



**BEAVER**

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### LA CARRIERE OUVERTE AUX TALENTS

The creation of "Beaver Club" is to be welcomed not only by members of Beaver staff, but by everyone concerned with the production and distribution of Beaver.

It represents an encouragement and an opening to all students and especially to Freshers, to join Beaver staff, to make contributions and to learn something about student journalism. What is more important, Beaver will cease being a "closed shop". The way Beaver is run will be open for everyone to see and judge. The club will thus serve also as a window through which potential critics can observe the organization of Beaver. As Editor, I wish it all possible success.

### SIMMONDS

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Our shop is not the biggest in London, but it is amongst the best.

And it's a place where you will obtain individual attention.

We stock most of the books on your syllabus, and we are five minutes from L.S.E.

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### THREE TUNS

(in the Union Building)

The Students' Own Bar

Eat at Ron's

Take your lunch in the

Three Tuns

Rolls and hot dogs

and

a large selection of beers, wines and spirits to wash them down

Parties catered for

### LEFT-WING, RIGHT-WING,

CENTRE-FORWARD,

all your views are welcome in

### BEAVER

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## POSTBAG

### Sally Jenkinson



SALLY JENKINSON

Out of the rather disastrous Greek Tour of the Dramatic Society, the most distressing news is of Sally Jenkinson who contracted polio soon after the tour ended.

We heard from Sally who is in Jersey General Hospital where she is making a gallant recovery. To cheer you up Sally, we're reprinting "Conservative Winners" which, if you remember, you wrote last December after reading what seemed to you to be a particularly Left-Wing issue. So turn to page three for "Conservative Winners" which Beaver hopes will lead readers to find out the truth about the Tory Party.

### MANNHEIM

#### A Personal Viewpoint

Mannheim is an economics college in Germany which has expressed the desire to form some sort of cultural exchange with the London School of Economics. The formula for these exchanges was laid down last year by an exchange of student council members who agreed on 3 possible schemes. Firstly the endowment of a yearly scholarship exchange (Scheme A), secondly the exchange of cultural groups every year (Scheme B) and thirdly the arrangement of sports events between the two colleges. The Union passed a motion putting into effect these ideas.

#### DISCONTINUE IT

This year, we sent the first "cultural group" over to Mannheim to implement Scheme B and I was a member of it. As a result of this visit I am convinced that we should not continue this relationship. The reasons are set out briefly below.

Firstly, Mannheim as a town would not figure in any tourist's guidebook. What is more important, the economics college does not figure in the German intellectual life associated with Berlin, Heidelberg, Tubingen, Munster and so on. And for good reasons: It has only two degree courses, which are taught to some extent by visiting professors, little student social life and no academic tradition.

#### PRESTIGE

In the second place, it is becoming abundantly clear that we cannot furnish the capital with which to endow Scheme A. This fact is important, for Mannheim's hopes rested on gaining considerable prestige from such an alliance and I was convinced that Scheme A was much nearer to their hearts

Dear Sir,

Although most members of the Union will probably be unaware of it, they have sent me some exquisite flowers and very entertaining magazines to keep me cheerful while in hospital. I really was very delighted.

Although enchanted by the luxury, I was a little puzzled as to why the L.S.E. should send me "Tatler" and "Queen". Deduction from uncertain premises gave some possible conclusions.

"She's a Tory and they like this sort of thing"

"She wasn't a deb so isn't likely to have them already"

"Queen is an IN magazine for OUT people trying to be IN"

"Poor girl isn't likely to be visiting the dentist for a bit..." then I discovered "Woman's Realm" slipped surreptitiously between the shiny faces of Prince Rainier and Sir Victor Sassoon's latest (wife not horse) ... and I got all excited about a romantic new serial.

For real excitement, however, why not go on a Dramsoc Luxury Tour, like I did, but get your polio jab BEFORE you go. They are free.

Finally I do thank everyone who has written and sent messages, but please no more beautiful flowers. Instead ... why not ... send a little contribution to my favourite charity ... The Dramsoc Greek Tour Bankruptcy Fund 1959!

Yours sincerely,  
Sally Jenkinson

than the second idea of cultural exchange groups. Even if the money were found, there is the problem (pointed out by the administration of this School) of whether a Mannheim student would have the qualifications for a course here. And if he had then what could he study in one year? An even greater problem, if we had the money, would be to find an L.S.E. student to go to Germany. He would have to be a post-graduate, since undergraduates could not break their course, he would have to know German well and, supposing such a student came forward every year, he would only have the choice of studying two subjects: commercial teaching and German business administration.

#### ANOTHER PERK

At the present moment, this trip looks like another "perk" for the boys in the Union. The best of luck to them if they can get away with it, but not being active in the Union myself, I object. There was no reason to send three members of Council as well as the Mannheim officer on this exchange and the argument that these students could best inform Mannheim about L.S.E. wears a little thin when we remember that this is a cultural exchange and not an exchange of Union information.

#### CHOOSE AN EQUAL

In short, let us by all means have a contact on the Continent to promote friendly understanding for the common good, but there is no need for the Union to pay a small group to visit this contact every year. And if there must be an exchange, a school equal in status to the L.S.E. should be chosen.

BRIAN M. STEWART

## President's Column

Though for most of us this is the commencement of another academic year, for a large number of students this is the beginning of a new and vital stage, and I would therefore like to consider the very important role the Union plays in a university career.

One of the main themes of the issue of "Beaver" has been the examination results of last term, and in this context one must emphasise that to a large extent one is at a university to learn through study, but is this all? Though the opinion is sometimes frowned upon by the more academic minds, I do not think so. The universities in this country have provided for many centuries a choice balance in their curricula, a balance that is between study and growth. They have enabled the young men and women who have attended them to acquire in their most formative years not only knowledge but an understanding of life itself. In many of our residential universities a balance is more easily obtainable than at the L.S.E., where the very limited residential facilities can tend to produce a 9-5 office hour mentality among some of the students. The Union basically seeks to offset these disadvantages, by trying to provide through its many services and activities a stimulant to the

intellectual life of the student body, and at the same time a relief from pure academic study.

