

THE BEAVER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS UNION

Barclays Dumps South Africa

by Mark Guest

The withdrawal of Barclays Bank from South Africa last week signified a major victory for the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Labour Foreign Affairs spokesman, Donald Anderson commented, "I congratulate the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the National Union of Students, the Labour Local Authorities..."

The jubilation regarding the withdrawal of one of apartheid's most ardent supporters is not,

however, the end of a long, arduous campaign. The Anti-Apartheid Movement will aim to consolidate its gains. Mike Terry, a spokesman for the Anti-Apartheid Movement said, "We welcome this movement, although there remains a number of key ways in which Barclays is still involved in maintaining the apartheid system, and that's why Barclays will continue to be a major campaigning target of ours."

The Bank's decision to reduce

its holding in "Barnat", as it is known in South Africa, resulted from two major concerns. Firstly, pressure over the bank's links with South Africa from the United States where Barclays is eager to expand, and secondly, continuous loss of custom domestically. The inability to attract potential "high earners" is undoubtedly due to the success of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and students themselves, in bringing to light the bank's financial support for the apartheid system.

Valued at around £200 million, the bank's 29 million shares in Barnat (40.4 percent), changed hands for approximately £170 million. With Anglo-American, De Beers and the Southern Life Association scooping up the shares, there has been a proliferation of South African claims regarding economic strength and potential. However, with the withdrawal of IBM, General Motors, Coca Cola, Eastman/Kodak and Barclays, the South Africans face further abandonment. Amongst others, the Prudential Group and Shell are currently in the process of reviewing their interests in South Africa.

At Thursday's UGM, Rory O'Driscoll, the Senior Treasurer, revealed that current Union policy on the refusal to accept Barclays' cheques will remain unchanged. Avinash Persaud, involved in the Anti-Apartheid movement, said that the extent of Barclays' disinvestment would be considered and that this may warrant some discussion at next week's meeting, although there were no plans at the moment to alter Union policy. Students and the Anti-Apartheid movement may be able to congratulate themselves on a job well done. However, as they are fully aware, Barclays' withdrawal represents a very small step in putting real pressure on the government of South Africa.



Photo: International Defence & Aid Fund

ENTS TROUBLE



by Ross Broadstock

Last Saturday, Ruby Turner appeared at the LSE with only a hundred people turning up. The crowd was so low that Ruby Turner had to be actually persuaded onto the stage. Over a thousand pounds was lost. This was the latest in a series of Ents events that have lost money this term due to low attendance.

Even with the first event (The All Night Ball) making a profit of £128.70, the musical losses for the term are now approaching £2,000, and with the current demand for financial stringency throughout the Union, this is no small matter.

Blame has been placed with student apathy and the organisation behind the events. When questioned on the problems, the Social Secretary, Babs Band, accepted that a lot of the blame was hers. The advertising has been the centre of criticism for being too late and not being extensive enough to cover the majority of students. Many people have complained of actually not even hearing of the event.

After attending the ill-fated "Booze Cruise", in which less than 20 paying students attended, Nick Moreno summed up feelings when he said, "It was an absolute disaster, many of my friends would have gone but didn't even know about it. Publicity was appalling."

Band admitted that mistakes have been made this term and hoped that the situation was improving. A lot of these problems, she said, were due to out-

side factors (such as problems with agents and their own publicity provisions). For example, the Ruby Turner gig was only made available to Ents two weeks before the actual performance.

In the Sabbatical elections, Babs Band stood on a platform of which did not emphasise financial matters, but the LSE has the smallest entertainment budget in London (£1,000) and even after the Ents' incomes have been accounted for, this is quickly being swallowed. Previous years have also seen Ents going a long way over budget, but last year showed it is possible to actually break even. However reluctantly, some moves are being made to scale down the losses. The plan is to reduce the number of major acts appearing next term due to the current poor support of the gigs, with emphasis switching to smaller events.

Contrary to impressions given by the "Ents Report", the problems of this term have been serious, and it is in everyone's interests that they be resolved. Larger attendances are needed if 'big names' are to keep appearing at the LSE. Of course, student apathy has also played a role in the low attendances. Many other colleges in London have also reported difficulty in maintaining audiences, with only ULU and outlying colleges, with a more 'captive audience', actually doing well. If, as it appears, smaller crowds are going to be a permanent feature, then ENTS will be forced to change its approach to live acts.

AIDS: Find Out Now!

By C.E. Philipsborn

AIDS is such a complex subject that it is difficult to know where to start, especially within the confines of a short article. Perhaps the first thing to say is that if you are in any way worried or simply curious about this subject, the following sources of information are open to you.

The Terence Higgins Trust deals with all Aids-related problems. Originally set up on behalf of the Gay community, half of the calls it receives are now from heterosexuals. Their helpline number is 833 2971 and is open

from 7-10 pm Mon.-Fri. and 3-10 pm Sat. and Sun. The Trust produces excellent leaflets on all aspects of the disease. These leaflets are a model of clear, plainly worded advice and information which I strongly recommend as essential reading matter.

Students will most probably become one of the high risk groups as the disease spreads. This literature is readily available from the L.S.E. Student Welfare Office. The Welfare Officer and assistants are also ready to advise anyone who needs help or guidance with Aids-related problems. Finally, the government "Healthline" has a number of pre-recorded tapes on various

aspects of the disease. The numbers to dial for this service can be found in various advertisements in the national press.

Prevention is the only cure for Aids. It is therefore crucial to be as informed as possible on the subject. There will be no Aids vaccine until the year 2000 at the earliest. The disease, which first manifested itself in the Gay and drug using community and among haemophiliac sufferers, has now spread to heterosexuals. Unless we become more responsible, it will probably soon be just as likely to be caught from student flings, one night stands and contacts with prostitutes.



Ruby Turner in the Old Theatre

Photo: Mark Moore

Letters

Executive Attendance

Dear Editor,

I am writing with reference to today's fiasco at the Union General Meeting in which a motion of censure was passed on Ingrid Durgadeen (Overseas Students' Officer), Catherine Bruce (Women's Officer) and Lisa Britton (Press and Publicity Officer).

These women were censured on the grounds that they had "walked out" of an Executive Meeting. The facts of the matter were that the decisions to be made at this meeting were serious enough to warrant the attention of every member of the Executive. Noting the absence of several members, the aforementioned left to see if they could be found.

I, for one, cannot understand the logic of censuring the three, hardest-working members of the Executive. Moreover, I would like to point out that the "right" had walked out of the previous week's Executive Meeting to make it inquorate.

Why then have Nigel Kilby and his "liberal" ally chosen to censure Ingrid, Catherine and Lisa? Could it be that Nigel was motivated by the very same political considerations of which he accused these three?

More disturbing, however, is the context in which these three women have been censured. A general atmosphere of macho-thuggery has prevailed at Union Meetings all term, and Nigel Kilby's misogyny has been ardent for all to see. It is no coincidence that it was women who suffered in this latest populist debacle at the Union.

Sasha Roseuil

Dear Sir:

This is now the second week in succession that the S/U has been forced to cancel its executive meeting due to inquorate attendance. This is a direct reflection on the commitment of many of the present executive members. It is not a party political point, nor is it aimed at individuals, it is merely an indictment of the apathy that surrounds the entire union.

In order to fulfil at least the bare minimum of their job description, executive members must attend executive meetings. The cynic may not expect student politicians to fulfil all their functions, but they are expected to attend meetings.

Yours,
Pete Wilcock
Rory O'Driscoll

P.S. December 3rd at 3.00 is the next meeting - so come you bastards.

Dear Editor,

I am writing in protest at the pathetic political posturing which led to a no-confidence motion being passed on three members of the Executive Committee.

In the cases of the Women's Officer and the Overseas Students' Officer, I find this especially obscene because they represent particular sectors of LSE population who are both discriminated against and treated with contempt by the proposers of this motion.

Executive members should not be judged solely on their political leanings but on what they do in

their executive capacity - and in this they could not be bettered.

It is interesting to note that this motion was directed against three women members of the Executive which probably says more about the prejudices of the proposers than about any failings on the part of the three.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Pybus

Zionism Response

Dear Editor:

The lies, disinformation, selective and misleading quotations, and blatant omissions in the feature purporting to examine the origins and practice of Zionism, need to be exposed for what they are. The now bankrupt view that Zionism was merely an escape from anti-semitism caused by religious but chiefly economic oppression has led to more sinister accusations that are themselves bordering on anti-semitism. Political Zionism, leading from the continual bond between the Jewish people and the land of Israel, is a post Emancipation and Enlightenment phenomenon. It was a response to the challenge of liberalism and nationalism more than merely being a reaction to anti-semitism and is thus a movement for the self-determination and liberation of the Jewish people.

Herzl is quoted by Wheatley as saying that fighting anti-semitism was futile, yet the quote is taken out of context. Herzl valued the fight against anti-semitism, yet he saw that such a fight would be futile unless the Jewish people had a homeland to develop their national identity. Zionism was for Herzl only one part of the fight against anti-semitism - it was not an escape from it. Others such as Moses Hess saw no solution to the "Jewish problem" without a Jewish proletariat rooted in a national Jewish society, while Ber Borochov, a Marxist Zionist, saw Zionism as the only way for the Jewish people to be integrated into the universal socialist revolutionary process.

Unfortunately, the history of the Holocaust, which was not deemed to be worth of even a mention in Wheatley's "analysis", was the indisputable tragic proof that a Jewish homeland is necessary to prevent such anti-semitism.

The history of Israel has been one of a struggle for survival in a hostile environment and a quest for defensible borders. As of yet, only Egypt has been willing to negotiate peace, while Palestinian rejectionists and their supporters have not accepted the Jewish right to self-determination that they demand for themselves. Only through such mutual recognition for the rights of both Jews and Palestinians to self-determination can there be any hope for a peaceful settlement. Surely this is the positive approach, rather than Wheatley's rejectionism, for any just and viable solution to the Middle East conflict.

Yours faithfully,
Graham Kaye

Dear Editor:

I would like to take issue with one of the many false and misleading assertions made by Liz Wheatley. (The Origins and Practices of Zionism" 24th Nov.) The particular issue is her prejudiced claim that the "Zionists seized Palestine".

Firstly, the area now called Israel was historically a Jewish State and ceased to be so only after the Jews were forcibly expelled in AD 70 by the Romans.

Furthermore, the 1947 UN partition plan, which was rejected by the Arabs, intended to effect the principles laid out in The Balfour Declaration, which had attempted to satisfy both Arab and Jewish aspirations. In fact, the Jews, who constituted one third of the population (continually receiving influxes of Holocaust survivors), received only 15% of the original Palestine.

Any Israeli territorial gains were achieved in wars started by the Arabs "to drive the Jews into the sea" (Nasser, May 25, 1967). Israel has willingly returned the conquered territory in return for peace, as exemplified by the return of Sinai.

Israel and Zionists are not interested in seizing land and would exchange land in return for Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist within secure and recognizable borders.

Sincerely,
C. I. Hamburger

Elitist Hypocrisy

Dear Beaver,

The hypocrisy of the West is unbelievable! The "freedom for Soviet Jews" campaign has nothing to do with either equality or human rights. On the one hand, it is an adept thrust in the diplomatic game with the USSR, and on the other hand, it is an exercise in elitism.

The Soviet Jews campaign is a weapon in the diplomatic armoury of the West and not a product of concern with human rights. If the West is so concerned with accepting refugees from political oppression, why is the USA turning away hundreds of thousands of refugees from the much greater oppression in Central America? If the West is so concerned with reuniting families, why is Britain turning away the thousands of blacks trying to join their families here? No, the West is not concerned with universal human rights, it is concerned only with those refugees who bring either capital or propaganda value against communism.

