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& ECONOMIC SCIENCE

## Zahir Lies To UGM

By Mark Dantos and Harjeev Kandhari

The Student Union's General Secretary has been "caught lying to the UGM", according to some members of the Union.

At the last UGM on Thursday Fazile Zahir was accused of sending a Fax with her holiday photos to Cyprus at the cost of the Student Union. The allegations which had been submitted in a question to the General Secretary by Bernardo Duggan, member of the Conservatives at the LSE, were denied by Zahir. She said that as it had not actually been sent she saw no reason to pay for it at all. Later enquiries revealed that one page of the Fax, dated 3:25 on the 21st of July and addressed to someone called Cattit Akin, was sent.

When confronted by the actual truth, Zahir said that "surely, if I send my worknumber to my family, I, as a sabbatical, am entitled to do it."

This statement was given after Zahir had been warned not to fall prey to her usual habit of making the sort of rash statement which have caused her difficulties in the past.

In that context she admitted that some of her statements tended to get her into difficulties. "But", she added, "I don't want to watch my mouth for political reasons."

## Apology

The Beaver Collective wishes to apologise for any offence which may have been caused by page three of its spoof issue of 18 May. The Beaver accepts that although intended to satirise the Page Three institution of tabloid newspapers, a number of students found the page to be sexist and degrading to women. The Beaver accepts that it is bound to abide by the Students' Union Constitution and it wishes to reaffirm its commitment to doing so in the future.



Former Executive Editor Madeline Gwyon with the offending article.

Photo: Steve East

## Stricter Funding Regulations



Poverty increases as Government cuts funding

by Khalid Majid

In a surprising move the Students' Union has turned down the school's plans to make them responsible for allocating part of the government's access funds. Peter Harris, the SU welfare officer, called Access funds themselves "the government's pathetic attempt to make up for the withdrawal of housing and unemployment benefit and income support." This year the government allocated £151,380 to the LSE, an increase of only £1500 and less than one percent on last year's figure. In real terms - due to both inflation and rising student numbers - there is a decrease in funding.

In response to the actual decrease in funding the LSE has introduced strict new guidelines in order to tighten up the eligibility of students capable of receiving funds. Students who do not receive an LEA award because the L.E.A has refused an application for a discretionary award and students with child care commitments or with responsibilities for caring for sick or elderly depen-

dants are still eligible. Students with disabilities will also be considered. In addition some funds are supposed to be earmarked for students with difficulties arising out of unemployment during the summer vacation 1992. However, such students should keep their bank statements from over the summer as proof of financial hardship. Finally, the funds are also intended to enable eligible students - who through financial constraints would not otherwise have been able to attend the L.S.E - to take up their place in October 1992. Harris has pointed out that the funding for this purpose "in practice was grossly inadequate."

Miss Fazile Zahir, S.U General Secretary claimed the main point of contention with the L.S.E was that "the school was trying to off-load some of its work on to us." She also viewed it as "a P.R exercise, to depict the school and S.U in harmony." At the same time she insisted that the Scholarship Office was "very helpful and doing its best up to

the point of bending rules" in order to help the students in need.

Mr Harris viewed some of the school's proposal as unworkable for several reasons. Most importantly, he asserts that the access funds assigned to the S.U would have to be allocated to their own existing criteria. According to the sabbaticals the school remains vehemently opposed to this. In contrast to the school's criteria, the S.U's own hardship fund which held £30,814 in the academic year 1992-3 is available to not only home and EC students but to international students as well, as long as they can prove their need.

At the same time the school is considering increasing home master's fees from £1,700 to £6,700 on account of the school's current financial crisis. Harris, while in opposition to any increases, believes this could only be sustained if 50% of any increase were to be allocated to an enlarged version of the school's own student support fund, specifically

to assist students in need. The S.U would also have to have "more input in drawing up the criteria." Most worryingly of all, he contends "the school has been making noises to ditch the studentships altogether." Zahir added that the school's proposals would result "in only between one in two or three currently eligible students being able to receive access funds."

The two sabbaticals have declared that they would not take these "sweeping changes unchallenged." According to Harris the DSG plans a campaign on the issue. The DSG is also planning to demand that the L.S.E commits itself to quotas of students according to fee-type, so as to rule out the possibility of "creeping privatisation." Zahir said that she had written an article in the LSE-Club-Bulletin in order to obtain funds and was considering several other plans.

At the time of writing Miss Hannah Cocking, the school's Scholarships Officer was not available for comment.

# Union Jack

Nothing really went right last Thursday. We started late. The order paper was in the wrong order and contained only one Business Motion. There were no microphones for the Chair. Business as usual, as the same old people saw and/or threw the same old things.

Geriatric DSG hack Bob Gross opened the meeting to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. Tory Simon Reid won the Chair by about 2-1 over DSG's newly assertive Ludwig Kanzler, who then narrowly denied the Vice-job to Balcony Boy and wannabe sabbatical Ron Voce. Why the suit and tie, Bob?

Simon, back in the Chair he occupied so ably and sarcastically part of last year, immediately showed his rust. After ratifying ancient minutes from the last UGM (12 March!), we stumbled over Union Council minutes (8 May). SWSSo Larry and comrades objected to the part about full cost Masters' fees. Old Bob, noting that we were ratifying only the minutes and not the substance from that meeting, noted that was the subject of Business Motion 1, so we can all oppose this heinous plot against student welfare. The vote was 52-51 for ratification after the Chair's casting vote. Much ado over sweet F.A.

Officers' Reports were the usual mixed bag. General Secretary Faz welcomed us back with the minutiae of her summer activities, including travels to our halls of residence and Heathrow Airport. Finance-dude John Spurling ('Get us a PA you tight bastard' from a heckler) announced two meetings. Nothing about finance. Caring Peter Harris invited us to jump out of a plane (for charity). And Party-mogul Jon Bradburn looked forward to seeing Faz' mascot.

The meeting's best substance came after hard-working Women's Officer Teshar Fitzpatrick won outside speaking rights for a visitor from Campaign against Domestic Violence. Our guest presented some scary facts: most assaults against women are committed not on the streets but at home. And a big reason why the police do so little is that 60% of male coppers batter their own partners. I hope for good coverage for the Campaign's demo on 10 October.

After Dominique De-Lite's request for support for Anti-Racism Week, we were off to those dreaded Questions to Officers. Bernardo wanted to know whether Faz had paid the Union for faxing her holiday pics home. Faz' faxes facts are that they never got there and why should she pay. Why indeed? Lefty wag and wit Andy Baly completely stumped The Spurl, a philosopher, with a question on physical determinism. Baly then inquired whether any of this year's sabbaticals planned to lead actively.

Cue Peter Harris. The spring in his step and gleam in his eyes must have sent a few pulses racing. But indeed we will lead, starting with, yes, Business Motion 1. His less spicy speech in favour was still effective.

But it was not to be. Woody Bild opposed the motion because it did not address the cuts in Higher Education. I sympathise with him for being in a seminar group with 45 people, but I sympathise more with the 45 people who are in there with him. Stop wasting our time, Woody. If you agree with what's in a motion but want it to say more, don't oppose it; amend it.

Anyway, the big hand was on the eleven. We still had someone's amendment to discuss, and rude people were coming and going, when Simon laid the motion on the table and closed the meeting.

The stage is set, the cast is primed, and the audience are confused. See you next week.

# LSE Revamped

By Pernilla Malmfalt and Andrew Holmes

The summer vacation saw some dramatic changes to the refurbishment of the LSE buildings. Continuing students returned to a modernised Old Building, as well as a new student reception, and an additional building. The Cafe has also been revamped.

As part of a five year plan to improve the standard of the School, the Building Committee decided to refurbish the Old Building manifested by a completely new decor throughout the corridors and staircases. There is unanimity in the view that the building has changed for the better, though rumours persist that some lecturers still have difficulties finding their offices.

Mr Michael Arthur, LSE's Site and Development Officer, said that the changes were "necessary to create a more pleasant environment for students and staff alike". Since losing County Hall, LSE will continue to make improvements to the Houghton Street sites on a yearly basis.

When asked whether the School had any plans

to improve the space and efficiency of the overcrowded catering facilities, Mr Arthur was sympathetic but not very optimistic. The only possibility to expand the Brunch Bowl is by removing the offices around it to get more dining space, he said. This would leave the School with the problem of relocating the offices which could only be solved if and when further buildings are purchased.

The St Phillips building on Sheffield Street, which was once a hospital, was purchased by LSE last year and has been called "a bright and airy addition to the school".

In the South Block it accommodates the new Student Health Service which last year was situated on the eighth floor of Connaught House. A continuing student commented that it was "looking healthier than before" even though the style of the decor is the same as in the Old Building.

Also located to the South Block are 20 offices for researchers working on issues related to Europe.

The North Block con-

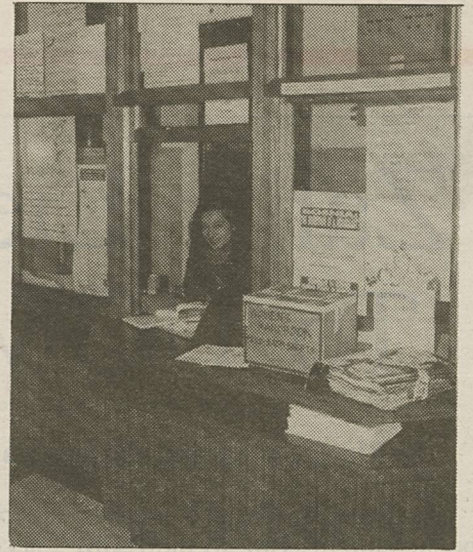
sists mainly of 22 new teaching rooms (marked X on the students class lists) and a remaining 10% of the building has been allocated to commercial lettings; some of the tenants are from the Hansa Society and the European Institute.

The Students' Union has also received its fair share of refurbishment and re-organisation during the summer. There is now a Students' Union Reception on the ground floor of the East Building which deals with inquiries, room bookings, issuing of NUS, ULU and ISIC cards as well as any other administration. The Welfare and Accommodation Offices, often called the

mainstream administration of the Union, are still located on the second floor of the East Building.

The vegetarian Cafe has brightened up in colour as well as efficiency. Staff in the Cafe pointed out that teas and coffees can also be purchased on the top floor at the Hackers Bar too avoid queues. The walls have been redecorated with photographs taken by blabla at sososo.

In general changes have been met with a positive response, and new students, expecting a derelict site after reading reports in the National Press may have been disappointed.



## Sabbaticals Deny Holiday Allegations

By Stephen Roy and Adrian May

The embattled Union General Secretary, Faz Zahir, is facing renewed criticism this week after allegations that she took a three week holiday just weeks after assuming office. This latest row comes at the end of a week when questions have been asked about how some of the Union sabbaticals spent their time over the summer break, and whether they were putting in a reasonable amount of time to their jobs. The Beaver has put these allegations to both the Union General Secretary and the Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer, Peter Harris. Both strongly denied that they were not devoting enough time to their positions. Harris called Zahir's decision to take such a long holiday after such a short time in office "naive".

He was careful to point out that his own holiday, lasting one week, was taken before his sabbatical started on August 1st.

Stressing his determination to focus on student issues rather than personality, Harris spoke of his regret surrounding the present allegations. "We should be concentrating on the real issues, such as voluntary union membership, the state of the Halls and the debate over Masters fees", he said. Similar opinions are voiced by many students, who regret that the General Secretary at this stage has not yet managed to gain any sort of positive profile. It is feared that Student Union policy might get bogged down completely if "open warfare between more established groups within the Student Union and the General Secretary breaks out."

Both Harris and Zahir have been active over the

summer break in preparing events for new student and for the wider community. Much of Zahir's time has been taken up with personal projects, such as the Aunties and Uncles scheme, which by many was acknowledged to be a success, although the sheer logistics of the event caused a few problems.

