

BEAVER

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NEWSPAPER OF THE LSE STUDENTS' UNION

No. 140 MARCH 4th, 1975 FREE

VOTE, VOTE!

THIS Friday is your chance to choose the 12 students who you wish to run your Students' Union.

Voting will take place outside the Old Theatre on Friday, March 7th. All you need is your admission card plus some knowledge of the candidates, issues and who you think can handle them best. To help you, we have published a full list of the candidates. However, nothing can beat seeing the candidates in the flesh, so go along to the Hustings on Wednesday and Thursday (keep an eye out for the posters giving the details).

There are 12 positions on the Executive: two posts are sabbatical, General Secretary and Senior Treasurer, and so have candidates standing directly for them. The other posts on the Executive are allotted amongst the other ten successful candidates. The posts are: Ordinary Treasurers (2), Academic Affairs, External Affairs, Welfare, Entertainments, Publications, the Bar, the Shop and Florries and finally Overseas Students.

When you go along to the Hustings, a ques-

tion you can ask the candidates is, what position on the Executive do you want? If they don't know by then we suggest that you don't vote for them.

Avid readers of "Beaver" will know the tasks and issues facing the new Executive when they take power in August. For those who might have forgotten, the transfer to the LEA system, the Nursery, finance of the Union, Education Cuts and Grants, Staff/Student Committees, no doubt you can add others to the list.

The new Executive you vote into power will be leading and directing the campaigns and the administration of your Union. The Executive can only be effective with the help and support of all members of the Union. Voting is only the first step. Don't desert them afterwards for your academic ivory towers and perhaps they won't desert you.

So, this is your big chance, a chance not often gained in the "big world outside," so don't pass up this opportunity not only to elect your leaders but to influence and contribute.

Don't be shy, VOTE.

GENERAL SECRETARY (Sabbatical)

SUSAN COCKERILL: Member of the International Socialists (IS); Delegate to NUS Area and Student Representative Council (SRC); 3rd year BSc Econ.

C. M. O'BRIEN: Independent Socialist; Executive Welfare Officer 1974/5; Member of the Trust for Handicapped Children; Co-producer of the Daily News-sheet.

WENDY FORREST: Joint Revolutionary Slate; member International Marxist Group (IMG); Women's Liberation Group; LSE Troops Out Movement Branch.

D. GLENYS THORNTON: Broad Left; Labour Party; Executive Member - External Affairs Officer, 1974-5; Delegate to NUS Conf., Area and SRC; Chairperson of Chile Committee; Member of Universities' National Committee; 2nd year BSc Econ.

SENIOR TREASURER (Sabbatical)

HOWARD FEATHER: Member IS; Ex Vice President of Middlesex Poly; MSc Industrial Relations.

PETER TIMMINS: Chartered Accountant (Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy); Present Editor of BEAVER, produced 14 BEAVERS since Feb 1974; Member of Finance Committee (in charge of publications) since Feb 1974; Philosophy Dept Representative on Undergraduate Studies Committee; Member of Ath Union; Independent Socialist; Happy family life - Dahrendorf knows my father!

J. CRUSE: Member of Executive Committee 1974/5, Finance Committee 1974-5; Broad Left.

ORDINARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JULIE KELLEMER: Joint Revolutionary Slate; Troops Out Movement.

PHILIPPA LANGTON: Broad Left; Member of Union Council 1969/71 (at UCL); Union Rep on various College Committees (at UCL 1970/71); Member of Women's Movement; Member of Ents Committee 1969/70; Treasurer of Industrial Relations Soc LSE 1973/74. Communist Party member.

SIMON BERESFORD: Broad Left; Labour Party member; Delegate to NUS Conf.; Member of LSE Chile Support Committee; BSc (Econ) 2nd year Government student.

TESSA S. MARCUS: Broad Left activist; Anti-Apartheid Treasurer; Grants Campaign Activist.

JAN SLING: Broad Left.

SIMON CRABTREE: Member IS; President Passfield Hall Society; 1st year BSc (Econ) sociology student.

ANDREW MILNER: IS candidate; Sociology postgraduate; Famous TV personality (see University Challenge - many years ago).

JIM MONTGOMERY: IS member; Finance Committee; Troops Out Movement, LSE Branch.

FELICITY ROWE: Committee member of the Conservative Society; Former Secretary of Rosebery Hall.

JAMES ROBERTSON: Chairman of the Conservative Society; Secretary ULU PEST.

ANNE LEATHERBARROW: Committee member of the Conservative Society; Member of PEST, SUE and Law Society.

STEPHEN KING: Conservative Society Treasurer; Member of ULU PEST, Wine and Food Soc, Sailing Club, Music Soc.

DAVID ROBERTSON: Currently a member of the Constitution Committee; 1973/4 Government Dept

Staff/Student Committee Secretary; 1973/4 Member of the U/G Studies Committee; Independent Candidate.

MUNGO DEANS: Independent; Vice-President Rosebery Hall Society.

WYNN TOLLMAN: Independent; BSc (Econ); Overseas student; Student/staff Committee Economics.

RICHARD SALES: Independent; no worse than anybody else; concern for student affairs and intending to do something positive to mirror the student body's true desires and aspirations.

What do you think? The comments and qualifications are those supplied by the candidates themselves. BEAVER is not responsible for their truth or otherwise.

Nine, kind comment

FOUR lecturers in the Language Studies Dept. were speechless when asked to confirm a Times Higher Education Supplement report of February 21st that they are to be axed, as an economy measure. They then all refused to comment in depth about the report, but regarded it as false, erroneous, wrong and misleading.

Their tightlipped, tongue-tied horror at such cutting scurrilous intelligence as displayed in the THES, left them lost for words. Except in Swahili and behind closed doors—loses a bit in the translation, doesn't it?

PT/TG/GH/JB.

Shop closed, Bar reeling

THE Union Shop will most likely remain closed for the rest of this term as the result of the auditor's report on the first term's trading. This reveals a loss of £526, growing to £601 if an account of £75, still under dispute, is included.

The reason the continued closure is operative, is to let the auditor finalise this term's position, which he will do in conjunction with an independent stocktake. Sources close to the Finance Office are predicting, based upon crude calculations, no profit for the second term, 'add' to the unprecedented first term loss. Last year the Shop made a profit of £380.

Also in difficulties is the Bar. Last year's trading profit of £2,552 represented a termly profit of £850. In the first term of this year, the profit has sunk to £100 on, if anything, an increased sales figure. When this was pointed out to the Bar Management Committee (BMC) of Wednesday, February 26th, by John Blundell (Executive, Bar), he was over-ruled by the massed drinkers. They voted to

keep the markup on cost price at 35 per cent, disregarding last year's markup of 45 per cent, and a Finance Committee request of Monday, February 24th, to restore the old markup.

The Finance Committee made this request in the knowledge of the deficit financing for this year, that the Annual Budget Meeting passed, on Thursday, January 16th. That budget was framed in the expectation of profits from the Shop, Bar and Florries staying at the same level as the previous year. Despite the urgency of the situation, it is reported that the Senior Treasurer (Mr Hoyland), Ordinary Treasurer 1 (Mr Roberts), Ordinary Treasurer 2 (Mr Cruse), and the Junior Treasurer for the Bar (Mr Coe), were not present at the BMC meeting.

Because of this, the BMC is still running the Bar in contravention to its Standing Orders, that state, "The BMC shall be required to ensure a net profit of between five per cent and 12 per cent per annum on turnover." The profit of £100 represents 1.1 per cent on turnover, £500 being what the profit should have been given only a 40 per cent markup.

No doubt, questions will be asked in the House. They should be!

P.T.

Profs drain away

THE calm waters of Academic Life are being stirred by the Education Cuts. Big Fish are leaving rapidly evaporating pools. At present there are at least six vacant Chairs in Economics in the country.

Two Manchester professors (Laidler and Parkin) have left for The Great Lakes of Western Ontario; three Chairs are now vacant at LSE, the last to leave was Prof Harry G. Johnson; Oxford is also missing one Prof.

Current Economics department thinking reveals the sorry prospect of only one really worthy candidate for any of these Chairs - a Prof Atkinson. Maybe he'll benefit by becoming the only fish in the pool, but it seems certain that academic standards are suffering as a result of the Cuts; it must be a rumour that academic standards are to be preserved, if so, where did it start?

G.H.

LEA—an OS view

RE: SOME REFLECTIONS ON A TRANSFER TO THE LEA SYSTEM: ITS IMPACT ON 1,500 SELF-FINANCING STUDENTS

FOR some time the Union has been campaigning for a transfer to the Local Education Authority system of financing Unions which provides for a direct grant from those bodies to Union in place of a direct grant from individual colleges. Since the LSE School authorities are now in favour of such a transfer, in order to remove the financial burden of financing the Students' Union this has become a real possibility.

On one hand this would enhance the political independence of the Students' Union from the school authorities by removing their control of finance and increasing the financial resources available to the Union. On the other hand it would place additional and discriminatory financial burdens on the category of self-financing students including 1,000 of the 1,200 overseas students at the LSE who are not fortunate enough to receive a grant.

The Senior Treasurer informs me that in his view such self-financing students would end up being required to pay a sum of around £17 per annum to belong to the Students' Union. This would mean a de facto increase in overseas student fees from £250 to £267 which contravenes another Union policy on overseas student fees.

When the government raised the base level of overseas students fees from £70 to £250 in 1967 it did not impose any legal requirement for individual colleges to implement such increases. However, out of the grant received by the LSE from London University a sum of £250 for every overseas student (1,200 x £250 = £300,000) is deducted so that if the LSE charged Overseas Students only £70 it would have to make up the balance of around £220,000 itself. Therefore at present the LSE requires overseas students to pay £250 in fees, 3½ times what home students are charged.