The Union however does not run itself, as many seem to imagine, but is reliant for its success on the voluntary efforts of the students themselves. If the Union is to play the role I have suggested it should, it needs far more than constructive criticism, it needs in fact active assistance. Though lack of funds continually inhibits the activities of the Union its role is clearly recognised by the School authorities and the academic staff. The staff themselves have always assisted us greatly by participating in our debates and weekend schools, and the value of this cannot be overemphasised. I would like to suggest however that if we are to have a vigorous and successful session this year the main stimulus must come from the student body itself. The L.S.E. has within its Students' Union the potential to make it the most active and constructive university body in the country. I would ask you to ensure that it is during the year 1959-60.

JOHN MOORE

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to Neville Derby who got married five weeks ago. Unfortunately Neville failed Part One and will not be coming back to college. But knowing Nev, we're sure to see him around. Beaver wishes Neville and his bride the very best of luck.

## Test Paper in Economics

Test Paper in Economics (for Part One Candidates in May 1960)

- Show how the use of n-dimensional indifference surface techniques frees the modern theory of value from individualistic assumptions.
- How does the case of point-input:
  - point through-put
  - point out-put
 Exemplify the relationship between the rate of interest and the invisible value of durable goods.
- Polypsonistic exploitation is an inevitable implication of pure laissez faire. What arguments can you find to support this statement?
- Distinguish the income and expenditure effects of a turnover tax on betting. Is this tax regressive?
- Discuss the path by which two equal-natured peasants, meeting at the edge of a forest arrive at an indeterminate equilibrium in the exchange of hard, bright meteoric stones and deep-sea fish.

We like the story printed in the September 25th issue of the "New Statesman" of an American lady tourist in the Soviet Union.

It seems that she was being shown round a Moscow museum when she was told that one of the most prized possessions of the museum was a picture of Christ on his ass. Most unfortunately for Russo-American relations, the good lady walked out in a huff, wristling with anger at the "godless infidels".

### COMMON MARKET Week-end School

The High Authority of the Common Market in Britain is this year working in conjunction with the Students' Union to provide us with one of the most ambitious week-ends ever attempted. The theme of the week-end being "The European Community", distinguished speakers will be flown over from the Continent for the express purpose of attending the week-end.

The week-end will be held, as usual in the Beatrice Webb House near Dorking. The Deputy President, who is organ-



Michael Howard

ising the week-end, has already said that "it would be cheaper this year ... under 37/-." Special features of this week-end, (Nov. 6th to 8th) will include the following:

- ★ Tape recorded speeches of all discussions
- ★ Free literature on the Common Market to be supplied by the courtesy of the High Authority
- ★ Wall maps and charts
- ★ Well known speakers from the E.E.C. and Common Market, and also Michael Howard, and Dr Valentine
- ★ A debate on the last day of the week-end, led by Mr. Chapman, Lecturer in English of L.S.E.
- ★ Socials on most evenings
- ★ Six students from Mannheim University will be there.

# BATTLE OF THE PARTIES

## CONSERVATIVE WINNERS

In the first place I don't know that the Conservatives are going to win the next general election. I am equally sure that nobody else knows either unless they are well developed mystics or have a better technique than Gallup Polls Ltd.

Nevertheless after the strain on the nerves by all this limbering up before our eyes it will be something of a relief when the bell rings and the two parties go haring down the track in a contest of actuality rather than predictions.

### ABSOLUTE DISLIKE

And if the Conservative Party wins why will it have done so? Disregarding the sudden death of all Labour supporters, I should tentatively proffer three reasons which are by no means original but have been carefully gathered from the usual literature which makes a point of repeating them most weeks. Firstly there is the positive appeal of Conservative policies and personalities. Secondly the absolute dislike of Labour policy (one cannot dislike their leaders, like Ike they like to be liked and do their best to be top personalities and meet people, bless 'em.). Finally there is the present political apathy of the nation which should according to the experts (see the current Political Quarterly) be of more advantage to the Conservative than the Labour Party.

### SOCIALISM

Expanding the second point, it now seems clear that the Labour Party's policy of socialism no longer appeals to the washing machine and television mind of our small scale affluent society. And over this very issue there has developed a split in the Labour ranks which should have been resolved after so many years in the putrefying wilderness of opposition. The fact remains however, that there is an obvious lack of cohesion among the Labour leaders and this is likely to lose them the support of formerly uncommitted voters.

It seems that the Conservatives have been extremely successful in formulating a popular home policy. I think particularly of the large increase in the sphere and content of the social services brought about by the present government while not losing sight of the principle of free economic enterprise.

### ESCAPE CLAUSE

An admirable article in the Political Quarterly by Professor Robson shows that L.S.E. is

very far from being typical in having so many of its students members of party political societies. Most students and young people are interested in their work, their careers, their future. Their vote is more likely to be Conservative, which is by tradition believed to reward individual initiative, in spite of Labour protests to the contrary.

But these predictions have an escape clause. The only obstacle that I can see to the reelection of the Tories, is the proverbial pendulum swing. Will the fact that the Tories have stayed it once mean that they have greater control over it? Or will the pendulum be gathering momentum so that with a mighty crack it will swing back this time to knock worthy Moscow Mac into the Opposition benches?

SALLY JENKINSON

## LIBERTY and FREEDOM!

How often have we heard and seen these words? They appear in all the stock phrases used in all forms of party propaganda, inserted skilfully into party speeches to raise a loyal but tired cheer from the crowd which has heard it all before. With a General Election on our doorstep it would be wise for us to analyse their political definitions.

