

THE BEAVER

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BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL
& ECONOMIC SCIENCE

N58

18 JUN 1990

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1986

11th Hour Reprieve!

School Agreement on Terms of Reference Diffuses Nursery Timebomb

By ROSS BROADSTOCK

An occupation appeared inevitable last Wednesday while everyone in the Student Union offices waited for the final call to action. Hundreds of mobilisation posters were printed, last details of the storming were determined, videos and disco were ordered to make any lengthy stay an enjoyable one. However, a single phone call from Connaught House put all operations on hold as rumours of a 'compromise' started to surface.



For a full hour on Wednesday afternoon, Pete Wilcock and Rory O'Driscoll were in consultation with the Director's secretary to try and thrash out exactly how the Nursery Working Party would work and with what preconditions it would be formed. The Students' Union representatives were looking for clear guarantees that the School was ready for action. Finally, the Director himself was consulted and a set of references (shown below) were agreed upon. These were, in fact, even stronger than the Union's original propositions.

As Pete Wilcock stated in his report to the UGM, "This was a clear example of where our threat of occupation has gained concrete results." O'Driscoll later commented that, "We were not prepared to enter into a working party with a blank cheque. For example, the terms of reference had to be such that they could not recommend the closure of the nursery."

Both the Treasurer and the General Secretary took great pains to point out that, while we may have won this battle, we have not yet won the war. What participation in the new working party does mean is that they will now be able to submit a set of figures which, as Rory put it, "could not be seen as half-baked, student-only figures, but as a concrete set of proposals arrived at through total agreement."

When the deadline is reached on the 11th of December and the proposals are submitted, the final decision will still rest with the various committees in Connaught House. In the UGM, Pete Wilcock reiterated, "The danger of the working party is that it will get fudged, put off." The fear is that the current storm of feeling may well blow over by December and this week's victory may well turn out to be worthless if vigilance is not maintained.

Terms of Reference for Nursery Working Party

1. To devise a banded fee system, or a flat rate fee system, with clearly negotiated, agreed and published procedures and criteria for financial assistance which will maintain, and indeed advance, the level of financial assistance and access provided for the nursery this year.
2. The criteria should be such that prospective parents, prior to coming to the LSE can know via the criteria, the amount they will have to pay and the amount they will receive.
3. To find sources of additional finance to supplement the existing resources of the Nursery and the Hardship Fund without reliance on the Rockefeller Fund.
4. To make any other recommendation on the long-term financing of the Nursery that the Working Party should see fit.



Quiet Please!

This has been the plea all term from many of the more industrious students of the LSE as they toil away in the Library against the relentless noise of the building work that is taking place next door. The work is the building of an extension to the Crown Courts, which already overhang the Library and the rest of the LSE. The fact that the new buildings will block out a considerable amount of light from the library cannot prevent the construction since a Crown building requires no planning permission.

Nonetheless, it is not right that they should be allowed to create such a disturbance so close to a school without playing any compensation. Beaver staff have already started investigating this matter and sent a letter to Dr. Patel asking what, if anything, the School intends to do about this intolerable situation. As yet, we have received no reply.



Stabbings Verdict

Is Carr-Saunders in Danger This Week

by PAUL KLEBNIKOV
ROSS BROADSTOCK

Last week in the Southwark Crown Courts the Carr-Saunders' stabbing case was finally resolved with three of the four defendants being found guilty and sentenced to eighteen months in prison.

The resolution of the case was a great relief for all those concerned. It had taken two weeks of hard testimony. The case for the defence was concentrated around trying to show that it was in fact the Hall officers who had started the affray by trying to remove the offenders. This was strongly refuted by the LSE witnesses, who stressed that they were merely trying to prevent an incident of this type occurring at all by not allowing the entry in the first place.

Graphic descriptions of the event were given. The gang of youths had waited until a female student had gained entrance into the hall and then forced their way into the buildings. They stormed the entrance, attacking anyone who opposed them and knifing Jim McNally and Paul Kirwan in the process. This clearly showed that they were indeed "the sort of people who could cause damage and a lot of trouble", as described by McNally.

Unfortunately, even this was not the end of the incident as John Eddleston, Ian Cundell and Elwyn Watkins were also attacked in a separate incident that night ironically while visiting the hospital to see those who had been wounded.

Last week's Beaver carried a warning to Carr-Saunders' residents that they were definitely at risk over the next couple of weeks. This is even more the case now that the attackers have actually been found guilty. The Hall officers have confirmed this and, have issued a general circular listing some sensible precautions to take during the next couple of weeks. These guidelines amount to avoiding any local contact at all while near to the Halls and also avoiding the local pubs (The Yorkshire Grey in particular).

These are indeed wise precautions, as 'summed-up' by last year's hall president "Now is the flash-point. The court case is this week; their mates will come down this week; there's a party on at Saunders this week - so you need the security this week."

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"AT THE BEAVER"

Dear Editor:

After Rory O'Driscoll's cynical hijacking of the anti-sexist, anti-racist notion at last week's UGM, The Beaver office was packed out by infuriated readers on Monday, all of whom were hoping for more success from a direct confrontation with those responsible for the paper's recent degeneration.

After 20 minutes of discussion of mundane practicalities and self-congratulatory banter, the controversy of racism and sexism in The Beaver was raised. For those who had come with the expectation of a sympathetic and reasoned response, their hopes were soon dashed, as all criticism was met by a wall of smug complacency.

All suggestion we made were met with cries of "You've never contributed anything" and "What do you know about journalism?" However, since when has having shared expertise been a prerequisite for criticism? Do you have to be a professional footballer to criticise Bobby Robson? Do you have to be a world-famous authority on defence technology to recognise the absurdity of the arms race? Such arguments are clearly designed to exclude criticism and to protect the power base of The Beaver elite.

Earlier in the meeting a potential story about a LSE "mafia" of "old boys" operating in the pop world had been mentioned but it became increasingly clear as the meeting went on that the editors of The Beaver bore a striking resemblance to the Corlione brothers themselves.

It is time that The Beaver collective realised that their responsibility is to all their readers and accepted that their function is to provide a service to all LSE students. The Beaver must no longer be exploited by a small group of careerists as a means to boost their journalistic ambitions. One concession that was made, though with some reluctance, was to acquire a copy of the NUJ guidelines on racism and sexism, and we hope that this step, added to an increase in contributions representing a broader spectrum of opinion will help eradicate the offensive content, and once more restore The Beaver to the rightful position as a progressive and democratic voice from the LSE.

Lynne Hall
Imogen Tranchell
Charlie Seward

Silly Little Women

Dear Sir:

I was pleased to see every active member of the Women's group writing in last week to complain about the rampant sexism of Beaver/Putsmen/God. Forgive us me.

If the Women's group does not wish to justify why they have a women's room, I would be glad to help. The women's room exists due to the paranoia of the LSE UGM. It is helped to survive by the biggest gang of middle-class pseudo-left-wing brats I have ever had the pleasure to laugh at.

Why shouldn't The Beaver print what it wants? The Left spends half its life slagging the politically biased British press and the other half scared shitless of criticism, and trying to censure anyone who doesn't live in Roytown.

As an answer to the women's group article "Who the Hell is Gillian Baxendine", I am not going to get raped or felt up, but on the other hand, I do get mugged (why no self-defence classes?), I do lack assertiveness

(why no assertiveness classes?) and I do get abused and attacked because I am a right-winger from Yorkshire - why not a right-wing Yorkshireman's room?

In conclusion I have but two words to advise:

1. Grow

2. Up

Women's Group: The Facts:

budget: £1,800

% women members: 5.5%

budget per head: £18.44

as against:

Korean: £5.82

Anglican: £1.70

Grimshaw: £3.38

To boil it down, 19 out of 20 women don't join the Women's Group, and yet they get one of the highest budgets per head (only the AU is higher). They purport to represent women and yet the vast majority reject them.

Love,
Nigel Kilby.

Dear Editor:

Your issue of 27 October reports (p. 1) that "students believe that both NALGO and AUT will support students' position" regarding their nursery campaign.

I should like to inform you that, at least as far as the AUT is concerned, there exists no basis for such a belief. The position of the AUT Local Association on this matter will be decided at a General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 October; no official of the Local Association has made any formal statement that anticipates the decision of that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Christopher T. Husbands
President, LSE Local Association
of the AUT

Dear Editor:

It has recently been brought to my attention that certain irregularities occurred in the recent LSESU elections.

Rumour has it that a certain pig/sheep/man, determined to condemn the SDP/Liberal Alliance to electoral oblivion undertook a fascinating recruiting campaign amongst the gullible Americans who do so much to enrich our lives and culture at LSE.

Recruiting on behalf of the Conservative Party? No, obviously unaware of the SDP/Liberal Party's ability to shoot itself in the foot without help, hindrance or provocation, our naive friends from across the Atlantic were persuaded to enter the elections on a SDP/Liberal ticket, with no idea of what they were standing for and with the SDP/Liberal Alliance having no idea that they were standing.

The result? The SDP/Liberal vote was diluted even further than it would have been, leading to a complete whitewash instead of the usual electoral disaster.

I trust that this travesty of electoral justice will be fully investigated by a team of non-aligned individuals as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
Steve King

Letters

Overreaction?

Dear Beaver:

I think the current controversy over the Beaver policy on sexism and racism has gotten quite out of hand and is approaching the unfortunate level of complete distortion. Looking at last week's letters to the editor, one might be led to believe that the Beaver is nothing but a leaflet written and distributed by Jonathan Putsmen. This is not the case, and the character in question is but a columnist who should be seen in the proper context. I am aware of the language which lay at the root of much outrage and I appreciate that it was un-called for and very immature. I agree with the proposition that writers such as Jonathan Putsmen should be placed under some scrutiny by Beaver editors; but censorship is not a satisfactory solution as columns and letters are not usually subjected to the editorial process. My proposal is that either 'At the Union' is handled in a mature and critical manner (in other words, with a sense for quality and certain sensitivity), or the column is given to another writer. Come on, Jonathan, you're writing for a university newspaper with intelligent readership - save the silly cracks!

The Beaver staff and the newspaper in its entirety have been subjected to a variety of unjustified criticisms. The paper as a whole is filled with quality contributions to which anyone can add their share. I have not, on the grounds of my being a woman, had any difficulty participating in the production of the paper and I don't believe that there exists the type of discrimination some have attributed to it.

As far as the Women's Group goes, I would like to say that the issue is not as holy as you have made it out to be. In my view, the credibility of the Women's Group has fallen prey to contemplations and complaints of a

trivial nature, although the Feminist Movement as a concept commands great respect. If women fight for equality and respect, they are going to have to learn how to deal with the implications of that equality in order to deserve the respect. Negative comments coming from a character like Jonathan Putsmen do not, or *should* not, fall as an insult on the female gender as the criticism, unfortunately expressed in a tactless manner, was directed at one person. The Feminist Movement is strongly undermined by this type of complaint. If something is really to come out of the search for equality, women have to display their own strength by ignoring a badly trained sense of humour and concentrating on the larger issues at hand. "Equality" does not imply that women should now be protected from any criticism just because their role has been misperceived for so many centuries. "Equality" also does not imply female superiority or an anti-male bias, for this seriously jeopardises the aims of the Movement. Women in general are not a holy gender that may not be criticised in particular. Emphasis should therefore be placed on asserting one's own intelligence, strength and independence in everyday life, instead of picking apart the words of others for fear of an insult.

Women are different from men and therefore have some unmatched qualities. Let's use those qualities (and by that I don't mean sex-appeal or the ability to have babies) as an instrument by which to assert ourselves in the *real* issues that need to be changed. Comments and smirks such as 'wimmin' and the like derive from trivial claims such as the one at hand, as I think that the overall fight is generally respected and can only succeed if tackled in a mature manner.

Johanna Eigen

Eternal Peace

Dear Editor:

Rejoice! At last, after years of continued bloodshed in the Middle East, the UJS have come up with the ultimate formula to guarantee peace-everlasting.

It was a lovely "moderate" motion at last week's UGM, wasn't it? All we need to do is recognise the mutual rights of national self-independence, both of the Israeli state and of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians can have their little sliver of land and stop trying to blow people up, while the Israelis keep hold of their state and stop blowing the legs off Palestinian Mayors on the West Bank whose views they don't agree with (a lie, Jonathan? Check it). Peace breaks out.

Hang on a moment though - why is it that the proposers of this motion can't accept the right of 4,000,000 Palestinians scattered throughout the Middle East to return to the country from which they, or their descendants, were expelled? Why should such a right be denied to Palestinians when it is freely available to any person of Jewish descent under Israel's "Law of Return"?

And where does this idea of "separate but parallel" development come from? Well, surprise, surprise! Which other country has put forward such a solution to its own internal problems? Could it have something to do with independent Bantustan republics? Maybe we shouldn't be surprised that a country which exports 35% of its arms production to South Africa should come up with such a "solution"!

All the more reason for us to oppose it.

While on the subject of racism, how can Putsmen misunderstand the argument concerning Hitler at the UGM? Hitler said, after he came to power, that if his enemies (i.e. US) had understood the nature of Nazism they would have smashed his movement from the beginning. It was the tragic divisions between Anti-Nazis in Germany which allowed Hitler to come to power. That, and the inability to understand the dangers that Nazism posed to workers in Germany and to kick the bastards off the streets from day one.

