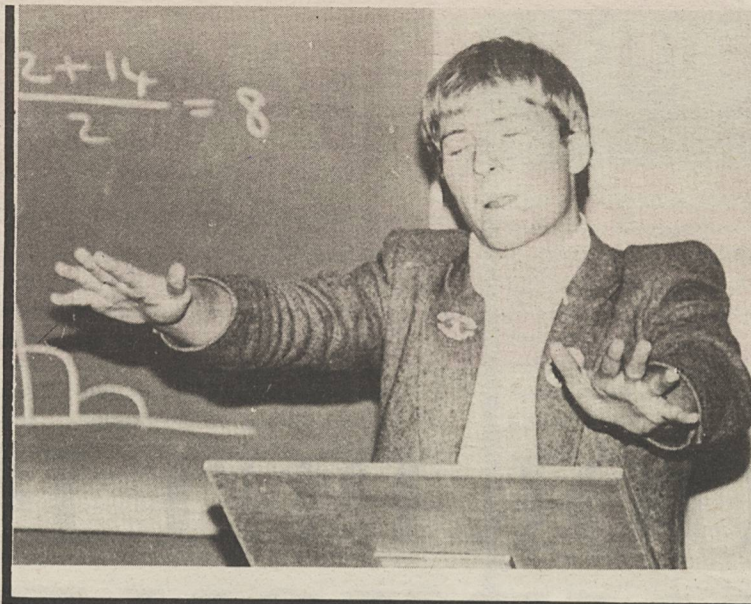
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The
Winning
Caption:

"No No, don't
tell me.....
Raspberry Ripple
flavour!"

From Nick Herbert!
Congratulations

PYRRHIC VICTORY?

Dear Editors,

I am writing firstly to express my satisfaction at seeing the end of the Patrick Harrington dispute. I am, however, concerned that the wrong conclusions are being drawn from this sad episode in student politics.

The settlement reached with the new PNL Director is in no way a victory for the student body as a whole. The settlement allows for Harrington to attend to attend his lectures off the college campus (this occurred as a result of a court order which states that Harrington should not be given separate teaching, so officially he attends the same lectures which are simply held off campus). The settlement has disrupted the course of those students who may have wished to attend those lectures. Beyond this the Harrington episode has had deeper and longer lasting costs. Firstly, Harrington who is a racist and a fascist, has received favourable publicity. Secondly the scenes of picketing

as reported on T.V have reinforced the public's image of students as a bunch of overpaid layabouts who do nothing but protest about everything from nuclear war to the quality of their dinner.

If we are to get a fair view of the results of the Harrington affair it is important to stand back and assess what has been achieved, ie: good publicity for a racist, cancellation of a course of lectures and another nail in the coffin of students' public image. Indeed, the whole affair has been an unparalleled disaster for student politics. It is time student leaders, Gringo Jackson included, must realise that picketing, sit-ins and riots do nothing to further student aims, and that the best methods of protest are those which gain rather than lose public support.

Yours in anger,
Nasty Nigel Kilby
Jack Frost

TACTLESS!

Dear Editors,

I am writing with reference to the latest edition of *TACT*. In this so-called magazine appeared the now notorious sick 'Ethiopian famine joke'. This was in gross bad taste and offended many people, myself included. It was however, in the last Union meeting before Christmas, suggested by Harold Wilson (SWSS), that *TACT* had some kind of link with the FCS. This is simply not true. Although some of the producers of *TACT* are members of the FCS (and indeed of another political group), their role within the party is completely separate from their role as producers of *TACT*.

It has also been suggested by

several members of the left, that *TACT* should be banned from LSE premises. This is folly. Individuals at LSE do not have to buy *TACT* and are fully aware of what they may find within its covers. If, as the left suggests, the Ethiopian joke was racist, then why do they not refer the case to the Race Relations Board? It is clear that although *TACT* may have been both offensive and sick on this occasion, banning it would be pointless and ineffective. The members of LSE have the right to decide what they read and have full recourse to the law if they think what they read is racist.

Yours
Nasty Nigel Kilby

THE NEW EDITORS:

Ed Richards

Giles Perritt

Gilli Wedon



NUS CONFERENCE



The NUS Christmas Conference, held in Blackpool 7th to 10th December, was marred by violence and disruption. The atmosphere was, from start to finish, charged with tension arising out of the controversial issues dominating the conference – the miners' strike, Harrington and PNL and the grant cuts marches last November. The debates were often so involved and long-winded that many items at the bottom of the agenda were lost, including all but one of the twelve emergency motions. All the main motions tabled by the NUS Executive were discussed and most were endorsed.

NUS President Phil Woolas' opening speech demonstrated two things: 1) his eloquence, 2) he had nothing new to offer. The speech, packed with age-old socialist rhetoric and tired cliché, seemed to go down well with conference, probably because, while it pleased none, it didn't offend anyone either – although why the miners' strike "is the most important issue facing students today" only Phil Woolas knows!

Conference then divided, universities, polytechnics and colleges of higher and further education going into separate sessions. The universities' session were treated to three guest

speakers, Tom McNally (SDP), Peter Brooke (Conservative) and Andrew Bennett (Labour), Education Spokesmen for their respective parties. However, before the speeches took place, the meeting was interrupted by leftwingers who hurled abuse at Peter Brooke so loudly he could hardly be heard. This held up the meeting for twenty minutes.

The main motions tabled by the NUS executive were discussed some two hours behind schedule. The FCS added to these delays with numerous points of order. The 'New Deal' motion is generally believed to be the working manifesto of the current NUS Executive. It was passed and broadly proposed to combat student and youth problems, such as unemployment, accommodation, financial support etc... In order to force the government to heed its demands, Phil Woolas proposed rent strikes, but the conference wisely realised that this would cause a lot of problems for both school and students. A proposal was also brought to affiliate the NUS to the TUC for the purpose of mounting a joint campaign to ease the social evils threatening young people. The NUS conference gave its Executive the power to try to achieve a joint campaign with the TUC,

apparently ignoring past evidence that student support, both financial and practical, to other unions is rarely reciprocated.

In conclusion, the conference was significant for its moderation. Phil Woolas' "path of radicalism" was not followed by the conference. It preferred to donate £1000 instead of £20000 to the Miners' Hardship Fund; support was not automatically given to any college that faced legal action over payments to the miners. The executive was given a 'free hand' in the handling of Patrick Harrington at PNL. The conference failed even to reprimand the Executive for its organisation of the grants cuts marches of November 1984.

So what is the current mood of the NUS? One moment they raise 30,000 members to march on a day of action, the next they dispel all illusions of radicalism by voting in such a moderate way. Are we seeing the emergence of a new breed of student exclusively concerned with self-preservation in a harsh world of economic realism, or is there a gulf opening between leadership and rank and file: a leadership both more radical in rhetoric and pragmatic in practice, and a rank and file increasingly confused about the priorities of student activism?

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

After last term's on-going saga regarding payment to the striking miners of money from the Three Tuns games machines, many of you may be wondering what, if any, progress has been made in implementing the Union's decision. The news, good or bad depending on your point of view, is that £3,508 has now been paid and when the NUM information packs have been organised, this figure is expected to rise to around £4,000.

The money was raised at the end of last term from a number of specially organised events. Those performing were asked if they would like to make a donation to the miners: none refused and many of them, after being paid for their acts, promptly wrote out cheques for the whole or a large part of their fees. Many stewards also gave their whole evening's pay onations from the various events were as follows: Student Showcase – ££698, Moonlighters – £250, Gay Songwriters – £545, Jazz in the Three Tuns – £50, Boysis – £275, Decadence – £200, Women's bands – £1250, Women Against Pit Closures – £240.

Although there is general rejoicing among those who have fought long and hard to make sure that sums raised last summer specifically to help the miners should reach their destination, rumbles of discontent continue to be heard over the methods used. The main cause for complaint seems to be that the original plan, agreed by the UGM last term, to channel the money through the East Midlands Co-operative Society who would use it to provide food aid at wholesale prices to miners' families, was not followed. A large part of the money, something in excess of £2000, was paid direct to the Hardship Fund of Ferrymoor Riddings, LSE's "twinned" pit.

This is felt by some to have been a breach of Union man-

date. It also regrettably meant that the sum which did pass through the Co-op was not sufficient to qualify for the special discount we had originally been offered and money was therefore lost on the transaction. Dave Bull, who was responsible for arranging the Co-op deal in the first place, was particularly bitter: "I don't in any way regret Ferrymoor Riddings having benefited from what has occurred...but a lot of people, not just at the LSE, but many in the Co-op and the Labour Movement elsewhere who have worked long and hard on our behalf, have done so for nothing and have no doubt been left with a poor opinion of the LSE SU."

The person said to be responsible for making the direct payment to Ferrymoor Riddings is Junior Treasurer, Richard Snell. When confronted with allegations that he had paid a cheque to Ferrymoor Riddings on his own personal bank account and then claimed the money back from Union funds, Richard strenuously denied having done so and offered to produce his bank statements to prove it. All payments were made through Senior Treasurer, Mike Moszynski. Richard recognises that what he did was 'unorthodox' and regrets any disappointment caused to those who thought the money raised by the events they organised would go to the Co-op, but says he acted from the best of motives and was only trying to fulfil the "spirit of the motion".

One cannot help feeling that lack of communication has been the main cause of misunderstanding in this case and that the period of frenzied activity at the end of last term, as organisers fought against time to raise and dispatch the money before Christmas was likely to lead to individuals taking matters into their own hands in the name of speed.

Eleanor Edwards

AN 'INDEPENDENT' VIEW OF THE UNION

One had a feeling of déjà vu when Dave Bull was reelected Union Chair; there is little else to say on the subject except perhaps that he is old enough to know better. Once Bull's lined and bearded features were restored to the Chair the meeting fell into its usual shape. It was Questions to Officers, the section of the Agenda in which Dave Jackson attempts to speak for twenty minutes without hesitation, deviation or repetition. He invariably manages this partly because he tells a lot of jokes, and partly because his sentences go on for ever. Or perhaps one should say sentence. I am certainly not a great connoisseur of whatever language it is that the General Secretary speaks but whatever subject he is talking about he always seems to use the same words. This would not matter so much if there were useful informative words like 'yes' or 'no' or just enjoyable words like 'phantasmagorical' but Dave Jackson's vocabulary does not include such luxurious syntax which made questions to him pointless and answers from him incomprehensible.

Then there was nearly a fight. I mention this not because I am a particular lover of blood sports (although there is a certain pleasure in watching two morons thump each other and not caring who gets hurt), but

because it produced one of the most ethereal and wondrous remarks I have ever heard. At the time Gerard MacMahon was shouting about something. The unbelievable Nigel Kilby was engaged in a sort of counter-scream and Pat Hayes was sitting sullenly in between.



Kilby took a step forward, staring menacingly at MacMahon and Pat Hayes quite literally uttered the words "sit down you big bully". One can be certain that no irony was intended because Pat Hayes is the sort of person who thinks that irony is what you do when your clothes are crumpled.

Then the more or less imminent sabbatical elections entered the story. Questions were asked about alleged payments direct to Ferrymoor Riddings Pit in breach of the Union mandate. The officer in question was Richard Snell who we

are not supposed to know is running for Senior Treasurer. The answer, which we are also not supposed to know was that a large sum of money had gone to the wrong place but according to the General Secretary, enjoying an unsurpassed burst of eloquence "it doesn't matter right". Phil Hague the genial but breathtakingly lazy Social Secretary did not have the benefit of such majestic defence and was suffering at the hands of another sabbatical hopeful, Liberal Elwyn Watkins, who would unquestionably be wearing sandals if he wasn't so cold, was elaborating a Phil Hague cock-up and the Social Secretary palpably in the wrong was getting more and more miserable. His only defence apart from the perennial one of blaming Mike Moszynski was that the big-screen video which Watkins the Vote wanted was being used by another Hall. When the Treasurer of the Hall in question declared that he didn't want the video anyway the Meeting closed in riotous disarray.

The second Union Meeting of term began very much as the first had ended in careerism and chaos. Again Elwyn Watkins who has risen phoenix-like from the ashes of Ed Lucas was responsible for both. For bare-faced cheek, his declaration

that he had been "brilliant on the catering committee" was remarkable; whether or not all his hard work will yield its expected return in votes is questionable, but Watkins aptitude for seeking votes from such a mundane subject as chips is impressive unsubtle and bizarre. There followed a lull during Dave Jackson's monologue and Mike Moszynski's inexplicably aggressive report, but the prospective sabbaticals on all sides were growing restive. The first to break the silence was Richard Snell who got half way to the microphone before he realised that he was about to answer a question that hadn't been asked yet. Such is the stage management of UGMs. Second came Elizabeth Albright who partially solved the problem by coming forward to ask the question but it was not the same question for which he had prepared an answer, so he resorted to the first law of LSE politics, when in trouble, blame somebody else. The imminence of sabbatical elections produces interesting symptoms in the hopeful few: they are seized with a mission to explain. Such was the case with Helen Ryland and Alan Evans of the Liberal Alliance, who declared that it was their special concern and duty to lead us in a crusade against the Government's plans to put VAT

on books. In moving this as an Emergency Motion, they stressed that with the Budget only two and a half months away, this was our last chance to act.

Despite the frenzied pre-electoral activity, the miners were not to be forgotten. Tony Donaldson rose from the dead to prioritise the cultural exchange between LSE and Ferrymoor Riddings pit. Dave Jackson proposed the motion in his own unenviable and inimitable style. For the Tories, Jack Frost and inevitably, Nigel Kilby responded and were not deterred in opposing the motion by the fact which both readily admitted that they agreed with it. LSE Union seems to have a fetish for Ferrymoor Riddings, to the exclusion of all other striking pits with which we perpetually express our solidarity. George Binnette defended the Pit with aggression that makes Pat Hayes and Nigel Kilby – the Tweedledum and Tweedledum of LSE politics – look like Mahatma Gandhi. Dave Bull declared the motion passed and I left the Union wondering whether he couldn't have had some kind of personal interest or whether he didn't just need to have his eyes tested.

Andrew Cooper

HALL NEWS

PASSFIELD HALL

Lent term started at Passfield Hall with the normal calm, though this is expected to build up to the usual frenzy of Hall Society meetings in the ensuing weeks. Parts of the main building have been repainted over the course of the Christmas vacation. No changes have been made in the annexe, although it was announced at one of the Hall meetings last term, that the School authorities set aside '30,000 for the refurbishment of the ground floors of the annexe. A kitchen, showers, and a recreation room are included in the renovation programme. Work will begin during the last two weeks of this term and continue through the Easter vacations. Nothing much besides this has happened since term commenced. A 21st January meeting to elect a new Hall Committee member was cancelled since the sole nomination went unopposed.

Last term occasioned some intensely-debated issues. Foremost amongst them was the question of donating '200 to the South African Scholarship Fund from the Hall

Society funds. The issue was initially opposed on grounds of the legality of donating this sum from the interest accruing from the caution money: in other words whether hall members had a right to decide what was done with their money. An affirmative reply from School Authorities resulted in the motion being proposed once again at a Hall meeting on the 26th November. Two speakers spoke for and two against the motion. The decision was whether the '200 ought to be donated immediately or at the end of the academic year. The motion was put to the vote. The result was 46 voters in favour and 28 against. Under normal circumstances the motion would have been passed but the Chairman announced that since the issue being dealt with was a financial one. Therefore a minimum two-thirds majority was needed. The obvious consequence of this announcement was a defeat since 54 votes were needed to consider passing the motion. A recount was then held with 47 voters in favour and 28

against. The motion was eventually defeated since the required two-thirds majority was not obtained.