A part of this £250 (£10) at present includes the money the school currently spends in financing the Union. Surely if the School were relieved of the burden of financing the Union by a transfer to the LEA System, the overseas student fee could justifiably be lowered by £10 to £240 per annum. The LEA System, it seems to me, would only stand a chance of being accepted by over 1,500 self-financing students if Union succeeded in securing such a lowering. In this case the difference self-financing students would be required to make out of their own pockets could be limited to the difference between the present per capita paid by the School to the Union and the per capita Union would in future negotiate with the LEA; a maximum of £10. Union would have to peg the fee at this level, regardless of inflation,

because incomes of self-financing students are fixed.

Even then a discriminatory situation would persist where over 2,000 home students would have their membership fee paid by the LEA while over 1,000 self-financing and overseas students would be required to go through the positive action of taking £10 out of their own pockets. This can only be appreciated by students on grants if they ask themselves: "How would you feel if you had to pay £10 to join the Union?"

Transfer to the LEA System would also place considerable financial burdens on the less well off overseas students. For overseas students on incomes of less than around £2.00 per day to cover rent, food, travel, Union would have to make exemptions considering that their fixed and meagre resources are already being strained to breaking point by soaring hall fees, refectory prices, London transport fares and inflation in general.

To satisfy the remaining self-financing students, Union must commit itself to using the extra funds it obtains by a transfer to the LEA for improved welfare services such as a nursery and a much higher overseas students' fund. A minimum of £3,000-£4,000 is required to ensure that no poor overseas student will have to leave LSE on the basis of being unable to pay discriminatory overseas student fees, despite the incomes strenuously earned from working in the evening after study hours.

Several colleges which have transferred to the LEA System have at the same time raised discriminatory fees for overseas students from £250 to £300. Union is committed both to opposing the present level

of discriminatory fees and any increases but in addition should seek assurances from the School that the transfer to LEA would not be used as an opportunity to raise OS fees.

Every self-financing student, after Union has decided whether or not it can undertake these commitments would then have to make a personal decision on whether to accept the proposed transfer to the LEA System or not based on:

- (a) the higher cost to him/herself
- (b) the value s/he places on a more independent Union with greater financial resources.

The importance of this transfer should not be underestimated. No less than 1,500 or 40 per cent of Union members are self-financing students. Unless the transfer is well handled a situation may arise where hundreds of self-financing students may refuse to pay the addition of £17 to their fees. We must be careful not to divide ourselves when all of us are faced with soaring hall/refectory prices. Careful judgment is required.

No resolution passed at a Union meeting will commit any individual self-financing student to forking out £10-£17 out of his/her own pocket if the transfer takes place but perhaps the above letter will lead to a more informed judgement when it has to be made.

My personal view is that if Union can give these commitments, the transfer should be supported.

Fraternally yours,
S. K. Adalja

Red rag?

DEAR SIR, — I was very interested to read the back page article on the Radical Action Group in your February 4th edition.

Some of the content of the article was grossly inaccurate and deliberately misleading. Firstly, I am not now and never have been a member of the Liberal Party for any other political party. It is true that I used to be a Liberal supporter but, since they have taken to following a narrow dogmatic political line both nationally and within the NUS, I have lost interest.

As far as Ian Pickton and the Federation of Conservative Students are concerned, these facts are just blatant lies. Pickton has not been near RAG for over a year, we have never had backing from FCS and don't wish to be tied to any of the present NUS groupings.

These smear tactics which the Broad Left and others persist in using might work in a nursery school but, luckily, most of the students in this country do not have a mental age of 4 and so will presumably ignore these silly little slanders.

Yours sincerely,
Andy Vallance Owen
RAG

LEA poll results

UNFORTUNATELY the number of replies to the poll was hardly sufficient for any useful conclusions to be drawn — the person who answered about 50 forms can rest assured that his efforts did NOT boost the number of replies.

Although only a very small number of Postgraduate and Overseas students sent in replies it is obvious that many are self-financed and are not too happy at the prospect of finding more money (especially OS who already have an extra burden — fees of £250). The idea of exemption facilities got a relatively favourable response.

I apologise to whoever it was who cried out in the wilderness "I don't understand this poll" (suggestion — read last "Beaver"). Most people did understand the questions — and in particular question 7 — which drew most comment — both angry and ill-informed for the most part. It should be made clear once and for all that the Students' Union cannot (under its constitution), and does not give funds to political societies — if they are Associate Societies of Union they can book rooms but do not receive funds. Perhaps I should also add that the only reason Union is "dominated by politics" is that no-one else seems to want to dominate it.

The Question

(4) Given the size of your fees already, would an increase of £10-£20 be significant to you?

(5) If there were such an increase to cover Union fees would you find difficulty in affording it?

(6) If you would find difficulty in paying would you like to see exemption facilities (on a confidential basis)?

(7) In principle, would you mind paying this extra sum to improve the Union's ability to provide facilities for its members?

Comments

Question 7
YES — "the Union wastes so much money on paying for the

political activities of societies which cannot raise any student support".
"Depends what you propose to do with it."

NO — (OS) "I feel the benefits of LEA funding would far outweigh the effects of an increase of the proposed proportions".
"What sort of facilities?"

YES — "Union funds are at present inadequately supervised".

NO — "but not to finance silly political frivolities".

NO — "might at least increase participation in Union activities and ensure democratic (i.e. non-elitist) decisions to be reached".

NO — "note — this does not mention grant for living on".

YES — "Union fails to provide facilities for normal students and is a vehicle for second-rate people to express third-rate political ideas".

YES — "I have no confidence in the ability of Union officials to manage finances effectively".

YES — "If and only if the money is spent on the student and not on useless student politics".

YES — "the Union is unrepresentative, undemocratic, childish, and does not interest me AT ALL".

Question 6
NO — "exemption from Union means divide and rule".

Question 4
NO — "LSE is a bargain compared to my home university and that includes transatlantic transportation!"

Addenda
"Reluctant mother supports me if I am very nice to her."

Tmociła zwiulur kwazwo Makudo!
Tipe yi nyika yeclu Makurwe! — would the author care to translate?

Facts and Figures

Postgraduates
Both home and overseas students.
Total number of replies — 38.

Self-financing — 63 per cent of total.

Their answers to questions 4, 5 and 6:

- 4. YES — 83 per cent.
NO — 17 per cent.
- 5. YES — 79 per cent.
NO — 21 per cent.
- 6. YES — 87.5 per cent.
NO — 12.5 per cent.

Answers to question 7 (all postgrads):

- 7. YES — 56.5 per cent.
No answer — 8.5 per cent.
NO — 35 per cent.

Overseas Students

Both post and undergraduate:
Total number of replies — 55.
Self-financing — 83 per cent of total.

Their answers to questions 4, 5 and 6:

- 4. YES — 63 per cent.
NO — 37 per cent.
- 5. YES — 41.3 per cent.
NO — 58.7 per cent.
- 6. YES — 59.2 per cent.
No answer — 21.8 per cent.
NO — 18 per cent.

Answers to question 7 (all overseas students):

- 7. YES — 52.7 per cent.
No answer — 7.3 per cent.
NO — 40 per cent.

Home Undergraduate Students

Total number of replies — 120.
Self-financing — 20 per cent of total.

Their answers to questions 4, 5 and 6:

- 4. YES — 70.7 per cent.
NO — 29.3 per cent.
- 5. YES — 54 per cent.
NO — 46 per cent.
- 6. YES — 62.5 per cent.
No answer — 8.5 per cent.
NO — 29 per cent.

Answers to question 7 (all home undergrads):

- 7. YES — 30 per cent.
No answer — 28.3 per cent.
NO — 26.7 per cent.

Answers to question 7 from all replies:

- Total number of replies — 199.
- 7. YES — 42.5 per cent.
NO — 37 per cent.

No answer — 20.5 per cent.
G.H.

CROSSWORD

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Admire St. Perce. Go and paddle your own. Tidy attendant. Sanguine swearword. The saint behind the meadow is smallest. A chest pain. Delphinoid cetacean found in the Arctic. Point out the circle is a measure of liquid. Old hag sounds like Scandinavian money. Revolutionary; no marks for not getting him! Son behind the unkempt vine is eating deer-meat. Put together a piece of magic. Dismissed the poor-smelling footballer (2 words). | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quick particle is just a turn of phrase. The French serf is nice. — the tune or make a phone —. Sounds a bourgeois water-activity. No stereo in the moon. Geographical or knot, there's one near Benin. He's hard on Fred but then he's boss. Runs to the revolutionaries. Do-gooder has rust in his tail. Gee that baboon makes one gawk! 300 surround you? Pause. Venerable historian. |
|--|--|

Answer on page 10.

STUDENT MOTHERS
Is looking after your child a problem whilst you are studying? We run a Children's Home specifically to cope with your problems.
INTERESTED? ...
Contact us at
UNITED RESPONSE
12 Abingdon Rd., London, W.8
Tel. 01-937 7745.

NIGHTLINE
Do you know what NIGHTLINE is? Do you want to help us help others? Come to our
SPECIAL NIGHTLINE MEETING
WED., MARCH 5th
1 p.m. in ROOM S175
— We shall be discussing:
Policy : Recruitment : Training
NIGHTLINE 580 - 5745.

WELL, folks, here I am again—though now I'm out in the big wide world and have become detached from the petty, incestuous daily grind of the LSE. I definitely think (and I occasionally do) that everyone should take a year off; it's done wonders for me, I can tell you. However, one day when Jupiter was in Mars, I popped into the LSE and picked up a copy of *Beaver*. I was horrified to see the depths to which my bit had sunk.

