

THE BEAVER

250TH ISSUE

LSE: The Slide into Mediocrity

Students Speak Out (Privately)

LSE has a tremendous intellectual heritage both amongst its academics and its students. But gone are the halcyon days when students flocked to Laski's lunchtime lectures in the Old Theatre, or to his Sunday afternoon teas at his home. Gone too are the days when enthusiastic students would eagerly debate Popper's or Hayek's last lecture. And, saddest of all, gone are those days when academics like Millband would participate in militant student politics.

In the Houghton Street of today, students are predominantly cynical and uninspired by the gurus of the academic establishment. What follows are only a few of the student opinions we canvassed last week.

"The Economics Department is considered to be the best in the country. It has good professors and it is the base of many important publications and research. But that's it. The department is good only because of its good reputation. For most teachers, their classes are secondary and they just read out of their lecture notes."

"The lecturer is particularly bad. He tells the same stupid jokes every lecture. His lectures never start on time and he finishes early. I like his book, though."

"Often the classes don't start on time. I find them of little value. One of my teachers keeps cancelling without giving us notice, or he's fifteen minutes late."

"One of my lecturers reads from notes that look like they're 15 years old. It shows you how little time they spend on us."

"Lecturers don't take their students seriously. So what's the point of asking us to assess the teaching if our reactions are ignored?"

"So much information passes from the lecturer's notes to the students' pads, without going through the brains of either."

"Theoretically, you develop a close working relationship with your tutor, but I find that if I have a problem, I go to my class teacher."

Undoubtedly, students enjoy trading tales of academic incompetence and apathy. For many, however, this feeling festers, unarticulated and thriving on its cynicism. The School's reluctance to implement a consistent policy of lecturer assessment merely reinforces the conviction that the school doesn't care about student response and that the actual process of learning is secondary in this institution.



Photo: Sunil Shah

Warped Priorities lead to student apathy.

By JOHANNA EIGEN
Additional research by
GREG LANE

"Where are you studying?"
"At the London School of Economics."
"Wow! That's impressive! I hear that place is a real 'think-tank'."

Where does this reputation come from? Is it Mick Jagger, the high turnout of revolutionary politicians, or is the school a bubbling intellectual hot-pot? It is a well-known rumour that the LSE is a venue for political discussion and animated debate. But does this hold true in the experience of most students during their stay at LSE? What about the educational stimulus and the teaching quality? Is there enough communication between the teaching faculty and the student body? Is there enough guidance for those of us who are still lacking direction and therefore need inspiration from the experts? What kinds of expectations do people have and how well are they satisfied? - There are many more questions of this nature which should be addressed by all those who share an interest in the LSE's development.

Given the fact that most students come to this highly respected institution in pursuit of knowledge, the atmosphere often seems sadly apathetic (with exception, of course, of the loud shouts to be heard in the UGM). Many students complain of personal alienation, lack of stimulation, and too little con-

tact with the teaching faculty. In many cases, students who have studied here for three years find that they have not developed a good enough working relationship with their tutors to ask for 3 references for further study or the job market (incredible but true!).

But this is just as much the student's responsibility as that of the teaching staff. All too many flock to the School hoping to receive automatic wisdom, but lacking the self-discipline to seek out the challenges that make it all worth while (like going to see your tutor although you know you will receive some additional work). Many complaints have their roots in this kind of idealism, but just as many are undoubtedly rooted in the shortcomings of the educational system.

A number of LSE professors freely admit that the lack of intellectual dynamism is a direct result of the structure of the system. An obvious example is the way priorities are ordered in the responsibilities of the teaching staff. It is a well known fact that the main criterion for evaluating lecturers is the quality of their research and their published contributions to their field. This is rightly a valid yardstick of the value of an academic. Sadly, however, there is no such yardstick for the quality of teaching. There is no incentive for a lecturer to spend more time than is necessary with students,

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British Gas to Save Nursery?

Sid Turns in His Grave

By JULIAN OZANNE

Additional research by
ROSS BROADSTOCK and
PAUL WOOD

British Gas shares will be bought by the students at the LSE in an attempt to bail out the nursery. At last week's UGM, LSE students backed by a majority of 7:1 the proposal of the Union Senior Treasurer to buy shares when British Gas is privatised next month.

Senior Treasurer Rory O'Driscoll received a mandate from the Union meeting to put together a deal which would involve individuals at the LSE buying British Gas shares under Union auspices. The shares would be sold immediately and the profits - optimistically estimated at £6,000 - would go into a fund to save the nursery. The actual figure would depend on how many people could be persuaded to apply for shares.

The nursery has been consistently losing money at the rate of £16,000 per annum and this year the school, in an attempt to stave off the financial losses, changed the fee structure to one which would have made the nursery inaccessible to most students. A working party is currently looking into the future of the nursery, but few people believe it can find a successful solution.

O'Driscoll believes that if students make the effort to raise money, moral pressure can be exerted on the school to make a commitment to the nursery. And if the school can be persuaded to back its share-buying initiative, then the success of the campaign will be assured: "The privatisation of British



Photo: Sunil Shah

Gas is a free giveaway. If we take advantage of it we can help finance the nursery, help to convince the school we are serious about saving the nursery, and help put pressure on them to make a long-term commitment without which the nursery is unviable."

But despite the lack of substantial opposition at the Union meeting, many students on the Left are against the proposal.

If you see Sid tell him ↙

Please send me, without obligation, information about the British Gas share offer. (PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

(Tick) MR MRS MS or TITLE (Specify)

FOR NAME(S)

SURNAME

ADDRESS (in full)

POSTCODE

Are you a British Gas customer? (Tick) YES NO

When complete send to:
British Gas Share Information Office,
PO Box 1, Bristol BS99 1BG.

British Gas
SHARE INFORMATION OFFICE

George Binette, one of LSE's leading left-wing activists, who opposed Rory's report at the Union meeting, believes that the proposal offers no long-term solution to the threat by the school to abandon the subsidised provision of nursery facilities for staff and students and, furthermore, that the move is a cynical political attempt to involve the Student Union in Tory capitalism. "This is a cheap publicity stunt designed to further Rory's own ideological commitment to widening individual share ownership under the cloak of doing noble battle to save the nursery. The only way we can save the nursery is by pressurizing them with a militant student campaign. This proposal not only undermines the campaign but it also lets the school off the hook."

The Labour Club has, according to Binette, "beaten a retreat in the nursery campaign", clearly faced with the dilemma of their political opposition to privatisation on the one hand, and their desire to save the nursery on the other. General Secretary Pete Wilcock has condemned the move as "cheap populism" and as "an attempt to dress up the Tories' asset-stripping by linking it with a just cause (the nursery)." While he's personally opposed to the deal, he admits that because it's union policy "there's not a lot I can do about it."

O'Driscoll, while not denying his ideological commitment to privatisation and "share owning democracy" (he personally bought TSB shares earlier this year) denies that he is acting from political self-interest.

If the school agrees to cooperate in the venture there is a good chance that the proposal will be successful in raising money. But it is possible that Rory may have overestimated the windfall. According to a recent article in "Private Eye," British Gas has suffered a disastrous fall in sales recently as industry has switched to oil.

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Letters

Letter to the Director

Dear Dr. Patel:

The other day I attempted to do some work in the library. "Attempt" is the word I use since with the constant background racket caused by the excavators and pneumatic drills, I was unable to concentrate.

I am not alone in feeling quite angry that people should have to study for an academic degree under these conditions. I know that the new building is Crown property and therefore not subject to the usual planning strictures, but I would like to know firstly what can be done about the noise, and secondly what the school actually has done in the way of making representation to those responsible for workings on the site.

Arrangements to reduce the noise, such as working under floodlights when the library is closed, would no doubt be expensive and the developers reluctant to implement them, but if we kick up enough fuss, we might get at least some concessions - Would they dare make the same amount of noise if they were building outside the Bodleran?

Yours sincerely,
Paul Wood
Features Editor

Patel On Noise

Dear Beaver:

I write in reply to the recent letter on the subject of the disturbance to the life of the School being caused by the construction of the 12-storey Royal Courts of Justice Building.

I should firstly say that the construction of this building was strongly opposed by the School, and it is a very unwelcome intrusion on our immediate environment. Unfortunately, the City of Westminster Planning Committee chose not to oppose the planning application for this new building, and as you rightly state, immunity of the Crown from many aspects of normal planning legislation made it especially difficult for the School to oppose the construction of the new building. As soon as we knew the project was to proceed, we sought a meeting with the Property Services Agency (the PSA), which is managing the construction of the building on behalf of the Home Office, to seek their co-operation in reducing the disturbance to the School of the construction process. The School also retained specialist advisers to negotiate with the PSA over matters concerning the new building and to establish what compensation we might be able to obtain. The PSA agreed that it would limit the noisy work during examination periods and indicated that during the Law Terms, they had imposed a limit on noisy work between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. It should also be noted that the City of Westminster Environmental Health Officer imposes general restrictions on building work by limiting noisy activity to the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

The School had been informed that the earliest phase of the work involving the breaking-up of the concrete slab of the car park would be very noisy, but that this phase would be completed by the end of September. Thereafter, the PSA indicated that the very noisy work would be severely restricted between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m., but in the event, the contractors failed to comply with these understandings.

Firstly, the contract started late, and the very noisy concrete-breaking was not completed until mid-October; and secondly, the general level of noise from the site has proved to be unreasonably disruptive. It was clear that the School would have to take additional action and at a meeting of the Building Committee on 20 October, it was agreed that a secondary glazing should be installed in the worst affected rooms as a matter of urgency. It was further concluded that a claim should be made against the PSA to meet the cost of this work and that to this end, specialist consultants should be engaged to measure the noise emanating from the Royal Courts of Justice site in order to assist the School in pursuing its claim. These measurements have now been taken, and the consultants' report is due within the next few days. The School's solicitors are being consulted to establish the extent to which the School can take further action based on the findings of the consultants' report to restrict the noise emanating from the Royal Courts of Justice site.

In the meantime, the PSA has agreed that the use of pneumatic drills should be restricted to the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m., 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. This will provide some limited relief during at least five hours of the day and, dependent on the view of our legal advisers, the School will seek to further restrict the noisy work from the Royal Courts of Justice site.

The construction of this building offers nothing but disadvantage to the School, and I very much regret the disturbance that is being caused to many members of the School. We will continue to do all that is possible to limit the degree of this disturbance.

Yours sincerely,
I.G. Patel

Peer Pressure

Dear Editor,

As someone who attended the Friends of Palestine meeting featuring Tony Greenstein, I was bemused to read Nic Cicutti's account of this "generally well-behaved meeting". A South African emigrant to Israel who attempted to discredit Greenstein's parallel between the South African apartheid regime and Israel's treatment of Palestinians was forced to "behave". Before she could fully express her opinion, the "gentleman" conducting the meeting interrupted her and addressed someone else.

Considering the supposed allegiance to democracy and particularly in the light of the Friends of Palestine's quest for recognition and fair treatment, which includes equality for all and freedom of speech, it seems hypocritical to discourage an open, democratic forum for debate. Only one position, the Palestinian position, was deemed worthy of attention at this meeting, while a dissenter's attempt was hastily construed by Cicutti as "fairly ludicrous points". Let me assure Mr. Cicutti that much of what was said during November 5th's meeting was "fairly ludicrous".
Barbara Tepler

Wilcock Stripped

Dear Editor:

Not wishing to break with its tradition of backstabbing sectarianism, the Socialist Workers Students Society has once again launched an open attack upon a sitting Labour Sabbatical, Pete Wilcock.

Pete had already declared his desire to speak on a separate motion condemning Stripping.

The Strip Show did not go ahead. Unfortunately for SWSS, however, it wasn't their promise of hundreds on the picket lines that stopped it.

One final word: The comrades from SWSS will, of course, use any issue to gain more comrades for their cause. But before they lecture democratic socialists on women's rights, they might be asked to look to their own organization which denies women even the most basic right of self-organization.

Yours,
Ron Beadle.

Dear Beaver:

I would just like to register my disgust at Pete Wilcock's performance at last week's Union meeting. In order to save his bureaucratic neck, he towed a centrist, law-and-order line and abandoned any stand on the real issues at stake. He didn't object to the stripper night because it bolsters the wider degradation of women in society, but because he assumed that the picket would be violent

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PRIVATISATION AND THE STUDENT UNION

THE SENIOR TREASURER, WITH TYPICAL POPULIST PANACHE, HAS PLUNGED THE STUDENTS' UNION INTO THE "CASINO ECONOMY". Appealing to the widespread liberal commitment to some kind of nursery provision, Mr. O'Driscoll has dragged a gleefully hoodwinked union meeting onto the bandwagon on "people's capitalism". At the same time he has doubtless acted to raise his public profile, but never mind any alleged careerist motives.