Harris has been involved in many of his "filing cabinet jobs", including arranging various awareness weeks on topics like HIV, Racism and Gay rights. He also disclosed that he had a few personal projects in the pipeline, but could not reveal them at this stage.

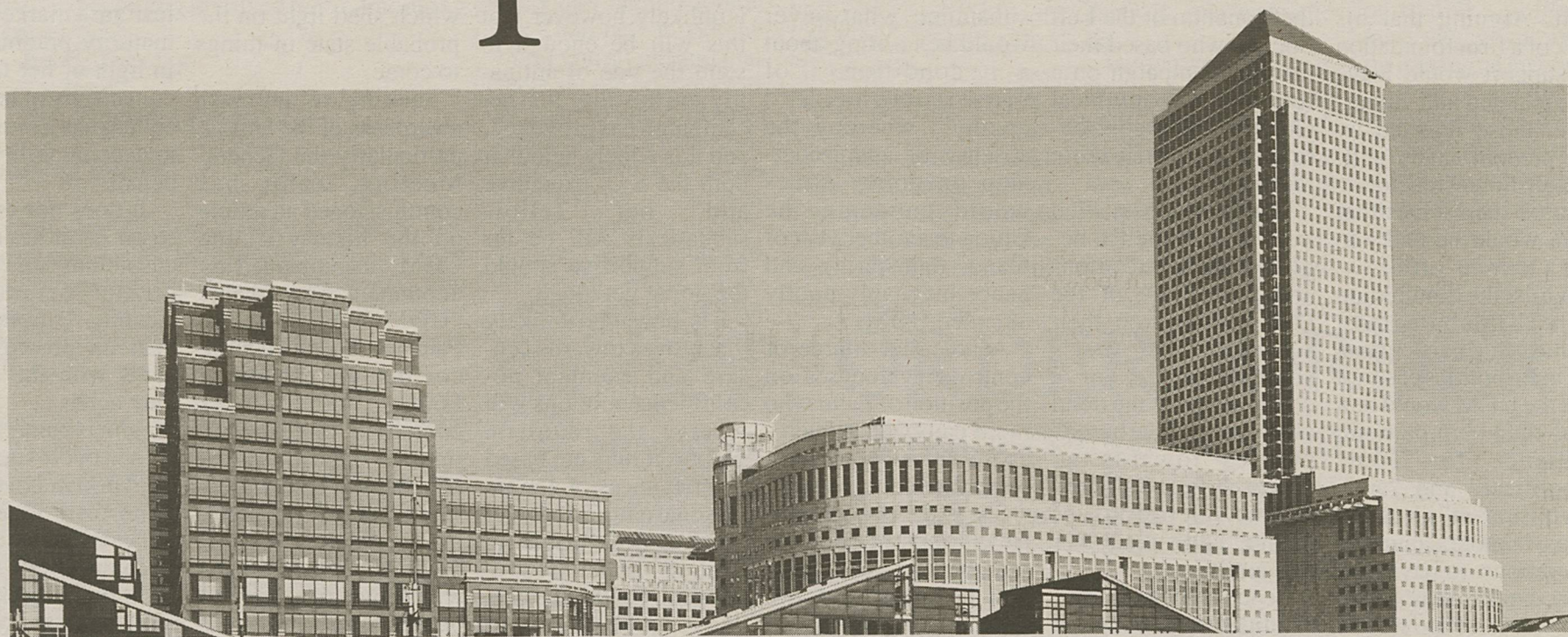
The two remaining Union sabbaticals, John Bradburn and Jon Spurling were not available for interview at the time of going to press.

## Spate of Thefts

By Beaver Staff

Over the summer £40,000 worth of computer equipment was stolen, including a lazer printer from E207. As a result extra security men have been employed at LSE. The School believe that the theft was carried out by someone who was familiar with the premises. In addition the Underground was broken into, and according to General Secretary, Faz Zahir, a turn table was stolen. It is reported that the School porters "saw nothing".

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We'll be sending the six finalists on a press visit to Vietnam. And as they'll have scheduled Cathay Pacific tickets, they'll be able to stay on for a holiday. Then all

six will write a further piece, and the winner will be commissioned to write at least three or four pieces by our Travel Editor at our offices in Canary Wharf.

Last year's winner ended up in Namibia, the Himalayas and Alaska. So if you win, your career will really be on the map.

For further details and an entry form, see The Daily Telegraph on October 10, or write to The Daily Telegraph Young Travel Writer Of The Year Award, PO BOX 2243. London E14 9ZY.

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# The State of the Union.

The start of the academic year heralds the resumption of Union Politics. In an opinion piece, Steve Peake tells the story so far. He also discusses the future role of the General Secretary in the light of some recent controversies.

It is perhaps understandable that the bitterness of defeat leads, almost without exception, those who lose S.U. elections to immediately begin speculation about how long it would take for the victor to be ousted from office the following year. This is especially the case when someone not normally recognised as being part of the Union political "establishment" runs and wins on a campaign for change, pointing to the clique and closed

nature of the Union, dominated by the Hacks and out of touch with the "normal student." This was the case in 1989 when Tom Bulman surprised everyone by soundly beating two established figures of the Left. Arguing that his lack of a firm foundation of support would leave him isolated and vulnerable, those rejected by the predominately anti-establishment electorate assured themselves that Tom would be lucky to last a term in office.

Whilst the domination of the UGMs by the most enthusiastic participants in Union politics ensured that the UGM would be a less than sympathetic audience for Tom's "apolitical" and "anti-establishment" ideas, the plans, or more accurately aspirations, to have him ousted came to nothing. His year in office was, if hardly spectacularly successful, more characterised by low-profile management than up-front political leadership. The history of the Union since then has reflected the change in the composition of the student body, with the increasingly prosperous (or in the language of their predecessors "bourgeois") and hence "moderate" students rejecting the traditional ideological approach to wider political issues, in favour of a more "pragmatic" approach to what have perhaps narrowly been defined as "student issues."

The personification of this "realist" approach was the previous General Secretary, Michiel

van Hulst of the Democratic Socialist Group, who adopted a policy of rapprochement with the school and continued the style of low-profile management, all under the motto of "Boring but Competent."

As a result student apathy has become a serious problem, a consequence perhaps not only of van Hulst's low-key approach, but of the increasing predominance of overseas students paying fees of £6000 a year and who are therefore less likely to care so much about Student Loans or the Poll Tax than their debt-burdened British counterparts.

Unsurprisingly this has led to a backlash from The Left, culminating in the formation of the Left Society who based their election campaign on a return to the mythical Golden Age of confrontation and inflexible ideology.

However, dissatisfied with van Hulst's neglect of public relations and the failure of the DSG to build on their successes, last year's students opted for a continuation of the trend away from "issue based" politics towards an approach founded more on considerations of method and style rather than policy.

Hence the election of candidates running on predominately "apolitical" tickets, promising to "open up the Union" by encouraging greater participation through greater communication with the student body as a whole, rather than the tiny minority who turn up to the meetings of the "Sovereign Body" - the Union General Meeting. Criticism of this approach, championed by Faz Zahir and the inanely named Umbrellas Group, stemmed from the belief that the best way to fight apathy was to come up with interesting ideas and policies about which debate could be stimulated and hence the vibrancy of the L.S.E.S.U. restored. Added to this

was the belief that rich or poor, British, EC or otherwise, we as students do not live in a political, economic or cultural vacuum. From that point of view, events outside the walls of our ivory tower do merit discussion and action because eventually we too will be living "in the real world". More importantly, as students we have an opportunity to embrace ideas that challenge the economic and political status quo, witness events in Berkeley, Paris, Berlin, Leipzig, Prague, Budapest, Bucharest, Beijing...

Considerable concern was expressed that to adopt a more high-profile communicative role without any ideas of substance whatsoever would be to bring about a condition of "institutionalised apathy", whereby the absence of any leadership on policy issues would condemn the Union to another year of bland, uninspiring and hence inevitably poorly attended UGMs.

A potential source of controversy focuses on the position of Zahir who ran a campaign which - as she herself admitted - was called controversial.

She is deeply unpopular with most of the active members of the Union that and true to form, speculation is rife about exactly how strong her incumbency will last. So successful has she been in alienating almost everyone except her small clique of supporters, that she will need to draw on all the resources of strength of character that she undoubtedly possesses, if she is to survive.

Her use, some would say shameless exploitation, of a homeless person to provide publicity; her handing out of balloons and lollipops; her reliance on her physical appearance, whereby her leaflets had nothing more than a picture of her posing invitingly in Lincoln's Inn Fields - has led some, among them the previous General Secretary, to

describe her campaign as "extremely objectionable", "opportunistic, deceitful" and "the most childish in recent times." At a time of increasing incidence of date rape and sexist behaviour, Zahir's apparent willingness to adopt such base means brings into question her commitment to "Women's Issues" which have traditionally received strong support from the Union. Perhaps Teshar Fitzpatrick, SU Women's Officer, until now silent on the issue, should have something to say on this matter.

Zahir has responded to the criticism by arguing that her "campaign was the cleanest" and dismisses accusations as the product of "misunderstandings." It is unlikely, however, that this will be enough to stem the tide of antipathy and hostility that her campaign has provoked, and it is widely held that both the S.U. executive and her fellow sabbaticals will be far from supportive should the going get tough.

It is, however, unlikely that moves towards censure and eventual no-confidence motions will receive the requisite support if they are based on grievances of a more personal nature, left over from an democratic election that, let's face it, she won. On the surface, her commitment to pragmatism, maturity, and accountability, would seem to strike a chord with the student body tired of a Union run by "Hacks" seemingly out of touch with student interests and needs. A brief look beneath the veneer of openness and honesty, as reaction to her campaign would initially suggest, tells a different story.

Zahir has repeatedly expressed solidarity with those suffering from the harsh effects of government education policy, arguing that "it is outrageous that many finish their courses over £2000 in debt." Indeed it is, but as the proud owner of a particularly expensive looking car, and the beneficiary of

not-inconsiderable financial support from her family, one wonders exactly how in touch she is likely to be with the difficulties of living in London on £80 a week. If she is so concerned about "larger grants, more welfare" then how can she justify first of all even applying last year for Access Funds (government money administered by the school to assist poorer students), and most offensively, immediately blowing it all at Miss Selfridge (as reliable sources inform us).

Notwithstanding her vacuous campaign, Zahir has responded to accusations that she has no policies by saying "we shall see." So far, several matters have surfaced which shed light on the probable state of things to come.

Seeking to increase awareness of the Union, particularly the General Meeting, Zahir has commissioned an article on the history of the UGM, accompanied by a commentary on notable "UGM Personalities." Paid for by the Union, costing an estimated £600, both pieces contained attacks and insults against her adversaries. Under pressure from the executive, many of the most opinionated aspects were withdrawn. It remains to be seen as to how the use of Union funds for what remains essentially an opinion piece will be justified, and it is probable, in light of the exec.'s decision, that Zahir may be held politically liable for the publication.

Concern has also been expressed concerning future relations between Zahir and the Beaver, traditionally editorially independent and one of the checks on the activities of the elected officials of the Union. During discussions on the fate of the "History of the UGM" during which it was decided that some of the more personal and contentious aspects were to be published in the Beaver, rather than as an official

Union publication, Zahir was heard to say that publication had been assured by Ron Voce, a close personal friend and running mate in the elections, who was said to have the "power because he's my friend." Members of the Beaver collective and editorial staff are worried that the close ties between Neil Andrews - Executive Editor, Voce and Zahir will compromise the editorial independence of the Union Newspaper.

Furthermore, members of the exec. are worried that the Zahir's apparent approach to politics is likely to exacerbate the cliqueness of the Union, rather than reduce it, as she has promised.

On the whole, recent events would seem to illustrate a marked lack of maturity, pragmatism, or in light of her failure to consult any of her Union colleagues, commitment to accountability on her behalf.

It does not seem that so far Zahir has made an auspicious start, with a greater emphasis on wasting Union money than on providing students with the services they need.