Yours sincerely,
Nic Cicutti

P.S. What is a "Wapping" haircut?

THE BEAVER

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Copy Editors: Ann Henry, Andy Blakeman, Marita O'Brien

Special Thanks to: Loren, Jane and Nap for typing.

Other contributors as credited.

Typeset by: Gee Graphics, 16-27 Gee Street, London EC1

Printed by: Eastway Offset, Cambridge Heath, London E9

Published by: The Students' Union of The London School of Economics and Political Science, East Building, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE Tel., (01) 405-7686 Ext. 2870

Of Mice or Men?

-by Elizabeth Botsford

Jonathan Putsman is a victim. He is suffering under the weight of an unbelievable ego. Siblings, Johnathan Putsman needs our help. We are all responsible, as members of society, for his sense of reality. Stand back, and let him broaden his outlook anew!

Virginia Woolf referred to women's roles in society as a "magnifying mirror". Men look into women's eyes and see an enlarged image of their own stature. Ergo, Jonathan Putsman's problem was caused by the cultural pressure on women not to analyze their role. Society would collapse if its most dominant actors (mostly men) saw society for what it really is. The enlarged ego blocks out the possibility of anything else coming into view - the pleas of the oppressed, a sense of beauty from outside the self, even the realization that other people's worlds don't revolve around Jonathan Putsman.

The feminist theologian, Mary Daly, points out that if we, the mirrors, start to think about our roles and stop reflecting enlarged images of Putsman's ego, and instead we allow him to see his grotesque idiocy juxtaposed with the fascinating rest of the world, he will be forced to examine his psyche, and that, if we grant him some intelligence, will force him to change.

A final note on the way Putsman's ego was dealt with by the women's group at the Union meeting. It illustrated for the uninitiated the first law of the UGMs - don't approach any subject you hold dear - it will be cheapened. Feminism is vitally important but it cannot be activated through a meeting whose governing rules were composed by men. Even if they had not been, women could only devise rules based on a rationality learnt from men. Perhaps we are victims, too.

ENLIGHTENED

Dear Editor:

I am writing to congratulate you on your much improved letter page. It is livelier than before, and seems to have become a forum for genuine and informative debate. Among the most sensible contributions was the letter from Ermine Wood which has, I hope, set the standard for rational and enlightened discussion in the future.
Yours faithfully,
Ermine Wood.

Freedom of Speech....

Dear Editor:

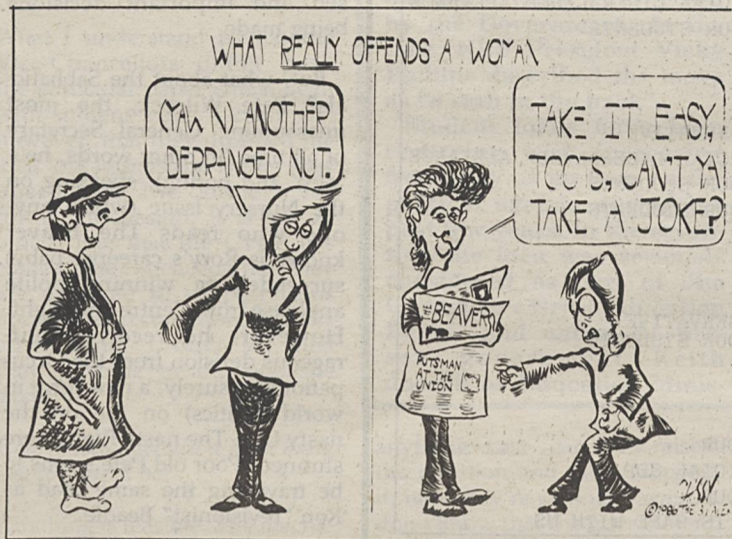
The other day, I accidentally walked into the Union meeting. I was attracted by all the shouting and laughing. It was brilliant! It was so funny, I'll go every week.

The Beaver meeting, which I also attended, was not dissimilar in that I found it ridiculous. First, they assigned 'stories' for the next edition. All the good ones were already assigned.

There was an unenthusiastic response to the few remaining.

But then, voice from the back unexpectedly spoke. She

more letters...



wanted something done about the sexism and racism in The Beaver.

Racism? What racism?, cries the editor, and everyone laughs at him. Attacks from all sides which he fends off helplessly. Retreating into an obstinate corner, he sports multi-colored bulls—and completely evades the questions.

Could this be because he is an American? After all, the great USA is the land of black slavery and the invention of the bra. He wants a definition of racism. He doesn't think the comments of last week racist enough.

The woman who stood up in the union meeting stood up again and repeated that she is a woman (are you sure?). She, too, avoided the challenge to edit sexism out of the paper by saying not enough women wrote for it. Obviously this stupidity stems from the fact that she is female. Why else would she think that if more women write articles, there will be no sexism or racism or other forms of discrimination?

Voices from the back demand we examine the National Union of Journalists' ruling on racism and sexism. The bigot with the mouth terrified, says he doesn't want gossip columns in The Beaver. This is because he is a white male, upper class, rich bastard (and American) and gossip is too much what women and other inferior groups enjoy.

Eventually he is dragged back to the initial subject, which as you can see, he has been trying to avoid. After an hour of pressure he is prevailed upon to allow a vote. He makes a last, whining attempt to reduce the motion to just reading the rules and not bothering with a speaker, but is overwhelmed.

Can he admit to losing? The Rambo Syndrome, which attacks many Americans, causes a manic loathing of all weak or minority groups. Such an innate and inexcusable characteristic brings me to my inevitable conclusion - BOMB THE BASTARDS! Such a race must be destroyed! (and women can clean up afterwards).

You said you wanted us to write back? But I suppose this one will be "filed for a later issue".

A. Hall

Freedom

By NIGEL KILBY

Last Thursday, the UGM reaffirmed its commitment to free speech by overwhelmingly voting to send a motion to NUS conference calling for it to give up its policy of no platform. Encouraging though this is, there is still much that needs to be done at the L.S.E. We need freedom of information; the general secretary and, in particular, the senior treasurer are able to run the union as near dictators. Just for an example, who asked if we wanted Florries to be vegetarian; do you know the cost of the conversion; do you know how the welfare budget is spent? The answer to all of these is probably no (unless your name is Rory O'Driscoll).

The next area of importance is a free press. The college newspaper must be allowed to maintain complete editorial independence. What use is a paper that merely reflects union policy? The women's group and others must learn that just because you don't like an article, it's no reason to censor it. These and other issues will be raised in the next few weeks. We've freedom of speech, but it's not enough. We must cast off the chains of bureaucracy and demand our rights.

Dreadfull O'Driscoll

Dear Editor:

I really must protest at the attitude of Mr. R. O'Driscoll who is, I believe, the keeper of Union funds.

My objection is with regard to his behaviour and that of his henchmen during the Mahore Students gathering on Tuesday, 28 October 1986. Mr. O'Driscoll appeared to believe that it was his inalienable right to march into the gathering, drink large amounts of (very poor) white wine and generally comport himself in a thoroughly unsociable manner on the grounds that he had paid for the meeting. I strongly urge that you censure the cheeky little RUNT.

Your humble, etc.
Leile El Shawaerwi.

What Goes on in E204?

Conspiracy theories are invariably ridiculous. Either they are dangerously misguided or they are laughing stock of society. So it is with the Communist conspiracy theory, the Jewish, the Trilateral, the Masonic, and so on.

Last week, we were surprised to learn that a group of people who should know well about the fictitiousness of conspiracy theories had suddenly invented one of its own: the Beaver conspiracy. Unsuspecting freshmen and the majority of the student body have apparently been unaware that such a sinister phenomenon thrived in the midst of LSE. For those of you who don't know, the Beaver has been "captured" by an exclusive and tightly-knit organization that seeks to undermine the Student Union policies of sexual equality, anti-racism, etc.

Well let's look at this "conspiracy" (or to drop gutter terminology, let's say "system"). What is the Beaver "system"?

The Beaver is a collective. This means that it is run by those who contribute to it. The only people who have "captured" the Beaver are those who want to contribute to it. It is open to all students who want to try their hand at journalism, express their political views, or merely put forward their own ego. This year nearly the whole Beaver collective (with three exceptions) is new. The main posts on the newspaper continue to change throughout the year and the Editorial board will be reelected wholesale probably in February, so there is a lot of room for any student to make it his/her mark.

Though there is still a long way to go, The Beaver has cause to be proud of the journalistic standard it has already attained. This year, the layout is visibly far better than anything in the past several years. The issues come out weekly, which means that the news is hotter. The students will be receiving more newsprint, while more efficient management and more advertising ensures that there won't be a significant rise in Student Union expenditure to pay for this. For us in the collective, this is a valuable experience, both in management and in collectivism.

We follow the broad guidelines of the LSESU on racism and sexual equality. We interpret these guidelines as "broad" because we would consider censoring an opinion only in the most extreme of cases. More than a few of the leading political figures are routinely accused of encouraging sexism, civil strife, terrorism, etc. We as editors prefer in most cases not to make this judgement (censorship) ourselves but prefer to let our readers decide.

Half of LSE's students are overseas students. Many of them do not attend the UGM, but they do read The Beaver. In the past, foreign students have been under-represented both in the pages of The Beaver and in the collective. This year, this has been changing: out of 14 editors, there are 3 Americans, 1 Greek, 1 German, 1 Russian and 1 Israeli. Furthermore, we hope that the pages of our newspaper will reflect more some of the internationalism that makes LSE special.

In short, we hope to make The Beaver an even more valuable service to the school community, while at the same time pursuing our own aims of journalistic excellence. It is now within our reach to make The Beaver into the best student newspaper in Britain. The collective is making this possible technically and even more broad student contribution can make it possible in terms of content. And so it should be.

Now back to the conspiracy theory...A certain group of people wants to believe that the Beaver has been doomed to begin with. Jonathan Putsman's "At the Union" column is at the center of the controversy. Apparently, Mr. Putsman's vituperative style and personal opinions tipped off this group as to the true nature of the Beaver Staff: sexist. It was not only Mr. Putsman who was branded "sexist", but the whole Beaver collective.

One member of the women's group revealed to the UGM that there were only two women in the whole collective - this was rubbish. Evidently when this woman spoke about The Beaver, she didn't have the slightest clue of what she was talking about. But on this point, she had only to look at the credit box or turn up to a Beaver collective meeting.

Quite apart from the make-up of the Beaver collective or the particular bias of specific articles, the content of the newspaper as a whole was alleged to be sexist, an untruth which is evident to anyone skimming the pages of the newspaper. We give expression to any of the competing opinions at the LSE (including those of the women's group).

Finally we were accused of being intimidating. The same young woman mentioned above felt "intimidated" upon submitting a letter of protest to the Beaver office. Yet, there were no doubts about her letter being printed. Another person, supposedly a courageous fighter for anti-apartheid, seemed to agree. After a noisy argument in the Beaver meeting on Monday, he admitted that, yes, he had never been able to come to the office and express his views, but that he would never have come alone(!?)

No doubt there are many other ridiculous accusations that could be levelled against the newspaper. Most of them are better left untouched, since the paper itself will determine most clearly their validity. The alarming thing, however, is the fact that these suspicions have taken root at all.

Like most conspiracy theories, this one is a product of prejudice and blindness. People are most suspicious and "intimidated" by that which they did not know, and the believers in the Beaver conspiracy theory have on several occasions demonstrated their journalistic incompetence and ignorance both of newspaper production and of the Beaver collective. We hope that by becoming more closely involved with the paper, they will be able to allay their suspicions of the Beaver's perfidy.

Finally, as note for all readers: if you are concerned with the bias of any particular articles or offended by any piece of writing (as no doubt you will be), you must hit back. The pages of the newspaper are a marketplace. The Beaver is there for you, and conspiracy theories are small consolation of those who shut themselves out.

Paul Klebnikov

Labour Victory in Elections

by HELENA CUTT
Returning Officer

On Friday evening, as the Committee election results filtered through to the fringes of hackdom, the Labour Club was celebrating, the Alliance had a post-mortem and the Conservatives were nowhere to be seen. This gives a fair reflection of the results.

Now for some numbers, for without them, an analysis of election results seems bare. The Labour Club fielded 30 candidates, and 29 were elected (commissions to Crispen); the Alliance stood 21, of which 14 won (4 Liberal, 10 SDP); the Tories elected 3 from a field of 11 (plus Kilby under 2 other labels, one of which he won then withdrew from) and Non-Aligned fielded 7 and elected 6. As for the basic vote - an important indicator of support - the obligatory table will elucidate.

Vote at 1st preference

PARTY	AVERAGE	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Labour	370	261	461
Alliance	200	114	297
Conservative	140	103	189
Non-Aligned	192	112	249

(Where a party fielded more than one candidate for a post, the votes for each are added.)