The Jewish groups supporting this campaign are both racialist and elitist. They are not concerned with the fate of other people, but just with their so-called compatriots. We see this again and again. Just last year, Israel took pains to airlift several thousands of "Jews" out of Ethiopia, while doing nothing for the rest of the Ethiopian people. Elitism and hypocrisy!

Yours,
V. Upadhyaya

Dear Editor:

Zionism = Racism has been proclaimed far too often on campus this term. How far from the truth.

Every nation has the right to self-determination to live and to defend itself in its own homeland. Denying Jews this right is anti-semitic. Therefore Anti-Zionism = Anti-Semitism.

The feature in last week's Beaver, "The Origins and Practice of Zionism", can only be described as a compilation of misinformation with quotes and facts taken right out of context.

For example, the article ASSUMES an "Israeli-Arab 'apartheid'". No such regime or anything like it exists. Israel is a democratic country which gives ALL of its citizens, both Jews and Palestinian Arabs, full civil and voting rights. There are seven Arab members of the Knesset (Israel's parliament).

The reality and not a perversion of facts is necessary if there is to be a truthful, meaningful, and constructive discussion

Yours sincerely,
Leon Kamhi

Dear Editor:

There are some things in life which are simply not funny.

This week's "At the Union" article which attempts to trivialise the recent murders of Tamil students in East London was offensive, and the attempts at journalistic "wit", inappropriate.

Racism, whether institutional or individual, seeks, among other things, to destroy the dignity and status of black people in this country. As you pointed out in your lead article, it's not good enough to sloganeer about "freedom of speech" without thinking also about your own backyard. Racism thrives through the cumulative effect of this type of offensive trash.

Hazel Smith

Dear Editor:

As usual Ms. Botsford hears only what she wishes! In "At the Union", 17th November, she writes in rather sarcastic tones about the demise of FCS and my so-called sacking.

However, as I said quite clearly at the Union and I shall repeat now for the sake of "Beaver" readers, that although FCS nationally has been shut down, London Area FCS continues. In fact, all areas of FCS continue to run, co-ordinating their branches in the main fight against socialism.

The National FCS Committee is to be replaced by an appointed body called the Conservative Collegiate Forum. Indeed, far from being sacked I have heard, on the grapevine, that Mr. Tebbit is asking me to join this forum. Wrong again, Ms. Botsford!!! "Divine Retribution!" Poor demented darling!

Simon McVicker
Chairman, London Conservative Students

Dear Editor,

I am writing in disgust at the misogynist display by our present right wing clique of egomaniacs. Elwyn, possibly the most inefficient General Secretary in the history of the LSE, being incredibly concerned with attendance records, failed to admit his pathetic record on the Constitutional Committee - where has he been? Is Elwyn a hypocrite, or has he been dropped down to the cesspit which Messrs. Kilby and Co. occupy - we can only guess.

Their attempt is little short of pathetic misogyny, caused I'm sure by a deep personal psychological problem; what we need to ask is why are Union members stupid enough to follow anything this cretin argues for? Surely these people do not hold themselves to be duped by blatant misogyny and cover racism, when the right have learned to group and stop acting like a gang of minor public school brats, we may get a chance to have sensible discussion in our Union instead of petty, personal attacks and blatant ego-boasting.

Yours,
Phillip Evans

THE BEAVER

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At the Union

By Elizabeth Botsford



Photo: Sunil Shah

Once upon a time a little boy floated down the Thames in a soapy bubble believing that the future of the nursery was paved with British Gas shares. Then the naughty Mrs. Thatcher – who had once been his fairy godmother – upped their price, in what was doubtlessly another anti-inflationary move.

The ghost of speeches past, not to mention Iain Crawford and legal advisors, haunted his office. Was it constitutionally possible to carry out his plan without trying to pass a financial motion which would require an impossible two-thirds majority?

Another little boy called Pete, who had floated down the Thames in an even better insulated soapy bubble, suggested we might all boycott the Brunch Bowl. Who wants to eat there anyway? It looks like the inside of a toothpaste tube. As the trots never eat there, won't they feel left out of our radical stance? After consulting with the Russian-backed ANC and other South African liberation organisations, Pete suggested that it is too early to decide whether to accept Barclay's Bank cheques at Union facilities. Has Midland Bank – which invests in South Africa under the guise of the Allied Bank – pulled out? If not, why do we accept its cheques?

Deidre held a meeting which less people attended than there are toes on Nigel Kilby's feet. It seemed, at one stage, that he was going to take off his D.M.s and show us what he meant. If they don't allow strippers at Carr-Saunders, wherever two or three are gathered together in LSE's name, he'll always be willing. However, in this instance, many people would have passed out (those feet have done a lot of sweating). As those in closest proximity were his supporters, it was a good political manoeuvre to remain fully clothed for once.

I thought I overheard Deidre mention setting up a union male box. The microphone must have muffled the prefix "fe-". In any case, it all sounded very profitable, something to be privatised immediately.

As usual (and it takes one to know a few hundred), the behaviour at the meeting reflected very badly on our predominantly middle and upper-middle class upbringing. However, outside our behaviour is exemplary. Chas was able to report that our union is the officially recognised biggest consumer of tequila in the country. There is one executive member who is certainly doing his job.

A non-stop, anti-apartheid picketer, who looked remarkably like the stripper of a few weeks ago, spoke to us of the tactics the police have continually used against him and his crew. They are issuing writs against policemen who have sexually assaulted women on the picket line. Nothing can be more terrifying than such an abuse of power by members of the government instrument which is supposed to be investigating cases of that very same crime.

Then the petit squabbling began. A notice of censure against the women's officer, the publicity officer, and the overseas students' officer revealed the real face of those executive members who showed such poise and finesse just before their elections.



Photo: Sunil Shah

Owing to a lack of labour club members present at an executive meeting, these three officers had walked out in order to make the meeting inquorate.

Quorate at an executive meeting is eight. The proportion of left to right wingers is 7:6. Therefore, if either side employs this manoeuvre, there could potentially be no executive meetings all year.

"The centre-right never employed such tactics last year", said Elwyn.

"Yes we did", shouted Alan Evans from the balcony. Well he did, once.

Claws fully extended, Ingrid screeched, "We have never put student welfare before politics", and then retracted – but never did she or her allies deny walking out for party political reasons.

If these women (Ron being an honorary woman) can't stand being alone with right-wing men, they should go to more assertive-ness training classes.

There was a move to a count. "You can't count Rory, you're senior treasurer", said Bexon, in

an attempt to go down in the annals of meeting history – for what was this? Wit? From a hack? Surely not.

If O'Driscoll can't count, the left certainly weren't up to the challenge and conceded defeat for the first time in the history of the Stalinist movement. And indeed, this did mark the beginning of the fall of the Soviet Empire.

Following the tedium of the sabbatical reports (who ever said Irishmen had the gift of the gab?), and the expose of Ingrid's political immaturity, the last motion was to decide whether a Sinn Fein member should address us next week. This motion was proposed by Pete Wilcock, Northern Irish Protestant though he may be. Although the Irish

issue involves us directly as a nation, there appeared to be as much ignorance on this issue as there was 2 weeks ago on Cyprus. The people who were so impatient over what was seen as irrelevant bickering then, indulged in the same with the vigour of experts.

Tina Campbell wanted a united Irish working class rule without the bigotry of the Catholic Church. But she suggested that its bigotry was confined to the abortion issue. Whom are we kidding? The whole ethos of the Catholic Church – whether through an incorrect perception of divine revelation, or because of the remnant of its political past – is against the liberation of both women and the working classes. For how can families be socially mobile if they are unable to limit the number of children for which they have to provide?

Pete then implied that getting troops out of Ireland was more important than women's issues – and this from a guy who got a first in 'Women and the Law'!

Lack of Academic Inspiration

The Dearth of Academic Inspiration

A. Hall

In response to the lack of response to academic mediocrity featured in "The Beaver" of the last two weeks: The lack of inspiration of students and teachers alike is reflected in our mediocre newspaper. The problem is that we LSE students have so few beliefs in common, coming from so many different countries and backgrounds for courses of different lengths, means that we have little support for each other's ideas.

Who is responsible for this mediocrity? It is not just staff, but students and various institutional structures. There is no common motivation or ambition, socially or politically.

Take ambitions. Why did you come to the LSE? Few come with the desire or expectation of inspiration. General Course students pop in for a year, mostly from the States, pre-occupied with the differences between England and home; their concerns are in another place. They are not interested in changing or influencing institutions in this country. They only want to take a little English education to take home with them. Of course, they add spice and colour to the classes with diverse opinions and stories of how things go on in other places. It broadens the English mind but does not make for a body of students and tutors driven by mutual belief and dedication.

Others use LSE as a stepping stone in a money-making career. A degree is obtained by doing the minimum amount of work necessary – a ticket to the highly paid but uninspiring job they aspire to. The wealth, prestige and respect they desire is not obtained through concern over the academic institution.

Those who speak out (few) probably have personal ideological ambitions which are not seriously shared by the majority.

The remainder (a vast generalisation) came because there is nothing else to do. This reflects more than just student-staff apathy; it reflects the state of England as a whole.

Disillusioned by decline and unemployment, the message is no future. For those with qualifications futures are limited and uninspiring. For those without... Although LSE has a strong movement within it to change the situation, the lack of unity between elitist groups prevents it from becoming a real and inspiring force. The political unity which brought LSE its reputation for being an ideological, powerful institution to change has vanished. Divided into a multitude of small, self-interested groups, we have no power to change anything.

Social divisions are represented structurally; students are scattered all over London. Within LSE, the social environment lacks a centre. Coffee shops and bars are scattered everywhere, their atmospheres impersonal, tasteless and plastic. Compare the Union complex at UCL – several floors of cafe, bar, shops, entertainments in a relaxed, informal, slightly decadent atmosphere. Three Tuns comes closest. There is nowhere everyone can go and feel "part of the LSE."

So we can see how we students have a diversity of direction and ambition which hinders any unity of drive – hence the ensuing apathy. So how to go about challenging our institution? "The Beaver" has made us aware of this concern which should be a concern for all.

Personally, I find that questioning a tutor's hazy explanation leads to a sense of inadequacy in my past as the response is to direct total attention to the questioner, singling them out as "The One who didn't understand".

Although the suggestion last week for "a campaign directed at the administration, complaints through departmental tutors, ... staff, student committees, ..." are, of course, excellent, we must know what we are campaigning about, and we must support each other.

What do we want to change? What is wrong with the administration? and the teaching? and the students? I have suggested a few things concerning the general apathy. My emphasis has been on students. But let us consider more specifically the academic mediocrity of teachers and students.

Lecturers and students should have a relationship of EXCHANGE rather than DELIVERY. More personal contact is needed to close the distance between tutors and students, an atmosphere conducive to exchange of ideas rather than transmission and regurgitation of knowledge must be established. This requires co-operation of both tutors and students, not as separate groups but as a whole.

Tutors must be prepared to listen seriously and encourage students, rather than being a little contemptuous in dismissing half-formed ideas with well-practised arguments. The directions of courses is well-established; our thoughts are directed along the path to finals.

Students must not be afraid to question and challenge. It is difficult for students to adjust to the concept of questioning the teacher, the course, the institution itself. Training in our previous schools is one of acceptance, passive reciprocation, obedience. Behaviour, particularly attitude to staff, rules, presentation and appearance, is often given priority over intellectual development, and it has been slow in that grades are influenced by such superficial criteria.

"The Beaver" has taken an important step in declaring itself the platform for a debate in the battle to restore intellectual vitality to the LSE. But the apathy which we must attack will make this debate a slow-moving one.

The possibilities for reforms and positive change are great, but they must be supported, challenged and discussed by all students. We must each consider the problem for ourselves and see that we can get much more out of the LSE than we originally supposed. The situation is common to ALL students and staff. From mutual consideration of it and changes which will come of it, we can be a positive force for change in a negative, apathetic environment.