Zahir is vulnerable too, on her overt support for the Turkish government in northern Cyprus and Turkish Kurdistan. The sizeable Greek Cypriot community at the LSE is unlikely to welcome her support for the illegal occupation by Turkish troops of the northern part of their country, and supporters of human rights will hardly embrace her apologies for the treatment of dissident Kurds or Turks.

All in all, it seems that Zahir is in for a tough time, in that some of the most experienced figures within the Union, as well as a seemingly revitalised DSG, seem intent on making life as uncomfortable for her as possible. It would be perhaps a poetic irony if the student apathy she seeks to combat were to be diffused by a common commitment on behalf of a deceived and cheated electorate to get rid of her.

# THE WOMEN'S COLUMN

Welcome to the reincarnated and soon to be re-constituted Women's Column. This is the first time for three years that The Beaver is including a Women's Column as a weekly feature.

The Women's Column is about many things. It is a space for women's views and news, upcoming events both within college and outside it, in London. It is a place where a woman's opinion counts, an opportunity to reach a captive audience, to rant and rave or simply state your case.

So whether you want to publicise a campaign you're involved in or want to relay an experience

CONTRIBUTE by contacting -

The Editor  
Room E197  
Tel: ext. 2870

**The Women's Room** is a common room for women students situated on the top floor of The Cafe (Room E91). The Women's Room is what you want it to be - somewhere to meet up with friends, eat your lunch or read quietly. Additionally you make use of the resources at hand - information is available on a wide range of issues.

**The Women's Group** is about women, from throughout the college, getting together to discuss and campaign on women's issues. If you are interested in becoming involved then come along to any meeting -

Every Tuesday  
1 - 2p.m.  
The Women's Room

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday 13th October: At 1pm a commemorative event will be held to celebrate the founding of the Gay Liberation Front at the LSE, twenty two years ago. The Women's Group meeting has been abandoned because the Pink Plaque occasion is too good to miss!

Wednesday 14 October: Women's Buffet lunch in the Women's Room at 1p.m. A chance to meet other women students and enjoy more of The Cafe's food! Tickets available sooner rather than later from the Women's Officer.

2-4pm. Assertiveness training classes begin. They are held in rooms S75 and run for 8 weeks. Even if you haven't signed up, but are interested, come along and see for yourself if this course is for you. Please remember to take a pen and some paper with you.

Friday 16th October: The Parents Society is holding its first meeting of the year in the women's room. This is an open meeting, so that means that students who are fathers are welcome to come along as well. If you are a student and a parent, then please come along and help raise awareness on childcare issues.

**The Women's Officer** this year is Teshar Fitzpatrick. She has a responsibility to represent women students, their concerns and collective interests in Students' Union campaigns and in its daily operations. If you need to contact the Women's Officer or would like some questions answered then leave a note in her pigeon hole at SU Reception (Room E65) or leave a message in the Women's Room.

**The Women's Handbook** is coming to you in the first week of term. You can pick up a copy in the Women's Room. It contains useful information on health and welfare issues and offers guidance about specific women's organisations in London. Within the Women's Handbook there is a "Feed Back Form" - if you fill this out remember to post it in the box outside SU Reception.

# ANY OTHER BUSINESS!

This column was designed to publicise student politics at the LSE. The original intention was to go into Executive meetings and any other 'open' meetings and publicise anything interesting that came up.

So far this year there has been little of interest. Unless you count yours truly being accused of being a 'close personal friend' of the General Secretary, which these days is almost tantamount to front page headlines in the tabloid press.

You will begin to realise the tedium of these meetings, when I tell you that the Executive voted on whether to vote by secret ballot, whether meetings that don't say they are open may be 'open' or 'closed', that the Chair should rotate, the Chair person, not the thing you sit on, and that there should be some sort of rota, so that everyone had the chance to speak!

There have been some interesting topics though. Such as regarding the 'Quick Guide to the UGM' where an interesting disclaimer was agreed on because the Executive did not like the articles that had been written

LSE Accommodation came in for a battering. Butlers Wharf for charging people during the holidays, whether you stay or not. Students at Passfield had paid £10 to much and even though hall charges have risen, it is almost inevitable that Maple and Fitzroy street Flats will soon no longer be available.

The attendance so far from your elected representatives has been pretty good, once the holiday season was over. But today's meeting was poorly attended and was in-quirous. There were three apologies, but for the rest of you, we wonder, where were you?

So the first column comes to an end and now I await week two. If anyone has anything political to announce this is the place for it. I will be going along to more than a few meetings and although they may be boring, maybe I can jazz them up a bit!

Ron Voce

## The Re-Unveiling of the Pink Plaque

As part of the LSE's commitment to Lesbian and Gay rights, the Pink Plaque will be re-unveiled on Tuesday 13th October at 1pm. The LSE has a proud history in the Lesbian and Gay movement dating back to the first meeting of the Gay Liberation Front in 1970. Even so, the school's

Court of Governors did not welcome the idea of the Pink Plaque, but this initial resistance was overcome.

Several prominent speakers will be attending, including Angela Mason, the new Director of Stonewall, Aubrey Walters, a founding member of the GLF and a representative of the

Shakti Group for South Asian Lesbians and Gay Men.

The re-unveiling takes place after its theft last year and it is hoped the new security arrangements will be adequate. The Union has shown determination in its efforts to preserve and publicise the Plaque and will continue to do so.

## The Return of the Labour Club

After several UGM motions last year bemoaning the death of the Labour Club at LSE, it seems its death has been greatly exaggerated.

With the General Election defeat behind them and the election of a new leader, maybe the LSE Labour Club

can stage a comeback as the new look Labour party is also trying to do.

With the Left already a crowded area at the LSE, with SWSS, Left Society et al, it may be hard to regain ground they lost last year.

If you think they can and are interested in

politics and want to nail your colours to a particular political mast then go along to their inaugural meeting.

It is in C120, the Boardroom on Wednesday 14th October at 1.00pm, when elections will be held. As always, all are welcome.

## ORDER, ORDER! A Freshers eye view on the U.G.M.

Is it the job of the fresher to take the initiative and become acquainted with his or her new environment, or is it the responsibility of those already familiar with the system to educate and instruct those same poor lost souls? I would suggest that in the case of the UGM it is the latter.

Having been unable to attend the staged debate last Thursday on the relative merits of two football (?) teams (because I, like most other first years, was lost in that labyrinth that is the LSE, vainly searching for the registry), I came away from this Thursday's meeting feeling rather less than enlightened.

I also confess that I didn't get round to reading page 11 of the SU handbook or picking up my copy of the LSESU constitution from E205, but then I suspect neither did

many other people. So maybe this sense of mystification is all my own doing but I doubt it.

Once the meeting had started a Chair and Deputy were elected (who?).

At this point some time should have been set aside so that the procedures used to run and manage the UGM could have been outlined to relieve the incredulity of the Freshers (and it should be added, several of the regular participants!).

Rapidly we moved onto the first point of business, but then almost as quickly we reached our first hurdle; accepting the minutes from the previous meeting.

After 20 minutes of stimulating debate and intellectual argument over the accuracy of the said minutes, first years began to come off of the sidelines and started

to vote for ratification, even though they obviously didn't attend the last meeting; anything to get things moving!!

Further business was thwarted by time constraints and the subsequent arrival of attenders for the next lecture.

On Thursday showing I would definitely recommend the UGM as a cheap alternative to comedy night, though from an educational point of view I only improved my knowledge of paper aerodynamics; the relative performances of the SWSS Spitfire, the Conservative Concord and the Middle of the road Messerschmidt.

You can call me naive, call me straight laced, call me sad and deluded, but don't call me to become the UGM PR man!! See you next Thursday.

Philip Gomm.

# The Beaver

Everyone at LSE has an opinion. None more so than LSESU hacks. Steve Peake is the most opinionated person of them all. His article on page four of this week's Beaver is an example of his work. Notice the lack of research, laugh at the way he's failed to include a few facts and marvel at the size of his ego.

Steve Peake courts controversy wherever he goes, most of it of his own making. Those of you who are old enough to remember the last lot of SU sabbatical elections may recall his pamphlet which basically slagged off everyone he didn't like. What's more, he never even put his name to the article, preferring to let the "Guns keep blazing". For a man who has so much to say and criticize, it's not surprising to learn that this self-publicist has failed to do anything note worthy for the Union except to bore them stupid at hall discos with his strange choice of music.

Why then did I choose to print his article? He claims that he wanted to stimulate debate within the Union. A fair argument, even if his piece is factually incorrect and over-the-top, because even Steve Peake has the right to free speech and you can't edit someone's work simply because you don't agree with them. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. If you don't agree with him then you can use your right to reply by writing a letter to me, the editor, in room E197, outlining your grievances with the article. After all, someone has to keep the gun's blazing.

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# Harris Goes On The Warpath

Dear Beaver,  
The "Quick Guide to the UGM" contained a one-sided relentless diatribe, whereas SU publications (e.g. The Handbook, The Alternative Circular) traditionally contain a short piece, mocking every political society.

Consequently, I am left questioning the motivation behind last weeks editorial which failed to acknowledge this distinction.

More recently, I have been disturbed by the foolish tactics of the hard left who succeeded only in turning this weeks general meeting into something of a farce.

Rather than add to a constructive debate on the School's proposals to charge future masters' students £6770 in fees, they embarked on a blatant filibuster which leaves the students' union without policy on this damaging proposal.

I hope that by next week they will have grown up and realised that the government is not going to fall because of their ranting, that the revolution is not imminent, and that their toytown radicalism will achieve nothing in our negotiations with the LSE.

I urge all students to attend next weeks UGM in the Old Theatre on Thursday at 1 p.m. Otherwise a perverse coalition of bad government policy and Socialist Worker incompetence could see them having to find an extra £5000 to buy their LSE masters.

Peter Harris, D S G

The Alternative Circular and the Handbook may both traditionally contain an article mocking every political society but who says its justified. They

both have the same desired effect and could discourage first years from potentially joining such organisations. The "Quick Guide To The UGM", on the other hand, was designed to highlight LSESU's colourful history and contained information relevant to the article. I consider my opinion on the matter fully justified. Being one of the four authors who contributed to the piece, I stand by my words as a fair view of the events that occurred last year and I believe that any criticism of the DSG concerning their term in office to be fully justified.

As for your appeal to students to attend the forthcoming UGM, I agree with you entirely, which is probably the first time that's happened.

## Executive Disclaimer

"The Quick Guide to the UGM" issued by the Students' Union was commissioned and edited by the General Secretary.

The views expressed are those of the individual authors, and are not based on union policy.

The Executive of the Students' Union disclaims any responsibility for the contents of the Guide which was produced in its absence.

**Post Haste**  
Letters due to  
E197, by hand  
or internal mail,  
by 4pm Wednesday

# Beaver Collective Meeting

Monday 12th October

6pm

Top floor of the Cafe

Please attend if you are interested in writing for the newspaper this term

# Death Of The NUS

## Jamsheda Ahmad comments upon the recent proposals announced by the government

The Secretary of State John Patten announced last week at the Conservatives' annual Brighton conference that he would end public funding of the National Union of Students. To a standing ovation, he said that "the NUS closed shop must go soon, and go it will" putting paid to weeks of speculation on whether or not the government would finally go through with the policy of enforcing voluntary membership of the NUS or not. In actual fact the structure of the NUS is not one in which all students are compelled to join on an individual basis. When a student registers at a university or institute of further education he or she automatically becomes a member of the local student union. This student union then makes the decision to affiliate to the NUS on the basis of a vote taken among its members. At present student unions which have voted to disaffiliate from the NUS are: Imperial College in London, Edinburgh University and St Andrews University. The structure of the NUS is therefore based on collective membership as a federation as opposed to compulsory individual membership.

However for a long time now the NUS which has purported to be the voice of students nationally has shown itself to be not democratic enough, unworkable and quite simply a waste of time.