This shows the strong Labour base - they topped all polls except NUS and ULU. Non-Aligned and the Alliance are fighting to be the main contender in terms of votes. On the elected posts front, Non-Aligned are clearly ahead. The Alliance seems to have got the tactics of how many candidates to stand for each post wrong this time (and they are the ones advocating the use of STV nationally!) The low minimum for Labour is due to SWSS, Revolutionary Communist, Green Party and Lesbian Feminist candidates also standing in that election. Most of the maximums are due to the addition of a personal vote for 'noteworthy' individuals, such as Rory O'Chameleon, Chas Tequilla and Hugh Jones (remember that name!).

As for transfers, two points are interesting. Firstly, the Non-Aligned vote was split pretty evenly between the parties on second preference. So Alliance people, you had better think of another excuse. Secondly, in the vote for Post-Graduate Officer, the Alliance voters didn't transfer to Cundell, whom they were originally going to back, one in the eye for Bexon?

On the subject of Alliance excuses, the so-called Liberals put up by Kilby didn't do much damage. Their highest rate was 38. Sorry Rory, back to the caucus for another excuse!

The consequences of these results need some expansion. With Hazel on the Executive, the Left regains the majority position. The NUS team looks like a veritable rainbow. It's heartening to see the LSE students elect such a mix of 'right-on' candidates.

Finally, an award for bravery. To Rachel Platts for telling Nigel she wasn't prepared to take second place and let him be delegation leader. Would you have done it? (This, for those who haven't heard, led to Nigel's withdrawal from the election in a fit of pique.)

ELECTIONS NOT CONTESTED OCTOBER 1986

CAREERS COMMITTEE

A. AIKEN	CONSERVATIVE
T. EZZAT	CONSERVATIVE
A. BURROWS	LABOUR STUDENTS
R. MCHUGH	LABOUR STUDENTS
R. BUTON	LABOUR STUDENTS
T. BRANTON	OFFICIAL LIBERAL/SDP ALLIANCE
S. HULME	OFFICIAL LIBERAL/SDP ALLIANCE
N. RANDALL	LABOUR STUDENTS

CATERING

S. SWINY	CONSERVATIVE
I. CRAWFORD	OFFICIAL LIBERAL/SDP ALLIANCE
T. HUNTER	LABOUR STUDENTS
P. WALKER	LABOUR STUDENTS

STUDENT SUPPORT

S. BANTOFT	CONSERVATIVE
J. ELLIS	LABOUR STUDENTS

HEALTH COMMITTEE

S. FITZPATRICK	LABOUR
H. SHEIKH	OFFICIAL SDP
P. GIDDY	LABOUR
N. KILBY	NHS IS SAFE WITH US



ELECTION RESULTS OCTOBER 1986

ULU:	RORY O'DRISCOLL SIMON HULME MARK HOPWOOD NIGEL JONES LUCY FRY MIRANDA COHEN A. ADBIYIK A. AIKEN	OFFICIAL LIBERAL OFFICIAL SDP OFFICIAL LIBERAL LABOUR LABOUR LABOUR CONSERVATIVE CONSERVATIVE
POSTGRAD:	HAZEL SMITH	LABOUR
COURT:	AVINASH PERSAUD KATE MEYRICK INGRID DURGADEEN RORY O'DRISCOLL STEVE BANTOFT	LABOUR NON-ALIGNED LABOUR LIBERAL (OFFICIAL) CONSERVATIVE
GPC:	SHIRLEY SMITH NICOLA COLTON PHIL DAVIS ANJALI BAKHRU	LABOUR NON-ALIGNED LABOUR OFFICIAL SDP
ACCOMODATION:	GAVIN EVANS RACHEL PLATTS PETER DAWSON TIM BRANTON	LABOUR NON-ALIGNED LABOUR OFFICIAL SDP
BUILDING:	HUGH JONES CHAS BEGLEY	LABOUR NON-ALIGNED
JURC:	JAY GINN	LABOUR
LIBRARY:	CHRIS ALLEN RICHARD FORD	LABOUR NON-ALIGNED
OVERSEAS:	AVINASH PERSAUD PETER DAWSON RICHARD SHUMANN	LABOUR LABOUR OFFICIAL SDP/LIBERAL
PUBLICATIONS:	TIM LANE MARK BUSBY	LABOUR OFFICIAL SDP/LIBERAL
SAFETY:	ALEXANDER POOLE BRIAN O'HALLORAN PHIL LOWRY	LABOUR LABOUR OFFICIAL SDP/LIBERAL

At The Union

by Alan Evans and
Katy Baldock

Have LSE Union General Meetings totally degenerated or is there still anything worth reporting? The answer is, of course, that deep amongst the personal arguments, political point scoring and general individualistic ego-wanking, there are serious politics being discussed and important decisions being made.

But, what about the Sabbaticals? Pete Wilcock, the most unassuming General Secretary of all time (in other words, he's 'nice' and boring), speaking on the Nursery issue (which anyone who reads The Beaver knows is Rory's careerist baby) succeeded in winning polite applause from Centre and Right. However, he received outrageous derision from the Occupationists (surely, a new force in world politics) on the on the nasty Left. The nasty Right were stunned. Poor old Pete seems to be travelling the same road as Ron "revisionist" Beadle.

And what happened to Tory O'Driscoll? Last week His Majesty was espousing Socialism. However, following his derisive result in last Thursday's election, Rory's moved back to the Right - spouting student loans and the wonders of shares in a company the people already own (British Gas). Will the Liberals ever be able to control this power-crazed individual? Do the Liberals care?

Unfortunately, the LSE students have elected a complete non-entity as Social (and Services) Secretary. Gone are the days of Hague's stupidity and Bexon's obnoxiousness; long live the era of boring, bland Bands. Bandism renders no further comment from Right or Left. Turn up to the next Union Meeting and win the prize for guessing who or why she is!

Enough of personal bitching. After all, the Union Meeting is there for a purpose (the Sabbaticals don't believe it - we do).

The most dramatic issue of this week's Union Meeting had to be the Equal Opportunities debate. The hacks have been working themselves up over this issue for months, but the balcony basically didn't care. And why should they, since the (self-perpetuating elite of) hacks never want to let ordinary students in on the real issues at the LSE.

Having said this, Deidra and Sasha on one side, and Martin on the other, made brilliant, well



Dave Waksman

argued expositions of their views. Thank heavens! But, oh no, what a disaster! J.J. dragged Bexon from the Chair and let rip the most embarrassing and outrageous, sexist, racist and homophobic temper tantrum heard for many moons. Get back in the Chair, Bexon, where you can offend the least number of people (and that, we're told was J.J.'s view).

Shakespeare once said, "There are many events in the womb of time which will be delivered." (Heavy) Who was the midwife of the RCP? A motion was proposed to support an RCP front organisation. The ignorant Right, not wanting to appear racist, majestically indicated support. But horror of horrors, the Left iconoclastically indicated that the RCP was "out of order". Panic on the Right - panic on the Left - paper aeroplanes ceased from the balcony. Arise George Binette, "We can't support the RCP...this is sectarian and stupid." Long live King George. Where have you been all our lives? The RCP motion fell. Perhaps a triumph for genuine anti-Racism at the LSE.

And who's sitting where these days? There was Justin Russell (Labour Club Secretary) sitting only just to the left of the Tories. There was Adrian Dixon (Liberal Chairman) totally immersed in the Conservative bloc. And there was Mark, "Mr. Constitution", Hopwood sitting in the geometric centre. And as for Laura, "The Coat", Matthews, she was seen swinging from right to left (and even in the balcony). Was she drunk, or just confused?

So, the UGM is as dire as ever. Personalities have taken the stage and have become boring. Come back politics, all is forgiven.



Dave Waksman

**Union General Meeting
Thursday 1PM**

News

To Have or Not to Have Interview with Dr. Patel

Greg Lane

What are your feelings about the current student loan issue?

I think that at the graduate level we need to increase the student numbers a great deal. As far as this country is concerned, the proportion of the population which could go on to a higher education, and which does go on to a higher education, is much smaller than in many comparable countries.

I think the first objective should be to increase the proportion of high school graduates who go on to finish their First degrees. And more importantly, in my opinion, we need to increase the number of people who continue with their education and finish their Second degree. This is a common problem in the UK and the USA, in that compared to some years ago, we are getting a decline in the number of people who want to stay on for postgraduate education, and not just for a year or 18 months but for a longer period of time. This is the group that constitutes the intellectual enlistment into the next generation.

So if your first proposition is that we need more students at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, then I think you should address yourself to the question and say, "Alright, in that case, what is an appropriate way of financing this education?" Nobody, to my knowledge, has suggested that the present system of payment of fees should be abolished. Maintenance (grants) is based on a means test, and it is not given to everybody alike. So what is the difference? With grants you are applying the means test to the parents; with loans, you are charging it to the students in the future. But why disturb it if the consequence is to lower the number of students

who decide to come for an education? My assumption is that you want more students to come to school.

What is your impression of last month's Vice-Chancellor's meeting?

What I understand is that the Vice-Chancellors didn't push the particular paper which dealt with student loans. I can't say, however, that they dropped the idea. My impression is that they postponed the subject for further discussion. It is not an official line that the CVCP has come to the conclusion that they are prepared to support loans under certain conditions. On the other hand, I can't say that they've come to the opposite decision.

How feasible would a joint loan/grant system be?

Anything is feasible. The mechanics of it are not that difficult. It is essential, however, that it contain certain elements. Firstly, the loans couldn't be given at commercial rates of interest. No one is suggesting that you ask students to borrow at 14%. So, the government will have to find some way of organising and financing the loans. Secondly, you can't have a Shylockian system of loan recovery. You'll have to find some scheme which allows for the fact that somebody is unemployed, somebody is ill, in short, not an automatic system of repayment like a bank loan. And thirdly, you must have some incentive to reward excellence.

How would the Government's proposals on student loans affect the LSE?

Frankly, I don't know what the government is considering. This government's policy is to raise a lot of dust. They haven't said

A Future for Grants?

Last month, a meeting of university vice chancellors pledged their support for a mixed system of student grants and loans. This ends years of opposition, in partnership with NUS, to schemes proposing that students finance themselves through college by taking out bank loans guaranteed by the Government. At the time, NUS President Vicky Phillips described the move as "a stab in the back".

Student loans have been recurring with increasing frequency as an item on the political agenda during the past few years. In the seventies, the idea was seriously considered as part of Jim Callaghan's Great Education Debate and under the present government, Keith Joseph as Education Minis-

ter twice put forward loans as an alternative to grants. His successor, Kenneth Baker, has taken up where he left off. It is not difficult to see why loans are such an attractive option to an incoming Education Minister anxious to cut costs. Instead of piecemeal reductions in a variety of education services, which yield minimal savings at a significant political cost, several hundred million pounds can be released at a stroke to fund other areas of the education system.

In the following interview, we asked the Director to state his position on the current debate about methods of student finance and to describe how he thought the present system could be improved.

anything. Last year, they raised the question and then dropped it, now they're raising it again. I don't know that the government has any scheme. If so, they should announce it.

Will loans handicap students from lower-class families?

I'm sure it will. If you want to educate a larger proportion of students, then surely, at the age of 17 or 18, you wouldn't want to put them under the burden of borrowing money. It's something that will frighten many students, and not necessarily from very poor families, but even from other families, unless their parents put the money up.

That's why I say there is no way that the Government is putting forward an integrated policy toward higher education. They are not taking all these problems on board together. They could solve the problem with the tax system. Instead of lowering the tax rates, they could say that parents below a certain level of income will get a

subsidy, and that parents above a certain level of income will have higher taxes.

The government is not addressing the problems sincerely in terms of setting objectives and finding the best ways of meeting them.

Are you in favor of loans for graduate students?

Yes, because a graduate student has no maintenance from the government, so the loan would be an improvement. He will have something to fall back on.

I wish that the government was more for the graduate student. One has to understand that the complexity of modern knowledge is so much greater than before, and a first degree is not enough. I'm not saying that everybody should have a graduate education, but you have to produce a fair number of people with a second degree if the needs of society are to be met.

I can accept that the government cannot give a free education to everybody until 20 or 25, but what's wrong with giving

youngsters from 17 to 20 a free education? In my case, it isn't free. The parents are to some extent paying for it already.

How will loans affect the number of postgraduate applications?

Overall, it will increase the number of applications because today, as I said, there is no maintenance grant for postgraduate students, so that they will have an option if they have no money of their own.

Do you think that in the long term there will be a move toward loans?

Yes. This is the kind of thing that, once it's floated, you find that one way or the other there is a tendency to put a little more of the burden on the students and their parents.

Would a loan system work against disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, or those fields which are not ordinarily associated with high-paying jobs?

It may. The distinction between Arts and Sciences and all those subjects is somewhat vague nowadays. You'll find that our Geography students get as good jobs, if not better, than our scientists.

It does obviously apply to people doing English Literature or Philosophy. What will happen, as I see it, is that the richer people's children will do English Literature and other things because it will be a luxury of life. It will be available only to those students whose parents have money, whereas the poorer families will not be able to afford the luxury of studying Sociology or English literature, even if they have the talent to do so.

The question is, do we want to make the humanities a luxury of life? It is one that the government will have to decide. It's like before, the dirty jobs are for the poorer people and the nice jobs are for the rich people. That's what it will come down to.

David Owen at the LSE

ALEXANDER CRAWFORD

Notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Owen comes to speak at the LSE more often than any other prominent figure, it is always interesting to hear what he, as a leader of one of the four major parties, has to say. Many students felt the same way, and our dear Old Theatre was packed. What then, did he have to say?