Three other motions were presented. The first of these was that of providing recreational facilities to members at cost price. This being a financial motion, it once again required a two-thirds majority. After much debate a vote was taken and the motion defeated. The second subject to be considered was that of the availability of the hall video to members for private viewing. The vote was more or less unanimous. The third and final motion was of providing adequate measures to minimize damage to hall property during parties and discos. This met with almost no opposition and was overwhelmingly approved.

This term's agenda of matters concerning finance and entertainment has yet to be prepared. A committee meeting is scheduled for the 23rd of this month. A football match is expected with Carr-Saunders in the near future. Passfield meanwhile runs as smoothly as ever with its "superb cuisine" etc., etc., etc..

Ali Rahman

ROSEBERY REPORT

Rosebery residents have been amazed at the dramatic personality transformation of one Richard 'Sticky' Wilkinson. Previously irritable and belligerent Wilkinson has changed overnight to a paragon of courtesy and charm. Sticky vehemently denies that his newly acquired sycophantic demeanour has anything at all to do with his application for the vacant Bar Manager's post. Nonetheless, the obsequious Wilkinson has duly been appointed for a one-year term. One is given to wonder how long Dicky, secure in his post, will continue being civil to people.

A contagious social disease gave rise to despair and despondency for 90% of Rosebery's male population just before Christmas. However, the glandular fever of the lady in question was more discriminating than the lady and so did not pass itself around the Hall; hence, much relief and rejoicing as males received a clean bill of health.

Speaking of health and aware as we are of the celibacy and piety of the occupant of room 850, but disturbed nightly by the shaking noises emitting from it we can only conclude that the man in question has contracted a case of nocturnal St Vitus' Dance. We strongly

advise a trip to the physician and wish for him a speedy return to health and for us a speedy return to a full night's sleep. If the illness proves chronic however, then for God's sake throw the mattress on the floor.

Last Friday night was disco night with both students and wardens on duty lest any problems arose. However, by the expiry of the bar subsidy subwarden O'Keefe, and subette Griffiths had well-nigh expired also and would have failed if put to the test by a disciplined and organised pack of Brownies. Fortunately the Brownies stayed away and both were able to pass the evening in an undisturbed catatonic stupor.

The vandalism syndrome at Rosebery appears to have abated, but a delayed action mine may yet explode on unsuspecting students. Rumour has it that the Bursar (She Who Must Be Obeyed) is about to wallop the caution money for £1,500 bill to replace carpets damaged by the letting off of fire extinguishers. It could be argued that the carpets were ragged, threadbare and shortly in need of replacement, but such arguments look like cutting little ice with the admin.

On the ninth floor nothing happened.

A Beaver Correspondent

THE PERIL OF ANARCHY

The distinguished Conservative lawyer and MP Sir Edward Gardner warned last week that the challenge to the criminal law during the miners' strike could lead to anarchy. Speaking at a meeting of the LSE Law Society, Sir Edward recalled a previous television encounter with Mr Arthur Scargill in which the NUM president had allegedly expressed support for the use of violence provided that it forwarded his aims. In a clear reference to Mr Scargill, Sir Edward attacked the "enemies of our democracy", declaring: "If they believe they can ignore the criminal law, the rest of us face the peril of anarchy."

Sir Edward had reserved one section of his talk on "Law and Politics" to discuss the effect of the miners' strike. He argued that the allegation that the Government has 'used' the Courts against striking miners had no truth in it at all. "The cases brought against the NUM", he said, "have not been brought by the Government but by independent miners dissatisfied with the running of their union." Later, during questions, Sir Edward denied that there was evidence to show that the Government had dissuaded the NCB from invoking the civil law against the NUM.

Sir Edward dwelt at length on the Police, Criminal and Justice Act, the provisions of which, he maintained, codified the law and succeeded in giving the police and the Courts wide enough powers while providing better safeguards for the public. For example, it destroyed the

anomalies in stop-and-search and established an independent Police Complaints Authority. As for the future, Sir Edward pointed to the proposed setting up of an Independent Prosecution Service, with the Attorney General ultimately responsible to Parliament for its operation.

Tracing past development in law, Sir Edward emphasized that the law, to be effective, demands consensus. "It must be explained to people as a sound, reasonable, common-sense approach", he added. He admitted that laws like the 1950 Shops Act were anomalous and not widely respected, yet he would criticize shops and stores for breaking it. However ridiculous the law was it had to be upheld. The alternative was "social or political disorder".

Sir Edward was vigorous in defence of the Government's trade union legislation. To one questioner he repeated his view that most ordinary trade union members support the Government's strike ballot legislation. When asked for evidence, Sir Edward declared that 7 million trade unionists had voted the Conservative Government to power on that platform in June 1983. In response to other questions, Sir Edward said he attacked National Front violence as much as picket violence. He also argued that crimes of violence should be treated more seriously than other offences and that special provisions had to be made for the mentally ill and alcoholics currently in prison.

Philip Groves

TRAVELLER'S KINGDOM

Go South and East quite a way and you reach the Real Traveller's kingdom. Southeast Asia. If these words conjure up visions of palms and golden beaches in your mind - all my sympathy, you can only be a tourist. To a traveller, palms are mere trees like any other and the golden beach is never as good as that previous one. No, travellers go there merely because it is the right place to be.

These are the travellers, with a capital T, not lowly tourists, not pensioners seeing the world through their cameras, nor students on holiday. They are professionals. There is no standard age or nationality (or sex), the common factor being that they have "been on the road" - a favourite phrase - for many months, often years. They are veterans, commanding respect from timid beginners, and a large proportion of speaking time in a conversation.

Travellers love talking, indeed, sometimes the prospect of telling people about an experience seems to be a good enough reason to go ahead and experience it. To an outsider they appear hopelessly blasé, but within their hierarchy the ignorant know when to be silent.

Sometimes travellers can be spotted in airports, leaning protectively against their battered back-packs. Alone and aloof from the anxious throng, they do not enjoy air travel, preferring the land, where third class trains are de rigueur. There are too many tourists on planes these days, the traveller feels threatened. In frenzied custom queues they carry their passports with satisfaction as proof of their occupation. Outside, it is well-thumbed and curved so as to fit a back-pocket, the inside boasting page after page of frontier stamps like trophies of conquered countries.

If you think that the hippies faded out of fashion along with the sixties, you are wrong. Maybe the West has lost them, but they are travelling far away in the East, selling their jewellery and obscure philosophies. Approaching their forties and still stubbornly barefoot, they speak wistfully of their old friends. Several have died, many painfully, some violently. Others are stricken with those mysterious diseases Asia is plagued with, or with less mysterious ones such as tuberculosis, VD and dysentery. Still others fester in jails on thirty year sentences which reward infringements of often unwritten drug laws.

It is well known that most travellers are heavily involved in drugs. Conversations about drug experiences tend towards the endless - "hash in Japan, mushrooms in Indonesia, Coke in Thailand, etc.". Part of the fascination may be the formidable risk involved in drug use. Thailand, for example, has been trying to clean up its reputation and is now, to say the least, unforgiving towards Westerners found in possession. But travel must be paid for so trafficking continues by necessity.

Despite everything there is something quite attractive about travellers. They are certainly knowledgeable and often interesting. They may not be tolerant towards the West, but they will do anything to understand the East. Travellers are rarely seen in a recognisable capacity in the West, but if you go South-east, they are worth seeking out - and not just in order to get your own "supplies".

Jakki Trenbath



With a capital T

EUROPE ON THE CHEAP

Fancy heading for Europe this Easter? It needn't cost an arm and a leg and can be as cheap as going on holiday in this country.

Coach is still the cheapest way of getting there with the Miracle Bus Company offering very competitive prices at £18.50 one way, and £32.00 return to Paris. Weekend stopovers are even better value with one night in a two-star hotel and the return journey at £45.00; and for a touch of luxury the four-star alternative is only four pounds more at £49.00. Brussels is only £28.00 return with a night in a four-star hotel at £42.00. Even as far away as Barcelona can be reached for £86.00 return. Euroways Coach Travel offer London to Amsterdam for £30.00. Insurance too, is very cheap with the Miracle Bus Company offering ten days for £7.50 and Euroways up to eight days for £7.60.

Trains, by contrast are not much more expensive, but much quicker and more comfortable. Eurotrain offers a comprehensive network of some two thousand destinations to twenty-three European countries, to all young people under the age of twenty-six. Most destinations have several daily departures from the UK and up to eight different routes to choose from. Eurotrain tickets are especially attractive as they are flexible enough to allow you two months to reach your destination, and stop as you wish. The fare to Paris is £37.00, Amsterdam £32.60, and Brussels £35.00.

More interesting and much better value for money would be to take a Eurotrain City Circle ticket which takes you from city to city along your chosen route. The Capital City Circle; London-Calais-Paris-Brussels-Antwerp-Amsterdam-Hoek of Holland-London for £58.60 in two months, seems very cheap. There are also Vienna, Rome and Munich circles taking in many cities along the way.

Eurotrain will, in fact, tailor make any itinerary from any UK station to any station in Europe. Transalpino offer very much the same service, in some cases offering more competitive fares. They too offer a circle: London-Paris-Brussels-Amsterdam-London for £54.20.

With the advent of Virgin Atlantic north Europe by air has become quite competitive; with a one-way ticket to Maastricht for £25.00. One can take into account the train fares as well as Maastricht is one hour from Brussels and Cologne and two and a half hours from Luxembourg and Amsterdam.

Student charter flights are also extremely good value through USIT, with the possibility of one way travel so you can come back by a different route. From £14.50 to Paris at the beginning of February rising to £23.50 and £27.50 in March depending on which day of the week you travel.

Cheap accommodation is also available to students bookable through Worldwide Student, Paris breaks with accommodation and travel are as low as £60.00. This depends on the method of travel and the standard of hotel. Air is most expensive at £103.00 for two nights in a one-star hotel, rising to £131.00 for a three-star. Going by coach and ship are the cheapest being £46.00 and £60.00 respectively. For comfort and speed, rail and hovercraft is probably the best combination at £69.50 and £97.50. To Amsterdam the cheapest package at the Hotel Kabul is £42.50 by coach and ship. Sharing a multi-bedded room brings the cost down to £37.00. The two-star bracket is only a few pounds more – and perhaps worth investigating at the price. Travel to Amsterdam is also offered by STA. Prices begin at £8.50 at the Hotel Acro. Student discounted flights are available at £84.00 return. Other return fares available to European cities through World Student Travel

include Berlin at £88.00, Milan at £84.00, Munich at £77.00 and Hamburg at £69.00.

Europe is very accessible and getting there is easy; direct from London and as cheap as going to Wales or Scotland. Students do gain a lot of benefits and so its worth looking at all offers open and getting away

whenever there is a chance.

STA Travel, 74 Old Brompton Road SW7 or **ULU Travel**, University of London Union, Malet Street, WC2

Eurotrain/USIT, 52 Grosvenor Gardens SW1

Worldwide Student Travel, 39 Store Street, WC1

Virgin Atlantic, 56-60 Conduit Street, W1

Transalpino, 71-15 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1

Richard Jones

SO YOU WANT TO WORK ON A KIBBUTZ?

Fancy a long holiday in the sun? Then why not become a volunteer in Israel. All it will cost you is the fare to get there.

In return for free board and lodging and pocket money of about £15 a month, you work a 40 hour week. Although you might not get rich, it is a good way to have an extended holiday without the risk and effort of looking for a temporary hotel or res-

taurant job. You will also be in the company of fellow travellers, many of whom are en route to Egypt, India or beyond.

The justification given for requiring volunteer labour is that the existence of national service and a citizen army in Israel is a drain on manpower needed for more productive uses.

So-called "volunteers" work on either Kibbutzim or

Moshavim. A Kibbutz is a small community in which all the means of production are held in common. Decisions are made collectively and everyone shares equally in the benefits accruing from their work. The Kibbutz movement was formed in 1909 at a time when Jews from all over the world were making a new home for themselves in Palestine. The austerity of the pioneering

days is now long past and Kibbutzim are prosperous communities which derive as much of their income from light industry as from agriculture. You don't have to be Jewish to be a volunteer and in fact the majority of volunteers are not Jewish. However Israelis will obviously have a more welcoming attitude towards a potential future citizen of their country.

Moshavim are groups of small farmers who own their own land but market their produce collectively. Your pocket money of a few pounds a week will be slightly more generous than a Kibbutz would give you. The opinions of the people who I met who had been on Moshavim were mixed. Volunteers who choose a Moshav often find that they have to work longer hours than their counterparts on a Kibbutz. Also few Moshavim are endowed with the sporting and social facilities that Kibbutz volunteers would take for granted.

If you come on your own, you may quickly become bored and rather lonely as

Moshavim take far fewer volunteers, and during the day you will work with hired Arab labourers who are unlikely to know much English.

In comparison, on a Kibbutz you will be working with Kibbutz members and other volunteers with whom you can talk as you work. (Although a revitalised ancient Hebrew is the language of Israelis, most of them speak excellent English.)

ORGANISATIONS YOU CAN APPLY TO.

KIBBUTZ REPRESENTATIVES
1A ACCOMODATION ROAD.NW11
TEL. 01-458 9235
(For Kibbutzim)

PROJECT 67
36 GREAT RUSSELL STREET.WC1.
TEL. 01-636 1262/3
(For Kibbutzim and Moshavim.)

WORLDWIDE STUDENT TRAVEL
37 STORE STREET.WC1.
TEL. 01-580 7733.
Charles Walker.

When You Wanna Go



Who You Gonna Call?