Hurrying off to see the PETE TIMMINS, I was greeted with all the restrained passion of his LEO/VIRGO cusp. Reluctantly he parted his long flowing hair and ventured a smile at me, at the same time I could see his teeth rapidly grinding together. "You can do it," he mumbled (I think he said that), "but astrology must stay in."

Upon leaving the comforting womb of the LSE, albeit temporarily, I decided that I would take a job as a cub reporter. I saw an advert for some rag called SW, which I thought was a bit like *Tatler* as it came out once a week and is fairly tabloid in nature. I read my stars for the day (Leo/Pisces rising) and saw that they were good for new ventures, so off I trotted to SW and was interviewed by a very handsome man called PAUL FEET.

Still swooning, I went to my first assignment—an interview with the new leader of the Tory Party ANTHONY WEDGWOOD-BENN. However, he isn't and he couldn't so we had tea together. He directed me to MAGGIE THATCHER, an old school chum of my mother's, and we had a jolly chat about living above our parents' shops. AUNTIE MAGGIE was born under the sign of LIBRA, where the Sun and Mercury are in conjunction; Librans are generally companionable and diplomatic, but are in

Sunshine time

need of constant reassurance from other people. So I reassured her like mad and then went out to a party with her personal aide, Mr Baldry (or is it Finetuck?), who told me many funny stories about her, which I can't repeat, but will. Did you know that, unlike PRINCESS ANNE (Leo and likes horses), she doesn't buy her under-pinnings from M & S, but through the post from "Glamor-nite". She has tremendously radical ideas about education and especially believes in people working their own way through college.

Who should also be at the party but JOHN BLUNDELL and new girl-friend. They are regular visitors, I got the impression, to the Thatcher household but both of them were so drunk, I couldn't pick up any juicy gossip. JOHN is also LIBRAN and was definitely being reassured! I thought he was looking paler and droopier than ever; it must be the effect of being on the LSE Students' Union Executive.

While we are on the subject of LIBRAS, here's the first half of March for you! Don't neglect your health and diet, stop nourishing an inferiority complex and look deeply into the eyes of someone you admire, because you can't lose, the Sun is in your solar sixth house! To S.D. (Econ. 1) born sun sign 27 Libra, moon sign 28° Pisces and two strong planetary influences in Virgo. This should make you into a very difficult person to understand, beware of being used too much by others, you are delicate and sensitive and extremely likeable and very good at writing letters!

The next morning I got up as early as I could, i.e. 11.30 a.m. and hurried off to SW offices to give in my piece on MAGGIE THATCHER. Some guy called CHRIS HARLOT read it through and explained to me that he didn't think the piece was quite suitable for his paper (only he didn't put it that politely).

To cut a long story short I got the sack and no redundancy pay, which seems strange since they had been picketing the Industrial Relations Court for years! I left a sweet note for CHRIS with his SCORPIO prediction for March: Avoid stress in the office (that's true, honestly!) and home, do not pursue pleasure too vigorously and greatest success will be achieved by promoting interests of dear ones and strengthening bonds of affection(!)

BACK TO THE L.S.E.

I went to tell the story of my exploitation to old comrades at the LSE. They weren't terribly interested, it's strange how soon new faces can replace old lays, like MICHELLE WHITE, new go-ahead chairman of the LAW SOCIETY. I passed a student I went to bed with once, but he didn't even smile. He wasn't very good anyway! Still, better than JAMES MITCHELL, who unfortunately did remember me but I'm not caught like that again!

All the old faces were still there in the THREE TUNS BAR; I gathered that there had been some crisis or another, as CHRIS HOY-

LAND (VIRGO) was sober today. These petty trifles of internal strife are no longer my concern! I decided to follow other people's example and go to bed with a Chilean. After chasing one around for about three hours, I gave up and went off for a drink with (The Queen Mother likes me) STEVE LUMBY. Fortunately his course of tablets finally seem to have come to fruition.

Halls of Residence breakfasts are embarrassing at the best of times but when one is hungover and isolated they are sheer torture, still it was nice to see ANTONIO CORTES with six women, even though they did seem to be chained to him by some method or another. Made a mental note to write to my M.P. about Women's Lib. Spent the rest of my day either asleep or awake (I think).

There is a definite need now for a bit more astrology. You try and write this column? Browsing through my balls, I find that CANCER people are going to do well with money in the first half of March and will be making long-term plans, GEMINIANS will also be thinking ahead to holidays and what to do when they grow up. ARIANS must avoid romance and pass lovers over to Librans for a while, as the stars are not well aspected and you will be feeling very irritated.

EXPOSE OF BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC!

After my brief sojourn into journalism, I decided to do something more socially useful and I went to

work at that BIRTH CONTROL clinic in Mortimer Street. On my first day I bumped into several desperate members of the IMG, who obviously do something else apart from putting out leaflets about getting all the troops out of Ireland. They all seem to recoil from the sound of the TOM TOMS (sorry, that's an "in" joke). PREDICTION FOR LONDON STUDENT TOM TOM. You will have a national demonstration on the 6th April, the weather will be showery and four million troops all over the world will lay down their arms but will retain their legs.

As I knew so many people coming into the birth control part of the clinic, I was moved to the male sterilisation unit, where my stay proved to be very short. I treated one person. It took me five hours and he proved to be far from sterile. Still EDWARD doesn't get many chances nowadays to play with his organ.

PISCEANS, THIS IS YOUR MONTH

You are the gentle, beautiful people of this world, you literally swim with the tide and often get caught up in whirlpools of other people's emotional entanglements. This is mainly because you are so sympathetic and intuitive and it is easy for your friends to lean upon you. You are inclined to be vague and careless and easily led. CAREERS Actor, social worker, writer fishmonger(!), hypnotist, photographer and priest. FAMOUS PISCEANS: JOHNNY CASH, NIJINSKY, RALPH NADER and ALASTAIR COE.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

I thought cunnilingus was an Irish airline until I discovered SMIRNOFF.

Covent Garden Proms

"50p: pay at the door, take your friends and sit on the floor."

Four performances by The Royal Opera:

Monday 7th April at 7.30 pm

Il barbiere di Siviglia (Rossini)

Thursday 10th April at 7.00 pm

Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky)

Friday 11th April at 7.30 pm

Wozzeck (Berg)

Saturday 12th April (Evening) at 7.30 pm

La Boheme (Puccini)

Three performances by The Royal Ballet:

Tuesday 8th April at 7.30 pm

Scenes de Ballet (Stravinsky/Ashton)

Four Schumann pieces (Schumann/van Manen)

Song of the Earth (Mahler/MacMillan)

Wednesday 9th April at 7.30 pm

The Four Seasons (Verdi/MacMillan)

Daphnis and Chloe (Ravel/Ashton)

The Concert (Chopin/Robbins)

Saturday 12th April (Matinée) at 2.00 pm

Dances at a Gathering (Chopin/Robbins)

Monotones (Satie/Ashton)

Raymonda Act III (Glazunov/Petipa)

700 Stalls Promenade places available on the day of performance one hour before curtain up. 50p each, including VAT: Seats: £1.00 to £5.00.

Further details: 01-240 1911 (24-hour information service)



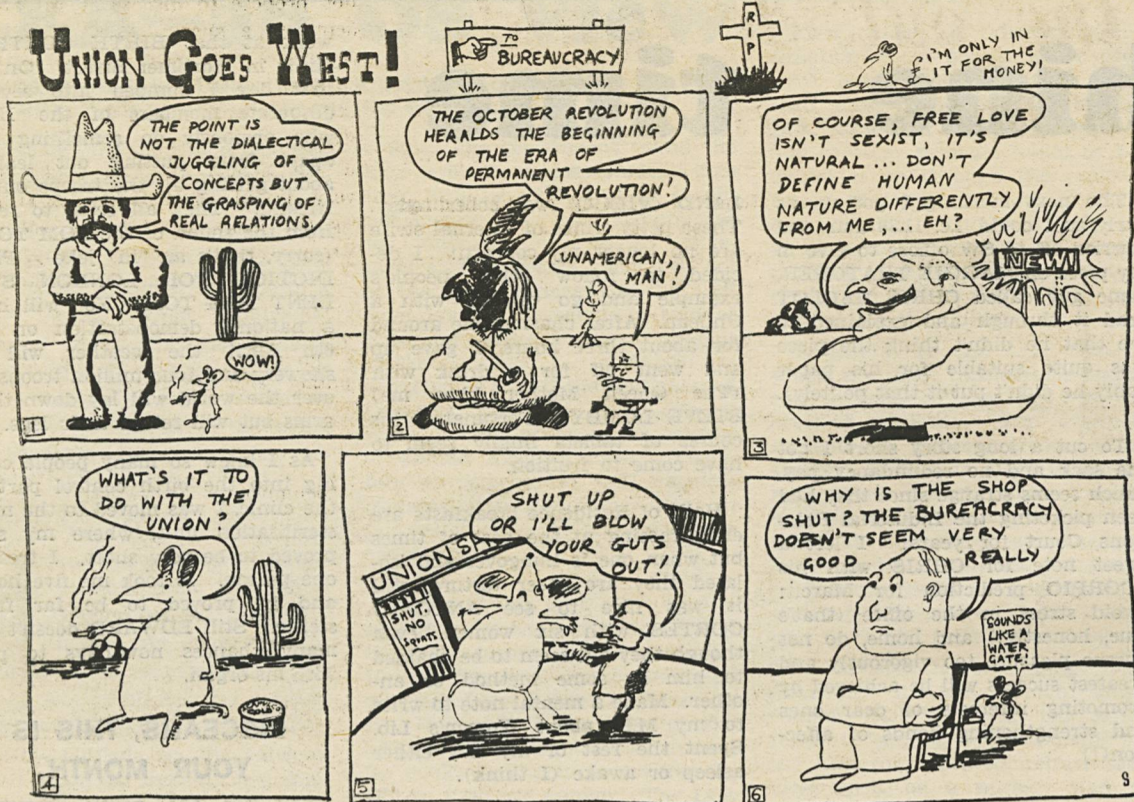
Royal Opera House

in association with



Midland Bank

The Royal Opera House Covent Garden Limited receives financial assistance from The Arts Council of Great Britain.