The main decision-making forum of NUS, its winter (now abolished) and spring conferences have been hijacked by various factions with the result that any decisions which are made are on the whole irrelevant to the majority of students. NUS is meant to represent and only serve the political purposes of small but vocal factions. As with any organisation that has been allowed to stagnate without any honest attempts to reform the NUS now finds itself with the noose around its neck and with very little time to come up with a convincing defence or alternative reformed

structure. The welfare and services role of the NUS has been played down by the government and the campaigning side of the NUS which incidentally only takes up 0.5% of their funds has been served up as the main reason why NUS is a waste of public funds.

NUS and its President now find themselves with very little time to make a serious overhaul of the current corrupt organisation of the NUS and do not have an adequate defence to offer the government and the general public of the intrinsic value of a national student representative body riddled with corruption and time wasting bureaucracy. NUS has basically allowed the government to launch a pre-emptive strike. The welfare and cheap services that the NUS provides are consequently in danger. Are the NUS going to stubbornly delude themselves that they will be able to convince a Tory government of the desirability of a national publicly-funded body that opposes its policies at every turn?

Proposals for reform are nothing new: last year's General-Secretary of the LSE Michiel Van Hulten, drew up a package of proposals that would divorce the services role from the political campaigning role. The latter would be replaced by student associate societies eg. a national Labour student society, a national Liberal Democrat student society etc and membership of these would be voluntary and could campaign on political issues as much as they liked.

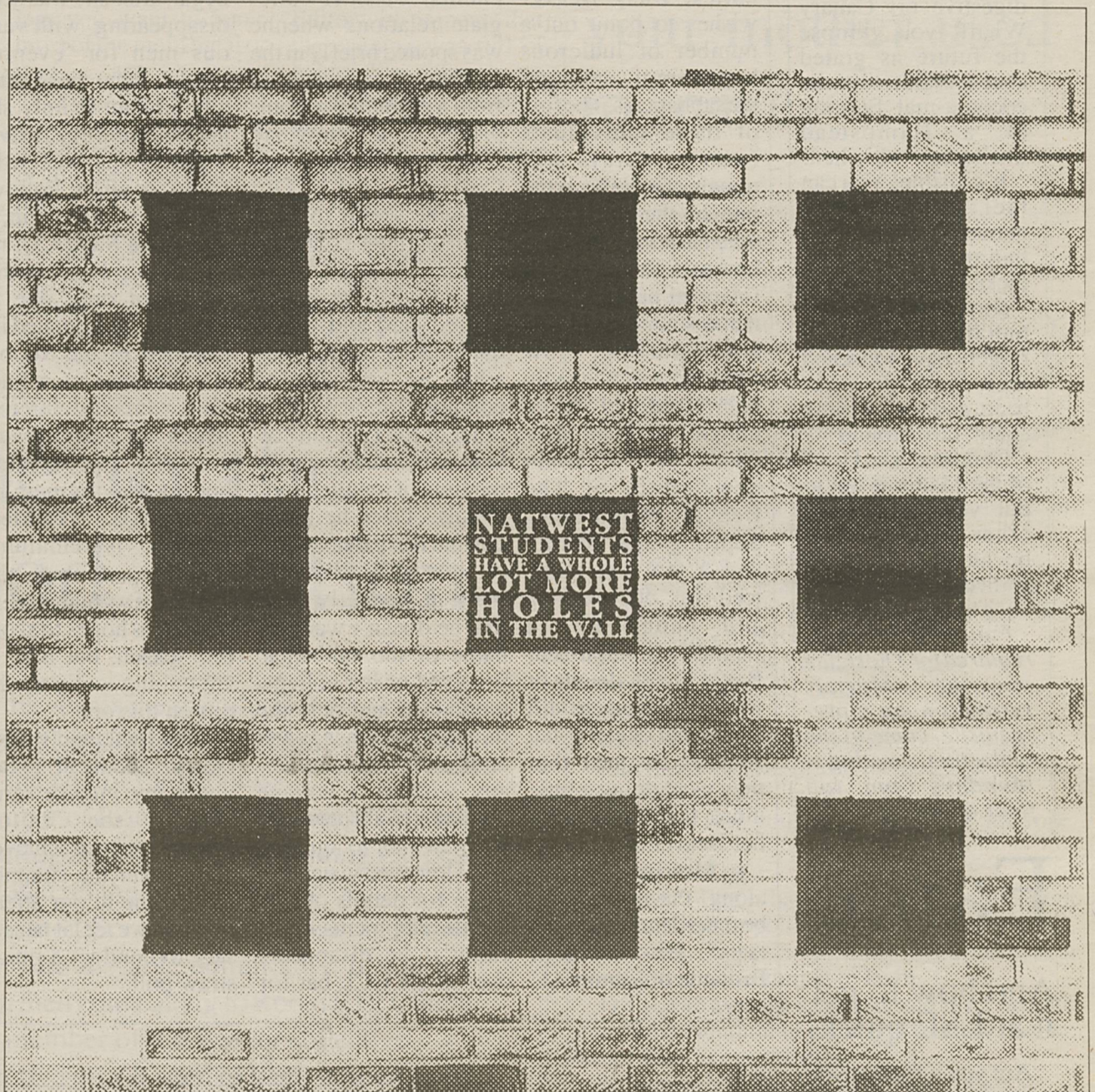
NUS provides cheap welfare and services. It is a powerful trading consortium devoted to the needs of students of whatever political affiliation. The imminent death of the NUS as we know it could result in the privatisation of these services with the consequent risk of higher un-subsidised prices in student union facilities: more costs for already hard-up students to pay out of their own pockets. Student unions up and

down the country must surely realise that swift reform of the NUS is imperative. But we do not have much time and perhaps the only strategy we do have is to pre-empt the government by disbanding NUS altogether and presenting a truly democratic structure which retains

only the buying power of a federation of student unions for cheap and efficient services while shedding any factionalisation and corruption now inextricably associated with the NUS. Desperate times warrant desperate measures. The government has

announced the death of the NUS, it is now too late for student unions to realise that NUS was terminally ill anyway. An NUS "Phoenix" is perhaps out of the question. Reform has been on the cards for so many years and nothing was done about it. Unless by taking a radical look

at what we want from a national student union can we hope to stop the government from crushing the voice of students in this country once and for all.



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## The Heart of the Matter

... in the company of Bu Bu Cigar and The Fourth Man

People need a hug once in a while.

Sometimes, when you've left your bag in the library, put your banana in your tea or dropped a dunked, dark chocolate digestive off Canary Wharf; you glimpse the future as grated cheese trodden into the coconut-mat flooring of a Hampstead intellectual's kitchen.

It's visible! You can feel it slithering between your toes as a banana feels its picker's fingers.

But. After the banana picker's fingers have loosened their grip on your heart, and you can mug again, turn around.

Children! The Heart of the Matter is not to put your banana in other peoples' tea, because it leads to spilled cheese.

*Future guest writers required for The Heart of the Matter, surrealism not a prerequisite, come to the collective meeting - Mondays 6pm, top floor of the Cafe.*

## Fame

And how to get it at LSE quick!

Are you a fresher who wants to be known around LSE? (but not to be hated for precociousness like Martin Lewis) Or are you a second or third year who feels that they've been left out of the action?

YOU can gain instant notoriety by getting your photo on the Campus page, the home of the Whopper, Busy Beaver, and the most read page in the newspaper.

To achieve this, just send a passport-sized photograph of yourself and your bid for fame (cheques only, to be made payable to J. Harris) in a sealed envelope along with your name and a short description of your most frightening moment (less than 50 words please) to: The Campus Editor, The Beaver, E197.

# Busy Beaver's Back

## Frisky Financier Frolics in Bearall's Boudoir (and more gossip)

Well, welcome back to LSE and more importantly to the Busy Beaver, the most sordid dirt-digging and most truthful part of The Beaver. Launching swiftly into the juiciest parts of the pre-term antics, Busy Beaver wishes to point out a number of ludicrous happenings amongst the sabbaticals. The first of these individuals (who as always will remain nameless), is the one of the three men who hasn't got red hair, he has a finger on the financial pulse and his name sounds a bit like Job Spurting; now Spurting was allegedly rumoured to have maybe had an intimate liaison with a certain news-editor of The Beaver. Apparently Spurting and Bearall had a few too many iced-teas one evening and ended up in Bearall's Boudoir near Baker Street, details of what happened are still somewhat sketchy but sources suggest that they were doing a little more than discussing her Beaver spot.

Moving swiftly along, the next sab to be mercilessly exposed is Ex-President Brownie of former AU

fame who is now masquerading as a sabbatical, and this entertaining chap is rumoured to have played away from home himself on a couple of occasions over the summer. His first yellow card was in the interests (he claims) of inter-collegiate relations when he was spotted briefly in the process of disappearing from a nightclub accompanied by a fellow sab from Strand Poly (Kings College - Ed.). Old Brownie seems to have taken this inter-collegiate business to heart, as he proved when he earned his red card and subsequent three-match ban when he was spotted communicating with another of the London college sabbaticals via the medium of tongues upon tonsils. Once he found out that Busy Beaver was on his trail, Brownie made it perfectly clear that he doesn't want the name of the sabbatical involved or her college, mentioned and only the threat of broken legs and an allusion to electrotherapy without a voltage regulator could persuade Busy Beaver to agree to this. However, watch this space for details of further developments, especially if he disappears over to the UCL bar for

any reason - OOPS!

Now onto our erstwhile leader, she that must be obeyed, with a nice line in lipstick; we'll refer to her as 'Fat Zero'. Rumours about her having a number of flings over the vacation period began after she was seen disappearing with various men for 'evening meals', what these actually amount to only she knows, but Busy Beaver wonders what was on the menu for afters. Following in a similar vein, it looks like S.U./A.U. relations may improve this year, not only due to Brownie's calculated infiltration of the SU but also because of a budding romantic interest which Fat Zero has in a certain prominent hockey-playing member of the AU. 'President Laidher' is remaining tight-lipped upon the subject of whether he has scored, or hopes to score this season, but B.B. is continuing to dig up the dirt on this one.

The final paid waster (sorry, sabbatical) to fall under my intense scrutiny is the 'Luton Jumper', whose achievements over the summer have come to our attention and we feel it necessary to conduct a quick straw poll.

If you were to see an unattended bag on the train, would you:

a) Ignore it and hope someone else does something

b) Pull the communication cord, stop the train, and order everyone off it.

Well, young Jumper saw it as his civic duty to protect the public and heroically save the lives of oh, forty or so passengers by doing the latter. 'And what was in this bag?' we hear you cry, 'Was it a pound of semtex attached to a cheap Japanese wristwatch and surrounded by nails and broken glass? Was it a small thermonuclear device? Or was it a shipment of cocaine just arrived from Colombia?' - No, it was a football kit left by a passenger while they went to another part of the train to chat with a friend. Oh well, better luck next time!

Pressing swiftly on, as Clare Raynor would say. Rumours bound around the palatial Beaver offices like Skippy on drugs that 'the Karate Kid' is no longer speaking to Job Spurting as a result of the aforementioned Bearall-gate affair, Busy Beaver suggests that Mr Spurting watches out or there

could be tears before bedtime.

More late news just come in about Brownie's pre-season capers, allegedly he was detained at Her Majesty's pleasure on two separate occasions, both for being a little too tipsy. He claims it was nothing to do with him, 'it was somebody else officer, honest' - yes, well we believe you Brownie, honestly we do.

Busy Beaver will be back next week with more gossip that you should know about, and until then watch out, my spies are everywhere!

