

BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

No. 193

OCTOBER 29th, 1980

One day strike call from N.U.S.

Dave Aaronovitch demands a radical approach in fighting new government plans for Student Union funding

Report by Rowena Whelan

A MASSIVE NUS campaign against the Government proposals on student union finances was launched this week. It is to culminate in a national one-day strike in London and Edinburgh on November 28th. In a speech at the weekend, David Aaronovitch, President of the NUS, called on all student unions to mobilise their members to make this demonstration "the biggest in the last 10 years". NUS is involved in "a numbers game", he said, "and success will depend on widespread support."

Nationwide pressure now can affect the Department of Education and Science proposals which will go to Parliament

in January. Mr Aaronovitch claimed that Higher Education Secretary Dr Rhodes Boyson is more anxious to see immediate action than he is concerned about the nature of the change. Another appearance before the Public Accounts Committee would lessen his chances of a Ministerial position.

Existing DES proposals would make SUs dependent on their Educational Institution's limited pool of resources, thus placing them in direct competition with other college departments. With further education spending cuts imminent, the SUs would be open to the "law of the jungle". In recent years SUs have taken on traditional university roles in

welfare and nursery facilities. With restricted funds available, they would be forced to re-appraise their expenditure priorities. This would be a serious challenge to hard-won students' union autonomy.

The NUS President attacked the bureaucratic bungling faced by both the NUS and the University Grants Committee in their discussions with the DES. Their proposals were made incomprehensible by the DES's inability to explain how they calculated their derivative base. Further miscalculations compounded the absurdity of the final figure of £32 per capita. Conservative estimates suggest

(Continued on Page Fifteen)

OUTSPAN ORANGES SQUASHED

AFTER selling South African "Outspan" oranges for at least four weeks, the School has obtained alternative supplies. These were on sale in the "Brunch Bowl" on Thursday, 23rd. Surprise, surprise, this was just in time for the first of a series of daily checks which the Students' Union Executive decided to start the day before.

Kelvin Baynton, Senior Treasurer of the Union apologised for the sale of "Outspan" oranges in "Florries," the Union Snack Bar. Kelvin, also speaking on behalf of David Rose, Executive member responsible for "Florries" went on to say that the Students' Union would, in future, observe its policy of boycotting South African goods.

Full story on Page six.

BEAVER REPORTER WINS AWARD

ALEX WYNTER was awarded second position in the journalist of the year section at the Student Press Awards at City University last weekend. Peter Preston, editor of the "Guardian", presented the cheque. The judging team included John Pilger and John Fairhall. (Full report Page Seven).

L.S.E. ANTI-FASCISTS: ONE ARRESTED, ONE ACQUITTED

LSE student Unmesh Desai, who came to England seven years ago from Tanzania, was arrested at an anti-British Movement demonstration in Bexley Heath last weekend and charged with common assault and threatening behaviour against a British Movement member. Desai denies the charge and has opened a defence fund c/o Union General Secretary Ed Jacob. Some ten other LSE students attended the demonstration to oppose the BM. The case comes up on the 19th December.



Unmesh Desai

THE RENT STRIKE: DEADLOCK DEEPENS

THE Rent Strike continues. Latest figures show that between 30 and 40 people have now paid into the strike fund, but that many more have paid their rents to the halls.

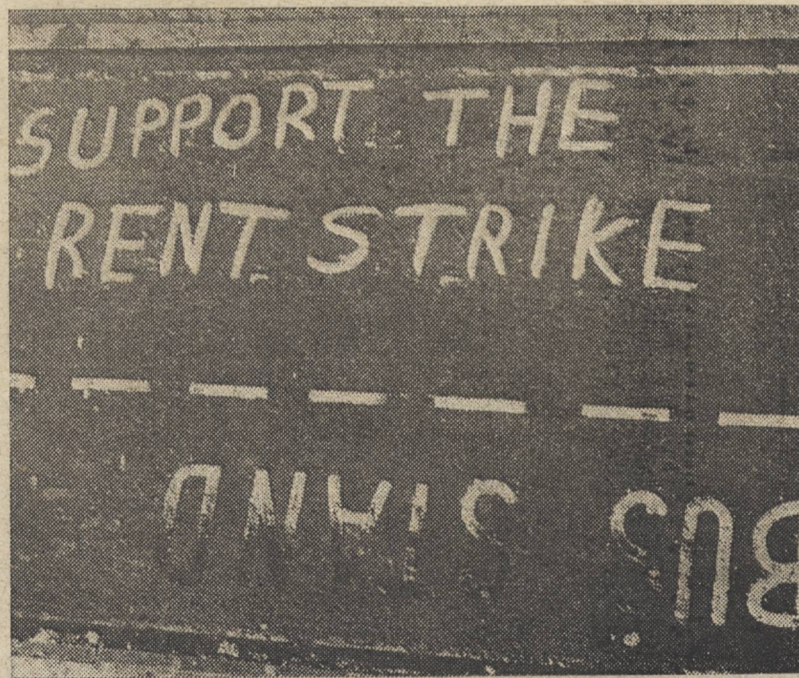
The Union has now set up stalls in the St Clements foyer and the Old Building displaying strike information, and has launched a petition in support of the strikers. However there is little secret amongst strike organisers that they are disappointed by the response.

The majority of residents in Passfield and Rosebery have now paid their rents to the halls. At Carr-Saunders, where 45% of students have paid, many have been angered by the decision of the Warden to send out letters to all residents warning that those who do not pay their rents will be liable to a £1 fine.

This has been described in pro-strike leaflets as "Low level pressure." However, hall President Neil Angier told a

Hall Society meeting not to worry about the letter and not to pay the fine: "They do this every year." It is in any case doubtful whether the Warden has the right to impose such a fine.

Meanwhile a war of statistics is being carried on between the Union and the Inter-Halls Subcommittee. The Committee, representing all three Hall Societies, published last week a leaflet with figures showing that their hall rents compared



(Simon Grossett)

The road to success? Graffiti outside Rosebery Hall.

favourably with rents at other college halls.

The Union promptly brought out its own leaflet, containing figures showing exactly the reverse. The argument as to whose figures are correct is unlikely ever to be settled.

The President of Central London Poly Students Union, Alaric Bamping, last week attacked what he described as

the "corrupt system of Hall Chairmen" at the LSE. He was speaking at a rent strike meeting called by the LSE Union, to which he had been invited to explain the history of the PCL's own two-year-old rent strike, which has recently come back into the news as a result of the launching of legal action against 200 students.

By Simon James

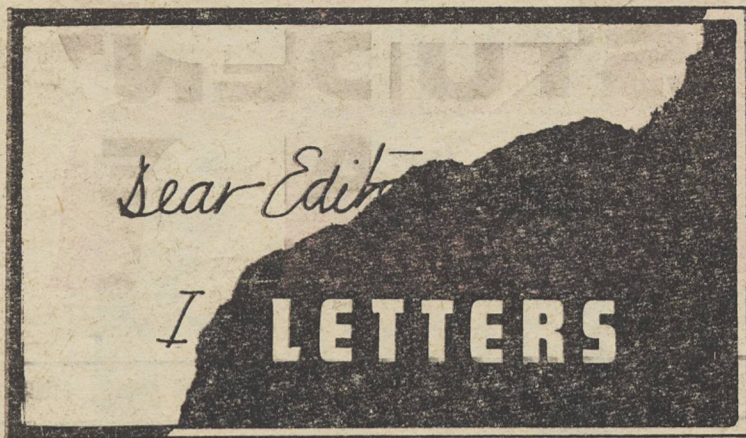
The avowedly nazi British Movement has been on the march for two weekends running — a fortnight ago in the Yorkshire mill town of Dewsbury and again in South-east London last weekend. Last year, the LSE rag ball was interrupted by British Movement supporters who broke in and started fights with students.

* LSE graduate student Sajitha Bashir, who was arrested at the anti National Front march in Lewisham this year and charged with obstructing the police, was acquitted at her trial this week. She is currently pursuing a M.Phil. in economics.

A.W.

CONTENTS

- Page 2: Letters
- Page 3: News
- Page 4: The Union
- Page 5: US Students Poll
- Page 6: Orange Row
- Page 7: Press Awards
- Page 8: Grad Unemployment
- Page 9: Alumnus Interview
- Page 10: Stanley Spencer
- Page 11: Margaret Drabble
- Page 12: London Arts
- Page 13: Home Front
- Page 14: Ents
- Page 15: Ents & Crossword
- Page 16: AU



FCS mole surfaces

DEAR SIR,—Who are the "certain sections" of the FCS that are mentioned in this week's Beaver? Trying to make political capital out of such blatant hypocrisy on the part of L.S.E.'s Labour Club is surely legitimate when that party won last year's elections on the platform, "No Cuts—No Redundancies at the LSE."

Not all the truth about Staniforth has come out even now. The reason that a leak was invented from the CBI was because Labour members of the Exec declared the crucial meeting "closed" with a threat to censure either Tory who broke silence. This cannot be done under the constitution and embodies a perversion of the truth by Labour in its dealings with opponents.

Although such behaviour is thoroughly reprehensible, the Labour vote will probably not decline. This is from the premise that voting Labour will indicate opposition to Government policies. This may be true but it loses sight of immediate student issues at LSE.

TIM DEVLIN.

ALI SAMADZADEH

We would like to remind readers who saw the article on Ali Samadzadeh last year that it was Abbas Lavasani who described himself as having "lived as a dead man for four years" and not Samadzadeh as we reported. Beaver apologises for this error.

BEAVER

Newspaper of the LSE

East Building, London School of Economics Students' Union, East Building, Houghton Street, LONDON WC2A 2AE. 01-405 8594/5/6.

EDITORS:

SIMON GARFIELD and KEIR HOPLEY

STAFF:

HELEN FAWCETT, RODDY HALLIFAX, ALEX WYNTER, ROWENA WHELAN, BONNIE HONIG, SIMON JAMES, RICHARD PARRACK.

CARTOONS & PHOTOS:

MAGNUS SPENCE, SIMON GROSSET.

Stella Orakwue, Fiona Hazard, Julie Siemens, Claire Kennard, Bob Ernst, Alex Braun, Alok Vajpeyi, Brent Schondelmeyer, Jane Kleiner, Colin Bates, Margaret Cameron-Waller, Paul Wane, Justin Webb, Jane Goldenberg, Nick Goddard, Becky Smithers, Jenny Beeston.

NEXT OPEN MEETING:
FRIDAY, 31st OCTOBER,
1 p.m., E202

NEXT COPY DATE:
TUESDAY, 4th NOV.

(All articles and letters most welcome).

ATTACK ON 'MACDONALDIZATION'

DEAR SIRS,—Anti-Americanism has long been an easy drum to beat and Europeans in particular seem to enjoy pounding on the big, rich U.S. of A. The article by Magnus Spence in the last issue of Beaver, "The MacDonald Syndrome", represents an offensive variation on this theme.

The point of Mr Spence's article is never entirely clear. Its purpose is evidently to be-moan British importation of American consumerism. He sounds the alarm: "A diseased way of life . . . seeps across the Atlantic. The MacDonaldisation of Britain is already well under way." He concludes this call to arms by suggesting that America "truck off, and do it somewhere else."

Despite this dazzling display of Churchillian eloquence, Mr Spence has misinterpreted the facts. No doubt America popularised Coke, roller skates and those "ridiculous headphone things" but it is the British who bang their cups for them. How can America be blamed for British tastes?

True, to compete in the US market corporations must spend hundreds of millions of dollars

on mass media advertising. But overseas, especially in Britain, corporate access to mass media is highly restricted. American consumer goods sell here because they are part of the American image. More than any other American culture is geared to the young rather than to the middle-aged, the middle class rather than the upper class. Mass consumerism relies on the mass market, the average income, the average tastes. Right or wrong, the image of American culture is one of youth, energy and hope. Is it any wonder that the average bloke goes for it?

Mr Spence sets himself above America and all those sheepish Britons who fall for its pop culture. His article is void of any genuine criticism or analysis and serves only to offend the Americans at LSE. Such an article has no place in a responsible newspaper.

The bill-board industry has great need of Mr Spence's talent for writing catchy phrases and flashy adjectives. Until he develops some analytical skills and maturity, Beaver should have no need of Mr Spence.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Baldwin

HARE OR HOUNDS?

To the Editors:

HAD Mr Magnus Spence included in his article the old invective against American bigotry he would have been reminiscent of the cold warrior who fears Russians because they are a xenophobic people. As it is, his highbrow tirade against the "dangers" of American pop culture is surprisingly meagre.

There is, for example, our tendency to inflict near-genocidal wars on small Southeast Asian nations, or that we use our economic might to reduce already impoverished countries to a state of dependency. At home, we are engaged in a reckless and costly effort to remain

the Number One nation in military power while we remain number 15 in literacy, number 15 (lowest) in infant mortality, and number 28 in doctor/patient ratio.

These matters seem less worthy of attention to Mr Spence, however, than that McDonald's had invaded the Champs Elysees and the Strand—both in capitals that invented crass commercialism and imperialist exploitation. It is an odd irony that while one of Britain's children mars the London cityscape with fast-food restaurants, her neighbour feels constrained to destroy it with bombs while Americans dilute the purity of English culture. It is sad that all the sordid aspects of Britain's past return to haunt her at once . . .

To be fair, Mr Spence does acknowledge that certain Americans are worthy of quotation, though only when they serve to substantiate the point that American civili-

zation has no value (He obviously missed the warning by O. W. Holmes that "In the vulgar herd there is one more than each of us suspects.") Indeed there doesn't seem to be any other point or constructive suggestion. Were we to grant the truth of an argument which, according to Mr Spence, has been settled at least since the time of Dr Johnson, we must still seek to know his purpose, and he is obligated as a journalist to have one. As Alistair Cooke, that sensitive English observer of the American scene, once described a similar work by an American critic, "to many people today, I honestly believe it will be no more useful than the compulsive picking of a scab."

Yours faithfully

STEPHEN BASKERVILLE

I look forward to meeting you Mr Baskerville. (Quick someone—how tall is this bloke?) M.S.

POLITICAL STATUS

Dear Sirs,

IN view of the international concern for human rights and current publicity about the decision of the government to allow male prisoners in Northern Ireland to wear civilian clothes, I should like to draw students' attention to some of the history and current conditions of political offenders in Northern Ireland.

At present there are 374 prisoners serving sentences who were convicted of political offences before March 1st 1976 and who are granted "special category status," that is, they are treated as political prisoners. After this date all offenders in Northern Ireland were treated as criminals. However, at the same time that "special category status" was abolished, the government introduced what are known as the Diplock courts for those who are accused of crimes under the Emergency Powers Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. These courts have no jury; hearsay evidence is admitted; military personnel do not have to be identified in court when giving evidence; prisoners have to prove to the court that they had confessed under duress and the judge, who alone decides on the guilt of the accused, also sentences them. It seems completely unjust to treat these prisoners in a special way under the law and then refuse them a special status when convicted.

Even more disturbing is that Diplock courts have a 94% conviction rate, 89% of the convictions are secured by confessions even though nine out of ten of the defendants claimed that they had been tortured. Amnesty International has called for a public enquiry into the way in which confessions are extracted from suspects and even police surgeons have complained that they have had to

deal with prisoners who have been tortured under interrogation.

Since 1976 prisoners convicted in this way have been carrying out a policy of non-co-operation with the authorities. Their demands are:

- 1 The right to wear their own clothes.
- 2 The right to refrain from prison work.
- 3 The right to free association amongst other political prisoners.
- 4 The right to organise their own educational and recreational facilities and to receive one visit, one letter and one parcel a week.
- 5 The right to full remission of sentences.

These demands merely ask for a return to the position before 1st March 1976.

A campaign called Charter '80 has been set up to fight for the human rights of political prisoners in Northern Ireland. The honorary secretary is Ivan Hartel, a member of the Czech Charter '77 group. It is time that those in Britain who care about human rights check the abuses that are committed in their names. Charter '80 is for those who, irrespective of whether or not they support the prisoners' actions, ideology or political affiliation, wish to support the prisoners' demands on a humanitarian basis as a beginning to a reasonable, humane and just solution to the present conflict and the resultant degradation of the prisoners.

Anyone interested in helping to promote Charter '80 amongst London students or who wants to sign the petition in support of the demands, see me c/o the Students Union or write to PO Box 353, London NW5.

Your faithfully,

DAVE WRIGHT

Labour sweeps Union poll

AS was entirely expected, the Labour Club strengthened its position on the Executive in the by-election held on Thursday as Julian Chaffey raced to victory over Conservative David Johnson and Lesley Hoggart of the Socialist Worker Student Organisation. With seven Executive members on its membership list, the Labour Club now has an overall majority.