In its vote to endorse the participation of individual members of the union in the privatisation of a once state-owned asset, the UGM has lent its seal of approval to the mythical Thatcherite project of a "shareowning democracy". The flotation of British Gas shares may mean a tidy profit to a substantial but still tiny core of first-time shareholders. Of course, the declining value of energy stocks in general, after the collapse of oil prices, does not augur well for the quick killing by individuals selling to large-scale institutional capital. So, Rory's much ballyhooed 'nice little earner' may not bear the promised fruit of £6,000.

More importantly, why has the Thatcher government pursued the policy of asset-stripping and from when do the promised windfall profits come? The Tories have used the revenues from the sale of nationalised industries to apply tiny plasters to the gaping wounds in the welfare state, paving the way to an early general election and another five years of the Iron Lady. Meanwhile, the coffers of finance capital in the City have swollen further with the speculative pro-

fits from the B.T. sale. British Gas, now openly subordinated to the logic of profit and loss, will almost certainly seek redundancies, introduce longer hours, and erode working conditions for its remaining staff. After the expenditure of £20 million on advertising to persuade the great British public of its "real" self-interest, the corporation's management still refuses to eliminate the standing charge, an almost unbearable burden for many Old Age Pensioners and others on Supplementary Benefit. The threat of a gas cut-off and with it the danger of hypothermia remains an all too real one. (So much for the blessings of state-capitalist nationalisation.)

Thus, the senior treasurer appeals to the deep altruism of would-be shareholders to forego their possible profit to alleviate the financial crisis of the nursery. Rory has previously staked himself to the principle of subsidised provision of childcare and to campaign resolutely against the administration's proposals. Regardless of his intention in this public relations thrust, Rory has ceased to address the fundamental question of the long-term future of the nursery and instead put forward a stop-gap stunt. The maintenance and development of the nursery and collective provision of childcare is not an issue of putting your money (or rather the profits from stripped public assets) into a kitty which the School may or may not match. Instead, it is a question of being able to mobilise the collective strength of the Union to resist the School's proposals and defy any attempts, however sincere or sly, to defuse and sidetrack the nursery campaign.

and unruly. He then disassociated himself from this motley mob of wall-eyed feminists and authoritarian left by saying that he would not have attended the picket. With microphone in hand, Wilcock portrayed himself as a paragon of moderation. Quite honestly, it would have been better for Pete and Rory to have been censured than to have opportunistically

pandered to the Right. At least an election would have forced a thrashing out of the issues under question and hopefully a definite policy on anti-sexism in the Halls. In the same way that we don't sell pornography in the Union shop, we should not tolerate the commoditization of the human body in University accommodation.

Richard Wilson

THE BEAVER

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At The Union

By ELIZABETH BOTSFORD

Today, Mrs. Thatcher banned FCS, leaving Simon McVicker without a job – Divine Retribution? Poor darling!

Pete Wilcock urged us to join the South African picket. This heralded another meeting dominated by world issues and achieving nothing for LSESU.

Outside speaking rights were granted to a journalist who pleaded for our solidarity – "We're all graduates..working for rogue employers." He claimed that two of his colleagues were sacked because the employer wanted to sweat even more work out of the remaining ten. If that really were the case, they would do better to approach an industrial tribunal, not tread the Limits of the Law by exhorting us to join the picket.

Following his speech, the usual people voted in predictable ways.

Babs Band, patron saint of strippers, forgot to put on a skirt when attending the Tequila event. Nigel seemed concerned – was he wearing a skirt? Probably. Both of them could do with following Princess Di's example and change from Boxer shorts to thermals for the winter.

Rory reminded us of the disbanding of FCS and also of all the hard work he has done for the societies. Having padded his speech with popular issues (clever bloke), he proceeded to outline his newest plan to save the nursery. We should all hand in our British Gas share application forms to LSESU, and the profits will go to the nursery. By this direct action, we will have added to our credibility among the academics on the nursery issue, and Rory will have added another item to his resume (at our individual financial expense, but who is going to be a penny-pincher when it comes to Rory's

probably (judging by last year's incident) have indirectly caused the bloodshed of by-standers?

Deidre was asked to smile, which she did – ever so sweetly. In fact, she was in such a good mood that she even offered to draw up a working paper with



Nigel Kilby to outline guarantees which would stop discrimination against Northerners. Totally unnecessary, of course – all they need is a bit more dietary fibre, more exercise and less tobacco. In any case, from whom do we get our anti-Northerners prejudices? And doesn't Mr. Kilby bear them out?

Martin Flatters offered a sound medical argument to stop the spread of AIDS – Don't f**k without condoms.

If only things were so simple. A coup for the wimmin, though. It puts the responsibility of contraception back on men and stops women messing up their hormones by going on the Pill.

The Cypriots then got overheated on a subject most of us did not understand. The political technicalities of the Greek/Turk issue were unfathomable for the uninitiated, leaving us to vote on our prejudices. Youths with fading suntans were able to revenge their unhappy Mediterranean summer romances. Jilted by a Turk? Vote Greek.



Sunil Shah

resume?). However, the Gospel according to George for this week ran thus – OAP's will die this winter if we invest in gas and give the money to the nursery. Speaking as another Old New Englander with a parent who lives in South Kensington, I think Marx would agree with Rory – communal action begins at home.

Should we fund the wimmin's group when it was prepared to jeopardize the peace by picketing the strippers? The wimmin's officer denied everything. But last week, didn't Pete "guarantee" (for a definition of this word, see Rory's speech last week) a violence-provoking picket line? If the picket line had been attacked would the wimmin have compromised their pacifist ideals and defended themselves, or would they have rushed inside with the attackers following them, and therefore

After telling us not to behave like children, an extremely vulgar, old (N.B. not ageist, purely descriptive) Commie (N.B. personal insult) spat at a fellow proletariat. A good argument for sitting on the extreme Right, out of Trot-range.

Simon Bexon's handling of the situation entirely justified his appointment, but still the egos of the many loomed large. If we don't understand it, it obviously can't be important. Instead of compassion for those struggling with our language on the subject most dear to their hearts, we appeared to feel only irritation. Would Byron's eloquence have silenced the mob?

Lastly, an outside speaker told us of the sufferings of a coloured alien at the hands of the British government. Most people (including many "socially-aware" individuals on the Left) walked out. Perhaps LSESU will be the next target for Divine Retribution.

SHORT TERM SECURITY – A BAD INVESTMENT

by STAVROS MAKRIS
and JAMES REEVES

Security has always been a problem at LSE.

Thus far this year nothing has happened to warrant concern, but last year alone the police were called in to the Three Tuns Bar several times, following cases of extreme disorder and violence. Nowadays, anyone can walk in, library card or not. The Clare Market doors which lead to the Three Tuns give access, in effect, to the whole complex; this is a ready-made Trojan Horse for any would be 'invader'.

To its credit, the Students' Union have been more responsible this year than ever before and have taken care of the East Building, but the ultimate responsibility surely lies with the School.

Research has revealed that as recently as nine years ago, seven guards patrolled the LSE at night, and at that time there was no library complex to take care of. Nowadays, the School relies on a five man team to protect the whole site. This works out to one man for every two buildings.

Two members of the current team of nightwatchmen are Jon Noon and Dave Carder. Both are ex-servicemen and experienced security guards, but even they would admit that they in themselves do not represent enough security. More men (and of course women trained to

the same standard) would be desirable.

Jon Noon remarks, "One thing that concerns me is the access that outsiders have to the Three Tuns, because of the trouble caused in the past, this is likely to re-occur at some time in the future." He's also worried about the live gigs that are held in the Main Building: "I'm surprised that, so far, there have been no incidents where my presence was urgently

Sivan



Jon Noon On Night Patrol

required. This is, no doubt, due merely to the efficiency and diplomacy of the ENTS crew on duty."

For many people, the pressure of work, or the wish to socialise, may mean them staying in the buildings late at night. Women working on the computers are particularly at risk. The night-watch comes on duty at 9pm, and under the current system, anyone who is in the building before that time can remain there. So it is left to the night security team to check the premises, and on many occasions, people have been caught smoking dope on the premises who had no right to be in the LSE in the first place.

So once again we are faced with the question of: 'What can be done?' What about an ID check for starters, especially at the Clare Market entrance? And an extension of the limited rape alarm system, that currently operates in certain female toilets, throughout the entire complex? And, eventually, perhaps we could have a complete closed-circuit monitoring circuit installed.

We have been lucky so far this year, but with so little attention being paid to the important issue of night-security, it surely cannot be long before something happens to wake the School up to the dangers.

We hope we won't have to say "We told you so."

Coffins at the DES

Day of Action against Student Loans

by NIC CICUTTI

Fifteen students from LSE joined two hundred more from all over London in a picket of the Department of Education and Science at Waterloo. The picket, called by London NUS on November 12th, was the culmination of a Day of Action against student loans which included the leafleting of commuters on the underground's Circle Line.

At the DES, a deputation of students dressed in black handed in a 2000-name petition protesting at the Government's proposal. A coffin symbolised the death of education featured in the demonstration.

The turn-out from London college student unions was described as disappointing by LSE General Secretary Pete Wilcock.

He added that in his opinion, 'NUS were wrong not to call a national demonstration against student loans this term.' The number of demonstrators, less than half the total at a similar march to the DHSS last year, was, Wilcock felt, 'a reflection of the NUS's misplaced tactics.'

Nevertheless, the picket was 'successful in terms of getting publicity for the campaign.'

Ron Beadle, NUS officer at LSE, was less critical: 'We would have wanted the demon-



Mark Moore

stration to be larger but were pleased with the turn-out at such short notice.' He denied that only two hundred students at such an event reflected a failure of the NUS's anti-loan strategy.

Other students outside the DES were not so diplomatic. 'Bloody pathetic' were the words of Liz Wheatley, SWSS member, used to describe the days events. 'The NUS has consistently refused to do anything more than call token pickets and demos against the Tories.' If things carried on in this way, the anti-loans campaign would collapse in exactly the same way as grants campaigns have

done over the last seven years, she predicted.

When asked what strategy she would put forward for defeating the Tories on this issue, she said: 'the only way to beat them is by being prepared to take direct action, including occupations, and link them nationwide.'

The next step in the campaign against loans, as far as NUS is concerned, will be a national demonstration in the New Year. Whether it will succeed in preventing Kenneth Baker's proposals must, on the basis of today's evidence, seem a slim bet.

SOCIETIES CORNER

By STAVROS MAKRIS

The **Indian Society**, in celebration of the Indian New Year, is staging a gastronomic extravaganza: a Diwali Night on Friday 21st November – Talvinder and party plus an exciting variety show. All are welcome – members £4.00 and £5.00 for non-members. A full Indian meal is included. Members of the Indian Society, in cooperation with the Social Secretary of Passfield Hall, have already staged a Diwali Night on Sunday 9th November. The event is reported to have been a great success, with a turnout of 150 people. The common consensus of the residents was "more – please, more..."

The **Malaysia-Singapore Society** presents the End of Term disco at Studio Valbonne on Friday 21st November. Admission by ticket only is £4.00 for members and £5.00 for non-members. The man to see for more details is Paul Chang, a first-year Law student (Passfield Hall).

The **Revolutionary Communist Society** is having a meeting on Zionism and Palestine. It will be addressed by RCP expert Daniel Nassim and will be held in A40, the Old Building, at 1 p.m. on Wednesday 19th November.

If there are any students interested in running in cross-country events organised by the **London Colleges Cross-Country Championships**, there is a race at Shooters' Hill, Eltham on Wednesday, 26th November at 3.15 p.m. Anyone wishing to run in this or other races should contact Erkki Burns via the Geography or Athletic Union pigeonholes.

The **West End Society** offers four £5.00 tickets for Thursday, 22nd November to see "Sink The Belgrano". The person to see is Ann Banks of the West End Society (Passfield, 382 7743).

The **LSE Conservative Society** has as a guest speaker on Monday 17th November, Sir Patrick Wayhew, the Solicitor General.

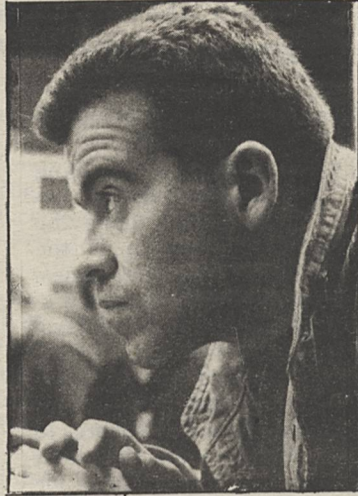
The **Ski Club** informs me that few places are still available for the January trip... hurry! But do not worry if you are late – this is the right time to sign up for the Easter trip: snow, snow and more snow.

Anyone interested in forming a **Boxing Club** should go to the Athletic Union between 1 and 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and see "Sugar" Ray Bradley or "Raging Bull" Barber.