STA TRAVEL The Farebusters

- LOW COST FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE
- TRANSALPINO AND EUROTRAIN
- ADVENTURE TOURS
- SKI HOLIDAYS
- ISIC CARDS
- WEEKEND BREAKS
- TRAVEL INSURANCE
- GROUP RATES

ULU Travel

University of London Union
Malet St. W.C.1
Tel 01-636 0271

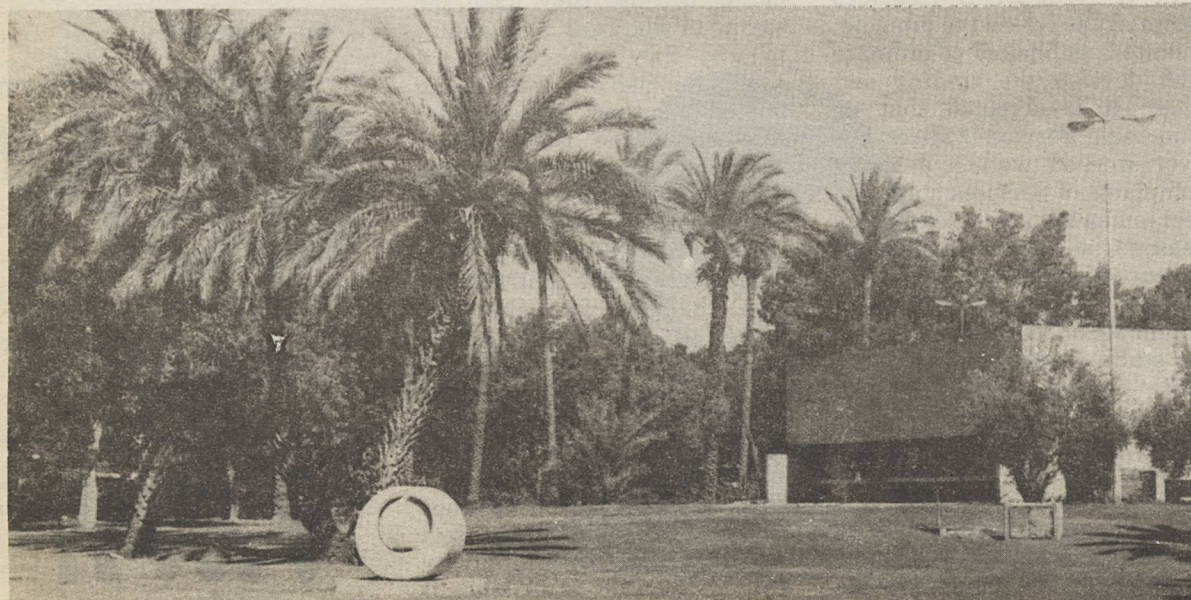
A Service of

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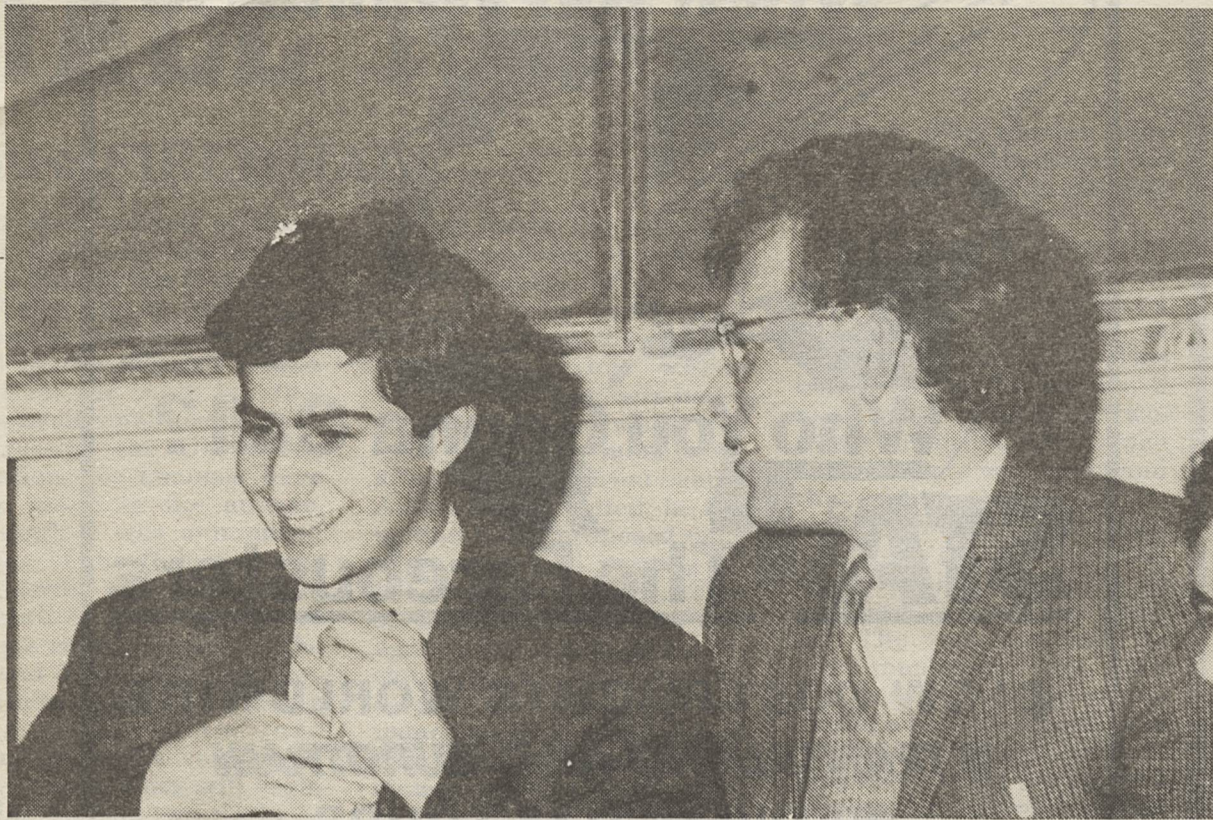
travel

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ANOTHER TACT EXCLUSIVE!



TWO OUT OF TACT AINT BAD?....

There are many subjects that can start off conversations around the hallowed walls of the *Brunch Bowl*, the *Beaver's Retreat*, the *Three Tuns* and *Florries*. Just the mention of *TACT*, and the place will come alive with vitriolic condemnations or hysterical recollections about "that joke on page 6". Around five hundred students buy *TACT* each issue, and about seven hundred read it. People on the receiving end of *TACT*'s acid humour find that their delight at being mentioned totally muted by the brilliant hatchet job that is normally done on them.

Andrew Cooper, Robert Shrimley, and Mark Hoban

are the men (are you sure you don't mean boys? Ed.) responsible for this publication. "Every week we feel the ire of someone who we have offended in the last issue," says Hoban. Though according to Cooper it is just "a pretence at being indignant and offended; in fact they are delighted that they are significant enough to be included." Robert Shrimley takes a more cynical view of the people they attack: "They love it; it makes them universally known as a leading hack. Take someone like Oldland; before we awarded him Shit of the Month, he was an unknown, pompous and ill-informed leader of a small political faction. Now he is a well-known, pompous and ill-informed leader of a small political faction."

We seek", says Cooper, "to

expose the hypocrits, the lies, and the self-important hacks who take themselves far too seriously. Naturally, because of this, *TACT* cannot fail to be popular." Hoban continues, "The reason that the left don't like it is because they can't stand having the mick taken out of them. They think that they are very serious and important. They believe that they can change the world, when of course they can't even change a lightbulb without holding a caucus meeting first. They hate people reading that they lie and deceive as much as all the others."

Cooper, leader of Independent Student, adds, "We attack all factions and all people. Most can take a joke, but the left have to get friends to buy *TACT* for them, because they can't be

seen buying it."

I asked them if they set out to be deliberately anti-left. "No!" came the reply from Mark Hoban. Shrimley expanded on his answer. "We started as three people who wanted to highlight pretensions and take the offenders down a peg or two. As our title states, we are the "Anarcho-Cynic Tendency", and we are not aligned to any party. But if anyone attacks us, we will hit back harder. Because the Labour Club keep attacking us, so they keep getting it back. But we are just as likely to attack pompous Tories or self-righteous feminists. Our only criteria is to keep it funny." "But what about the recent "Tough Luck Asif" controversy? Andrew quickly replied. "We were shocked and disappointed at the reactions of the Left. That page was simply a bitter rhetorical attack on the uncaring attitude of this Union. We pay out thousands to starving miners, yet give next to nothing to really starving people." So, it was satire rather than sick humour? "Yes".

This begged the question of what future *TACTS* would have in store. Hoban replied: "More of the same wit and wry observation. More mercilessly funny attacks on the pretentious, and a few surprises to boot. We need *TACT* to give student politics a clear perspective." When asked what they enjoyed most about producing *TACT*, Robert Shrimley felt he could speak for all three when he said: "We enjoy taking the piss out of student politics. We particularly enjoy selling a copy to someone we have hammered, and watching their faces as they read what we have said about them. I remember sitting in the *Beaver's Retreat* when Mike Moszynski discovered that he was Shit of the Month; his face was a picture. We like

seeing people laughing at what we have written. Personally, I like seeing people laughing until they read about themselves, when they get offended; Alan "Groper" Peakall is good at this. But most of all we simply enjoy writing it."

You recently attacked *Beaver* in an issue. Do you believe everything you write? Hoban again: "No, we were rather generous in that article. I can assure you it won't happen again".

When I asked them who was responsible for the hilarious 'Let's Parler Jackeraguan' from the last issue, I was told that there was a sacred *TACT* rule: when two editors are gathered together, always blame the third. "However," added Cooper, "since we are all together at the moment, we're not going to tell you who wrote it. Mind you, Jon Putsman helped with the last issue." Was that a hint? They would not say. Will Jon Putsman be one of the new editors? "It depends how much money he can offer," replied Hoban. Is it true that to be a *TACT* editor you have to be practically married? "Of course," Cooper informed me. "Who else would do the typing otherwise?"

TACT then firmly stated that they would not like to be a Union Society as this would turn it into a poor person's *Beaver*, "with all sorts of careerist, grubby hacks contributing."

It would seem then, that the editors of *TACT* are opinionated, careerist, elitist, sexist, capitalist and utterly undesirable.

Finally, would they get mad if I made them look terrible in this interview? "No, just even."

Mary Goodnight

SCRAP THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

and the Social Secretary agrees!

Former Senior Treasurer John Donkersley argues for a change in the Union's sabbatical roles.

Entertainment is one of the important facilities a Students' Union can provide for its members. Each year at the LSE the Union spends just under £6,000 on the Social Secretary's salary, and provides a budget of around £4-5,000 for an entertainments turnover of perhaps £15-20,000.

However, the trading services of the Union have a combined turnover of £250,000, employs eight staff and numerous student casuals; subsidise the Union to the tune of £17,000 and keep the finance staff on their feet all year round. Why not, then, a services sabbatical to look after this mini-empire properly?

It is certainly agreed that the senior treasurer's job administering the Union and allocating its finances is more than enough to justify the post. Similarly the work on welfare, education, external affairs, staffing and coordinating the union justify the General Secretary as a paid sabbatical. So given that we cannot afford four sabbaticals, why was the third sabbatical created as an under-employed Social Secretary? Surely a Services Secretary, Beaver Editor or Academic Affairs Sabbatical had more

claim to such a status?

Apparently not. In 1979 when the post became sabbatical the Union was very different. The Union offices occupied a cramped corridor in the St. Clements building; the small bar in the basement below closed at 9.30pm and made a loss; Florries was a little coffee shop restricted to a small area on the first floor; and the shop occupied much smaller premises where the Economist second-hand department now is. An inferior Beaver came out two or three times a term if that. Academic Affairs had a lower priority as it was a time of comparatively plentiful resources, with committee work still light following a long term boycott of committees ended only a couple of years previously.

Thus, a sabbatical Social Secretary was created. Its advocates argued that Ents would stop needing a subsidy if a full-timer was in charge, that part-time Social Secretary's work was badly affected, and in the first year, at least, the cost was not large as the post was paid only in term time. Since then the Union has grown, the arguments used then have proved spurious, and the number of students benefitting from Ents has remained comparatively small.

There now seems to be a consensus that the emphasis in 1979 was wrong. Social Secretaries - Nick Newman in particular - tried to increase the involvement in Services - seeing the work was needed there. But he was the exception amongst a line of people quite naturally elected primarily for their knowledge and experience of Ents. So, as Phil Hague, the current holder, admits, the post is under-utilised and there is a tendency to stage events to justify the existence of a paid post. Phil, the Ents crew and the members of the SU executive that I have talked to see the need for a re-think and agree on the changes outlined below:

1) A Sabbatical Services Secretary is created to promote, monitor, publicize, co-ordinate and develop the trading services. It is accepted that no Executive Services Officer has ever worked well - a major complaint of Services staff who feel somewhat neglected for this reason - so only nine ordinary executive members would be elected. The new sabbatical would sit on the executive and its staffing sub-committee, the ASC - adding a third full-timer and necessary services knowledge.

2) Services and Entertainments go hand in hand, and it is often alleged that Ents need to be better organised. The Services Secretary would provide

this organisation, and financial direction, by being ex-officio Treasurer of the ents collective. The job all in all would be similar to the sabbatical services posts at the ULU, Queen Elizabeth College and UCL where they all have a large Ents involvement. Additionally, through this mechanism, Ents would be responsible to the executive committee for the first time.

3) The Social Secretary is transformed into a non-sabbatical "entertainment officer", elected before Easter by the Ents collective - in the same way that Beaver Editors are elected by the Beaver collective. Ents members prefer this option because they have the say as to who runs Ents and as to who they work with - it avoids the risk of a wally being foisted on them by a wider electorate. The Ents Officer would be responsible for on the night organisation, but would plan the Ents programme with the Services Secretary (who would sign all the contracts).

In the end the changes, though not a panacea for all the problems the Services and Entertainments face, mean the best value for money given the resources available. Ents is happy and better organised - and there might even be scope for the new sabbatical to sort out the mess that publicity around the LSE is in since it



Present social sec.
Phil Hague

would affect how they publicize Ents and the Services. The same structure works well in other Unions, so we hope you will consider closely this constitutional amendment to give affect to the changes at the beginning of term.

John Donkersley

UGM

THURSDAY

1 P.M.

I WOULDN'T BE A SABBATICAL IF THEY PAID ME

Political hackery at the LSE is an incessant cycle of activity, oratory, selection, election and defeat. Lent term at LSE brings all aspiring sabbaticals out of the woodwork in search of office and temporary fame and glory.

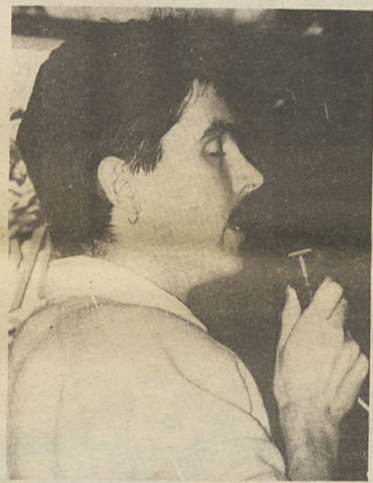
Bar a freak result, it is most likely that the Labour Club will return two sabbaticals this year, and three or four posts on the Executive. Hence with this notorious group we concentrate on **selection** (ie: a carve-up) rather than **election**. This year there is tough competition – especially for General Secretary. Socialists are generally uninterested in money and are usually inept at Maths. Here then, are *Beaver's* predictions:

Simon Ellis: Ellis is unpopular with the Left for his appearance as a smooth trendy and also because of his embarrassing letters to Mike Moszynski (does he want to stand for Independent Student?). He is rumoured to want to leave the Labour Club and threatened to resign from the Executive over 'policy differences' and organisational matters. Obviously a nomination will make him change his mind about leaving, but as this is unlikely he seems destined for the political wilderness, although he has been one of the more conscientious members of the Exec. as NUS Officer.

Julian Cooke: Rumoured to be the favourite of David Jackson and the political gurus and puppet-makers of the Labour Club. Rather ineffectual as election agent last time round, and is no great orator, but he is an amiable character and does a good line in mohair sweaters. Not a political heavyweight, but nonetheless it seems likely he will win the nomination.

Fiona Sorotos: Probably the most active person on the Executive this year, Fiona's key trick so far has been to keep very quiet about the fact that she wishes to run. However, she failed to get elected to the Court of Governors and both times that she has run for elections at the LSE she has stood as an Independent Socialist Feminist against official Labour candidates – grounds for her expulsion from the Labour Club.

