



BEAVER

As South Africa campaign gathers momentum . . .

FIRST VICTORY

by our own correspondent

LAST week the General Purposes Committee voted by a narrow majority of 11-10 to refer the issue of disinvestment to the Academic Board. The decision was reached after a vigorous campaign by the Anti-Apartheid group which led to a proposal by student representatives that the School should withdraw its investment in companies which have a substantial investment in South Africa, at a Meeting of the GPC in February 1978.

In 1978 it was revealed that the LSE had an investment of some £252,000 which amounted to about a tenth of its total shareholding. It has been estimated that such investment controls over 80% of South Africa's private sector.

The student representatives conceded that the School's action in disinvesting would not of itself be of great practical significance, but would nevertheless serve to assist the efforts of other countries in bringing the apartheid system to an end.

The issue was passed to the Academic Board, and from there to the Court of Governors after a decision by the Standing Committee. It was on 6th July that the Court of Governors voted to reject the proposals by a vote of 24-16.

The School's argument against disinvestment ran as follows:

(a) The economic effect of disinvestment would probably be nil as the shareholding the School sold would be immediately bought up on the Stock Market.

(b) If the argument for disinvestment was to be based on moral grounds, why should the School confine itself to acting in respect of companies with large interests ra-

ther than all companies with South African interests?

(c) Should the School withdraw all its funds from government stocks and investment trusts which held shares in companies which in some ways had interests in South Africa. Thus to follow a fully consistent policy of disinvestment the School would be left with a limited share portfolio.

(d) It was further noted that the School had in the past left decisions concerning the School's financial affairs to bodies entrusted with the management of the School's funds.

(e) The suggestion was also made that by picking out one offensive regime while ignoring others the School might lay itself open to charges that it was swayed by one particular stream of political thought.

Main argument

However the main argument against disinvestment centred around the case that this would set a dangerous precedent for basing the School's decisions on political grounds. It was made clear that the School should disregard all factors other than the

interests and objectives of the School.

The Director, Ralf Dahrendorf, pointed out the importance he attached to the way the School conducted itself "in public terms," irrespective of whether it decided to disinvest or not. In his view it was essential that the School should not take a public stand on a political issue such as disinvestment. It was resolved that the School should confine its public statements to affairs relating to academic affairs and student interests.

Petition

With the beginning of this academic year, the issue was raised again. The Standing Committee received a petition from the student body of some 1,400 signatures. After the matter had been passed through the School bodies once again last week's decision was reached. The proposal will now be presented to the academic board for its consideration. From there it will move to the Standing Committee which it is hoped will refer to the Court of Governors, which is ultimately responsible for taking the final decision on disinvestment.

£2,000,000 fund for 'eighties

A £2m fund is being launched to help 1,000 students during 1980-90.

The scheme will be administered by the School's Academic Board under the chairmanship of the Director through the Scholarships and Prizes Committee.

The 1980s Fund will be "unorthodox and flexible"—in other words it will aim at meeting the particular needs of individual students undergoing financial hardship. The fund will, therefore, not be restricted to certain categories of student.

The preliminary report emphasises the wide variations within the student body at the LSE. At present 47% of the LSE's students are doing Post-graduate courses and research work. 39% are overseas students and 18% of the student body are mature students.

Given the different requirements of these groups it would be absurd to calculate average sums for financial help.

The following sums have been suggested as a possible breakdown:

- 15 awards @ £3,000.
- 25 awards @ £2,000.
- 25 awards @ £1,000.
- 20 awards @ £500.
- 10 awards @ £250.
- 5 awards @ £100.

However, certain sections of the student body are identified as being in particular need at this present time. Home post-graduates have been especially hard hit with the recent fee in-

creases (from £70 in 1974-5 to £815 in 1978-9). Only 230 of them get Research Council support, some others have studentships from other sources, but without further help they may be squeezed out by the new fee levels.

Overseas students are obviously badly affected—many unable to come to LSE due to the fees increases, exchange controls and administrative restrictions.

The appeal has charitable status. Whereas many charities could not donate sums to the Library appeal owing to their regulations (funds went to the building of the Library and therefore did not directly help students) the 1980's Fund will give direct aid and therefore such restrictions will not apply. Individuals, firms, groups of Friends of LSE abroad and assorted tax-dodgers have been invited to contribute.

There will be a meeting at which students can discuss their reactions to the Fund scheme at the General Secretary's office (S117) at 12 noon on Thursday.

Ralf splashes out

by Carol Saunders

Professor Dahrendorf, Director of LSE, has personally donated £50 to the Rag Committee—the first contribution it has received.

In response to a letter from Will Richardson, General Secretary, requesting support for LSE Students' Union's first charity fund-raising week since 1973, the Director replied by return of post with his personal contribution.

The Director indicated that he was delighted that the Students' Union was once more concerning itself in such fund-raising activities.

In turn, the Rag Committee are overwhelmed by the Director's generosity and hope that his contribution will be the first of many.



Notes for rag diary

Ideas for Rag Week are plunging into nascent organisation.

Just a recap and report:

We have abandoned the idea of advertising in the Rag Mag, since no-one can be bothered to find any advertisers. So the anticipated and standardised format (at 18p cost price!) has been overtaken by an edition to be produced from our own resources. All the more impetus for selling it at other colleges!

Sponsored walk forms ARE OUT! Find them at Florries, the Three Tuns, Union Shop, Union Office, Main building entrance, etc.

The Revue has now been compiled and cast, but contributions in the way of more witty sketches will be welcome. We also need an enthusiastic needle-mistress! The noticeboards give details of meetings.

Bruce, our 6ft beaver, is still only half full—stuffing of any description would be welcome in the Ents Room.

To the events for Tuesday, 13th March, have been added a mass dive from Westminster Bridge, a "Street-Climb" (see "Monty Python on how to tackle a horizontal street!")

Bowing to the great institutions of the British Law, the plans for bank raids have been discarded, so we propose to auction Centrepoint to the highest

bidder (puns are the lowest form of wit!)

Come and join us—we're having fun!

Tim Barrett
Angela Benton
c/o Undergraduate
Pigeonholes.

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- Ps. 9 & 10 . . Usual drivel.
- PLUS!! More reactions to reactions to the Young Report, more tedious in-jokes, more hideous self-congratulation, more Bill Sweeney-bashing (we're all good friends really).
- PLUS the usual impeccably informative Contents Box (Page 1).

Freud's secrets repeal bid faces difficult passage

by Peter Whitehead

ARE we on the verge of open government in Britain? Or will the latest attempt to repeal the notorious section 2 of the Official Secrets Act result in more expense, bureaucracy, and secrecy? These are questions which the House of Commons must face over the next few weeks as Clement Freud's Official Information Bill makes its way through the Parliamentary machinery.

The wit and eloquence of Mr. Freud's opening speech in Parliament on Friday, 19th January, reduced both friend and foe to laughter as the ridiculous anomalies of section 2 were emphasised: the provision which was originally meant to cover all forms of espionage now made the skills of a part-time gardener at Hampton Court an official secret.

Supporters of the Bill, which aims to repeal s.2 and establish a general right of access to official documents for members of the public, claim that the section has been thoroughly discredited, and that it is beyond repair. Its catch-all nature has led to great misunderstanding and confusion on the part of Crown servants, journalists and editors. Those favouring repeal demand that the public have a right to know what lies behind decisions taken on their behalf, and argue that public accountability will lead to better and more responsible government.

The Bill's passage will not be trouble-free, however, as Mervyn Rees, speaking for the Government, made clear. Despite a 1974 manifesto promise to "replace the Official Secrets Act and . . . to put the burden on public authorities to justify withholding information," Ministers are displaying an attitude of dubious concern. Over the last ten years, successive administrations have encouraged Departments to increase the amount of material made pub-

licly available but they would prefer to rely on "constant and vigilant scrutiny by Parliament" and reform, rather than repeal, of s.2. Their proposals for reform include a more restrictive definition of what is to be covered by the Act.

Opponents of the Bill also claim that its operation would prove too costly, complex and time-consuming to administer, and that it could adversely affect the doctrines of collective responsibility of Ministers and anonymity of the civil service.

It must be accepted that there is a need for some secrecy, matters involving defence and internal security providing the most obvious examples. Everyone also seems to be in favour of more openness in government, and it is therefore the method, rather than the end, which is in dispute.

The Government's policy of gradualism has proved inadequate and their proposals for clarification of the law could lead, in practice, to even greater secrecy.

On the other hand, the effects of the Bill can only be guessed at: the repeal of s.2 may certainly do much to remove the "general aura of secrecy" that surrounds administration in Britain, but this in itself will not create a well-informed public. The realisation of this latter aim will require far more than mere legislation.

SCAB (IT WON'T GET BETTER IF YOU PICKET)



MORAL: DON'T OFFER TO GIVE TO THE STRIKE FUND BY BARCLADARD

Consoc lashes Smith

RESIDENT nursery expert, committee hack and "liberal" Paul Smith discharged a couple of barrels of the Liberal gun at the Conservative dog in the last issue of "Beaver". At the risk of being hacks, and to save "Goebbels" Smith from a defamation action (calling in NAFF and all that), we thank our student organ for the opportunity to put the record straight.

No doubt the Liberals are worried about their membership and are trying to encourage defections by some of our "lefties". The fact is that since Christmas, Con-Soc membership has increased and is now much nearer to 100 than "50". Further, we cannot claim substantial debts to our previous chairman. This distinction goes to the "Labour" Club.

"Goebbels" Smith exhorts everyone to look at the rightward drift within our society. It is pleasing to say that we have a stimulating division of opinion within Con-Soc. Unlike the "labour" Club this is not suicidal, back-stabbing factionism nor is it the "follow my

leader or else" of the SWP. We do not publicly (sic) denounce our leaders tactics like the "labour" Club and are ALL committed to the return of a Conservative Government.

Julian Ingram has stated that some of the benefits of being compulsorily joined to a student union has not been realised by some of us. How perceptive! The failure of the Union at LSE makes some of us believe that giving everybody the choice of joining or not would either make the Union work FOR students, or disappear. What better incentive to overhaul the Constitution that has been described as "the worst ever seen in the student world" (Young Report).

The state of LSE Union led to a deliberate boycott of the Executive by-election last term. As vindication of this, only 400 out of 3,500 students voted. Of course, we have been accused of "Union wrecking". However, we do not think that the Union should be allowed to squander

money when it cannot attract 150 students to pass its budget. Hence the "quorum" calls at various UGMs.