If you want to complain about the state of the **Multi-Gym**, you should direct your efforts to the **Athletic Union**. It is about time something was done about it. The Multi-Gym is used through out the day by a great number of people whose attitudes towards sports and physical exercise vary. This in itself should be a strong incentive for the A.U. to repair it. The effort would be minimal and it would earn the gratitude of all those concerned.

The **Scandinavian Society** had a "spectacular" launch on Friday 7th November with a "huge crowd" attending. However, you can still make it to the introductory wine and cheese party. Details of time and venue to be posted outside the library. The aim of the Society, I am told, is "to hold seminars and discussions which are certain to come up with the solution to such problems as how to avoid a nuclear holocaust." The Society also claims that its parties make the Tequila Society look like kindergarten.

And while on the subject of the kindergarten, the **Tequila Society** presented "A Nightmare on Houghton Street" last Saturday, 8th November in the Three Tuns Bar. Though it may have failed to live up (or is it down?) to last year's parties, it still managed to achieve all time highs of Tequila and 'amber nectar' consumption, while at the same time it succeeded in reaching new all time lows... the **HUEY Society** held its first informal meeting



as it was expected and all members turned up and participated.

The **Cypriot Society** is now meeting in S78 every Wednesday at 1 p.m. and not A40 as previously reported. Following Thursday's (13th November) heated debate on the UDI issue, I had a chance to talk briefly to Costas Kazakos, last year's treasurer of the Society. He stressed that he was disappointed that the debate had gotten out of hand for a moment, but he was pleased with the final verdict, the acceptance by the UGM of the Cypriot-sponsored motion. Costas agreed that there is a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation regarding the Cypriot problem. This is not aided by the strong personal feelings involved. Basically, the Society is open to everyone; no one is excluded on grounds of creed or religion. The membership currently includes a Turkish student from Turkey. The objectives of the Society are the clarification of the Cyprus problem, and the plight of its people, and the promotion of restoration of independence and free political discussion. Its main interest is the promotion and cooperation among the people of Cyprus. This year membership has gone up by 20% and the Society aims to live up to its reputation built up by its activities last year.

Rag Week 1986-87

What? Here already? The year's hardly begun and we're already talking about Rag Week. Well, the truth is, avid readers, the hyper-efficient Rag committee have little else better to do with their time. Projects already under way include a sponsored "bore the UGM to death with Rag reports" event (sponsors and speech writers urgently required), an endurance test to see whose concentration will last the longest in a Rag committee meeting (current record seven minutes), and an attempt to fill the Beaver with mindless drivel.

If we may be serious for a paragraph or two, Rag Week has been set for February, from Friday the 13th to Saturday the 21st. This year we aim to raise £20,000 – and the only way we can achieve this is with the participation and co-operation of as many students as possible. Anyone with new ideas, or a willingness to help with existing ones is encouraged to come along to Rag meetings on

Tuesdays at 1 PM in E206 (Social Sec.'s office). If this is inconvenient, contact Skinny Gurney, Fatty Ford or Tequila Begley (all in Passfield Hall), and we will keep you informed of proceedings.

So what better excuse for letting your hair down and having a good time? Simon Bexon did exactly that last year and walked around with a skinhead for several weeks. After Freshers Week, Rag Week can be the liveliest week of the year, but it depends entirely on your involvement.

One constructive decision already made by the Rag Committee is the choice of charity we will be supporting. Our main charity will be MENCAP – The Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, which will receive 70% of the money raised, whilst the remaining 30% will be split equally between the Nursery fund and the South African Scholarship fund – both internal LSE charities.

Provisional Rag Timetable

Fri, 13th Feb.....Passfield "Nightmare" Rag Disco

Sat. 14th Feb.....Carr-Saunders Valentine Disco

Sun. 15th Feb.....Sports Day and hall events

Mon. 16th Feb.....Rag Revue

Tues. 17th Feb.....Tuns Rag Night/Street collections in morning

Wed. 18th Feb.....All-day Tuns opening, barbeque in Quadrangle

Thurs. 19th Feb....Multi-cultural evening

Fri. 20th Feb.....1 PM – Question Time with MPs from all parties, Pub crawls, Rosebery Hall Disco

Sat. 21st Feb.....The Rag Ball

THE BEAVER PRIZE CROSSWORD

Compiled by the Batt Brothers

Once again, another weary week spreads its distended tentacles across the slumbering cluster of dreary buildings that is the LSE. Once again, students, woken from their slumber by the baying of the political hacks who smell the blood of a fleeing sabbatical, are faced with that eternal dilemma: what the hell do they do today? Wandering aimlessly through the grim, crowded corridors in search of something to occupy themselves until the bar opens, they suddenly stumble upon...The Beaver! And inside, at last, something that will keep their brains occupied for a very long time. Yes, truly. Just when you were about to admit defeat and go to a lecture, the crossword returns once again. And what an absolute ripper we have for you this week, fellow cryptaholics, and no mistake. To help you fill in the grid, we have included a few little hints below. (In the biz we call them CLUES.) Oh, and congratulations to Kelly Sors who won last week's easy peasy puzzle, to which we had literally thousands of answers (0.007 thousands to be precise.) And next week's prize is really quite extraordinary. So, get moving if you're to get those entries in by Wednesday, and remember: "Time don't hang about for nobody" (or something like that).

Across

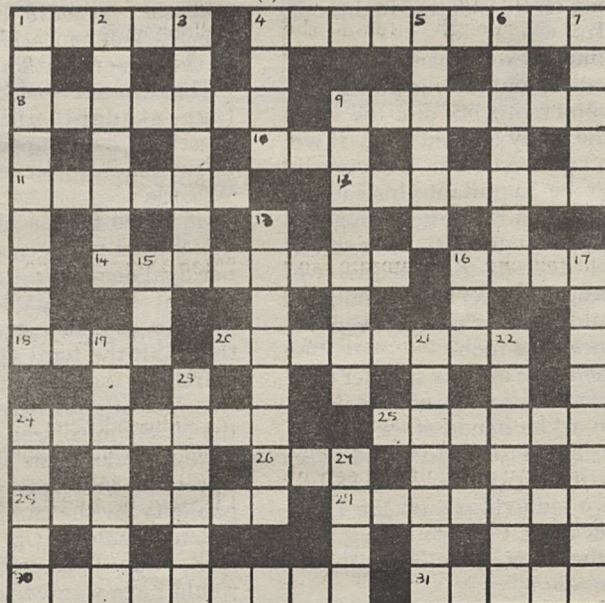
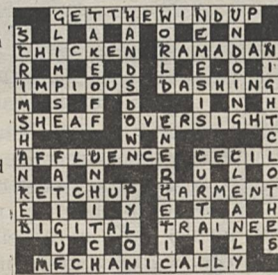
1. Cattle guide. (5)
4. Realistic experiment of some use. (9)
8. Referring to costume to put right. (7)
9. Throw us clear away from religion. (7)
10. Couple tow breakdown. (3)
11. Junk on hire. (6)
12. Creed about morning time, taken from the top. (7)
14. Game hand shuffled for that place in Essex. (8)
16. Is back in car club India's way. (4)
18. Throbbing ache for every single one. (4)
20. Magazine given away when there's nothing else to do? (4,4)
24. Splash out after Saturday starts to look submissive. (7)
25. Circle ranch aimlessly for a firm hold. (6)
26. Iran lefties, boom, boom! (1,1,1)
28. Angry, caring nothing for living material. (7)
29. Train crash follows company car. (7)
30. Where you'd never think of looking for a cobbler's tool. (4,5)
31. Seer first got older, then flavoured. (5)

Down

1. Tax sounds like a levy on a knighthood. (9)
2. Awfully rude end that went on. (7)
3. Ring around fish is staggering. (7)
4. It's already gone, but it sounds like it was carried. (4)
5. Arrange kit etc. to find just the thing. (6)
6. Journalists' 'spaces' kept from the ranks. (7)
7. Colourful, bottomless urn inside lid. (5)
9. Cry for help about storage for philosopher. (8)
13. "An arch, I see! How disorderly." (8)

15. Part of cigarette that comes from a tree? (3)
16. Long police weapon? (3)
17. Sprinkled parmesan over dish first and, symbolically... (9)
19. ...He sang discordantly, starting with the chorus first, making alterations. (7)
21. Repairing drains around the first of November shows a lot of guts. (7)
22. Repeats are rebounding, repeats are rebounding. (7)
23. Forty winks for Billy's offspring could lead to an abduction. (6)
24. Stop around aroundabout as low as you can. (5)
27. It is a measure of the size of the field that the race was so disordered. (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



It is very important that Rag Week remains totally non-political – after all, the sole priority of Rag Week is to maximize the money raised to help deserving charities. Clearly the Rag Mag and Rag Revue can become contentious issues, so it would be constructive to have a wide consensus of opinion and contributions. We are particularly interested in the advice of students who have experienced Rag Week events at other universities or colleges.

Contrary to the widespread belief, Rag Week is not solely about drinking as much as you can and putting your loose change in collection boxes – there is a lot of fun to be had by everyone, from boat races on the Thames (and we mean rowing!) to a multi-cultural evening, from jumping out of aeroplanes to hitch-hiking to foreign parts, and from hall discos to the All Night Ball. Enjoyment through involvement is the key – and the biggest winners will be the charities themselves.

See you in E206, Tuesday, 1 PM Nigel Gurney (Rag Chair) Chas Begley (Rag Vice-Chair) Richard Ford (Rag Treasurer)

Around the L.S.E.

By J.J.

The UGM finally came alive last week as the first censure motions of the year came and went. Pete saved his job, but the real winner was Tory O'Turncoat, who now has Pete in his pocket for the rest of the year; and as we all know, being near Tory's clothes is awful, never mind being in them. However, if debate in the UGM was entertaining, outside of it was even better...Chris Riley accused Grandma Catt of housing "40 lesbians" on her person, when, of course, everyone knows ex-SDP chairwomen never do such things.

Mind you, if Riley was entertainingly stupid, then Yuppie Tarantula, Sasha, and Laura Matthews must be plain stupid. These mature adults (going to conference to represent us, remember) won't share a room with Rachel Platts at NUS Conference, because of her stance on stripping. Thankfully, Ron "man of the people" Beadle gallantly offered to share with Rachel. Rachel was last seen on

her knees talking to Sasha.

Needless to say the Tequila "Nightmare on Houghton Street" was exactly that. Anyone who is anyone was there, even Freddie Mercury popped in and ended up serving behind bar as Weatherprophet slashed his hand. I think we can all be thoroughly disgusted at the way 29 bottles of tequila were drunk in 1 1/2 hours, but even more disgusting was the way the bar almost ran dry of spirits. Simon, however, was more concerned with the broken tables, glasses and pin-ball machine. Roll on the next one in 3 weeks time.

The poet Beadle was at the party, dressed in very ideologically unsound attire; clearly the tequila made him forget that pseudo-silk kimonos are a leading product of sweatshops!! Later in the week, Ron was at the centre of things again...dressed in subtle and sexy black, he lead a "mass" demo (25 - 1 counted) of angry L.S.E. students to Temple Tube and beyond. Is this the start of more vote-winning trips that won Tory office?



"Ode to Freddie Laker Beadle"
"He is a socialist called Ron,
Who reckons "Free Education is Gone",
But his demo on tube,
Was a bit of a boob,
As very few others got on!!"

In closing, a tip...don't annoy people holding needles. Kilby is now a pig/sheep/man/second-hand pin cushion following his donation of blood, and all he did was tell the doctor he was a Tory. Finally, Nicky Morris (who?) asked me to say something nice about her...but I couldn't think of anything.

P.S. Peter Dawson once wrote a book about "his struggle".

Rosebery Report

The big event of the week was the Hall meeting which was held on Monday. Mr Klappholz opened up the meeting and talked to us of the disappointment he felt at recent events in the hall, especially the letting off of 4 fire extinguishers. He asked for any witnesses to please come forward.

The next big issue was over whether the Hall should continue to take "The Times" newspaper as some people objected to it because of the sacked printworkers. Marko led the faction in favour of "The Times" saying that it had the best legal coverage and that lawyers in the Hall would be worse off if the Hall stopped its order. It was also mentioned that it was the only newspaper which had the Yugoslavian football results.

Nick Randall spoke against "The Times" and informed us all that continuing to order the paper would be paramount to crossing a picket line and that many Hall residents felt it offensive that we should be putting money into the coffers of fascists like Rupert Murdoch. In the end there was a majority in favour of "The Times". It was then decided to order other publications including "The Beano". The latest great defeat for the left has therefore resulted in an increase in the paper bill.

The race for Hall President has already started. Hugh Jones is obviously standing, and I am informed that Suzy Fitzpatrick and Chris Redman will stand as well. If these individuals constitute the whole field then I may well stand myself. (The Unknown Playwright.)