The real tension and drama of the count came late on Friday afternoon as the election for Finance Committee was being assessed. With Julian Dean (Labour Club) and Steve Gallant (Conservative) elected on first preference alone, Rick Young, the Labour Club Treasurer, and Juan Costain, one of the new Liberal recruits, watched intently as the surpluses were redistributed. In the end, Young was the victor by a fraction of one vote.

The election of delegates to and observers of the National Union of Students' Conference normally creates an interesting count after a fiercely contested battle, but last week the election did not take place. As a result of constitutional and technical irregularities, the Deputy Returning Officer de-

creed that the election could not be conducted on the 23rd October, and so the hopefuls will have to wait to know the result.

The full election results appear on page nine.

Hunger strike

DAVE WRIGHT, a second year maths and philosophy student at the L.S.E. this week began a three-day fast in sympathy with the hunger strikers in the H-block of Belfast's Maze Prison.

He began his protest early on Monday, and planned to remain huddled in a blanket in a reconstruction of an H-block cell in the old union building until Wednesday afternoon. His actions were designed to coincide with the hunger strike by six Belfast women outside Downing Street.

The women, four of whom were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, have now returned to protest in Belfast.

Mr Wright was determined also to influence the outcome of the debate on Charter 80 at the next L.S.E. U.G.M.

S.G.

50 FROM LSE SUPPORT 'RIGHT TO WORK' DEMO

Rain and police
fail to dampen
Brighton marchers

FRIDAY, 10th October proved to be the culmination of a week of protest against the Government's savage economic policies as thousands of protesters, among them L.S.E. students, converged on Brighton to support the lobby of the Conservative Party Conference organised by the Right to Work Campaign.

Organised by the Socialist Workers' Party, the Right to Work Campaign's Port Talbot to Brighton march had received widespread support. This was added to on Monday by L.S.E. students who contributed to a collection and joined the march on its London leg. Several L.S.E. students marched all the way to Brighton.

The Police presence at the Brighton rally was intense, with 2,000-plus men drafted in from five counties and they soon made themselves felt. The L.S.E. coach, along with all the others, was stopped on the outskirts of Brighton and everyone was searched for offensive weapons. The Conference Centre itself was surrounded by police cordons three-deep.

A Trades Union procession marched past the Conference Centre before lunch and went off to their own meeting as the Right to Work demonstrators retired from the drizzle for sustenance. In the early afternoon driving rain and the rumour that Mrs Thatcher was due to arrive at the Conference sent hordes of demonstrators surging back to the sea-front to be met by walls of police. Horses were used as police forcibly cleared a side street. The cries of demonstrators being crushed against walls and bundled into subways were drowned by a powerful chant of "Workers united will never be



General Secretary Ed Jacob rallies the troops.



Janet Camp quits the scene having successfully caged in 2,000 police.

defeated" echoing around Brighton's streets. Sixteen arrests were made as police began to fall back—but by that time Mrs Thatcher had made a rather ignominious entrance to the Conference by a back door.

Protesters ended their day by adjourning to their own alternative conference at the Brighton Dome. Rousing speeches were followed by the news that Mrs Thatcher's speech to the faithful had been interrupted by demonstrators who had gained entrance to the Conference by acquired passes, bringing cheers

of delight from the floor. Even that late in the day, police had the Dome surrounded and further trouble was only prevented by careful stewarding.

Under the new Tory Union reforms, the whole demonstration was an illegal secondary picket on a massive scale. This added to the marchers sense of satisfaction with this rally and gave many the feeling of a day well spent.

**REPORT AND PICTURES
BY COLIN BATES.**

STUDENT INTAKE UP 25%

LSE admissions increased by over 400 this year, a rise of nearly 25%. This was mainly due to the new postgraduate diploma courses, and to the large number of General Course students.

The administration is already worried that they will not be able to cope and, although this increase is the result of a deliberate policy on their part, they feel that any further rise would be disastrous. Although the numbers on the BSc Econ course have remained almost constant, there has been an increase of 80 on first degree courses—mainly in the maths group and Management Science.

Overseas student numbers rose by over 300 despite the earlier prediction of a decline in applications) mainly as the result of a deliberate policy of advertising the LSE, particularly in American universities.

The proportion of American students at the School has increased, and is very high on the General Course and diploma courses; little else is yet known about the countries of origin of overseas students, although it is believed that there are more students from Greece than previously, and that numbers from Malaysia have held constant.

There is also a surprising rise in the number of home postgraduates, with new registrations for masters degrees up 50 to 275. Many of the School's facilities are already under severe pressure. Library staff are known to be worried that the Teaching Library in particular will be unable to cope with the new demand.

Most students have already noticed long queues for registration and meals, and it seems likely that there will be many months of queues ahead.

Sarah Lewthwaite

SUMMARY OF FULL-TIME STUDENT REGISTRATIONS: 6th OCT., 1980

NEW STUDENTS

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total
Overseas	309	626 (+152)	935
EEC	33	62 (+25)	95
Sub Total	342 (+130)	688 (+177)	1030 (+307)
UK	647 (+32)	395 (+66)	1042 (+98)
Total New	989 (+162)	1083 (+243)	2072 (+405)

TOTAL STUDENTS

Overseas	495	752 (+137)	1247
EEC	49	84 (+40)	133
Sub Total	544 (+100)	836 (+177)	1380 (+277)
UK	1665 (+62)	506 (+55)	2171 (+117)
Grnd Total	2209 (+162)	1342 (+232)	3551 (+394)

EX-BEAVER REPORTER EXPELLED

IRAQI authorities have expelled Mr Jeremy Clift, a past 'Beaver' reporter, who was working as Reuter's correspondent in Beirut. On Wednesday last, he was bundled into a taxi from his Basra hotel and taken to the Kuwait border.

Officials in Iraq claimed that he had "filed lies about the situation" with Iran and the UPI agency said that the expulsion formed part of a general tightening up on the movements of Western journalists. Clift, who also edited 'Sennet' (as 'London Student' was then known), from 1975 to 1976, acquired a reputation as a quiet but efficient worker and greatly transformed what was then almost purely a Union publication into a far more accessible student paper.

His work on 'Beaver' extended over two years and he was a keen member of the editorial staff before he graduated with an honours degree in International Relations.

Reuters said that the situation in Iraq regarding Western journalists has now cooled down somewhat, but it is unlikely that Clift will return in the future. He is currently stationed in Beirut awaiting a new posting.

S.G.

WET NIGHT FOR FABIANS

By Justin Webb

HER Majesty's Government was mildly rebuked on all sides at last Wednesday's debate, held at L.S.E., between the Fabians and the Association of Conservative Graduates.

The motion was that "This House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government" and was proposed by Giles Radice, M.P. Mr Radice seemed unconvinced by his own case—producing only the occasional burst of rhetoric in an otherwise turgid monologue.

In fact it was his more dramatic passages which seemed to let him down; "There IS an alternative to mass unemployment" he thundered—then hesitated and left it at that, leaving the more intelligent members of the audience to presume that the alternative must be some-

thing roughly equivalent to mass EMPLOYMENT. It was too simple and one had the feeling he knew it.

Robert Rhodes (no relation) James M.P. was down to speak in the Government's favour. Actually this "wet" was in dripping form and did no such thing. The chief success he could cite in Maggie's favour was the Rhodesia settlement—which Our Lady would doubtless regard as a dubious compliment.

However, he did inform us that the EEC had brought to an end "a thousand years of civil war in Europe"—which left his audience in no doubt as to his historical erudition.

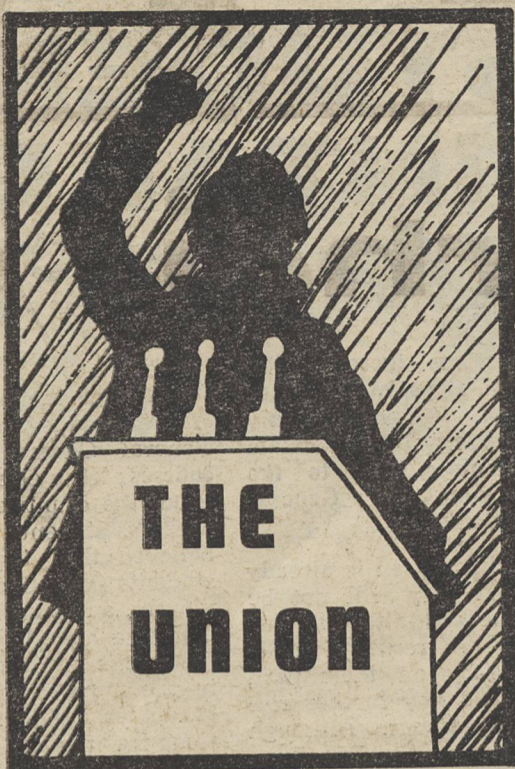
L.S.E.'s own Mark (rent strike) Withers seconded the motion and it was left to the

Tory Graduate to second the opposition. In fact this Young Gentleman was the only speaker of the night to come out unequivocally on the side of the Government—which may or may not be a point in his favour.

Mrs Thatcher had "a sense of the past", he told us; and she had brought "a rational approach" to government. One felt that he believed what he was saying, and the vigour of his oratory undoubtedly compensated for its lack of content.

After some contributions from the floor in which everyone seemed to attack the Government, the meeting was wound up without a vote. All in all the evening was a most civilised affair, replete with liberal (small 'l') sprinklings of sporting applause. A far cry from the passionate power politics of an L.S.E. Union meeting.

For those whom this strikes as an attractive idea the next Fabian debate is at the House of Commons on December 3. The opposition will be the Liberal Party (no less) in what promises to be an epic battle.



Believe it or not . . .

Thursday, October 16th

THIS Union meeting was the object of the first organised filibuster for at least a year, which succeeded in sending the hacks half-crazy, even if it didn't bring the Union grinding to a complete standstill.

A little research in the bar afterwards revealed the objectors to be the Anti-Rent Strike Committee, alias the Association of Passfield Piss - Artists (their description) whose avowed intention is to prevent any UGM from going ahead until the rent strike is called off.

They began by voting against the minutes of the previous meeting — something which hasn't been tried since the happy days of Julian Ingram; they lost, but showed that they had a good 50 votes between them. From there on it was downhill all the way.

Officers made their reports in a shower of paper darts. Keir Hopley made the Chairperson's day by launching into the reading of a ten page report on election nominations. After ten minutes of this, Chairperson Mark Kirby made the tactical mistake of getting into an argument with Keir on a constitutional point; always a dangerous thing to do, because Keir travels permanently armed with at least a dozen copies of the Constitution, and can recite Standing Orders backwards in his sleep.

Keir eventually subsided, after a long haggle over the Socialist Workers'

nomination (of which more was to be heard the next week) while the balcony got a bit bolshie. And then someone moved no confidence in the chair.

At this stage things got rather silly.

Kirby left the chair and his place was taken by Matt Picton, a man whose legendary knowledge of Union procedure is just that, a legend. Shouting. More paper darts. Endless counts, Mark Kirby, vindicated, returned to the chair.

The time now being 1.45, Krish Maharaj moved that the Union skip questions to officers and move to next business. Uproar, mainly from Passfield who wanted to talk Rent Strike. Ed Jacob wasn't so keen.

Richard Shackleton, the darling of Passfield, had a shouting match with Chairperson Kirby and again moved no confidence in the chair. Kirby won again, probably because by this time most people were feeling a bit sorry for him. And the Anti-Rent Strike Committee walked out, their point made.

Funny thing was, after all this, Union actually got round to passing two motions for NUS Conference; one an unbelievably turgid motion that no-one understood, the other firmly refusing to consider the idea of National Student going weekly, which Beaver, like all capitalist monopolies, strongly agrees with.

choice between two equally shop-worn hacks. Pete Crockford (elected) is a nice bloke, but Keir of course will control him just as he did the last Returning Officer.

Questions to officers: after Kelvin Baynton's explanation of why he phoned the C.B.I. for advice during the Jeff Staniforth "dismissal" crisis (he couldn't think who else to ask) there followed a long duel between Ed and the Leader of the Opposition up in the balcony on the same subject. After ten minutes the score was left at five-all, replay probable next Thursday.

And so on to constitutional amendments, L.S.E. S.U.'s answer to moggadon. We have now merged all services committees into one,

UNION—NOTE!

I WRITE this as Chairperson of the Union, and also in a personal capacity. At the Union meeting on October 16th a group of people sitting on the left-hand side of the balcony virtually brought the flow in the Union meeting to a halt.

The group claimed that they were concerned about the Rent Strike and wished to question certain Officers on this matter.

However, I think the actual proceedings at the meeting show otherwise. (All of my points can be checked up by reference to the minutes of that meeting.)

Although I asked if there were any objections to the minutes of the last meeting nobody spoke out. When I asked for ratification of the minutes this group (and some others) voted against this to such an extent that I had to take a count. I can see no reasonable explanation for this behaviour.

The next controversy was Officers' reports. Keir Hopley insisted on reading out the total list of candidates because he claims he was constitutionally bound to do so. I can find no reference to this in the constitution. Even if there was, he can give notice by posting 10 copies of the list instead of taking up 10 minutes of the meeting (1/6).

On the matter of Martin Clavane making a report about Greek students: firstly, I asked him to be brief—he was not. It is a very important issue, but he had already given a report on it at the previous Union meeting.

I am making a personal request to all the Officers: keep your reports and announcements short and to the point. As Officers you know the effective time-limits we work to in a Union meeting so please act accordingly.

The next section of the Union meeting was very controversial Questions to Officers. Krish Maharaj moved next business. If you get a copy of the constitution, look under Standing Orders, Section 10, Sub-section 1. This is headed Procedural Motions of which Next Business is One(d).

At the bottom of the list it says: "Discussion of these motions shall be at the request of the proposer and seconder of the motion." Krish Maharaj clearly did not want to speak and therefore there was no discussion on this motion. For upholding the constitution there was a motion of "No confidence in the chair" directly against me. Obviously people are entitled to do this, but I could not work out why.

Eventually I was back in the Chair and proceeded with the vote of "Next business". This was passed. Then the whole Passfield

crowd left. They were really interested in the Union meeting!

I would like to make a few observations from this and to make a plea to anyone who is interested in the Union meeting.

- (1) In realistic terms we have an hour between 1 pm and 2 pm for the meeting.
- (2) Time wasted last week was considerable: five minutes on minutes, 15 minutes on Officers' reports (this is **not** to suggest that these areas should be scrapped); we did not get to business motions until 1.45 pm.
- (3) To some residents of Passfield Hall: if you are so concerned about the rent strike and wish to ask questions about it to Officers of this Union, then why disrupt early sections of the meeting (the minutes), so making it even more unlikely that we will get to that section. I believe the real reason is that you are not concerned at all but merely love playing games, with a mental age of five. Paper aeroplanes are great when you are 10 but 18-21? You are undermining democracy in this Union by wrecking Union meetings.
- (4) To Richard Shackleton: This person accused me of railroading the Union meeting. The logical extension of this is an accusation of me being undemocratic. Either substantiate that accusation or withdraw it.
- (5) To the Torygraph: I am Union Chairperson not Union Chairman. I object to this blatant sexism. Secondly, in criticising me you seem to offer implicit support for the action of the MOB. They were the people disrupting the meeting; they were the people wasting time.
- (6) To anyone put off: That Union meeting was a shambles basically because if you want to wreck a Union meeting and there are 50 of you it is very simple. That is why we need people who are serious about this Union. If any first-year had come to that meeting for the first time and gone away determined never to return, please think again. If you stay away it is easier for the wreckers.
- (7) A final point to those people who "care" about the rent strike: it is quite possible that because of your actions, a lot of people have been put off. If this is true we will have difficulty in getting quorate Union meetings, i.e. you have effectively crippled the Union for the year. I hope you are happy you have achieved something.

MARK A. KIRBY
(in a personal capacity)

PS: This letter contains personal opinions and as long as I do not show bias in chairing Union meetings then that is OK and there is no contradiction. If I do show bias then I can be removed (Standing Orders, Section 10, Sub-section 1, part(a)).

Greater resolve?

Thursday, October 23rd

THIS one, of course, started with a long hassle between Mr Hopley and the Socialist Workers over exactly which SWP nominations had been accepted the previous week. Keir won as usual, with the help of Passfield, who were back in force, although after this display of strength the Anti-Rent Strike Committee kept surprisingly quiet and dispersed fairly early to the bar.