Instrumental in the above was our ex-chairman, Governor Shackleton. We were sorry to receive his resignation which was for personal reasons — Peter Pan, academic work and the strains of Governorship. Possibly he has caught the disease that befell Bruce Fell last year—sabbaticalitus.

We welcome our new chairman, David Neil-Smith, elected by an electorate 50% up on Gov. Shackleton's and by a majority of two! No "rightie" steamroller here!

We look forward to more moderate/right students joining us. Also look out for the rest of our speaker programme (following the excellent William Rees-Mogg).

Finally may we extend an invitation to Paul Smith to join Con-Soc. We will understand if he leaves this until he joins the real world.

Richard Butler
David Neil-Smith
Nick White
Steve Gallant

Police pummel Iran protesters

By Miss Malvika Raj Kumar

THIS article is based on the personal experience of an Iranian student from the LSE. It occurred in the fervour of the demonstration held by the Iranian students from London, on 25th January outside the Iranian Embassy. A group of approximately 50 students went past the police, into the Consulate, demanding, among other things, that Prime Minister Bakhtier be removed and that the airport in Teheran be opened.

To their surprise, the demonstrators were pursued by the police. A Consulate official in-

formed the officers of the law that they bore no complaint against the students and that the Consulate would take responsibility for them. No heed was paid to this. On the contrary, without any provocation, the police launched an attack, severely injuring a number of people.

Three of the demonstrators were dragged out to a van where they were subjected to harsher treatment. The student from LSE was one of them. The Consular official was also beaten, when he attempted to aid the students. Awareness of the workings of the legal system prevented the students from defending themselves against incessant blows and they bore the pain of the clubbing mutely.

The students who had been seized were taken in the van to police headquarters. Taunting remarks about their religion were constantly lashed at them during the journey. Exhausted, beaten and handcuffed, they faced the smugness of police questioners who asked, "Are you tired?"

In the Court the next day they were charged with "assaulting the Police." They are now released on bail and face trial in April.

BRUSSELS

The night view from the hotel
of a city full of pleasant people
one has nothing to do with,
the man with the moustache
who sells fat waffles,
the woman on the next bed
sleeping some kind of coat-covered
dreams.

© Ruth Pillsbury, 1978.



London School of Economics

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Editor of "The Times".

Dear Mr Rees-Mogg,

I AM a third-year student at LSE, seeking a job in journalism. Whilst I was in the bath last night, it came to me (things often come to me in the bath, you see) that it would be quite a good wheeze if I became Editor of your august organ.

I have had quite a bit of experience in journalism: I have worked on "Beaver", newspaper of LSE. Having studied Industrial Relations for a year, I feel sure I would be able to solve the lockout dispute in a matter of minutes — according to my socialist friends, all one needs to do is give the chaps lots more money and promise never to sack them. I am surprised that an intelligent man such as yourself has not already discovered such a simple solution.

Furthermore, I have lots of friends and acquaintances who would be prepared to sacrifice their degrees and come and help. I would particularly recommend Ms Carol Saunders (who has a lot of experience in writing objective front-page stories) and Mr Edward Walker (who could write in-depth feature articles on the lines of: "The Times: Syndicalists Rebuild").

Even if we were to find your printers unsuitable (many of them, I am reliably informed, come from distinctly lower-class backgrounds), I am sure that "Beaver" printers, Ripley Printers, of Ripley, Derby, could help bail us out.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GAUSSEN-

RULING CLASS AT LSE

MOGG BITES MAN

by
Jim Slatten

Young
Winston

WHEN 'The Times' dispute moves into its ninth week this Friday, speculation that the newspaper will never again reappear on the news stalls of the world, will continue gather momentum. Students here at the LSE were presented with an opportunity to hear the views of one side involved in the dispute, that of the management, when William Rees-Mogg paid a visit to the School as a guest of the Conservative Society recently.

Addressing a crowded audience (thanks perhaps to advertisements appealing for hecklers hurriedly distributed by the Left late that Monday morning), 'The Times' Editor elucidated the developments that have led to what he termed "the growing state of anarchy on Fleet Street."

Whether concurring with Rees-Mogg's conclusions or not, those in attendance were entertained as the Editor undauntedly rebuffed comments made by hecklers during the speech and question period. When at one point the allegation was made that "The Times" was a political instrument (presumably, this writer surmises, of the Conservative Party), Rees-Mogg rejoined, "The Left too has newspapers that orchestrate its views, and if the circulation of the 'Morning Star' and the 'Socialist Worker' is rather limited, perhaps this may demonstrate the appeal that these views have in the country." At the conclusion of the talk, a left-winger was overheard telling a colleague of his, "You made a fool of yourself. You can't argue with him." One is left to ponder whether this deduction was based on the merit of Rees-Mogg's argument or rather on the strength of his rhetorical expertise.

Economic efficiency is at the core of the dispute. "The Times" management introduced proposals several months ago which aimed at improving efficiency by taking advantage of new technology and curtailing the industrial disruptions which have plagued its Fleet Street operations. A deadline on negotiations was set, and when that deadline expired on 30 November 1978, the management shut operations down. Rees-Mogg believes that the installation of such modern conveniences as computer type setters, commonly used outside of Great Britain, would benefit employee and employer alike. No longer would "The Times" be dependant on the secondhand printing graveyards of Canada for its presses. The Thompson organization which owns the newspaper has agreed to apply two-thirds of all additional profits generated by the increased

productivity directly to pay increases, the remainder for the first five years to be spent on capital investment at "The Times". In return, the unions would have to guarantee against further industrial disruptions and consent to reductions in manning to be achieved through voluntary redundancies. "This," concluded Rees-Mogg, "cannot be regarded as an unreasonable offer."

Negotiations at "The Times" are further complicated by the large number of individual bargaining units with which the management has to secure agreement. The interests of the 7 unions and 54 bargaining units employed by "The Times" often vitiate against one another. Such is the case with the National Graphics Association. This open-minded union welcomes the advent of modern technology but insist on having a monopoly in its operation. Understandably, this is totally unac-

ceptable to the other three print unions, and the management is caught in the middle. Perhaps there is some truth in Rees-Mogg's statement that "as soon as the unions enter into rational negotiations, agreement will be rapidly reached." Thus far, agreement has been reached with 20 of the 54 individual bargaining units, and the Editor of "The Times" remains confident that agreement can be reached with the remaining 34.

When in 1967 Rees-Mogg took over responsibility of a newspaper beset with financial difficulties, his goal was "to make 'The Times' safe for the future." The successful achievement of that goal now lies beyond his grasp and in the hands of those he employs. If the workers refuse to work with modern printing apparatus, and at the higher wages that such efficiency calls forth, it then appears unlikely that "The Times" will ever again return.

REMEMBER TONYPANDY . . . SO this was it, what LSE is all about . . . the scene — the New Theatre; in the blue corner, a rather wholesome-looking Winston Churchill (11) MP with dotting FCS entourage; in the red corner, assorted Protectors of the Faith (Marxist-Leninist) . . .

After a more than usually banal introduction from the hapless chairperson, Winston got off to a great start, booming out of his corner and mentioning Rhodesia and secondary picketing in the same sentence; the Wednesday afternoon crowd smiled benignly and settled down expectantly to a good fight. Surprisingly the first twenty minutes were totally one-sided; apart from several subdued "ssss's and Tonypanydy's" the red corner laid back and took a steady stream of right jabs—the autocracy of the unions, prototype soviets of the picket line, fall democracy, memories of the "few"—where was the left's counter-attack, the fabled rhetoric? Frenzied shouting from the back announced its arrival; phrases such as "Monday Club, NAFF-ite scum", "two classes, the rich and the poor", "imperialist ruling class" and so forth could be plucked from the hysterical torrent of rather incoherent dogma that hit Mr Churchill like a damp sponge. Smiling and raising his voice he continued his attack, shouting of Soviet aggression and oppression—he may lack the subtlety shown by Shirley Williams a week earlier, but what he lacks in poise he makes up for with volume and sheer irrelevance.

Intermittent abuse continued till the end of his desperate tirade against Russia (exactly who was on the USSR's side nobody knew, but it was good boxing anyway) then the match closed with abuse punctuated with questions. The result was a foregone conclusion; the crowd dissolved leaving a group of proud student Tories milling around the victor, a disgruntled bunch of socialists preparing abuse for the next speaker, and a feeling of depression at the thought of all the future "curriculum vitae" proudly proclaiming "I was active in student politics".

Kevin

Announcements

A LECTURE on The Human Factor In Social Administration by Professor J. H. Smith (Professor of Sociology and Social Administration, University of Southampton) at 5.00 pm, on Tuesday, 20th February in the Board Room at LSE.

★ ★ ★

WANTED! POSTAGE STAMPS!

WAR ON WANT seeks committed postage stamps to help in the fight against world poverty. They're trying to raise more money for their projects in developing countries. So bring your stamps along to the Beaver office (S116), and we'll send them on to War on Want.

Peter Whitehead



Personal service at the Pizzaburger.

Shirley faces rentamob

"I'm prepared to do whatever you say, but I'm damned if I'm going to shout above constant interruptions . . . I haven't the voice for that!" So began the Fabian Society meeting with Shirley Williams on January 24th. Fortunately, the London Student Movement, who were responsible for the "interruptions", were shamed into silence after Mrs Williams asked for a vote to decide whether she should speak or merely answer questions.

The main thrust of her speech was aimed at defending the Government's economic performance of the last four years which, she claimed, had done more for the lower paid than any previous administration. While finding it regrettable that public services had to be "chopped", the speaker emphasised the need to maintain international confidence in our economy. She recalled having been asked in Iran, some years ago, whether Britain could survive for another week. Her reply was now: "We're still here, and they're not," albeit in our "usual mildly shattered condition". Furthermore, apart from weakening our position abroad, current industrial unrest would only do more to harm the general community than the "capitalist", because of our mixed economy and technologically interdependent society.

Education was the major topic for discussion during a stormy questioning session. The London Student Movement denounced Mrs Williams as a racist and a fascist, and pressed for a statement on the recent rent increases for overseas students. With hands on hips, the speaker defiantly argued that there had been no change in policy since 1968, and that the present controversy had arisen because her Department had issued an explanatory circular, after a court case had cast some doubt upon the matter. Tuition fees are now linked to inflation, but overseas students are expected to pay the full cost of their accommodation; she went on to point out that the number of overseas students has more than doubled in the last few years.