*B. B.*

**Gossip writers required for new column starting next week General Course and all the halls especially welcome, has anyone you know done something that people ought to know about?**

## Competition Time

Win a Magnum of Champagne

**The Beaver is looking for someone to design a Beaver/S.U. Christmas card, please send your illustrations and photos (with captions) to: Campus Editor, Beaver Office, E197 by the 26th October.**

**The design which the judges decide is the best wins the champagne and cards will be on sale in time for Christmas, watch this space for details of the winning card design and where to get yours.**



# Jumping On A Meal ticket

Some Beaver Staff dine out at the 'Sharaz Hotel', Brick Lane

For the first article on the new Food page of the Beaver, a few of us here at your friendly Union newspaper have chosen to review a restaurant that is well known East of the Aldwych as a purveyor of quality South-East Asian cuisine, by whom I have no idea because quality isn't exactly the word that my fellow or I tasters would use to describe what they were serving that night. To many, Indian restaurants are inhabited by drunken Rugby players, in our

case it was drunken Beaver hacks.

Having decided that we would in fact go for something to eat after working on the Beaver late one Thursday, an Indian was suggested, but the Editor of this paper was not sure. But it was on the way home, so he relented.

Brick Lane is a lovely place stretching from Aldgate to Shoreditch and it contains a variety of culinary delights. The Sharaz itself is a well kept place with friendly serv-

ice, but it does not come cheap. Poppadoms and the twirly thing are a great invention, but give the starters a miss, unless you want to leave most of the main meal or you are really hungry. The choice of main meals is immense and if variety is the spice of life then this place is really hot. The food is fine if not a little spicy, but then I have a sensitive stomach, but not as sensitive as the Editors. The twirly things are a great invention, but give

the starters a miss, unless you want to leave most of the main meal or you are really hungry.

Having a certain Arts Editor with us meant that the evening was full of banter like "there's no such thing as a vindaloo" but the real success of the evening was talking to two surveyors about the delights of living in London and having a decent education.

If you're in the area, give it a try, if not, you're probably better off finding a local restaurant.

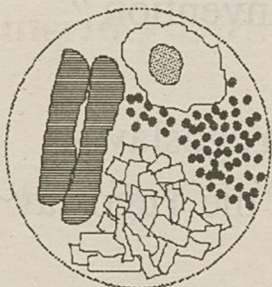
## Welcome to the Beaver Food Section

A new innovation for the Beaver this year is the introduction of a Food & Drink section. At the moment we are still smoothing over the creases but we hope it'll be up and running before the end of the month.

The section will comprise of a number of features that include reviewing restaurants (free of charge!), comparing supermarkets, providing recipes, Auntie Flo's Cookbook and a run down on the best wines and beers available on the market. But we need an editor. Someone who is willing to take on board this baby and cultivate it into a viable commodity. If you are interested in running for the position then come along to Room E197. there is a catch, however. You must be a member of the Beaver collective.

To become a member of the collective you'll need to have written three articles, taken three photographs or undertaken three production sessions. Easy, eh?

## The Beaver Food Guide



This Week's Recommended Restaurants:

**Bethnals, Bethnal Green Road E2**

The pizzas are recommended as are all the pasta dishes. Quite cheap: The largest pizza costs around £5 and there's a 20% discount for all NUS students

**Pollos, Neal Street W1**

Popular with a number of LSE students, this Italian restaurant is renowned for being a fire-trap but don't let that put you off. The meals are nice and relatively cheap

# Auntie Flo's Cookbook

She cooks you  
food just like  
your mother used  
to make

### Beans on toast

To make beans on toast, just follow Auntie Flo's simple recipe.

- 1) Take one medium sized tin of beans and pour into a saucepan.
- 2) Place saucepan on cooker and heat gently.
- 3) While the beans are cooking, take two slices of bread. The slices can be either white or brown, but I prefer white.
- 4) Place the slices in either a toaster or on a grill a brown to desired level.
- 5) Once the toast is sufficiently brown, remove from the toaster and spread with either butter or margarine. Do not use jam.
- 6) Place toast on plate.
- 7) By now the beans will have begun to boil. Stir the beans gently to ensure that none get stuck onto the sides of the pan.
- 8) Remove the pan from the cooker.
- 9) Slowly pour the beans over the toast in a desired manner.
- 10) Pick up your plate and return to your room.
- 11) Once you have turned on the television you may begin to eat.
- 12) Make sure you are using a knife and fork.

### Dippy-in-Egg

Dippy-in-Egg is basically egg and soldiers but that name is not politically sound. Never mind, my dearies. Dippy-in-egg is my favourite meal to cook and is quite simple to learn.

- 1) Take an average saucepan and fill it up with a sufficient amount of water. Remember that the water must cover the eggs.
- 2) Slowly boil the water on your cooker.
- 3) While this happens, take two slices of bread and toast to a desired level.
- 4) The water should begin to boil now, so take two eggs and gently place them into the pan. For runny eggs, make sure you boil them for no longer than three-and-a-half minutes.
- 5) Remove the toast from the toaster and butter them with a spread of your choice.
- 6) Take a sharp knife and carefully cut the toast into thin spreads with a width of no more than three centimetres.
- 7) Once three minutes has elapsed, remove the eggs carefully from the saucepan.
- 8) Place the eggs in an egg cup and serve with the soldiers.

These recipes involve boiling water and sharp knives so always be careful. If at all possible, make sure an adult is in the kitchen to supervise you because we don't want you cutting your

# BOSNIA: The Invention of a Holocaust?

Suke Wolton accuses western society of relativising the greatest crime against humanity.

Ethnic cleansing, cattle trains, concentration camps, shaved heads, rib-cages, torture, atrocities, genocide....

There hasn't been anything like it since...well, since the Gulf War in fact. That was the last time Western journalists and politicians discovered a new Hitler - Saddam Hussein - and evils the like of which the world had not seen for half a century - such as the Kuwaiti babies snatched from incubators by Iraqi soldiers and left to die on a hospital floor.

Cynical? The Kuwaiti babies story turned out to be an invention by the Washington PR firm, Hill & Knowlton employed by the Kuwaiti government, and fed its facts by the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador in America who also happened to be a member of the ruling al-Sabah family.

Today the suffering of ordinary Serbs, Croats and Muslims caught up in the war in Yugoslavia is being cynically manipulated by Western journalists and politicians waging a propaganda war.

Since the end of July all reporting on the Yugoslav war has been suffused with images of the Holocaust. You could not turn on your television set in August without being assailed by pictures of barbed wire compounds. The entire vo-

cabulary in which the conflict is now discussed evokes parallels with the wartime treatment of the Jews by the Nazis.

Both right and left have joined the the Serb-bashing. It has been impossible to distinguish between Sun double act Ken Livingstone and Richard Littlejohn, despite the fact that they are supposed to represent opposite ends of the political spectrum.

**“By inventing a holocaust in Bosnia, they are calling into question the whole meaning of the original Holocaust”**

This demonisation of the Serbs has told the world that the Serbs are even more savage than everybody had thought they were. They now stand accused of carrying out the biggest crime against humanity since the Second World war. They have been depicted as even more bestial than Hitler's SS death squads. The consensus that they are trying to achieve is

that the Western powers have the right to determine the future of the Balkans.

If there really were terrible atrocities taking place in Bosnia, I doubt that we would be reading about them everyday in the newspapers.

When there really was a Holocaust taking place in Europe, we heard nothing about it. When the Nazis started exterminating the Jews, the Allies knew what was happening but they chose to keep quiet. They didn't say a word. They covered it up. Despite repeated requests from 1941 onwards, the British government refused to order the bombing of the railway lines leading to Auschwitz. In fact, the only thing they did do was turn away Jewish refugees fleeing from pogroms.

Why should we believe a word of what is being said by press and politicians about what is happening in Bosnia? They are not usually in the habit of telling the truth about what happens at home, never mind in foreign lands.

Take the phrase on everybody's lips: ethnic cleansing. Where did it come from? Who started using this expression first? I doubt it was the Serbian forces who are fighting in Bosnia. It is more likely to have originated in the Croatian

ministry of information

in Zagreb or even in the offices of a Western communications firm.

The term ethnic cleansing turns the exodus of people from Bosnia into a policy objective rather than a consequence of war. There can be no doubt that Muslims and Croats are being persecuted and forced to leave their homes by Serbian forces, just as Serbs are being persecuted and forced to leave their homes by Croatian and Muslim forces.

There is much hypocrisy involved in the Western condemnations of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. If the Western powers dislike ethnic conflict so much, they should not have sponsored the disintegration of Yugoslavia along ethnic lines. It was their backing for Croatia which legitimised nationalism in that republic and ignited ethnic conflict throughout Yugoslavia.

People are killing and being killed on all sides in this war, as in all war. If atrocities are being committed, they are being committed by Serbs, Croats and Muslims. So why is it that Western propaganda has focused on the crimes of the Serbs?

Those who have invented a Holocaust in Bosnia have done so because it suits their purposes to depict the Serbs as genocidal maniacs.

But from the point of view of the European powers, there is another advantage to be gained from accusing the Serbs of genocide. By inventing a Holocaust in Bosnia, they are calling into question the whole meaning of the original Holocaust.

If a Holocaust can happen in Bosnia just like that, then it follows that the original Holocaust was nothing special. If the suffering of the Muslims in the Yugoslav civil war today amounts to a Holocaust, then it follows that the liquidation of European Jewry in the Second World War was not unique. In other words, the invention of a Holocaust in the present is a way of relativising the war crimes of the past.

**“By inventing a Holocaust in Bosnia, the right can begin to put the past behind it.”**

It is not difficult to understand why European powers are so keen to relativise the Holocaust. After all, the death camps of the past helped to discredit right-wing ideas

for the best part of half a century. The association of the Holocaust with the politics of the right has been a major embarrassment. By inventing a Holocaust in Bosnia, the right can begin to put the past behind it.

This is grotesque in the case of the Balkans. The last time Western powers intervened, in the Second World War, it was to oversee a policy of genocide against the Serbs. Then Germany recruited the Croatian Ustashe as the surrogates of their policy of eastern expansion. Today the West presents itself as the only defense against a holocaust in the Balkans, when its record is of having imposed one there.

But why should liberal opinion go along with all this? The same people who have taken the revisionist historian David Irving to task for saying the Holocaust never happened are now caught up in the rewriting of history. By shouting genocide about what is happening in Bosnia, liberal opinion is not only complicit in setting up the Serbs for a military strike, it is also an unwitting accomplice in the campaign to relativise the Holocaust.

## BOSNIA: The Invention of a Holocaust?

Wednesday 14 October at the L.S.E.

A round table discussion

2-4pm A42

Workshops

4.30-6pm A42

4.30-6pm A85

Debate

7-9pm Old Theatre

Holocaust in Bosnia: war crime or media invention ?

Ethnic time bomb? The origins of war in Yugoslavia.

The Holocaust Revisited: revisionism and the Yugoslav war.

Bosnia: can the West keep the peace?

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STUDENT SOCIETY

Open Meeting

**HAS MARXISM PAST ITS SELL BY  
DATE?**

Speaker - **TONY CLIFF**  
TUESDAY 1-2pm  
13th October

Room S075

You can vote for the president of the United States of  
America  
in the  
**LSE AMERICAN ELECTION**  
29th October 1992

**"Republicans and Democrats Confront...."**

12th October 1992  
Room A698  
6-8 pm

To be eligible to vote, fill out the voter registration  
form to arrive no later than by 27th October 1992  
Send to: Dr. Cheryl Schonhardt-Bailey, US Election,  
Government Department, LSE

Economics Society

**AGM and Cheese and  
Wine Party**

Thursday, 15th October 1992  
AGM - 5.30pm  
Party - 6.00pm

Room to be Announced

**The London School Of Economics Debating  
Society**

MICHAELMAS TERM DEBATE

**Freshers Debating Competition**

Wednesday, 14 th October 1992  
Wednesday, 21st October 1992  
Wednesday, 28th October 1992

Vera Anstey Room 1-2 pm

LSE, IMPERIAL COLLEGE  
& CITY UNIVERSITY  
ITALIAN SOC.

PRESENT

**'92 INTRO MEETING**

**20th OCTOBER**

ITALIAN FOOD  
&  
ITALIAN WINE

**FREE**

**HALF - TERM PLAYGROUP**

The half term playgroup will run this half term between  
Monday, **26th October 1992** and Friday, **30th October  
1992**, the seeions are 10am - 1pm and 2 - 5pm.