On the one hand we are told that Conservative freedom works. I would simply ask you to remember the militant attitude displayed by the Tories when our troops were instructed to run rough-shod over Suez, and when meetings against the Government's policy were forcibly broken up.

We can remember too the ejection of the Empire Loyalist crackpots from the Tory Conference, the delay in setting up the Thurso Boy Tribunal, the disgusting cynicism in the handling of the Devlin report on Nyasaland, and the dismissal of Nigel Nicolson for daring to challenge the all-knowing SuperMac.

### DOES IT WORK?

As for the Labour Party, nobody has as yet dared to suggest that their particular demand for freedom actually works, but what with nationalisation, municipalisation, and extended governmental control hanging over our heads, it seems that even permission to submit to the call of nature will have to be granted subject to the approval of the Local

When, as a member of the Labour Party, I begin to think of that Party's chances at the election, I am confronted with two issues. The first—is our Party programme so good that it will win us sufficient votes to give us a majority? The second—assuming our programme is lacking, have the Tory Party made so many mistakes that we will win anyway?

It is perhaps easier to answer the second question first as the events of the past eight years are more readily assimilated by the electorate than a series of policy statements culminating in the "glossy" future.

### BACKWARDS

In economic policy no Government has mismanaged the national economy the way the Tories have. In a situation which favoured expansion and price stability the British economy stagnated, indeed, in some industries, went backwards.

Unemployment has risen as a

direct result of the Government's monetary policy. In Lancashire, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales, the dole queues have been longer than at any time since the '50's, had it not been for the beneficial effect produced by the Labour Governments between 1945 and 1951, the situation could have become far worse.

Only recently have the gold and dollar reserves again reached the figure they stood at in 1951, and the value of the £1 sterling has dropped by almost 5/-. The plight of the pensioner and the people in the lower income groups has been ignored, though this was to be expected from the Tories.

### CYPRUS

In colonial policy they have succeeded in alienating the opinions of more peoples than even the most ardent Labour supporters expected they would. The settlement reached in Cyprus this year could have been achieved in 1955, without the loss of life and money which the Tory policy cost.

Recently in Africa, further life has been lost and another colonial territory has become alienated in Nyasaland. The Tory reception of the Devlin Report speaks for itself.

Finally to foreign policy: here again is a shocking indictment of the Tories. They constantly try to bury Suez and make out that people are sick of hearing about it, realizing that each time it is mentioned, their stock drops. The recent financial settlement represents only a tiny fraction of the cost involved, over £300,000,000—enough to pay for a 10/- rise in the pension three times over.

### NATIONALIZATION

The Tory press, now reinforced by the Institute of Directors, has long pressed a campaign to discredit Labour's policy. What are the facts?

First the question of nationalization: Labour is pledged to renationalize steel and road transport. Both were brought under State control during the Labour government and both remain partially nationalized and the publicly-owned section makes profits which help to pay for social services.

### PENSIONS AND EDUCATION

Our pensions plan contains the fundamental point that contributions vary in proportion to income and the scheme extends to all workers not just to a few as does the Tory plan. In this way, we intend gradually to introduce a pension equal to half-pay.

In education we propose an

extension of the comprehensive system, so as to allow equal opportunity for all. The results obtained in some of the schools already established bear out the advantages of the system. We do not advocate the immediate abolition of Public Schools.

### HOUSING

Finally, the very vexed question of housing. The Labour Party does NOT wish to see everybody a Council house tenant, in fact in our policy statement on housing, we propose to make 100% loans to anyone who wishes to buy or build their own home. What we do propose to do, is to stop the renting of houses at exorbitant profit by private landlords. Councils will be empowered to make improvement grants to householders who wish to repair or renovate their houses and also to give Councils the power to take over privately rented houses, where the landlord will not or cannot repair the houses.

We feel that our policy is the right one, and that compared with the Tories lack of planning and their record of the last few years, we must succeed in the election if Britain is to keep her place in the world.

A. J. SIMPSON

## BEAVER'S ELECTION POLICY

Like all democratic newspapers, Beaver believes in solving all national problems, settling industrial disputes and righting bureaucratic wrongs with that empirical commonsense which is so much a part of the British genius for compromise. We do not expect the big battalions and Party bosses to take much notice, but this is our FORWARD looking policy, one which will really attract the younger generation and unite the NATION. So Messrs. Gaitskell, Grimond and Macmillan—BEWARE!!

These are some of the immediate and fundamental measures that we believe should be taken after Oct. 8.

1. Abolish the female vote.
2. Flog the Teds.
3. Hang the Kaiser.
4. Bring back the Work houses.
5. Raise college fees to keep out the WRONG people.
6. Superannuate students.
7. Home rule for the Moon.

## If Labour wins

You are invited by MIKE LILLYWHITE to a SOCIALIST BANQUET at THREE TUNS BAR on Friday, 16th October at 7.00 p.m.

LABOUR SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

## If the Conservatives win

Mr. JOHN LENTON invites all sympathizers to a TOP PEOPLE'S SOIREE in the THREE TUNS BAR on Friday 16th October at 7.00 p.m. only

FREE TO GENUINE TORIES ONLY

## If the Liberals win



the Editor of BEAVER invites EVERYBODY (including Liberals) to a free CHAMPAGNE DINNER at the DORCHESTER HOTEL at 5 a.m. on Saturday 17th October

# VIIth WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

## Real and Pretended Aims

as seen by

N. D. DEMETRAKOS



The Soviet Pavilion at the Fair Grounds during the Vienna Festival.

The Seventh Youth Festival that took place in Vienna this Summer was a great rally of youth from all over the world and had ostensibly noble aims: to promote international understanding and to strengthen peace and friendship among nations. At least these were the pretended aims.

The value of lasting peace and friendship cannot be questioned. What was to be deplored was that the organizers failed to express the most essential aim of young people all over the world;—freedom.