Mrs Williams justified the closure of colleges of education as being good sense in view of the decline in the birth rate, although no mention was made of improving the teacher-pupil ratio. With reference to teacher unemployment, she claimed that many occupations would welcome an unemployment rate as low as that of the teaching profession, despite her admission that between nine and ten thousand qualified teachers are now without work.

Peter Whitehead

BIG BEN ON STRIKE

How sad to dream that now Big Ben
Was heard no more upon the hour,
Nor even sound its quarter chimes.
Did thunder say a deft 'Amen'
Above the silent tacit tower,
Or sigh to be without The Times?

THE FAIR-MINDED OBSERVER

O let The Times now run again
And Sunday Times go down the drain.
O keep the week-day heart and brain.
But on the sabbath pull the chain.

© N. Racine-Jaques, 1979.

ALL GAUSSEN GAITERS

THE so-called "Young Plan" has caused much anger and controversy in most sections of LSE Union. But the most vehement reaction is from the staff on "All GausSEN Gaiters", who are infuriated by what they regard as bureaucratic interference by Young who has compiled a separate set of proposals in an addendum on this column.

Simply titled "All GausSEN Gaiters — The Way Ahead", the report makes the following recommendations:

* "All GausSEN Gaiters" to lose its autonomous status and to be re-integrated within the Beaver complex.

* An elected committee to run this column, elected by the Union floor, and political content of "jokes" to be allocated in proportion to the strength of the respective political groups.

* The post of "Sabbatical Satirist" to be set up. His/her function would be to collect, organise and co-ordinate all "amusement - related material" for the column.

* All employees and subordinates on "All GausSEN Gaiters" to be given the right to join a trade union, and all posts to be given a detailed job description.

Mr Sam Arkwright, Chief Proprietor and Advisor of the column, described the proposals as "bluddy disgraceful." (It is a well-known fact that all the staff on this column speak in a "Radio Four" stereotyped North-

ern accent). "And any road, lad, we're not 'avin no bluddy unions round 'ere, ah can tell yer. 'Tats beginning of t'communism, ah sez".

"Trubble at t'Beaver, ee ba gum! My men won't stand for any tinkering wiv "Oll Gossen Gayters". We've worked on this column, me and t'lads, for 20 years now, and everyt'ings just fine. Mister Gossen's always bin a grete laff and many's the time 'e's 'ad me and my missus round for a cupp o' tea".

As for Young's allegation that this column had been receiving "donations from shady right-wing organisations before its present incumbent took over", this was "bluddy rubbish" according to Mr Bill Derby, the column's Area Works Manager and General Sub-Editor. "We keep our noses clean on this column. Any road, what's wrong with a bit o' spare cash?" Mr Derby promised that "all the lads would be off like a shot if any of this Young nonsense came about."

In other words, if the proposals are implemented, this column could not continue in anything like its present form. We have already been badly hit by the lorry-drivers' dispute, which has led to an acute shortage of "raw" verbiage.

If Young gets his way the already low morale of the chaps would collapse totally, and with it one of LSE's most famous, revered, and long-running institutions which in the words of an LSE campaign leaflet, "has earned a world-wide reputation for imaginative scholarship, research and high teaching standards" and was "one of the great originators of the proper study of economics (prop. K. Klappholz), politics and the whole field of social sciencies".

PROHIBITION

EARLY CLOSING TO CONTINUE AT ROSEBERY

PROMPTED by a recent return to normal licensing hours, some enterprising people at Rosebery decided to look into various ways of keeping the hall's residents lubricated, saving the bar's plummeting turnover (down by almost 40%), and at the same time trying to keep the new Warden happy by staying within the bounds of the law. Legal advice provided the ideal solution—change the existing club licence to a residents' licence, thereby allowing the bar to open outside normal, permitted hours, to residents only.

After much hot air, the wardens of the three halls met the School's solicitor who confirmed these findings—perhaps it would be possible to achieve once again some kind of civility with regard to hall bars' opening hours and hence maybe even stir up a little popularity for the wardens!

Alas, life isn't quite this simple at LSE. Apparently, at the beginning of the academic year, a letter was circulated by the School to the wardens re-

commending, ultimately, the transfer of bar management from student hands to the power grabbing School authorities, and it soon became clear that the School, reluctant to entertain any proposal which involved longer bar opening hours, would consider the new type of licence only in return for total control of the hall bars.

This proposal is, of course, totally unacceptable as, no doubt, once the School had taken over

the bars and brought in their own staff they would claim that the bars could only stay open until 11 anyway, because of difficulties in obtaining staff.

Let it be said, though, the School were in favour of the licence in some respects — it would have effectively stopped discos and also given the wardens (and therefore the School) complete autonomy since they, and not the respective bar committees, would be the licensees but even so it was not enough to impress them.

So, folks, it looks as if it's back to the off-sales, parties in rooms, battles with the sleeping neighbours, syndrome with renewed fervour! Once again let's hear it for the School authorities.

Janet Ransom

NIL DESPERANDUM

AFTER having struggled through my first term and four weeks at LSE, I thought that it might be time for reflection on the past and future (if one can reflect on the future). "Not another pompous first-year," you might say. Well yes.

Having been so inspired as to fail to meet the last extended deadline for Beaver, something has eventually come up. (It looks like breakfast). So what has the LSE done for me?

As yet, I have totally failed to move mountains or even molehills and so have become slightly disillusioned with the course. But it's still early days.

Despite rumours, the LSE has not turned my hair red (much to the relief of my mother) and my eyesight is still 10:10. Although I have noticed some changes in my overall well-being, this is not entirely unconnected with the new library.

Although there has been malicious criticism of this monolith, I find it a grand place. That is except the nine times out of ten when you can't find the book you urgently need. This along with the 10-minute queues to deposit your valuables develops a strong head for patience and understanding, an attribute I had very little of previously. The exercise obtained in meandering around the building hopelessly trying to find appropriate books is another facility not previously enjoyed. Of interest was an acquaintance's account of a confused person near the Haldane Room wanting to know which prankster had removed the Library.

I have also broadened my mind by attending the regular minority meetings held by the union and would continue to do so, if not for the new earlier schedule. As yet I have not caught any anti-social disease from this practice. Will's not a bad lecturer but I wouldn't buy a secondhand car from Julian. (For extended view see Beaver issue 175).

Porter rejects Banerjee allegations

HAVING read the last issue of Beaver, I feel I must defend my fellow porters against the pointing finger of Sreela Banerjee, who says, "people stand around waiting for service in the New library," as "there are not enough members of that gallant and diligent contingent of porters who hang up our coats and hand them back again."

"The authorities in their wisdom have provided porters who sit in their boxes on the ground floors of various buildings, conspicuous by their inactivity. Yet their fellow workers run quite a few miles a day in an effort to unsuccessfully bring our coats/bags to us quickly."

Sreela Banerjee also says that some people waste as much as 40 minutes to enter and leave the building.

I would like to point out that this person should get her facts straight. The porters in the Old Building have nothing to do with the way the library porters work but it goes to show the good service the porters of the Old Building Cloakroom give to people who never have to wait, as she says, for 40 minutes. Remember we have to service all the School and know what it is like to be run off our feet and feel quite whacked at the end of the day.

Mr Stan Quick
LSE porter for seven years

Living at Passfield has given me a new set of values, much lower than before, and made me realise how many desperate people there are. Why has my room no "surrealistic sculptures", although this situation is being rectified, by the sound of things?

Looking to the future, one can see the Rag Week. There are lots of bifo (yes, I still read the Beano) ideas.

But who would sweep up the droppings from a bit beaver? And I'm not so sure that anybody would really miss the Director? Anyway, come along and have fun before the mass outbreak of examinations. Symptoms of this disease are easily recognised with over-work and a bad attack of revision being prominent.

Just to conclude these rantings, a member of a certain bank in Kingsway did not know where the LSE is. What is the world coming to?

Steve Mogano

'GOD'S IN HIS HEAVEN' —AND RAINBOWS STILL BOSS THE SKY

BOSS with agents could espy
Such a problem in the sky
Watching Rainbows plainly flow
With a multicoloured glow.

BOSS then thought that it should ban
Such a highly coloured span
—But the Rainbow running free
Won the day in apogee.

Scientists were called to show
How to make the colours go,
But the Rainbow still was spared
With its beauty unimpaired.

Then it seemed that even BOSS
Ran apartheid at a loss
—For the Rainbow could escape
From the border to the Cape.

BOSS with heavy guns ablaze
Shot the Rainbow in the haze,
But the colours reappeared
When the smoke of hate had cleared.

BOSS had tried to end the sight
Of the blend of tinted light
—But the splendid colours show
Rainbows shall forever glow.

© N. Racine-Jaques, 1979.

Author's footnote: The initials BOSS mean the Bureau of State Security. Quite recently BOSS has changed its name to DONS (Department of National Security). However most South Africans still continue to use the term BOSS to describe the euphemistic misnomer DONS. The situation could be summed up in three words: "Plus ça change . . ."

GREAT BORES of LSE

No. 6: MORGON THE GORON



... basically the absence of any predetermined organisational structure of responsibility along the lines of Lanchester Polytechnic has invariably led to a staff-student conflict situation arising from what one might term a misconceived functional expectation scenario—now if one was to contrast against this situation of anarchy the clearly defined models of (shall we say?) Lanchester Polytechnic or the National Secretariat of the Communist Party of the Lithuanian SSR one immediately recognises the advantages of an ongoing relationship where everybody knows where he stands as embodied in the hierarchy structure of the Union Permanent Secretary. I mean Lanchester Polytechnic should be an example to us all . . .

HOUSING VICTORY

L.S.E. TAKES ACTION

FOLLOWING the student housing crisis at the beginning of last term, the Students' Union has persuaded the School to take action on this vital issue. Among the main recommendations of a report from the Student Accommodation Working Party, comprised of six representatives from the School and five students, are a £250 grant for the Students' Union Welfare Office, and a new Guide to Accommodation in London, which will be circulated to all prospective students.

Student representatives on the

Working Party are delighted with the rapid progress. Executive member David Darton summed up their feelings when he said: "We have made great advances and are looking forward to further co-operation with the School in tackling this urgent problem."