Parents are expected to look after their children during the  
lunch hour. The group is available to children of LSE  
students and staff and is free. It is held in the Women's  
room on the top floor of the cafe in the East Building. If  
you would like to register your child/children, please sign  
your name on the list outside of room E299

**VOLUNTEER HELPERS ARE ALSO NEEDED -  
SIGN YOUR NAME AT THE WELFARE  
OFFICE E297 OR ON THE LIST OUTSIDE OF  
E299**

*Beaver  
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the Beaver Office (ext. 2870).  
Alternatively, write down the in-  
formation, and drop it in the  
Beaver Office (E197)

This service is **free** to all LSE  
students and Societies  
Please note that copy deadline is  
Wednesday noon for the following  
Monday's issue

# Boldly Going Where No Man's Been Before

Neil Andrews explores the history of Science Fiction films

Science Fiction is a strange film genre. It can encompass everything from comedy (Dark Star) to horror (Alien) but still remain within the boundary of sci-fi. Despite opinions to the contrary, the Science Fiction genre is one of the oldest film genres around and in the early days of motion pictures space, and in particular the moon, were viable film subjects.

Sci-fi is genuine escapism. From the late Twenties and early Thirties, with films like 'Things To Come' and 'Metropolis', cinema audiences have flocked to see Science Fiction films purely because of the escapist element contained within them but most Science Fiction films are merely remakes of old classics with a different setting. 'Outland' starring Sean Connery, for example, was a remake of 'High Noon' starring Gary Cooper while 'Alien' borrowed the story line of 'It - The Terror From Out Of Space', a 1950s black and white feature about a crew from earth

being terrorized by a Martian while on the way back to earth. Despite this, audiences are still willing to watch a movie about outer space, even if they have seen it all before.

'Star Wars' is the proverbial albatross of Science Fiction films and comparisons are still made. True, 'Star Wars' was an influential film, but it was no classic and the storylines fail to stand up to scrutiny. A western in space, it merely took all the elements of the best pantomimes and fairy stories and blended them into a blockbuster movie, similar to the Jaws episode. What 'Star Wars' possessed at the time was originality. There hadn't been a film quite like it before and was therefore an instant success. 'ET', on the other hand, relied heavily on the mystique of previous Sci-Fi films and captured an audience sick of violence and sex on its screens. Until then, Science Fiction had gone through a rough time during the Seventies with very few of any note being made, 'Logan's

Run', 'Alien' and 'Dark Star' being the major exceptions.

The Sixties produced a number of camp episodes similar to the age. 'Barbarella', starring Jane Fonda, was probably the most significant film of the era and remains as colourful today as it did then. Hammer Films jumped onto the bandwagon and released 'Quatermass And The Pit', a classic British filmed based on the BBC TV series, as well as all its vampire flicks, while the Americans began releasing a number of decent Sci-Fi pictures including the original 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' starring Kevin McCarthy.

The decade also produced the meaningful space drama as well as the odd comedy. Ex-LSE alumni Ron Moody starred in 'Mouse On The Moon' while 'Planet Of The Apes' and its sequels concentrated on the aspect of racism. While others, 'Fahrenheit 451' and 'A Clockwork Orange' for example, had futuristic violence as their central theme. '2001 - A Space Odyssey', released in 1969, re-vamped the Science Fiction film from the terrors of outer space, seen so frequently during the 1950s, to the new technological era, influencing a number of future films.

The 50s was the age of the classic Sci-Fi B-movies such as 'The Creature From The Black Lagoon', 'The Blob' starring a fresh faced Steve McQueen, and 'War Of The Worlds'. Most of these features had a low budget and an even lower I.Q. level as drive-in cinema audiences vegetated in front of the big screen. Meaningful drama was out, horrible monsters who zapped their victims was the norm. Usually in

3-D. Occasionally they threw up the odd decent film, like 'This Island Earth' and 'Forbidden Planet' but in general much of what was released was worthless pulp including Edward D. Wood's classic 'Plan 9 From Outer Space'.

The Eighties brought technology to the fore with special effects outweighing anything special. Schwarzenegger emerged as the number one box office star with films like 'Terminator', 'Predator' and 'Total Recall' while the comic strip returned with the likes of 'Swamp Thing' and 'Batman'. 'Robocop' became a comic strip and 'Alien' spawned two sequels to become one of the biggest icons of the genre and one of the most dissected films of all time. But with the good came the crap. 'Dune' crashed and burned, despite having some merit, 'Critters' was simply dire, 'Space Balls' was shite and 'Star Trek 5' was William Shatner's worst nightmare. The Star Trek series did manage to produce two notable exceptions to the long, crap line of releases in the form of 'Star Trek 4 - The Voyage Home' and 'Star Trek 6 - The Undiscovered Country' but even they would be hard pressed to be entitled 'classics'.

Cult status was achieved by quite a few Sci-Fi films thanks to Alex Cox's Moviedrome series on BBC2, which featured the TV premieres of 'Terminator', 'Trancers', 'Mad Max', 'Mad Max 2' and Cox's own masterpiece 'Repo Man'. 'The Thing' also re-emerged, with gory effects added, and Sci-fi horror became fashionable once more. The age of the Sci-Fi horror had been born.

Television has thrown



Alien 3: "Oh fuck, it's Steve Thomas"

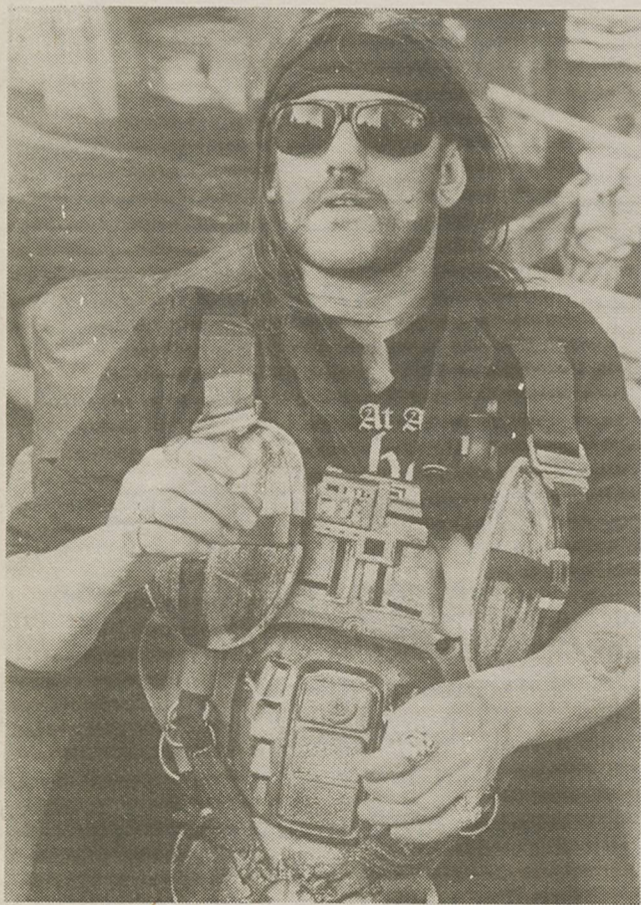
up its far share of programmes which have been turned into major feature films. Along with the obvious Star Trek pictures, there have been two Dr. Who films, both starring Peter Cushing and a number of Daleks, two 'Battlestar Galactica' pictures and a feature starring Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds puppets. The 'Twilight Zone' has also been turned into a film while the original Batman series made it onto celluloid way back in 1966.

In the 90s, the genre of Science Fiction has been hit by the recession, with fewer releases than before. 'Terminator 2' and 'Alien 3' both captured a sizable crowd but other releases such as 'Hardware' and 'Split Second' failed to attract even the most die-hard sci-fi fan. But the future looks promising. 'Dr. Who' looks like finally going into production, 'Alien 4' has been promised and 'Judge Dredd' may hit the screen soon.

Whether they'll ever reach the screen is

another question. Companies are unwilling to invest in big-budget Sci-fi features because they're uncertain about the return they'll receive on their investment. Directors are also unwilling to enter the fray when it comes to Sci-Fi films because of the way their films are cut. James Cameron, Ridley Scott and Vincent Ward all experienced trouble during the making of 'Aliens', 'Blade Runner' and 'Alien 3' respectively. Film companies appear to prefer the producer's cut rather than the director's cut when it comes to releasing films in recent times, usually because the producer's cut is shorter and less philosophical.

Whatever happens in the future, the genre will always have its classics to fall back on. If it's still short of films then I'm sure there's a few John Wayne Westerns knocking about that can be turned into a Sci-fi classic. Carry On Terminator, anyone?



Hardware: Shite

The Arts Pages offer you the chance to review a film, play, art exhibition or video completely free! All you have to do is come along to the Beaver Collective Meeting at Six O'Clock on Monday in the Hacker's Bar (Top floor of the Cafe) and hassle either Navin Reddy or Geoff Robertson. Failing that, why not pop into the Beaver Office in room E197 and leave something in their pigeon hole. They'd love to hear from you. Besides, its cheaper than Dateline and a lot more fun.

# Carry On With The Day Job

The eagerly awaited 'Carry On Columbus' gets slated by a hack who should know better

The last time a Carry On film was on general release, it was 1975. 'Carry On Emmanuelle' was dire, smut and sex had replaced comedy and innuendo. Carry On Columbus is hoping to try and resurrect the genre, but will it succeed? After all there are three films are Columbus this year. The firstone was crap, Ridley Scotts' is coming soon but what of this one? Well in 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue, but in the late 50's Carry on Sergeant was released and started this whole genre.

This series of films have become a British institution based on the vast array of comic actors

this country has produced. However its best period was, in no doubt, around the late sixties with such classics as Carry On Screaming, Carry On Don't Lose Your Head, Carry On Harry and Carry On up the Khyber.

However like all institutions they grow old and many of the stars of the early films have gone to the great film lot in the sky. Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Hattie Jaques and Charles Hawltry. Of the remainder, we were left with Jim Dale who after his last Carry On... left for Broadway and after this return I bet he wishes he stayed there.

It is surely a bad sign when you are going to see a film on the night of

its release, and you can walk right in. But undaunted we entered expecting mirth and merriment as this was supposedly the finest collection of British Comedy actors on screen for years. They were all there, Rik Mayall, being his usual gauche self Alexei Sayle being Alexei Sayle, Julian Cleary camping it up, Bernard Cribbens making a come-back Keith Allen proving his abilities as a comic actor and.....

No that's it, stop right now. I can't do it. They want me to write a review of around 300 words and say its OK, if not great but I can't. Its crap, the long and short of it is its crap. Get the picture?



"Ooh, I say...." Dale & Cleary try to bury a few ghosts

Unfortunately we did. Movies will show it. The soundtrack is crap. The script, the opening titles, its all crap. I don't even think Sky deserve to lose money! Laugh I did not. Do not waste your time or your money and do not even get it on video. They

Ron Voce

## Playing Up On Stage

Sarah Ebner returns with a vengeance to give the low down on theatre productions in London

Welcome to LSE! Now you've arrived and had at least a week to settle in, it's about time you turned to more useful things than how much a pint in The Tuns costs compared to all those pubs around the Government department. No, of course I don't mean start working. As if. There are far more vital things to get involved in. London, and especially the arts are ready for you.....

Here comes the run down on what to see at the theatre at present. Check which theatres do student standbys, but be warned that many of these work out as more expensive than the cheap seats right at the top and yes, right at the back. This is because most theatres offer student standbys at half their top price (usually around £20). Cheap seats are more likely to be £6 or £7. Three cheers then for the National Theatre and the Barbican. Both these

establishments give students the best available seats for £5.