Richard Snell: If there was a first-past-the-post system in our elections then last year Richard would have won with the largest number of votes in the Union's history. But we have STV and Mike Moszynski. If he stands for Senior Treasurer this year he is sure to receive the nomination. No-one dislikes him (very rare in the Labour Club), and he is particularly popular with the Women's Group, which should prove beneficial to his prospects due to their increased power within the Labour Club.



LIBERALS

Ed Lucas, many will be glad to hear, has no likely successor in the Liberal camp. Malcolm Lowe – the Simon Ellis of the Liberals – has resigned himself to the fact that he is not even the darling of the Liberals let alone the Union, so *Beaver* predicts that only one candidate will stand:



Elwyn Watkins: Watkins makes great play of his presidency of Carr-Saunders. From there he has managed to weasel his way onto the last available position on the Court of Governors, and now the world is his oyster. He has even managed to get new style chips sold in the Brunch Bowl. His 'campaign' to have the Superbowl screened at Carr-Saunders was a blatant act to move in early on the American vote. Proud of his self-acclaimed virility, it must

be said in the words of Michael Foot, that "men who are macho generally aren't mucho". Watkins is no exception. Has taken recently to dressing like Dave Jackson poor soul.

FCS

Our investigations into the likelihood of a Conservative sabbatical candidate have led us in different directions. If anyone does stand it will be their Chairman Andrew Tinney, who rules in the style of Margaret Thatcher; he doesn't like dissent, nor silk ties for that matter. Like Thatcher he doesn't like losing so probably won't stand.

INDEPENDENT STUDENT

As usual, I.S. candidates are shrouded in elitist mystique and secrecy. Two likely sabbatical candidates might be Elizabeth Albright and Richard Tull (you probably have as little clue about who they are as we do). The big question is: will Mike Moszynski be able to control his super-inflated ego and resist going for a second term of office?



James Bailey: In the unlikely eventuality of Bailey winning, he would undoubtedly have to share the job with his other half Carol Atack. *Beaver* Arts Editor "Paisley" Bailey spends most of his time scrounging free records through *Beaver* and *Rebound F34*, only to play them at his 'immensely successful' *Heat Club* discos. Allegedly Bailey doesn't know one end of a PA from another and has to pay Bexon to set up his equipment for him, much to his embarrassment and equally as much to Bexon's joy.

A NEW SABBATICAL?

In this issue of *Beaver* there is an article by John Donkersley arguing for the abolition of the Social Secretary and its replacement with a Services Officer. Given that Simon Bexon will probably not succeed in murdering him in time, there is a strong likelihood that the Union will accept this in time for March's elections. *Beaver* predicts that Fiona Sorotos will accept the Labour Club nomination for the post as a grievance payment for being carved out of the Gen. Sec. hacking. Her opponents could include Iain Crawford who may see the job as the right avenue through which to make his comeback onto the political scene.

EXECUTIVE

For the Executive, *Beaver* predicts the following motley bunch:

Percy Marchant, Nigel Kilby, Paul Jankel, Jack Frost, Andrew Oldland, Richard Dunn, Gerard MacMahon, Dan Duncan, Helen Ryland, Justin Anthony and Mark Hopwood.

BEAVER PREDICTIONS: COOKE (General Secretary), SNELL (Senior Treasurer), BEXON (Social Secretary) or SOROTOS (Services Officer).

STOP PRESS! All our predictions might come to nothing if Harold Wilson of the Socialist Worker Student Society decides to go for sabbatical.

HOUGHTON STREET HARRY'S ODDS:

Cooke: 4/6
Watkins: 9/4
Tinney: 12/1
Keyvan: 50/1

Snell: 1/2
Bexon: 1/3
Bailey: 9/2

"Butler and Kavanagh"

Deadline for next *Beaver*: MON 4th FEB WITH THE TORIES?

The closet doors are opening, the phoenix is rising, LSE Conservatives are a revamped, dynamic force set to invade the East Building's corridors of power. Gone is the old aloof image, to be replaced by a casual, sincere, confident style – or so we were told not so very long ago in these very pages.

Indicative of this change is the injection of new blood and the election of the fabulous Andrew Tinney as FCS Chair. But one first year Tory has been heard to complain that the new chair was appointed rather than elected – reminiscent of the old style Tory democracy.

Meanwhile this year's front-line Tories are something of a maverick breed. Take Nigel Angrypersion, a ranter that no Trot extremist could ever match; a prospective professional soldier, staunch defender of the British way of life, and loyal guardian of law and order. Yet this man is most renowned for his much talked of, and oft denied activities on the Yorkshire picket lines. Where he's coming from God only knows, but Nasty Nige – as he likes to be called – has certainly made his mark.

Then there's the wonderful Rory O'Driscoll, the Tory everyone hates to love. Almost every week Rory's lilting brogue and catchy turn of phrase thrill us but also leave us in a state of bewilderment as we quit the Old Theatre wondering what exactly he was talking about, and whose side he might have been on. But this character is possibly the only man on the Right with a calculable amount of brain cells, and it may well be he who emerges as the best hope for the Conservative phoenix in March.

But the old hacks are never far away. Arch-Catholic Philip

Groves has preached fervently yet again on the evils of homosexuality; Simon Brewer, representing the uglier parts of society, repulsed us with his attitude to pornography; Robert Shrimley has continued to excel himself as the most objectionable person on campus; and didn't we see the handsome features of Dominic Freely skulking around the back of the Old Theatre last term?

Yes indeed, the Tories are back, wearing the same garb that they've always worn. Just who is this Jack Frost, and who is he trying to kid?

Sean Fein



THE LONDON ARTS

THEATRE

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE



The traumas of pre-pubescent adolescence often abound with confusion and frustration. Growing up is a painful business. Hitting one's teens is when it usually starts and Adrian Mole - age 13 3/4 - is suffering terribly. The spot on his chin is the least of his worries. He is a drab working class boy in love with a trendy middle class girl; his mother is having an affair with the man next door; he has been allocated to a senile Communist in his role as a good Samaritan and to cap it all he has to pay protection money to a bully at school.

So life for Adrian is not all it should be. His inability to come to grips with the world in all its bizarre manifestations makes him come to the conclusion that he is an intellectual and he accordingly proceeds to model himself on Malcolm Muggeridge. He begins to write poetry which he sends to the BBC, but all he receives in return are rejection slips which further compound his frustration.

His misery with life, then, seems to be total. But is it? Sue Townsend, the author of the book, is attempting to parody the time-held belief that only adults can act responsibly. All around him he sees adult degeneracy; his mother leaves home, his father takes to drink and on and on it goes. He alone remains a pillar of strength. While his immediate environment is crumb-

ling around him, he copes with all his problems unabated and by the end of the year his life is much less traumatic.

Unfortunately all this is very much lost in what is a very disappointing stage production, the worst aspect of which is undoubtedly the fact that it is turned into a musical. Not only can the actors not sing (the songs themselves are pretty bad), but even worse they have the effect on the audience of losing the impact of Townsend's "message", for want of a better word.

Having read the book before seeing the play, the impression was that the performance was appallingly mishandled - the actors were trying too hard to entertain, which should not have been necessary with such a strong script. The audience were fidgeting at every adaptation made from the book; the good parts were the unoriginal ones. There are obviously many problems with adapting a diary for the stage, and especially in keeping the audience captive. The twelve songs were introduced to solve the latter problem - hardly a novel solution. All said though, the play is proving to be a box office hit, but cynic that I am, I would suggest this is due to the strength of the book rather than the play.

Iqbal Wahhab

ABIGAIL'S PARTY

The party was off-stage, but the vivid portrayal of guilt and marital mismatch most definitely was not. The production of Mike Leigh's play by the LSE Drama Society last term was expertly casted by Francesca Joseph to show the discord between man and wife and the anxieties of a divorcee as she endeavours to rear her tearaway daughter Abigail.

Terri Mangan played Beverly, the vain, flirtatious seducer of her friend's husband Tony with professional assurance. Her intimate and sensual dancing with Tony was in sharp contrast to that of their respective spouses, Laurence, the hen-pecked husband, and Angela. Aidan Prior, as Laurence, skillfully demonstrated the nervous suppression of a man which led to his

dramatic collapse and the denouement of the play.

All the characters portrayed gave scope for much personal interpretation by the cast, especially the frumpy, frustrated divorcee played with comedy by Elizabeth Botsford.

Mike Leigh uses "Abigail's Party" to criticize the banality and values of middle-class society emphasised by the snobbery and social climbing of Laurence and the materialistic Beverly. The stylistically simple two act play, a BBC TV "Play for Today" in 1977, was well-handled by the Drama Soc. It remains to be seen whether the same high standard can be maintained in this term's more ambitious production, Pygmalion.

E Fiona Chester

INTIMATE EXCHANGES

A maniac lovesick gardener, a marriage on the rocks, an alcoholic headmaster and an extremely peculiar witch-like domestic help, all seen dashing wildly through a country garden, an isolated hotel terrace, a golf course, and ending up in the local church graveyard - all this gives us Alyn Ayckbourn's new farce; a parody of middle-class life and values. "Intimate Exchanges" has just opened at the Ambassador's Theatre.

"Intimate Exchanges" has been devised in a thoroughly complicated fashion; no two plays are the same and the performance schedule from October to February changes from: "Events on an hotel terrace", to "A game of golf", to "A pageant", "A one-man Protes" (sic) and finally to "Affairs in a tent". In all, ten different versions of the play will have been rendered by the end of its West End run. Each night, although the same characters appear on stage, the events, choices and decisions change so as to give a completely different plot and ending. Every performance then, is a single strand of a much larger web of events and interconnecting scenes - does this sound like theatrical lunacy? It certainly seems remarkable when you discover that despite the array of

different characters involved, there are only two actors: Lavinia Bertram and Robin Herford, each of them playing five parts in all.

To avoid confusion I shall deal simply with this fortnight's version, "Events on an hotel terrace". Lavinia Bertram's performance is little short of excellent; her flexibility as an actress seems astounding considering the fact that she plays both Sylvie, as semi-literate eccentric housemaid, as well as Celia, the middle-class, warm, witty and insecure heroine of the play. It is difficult not to love either of the female characters, although wildly different, they are both endearing and lovable and we cannot help but laugh as Lavinia Bertram cleverly exposes so much of the frustration, childishness, disillusionment and temper that we find every day in our friends and in ourselves. In contrast, Robin Herford's performance is not quite up to scratch. He plays Toby Teasdale, Celia's alcoholic, cynical and dissolute husband, as well as assuming the role of Lionel Hepplewich, the Teasdale's gardener: rustic, ignorant and displaying a lunatic passion for impressionable Celia.

Unfortunately, neither of the male characters is quite credible, although their lines are funny you

sometimes feel that they are divorced from the actual characters. The play is devised in such a way that it makes it hard to pin down the reason for this failure - has Ayckbourn simply been too ambitious? (It certainly seems unnecessary to use only two performers even if it is a box office pull). Or is it that Robin Herford simply allows the two, not totally dissimilar characters, to merge into one? He certainly does not achieve the sharp character delineations that Lavinia Bertram handles so well.

Whatever, as the play progresses it becomes increasingly disappointing - Ayckbourn seems to have overstepped dramatic license and created scenes and situations that simply refuse to allow us to suspend our disbelief; repetition creeps into the play and clichés mount up and no longer create a laugh. By the end of the show we feel that we have had a good laugh to begin with but that's about it - the novelty has worn off. However, if you want funny, light entertainment and don't mind Alyn Ayckbourn the same old rather well-worn themes its worth a try. As the programme boasts: no two performances are the same.

Francesca Joseph

EXHIBITIONS

CHAGALL AT THE ACADEMY

At the age of almost 98, Russian born Marc Chagall is still working out his bright dreamy myths and messages; clowns frolic, violins wail and cows jump over the moon. In addition to his paintings, the Royal Academy has brought together his contributions to other media, in the areas of print-making, drawings and watercolours, in his designs for stained glass, mosaics and tapestries and in particular his work for the theatre.

Certain themes recur in the work of Chagall; the circus, lovers, peasants, the cycle of life along side the sombre themes of suffering and death. In fact his work is painfully repetitive, perhaps almost commercial. The 1960s are characterised by the artist's message to humanity, expressed in subjects drawn from the Bible; angels and animals accompanying man in his role as mediator between God and his creation. Yet Chagall is timeless, not confined to a single epoch in history; ancient gods are found in his pictures masquerading as cows and bulls ('a ma fiancee', 1911)

Chagall is as abstract as many other twentieth century artists but does not restrict himself to the formality of their geometric shapes and when he does they are beautifully bold and almost childlike. His figures are somewhere between being double-jointed and sensuous, with the rounded curves of leaping or floating bodies, characterised by lithe and lively movements as though joy has levitated them from the ground ('The Birthday, 1915)

His work is particularly fresh

and original, coloured as it is by his Russian and Jewish background. But somehow it is not kind; even clowns are full of pathos and chaos lies in a lot of his paintings. I should imagine that many people of the Jewish faith find his work on the crucifixion profoundly disturbing, just as Christians will wonder why this artist of Jewish upbringing has juxtaposed imagery which they have always received as a Christian interpretation of the history of

Israel.

Colour is paramount in Chagall, the brightness and strength of which is almost oppressive, like a bad nightmare. It is possibly the depth of observation of this man which makes the exhibition well worth seeing; I didn't leave feeling particularly refreshed or invigorated, but certainly moved.

Becky Lunn



FILMS

GHOSTBUSTERS

This review is possibly the most superfluous piece of information to be seen in the pages of Beaver since Raiders of the Lost Ark hit the screens. For by the time you read this you'll probably have been bombarded with so much information about 1984's most highly promoted movie that, even if you haven't seen it yet, you'll probably be thinking you know as much about it as those who have. However, unlike Raiders, Ghostbusters easily manages to deliver everything promised of it. This reviewer was quite prepared for the film to trade on the reputations of its stars, Dan Ackroyd and Bill Murray and of its director, Ivan (Animal House) Reitman. But despite an uncharacteristically subdued performance from Ackroyd, who appears to have put on a lot of weight since Trading Places, and though Bill Murray seemed to be on automatic pilot throughout, just at the point at which you think everything is being played a little too cute, the special effects send you through the roof with shock. From this point on, the film never looks back, as the paranormal infestation of the East Coast reaches epidemic proportions and

the Ghostbuster team's unorthodox means of containing the outbreak excite the disapproval of the Environmental Protection Agency. The denouement of that confrontation sets the scene for the climax of the whole film, in which the bad guys from the EPA, and indeed everyone else, get their just desserts (sic - if you see it you'll know what I mean).

Technically, the film is a delight, with all the ghosts and gods managing to be scary and funny at the same time. Rick Moranis, playing the accountant everyone knew he'd become after American Graffiti, finally manages to get Sigourney Weaver between, or rather three feet above, the sheets, but only after both have been terrifyingly possessed (by demi-gods). The only oddity is the sound track, which seems to consist entirely of snatches from Ray Parker's excellent single. Certainly not an album's worth of material there. Of course this is a preposterous movie, but don't let anyone try telling you it insults your intelligence. Anyone that pompous needs sliming!