At a time when the elections are drawing nearer, Dr. Owen did, predictably, make a campaign performance. Now that the dust has settled down a bit after the summer Conferences, and that the Alliance has had over a month to get the electorate to forget the dissensions expressed at the Liberal Party Conference ("a disastrous conference," said Owen), we are still left with the Alliance's position in opinion polls at a very low point. What is more, the whole political debate has now shifted from the economic crisis to the delicate issue of defence, and Mrs. Thatcher, who was looking desperately for a new Falklands (a.k.a. Las Malvinas), seems to have found it.

However, the SDP and the Liberals seem to have bridged

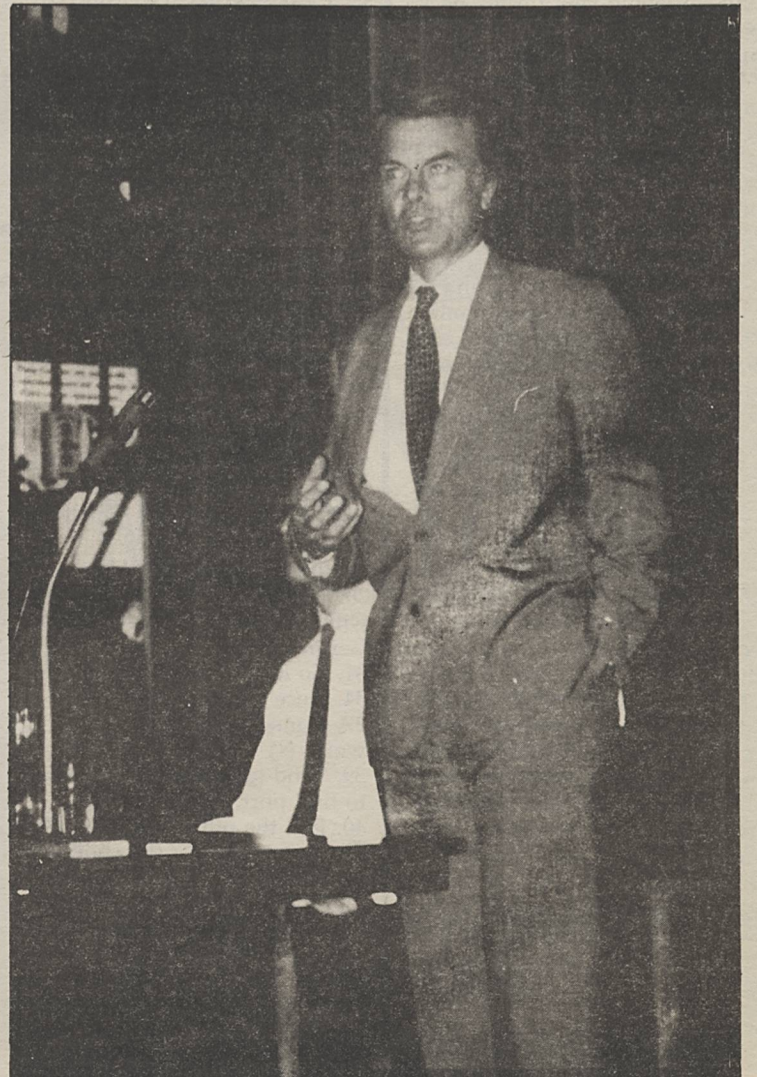
the gap and, on this issue, Mr. Owen did have some interesting and pertinent points to make.

Firstly, he emphasised, it is wrong to separate the issues of disarmament and defense. It is not an "either...or" proposition, even though that seems to be the accepted view today: either defense (with the Tories) or disarmament (with Labour). The two must go hand in hand, argued Dr. Owen. But he argued strongly against an increase in Britain's nuclear capability. On the subject of the economy, Dr. Owen restated his case for a "Social Market Economy", able to cope with the needs of over 3 million unemployed and a disintegrating infrastructure. It is difficult not to use the unemployed to rebuild what needs to be rebuilt. However, to maintain and reinforce Britain's strong position in the global financial market, a future government must be extremely careful not to lose the confidence of the financial world.

It is only when seen as a whole that the hour that Dr. Owen allocated to us students of the LSE begins to show its contradiction (is the LSE that good a recruiting pool? Surely it is not purely out of sympathy

for the SDP at LSE that the party leader comes. Where are Neil Kinnock, David Steel, and Norman Tebbit?) What he said was, in fact, a fierce attack and a long diatribe against the Labour Party. Dr. Owen made fairly clear that, if forced to choose between a Tory and Labour government, the SDP would accommodate itself far better with the Tories. No part of the Labour programme was spared, be it on defense, disarmament, nuclear power or the economy. How can this view prevail in a Social Democratic movement called the SDP?

Dr. Owen stated that we ought to be proud of the Social Democratic tradition in Europe (he even quoted Kolakowski), and that the SDP was Britain's contribution to it. The problem with the SDP is that, contrary to most other Social Democratic parties, it has deliberately placed itself to the Right of the major, non-communist Left-wing party, and not as an alternative to it. It should follow the trend that is seen in the Social Democratic parties (sometimes called Socialist) of Germany, Sweden, Spain and France. It should be the assembly point of the Left, not of the Centre.



"Around the LSE" HALL NEWS

By J.J.

Having just got over one set of elections, word is that another is on the way...the by-election for NUS Officer. By the time you read this, the date-stamp may already have severed young Beadle's political head. His crime: making Hazel Nutt look silly on election day. As it was, Miss Nutt won anyway; clearly everyone voted in the morning. Austin Reed share prices fell 40 points while Avirice sought election. He, too, won, and into the cupboard went the jeans. Out came a velvet jacket complete with badge pinned to the lapel. Avi is either very rich or very stupid...answers on a post card to me c/o Beaver.



If a bang hit the City last week, an even bigger one hit Jonathan Putsman!

The standing of "Brommie made bad" Putsman nose-dived in the eyes of many, but soared like Concorde in the eyes of others. Such criticism, though, is a water off a duck's back, or should that be duck's bill to Jon. Anyway it takes the heat off me for a bit.

Another old man enjoying himself is Nigel Kilby. The sight of Kilby - arms raised, face red and throbbing vein (in his neck sickos!) at U.G.M. is now as regular as ratification of minutes. In truth this only shows how thoroughly piss-poor the Tories are this year. One only had to look at the list of guests at the recent party...Mr and Mrs. Kate Turner, Liz "The Sofa" Bottesford, the very awful Neil Piggot, Kilby, two savage rolls, a packet of crisps and a very limp lettuce (hello Adam!!). But no Currie on the menu...s-tory is Cruella clean forgot about them in the excitement of a watching a hospital burn to the ground.

And what of our beloved Sabbaticals...Babs has booked a weekend in Paris - Bonjour Madame Smith!!

Villa looks set loose that week? (See Passfield Report). O'Drivel is still reeling from the Girl Meyrick refusing to guarantee her support on Court of Governors. Oh, to have been there. Laugh? I nearly voted Labour!!

The fabulous Fatties' Friday Frolic (with guest skinnies and Captain America) last week left many punters perplexed and woolings merry from "Birthday" drinks. Was it really his birthday? Of course! This week it's Richard's; next week it's Nigel's; and the week after that it's mine!!!

P.S. Peter Dawson owns an Iron Cross!!



Passfield Hall Report

Cackle, cackle, well here we are, my first hall report of the coming year. If this, by chance, becomes a regular irregular feature, it would certainly be to your advantage to stay on my good side! (Any lack of spelling mistakes will be due entirely to the Beaver typists).

After such Hall reports are accused of being too 'diarey' and unintelligible to anybody outside the building, so it's gloves-off time, what has to be said will be.

Last weekend Passfield became a haven for macho

ideology: the 72 pint race. Two teams, the British and the 'Rest of the World', each consisting of ten men engaged in a "clash of morons" battle to finish their dustbin of flat Castlemain. Many things are noteworthy from the evenings events; firstly our resident T.A. guard (Man/sheep/pig) was conspicuous if only by his absence from an event he should surely have been participating in. Also, those who laugh loudest in the bar (characters who make Putsman seem charming) at customers purchasing non-

alcoholic drinks had a discernible propensity to be the first to vomit.

Anyway, the evening's beer drinking (?) competition soon degenerated into a contest of who should puke the most, each contestant revealing the contents of his stomach at least twice. The British team started with a recital of the National Anthem, but one wonders what our dear sovereign would have thought of such a display. The 'Rest of the World' did not lose, despite the slightly faster temporary consumption by the British; the real losers were the cleaners on Monday morning and those of us who had to put up with the lingering smell for two days.

On the subject of cleaners, one of the best aspects of the Hall is the friendly staff. Many of us get very upset at idiots who make a deliberate mess for them and other residents. The Charles Bronson caucus of vigilante action is about to move in, so whoever set off the fire extinguisher last Thursday night, start sweating.

With various political intrigues set in motion spotted around the Hall - a Steve Hodge look-alike - A. Dixon, and our one and only Senior Treasurer. Is A. Dixon, the world cup hero, trying to set in motion events to lead him to the Social Secretary Sabbatical, this year and next? What are the secret negotiations between O'Driscoll and the Societies Officer; does Chas Bingley

aspire to sneak into office on the tailcoats of the great Profit? Rory has, however, fallen from grace in the eyes of many residents because of his regular impersonations of Paddy the Tramp, as he sleeps off too much beer in the TV lounge, under old Beavers (about all they're good for).

In true socialist style, The Peoples' Paragraph. So much for boring first years, Taffy Mark had his party stopped within five minutes by boring warden (too concerned with peoples' hearing at Two in the morning). Birthdays in abundance with Nigel (Gooney celebrating by regular vomits on little beer) and Eddie's regular passouts with much beer (Eddie lacks Eton training). Simon and Garfunkel look out; here come Ollie and Pete the Launderette Crooners. The Mah-jongers are still hard at it every Saturday night, but if you join in don't start betting in Gossip.

Anyway, I calculate using an approximate word scan and calculation in comparison to other Hall Reports, my literary contribution should

love and kisses,

The Blue Imp.

Stop Press!!! Why was Peter Dawson seen staggering away from Passfield last night and our resident 'maneater' looking less than satisfied with the evening's events. (Ha ha - I don't miss a trick).

THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

Compiled by

THE BATT BROTHERS

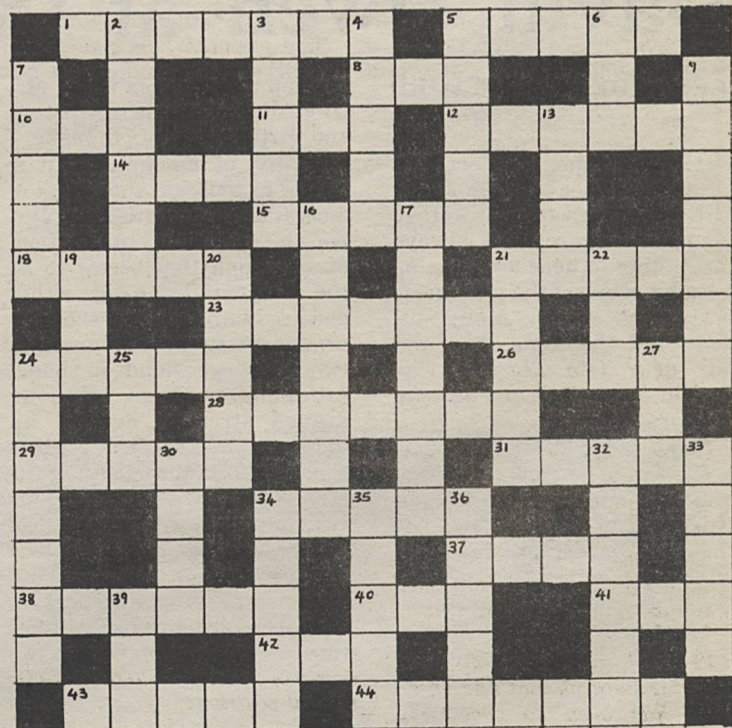
Across

1. Important place is arranged. (7)
5. Close starters aim for demand. (5)
8. For example, nothing, my own true love. (3)
10. Topless Zulu in Malet St. (3)
11. Shortly to be known as an alias. (1,1,1)
12. The French examination is the most modern. (6)
14. Reduce shaken gin mix by nine for dynasty. (4)
15. Many times out of ten. (5)
18. I leave posies for photograph modelling. (5)
21. Bamber loses starter for resin. (5)
23. Angrily relent about the ace of clubs and make a stand. (7)
24. Palace loses a rank; which sounds a little fishy. (5)
26. Highest order is usually a man's position. (2,3)
28. Quietly dived into water. (7)
29. Check accounts, starting with the car, as they say in Germany. (5)
31. Go in to register. (5)
34. Piece of grass cutter. (5)
37. Sounds like hero is out of work. (4)
39. Tend to follow Oscar's leads to find port. (6)
40. Pull the other one, Billy (3)
41. Inner taxes for the chop. (3)
42. Naked woman of the night. (3)
43. Celebration for a great achievement, including a salad starter. (5)
44. Highest temperature caused by West about to give weapons. (7)