The group was set up after the Students' Union submitted papers to the General Purposes Committee, pointing out the seriousness of the problem, and the inadequacy of previous action by the School. It considered various possible solu-

tions, including the suggestion by a representative of the School of a Head Tenancy Scheme, which was rejected, mainly because of the problems caused by similar schemes in other areas. The question of the priority given to first years was raised, though there was disagreement as to whether or not this should be increased.

The School feels that it should not establish its own accommodation office, originally suggested by students, but has granted £250 to the Students' Union, to employ more staff during the crucial month of September and advertise more widely in local newspapers.

All prospective students who have been offered a place by the School will now be sent copies of an attractively produced new booklet, "Guide to Accommodation in London", setting out the problems new students will face, and possible means of overcoming them. This will help to fill the present large gap in information available.

The School will also be putting pressure on the University to improve its Accommodation Office, which is at present totally inadequate. The group agreed that the Accommodation Service should be upgraded to at least the level of the Careers Advisory Service, with a branch office serving the LSE and King's College.

These recommendations will be considered by the GPC at its next meeting on February 28th, and whatever the result of their discussions, the Student Housing group will continue its work.

Sarah Lewthwaite

WORTHLESS?

WHAT happens if you get a notice to quit? Are you a tenant? Are you being harassed? Are you protected? Do you care?

With the increasing amount of legislation these days relating to housing many people do not know where they stand with regard to the flat or bedsitter in which they live and such questions as these are impossible for them to answer. As it can be difficult or even impossible to get anywhere to live at all, many people are only too willing to take whatever they can get, often after days on end marching round London with their screwed-up copy of the "Evening Standard" or going from agency to agency in vain. But is that flat all you think it is after you've finally got it? What rights have you or the landlord got against each other?

Many people don't really care what their legal position is because they're only concerned with somewhere to live, many people don't know what their legal rights are. The point most people don't seem to realise is that if you pay rent and generally behave like a good tenant your landlord has no right to evict you... that is if you are a tenant; the question is, "Are you a tenant?" for if you are not you will not have the protection that

the law provides. This may sound stupid as most people assume that because they have a flat they are automatically tenants but unfortunately this is not the case.

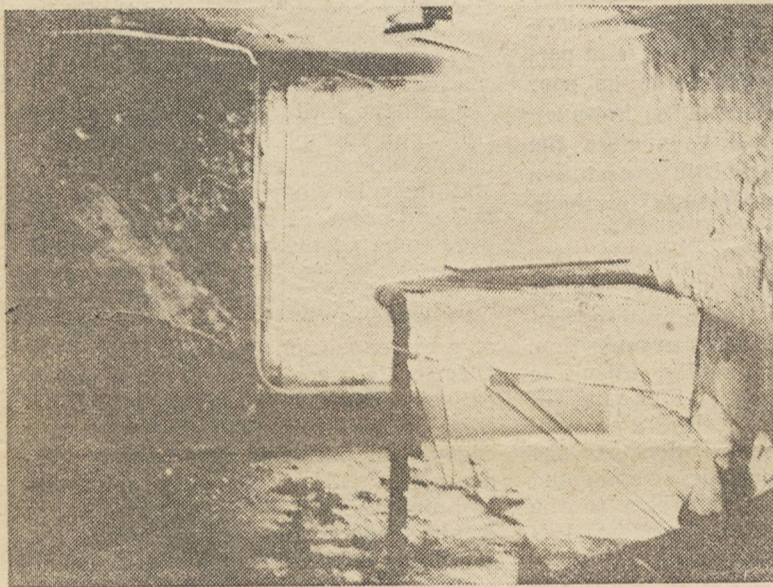
The laws over the past few years have made an important distinction between "tenants" and "licensees"—the former having protection whilst the latter have none. So the most important question you have to answer is what is your status, tenant or licensee. Since the recent laws have increased protection for "tenants" via increased security and Rent controls... landlords are anxious to retain effective control over their property which they let and so some are drawing up rental agreements to "get round" the Rent Acts and so put the tenant in a position of having no statutory protection i.e. in legal terms he is only a "licensee" and not a tenant. Have you looked at your rental agreement and do you know what all the terms imply?

In order to try and establish how widespread this problem is, I am doing a survey of LSE students' experiences in this field. If you have a rental agreement I would be grateful to have a look at it, photo copy it and return it to you, or indeed if you have any other experience in the field of landlord/tenant relationship I would be grateful to hear from you.

(Could you please bring any tenancy agreement to room 204 to Jane Higinbotham — careful about the name she's very sensitive — so that they can be copied and returned to you.)

Thanks,

Roger Levitt



Typical luxury student accommodation

UNION SKETCH

THE achievement of the previous two weeks was obviously too good to last, as the initial success of the executive's "diabolical little plan" degenerated into failure last Thursday at yet another inqurate meeting. Yet again the LSE SU proved that union meetings never die, they just fade away. Contrast the sad scene with the previous week's exciting fun-packed occasion.

In an all-action performance the Senior Treasurer's speech in favour of an obscure motion on some all-day voting system was promptly challenged by a refreshingly timid SWP speech against, and then... What the meeting had been waiting for, an almost razor sharp exchange of debate. Cuddly left win-

ger Graham Wildridge spoke in favour, and "in fact" made some very "factual" remarks and "in actual fact" was replied to by Ed Jacob (they must have recently joined the debating society). He thought "the hacks were scared of democracy". The Union amazed by this sudden burst of correct procedure passed the motion overwhelmingly.

Other highlights included CLARIFICATION, for the floor on what "all these initials" (masquerading as committees) actually meant. There was also a heady moment for lovers of dignity and decorum, when an unassuming first year requested whether the chair (Nicholas Farey) would refrain from indulging in his distasteful exhibitionism for the rest of the meeting. This was greeted with approval as the floor was already tired of his drum majorette impression with a billiard cue and his blatantly partisan remarks from a supposedly impartial chair.

"Evil"

LIBERAL A.G.M.

AT the Liberal Society AGM on January 29th, Finance Committee member Paul Smith was re-elected Chairperson. Julien Shepley, a first year BSo (Econ) student became group Secretary, with second year Ian Woodcock taking on the post of Treasurer.

New Vice-Chairpeople are Antony Towey, a first year from International Hall, who will be dealing with external relations, and Sarah Lewthwaite, Students' Union member of the General Purposes Committee, responsible for internal LSE matters.

Former Liberal hack Andrew Goodchild is re-elected as President with the ex-Labour Club Secretary Ed Jacob becoming a Liberal Officer for the first time with his elevation to the position of Vice-President.

Liberal Society meetings take place on Tuesdays at 1 pm in Room 44. New members are always welcome.

Masochism

THE Pacific American Institute is looking for students to be responsible for the welfare of a group of 40-50 American High School students during their 6-7 day stay in London.

The mere thought of a bus load of American kids is enough to scare most people — 50% of last year's applicants disappeared after seeing the film that sold the idea to the kids in the first place. However, the reality is not as horrendous as might be first thought. Though armed with a massive tome which lays down the correct procedure for every emergency, all that is really required is the ability to keep one step ahead of kids who are, in turn, way ahead of their teachers.

The routine is really quite simple. You meet them at the airport/harbour and bus them to London, giving them a talk on the way. Accommodation is at Halls of Residence and meals are provided for by luncheon vouchers. All excursions are pre-booked and all that's left for you to do is to sit back and enjoy the trip to Stratford/Edinburgh/Windsor etc. The only essential items are an "A-Z" and a "What's On", with which you can disarm even the most loaded question.

Pay is £9 a day for your first trip with all meals, expenses and accommodation thrown in — 14 days work last summer earned enough for a month's stay in Spain.

Further information can be got by telephoning 240-1512 or calling at 229a Shaftesbury Avenue (opposite the Shaftesbury Theatre).

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★ PROGRESS REPORT

NATIONAL FRONT—WHERE ARE THEY NOW? A REPORT FROM THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BEAVER, in its increasing efforts to bring you the news behind the news, sent one of its top reporters (the one with the shortest straw) into the National Front's AGM, Saturday, the 20th of January. Held in quite a magnificent Hall in Seymour Place, just North of Marble Arch, it was

the first NF AGM held without an anti-fascist picket—yet another first for that wonderful body the Anti-Nazi League.

My findings on the National Front were totally conflicting, so for the sake of clarity I have divided them into two separate articles. This way you can pick the one that follows your party line.

THEY'RE WINNING

IN an analysis of the National Front one of its primary concerns must be the NF leadership. There is a tendency on the left to see the Directorate as a bunch of psychopathic morons. This I feel is dangerous.

Most important of the leaders is obviously John Tyndall. To the AGM he is the headmaster. His (rather boring) speeches carry a wealth of statistics and admonitions. The audience is treated (quite justifiably) with a kind of patronising contempt — as if it was a bunch of recalcitrant children. However there is no denying his superb grip of the party. He is reasonably popular, but more important than this he presents himself (and is seen) as the Statesman of the party. His statements appear to come straight from a party political broadcast.

The rest of the Executive comprised of intelligent, reasonably competent non-entities. However there appeared to me to be two weak links. Andrew Fontaine and Martin Webster. Fontaine is a looney (there's no other word). He seems deliberately to cultivate the mannerisms of Hitler, but unfortunately he's not so good on the podium. His interminable speech was the low-point of the conference, and was received with a distinct lack of enthusiasm. Incidentally did you know that it was Winston Churchill who was responsible for the selling of this once-proud country to world Jewry — so did I.

I was wrong about Webster. He may look stupid but he has his uses. When he addressed the meeting it seemed to come alive. If Tyndall is the NF's headmaster, then Webster is its headboy. He bullied, jeered and attacked the audience and they loved it. He has a talent for tub-thumping oratory which the masses (and union meetings) love and it was he who started all the Tribal Chants. Mind you he seems to lack a certain political acumen. Three times he spoke against Tyndall on motions, and each time he lost.

It's unfortunate, but the Directorate seem to have a very intelligent attitude to the progress of their party. They do not see it in terms of "great leaps forward" but rather of gradual progress. They warned their members at the meeting about over-optimistic expectations for this election. The progress they see is long-term. If the NF get 0.5% of the poll in England next election, you may think they're smashed, but they won't.

The National Front is based on leafleting. Half a dozen branch activists go out once a week and get rid of a couple of thousand leaflets. This gets the recruits, which to a young party are far more fundamental than electoral returns.