The Festival was launched, financed, and organized by the Soviet Union. All organizers, interpreters, assistants in the Press Room, etc. were Communists. Most of the delegations from non-communist countries were purely or mainly Communist. The Cypriot and Iraqi delegations were 100% Red, while the Moroccan contingent was almost entirely outside the Party, but the Brazilian, Italian, and American delegations were bitterly divided. The Soviet Union would never have sponsored the Festival (which for the first time took place in a non-communist Capital) unless there was a very big propaganda interest involved; and that was the real aim of the Festival.

What sort of propaganda? The first days of the Festival surprised us for we found many information booths around Vienna filled with young Austrian students of all political beliefs, explaining with excitement why they were boycotting the Festival that was taking place in their own Capital. Their objections were threefold.

Firstly they did not like to participate in a Festival that served a propaganda interest for one of the big powers.

Secondly, they objected to the restriction on the movement of participants from non-communist countries.

Thirdly, they objected to the hypocrisy of the set-up, which pretended to be non-political, but in reality was communist inspired and dominated.

### AUSTRIAN COURTESY

The students and people of Vienna were friendly and polite to the participants of the Festival, they spent lots of money (supported by the Socialist and Catholic Trade Unions, and no doubt, by the Americans) to organize a series of activities in which anyone could join.

These included bus trips to the Hungarian border, concerts, film-shows, dances, and informal discussions. As a result of these discussions the Karlsplatz was transformed into a Viennese Speakers' Corner.

A most admirable effort, was an exhibition representing the achievements of Western culture. And in another exhibition on the same premises, they managed to put forward their reasons by a skilful combination of posters and photographs—for non-participation in the Festival.

This exhibition was packed with books designed for communist sympathisers and were given away free of charge quite liberally. They were available in all European languages and in Arabic. Mostly in demand were "The New Class" and "Doctor Zhivago".

### UNCOMMITTED SUPPORT

On the whole the anti-Festival group were successful. They had the support of the Austrian Press right from the beginning. But it was only after the fifth or sixth day that they won the support of the many uncommitted people, par-

ticularly those who came from neutral countries. Their bus tours became increasingly popular and their meetings larger and livelier.

On the other hand the Festival failed from many points of view. The Communist supervisors had failed to exercise complete control over the Festival or to prevent meetings or discussions with Austrians and other non-communist youth groups.

The information booths of the Austrian Federal Youth Association were packed throughout the Festival, and books banned in Communist states were selling like hot cakes. Many of the free books given to Communist delegates were found in their suitcases by the leading Communist delegates and were confiscated and destroyed.

Festival authorities were obliged to take increasingly strong measures to stop contacts between members of the Eastern bloc delegations and the Austrians. For example Czech participants on their bus tours were surrounded by the

over the misuse of the Ghanaian national flag in the Festival. Juri Voronov, editor of *Komsomolskaya Pravda* held a press conference in the Soviet Pavilion.

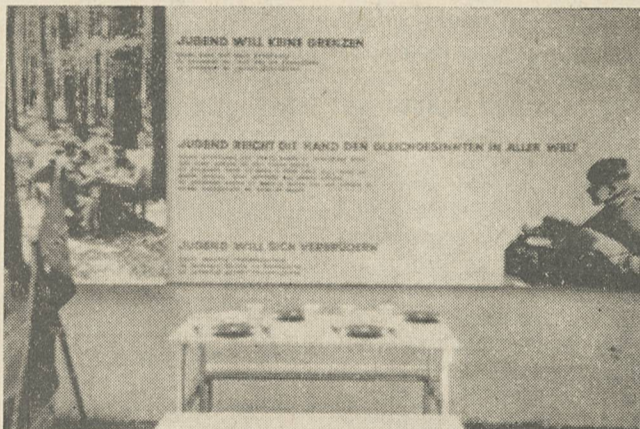
In reply to an English journalist's request for an explanation of the jamming of B.B.C. broadcasts, Voronov replied that the population of Russia did not need the programmes. He admitted that the "Voice of America" programmes were jammed in Russia but these broadcasts he described as "reactionary", insulting to the Russian people."

Voronov did not answer the point that the individual could turn off the programme that he considered to be reactionary or insulting.

### HUNGARY

The Festival organizers were unsuccessful in their attempts to prevent Iron Curtain participants from taking bus trips to look at Hungary's border.

These hourly bus tours became an especial attraction for foreign visitors who had been told that the Iron Curtain was



Inside the exhibition in Karlsplatz. The inscriptions read: "Youth does not want frontiers" and "Youth stretches out its hands to everybody with the same ideals in the whole world."

black "tatra" cars of the Czechoslovak police. Especially strong watch was kept over the higher ranking Festival officials.

I was with a refugee Rumanian journalist who tried to telephone a friend of his in the Rumanian delegation. The hotel telephone operator had been instructed to pass all incoming calls to an "information officer"—a Russian—who alone decided which calls could be put through. As the refugee journalist did not want to reveal his name, he never had the chance of speaking to his friend.

Many Asian and African participants expressed their indignation over the cynical exploitation of their presence by the Festival authorities who mixed fact and fiction to suit their purpose.

For example, Nigerian dancers were labelled part of a non-existent Ghana delegation. There were strong protests by Ghana Government officials

a 'figment of imagination' or Western propaganda.

The Communists retaliated by forming 'collection commandoes' to make periodic checks of the anti-communist information booths and to pick up members of their delegation on the spot. By the sixth day of the Festival anti-communist students were firmly entrenched in all the important seminars and discussion groups.

They continually embarrassed Marxist speakers with questions and anti-communist arguments. It was on the sixth day that a series of meetings were arranged for aspiring press men. But when a number of Western journalists arrived carrying bundles of their newspapers, the guards lost their tempers, and confiscated them on the spot.