Officers reports droned on as usual (seriously though, Ed is still looking for people to read to blind students—if you can give an hour a week, let him know). Keir enlivened the proceedings with the elections for Returning Officer, which offered us a stimulating

and appear to have voted absolute financial power to the Senior Treasurer (I swear that not even Keir understood that second amendment).

Union then galloped through a fair bit of policy: affiliating to Students Against Nuclear Energy, reconstituting the anti-racist and O.S.A.C. committees, and finally resolving to let all policy lapse after three years.

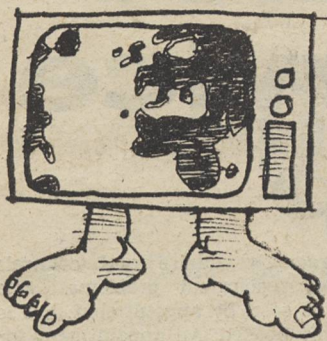
Our readers will be sad to learn that the passing of the three year rule means that L.S.E. Student Union no longer has policy in favour of the Spanish Armada.

By Margaret Cameron Waller and Richard Squires.



U.G.M. in the Old Theatre

FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS



America's choice —no choice at all

WITH the American elections little more than a week away the pundits are scratching their heads. They assured the world, after all, that Ted Kennedy would be swept into the White House on a wave of enthusiasm. Likewise they predicted the demise of Ronald Reagan, whose age and ideology were thought to be too extreme for the American people. Now it appears that the best constructed polls of Gallup and Harris will give no clue to who is to occupy the White House for the next four years —not even Walter Cronkite seems certain.

The source of all the confusion is not, however, the computers and their programmers, but the peculiarities of the election itself. Many people, for example, find it hard to believe that the country which gave the world Kennedy and Roosevelt will now subject it to either Carter or Reagan.

What they may fail to remember, though, is that the mood of Americans has been vastly transformed since the 1940s or 1960s.

For the past decade America has suffered from an insidious bug which has sapped its economic and spiritual energy — Vietnam and Watergate have divided and, some believe, weakened the country. In the light of this malaise it is not surprising to find Americans turning their gaze to the right in search of a leader who will restore the natural balance. Herein lies the strength of Ronald Reagan, who offers comfort to those who remember the days when America could have her cake and eat it.

Reagan believes that not much has changed since the days of America's glory; therefore he sees no reason why the old solutions should be changed. He would stimulate the economy with a 30% tax cut over three years, while unleashing industry from restrictive government interference. To restore America's prestige Reagan prescribes a strong dose of military spending. A third point of Reagan's programme, which draws favourable responses in conservative and religious areas such as the Mid-west and the South, is his pledge to rebuild the family.

Nevertheless, Reagan's appeal is still primarily personal and his campaign has been crafted in such a way that form equals content. We are told that big business will set the economy right by a man who struggled his way from a small town in Illinois to Eureka College and finally to a position at Westinghouse, where his job involved assuring workers that management cares. We are lectured on the virtues of the family by a figure who anyone would love to call grandpa.

President Carter draws support from moderates who are pleased with his political transformation of the past year and people of all ideological stripes who would probably prefer Mary Poppins to Ronald Reagan. It is the former group who gave Carter his victories in the primaries over Kennedy, whose health care and economic policies scared a nation that shivers when a mildly Leftist wind blows their way. These same

Bob Ernst analyses the American election

supporters claim that after a period of entertaining fantasies about human rights and popular government, Jimmy Carter has gotten down to business and, after all, who can control the economy?

Among the latter the primary fear voiced is that a vote for Reagan is a giant step towards Armageddon. In addition, many believe Reagan intellectually unfit for major (or minor) office. Many years ago Reagan claimed that the graduated income tax was invented by Karl Marx. More recently he has theorised that trees are the prime source of air pollution—a claim that even Lysenko would have been hesitant to make.

But Jimmy Carter's record is spotted as well. What were once small-minded slurs against Carter's "Georgia Mafia" have turned to valid criticisms of an administration which gave us Bert Lance and Billygate.

More significantly, Carter's vacillations in economic and foreign policy have left voters convinced that he has either no intellectual resolve or no coherent world view, or both.

Finally, Carter has effectively lost the young vote with his decision to reinstate draft registration, and perhaps, the Jewish vote with his moves towards recognition of the PLO.

Of course there is a third alternative this year in John An-

derson, though the prevailing logic among his liberal-to-moderate constituency is that a vote for Anderson is a vote for Reagan. Anderson was in fact denied any real chance for the presidency by the economic community, which vetoed his request for funds, and Carter, who refused to debate him.

Anderson's political past, which includes his introduction

on a few occasions of a bill in Congress to declare the US a Christian nation, has also thrown water on the sparks of interest in his campaign which were ignited during the primaries.

The calculus for this election, then, is a complicated one for the man in the street and those in more comfortable surroundings as well. To waste a vote on Anderson, to take a chance on Reagan, to hope Carter will rediscover his past ideology are possibilities being considered in an election for which dissatisfaction has become synonymous.



LSE Yanks vote Carter

IF the opinions of 114 American students at the LSE are any indication, President Carter will be re-elected next month. In a poll conducted by "Beaver" reporters on October 23rd, 48 per cent of respondents said they would be voting for Carter and candidate John B. Anderson came second with 25 per cent of the sample. Ronald Reagan trailed third with 15 per cent. Four individuals said they were voting for Citizens' Party candidate Barry Commoner and two went for Libertarian Ed Clark, the difference being made up from "Don't knows" and abstentions.

The next question in the survey was: "If there is anyone who is not now a candidate whom you would rather be voting for; who is he/she?" This produced startling replies. Some 52 respondents were happy with their candidate but a majority would rather have been voting for someone else. The following were each selected once: Richard Nixon, Morris Udall, Daniel Patrick Moynihan (an LSE alumnus), Jack Kemp, Irving Shapiro, Charles Mathias, Barbara Jordan, Jane Fonda, Henry Jackson, William Simon, John Connally.

Senator Ted Kennedy was the most popular alternative with 16 votes; then came George Bush with 11, Gerald Ford and Walter Mondale

POLL RESULTS	
CARTER . . .	48%
ANDERSON . . .	25%
REAGAN . . .	15%

(ex-President and Vice-President respectively) came equal third with five each. Equal fourth were Frank Church, Howard Baker, Woody Allen and "Anybody"! One student would have been happier voting for "myself".

Sixty per cent of respondents thought that their first choice would "best defend the USA's real national interest". Of those who didn't, 46 per cent thought Anderson would do a better job than their candidate; 10 per cent thought Reagan would; eight per cent thought Carter and a stunning 36 per cent said that none of them would do a good job in this respect.

What was perhaps more surprising was that only 41 per cent felt that their first choice was "the most moral or honest candidate." Of the rest, 46 per cent doubted the morality and

honesty of all candidates; 30 per cent thought that Anderson was a more honest alternative than their own candidate; 20.5 per cent thought Carter and only 3.5 per cent thought Reagan.

Finally, 45 out of 114 respondents thought that "the media" were the most important influence on a candidate's success; 15 selected "personal qualities"; "money" and "past record" were chosen by 11 each. Only three people thought that the candidates' stance on the issues was the deciding factor. A candidate's smile was considered to be the deciding factor by one, as was public fear of Ronald Reagan, not making a fool of yourself, and ability to bullshit your opponent.

Many students expressed overall dissatisfaction with all the main candidates and many Carter voters said that they would really rather be voting for Anderson but felt that an Anderson vote was "a vote for Reagan". Most students displayed a considerable amount of cynicism about the entire electoral process: about three-quarters of respondents didn't think the result had anything to do with a candidate's intrinsic ability or quality, attributing success to such factors as media hype, money, "public stupidity", political connections, "choice of staff" and "luck".

THE ROOM AT THE TOP

A health service check-up

THE changing weather has brought with it a spate of sneezing, red flowing noses, handkerchiefs and Kleenex tissues.

So it seems appropriate to check if there is some kind of health service at the LSE which could stop this cold virus from

spreading to as-yet untouched hardy souls. Fortunately, the Student Health Service which is housed on the 8th floor of Connaught House, does provide the kind of service which might console sore throats and reassure weak hearts.

The student health service can be divided into General Medical,

Psychiatric, Gynaecological, Ophthalmic, Dental, First Aid treatment and Nursery. The general medical service has a full-time general practitioner, Dr Clarke, with whom certain LSE students can register, depending on where they live.

It is possible to see the GP, through appointment, between 9.30 am-12 pm and 2 pm-4.30 pm during term-time. He also runs an open clinic from 12-12.30 pm when it is possible to see him without an appointment. Generally, it is possible to see him within 24 hours.

There is also a nursing sister, Rosemary Malbon, who treats minor illnesses and gives first-aid treatment, which do not require the doctor's attention. She is open for consultation without appointment between 9.30-12.30 pm and 2-4.30 pm from Monday to Friday. The practice is closed for lunch but is still manned for attention to emergency cases. Patients are generally not seen after 4.30 pm, except for emergencies.

Students who are not registered at the practice can be treated in an emergency. If they are registered with other GPs they can be given treatment and then referred back to

their own doctor. But there is a snag: prescriptions for unregistered students are charged at cost rate.

In spite of slight snags and some student dissatisfaction, the LSE service according to some people is more personal than an ordinary practice. After all, an ordinary GP would find it hard to take into account exam pressures, classes, tutorials, etc., in prescribing for any illness.

So, LSE students, registered or unregistered, can test out the strength of the roof garden railing without worrying about bleeding to death if they fall off. The only worry would be the payment of costs for any damage to school property.

For registered students who are too sick to come down to the health service, home visits by the doctor can be arranged. From Mondays to Fridays between 9 am-5 pm, the telephone number for home visits is 405 8194. From 5 pm-9 am and at weekends the number is 778 6204, but you should ask for the doctor and give the reference number 306.

There is a part-time gynaecologist who visits twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays. She provides

contraceptive advice and counsels on gynaecological problems. She can be seen by appointment, but is heavily booked. An appointment for a routine check can take up to three or four weeks. But, in an emergency people can be squeezed in between appointments or can see the nursing sister who may be able to provide immediate help.

People who don't need television adverts about new fluorides which completely stop tooth decay, can postpone their search for artificial dentures for some time. There is a dental service at the LSE, under the NHS, where dental care is available at the NHS rates. But LSE does seem full of people with dental problem. Appointments are now being made around five weeks in advance. But once again, emer-



Photo by Simon Grosset

• Dr. Clarke pictured with nursing sister Rosemary Malbon.



Photo by Simon Grosset

• Senior health service officer—Dr. Payne.

Pipped by Apartheid

Row flares over L.S.E. orange sales

by Pete Crockford

AT the start of the academic year members of the Anti-Apartheid Group noticed "Outspan" oranges being sold in the Brunch Bowl, Pizzaburger, and Robinson Room.

In a letter to the School from the Students' Union and the Anti-Apartheid Group, it was pointed out that the purchase of South African goods was in breach of an agreement with the School. This agreement that the School would not buy South African wines or groceries was re-affirmed by the Catering Services Advisory Committee of staff and students in February 1977.

However, Ed Jacob, General Secretary of the Students' Union, reported to the Union General Meeting on October 9 that the "School has written to

It has been discovered that the Students' Union Coffee Bar "Florries", has also been selling "Outspan" oranges this term. Both Kelvin Baynton, Senior Treasurer, and David Rose, Executive member responsible for the Union Shop and Florries have not given any explanation despite written questions being put to them.

Kate Slay, Purchasing Officer responsible for Florries and a permanent Union employee, gave an immediate assurance that no further supplies would be ordered. The question is, why did the elected student officials fail to inform Kate Slay of the policy and check on its implementation? So far no progress has been made on the enforcement of the boycott agreement with the School. It was emphasised that: "There is no question of us dropping the call for the boycott, and if necessary further action will be taken."

The Anti-Apartheid Group have called for a complete boycott of South African produce because:—

- The Apartheid system is unjust and has been unanimously condemned as "a crime against humanity" at the United Nations.
- Trade with South Africa sup-

ports the repressive Apartheid regime and at the same time enables one to profit from its racially exploitative labour system.

- Britain has a special responsibility for South Africa as it is a former British colony and Commonwealth member. Britain is also South Africa's largest trading partner.
- The black majority in South Africa has repeatedly called for the complete isolation of South Africa, especially an economic boycott, until the Apartheid system is eliminated.

All the independent black organisations in South Africa have called for such a boycott, including the African National Congress, Pan Africanist Congress, Black People's Convention, South African Students' Organisation and Student Movement.

Many black leaders have also called for a boycott, amongst them Nobel Peace Prize winner Chief Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko and Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Albert Luthuli said: "We have been the victims of suffering long before our boycott and sanctions call to the nations of the world. We are committed to suffering that will lead us to freedom. What we are determined not to do, cost what it may, is to acquiesce in a status quo that makes us semi-slaves in our own country."

Steve Biko said: "Foreign trade and investment supports the economic system, and thus indirectly political injustice. We blacks are therefore not interested in foreign investment. If (the West) wants to contribute to the development of a just society in South Africa, it must discourage investment in South Africa. We blacks are perfectly willing to suffer the consequences. We are quite accustomed to suffering."

The call for a boycott is supported by many international and national organisations including the United Nations, Organisation of African Unity and World Council of Churches. It is also supported by the National Union of Students, many Trade Unions including the Association of University Teachers.

Current AUT policy is "total opposition to the policies of Apartheid and of censorship of academic work, books, literature etc: the most effective action is the maintenance of a total boycott. . . ."

gency situations are given priority, as a friend of mine found out in the middle of last year's exams when he was accommodated for treatment at short notice.

The psychiatric service, in line with the other services, is also heavily booked. There is one full-time and two part-time psychiatric advisers. The Sister also does some counselling. This service is important because it seeks to keep the patient's mental perspective in equilibrium which is necessary for working and enjoying oneself at LSE.

Students who can be referred through a member of staff, may seek an appointment personally or may be invited by the service on the basis of the health questionnaire they fill in prior to joining LSE. Once again it is important to emphasise that emergency cases are given priority.

Overall the student health service gives the impression of being busy but efficient. Of course sometimes people who are slightly dissatisfied with the service may have more cause for complaint with this year's extra intake of around 400 new students, which will probably increase the pressure on the health service.

But, in my opinion, within the background of expanding classes and contracting money supply at the LSE, there is one service—the health service—which cannot be "Thatchered" for it is one thing that cannot be safely cut.

By Alok Vajpeyi



say that they are not selling South African fruit."

Checks by Anti-Apartheid then revealed that, not only was the School selling South African fruit as Ed Jacob spoke on Thursday but as we go to print boxes of "Outspan" oranges were lined up in the Brunch Bowl ready for sale.

The question is: has the School simply made a mistake, as yet unrealised, or is the School deliberately ignoring the agreement?



PRESS GANGED FOR TOMORROW

Simon Garfield reports on last weekend's Student Journalist Conference

AT a time when over 6,000 employees of the Evening News and Times group of newspapers face the threat of dismissal, 250 student journalists from all over the country gathered at the City University last weekend with one eye on their own college newspapers and the other on troubled Fleet Street.

Some of the leading writers destined to emerge in the next decade heard Mirror reporter John Pilger open the conference with complaints of how a vicious local paper editor had butchered his early articles because he personally disagreed with Pilger's comments. Pilger had made it big nonetheless, and suddenly there was hope for all whose glittering prose had been cut by all-too-officious student sabbaticals the country over.

Those who considered they stood a fair chance of surviving the pressures of Union meeting reporting and dons/drugs scandals were told of the range of graduate training schemes offered by several major newspaper groups. Three messages emerged: the statutory "three years in the provinces" was no longer necessary, a good degree was almost as important as journalistic talent, and jobs would be harder

to find this year than at almost any time in the past. Despite Mr Pilger's tan, a career in journalism did not always mirror the Waugh-like fable we would love to believe.

Sessions on capturing readers, student journalism and the law, and relations with student unions cleared the deck for the event which excited most interest—the presentation of the Guardian/NUS student press awards. To the surprise of few and the delight of many Beaver's own hard-hitting news-hound, Alex "call me Woodstein" Wynter, scooped the award for runner-up student

"Despite Mr Pilger's tan, a career in journalism did not always mirror the Waugh-like fable we would love to believe."

journalist of the year. Liz Fawcett of "Mancunian" carried off the winner's cheque, joining her colleagues in their celebrations for working on what was also named the best large college paper.

Speaking at the ceremony,

Editor Peter Preston said that he hoped the awards, now in their second year, would become an annual fixture as the highlight of the student press year. "The Guardian", never slow to see the value of promotional capital, have produced an event of considerable significance. If there is one single factor that will improve the standard of student journalism in this country then this is it.