Talking of subsidised theatre, the National Theatre is a great place to start for anyone who cares about good theatre. In fact, more often than not, it's a good place to finish too. The National, with its three theatres, offers a wide variety of excellent theatre, and because it's subsidised, it's brave enough to show new plays rather than tired musical revues or farces. It's wise to take a chance on anything at the National, although, admittedly the Cottesloe especially, likes 'different' plays. Tony Harrison's *Square Rounds* is more "fringe" than West End (me, a snob?), as was the recent *Street of Crocodiles*. Generally speaking however, the National is wonderful, and I can't be more fulsome in my praise than that. The excellent *Rise and Fall of Little Voice* is transferring to the Aldwych (right next to

LSE) and you should really try to see it. Similarly Robert LePage's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, set in a dark swamp, is an original and absorbing production. I must warn you, however, that the National is not my own secret. It is famed for excellent theatre, and good plays book up quickly. Get in early. It's worth it!

I can't rave as much about the Barbican. Yes, there are some excellent things to be seen (particularly in the Pit, the smallest theatre there), but generally, the Shakespeare could be better, with the exception of the comic productions, especially the excellent *Comedy of Errors*. Mind you, Antony Sher is performing in *Titus Andronicus* at present. Unfortunately it's in Stratford.

What else should you see at the moment. Well, for an evening of excellent music and a little tugging of the heartstrings, you

couldn't do better than *Les Miserables* or *Miss Saigon*, but be warned, the prices are steep and the queues long. The best thing to do would be to catch a weekday matinee. The same goes for any other musical, including *Joseph* which is worth seeing if only to laugh at Philip Schofield in a loin cloth. Seriously, though, *Joseph* is enormous fun, and a damn sight better than almost any other Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. *Blood Brothers* is another good musical to see.

If you want good light entertainment, go to the Arts Theatre and catch *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. It's not only for Shakespeare buffs. *Six Degrees of Separation*, winner of a number of American awards, and likely to have that success repeated here, is another very clever comedy, but you'll have to go soon, as it's only on for a limited season at

the Comedy Theatre. *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Philadelphia Here I come* should also be on your list. Brian Friel perfectly catches the spirit of rural Ireland in these two plays, demonstrating just why he is such a valuable contemporary talent. You should be able to get tickets for all these plays without much trouble, but an extra tip is to go on a Monday - generally the quietest theatre night in the week.

If you're looking for a stronger and more serious play, please see *Death and the Maiden* at the Duke of York's, or *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* at the Vaudeville. Both these are plays are not only powerful but contain excellent acting. *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* is transferring to Broadway, so go soon. You won't be sorry (even though the sole American in the play is somewhat underwritten).

I've gone on for longer than I meant to

(and haven't even mentioned the *Chippendales* or *Don't Dress For Dinner* - lucky you). You'll just have to be satisfied with the plays recommended here, and see them all before I return. In the meantime, I'll leave you with one thought: If you come to London to university, you really must go to the theatre! Trust me on that one.

For free theatre tickets for future performances pop along and see either Geoff Robertson or Navin Reddy in the Beaver Office, Room E197. Its a damn sight cheaper than student stand-bys and your view of the play is a lot better too!

# Get £1 Off A Cut Out And NME's 'Ruby Trax'

Well, its almost Christmas and down here in the Beaver dungeons we're already entering the spirit of goodwill. Those kind people from Beatwax College Promotions have teamed up with the NME and ourselves to offer you a discount on their 'Ruby Trax' 40th anniversary album.

'Ruby Trax' was put together by the NME in conjunction with Radio One, to raise money for The Spastics Society. The album brings together forty of today's top artists, including The Wonder Stuff, Dannii Minogue, Blur, EMF and Carter USM, who, with the exception of Vic Reeves, have exclusively donated covers of their favourite Number One singles.

The album is not available in the shops but via any one of 8 tokens printed in the NME (from the issue dated October 3rd) for £19.99 for the triple CD or £14.99 for the double cassette. At this stage there will be no vinyl release. BUT we can offer you, our readers, £1 off the price of either format. To put this generous offer into operation all you have to do is send off for the album using a token from the NME together with this article and Bob's your Aunty's live-in-lover.

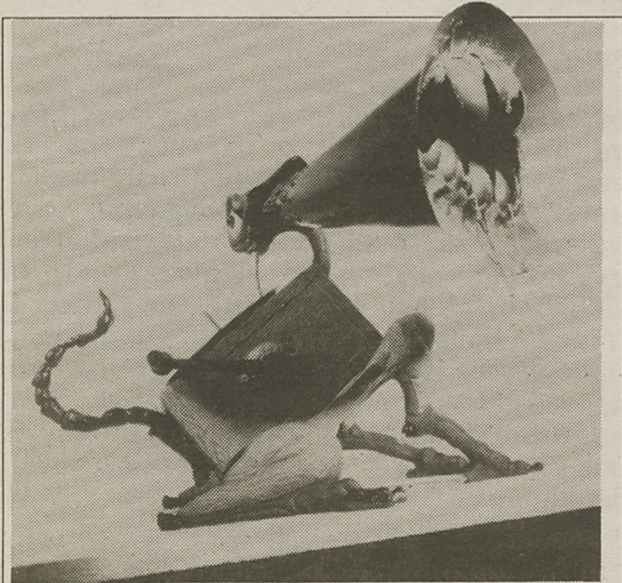
However, if you'd like to win an extremely rare triple white-label of 'Ruby Trax' then just answer the following question and send your answers to: Ruby Trax Competition, Beatwax, Unit 8a, Southam Street, Ladbroke Grove, London, W10 5PH. The closing date is the 31st October.

That competition question in full: Who originally performed 'Brass In Pocket'? (Covered by Suede on this album)

Simple, eh? The track listing includes some great covers. Billy Bragg sings 'When Will I See you Again?', Blur hammer away at 'Maggie May', The House Of Love attempt 'Rock Your Baby' while EMF have a go at transforming Joe Dolce's 'Shaddap You Face'. No matter what format you buy, £5 will go directly to The Spastics Society who are also celebrating their 40th birthday.

Other highlights include Marc Almond singing 'Like A Prayer', Ride swapping their guitars for a bit of synth on 'The Model', axe heroes Johnny Marr and Billy Duffy have a crack at 'The Good, The Bad And The Ugly' and Cud eat up Status Quo's 'Down, Down'.

NME. They do an awful lot of good work for charity. Not arf.



The Stereo hits back. The official mascot of NME's 'Ruby Trax', mate.

## A Cut Out And Keep Guide To.... Jazz on the funk side in a moody mode

You hear the word jazz-what do you automatically associate it with? a) dinosaurs b) kronenbourg ads c) manic tuneless squeaks and blurts of the so called 'free jazz movement' d) Courtney Pine. If you have agreed with any of the definitions, please read on, you have scored.. zero!

Ok, Jazz does encompass the traditional artists (Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Theolonious Monk etc) but there is another world. The modern jazz world. Which doesn't necessarily mean that it's totally weird and lacking in any melody. Modern artists of the Jazz and Funk Brigades tend to intertwine or fuse the best of both styles, making it difficult to categorise them into either one or the other. Many artists do, however, try to cater for all tastes (or try to confuse you, depending on how you look at it) by featuring several styles on one album. For example, on one side they may have, perhaps, a revamped traditional standard, a mellow ballad and an up-tempo original, and then on the flip side hit you with a finger poppin', foot stompin' boogy woogy hipshakin' mind blowin' non stoppin' funk'n swingin' number.

So just how does one go about obtaining this unique, though obscure, inspirational but composed style of music? The following (very) Rough Guide will give you a pointer in the right direction, but the main trick of the trade is .... find a record store that will play the records for you before you buy them. My favorite (plug, plug) is Honest Jon's Record Shop, Portobello Road, Ladbroke Grove tube. I used to spend 5 hours at a time in there, listen to about 15 albums and by the 5 best. It's the only way! It doesn't matter how many pretentious reviews you read, the only way to find the kind of Jazz/Funk you want to hear to is to go out and find some to listen to.

Other stores, like Reckless Records and Mole Jazz, only let you listen sometimes

First, you've got to whittle down a few albums from the thousands. Here's where I can help. Study the list below, these guys were (and some still are) monster. First check out the names of the artists, is there, for example, a well known musician hiding among the instrumentalists, like a brilliant bass player (Marcus Miller, Ron Carter, Stanley Clarke,

Farrell (various saxes, while the latter was also a mega flutist along with Dave Valentino), Marcio Montarroyos, Freddie Hubbard (various trumpets), Milt Jackson Roy Ayers (vibes).

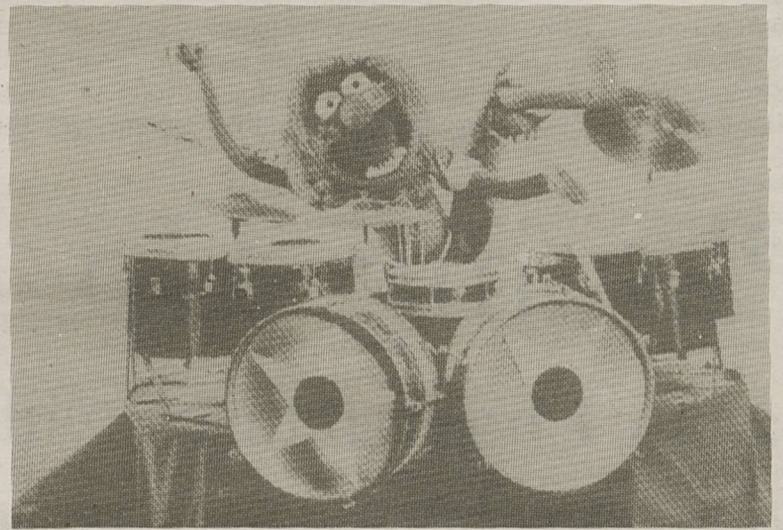
Undeniably masters of their instruments. Once you've heard just how special they are you'll be amazed at how many sessions they did with a wide variety of other musicians. Which means that now you know a few of the names to look out for, you'll start noticing them on all sorts of

sophisticated with those old time, as in car-wash style Michael Jackson, vocals)

4. 'Just a Funky Feeling', Michael Urbaniak and Urszula Dudziak (from Ecstasy. Extremely moody funk with wild fiddle. Also has better version of 'Free' than the original).

5. 'Doin' it', Herbie Hancock (from Secrets, the whole album is killer)

**MORE BANDS/  
NAMES TO  
BE(A)WARE OF:  
Brazilian: Airt**



Charlie Parker had his problems with drugs. For a start, he couldn't remember which instrument he played.

Dave Freison, Jaco Pastorious) for example? Check out if there are any big groups of instruments on it, if you don't like a big string/brass section then don't bother with a listening. What year was it recorded in? Many of the most stimulating recordings will be found in the years between 1970-80. If it all adds up have a listen.

During the seventies many of the following great names played together, so if you see their names displayed together or separately then it's (almost definitely) worth a listen; Airt Moreira, Ralph Macdonald, Nana Vasconcelos (drums and percussion), Alphonse Mouzon, Lenny White, Elvin Jones, Jack DeJohnette (pure drummers) Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, McCoy Tyner (keyboards) Eric Gale, George Benson, (guitars), Joe Henderson, Stanley Turrentine, Mike Brecker, Grover Washington Jr., Joe

albums around that period. Then you'll no doubt find a particular artist you're gonna go a bundle on and spend the next 5 years trying to get hold of all their albums. For more info. The LSEJazz Society at will help and advise on special fairs etc. so keep you eyes peeled for their posters or get in touch with them through their society pigeon hole.

### All Time Top 5 Tunes (for this week)

1. 'Greensleeves', John Coltrane (from Africa Brass Sessions Vol II) A beautiful spiralling rendition of the classic folk tune. Pure bliss.
2. 'Taurus Woman', Carlos Garnet (from Black Love, 12 minutes of 'Shaft' like Jazz, also includes the best afro-caribbean-latin-american version I've ever heard of 'Mothers of the Future')
3. 'Showtime', The Undisputed Truth (from Showtime. Funky Funky, bass led, but

Moreira and Flora Purim, Egberto Gismonti, Hermeto Pascoal, Jon Lucien, Tania Maria, Azymuth.