Paul Redfern

REPOMAN

FAVOURITES OF THE MOON



Without question, the hero of Repoman is Miller. Psychedelic guru and suspected ex-hippy, the profundities, for which no doubt he will find a deserved place in the cinematic history, are little short of mind-blowing. Few know that shrimps, pine-cones and plates are in regular communication through the cosmos. Still fewer know that pine-cones and flying saucers are probably the same things. And still fewer know that Miller doesn't drive (a strange man in the world of Repomen) because "the more you drive the less intelligent you are". You may think that Miller probably took a lot of acid in the 60s - Otto certainly does and anyone who can declare that "Wayne was a fag" (cigarette) must be slightly suspect. There is, however, little doubt that Miller's Zen Indian chants are remarkable for, amongst other things, curing Otto after he has been bashed about a little. If anyone in this film deserves cult status it is surely he.

It then comes as a surprise that the plot revolves around a relatively dull and probably very unpleasant character, Otto ("parts" - an in-car joke). A 1963 Malabu is driving around California with a number of lethal aliens in the boot who ignite anyone who dares open it. Because there is a lot of money in aliens various repomen take it upon themselves to find this

vehicle. (Repomen are, incidentally, people who repossess cars for which payments have not been made. It is a surprisingly dangerous job which requires the regular consumption of speed and dettol.)

Otto, a degenerate punk, gets involved in all this after he discovers that his dope smoking parents have donated all their money to a megalomaniac TV preacher to send bibles to El Salvador. Though the Rodriguez brothers provide amusing competition with hairnets and insane driving, it is a bunch of punks who are the first to find the car. They do what comes naturally and steal it.

Anyway, while much "severe" shooting is going on, men in white suits wander around with about as much relevance as a penguin on Coronation Street and drive silver vans which made their debut on the Levis advert. Otto is found and tortured because "time is short and you might be lying but you shouldn't take it personally" and the man who invented the neutron bomb has a lobotomy because "they're fashionable these days".

In the end the now luminous and very hot (in both senses of the word) car is discovered and driven into the clouds by Miller and a somewhat bewildered Otto. They fly around LA and obviously have an excellent time.

STRANGER THAN PARADISE

Although shot on a low budget in black and white, this film deservedly won the prize for Best First Feature at Cannes last year.

Willy (John Laurie) is a young man of Hungarian parentage living on the bohemian fringes of New York who plays the reluctant host to his teenage cousin, Eva (Eszter Balint), newly arrived from Budapest.

Like Paris Texas, another Cannes winner, this film shows America through European eyes. Eva puts its junk culture, TV dinners and all under discouraging scrutiny. Jim Jarmusch, script writer and director, has chosen to show a particular side of American life - a New York where it is a healthy attitude to feel threatened when approached by strangers, even if ostensibly they are only asking for directions, and Florida beaches which are the venue for drug pay-offs.

The approach is deliberately realist and anti-Hollywood. In everyday life people really do have trouble remembering the punchlines of jokes and Willy's pitiful "see you around some time, maybe" rings true when Eva leaves him to go to the mid-West.

Richard Edson, who plays Willy's sidekick Ed, has cribbed the mannerisms of Robert de Niro, and no criticism is implied in this. The part

of Ed calls for qualities of vulnerability, faltering confidence and plain kookiness and could easily have been created with de Niro in mind. "She remembers me! I told you she'd remember me" Ed jabs when they look up Eva, a year after she has left New York to live with Willy's mother.

The script is strong enough to create believable characters and the film is admirably acted and directed. It would be quibbling to complain about the inexpert lighting and the abrupt cutting at the beginning of the film which is obtrusive and distracting.

A shot of the characters munching popcorn while watching a film showing frantic acts of sex or violence which can be heard coming from the screen, is gloriously deadpan. So is the scene when Eva returns to the motel in Florida where they have been staying, immediately after you have witnessed the spectacle of Willy flying off to Hungary in the ill-founded belief that she had decided to return to Budapest.

Jim Jarmusch has made a film of impressive wit and humanity which is a welcome change from the high-minded seriousness of many other independent film-makers.

Charles Walker

Though I found this film immensely enjoyable, I didn't find it at all surprising that those who have difficulty communicating with pine-cones didn't. This is more than I can say for another of Artificial Eye's releases, "Favourites of the Moon". Why anyone should have liked this film is beyond me. That it should have won a Special Jury Prize at the 1984 Venice Film Festival can only lead one to suspect that the Mafia had something to do with the decision and the film.

The bumpf with which we were burdened before we saw the film said two very interesting things. Firstly, that the film was 101 minutes long. Secondly, that in Favourites of the Moon, we are presented with "the dance of human destiny". Both are complete lies - anyway the first contention certainly is. I can only assume that the poor time keeper had more sense than I did and left half way through this dire and pretentious production. The second contention I suppose could be true of someone who has taken too much LSD.

This said however, there are some delightful scenes other than the one in which the word "fin" appears in white in the middle of a blue screen. We see a pretty unpleasant statue of a fat fireman being blown up and in the process being considerably improved. Likewise we see a man who runs too quickly for his own good and fails to understand the most rudimentary French also being blown up - should appeal to the French sense of humour. We also see several wheelchairs, prostitutes, a couple of cars and far too many dustmen. All this goes to prove that Jacques Chirac's Paris is perhaps a little better endowed than Ken Livingstone's London - and even that's rubbish!

It was one of those films that are supposed to provoke thought and I suppose it did in those who thought it deserved a prize. Perhaps the best thing I can say about it is that it inspired thoughts of my next drink.

Toby Kramers



MINERS BENEFIT

Frank Chickens are a Japanese duo from Milton Keynes who perform a bizarre mime and dance act to backing tracks. They are just back from a European tour after building up a following on the New Variety circuit in London. If these two women are to be believed (at least I think they're both women - somehow these two are so avant-garde without even trying that their gender is irrelevant), they met in a basket-weaving class in Milton Keynes, agreed that staying at home and doing the washing up was boring, and never looked back.

In a radio interview recently they admitted that their more conformist Japanese friends were embarrassed by their stage show. Although there are no rude bits, it is unlikely that their single will have its progress up the charts boosted by a timely ban by Radio One.

Most of their songs are about traditional folk heroes or their impressions of life in contemporary Japan. They wear exotic costumes and are heavily made up. Frank Chickens could be very good on video as an oriental version of Boy George - only not quite so wholesome.

"You didn't think there was such a thing as left-wing Teds - you were wrong". The Teds were evidently having a good time and so did the audience as they played every fifties number you've heard a million times already but wouldn't mind hearing once more. They were fronted by someone in a powder blue dress and bouffant hairdo who was at last living out her fantasy of being a rock'n'roller. She was strangely unpopular with the audience even before she started to sing, and was eventually forced to leave. Poor woman. She was obviously suffering from delusions of grandeur.

Happy End are an 18 piece band with a large brass section who filled in between the other acts. They are CAST's house band and have a chanteuse who belts out songs in French, German, Spanish and occasionally English. Spanish revolutionary songs, two numbers by Brecht - even Che Guevara got a look-in.

The best act of the night was Benjamin Zephaniah, rasta and ranting poet. He uses words well, can be very funny and has a dynamic stage presence. Like John Cooper Clarke he relies on speed of delivery for his words to take effect. Talking jive, he can break up and rearrange sentences so that they fall into an easy rhythm. Zephaniah wasn't voted 1984 City Limits poet of the year for nothing, he is very good. He knows his (white) audience and gives them what they want. Tongue in cheek, he uses the approved jargon. Heaven forbid he should describe himself as black. Unerringly he selects the right buzz phrase 'ethnic minority'. He never puts a foot wrong. Zephaniah moves constantly with restless energy and his whole body keeps in time with the rhythm of the words. This isn't just poetry, this is a performance. You have to see the man live to appreciate him. Reading his poetry from a book would be about as fruitful as reading sheet music.

Charles Walker

MUSIC

LIVE



REDSKINS AT ULU

The NUJ sponsored Miners Benefit attracted yet another gathering of "The Enemy Within", consisting on this occasion of students, Red Actions likeable nutters and some very pissed journalists (so what's new?). All were assembled to witness the Redskins, a powerful combination of sixties soul, rockabilly with punk revolutionary overtones.

Dressed in traditional skinhead attire - Doc Martin boots, jeans, Fred Perry teeshirts - plus the compulsory shaven heads, the band's three members took the stage accompanied by two brass players. Immediately they burst into "Kick Over the Statues", however after a few seconds silence ensued! Was this the power cuts we've all been waiting for? Unfortunately not, merely a technical hitch, which had cut out the PA.

Luckily after a few minutes things were back in working order and the swaying crowd, packed in the Manning Hall, were given further opportunities to dance maniacally.

Fast and furious songs such as "Lean On Me", "Unionise" and "It Can Be Done" contain political

lyrics in a way few have previously achieved so successfully. As it is often said, songs won't change anything, and their lyrics admit this. However, the songs' positive content provide a number of anthems for those fighting Thatcherism, capitalism and fascism.

For those looking for love songs, the Redskins would be a major disappointment but for those seeking a performance of energy, change of pace and change of musical style the Redskins are a must.

As may be obvious, this show was not merely about music but contained numerous social comments by singer Chris Dean. Dedications to the students at PNL and to the strikers at Barking hospital were all part of the package. Seeing the Redskins during the time of the miners heroic struggle puts them in the ideal setting, providing entertainment in the context of the hard realities of the strike. Giving a platform to a Yorkshire miner and taking contributions at the door are what the band would see as being of prime importance and justifiably so.



WARMING UP AT THE HEATCLUB - A PREVIEW

On February 1st the Heat Club presents on stage and almost totally live Doctor and the Medics and the Mighty Clive!, in our very own Haldane Room. The Medics are a great live band and getting better. They revisit the more nightmarish aspects of the 60s - crushed velvet flares, Afghan coats, and songs about druids, love and peace, but with an outlook more reminiscent of the late 70s (they fall over a lot). Over the last year I have seen their set progress from a demented blitz of 60s faves to an even more maniacal burst of aspiring-to-be originals, along with the better onslaughts on former classics such as 'Motorhead' and 'Blockbuster'. They don't so much send up the hippy ethos as attack it at an unhealthy rate of beats per minute - usually to the detriment of the Doctor's trousers (they collapse) and their fans good sense (they pretend to be beetles - the insect kind, of course). Jamie Bailey, Heat Club organiser said "These boys are solid gone. It should be quite an eye-opener," adding that he saw the doctor 'as the Luis Palau of flared trousers - I just hope there won't be too many revelations tonight'.

The Mighty Clive! feature LSE student Steve Jelbert, described in

THE BENEFIT

The staging of a star-studded variety show successfully raised over £2000 for the City Road Drugs Crisis Centre, while delighting a full house in the Old Theatre.

A rapid turnover of acts linked by the Comic Strip's Robbie Coltrane, provided over three hours entertainment varying from the mellow sounds of Helen McCookerybook to the riotous behaviour of Captain Sensible, who leapt about the audience proclaiming the virtues of self-abuse!

Last minute replacements, the Alarm, gave a four song thrash, including previous single "The Deceiver", no doubt dedicated to Nigel "Angry-Person" Kilby.

Surprise guest was the rapid-fire Lenny Henry, delivering a constant barrage of jokes and stories, in total contrast to his clean-cut TV image. Loudest cheers of the night were

saved for the hilarious Hank Wangford band. Their country and western style, incorporating the excellent voices of Bobby Valentino and Cissy Footwear, gave us a number of witty songs climaxed by the irreverent "Jogging with Jesus".

The night's atmosphere was only slightly soured by the arrogance of the Blow Monkey's singer who constantly complained to the mixing desk. The group's sound tended to resemble the recently demised Orange Juice a bit too much for my liking.

Finally, as the house lights broke the darkness of the auditorium, our beloved Social Secretary took the stage to announce the sum raised, while being heckled with demands for his resignation.

Julian Cooke

INDIA NITE

The annual Diwali celebration of the India Society proved a successful extravaganza last term. The atmosphere on stage and in the audience of 500 was electric throughout the evening. The show opened with romance, colour and vitality in a performance of Indian dance by the Banerjee sisters.

A good Indian meal (not bad considering the whole ticket was £3) preceded the dynamic Mohammed Raza in the second half. Rhythmic volatile Indians set the Old Theatre shaking as they danced ('bhangaed') through the isles and a few on the stage. Mohammed Raza and his cabaret group had a catalytic effect on the audience. He sang a variety of Indian film songs ('ghazals' and 'gawalis').

It is a pity that more multilateral events do not occur so that the students can see how much artistry, fun and hospitality their ethnic colleagues have.

Jaya Sharma



Richard Thompson
(sounds familiar - arts ed.)

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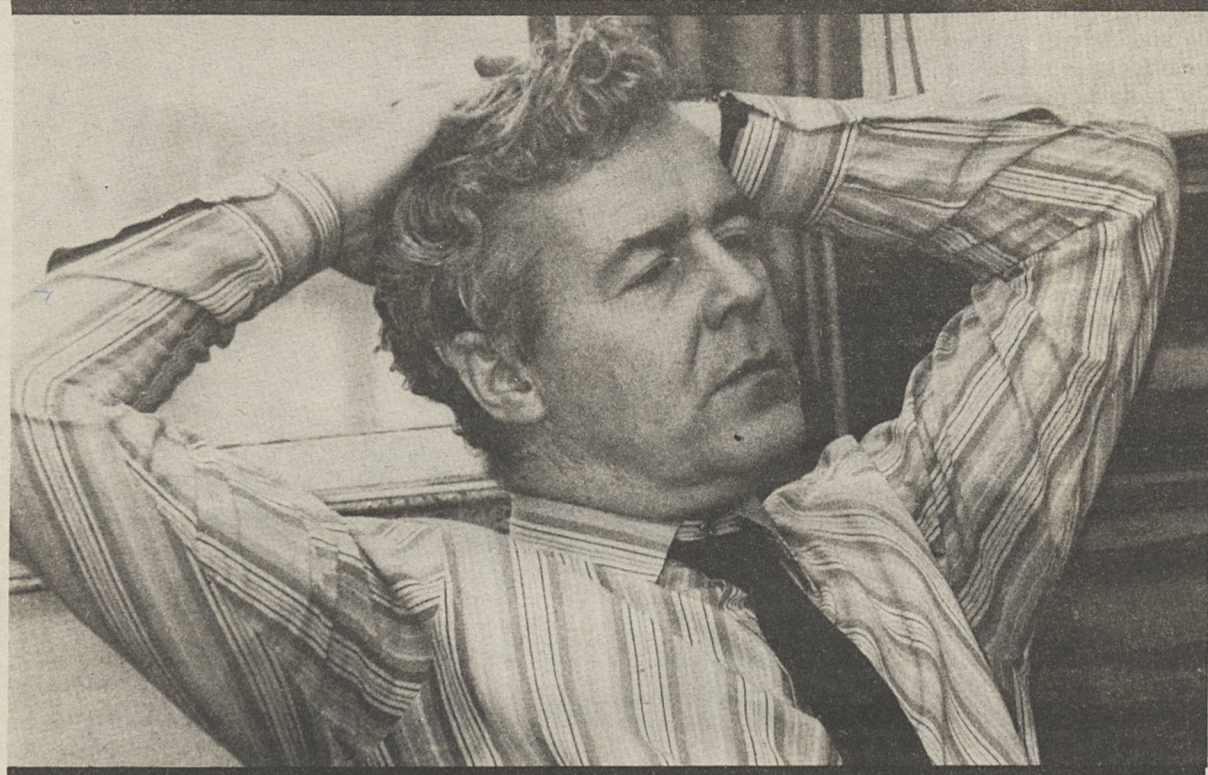
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THE FINANCIAL TIMES – A COMMENT



The sight of students clutching copies of a certain pale pink newspaper has long been commonplace at the LSE. The *Financial Times* is perhaps the most widely read paper by economics undergraduates today. Geoffrey Owen has been editor of the FT for the past four years. I went along to his office to find out just what he considered the purpose of the newspaper to be.