Although several sessions were somewhat premature, including those on the importance of being a member of the NUJ and maintaining of sound relationships with print unions, the NUS should be credited for smooth organisation and a splendid idea. I doubt, however, whether a conference of this type should be used to throw out the NUS line, no matter how important the issues.

Certainly college journalists should be informed of matters of student importance, and Mr Aaronovitch spoke coherently and wittily enough on the problems of student union financing. Yet to be "requested" to cover a story of how one leading political light had instructed party members to support a view not favoured by NUS smacks a little too heavily of blind indoctrination. One point arose at several sessions: journalists, no matter what their status, should ultimately make up their own minds about the newsworthiness of stories.

On a brighter note, Alex should be congratulated on his remarkable achievement. We hear that all branches of the media are currently being inundated with job applications.

"Beaver" has 16 empty pages to fill before the next issue emerges in two weeks—a reminder that next year's press awards are open to anyone who might care to try their hand...



THE Freedom of Information Campaign is preparing for a frontal assault on the Government at the next parliamentary session in November. The All Party Parliamentary Committee for FOI suffered a severe setback in 1979 when a FOI Bill, sponsored by Clement Freud, failed to get through Parliament before it was dissolved at the fall of the Labour Party. The Campaign has now drafted a new Bill which they want to see made law in the autumn session.

In order to maximise publicity and pressure, they are holding back the publication of their new book, "Secrecy, or the Right to Know" until November to coincide with the Parliamentary action.

Intended as a handbook on FOI, it includes contributions from Leslie Chapman, author of "Your disobedient servant," James Tye of the British Safety Council and Michael Meacher, MP.

The movement for FOI in Britain is lagging behind the US and Sweden — both countries have FOI laws. In July of this year the Canadian Government introduced a FOI bill and Privacy Bill. The Campaign for FOI insists that the GB Government tactic of linking Government official secrets and protection for personal data held on file is a smokescreen. The Campaign wants openness on official matters but greater legislation to protect the individual against the growing threat of computer snooping.

The cover-all lid of the Official Secrets Act is seen as the major barrier against FOI. The "Torygraph" type defence of "national security interest" is made a mockery by admissions that the Soviets have considerable information on our strategic position and aren't too pushed to know the temperature at which a policeman may wear short-sleeved shirts. This vital information is withheld from John Bull alone. When it takes an independent pressure group to expose the transport of nuclear waste through a children's playground it is clearly time for a change.

The effect of FOI in the US has grown. After Watergate whistle blowing became the fourth national pastime (after sex, wife-beating and genealogy—as compiled by Ms White-

horn). Allan Francovich's film, "On Company Business" is a cinematic portrait of America's most dreaded MNC—the CIA, compiled from thousands of hours of Government and news library film and includes interviews with those involved. The result is a three-hour story of the Company which brought you such epics as the Cold War, the Bay of Pigs and the brutalisation of Chile.

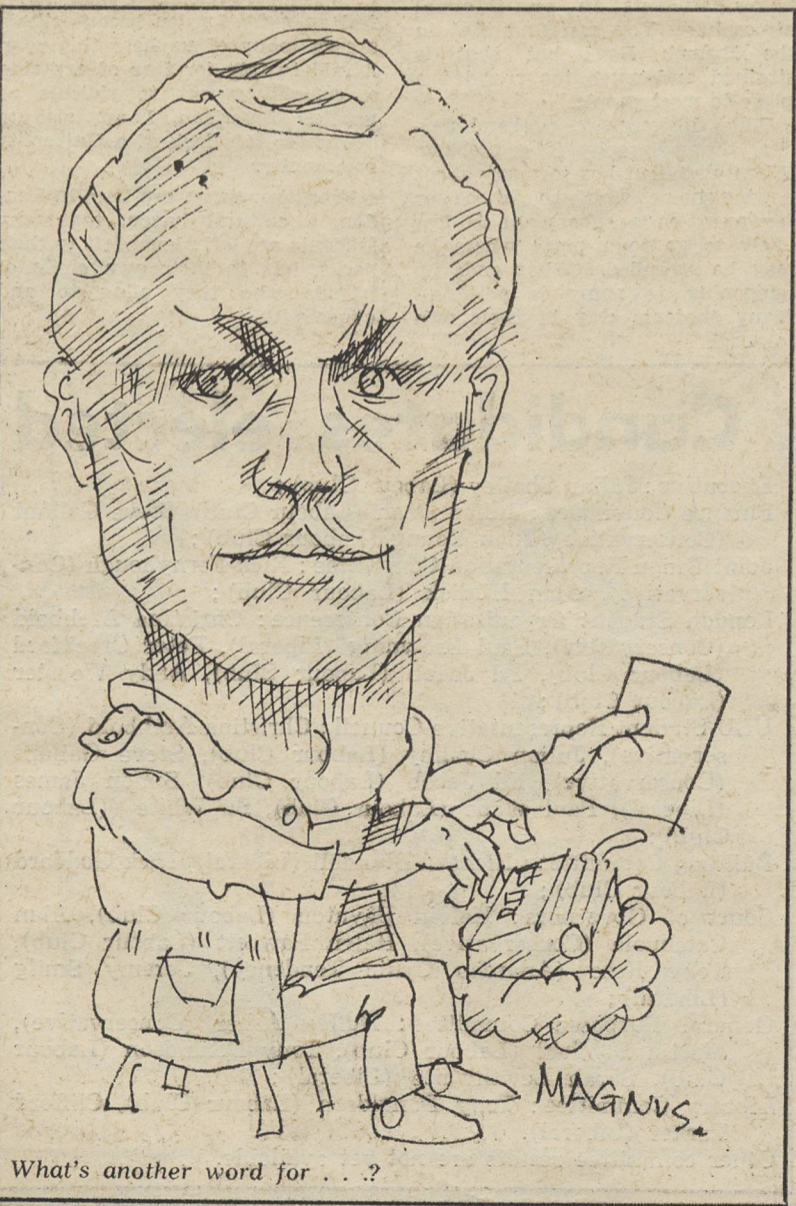
Home grown successes are less spectacular but often braver in light of the continued illegality of much information finding. Duncan Campbell of the New Statesman, has been in the fore in the journalistic field. His individual style of mathematical precision, poring through legally printed sources as well as informants to build a complete picture, has uncovered some remarkable stories including the revelations about US Government listening posts in Yorkshire and more recently the controversial plans for civil control in the aftermath of nuclear holocaust in this country. For his troubles he provided the 'C' in the notorious ABC trial.

The Campaign for FOI is working to end this situation. The publication of "Secrecy" is just part of the campaign. Feona Hamilton of the Library Association, the publishers, told me that the book would include the texts of the existing US laws and the proposed Canadian FOI bill as well as the text of the flopped '79 bill. On further inquiry on the new bill, I was politely repulsed. Why?

"Well, we don't want to let too much out as yet in case the Government try to block us..."
Hmm!

ROWENA WHELAN.

*Available from the Library Association, 7 Ridgmount St., WC1.
**Showing as part of the Festival, NFT, Nov. 20th, 2.00 & 8.45 p.m.



What's another word for...?

N.U.S./GUARDIAN STUDENT PRESS AWARDS 1980

Best Large College Paper

1. Mancunian, Manchester University (£250)
2. Cherwell, Oxford University
3. Bacus, Bristol area student paper
4. Isis, Oxford University
5. Birmingham Sun, Aston University

Best Small College Paper

1. Invoice, New University of Ulster (£250)
2. Dust Collector, Bournemouth & Poole College of Art
3. WC, Westfield College, London
4. Cowboy, Birmingham College of Food and Domestic Art

Best Specialist Coverage

1. Curlew, University of Lancaster (Bird and Wildlife Society, £100)
2. Guild & City Gazette (Liverpool University features)


3. Stop Press, Cambridge (coverage of Anthony Blunt affair)
4. Birmingham Sun, Arts
5. Sphinx, Liverpool University arts magazine

Best Graphics

1. Jesus College, Oxford University (£100)
2. Arrows, Sheffield
3. Isis, Oxford University
4. Javelin, Sheffield University
5. Last Edition, Oxfordshire Polytechnic

Student Journalist of the Year

1. Liz Fawcett, Mancunian (£50)
2. Alex Wynter, Beaver (£25)
3. Linda Jenkins, Bacus (£25)
4. Cath Pepinster, Mancunian
5. Dan Hogan, University College, Cardiff

THE ALUMNUS INTERVIEW

This week **KEIR HOPLEY** talks to left-wing Labour MP **MICHAEL MEACHER**, who took the Diploma in Social Administration at the LSE in 1963 and lectured here during 1970. He is currently chairman of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee which is pressing the Parliamentary Labour Party to postpone the election for a new Labour leader.

KEIR HOPLEY: What do you think is the value of the current election which the Parliamentary Labour Party is undertaking?

MICHAEL MEACHER: I personally, and many of us, regard that election as invalid, improper and unconstitutional. It is a pre-empting of Conference less than a month after a clear decision had been taken and when the matter of the formula (on the new electoral college) was to be resolved in only two months time and I regret the decision to go ahead... I regard it only as a formal election prior to the real election which will take place sometime after the January 24th Conference.

In not suspending Standing Orders to allow the Deputy Leader Mr Michael Foot to take over until the electoral college makes its choice, the PLP is really engaging in an exercise of independence which I think it may have cause to regret.

HOPLEY: Is there a "Stop Healey" movement developing?

MEACHER: Yes, I think that's true, though I prefer to see it in terms of policy rather than just personalities. We would like, and I feel this very strongly, to see an election about policy and I think Denis Healey is saying that he's not prepared to discuss it at all, and even when he gets a challenge from the right from David Owen, he just says that he'd prefer Dr Owen to see him privately... that is negating the whole purpose of an election. Under previous policies of Denis Healey, we had unemployment rising by a million, savage cuts in spending on housing, schools and education leading ulti-

mately to the winter of discontent that preceded Labour losing a General Election with the smallest share of the poll since 1931. Now is he going to pursue the same policies again?

HOPLEY: Didn't someone say that nobody's more monetarist than Denis Healey?

"The PLP needs to be far more aware of the policy consequences of going for Healey."

MEACHER: I certainly think there is substantial overlap between Denis Healey's sort of moderate monetarist policies and what someone called the government's manic monetarist policies—much greater than he'd ever admit. I think there is a very large degree of shared attitude on tight fiscal and monetary policies and the PLP needs to

be far more aware of the policy consequences of going for Healey. There's talk about him being a great election winner; many of us believe that his policies were directly responsible for our defeat last time. What guarantee have we that he has seen the light or wishes to make any significant changes at all?

HOPLEY: What would be the position of the "Gang of Three," which has refused to have a leader foisted on the PLP by Conference, if a left-winger were elected by the electoral college?

MEACHER: Well, of course, the other side of that coin is will the movement accept a Parliamentary leader foisted on it by the PLP whom they had no hand in electing? I think that's just as valid

"Re-selection will make MPs that much more concerned to keep an eye over their shoulder to see they are broadly in line with constituency parties."

a question. I hope the so-called Gang of Three would not pursue the matter to the point that has been threatened and that they would come to accept that Conference had a right to extend the franchise. I think they will draw back; if they don't it will only be to their own discredit and ultimately their own detriment. They must accept that the Labour Party is not simply a body for carrying out their views and they may sometimes find that another body of opinion prevails and they should accept that.

HOPLEY: Would you support the extension of the franchise for selecting/reselecting candidates and MPs beyond the General Management Committees to the ordinary Constituency Labour Party members?

MEACHER: There is a case for ensuring that as many people as possible are involved in the matter. The point about GMCs is that far from being narrow caucuses they are democratically constituted. They are the mandated representatives from the wards, branches, Trade Unions and affiliated bodies. They only become small if the membership of the party declines dramatically as has happened. We believe that accountability and

democratic reforms will extend the membership because people will want to become members of the Labour Party; it will mean something, and you'll get GMCs of a pretty respectable size. If you open it up to everyone it is really open to considerable abuse: there is nothing to stop someone in the weekend before nominations close for membership going out and joining up another 200 people from the nearest housing estate and so virtually packing the meeting. It sounds democratic but in practice it could actually be rather anti-democratic and why not use the existing democratic organs that the Party has used for the last 70 years and no-one has ever disagreed with?

HOPLEY: Do you think reselection will make a significant difference to the composition of the PLP?

MEACHER: I don't think it will have a great effect in removing

MPs; it may possibly remove half a dozen or so, but I think it will make all MPs that much more concerned to keep an eye over their shoulder to see that they are broadly in line with the people who put them there, namely their constituency parties. That is all to the good and that is the purpose of it.

HOPLEY: Will the change in the electoral system produce a radically different type of leader?

MEACHER: It clearly gives a better chance to a centre-left candidate. Of course I welcome that; that's much more my position and I think it is the position of the broad movement and I think the movement has a right to have that. (Mr Meacher will be supporting Mr Foot in the coming Parliamentary election and Mr Benn in the electoral college election).

● Unfortunately, Merlyn Rees was called out of London at short notice but we hope to bring you an interview with him in the near future.

WESTMINSTER Abbey, Buckingham Palace, and the River Thames... the "great city of London." A city open and frequented by tourists from all over the world. A city that will be home for students who have come from all over the world to study at the London School of Economics, (exploring and discovering nooks and crannies especially open to students.

There are many difficulties to city life, (not only for students but for everyone. Prices are elevated in urban areas which make it difficult

neighbourhood closed off in their own world, which is tragic considering the LSE is a school of only 3,000 people, 3,000 people who feel little sense of community. "But there is no campus."

The LSE may not have a campus in the sense that there are fields and open areas in which to lie in the sun reading and socializing, but there is a campus area between the three or four interconnected buildings. This area, closed off to cars, comprises a campus just as real as my campus in Boulder, Colorado (USA). There, we do have

JANE GOLDENBERG —an American in London

to follow a budget. One especially troubling aspect is the University housing shortage. There just are not enough rooms for all those who want the security and economy of living in a dorm.

Of course there is so much to do in London. There is the theatre, ballet and symphony and many offer student rates so a student can always be busy. But the fact of the matter is that students are not inclined to go out to the theatre. Most of us like the company of our fellow students in an informal atmosphere. You can find that in the Brunch Bowl but that is strained and much too crowded a place to meet people.

When it comes to weekend parties, the geography is a problem. When a student has to worry about getting home which could be as far away as a suburb, he is less likely to go to a party where he may be stranded. (What ends up happening to many is nothing). Many students stay in their own

these fields and many more buildings, but there we also have 21,000 student, who have more of a community feeling than at the LSE, where people seem to avoid interpersonal activities, oftentimes, walking from class to class to library talking to no one unless there has been a proper introduction. Although we have the opportunity to have a close community of students, all studying related subjects, in close proximity, nothing clicks.

As an American, I sometimes feel an extra burden because there are so many of us here this year. Afraid to talk for fear of exposing a colonial accent to ridicule as another American, I am also to blame for this lack of a University community.

Even though we are here in London, a cultural haven, too many students are left alone; left to their books, left to their own circle of friends who they cling to and clique with.

BRIEFLY

LOST LEADER

WE rush to the presses full of new information about developments in fairyland. After Chief Elf Paul Blacknell had failed to get himself elected to the General Purposes Committee, murmurs of discontent were heard to be suggesting leadership changes. Your correspondent is still trying to ascertain whether this is another plan to depose Godfather Gallant or merely a movement for the restoration of Snoopy, summarily replaced in the campaign by Ziggy.

LOST CONTACT

Turning to the goblin branch of fairyland, bizarre tales have been circulating to the effect that former Chairman Paul Browning was not informed of the time, place and existence of the Liberal selection meeting. He was also unaware of the identity of various candidates. This column is most surprised

at the news: it is most unusual for the Liberals to have so many members that they do not know each other.

LOST AUTHOR

Mr Martin Clavane has asked me to point out that he did not write the London Student Movement leaflet on rent strikes as I wrote in the last issue. Despite arguments from people who were at the Rosebery meeting saying that he claimed to have written the leaflet, we are happy to print Mr Clavane's view that he only distributed the document in question. Quite why Mr Clavane did circulate the L.S.M. propaganda whilst sitting on the Executive as a Labour Club member is yet to be explained, but I issue my most sincere apologies to Mr Clavane for any unnecessary embarrassment my piece may have caused him — or the L.S.M.!

LOST ENTRANCE

On Thursday evening, this column was beset by a severe

affliction: your correspondent's keys managed to escape from his clutches and, at the time of writing, have yet to find their way home. If anyone does find a set of keys in a black leather holder, I should be most grateful to have them back as soon as possible.