SOCIETIES CORNER

by STAVROS MAKKRIS

Who are the psychopaths, the Americans or the Russians? You can judge for yourselves courtesy of the **Grimshaw Club**. On Friday December 5th at 1 pm in the Old Theatre Mr. Francis Bouchev, President of the Council for Inter-American Security, will be speaking on "U.S. Policy in Central America". On Monday December 8th at 6 pm in A85, the Old Building, Guerman Guentsadze, the Number Two man in London will be explaining the latest view from the Kremlin after Reykjavik.

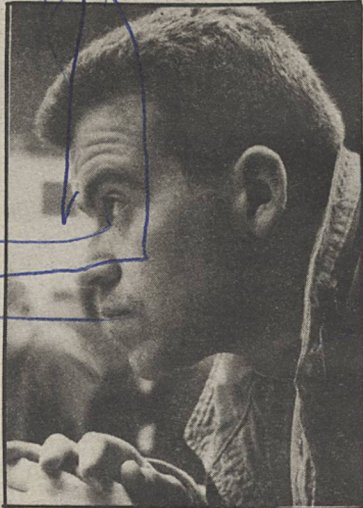
The highlight of the end of term will be the **Drama Society's** production of "After Magritte" by Tom Stoppard together with the Christmas Revue. Inspired by the paintings of surrealist artist Magritte, this hilarious one act farce will be performed in the Old Theatre on Monday December 8th at 8 pm, Tuesday December 9th at 8 pm and Wednesday the 10th at 3 pm. A Revue containing some of the funniest sketches to hit LSE - no mean feat after some of the performances seen at union meetings - will follow. Tickets will be on sale outside the Old Theatre all this week from 1-2 pm and at other times from the Union Shop. At a cost of £1.50 to non-members and £1.00 to members it has to be worth it.

A holiday is being organised by the **Bristol Overseas Students Planning Group** in association with the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship. All overseas students, of whatever faith, are welcome. This is a chance to take an inexpensive break, to make new friends and to enjoy the scenic and cultural beauties of South Wales. The cost is £39 per person and includes transport to South Wales, all local trips (but not entrance fees to exhibitions and historic sites) and the return trip from S. Wales to Bristol. Full board is included. For more details, check with the Student Union Welfare Office - E294.

The **Tequila Society** has been recognised as a major client by the sole suppliers, Grants of St. James's, (is this something to be proud of?). By the time this goes to print, society members will have witnessed this in its entirety at the second Tequila Society party of the term. With twice as much tequila as before - is that enough? - at the same zany price, "a good time is guaranteed".

The **South America Society** invites you to purchase your boarding pass on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th outside the Old Theatre for a Flight to South America at the Simon Bolivar Hall, Saturday December 6th. The price is £5.00 members, £7.00 non-members. The flight will be entertained with Tropical Cocktails, Dancing Competition, Prize Lottery and Latin Music.

A Christmas Party is organised on Thursday December 4th by the **Cypriot Society**. It will feature a live band and tickets will be available outside the Old Theatre.



The **India Society**, in celebration of the Indian New Year stage a gastronomic extravaganza: a Diwali Night on Friday November 21st - Talvinder and party plus an exciting variety show. The event was a great success, and many a colourful sari was to be seen.

Rumours of internal strife (?) in the **Investment Forum**. The Presidency is up for grabs.

EGEE is rumoured to be organising something or other... who knows? I have been trying to find out, but EGEE members are rather elusive. It's all about European Cooperation. Are you interested in the affairs of the Community? This is the Society to join if you like an active cliquish social life, travel abroad and in the meantime, advance your career prospects and increase the contents of your CV.

The **Debating Society** last week presented their most successful debate of this term on Student Loans. The debate this week hopes to surpass last week's event with the debating skills of Simon McVicar and John Bearcow (former FCS President) standing for the motion "This House will work for Conservative victory on next election" crashing against the oratorical powers of George Binette. This battle of minds is to take place at the usual time of 1 pm at A85 in the Old Building.

The **Students' Union Cafe** is willing to cater for your parties. See the manageress, Shirley. The Cafe is also available for hire, for the staging of societies' events, any time after 5.00pm.

The **L.S.E. Ents Disco** can be booked for Societies' parties. All it costs is £30.00. This includes a DJ plus Disco plus PA system plus records. All interested should contact E206 - Babs the Social Secretary.

I would like to bring to the attention of all societies officers that this space exists to inform your members about your activities. The deadline for each week's issue is every Wednesday at noon; so let me know and I will pass the information along.

Western View of Eastern Promise - Or Keeping Up With The Sikhs!

By Samantha Towle

Being a white member of the British middle class, I was extremely lucky to be invited recently to a traditional Sikh wedding. This was an ideal opportunity to dispel some of my ignorance about very different cultures existent in Britain today. The wedding was an arranged one; a concept which I found rather daunting. Indeed, the more I thought about it, the more apprehensive I became. However, my apprehension was no doubt negligible in comparison with that felt by both bride and groom.

I need not have worried. Despite feeling somewhat of an intruder, being the only white guest present, I was welcomed with open arms and very well looked after. If there were any objections to my presence, I certainly was not made aware of them.

Many of the traditional customs take place during the two days preceding the actual 'wedding day'. On the eve of the wedding the bride has a set of bangles placed on her wrists, and a pattern is dyed on the palms of her hands using henna.

In sharp contrast to the white worn at Christian weddings, the bride wears red, and the groom crowns his suit with a red turban.

The wedding ceremony begins, not at the temple itself, but at the reception rooms where all the guests are served with hot sweet tea and samosas. This snack provided sustenance for the long day ahead. It is also in this setting that the two families meet each other and

exchange gifts. Traditionally, the males of both families exchange blankets and gold rings (that is, father to father and so on).

Entering the temple was the most worrying part of the day. As a female I had to wear a scarf over my head, and I soon realised that mine was the only visible pair of ankles!

The interior presented a surprising scene. The room reminded me more of a community hall, with none of the antique decorations which one is used to seeing in the quaint village churches of rural England. The bare walls were decorated only with pictures of the Gods.

Men and women are completely segregated, sitting on the carpet on either side of the aisle - completely shoe-less. I found the atmosphere relaxed and informal, and a great sense of 'community spirit' prevailed in the packed temple.

The actual ceremony lasts well over an hour due to all the singing done by the Indian band, and the speeches that are made. The bride and groom kneel next to each other before the 'granth' or prayer book which the priest reads from. A red sash is wrapped around the two by the brides family, traditionally her brothers, from a circle around the granth. The bride is led by her husband around the circle being passed from one made to another. This happens four times and represents the man leading his wife through the four stages of life; namely, childhood, adult life, married life and the after life. Some young asian women reject this part of the ceremony as being inherently sexist.

However, it can easily be equated with the vow to 'obey' made by many Western women today.

On leaving the temple, shoes are replaced, and everyone makes their way to the reception for the afternoon's entertainment. Segregation remains a central feature of the day, with the men drinking alcohol on one side of the room, and the women sitting and chatting on the other. Even husband and wife remain apart. This is understandable, since in some cases where the bride and groom do not previously know each other, there would be very little to talk about.

A traditional Indian band played all afternoon whilst food was served to the women by the men. As more and more alcohol was consumed, inhibitions were lost and the men began to dance. As I found to my embarrassment, it is not as easy as it looks.

Underneath all the ceremony and tradition of the day, there lies a very strong sense of pride. Each wedding that takes place must seem to be bigger and better than the previous ones. The cost of the day goes far into the thousands, not surprisingly since there were around six hundred guests at the wedding I attended.

Rather than have a poor wedding, many Indian families will take out very large loans to pay for the day. I could not help feeling that the materialism of Western society is beginning to interfere. The most apparent sign of this was the presence of the video camera, recording the whole days events, and getting in everyone's way. No wedding should be without one!

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by J.J.



That nice Mr. O'Driscoll's done it again. Not only has he come up with a plan to save the Nursery, but now he will also solve the yearly problem of what to buy Mummy and Daddy for Christmas. For years I thought Santa lived in Lapland, but it turns out it's nearer to home in the West of Ireland.

In truth Tory O'Arthur Daley had to make up the money he lost by not personally buying BG, and more to the point, us buying presents for our parents means a whopping big present for Tory's parents who make the damned things. However, spare a thought for Terry, sorry Steve Bankrupt. Not only will the sweaters not sell, but there aren't any with high collars that Kate "Skinhead" Turner could wear. See life as a capitalist isn't all closing factories, exploiting workers and other fun and games. Perhaps Tory and Steve should give away the surplus stock to O.A.P.'s for Christmas; this will then reduce the chances of hypo-thermia when new gas-bills join Santa on the roof.

Saturday night at the Geography Society saw much fun and games...if you like watching TV that is. This being so, highspot of the evening was a spontaneous rugby match between a French XV and a Wodlings I. Orders of "a laguer pleeze" proved too much, and so the Tuns very own Duke of Wellington drove the French out the door. A very European week for our bar manager, with this and a trip to Amsterdam. Not surprisingly, rumours from Brussels this week are that our days in the EEC are numbered.

Plans for Rag Week are well under way, and the news is that Paul Raymond will edit the Rag Mag and Rag Revue. On a more serious note, the Fabulous Fatties are at present assembling a team of morris-dancers. Bob Page, though not really fat enough, has already auditioned and fell off the bonnet. Any fat people out there wanting to have a good time and raise money see me or Dicky Ford. Please note, we are not equal opportunities employers, and only fatties will be picked; any skinnies applying will be given a diet-Coke and instructions regarding sex and travel.

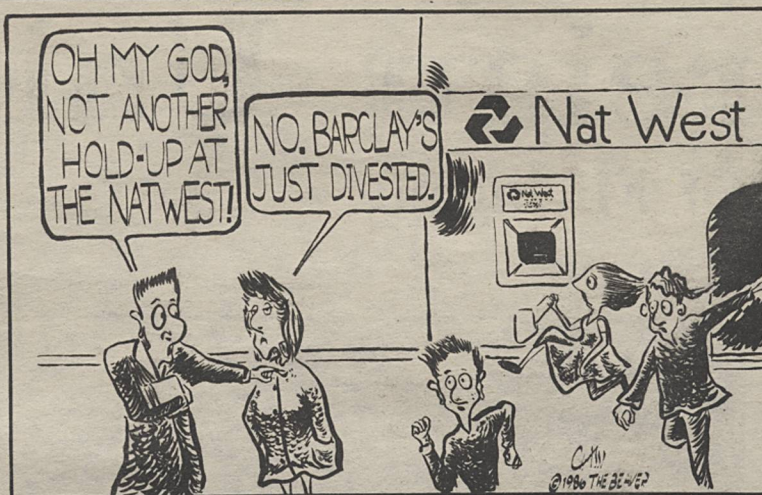
Have you heard the one about the Irishman, the socialist worker and the bucket of glue? Last week at LSE Play School, Nic Jacuzzi, the glue-monitor, borrowed a bucket belonging to school bully, Colin Campbell. As glue-monitor, Nic made a big bucket of glue to do some sticking - great fun isn't it. But nasty Colin, who wanted to be glue-monitor but teacher wouldn't let him, threw a tantrum. He stole the bucket back and poured half the glue on the floor. As glue-monitor, Nic was very upset and proceeded to pour the rest of the glue all over Colin's head. As school-bully, Colin proceeded to headbut Nic and break his nose. Nic went to hospital, while Colin went to detention. The rush for Nursery places next year has just grown by one!!

Finally, the most touching story of last week concerns Assistant Bar Wino, Weatherprophet. Pete is to become a Weddedprophet to Sarah, and I think I speak for all Tuns regulars in wishing them all the very best of everything they want. There is no truth in the rumour that the honeymoon will be a trip round a Holsten brewery in Hamburg!!

P.S. Peter Dawson sends food parcels to a friend in Spandau Prison.

P.P.S. Ian Crawford only grew a moustache to stop looking like Mikhail Gorbachev.