Down

2. Additive in fruit causes feathery growths. (6)
3. I go about mother before pupating. (3)
4. Smallest tail ender with direction to follow. (5)
5. Bowel punctuation. (5)
6. Seemingly raised anger. (3)
7. What one seems to be doing, biting the edges of one's mouth in Amsterdam. (5)
9. Mounted support from purist in melee with rebel leader. (7)
13. Vagrant starts for trolley bus. (4)
16. Fatal accident Commercial Union delve into, searching for something based on truth. (Actually there was no accident.) (7)
17. Came from join in the editor's brief. (7)
19. Low change gives me the bird! (3)
20. Went to bed needing an album to split set. (5)
21. Positively electrifying poem. (5)
22. Elizabeth will appear shortly, I'll wager. (3)
24. Musical aeroplane? Not really. (7)
25. Throw in a snake's head. (3)
27. Finally reaches mineral deposits at end of drill-hole. (3)
30. Understanding comment sounds very cold. (1,3)
32. One leaves muddled satire for little presents. (6)
33. Rub sores until they come up smelling wonderful. (5)
34. Alien after offer for toilet cleaner. (5)
35. Like gardens near Richmond, out of line. (5)
36. Duck from apartheid errands. (5)
39. Golfing cup? Off we go. (3)

Hi, crossword 'fanatics', it's Dave and Steve here again with your favourite brain teaser. It was heartening to see a whole bundle of entries to last week's rather simple little funster, although a solution entered under the rather non-descript collective title of 'The Women's Group' succeeded in getting every single clue wrong bar none, and most of the words didn't even appear in our OED. Draw your own conclusions if you must, but I really wouldn't bother; let them have their bit of fun, eh? Unfortunately, the only serious female entry had one answer wrong, which was a shame, so once again the prize goes to a feller, and the first out of the Editor's hat was Hugh Jones, who wins the Parker Pen donated by the Students' Union Shop. This week's puzzle is again nice'n'easy, just to encourage budding newcomers to have a go. By the way, the prize for this week will be edible!



Last week's solution:

Across:

1. Article 4. Finders 9. Oracle 10. Loci 11. Elder 12. Entertainer 15. Tempo 17. R.N.A. 19. Starve 20. Locate 22. C.P.L. 25. Lenin 26. Long Holiday 29. Pedal 31. Solo 32. Decent 33. Keepers 34. Pockets

Down:

1. Amnesty 2. Tend 3. Choreograph 5. Inert 6. Delhi 7. Stirred 8. Screen 13. Apocalyptic 14. Newton 16. Matron 17 and 18. Recall 21. Pillock 23. Prince 24. Antlers 27. Group 28. Order 30. Dice

Features

NEW STATESMAN

Interview with John Lloyd, Editor of the 'New Statesman'

with Jacques Peretti

Was the relaunch of the New Statesman an initiative that came from you as new editor, or was it part of a process going on before you arrived?

The relaunch came after me. There had been a suggestion to relaunch last year, but that had been aborted. The previous editor, Hugh Stevenson, had wanted to leave for some time, so he hadn't initially done anything new.

In what ways do you see the New Statesman as different? Does the fact that it doesn't look fundamentally different mean that the change has been a gradual thing, rather than a total overhaul?

It does look quite different from what it was, say, three or four months ago. It's now got colour. The inside has changed quite a lot, but it hasn't been a dramatic change. It hasn't been a Neville Brody effect. I think that readers of the NS are quite conservative with a small "c," in that they don't want to see it change dramatically into something wholly different.

Was the relaunch a response to your being overtaken by The Spectator?

No, it wasn't. That was not welcome, but the redesign and signal that the editorial stance had changed was in response to the fact that, if nothing was done about the magazine, it would not last much longer. That's the brute fact of it.

Were you influenced by Marxism Today?

No. I didn't even know that MT was doing a relaunch. I think that MT looks all right, and I still like the magazine, but I don't think the redesign has improved it much.

In a way, you're bound to disappoint expectations and you'll never familiarise your readership with a regular format.

We didn't trumpet it. We didn't say: "from next week, the NS is going to be completely different." We did say it was going to be redesigned. It was going to look better, and we think it is. We didn't have a huge song and dance about it like Marxism Today did. We just came out looking different, and hopefully a bit tidier and better.

The cash injection aside, why then do you think that The Spectator has been so successful under Charles Moore?

Well, obviously in the real world you can't out the cash injection aside. They've had nearly 3/4 of a million. That's bought them time on television, and it has bought them more editorial resources. However, I'm not saying that the cash was all, or even that it was the main thing, but it certainly helped. If I

could have a promotion budget of a few hundred thousand, I would get more copies - no question. When NS has in the past advertised on TV, the copies went up. If people don't like the product, having been enjoined to buy it by advertising, they will leave it again. What's happened with The Spectator is that it has been drawn to their attention and they've stayed with it.

Why?

It's well written and edited. It was politically popular, riding a wave, which may no longer be the case so much, if at all. It could get people like Waugh and Paul Johnson who, whatever one thinks of their politics, are good, challenging writers. There's no mystery about it.

Getting big names would help the NS.

It would, and I will try to do so. But big names cost money.

Do you think that the writing that comes from the Left is so dry and unentertaining because it is simply scared of slaying too many sacred cows?

Some of it is. But it is difficult to get away from that. There are exceptions; Paul Foot and R.W. Johnson are good, strong writers. Roy Hattersley, whose writing I like, has a fine, ornate, almost 19th Century style.

Would there be any chance of launching a weekly version of Liberation in Britain - a wider circulation umbrella which would effectively replace the proliferation of publications that currently constitute the Left?

There is a French equivalent of the kind that I'm trying to do - though it's not by any means a direct model - and that's Nouvelle Observatoire. It's much better resourced, it's glossier, it has more advertising than we have, more of a French equivalent of Time. We're a long way down the road from that, as yet. It's a good news magazine. At the moment, we're a Features magazine with a lot of Arts coverage, so to transform into that would take a fair bit of doing, but I think that it could be done.

But clearly the agenda has moved to the Right and it seems, at last, as though the Left has been shaken out of its shell. Don't you think that the fall in the circulation was in some ways a reflection of the inadequacy of the Left's current intellectual position?

You make a lot of assumptions that the Left's intellectual position is now inadequate. I wouldn't necessarily hugely dissent from that. We've written in the NS that there is a real problem about finding a coherent Left platform and set of policies. The old question of what is Socialism is at least as urgent now as at any time.

And the Statesman?

More than The Spectator is dependent on the Right, the NS is dependent on the Left. In this sense, when the left is seen to be doing well, or when there is an unpopular right-wing Government in power and the Left has lots of ideas, the people will turn to the NS for these ideas. But when the Left is going downhill, when there is fragmentation in the Left as there was, and the NS went with the fragments rather than trying to stay in the broad anti-Thatcher area, then the magazine will suffer. It will not be able to be what it was under the Kingsley Martin and Paul Johnson era, which was a magazine that had a hegemony over everything that went Tory.

It still has the "Paradise Postponed" image.

Yes, old-fashioned.

Is the NS' relaunch its contribution to the effort to clean up style and presentation on the Left?

Clearly, the feeling that the Left did not want to be dingy and mouldy and boring was common to us all. In the Labour Party's case, it's more difficult. It's easier to change a magazine, and you can do it if you work hard. The Labour Party is composed of a large number of people - some who pull one way, some the other. Peter Mondelson, the Party's publicity director, has done a marvelous job in making the things look televisual. A lot of what the Labour Party has to do is to grab attention on TV. Mind you, so do we! A lot of the trick is just raising your profile, being a bit cheeky, a bit controversial, and getting people to write about you. A lot of it is just good old bezaz.

With so many people now reading single-issue magazines, like Sanity, do you think that there is any room for a NS like that?

Yes, or I wouldn't be here. These magazines are read by activists, and they will go up or down in circulation as the companies to which they area part go up and down. There are many, many people who are both solidly on the left, and vaguely on the left, who will want to read a magazine of analysis, of comment, of polemic, and of news, which the NS is. My own belief is that NS has a potential audience and always has had, but that it isn't serving it well.

The Press gloated over the NS editorship battle. Did you have to overcome any animosity?

The staff supported me. I came in with a virtually unanimous board vote. The one person who voted against me has since said that she was wrong.

John, you left a secure job at The Financial Times, turned down the opportunity to take a highly-paid post in the States, and took up instead editorship of the ailing NS. Was it worth it?

I sometimes regret leaving the FT, which I liked as a paper and where I liked the people. I will regret not going to Washington, apart from the money and resources, missing the sheer excitement of election-year in the States. My wife is a lawyer with her own firm here, and she did not want to go. I very much wanted to see how things were going here in politics. This is my country, and what its politics do is of concern to me, personally and professionally.

Stocks and Flares

By JARED FOX

Paul Massier once said, "I would rather teeter on a tenth story window ledge than deal with the Stock Exchange!"

As Paul Massier happens to be a reputable computer consultant, I'm sure that the Stock Exchange is saying exactly the same thing about him at the moment (witness the "JAK" cartoon in the London Standard, 27/10/86).

The papers had a field day this time last week, from the "Big Bang Blows a Fuse!" of the Standard to the more conservative "Big Bang becomes Damp Squib" in The Times, and all the major dailies ran large articles.


Leaving the press jargon aside for one moment, though, what exactly did happen, and what was supposed to happen? On Monday 27 October, dealers travelled to their provincial and city offices from as early as 5.00 am to get ready for the "Big Bang". From 7.30 am, the Topic Computer was "on line" to the world. What this SHOULD have meant was that dealers would have been able to familiarise themselves with the system slowly in plenty of time for the 9.00 am start of trading.

When 200 instructions per second began to arrive at Topic's memory banks, however, things went Bang in a BIG way! The Stock Exchange spent £80 million on buying a system called SEAQ (Stock Exchange Automated Quotation) which actually allows the transactions to be made. Those in authority maintain that SEAQ is a good system that was shot down only due to the failure of its mentor, Topic. Many dealers are saying that SEAQ isn't a perfect machine either, however. Deals being made were concluded over the telephone as some traders were skeptical of the quoted price being as accurate and up-to-date as the Exchange maintained.

This meant that when a dealer wanted to trade 100,000 shares, he/she would only enter a dealing size of 1000 shares for fear of accident. Some dealers became so frustrated at not being able to obtain the information they needed that they began hitting their Visual Display Units! Rumour has it that one trader even took off his shoe and threw it at a terminal screen!

The market seemed to calm down slightly in the afternoon, with the old "pad-and-paper" method coming back into vogue. Only time can tell whether the technology will stabilise and whether, to quote Sir Nicholas Goddison, "the small setback which has now been put right" will flourish or not.

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Features

Guatemala

Repression or Democratic Opening?

An Interview with Paola Gutierrez

By RICHARD WILSON

Paola Gutierrez was a student activist in Guatemala until she was forced to leave in 1980. Since then she has been involved in the Central American Students Federation based in Managua. She brings a unique insight into the latest developments in Guatemala where a new Christian Democratic President, Venicio Cerezo, has been in power for nine months.

He is by far the most progressive leader since Jacobo Arbenz, who was ousted by the CIA in

1954. Given new space, trade unions, political parties and student groups have gone from strength to strength.

Despite these auspicious signs, Amnesty International reports 100 disappearances and dozens of political assassinations over the last six months as the military power structure remains intact. Thus, Guatemala's situation has "striking resonance with Latin America's other new 'democratic' regimes in Venezuela and Argentina". In the following interview with Paola, Richard Wilson, finds out what's been happening.

When were you last a student in Guatemala?

I left in 1980. I had been studying medicine since 1975 at the University of San Carlos. I was strongly involved in the movement with other students of medicine and in the national students union (AEU). I was student representative on the University Council. After the murder of Oliveira Castaneda (head of the AEU) in 1978, I left the country, returned in 1979 but left again in 1980 after continuous harassment from the military. I had been working in the Northeast of Guatemala, in Julapo. After leaving the country I took part in the work of the AEU from outside.

I went to Nicaragua to work with FEUCA (the Central American Students Federation - based in Managua). I worked with them until 1984.

What programmes did your union carry out?

Guatemalan students have a great history of struggle: they participated in the revolution of 1944 and continued the struggle in 1954 after the U.S. invasion of my country.

During my time we had links with many organisations. We tried to make the University open to all. For instance, legal students gave free advice, medical students set free clinics in the shanty-towns which appeared in the capital after the '76 earthquake.

Another of our aims was to increase the University's budget, which is very small.

What other kinds of activities did you engage in?

We organised students associations all over the country. In 1978 we had a National Festival for school students, too. Over 100,000 people from all over Guatemala turned up. It was the first and last such event we were able to organise.

Why were you so successful?

Students have to be involved in wider society in Guatemala. We took up questions such as land for the campesinos. While for many years repressions took place against the trade unions, the AEU was relatively untouched. We were able to use our relative freedom. Then in 1980 things got bad.

How bad?

The military cracked down. In 1978 Oliveira (Castaneda) was murdered. It became more and more difficult to organise. The Director allowed the Secret Police to come to our campus. They went to the registry and got the names of medical students who were doing their practice in "subversive areas." Many were killed in 1981. Now the army is on the site all the time; they say this is because of drug problems.