"For some of our readers, the *Financial Times* is an important tool for use in their everyday work. Governments, trades unions and anyone involved in the financial world has to read the paper if they want to make an informed and up to date decision." However, Mr Owen sees the newspaper as fulfilling another and much broader role and it is in this that the rule "no comment" is vigorously

enforced. "It is regrettable that news and comment have become so confused in the British press today. The FT aims to supply straight, objective and factual current affairs. We do not express our own views on news."

One of the reasons why this separation of information and interpretation can be made is the absence of interference from the owners. The Pearson Group, which incidentally owns *The Economist* too, has the power to hire and fire the editor. There exists however a good understanding on general editorial policy, and the staff are very much left to get on with the jobs they are highly qualified to do; as Mr Owen says "we make our own decisions."

The obvious question to ask the editor of a financially oriented newspaper at the present is how he thinks the pound will fare over the coming year. "I'm afraid its completely

unpredictable. The dollar must fall from its exaggeratedly high level, but when that will be is anyone's guess." In fact Mr Owen sees the relationship of the pound with other European currencies as much more important. "Britain does most of her trade with the EEC and the Government has been far more worried about the sharp drop in the exchange rate with the German mark than with the dollar. This is why interest rates have been pushed up but I would be very surprised if we saw a further spectacular deterioration in the pound especially if oil prices stabilise." Recently the FT has been critical of the Government's handling of the sterling crisis. The editorial column has often stated that if the Government insists on "letting the pound find its own level" it must make clear that it does care where that level is. The plummeting pound has been partly the result of a panic-

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stricken market wondering whether the Government has forgotten that a very low exchange rate can lead to higher import costs and eventually inflation. Mr Owen says "we would like the Government to be more explicit in stating its attitudes towards the pound. There has been little guidance for the press and consequently there were two totally contradictory stories in last week's *Observer* and *Sunday Times*."

More generally, Mr Owen supports the Government's economic strategy. The removal of trade restrictions, and the refusal of the Government to bail out inefficient companies are two things the FT has campaigned for. This doesn't mean

however, the end of all nationalised industries. Mr Owen calls the selling off of British Telecom "simply the substitution of public monopoly for a private one" and for plans to sell British Airways "a missed opportunity to restructure the aircraft industry". The crucial issue is whether the industry is made more efficient.

Unfortunately he remains pessimistic about job opportunities for graduates in the next few years. "Government forecasts on unemployment remain gloomy. I'm afraid I don't hold out much hope of rapid improvement in the immediate future."

Amanda Farnsworth

THRIVING AMBITION

Continuing a series of articles which focus on past pupils of the London School of Economics, we turn to the MP for Derbyshire South, Edwina Currie. Still in the early days of her career in the Commons, having been elected to office in June 1983, Mrs Currie has taught and lectured as well as serving for some years on Birmingham City Council. Now, as one of the bright young politicians in Parliament, she is tipped to hold influential positions in future governments.

Edwina Currie attended the LSE to study for a Masters in Economic History. Her motivation was disillusion with the Civil Service and a Social Sciences Research Scholarship. Her previous education was no less impressive. Born in Liverpool into a family she described as 'working class', she had pushed herself hard to achieve the grades necessary to gain an exhibition to St Anne's College Oxford.

Even at this stage she knew that her main interest lay in politics. "At Oxford I was very much involved. We had active political societies and the tradition was to belong to all of them so that you could go to more meetings. She recalls going to hear Richard Crossman speak at the Labour Club. How did he

strike her? "Rather like Keith Joseph now – earnest, well-meaning, cerebral, although not very competent politically", is Mrs Currie's description, said with a glint in her eyes.

She has stood on the Conservative ticket ever since she first declared her political allegiance at the age of fourteen, although her father was a staunch socialist. "I have a very argumentative family. My father and I would always take positions and I always found myself defending the conservative viewpoint."

In her home town Mrs Currie was Minister for Education at Liverpool Parliamentary Debating Society. "In the old days they had them in all the major cities, although with the advent of TV they diminished to about 20." The scenario was very much like Parliament with Speakers, ministers and debates. How did she decide on the Tory line? "I've always taken a rather optimistic view of life, and am fairly individualistic." I doubt the effectiveness of collective action, and I don't like being told what to do."

Mrs Currie's individuality gave her a flair for shouldering responsibility. She entered Birmingham City Council and was soon asked to chair committees. She specialised in welfare which at first seems an unlikely area, considering Mrs Thatcher's arbitrary treatment of the

Welfare State in recent years. Mrs Currie explained: "There were three real reasons for this; welfare, benefits and pensions, all covered by the DHSS, which is actually the largest department of all – nationally we spend 39 billions on benefits – one is always interested in the largest budget." Also within the Party there are few who know much about welfare. Finally, "I had a baby of five months old, and I had to do something where I could take her along. I'm a great believer in maximising your advantages."

Edwina feels that the years she spent finding out first hand about the problems facing the old, sick, and disabled meant she was able to fight the election with a mature outlook. She recalls: "Some of my contemporaries at Oxford tried for Parliament straight away. The worst thing that could happen would be that you actually got in. Then you don't know anything about anything."

She chose to qualify as an accountant but still yearned for a political career. Whilst working for a top accountancy firm she met her husband who encouraged her to leave and do what she wanted.

It was the right decision, since after a great deal of hard work, she was elected MP for Derbyshire South. She has no hesitation in describing how it feels to be a new girl in Parliament: "Marvellous, but its

always daunting. I've done twenty-three speeches now and I still shake like a leaf beforehand." She tried to begin with subjects she knew about, such as the sale of council houses, but has now spoken on a whole range of topics – the rich and the poor, or economic aid for the Third World, for example.

She feels it is important as an MP to live in her constituency, although this is by no means an easy option, the temptation being to stay in London and save on travel time. She adds "then you have to protect your privacy at home". The people of South Derbyshire are very protective and will approach her in the street after a hostile report in the press just to reassure Mrs Currie that she is doing fine.

Her private life is obviously of great importance. Edwina has successfully combined a husband and two children with a very high-powered and time-consuming career. A look around the Commons shows that only a handful of women have chosen the same task. Why does she believe this to be so? "Too few young women set themselves the same high standards outside college as they do inside. When they get their first job they are looking for a husband, then a house, car...school, and before they know it they haven't worked for fifteen years and the economy has moved on."

Edwina Currie strikes you as

a very honest, forthright character who has no hesitation in stating her opinion. She is a highly motivated and assured politician. What are her aims now that her primary objective, that of becoming an MP, has been achieved? "I see my family as very important, and I want to make sure my two daughters don't suffer as a result of my busy lifestyle." And political ambitions? She is modest on this score, saying merely "to get re-elected in a marginal seat."

Edwina Currie has never done anything half-heartedly. It seems she is in no danger of losing her seat in the near future.

Gilli Wedon





VOLUNTARY UNIONS? NO THANKS!

Each of us on entering the LSE automatically becomes a member of the Students' Union. This compulsory membership has been criticised many times in the past with little result. However, recently there has been renewed interest in the possibility of reform; an interest very much concurrent with Mrs Thatcher's national policy of increasing competitiveness.

It is argued that voluntary membership of student unions would allow the silent majority of students to voice their opinions, thus making student union policy more representative of student demands. This suggestion is frankly naive. The first people to take the step of joining the voluntary body would without question, be those activists who supposedly dominate the compulsory body. It is obvious to all but the most blinkered of observers that the activists of today would merely be provided with a more effective forum with which to misrepresent student views. Minority domination would prevail and discourage mass affiliation.

UNFAIR

In the unlikely event of a majority of students joining a voluntary union, it would be unfair if those who were not members used the union's facilities. These so-called 'free riders' would be getting something for nothing; it would be too easy an opportunity to miss in these days of impoverished students. It is impractical to suggest that the use of services could be limited to members only: could you imagine having a bouncer outside the Tuns? Should alarms in women's showers, which were only obtained through the pressure of the Union Executive be labelled 'Members Only'?

In addition to this, it is obvious that the quantity and quality of services available is dependent upon the finances available. A voluntary union would undoubtedly have lower financial support. A general decline in student union services would occur; poorer quality and less frequent Ents

events, fewer welfare facilities (no more Hardship, Women's Right to Choose, or Disabled Students funds) and what of those cherished beer subsidies? Student union social life would become a distant memory. Soon free riders would no longer ride free since there would be nothing left to ride on.

SOLIDARITY

The students' unions and the NUS represent the interests of students locally and nationally. To be effective in this task, the practical realities of negotiation demand solidarity and unity. This would be entirely lost if competing voluntary students unions were set up. The powers that be, such as the School itself, would delight in the fact that students at LSE could no longer present an effective lobbying front.

While the need for improved student facilities and representation should be recognised, the implementation of voluntary SUs is not a practical or viable solution. The answer to the problem of student unions is, in our opinion, analogous to that of the GLC. Abolition is the wrong direction to take. Reappraisal and reorganisation the right one.

The NUS stance on the issue has not changed. Neither, their sources indicate, has the Government. The Conservative's position on the subject was made clear by the Minister for Education, Sir Keith Joseph, at the 1983 Conservative Party Conference: "...the question of voluntary membership of Students' Unions, I have to tell the Conference that a wrong impression has been given by the phraseology we use. We use the words of industrial trade unionism. In fact, the Students' Union is not the same, mercifully, as an industrial union. The only work it can stop is by its own members to its own harm. What we have in the Students' Union is a provision that enables automatic access to be given to students at a university or polytechnic to the facilities such as libraries and sports facilities provided by the public, and I do not see how we can therefore make membership voluntary". The NUS feel they need say no more than Sir Keith.

The mainspring of reformist opinion is however, Conservative. It is to be found in the

A VOLUNTARY STUDENT UNION? YES PLEASE!

Any organization which people join exists to serve them in some way. If it works and membership is voluntary, members will be likely to remain within it and others will be attracted; the customer is able to vote with his feet and leave if he so wishes. If however, the customer is not satisfied and membership is compulsory, then he will not be able to do as he pleases and the organization will have failed him. For too long, compulsory student unions have not paid the price for their failure.

The problem with compulsory student union membership is that once membership is an obligation, the incentive for its members is removed. The existence of such a 'closed shop' arrangement will serve the interests of only those who work within the union. By "those who work within", I mean not only members of staff and sabbaticals, but also those who take the most active interest in how the union spends its money. Everyone else is left feeling disillusioned, particularly the ordinary student, because he does not know what the hell is going on!

SOP TO SUBVERSION

At the LSE, the Union receives an annual grant of £170,000. This money comes from the School, which seems content to fund the make-believe world of pickets, demonstrations and occupations which are the full-time activities of left-wing students. In return, the School would appear to hope that this sop to subversion might help to appease potential student revolutionaries. Not that this Tory Government is much better! It is they who insist on paying the School to fund the Union. As always, it is the taxpayer who foots the bill, together with students themselves; it has been calculated that each student contributes £50 each year to the Union.

midst of the FCS. At the last of their half-yearly councils, the ultra right reportedly had a field day when it came to policy making, with "moderate delegates either scared off or too embarrassed to join in the fray". The council's resolution agreed upon a policy of disaffiliating local students' unions from the NUS, and expressing in the strongest possible terms their "dissatisfaction at being forced to join an organisation with which we disagree so much". So far, the FCS's efforts to topple the NUS in its present form have included persuading leading Tory backbencher Edwina Currie to introduce a ten-minute rule bill in the House of Commons on Students' Unions (Mrs Currie's efforts floundered. It was not even discussed as the death of Indira Gandhi captured the attention of the Commons).

In the last issue of *Beaver* leading Victorian moralist and Tory hack, Philip Groves, proposed that abolition of compulsory Union membership should be "the chief priority of LSE Conservatives this year".

Ed Richards
Hugh Sergeant

At LSE the Union is inefficient and unaccountable to those who try to uncover its dubious workings. The sabbaticals are up to their necks in staffing difficulties and the services are ridden with problems hidden from the ordinary student. Without the dedication of the Union staff, this creaking bureaucracy would have collapsed long ago. The simple fact is that none of the small amount that the Union achieves could not be more effectively done by a voluntary association of students or the School itself.

DEMOCRATIC?

Not only are people coerced into Union membership, but the "democratic" UGM which makes Union policy and spends Union money, is a sham. It is not a representative democracy, but a democracy of the committed. Even assuming a willingness to be involved on the part of many students, the bureaucratic and procedural muddle of meetings deters all but the most seasoned hacks from seeking responsibility within the Union. Especially within these meetings, the "sovereign body" of the Union is made into a God and can do no wrong.

THE ANSWER

The clear answer to the injustice and impracticality of the present arrangement would be to abolish the Students' Union as it is presently constituted and make membership of the Union voluntary. This would have a number of consequences. It would shatter the School's cosy relationship with the Union and - if undertaken nationally - would shake the Government's cosy relationship with the NUS. At the LSE, the School would have little option but to make concessions to an efficient, well-organised and representative voluntary union, under pressure from its members to achieve results. Who

dares to say that voluntary unions would not be radical? Even if I am wrong, a voluntary union could hardly be less radical than the present monolithic structure.

WHAT ABOUT FREE RIDERS?

The only serious argument against voluntary unions is that 'free riders' will receive the benefits of a successful union without paying for them. I see few problems with this. Those who would join the Union would presumably do so because they wanted to secure changes for themselves. If others got these too, it would be as a side-effect, in no way making those in the union worse off. Besides, if a union established itself as successful, people would be queuing up to join! An added incentive to membership would be to say that the union services could be used by members only, thereby attracting new members in people who wanted to use them. Any union could set its own terms of membership, possibly including reductions for hard-up students.

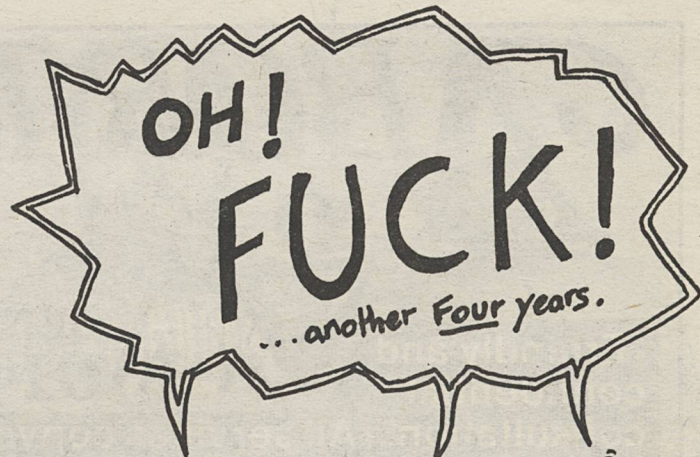
THE CHOICE FOR LSE

The more people I speak to at the LSE, the more I realise the following: how few people realise what they are paying to a union which some do not know exists; how many ordinary students would opt out of the present arrangement if they were given the chance; how much they would appreciate the opportunity to join a radical, relevant and representative union, or to help in the formation of one; and how great the disillusionment is becoming with the present discredited system. The choice is simple: do we continue to supply the permanent life-support machine to an ailing bureaucracy which we are coerced into joining and cannot leave? Or do we begin a revolution from below, so that a voluntary union may arise from the ashes of the old one.