Doubtless you have all seen examples of the leaflets, because they've used the same selection over the past 10-15 years. However, this year they are producing a totally different selection of leaflets. They are better printed, more topical and more expensive. All in all there are fourteen different types. The most expensive one is specifically aimed at combating the Anti-Nazi League. It costs £6 a thousand (the old leaflets cost about £1 a thousand) and as Webster said, it even has Tyndall smiling on it. All leaflets are bought from the HQ by the groups and branches.

Last year the National Front managed to distribute three million leaflets. This year the Directorate promised that over six million leaflets will be distributed. The leaflets have been printed, so as soon as Callaghan has announced the date the deluge begins.

The National Front had been under threat of eviction from Teddington for some time. The acquisition of Excalibur House in Great Eastern Street represents a considerable triumph. Incidentally, I thought Excalibur got thrown into a lake in the end. The move to Excalibur House can to some extent explain the drop in membership.

Although still in the process of development Excalibur House is now a thriving Headquarters. Anyone who has seen the offices, with their expensive equipment and thousand pound safe, cannot fail to be worried. Although not capable of accommodating meetings of more than forty, the house does represent a considerable asset.

It is often suggested in Ultra-Left circles that the National Front is an anti-working class party and therefore unlikely to achieve mass support. In this context it is interesting to look at the two most passionate debates at the AGM. Firstly the one on abortion was marked by a high number of women speaking (mostly against abortion on demand) and the closeness of the vote (abortion on demand was finally rejected). The policy is a vote-catcher, but it is interesting to note that NF voters were less reactionary than the mass of normal people.

This debate produced what I considered to be the speech of the day 'I am a Christian, therefore I am against abortion.' I am a racist and it is only the whites who are aborting; so on two counts I am opposed to abortion. Incidentally one woman in this debate (in reference to back-street abortions) shouted out 'no return to the '30's!' I think she is now a marked woman.

The debate on the closed shop was even more interesting. Logically I expected the party to be rabidly anti-closed shop. But no less than three shop stewards spoke for it, claiming that it was necessary and to attack the closed shop was to attack the working classes. The Directorate had to speak to ensure that the vote was anti-closed shop. The solid mass of NF membership is working class and I think it is an illusion to claim that it represents 'non-proletarian elements.' 'False Consciousness Rules'.

Connected with this there is the question of finance or what was termed the "money from South Africa? syndrome". Financially the NF is in a very poor condition. HQ is financed by membership subscriptions (£4 for full membership) and there is a tendency for members to forget to pay. You only get branch committee status if you are one of that rare breed of fully paid-up members. Local branches are financed by paper sales, collections, and minor fundraising activities (like muggings).

There are 318 English Constituencies and even though candidate selection is more careful than normal, they aim to have 300 candidates — I would estimate 260 as more realistic. Electioneering is more professional now and I doubt if we shall see a repeat of the episode where the candidate listed her political affiliation as "housewife".

They don't expect to do that well next election even though there are a few publicity stunts planned. However, there is no denying that the foundations have been laid for considerable progress.

THEY'RE LOSING

PERHAPS the most important indicator of the state of the National Front is their rate of recruitment. This, I'm happy to report has declined by a third over the last six months of 1978. The NF has a high turnover of membership and there is no doubt this decline represents a significant reversal.

Another advantage is the membership's total demoralisation. It is lovely to report the sheer apathy and haplessness of that motley crew. This is in part due to what is considered to be poor election results. Personally, however, it seems as if this has been more the result of unduly optimistic expectation rather than the bad results in themselves.

It is not just the election results which have led to demoralisation, but also the harassment of its organisation. Most branches find it really difficult to hold regular meetings. Picketing of meetings at a local, as well as a national level, has a tremendous effect. As one of my erstwhile comrades commented despondently, as we were sent to the third relocation point, "imagine this happening in our own country."

I must confess to mixed feelings about the Anti-Nazi League, but the anger with which it is regarded by the average NF member has convinced me of its usefulness (in some respects). It is not just the pickets, but also the glossiness of their leaflets — and the number of them.

Then there is the attitude of the media. Again the low-key approach of the media could only be appreciated by actually attending the AGM. As one NF member commented, "it's true we're

a household name—but it's a pity we're a nasty one." This can be seen in the way the number of replies to their leaflets (the mainstay of the National Front) is declining.

Lastly and by no means least, there is the attitude of the police. I hate to destroy one of the cherished illusions of the Left, but, having experience of both sides, the police are far harder on NF members than on anti-fascists. As an NF member I have been kicked by the police and while I know they kick anti-fascists it is just one indicator of several levels of harassment.

I find the attitude of the police difficult to understand. The NF have assiduously cultivated relations with them, and their ideology (e.g., emphasis on law and order) is somewhat similar, indeed some people are members of both bodies.

Post-Lewisham represented a period of great expansion for the NF, and the Directorate were asked if more provocative marches could be arranged. However, in reply, Tyndall was strangely cagey. In part this reflects their response to 'ANAL' (who they see as disciplining the anti-fascists) but I think it also reflects their thinking on the attitude of the police. Lewisham would have been a different story had not the police assiduously protected their march. There is the feeling in the NF that the police would not so much withdraw protection as lead them into the Red Rentamob. A trifle exaggerated perhaps, but one never knows.

To conclude this section, the three main foci of NF activity (marches, leafleting and meetings) are all either being successfully countered or running into serious difficulties. If this were the whole story the National Front would be dead within a year.

CONCLUSION

TODAY there are over 130 groups and branches of the National Front and although the picture is a mixed one I feel that there are dangerous prospects of long-term expansion. Certainly there were almost nine hundred people at the conference (at one point) and we left (well, most of us) with a mood of renewed confidence and faith.

In connection with this there is the question of violence. Today the NF is a relatively confident and disciplined party. However, there is no getting away from the underlying violent strain. At the moment this is controlled and anyone who calls for physical attacks on the Reds is suspected of being an infiltrator.

However were the party to become stronger or suffer serious reversals then there would be violent confrontations. It is not a question of the National Front being a bunch of thugs, it is a question of our thugs being better than their's. Having seen both sides, I think the anti-fascists are marginally deficient in the thug department and I think this should be an area of concern. If the NF thugs were to go on the offensive it would be a shame to find ourselves (or

yourselves) protected by the police even if they were granted honorary working class status.

The solution lies in harassment at all levels. Part of this harassment should be infiltration. For every infiltrator discovered there is a corresponding degree of distrust and suspicion sowed. Their only solution would be to select people of low IQ and even then the SWP could infiltrate. Information and harassment of the local branch can destroy it, besides which infiltrators (being more dedicated and intelligent than the average member) easily assume positions of responsibility — but this is a general fault with hierarchical structures.

There is a tendency to assume that there are huge repercussions for discovery. But the average NF member knows that they are counter-productive. Besides I find it (and will I hope, continue to find it) useful to take advantage of the sexism of the National Front (especially when dealing out repercussions).

PS: I'm sorry I broke Julian's nose.

COSMIC WATERGATE

In the second article of an occasional series on fringe organisations, Beaver examines the ufologist Aetherius Society.

BY EWAN NEILSON

AT the height of the grand debate on UFOs in early January the Aetherius Society claimed that:—

"The facts about Flying Saucers are being suppressed in the most blatant and unconvincing manner since they were first sighted in the skies of Earth. The general public is fast losing faith in Officialdom — and considers the situation to be nothing less than a 'cosmic Watergate!'"

The Society believes, like so many other ardent Ufologists, that governments are suppressing the truth on the subject, that action must be taken now to set up national committees of action, and that "anyone with a modicum of commonsense knows that Flying Saucers exist."

Gentlemen

The subject of the study of UFOs was raised internationally by the Government of Grenada. An unusually constructive motion that it put forward to the United Nations on December 8th, 1978, called on its fellow members to "seriously investigate" the UFO phenomenon. One "serious investigator" was the Reverend Ray Nielsen, Secretary of the European headquarters of the Aetherius Society; he was assembled along with other like-minded gentlemen in July 1978 to collect information that might support the motion. A further discussion of the issue of UFOs has been scheduled for June this year.

New Zealand Invaded

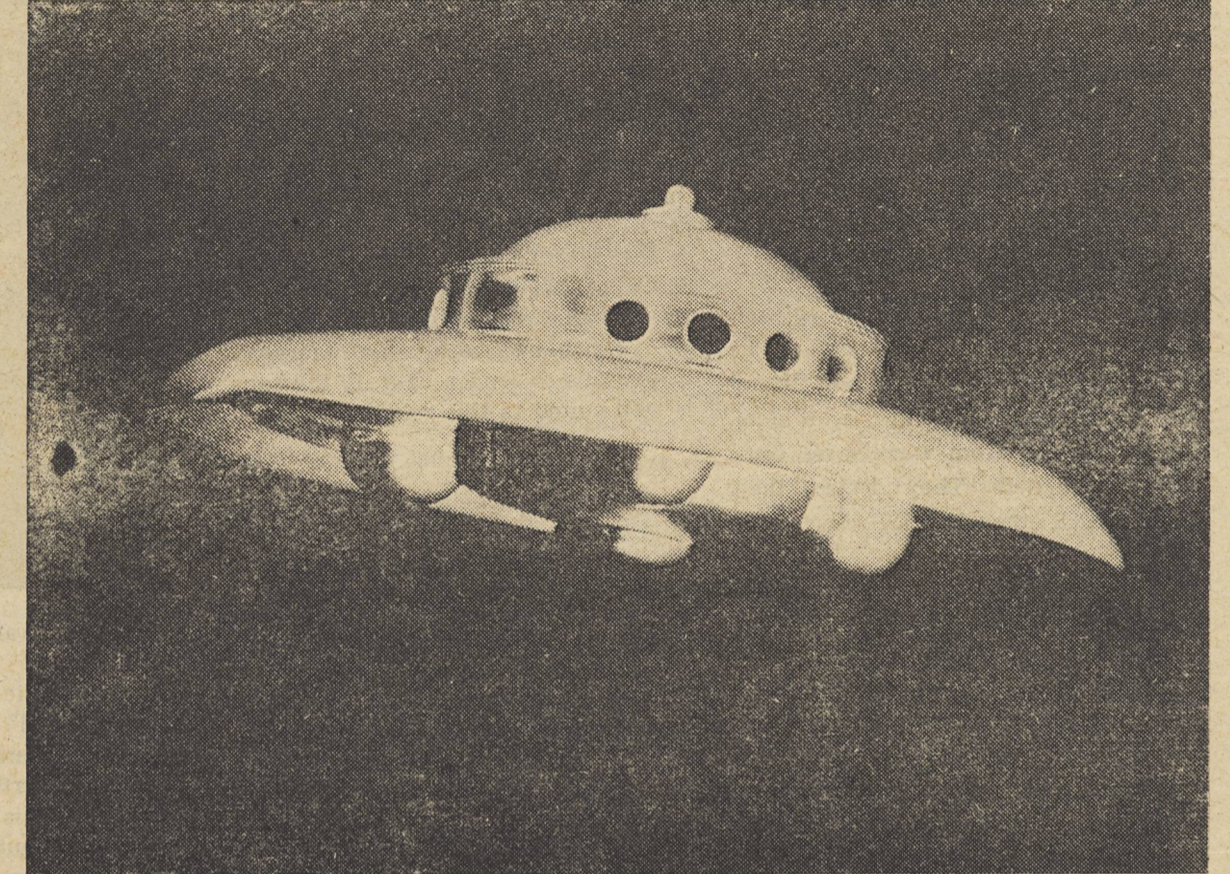
It was after the New Zealand sightings that the House of Lords