Last year the army destroyed many parts of the University. They wrecked the AEU offices and took away everything. As a result, we no longer have a General Secretary of the Union. We elect an unnamed slate instead, called the "CORPO COLECTIVO" so that our representatives cannot be persecuted.

Are there right-wing students and what do they do?

A - They are the only ones who survived the repression. They are trying to push the union to the right, blaming us for subversion and the growth of the guerilla movement in Guatemala.

They say we must concentrate on University matters, on how many flowers we plant and stupid things like that. They have been publishing full-page adverts in the national press saying these things.

Do their arguments have any echo within the union?

The signs are that the right may win control of the AEU at the moment.

So what are students doing right now?

We have somethings called "HUELGO DOLORES" - where during Holy Week, on Good Friday we organise sketches on the streets to show what is happening in the country. Afterwards everyone votes for the best sketch.



The other things we kept going during the worst years of repression (and we still keep going) is our newspaper "INO NOS TIENES" ("Don't provoke us"). Many people were killed distributing it. We had to print it outside Guatemala and smuggle it in. It was funny - the police would go round arresting people, yet even they had to read "INO NOS TIENES" to find out what was going on.

How do you see the situation now?

The first few months after Cerezo's selection were like a honeymoon, but the repression has started again.

Cerezo's answer is that it's not him but the army who's doing these things and he can't do anything to stop them. Meanwhile, prices still go up and wages go down.

What has been the movement's response?

Popular organisations have increased dramatically. As long as their demands are economic,

things are O.K. As soon as they become political it's all over. But this hasn't stopped the movement's growth.

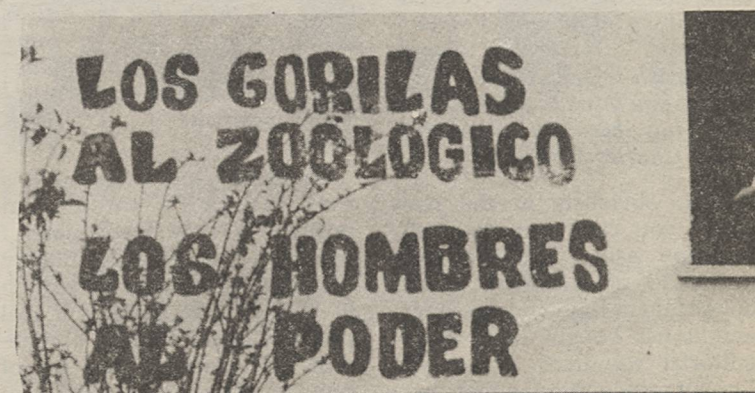
Will the guerillas lose support because of Cerezo?

No. The reasons they have been fighting all of these years are still there. If Cerezo delivered all he has promised may be they would lose out, but he won't. If the people get jobs, social security, food and health then the fighting will stop.

What can people in this country do to help change the situation in Guatemala and Latin America?

We must stop U.S. involvement in Central America and also fight for justice for the families of the "desparecidos", those who have been kidnapped and murdered without trial.

The most important thing is not to be confused about the current situation in Guatemala. Despite Cerezo's election, the army are still in charge in my country. We have to stop them.



'Gorillas back to the zoo. Men to power'. University of San Carlos, Guatemala City.

THE THAMES: A RIVER IN HISTORY

By KATE PRENERGAST

London has always been very closely linked to its river. The first settlers sailed up the Thames and stayed. In the days of horses and boats, its links internally with the sea made it an ideal location for a town. Roman and Anglo-Saxon London was not a political centre, but a trading and commercial one.

The city evolved its own identity in the C12th and C13th. The Thames gave London its cosmopolitan atmosphere, bringing in foreign goods, bankers and immigrant workers, carrying out English manufactures, adventurers, and eventually the English empire.

The Thames was in many ways the artery of London, but the river has its own way of life, with its own characters and myths, dangers and delights. Many of London's spectacles could be viewed from a boat. Royalty placed their various palaces on the river, from Windsor, Richmond and Hampton Court to Whitehall (with its own privy stairs for expedient get-aways) and the Tower, originally guarding the route to the sea with one royal eye, keeping the other beady on those troublesome citizens.

Greenwich was especially favoured by the Tudors. Elizabeth I liked to take royal processions downstream in her golden barge, flanked by the liveried knights and trumpeters. The Lord Mayor's Show took place on the river; he travelled in a barge with silver oars, the City Livery companies in barges decorated with arms.

From the late C15th the Strand, which linked Westminster to London, was colonised by the nobility, with gardens rolling down to the water's edge. The first was Savoy Palace, followed by York House, Durham Palace, Somerset House and Bedford House. The river became a glittering display with the thronged private gardens and mooring quays, coloured sails, swans and watermen in their red or blue breeches, white coats and black velvet caps.

As Howell put it in 1657: "The stately palaces that are built on both sides of her back are so thick, which make diverse foreign ambassadors affirm that the most glorious sight in the world was to come upon a high tide from Gravesend and shoot the Bridge to Westminster.

All this was splendid but, like so much splendour, was a surface perfume on the stinking depths. It reflected one side of London; to the west, near court, driven, according to Petty in 1662, by the "fumes, steams and stinks of the whole Easterly pyle." Certainly, the more easterly the river banks were, the more slummy they became, with the riverside parishes of Wapping, Rotherhithe, Limehouse and Deptford.

The banks of the City teemed with quays and wharves, with roads connecting the port of Thames St. and up to the main shopping street, Cheapside. Until 1749, the river had only one bridge, London Bridge, which crossed at Southwark to the City. The first bridge was probably built by the Romans out of wood. In 1187 work began on a permanent bridge, constantly rebuilt, until the reforming zeal of the C19th pulled down the "medieval monstrosity" in 1830.

The bridge was a centre of life as well as a thoroughfare. Its houses were between three and seven stories high, hanging perilously over the edge. The road took two coaches and had shops along it. Holbein and Hogarth both lived on the Bridge for a short period. The Gatehouse portico was often used to spike the heads of traitors, and the bridge proved a crucial access point in a political crisis for Simon de Montfort, Wat Tyler and Jack Cade. Its arches quickened the flow of the water so much that "shooting the Bridge" on an ebb tide was dangerous; on the flood, impossible.

The Thames was a very busy place. Until the end of the C18th it was London's main highway, with watermen to ferry people, lightermen to ferry cargo. Under Elizabeth I it was estimated that there were 40,000 watermen, hired by calling "Oars!" Fishing was a large industry.

In 1828 it was estimated that 60 years previously, 400 fisher-

men made a living from the river, although by that date the river had become too polluted for fish. Between Deptford and London, roach, plaice, smelt, flounder, salmon, shad, eel, gudgeon, dace and dabs could be caught. Fish was landed at Billingsgate with a fish market every day on the banks.

The river also conveyed all the activity of trade. Many of the early merchants were foreign. The Saxon Kings encouraged settlement of German traders called Easterlings; there was a large Jewish community and a thriving Lombardi collection, fueled by Italian banks. London was part of a medieval trading network that included Bruges, Antwerp, Paris, Venice and Genoa.

As the city companies began to form a civic, they were often hostile to foreigners. In the C16th, English traders became more aggressive. With discoveries in the New World a new breed of merchant adventurers grew up, men who have become part of a national mythology: Drake and Raleigh vanquishing the Armada, plundering the East, exploring America.

The seeds were being laid for the empire. By 1600 the East India company was firmly established. Although the massive growth was in the C18th, with 10,000 tons of shipping by 1620 and 24,000 troops in its pay by 1661, it virtually controlled India. The C17th also saw the establishment of the Mas-

sachusetts Bay Company, the Africa Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. The idea of a mercantile economy was beginning to take shape, with London at its centre.

Foreign affairs were dominated by trade rivalries symbolised by navigation acts. London became a major financial centre with the formation of the Royal Exchange in 1569 and the Bank of England in 1694.

During the C18th, the amount of trade passing through the Thames increased dramatically; between 1700 and 1800 its exports rose from c£5m to c£30m. By 1800 the river carried approximately £70m p.a. worth of cargo, or of the Empire's trade.

The scale of change caused massive problems. Congestion was chronic. With nearly 8,000 vessels using the river, it could often take up to six weeks to unload a boat, and the old city quays would be thick with masts. Cargo was also extremely vulnerable to plunder. Crime on the river was endemic; many who worked there legitimately were also involved in nightly plundering operations.

Indeed, there was a whole range of criminal occupations: Night Plunderers, who worked in gangs at night, Heavy Horsemen, Lumpers, who, clothed with secret pockets, would fill them while loading and unloading ships, and Larks, who would grub at the river at low tide, and Scuffle Hunters, who

would appear on the quay as casual porters, steal, and disappear. Both problems were largely solved by the shift of the port downstream, away from the city, with the building of docks in the early C19th.

The Thames presents us with many images. As an image itself, therefore, it has represented many things. Spenser, Dryden and Pope invoke it as a symbol of glorious success, the Imperial City. In art as well as literature the river presented a crucial city symbol: the panorama.

There is a darker side, too; dangerous, ungovernable, the scene of suicides and murders, with its eastern hamlets harbouring sailors, criminals, prostitutes. For Dickens the river always represented the darker side of London; for Eliot, it was a symbol of death.

Now the river is strangely quiet. The motionless Dockland skyline backdrops the gentrification of old wharves, whilst the City promises a "looks like Venice, works like New York" plan for Canary Wharf.

Among the few boats to be seen are pleasure cruisers, stopping at the Tower; the more adventurous go to Greenwich. It feels like a ghost. Yet the Thames has a future. It is a great natural gash through the urban sprawl. It has carried the ebb and flow of London life for 2,000 years, yet it is still here, whilst all that has come and gone.



A Grotesque Claim?

By ANNIE HICKISH

Norman Fowler, at the Tory Party Conference in Bournemouth, asserted that it was "grotesque to claim that the Health Service was in decline under the Tory Government." Perhaps he is merely out of touch.

Anyone watching last Monday's edition of "Panorama" may have glimpsed Charing Cross and Westminster Medical students demonstrating against Riverside Health Authority's proposed closure of the West London Hospital Hammersmith. They fear that their careers may be jeopardized by the loss of the hospital's nationally-funded maternity unit.

The unit currently provides obstetric training for one quarter of clinical students. This

proportion will, in future, travel to Westminster Hospital where, according to Professor Corzon of the Obstetrics unit Department "Resources for teaching obstetrics and gynaecology are inadequate". London University stipulates the management of 15 women in labour per student. Opponents of closure allege it will result in an insufficient number of births to sustain this level. In addition, there will inevitably be a reduction in post graduate jobs available to newly-qualified doctors. The Academic Board of Charing Cross and Westminster voted 42:3 against closure of the West London facilities without direct provision of its maternity services. Riverside, however has denied responsibility for medical training.

The Health Authority intends to make £33 million in cuts by 1994 as part of the Government's formula of redirecting resources to the provinces. The West London Hospital has been

selected for closure owing to its age and poor conditions which would cost millions to improve. Sue Morris, a Health Authority administrator at West London, identified "Nightingale-style" wards for the elderly and faulty heating and drainage as factors in the Authority's decision. All facilities are to be relocated except the maternity unit since riverside claims overprovision of maternity services in the area. The unit will be compensated by Westminster's increasing its maternity intake.

Supporters of the "Campaign to Save West London Hospital" base their opposition to the Health Authority's proposals on the belief that closure will drastically reduce the level of services available to local residents. Severe transport difficulties may be encountered by women travelling from the Hammersmith area to Westminster Hospital to give birth. In addition, the inflow of high risk pregnancies from outside

the are, requiring the West London's specialised facilities, will be stopped. Opponents are particularly outraged at the proposed loss of four intensive care cots which will undoubtedly cause increased mortality rated among premature babies.

Reprovision of the geriatric ward in two nursing homes has also aroused anxiety, since opponents believe that patients may be forced into temporary accommodation. The staff's fear for their patients is accompanied by uncertainty over their own jobs. Riverside aims to redeploy the majority but will not give assurance that there will be no voluntary redundancies.

The controversy over the West London has to be placed in the context of the entirety of the Health Service cuts in London. R.O.R.P. (Reallocation of resources to the provinces) seems to be an excuse for cutting London's services. Dr.