LOST PROFESSION

Following revelations in the last issue of "Beaver" that Senior Treasurer Kelvin Baynton posed as a representative of a firm of painters in order to gain information about the Employment Protection Act, speculation has been rife as to the trades and professions pursued by other Union politicians, especially in the light of the General Secretary's claims on Thames Television that students are turning to prostitution to pay their hall fees. Any suggestions for careers our friends could pursue would be most welcome.

K.H.-

Candidates elected

Executive: Julian Chaffey (Labour Club);
Finance Committee: Julian Dean (Labour Club), Steve Gallant (Conservative), Rick Young (Labour Club);
Joint Union Representation Committee: Nick Fernyhough (Conservative), Alan Hildick (Labour Club);
London Student Organisation Conference: Christina Archbold (Conservative), Paul Browning (Liberal), Peter Crockford (Labour Club), Ed Jacob (Labour Club), Andy Webster (Labour Club);
ULU Student Representative Council: Christina Archbold (Conservative), Julian Chaffey (Labour Club), Steve Gallant (Conservative), Ed Jacob (Labour Club), Simon James (Liberal), Paul Wane (Labour Club), Su White ((Labour Club);
Building Committee: Richard Blundell (Liberal), Nick Goddard (Labour Club);
Court of Governors: Kelvin Baynton (Labour Club), Alan Catchpole (Conservative), Helen Fawcett (Labour Club), Toby Rose (Anarcho Cynic Tendency), Jeremy Smilg (Liberal);
General Purposes Committee: Duffey Asher (Conservative), Martin Benfield (Labour Club), Tony Donaldson (Labour Club), Sarah Lewthwaite (Liberal);
Library Committee: Tony Donaldson (Labour Club), Clifford Parker (Liberal).
Other committee results are not yet available.

GRADUATE UNEMPLOYMENT, WILL IT HIT YOU?

By Alex Wynter

NOW that unemployment in the economy as a whole has passed two million, how will job prospects for graduates hold up in the year ahead?

Exact statistics on the situation facing those who graduated last summer will not be available until next March; as yet, organisations like the Central Services Unit for University and Polytechnic Careers and Appointments Services can only guess at the degree of difficulty graduates are having in finding relevant work.

In an interview with 'Beaver' Brian Putt of the C.S.U. said that the graduate job market was still very flat. The C.S.U. publishes a list of current vacancies every fortnight and Putt could not remember a period in which the number of vacancies dropped so steadily over time. "But there are still fields, like electronic engineering, science teaching and accountancy, where demand is very high and there aren't enough graduates to go round. In accountancy, for example, firms do not require specialist degrees and ask only for a basic level of numeracy". Putt doubted that business confidence would recover in time for the spring recruiting round and added that women seemed to be responding to the recession better than men. "Women are moving into scientific and technical areas but they are still hampered by having done the wrong A-levels."

Putt's assessment of the situa-

tion is somewhat contradicted by Martin Stott, of N.U.S. He sees the graduate job market "remaining buoyant", although there have been instances of major employers actually withdrawing offers made to graduates as a result of the worsening economic situation. Stott rejected a suggestion that the graduate employment situation might actually have improved if, in the face of a deepening recession, the market is holding. "Part of the reason that pros-

"Women are moving into scientific and technical areas but they are still hampered by having done the wrong A-levels."

pects are still reasonable is that graduate recruiting is a long term project for most employers and usually starts a year in advance. In the 1973 slump, employers cut down very severely on graduate recruitment and then found themselves stuck for people to promote a few years later when the economy picked up." Stott thought that graduate unemployment was not getting worse in absolute terms but added that the time taken to actually

find a job is probably lengthening.

Underlying the problem of graduate unemployment is the question of whether would-be students should follow their vocation or their interest when selecting a course. Students wishing to render social service—on social science degrees—will be the hardest pressed of all to find a link between their commitment and the possibility of relevant work in the present economic climate. To quote "The Observer" of 4 May, 1980. . . . "Apart from the generally depressed condition of British industry, the cut-backs in public sector spending will be reflected in an acute shortage of jobs in the government—local and national—organisations which normally welcome social science or arts graduates, destined for welfare or teaching careers."

According to figures published last year, more than 30% of British graduates have degrees which have no relevance to their future careers, though British employers (unlike their U.S. counterparts) have a tendency not to insist on vocational training. It may be that, until the effects of a drop in the birthrate after 1964 are felt in about 1985, school-leavers will choose more "vocational" courses or, at least, gear their choice to future career prospects. Many authorities expect the recent rise in the number of students in the humanities to level out with a corresponding rise in science students keeping overall student numbers steady.

Meanwhile, the general atmosphere of competitiveness in universities is increasing. Some colleges, including the LSE and

"Part of the reason that prospects are still reasonable is that graduate recruiting is a long-term project for most employers and usually starts a year in advance."

Nuffield at Oxford, want to replace the old quota system for Ph.D. applicants with a scheme involving open competition between students who would apply directly to the various subject committees of the Social Science Research Council. And although, as Brian Putt pointed out, women are responding to the recession better than men, they are still going to suffer disproportionately from it . . . the number of women applying to university has increased to the highest level ever, in 1979/80 only 5% applied to study engineering and technological subjects and 25% opted for business, management studies, economics or accountancy, the by-now traditional job-sure subjects.

HOUSING HORROR STORIES

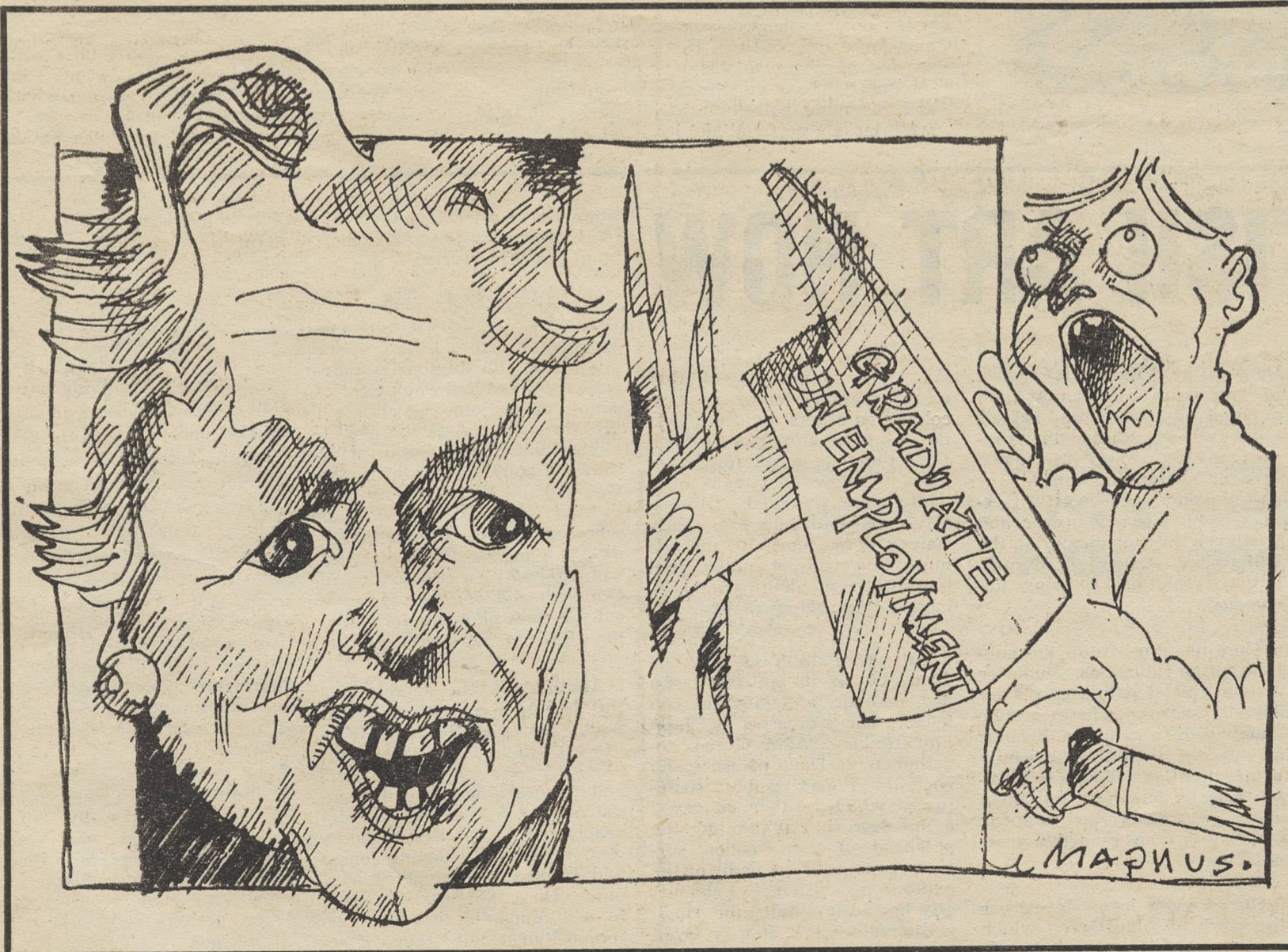
by ELANA EHRLICH
S.U. Welfare Office

IT does seem strange, does it not, that most people do not care at all that students are over-charged for their accommodation, travelling great distances and paying exorbitant fares (apparently the London Transport system receives only a 20 per cent subsidy compared to treble that in other large cities). Most newsworthy items seem to concentrate only on the outrageous horror stories around. Well, despite the title of this article, no horror stories about accommodation will fill these pages unless there is better feedback about how you managed to find accommodation by calling into the "Students' Union Welfare Office" and telling us.

The truth of the matter is that over 1,000 students sought accommodation advice and assistance this year, but that very few have taken the time (and energy to walk up two flights of stairs in the East Building) to report back. We are now considering flooding the tables of all the food outlets in the LSE with a questionnaire which we would arrange to have dropped into boxes around the school. It would ask you just how long you searched for accommodation, how what you found differed from what you originally hoped for and how you found it.

Also is there any damp in your room? How many people grabbed what they could but are now suffering from colds because of lack of adequate heating? Are there any restrictions about what you can do in your "home?" How many people have bad relations with landlords/landladies—or, how many, find that their landlords/landladies expect you to be a sympathetic listener to their problems? Only last week, one student who had been coming into the Welfare Office regularly to look for accommodation for three solid weeks finally found an offer he liked. Within the next few days we passed on the stairs (is this how feedback is to be gotten?) and I asked how things were. Fine he said, except his landlady was borrowing money from him!

OK—Are there any more examples out there? It would be important to learn just how much of a problem accommodation has been in your general adjustment to LSE or London. That's quite difficult to put on a questionnaire/form—and yet how you feel about this situation may make it possible to make next year easier for everyone. Do drop in any morning between 10.30-12.30 daily to see myself or Judy and let us know how you got on. Many thanks.



Stanley Spencer, R.A.

THE "Stanley Spencer" exhibition currently at the Royal Academy is one of the biggest exhibitions ever staged of the work of this eccentric but highly individual British artist. Whilst most of his famous works are on display, the exhibition has many lesser known works; the early line drawings and landscapes are of particular interest.

The first section of the exhibition covers his early works (pre-First World War). Here many of the themes Spencer was later to develop are apparent; in particular there is a strong religious and love theme, but almost all of the works are clearly inspired by his native Cookham. Such paintings as "The Apple Gatherers" and "The Nativity" are the works which first began to distinguish Spencer as an original contemporary artist, expressing the essential relationship between people and places which he believed to be so important. There is also a clear vein of pantheism—a

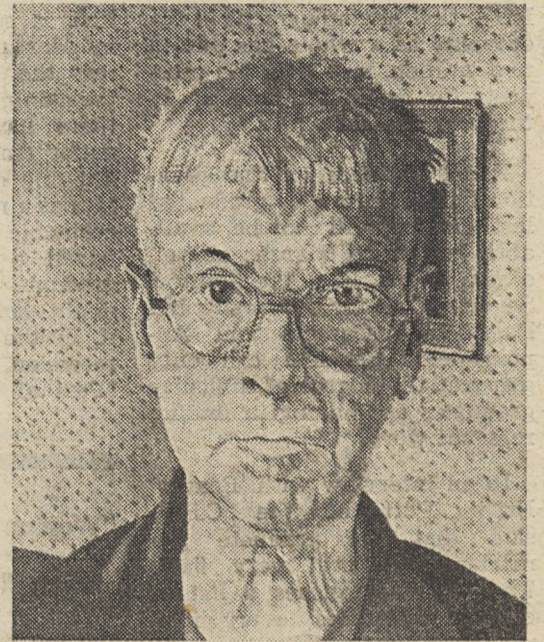


Portrait of Patricia Preece.

consciousness of all religions. The painting, "Swan Upping", is drawn from this period and displays many of the characteristics which were later to be associated with Spencer—the use of very powerful, intense colours which give the paintings an indoor feel, and the alarming shape which the figures adopt that give the painting a strange, disconcerting air.

The First World War stimulated one of Spencer's greatest works and which won him great critical acclaim in the post-war years: the Sandham Memorial Chapel at Burghclere, war scenes in tableau form. Burghclere shows one of the most distinctive features of Spencer's style, namely the skilled figure composition which lends so much power to all his work; the jumble of figures assembled in such a strange and individual design that they really imprint themselves on the memory. A good example of this is provided by the first painting in the series, "Convoy of wounded soldiers arriving at Beauford Hospital gates", in which the scene is viewed from an elevated vantage point—the soldiers descend to the menacing hospital gates in the foreground. The other important feature of these scenes is Spencer's decision to depict mundane personal scenes from the war and rejecting a more grandiose dramatic subject matter; the scenes are those of the everyday activities of ordinary soldiers—"Scrubbing the floor", "Ablutions", "Kit inspection", "Reveille". His paintings are, above all, compassionate, depicting the sick and wounded, but they are also an extremely intimate personal record of men living together under the circumstances of war. There is an air of fraternity and common-cause, not that the pictures are at all romanticised but rather that the artist prefers to recall the individual, humane element of shared hardship and suffering.

With the experience of Burghclere behind him, the range of pictures from the inter-war years emphasise Spencer's perfection of style, and figure composition. However, in this period we also have some of his most personal pictures—namely the portraits of his wife and mistress, and his nude paintings. His figure paintings are intensely personal and his intimate relation-



Self-portrait, 1959.

ship with the sitter is obvious. His later nudes have a strong sense of sexual tension and (in his later paintings) Spencer introduces more unusual devices, and begins to attempt elaborate double nudes, often by including his own self-portrait. Such works as "The Leg of Mutton Nude" have a devout, religious feel, but also convey the artist's protest at the moral restrictions and frustrations to which love is subject.

Spencer's visit to Glasgow in the nineteen-forties produces a series of large canvases which provide another fascinating feature of the exhibition—Spencer's reaction to painting industrial scenes. "Shipbuilding on the Clyde" celebrates the full range of activities in the shipyard scenes concentrate on men at work, and the abstract nature of the material they are using. They are painted with immense attention to detail, and again we have a fine illustration of how figure composition and the intensity of the colours he uses give these paintings immense strength and vitality.

Although some have criticised this exhibition as being somewhat rambling, it is an absolute must for devotees and highly recommended to all those unfamiliar with Spencer's work.

by Helen Fawcett

BRITISH ART NOW

THE "British Art Now" exhibition on at the Royal Academy until the 14th of December has been arranged by the Guggenheim Museum of New York and sponsored by the Exxon company (Esso to you and me) as well as by the British Council, hence its sub-title "An American Perspective". Yet despite this abundance of outside help, the Royal Academy has failed to deliver the goods at least as far as providing any cheap information about the exhibits is concerned. No free sheets like the Tate has managed to provide for its Gainsborough exhibition here. Instead there is a taped guide at 80p or the glossy Catalogue at £5.00—take it or leave it. I left it and, in view of the quality (or lack of it) of the exhibition, I can't help feeling that I made the right decision.

The first work, Keith Milow's "Cenotaph Nos. 1-4", is one of the highlights of the exhibition.

Devastatingly simple, it consists of four pairs of diametrically opposed stylised gun barrels with each set painted to represent either wood, blackened bronze, oxidised copper or rusted iron. The powerful message is obvious: wherever and whatever the war memorial, the belligerent tenor of international relations remains unchanged.

Then, passing from the sublime to the ridiculous, you enter a room full of paintings (?) by John Edwards. These acrylic daubings in a range of hideous colours are distinguishable only by their titles. There is nothing else by which to tell them apart. As one visitor quipped: "Obviously done by a five year-old."