Other points of information: Rory and Pete are always welcome at Rosebery. At the last Hall meeting we also decided to

install a tampon machine and to investigate the possibilities of a duxex machine. It was also decided to set up a 'walking home service' in order that Hall residents can walk home safely at night. It just goes to show what a proper progressive lot we are. Rosebery also had the biggest Hall contingent on the Anti-Fascist march on Sunday.

President Gis has been ice-skating and recently went to the Theatre for the second time and actually dressed up for the occasion! He is also in the final of the pool tournament in which he will play the Welsh Wizard, "Dick Dick". Nick Randall was also seen reading "The Times". Perhaps this is because he has suddenly realised its literary merits - or is it because its the only newspaper that does not getnicked? (just goes to prove that there is honour amongst thieves!)

Till again, anon
The Unknown Playwright
and Frederick Pus

Carr-Saunders Hall Report



The hole of sin and depravity has been very quiet this week. Doubtlessly numbed into contemplation of its conscience. In fact, there was a lovely little outing of the Carr-Saunders Anti Feminists League - skipping about Regents Park, picking daisies and discussing Winnie The Pooh (with his clothes on) at great length. We await the censure motion with bated breath - apparently part of the election manifesto of the new women's officer. Meanwhile, nerves are frayed and twitching

at the prospect of Kate and Emma's next adventure - Watch out LSE, you ain't seen nothing yet!

Going back to pooh, are there really not enough toilets in the Hall - local pedestrians have been complaining of little packaged No. 2's, from on high. To go to the other extreme, talk to Mr Clean - how many showers this week, Darren?? Yes, one of our first years has finally been up to naughty tricks. He molested one of Brummie Yo's friends, dragging her into the shower at least five times in 24 hours. This was followed by a superb magic trick by "Quacks", who pulled Dirty Darren's "undercrackers" out of the guilty party's shower bag. We know what you've been up to!!

Talking of "being up", a lot of banging was heard in F415 last Tuesday night - Dancing Brave having another ride round the

flat?

By the way, what was Brian doing at Lincoln's Inn last Monday to justify returning to C-S in a drunken stupor, slobbering over every girl in sight.

Slobbering is "in" at Saunders at the moment. Even our leader is getting in on the act. She hasn't been around much recently - Hugh knows where she goes!?

To end, here are our tips for the C-S pool tournament. We've got our money on a win for "Mad Dog" Moreno or cute and cuddly Shippo. See you next week!

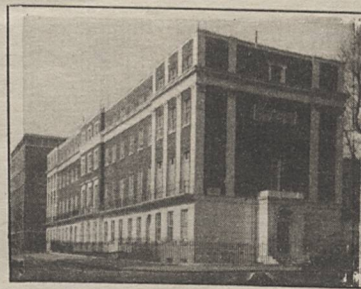
The Three Stupid Monkeys

PS Did you know that sharing a room with our leader is ideologically unsound?

PPS Our best wishes to Glandular Fever John - any young lady who contracts the disease this year will be in for suspicious glances!!

Passfield Hall Report.

Here with a blank piece of paper I sit
Not particularly inspired by sarcasm or wit;
But I've reached the conclusion, for better, for worse,
That the Passfield Report should be put into verse.
Onto the scene came a new breed of loon
As we all were attached by the famous racoon;
And as if there wasn't enough on our plate
He was followed quite closely by a Lemur called Kate.
So, if you feel something furry in the middle of the night,
Twas R.A.COON that did it, not J.J., alright!
A dilemma arose ~ there was trouble in t'bar ~
The xxxx refused to travel too far;
Whilst Millie was hassled and fighting for speech,
Chas exercised the parts the beer hadn't reached.
But Keg to the rescue on his white charger came
And Chas was restored to Golden Heaven again.
Now, how can I explain what I did espy
As our own Richard Ford did try to sneak by
With some shapely, false legs kicked under his wing ~
Just take care that this fetish doesn't harm anything!
Or could it be linked to the scandal that's born
Out of Aaron's laundrette runs in the chill, early morn?
Or maybe this is from lack of clothing to stash
Whatever the upper saw when Chassy did flash.
For the ATESEC crew, it was cocktails till dawn
And Sid cried out "Lorna, please, not my horn!"
But was he prepared for what did await
When confronted by a sister with a similar trait?
As Rachel's amour must to Turkey depart
Will she now pine for a cute, little Fart?
Or perhaps she will laugh and find it quite funny
When she knows he's returned to his old chum, Bummy.
For those who've been scorned by Rob (Welshman) / Neil (Cochney)
When abstaining from alcohol or preferring a softie;
You might like to know the Pub Crawl of Fleet Street
Saw both, after two pubs, completely dead meat.
And then there's Chris Marsden, who had quite a session
Twixt the sheets of his roomie ~ interior decoration.
And whilst on the subject, Chris O. what a fella
Whose hair is really Hard Rock Gel by Wella.
But what about Cathy? Hair's the answer, I think ~
She's fed up with Peroxide so has moved on to Pink!
Diwali on Sunday was quite an event
Where Don, it was clear, was in his element;
As his huge appetite did deplete the stock,
His winning two dinners was really no shock.
Or maybe the reason he's filling his plate
Is what also makes Nigel sleep chez J.J. or Kate!
Then after, the highlight: video, "Taxi Driver"
(A close contest for most popular with "St. Elmo's Fire")
Which wound up a tame week in a tame sort of way ~
And now I've run short of things left to say.
So, I'll bid you adieu (with a "hug you and kiss you")
And say Good Luck to Beaver on its two fiftieth issue!



Pandora

P.S. My dear Kilby, for your information,
The Women's Room, as yet, has no fixed location;
And although I am sorry to deny you your kicks,
It will definitely NOT be in Room Ninety Six!

TWO HUNDRED & F

250 Editions of the Same Issues?

By KATE MEYRICK

Whilst the national press banner headlines announced the lifting of the Berlin Blockade and the ordeal of the HMS Amerthyst, in a quiet street off Fleet Street, a new newspaper carried a different headline and alternative front-page stories. The 5th of May 1949 saw the newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union hit the streets.

George Bernard Shaw made the lead headline with a post-

Well Read!

Over the last 250 issues, the proximity of the LSE to Fleet Street has meant that activities of the School and the Union have been quickly taken up by the national papers, and it has also resulted in the fact that "The Beaver" is probably the only student newspaper regularly read by Fleet Street

edian and actor, Ron Moody – who in a later interview with "The Beaver" claimed to have been spotted whilst performing in the LSE review – was noted for his talent as a cartoonist; it

Famous '49ers

is also rumoured that Mick Jagger helped with layout. Bernard Levin, whilst at the LSE, was Editor and under him the paper took on a totally different format.

Has the paper changed significantly over 37 years and 250 issues? In format, there have been many changes. Page size has been reduced, enlarged, reduced and enlarged again; the headline size has in general become smaller and more uniform; and the size of the photographs has decreased, whilst the need for advertising revenue has precipitated the inclusion of half and full page ads. We have used coloured logos, cartoons of the Beaver, and even full-sized cartoons for the front page. We have moved for a sabbatical editor, charged for the newspaper, and, for a while in 1972, we went independent when the Union disclaimed us.

Interviews have always been a strong point, with comments from Willy Brandt, Harold Wilson MP, Michael Heseltine, Miss World 1962, '63, '64, Oswald Mosely and Cassius Clay, to name but a few. Indeed in issue 111, the famous boxer advocated a policy of total separation as the solution to the American colour problem, ending a charismatic speech with "No prejudice; I just love myself; I don't hate nobody."

Mark Moore



"AND SO GENTLEMEN, EITHER WE SINK OUR DIFFERENCES AND STAND TOGETHER OR THIS NEW PUBLICATION 'BEAVER', WILL PUT US ALL OUT OF BUSINESS!"

Mark Moore

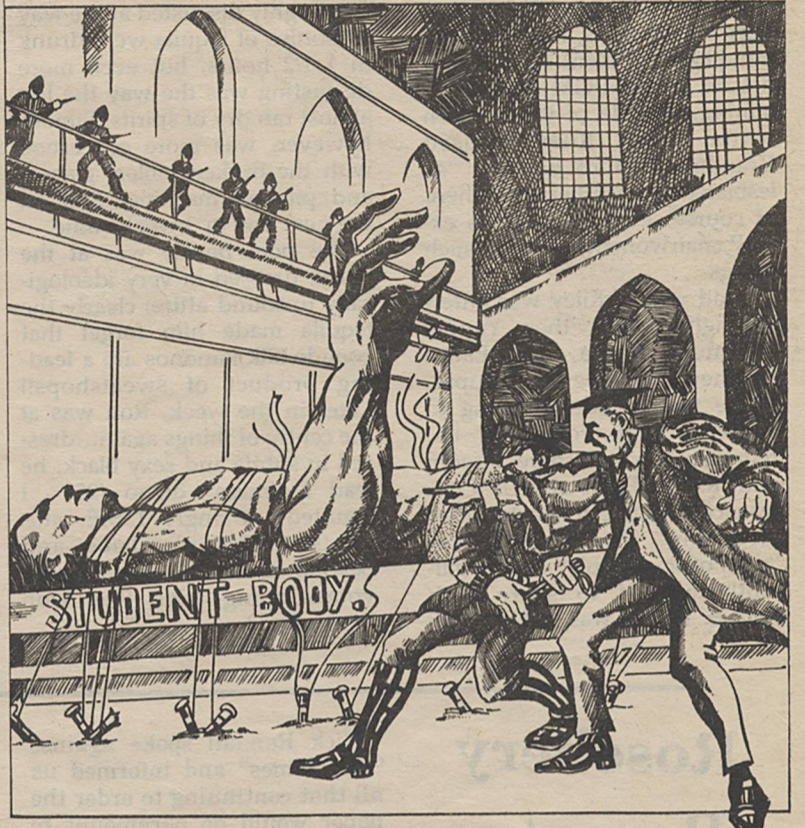
card sent to "The Beaver" for inclusion in its first issue. "Socialism will abolish classes but will replace them with sets," he told us. "The Beaver, while accepting this as natural and inevitable, should organize meetings of all the sets – to save them stewing in their several juices, and live by taking in their own washing." The content of this postcard was supportive of the concept of a Beaver collective, with a binding ideal of collective responsibility (i.e. of not washing its dirty linen in public).

hacks. In recent years the exploits of Martin Graham and the Equine Alliance in their bid to buy a race horse and the various sit-ins and demonstrations have made front-page news. A letter written to "the Times" by the president and council nearly resulted in their expulsion in the 1960's, and this week's story on British gas shares saving the nursery.

Of those '49ers who began the paper, the Arts editor is perhaps the most famous. Com-

BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION
No. 72 First of Autumn Term 66. or 21 NP.



Prime Minister-to-be Wilson told Beaver reporters that the "LSE taught me how to work hard and with a sense of purpose."

The Issues

Through the pages of 250 editions, what have been the issues? Activities of the Union, with the Council (now remodelled and renamed 'The Executive') provided much copy, especially during the 1960s when the front pages were full of resignations, elections, censorships, re-elections, speeches and denials. The disciplinary

In 1965 the strike on over-crowding drew remarks from the national press, showing "LSE to be the worst off in terms of physical and financial resources of all universities in the country." Accommodation was an ever-pressing issue and as such, "the Beaver" covered the building of Carr-Saunders Hall with anticipation; sadly, twenty-four years later, accommodation is still an issue, even as our fourth hall is being planned.

Surveys on food and catering facilities ran regularly with Wrights Snack Bar frequently topping the bill in terms of hygiene, quality and staffing. In 1972 – and later in Elwyn Watkins' day – meat pies and

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BEAVER

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

New Series, VOL. I, No. 1. Published Fortnightly—THURSDAY, MAY 5th, 1949. Price 3d.

Price 3d.

BERNARD SHAW GREETES BEAVER

"Socialism will abolish classes: Beaver should organise the sets"—G.B.S.

Socialism will abolish classes; but it will replace them by sets.

The Beaver, whilst accepting this as natural and inevitable, should organize meetings of all the sets to save them from stewing too long in their several juices and live by taking in their own washing.

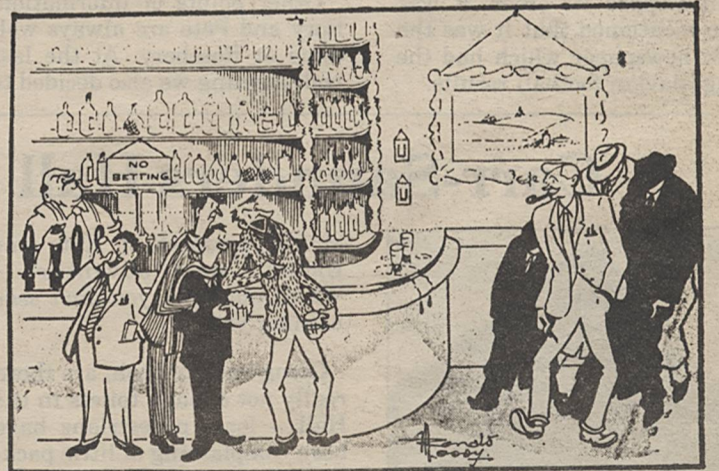
Ayon Sait La Verre,
Weylyn, Heris.
9/3/1949

Should the university students in Congress have a 'Beaver' day? This is the central problem of the Congress, as discussed in the report and Bernard's Harvest. Mr. Lloyd Jones, representing the Free Church Council, opposed the Beaver students' approach, stating that "It is a violation of the traditions on which the Welsh University was founded." Yet another Free Church Council member said that he viewed the idea with surprise and disgust, and the magazine, advocating in favour of tradition and dignity, refused a licence.