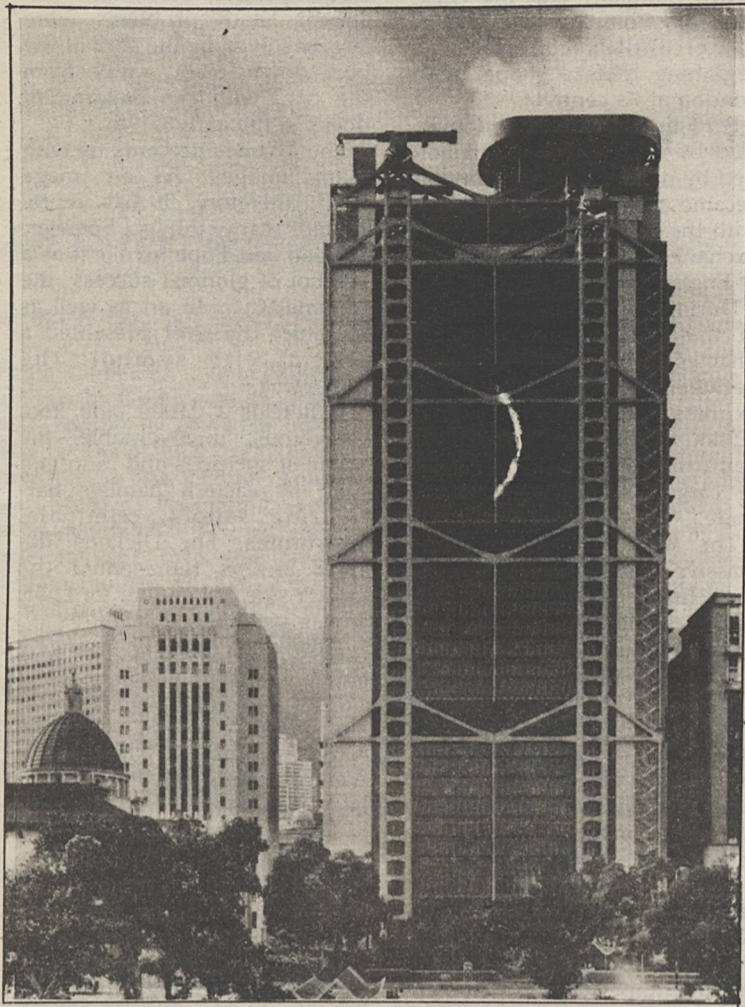
Lewis Appleby of the Maudsley Hospital comberwell, emphasises the importance of both "an academically strong capital and an efficient provincial service". In addition to the West London, Westminster Children's Hospital; famous for its bonemarrow transplants, is to be closed. A decision over Westminster Teaching Hospital's future has been deferred by Health Minister Barney Hayhoe until after a General Election. Westminster has a pioneering radiography unit which treats two thousand patients per year.

Clearly, with the development of revolutionary treatments, the cost of the Health Service is accelerating. Managers brought into the Health Service are advocating increased efficiency and introducing private-sector concepts. Some would argue, however, that the Health Service is not a business and that cost-effective measures should be subordinate to patient-effective services.

Arts

New British Architecture

Foster, Rogers, Stirling



Shirin Diamond

"British Architecture. Does it exist?" will be the question foremost in people's minds. The exhibition at the Royal Academy should leave little doubt as to the answer, "Most emphatically yes - only perhaps not in Britain".

The sad truth is that although British architects are enjoying unprecedented prestige abroad, modern architecture in Britain has had a less than friendly reception. In this exhibition each architect has exhibited one completed work and one project, and it is significant that out of the three completed projects two, Stuttgart Staatsgalerie and Foster's Hong Kong Bank, are abroad and all of the unimplemented projects are in England.

The freshness and individuality of British architecture is brought to the fore in this exhibition. Even the most critical visitor will be impressed by the imagination and breadth of all three architects' designs, regardless of his/her opinion of the actual design. Roger's "London as it could be" - a plan for the redevelopment of the South Bank and its relationship with the city, might in fact be criticised in that it is too imaginative and passes into the realms of fantasy (where LSE students sit all day in cafes along and embankment promenade overlooking the river), but as a counter-balance there is his Lloyd's building which, in its very architecture, reflects the realities of life - pipes, ducts, lifts and staircases are emphasised in an attempt to "give technology its fullest expression".

Stirling's Staatsgalerie is interesting in that it has aroused much controversy, having been criticised as "monumental", "overblown" and even "fascist". (The exhibition might be worth a visit simply to find out what a fascist building is supposed to look like.) He has tried to combine in it different styles of architecture for he believes that each style reflects a particular meaning - the Classical style reflects monumentality, the Modern, industry. The success of this idea is evident in the Staatsgalerie's rise to the top of the most-visited museum list in Germany.

Finally, Foster's main exhibit is the Hong Kong Bank, which has been described as a "reinvention of the skyscraper". Foster has tried to create an exciting and dramatic "inside" to the building, feeling that traditional skyscrapers tend to be unsatisfactory in this respect. It is a unique piece of architecture, which is hardly surprising, as it is also the world's most expensive, at roughly \$500 million.

The RA hopes that this exhibition will provoke controversy; and I think it will, for it is bringing to the notice of the British public some of the greatest British architecture of this century and the fact that most of it seems to have been built abroad. Perhaps this impression has been rather carefully created, since all of these architects have designed buildings in Britain, but there can be no denying our failure to make the best use of our resources in this field. The exhibition should make people think again.

Woman in Mind

Alan Ayckbourn's new play (at the Vernderville Theatre) is surprising proof that sometimes even British playwrights writing today can reach the heights of real tragi-comedy and still maintain a grip on mainstream audiences. The matinee performance which I saw was packed with old age pensioners and tourists, obviously expecting a light, undemanding comedy. As the lights went down, a piercing scream was heard from centre-stage and the tone of the piece was set.

Our heroine is Susie, an unhappy, frustrated Vicar's wife, tormented daily by her dull, irritating husband and his insufferable sister. At the opening of the play, she is recovering from a brief blackout following a fall. It soon becomes apparent that this poor, lonely woman has built up an entire fantasy world for herself in which she can lead the life she once dreamed of. As she deals with the everyday trivia of her real life at the front of the stage, she is also talking and listening to another group of people in the background - a fairytale "family", all dressed in white, all adoring her and smothering her with the affection she so desperately desires.

The first half of the play is a very humorous interaction between these two 'lives'. Ayckbourn's skill as a revealer of social absurdities comes into full play here as Susie bitterly mocks the incompetent, uninspiring people who surround her. However, in the second half, a series of crises reach their climaxes, and, in her Susie's neurotic condition, real-life and fantasy begin to merge until it is impossible to separate them. It is this final, dream-like section of the play which is most challenging to the audience. It is rare to see such an imaginative and unconventional climax to any play on the West End stage.

As Susie, Julia McKenzie is outstanding in a role which demands everything from comedy to anger and hatred. She suggests all the frustration of an unhappy, loveless marriage with an angry laugh, or the joy of final sexual relief with a slow, lingering roll in the grass. The play is directed by Alan Ayckbourn himself with great subtlety and imagination.

Kfir Yefet

Les Liasons Dangereuses

(The Ambassador's Theatre)

The Royal Shakespeare Company production of Choderlos De Laclos' risqué novel, "Les Liasons Dangereuses", is a fantastic, as well as enlightening portrayal of the cruel, aristocratic society of 18th-century Paris, depicted after the "courtship" of Versailles. It is a light-hearted and amusing production with serious undertones regarding promiscuity and love.

The "action" is centered around the two leading characters, the Vicomte de Valmont and his ex-mistress, the Marquise de Merteuil, and their relationships with each other as well as with other people.

The Vicomte is excellently portrayed as the rogue he is by Alan Rickman. His character is summed up in his curt remark to the Marquise, "... wait until I've had her before you can insult her."

The plot revolves around a bribe from the bitchy, flirtatious Marquise (Lindsay Duncan) who feels that "...love is something you use, not something you fall into." She offers herself to the

Vicomte in return for the seduction, with written proof, of the prudish Madame de Tourvel (Suzanne Birden) who is named and "famous for her strict morals." The climax arrives when, perhaps predictably, the Vicomte actually falls in love with Madame de Tourvel, but unaccustomed to this emotion, he destroys it on account of his long-time lust for the teasing Marquise.

Basically, the characters move from one horizontal position to another, the virgin (Cecile Volanges) being led to understand that the Vicomte is merely "training her for her marriage!"

The production is slightly lengthy, which ensures that the point is driven home; the rich Parisians of the 18th century were so bored that they had to play malicious games to amuse themselves. However, a witty, entertaining and thought-provoking performance is given by all the cast. It is worth seeing, even if only to note how discreetly the RSC can portray a seduction.

Lisa Rosenblatt



Films

Men

Renoir Chelsea



"Men" is a woman's attempt to explore the unknown territory of the opposite sex. What are men really talking about when they are by themselves? And how do they talk about their problems with women?

"Men" is a satirical comedy. Doris Dorrie's shrewd and whacky script concerns Julius, a packaging designer who, on the eve of his 12th wedding anniversary, discovers that his wife, Paula, is having an affair. An eager pursuer of the girls in his office and a firm believer in the double standard, Julius is devastated, no matter how much his wife stresses that it's just a casual affair. He decides to find out where he has gone wrong. He pretends to be out of town but stays behind to spy on his wife... Her lover, Stefan, an

unemployed graphic artist who lives in a bohemian-style loft with a vacant room. Julius becomes the roommate of the unsuspecting Stefan, using the alias of 'Daniel'. They soon strike up a friendship; they commiserate with each other about women. Eventually Julius comes up with a brilliant idea to win his wife back. Give Stefan all the material goods he despises. This he achieves by creating, at the same time, a business rival. Finally reunited with his wife, he returns to his annoying habit of snoring. But he now has the perfect excuse for it: "Men snore to protect their women from wild animals..."

The script is full of wacky lines: "man is what he does, woman is what she is."; "You can always put pressure on us men by appealing to our consciences; but not women"; "Women are not capable of having a perfectly normal affair; it's always much more, always some kind of emotional garbage". As a woman Dorrie has the advantage of being able to use these sentences without blushing. She would not have been able to deal with comparably crazy remarks by women in the same uncensored fashion; (and of course women, too, let them slip in unguarded moments in exactly the same way).

It's fun to watch Dorrie explore the fascination of the inexplicable, incomprehensible and mysterious jungle, the world of men. Her objective is to discover a male Marilyn Monroe. A film written and created by women but nevertheless fascinating even to men. A mixture of a female's view of the male, sex and wishful thinking. The men in this film are her Marilyn Monroes.

-Stavros Makris

Murphy's Law

(Cannon - from Friday 31st October)

This is a movie of cliches. The script is a cliché. The characters are a cliché. The action is cliché.

Homicide detective Jack Murphy (Charles Bronson) finds himself the target of a frame-up. In his pursuit to clear his name, he is joined by an unwilling, foul-mouthed car thief, Anabella McGee (Kathleen Wilhoite). Their non-stop pursuit of the killer leads them into a violent confrontation with crime boss Vincenzo, the brother of a man Murphy killed in the line of duty.



The plot is a shameless attempt on the old plot-within-a-plot story-line. Here, the old man with the "nerves of steel" fails to live up to previous glorious moments of mindless macho stereotypes developed over his career in the '70s. What was acceptable then is laughable now. This film merits no criticism. If you want to see a thriller, go see "Jagged Edge" again (last year's best movie).

Stavros Makris

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'BASEMENT EAST BUILDING

Music

MIGHTY LEMON DROPS

POP WILL EAT ITSELF

WEDDING PRESENT

U.L.U.
Friday 24/10/86



PAUL MARSH from THE MIGHTY LEMON DROPS
BLUE GUITAR

So imagine how I felt: in we troop and there's these bastard hippies on stage. Well, I think to myself, Thatcherite Britain - not only does nobody dance but they also bear with all these tedious 'personal' songs (The Smiths have a lot to answer for). Great... But I should have more faith! Pop Will Eat Itself is here: loud thrashy fun for all the family; at last, a band who don't take themselves too seriously. As for the haircuts, they probably can't afford them yet. I still love 'em.

The Wedding Present were up next. A spirited force within pop, energetic and tuneful with a psychedelic shirt or two thrown in. They hail from Leeds and are charming. Pure champion.

I fail to understand the point of The Mighty Lemon Drops and can only wonder at the herd instinct that impels people to go see them. "Vacant" doesn't do them justice. They don't so much pilfer, as lift wholesale, the style, sense and order of (1) The Bunnymen and

(2) The Teardrop Explodes. The crowd beheld them transfixed (rigid with boredom), and a few normal types (non-students) danced a bit. Why did anyone bother? U.L.U., I think, pack too many people into the gigs, but they did almost get a fab line-up this night - bar 'les grandes gouttes de limon'.

I'll leave you with this penetrating thought from PWEI: "What's so f—ing great about 'candy'?"

Mary Chain freaks take note.

D.J. Hare

The Fall "Bend Sinister" (Beggar Banquet)

Here it is, this year's fall LP and the big question is, can Mark E. Smith and company cheat Hare's Third Law (no one ever makes more than three good, nay, essential LP's). But we are dealing with The Fall, a band whose inner dimensions are larger than their outer ones.

And what do we find within "Bend Sinister", children? "ROD" is like turning idly on the shortwave and hearing a ghost from 1981 float over the radio, to be followed by "DKTR Faustus" whence the Fall are back in their PSKICK garage land and Bux intones "YEAH!"

And then, "Shoulder Pads £1" which sees the Fall actually smile with a great keyboard bit. Reckon they always wanted to do stuff like this, just they couldn't play it until now.

Side two presents itself, and we, the listeners, find "Terry Waite Sez", declaration of the biggest chap on the ecclesiastical scene accompanied by Fall backing no. 3. Also "Bournemouth Ruiner", Hanbey's Bass (nice to see him and Craig Scanlon) still holding their own in there walks out of the groove with Mark E. lurking behind...and hey, hey, it's 1977 again! (But time counts for more here, y'know).