On an even lower level was the work of Alan Green which consisted of ten monochrome rectangles of slightly varying

sizes, some bordered by another colour, several even of the same colours as others and each purporting to be an entity in itself. Unfortunately, a yellow canvas titled "Yellow on Green" or a white one labelled "Broken White on Red" doesn't really convey very much to me. It must however be noted that four of these pictures actually have a textured surface!

But the exhibition can't be dismissed in its entirety as a bad joke or an elaborate con trick. The canvasses of John Edwards and Alan Green, together with David Nash's and Nicholas Pope's wood "sculptures" which neither conveyed a message nor exploited the potential of the wooden surfaces, constitute the nadir of the exhibition. Although I personally had little affinity for Hugh O'Donnell's work, it may be of interest to others as in his painted wood and canvas crea-

tions, the artist attempts to explore some new forms and combinations of textures.

Tim Head's giant photograph (30 feet by 10) of the contrasts provided by the corner of an alley and Burlington Arcade, called "Two Viewpoints", is simply marvellous. But although the three mirrored horizontal circles inserted by the artist into the spiral staircase of the Guggenheim Museum may well be "art at work", it is dubious whether a set of computer-drawn plans for the project accompanied by an explanation in Gobbledygook really qualifies as art. A few photographs would have proved more informative.

Another of the successes is the photographic art of Simon Read. Three of the exhibits—"Two Corners on an Horizon", "Five Corners on an Horizon" and "Concerning Alberti"—consist of two, five or three photographs of a landscape taken with different distorting lenses and framed by geometric cut-outs. The cut-outs do not seem to add much to the first two compositions but they effectively emphasise the distortions of the third, a three-part study

of Tower Bridge. The luminous quality of all these prints is particularly attractive.

Two similar works, "Phyrric Victory" and "The Virtue of a Glancing Blow and a Side-long Glimpse", involving distortions of human faces I found to be less appealing. On the other hand the same technique used to create a horizontal presentation of a coloured and patterned circle continuing into a spiral produced a fascinating effect. But it is the first phase of a work still in progress, "The Chase", which steals the show. Using a photographic print on bromide paper dry mounted on linen, Simon Read has created a stunning impressionistic effect of forest on a mountain face.

The question is whether the exhibition is worth going to just for certain works by Simon Read, Tim Head and Keith Milow. Well, if you're in Piccadilly, it's raining and you just happen to have a spare fifty pence, perhaps so. Otherwise, I think not.

Jane Kleiner

Margaret Drabble

is one of the foremost British novelists writing today. Jeremy Rosenblatt interviewed her for *Beaver*

MARGARET DRABBLE is presently at the peak of success and so I asked her about fame and what it meant to her. She said that it brings her recognition and into closer contact with people. "People can always find you, even friends and acquaintances from 20 years ago know where you are." But in her opinion the disadvantages are immense. She said that she can undoubtedly understand the celebrities who resort to wearing dark glasses, however pretentious that might sound; she seems to suffer the usual problems of people continually attempting to get a foot in the door and accosting her while shopping.

However, she is not the type of person who sits in Hampstead surrounded by the material signs of success. But she doesn't reproach other novelists for wishing to live alone in the country. In fact she thought that an artist like Graham Greene had to live and write abroad. She doesn't regard herself as a patriot but she does feel some commitment to this country; thus tax-havens like Malta or the money and prestige of America hold little attraction for her.

But success has brought her a sense of achievement: "Success is fun because of the opportunities it brings."

She doesn't see herself as a pillar of 20th-century literature nor as a great writer, but starting to write is something she does not regret. Her first novel, "A Summer Bird Cage", was written in 1963. It was not a best-seller but was warmly received by the critics. At that stage in her life she had been drawn to acting. At Cambridge she played Antigone, Electra and Viola, and after getting her degree she came to London in "Deutsche House". "The Garrick Year", her second novel, had its roots in the time she spent at Stratford.

She said that writing is a way of ridding oneself of frustrations. "You can say that by finishing one book you've sorted out a part of your life." And indeed you can say her books are a conglomeration of people she has known and events she has experienced. But nowadays she tends to research her books more to give them wider scope.

Writing is a hard physical process, but Margaret Drabble is grateful to have started in her early twenties. "To write a first novel at 40 is a daunting task because you've had more experience of life and thus a higher standard is expected." At 20 the success of a novel isn't important but with success the standard of writing which is expected naturally becomes higher. She feels a novel is never planned before writing, the plot is unknown; the novel creates itself as she writes.

She doesn't think of the people she is writing for and writes principally for herself. Nor does she believe she is writing for the middle-class intelligentsia; whilst she admits the majority of her readers are middle-class she doesn't see it as being necessarily so. However, she had a classic letter from somebody in Westham asking if Romley was not in fact Westham since everything that appeared to happen in middle-class Romley, in his opinion, also took place in Westham.

She thinks that she will continue to write novels as she cannot see any reason to stop. But she has put aside writing novels for a year to continue her mammoth task of re-editing the Oxford Guide to English Literature. She jots down thoughts much of the time and perhaps in four years she will have a self-made novel. She says that her aim is not to write a best-seller and always to be on the station bookstall; she writes merely for herself.

With regard to the question of women in society today, she feels that it is essential that women must fight for their rights as equal. The quality of life must be changed, allowing women a more dominant role. She sees Mrs Thatcher as a non-representative woman, a woman not interested in women or their problems. She feels that there is too much prejudice still in evidence and that there is no reason

why half the government in Britain should not be made up of women; indeed, it ought to be written down in law. She is self-employed and she admits that there is a danger that because she has been able to be independent and employed she can look at other women and expect them to do the same.

She feels that marriage can never work, that it is a bad idea and too much of a compromise: "Marriage must not be looked upon by women as a meal-ticket." Man must share problems over children so as to enable himself and the woman to assert themselves and go out and work.

She feels university is not a first priority, that if someone has something else more pressing to do he should do that. But for her, university was a unique experience, a time to discover herself.

She doesn't especially envy the youth of today. There are more opportunities available today, but through greater awareness the young have to cope with more problems. She doesn't regret not finding out about life until she was twenty-one.

She thinks that LSE is a lively place; that a place full of action must be lively. She admires Dahrendorf, thinking that he has an impossible job and, whatever he does, the students will hate him for it.

Her latest novel, "The Middle Ground", (published in June by Weidenfeld & Nicholson at around five pounds), had mixed reviews. An earlier novel, "The Waterfall", is currently being serialised for television. Overall, she has written some nine novels including one, "The Millstone", which was made into a film called "A Touch of Love". She has written a critique of Wordsworth and a biography of Arnold Bennett. Last Christmas she published a book, "Landscape in Literature", her text telling how different landscapes affected the writing of different novelists and accompanied by photographs of the English countryside. She is widely read in America, and is on American university reading lists, though she is not on university lists here as yet. She contributes frequently to radio, television and newspapers and now travels extensively. In July she went to the D. H. Lawrence festival in New Mexico and is shortly going to Japan. Her favourite contemporary novelists are Doris Lessing and Angus Wilson, whom she admires especially. Overall, she struck me as a very modest person and a lovely lady.

Women's images of men

THE "Women's Images of Men" exhibition which has just finished at the ICA was important because it was the first time that women's work on this theme had been displayed on such a large scale, with 35 artists being represented.

One popular theme was naturally the "romantic" aspect of the man-woman relationship which most of the artists were intent on discrediting. There was nothing cuddly about Deborah Law's two-part painting "Cuddles". In one picture, the man sits on the woman's lap, in the other the positions are reversed but in both the man looks frightened and suspicious while the woman appears angry in the first and dissociated from the situation in the second. Similarly, only terror and anguish were conveyed by the naked man and woman in Eileen Cooper's painting, "Two Figures on a See-Saw". Suzi Malin's very lovely pen-and-ink drawing of "Lovers Asleep" was the only exhibit to show the couple in a positive light.

The more general male-female relationship was depicted by Eileen Cooper's grim painting, "The Ladder", in which a woman bends down over the top of the ladder to look down at the man lying beneath with one of its legs embedded in his crotch. The clear message: Women can progress only by castrating men. While viciousness may have been essential to the effectiveness of "The Ladder", it was purely gratuitous in Jenni Wittman's untitled drawing of two male lower halves, one in tights and ballet slippers and the other barefoot with a needle stuck through the penis.

Pat Whiteread's paintings of "The Boardroom" (with the directors dressed in the protective clothing used against radiation) and "Amoco Cadiz Approaching the Coast" (four images showing burning oil slick) lay the blame for environmental pollution squarely at the feet of men. But what about the women who buy the goods produced by these male-run companies? The cleverest of this type of work was Lill-Ann Chepstow-Lusty's hard-hitting parody in her posters advertising KP Nuts and Bold of the ads exploiting women's bodies to sell goods.

The violence of men was featured in the photos of soldiers playing at war games, "Carnival" by Christine Voge, and the self-explanatory "Fight at the Fair" by Anita Teixeira. But the point was made most tellingly by Ana Maria Pacheco's half life-size three-figure sculpture "Some Exercise of Power" with the experiences of her homeland clearly reflected in the tableau of the two bureaucrats standing over a naked man on a torture rack.

Another inventive piece was Mouse Katz's stuffed figure of "The Landlord" with cash-register keys on his chest (labelled "Harass", "Rook", "Extort" etc) and Gucci-emblazoned till drawers instead of genitals.

The isolation, impotence and frustration of the women's condition was devastatingly portrayed by Evelyn Williams's black-and-white painting "A Woman's Life" with its twenty-four windows, each with the face of a woman behind it and those of a man and a child appearing three times each.

These were the works which had the greatest impact on me; there is no room to comment on the many others. The overall impression created by the rest was, however, one of "a veritable forest of penises" (Marina Vaizey) and it seems very odd that feminists have spent so much time and energy decrying the portrayal of women as mere sex objects, only for women artists to sink to the level of their male counterparts. But the point has to be made that, while many visitors were discomfited by the room full of penises, no-one would have been at all bothered by an equivalent number of naked women.

JANE KLEINER

The Baryshnikov-less Rhapsody

THE Royal Ballet's first triple bill of the new season aroused very mixed emotions when it was announced at the end of the summer. Excitement at another opportunity to see "Gloria" was accompanied by cries of "not 'Enigma Variations' again" and incredulity at the prospect of a Baryshnikov-less "Rhapsody".

In "Gloria", which was premiered last March, Kenneth MacMillan has created something which is a rarity in any art form: an accessible work with so many facets that it has something new to offer every time you see it. The symbolism of the choreography is capable of so many interpretations that new impressions reinforce or contradict previous ones with almost equal frequency. But set to Poulenc's "Gloria in G Major", the ballet is a lament for the "lost" generation which

perished in the First World War.

Andy Klunder's stark set of a ramp with a few uprights brilliantly evokes the atmosphere of the trenches. And the effect of his superb silver costumes for the corps and leading lady and of the coloured camouflage bodysuits and army helmets for the five principal men, is to render the entire life of that generation unreal and to stress that the soldiers, i.e. the war, were the only reality.

It was amazing to see how Sir Frederick Ashton's "Enigma Variations", really no more than a light and pleasant ballet, has survived such frequent exposure. The secret of its success lies in some superb performances of the cameos of Elgar and his friends which this ballet is all about. Two dancers who have made themselves virtually irreplaceable in this ballet are Anthony Conway and Wayne Sleep as Nimrod and

Sinclair. As for Derek Rencher who dances the central role of Elgar, when he eventually retires, I think that the ballet will simply have to be retired with him!

Created by Ashton for the Queen Mother's birthday in August, "Rhapsody" was made for Mikhail Baryshnikov, one of the greatest dancers of all time and with his departure, the ballet has lost its heart.

Stephen Beagley was the first to replace Baryshnikov and although he is very light-footed and made a valiant attempt at the role, he has none of the other qualities necessary to make a success of it. In short, he was unfairly miscast.

But I am still indignantly wondering why this part was not offered to either Wayne Sleep or Graham Fletcher, the only dancers in the company with the requisite technical ability and personality.

JANE KLEINER



Slow Motion

"SAUVE QUI PEUT" is Jean-Luc Godard's return to "conventional" cinema after his "Maoist" phase in the 'sixties and 'seventies. With both Isabelle Huppert and Nathalie Bay in the cast you know beforehand that you are in for another philosophical French film concerned with the preservation of one's personality during one's integration into society. On a purely philosophical level, Godard's film does more than most in this genre, as it charts, usually symbolically, various people's reactions and resistance to this pressure.

The major attractions of the film are its terrifying imagery and its pure artistic beauty. There are very dramatic landscape shots as Nathalie Baye cycles through the mountains; even the most obnoxious characters (there are plenty of them) are depicted sympathetically.

For a young person like me, the section on commerce is particularly frightening. (The film is divided into four parts: Life, Fear, Commerce and the Imaginary). Here Godard gives his Marxist view of our future in business. Although his picture of moral aridity is not necessarily convincing, this is after all a work of art not a sociological treatise, his disgust is forcefully and humorously conveyed.

On the whole the tone of the film is not depressing. Not only is it lightened by a vicious sense of humour, but the final moral is not sad. Even though we are basically alone in the world and there isn't much place for our individuality in society, life still is beautiful enough in itself to enjoy.

An American Uncle

ALAIN RESNAIS got excited about a few 20-year-old experiments on the behaviour of laboratory rats, and tried to work them into his latest film, "Mon Oncle d'Amérique", now showing at the Academy. The result is a very uneasy hybrid of behavioural science and drama in the service of a reductionistic view of human nature.

Resnais interweaves the stories of three main characters—a government official, an actress, and a textile plant manager—with the theoretical pronouncements of a behavioural scientist on domination, aggression, and anxiety. The scientist's discussion is illustrated in the film by a set of experiments exploring the effects of electric shock on a caged white rat—escape avoidance, or (when neither of these two is possible) "anxiety", or (when another rat is present) aggression.

These experiments are a slender empirical base for a theory which is supposed to illuminate complex relationships between human characters. It's a long way from shock-elicited aggression in laboratory rats to jealousy, psychosomatic illness and attempted suicide.

Resnais creates some very shallow characters, as if to make them better candidates for his simplistic psychological explanation. The politician degenerates, after a promising childhood, into a thoroughgoing egotist, and there is not enough tension between him and the two women he toys with to convince me that Resnais doesn't find his behaviour laudable. The actress, after an interesting adolescent struggle with her parents, falls in love with the politician and becomes instantly superficial. Both she and the politician's other woman (his

wife) make his hollow success their *raison d'être*. This stereotype of middle-class women might have been undercut by further developing the textile man's wife, the only woman with any integrity, but Resnais relegates her to a minor role. Only the textiles man, struggling to maintain a hard-earned position as his small firm is sucked into a big corporation, is engaging and sympathetic to the end.

Juxtaposed to the story of the textiles man, the rat footage is insulting. Juxtaposed to the stylised and superficial behaviour of the other characters, the rats are nothing more than a funny metaphor. In neither case are the rat experiments illuminating. Towards the end of the film, some scenes are repeated with the characters wearing huge rat heads. It's clear that Resnais intends this to be shocking, like a good surrealist painting; unfortunately, it is just plain silly, like a bad surrealist painting. What is meant to be the last step in a scientific demonstration turns out to be a *reductio ad absurdum* on the theory.

In Resnais' film, the theoretical material is awkwardly segregated from the words and actions of his characters.

An American uncle is mentioned by several characters, usually in an ironic tone of voice—though not in the case of the textiles man—and is used by Resnais as the symbol of the naïve hopes and dreams we carry about in this ugly world. Resnais thinks he has exposed the American uncle as a delusion with a few quick rat experiments. The closing shots of gutted buildings in some American slum are meant as dramatic punctuation, but Resnais has not earned these shots.

William Shebar

Celts, Romans and Cutler

THE uproar that has followed the first night of Howard Brenton's play, *The Romans in Britain*, has meant that it is virtually impossible to get tickets for the next few weeks' performances; the reports about it have brought out a rash of Peeping-tom curiosity in us, a childish desire to see just what is going on inside the Olivier. Are the ratepayers' being done Sir Horace?

This play is about imperialism. In three hours it stretches from Roman Britain in 54 BC to King Arthur in 515 AD to Northern Ireland in the eighties. Julius Caesar (Michael Bryant) leads ruthless, frustrated and yobbish Romans into the regions of beautiful Celt nudity. These Romans are dramatically substituted for Irish Republicans at the end of the first half; in both cases there is equal destruction. The message? Imperialism creates wars and wars, suffering. Therefore, the British should get out of Ireland. The analogy is hammered out in the second half with King Arthur and the Saxons and with a disguised British army officer waiting in a corn field to kill a man called O'Rourke.