Immediately the meeting began, an American student introduced a resolution demanding that all newspapers be freely admitted. This was seconded strongly by a Belfast



An anti-festival poster in Vienna. Its slogan: "Friendship? Yes! Communism? No!"

student editor who expressed his disgust of what he called "a violation of press freedom".

However, the Chairman ruled the resolution out of order, telling the young journalist that "we have come for discussions, not for resolutions". Whilst the members of the Hungarian delegations were attending various events their quarters were subjected to a thorough search for "contraband" books by communist guards.

Members of the Austrian Communist Youth Organization confiscated copies of the "Vienna News" a non-communist paper that appeared every day in six languages, and burned them in the street.

The highlight of the Vienna Festival was the "Ban the Bomb and Peace and Friendship" parade, which passed through Vienna's famous downtown Ring and wound up in a mass peace demonstration featuring a concert by Paul Robeson. But whilst the parade was passing Schwartzbergplatz "Communist Mobile Squads" suddenly noticed one banner reading "Tibet is not yet forgotten" in a sea of flags.

They pounced on the bearers of the offending banner and beat them up. The victims were Mr Charles Herrigan, a Scottish student and his female companion, a typist from London, who were both British delegates to the Festival.

### CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the USSR was to give itself a New Look, a Peace and Friendship look, to show that all it stands for is Peace, friendship and youth.

This picture is designed to reach the uncommitted nations mainly. Before the eyes of the uncommitted visitors a competition went on in Vienna between the Festival supporters and the anti-communist boycotters. The methods of the Festival organizers, so distasteful to Western democrats spoke for themselves.

Yet in a way the competition in Vienna reflected the worldwide power struggle for the neutral nations. If we see it in this light, then the two camps won and lost to each other several supporters. If however this struggle is seen as an ideological rather than power-political, then the anti-communism of the boycotters reflected the feeble ideological defence of the Western world: it can only criticize communism, but it has nothing new and positive of its own to put in its place.

Seen in this light, the Vienna Festival was probably one more instance that served in confirming rather than shaking the neutrality of the Afro-Asians.

## THE UTOPIANS.

Founded 1906.

This Society aims at putting in practice some of the ideas suggested by the Samurai in a "A Modern Utopia." It maintains the necessity for co-ordinating the various efforts now being made towards social reform. It considers that the individual owes it to the community to take some part in this work, and to develop his own efficiency with regard to it. It further affords a common meeting-ground for social reformers of every description.

Annual Subscription, 2s. 6d.

The Utopian News

(published by the Society),

APPEARS AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS.

Hon. Secretary: MISS REEVES, 43, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

## John Berger

The impression one has from John Berger's writings and criticism is that of a somewhat frightening intolerant and unapproachable Marxist. In person however, this literary ogre turns out to be sympathetic, sincere, humble and human. I would suggest that it is this humanism in Berger which makes him both a Communist and a successful art critic. It is his understanding of the human elements in painting which enables his criticism to transcend the standards of so many rule-bound critics (Berger himself suggests that it is the objectivity induced by his political commitment which is the essence of his success as a critic). In the same way, his acceptance of Communist doctrine stems from his observation of the human problems of our world—as reflected by current events and history.

Berger's Communism springs therefore from pragmatic rather than academic principles. He finds academic arguments to be obscure and often irrelevant and remote—he has not read Popper. Although he does not agree with certain cultural policies of the Russians, his acceptance of their doctrines is firm and sincere.

In a Communist society there need be no need for a clash between the artist's need to be an individual and the State. Their situation will be analogous to that of such painters as Moore and Sutherland in England during the war, when these artists were so convinced about the truths for which we were fighting that they were able to produce paintings which had both social and artistic content.

The recent Russian exhibition does not attain the standard because the Russians have yet to assimilate the visual experiences

of Cubism. Berger suggests that Leger is the forerunner of such an art because his subject matter and his technique reflect the ideology of a socialist society.

The function of an art critic in our present day society is to pick out the good from the charlatan work. He believes that each generation has the same amount of artistic talent at its disposal, but that much of the present day talent is being wasted due to the repercussions the cult of the personality has on painters. The role of the critic is therefore of great importance in guiding this talent into the right channels and in preventing the public from being duped.

Berger thinks that television is the perfect medium for educating people to use their increasing leisure purposefully. Such education is the responsibility of the intellectual elite. His favourite authors are Gorki and Diderot, the latter because his early prophecies about evolution were correct. He finds Kingsley Amis parochial and Richard Hoggart is the only "academic" he reads. Public schools stink; he admits however that while they still exist there is the practical problem in deciding on whether to send one's child to one presented by the better education and life chances they offer. Berger will not tolerate anyone under forty calling him an Angry Young Man. He knows of only one art gallery in London which knows something about art.

The final impression I had of Berger is that of incompatibility between his humanism and slight romanticism and his Communism. If asked by the State to kill one of the workers he so sentimentalises I hope his love of Man will prevail over a ruthlessly induced necessity.

## The London Jazz Scene

There will only be one Commodore Music Shop. But Milt Gabler himself would be the first to admit that Mr Doug Dobell has made a very fine attempt to emulate the spirit of the famous New York record store. Every jazz record available in the United Kingdom is stocked by the little shop situated in the notorious "pop" music area of Charing Cross Road. And many American records, now available through the lifting of the ban on importing American discs, can be bought there. This side of the business is rapidly expanding, as Mr. Dobell markets these discs at far lower prices than those of his rivals.