P.P.S. Vote for the Flower Committee motion.



Carr Saunders Hall

Okey, dokey - Here comes another whip-cracking hole report - sinking lower than any man/woman has sunk before. And we begin our tales with remembrances of Rosebottom Disco - well Ako and Cheesy - what more need we say? We're lost for words - as is Chris Aitkins who came to blows with Damson Jam (speak to Claire) and Hockey Balls (speak to Claire??). Speaking of balls, there seems to be some sort of hunt going on within these cloistered walls - with Jo's body being frustrated (see Lucy) and Lucy resorting to the more subtle approach (as ever!) - you'll find her suitably dressed at 11 o'clock, Soho; which is where Racquel seems to think she is, zooming in on the parachute regiment of Maple Street.

Your hall reps did a superb job at the Interhall Committee Meeting, keeping the student flag flying as went Simon

Hulme's sexy little kegs one fateful evening in the bar. What is wrong with this boy Morag? Maybe he should buy some brown trousers - they seem to work for our bar manager Andy, is that spelt with an "A", a "B" or a "C", Lennard. Is his the lone bed haunting the dining room? And what a jolly student prank that bed was - nearly as funny as the disappearing hall papers.

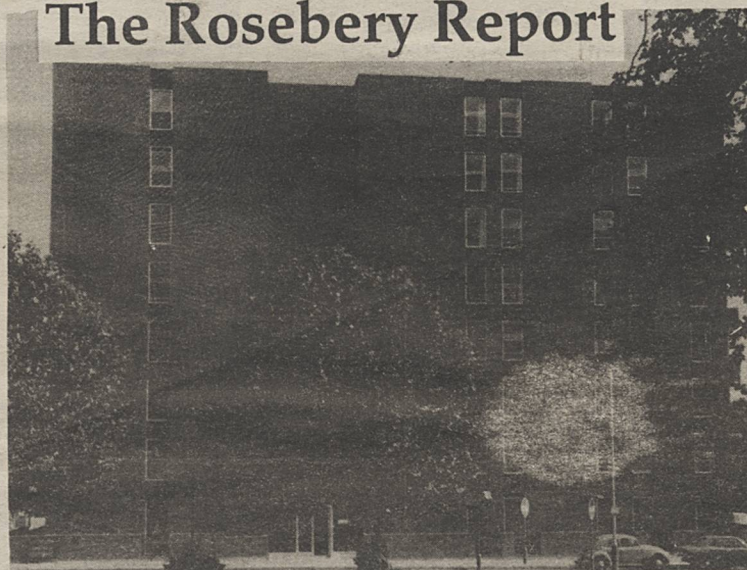
As we disappear, Lots of Love, Winnie the Pooh, Piglet and Eeyore

P.S. Angela, keep that hair under control.

P.P.S. John "I want my name in the Beaver" Watson.

P.P.P.S. We want our leader at the X-mas dinner on 5th December - Mandate her now!!

The Rosebery Report



MONDAY: ArchDuke Franz Ferdinand visits the hall. He is a bit decomposed and smelly, but he has many interesting anecdotes and makes us laugh. He tells us of how he sacked his chauffer for taking the wrong turning in 1914. We ask him why he has no legs, but he declines to tell us. Teddy then interrupts and tells us of her plot to kill the Pope. I do not think that it will work. She calls me a cynic.

TUESDAY: I am woken by the sound of John Lennon playing "Working Class Hero" in my bedroom. I also notice that Ron Beadle is hanging from my lampshade. I wonder if he has been there all night. At breakfast I am served by Myra Hindley. I am surprised that such an undesirable can gain employment in the hall. I then pay a visit to the third floor toilets where I meet Ron Atkinson. He is totally naked and he has a knife in the back. It is made of gold. I give him a wry smile but say nothing.

WEDNESDAY: After weeks of searching I finally find Sid. It is not Sidney Webb at all but a Sidney Bastard. I do not like him as he is killing old people. I tell Sid to "f**k off" and give him a swift kick in the gonads.

THURSDAY: Lee Harvey Oswald came to tea but was shot by Jack Ruby in the lunch queue. I think this out of order. I then watch the Channel 4 trial which decides that Oswald committed suicide. Robert Maxwell offers me a pint. I accept. He says he will pay for me to go on holiday, as long as I agree to give him a Knighthood when I am P.M. I tell him that I am not Neil Kinnock. He does not believe me at first, but I finally manage to convince him. He says sorry and leaves.

FRIDAY: I go down to the bar and see Joan of Arc burnt at the stake. I find this surprising, but I say nothing as the Pope challenges me to a game of pool. I win easily.

SATURDAY: I watch England win the World Cup in 1966, and I am surprised when the entire squad comes back to the hall for a drink. Only the Russian linesman is missing. Ronnie Biggs steals the Jules Rimet trophy, but I say nothing.

SUNDAY: All the people who told me they wanted to write the Hall Report let me down. I have to stay up until 2 o'clock in the morning to write it, and here it is.

Che Banana, Franz Ferdinand's Chauffer, and Richard Ingrams

Overseas Students' Welfare Notice

Ingrid Dungadeen

All EEC undergraduates should have received a letter from the Registry concerning the payment of fees. Please note that there is no November deadline for completion of the forms but do return them as soon as possible.

Also, if you believe that you fall within the group to receive the benefits of this scheme and have not had a letter from the Registry, please contact the Registry or the Student Union Welfare Office - E294.

Please note: My office hour has now changed to Wednesdays 1 - 2 pm in E296. It would be helpful if students wanting to talk to me would come only at this time and not attempt to make other appointments (unless it is an emergency). Your cooperation is truly appreciated.

be alone at Christmas?

Christmas on your own can be very lonely, but you need not be alone. Many British families wish to invite students from overseas to spend Christmas with them as "one of the family".

As their guest you will have nothing to pay for this three-day holiday from 24th to 27th December, except half of your travelling expenses. The Victoria League pays the other half.

If you do not have plans for the holiday, why not phone or write to:

The General Secretary
The Victoria League
18 Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BJ
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Foreign Universities

The University of Michigan: Moscow on the Huron

by Aaron Chassy

For all of you Brits who happen to have the idea that all American students are as conservative as our President, I offer you a flicker of hope: the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Believe it or not, not all American students drag themselves through four (or even five) years of torture (I speak, of course, of peach schnapps hangovers) in order to acquire the finer things in life: BMWs, pasta-makers, and Brooks Brothers suits. Ann Arbor is truly unique in its large population of anti-conformist flakes, Deadheads, and truly committed politicians.

Long known in the Midwest as being a hot bed for student radicalism, the U of M has only recently begun the perilous swing to the right that has hit most American campuses. Don't get the wrong idea, the Young Republicans has only a minor role in the political life on campus.

In commemoration of the Peace Corps' 25th anniversary, VP George Bush was scheduled to address the students, but was shouted down by a group of protestors led and organised by the Latin American Solidarity Committee.

The U of M has also produced such left-wing greats as Tom Hayden, founder of Students for Economic Democracy, and the husband of aerobicising actress, Jane Fonda. Arthur Miller, America's dramatic conscience,



was also a graduate, as was the 38th President, Gerry Ford. Though he was not a great Lefty, he was America's favourite klutz, and was a roaring good laugh on any staircase.

Politics still dominates the Ann Arbor scene. Equipped with an elaborate student government bureaucracy, the Michigan Student Assembly makes our own beloved LSE SU resemble a model of efficiency and achievement.

The school paper, the "Michigan Daily", spends most of its time discovering who's sleeping with whom, along with excellent coverage of local and national issues. The "Daily" is an excellent example of student investigative reporting, complete with its own special section for retractions and corrections.

As an active campus, the U of M was able to achieve partial

divestment from companies doing business in South Africa two years ago, although the glorious President, Harold "Uncle Hal" Shapiro refuses to give an honorary degree to Nelson Mandela. When asked why Ferdinand "I'm still the President" Marcos received an honorary degree from the U of M in 1965, the funky Uncle Hal only smiled and called the campus police to disperse the protestors from his office - rumour had it that he was upset by the student boycott of his annual wine and cheese party at the beginning of the year.

So there you have it. The U of M in all of its glorious splendour: the politics and student activism. A word of caution, however, to all LSE political hacks with ideas about emigrating to Ann Arbor - don't. It's much too cold.

Dutch Student Life

by Hans Nijenhuis

The courses at a Dutch university may not be very different from those at the LSE, but student life is.

It is said that, at the LSE, student interests include all kinds of social-political activities. The Dutch student, however, is turned away from politics, and as a matter of fact is turned away from society as a whole. Although their university buildings and houses are

scattered around town, Dutch students really form a society of their own.

This is probably best symbolised by the difference between LSE's Student Union and the Dutch student clubs. Although only about half of all students become members, the student clubs really are at the centre of organisation. (The remaining 50% are just not considered "real" students.)

The most important, or perhaps only, aim of the clubs is

to provide for a social life. The idea behind it is that as most students study during the day, they need some entertainment during the evening. And since student clubs don't have a closing time, they may turn into very late evenings or early mornings.

The clubs provide parties, films, very strange student-like activities, and lots of beer and orange juice. So it is not by accident that you will make most of your friends, and actually future spouses, at those clubs, instead of at the morning lectures. Often these clubs include things like sports for the houses, since these are hard to find, although it's easy if you compare it with London.

Each house, which usually contains about 15 students, is the next largest commitment. As a matter of fact, many houses are shared by members of the same club. Sleep is not always guaranteed.

Student politics, which in Holland is about grants, facilities, etc. but not about South Africa, is managed by special parties. Elections are held every year, but the general interest is very small.

Readers who now might be alarmed about the intellectual quality of Dutch student life, may be reassured: things are supposed to be changing. From 1982 onwards, most courses were shortened and made more disciplined. Students' nightlife, however, has not yet changed. It is good business for Heineken!

National University of Singapore

by HENRY BALANI

I studied at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for one year before deciding to come to London. NUS was fantastic, a hell of a lot different from LSE.

Let's start with the politics. First of all, there isn't any. We don't spend (waste actually) our time discussing irrelevant matters like whether to call Florries, "The Cafe", or The Cafe, "Florries" or whatever. Or even whether one belongs to the Left, extreme Left, not so Left or not at all Left. (The Right? What's that?) We believe that we have got all the major problems of the world licked. We don't hold rallies or picket-lines, or make demands. Instead we spend our time doing creative things like playing the violin or throwing wild parties. Singaporeans are by nature rather apolitical and the students reflect this. The university campus is beautiful. The university is only about ten years old. (It was the result of a merger of two universities. It is now the only university in Singapore.) The buildings are modern with good facilities. The campus extends about 25 acres. There are about twenty squash courts, nine tennis courts, one Olympic-size swimming pool, badminton halls, gymnasium, etc. The lawns are well-manicured, with nice green grass, pleasant walkways, and refreshing views. Large spacious lecture theatres, full air-conditioned and with side attachments on every seat on which you can write. Good local and continental food, cheap prices, and many drinking fountains abound. There are fourteen thousand students, and this number is rising. If ever you're late for a popular lecture, sit on the steps or go home. Lecture groups average about two hun-

dred. Staff to student contact is almost non-existent. Students are much the same as in other universities. You get the type who think that they are Robert Redford or Victoria Principal or the type who don't give a XXXX about what they wear. (They tend to hang about in the musty and never-before-discovered areas of the library discussing the social implications of the sex life of the wild Mongolian carrot.) Then you get the type who zap (photocopy) three hundred pages of a book just because somebody else in the lecture group did it. They believe that by just standing next to the photocopying machine, the blinding light would print the words on their minds. Photocopying happens quite a lot there. It's so cheap! It's about a penny a copy. Usually, whole books get photocopied. (They've never really heard of copyright laws there.)