Manager batters Brown

IN this article, I would like to reply to seven major points raised by Tony Brown in "Beaver", February 18th:

- (1) The lack of grounds, for anticipating a loss, without an audit for 2nd term being completed.
- (2) The inaccuracy of estimating loss on the basis of sales against cost of sales (and reduced turnover).
- (3) Management practice (a) what is present practice? (b) security.
- (4) Interest of Union Executive members in the shop was very scant until the Finance Committee meeting of February 4th.
- (5) Is the role of the shop to boost reserves by maximising profits or to provide a cheap service to students? (Or both, somehow?)
- (6) What is the proper division of responsibilities between the Union and management in the absence of any contract or guidelines?
- (7) Why was the shop closed in a rather arbitrary fashion without consulting students? And, why has it remained closed for over two weeks?

1. A Loss? A Premature Judgment?

There was already a loss according to Chris Hoyland of "at least £300" between June 1974 and October 21, 1974. Chris Hoyland and others were operating the shop, intermittently, during September and early October and were selling paper pads below cost price, partly because they had not taken into account price rises. The loss in this period, Hoyland admits, could have been £300.

Since I took over, I have been aiming steadily to wipe out this loss. For the last ten weeks, at least, we have grossed an average of from £300 to £350 a week. This should leave a minimum profit per week of £15 to £25 a week, based on a 17½ per cent mark-up. (On the day the shop was shut down, takings were £117 for that day alone!) Should students be obliged to make up this loss, anyway?

It is, moreover, very difficult to know when, or how, any hypothetical losses were made since there has been no independent

audit/stock-take for more than six months.

2. Trading Deficit?

Brown's figures are based on the net annual profit of last year which was made in the first term of that year. However, the shop this year has been making a steady profit for at least the last ten weeks. This is despite (a) the price of paper (which is our biggest seller) going up 30 per cent; (b) paper shortage and supply difficulties; and (c) the real value of grants declining (up to the beginning of second term). Given this it is remarkable that business this year is still in money terms 75 per cent of last year's (based on Brown's figures for January 1975).

Naturally while sales are down, so too are the figures for cost of sales; the gap for Christmas term was £186, but this was a trading deficit not a loss as Brown claimed. His estimate of the trading deficit is not the same as a loss, since stock already paid for, such as scarves, will continue to sell slowly and steadily. The auditor has given an interim loss of £500-£600 for Christmas term, but given that there has been no independent stocktake for over six months this is not conclusive evidence of mismanagement.

Given the loss of £300 by Executive members, the loss of three weeks' trading in October, and now the arbitrary closedown which will continue probably until the holidays (a total of nine weeks lost this year) it will indeed be a surprise if the shop doesn't lose. Whoever heard of outside businesses shutting down for such periods? At least, sales of present stock could have continued till they were gone.

3. Management (A) Practice

First, it has been practice to file delivery notes. Second, it has been practice to produce regular banking records. And third, in a small shop, maximum and minimum levels are a matter of common-sense and observation. (The problem with stock, if anything, has been the small amounts of money allocated for shopping.) Finally, the till discrepancy was caused by a casual assistant who marked up £100 on the till for an item which should have been only £10. This will, hopefully, be cleared up by the audit.

(B) Security

The shop needs a security gate, a proper arrangement of shelves to allow overseeing of customers. It is especially important when the

shop is running on maybe as little as £3 profit a day. I have asked constantly for these.

4. The Executive Members

Union Executive members have not paid the shop any attention until recently — I was only invited to one Finance Committee meeting (February 4th). Before then, I had not seen the Finance Secretary's report of a projected "loss". There has only been one Shop Management Committee meeting this year.

5. Shop Policy Maximum profits? Or cheap service? (Or somehow, both?)

Shop policy last year was to provide as cheap as possible a service to students and to realise a minimum profit. If the shop is supposed to be "a major method of boosting reserves", why, then, has it run on this basis for the previous year? Union policy on this must be clear since it affects students' welfare.

6. Division of responsibilities

Who is responsible for security and the installation of equipment for this purpose? Who should check on assistants? Who should be responsible for periodic auditing by independent individuals? Who should arrange discounts through the Student Unions' Consortium and check out wholesalers? Why have present shop staff never been invited to the Shop Management Committee meetings and only one Finance Committee meeting?

7. Shop Shut-up — Why?

Finally, why was the shop rather arbitrarily shut down two weeks ago? There could have been an immediate, independent stock-take and then the shop could have continued business with proper financial supervision by the auditor for the last two weeks. That way, no business would have been lost and students would not have been forced to buy elsewhere — and dearer. As it is at present, however, the shop has now been inoperative for at least five weeks when it should have been open, due to the Executive's lack of interest in the shop.

Conclusion:

The whole question still revolves around an accurate stocktake by independent individuals. More importantly, the present measure of closing the shop is not necessary; Union Executive should have kept contact with management (and staff). If this account is detailed, it is in response to the detailed and incorrect surmises of Tony Brown.

Christopher Stevens (Manager)

The Shop—

The Officials speak

REPLY to the request of Union Executive that the Finance Committee express an attitude to the "situation" in the Shop (February 19th, 1975).

At a meeting of the Finance Committee held on Monday, 24th February, the following proposal was accepted:

- (1) Finance Committee accepts prime responsibility as a whole for the mismanagement in the Shop.
- (2) Some criticism can be made of Jim Montgomery and Antonio Cortes that they did not come to Finance Committee for advice.
- (3) The Finance Committee will consider the whole question of responsibility and tasks of individual members of Finance Committee in a general review.

Finance Committee agreed that accompanying the above proposal there should be an explanation of the reasoning behind it.

All members of the Committee agreed that the blame could be laid collectively, on the whole Committee, and individually, on the member of the Committee that was responsible for the Shop in particular, Jim Montgomery.

It was, however, felt by the majority of the Committee that blame on one individual member would be in order only if the Committee had fulfilled its collective responsibility in making that member aware, in a very specific way, what his duty should be.

With a dissenting voice . . .

I VOTED against the motion passed by the Finance Committee (FC) and was asked by it to produce a minority report to explain why.

During the discussion on the Shop a fundamental difference arose between the Committee and myself. They held that the Collective was the first to take responsibility and then the individual. I held that it was the individual first, then the Collective, and finally the individual.

On this basis I find four people on the FC open to criticism. They are the Senior Treasurer, Mr Hoyland (also on the Executive) who has overall responsibility for the Union's finances, his helpers, Finance 1 and 2, Mr Roberts and Mr Cruse (also on the Executive), and the Junior Treasurer for the Shop, Mr Montgomery.

Because the FC has met infrequently, I fail to see how it can confidently call itself a Collective. For this matter I charge, in particular, Mr Hoyland, Mr Cruse and Mr Roberts, who have not caused frequent meetings, despite some requests to.

I charge Mr Montgomery with casualness towards his office, because he assumed what his job was, and did not ask for guidance from the Collective. If the Collective did not meet frequently he should have called for such meetings, which I believe he did not do.

I charge all four with not keeping sufficient control over their areas to inform the Collective of the Shop's difficulties, so the Collective could act as a Collective on this matter.

I do not believe it is the job of

Given the following information:
(1) The Committee was not elected until the 25th November.

(2) No attempt had been made by the Committee to define the duties of the Junior Treasurer.

(3) The Committee, because of its infrequent meetings, had failed to open up passages of communication between its members and thus had not functioned in a collective manner.

It was decided that primary responsibility should lay with the committee as a whole, although it was generally accepted that criticism could be levelled against Jim Montgomery for not coming to the Committee for advice if he was unsure of what his duties were. It may, however, be true that Jim Montgomery had a clear but incorrect idea about the nature of his job; either way it can be argued that he should have sought clarification.

As a result of previous discussions and of the discussion held in the meeting of this Monday it was decided that there was the need for a general review of the financial procedures which would include both short and long term plans for Union financing systems and help to formulate policy on the future developments of the Union. This review would, of necessity, incorporate a detailed account of present and expected responsibility of members of the Finance Committee.

C. Hoyland

(pp. Finance Committee)

the FC to criticise Mr Cortes — he is the responsibility of the Executive. I do believe that more than one person on the FC is open to criticism.

I believe the final point of the resolution is misleading. At least two FCs previously, the Senior Treasurer was asked to prepare a "General Review of Finances" document. Before the Shop item arose, questions were asked about the progress of the document, which was nil. Discussion then took place and it was agreed that the first priority was the Shop, then a general review of day-to-day procedures, followed by a 3-5-year plan of the Union's aims, expressed in financial terms. I believe included in the above, were all the issues raised in the final point.

The final point should read, "The Finance Committee had already decided to consider the whole question of responsibility and tasks of the individual members of the Finance Committee in a General Review, which will now be done in conjunction with Executive help."

The addition is important because it would delineate clearly between the four Junior Treasurers' responsibilities (for Shop and Florries, Entertainments, Publications, and the Bar) and the four members on the Executive who are responsible for those functions. The FC cannot act in isolation.

My last point is that I believe the motion is very limited, and does not propose very much.