### ALF, DAVE, AND JOHN

Every inch of space in the shop is used. The few listening booths are so close to each other that often customers buy the record another person brought into the next-door booth. There is no time limit for listening, and there is no high-pressure sales talk from

the manager, Alf Lumley, and his team of assistants led by Bill Colyer (brother of the famous New Orleans bandleader) and Dave Davis. Down the rather rickety stairs to the basement can be a hazardous process (especially if someone wants to come up at the same time) but this is where the many student customers congregate. This is the second hand department, and is ruled in a most democratic manner by John Kendall, who stands behind the counter ostensibly to give credit for traded discs and to sell some of the thousand or so records that surround him. But his real purpose is to act as a kind of one man jazz newspaper. Any query on jazz, past, present, or future will be answered by John, who seems to know the titles and personnel on every jazz record ever issued. He is a mine of jazz news, information, and gossip, and often you hear from John on Tuesday what you read in the "Melody Maker" on Friday. Nevertheless, he'll sometimes condescend

## PAGANINI 20th CENTURY RATIONALISM

The Rationalist Annual (Watts & Co. 7/6)

Browsing over some records in H.M.V. the other day, I was intrigued at reading on the sleeve of one of the discs "Rediscovered and Recorded exclusively on Phillips." It was Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Minor.

Nicolo Paganini (1782-1840) was, of course, the greatest virtuoso of his day, and indeed there has probably never been another like him since. According to contemporaries his playing was possessed of a supernatural mastery of every resource of the violin, but lacking in depth of emotion. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that most of his compositions are predominantly display pieces, providing food for the violinist, and thought for even the most humble listener. Not only was Paganini's success renowned in his own day and carried forward; his excesses were likewise notorious, now legendary. He "had a streak of charlatanism which invited a ridicule that was immediately silenced by his phenomenal powers."

The manuscript for this work seems to have a long and somewhat interesting story behind it, one which I cannot outline here except to say that from its first performance in Paris in 1831 the music was not heard again until the "Second World Premiere" at the Salle Pleyel, Paris 1954. You can read all about the curious adventures of this elusive score on the back cover of the record. At all accounts the music is wonderfully exhilarating — almost to the point of Celtic barbarism. The soloist on this unique recording is Arthur Grumiaux, playing with the Orchestre Lamoureux conducted by Franco Gallini (who actually owns the manuscript). The disc in question is a 10" L.P. H.M.V. A.B.R. 4024.

I have always detected in those who are sure of their values a rather oily smugness. With the rationalists we have a clean, brisk, "commonsense and no old-fangled superstition" sort of outlook. There is a radiant optimism about the fundamental simplicity of it all that is positively annoying to a complicated agnostic such as myself.

The smugness is there and all the more infuriating because it poses as enlightened reasonableness. We are offered a packet of hygienic ideas to efficiently cleanse the psychic bowels of metaphysical putrefaction.

Maybe I am too unkind. The Annual has two essays which show that Rationalists have some important contributions to make to the discussion of social values and the bitter-sweet mysteries of life. They certainly sweep away some unwholesome medieval cobwebs.

One essay, *The A.I.D. Debate*, illustrates the outlook of the rationalist who sees the

importance of "fresh thinking" and the rejection of "unambiguous moral principles." Family and personal happiness and not any authoritarian moral law is considered the essential criterion of the value of human artificial insemination. The basic approach seems to be calm examination of facts as opposed to a hasty judgment that is a compound of prejudice and superstition.

The drawback which can be eliminated must not be considered as a fundamental objection; this is an important theme. I was amused to discover that one of the drawbacks to A.I.D. that opponents had considered as fundamental was "that we shall see long queues of student donors, earning their vacation pocket-money in an easy and gratifying manner." No comment.

*The Cosmological Argument* is a valuable essay that examines one of the basic arguments for the existence of God. Everything we know has a cause. If we go back far enough there must exist a cause that was uncaused—that is God. So goes the argument. If everything is caused by something else there is no first cause. The essay makes a sincere criticism of the cosmological argument.

Other contributions include a discussion on the idea of hell and an interesting piece on Evelyn Waugh and the religious novel. For those not afraid of a little doubt and a great amount of controversy I can recommend this book.

SAM WOLF

## THE THEATRE TODAY

Is "good theatre" necessarily incompatible with "good box-office"? The commercial failure of "Roots" coupled with the financial success of "A Taste of Honey" leads one to wonder whether there still remain any prospects for the serious, mature playwright who is unwilling to clutter his work with sexual abnormality, upper middle class drawing rooms, or the petty social grievances that appeal chiefly to the dilettante.

Are illegitimate children, nymphomaniacs, homosexuals, prerequisites for a successful plot? Must the hero spend three quarters of his time on the stage wondering why he is different from all the other little girls? And does the heroine always have to be young, big-breasted and an inevitable believer in free love? It is unfortunate that those productions which are most in need of a subsidy are those that have the lowest popular appeal.

### THE ANSWERS

The long-term solution of course is to raise education to the level which prevails in Sweden and Israel. But this is anathema to the ruling classes who gain by the present state of cretinocracy that prevails in contemporary Britain.

If any further government is seriously concerned over the difficulties that beset unknown writers such as Arnold Wesker, the author of "Roots", let them first close their ears to the clamour for further reductions in the entertainment taxes; lower taxes only mean more profits for the impresarios but there would still be no direct encouragement for anyone to sponsor plays with an uncertain economic return.

It seems that the only answer is a national theatre. Such a project would only cost a fraction of the "Suez" adventure. I do not suggest a complete nationalisation of the British theatre, but some form of assistance—not dependent upon economic success—is desperately needed to save the living theatre.

BRIAN LEVY

DAVID ALLEN

## OMER SIMEON

All jazz fans will be saddened at the untimely death of the famous New Orleans clarinetist Omer Simeon who died on September 17th at the age of 57. He was, with Bechet, Noone and Dodds, amongst the greatest of jazz clarinetists. Born in the Crescent City he studied under Lorenzo Tio and was soon spotted by Jelly Roll Morton who was immensely impressed by his talent. The pure limpid tone of Simeon's reed was wonderfully captured on the Morton classics of 1926—"The Chant" and "Doctor Jazz Stomp". After some odd gigs with King Oliver and Jabbo Smith, Simeon spent the 30's and early 40's with the big bands of Jimmie Lunceford and Earl Hines. But the New Orleans revival saw him in 1945 with Kid Ory and his solos on "Blues for Jimmy Noone" and "Careless Love" show him at his very best. Although an accomplished alto sax, Simeon only played clarinet in his last job which was in the Wilbur de Paris band at Jimmy Ryans. On all de Paris records his elegance and grace come through beautifully, whilst his blues playing remained superlative. His death must mean an irreplaceable loss to Wilbur de Paris and to the jazz world as a whole.