The gigs that used to be held were fantastic. The best local bands would play; students would hop, scream, shout, and otherwise get worked up to such a state that their brains would fall out. And the discos! Great music with the best equipment was standard. A thousand students jam into an area the size of a hockey pitch and perform the latest body manoeuvres. These gigs usually took place at the start of term. They are known to us as Jams and Hops. (I hope you can see why.) They are great fun.

NUS holds many memories for me: never being able to sleep in the Hall and then catching up with my sleep during lectures and even sometimes my classes, getting "ragged" and then "ragging" other freshers. The list goes on. It was fun and I miss it. I hope that LSE is as much or even more fun. God, what have I got myself into?

Brazil - The Domination of the Military

Guilherme Nobrega

Universities in Brazil in the past 20 years or so have, to a great extent, reflected what has been going on in the country as a whole. During the military regime that came to power in 1964, the "national security" discourse led the government to change in many respects its attitude toward University teaching.

A system of credits was introduced, so that the whole undergraduate course consists of attending dozens of fairly independent 4-month subjects in various departments throughout the campus, which stops you from having any comprehensive idea of what your course is all about. Also, the scheme prevents groups of students from working together for longer than, say, one year, with a clear disadvantage to the formation of representative leaders and the pursuit of political activities within the campus.

I was a student for one year at the University of Brasilia, dominated for sixteen years, up to 1985, by the arrogance of its rector, a captain from the Navy. Most of the emphasis was given

to "national security - type" courses such as Engineering or Physics, whereas the Philosophy department, for example, was shut. Most of the departments were at the point of bankruptcy, which meant lack of teachers, cuts in research funds and a complete administrative mess. The Student Union, itself acting on a dictatorial basis, would call strikes at least twice a year, shutting down the whole school many times for a whole month.

Now the military regime is gone and so is the captain-rector. Following the example of a few other universities in the country, there were direct elections for a six-name list from which some higher authority would choose a rector. The new rector was welcomed by the students but the Student Union is unfortunately the same. There is widespread disappointment with the attitude of the Union in ruling out from the system anything to the right of the communist coalition now in power. As a sign of decadence, in the recent elections for the National Union of Students, less than 4% of the about 3 million university students attended the polls.



Israel and Central America

In the second article of our series on Zionism and Israel, Dick Will examines one aspect of Israeli foreign policy in Central America.

The history of Israeli-South African military collaboration is well documented. Perhaps less well known is the extent to which Israel, during the 70s, became a major provider of weapons and advisors to militarized Central American regimes. During the collapse of the Somoza dynasty, for instance, the dictator was abandoned by all his allies *bar Israel*, who provided 90% of his weaponry. This involvement with the Nicaraguan right has not ceased with the toppling of

between Israel and Guatemala, Central America's grossest violator of human rights. On board the Guatemala-bound West Lion was an Augusta Bel 212 helicopter, 24 Uzi submachine guns, 8 bazookas and 209 tons of reinforced TNT. This aborted shipment was a drop in the ocean of Israeli military assistance which began in 1971 but took on new importance after 1977, when Guatemalan generals rejected US military aid in response to the Carter

sors came to Guatemala to devise "civic action" programs in the Quiche highlands, the crucible of the guerrilla war. A spokesman for Yitzhak Shamir confirmed that between 1978 and 1979, Israeli experts trained about 1,000 Guatemalans in Israel.

This connection intensified when General Rios Montt staged a coup in 1982. Ha'olam Hazeq reported that Montt had the help of 300 Israeli military advisors who performed a vital role in the training, plotting and executing of the power seizure.

Rios Montt himself told an ABC reporter that the ease of the coup was facilitated "because many of our soldiers were trained by Israelis". The "BEANS AND BULLETS" counter insurgency strategy introduced by Montt was primarily inspired by Israel's Nahal (acronym for Fighting Pioneer Youth) plan. Colonel Wohlers, director of the forced resettlement program stated, "Many of our technicians are Israeli trained. The model of the kibbutz and the moshav is firmly planted in their minds. And personally, I think it would be fascinating to turn our highlands into that sort of system."

The Israeli journalist, Victor Perera, in *Ha'aretz* lucidly referred to Guatemala as "A distorted replica of rural Israel, but with a labour force that would be Indian rather than Arab or Sephardi."



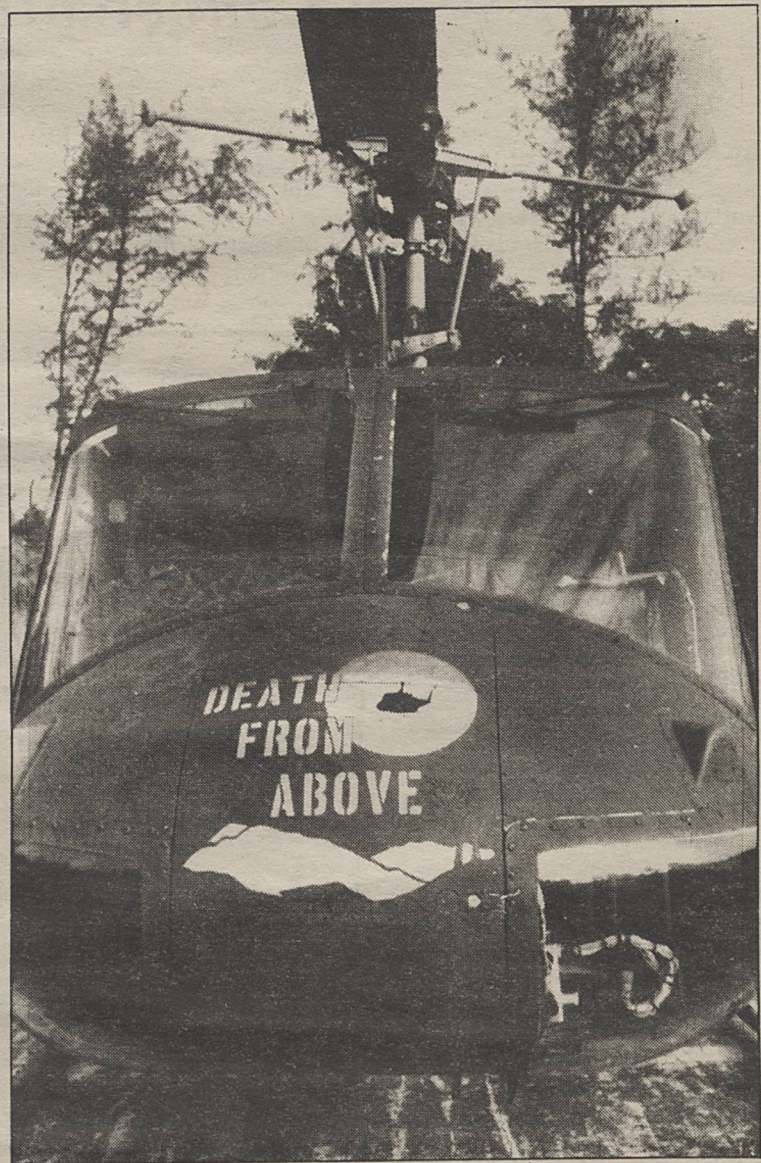
Somoza. American and Israeli government leaks in the spring of 1984 noted US requests that Israel take over the Contras in return for increased financing of other Israeli programs in the Third World. Indeed, Reagan's repeated linking of Nicaragua to the PLO has been interpreted by some as creating the right conditions for Israel to publicly assume control of Contra financing.

Turning to other Central American republics, one finds a similar pattern. Israel has trained and restructured the Costa Rican national police and presently maintains roughly 100 development experts there. The relationship with Honduras is even more pronounced and took on a new significance after the 1982 visit of Israeli Defence Minister Sharon. An Israeli-Honduras arms agreement was consolidated and involved supplying the anti-guerrilla Galil assault rifle, tanks and advanced fighter jets. Israeli radio reported that Israel had helped Honduras obtain the strongest air force in the region and added, "The Sharon trip raised the question of whether Israel might act as an American proxy in Honduras." Ya'acov Meridor, economic co-ordination minister at the time, gave credence to such a suggestion when he said that Israel was ready to be Washington's surrogate whenever political considerations prevented the US from providing military assistance.

The Greek seizure in June 1986 of a shipload of Israeli weapons underlines the connection

administration's human rights policy.

Since the 1954 counter revolution, one hundred thousand Guatemalan civilians have died opposing their government. Since the mid-70's the regime's response to such a mass-based rural movement has been heavily dependent on Israeli assistance. In 1977, Israeli advi-



Another part of the Montt campaign enforced with Israeli assistance is the formation of a civil defence patrols. These exist to set peasant against peasant in a bid to stifle guerilla recruitment. Membership in patrols is compulsory, and abstainers are branded communists. Recruits are given a gun and told to watch others for signs of revolutionary tendencies. NACLA conservatively estimates that 10,000 Indian campesinos were killed in the Montt period.

Recent Israeli involvement in Guatemala is more insidious still. "TADIRAN ISRAEL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES" has installed two computer centres in Guatemala City. These have a variety of functions. The computer's data banks are thought to contain the names of at least 80% of the nation's

military-industrial complex is increasingly autonomous and frequently makes policy decisions with little co-ordination with the civil sector. According to Ze'ev Schiff, the Finance Ministry does not even control the defence budget. Economic concerns are paramount when one considers that 20% of the Jewish industrial work force are now employed in weapons manufacturing. Weapons exports represent one fifth of Israeli industrial exports.

A second motivation in Israel's Third World involvements is the marked similarity of interest between Israel and the US in these regions. Linked to this is Israeli financial dependence on the US (Israel receives around 48% of all US military aid worldwide) and its international isolation. When asked about Israeli

"Weapons exports represent one fifth of Israeli industrial exports."

population. Even death lists are now computerized. The computer also monitors electricity use, house by house, which might, for example, result from a larger-than-normal presence of people or the use of a printing press in the middle of the night. This method has helped to pinpoint 27 guerilla safe houses in the capital. The only Guatemalan army electronics school has been financed, built and staffed by the Israeli company "DEGEM SYSTEMS".

What is the motivation for such collaboration with murderous regimes? Any explanation must include the growing militarisation of Israeli society. The

involvement in Central American, Yohanah Romati, a former head of the Knesset foreign relations committee, said, "Israel is a pariah state. When people ask us for something, we cannot afford to ask questions about ideology. The only type of regime that Israel would not aid would be one that is anti-American. Also, if we can aid a country that it might be inconvenient for the US to help, we would be cutting off our nose to spite our face not to."

The price of such "aid" in Central America has been paid by those who have died opposing the oppression of various military dictatorships in the region.

Annoying Stupid People

A Conversation with Auberon Waugh

By PAUL WOOD

Auberon Waugh is known for his deft ironic novels, his savage satires, and his intimate knowledge of wine. He has also been given the editorial chair of the *Literary Review*, in whose offices this interview took place... It was not quite what I had expected for some reason. I had pictured him in his own spacious office, communicating instructions to his minions down a telephone. Instead, I found him in a rather chaotic single room which contained not only Mr. Waugh but his deputy editor, Kate Kellaway and 2 other assistants.

"I wanted to be a spy, I tried to join the Foreign Office."

He was discussing the illustration of an article about Ernest Hemingway: "Did he shoot himself - Hemingway? What about a sort of comical picture of him holding a shotgun to himself?" This suggestion accepted, he asked one of his assistants to close a window (he hoped she wasn't "one of these anti-smoking fanatics"), and we got down to business.

I asked him first about his parents. "I suppose in the sense that all people were influenced by their parents I was. The fact that my father (Evelyn Waugh) was a writer probably pointed me towards writing more than anything else would have."

"So have you always known you would write?"

"No, I didn't at all, I wanted to be a spy, I tried to join the Foreign Office."

This attempt faltered at the interview stage when he expressed doubts about viability of a newly independent African state and was asked if this was because he thought Africans inately inferior. "No, not at all, perhaps better at different things," he replied. "Which things?".....Unfortunately, the only answer he could think of was "climbing trees", and there ended his Foreign Office career.