The analogy between different barbaric events in history is a good one, but if the only point to be drawn from this is the above then it is a bad play, if more is intended it is still a bad play because those other meanings are not clear. Was it necessary to take three hours to

say this? James Fenton in the Sunday Times decries it as an excuse for "embarrassing exhibitionism" indeed, is there any relevance to our feeling that the druid Greg Hicks is sodomised, is Brenton in fact mocking at British narrow-mindedness?

The direction by Bogdanov leaves a lot to be desired. With a lavish cast of thirty and extremely professional scenery, why spoil it with inconsistencies like having your Saxon open the second half wrestling with a polystyrene dog when just before the Celtic tribe leader had appeared with three enormous live and gnashing hounds?

The danger of criticising this play of course is that you are open to people saying that this is just mere prudishness; it is not that, the play is bad, inconclusive, and unnecessarily debauched. However if it is bad then the play will fold of its own accord, the fact that it has got one or two "rude" scenes in it is no reason for cutting the GLC grant to the National Theatre. One would hope that the average theatre-goer would be able to exercise enough restraint if he really thought it would offend and not go. As for sending in the police before you've seen it, well really Mrs Whitehouse... I'm beginning to think this is a subversive plot to find some excuse to cut funds to the NT. It is a boring play and I urge you not to go and see it.

Sarah Butterfield

The Wild Duck

THE current version of Henrik Ibsen's "The Wild Duck," showing at the Lyric, Hammersmith, is no doubt a very different production from that which first appeared in London in 1894. It

is the revolutionary new translation from Norwegian by Ronald Hingley which provides the surprises.

With two leading comic actors, Richard Briers of "Good Life" fame and Nerys Hughes, the Liverpoolian Sandra of the "Liver Birds," it is sometimes difficult to accept them in the tragic roles they now play. It is unfortunate for Briers that he is inexorably linked with the popular situation comedy; when he appears on stage wearing the same jumper as Tom God, and when at one point he opens the loft door to the sound of clucking hens, one automatically recalls the back garden of the suburban semi. However, this is by no means to condemn his performance nor that of Nerys Hughes. They play the married couple at the centre of the plot whose lives are shattered by the interference of an idealistic old friend, Gregers (played by Jim Norton). The victim of this intervention is the couple's highly strung adolescent daughter Hedvig (Michele Wade). The wild duck, which exists off-stage, links the play together as it is manipulated by the various characters; finally, Hedvig, shattered by her father's rejection of her is persuaded by Gregers to kill the duck as a sacrifice to her father. Instead she kills herself.

Performed in traditional costume with 19th century-type-sets, the main characters are strongly backed up by the secondary cast; I particularly enjoyed Jean Boht's portrayal of the coquettish Mrs Soerby. JK

Giselle

THE Royal Ballet has found its new premier danseur noble. This became clear at the matinee of "Giselle" when Derek Deane and Jennifer Penney made their debuts in this ballet.

Derek Deane, dancing Count Albrecht, showed that not only has he got the exquisitely graceful dancing and the imposing good looks (sorry, but these are important for this type of dancer) that entitle him to lay claim to the mantle which Anthony Dowell abandoned when he went to New York, but also that his dramatic talents are considerably greater than those of the hitherto sorely-missed star. He has not yet fully developed the latter's compelling stage presence but that will surely come with the experience of regularly dancing leading roles—Norman Morrice please note!

As expected, Deane danced beautifully throughout the ballet but it was his acting ability which was the real revelation. His is the only interpretation of the nobleman who tries to pass as a peasant in which the two personas and the tension between them are convincingly portrayed. And instead of appearing somewhat upset and rather non-plussed that Giselle should react to his slight "forgetfulness" in not informing her of his social and betrothed status by losing her reason, this Albrecht is clearly rent apart by the disaster which his naivety has played such a large part in bringing about.

Sharing the acting honours with Derek Deane was Julian Hosking whose Hilarion is the only one (and I admit that I have not seen Michael Coleman's reading of the part) whose jealousy is truly pathetic and so evinces any feeling of pity from the audience—as indeed he is supposed to do. When the role has been danced by others, I have felt only rage at a figure who has seemed to cause the tragedy of his wilfulness rather than, as written, by his haplessness.

Jennifer Penney's dancing was as delightful as usual but although her acting has improved beyond belief in the last year, her emotional range is not yet wide enough for her to be a great Giselle. Nothing short of brilliant in the mad scene and good both as the ghost in the second part of the ballet and as the carefree young peasant girl at the beginning, she was unable to put over sufficiently the rapture of being madly in love in the important solo in which Giselle dances for Albrecht.

The main flaw in this new production remains the costumes. Although the Wilis' dresses in the second act are fine and Albrecht's costume simply ravishing, the peasant girls' dresses in the first half of the ballet are overdone and combine with the elaborate scenery to produce an overly fussy effect. And on the subject of imperfections, I still don't understand why Giselle's spirit rises from one grave and disappears at the end into another.

Jane Kleiner

HOME FRONT

Library fire risk

THE first week of this term saw the first of many false "fire alarms" that was to free students from their intellectual rigours for the sake of safety. To the rhythm of the pulsating alarm, books were abandoned at study tables as students moved down the stair-wells to stand outside as a phalanx of firemen attended to the sensitive nerve.

After standing outside the library after the alarm cried "Wolf" for the second time one Friday night, I kept thinking about an observation I had made during a month of trying to open British doors.

Invariably I would be surprised to find a door to a shop or some public building that even a stalwart pull would not open while a gentle push would. Most of LSE doors are opened from the outside by pulling.

At some point, while pushing a door open, I remembered a tragic fire in New York City at the Triangle Waist Co.

The factory was located on the top three floors of a building in downtown New York and was a "sweat-shop" where women made clothing for the brisk business carried on in the nearby garment district.

Organisers for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union had unsuccessfully tried to form a union in the factory in order to improve working conditions and seek a rise in the subsistence wages.

About 4.30 pm on March 26th, 1911, a fire broke out on the eighth floor of the 10-storey building. There was only one fire escape in the building. Another door leading to a narrow stairway was locked. Some workers were able to ride elevators down.

A total of 154 died that day—more than a third by jumping to their deaths from window sills as the fire licked at their clothing.

The tragedy prompted a wide-ranging inquiry. One of the most frequent fire hazards found was the prevalence of exit doors that "opened in".

Doors that "open in" had in previous fires effectively become yet another wall to those seeking escape. Panicking crowds had rushed *en masse* to exits where doors that "opened in" could not be opened at all because of the mass of pressing bodies.

What happened at The Who concert in Cincinnati, Ohio, is ample evidence of what can happen when a mass of people who either want to get in or get out confront a door that will not yield.

As is too often the case, it took tragedies such as those at the Triangle factory and The Who concert to prompt some legislative response.

To install a door that opens outwards or to prohibit "festival seating" at concerts are no great technological accomplishments. The door that opens inwards is simply a door that opens outwards installed backwards.

Unfortunately, it takes tragedies for the simplicity to become apparent.

Brent Schondelmyer

NOTE: I have not been able to track down a building code for London to determine if they have regulation on which way doors open.



Complaints of Carr-Saunders

HALL OF RESIDENCE BLUES

THE trouble with Halls of Residence is... that they exist? A little harsh. That they don't exist? Probably nearer the truth. It is quite possible to live in one for a whole year and achieve a level of intimacy with it comparable to the one you have with Lenin's grandmother. I know. I did it.

Rosebery and Carr-Saunders hold the least favourable memories for me. I remember with disturbing clarity those first few awful weeks of desperate socialisation before I eventually reconciled myself to mere manic depression. The conversations immutable in structure and content, relating to course, stage reached in course, and country/area of origin. The "first-years" trying frantically to look cool and omniscient, and failing for that precise reason. The tacit sexual innuendo underlying every male/female coupling (vocal not

carnal)... and the not so tacit sexual innuendo followed by the inevitable and ubiquitous embarrassment. Mind you, with the rooms modelled on rabbit hutches...

The aspect that really killed me though, was the sense of community and warm togetherness in the television room. The atmosphere so electric with excitement and philanthropy that everyone wore a grimace of contentment and fulfilment. Their folded arms pulled with generosity under tensed ribcages. Their fists clenched with humanity, knuckles white with benevolence. No wonder so many students think they're humanists. They all love each other.

The most unnatural aspect of hall-life is the subordination of privacy and, to a lesser extent individuality. If you are so foolish as to try and maintain an element of

either, the suspicion clouds gather, and by those mystical, never to be revealed, processes of human nature, you become an outcast. If you like being an outcast, then you and hall were made for each other.

A lot of people enjoy their time in hall. They love the same old faces at meal times and establish relationships that are, if not totally based on restrained hostility, ones that at least never lose track of that basic element. Even so, that is mainly a facet of conditioned human behaviour and the imposed situation at hall merely accentuates the problem. The majority of people spend most of their lives thinking about what other people are thinking about them. In a hall this process is magnified 200 times, the very proximity of these other human beings forcing an almost paranoid contemplation of subjective objectivity. The answer is of course, not to give a damn; then the whole situation goes into extreme reverse. Play your music loud and late if you want to, but once in a while ask yourself, "Why?"

A myth worth destroying is the one that through the aforementioned proximity to others of a variety of cultures, the "student" develops a rare and magnanimous eclecticism towards the whole human race. This assumption (sic) is about as valid as a kosher bacon butty, and is refuted with extravagant clarity at meal times by an almost immediate and inflexible structuring of social, cultural and racial cliques within the hall community.

Of course there are positive aspects to Hall. They are places where you (eventually) meet people with similar interests to yourself; where you create a circle of friends to ameliorate the trauma of violent expulsion from domestic bliss. Underlying it all though, is a sense of transience and impermanence; an imposed need for crass involvement which sooner or later becomes distasteful and grey, and an undermining of the sacrosanct elements of security and fulfilment that only become truly apparent when living for and with the people you want.

Nevertheless, halls are a necessity, and as we all know, necessity is the mother of invention. I'd just like to know who the father was.

PAUL WANE

Eden Richo

PULLING FLORRIES TOGETHER



Picture: SIMON GROSSETT

"FLORRIES", the poster boasted proudly, "will open for trading on the 20th September, 1980. It opened under the cloud of a massive debt. Last year Florries made an overall loss of £24,467. The bulk of this was due to P.A.Y.E. tax demand made by the Inland Revenue for £8,778. But there was also the £12,530 spent on the temporary refurbishing of Florries, which was considered to be a major economic blunder in some quarters of the S.U. offices. Finally there was a loss on trading of £3,159.

Things so far this term have looked much healthier, with service not cash problems being the major difficulty. Much of the credit for this success is due to the energy and enthusiasm of Roy Wells, who with Shifra as his only permanent assistant is responsible for the day to day running of the coffee bar. Although he is fully aware of the problems of queues and the demand it makes on precious student time, he's generally pleased with the way things are going this term and feels that Florries gives good value for money.

These sentiments are echoed by

Kate Slay. Kate is shop and services manageress and looks after the buying and oversees the general running of Florries. While being pleased on the whole with the coffee bar, she realises that there are still problems to be overcome. The main one is of trying to maintain prices as low as possible, whilst remaining solvent. Kate also pointed out that there is the ever-present problem of trying to recruit a permanent reliable crew to staff the place.

Around Christmas time Florries will be moving from its present spot to the ground floor of the East Building. Roy feels that some of the difficulties currently being encountered will have been overcome by them. He also hopes to be able to cater for more specialised tastes such as vegetarianism and possibly to serve more hot meals and a wider variety of foods. By this combination of measures it is hoped that the S.U. Coffee Bar will be in better financial shape at the end of this year. However, as Kelvin Baynton, the Senior Treasurer, pointed out, when you're working as near to the margin as Florries is, it is hard to tell what the year-end figures will be. But the coffee bar should break even and will at least avoid the almost ruinous loss incurred in last year's trading.

"Florries" manager Roy Wells and his assistant, Shifra—a winning team.



MINDS, HEADS AND . . .

MAX SLEDGE AND DR. DICK GONAD
REVIEW THE NEW VINYL

SIMPLE MINDS—"EMPIRES & DANCE"

SIMPLE Minds music has always puzzled me: a band, I thought, who were too concerned with form at the expense of content; a band too comfortable in the luxurious confines of the studio and a mixture of all too obvious "modern" influences—Kraftwerk, Bowie, Skids, Numan et al. In fact this concern with appearances tended to distance them from their contemporaries, a view shared by the Rock Press, and surprisingly enough, the band themselves.

"Empires and Dance" does in fact come a long way to wiping the slate clean. The preoccupation with form is still there, but the craftsmen are beginning to rejoice in their craft, whereas before it tended to overawe and ultimately run away with them. The new single "I Travel" proudly opens the gate to the album and European Disco takes on new dimensions. This field (pioneered by Kraftwerk) has never sounded so interesting and the closing track on side 1, "Fear of Gods" is a haunting Gothic climax.

Whereas "Real to Real Cacophany" was a pastiche of different styles, "Empires" is a much smoother affair. The band have travelled around Europe for the last year or so, and have undoubtedly learned something in the process. The music isn't radically different, just the attitude. Before, their cold, austere sound was far too forced and pretentious—here they really mean it. "Empires and Dance" changed my mind—see if it changes yours.

M.S.

TALKING HEADS—"REMAIN IN LIGHT"

With "Remains in Light" Talking Heads take their first step away from the format established on "77" and almost certainly brought to fruition on the classic "Fear of Music."

It also marks the emergence of Brian Eno as fifth musical member of the band. He is co-credited with Byrne as composer on all of the tracks. This upgrading, (before he took Producer credits), is quite significant. In a recent NME interview Eno stated how influenced he had become by African Music. On "Remain in Light" we hear the practical application of this recent conversion to things tribal and funky. The songs themselves tend to consist of sustained riffs, backed up by lavish and startlingly fresh percussion. The vocals are of course in the standard Byrne mould, at times staccato and neurotic, at others pleading and emotional. There is no other singer I can think of who can convince me he's on the edge of a nervous breakdown.

The opening, and title track on side 1 bleeps and pulses its way through the stereo system in an "erratically funky" fashion. All stop/start rhythms are held together by Byrne's emotional yet understated vocal. The words will be assuringly familiar to all committed Heads Persons and novel and unique to anyone hearing them for the first time. His vision of a world dying in "The Overload" offers perhaps the most sensational, objective and disconcerting lyrics he's come up with yet: "A terrible signal too weak to even recognize, a gentle collapsing—The removal of the insides."

HEAT TO THE BEAT

WIPEOUT and
NINE BELOW ZERO

L.S.E., 17th Oct.

AH, the joys of Pub Rock! This band would go down a storm in many of London's pubs-with-stages that pass for venues. Considering the late arrival of the audience (the Haldane Room didn't fill up until half way through Wipeout's set), a nice "chummy" sort of atmosphere developed surprisingly quickly. Of course we were given the usual R & B grunted intros, Chuck Berry riffs and needless attempts to encourage audience participation but on the whole this band didn't appear to be used to such a large venue!

Their heritage of "down market" pub gigs seems to give their rhythm and blues a bit of punch. Nevertheless, it's just rhythm and blues and they're not doing anything that some-

one else hasn't done better in the past.

All in all they were unexpectedly good for a support band but we couldn't help feeling that they might have tried something a bit different. Still, who cares? They had a lot of fun and the audience enthused, which is basically what it's all about.

NINE BELOW

It is possible that an R & B night may become a little tiresome if one insists on remaining sober. The Haldane Room bar seemed a little empty at first for a night like this (ie you could get a drink in only 10 minutes!) but people deserted the Three Tuns at around 9.30, preferring, as usual, to come only for the name band and almost ignore their support.

Wipeout, would probably like to be in Nine Below Zero's shoes, who in turn seem to want to be another Dr Feelgood—they even played "Down at the Doctors" as a second encore. All

in all however, they played a good set of standard R & B. They came across much more confidently than Wipeout, as befits a band doing around 200 live dates a year. That schedule, however, is bound to take the edge off some material and sure enough they flagged in mid-set as the guitarist and harmonica player allowed themselves to go over the top in some devastatingly unexciting solos. Still, for the most part they kept it fairly short and sweet, picking up the set towards the end with a solid version of Muddy Waters' "Mannish Boy."

The crowd certainly enjoyed themselves—everyone in the Haldane Room was moving in one fashion or another by the end of the night and people were moved enough to bring the band back for two encores. I understand that the album they recorded live at the Marquee is pretty damn good as well.

by BRIAN CARRUTHERS
and STEVE BRADBURY



Nine Below Zero turn on the Haldane Room heat.