**Funketeers:** SLAVE, Aurra, SHOCK, Pleasure, LA Boppers, Crown Heights Affair, Funkadelic, Kool & the Gang (aka the Kaygees), Chocolate Milk, Troublefunk, Starguard, Maze, Mandrill, Brainstorm, Kleeer, Ohio Players, Brothers Johnson, KC and the Sunshine Band, Rose Royce (yes, they did some ace stuff esp. RR.Express album)

**Atherial:** Practically all of PAT METHENY & LYLE MAYS stuff.

**Classic Modern Jazz/ Funkers:** Quincey Jones, Dexter Wansel, Stanley Jordan, George Duke, Ronnie Laws, Bobby McFerrin, Blackbyrds, Bob James, Maceo and the Mace.

**More traditional:** Sonny Fortune, Miles Davis, Nat and Cannonball Adderly, That's all folks (phew!)  
Sian Eliz.Evans

# It'll Be Alright On The Night

The Bed Bugs bite, the Medics delight while Sarah Sarah go quiet

The gremlins that disrupted last week's Huge Intro Party have already been well documented but gremlins apart last week's bash proved to be a resounding success on all fronts, in particular the performances by the three bands.

Because of the lack of a PA, Sarah Sarah went on first and produced a set which pleased the unaware audience. Despite being interrupted mid-set by a fuse being blown off-stage, Sarah Sarah won quite a few fans amidst the usually picky taste of the LSE audience and went down well. For a band with eight members they managed to cramp themselves onto the stage in a quite satisfactory manner, enabling Sarah to perform her usual stage act comfortably.

Doctor & the Medics went down a treat. Those at the front eagerly encouraged the Doctor to 'get his kit off' and, being a true showman,



The Bed Bugs: Biting back ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha....ahem.

he responded accordingly. 'Spirit In The Sky', their only number one, came last and was greeted with decorum. Or rather complete mayhem as the crowd recognised the opening chords. With the show over, the punters at the front, Martin Lewis in particular, demanded an encore and duly got one.

With the Medics gone, it was time for The Bed

Bugs, who, thanks to the late arrival of the PA, were now headlining the event. Being something of an indie-kid, The Bed Bugs were obviously going to go down well with myself and they didn't disappoint. Despite only being allowed to perform four songs, The Bed Bugs were easily the most impressive act on the bill, showing a raw talent that outshone both the

Medics and Sarah Sarah. The highlight of their (short) set was probably 'Honeymoon Couple On Drugs', a indie classic in all manner of the word and the sort of song you thought indie bands didn't write anymore. They have a record out in the next few weeks so if you don't believe a word I say you can check them out yourselves.

The Lion Roars

## Sugar & Spice and All Things Nice

Bedazzled prove that a 'Sugarfree' diet is not good for you

'Sugarfree' is a very strange album. Despite being recorded earlier this year, it already sounds out of date.

Opening with a sample from a sketch by Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, 'Stageshow Day' kick starts the album into a riff-laden rut from which it never escapes. 'Dumb', the following track, has a great title but no tune while the single that flopped during August, 'Summer Song', is too jolly and sugary. Only 'Shut My Mouth And Start Again' has anything worth merit contained within it: namely the wah-wah guitars and the great chorus. Side One rounds off with a pale imitation of the Charlatans' 'White Shirt' which is more acoustic

than it should be.

Side two is no better. 'Teenage Mother Superior' is a great song title but not a great song. If comparisons are to be made then it sounds like Blur after an overdose of sleeping tablets (Are you catching all this, Nick?). 'Railway Children' sounds like the Railway Children (both the book and the band), ie slow and not very interesting, while 'Postcards From Here' is a medium-paced romp through familiar territory. 'Ouch', the band's farewell ditty, is louder than anything else here but just as uninteresting.

Thank you's extended as far out as Airhead, Marks & Spencers and Ipswich Town but why they are thanking these



Bedazzled: They make you wish the boat would sink

people is a mystery album is a pile of retro-Madchester shite.

Neil Andrews

## In Search Of Perfection

Is it time for the beaten generation to answer the call of nature?

Students are a sad lot, and this is perhaps reflected acutely in music tastes, that is if they have a taste at all. I have no problem with people who enjoy their chosen 'genre'. However, I can not relate to people who have no musical interests and these people rear their heads frequently at hall parties! They seem to think that all students enjoy listening to indie music and old 'pop' songs. They reason their argument by saying that it'll appeal to all tastes and that when everyone's really pissed they'll dance to anything. Well, if they'll dance to crap then they'll dance to something good.

The 'music' played at most hall parties and student events appeals only to people with no musical taste. I'm sorry, but if you find this music stimulating when you're not wrecked out of your head then you don't deserve a stereo and I'm amazed at the sheer musical ignorance that the majority of the student population possesses. If you don't get clued up then don't sound-off like you write for the bloody Melody Maker. Sure, everyone's heard of Nirvana and that's why it gets played at hall parties, to reinforce the reactionary genre it wallows in. Okay, so no-one can expect you to be an expert and there's not many people that would claim to be an expert. But look around you, the music of the past should be left to your parents, the music of the present and the future is ours. What will you say to your kids about 90's music, and what could you say when you spent the time of your life (at Uni) when you're most susceptible to different music tastes, stuck up in some alcohol-fuelled hall party listening to ABBA and Dexy's Midnight Runners? I think you would borrow their compilation CD's and watch the retro-TV programs and realise what you missed.

Okay, so perhaps enjoying a music genre to it's fullest extent means becoming part of a cliquy scene. To enjoy Heavy Metal you have to grow your hair long and smell, to enjoy indie you have to wear old clothes and smell, and to be a raver you have to gurn, suck dummies- oh, and smell. But you don't have to take it to it's extremities. Don't let your lives be governed by other people's tastes and likewise don't govern peoples lives by your tastes. Just loosen up and get a life, will you! There are people who are making rash generalisations about what music you like. If you like hall party music then as I said before I can not relate to you, but if you too enjoy music then why put up with stuff which far from everyone 'liking' pleases few but the very sad amongst you.

The only reason you may like this music is purely due to drink. But think about how much more enjoyable these 'parties' and their cousin ENTS would be if you heard music you loved. Obviously not everyone would be pleased but it would be a far better system than pleasing no-one.

Citizen Smith

# Houghton Street Harry

As a self-appointed social commentator for the London School of Economics I feel that it is my duty to the punters to open up a particularly contentious can of worms in this, the maiden Harry of the year. This subject is very dear to my heart because just one year ago, like the lost sheep, I was sent wandering into one of the most soul-destroying areas of any student's life, meeting Freshers.

It was then that I began to form my harsh, but as always, fair opinions of this curious animal, the new kid. The first thing you tend to be drawn to is the uncanny knack of freshers to dress like lay-by residents for their first weeks at college. I could never understand the need for Johnny Sixthformer to assert his right to freedom of expression by having holes in their jeans, slogan T-shirts of the criminally dull variety and the essential unbuttoned chequered shirt and denim jacket. To be fair, this mainly applies to the male variety. Equally able to show that they no longer conform are the LSE girls. They are rarely seen in anything other than inevitable (forever in...) blue jeans and some sort of 'Zoo-bag I don't shop in Miss Selfridge honestly' affair which was always bought in a sale, but was worth at least £40. The worrying new trend which has extended out of the first-year realms and has even stretched as far as sabbatical posts is the hair-weave. I must confess to wonder the logic of intelligent people who pay for an annoying piece of string to be knotted to your head by some crusty at Camden Lock. I hope that they are aware that the original hair-weavers of the late '80's are now strolling round shopping centres in Bath begging for some change to get their mongrel a can of Super. Their hair-weaves are now tied around their wrists, on the other end is the whippet.

It is interesting to note the changing wall fashions over the years, probably reflected in the fickle nature of the entertainment world. Last year it was difficult not to notice the amazing number of Jim Morrison's and Vic and Bob's adorning fellow hall-member's rooms as I invited them round for coffee (purely as a P.R. exercise). Having seen the chance of knocking my pipe out for a few bob to supplement my grant (which I rarely bother to claim because I feel that the government are far too generous to students like me) I purchased a huge number of said posters. How foolish I was. Little did I realise that Vic and Bob are old hat and Bob Marley now adorns the walls of Stephen and Clare the tea granules students. The reason I guess that this has happened is that apparently everybody takes designer drugs and goes to raves now, and when they get home from the Astoria they plug in to The Orb or Bob and smoke the ceremonial weed. How crazy the kids are today!

You would think that the good old British drunk had gone out of fashion, what with all this soap-dodging going on. Thankfully Harry and I are currently doing a service to the student that is so admirable that I have decided to commend myself. I am planning the 'get real' campaign. This is a hair-weave, chequered shirt, dirty or ripped clothes, long greasy hair, The Doors are good, I went Inter-railing, what did you get in etc. free zone. You are more than welcomed to have double standards, vote Liberal and above all, do what you want. The concept of soap-dodging is a relatively new one to the student world and I would like to make it clear that Harry and I will play no part in it and will continue to watch WWF videos and believe that they really do hurt each other.

# Raving We're Raving



We are putting on our raving shoes

Here we are again at the start of a new season. After a summer break it is time to buckle down to the task in hand. That is to try and achieve success for the Athletic Union. Lord know's, if Moses parted the Red Sea we can surely win something this year. Having said that, Rome was not built in a day, and therefore we can attribute some of our heroic defeats of last year to being part of the learning curve. There are new faces at all the clubs

and of course some of the old favourites have returned to the fold. Notably Laurence Ryan is once again in mercurial evidence fresh from his summer job as a model in the Millet's catalogue. 'Tongues of Fire' Hitch is back, with the worrisome words "I'm in charge!". It is also good (honestly) to see the amazing vomit-drinking Rugby boys taking up their usual residence in the Tuns. The teams have been christened the Exxon

Valdez this year due to their amazing ability to spill their contents as soon as the weather gets a bit rough. As for the hockey teams, well they are back, but who they are is another question. The A.U. as a whole has been considerably streamlined by the transfer of Jon Bradburn to Ents. for £5 and a packet of Benson's. There was a wrangle over personal terms and the A.U. finally succumbed to buying him a rugby shirt for every day of the

week. I would finally like to wish all the sports clubs the very best of luck for the coming year. If they can give my co-editor and I as much entertainment as last year then expect these pages to be packed with the tales of woe, enormous defeats, magic mushroom poisonings, scraps and a bit of sport. It is fitting for me to add that at 3 O'Clock on Wednesday afternoon

Ian Staples.

# Tribulations of Trials

by Our Glasgow Correspondant.

Wednesday lunchtime and the shell-suited throng assembled in Houghton Street, ready to depart for the hallowed turf of Berrylands. The AU trials had arrived again and the wheat prepared to be separated from the chafe. All the participants knew what was at stake, shameful failure to win a place, or success and it's guaranteed protection from social marginalisa-

tion (or vice-versa for rugby players). In fact the best tale of the day was to come from our rugby brethren. A new player had appeared and proceeded to play a blinder. Come the end of the game and it soon became apparent that this particular hapless individual was not in fact at the LSE but rather our illustrious Strand neighbours, King's. He had played a whole game with about ten players wearing LSE tops; draw your own conclusions. And he was Irish. Football controversy was

all the more heated and seemed to revolve around one individual. In the interests of fairness this individual shall not be named but his attitude found few favours with the hierarchy, fellow trialists, and allegedly with his best friend, Big-Ears. Despite this, football club-captain Steve Hitch was pleased with what he saw, ".....obviously it's going to be a long, hard campaign but at the end of the day these players have got all the talent in the world. If they continue to give it 110%

then we're certainly going to be there or thereabouts at the end of the season, and the other teams know that that's precisely what we are going to do, at the end of the day." By all reports Steve can expect total loyalty this year and the future certainly looks rosy.