"I thought of becoming a school teacher, but that didn't work out either, so writing was a sort of fall back position."

What about your own school?"

"I went first of all to a boarding prep school at the age of six and then went to Downside which is run by Benedictine monks."

"I think all education is pretty disgusting."

I thought of Cleeve, the Catholic boarding school of his first 2 novels, "The Fox Glove Saga" and "Path of Dalliance". It was peopled by strange squabbling monks who subjected their charges to a draconian discipline. The pupils themselves go through their school careers drinking, smoking, devil worshipping and falling in love with

each other. Was Cleeve, I wondered, Downside?"

"Not really, but it's obviously got a lot of it there. It's also got a lot of a Jesuit school that one of my brothers went to."

"To be a politician you have to be deeply bossy and insecure, and someone to be avoided."

"Are any of these school characters in "Foxglove" and "Path of Dalliance" autobiographical?"

"I think O'Connor was; and Stoat was a little tiny bit of me."

"So what are we supposed to do, then?"

"Exactly." (He laughs.)

"You are a Catholic. Have you ever had doubts?"

"Oh, Yes. I've written a lot about religion. I wouldn't have said I was a very conventional Catholic, or indeed a very enthusiastic one, but certainly more Catholic than anything else."

"A friend, a Catholic like yourself, was telling me that she thought your satires very un-



Licensed Thug

I remembered O'Connor is expelled from Cleeve for taking part in a devil worshipping ceremony (which required him to procure a cat as sacrifice) and for contesting the doctrine of Prime Existence in public. He joins the army, deserts, and then makes a successful career out of being a newspaper gossip columnist. Stoat, on the other hand, "incorporates in his ill-favoured body all the ugliness of Original Sin". Those who cannot love him, fear him because of his vicious tongue. He eventually becomes a monk.

"You keep attacking the comprehensive ideal, yet your books show private schools as fairly awful."

"Oh, Yes. I think all education is pretty disgusting."

Christian; the way you wound people."

"Well, that's a point of view...I could say that all satires are un-Christian, all attempts to put anybody down, any sort of humour could be un-Christian if you looked at it that way. She's entitled to her point of view, and I wouldn't argue against it much."

He smiled. For someone so brutal in print, he was surprisingly amiable in person. He was also familiar with the two rules for winning an argument: be nice; agree with your opponent. I pressed on.

"Do you like any politicians?"

"One or two quite, but I think that to be a politician, you have to be a deeply bossy and insecure and someone to be avoided."

"Do you feel unqualified admiration for anybody?"

"Nobody really. Oh, I suppose a few women, but it's usually tied in with sexual desire."

"Paul Johnson wrote that the libel laws should be there to protect the weak from the strong and that even if someone had the right of reply to one of your attacks, it would be useless as they wouldn't have your literary ability, so there should be some extension of the libel law to cover this."

"He's very strange and mad about libel laws, Paul Johnson - You'd think he wasn't a writer at all. He's got this sort of populist side to him. It seems to me an extraordinary extension of the libel laws if people are allowed not only a right of reply, but some sort of bias in their favour to make up for their lack of ability to express themselves. I think it's a load of balls, the whole idea of a right of reply presupposes an ability to say what you want to say."

"Shouldn't people have some protection from being wounded and humiliated by you in public?"

"Well, they've already got enormous protection, prodigious protection. I don't honestly see that they do. Traditionally, if you insult somebody who is unable to articulate his resentment, he punches you, and it's as simple as that, and you've got to live with that."

I looked hard, but could see no sign that Mr. Waugh had ever suffered from a broken nose.

"I think I share with the left a certain lack of respect for public opinion."

"What about the idea of No Platform for racist/fascist speakers who might influence the gullible into committing racist assaults?"

"I think it's babyish rubbish. By all means shout people down if they're saying something so objectionable that you don't wish to hear it, but to make some sort of solemn law saying they can't utter certain opinions is rubbish."

"In an essay about hanging, you once said that our leaders don't trust the public to decide about hanging, and rightly so - "Why should the public decide about anything?" you asked. Aren't these similar to the doubts some on the left have about the ability of popular opinion to withstand racist propaganda?"

"Yes, I think I share with the left a certain lack of respect for public opinion."

"So could you justify your satires within any Christian doctrine?"

"I could; it would be a very boring justification, though. I mean you'd have to say that you're pointing out what you think is foolishness, and there's the question of whether you

ridicule, which rather puts you in the position of being a judge - "Judge that thee be not judged" - but it isn't like being a real judge and sending people to prison."

"I see myself as a licensed thug who annoys stupid people."

"When Richard Ingrams justified revealing people's sexual lives and habits in the *Eye*, saying that people had a right to know about the characters of public figures, you said this was nonsense, that it was simply funny to read about. Yet, don't you claim to have some higher purpose - combating evil and so on?"

"No, no. I don't see myself as a great crusader. I just see myself as a sort of licensed thug who annoys stupid people."

"Did you learn anything from the Cheltenham debate on what literary magazines should be like - what should be in them?"

"One good point is that literary magazines should cater for people who haven't the time to read books and who just wish to know what books there are so they can talk about them intelligently at a cocktail party, which I think is not a contemptible purpose. Another point made was that we should devote much more time to paperbacks as there's an awful lot of people who can't afford hardbacks. Those are the only two things which sunk into my addled mind."

"You want new writers for the *Literary Review*. What's been wrong with conventional book reviews and members of the existing "Literary Establishment?"

"Partly we don't want them, partly we can't afford them. Existing reviews fall into the hands of little cliques, or if state patronage is involved, into the hands of Australians. Like Karl Miller's *London Review of Books*, they become self-admiration societies which is all right; in fact, some people quite like it, but they also become unnecessarily highbrow. We are desperately searching for talented young writers. We do have an open door policy whereby anyone can send in anything, and we look at it and send it in if it's any good."

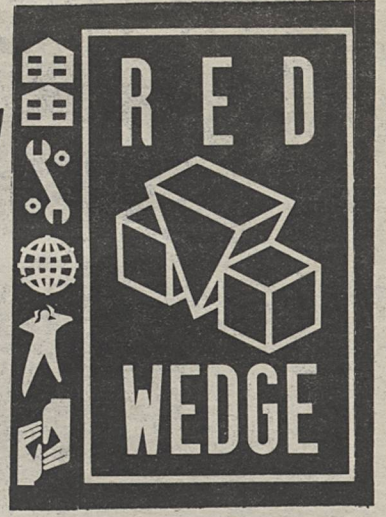
My time was up. I had given him, he said, a comparatively mild interview. I left wondering if perhaps I should have been a little more aggressive over his bad taste jokes, but really, they are quite funny, and who deserves them more than the stupid bossy people who profess to lead us?

**THE BEAVER
COLLECTIVE
MEETING
MONDAY 5PM
E204**



RED WEDGE

HERE TO STAY



Annajoy David Talks to Nic Cicutti and Dougal Hare About Fashion, Music Artists and the Labour Party.



The manager must have been getting suspicious. We'd been there for nearly two hours, drinking Wimpy tea and coffee, furiously scribbling in our notepads. A Sony Walkman whirred, recording Annajoy David's thoughts on 'Red Wedge', the left alternative to Kenny 'Bomb Russia' Everett and Lulu.

Several "youth-cult" writers have pointed to the links between the formation of Red Wedge by various artists and musicians last year and the Band Aid phenomenon set in motion by Bob Geldof. But for the early "wedgies", there was more to it than just a vague commitment to raising money for Ethiopia.

It was in the late summer of 1985 that Billy Bragg and other musicians, radicalised by the effect of the year-long miners' strike and the last six years of Tory government, came together to form an organisation which would help the Left break out of its cultural ghetto. The aim, in their words, was "to create, through the world of arts, a fresh and direct approach to politics" which would involve young people instead of preaching down to them.

The artists invited Neil Spencer, of NME fame, to join them and he, in turn, put them in touch with others who wanted to make a contribution to the group. Among those who 'signed up' were The Communards, Lloyd Cole, Heaven 17, Madness, Lenny Henry, Jerry Dammers, Gary Kemp and many others. Many of them didn't even belong to the Labour Party. What united them was their opposition to the present government and the belief that "the re-instatement of the Labour Party at the next General Election is vital."

Their first big move was to go on tour. Criss-crossing the country, from Leicester to Newcastle, Red Wedge artists played to packed houses in autumn last year. Thousands came to see Billy Bragg, Lloyd Cole and others play. But it wasn't just music and entertainment. Every night, young people who came to the events were urged to get involved in politics, "to make sure that what they wanted out of life was what they got."



Those who wanted to become active were put in touch with groups who were already doing things. Labour MPs were dragged to the gigs to talk to young people about their policies, facing a sceptical and sometimes hostile audience. During the daytime, members of Red Wedge attended events, meetings and question-and-answer sessions organised by left groups.

By the end of the tour, it was clear that Red Wedge had found a new audience for left ideas; young people, disillusioned by normal party politics, most of whom hadn't even bothered to

vote in the 1983 election. Within a few weeks, Red Wedge received some 7,000 thousand letters, mostly from people who had never done anything political in their lives.

That's where Annajoy David came in. Clearly, there was a need for something more permanent, an organisation which, according to David, could serve as an "activating catalyst", which would raise political issues and give young people access to socialist politics.

Annajoy's first political involvement came when she moved from the East End to Haringey and joined Youth CND. She rapidly went on to become its main organiser and was involved in their major open-air festival in 1981, at which bands, like the newly-formed Style Council, played to a quarter of a million people.

From there, through the miner's strike, she ended up at Red Wedge, no longer a single-issue campaign like YCND, but one which engages the youth on a wide variety of fronts. One of her greatest assets, she believes, is that "I'm young. I suppose it does help, especially if you're targeting young people."

For David, one of the important aspects of Red Wedge is that many of the artists aren't members of the Labour Party, "the Labour Party is mainly an electioneering party. On both sides of the political spectrum, there are a lot of people who have a vested interest in keeping the world of politics closed off." Red Wedge's aim is to establish a way for young people to voice their opinions and tell the policy-makers what THEY want to see happening.

Unlike previous attempts to combine music and politics, such as the "Anti-Nazi League" and "Rock Against Racism," it is the artists who are in control of Red Wedge and decide its priorities.

But weren't the ANL and Rock Against Racism enormously successful in that they effectively saw off the hard right's threatened growth in the late seventies? "Their work was excellent, it's just that we want to take up lots of issues that affect young people, like youth training, gay rights or bad housing." One way of publicising these issues is through mediums such as the 'Hip-Hop Alliance' which put on a highly successful "Low Pay-No Way" roadshow.

Many cynics have suggested that artists only want to get involved in Red Wedge because it suits their careers or because it is fashionable to be left-wing at the moment. Annajoy David rejects this view: "The artists understand that they have a responsibility as human beings to help create a better society. It's not this year's fashion for them. Many of them have taken a stand against their own industry - it's their experiences which leads them to see this a long-term work."



Photo: S. Pike

"Peace, bread, work and freedom is the best we can achieve, and wearing badges is not enough, in days like these."

Billy Bragg 'Days Like These'

Nor does she have much time for the view that Red Wedge is being used by the Labour Party as a back-door way of attacking the "Militants" and creating an alternative to the Young Socialists. "We work with all sorts of people on the ground, including both the Young Socialists and Labour Students to put on our events. In fact, we'll work with anyone who opposes the government, as long as they are not racist or fascists."

What happens if Labour doesn't deliver all the things which it said it would and which Red Wedge campaigns for? "We believe they are beginning to move our way. But if they go back on their promises, we will criticise and challenge in a constructive way, asking them why they aren't doing it. We'll be in a position to do so from the inside."