Philip Groves

Donkeyjacket.

THE SWEARING IN OF THE PRESIDENT



HON PORN NIGHT PROTEST SUCCEEDS

On Tuesday evening, December 11th, around three hundred students from LSE, Polytechnic of North London, Imperial College and Kings Socialists gathered at Imperial College to protest against 'Hon Porn Night'. The protesters arrived to hear the surprising news that the Rector of IC, Lord Flowers, had cancelled the event. Hon Porn Night, organised by the Royal School of Mines, a constituent college of IC, was to have consisted of strippers and hard-core porn films. The LSE contingent numbered around 120.

Both the news that the event had been called off and the absence of police came as a surprise to the protesters. A heavy police presence had been expected and there had been fears of violence following an incident in 1983 when a male protester was beaten up by students from the Royal School of Mines. Many members of the contingent believe that Hon

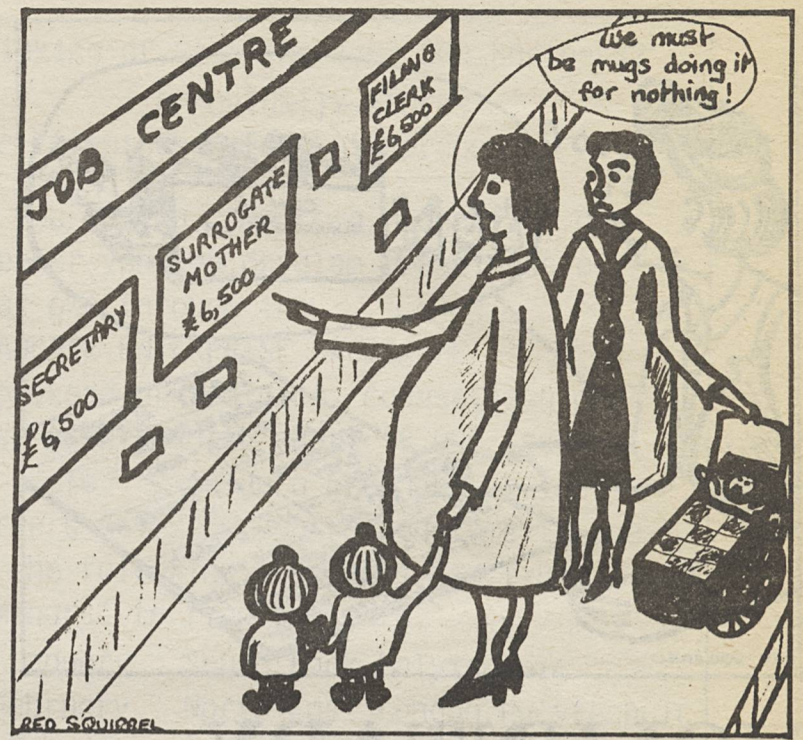
Porn Night was still going on and that news of its cancellation was just a hoax. Protesters crowded angrily in front of IC's iron gates, behind which Royal School of Mines students stood jeering. Those outside tried but failed to push the gates open.

Four women, including Fiona Sorotos, Charlotte Walden and Lynn Huggins from the LSE, were eventually allowed into the college to see what was happening. On their return they announced that the protest had been successful, but warned that demonstrators must be prepared to come back at a moments notice in case the event had merely been postponed.

Whether or not Lord Flowers will cancel the next Hon Porn Night organised or ban the event altogether is uncertain. He has never previously expressed an attitude towards the event. Two factors may have influenced his decision.

This protest was more forceful and highly organised than previous pickets. Support came from many London colleges and from the General Union Council of ULU. Secondly, Lord Flowers is in line for the Vice Chancellorship and he may have wished to avoid controversy.

The ambivalence of many IC students towards the event is clearly seen in student union policy. In the last academic year there was a successful motion condemning Hon Porn Night at an IC UGM. However, in 1984 policy changed. Constituent college unions of IC Student Union can now organise any event they wish using IC Student Union facilities – so long as the event is legal. There are three of these constituent colleges including the Royal School of Mines. Eric Darbeshire, IC Hon. Sec., felt there was general support for the event among students at IC and constituent colleges. An IC dele-



gate of ULU GUC defended the event on the grounds that it had been democratically supported at an IC UGM.

Understandably, protesters were not swayed by such arguments. The view was expressed that Union meetings can be packed with supporters or opponents of a motion and it was said that after the violence fol-

lowing the previous picket, Imperial Women's Group feared reprisals towards those who tried to stop the event.

Nathalia Berkowitz

THE BRITISH MEDIA – TERMINAL DECLINE?

Students new to London – especially those from abroad – may have been puzzled by blank ITV screens and their inability to buy their favourite newspaper over the beginning of the Michaelmas term. In fact, as anyone can observe, the British media is in turmoil. A journalist friend of mine in America asked me to send him a complete set of British daily newspapers. Yet the difficulty of buying every paper on any one day proved nearly insurmountable. For some days *The Times* failed to publish owing to an argument over the installation of new printing presses. With its return to the streets, the competition proved too intense for *The Sun*, which disappeared from the news-stands because of a dispute over its famous photographs. The rot spread to radio and TV. For some weeks, journalists in Independent Local Radio worked to rule over a contract dispute. The usually slick Thames News was

replaced by bespectacled executives reading the briefest of news headlines.

Why then does the British news media appear to be in almost terminal decline? The reasons are manifold, but all stem from the same basic problem: a lack of jobs. Any American will find it hard to believe that London boasts just three local radio stations and one local TV station. It is a fact that the disputes over the new technology available to the news business all centre around the same basic fear of the dole queue. Yet clearly if the British media is to develop along with the rest of the world's news services, such technological improvements will have to be accepted.

The problem, I believe, cannot be solved under present conditions. Before any improvement in media industrial relations can occur, new job opportunities must be created through the 'freeing up' of the British air-

waves. It is quite bizarre that radio stations attracting huge audiences should be forced to broadcast from the North Sea because of the difficulty of getting the Government's permission to broadcast from the mainland. For the Government to claim that a multiplicity of radio and TV stations would jam up the airwaves is utter nonsense, as any American from a big city will be able to testify. A larger number of outlets would bring a large number of new jobs, and hopefully less concern about the introduction of new technology. *The Guardian* recently published figures showing that only sixty jobs will be available to graduates across the country in radio this year. Until something is done about this ridiculous state of affairs, the presses are bound to remain silent, and the screens blank.

Simon Marks

SPARE RIB!

Next time you are in a newsagents why not broaden your horizons and buy a copy of *Spare Rib*.

It is aimed at women who are feminists, or rather women who are able to perceive that society discriminates against them upon the basis of their sex, women who feel devalued in their personal, social and economic relationships. In other words, it is aimed at every woman although some don't realize it.

Each issue deals with a specific topic, examples being abortion, domestic violence, women in trade unions, young women, black women and so forth. Regular features include four to five pages concerning women making news, women's fiction, women's poetry, women's plays reviewed, art exhibitions and much more.

The magazine is produced at

27 Clerkenwell Close, just off Farringdon Road, and only fifteen minutes walk from the LSE. *Spare Rib* is run by a small full-time collective, part-timers and volunteers. It contains no advertisements except for listings of women's events. Its attractive to look at and well-produced.

Spare Rib welcome any help you can give. I worked there for a few weeks this summer and thoroughly enjoyed myself. The tasks were opening letters, making posters, sending out back issues and running messages. It was fascinating to be involved in the actual production of a national magazine. The atmosphere is efficient and friendly. If you're a woman you'll be welcome. You don't have to commit yourself for any length of time – you come and go when you please.

Katy Park

PAUL PHILIP REITLINGER PRIZE 1985

The Paul Philip Reitlinger Prize 1985 value £100 is offered for the best essay on the following topic:

"LITERARY PRIZES (PAST AND PRESENT): PATRONAGE OR LOTTERY?"

To be discussed with reference to any one or more Romance languages or literatures.

Candidates must be students of the University of not more than 25 years of age on 1 October 1985 who have not proceeded to a degree, or passed the examinations required for a degree, in this or any other University.

Essays which would normally be expected to extend to no more than about 5000 words must reach the Secretary to the Scholarships Committee, University of London, Room 21A, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU NOT LATER THAN 1 OCTOBER 1985, and must be accompanied by a certificate from the candidate's teacher or other responsible person to the effect that the research work forming the subject of the essay is substantially the work of the candidate presenting the essay.

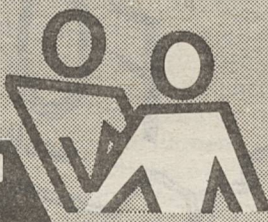
EASTER JOBS...

Camp Beaumont are offering jobs to students for the Easter holidays. Duties involve instructing, supervising and escorting children between the ages of 3 and 16 on activity holidays at Mill Hill or Imperial College, Kensington. Specialist staff are required in computing, performing arts and nursery supervision. Basic rate of pay – £40 per week. National insurance number must be provided.

Apply in writing to:
Camp Beaumont,
9 West Street,
Godmanchester,
Huntingdon,
Cams. PE18 8HG.
For more details phone Mr Wilson on (01) 870 9866.

Sterling Guards Ltd. are offering casual work at Crufts Dog Show, Earls Court for one weekend starting 9th February. Work involves collecting tickets, checking baggage etc. (There will be a training day prior to the weekend). The average working day is 12 hrs, and rate of pay is £1.93 per hour plus £2 per day as a timekeeping bonus. For further information and an interview phone 381-4321 and ask for Tricia Smith. (National Insurance number may not be required).

ABORTION Help & Advice



*Friendly and confidential consultation. *All services conveniently located in Central London. *Immediate appointments. *FREE PREGNANCY TESTS (including early Pregnancy Testing). *Full range of birth control services, including sterilisation and vasectomy. Mon - Fri. to 8p.m. Saturday. to 4 p.m.

BCPC

Birth Control & Pregnancy Counselling
31/35, Langham Street, London W1N 6LE.
(just 3 mins Oxford Circus).
Skilled attention, always at your service.

Letters contd

RUN FOR ASBAH

Dear Editors,
Students taking up jogging as part of an "I'm going to get fitter" New Years Resolution, might for the first time be attempting a half marathon or Fun Run. Some may have even gone the whole hog and entered into a full Marathon.
I should like to ask all those students, through your page, to consider getting sponsored for ASBAH. We care for thousands of people who have the handicap of spina bifida (defect of the spine) and hydrocephalus (water on the brain). We desperately need funds for research, social welfare, special equipment, education and employment training and for our special courses run for young people with these handicaps to prepare them for a full and independent life, despite the fact that they are in a wheelchair. Please write to me, Madeleine Legg, for sponsorship forms; and if you do run for us, you get a free T-shirt or running vest. Not in the least bit interested in running? Then pass the word on to a friend who might run for us. Mind you, you could always be carried or pushed round a Fun Run...
I hope some of you can help us.

Yours Sincerely,
Madeleine Legg
ASBAH Runners,
22, Upper Woburn Place,
London WC1H 0EP

A DILEMMA FOR FCS?

Dear Editors,
At the NUS Christmas conference in Blackpool the leadership of the Federation of Conservative Students adopted a policy of disruption. The methods they used were threefold. First, they raised numerous spurious points of order. Second, they stood a multitude of candidateS for election who, in their hustings speeches, uttered deliberately provocative and sometimes racist remarks creating such an uproar that proceedings were delayed. Thirdly the FCS published a leaflet containing blatantly racist comments for the purpose of inciting the conference to violence and turmoil.
I will defend until the last the FCS's right to oppose the NUS if they so wish, but I am disgusted at the vile methods implemented by the leadership of the FCS in order to try to destroy the NUS. I would point out that far from weakening the structure of the NUS, they have actually strengthened it by unifying its members in a common cause to oppose at every level the activities of the FCS. The leadership of the FCS had chosen a course of action that has damaged the Conservative cause in student politics irreparably.

DRINKING WOMEN

Dear Editors,
The article "Women and Drinking" in your last issue mentions that the rate of increase of women drinkers is faster than that of men. To put this in proportion, a counsellor on drink problems told me recently that in the sixties, the proportion of men to women he saw was 10 to 1, while now it is 50/50. This is within the context of a huge overall increase in drinking, and hence drink problems over that period.
The drink industry spends £500 million annually on adver-

CRUMBS OF CONSOLATION

Dear Editor,
I can only assume that the Canteen Manageress really does have the student population eating out of her hand, and how pleased she must have been with the amazing acquiescence that the Union Meeting of the 22 November showed in quietly accepting her reasons as to why we have to pay the very high prices charged in the Brunch Bowl. We were given, and swallowed the same old sob story: "it's the overheads."
I am compelled to ask: what have the overheads got to do with us? For surely as the consumer it must be for us to attempt to get the best value possible for what little money we have, unless I am totally mistaken, and the bulk of the student population are that well off that they are prepared to pay more for their meals purely out of sympathy for the plight of the Canteen Manageress.
However, I don't believe this to be the case. Surely what we all want from the Canteen Manageress is a bit more imagination in her excuses and in her menus, and better value for money. Or was the meeting simply swayed by the crumb of hope tossed to them that they may get better chips from now on.

Yours sincerely
Keith Burn

The finger must now be pointed at the FCS members at the LSE and the question asked where do you stand?
I doubt that any member of the FCS at LSE is really a racist, but if we are to believe that our Tories are as ardently opposed to this social evil as Mr Tinney would say, then we would want proof through action. Since condoning the activity of the FCS at the NUS conference would be indirectly supporting those who used racist slogans, what should they do? Do they disassociate themselves from the FCS in protest over the leadership? How else can they effectively put conviction behind their protest given that the present leadership of the FCS still has nine months in office to run? Or do they attempt to censure their leadership which would prove very difficult indeed? So Tories of the LSE what are you going to do? It is a difficult dilemma in which only one thing is certain, and that is that no response to the FCS actions at the conference would invalidate my hypothesis that they were committed to the fight against racism.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Oldland

tising. The NHS probably spends several times that on coping with the results (one in five men admitted to hospital is there with an alcohol related problem; road accidents after drinking are the biggest cause of death in young men). Yet the Government spends only £5 million on research into drink problems. Its probably time the Government moved towards placing the same sort of restrictions on advertising alcohol as on cigarettes.
Yours sincerely
Richard Snell

SOCIETIES 'N THINGS

MONDAY 28 JANUARY

LSE DEBATING SOC Motion: "To don the mantle of General Secretary is to doff the mantle of integrity." Haldane Room. 7.15pm. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY

CHRISTIAN UNION Speaker: Simon Hughes, MP. 1-2pm.