finally accepted a debate on the UFOs and inevitably the motion came from the Earl of Clancarthy (one of his more sensible ones). The debate was held on the 18th of January and, as befitted the House of Lords, lost none of the romanticism that the subject excites, and even testified to the obsessive interest in which some of our Peers have in Ufology. The Earl of Clancarthy, one of the more imaginative members of the Flying Saucer lobby, believed that the public had to be informed and that to avoid panic in the event of an imminent Flying Saucer invasion, a national defence plan must be set up. Lord Trefgarret, speaking against the motion, believed that the Earl was plainly out of his mind.

Freedom of Information

The Aetherius Society chose the day of the debate to launch a National Petition to HM Government telling the politicians responsible that there should be freedom of information on the subject and advising them for "the people's sake" that a National Investigation Committee on UFOs should be set up. The Earl of Kimberley, another vociferous UFO fan, who seconded the Earl of Clancarthy's motion, was, so the Society reveals, the first to sign the petition and will be speaking, in conjunction with the Society around the country through the first quarter of this year.

With offices in Los Angeles, Detroit, Michigan, Sydney and Britain, the Aetherius Society features prominently in the international debate on UFOs and recognizes itself to be "the largest metaphysical society of its kind on Earth". It claims to be one of the leading authorities on UFOs, having a special religious insight into the matter. "The Aetherius Society is



Model of a Flying Saucer: Specifications confirmed in a contact with Dr. George King, Ph.D.

an international, non-profit-making organisation which has definite proof, not only that Flying Saucers are Real, but also that they are Friendly."

Secrets of the Cosmos

It was Dr George King, a scientific authority on Yoga, who developed "the complete science" and was immersed in a deep trance in 1944 in which many of the hidden secrets of the Cosmos were revealed to him. In this transcendental state he received the "Voice of Interplanetary Parliament" to prepare himself in 1954 and since then he had 600 Cosmic Transmissions! (Claimed by the Society to be a world record). During one Operation

he emigrated to the sunny delights of Hollywood where conditions are more conducive to transmissions than his old bleak birth-place in Shropshire. The Society write that he is "a proficient film director and photographer".

Peaceful Co-existence

From its Californian base his exotic brand of religion was exported over many parts of the world. Central to the religion's metaphysical philosophy is the sure knowledge that Theology came from Venus, as did the Star of Bethlehem, and that the giant Spacecraft from Mars, Satellite No. 3, which goes into orbit of the Earth several times a year, pours its radiant energies on to all who are working for Peace. Several governments know of its existence (although it's invisible to radar), and perversely suppress the truth so that they can pursue their own aggressive nationalistic policies.

The Society are an important radical element in UFO politics. They see that peaceful co-existence with the Flying Saucers, which contain great technical knowledge which we badly need, will help us in our struggle through evolution", to the time when Master Jesus returns to Earth . . . in a Flying Saucer.

The metaphysically attuned Dr King had the Society incorporated under US laws as a religious organisation in 1960 with himself as founder-President. However it is not incorporated as a church in Britain. Dr King regularly climbs mountains to check up with his superiors about the latest Cosmic orders. A few hand-picked members

are being ordained as Ministers by the Aetherius Society in America in order to preach the gospel according to Master Jesus and Satellite No. 3. The Society apparently finances itself by holding meetings (which are open to everyone but you have to pay), classes, yoga lessons, food-shops and "donations".

Egocentric Politicians

In an interview, Mr R. Lawrence, B.A., a graduate in drama and music, and the chief publications officer in Britain, revealed to me the special role religion plays in politics. He said that the Aetherius Society's religion, like other religions, gives that extraordinary insight and moral force which is lacking in egocentric politicians and students of politics. Questioning him on other people's disbelief and scepticism of Flying Saucers, he came up with a statement he believed to be worth quoting:

"People tend to judge each other by themselves." And apparently, since they do this, they fail to understand UFOs.

This idea also seems to run through much of the Earl of Kimberley's thinking; it was certainly the central issue in the House of Lords debate. The Earl raised the question in the Lords:

"My Lords, does the noble Lord not think it conceivable that . . . there are no UFOs because that is what he has been told to say?" To which the Lord Hewlett caustically answered:

" . . . charming indeed, but I'm afraid a joke upon your Lordships' House."



United Nations delegation assembled July 1978 to discuss the nature, origin and intent of UFOs (second from left, Sir Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada, and on the right, Rev. Ray Nielsen).

THE LONDON ARTS

OPERA

Jonathan Richmond

EUGENE ONEGIN is set in 19th Century Russia among rural landowners, and creates a subtle, but full illustration of period and place, a picture of a gentle existence, that to its participants might have gone on for ever.

Tatyana loves Onegin, but he will not marry her. To relieve boredom he flirts with the love of his best friend and, challenged, kills him in a duel. Later, returned from travels, he finds Tatyana married. They declare their love for each other, but she rejects him.

At Covent Garden, Gabriela Benackova sings Tatyana, a restrained and thus all the more touching and beautiful performance. Yuri Masurok is a standoffish Onegin, as the composer in fact intended, but perhaps too much so. Nonetheless, if not in action, passion was expressed in fine voice. Nicolai Gedda emotionally sings of his love of Olga, as he waits to duel with Onegin.

The "nanya", Filipyevna, was an essential part of family life. Patricia Payne in the role demonstrates a sad wisdom in her. Another stock character, Francis Egerton's Monsieur Triquet, the French tutor, was very funny.

In Russian for the first time at the Royal Opera House, this gives greater

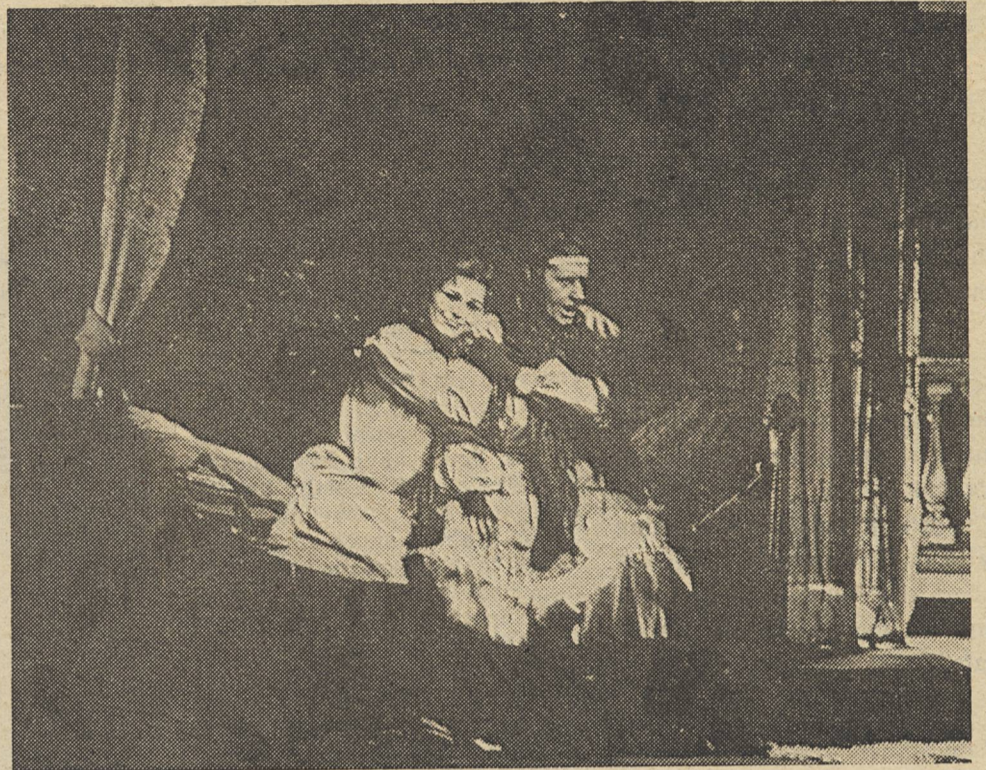
conviction to the opera. Only in Russian can, for example, the polyphonic chant of the peasants in Act 1 be re-created, a sort of communal melancholy portrayed with earthy voice.

Emil Tchakarov in his Covent Garden debut, conducted cleanly and crisply.

The principal singers in the current ENO revival of **Il Trovatore** throw themselves into their parts with such force that an altogether incredible story gains conviction. The central theme is the revenge of a daughter for the death of her mother. The daughter, Azucena, is sung by Katherine Pring who, capable of vocal colour dark and mysterious to send a chill up the spine, is well suited to this role.

Manrico and the Count of Luna, brothers, though neither knows of their relationship, are rivals for the love of Leonora, and this leads to the latter having the former's head chopped off (to be told a split second later that the severed body is his brother's). Tom Swift's passion as Manrico was matched by Rita Hunter's heart-felt Leonora, their warm-blooded love contrasted with the steely tone of Christian du Plessis as the frustrated Count. Lionel Friend conducts this tightly-structured production at a good pace.