But what's it sound like; is it any good, you say. Well, it wipes out every other LP released this year for at least two weeks and a day, and if you haven't

heard the Fall by the age of 18, well... surprise yourself. Somehow "Ben Sinister" sounds like an excellent debut LP (for those who want hard facts, the Fall formed in 1977 and have released umpteen LP's to date). Does the elixir of life exist in Lancashire?

Talking of things Mancunian, through the good offices of Rough Trade, another new single from The Smiths, "ASK". A bit of a return to earlier theme of shyness, but with a beefed-up backing; don't know if it's new boy Craig Gannon, but someone plays some pretty groovy guitar on this one. I know they put over loads of singles, and though it's not as great as "PANIC", still worth a buy.

Dougal Hare



JAZZ

Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers at Ronnie Scott's

Now and then, we all like a healthy dollop of cream on our strawberries. This week's serving comprises one of the world's great jazz clubs, Ronnie Scott's, and one of the world's great jazz drummers, Art Blakey.

Over the years Scott's has played host to most of the "Giants of Jazz". This year alone, Freddie Hubbard, Charlie Byrd, Betty Carter, Joe Pass, Lou Donaldson, Horace Silver and Chet Baker, to name but seven, have appeared. This success - the combination of a small club atmosphere with big name attractions - inevitably has its costs. Charges generally vary from £4 - £8, although there is a yearly membership scheme (£30) that entitles you to book a table and get in for £2 most nights. As for drinks, they're prohibitively expensive (£1.80 a pint). My advice would be that if you choose you artist well, have a few drinks beforehand, then there's nowhere better.

Take the performance I saw, for example - Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers. Ordinarily I hate drummers. For some reason they feel compelled to fill any gap by bashing the hell out of the instrument (cos' after all that's what it is, not a noise machine), as if to say, "Hey man, I exist!" Now Blakey, on the other hand, was a joy to watch and listen to. He had real presence precisely because he kept the audience guessing. Like all great musicians, he possessed economy of ideas and the physical wherewithal to put them into practise - just a flick of the wrist at the right time and in the right place. Nothing more, nothing less. So at times he'd stay in the background, as in the first number, and at other times, as in the last number,

he'd come centre-stage grinning and getting those members of the audience who like to show they know when to clap totally confused, denying them a cue and instead shifting from meticulously executed drum rolls to drum roll, syncopation to syncopation, call to response, and so on.

The man is in his 60's (!), his music is a fresh as ever, and his spirit equally irrepressible; how else could he front some of New York's most talented musicians who are in their 20's! The Messengers (Kenny Garrett, Alto; Jean Toussaint, Tenor; Tim Williams, Trombone; Donald Brown, Piano; and Pete

Washington, Bass) respond to Blakey with the commitment and enthusiasm of people in love with their music and mentor. It's great to watch and listen to that kind of contact.

You can check them out during their 2-week stay in London until the 9th of November.

Ronnie Scott's
47 Frith Street
London W1
Tel: (01) 439 0747

George Meszaros

Courtney Pine at L.S.E.



Friday 7th 7:30pm.O.T.

BEAVER BULLETIN BOARD

Here's our new classified/personal column!

If you're buying, selling, announcing or just sending a message, pin it up on the "Beaver Bulletin Board". The service is free so bring your ads to Johanna in the Beaver office before 12:00 noon each Wednesday.

Classified

Bicycle for sale (ladies bike, good condition) If interested call 458-2673 in the evening.

Trumpet w/ case for sale. Good condition. For information call Stavros at 387-7743 (S14)

Used IBM typewriters for sale. 50 each. Conditions vary so act quickly. Call in the eve. at 586-7435.

Flatshare in Pimlico. 3rd person needed to share nice flat. Rent 45-50 p/w incl. CH/elec./H2O. For information call Diana or Johanna at 834-7783.

Used guitar strings for sale. Reasonable price. Please contact Angus Young in the Beaver office.

Wanted: Waxing machine desperately needed for newspaper layout.

Wanted: 1 notes for essential study of British economy. Will pay fair price of 10p per coin.

Personal ads

EFC sends best wishes and lots of love to AJC

The occupant of room F35 would like to ask the hall president to refrain from calling every evening to borrow a cup of sugar.

If you're rich, I'm single! Contact Beaver Box no. 32

Charming, outgoing, forthright lady (early middle age) seeks friends. Please apply to 10 Downing Street. SW1

BJC would like to thank PK for the most wonderful night ever!

Wanted: Young, attractive female for all expenses paid trip abroad. Contact Jeffrey Archer at Beaver Box. no. 1

I'm rich. Are you single? Contact Beaver Box no. 23

Farshad, for one last chance at romance, meet me at our corner. This is it!! I hope you make it and know that you won't regret it! AJF

If you have a nice car, lots of money, and a sense for adventure, please call Asheton at 821-0814.

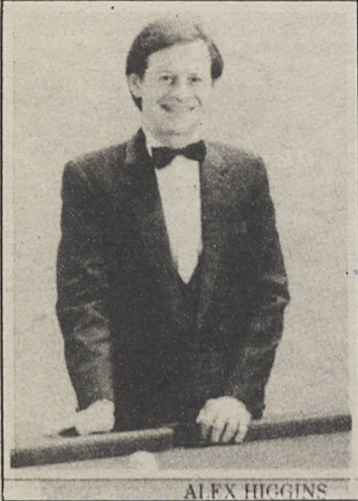
Give me a break! The game's over! DM

JE sends her love to CE. It's your birthday next week!

Snooker Loopy!

My guide to the London sports scene continues with a look at snooker. The game itself has almost become a victim of its own success. It all started in the 70's.

Before then, snooker tables could only be found in a few working mens' clubs and the country houses of the rich. Two things were responsible for its' popular explosion - Pot Black and Alex Higgins. Pot Black (initially in black and white!) carried the game to the living rooms of millions, but the real spark that set snooker alight was Higgins.



ALEX HIGGINS

As an unknown he won the World Championship at his first attempt in 1972. His flamboyancy and breathtaking skill earned him the title "the People's Champion". Without him there would be no snooker as we know it today. But Alec hit troubled times. Slack management and the pressure of success led to the collapse of his marriage, a suicide bid and worst of all the attention of the gutter press. Higgins himself describes these events in his brilliantly frank book "Alex - Through the Looking Glass", published by Pelham books.

As the game became more popular, prize money increased and players became better and better. The result was Steve Davis, a robotic and stunningly boring player who began to win all the tournaments. Consequently snooker appeared to peak and headed downhill. But in recent years Davis has been toppled from his invincible pinnacle and the game seems to be in a better state.

Professional snooker in London is somewhat scarce. The only major tournament based in the capital is the Benson and Hedges Masters. It's held at the Wembley Conference Centre from January 25th to February 1st but be quick - when the tickets go on sale they go like hot cakes.



Alternatively, if you are tired of waiting for a game on LSE's only table above the Cafe, why not join a London snooker club. Membership fees average £5 a year and £2.50 is the usual hourly rate. Snooker centres are listed in Time Out's 1986 London Guide and all the phone books. So turn off the TV set and try the game yourself!

by BASIL

— BEAVER — SPORT

FOOTBALL Goldsmith College 1 L.S.E. 2nd XI 9

L.S.E. 1st XI 1 Q.M.C. 4

The less said about this game the better, but here goes. With only 1 draw from four games, LSE 1st XI badly needed a win. A shipstone goal provided an ideal start until a bad clearance led to a quick equaliser. Lack of confidence and form were clear from here on, and the defence was particularly at fault. In fact, it was as thin as Andy Shingler's hair. Three further Q.M.C. goals all resulted from errors but one opponent definitely gave us a footballing lesson. Only Ferrari, Mackenzie "you're an ugly bastard, Nolan" and Wakefield provided respectability.

J. Watson



Hilary Slade

Basketball

The LSE basketball team opened up its warm-up season with a hard fought 81 - 75 victory over the North London Hawks, a top London League team.

The team showed spirit and team-work but found itself trailing by four points at the half. The score see-sawed throughout the second half, and with five minutes remaining LSE held a slight lead. Sensing a win, LSE played tenacious defense, crushing a late rally by the Hawks.

Guard Bill Markstein recorded several steals in the closing minutes of the game to help preserve the win. Outstanding play was also turned in by six foot-seven inch center Patrick Shannon, forward Mike Swell and guard Paul Bradshaw, one of only two Englishmen on the team.

On Saturday LSE's pre-season record dropped to 1 - 1 with an 81 - 71 loss to Canon's, another London League team. Player-coach Mark Rogers cited his team's lack of organised offense as the primary reason for the loss.

The team is currently playing warm-up games in preparation for the Universities League which opens later in the term. League opponents include Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick and Loughborough.

Kevin Koga

With many of our regular players unavailable and Andy Shingler promoted to the 1st XI, the 2nd XI wondered whether their first win of the season would again evade them. Needless to say, it did not, for within 30 seconds and before the opposition had touched the ball L.S.E. was ahead - the provider was the captain, volleying from 25 yards

For three games now, LSE had only scored four times. Today it all came right and the floodgates opened. The revolutionary 4-3-3 system provided more space in midfield and Henry Mehta began to shine - he knocked in four today, taking his tally this season to six. Good performances came from Antonio Tousseant, Jeff Kirk and Matt Williams. Marco 'The Cat' Goannini is also worthy of special mention.

Taffy's Tales (Rugby)

On the 25th, the firsts' long unbeaten run was ended whereas, the seconds maintained their run (losing four games) by slipping to a 6 - 3 defeat against the run of the play. After the match, St. George's then entertained (!?) us with an intellectual display of debating, earning them the scorn of our hardy beer-swilling lads. However, St. George's surprised everyone by stuffing us in the boat race - the first time in living memory that an LSE team has lost one!! Rupert 'the-Boz' restored some LSE pride by romping home in the "Australian" contest which consists of the seemingly impossible drinking a pint whilst standing on your head - the things these rugby lads get up to.



Hilary Slade

LSE teams had their share of bad luck last week. On Saturday LSE 3rds beat K.Q.C. by 2 - 0. This is a slightly alternative view of the game measured in terms of Chris Riley's outstanding contribution to the game. It's a pity that F.A. values goals higher than teeth! In reality Nick in goal was thoughtfully kept warm by the opposition, conceding nine unlucky goals. Suffice it to say, LSE finished second - pending a stewards' enquiry (get my drift, Mr. Moreno!).

On the same day LSE 5th beat St Georges by 2 - 1. The team seemed destined to win from the start. (Well, no team can keep on losing forever!) Marks returned after a noticeable absence and turned in a confident performance. The centre of the field was controlled by "the blond bloke" (herds of 3rds). Walid, Brian and Christian all combined well up front, and Pron put LSE ahead. Then Andy "Second Chance" Lennard made it two. St. Georges pulled one back but it was all over bar the drinking.

On Wednesday, LSE 5ths lost to St. Marys Hospital 3 - 2. The real controversy occurred after Dave Britchies scored two good goals to put the 5ths 2 - 1 ahead. Pete Wicks (not the East Enders one!) lobbed the ball into an empty net and LSE seemed to have an invincible lead. But the ref then changed his mind and disallowed the goal as the ball rolled through the back of the net and in the ref's words, "I checked the net and there were no holes in it"!? Demoralized, the 5ths then let in two late goals.

By Pepe

HOCKEY

Men's

LSE 1sts 5

Charing Cross Hosp. 1

With the memory of successive defeats badly dimmed by the passage of a fortnight, LSE finally proved that they knew where the opponents' goal was. While Charing Cross were hardly the quality opposition provided in the UAU competition, they were runners-up in the London Colleges League last season, and the prospects were ominous as they dominated the early stages.



Hilary Slade

However, Orville Addis continued his three-game goal scoring streak with a well-taken effort from the edge of the 'D' after excellent approach play by Jorg Decresser. Despite serious defensive confusions involving the playing umpire and created in part by slightly over-offensive inside-forward, LSE retained their one-goal lead until half-time. Mention must be made of the new keeper, Mike Bowen-Long, who made important saves despite the absence of kickers, and of captain, Neil Cooper, who continued his goal-missing streak with a mis-hit only just wide of the open-goal.

During the interval, the defensive confusions were sorted out; and in the second period, LSE overran the opponent with goals from Decresser, Chaddra, Lowcock and a second from Addis, with the solitary reply briefly interrupting the flow. Stick-skills Stoho was amazed with some bewildering Sherwanique wizardry and is also to be congratulated for being one of only four players who stayed around to celebrate and socialise. Are the pressures of academia really so overbearing already?

R. L.

Ladies

LSE 1sts v Kings (London Cup)

At last LSE Firsts got their act together and produced the kind of hockey for which they are known. With Ellsmore scoring 5 minutes into the game this provided the inspiration for the wonderful hockey that followed. Kings had a few chances at goal in the first half but they never really looked a serious threat. Confidence was high with good play from Skelton and Sterchie. LSE capitalised on a Kings mis-hit and slammed in the second goal to go two ahead.

Despite a serious pep talk by "old" players at half-time and warnings of complacency, Kings managed to put one in the back of the net. Kings' glorious moment soon evaporated, though, when Deal spectacularly converted a strong cross from the right (to her own and everyone's surprise!) to make the final score 3-1.

by FLO