BRIAN LEVY

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A FEW MINUTES' WALK FROM THE LONDON  
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

# CONVICTION and the NEW LEFT

The publication of "Conviction" is a portent. In this collection of essays, a series of young writers (their average age is 33) offer a new picture of post-war Britain and the beginnings of a new and adventurous policy for social reform.

Does the future belong to them? This is the question every reader will ask himself.

One of the first aims of the book is clearly to shatter our complacency about Welfare State Britain. Peter Townsend's now famous article in which he points out the existence of a "submerged fifth" in Britain—pensioners and others who have barely enough to live on—has already made a profounder impact on young people than can yet be measured.

He and his fellow-contributors have together brought such a fundamental and damning indictment against contemporary British society that no one with our future at heart can afford to ignore their warnings. The book is required reading for intelligent people of all parties.

## CHALLENGING

"Conviction" has not come like a bolt from the blue. It marks a signpost in the coalescence of a new point of view, that of the Universities and Left Review, of the New Left. This is a Socialist point of view, but it is on which challenges nearly all the assumptions of the Labour Party's current policy.

If, as it appears, the Labour Party is seriously out of touch with the aspirations of the young, the New Left will soon be in a position to take over their allegiance, and lead British society out of what Norman Mackenzie, in his editorial introduction, calls the "Stalemate State."

For if the Labour Party loses the next election, the radical dissatisfaction apparent in the party from such phenomena as Victory for Socialism will become impossible to suppress.

## THE NEW LEFT

The origins of the new movement are not far to seek. As Mr Mackenzie points out, the self-confidence of the British Left has been steadily eroded since the war by the demonstration in Stalinist Russia that Socialism can be perverted into totalitarianism.

The Labour Party lost its impetus towards serious reform in about 1950, due to this and the satisfaction of the immediate economic needs of the electorate. In 1955, a Conservative government was returned for a second period.

As a parallel, the Establishment's reaction against Socialism was setting in throughout English social life. It was in 1956, with the debate on Stalinism and the Hungarian Revolution, that the impetus towards a re-appraisal came.

It came not from any of the contributors to this book, but from the very young—in fact from four Oxford students, now well-known as the successful editors of the U.L.R. and proud possessors of a brand-new Left coffee house. In 1956, they sat down and decided that the time had come to re-think Socialism for Britain.

Stalinist Communism stood revealed in its hideous nakedness, disavowed by its own practitioners. The alternative

of Welfare-State Socialism seemed to have produced only a watered-down version of capitalism where the oligarchs were as immovable as ever.

Which was the way forward? Essentially they answered that you must attempt to re-apply the basic principles of Socialism to the whole of man's life, rejecting the current view that Socialism begins and ends in people's pockets.

What was wanted was a new philosophy for the Left whereby the State could be made a more complete servant of the public, in providing for social and cultural, as well as economic needs, without at the same time taking on the nature of a totalitarian dictatorship.

This philosophy has by no means been achieved yet, since it calls for a Left-wing political theorist of major stature, such as there has not been in Britain since Harold Laski, though Iris Murdoch, in her article goes a long way in clearing the philosophic ground.

## ULR

The discussions sparked off by the four young men and the ULR have culminated in the publication of "Conviction" on concrete aspects of New Left thinking in its relationship to industry, social services, cultural life and the persisting class character of English social life.

In almost every case, the Labour Party approach, if any, is rejected. Peter Shore puts forcefully the case against "Industry and Society"—that the managers have taken over the power and privileges of the industrial shareholder, and that continual increases in the company-owned wealth are counter-acting Socialist measures for the redistribution of individual wealth.

Peter Townsend and Brian Abel-Smith argue persuasively that the "basic minimum" conception in the social services is wrong, and that although these services are largely financed by the working classes themselves, they are being whittled away as "extravagant" and "unnecessary" when they ought to be expanded.

## INVESTIGATE

Mr. Townsend, as was remarked in the last issue, here mentions the responsibility of sociologists to attend to the quality of working-class life as a guide to social policy. His observations on academic sociology, which have irritated the L.S.E. sociologists, can be interpreted in several ways, but the demand that more sociologists should make use of their training and their opportunities to investigate pressing contemporary problems can surely not be objected to as unreasonable in itself.

Is not complete detachment at least as dangerous for the academic as out-and-out partisanship? Can the responsibility of the teacher entirely outweigh that of the citizen? (The tone of this part of his article, as of several passages elsewhere in the book has been, I think, the chief cause of offence).

Other contributors include Raymond Williams and Richard Hoggart, who plead for the removal of class-distinctions, and sheer financial meanness from our cultural life.

The final contributor is Iris

Murdoch, who notes the paralysis in political theorising that has been brought about by the dominance of analytical and frankly conservative philosophising.

Iris Murdoch's article, as we have seen, shows clearly the progress that has been made in the discussion of New Left Socialism between 1956 and the publication of the book itself.

The stage is clear for the development of a new Socialist philosophy, a "house of theory" as she calls it, which will re-assert Socialism as a morality and express its moral commitment in comprehensive terms.

For it is only on the strength of a moral inspiration of this kind that a new Socialist policy can be evolved for Britain. The Labour Party is at a standstill, fixed in a fruitless moderatism.

The only radical reaction within its ranks is based on outdated issues, irrelevant to future. Only the New Left can provide that moral leadership which can rally Britain's young people to the cause of social progress.