I would like to thank the FC for allowing me to make this minority report.

Peter Timmins,

Junior Treasurer, Publications

WHEN (as "Beaver" put it with an unexpected streak of good humour) I recently "defected" to the Soviet Union for a few days, I was not strictly on LSE business. To be sure I did visit the new Library for Social Science Information, which our Librarian Mr Clarke had asked me to do. It is situated in a part of Moscow in which a number of new Soviet Academy Institutes have recently been erected, among them a glass and steel tower for mathematical economists.

The Library is distinguished not only by a generous and functional layout, but also by impressive services to scholars all over the country; it is of course not open to students (I say "of course" because I have found the Soviet Union to be a country of organised privilege throughout). I also talked to leading "academicians", that is scholars and scientists freed from teaching duties to take part in what is probably an enormous research effort. Interest in and familiarity with western social science is considerable and I was struck by a curious schizophrenia between professions of Marxism, Leninism and the detailed discussion of, say, Talcot Parsons or Raymond Aron or my own work.

But as I said, I did not go strictly on LSE business. Many of the contacts which the German "delegation" (Russia is not a

ME! ME! ME!

DURING the Easter Vacation when all of us mere mortals will be thinking about exams or sex, the more political animals in the student body, who have high aims to make a career of student politics, will be making their pilgrimage to Llandudno (believed to be in Wales). This Easter, the NUS choose their officers for the next year, with an interesting situation developing around the battle for the major positions, none of them missionary. The Broad Left would again seem to have a chance to dominate the NUS Executive, but one person, Hugh Lanning, seems to stand a very real chance of defeating the Broad Left and being elected to a sabbatical post. Yet the group from which he comes, the International Socialists have disowned him as "careerist and opportunist". So just what is the NUS game all about?

Why the IS have decided not to vote for Hugh Lanning is actually fairly obvious when one considers the IS policy with regard to the NUS elections. The IS claim to be a "rank and file" organisation and openly express disgust at the bureaucracy of the TUC. So the IS, whilst feeling that they have to put up candidates for the elections, are not really looking to win, especially where sabbatical posts are concerned, as they then become the bureaucrats that they so detest.

Therefore their tactics are to put forward a slate that is basically designed to lose where these posts are concerned. This year, when Hugh Lanning announced his intention of standing for the post of NUS Treasurer, the IS were faced with a novel problem. Here was a candidate who stood a real chance of winning, as he was standing against the weakest Broad Left candidate, our very own John Carr, and had a fair following outside of the IS he stood a very good chance of being elected. The IS then had to disown him and stand Tim Whitfield as their official candidate — and have left a number of people puzzling as to why they have abandoned their best electoral hope in years.

There is one other way of viewing the Hugh Lanning split. The IS are hoping that he will gain

country for individuals!) had of which I was a member were with political figures. Yet I believe that it is important that members of the School, including its Director, should maintain, indeed develop links with the outside world. LSE has always done that, of course; the list of our alumni reads like an International Who's Who; members of the School travel widely. And if I take it that the "outside world" begins in Fleet Street, the Law Courts, the City, Whitehall and even Senate House, there is equally no doubt about the number of links.

But perhaps it may be said also that not everybody in the School looks upon these links with favour. There are at least two "protectionist" views of universities in general and of LSE in particular. One is a student view, probably of the left, according to which involvement with outside agencies with the establishment links science with one set of institutions of social groups against others and that the only way to avoid such partisanship is to insist on a notion of autonomy which comes close to autarchy. Then there is the professorial view,

enough votes outside their organisation to survive the first ballot, if this is so, then when their official candidate is eliminated, they can back Lanning and increase his chances of electoral success when the votes are redistributed. But this would seem to mean a big change in IS Policy of a high level, of which there has been no other indication and the taking of an unjustifiable risk of Lanning being eliminated in the first ballot. However as Hugh Lanning has now issued a statement stating clearly that he is standing as an independent socialist, the position seems very clear, having not toed the IS line regarding sabbatical posts, he intends to fight the battle alone.

The other Broad Left candidates for the sabbatical posts seem fairly certain to be elected. Charles Clarke (BL Presidential Candidate) faces Terry Povey (IS) who is not without considerable success on the Executive in a non-sabbatical position, but stands little chance of beating the famous Broad Left Election machine. Other Presidential candidates include Francis Hayden (Liberal), Andy Vallance-Owen (Radical Action Group) and Alan Runswick (Labour), most of whom are highly likely to be eliminated at the first ballot.

For Deputy-President, Al Stewart (BL) has many weak points, but the machine should see him through against Pete Gillard, another nationally known IS man; Rose Stimpson (Lib) and Raymond Gann (RAG) again standing little chance. Sue Slipman (BL) faces an easier task for the post of Secretary against less well known IS candidate Carolyn Clarke and the infamous and servile Leo Brown (Lib).

For the VP's post the BL group of Loyd, Phillips, Ashby and Webster seem to have little opposition. Indeed for their five Executive members, the Broad Left stand a very good chance of getting four or five on.

So with the exception of Hugh Lanning, we seem to be faced with another year of probable Broad Left domination, stagnation and lack of co-ordination. The ball's in your court IS, and yet another balls-up you've made of it.

CW

LSE and the outside world

by Ralf Dahrendorf



probably of the right, which reaches the same conclusion by arguing that science and scholarship must, as a matter of principle, be held clear from external pressures of

stance of teaching or the findings of research must be determined by instances which pursue interests extraneous to the search for truth and the dissemination of knowledge. But it does not follow from this that an institution of scholarship should or indeed can exist in isolation.

A two-way flow of information to and from a large variety of economic, political, social organisations is, I believe, essential in order to preserve a sense of relevance within a university and a sense of wider horizons in the organisations in question. I see no reason why autonomy of teaching and research should not be compatible with a multiplicity of links, formal as well as informal, to the outside world.

This is a large subject and I do

not propose to discuss it in any depth in a short article. Clearly, there is a difference between international contacts on the one hand and internal contacts on the other. I would hope that nobody at the School will ever doubt our very special responsibility for keeping our doors open to the world: taking students from many countries, favouring exchange arrangements, promoting visits by foreign scholars and enabling our own staff to go abroad, maintaining close contact with our alumni wherever they are.

In this time of a galloping parochialism everywhere, such open-door attitudes may well be a contribution not only to teaching and research but also to the general level of international awareness. But having made this point I would hope that we do not lose sight of the other side of the relationship between LSE and the outside world, that with institutions and organisations at home, I for one should be glad if all groups in the School would come to see that these as much as the international ties of LSE are in our best interest.

Claim your Vacation Benefit!

any kind because they can flourish only by their own rules.

Now let there be no doubt: once teaching and research are subjected to outside interference they cease to be free. Neither the choice of subjects nor the methods IF you are virtually without any financial support for the vacation, remember that you are eligible, as a student, to claim supplementary benefit during the vacations. This article sets out to give you the basic information you will need to get it — but briefly, IF IN DOUBT, CLAIM!

There are several types of grant made by education authorities for vacation support, and you should check first that you cannot get any of these. If you have to do a specific field course or compulsory vacation course, your University is responsible for giving you additional grant. Also LEAs have powers to give "discretionary vacation hardship" grants to their award holders in the vacation; the current maximum is £6.55 a week.

LEAs have their own various and stringent rules about these and rarely give them — but some local Social Security offices tell students to apply first to their LEA for vacation support before they will award supplementary benefit, so you might be saving yourself time and trouble by getting your LEA's refusal in good time.

Finally, if you receive a mandatory or discretionary award of similar value, it includes a notional element towards your vacation maintenance. That notional element, which in 1973/4 is equivalent to £2.09 a week in vacation weeks, is in most cases deducted from your Supplementary Benefit (but see para. 11).

HOW TO GET IT

When you have finished your term and are no longer required to attend College, you are free to go to the nearest Local Office of the Department of Employment and sign on there as available for work. You can state a preferred type of adopted, nor above all the sub-

work and if it is available, it will be offered to you. If that sort of job is not available, you will have to consider any job which is not clearly, in the judgment of the Employment Officer, unsuitable for you by virtue of your physical weakness, handicap, or some other reason of that kind.

In other words, you can't insist that as a student you are only capable of skilled or clerical work; if there's only manual work on the offer, then that's it unless you are clearly physically unfit. If there is no work on offer, then you are entitled to supplementary benefit for any period of unemployment — this also covers any reasonable period when you are genuinely pursuing jobs offered to you but turning them down — on genuine sensible grounds such as a long expensive daily journey, face not fitting, and so on.

You should ask for Form B1, applying for Supplementary Benefit, and fill it in, indicating if your need is urgent. The Department of Employment local office may send it on for you, or you can take it yourself direct to the Department of Health and Social Security local office, particularly if your need is urgent. You may have to make an appointment for your interview with the DHSS, and you should check on this with the Department of Employment local office.

At the interview with the DHSS local office, to assess your supplementary benefit, you will probably need to be able to produce documentary evidence, such as your rent book, proof of the dates of your vacation and terms, details of any income such as wage-slips, receipts for fuel bills, your bank statements — for instance you may be asked to prove that you have spent your grant. Always give accurate information and do not withhold any details they need to have. You may find that they visit you — usually within a week — to make their own assessment of the situation.

A few days later you should receive a statement of the amount of supplementary benefit awarded; at the same time the DHSS Office will explain the method — usually a Giro cheque cashable at a specified

Post Office — by which it will be paid; and you will also be told the day and time each week when you are required to sign on at the Department of Employment office.

HOW MUCH MIGHT IT BE?