Clearly, the next General Election figures prominently in the minds of Red Wedge organisers. Although unwilling to go into detail about what they intend to do, they are planning a regional programme for next year with local artists, as well as a Theatre and Arts Festival in June. They will almost certainly be back on the road with another national tour in 1987.

A striking feature of Red Wedge is the wide range of interests in various aspects of culture and music. From initial Weller/Bragg beginnings, they now have seven different working groups covering cinema, visual arts and others. Many young people see beyond the 'stars' in Red Wedge and look to others more of their taste. "I was in a club in Hollyhead, Coventry and spoke to some young people there. 'Red Wedge,' they said, 'we know all about that. It's to do with sratch music and Junior Gispin, isn't it?'" Annajoy David laughs as she tells the story, "I knew then that we'd got through to them..."

"You don't have to take this crap, you don't have to sit back and relax, you can actually try changing it."

The Style Council

'Walls Come Tumbling Down'



As far as she's concerned, Red Wedge won't just disappear when, and if, Labour is elected at the next election. The intention is to create an organisation which will be in a position to get young people active and involved no matter who gets elected.

Theatre



Breaking the Code

(Haymarket Theatre)

Hugh Whitmore's play deals with the downfall of a brilliant Cambridge mathematician, Alan Turing following the discovery of his homosexuality. Turing was the man who was most responsible for breaking the German "Enigma" code during WWII, thus almost ensuring Allied victory. The protest of this "protest play" is thus aimed at English hypocrisy and narrow-mindedness; its refusal to tolerate non-conformity in any way.

Obviously the situation has changed since the 1950's when the play is set, but this is very much a period piece, and the story of one man rather than a history of sexual repression. Turing is portrayed as a gentle, sensitive, extremely shy man who is crushed by the disgrace of imprisonment and public

trial. After being given hormone treatment and losing all respect in his professional circle, he committed suicide.

Derek Jacoby's performance as Turing is a dazzling display of his abilities. Playing the man as a 16 year-old and as a 50 year-old, he always makes us believe that there is nothing false or perverse about him. His love of mathematics is very skilfully put across, making the subject seem interesting even to this definitely non-mathematical reviewer. His love of men is portrayed as something natural and innocent, not a reason to hound someone out of his sanity. The 1950's design is evocative and well-used, and the cast is generally good.

Kfir Yefet

Genius on a Shoe-String

Drill Hall Arts Centre

Nov. 25th - Dec. 6th

"Gold in the Streets", is about Ireland's biggest and most constant export - her people. It tells the stories of Agnes Mullan (1912), Mary Connor (1950) and Sharon McAllister (1986). All three have committed "crimes" of sorts: Agnes, the "crime" of being a Catholic looking for work in Belfast; Mary, "crime" of leaving the Catholic Church; Sharon, the "crime" of her husband

joining the R.U.C. All three look to exile as a solution to their problems.

In essence the play is about the role of women in Ireland. Rosena Brown, Sarah Jones, Eleanor Methuen and Carol Scanlon play the parts of the women and the men with considerable verve and enthusiasm - the acting is superb.

On a shoe-string budget they succeed

Films

Ginger and Fred

The presentation of a new Fellini event is always something relished by pseudo-intellectual film-goers. Indeed, most of his recent films seemed inane to all but those arty Fellini fans. However, his previous film, "And the Ship Goes On" (seen recently on television) was not only accessible, but also immensely enjoyable. You will be pleased to know that in his latest production, "Ginger and Fred", he has continued this way, and this film is certainly one of the best shows in London at the moment.

In a futuristic Rome, a commercial television station is gratifying its viewers with a long, live show. And in this society, television has become as indispensable as the air you breathe; indeed, the game-shows are not of the "Film-buff of the year" type, but more of a nightmarish series of imitators, clowns, giants, midgets, human sausages... In the midst of this zoo, a couple: Ginger and Fred. In the forties and fifties, they were presenting a little dance show, where they were imitating Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Since then, the two had drifted apart until today when the producer of this apocalyptic programme has called on them to fill a four-minute slot after the midgets.

What Fellini shows us is a deeply funny and deeply moving reunion of two people, lost in a world completely alien to them. He does not leave any aspect of today's world unscathed, and in that sense it is a pessimistic film. However, it is Fellini's brightest film in decades. Its constant transitions between tragedy and comedy, between sadness and ridicule and between the memories of the past and the atrocities of the present give this film a singular power.

Alex Crawford

Running Scared

In these days of high-tech, pop video cops and robbers, it is refreshing to see a film that focuses its attention on two, ordinary Chicago detectives (Gregory Hines and Billy Crystal) and their efforts to bust a South American drug smuggler. Gone are the state-of-the-art gadgets, the designer suits, the fancy cars, the exotic locations and the glamorous women. Instead, we have cops using Smith and Wesson pistols, wearing long thermal underwear and bullet-proof vests, driving a late-model Plymouth and working in Chicago in the dead of winter. Crystal and Hines do make a brief trip to Key West, Florida, which looks absolutely magnificent at sunset, but most of the action takes place in a very frigid Chicago.

Given the fairly routine storyline, "Running Scared" could have easily fallen into the trap of being yet another "good guy vs. bad guy" film, but due to the superlative performances by Hines and Crystal, the film becomes an exercise in quick-witted verbal

(Cannon - General Release)

exchanges. The chemistry between these two actors and their innate sense of comic repartee is so finely tuned that they almost think each others thoughts. The verbal asides flash back and forth so quickly, you can easily miss some of the dialogue.

The requisite car chase is given a new twist by director Peter Hyams as he takes the action off the streets of Chicago and puts it onto Chicago's elevated subway system (known locally as the "El"). This certainly gives the viewer a different perspective to the action as the cars careen at high speed down the subway tracks and through the dimly-lighted tunnels, switching from one track to another to avoid the on-coming subway trains.

"Running Scared" is a perfect rainy Saturday night film, with fine performances from a cast headed by Gregory Hines, Billy Crystal and Steven Bauer, a well-written script by Gary DeVore and Jimmy Houston and good comedic direction by Peter Hyams.

Ann Henry



Rodin - Sculpture and Drawings Exhibition



According to Catherine Lampert, the exhibition organizer, the works of Rodin now on show at the Hayward Gallery set out to represent something of the exchanges and continuity of themes not only between the well-known sculptures, but also between bronzes and what is normally shown out of sight - drawings, book illustrations, preliminary terracotta and plaster studies, fragments and Rodin's own collection of commissioned photographs. The result is an interesting and varied exhibition which really needs two visits just to begin to do it justice.

Works have been brought together from collections in the United States and Europe and from the "hidden" collection at the Musee Rodin in Paris which comprises pieces extending beyond the bounds of what was acceptable, or Rodin made available, in bronze or marble at the turn of the century when most museums purchased their Rodins. Towards the latter stages of his life, Auguste Rodin's compositions tended to what is euphemistically described a "personal" phase. His erotic fantasies materialize in rapid pencil sketches, later washed with colour, of raw images of women; in beautiful rounded marbles of the female form and

in sensuously sculpted bronze nudes emphasizing the erogenous and reproductive zones of both sexes. Rodin spoke of women as the "powerful awakener" of man - distracting, provoking and yet inspiring at the same time; she provided the creatively-vital frustration and inspired the sensitivity, understanding and eroticism in the small bronze "Despair".

It is very ironic that many of Rodin's studies proved too controversial to ever emerge from clay into bronze during his lifetime, and yet works such as "The Kiss" and "Eternal Springtime" - promoting images of ethereal sexual love - were released by Rodin for the middle class market and were commercially editioned in large quantities (and various sizes) to meet demand.

But Rodin's principle was not to disgust, offend or titillate; it was to imitate through sculpture "not only form but also life." He was concerned with portraying through their associated physical postures those human emotions which haunted his mind, hence the evocative "Despair", the heart-rending "Crouching Woman" and the brilliant figure of his existentialist, "The Thinker". The plasticity of the anatomy shows the vivid muscular

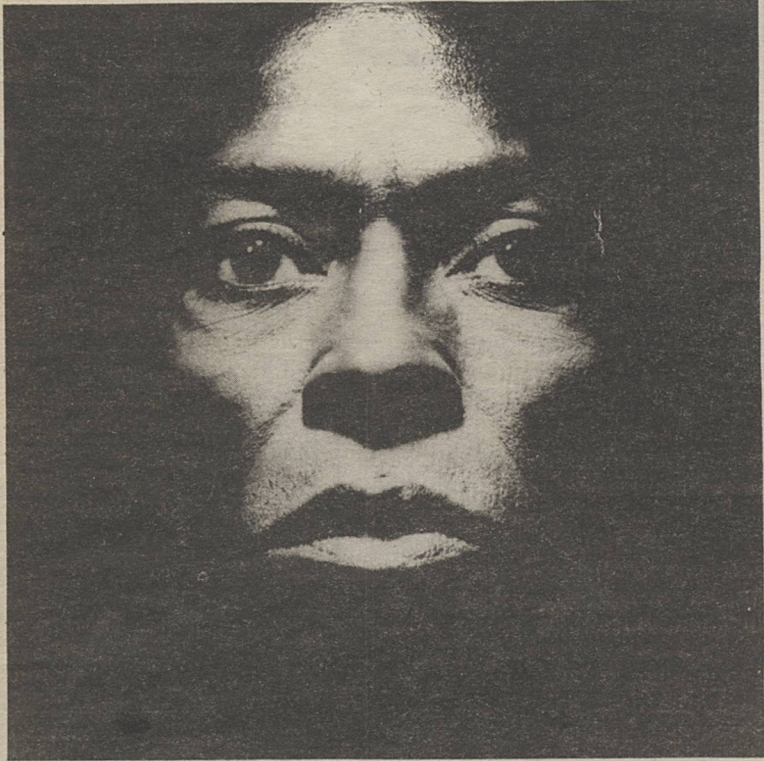
strength and virility of the hero, but his contracted chest and bowed head reveal signs of tormented self-awareness and the fragile inner self.

Unfortunately, Rodin's most famous work, the "Gates of Hell", vast doors with relief decoration for a planned museum of decorative arts commissioned in 1880, is impracticable for general exhibitions. Casts of the 21 foot-high relief in bronze based on Dante's "Inferno" can be seen only at the Musee Rodin in Paris and in Zurich, Tokyo, Philadelphia and California. This London exhibition has to make do with huge photographs which fail to animate the subject, highlighting one of the problems of sculpture exhibitions, that of invoking the sheer physicality and three-dimensional nature of exhibits. At the Hayward, the drawings and photographs by Rodin himself complement his sculpture, but cannot ever hope to overcome the constraints imposed by security and numbers of visitors, whereby small exhibits are imprisoned behind perspex, thus diffusing all the reflections of light, and the touching of larger exhibits is strictly prohibited - probably just as well.

Fiona Chester

Music

Jazz Column



Miles Davis: 'Tutu'

Anyone can tell you that Miles Davis is on to a good thing with his new album 'Tutu'. It's already number one in the London jazz charts. The real question, then, is how has the guy managed to stay in such a pre-eminent position for so long?

To give you some idea of his tenacity, the man was blowing be-bop with Charlie Parker in 1945! That's really where at least part of his secret lies; he's been innovating ever since - blowing 'cool' for his Capitol Band since 1948, 'hardbop' with Coltrane in 1955, and 'electric' since 1969 - and developing throughout has been the haunting beauty of that muted trumpet.

In his offstage life Davis can be most challenging. He has frequently resorted to harsh and often unjustified criticism of both his colleagues (the sax playing of Eric Dolphy - now acknowledged as one of the great musicians - is a case in point) and audiences. But his uncompromising attitudes (which, it should be

said, have on occasion proved conservative rather than revolutionary) are an integral part of his music, giving it real tension and drive.