—Picture by Simon Grosset.

Elsewhere he deals with his own alienation and inability to come to terms with real life (eg being a rock 'n' roll star, making lotsa money, taking drugs, laying beautiful chicks, eating in the best restaurants hanging around with David Bowie) . . . real hardship!

The music on "Remain in Light" is perhaps the simplest but strongest produced by The Heads. It may well be the least accessible but will be a better "party" album than the others. This is because "Remain in Light" is essentially dance music in the same way as Michael Jackson or Public Image. It is also their most imaginative in terms of production, with various effects that swim around in the air and swoop out of sight. Be warned that this is not the Talking Heads of "Buildings" or "Fear of Music." This is the Talking Heads of NOW!

M.S.

XTC—Black Sea

XTC are an infuriatingly unpredictable band, which makes them both easy and difficult to categorise at the same time; each of their albums (this being the fourth) having a unique character.

What makes their albums so different, but so obviously XTC? Not their character, but maybe the flavour:—jaunty, spicy pop served up with haunting melodies, clever, repetitive guitar riffs, and plenty of musical doodles. The drumming blends and integrates with the rest of the sound to an extent attained by few other bands.

Having said this, Black Sea was a big disappointment. I expected a lot from this band after the superlative "Drums and Wires". Black Sea never manages to equal the brilliant quality pop of their last album. The beautifully constructed songs—very much their hallmark are not to be found here. The album sounds awkward, as if XTC are trying to progress but don't know what they are trying to achieve. This is where they fail, because with previous albums they did, and they progressed with an identity.

Black Sea is a good album but not memorable. A worthwhile buy for the XTC addict, but for the uninitiated, "Go 2" or "Drums and Wires" are far safer testaments of XTC's ability.

D.G. (Dr.)

The Comedy Store

Isabel Mortlock checks out the revival of the stand-up comic

THE Comedy Store is where Alternative comic acts with a very capital A are to be found in London every Saturday night. Two hundred people crowd into what during the week is one of Soho's more "exclusive" strip joints to watch a succession of twenty to thirty stand-up comics try to gain and keep the attention of the audience.

Great fun is had by all. Catcalls and misfires from an increasingly "mellow" audience are the rule of the night, and the uninitiated comedian may suffer the ignominy of being "gonged off" (literally) within thirty seconds.

The more experienced acts, such as Andy de la Tour and Alexis Sayie (seen recently at the LSE) may actually last fifteen minutes, if they're lucky. Once fortified by the generous drinks measures, you too can make your bid for fame after the interval, for the second half kicks off with an "Audience Spot", where any budding Arthur Mullard may take a turn at the mike. Not to be missed.

The Comedy Store is at 69 Dean Street, W.1 (entrance in Meard Street). Show starts at 11.30 pm. Four quid to get in, but well worth every penny.



Messrs Bremner, Edmunds and Lowe . . . Rockpile to appear today (Wed.) at 1 pm.

COMING SOON AT LSE!

WEDNESDAY, 29th OCTOBER—

ROCKPILE (on stage 1.00 p.m.)

FRIDAY, 31st OCTOBER—

Joint promotion at CITY UNIVERSITY
As close to LSE Halls as LSE

THE SON OF STIFF Package Tour

(Bring your own sandwiches, folks!)
Admission: £1.80 advance; £2.00 on door.

SATURDAY, 8th NOVEMBER—

B. A. ROBERTSON and The Expressos

SPECIAL GUESTS:
THE FABULOUS POODLES and Modern Jazz

Admission: £2.00 advance; £2.20 on door.
Hyper-subsidised Ticket Prices!!!

MONDAY, 10th NOVEMBER— In the Old Theatre

NME ALL-STARS NIGHT

AVEC A CERTAIN RATIO
Special guests: The AU PAIRS and MINI POPS

Admission: £1.50 advance; £1.80 on door.
A must for any budding trendies!

SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER—

ROBERT FRIPP'S LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN and Martian Schoolgirls

One day strike call from NUS

(Continued from Page One)

that this would mean a further loss of one-third of SU income, over and above the probable loss incurred were these proposals to be implemented.

"Disaffiliation now comes at the worst possible moment . . ." In urgent terms Mr Aaronovitch called on all involved to mount a siege on the Government. On November 28th "the DES must be the focal point of all student activity," he said, and called for "letters to each individual student . . . open fora . . . the involvement of Athletic Unions, Halls of Residence"—for all, irrespective of sectional interest.

"Status quo is not an option," he said. In rejecting all arguments, he emphasised that one month is sufficient to organise an effective campaign. "People will do it because people have bloody well got to."

BEAVER CROSSWORD

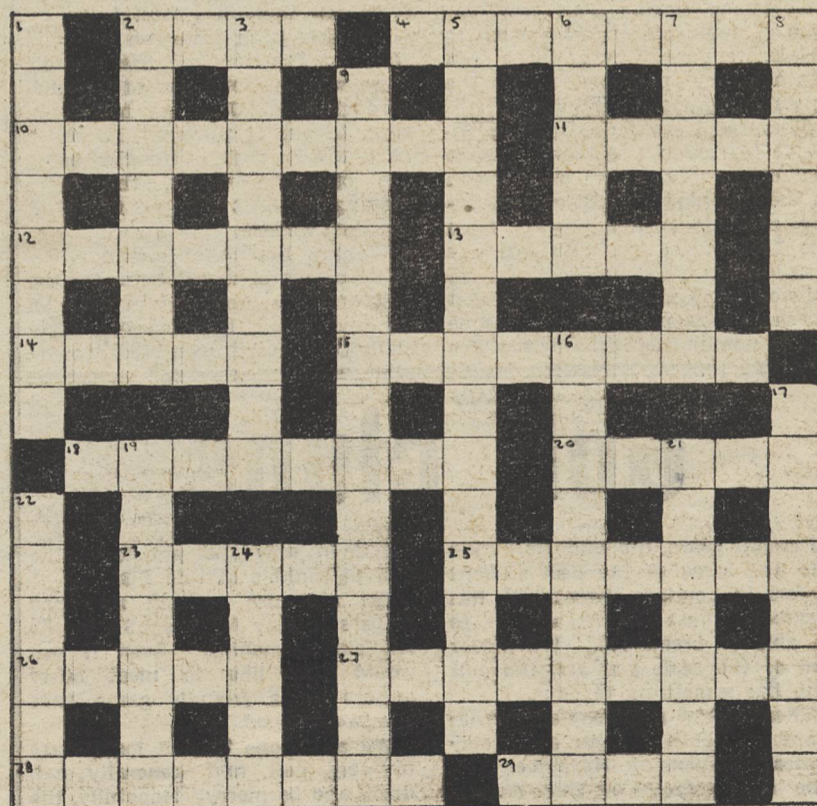
No 1 Michaelmas term 80

CLUES ACROSS

- 2 The middle company of sappers. (4).
- 4 Half a hairsbreadth from parting terminus (5, 3).
- 10 Reptile related to group of travelling scholars (9).
- 11 Drink found in Drama Society containers (5).
- 12 Behind the van and before the main feature (7).
- 13 Scot unable to grudge (5).
- 14 Often starts business letters to group receiving stolen goods (5).
- 15 Excessive attachment to little yellow cow (8).
- 18 Quarter of the way round the yard with rage (8).
- 20 Seaside cruise (5).
- 23 Telegram 100: Seaman left England (5).
- 25 Well hounded delicacy (7).
- 26 1st Med'c very attached to bagpipes (5).
- 27 Commanding Officer Ward freezes in face of danger (9).
- 28 Bare imitation of human being (5, 3).
- 29 Mixed diet for choosing the text (4).

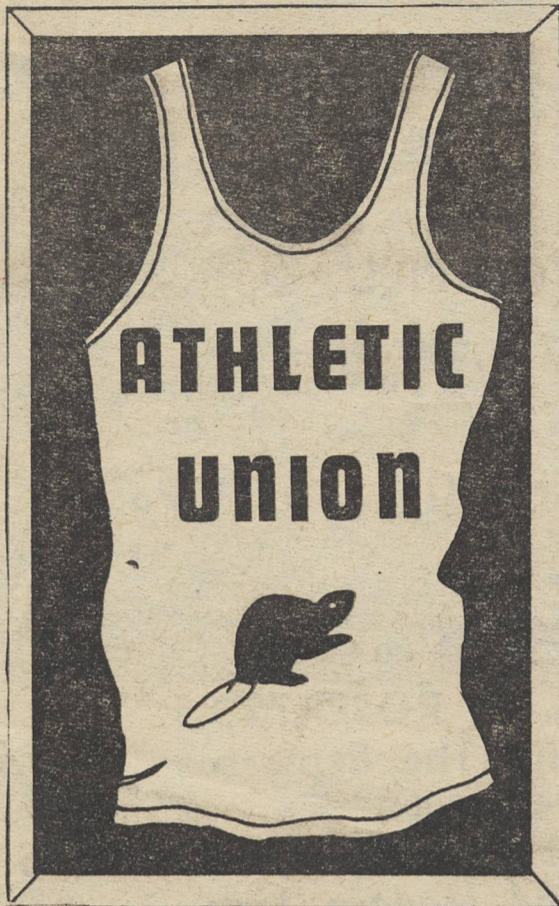
DOWN

- 1 Sowers of little nuts? (8).
- 2 Underground apartments for storing salt (7).
- 3 Controlled mix of glue, rated for solution (9).
- 5 Passed south estuary and the city for naval base (10, 4).
- 6 Country in aid from East to West (5).
- 7 Nearly equal or middle line (7).
- 8 Applying mixture to request for carol (6).
- 9 Sugar and lemon? With this argument (5, 2, 1, 6).
- 16 Bill not in colour issued with service kit (9).
- 17 Reverse sword between stations for difficult ascent (8).
- 19 United Nations cover up—it's quite revealing (7).
- 21 Strike down if and only if tale is shaken (7).
- 22 Add amongst three points will upset (6).
- 24 Train Co's English advert will bring in the cash (5).



SOLUTIONS

ACROSS
29 Empty, 20 Core, 4 Split end, 10 Alibator, 5 Portsmouth Town, 6 India, 7 11 Drums, 12 Trailer, 13 Searl, 14 Equator, 8 Dosing, 9 Storm in a teacup, 16 Accoutred, 17 Steepest, 18 Resect, 15 Idolatry, 18 Quadrant, 20 teacup, 16 Accoutred, 17 Steepest, 23 Cable, 25 Truffle, 26 29 Empty.
DOWN
1 Bread, 2 Cellars, 3 Regulated, 17 Steepest, 18 Resect, 15 Idolatry, 18 Quadrant, 20 teacup, 16 Accoutred, 17 Steepest, 23 Cable, 25 Truffle, 26



HOOKED ON HOCKEY

LAST Wednesday saw the start of this year's hockey season. As feared, it got off to the predicted farce. To call Wednesday's performance an absolute disaster is to totally ignore the gravity of the situation. Last season, we won one match against a seven-man team from Imperial. In fact judging by last week's "effort" last season could well turn out to be a stunner by comparison. Why people should pay out good money to procure a TV show to savour the delights of the Paul Daniels Magic Show or Tommy Cooper is quite incomprehensible when a Wednesday afternoon performance by the LSE Hockey (men) is sufficiently droll to keep one's belly-aching desires placated for the whole week.

Anyway we played Kings on Wednesday and lost 9-2 (Ha-ha Tee-hee). Mind you, our performance in the second half showed some promise. We were a bit unfortunate in that we came close to scoring from three short corners and Jacques Steffens shows great potential in this field. Tim (I cannot spell his second name) goalie extraordinaire showed great guts but the limitations of his shortsightedness proved cruelly apparent. Charles Baker scored a good goal and was a key factor in the scoring of the second goal by Andy Dryzko who passed four Kings players with the contempt they deserved, played a 1-2 with the aforementioned and flicked a good goal.

STUCK ON STICKS

THE start of the women's hockey season came and went, passing the LSE by as usual. This was also true of some players who came to Trials, went away never to be seen again (they probably made the mistake of going to the Library).

The season opened with a seven-a-side tournament at Motpur Park including every college ever known in the University. With overwhelming enthusiasm five players from the LSE turned up. But all was not lost, in fact nothing was as we won two and drew four (against tough opposition). Before anyone starts nominating this heroic five

for the England Squad I must explain that we did gain two players from the London Hospital.

On this high note we went to New Malden for our first match. Here were murmurings of disbelief through the AU as we had managed to get 11 players. It was a hard-fought match (fought being the operative word), the score reading 3-2 in St George's favour at the final whistle.

We are hoping to continue the achievement of a full team for the rest of the season and in addition try and win a few matches, especially UAU, starting on Wednesday.

Golf clubs

IN recent years, the LSE Golf Club has had some of the best student golfers in London. Equally, it has members whose dearest wish is to be able to break 120. Whichever end of the scale you are, the golf club has something to offer.

There will be a matchplay tournament for both singles and four-somes commencing November 5th. The early stages of this tournament are specifically for players whose enthusiasm far outstrips their ability. If you can score about 130 or less we are looking for you. If, of course, you are of a higher standard, you will get byes to meet players of your own ability. If you already have an entry form,

fill it in now and put it in the golf pigeonhole outside E-65.

We are also looking for good players to play for the LSE in the AU championships. Even if you would just like to meet other golfers for a friendly game, that can be arranged.

We also hope to visit local clubs to play golf and generally eat, drink and be merry. Hopefully, the season will be wound up with a club dinner at a top-level golf course.

If you are interested, I can be contacted through the golf pigeonhole outside E-65 or at Passfield Hall, Room 105.

Gerard Quirke

1st and 2nd class hookers

1st XV

THE rugby world was sent into panic by reports emanating from New Malden of newfound success by the LSE Rugby Club under the inspiring(?) leadership of Neil Canfrey. Despite the fact that in every game played so far, at least one of the LSE XV has ended up in Kingston Hospital, enthusiasm is still running high. Some of the high-scoring abilities of Hugh Bishop and Tim Pearce and the prolific goal-kicking of Ceri Davies (26 points out of a possible 160!).

2nd XV

The 2nds shocked themselves more than the opposition as they notched up 24 points in around 15 minutes of the game v Bulmershe College 1st XV. Despite difficulties in communication between Lebanese and Americans, some fluent rugby was played despite the absence of Caryn Harwood. When the game was finally called to a halt by that dominant referee "Bloater" Tompkins, the score was 30-9, giving the LSE their first rugby win double for a long time.

Stop Press: M. Easterbrook requires something to ride—a bike would suffice.

SOCCER SCORES

An in-depth analysis of L.S.E. goal-scoring averages

THE LSE Football Club continued their winning was in the opening matches of the season.

First eleven scored 3 handsome wins with forwards Macintosh and Squires scoring 5 goals each, although two of the latter were scored in rather dubious circumstances. The

general performance of the players was very encouraging with the UAU Cup in a few weeks' time.

The Second and Third eleven also had two wins in the League, with the Second's best performance coming in a friendly against Royal Holloway where

Roy Coles scored 8 goals. The Thirds have also been very consistent with Simon Green yet to concede a goal.

The Fourths have also maintained a hundred per cent record and this underlines the strength and depth of the entire football club.



Action replay of last week's winning goal.

Boat crew drowned . . . ?

The Lutine Bell tolls for the Neasden eight

TODAY Lloyds was racked by news of the loss of another LSE eight at Neasden Flyover. Although Neasden is not renowned for its treacherous seas, a recent BBC documentary stated that it could be the British equivalent of the Bermuda Triangle.

The boat was first reported missing at chucking-out time on Saturday, October 18th, 1980. It had departed on a perfect day, visibility was good, cloud cover minimal and satisfactory at-

mospheric conditions prevailed. It was, in fact, ideal for flying but was to turn out so terribly wrong. . . .

The world first heard about the disaster when air sea rescue, the R.N.L.I. and the editor of the Amateur Rowing Association paper were finally alerted by an unconcerned First Sea Lord, Sir Walter Horatio Malpey (C-in-C Home Fleet, retarded).

Later, at the scene, the editor of the ARA spoke to a still unemployed LSE law graduate who had witnessed the alleged

accident. The man/woman said, "I'm completely shattered."

He then met Sir Walter, who said, "Well John, I'm totally aghast. The bridge seemed to rear in front of the boat from the murky depths of the Thames. I, of course, ordered the crew to fight back with oars, but it was to no avail against the scaly stones of the leviathan and so the boat was thrown on its back by the monster's outstretched tentacles. I think it was a senseless waste of human life. Thank God I was in the rescue launch and not in the bloody boat."