The maximum supplementary benefit you can receive in the vacations depends on a number of things — your age, where and how you are living, your savings, various commitments, and so on; the following is a general rough guide:

(a) If you live at home with your parents in the vacation, you are regarded as a "non-householder"; your maximum "personal allowance" since October 1973 is £5.70 a week if you are 18 or more. An additional sum of 80p per week is also payable to you instead of rent, as a contribution to your parents' rent etc.

(b) If you live in a bedsitter, flat, etc., in the vacation, where you are responsible for the rent and household necessities, you are regarded as a "single-householder"; your maximum personal allowance since October 1973 is £7.15 a week (£11.65 for a married couple*). An additional sum is payable for the rent — normally this is the rent at cost but this may be reduced if your rent is either considered unreasonably high for the district, or if it includes any items such as fuel or meals which are supposed to be paid for out of the "personal allowance".

As a general rule, rent can only be claimed for a flat for vacation weeks whilst you are actually living there; this means you will have to sign on each week in your College town if you want to claim rent. You cannot claim two rent allowances for the same period.

If you are married* remember that the requirements and income of a couple living together are counted together and treated as the husband's; so a married woman student living with her husband is not able to claim supplementary benefit in her own right. An unmarried couple living together as man and wife are normally treated as if they were married; so a cohabiting woman student cannot claim supplementary benefit in her own right.

Dog Days at

TO many students, the LSE "troubles" are vague happenings wrapped in myths. This article by Paul Bosher, who was a shop steward for the porters at the time, describes how he saw, and was involved in the events of those years. Mr Bosher was made an Honorary Vice-President of the Students' Union, and it is in that capacity that he writes.

TIME and again I am asked by students and new arrivals at the LSE what part did I play in the now notorious years of the School's troubles between 1966/69. This article is written to encapsulate the truth about the affair, from my angle of observation, before time and myth make it impossible.

I arrived at the LSE in December, 1966. On October 29th of that year the then President of the Students' Union had written a letter to the "Times" deploring the appointment of Dr. Walter Adams as the new Director. Apparently by using the School's address he had committed an offence against the School's regulations and a great deal of Academic dust had arisen, but a few days before I had arrived a board of discipline had rapped him across the knuckles and let the matter drop. I believe that absurd regulation has since been scrapped.

However it was not too long before one noticed that a certain amount of political activity was constantly being generated, mostly by a voluble and fiercely committed group of graduate and undergraduate students who called themselves the Socialist Society. These quadrophonic gentlemen had clenched fists and I found them as a group the most interesting, intelligent and committed of students, whose main delight was to find out where Authority kept its nose, then tweak it, hard. That was, and still is, one of the main delights of my life, so I had no difficulty at all, despite the jargon, in understanding what they were saying.

Within eight weeks of arriving at the School I found myself literally in the sticky thick of the School's first major confrontation with its students. On the 31st of January, 1967, at about 3 p.m., I was asked to stand by the Old Theatre doors to prevent students from entering it. A meeting which they had planned to hold there had suddenly been banned by the Director and hundreds of students were milling about in the Main Hall demanding the right to enter. In his book "The Troubles at L.S.E.", Harry Kidd, the then Secretary of the School, states:

"The atmosphere seemed light hearted and there was badinage between students and porters."

Not from where I was standing, at least not what I would call badinage. I was on the receiving end of the string of abuse and bitter recriminations from infuriated students, which was in no sense light hearted. And indeed why should there have been? The Director had at the last minute banned a meeting by students in the Old Theatre, and had then surrounded it with porters to ensure that his ban would be effective. All this because of a leaflet which stated that "Direct Action" was to be discussed, and he had interpreted "Direct Action" to mean violence. I would have thought that the most sensible riposte to that would have been to send to the Director a copy of the life of Ghandi.

The culmination of the events of that day, are now well enough known without

me repeating them. The accidental death by heart failure of an elderly School porter in the crush outside the theatre and the closure of the School have all been amply documented elsewhere, but some points have not been discussed before in public, and these are the points which I raised immediately after the tragic events of that day.

It seemed to me that previous errors had been committed, errors of confronting rather than coping. Here we had allegedly gifted administrators who had given years of service to colonies, empires or whatever, and in a simple issue of denying a room to some students they had failed. What had they done? Instead of simply locking the doors of the Old Theatre (as is now the



No comment in 1975.

practice) they had ringed the Old Theatre with elderly porters, some of whom had given years of service to the School, and asked them to deny entry to an excitable and youthful mob. That the accident occurred to someone whom the School had deliberately not called upon, was the School's good fortune, but my argument, that I was to push consistently and insistently throughout the School from that moment on, is that it is not and cannot be the expected duty of elderly porters to act as "B" Specials for the College authorities. Most Colleges in such situations are defenceless, and that oddly enough, is I believe their main defence, as wit and compassion are their main weapons, qualities which over the next few years were noticed only by their absence.

The School now drifted from worse to absurd. Another Board of Discipline was convened, and two student leaders found guilty by it of disobeying the Director's orders, were suspended. The majority of students in the School saw the verdict as blatant victimisation and the first sit-in in an English University was under way.

I played no part at all in this, except as an observer but what I observed made me deeply uneasy about exceptional contingencies that could arise in an overcrowded building being used twenty-four hours a day, often by complete strangers. The mood of the students was to take notice of no one but themselves, and a dogged determination to ensure victory for their Union against the School made relationships with students as a group, and academics as a group, painful and uneasy. The number of academics who could hope to gain a fair hearing from the Students' Union was shrinking and the process of alienation between students and staff had begun. In the end both student leaders were granted an amnesty amid great rejoicing and many students drew the lesson that sit-ins as a method of forcing the hand of the School was an unbeatable weapon.

For the next eighteen months the students

played their politics on the Union floor rather than in the School's main hall. Most Union meetings were packed and lively, and students discussed with, and fought each other over the dogmas of the day. I found myself elected as Shop Steward for the School porters and became gradually involved in a Branch that did not care for politics. The Americans were hammering North Vietnam, grinding down Greece, the Russians Czechoslovakia, but all we discussed was pecking orders and trivia.

So I found myself in a difficult position. I cared and was angry about what was happening in Vietnam and Greece, and I was a Shop Steward for a Branch that cared for nothing, least of all its Union. At the same time I was working in a place full of students whose opinions I shared on the events of the outside world. A clash was inevitable.

In September, 1968, at the beginning of the new academic year I heard rumours of a possible take-over of the School buildings for a weekend demonstration over Vietnam. By October it emerged that the Socialist Society, by now almost two hundred strong, would propose such a course of action. Naturally enough they wanted to know what would the porters do to try to prevent them.

Any idea that the porters could support such an action would be sheer lunacy. Elderly men who for years have suffered more social injustices than well-off undergraduates, tend to get rather tight lipped and authoritarian when young undergraduates start sitting on floors and waving banners. (See photos opposite page 85 of H. Kidd's "The Troubles at L.S.E."). It is not their fault. They cannot see or hope to understand every new frenetic fashion that seizes the middle-class young, nor should they want to or be expected to.

I, however, found myself in a different category. I sympathised with the students' objectives over Vietnam as indeed did the Transport and General Workers Union, over the withdrawal of American troops. However, as I have said before, the branch to which I belonged did not care too much about the Union, even less about its policies. So I was landed with a problem. I knew the School could not agree to its occupation over the weekend and I also knew that the occupation would go ahead anyway. Lines of communication were going to have to be opened with those who were going to occupy, despite the fact that this would seem to be treating with the enemy, for it was obvious that basic safety of people and buildings would have to be kept under a tighter than usual surveillance. I did that by simply addressing a packed Students' Union meeting in the Old Theatre, pointing out to them that by taking over the buildings certain responsibilities were thrust upon them, the least not being the fact that up to a dozen school porters would be in the building all the time and that their safety and the buildings must become their Union's prime responsibility. I also pointed out that in a previous occupation in 1967 the cleaners had had a tremendous amount of extra work thrust upon them and that the responsibility for the cleansing of the building must also fall upon their Union. I also pointed out that my branch had passed a motion of non-involvement and that therefore we would not forcibly prevent students from occupying the School. The Students' Union accepted all these points and also passed a motion that if, because of anything I had said, an attempt was made to secure my dismissal, the Students' Union would support me with all the strength it could muster.

The next day, Friday, October 25th, the Director attempted to close the School at about 9 a.m. It was not really a serious attempt for the Director had no force to use and the porters he asked to attempt to lock the doors did not, or could not, as students were sitting in front of them. What porters there were in positions of

danger to themselves, were asked to leave by Union men, for it was thought that it was not only unfair to them, but damaging to the School.

Consequently, that weekend the occupation took place, the School's Main Building and St. Clements being more or less totally occupied by anything up to three thousand people. A great deal of hysterical rubbish has been written about that occupation and the gutter press had a field day with it. I stayed on the premises most of the time, despite the Director's ban, for I was aware that not all of our members could be relied upon to keep their cool and not allow their personal prejudices to overcome their better judgement.

However everything went reasonably well. There were occasional panics and a little hysteria but the thousands who occupied talked themselves hoarse, fell asleep in corridors and classrooms, talked some more, laughed much and often, then left on the Sunday on what was described as one of the largest and most peacefully impressive demonstrations that London had ever seen. Those that were left beavered around cleaning the buildings then left late on Sunday. The total damage was one broken window and a chair.

I cannot believe that the actions that I took were wrong. I talked to the students before the occupation and during the occupation. At all times I kept before me the safety of my members, the safety of the School and the safety of the occupiers. Despite that, or rather because of that I was now branded as a lefty, a Trot, a Communist, a trouble maker or any other cliché the uninformed cared to throw at me. Talking to and mixing with members of the Socialist Society from then on was generally accepted as a declaration of disruption.