Coming up at Riverside Studios is a short season by **The Singers Company**, formed last year by Peter Knapp. Their highly successful *Così fan Tutte* returns on February 16. Transformed from Naples to an Oxford College, the production sparkles with life and good humour, and with the closeness of Riverside, the loves, the uncertainties, the human strengths and weakness central to Mozart's exploration of the



human soul, are transmitted direct to the audience. Although it is true that Mozart's music **IS** capable of communicating "mood" alone, it does help to hear the sentences as well as the sounds. A further feature of the highly talented cast is their common ability to sing with beautiful clarity so that not a single word is lost. At Covent Garden you can bathe in the music of Mozart. But at Riverside you will get the **WHOLE** story, and come away refreshed.

The other opera in the short season is **La Perichole**, which ought to be great fun. If you have yet to discover Riverside, now is the time to do it. Further information from the box office on 748-3354.

JONATHAN RICHMOND

The cast has been chosen for the LSE Drama Society's forthcoming production of "Red Spy at Night."

The production is directed by Wesley Wark and the all-star cast includes: Abhay Desai, Pravin Mirchandani, Sian Owen, Jonathan Perl, Rowena Whelan.

Performances: March 12th and 13th.

Old Theatre — lunchtime.



The last LSE Drama Soc production.

CINEMA

Tom Mullen

DISASTER films are generally what they claim to be: disasters. Take the "Towering Inferno" with McQueen and Newman running about in a large building attempting to control a large fire. Add a few people clinging to outdoor

lifts, a handful of capitalists anxious to collect the insurance and you've got it. No, this is not a fictitious biography concerning Bakunin in a bad mood. It's "Damnation Alley". Sounds more like Hieronimus Bosch out on a bowling joint, and if George Peppard hadn't taken off his asinine cap, thus revealing that he still has some hair, it might well have been that way. But alas, lorry-drivers of the world united, not withstanding, the most enthralling element of this prosaic fabrication is the giant supermarket on wheels which sustains both the characters and the plot. To complete the setting, add a muscular post-adolescent, pseudo-outlaw, an amazingly miscast-young lady and a lover's triangle. Then ask yourself the challenging question, what the hell's going on? In conjunction with this pathetic attempt to alleviate unemployment is "Thunder and Lightning". One would have to be a dental surgeon to pull the plot out of this tale. Kate Jackson — or is it Jaclyn Smith? — attempts to act with David Carradine, who for this particular extravaganza has grown a thing in his ear. The dialogue uttered by the protagonist, an apparently illiterate Florida car fetishist, was extracted from the twenty-fourth track of a KC and the Sunshine Band record. This and the jumping up and down makes Carradine look like Bruce Lee impersonating Polly Styrene. But it's the Chevrolet that never runs out of petrol which has real theatrical ability. But who cares anyway. Both films were produced according to the dictums of Frank Zappa, a man who was known to remark, We're only in it for the money.

FICTION

Geraint Thomas

WHO GOES HERE. Bob Shaw. (Pan Books).

BOB SHAW is one of Britain's better known Science Fiction authors, his best-known story being Orbitville which won the British Science Fiction Award for the best novel of 1975.

Who Goes Here is his latest effort to appear in paperback. It is set in the 24th Century, where men join the space legion to forget or so the recruitment slogan goes. For as soon as their memories have been erased by the space legion, they spend the rest of the time trying to remember what they forgot. Thus is the case of the main character, Warren Peace (yes, the pun is deliberate, there is even someone called Armand Legge). Peace has lost all his memories, so everyone concludes that as he has forgotten everything he must have been a very evil person before he joined the legion. As you must have guessed by now this book is not entirely serious, and Shaw generally pokes his tongue out at Heinlein's starship trooper. Peace wanders off on a number of amusing adventures involving time machines, supermen and some rather vicious creatures called throw-rugs. The climax occurs when, of course Peace discovers who he is. The book is quite amusing and is worth reading if you like Science Fiction for the in jokes.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON
FRENCH SOCIETY

presents

**SPECTACLE
ARRABAL**

Fando et Lis

and

Les Deux Bourreaux

MARCH 6th, 7th, 9th

New Theatre, King's College, Strand
Tickets 60p

Available from French Departmental Office
and French Society Committee members

ENTERTAINMENTS

YOUNG REPORT

ENTS RESPONDS

WE on the Ents committee generally try to avoid the political wrangling of the Union, as we are interested in music and entertainment, and politics are, on the whole, irrelevant. This is very important as we can run a large Ents committee without continual bickering between people of different political persuasions.

Sometimes, however, we are confronted with political "business" which affects us directly (or threatens to do so). This is the case with the Gordon Young Report.

Suggestions made in the report which affect us in this way are:

1. To stop the position of Social Secretary remaining a Sabbatical post.

2. To change the open structure of the Ents committee to that of a Standing committee of seven elected members including the Social Secretary and Senior Treasurer.

Our opinions on the first suggestion are clear. We have only had the Sabbatical post for one year and already the advantages are showing. We are breaking even on our major concerts, compared with this time last year when we were about £500 down. It would be unfair to axe this post after such a short time. It has been suggested that the post be expanded to cover the SU trading enterprises. This would be a good idea as long as there would not be too much extra work involved, as the workload for Ents is already heavy. It should be made clear that I cannot see anybody

being willing to give up their hope of getting a degree by taking on the post of Social Secretary as a non-sabbatical.

Our feelings on the second point are perhaps even stronger. The open committee structure encourages far more voluntary Ents people than a standing committee would. This is because **everyone** has a vote at Ents meetings and is therefore involved, whereas with a standing committee only elected members would have a vote; others feeling less important would subsequently lose interest. A standing committee would heighten the very things we have been trying to stamp out of Ents:—politics and elitism. Election of members would encourage hacks to stand bringing unwanted politics into Ents, and the elected committee would have great trouble not to "look down" on the non-voting members.

The Ents committee needs 30 or more members to function. With a standing committee, the elected members would have to do the work of those 30, as voluntary help would probably be non-existent. At present we have a smoothly running committee of 40 or so regular members and feel that any change in the committee structure would lead to a breakdown of democracy and ultimately to a rapid decline in the quantity and quality of Entertainments at the LSE. If you do not want this to happen, come along to S.118 to discuss how we can maintain our present structure.

STEPHEN BRADBURY,
on behalf of the ENTS
committee.

The ENTS committee meets
on Tuesdays at 1.00.



FUNKY GIBBONS

ON Saturday 17th February, LSE, King's, and City Ents are co-producing the Steve Gibbons Band in the Great Hall at City.

As you may have read in National Student, this is the only London appearance in the current tour. Tickets are moderately priced at £1.50 in advance and will be available next week. The support is Straight Eight.

The Steve Gibbons Band come from Birmingham and were discovered by Pete Townshend of The Who. He signed them to Roger Daltrey's Goldhawk Pigeon label and their first album was produced by John Entwistle.

Chuck Berry's "Tulane" is indicative of their general approach and was a well-deserved hit. Steve Gibbons has been paying his dues for a long, long time.

We hope the concert will be as successful as the last time LSE and City co-promoted. In December 1976 we booked Mud for a Christmas Romp and a good time was had by all, despite a few last-minute hassles.

City University is in Northampton Square EC1 and therefore very handy for Rosebery. The nearest tube is Angel or buses 4, 171, 38, 19 to Rosebery Avenue. If you have not yet bought a ticket in advance you'll need your union card.



Last year's Valentine Disco.

DISCO

WE have just managed to finalise a special treat for you on Monday 12th February:

The Monos
The Secret 7
The D Vs
Plus Lovers Disco

The Monos: A London band who have just signed to RCA. Give your ears a treat with the sound of 79!

The Secret 7: Lee (that name rings a bell) Kosmin's new band. Fun for your feet!

The D Vs. The LSE band you love to hate (or should that be hate to love?) back on the boards with a short, finely honed set to surprise all you cynics.

Lovers Disco: Smoother sounds and disco dancing for all you valentines. Take your partner by the hand for.

THE VALENTINE BOP
(Admission only 50p).

AND DON'T FORGET.....
This Friday (8th Feb) in the Three Tuns

A FREE DISCO
And this week something extra-special the amazing **INMATES**.

Rhythm and Blues to get you on your feet and keep you there!

"God only knows why nobody told you the news that the best rocking tonight, or any other night, is being provided by the Inmates." NME 3-2-79.

CINEMA

"ASHANTI" AND "THE PASSAGE"

"ASHANTI" stands out as a classic example of the magic formula for hits gone wrong. Take five stars, a beautiful woman, exotic locations, and you have a hit. Unfortunately, it doesn't work. Richard Fleischer, the director, is unable to bring about any working harmony.

Michael Caine, as the WHO doctor who is trying to get his captive wife (Beverly Johnson) back from Peter Ustinov, plays the Arab slave-trader with customary panache, manages a reasonable performance, developing his role where a lesser veteran would have failed.

Caine is helped in this misadventure by Rex Harrison as the field

representative of the Anti-Slavery Society and William Holden, the mercenary helicopter-pilot.

Holden, who dies within five minutes of his appearance on the screen, has no role at all, while Harrison appears periodically to tell Caine what to do next. His only role in the film is to introduce Caine to Kabir Bedi, the Arab whose wife and children had been enslaved and killed by Ustinov.

Bedi, the Indian model turned Italian TV star, inevitably has shades of Omar Sharif in Lawrence of Arabia. Despite these comparisons he manages to remain a credible character in the pivotal role of the film, dying in the successful attempt to liberate the lady doctor from the Prince, played by Sharif.

The film lacks conviction — the characters are insufficiently developed and Fleischer is unable to keep any balance or control in the

script, thereby totally wasting the superb locations and photography in what could have been a good film.

The publicity handouts of "The Passage" claim it to be "a spectacular adventure story, but more, one which delves deeply into the relationships of people driven beyond their personal limits to weld their pitiful strengths into a force powerful enough to survive overwhelming odds".

In fact it is a reasonably well made war film which utilises the classic tale of the Basque peasant (Anthony Quinn) who is offered financial incentives by the Resistance to guard an important scientist and his family across the Pyrenees from occupied France. They are relentlessly pursued by an SS Officer (Malcolm MacDowell) but against all the odds they escape to safety.

As an adventure film "The Passage" is probably well above par. The film takes an honest attitude to the brutality of war, whilst avoiding sensationalism. The film also includes some dramatic scenes of the Pyrenees. It is only slightly marred by arbitrary pretentious remarks but such comments merely jar when they occur rather than damage the film as a whole.