'Tutu' incorporates these qualities, which probably makes it inaccessible on first play. It's a blend of the acoustic (Davis' trumpet) with the electric (in particular the bass slapping and compositional talents of Marcus Miller). Initially then, the two forms sound juxtaposed, in fact, the electric appears to dominate. But it soon becomes apparent that it provides an excellent vehicle for Davis' very lonely and removed sound. This is as much the case on fast funky tracks like 'Splatch' as on the slow and splendid 'Potia'.

Undoubtedly, this is one of those albums which you can really discover, and which will grow on you fast and continue doing so. It's thoroughly recommended and worth the investment in time as well as money.

Giorgio Meszaros

Groovy Times are Here Again...

A couple of compilation LP's for you this week (Christmas only a month away? - well, what a surprise). Both of them cover the same period, 1979 to date, but they couldn't be much more different.

The Fad Gadget Singles brings together the 45's of the weird and wonderful Frank Tovey (a.k.a. Fad Gadget). Obviously, I'm completely biased as songs like 'Ricky's Hand' and 'Back to Nature' were the stuff of 6th Form cults in my day, but this is an excellent record of fairly DIY electronics, reminding you of how good post-punk (especially electronic) music was before boring people who had Grade 9 piano took over (again). Will we never learn?

The other compilation is **The Whole Story** from a certain Kate Bush, which presents most of her singles, with a bias towards the more recent ones.

However, it begins with 'Wuthering Heights', with a new vocal mix, changing the original melodrama into something more chilling and haunting. Listening to this record, one realises just how misleading her image as a nice safe for-all-the-family singer has been; and since her current renaissance, everyone has finally worked out what she is singing about. It is now alright to like our Kate and read *The Face*, but is it safe to? Well, I think you ought to, anyway, and to be boringly mundane (without mentioning sex, Reichian psychology, nuclear radiation, dangerous emotions and so on) this LP is excellent value for those strange dark winter nights ahead.

This very minute, the debut LP from the wonderful **Shop Assistants** has arrived, so excuse me while I play it. It is well known that things like linear regression, academic study, and the LSE in general have a deleterious effect on musical taste and dress sense, and the Shoppies, on the evidence of this LP, may actually be capable of reversing this frightening trend for forty minutes. Songs played by the Shoppies include the fast one which has pretty happy lyrics and the slower one with the more reflective lyrics; but what really matters is that they are basically

The The - "Infected"

Matt Johnson, like Marc Almond, must lead a hell of a dodgy sex-life if the three or so 'love songs' on 'Infected', the new The The album, are anything to go by.

The album itself doesn't actually see any departure into new fields by the group, but after the brilliant 'Soul Mining', I can't see many complaining. 'Angels of Deception' is certainly a rival to 'Uncertain smile' as the best song Johnson has recorded, and the marvelous 'Heartland' single sounds even better within the context of the album. The singles 'Infected' (banned by Auntie Beeb and still didn't reach number one), and 'Sweet Bird of Truth' are also included.

There are only two minor changes, then, on 'Infected'. The first is Johnson's desire to address lyrically the

political crisis in which we live, though disappointingly he offers no answers. For example, 'Sweet Bird of Truth' tries to unravel the logic behind the raid on Libya through the eyes of an American bomber pilot (and - surprise! - it failed to chart!).

The second is that Johnson increasingly seems to be consolidating some kind of band to join The The/himself. Once again, Zeke Manyika (ex Orange Juice) appears on the album, as does Mark Weidler, who produced a couple of tracks.

'Infected' is more of the same from The The, but it's still the best album I've heard this year. Fans of the depressing love song had better start taking those Morrissey posters down today!

Riky Islington

teenagers grown up in this ghastly yuppie decade, lost like you and I ought to be. I mean, when Alex Shop Assistant sings "I don't want to be civilised, you

leave me and I'll scratch your eyes out", one feels that the world is a better place. This week's best record this year on this half of the page. Stay tuned.

Doog



Beaver Collective Meetings Monday 5PM E204

The Institute for Contemporary Arts

By Hans Nijenhuis and Juli Mahr

While faithfully following your Michelin guide from Trafalgar Square up to Buckingham Palace, you probably did not see it. Situated half way up The Mall, the Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA) should not be missed by anyone who is interested in seeing an eclectic mixture of the contemporary arts.

The ICA was established 40 years ago by Herbert Read and Roland Penrose, who set out to give young, new British and foreign artists a forum to show work which simply did not fit in with the art establishment's conservatism. In 1967 the ICA moved from Dower Street to its present location in The Mall, and what was once the German Embassy was transformed into the most influential centre for contemporary arts in Britain.

Today the ICA houses two cinemas, a theatre, three galleries, a lecture and seminar programme, video productions and distribution, a bookshop, a restaurant and a bar.

In its 205-seat cinema, the ICA attempts to show films that would not normally be given general release or to showcase new films by up and coming, young filmmakers. (The London Film Festival is screening there at the moment.) During the weekend the ICA runs its Children's Cinema Club, which has become Britain's foremost film

programme for children and started a trend which others, including the National Film Theatre, quickly picked up on.

ICA's second cinema presents a "cinemateque" (watch out for the uncomfortable seats) where practically anything goes from low budget political documentaries to major retrospectives of neglected figures of international cinema such as Jon Jost.

During the day the cinemateque turns into a rather unique phenomena: **The Video Library.** Visitors to the ICA can select a video tape from a catalogue have it screened on one of the monitors, each equipped with six headphones.

The ICA also produces its own video programmes which feature writers, poets and filmmakers from Soweto to Strathclyde, and in addition, it sends over a thousand other video cassettes to places as far afield and diverse as Ethiopia and Australia.

The ICA Theatre produces a fully-integrated, international programme of live events, and its three exhibition rooms allow younger, known and unknown, artists to create new ways of presenting their ideas.

Who pays for all this? The ICA is financially assisted by a whole list of sponsors (which, up to its abolition, included the GLC.) The ICA does, however, pride itself on earning £2 for

every £1 it receives in subsidies. This means that, through sponsorship income, the ICA earns a higher percentage of its funds than the RSC, the National Theatre, the ENO or the Royal Opera House.

Boasting half a million visitors a year, the ICA's low-profile advertising campaign, and slightly off-beat locale ensure, however, that most of these are

members or contemporary art aficionados and little is done to promote this chance to experience the wonderful diversity of art, film and theatre presented in its various theatres to the rest of us. Those keen enough to scour the listings in "Time Out" for details of ICA events and make the trip down The Mall will be rewarded.



ICA, Nash House, The Mall

Underground: Charing Cross/Piccadilly Circus
Wheel chair access
Open: Noon-11 pm daily.

Annual student membership £6 which gives half price tickets for the whole year.
Prices: Cinema £3 and Theatre £4.

Film

Rosa Luxemburg

A famous revolutionary, of course, but this film drives home the stature of the woman herself, one who gave birth to great ideas. You may be put off by the politics - you shouldn't be. "Rosa" is an epic, human story of personality and of the never-ending cycle of conflict and struggle - both international and inter-personal.

What struck us most was the presentation of women. It is a refreshing change from the usual run of American and/or male-produced films - independent and intellectually sharp, but at the same time able to express their emotions and "live life fully".

Rosa persists in her pacifist convictions and democratic ideals in the face of the established order, but equally, against the easy compromising of the men struggling with her, for whom immediate power is the only consideration. The film leaves you wondering what idealism achieves in wider terms. The spartacist insurrection was brutally suppressed, and Rosa was quietly removed. The murder scene is shocking; however, Rosa always wanted to die for the cause, in prison or in a street fight.

The film is subtitled, but you can have a go at understanding Russian/Polish/German. It gives you much to think about with an award-winning performance by Barbara Sukowa in the title role.

Rhianon and Bo

DARTS

LSE Darts Vs. King's

After the successful 3 1/2 month "Assassins Tour of North America" (during which a great deal of travelling was done; New York, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Ensenada, Mexico and Vancouver, Canada), the LSE Archers have had a sleepy start to the new year. But Monday night last week saw the return of some serious darts.

King's managed to take the first two sets (1-3, 1-3) before the Archers could find any consistent length and line. For King's there was some solid darts from Slick Nick and some very outstanding checkin' out by Double Six Dix.

The turning point of this match came when Triple Crown produced an 180 (which even King's had to acknowledge with handshakes and more beer). From this point the LSE took control. Mike "Cocky-on-the-Oche", returning to the form that had made him the most feared archer in the West country a few years back, his finishing on this night was the best we had witnessed for some time.

By the 5th set, it had become a game of discipline and stamina, interrupted frequently by trips to the toilet by King's - always in pairs. It was "Cocky-on-the-Oche" who put the icing on the LSE cake with a Triple 19, Double 15 to give us the 3 sets to 2 victory.

This puts the LSE two matches up in the "Arrows across the Aldwych Series", and they look in a strong position to retain the superbarrel that they won last year.

S.T.

BEAVER SPORT

The Soccer (!?) Report

On Wenesday the 1st lost 4-0 to Royal Holloway and Bedford. Our man at the match, A. Dickhead, sent us this report: "Well, how did we continue to get dicked by opponents we should have beaten? Their first was of particular embarassment to Nick and Hendrik. The second-half saw goals resulting form bad marking, a deflection and a failure to clear the ball. Ian Brady 'Shingle's headed attempt at goal is also best forgotten, but it won't be. Adam Markin deserves a mention, he was shit. Paul Wakefield looked dreary despite extra sleep of late. John "will you give me a kiss" Shipstone is now 360 minutes goalless. On a serious note Dominic Connolly and Red-Head played

well. Two questions remain. Will Ally hold his place now that Nolo is cast-less and will Roy "you are the bollocks" Bradley ever return to the fray?"

Meanwhile, once upon a time, on a far away muddy football pitch, lived Cheezy and his brave companions setting out on their quest for a league title. the game was a battle of nerves with brilliant defensive play on both sides. Our gallant heroes were first on the score sheet - Chris Ioannoy scoring a sizzler. Unfortunately, just before half-time they were 3-2 though with Jeff Kirsh adding the third. After an uninspiring team talk from Henry at half-time, a brilliant display of character, skill and determination emerged, leading

to a fine 6-3 victory with Rob Jones, Nick Ball and A. Unknown all scoring. Marco, Antonio, Bou and Cat all gave star performances.

The thirds managed a 5-draw after a rather scrappy performance. John Buttersby scored an early goal with a powerful header from a well-flighted corner. A beautiful goal by Chris Riley, followed by two more goals by Crispin and Doug gave the 3rds a 4-2 lead at half-time. However, in the second half against a strong wind, an early goals was let in and even the injection of Mike Gunters pace wouldn't halt the rot. With minutes to go, LSE were 5-4 down, but at the end Darren scooped the ball i to salvage a point. Harry and Dave Bridges both played great games.

The other match played on Wednesday was between Chris Riley and an unfortunate person from an opposing team. Chris, trying to add to his tally of two opponents' teeth already this season, got stuck into round 1 in the changing rooms. By round 2, in the bar, Chris's poor opponent (who "stole" one of Chris's girlfriends, not that he doesn't have enough anyway) was visibly shaking and Chris was pulled off him before any blood could be spilled. Definitely a pious victory for Chris.

By Pepe



Basketball

The LSE basketball team rolled to victory last Saturday by pounding Brunel 83-37. The victory earned LSE the Universities Athletic Union tournament title for the third straight year.

LSE's solid play against Brunel gave them a 35-23 lead at half time, relying on consistent scoring from guard Rob Fanner and center Mike Swell, and pesky defense by guard Bill Markstein. In the second half, LSE exploded for 48 points in route to the win. The team, which now boasts a 7-1 record, plays its next game at Oxford University.

Greg Campbell



Any budding boxers? Come and join the newly-formed LSE Boxing Club. If interested, please sign up in the Athletic Union office at any time. If you have any queries, please contact Ray Bradley or Ed Barber between 1 and 2 p.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays in the A.U. office.

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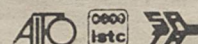
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
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