Those that organised the occupation were later branded as "immature", in a report on the events of that weekend. We all heaved a sigh of relief and settled down to what we hoped would be a more restful period.

At this time an event occurred that indicated to me the impossibility of my staying much longer as a shop steward for a group of men with whom I was politically miles apart. We used to have in those days an event that was called "Oration Day", a hangover from the pre-Robbins report days when young gentlemen in smaller numbers were educated in blatantly elitist establishments like the LSE. Oration Day took the form of a Tea Party for County Ladies and Gentlemen. The Court of Governors, their Wives and Guests would be corralled



LSE first-aid station.

into reserved seats on the ground floor of the Old Theatre, while students fulfilled their roles as the rude and scoffing multitudes in the gallery upstairs, a kind of Apartheid by class. Not surprisingly students at that time had changed their attitudes about such things faster than the School could change its procedures. On this occasion the students were not prepared to tolerate such blatant, flag waving elitism, so they stormed into the Old Theatre and took possession of it, and the reserved seats, despite a half-hearted attempt to prevent them by some porters on the doors of the Old Theatre. I should

LSE—67-69

perhaps remark here that I, and my two Trade Union officers were deliberately sent to look after outbuildings of the School so as to prevent us from acting as we had done over the Vietnam occupation in asking our members to leave any position in which the School placed them which we judged might be dangerous to them. However it turned out to be unnecessary for some Senior Academics came to our rescue and asked the porters to leave and let the students in. I was immensely heartened that it was not only I who was now aware of the possible dangers of placing elderly men in untenable positions.

After the Orator of the occasion (a well known Oxford don) had delivered his set piece he indicated his willingness to answer questions about Greece and some articles he had written about in a Sunday newspaper. Greece, in April of the previous year, had been seized in a coup d'etat and what the Oxford don had written, had been used by the conspirators as justification for their actions. Many students including many Greek students had been very angry about it and an occasion to ask questions about it was warmly welcomed.

The venue chosen was the New Theatre in the East Wing which was packed to overflowing. I was on duty in uniform and I went to help the crowd in. I was due to finish at 7 p.m. but could not get out because of the crush. Anyway I did not wish to leave for Greece was an area of controversy about which I knew more than most non-Greeks present, for I had recently spent three months in Leros, a small island in the Dodecanese which the Papapoulos regime was using to dump its political prisoners. So I did something that no school porter had done before. I asked questions. I will let the "Guardian" take up the story:

"Only LSE could put up a Greek speaking porter with a house on the island on which many political prisoners are held. He rambled on rather, but Professor Trevor-Roper sadly miscalculated when he clearly lost his patience and snapped to him, 'O shut up the cant and get on with it'. The reaction was immediate and the Professor's arguments wilted visibly under a well informed assault."

Having done what I believed I had every right to do, I packed up and went home.

Arriving for work the following day I discovered that some of the porters were running about with bits of paper to call an emergency Branch meeting. They believed that it was beyond the bounds of working class decency for a School porter to ask questions and rebuff the answers of an academic gentleman. Years of serving to their betters had made them unable to accept their right and perhaps ability to challenge. An emergency Branch meeting was called and an attempt by the Branch secretary to persuade the meeting that I was not a fit person to be its shop steward was defeated. The same branch secretary was, years later as a labour councillor, to vote for the Tory Housing Act and lead his men into work when the whole of the Trade Union Movement in England had asked all Trades Unionists to demonstrate against the Industrial Relations Act. Such sadly is the quality of socialism within our branch.

The furore of that event had hardly died down when indications of what was to be the culmination of the troubles emerged. During the Christmas vacation of that year sounds of hammering around the School could be heard. Investigations made, proved that some tradesmen were erecting iron gates across the stairs of various buildings. A note appeared on a Refectory pillar that the purpose of the gates was to prevent any more thefts of valuable paintings from the Senior Common Room. Then another note appeared saying that they were to assist in coping with crowds on the third floor when there were dances. Eventually a long circular was distributed saying that they were really to assist the Library to open on Sundays. By now of course the whole School knew exactly what they were for and on the 17th January, 1969, the Chairman of the Court of Governors informed us all at a meeting in the Old Theatre, in a reply to a question that I had asked him, that the gates were there to "Prevent illegal student occupations". Uproar ensued and I pointed out to his

lordship that I would seek to prevent the School from using the gates in the manner he had indicated for to use them for his stated purpose would be possibly illegal and certainly dangerous.

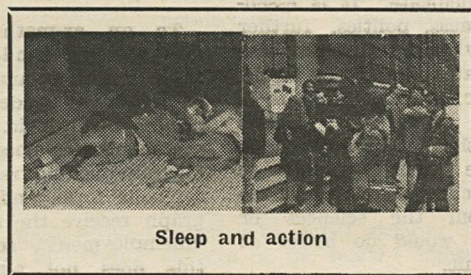
I must here carefully explain why I chose to oppose the School on this issue. To begin with I could not and did not oppose their erection. It was their obvious purpose that I found abhorrent. No amount of covering up could persuade me against the sad conclusion that somewhere along the line the School had made a grievous mistake. It was simply not possible within a proper framework for the School ever to use those gates for the purpose the Chairman had stated. The reasons are simple. Let us suppose a sit-in situation was developing. The Old Theatre would be full and the controversy of the day would be debated. A vote to occupy might be passed which of course the administration would immediately know about, and one supposes someone would presumably start dashing around locking the gates. Not for long however, for within a very short time angry calls would be received from visitors, secretaries academics and workers wanting to know why they had been trapped in the building while going about their proper business. Indeed the likelihood that the School would be contravening the fire regulations by trapping people within the building cannot here be ruled out. Perhaps here it would be appropriate to quote from page 79 of H. Kidd's book:

"If a sit-in started it should be allowed to continue, but any obstruction of stairways, corridors, and entrances to the building should, if possible, be checked, for two reasons: First the obstruction of means of escape in case of fire or panic is a danger against which the inhabitants of any large buildings must be protected; Secondly, obstruction fundamentally alters the nature of such a demonstration."

I always found it one of the ironies of the time that one of the most potent reasons for not erecting the gates should inadvertently come from a previous Secretary of the School.

But that is not the only reason. Experience had shown us that if there was any likelihood of a sit-in the Socialist Society would station its young ladies in strategic positions so as to frustrate any School employee from carrying out an instruction to close off any given area. The fact that the employee might well have been attempting to carry out an illegal instruction is also a point not to be overlooked. No matter how sympathetically one views the decision to erect the gates one can only come to the conclusion that they could have only been used if the School was empty, and if the School was empty there could hardly be any possibility of it being "occupied".

However my arguments proved to be counter productive. It was no longer possible for me to put forward any point of view



Sleep and action

whatsoever. I had become that nasty Shop Steward who was always on the side of the students. Coincidentally shared political opinions on issues of the day was a sufficient indication of irresponsibility and mistrust. Within a few days of questioning the legality of the gates I was once again hauled up by my trade union "Brothers" to face a vote of no confidence. Defending the fire regulations by questioning a Peer of the Realm seemed to them on par with committing an act of high treason, and something which workers must not do. The letter passed around requesting the special meeting of the Branch cannot here escape being partially quoted:

"... due to the harm to existing industrial relations between this branch and the management as the result of the action of a branch officer acting in a private capacity on the premises of the LSE...". I began

to wonder whether I should check under my bed at nights to ensure that there was no irate Branch secretary with trembling pen and paper waiting to catch me out in a private capacity.

Before the meeting could take place the students had removed the gates as inelegantly as they had been erected, and the School was closed down with the assistance of hundreds of police. As I was on the premises that night I was treated to an eye-witness view of just what happens when the police are ordered on to a campus. In many ways it did the Administration a great deal of harm for it closed the ranks of the students as nothing else could have done. The sight of learned academics pointing out their students to the police was one that was not only distressing, but explained how a great deal of bitterness destroyed all kinds of relationships and balances over the next crucial months.

The day after the gates came down I arrived at a police ringed LSE only to be informed that I was banned from the School and that my Union was negotiating on my behalf with the Administration. Later that day the Chairman of my branch telephoned me at home to tell me it had been agreed by the Union and the School that I was a security risk and I would not be allowed into the School, and I was suspended on full pay until further notice. Standing on the steps of LSE that day I was never more reminded of that marvellous line from T. S. Eliot's Four Quartets:

Do not let me hear

Of the wisdom of old men, but rather of their folly,

Their fear of fear and frenzy, their fear of possession,

Of belonging to another . . .

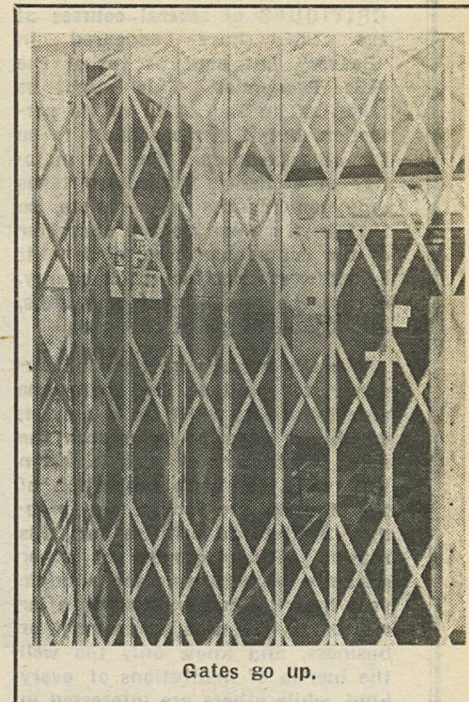
I was from that day on to be known as an arch-lefty, an anarchist, a Maoist, Brand X, anything, and all because I spoke in a porter's uniform to students at meetings and defended fire regulations as a Shop Steward. Myth took over from reality. The LSE learning machine had abandoned its ivory tower of academic observation and joined the hysterics in the gutters of innuendo and gossip.