## TIME IS SHORT

The present generation of young people is ready to follow such a lead. Hungary and Suez broke the back of their political apathy. The campaign against the hydrogen-bomb has revealed the depth of the ferment in their conscience, and thrown up potential leaders.

Now, the task of the New Left is to canalise this moral feeling, to nourish it with issues beyond the hydrogen-bomb, and to carry it forward to its logical conclusion in political action. The latter is essential if the New Left is not to degenerate into a mere intellectuals' debating society.

Time is short, since a defeat for the Labour Party in 1959 would certainly discredit the present leadership and leave the path clear for new men and ideas to take over.

The new philosophy must be worked out both as regards its moral groundwork and its institutional ramifications, and presented as a guide to coherent political action in the several spheres examined in "Conviction".

And the New Left must itself prepare to lead that political action. No one else will.

ERIC CAHM

## The Paradox of Democracy

Democracy, or government by the will of a majority of the whole adult population, is regarded today by many as sacred because throughout the fight for its attainment it has symbolised liberty. However, this conception if borne out by empirical study need not necessarily hold good on all occasions.

The concept of decision by majority is, of course, much older, but however convenient and fair this may seem, it carries with it a number of inherent dangers.

Such a system possesses the seeds of its own destruction, in that, theoretically, a majority of 50% plus one can decide to perpetuate its rule. This change would have been brought about through normal democratic procedure and yet negate that democracy itself. Because of its requirement of regular elections. For instance, the Government could, if it wished, abolish the Monarchy and Parliament by forcing a Bill through the latter with the aid of its majority.

We know that the present Government will not employ this device, but have we any guarantee that at any future time it will not be applied? If a majority of the electorate were behind the Government on this issue, then the minority could neither say or do anything which would secure its downfall.

This is as far as the argument can be taken for the paradox has been reached. Democracy

implies majority rule, but this must of necessity exclude many of the opinions and some of the rights of the minority. However, if the word is to be taken literally, where all opinions are to be represented, then the result is anarchy—a direct contradiction of the word.

## LEADERS AND LOGIC

The problems raised are of the utmost significance especially in these days of centralisation and bureaucracy. The contest is between the personal freedom of the individual as expressed by his vote and the will of the majority as seen in the Government dominated by a party caucus.

On most issues there is complete arbitrary separation, but the area of conflict is growing, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to draw a line between the two. In fact, even with principles as a guide the task is virtually impossible. Even the most ardent democrat must sometimes wonder if the views of the majority as expressed by its leaders are always the best and most logical.

This is not something which can be dismissed lightly, or in terms of party, but an issue which must come more and more into prominence as successive governments have to "steam-roller" Acts through with the aid of the bureaucrats, police etc. in the "national interest".

DAVID LINDLEY

## Freud and the 20th Century

Freud and the Twentieth Century (Allen & Unwin 28/-)

Our century is the era of confusion. It is characterised by a sense of hopelessness and helplessness: The individual is lost amidst the callous thunder of dehumanized power mechanisms. Yet as never before the supposed focus of concern has been the individual personality. If the Twentieth Century is the century of mechanised tyranny it is also the century of Sigmund Freud.

He looked at the human predicament with its inward terror and outward despair and introduced a startlingly new concept of the human mind. Today neurosis is quite fashionable and all of us know at least a few of the jargon expressions of psychoanalysis.

In putting forward his ideas on the Unconscious, infantile sexuality, and the conflict between the Life and Death

instincts, Freud was commenting seriously upon the mysteries of human existence. In this way his thought concerns philosophy, religion, politics, art, literature and Society.

*Freud and the Twentieth Century* presents a collection of essays which offer, from a wide variety of viewpoints, some idea of the influence of Freud's work on these different facets of life. The value of Freud is critically appreciated by different writers who are described as acknowledged experts in their respective spheres. Of particular interest are three essays which examine Freud's impact and validity from specifically Protestant, Catholic and Jewish viewpoints.

The quality of the essays is somewhat uneven and they often assume an intimate knowledge of Freud's manifold concepts. But the great attraction of this book is that it brings together such a diversity of approach. We are constantly shown that when Freud explored the problems of the individual personality he was also making discoveries that concern mankind.

SAM WOLF

to be divided into hostile racial blocs; it is the duty of the youth of today to rise above such hateful doctrines and uphold the principle that all men are members of a wider community—the human race—whatever our differing religions, creeds, or colour. At the L.S.E. we must continue to make our contribution to this aim.

ALBERT HINES

("Beaver" staff join in this plea for inter-racial goodwill. We hope all students living in North Kensington or other areas in which racialist candidates are standing, will campaign vigorously against them.)

## WORTH REMEMBERING

"Nigger! Wog! Spade!" Do you know these words? Have you heard them before? Probably not because of course you haven't used them. No doubt you shudder at South Africa, Little Rock and the Alabama 50 cents Death Sentence. We used to say "Well, it couldn't happen here." But Nottingham and Notting Hill gave us all a shock.

We know that Teddy Boys and hooligans caused these incidents, but the mere fact that the Fascists were able to stir them up to those terrible riots shows that Notting Hill was a product of a deeply rooted social illness—racial prejudice.

As individuals we at least morally object to these events. But I hope it was the opposition to racial prejudice that offended us rather than the mere sense of public propriety.

May I ask you a few questions? Do you advocate legal restriction of coloured immigration? Do you believe that the Negro, Maltese, Cypriots are responsible for vice in our cities?

Do you shy away from coloured students, or refuse to sit next to us in the library? Do you make remarks about girls who dance with me, or deliberately avoid me in the street?

I sincerely hope you don't, for anyone who behaves in this way is at heart in agreement with the sordid principles of the Fascists who have already intervened electorally in the troubled spot of North Kensington. I'm not accusing anybody at the L.S.E. of colour prejudice for the School has a fine record as a multi-racial institution.

We cannot allow our world