The film has also a number of competent and professional performances. Anthony Quinn certainly has screen presence as the taciturn Basque peasant. James Mason gives a splendidly restrained portrayal of the ageing scientist and Malcolm MacDowell's portrayal of the fanatical, callous SS Officer does justice to previous screen performances.

"The Passage" may be unashamedly commercial but it is undeniably well-produced.

IRAN:

JEW EXPRESS SOLIDARITY

TO those who are unfamiliar with the Iranian people's movement, which the western media present as motivated by "fanaticism" and religious "frenzy".

The following, from a declaration by the Jewish intellectuals of Iran, should provide evidence for the absurdity of these allegations and expose the hypocrisy of these servants of imperialism.

Along with the true movement of the Iranian people, the intellectuals of the Iranian Jewish Community declare once again, their solidarity with (and integration in); the Iranian people by their active participation in the National Revolution".

Creators of divisions and the agents of imperialism such as Zionists are attempting to divide the ranks of the Iranian people in order to prolong the domination of the oppressed nations of the world. They have recently tried to represent the movement as a reactionary "backlash" in their extensive propaganda.

RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

"Therefore, the intellectuals of the Jewish Community of Iran, with firm belief in the struggle of the Iranian people and the importance of the role of religious leadership in the movement, on Saturday, 2nd Dey 1357 (23 Dec 1978) they visited Ayatollah Taleghani (a leader of the movement) and again announced their solidarity with the Iranian people and that the Jewish Community will be part of the Iranian cause at every stage.

Ayatollah Taleghani encouraged Iranian Jews to further increase participation in the national movement and co-operation with their Iranian brothers and sisters.

Iranian Society

BHAKTIAR REJECTED

"THE Iranian Prime Minister, Dr Shapur Bhaktiar, last night vowed that he would not resign in the face of growing pressure from Ayatollah Khomeini.

"Dr Bhaktiar made a national television broadcast in which he said: 'I will not leave or evacuate the "fortress of the constitution" under any circumstances.'—The Guardian, 22-1-79.

Recent reports in the western Press give the impression that Dr Bhaktiar is the legitimate and democratically elected PM of Iran. Dr Bhaktiar has also gone to great lengths to make it seem that he is working within the framework of the constitution. This started with his observance of the traditional procedures of the Iranian constitution before assuming office.

Nevertheless anyone who is familiar with Iranian politics is aware that Dr Bhaktiar was appointed by the Shah and approved by an unrepresentative Majlis (parliament).

This feature of the Majlis dates back to 1953, when a CIA engineered coup restored the Shah to power. All major parties were banned and most of their leadership liquidated. In 1975, this policy culminated in the formal abolition of all political parties.

In their place the Shah established his own party, the Rastakhiz. He declared that anyone unwilling to join the party was entitled to a passport to leave—a euphemism for prison.

Only Rastakhiz candidates could stand for elections to the Majlis. The Majlis therefore only represented the régime. This is the parliament of whose vote of confidence Dr Bhaktiar boasts.

This background explains the overwhelming rejection of the Bakhtiar Government by the Iranian people. As a reaction against this the armed forces have come down heavily upon vast numbers of citizens. Strike organisers have either been killed or imprisoned. In spite of this workers are still on strike demanding amongst other things, democratic elections and the release of all political prisoners.

ATHLETIC UNION

FOOTBALL

SNOW SUCCESS

ALTHOUGH the football club results haven't been all successful in the last fortnight, at least we didn't lose 62-6 to Kings like some teams at the LSE (sorry fellas). However things have not been much better: the 1st XI lost 2-0 to Goldsmiths in the quarter final of the ULU cup, despite a good team performance. This is unfortunate because this defeat now leaves the 1st XI with little hope of any honours.

The 2nd XI, also playing a Cup quarter final, drew with IC II at New Malden 1-1, despite almost continuous pressure. Our only goal being scored by Julian Szago. They paid dearly for not settling the tie in the first game, because a weakened side lost the replay 2-1. Despite an early goal from Mark Johnstone, the LSE never dominated the match as in the previous games. The two IC goals both in the last 15 minutes caused one of the biggest piss-ups in recent weeks.

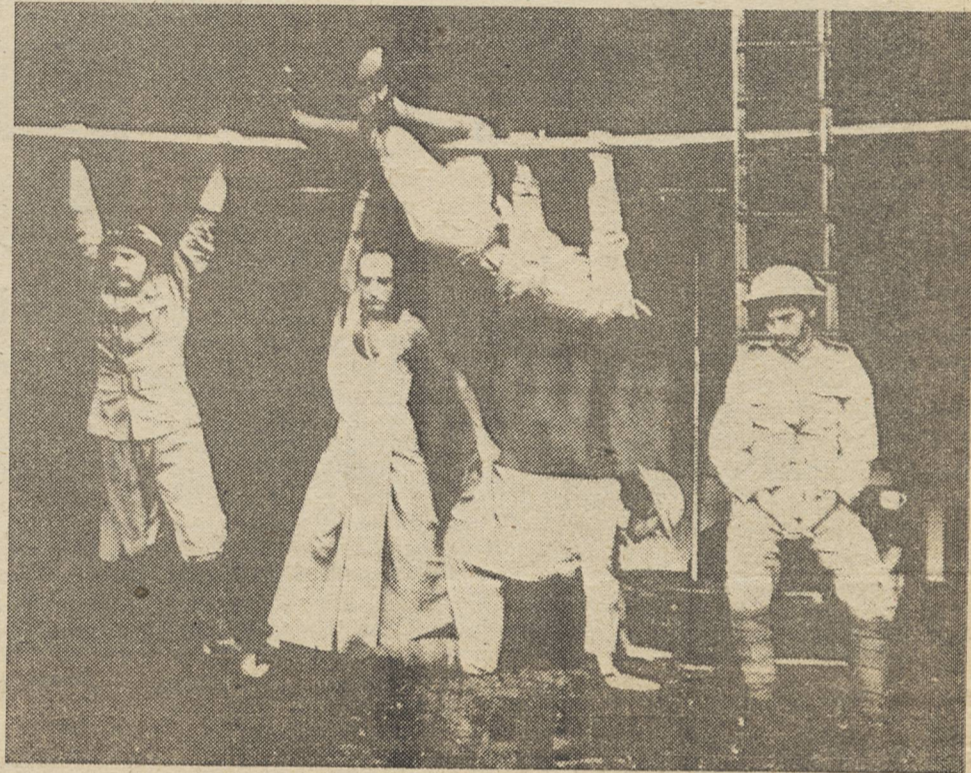
The 3rd XI lost 5-2 to QMC II in the Cup. The goalscorers were Graham Harbottle and "greasy" Jim Ackers. The miss of the game was definitely Phil Valentine missing another penalty, while Paul Thaxter the 3rd XI Captain provided an inspiration to his side by bugging off to Blackpool for the weekend.

In the league the 1st XI drew 1-1 with IC 1st XI, the goal being scored by John (I can turn faster than you) Clegg. The 3rds beat UC IV away 5-2, in what Paul Thaxter described as the best team performance of the season. Greasy Jim, who scored two goals, was so pleased he was seen later doing a Zumba on a table in the Carpenters Arms. The other goalscorers were Harry Plant, Dave Holmes and Graham Harbottle.

Football Club training has now been restructured to develop the undoubted talents of certain members in various activities. Monday's training: 3 Tuns, 7.00. Tues: Beavers Retreat. Wed: Carpenters Arms. Thur: The One Tun. Fri: Valiant Trooper. Sat: Princess House. Sun: Rest day. All welcome.

PS: What was the football club captain doing after last night's training session?

PPS: In the event of Sergio being elected as AU President the football club has provisionally purchased 60 one way tickets to Argentina. PHIL VALENTINE RULES OK. (but can't take penalties).



Keen A.U. chaps disappointed with new gym.

BADMINTON

New talent required

HELLO again, all you keen avid players of that most invigorating sport, Badminton. As of late, members at practice in the gym have reached dizzy heights (3 to 5), with enthusiasm at fever pitch! Our five teams are having mediocre success in the league but are at full stretch. In fact, the players have had to assume "pseudonyms" to avoid publicity and detection.

I, as captain, have been searching desperately for new talent (I bet! —Ed), and rumours of the existence of a Pakistani international have sent me scurrying throughout the school to no avail. He obviously hasn't heard of our great badminton club.

An increase in bribery and corruption leads to a corresponding increase in apathy: our latest attraction is a club dinner, with every member welcome to attend. The great event will take place at the "Rock Garden" in Covent Garden on Tuesday, March 6th at a cost of £5.00. The wine will be subsidised by the club offices. This is our way of saying thank you and sorry to the few people who have been conned and begged to play at short notice at all times, irrespective of how inconvenient it may have been to themselves.

PS: I'm standing for president of the AU — so vote for me.

Sergio

'Rugby Club exhausted'

The last four weeks games have taken quite a toll on both teams. It seemed that term had barely started before the onslaught began. It soon became obvious that the tour of the Far East during the Christmas vacation had drained the Club of a large amount of its energy.

I recall G. Thomas saying to me, shortly before the game with the Japanese National Side, "By golly, Kirby, you realise these Nips are not as yellow as they look," to which I replied with caustic adoration, "Yes, sir."

Despite the lovely weather and the players being allowed to throw snowballs at half-time, there seems to have been a few cry-offs. This week's prize winner is Geoff Delamere who told me in an in-depth interview that he couldn't play because the gas-man was coming.

However, this Saturday will no doubt see a large turnout of L.S.E. players at Twickenham, probably in the South Stand.

The game at Kings was full of events, including quite a few Kings' tries. Still the whole thing was made worthwhile by an excellent try from N. Kaufman, and a surprising conversion from the Mark "the nose" O'Gorman.

Matt Kirby.

APOLOGY

The Beaver Collective would like to apologise for last week's apology, in which several union-bashing sentiments were expressed. We realise that such sentiments flew in the face of Union policy, which is ostensibly pro-working class.

We apologise to politically-minded students for the large amount of Athletic Union-related material which appears on the AU page. We hope to rectify this situation in the near future.

N.B. — Because the Road Hauliers Association has given in to the outrageous blackmailing lorry drivers, we are able to expand our organ this week.