The article on the other hand, in which the Beaver is mentioned, is a very interesting one, and one of the few which is not a mere report. It is a very good example of the kind of writing which the Beaver should aim at. It is a very good example of the kind of writing which the Beaver should aim at. It is a very good example of the kind of writing which the Beaver should aim at.

The second day of the Congress was primarily devoted to the fact that there was no 'Beaver' session. The journal committee was invited to discuss the Beaver session, but they did not do so. The journal committee was invited to discuss the Beaver session, but they did not do so.

In this, the first edition of "Beaver", we asked George Bernard Shaw to contribute. He has done so, and his contribution is a very good one. It is a very good example of the kind of writing which the Beaver should aim at. It is a very good example of the kind of writing which the Beaver should aim at.



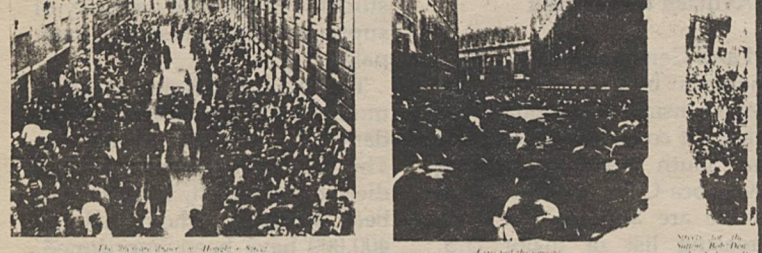
action against president Adles-tein (accompanied by death threats from students), and the ensuing riots of the late '60's made for gripping news, both in the college paper and the national press. Typical from this time are headlines such as "Presidential candidate barred due to court detention" and captions, "President resigns due to disgust at petty wrangling and petty manoeuvres."

chips was a major issue; the students, it was felt, needed a good, filling, staple diet!

"Thank Heavens For Little Girls"

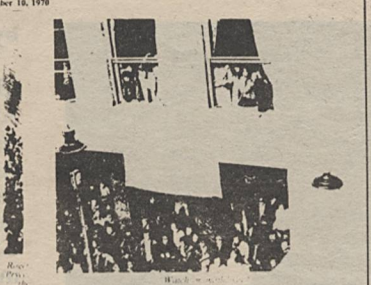
Women and women's issues have been prominent since the first edition. At one time there was a women's page (edited by men) offering a fashion feature

Two Hundred and Fift



THE DEMOS HOUGHTON ST., REVISITED

The theory of politics... The demonstration at Houghton Street... The fact that women have smaller brains than men is the reason why there has never been a female Beethoven... The main thrust of the article seeks to show how women are not encouraged to develop their talents. As such, some views provide a continuous thread in Beaver articles.



The other successful candidates... None of these have specific positions... The other 12 positions on the Executive... The other 12 positions on the Executive are also vacant.

BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LSE STUDENTS' UNION No. 133 OCTOBER 20th, 1974 FREE

VOTE, YOU BASTARDS, VOTE

AT the end of this week you will have the chance to vote into power 12 students to run your Students' Union.

Voting will take place all day on Friday, November 1st, outside the Old Theatre. If you want to question the candidates on Wednesday, October 30th, when they will be answering and reading questions. If you think you will be able to legitimately meet the Union this year, the first thing to do is to make sure you have voted.

Call to Govt. HUGH SCANLON was the first person to leave to vote the proposal that the Government should be called to account for its actions in the Falkland Islands. He was joined by a number of other students who were also calling for a general election.

Let this Government bury the Social Contract as it buried the Industrial Relations Act and set the stage for a socialist transformation of this country. The leader of the MRC said on the Government's failure to redistribute wealth and income in this country.

Senate hit

PROFESSOR JOHN GRIMM of the LSE is leading an attack on the Senate of the University of London. He claims that the Senate is a relic of the past and that its members are not representative of the students.

SSC phoenix?

ASHES SMOULDERING... MEETINGS PAST... MEETINGS FUTURE... ELECTIONS BEING HELD... PROBABLE MEETINGS...

OF BEAVER!

LIBERATED BEAVER

BEAVER No. 114 January 20th 1972 Newspaper of LSE Students Union

5p

BEAVER HAS TO BE SOLD! When Mans cut off funds to the Union, he said that societies, secretaries, etc. who were prepared to work under the new defect constitution would be financed directly by him. He specifically excluded Beaver from any further association with either the Union or the School.

While we are honoured by his special attention, our print bill is enormous! So, please, please support your local underground, subversive, paper by paying for it. Any money over and above the print bill will be paid into Union funds.

and coverage of the Miss LSE competition. The early 1970s saw "Thank Heavens for little girls" and a collection of photographs and cartoons which, by the standards of the modern Union and of many women today, would be seen as sexist and derisive. Under the article "Too big for their brains" was the caption, "The fact that women have smaller brains than men is the reason why there has never been a female Beethoven" would appear out of context, outrageous and sexist; however, the main thrust of the article seeks to show how women are not encouraged to develop their talents. As such, some views provide a continuous thread in Beaver articles.

Interesting features included weekly bridge problems, a legal advice column, president's right to reply and the inevitable Hall Reports. These began with the sole story of weekly events in Passfield and have culminated in the page of news, views and scandal from the three halls and around the school. The Athletic Union (and its finances) have been under constant scrutiny - with comments on sailing, mountaineering, draughts and long-distance running.

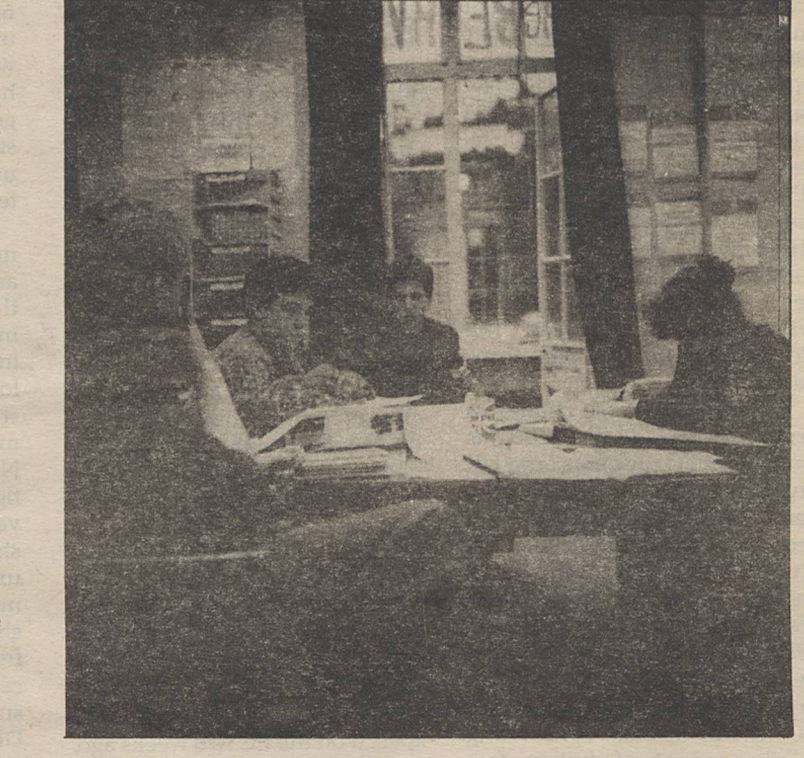
The Future

Where is "The Beaver" going in the future? This year we are going back to weekly editions, and even though we have been barraged with criticism for sexist and racist remarks, the paper is being lifted out of the apathy which has surrounded it during the last few months. It is evident from looking at the past

issues that there has been a decrease in the number of foreign students writing for the paper, and that there has been a shift from reporting on national issues and international politics to running stories on student concerns.

If you want "The Beaver" to survive 250 more issues, contribute to it. Any articles, cartoons and comments are considered. The outstanding feature of "The Beaver" is that it is your paper, and so should reflect you. It has done this in the past, and with your help, will continue to do so in the future.

Sivan



Heseltine speaks at LSE

Former Defence Minister is given an easy time.

by ROSS BROADSTOCK

"If I had tried to say what I did today five years ago at the LSE, I would have been howled down!" This was the after-speech comment of Michael Heseltine, MP, who was allowed to pass virtually unscathed through all the controversial issues of defence, unemployment, the benefit system and the reverse of socialism through privatisation.

The Old Theatre was packed with people from the entire political spectrum, and the scene seemed set for a lively session. However, hopes for an impassioned debate faded as the former Conservative minister's speech brought only polite applause, one ignored heckle and a solitary burst of laughter. This unusual civility was some reflection on the fact that Heseltine did, for the most part, remain reasonably objective and tried to keep the whole proceedings on an intellectual plane. He seemed to want to avoid being controversial - preferring to appear factual and logical whenever possible.

His opening was on defence, and it was quite a predictable line for an ex-Conservative defence minister. He stated that "NATO has been one of the greatest alliances of all time...and has helped to keep peace in Europe for forty years." To maintain this peace he emphasised the need for conventional arms as well as nuclear capability, as "nuclear weapons have not had any destabilising effect on Europe... they have brought about meaningful dialogue and negotiation with Russia."

This preamble seemed almost irrelevant to the rest of an otherwise well-structured speech which concentrated on



Sunil Shah

domestic issues. In an analogy (which he later admitted was false) he used the cost of unemployment in defence to show the unfeasibility of direct "job creation". Instead, he described unemployment as "a symptom of our inability to employ people in our wealth-creating process," and argued that as such, it should not be dealt with directly, as many people believe, but instead the causes should be identified and solved. His solutions started with an improvement in education (which seemed ironic, in view of his government's recent education cuts) and claimed that there are still many jobs available for those with the necessary skills. Heseltine then seemed very keen about research and development on at least a national scale. Using examples from Japan and the USA, where centrally-controlled bodies have controlled large projects with profitable spin-offs throughout the economy, he argued that the UK should attempt this through the Department of Trade and Industry. However, in order to compete on really equal terms, the UK must unite closely with Europe in order to compete on a large enough level.

After then plugging privatisation, Heseltine returned to unemployment. Starting with regional unemployment he illustrated "the attempts to remove the alienating features of the Northern areas," suggesting that "an English development agency be formed" to draw people away from the utopian South. His next criticism was that many jobs are not filled due to competition from benefits and the black economy with a "work option sometimes showing little financial reward." Comparing it with the American "Work-fare" system, he suggested that people should work for their benefits, and that by not doing so you are "denying to those people a real chance to fulfill themselves in life." He believed, though, that people would be more prepared to do this in a place like Henley than in places "less used to the work ethic" (particularly the North).

After a final burst of rhetoric, some well-avoided questions, the Tory MP left the theatre to resounding applause, with the thoughts that "if I can get this message across to the LSE, then surely I can convince the general electorate."

DIVESTMENT WORKS!

by Avinash D. Persaud

IBM and General Motors, two of America's biggest companies, recently disinvested from South Africa. Of course disinvestment from South Africa is nothing new. Coca-Cola and Procter & Gamble are also on the ever-increasing list of major U.S. companies who have pulled out of South Africa this year.

American companies are doing this largely as a response to divestment pressure. Universities, pension funds, churches and charities across America are refusing to invest in South Africa-related companies. More than 55 American universities, seven State pension funds and many more union pension funds have already decided not to invest in South African companies.

The effect of companies disinvesting will be to hasten the end of apartheid because every disinvestment severely rocks business confidence and support for the government, and without that support, the white minority government has no hope of continuing to lord it over 26 million blacks.

Unfortunately, divestment pressure in Britain is far less than in the United States. Not one university in Britain has yet fully divested from apartheid. The LSE Divestment Report, recently produced by the LSE Open Committee on Divestment, attempts to convince LSE

students of the dire necessity of supporting our divestment campaign.

The report highlights the enormous costs apartheid inflicts daily on the black population. This year over 2500 people have died in the unrest, 200,000 have been detained without trial and 400,000 have been imprisoned. Furthermore, every year 78,000 black children die needlessly because apartheid is a system which ensures that, in a country rich in gold and diamonds, black children die of malnourishment. The report shows that the cost of apartheid on the blacks is much greater than the short-term cost of sanctions.