GRIMSHAW CLUB Michael Howard on "Britain and the problem of European security". 7pm. E171.

STERLING CLUB Price Waterhouse Business Game: a chance to test your business and accountancy skills. Sign up on noticeboard in Brunch Bowl. 1.30-4pm. H216.

THURSDAY 31 JANUARY

SOUND ATTACK Regular disco every Thursday, starting today. Cheap drink, videos/bands. 50p. 8pm. C018.

ELEANORS BIRTHDAY !!!

FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY

CHRISTIAN UNION Prayer & Praise meeting, every Friday. 12-1pm. S177.

LSE ENTS in association with the Music Coop present "Doctor & the Medics" & "The Mighty Clive" in the Haldane Room. Tickets £2 in advance, £2.50 on door. Doors open 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY

ANTI-APARTHEID SOCIETY Speaker: a representative of SWAPO WOMEN. 1pm. A40. All welcome.

THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY

STERLING CLUB Samuel Brittan, Principal Economic Commentator & Assistant Editor of the Financial Times on "Topical issues in the British Economy". 5pm. NT.

FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SOCIETY Dr David Owen, leader of SDP will speak and answer questions. OT. 1pm. All welcome.

LSE DRAMA SOCIETY - LENT TERM

Workshops are now at 2pm every Wednesday in C018. They have 3 aims:

(a) to support and develop us as actors; (b) to support the drama soc productions; (c) to support and develop study. This term's coat hanger is "ritual" on which will be hung improvisations, Shakespeare, Shaffer's "Equus", A.A. Milne, Ted Hughes's poetry, a look at early trade unions and anything else that comes to mind and sort of fits. So for clarity, precision and fun you know where to be. Bring a friend.

!!!NEW!!!

THE AMICABLE CLUB

If you find joining societies difficult, do yourself a favour, come to the Amicable Club - it doesn't bite! It's specially for those who really want to join in, but somehow never do. The agenda is entirely open, we can do anything at all. If you're shy, a loner, or think you won't "fit" into a society, don't worry, we want you. We'll be a company of non-joiners, sensitive people like yourself that you never knew existed, because just like you, they keep themselves to themselves. Even if you're only slightly tempted, come to the first meeting. We need your support so if you can't make it, contact Liz via the Economic Society pigeonhole, L'. The first meeting is on Thursday, 31 January, E296, 1pm.

NEW SOCIETY FOR 1985 - whoopee!!

To commemorate the 322nd anniversary of William's death, a Shakespeare Society is being formed on Wednesday 30th January 1985 at 1pm in C018. "A bargain at 50p" - said George Bernard Shaw. "I wrote them", complained Frankie Bacon. Trips to Stratford, Barbican, etc. to be arranged. Join the culture subsidy - art for the people. Free Hamlet cigar to the nicest neurotic!

HARRINGTON RESTATED

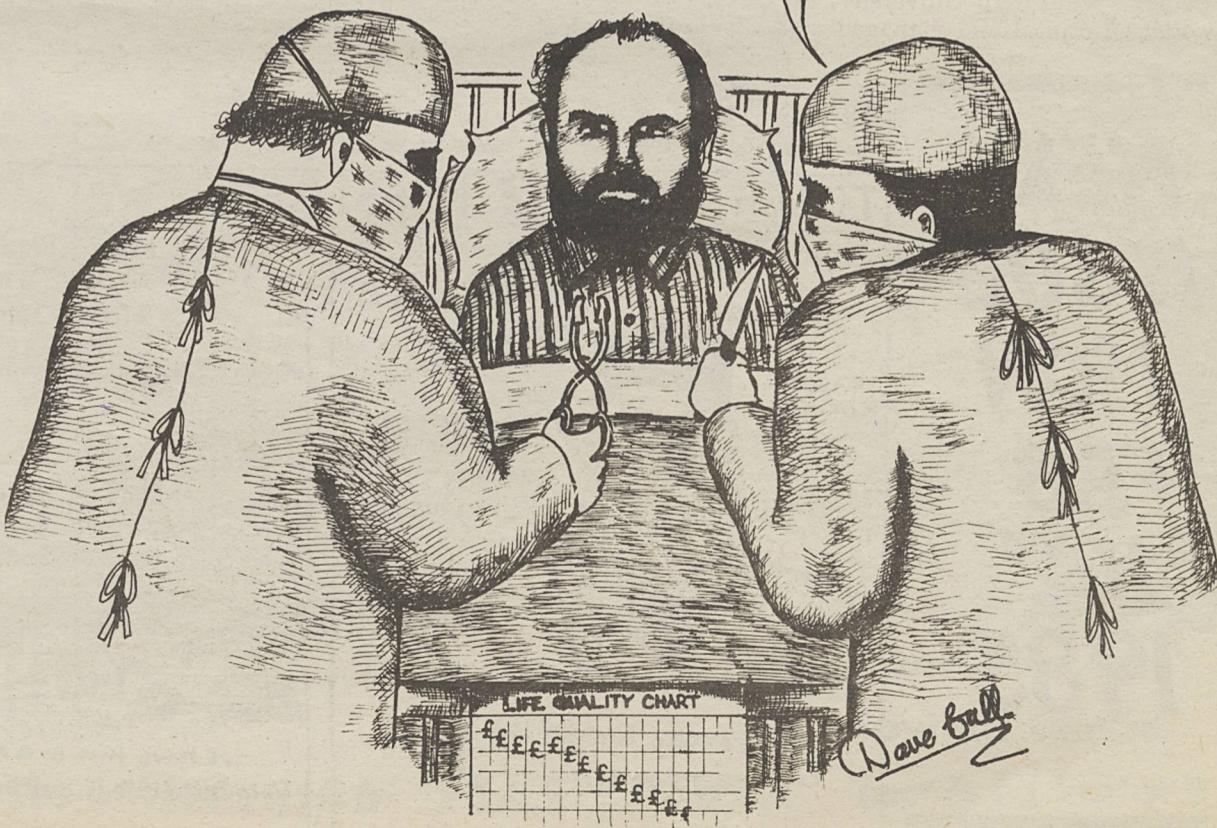
Dear Editors,
One has in recent years, come to expect the Liberal, pseudo/liberal, Tory, pseudo/Tory, Independent to present a rather confused and in many ways totally naive view of matters pertaining to politics. Such was the case with Andrew Cooper's lamentable attempt in the last edition of *Beaver* to justify the existence of a self-professed Nazi at the Polytechnic of North London.
Mr. Cooper would have us believe that the individual in question, Pat Harrington, has an inherent right to attend his philosophy lectures. One might agree with him if the aforementioned was an innocent student

being constantly hounded by persons on the left, soaked in the doctrines of pre-empting a revolution. Such an analysis would no doubt gladden the hearts of all people who defeated the motion of 'No Platform for racists and fascists' last term. If this is the case, then they have been seriously misled.
Harrington is a member of the National Front, and is now being groomed for its leadership. He and his neo-fascist movement are a cancer which is afflicting the body politic by openly advocating violence and regularly using it. Let us for a minute forget the ideal of freedom of speech, for in reality it connotes a willingness on the

part of political adversaries to listen to though not necessarily agree with, each other. The National Front like its fascist predecessors has no place in the British political system because it seems likely to deny people freedom of speech, freedom of choice, freedom of conscience.
Patrick Harrington is not being denied an education, he is denying his fellow students one.
So please, Mr Cooper come out of the idealist closet and into the open world of reality.

Yours,
D.C (a realist)

WELL, THAT'S THE BAD NEWS MR SAGE! THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE HAVE A PATIENT OF VERY HIGH QUALITY WHO COULD USE YOUR HEART.



BEAVER SPORT

HOCKEY Men's 2nd XI Hockey

After a decidedly unsure start to the season, (played 3, lost 3), the might of the Beaver War Machine gradually picked up momentum. When we managed to field a team with eleven players in it we won! This simple but effective strategy has been adopted whenever possible and our position in the league is improving. We have a 50% success rate, which, when coupled with certain walkover points achieved by the diplomacy of our silver-tongued administrator Alistair Summers-Kissinger, and the skill of our talent scout/marijuana procurer John Patton, puts us in a position where promotion to the 1st Division is just over the hori-

zon. Good eh?

It is important to mention some of the personalities who are now embodied as the LSE's hockey warriors incarnate as their performances culminated in the 7-1 thrashing of some Pharmaceutical place. Tareq zapped home a healthy hat-trick while Issan the 'Thug' surprised himself and everyone else when he stopped hitting the opposition with his stick and nipped two quick goals in before resuming his violent, but humorous traditional game. Class was given to the game by the laid-back style of John Patton and Stuart, while Charlie and Simon gripped midfield with embarrassing ease.

The only unfortunate (but

entertaining) incident of the game came when a head on collision between Generalissimo Riley and the Goalie Summers-Kissinger left the two players lying dazed in a pool of blood and the opposition centre-forward with an open goal while the defense, crippled with laughter, looked on helplessly as the Pharmaceuticals converted their consolation goal.

But remember - victory will be ours. Anyone who feels that they can contribute to the unstoppable march of the 2nd XI - feel free, for within a month a hockey stick in your hands can become a DEADLY WEAPON!

C.R.

MORE MEN'S HOCKEY

It was in my last report that I claimed that hockey was not just a sport, and now I have further evidence to substantiate this. Orienteering skills and strong survival instincts are now required. To play rivals University College, the unsuspecting XI were cast into the sprawling suburban jungle of North London where the pitch and opposition were eventually found. Battle was joined and the LSE soon found themselves trailing by a goal. A spirited comeback quickly resulted in two stunning goals by the for-

wards. All looked set for an LSE victory until disaster struck in the shape of the centre back attempting to catch an over-head in our circle. 'John of the Women's Team' (our umpire), had no option but to give a penalty flick. The final score was 2-2 in the best match of the term.

Queen Mary College were our next rivals, and they suffered for their inadequacy to the tune of four goals to nil in a match that was one-sided. St George's Hospital were a welcome relief showing that our team was not the only one that could get lost

looking for a ground. The match was highlighted by the groans and grunts of our geriatric centre-half and the ranting and raving of our captain.

The men's hockey had a very successful Michaelmas term; only one point has been dropped in the London College League First Division, which gives us a leading position in the table. We are also through to the final rounds of the London Colleges Cup, and it is only the UAU matches which have been less successful.

Andrew Oldland

LSE TOP OF THE LEAGUE!

The LSE Ladies Hockey 1st XI are top of Division One of the London Inter-Collegiate League.

A new look team for this year (few colonial sisters), has led to unprecedented success both in the League and London Cup. Our unbeaten record in both competitions shows our undoubted depth and ability in both attack and defence. This

season we have been led most admirably from the front by Anne Renton.

This term offers new challenges and goals (ha ha) for us to achieve. With administrative superiority due to our Machiavellian fixtures secretary, further success is guaranteed.

Sports Correspondent

MIXED HOCKEY

Mixed hockey as usual thrives most Sunday afternoons with a great deal of social success but less of the sporting variety. One Sunday was however exceptional, when the male players of the team found themselves in the rather unusual position of having no women willing to play for the LSE. The men, not wishing to miss out on Sunday's exercise, went grovelling to the women's team from University College Hospital and managed

to coax a number of them to play. True to their word, and much to the LSE men's astonishment, five women players from UCH arrived and were ferried to the Royal School of Pharmacy's playing grounds. Having overcome the problem of what to call themselves, the team beat the chemists two goals to nil - who said coalitions don't work?

Andrew Oldland

HOUGHTON STREET HARRY



The Christmas period turned out to be strangely analogous to a one-sided boxing match. Information contained in *Beaver* served to slaughter the bookmakers until the Gods intervened through the elements to prevent further punishment.

Righthand Man tormented those who dared to oppose him in the Welsh Grand National and romped home at 6-1. *Burrough Hill Lad* actually had to extend himself to win the King George at Kempton, whilst *Glyde Court* (2-1) and the *The Man Himself* (7-1) had no such problems.

My finest hour however, came when many hours spent studying American football form last summer payed off in the Superbowl. I advised you in my first column of the academic year that the *San Francisco 49ers* were certain to achieve the supreme accolade in a sport which seems to represent the ultimate purpose of the United State's education system.

I shall now turn my hand to a proper sport, and predict an Irish triumph in the Home

International Rugby Championships.

In the hope that there might be some racing within the next few weeks, I expect *Fealty* to run well at Sandown on Saturday. The following weekend in one of the season's most competitive handicaps, the *Schwepes Gold Trophy*, *Centroline* may spring an almighty surprise. The horse ran like a donkey (costing me a small fortune) last time out, but I suspect he dislikes tracks with hills in them. The gentle inclines of Newbury could inspire him to perform miracles. Finally, look out for *Urser* as the season's hunter chases get under way.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR

The Malaysian/Singapore Society, in conjunction with the Overseas Student Society are organising a Food Fair on Friday 8 February. Taking place in

A45, the Fair will start at 3.30pm and continue for two hours. Culinary delights from all over the world will be available, ranging from exotic eastern foods to the more conventional western dishes. The Thai, Chinese, Indian, and Welsh Societies are amongst those that have so far confirmed their participation. Any profits made by this event will go to the LSESU South African Scholarship Fund, the Nursery Hardship Fund and a newly established Bangladesh High School Reconstruction Fund. Payments for food will be by coupon, costing £2.00 for a book of eight. These will be on sale at lunchtime outside the Old Theatre from January 30th.

BANGLADESH SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION FUND

A fund has recently been established to raise money for the reconstruction of a typhoon-damaged high school in the Bangladesh district of Chandpur. Almost completely destroyed in 1983, Mehar High School has managed to raise 40,000 Taka (over £1,000) from local appeals, and three classrooms have been rebuilt. However, further funds are required, and the Headmaster of the school has made an appeal to the students of LSE to help raise the funds. The school has four hundred students but only four classrooms; as a result lessons have been reduced (many taking place outside), student attendance has fallen,

some teachers have been laid off and others have agreed to a 50% cut in salary. The students education is suffering in a country where education is essential to avoid the poverty trap. The Bangladesh Government has not helped and sees Mehar High School's falling attendance, itself a result of the typhoon damage, as a reason for not financing further reconstruction. Any small amount of money raised by the Fund will be of great value, bearing in mind that £300 can pay for the construction of a new classroom.

For further information contact Hugh Sergeant c/o *Beaver*.
Hugh Sergeant

Could the person who removed a Schaeffer fountain pen from the Information Centre (E203), on Wednesday 23 January between 1.30 and 2.30pm please return it. It belongs to Bob Page, the Finance Assistant, and is of great sentimental value to him.

NEXT ISSUE MON FEB 14TH 1985

DONKEY JACKET

TEACH YOURSELF RUSSIAN

RADIO MOCKBA

DA! MЯ GRHMKO 12 HEM!

TRANSLATION:
"Mr. Gromyko kicked the bucket two years ago.."

MR GRHMKO WILL BE PRESENT AT THE 68TH COUNCIL OV SOPHIETS.....

"...we have him in a morgue in Upper Volgograd. He is getting very smelly."

2 RADIO

ON AIR

NIGEL HAS MY FULL CONFIDENCE AS CHANCELLOR!

"We understand that you English are having similar problems with Nigel Lawson."

...rips off Steve Bell yet again!