The report also reminds us that it is the black people themselves who are calling for sanctions. They know that sanctions are not painless, but apartheid brings them so much pain that they would rather suffer by bringing down apartheid than suffer in its perpetuation. They tell us that in South Africa black people have only one right - the right to die. They would like to exercise that right in the way they see fit and not in the way President Botha would like.

It would be heartening if LSE students could regain the mantle of being Britain's most progressive student body by forcing the LSE to be the first university in Britain to divest. Please, read the report and offer any help to the divestment campaign that you can.



Many students showed up to support LSE Anti-Apartheid's picket of Shell-Mex House last Thursday. The protest was part

of national Anti-Apartheid's month of action against Shell, one of the biggest investors in South Africa.

Equal rights for EEC students?

By ANDREAS UTERMAN

On 1 July the Government announced that from September 1986 onwards, it would reimburse the tuition fees payable by students from EC countries and UK students who meet the necessary conditions and do not otherwise qualify for support if they satisfy certain conditions for eligibility. The two main conditions are that a student must be a national and a resident within the territory of the Community for the past three years.

The purpose of the change in arrangements is to give students from other EC countries (and UK student resident in the EC) the same conditions for payment of fees as are already applied to UK students. The courses affected are those designated in the Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 1983. This passage can be found in a publication by the permanent representative in the UK with the EC in Brussels, concerning reimbursement of tuition fees payable (or already paid, as is the case for 1986) by EC nationals studying at British universities. (N.B. This government amendment did not come about without

increasing pressure from EC governments and a ruling of the European Court of Justice in 1985, leaving the Thatcher government almost without choice!)

What does this amendment signify in practice for EC students? How is the LSE going to reimburse the EC students? Point iii) of the publication states "Detailed advice about the change will be sent to institutions by the end of September, but it may be that some are not yet aware of the change." (You don't say...) The LSE was not "yet aware" of that change by the middle of October, on the 25th, although the DES had confirmed that information concerning the new regulations had been sent to universities in the first week of October. (That must have been 4th class mail.)

Finally, on the 31st of October it seemed that the school had at last received the new directive. A letter by the Welfare Office, as precise and succinct as Mr. Noel's speech on the EC two weeks ago, was drafted and published in this week's "Beaver", saying that "it seems likely that the school will be reimbursed by the government..." If this over-cautious language and the time

elapsed since the beginning of term - 6 weeks at a minimum - until the first steps by the school were actually noticed, gives any hint as to how the question is going to be handled in the future, students will not be reimbursed until the beginning of summer term.

In the meantime, students' money stays in the government's and school's accounts, bringing them £800.00 of interest per month at least! (Calculated at an interest rate of 10% p.a., and the lowest student fees of £36 for 170 students concerned.) What if that money was invested in the Nursery? (Looking at these figures, it is clear that from next year onwards, EC students should not pay their fee and wait until they are reimbursed 6 months later, but the school should claim that money directly from the government. I am almost certain that the school will make sure it is being reimbursed by the DES not later than the end of October.) Unfortunately, we can do nothing but wait until the promised letter arrives and check the school's decision on eligibility in cases where EC students will not be reimbursed.

STUDENT UNION

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Pension funds may not, therefore, be as willing to snap up shares from small investors after the initial issue. But Simon Ellison, British Gas specialist with leading London stock brokers Savory Milne, told "The Beaver" that the "Private Eye" story, while substantially correct, overestimates the position. "Shares will open at a premium which could be up to 40% on the partly paid form." Whilst this is not as good as the TSB flotation, quick money could be made if the LSE Stu-

dent Union moves fast.

The whole affair has aroused substantial media interest reminiscent of the 1983 Racehorse debacle when LSE students proposed to spend £10,000 on buying a racehorse. At the time of going to press, "The Independent" was set to run a story titled "British Gas Saves Sid's Kids," a play on British Gas' advertising campaign "Tell Sid", which refers to Sidney Webb, leading Fabian, founder of the LSE and early advocate of the nationalisation of gas.

CYPRUS - THE AGONY CONTINUES

by CONSTANTINOS KAZAKOS

Three years ago, on November 15th, 1983, the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus declared itself unilaterally independent. At the time, those who supported "UDI" (the regime in mainland Turkey and the Cypriot Turkish minority) claimed that such an act would facilitate progress towards a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. It would lead, they maintained, to the establishment of a new, federated state of Cyprus. Three years later, such a claim has proven to be untrue. Cyprus is a divided country, divided against the wishes of its own people, one third of whom are refugees within their own land.

In order to understand how this has come about, we must go back to 1960, when after years of struggle against the British, Cyprus achieved independence. Given the fact that Cyprus is populated by people of both

Cypriot President and the Turkish Cypriot Vice-President were given the power of veto over Parliament's decisions. Any change in fiscal, municipal



tants (almost 40% of the population) from both sides of the divide are unable to return to their homes.

Despite the fact that no country in the world (except Turkey) has recognized the newly formed "Turkish Republic of Cyprus," this has not prevented Mr. Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Premier from visiting the area in June of this year and stating that "In Cyprus I feel like I do in every other province of Turkey." Such sentiments perhaps give us a better idea of what the Turkish state intends for the occupied area. Since 1974, almost 20,000 Greek Cypriots have been evicted from the North and have been replaced by 50,000 Turkish Cypriots from the government-controlled area. A further 65,000 Turkish peasants from Anatolia have been imported into the occupied area and given voting and property rights there. How long before the whole island is annexed by Turkey?

In the past 12 years, in spite of continuous attempts by the UN to mediate, no negotiated settlement to the current occupation has been agreed to by the Turkish regime. We have to demand the immediate withdrawal of Turkish troops and settlers from the occupied territory. Nor can the continuing problem of those still missing

or electoral law required separate community majorities. Cyprus' constitution was a unique attempt to unite both sides within the Cypriot Community.

Yet, even such attempts at power-sharing were rejected by an extremist Turkish Cypriot leadership. In 1963-64 they financed an armed rebellion against the state. Despite the civil strife, co-operation between both sides continued until halted by the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

On July 20th of that year, in a military operation code-named "Atilla", the Turkish army invaded Northern Cyprus. The then-Turkish Prime Minister claimed that this act was undertaken to restore constitutional order. "We are not bringing war but peace to Cyprus," he said.

The facts behind the invasion belie such a claim. Hundreds of civilians were killed; schools, churches and hospitals were looted and destroyed. Even now, 1,618 people are still "missing" within occupied Turkish territory. Some 200,000 inhabi-



since 1974 be allowed to fester on. Until these things happen, the ideals of peace, justice and freedom will be absent from the lives of all Cypriot people.



Greek and Turkish descent, the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee gave Britain, Turkey and Greece the responsibility of guaranteeing the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Cypriot people.

The Cypriot constitution provided for a 7:3 Greek/Turkish share of power within the legislature (according to the 1960 population census Turkish Cypriots were 18.1% of the population). A 6:4 share was to be provided in the Public Service, with equal shares in the Judiciary. There were to be separate chambers to deal with religious matters, and both the Greek



1619 people are missing since the invasion

Academic Stagnation

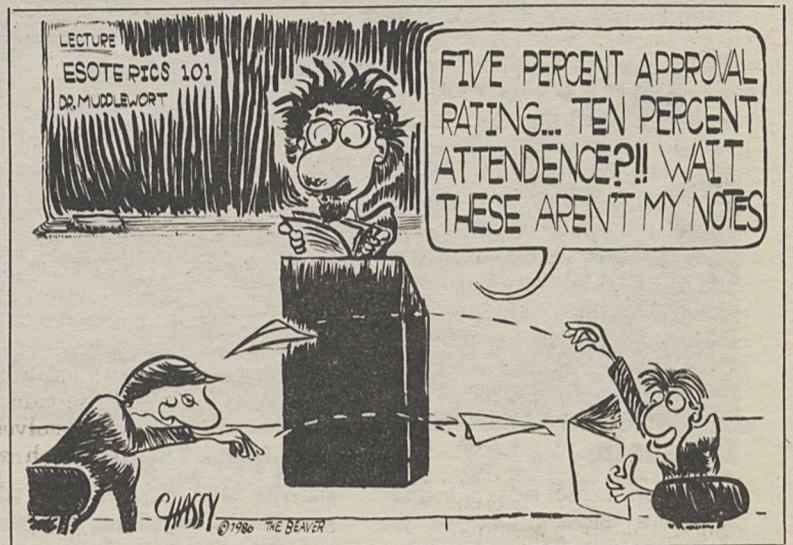
FROM PAGE 1

or to spend long hours updating lecture notes.

There are, of course, those who have surpassed the incentive structure and who give high priority to their influence upon students. The trend that emerges through interviews with lecturers from different departments, however, is a career-oriented approach which is geared towards promotion and success in the academic field. According to one professor in the Sociology Department: "There is far too little emphasis placed on lectures, tutorials, and

of the school, and to share ideas and experiences with others. But, as their expectations fade, they withdraw into a small clique or begin to wander around aimlessly.

There is yet another group of students who are so involved in school party politics or the organisation of societies that they spend very little time studying. One hardly needs to mention the Three Tuns tipplers who spend so much time dulling their senses that they have difficulty understanding anything more than the bathroom graffiti. When asked what he thinks of his lectures, one student replied:



private meetings with students since these interfere with research and the possibilities of promotion." The academic system is obviously not functioning as it should if the students are perceived as a burden by their ambitious professors.

Some students see their university studies as a necessary and socially conditioned continuation of secondary education. These students are in it just for the degree and feel very little real inspiration or interest in the actual process of learning. They often do not seek contact with their tutors and spend little time sharing their thoughts with the rest of the university. As a lecturer in the International History Department put it: "We can see when students don't take their lectures seriously and when their attendance is poor. Why, then, should we respect their complaints?" The result is dissatisfaction, superficiality, and apathy.

There are other students who have general idea of what interests them and what kind of education they want to receive. These students choose courses on the basis of interest and relevance to their long range goal, not according to the ease with which they can pass the exams. They seek stimulation from their tutors and look for general guidance from the experts in their field.

It is often these students that are the most disillusioned when they come to the LSE because they have such limited means for communication and personal guidance. Many are surprised to find that tutors are very seldom in their offices. One professor says that there is no formal requirement for teaching staff to be at the School and, since many prefer to do their research at home, they come in only when it is absolutely necessary.

The result of this gap in communication is a feeling of alienation which makes the studying experience seem lonely and uninspiring. Many students want to be involved, to be a part

"Lectures? I don't know. I never go." These students usually either don't care about the deficiencies of the educational system or are so involved in their preparation for a revolutionary political career that they forget that education will boost the value of whatever contribution they make in later life.

Finally, in addition to the lack of dedication among students, and the deficiencies of the incentive system for faculty, one should mention even more structural types of constraints. Many faculties are quick to point to financial stringency, which forces departments to further reduce the faculty-student ratio. (The Economics Department, for example, has experienced a decrease in full-time teaching staff from 60 to 47). There is also quite a strong body of opinion that believes that academic positions are excessively frozen by faculty tenure. This of course holds true for the British educational system generally and not just for the LSE.

With regard to student life, an important fact is that the LSE is not a campus university and therefore does not provide the kind of nucleus that would bring everyone together and enable students to inspire each other in a variety of activities. The cafes and restaurants, where people gather and talk over subjects important to them, are closed early and most students disappear into their London holes. The atmosphere seems to be such that the student body is always reminded of how transitory it is in the life-span of the university.

The causes behind the LSE's disappointing effect are both structural and behavioural. Remedies are readily available and it is possible for the LSE to regain some of the dynamism that one would expect of the School. The remedies must be preceded, however, by a strong commitment to educational excellence and to honest debate on the shortcomings of our school community.

Theatre

London Fringe



Elizabeth

If you have a crude sense of humour, Dario Fo's "Elizabeth" will set you shaking uncontrollably with laughter and squirming in your seat, but it will also send you away with new insights into the lives of modern geriatric and insecure political leaders.

In the palatial squalor of her London bedsit, 1601, Elizabeth is beset by problems; from conspiracy and betrayal, to unrequited love and sagging breasts. Obsessed with fear of losing her throne, the Queen (brilliantly acted by translator Gillian Hanna) believes Shakespeare is plotting her downfall. Meanwhile, the Earl of Essex, the object of Elizabeth's passionate devotion, plots a coup d'etat. A quack medic in drag tries to resurrect what the Queen calls her "flat titties" with a remedy of hornets' stings and the incontinent Elizabeth blames her wooden steed for the royal accidents, whilst her long

Hall Moon Theatre, Stepney

suffering maid mops up and takes governmental control with the sinister and unctuous torturer, Egerton.

But just as the horse-play threatens to become tedious, the play is saved by a brilliant finale. In a pastiche of Shakespearian speeches, Elizabeth, now almost possessed by paranoia and internal conflicts, expounds on the pains of love, the nightmares of being a ruler surrounded by conspirators, and the agony of making ruthless decisions for a compassionate and profoundly human monarch born "only by accident" a woman.

Dario Fo's latest play is a bizarre mixture of earthy and crude pantomime and Shakespearian tragedy, but combines them in a way that leaves you exhausted from laughing and thinking about the play's modern parallels.

A Kenningham

A Look at the Place Theatre

By Mike Dell

John Ashford, the first theatre editor of "Time Out" and the man who claims to have been the first to apply the word "fringe" to London theatre, and Dean Wybrow are now respectively theatre manager and press officer for London's Place Theatre.

The Place Theatre itself forms one third of the Contemporary Dance Trust and is home to London's Contemporary Dance School. Apart from the Riverside Studios, it claims to be the only theatre of its size in London with perfect views of the stage from every seat—something essential in watching dance where foot movements are vital. Bearing in mind these characteristics of The Place Theatre, I enquired as to how fringe theatre in general is funded.

Dean Wybrow: "In the past it was mainly funded by the GLC, but that's been replaced by a whole mish-mash of sources such as Borough Councils and the London Borough Grant Scheme. This operates a little like the GLC but they don't take any policy decisions. They just carry on where the GLC left off."

John Ashford: "Even the funding

bodies themselves are confused about who is funding whom."

What about the Arts Council?

J.A.: "I think the Arts Council decided about ten years ago that they wouldn't fund any more London venues."

How significant are door receipts?

D.W.: "That's our lifeblood. For us it's

about 2/3, for most fringe theatres about 1/2 of the income."

Presumably then you are well patronised?

D.W.: "The problem of course is that whenever you do new work, you have initial publicity problems because the theatre-going public is naturally conservative."

Does a policy of putting on new work make valid accusations of obscurity?

D.W.: "The whole notion of the fringe is that you are not catering for the great general public. Most of the public will never step inside any theatre anyway. The fringe has got a certain obscurity, but that after all is the nature of the fringe. There's no other capital city with such an enormous

fringe as extensive or as cheap as London."

What is the exact function of the fringe?

J.A.: "The problem with a lot of fringe theatre is that they've lost sight of what they're doing. I see no point in putting on a Noel Coward play in a fringe venue. The only reason people do this is for agents to come along and maybe think about them next time they cast. The function of smaller venue theatre is to allow contemporary artists to make experiments with form and content so that this work will gradually spread across to the mainstream. It's research and development. Some of it's a failure

but you have to have failures. You can't go to Sadler's Wells and make a mistake as there are 2000 people a night. In a smaller theatre people forget and the artists learn. Really that's what the smaller theatres should be for."

Does the West End use fringe theatre as a source of new talent?

J.A.: "No. A successful writer in fringe is more likely to be picked up to be a TV writer. The West End is no longer serious entertainment. It costs so much to put on a play these days that you can't afford to take a risk. New work is either produced by the small theatres, the National theatres or TV and has been for a good ten years. Apart from anything else you make money in TV. Writers don't make money in theatre. The result is that there aren't writers able to produce work big enough for large stages. Writing from younger people is actually in a fairly bad state in the theatre but not in TV."

D.W.: "That's why you have very high quality TV in this country."

Perhaps the best word should be left to John Ashford, the man regrettably responsible for the term "fringe theatre" as applied to London.

J.A.: "Fringe implies peripheral, whilst a lot of work done is not peripheral but absolutely central to the serious development of all art forms in this country. The word is completely inappropriate. It doesn't mean anything."

Dirty Dishes

The New Boulevard Theatre

Arriving in Soho by taxi on a wet October evening, I found the New Boulevard Theatre, tucked away in a small alley, Walkers Court, next to a "Festival of Erotica". In fact, the two places are linked inside, with the consequence that middle-aged men in dirty raincoats mingle briefly with the Fringe-goers in the interval. "Dirty Dishes" is what it claims to be: a fast moving black comedy about the kitchen in a hectic Italian restaurant. The plot is indescribable, but I think you can rest assured that it is quite funny, moderately well acted, and certainly an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

However, I question the value of this sort of Fringe play; it could just as well be shown on TV or in the West End. The value of Fringe is that it can do what the other media cannot, since it has much more freedom to explore new ideas, with the penalty for failure being much less. I believe it would be true to say that virtually all innovative theatre techniques begin on the Fringe, and then slowly work their way into the more established venues.

I ought to stress, however, that I don't regard this as a criticism as such, just that it is not as interesting to me as some other productions. I suppose I begrudge paying money to see something on the Fringe that I could see on TV.

This is the first professional production for Dot Productions, and I wish them well. In its own way it's a good play; it's just not to my taste.

Andy Blakeman



The Infernal Machine

This is Jean Cocteau's version of the Oedipus myth, interpreted through his own dream-like, poetic imagination. The figures of that classic Story: "Oedipus", the lost child, Jocasta, his mother and later his wife, Nemesis, the earthy face of a hellish monster — are all presented as modern/ancient creations, retaining the mental trappings of mythical Greece, but expressing themselves through the signs and symbols of the twentieth century.

Cocteau's primary motifs are reference to the dream into which the characters are perpetually falling, and reality, which is itself surreal and dream-like.

"The Infernal Machine" refers to the plot — the "story" which the cruel Gods have decreed must be acted out by the characters. Cocteau manages to make us dismiss science and realism, and accept once more the tragedy of a poor

Lyric, Hammersmith

mortal's vulnerability to the Gods above.

The set is a black and silver surrealist nightmare. In the first scenes this is somewhat jarring but in the later acts it is grimly majestic and menacing.

Maggie Smith plays the tragic queen, Jocasta, obsessed with the passing of her youth and beauty. She is also given the chance to display her wonderful comic talents, as she nervously flirts with young soldiers and cruelly mocks the stuffy priest who follows her around. The French film-star, Lambert Wilson, is Oedipus — an arrogant, charming conqueror, never aware of the tragedy he is causing. His naivete also provides much of the play's humour, and his relationship with Jocasta — imperceptibly changing from husband and wife to mother and son, is really the emotional core of the play.

Kfir Yefet



Scenes From A Marriage

Barbican Theatre

If laughter was the sole pre-requisite of a good play then Scenes From a Marriage would have been a masterpiece! Watching George Feydeau's farce was reminiscent of childhood days spent in front of Punch and Judy shows on Blackpool beach; I waited in anticipation for a custard pie fight but alas, my wishes were not fulfilled.

Janet Dale plays Yvonne, the rather over-powering wife with Trevor Peacock as Lucien, her meek, hen-pecked dentist husband in this triple bill by one of the masters of nineteenth century French farce, written before his admittance to a mental hospital suffering from incurable VD.

The scenes move from tooth extraction and discussions about cat pee to the phantom pregnancy of Yvonne — perhaps a chauvinistic comment on the way in which women are thought to use

pregnancy as a means of manipulating men. The most redeemable aspects of the plays are the incredible talent and performance given by Miriam Karlin as the midwife, and the musical interludes provided by a quartet of female saxophonists called The Fairer Sax.

In the 1890s people flocked to see Feydeau's ingenious comedies, but his theatre is a little too old-fashioned for audiences of today. The depressing and saddening topic of an unsuccessful marriage, wherein neither partner finds satisfaction, combined with a slapstick farce is not really appropriate for the broad-minded public of today.

Thankfully it is true that the bitter cause of such farce, namely Kirche, Kuche, Kinder for the wife and extra-marital sex for the husband is no longer so applicable.

Tessa Rosenblatt

Daly's

Daly's is a quaint little restaurant that has managed to retain some of the class and charm of the early part of this century. It is owned and operated by Wheeler's, a restaurant established in 1856, and famous for their delicious fish. Daly's, although not as posh as the more extravagant Wheeler's, still provides an intimate

atmosphere and quality food.

The interior resembles the early Art Deco period popular in the 1920's. The dark hardwood floors and tables contrast the light coloured walls and ceilings. The inlaid mirrors and skylights give the rooms a light and spacious feeling. One can't help but look and laugh at the paintings and prints hanging on the walls. They represent all different art periods. One even

looked like a Matisse, or at least a bad copy.

Daly's is open for breakfast from 8.30-11.30 am, serving croissants, cakes, doughnuts, and muesli. Lunch buffet runs from 12 noon — 3.00pm. They also serve afternoon teas from 3 — 5.30pm. To get there from the LSE, just cross Fleet Street at the Law Courts. Daly's sits on the corner of Essex and Fleet Street.

Fiona/Dan

Films

Extremities



The crime of sexual assault is one which arouses highly-charged emotional reactions from both women and men. As the subject of a film, it allows the individual to examine his/her own judgement as to who is the victim and who is the villain. "Extremities" is a film not only about an act of violence toward another person, but it is also a psychological "game" between the two major characters, each with the opportunity to command the situation.

The story-line is basically very simple. Marjorie Eastern (Farrah Fawcett) is violently attacked on her way home late one evening by a man in a ski mask, who, while holding a knife to her

throat and trying to strangle her with his belt, tries to rape her. In making her escape, Marjorie is forced to leave her wallet behind, thereby giving her attacker her name and home address. Her treatment by the local police is dismissive and disinterested; because she can neither identify her attacker nor can she prove that an actual sexual assault took place, the police can do nothing but file a report and suggest that should she be attacked again, she should call them for assistance.

Indeed, a week later the attacker does come to her home and there begins to play out his sadistic, twisted game. His treatment of Marjorie ranges from

childlike to physically throwing her across the room. In his attempt to prolong his scenario and her feelings of degradation and humiliation, he tells her how beautiful she is, how he loves her and will take care of her - all words spoken in an intimate context.

Without wanting to give too much of the plot away, when Marjorie is finally able to turn the tables, making Russo the victim and subject to her whim, the tone of the film changes drastically. Marjorie is made aware of the fact that she is, in fact, powerless (in a legal sense) against this man, for the simple reason that a sexual attack has not taken place; the most she can hope for is that he will get a jail sentence. But, as he so sardonically tells her, once his prison term is ended, he knows where she lives, and he will come back to kill her and the other two women with whom she shares the house. With no rational course left open to her, Marjorie decides to seek her own revenge for what he has done by forcing him to "confess" to her room-mates exactly what he has done and why.

Farrah Fawcett is outstanding as Marjorie Eastern; she is recreating the role she played on the New York stage and gives a performance which is compelling and rivetting. From the first moment she is on the screen, her "Charlie's Angels" image disappears,

and the audience is shown the tremendous range and depth Fawcett possesses. Her character is a woman involved in a situation not of her making, a situation which most women fear may well happen to them or to a close friend. She is so convincing in the role that when she finally manages to overpower Russo, the audience broke into spontaneous applause. Truly, a fine performance.

James Russo as the would-be rapist (who also appeared in the New York stage production with Fawcett) is incredible; this is not a person with whom one would want to come into contact. His relentless, sadistic pursuit of women and his ability to literally destroy them is very frightening. Russo's characterisation leaves little room for pity or remorse - his character gets exactly what he deserves - but one is left with no answer to the question of "why?" and a sickening feeling of disquiet.

As her two housemates, Alfre Woodward (of "The Color Purple") and Diana Scarwin (of "Mommie, Dearest") play the roles of the voices of reason and sanity as they return home to a situation of chaos and physical disorder. Their initial concern is, of course, for Marjorie and her safety, but partly through the physical state in which they find Russo and Marjorie's

scheme for revenge, they, too, are forced to confront their feelings about rape and revenge and who is the victim and who is the villain. Both actresses give good, solid performances.

It is difficult to transmit the feelings of fear, pain, humiliation, and degradation felt by a woman subject to a sexual attack. The tendency in past films dealing with this subject has been to overload the issue by showing the attacker as a psychotic, perverted "hacker/slasher" and the victim as an attractive, fun-loving, party-going young woman, who happens (often through no fault of her own) to come into contact with her attacker. This eventual "meeting" usually results in an overabundance of blood and gore which is used as part of a gimmick to attract film-goers.

While a woman as the victim of a sexual assault is the subject matter of "Extremities", the situation is handled in a completely different way by writer, William Mastrosimone, and director, Robert Young - gone is the sensationalism of the "hacker/slasher" films, and one is left with an incident which is frighteningly realistic and well within the realm of the possible.

Ann Henry

Music

The Decline of Western Civilisation

1/2 MENSCH

(ICA Cinema November)

'Decline...' chronicles the second wave of US Punk rock around LA between 1979 and 1980 and, with one exception, a pretty depressing scene it is too. Most of the bands seen in concert and being interviewed come across as a collection of dim and inarticulate neo-fascists, completely isolated from society. To be honest, heard one hard core punk band and.... The exception is Black Flag, who appear to be very intelligent, reasonable musicians and possessed of a sense of humour.

Humour is what makes Sogo Ishii's (of 'Crazy Family' fame) '1/2 Mensch', which is a surreal hour featuring German avant-gardists Einsturzende Neubaten (Collapsing New Buildings), who create their noise from the debris of industrialism - old pipes, springs, metal sheet - variously struck, chain-sawed and drilled. In spite of their rejection of any conventional music structure, the results are actually very listenable, being very atmospheric and evocative of the de-industrialised world we probably face.

The film is superbly filmed, with a storyline of sorts involving Neubaten and Japanese theatre group Tenjosajiki in a derelict warehouse, the contents of which are miked-up and turned into musical instruments. And then...ah, you'll have to watch it to find out.

As I sit listening to rather more mellow Blue Note jazz, it is '1/2 Mensch' I would go to see again, presenting a human, if still rather unemotional (it is energy which is involved here) face of avant-garde music. By the way, 'Decline' includes footage of 'Catholic Discipline', featuring one Phranc, now the 'All American Jewish Lesbian Folk singer'....

Both of these films deal with the concept of noise as music and, as such, a means of artistic and political expression. However, the ends and means involved in each case could not be more different.

Dougal Hare

Punk Lives - If Only At The ICA

It's official. Punk rock is now an art form.

To celebrate this, the ICA held a brief season of three such films. The first - "The Punk Rock Movie" - gave a nostalgic glimpse back to the days of '76 when the music was still shocking and relatively clandestine. As the youthful faces of Siouxsie, Billy Idol and The Sex Pistols spat and flickered across the screen, you realised (with a jolt) it WAS ten years ago.

Most of the film was concert and backstage footage, and it was surprising to see just how normal both the bands and audience were. It was also difficult to admit how awful most of the bands sounded live. Half the fun was indulging in "Where are they now?" recollections - Ho hum, punk rock was not as different as it was made out, it seems...

Johnny Rotten

The Damned

(The Onion; Reading University)

Spending the weekend with some friends at Reading University, I was persuaded to go with them to see The Damned at the Student Union, affectionately known as "The Onion". The Damned? - weren't they from the "Punk '76 Explosion"? - not really my scene. Furthermore, I seemed to find myself at the front again. At ZZ TOP, I had to cope with gyrating heads and greasy hair flying in all directions. Being at the front of a Damned concert appeared to be even more unadvisable, as the "Reading rebels" proceeded to "wreck", pogo and shower spit all over the deck!

The Damned were a disappointment, not only to me but also to the majority of the dedicated, anarchic-looking punks, who packed The Onion full. Rather than appearing as the original disciples of Punk - Dave Vanian, Rat Scabies, Jugg, et al. looked and sounded like a very good pub band. Despite satisfying their die-hard (or should it be dye-haired) fans with oldies like "Smash It Up", it was newer numbers such as "Eloise" which suggested that far from being a "surviving" Sex Pistols, they are now more of a speeded-up Free.

Julius Gottlieb

The Return of the Man Van Morrison

"Well," I said to myself, as I sat on the steps of the Hammersmith Odeon. "I never thought I'd see a rockabilly at a Van Morrison concert." And sure enough, I didn't.

However, just about everyone else was there, proving that "Van the Man's" position as one of the major figures of popular music is undisputable - except to those who don't listen to him. On any other shoulders, Morrison's transcendental reputation would weigh heavily, and a map could have been drawn along the most familiar route with reference aplenty to acknowledged achievements and established favourites. Instead, were presented with an idiosyncratic choice which relied heavily on his sparkling but too often buried guitar work and a generous dose of soulful alto sax and Van's inimitable style of harmonica playing.

He led his eight-piece band with a surprising youthfulness and a pulse-like precision which spoke of renewed vigour. He didn't appear to have much time for the Celtic reflections which permeate most of his later recorded work.

Certain songs, notably "Vandlose Stairway", suffer from an ill-advised speed where more subtlety is required, but Morrison's voice, soaring or gruff, but always warm and touchingly human, is still the perfect vehicle for his beautiful vision. He has the intensity of a man possessed and, when in full flow, could put the fear of God into God. Another show would have been gratefully received, but sometimes you just have to be thankful for what you get.

A word on the support act: Andy White is trying hard NOT to be the new Bob Dylan - and failing miserably. I can make no more damning criticism.

Paul Lynch

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Courtney Pine

LSE 7th November 1986

Courtney Pine, one of the names of the emerging British Jazz Scene, performed with his quintet to a rather packed Old Theatre last week. They played two energetic sets, including a selection from Pine's debut LP ("Journey to the Urge Within") and a couple of cover versions, including Coltrane's "Mr. PC."

Overall, Pine was very up front, with only a few solos from the other members of the group; this was different from earlier concerts, which were much more relaxed. Tonight, Pine seemed determined to stretch the boundaries of hardbop as far as possible, seeking a music almost at the limits of his instrument.

After the concert ended with their new single, "Children of the Ghetto", I talked with Courtney about contemporary jazz and his music. Referring to his debut LP, he confessed that even though it was well received by the critics and went into the top 40, he was not very pleased with it and thought it could have been better. He said that the group had already decided on the content of their

next LP, which will be recorded in February.

I asked him about his position in jazz and he agreed that he plays at the hardbop/avant guard boundary, regarding jazz as an evolution, with people such as Sidney Bechet, Charlie Parker, Wayne Shorter all using the same ideas, but always creating something new in the music.

Is there such a thing as a new British Jazz, especially involving young black musicians?

"Yes, there weren't many opportunities until now, but now public awareness of Jazz is increasing all over the country, and there are enough underground clubs now, and there are lots of up and coming British players, like Steve Williamson, Philip Ben and Julian Joseph (currently with Blanford Marsalis).

When asked about his performance that evening, Courtney said that the very high powered style of playing was a point he had reached recently, his "expression out of the horn". Just to make the point, he played a short solo.

Jules



Stivan

Let's Go Mets

October 1986 saw the birth of the next sporting boom in the UK – baseball. Metsmania swept into the living rooms of millions as Channel 4 captured the drama of the 1986 World Series.

Facing each other across the baseball diamond were the Boston Red Sox and the New York Mets. Boston provided a miracle of its own to reach the Series, coming back from the dead to pip the California Angels. But that was nothing compared to what was to follow. Their opponents – the multi-talented, brash and arrogant Mets. From 33 year-old Ray Knight to young superstars, Dwight Gooden and Darryl Strawberry, New York packed a superstar squad.



And how they romped to their Eastern Division Championship! Breaking records all the way, the team sailed into the World Series after a tough but straightforward scrap with the Houston Astros.

The World Series opened up with two games at Shea Stadium in New York. The Mets lost both games but, backs to the wall, won two out of three in Boston. Returning to Shea, New York had to win the last two games. Game Six was, quite simply, incredible. Needing three runs, the Mets were down to their last out. The scoreboard flashed, "Congratulations, Red Sox." Schiraldi pitched and then a miracle happened! Missing Red Sox gloves by inches, the Mets sprayed hits around Shea Stadium until a dreadful Boston error gave them the win. The rest is history. After kindly presenting Boston a 3-0 lead in the last game, the Mets cruised in an 8-5 win to spark off fantastic celebration.



So what's this got to do with me, you might ask? A lot. Put it this way – in cricket you might give the ball a good crack once in a blue moon. In baseball the whole object of the game is to beat the s**t out of a ball with a great big stick. And that IS fun!

Try it on a Sunday in Hyde Park. Just approach one of the increasing number of groups of Americans and Brits having a game and ask for a bash. Thus inspired, you'll then contact the Southern England Baseball Association, who'll put you in touch with the nearest club. Contact Don Furguson on 607 2211, and you, too, can be Keith Hernandez or Gary Carter!

By BASIL

BEAVER SPORT

THE GREAT FOOTBALL MASSACRE

Last Wednesday became a black day in the annals of LSE soccer when the 1sts, 2nds and 3rds travelled down to Kent for the U.A.U. Championships. The 1sts went down 5-0. Enough said! (Well, no report turned up.) The 2nds lost 2-1, the LSE goal coming from Rob Jones. This was a close match as the score suggests. Kent led 1-0 at half-time, due to an appalling referee/linesman decision. The ball went out of play by at least five feet. LSE stopped, Kent swept downfield to score and the blind ref gave a goal. LSE came back well in the second half to equalise, but Kent squeezed in a winner before the end.

The 3rds were beaten by two first-half goals, one of which was due to defensive blunders. My third team spy tells me that everyone played absolutely terribly except for a cracker of a game from Jon "George Best Gut" Goddard!

On Saturday the 2nds travelled to London Hospital for



LSE's 3rd team

a London Cup game. Throughout the match John Watson & Co. kept on top of the L.H. strikers, while at the other end, LSE had several chances to score. But failure to convert these cost the team dearly as the "Cat" pulled down one of their players, and L.H. scored from the penalty. A cruel end, but Chris and Henry must learn how to score!

The 4ths also played in the Cup, away to Q.M.C. They

started well enough with a well-worked header by Dave North, but due to the lack of an established goalkeeper, they ended the first half 3-1 down. However, credit must go to the team for battling hard in the second half, although they never actually drew level. Further LSE goals came from Dan Duncan, Jeff Tudor and Justin Russell. Darren and Alex, in particular, never stopped trying, but in the end they went down 5-4.

By Pepe

Ladies Hockey

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. King's had a few chances at a 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

King's 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, King's managed to put one in the back of the net. King's 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.

Houghton St. Harry

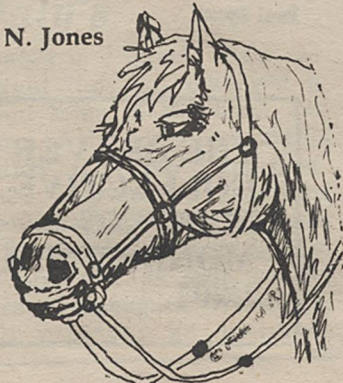
WELL – WHAT can one say about Colin Tinkler, jockey turned trainer – not a lot you might say. Well, you'd be wrong – only last month Tinkler had his 50th winner on the flat and 9 over the jumps. Now for the next flat season Tinkler expects to have at least 45 horses including 22 juveniles, so if you're going to bet – stick it on one of Tinkler's 2 yr. olds – you never know, the price should be high – so you could have a few free nights out – well, relatively free.

Now it's time for nap of the week – yes, that all-important spot that everyone waits for with baited breath. Yes, I can see it now – the horse that is going to make me rich this week is "Chime Time" – I haven't got a clue when it's running but if you buy a paper every day – just look it up in the index and it'll tell you.

I don't usually do this but I've had so much luck recently that I've just got to tip something for the Tennant U.K. Championship – I've always said "if it moves tip it" – Jimmy White will win it and Nick Foulds is worth a gamble on getting to the last four.

Well racing fans, you'll be pleased to hear that "Bob's Back" – yes – "Ballyregan Bob" – the wonder dog, sidelined with a wrist injury since May (I didn't know dogs had wrists) will be chasing his 29th successive win – the price is obviously going to be short – but it'll probably be the best 6 to 4 against you'll get. While on the subject of Greyhounds – for those of you who don't know there are two main tracks in London – Harringay and Hackney – with meetings in both on Friday nights – so don't be afraid if you fancy a flutter – catch the 171A to Green Lanes for the 10 carder at Harringay.

N. Jones



BASKETBALL

The LSE basketball team overcame a six-point half-time deficit last Sunday to defeat Warwick 77-73, raising its University League record to 2-0. In comments following the game, player-coach, Mark Rogers, stated that the team triumphed by overcoming a sloppy first-half performance marked by poor offence. In the second half, LSE used a steady offence and solid team defence to wear down their opponent and ensure victory.

The news was not so good for the second LSE team, which opened its schedule with a road loss to the tough Westbourne Lions. The team, which had practiced together only three times prior to the game, was plagued by turnovers and was often unable to take more than one shot on offence. The team plays its next game at home against Camden.

RUGBY

Taffy's Tales

With the LSE and Hall entertainment running at such a hectic pace, people seem to no longer have time for the fundamentals of life, i.e. rugby and drinking, preferring such trivialities as essays and lectures. In both of last week's games the second team match had to be abandoned due to a lack of players. This initial embarrassment was made worse by the fact that most players then party-pooped by going home to "alternative" events.

The firsts actually lost both games despite our big butch forwards once again bullying their way up front and dominating the set pieces. In fact, on Saturday against Royal Free Hospital the LSE almost stole it after scoring a converted last-minute try and receiving a kick-off penalty for opposition dissent. Fashers "the mouth" promptly knocked this over in a great effort to equalise, only to have the kick disallowed due to players supposedly running in front of the kicker. The ref blew up shortly after and the game was lost (16-13).



On Wednesday, the game degenerated into a forward tussle after our pack lost all confidence in their badly outclassed back division. It became a classic backs v. forwards match with the 3 LSE tries coming from the back row – second half and the 3 Kent tries all coming from wingers. The final score was again a narrow defeat – 18-14.

Our shortage of players must again be mentioned and the Club captain has made a plea from the heart to all of you – "Come!"

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