And yet I have to say it was, to me at least, still trying to be fair. I am of the opinion that most employers would not have kept me and here, I was suddenly being handed a paid holiday in the depths of winter. The LSE at times can be a most puzzling place.

During the period of the closure the LSE students took up residence at the University of London Union in Malet Street, where I was invited to join them on a committee which was trying to find ways of negotiating a return to the LSE. A massive meeting in Friends House of all LSE students had surprised everybody by overwhelmingly supporting the Socialist Society demands for a return to the LSE on a platform of no victimisation and no gates. What, by simply talking to students I had always known, that those gates were an intolerable nonsense, was now the policy of over two thousand students.

When the School reopened (minus its gates), after a three and a half week close-down, I returned to find that the Branch had been led to believe that I had advocated the forcible removal of the gates, instead of simply defending the fire regulations. Having been kept away from the Branch for three and a half weeks amid a blaze of hysterical publicity, it was obviously inevitable that a vote of any kind would be overwhelmingly passed. Naturally enough it was, for I was now too heavily identified with "Students" as opposed to "Workers", and given the LSE's little local difficulties, no other decision could possibly be arrived at.

With the students back at the College the ugliest part of the three year confrontation now began. Academics who had pointed out students to the police on the night the gates came down and had the uncomfortable occasion of meeting those students, and of course the occasions were sometimes very bitter. Academics who had assisted the administration by swearing affidavits had their lectures disrupted and their office doors sprayed with red paint. The walls of the college were covered with slogans and fire alarms were constantly being set off. Finally it was announced that Mr Blackburn, a lecturer in Sociology, who had made some angry speeches supporting the students, was to be sacked. The students



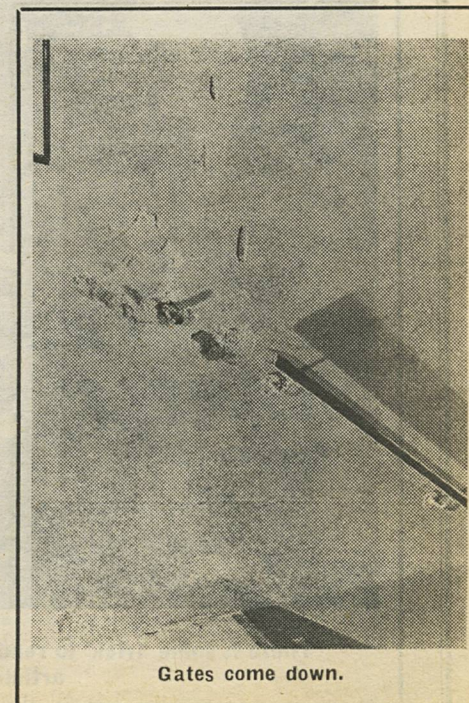
Gates go up.

promptly declared a strike and refused tradesmen access to the school even turning up at five in the morning to picket. The atmosphere within the School was foul and bitter, and as if to prove that hysteria is infectious I was myself subjected to assault by an angry trade union colleague, and that not being sufficient other "Brothers" from my own Branch attempted to induce the School to breach my contract by writing to the School Director asking for my dismissal. By now it was not just a strain simply to enter the School, it was a danger, relieved only slightly when the Students' Union made me an Honorary Vice-President for life, making me the first School porter ever to be so recognised, which I feel says a great deal about the inevitable sadnesses of our social divisions.

Writing this now, years after the events, I find myself unrepentant and wiser. I do not believe the School will make the same mistakes in attempting to cope with its more radical students as it made in the past. It has learnt from experience much more than any transient Students' Union can, for what experience students gain from such confrontations is lost to the Union as those students graduate. The School of course made terrible blunders as did the students and finding myself literally between the learned and the learning in a vicious political dogfight I too learnt, or rather re-learned old values of defiance and disobedience, those twin pillars of permanent challenge upon which my whole socialist ethos rests.

But above all else I am forced to pay tribute to the School. I have angered it, been angered by it, disagreed with it, violently over Mr Blackburn's dismissal, but at all times it has been fair to me. George Bernard Shaw once said that all men over forty are rogues so I have still a few years of ragged trousered idealism left before I join the careful party hacks who always lead from behind, and last forever. When that occurs if I take any idealism with me it will be what I learnt from the students of those dog days. They were not always right and perhaps their manners were appalling, but by God they woke up the LSE.

PAUL BOSCHER



Gates come down.

CRITIQUES of several courses at the LSE have appeared in "Beaver", but none as yet of the MSc Economics. This might be taken as an indication of its perfection, but it is more likely to be for other reasons. For the majority of students, the course takes only ten months to complete, so that by the time the full character of the course has become clear, it is not worth putting much energy, during the remaining few months, into trying to get it changed.

There is not enough time for students to politick as spare-time entertainment, which is a way in which the consciences of even the most reactionary of staff is often kept alive. A large proportion of the students are foreign and probably hesitate to criticise for this reason. A fair number of other students are returning for a single year into the academic world after a year or two with government or business, and know only too well the inertia of institutions of every kind, while others are interested in the course mainly as a certification.

The huge diversity of the students makes the course potentially very interesting, but it is a potential which is in danger of being lost. The MSc Economics is the largest postgraduate course in the LSE, and possibly in Britain (about 100 students) so the student body tends to be fragmented and anonymous.

And in conversation, people express feelings of dissatisfaction and disappointment with the course. Complaints about any course are frequent and varied, but hard to articulate so as to suggest practicable improvements. Analysis of the course falls easily into the categories of teaching methods, and course content, although to some extent teaching methods condition the course content and vice versa.

The first thing which might help would be to provide some orientation and explanation about the course when we first arrive. At the beginning of October several hours should be spent in lectures and discussion about the structure and purpose of the entire MSc. The lecturers might well explain what they hope to accomplish, and get some idea of what various students want to learn (and what other departments are teaching). If,

for a given student, this isn't the best course, he could more easily decide that early in the year.

Let the lecturers admit their biases vis-a-vis other schools of economic thought so that if their approach seems to us intellectually bankrupt, we know where to lay the blame. And finally, many students don't know how the examination system operates and an explanation could counteract the unfair advantage which European students have. The way in which some students were told after the September maths and stats course that their performance on it had been the grounds for excluding them from taking the one-year MSc smacks of Big Brother.

TEACHING METHODS

For graduate students, it was a bad joke to read in "Beaver" recently that the maximum size of classes was being increased from 12 to 16. Classes officially have up to 25 people in them, and after a little rearrangement as students are forced to switch from the worst class-teachers, the classes which are worth attending have even more (41 at one recent count). For the students who say very little, who cannot but be the majority in classes of this size, the classes are very little different from another lecture. None of the class-teachers has asked for any written work: at least some teachers simply refuse to handle any if it is offered, and the rest have to discourage this because they couldn't handle work from dozens of students.

The classes discuss mainly nit-picking true-or-false questions which remind us of schooldays, with nothing that approaches a general discussion of a particular topic: this leaves a wide gulf between the depth of coverage in reading-lists (which usually give only one biased approach to each topic rather than pitting the best statements of different points of view against each other) and the shallowness of the approach in the classes. In these circumstances it's hard to know whether one's personal understanding of the subject has "run off the rails".

Other teaching methods are equally inadequate. The system by which a tutor is allocated to each student is a shambles: there is only one tutor (to my knowledge) who has taken any positive interest in

his students, and there have been students who half-way through term have been amazed to find that such a person exists!

Probably at the end of term these tutors write on the student's report: "progressing satisfactorily" and then wonder who the student is! Some staff members deny that the intention of the "tutorial" system is to teach at all. The LSE should make a centralised decision on what, if anything, tutors are for, circularise staff and students accordingly, and then monitor the system to see if it is operating.

As for the office hours, which are meant to be available for students with "difficulties": firstly only a few students realise that they are there to be used (their use is not encouraged); secondly, they come to operate largely through personal contacts which the student must initiate; thirdly, it takes some degree of nerve to go and see a lecturer, for whom you are merely a face in the crowd, and ask for clarification; fourthly, any staff member who prefers not to be bothered can easily communicate this simply by being unhelpful; and fifthly, the best-known staff, who are already often the most pressed for time, get the biggest drain on their time through this system.

The economic incentives for a teacher to teach are all negative, and those few who are of some use to students deserve only praise. The teaching system ends up inefficient and unfair and those who suffer most are those who most need help because of language or other difficulties (and are paying their own hard-earned money over as fees).

TEACHING GRADUATES ?

The reasons for having teaching are not weaker at the graduate level than at the undergraduate level — in fact, rather the reverse, because the terminology, basic definitions and accepted theoretical and empirical results of economics can be learned from a number of lucid introductory texts.

At graduate level it becomes essential to read original contributions on controversial areas of the subject, and make up one's mind which arguments and theories are wrong, which are irrelevant, which are semi-fraudulent, and so on. This is where discussion with someone who himself understands the subject at a fairly deep level, and has formed opinions on the controversies which he is prepared to defend, becomes essential. Or it should be, if the course is to be a preparation for research or to keep anyone interested. With the present system, from year-beginning to year-end many students write nothing for anyone else to read except the exam paper.

But the ability to write well is probably the most generally useful of abilities which any academic course can inculcate. It is essential for business, politics, further research, or virtually anything else which graduates are likely to do. On the MSc, anyone who is a good writer when he arrives will have the ability stagnate, and anyone who wants to learn it (especially people who have switched from the sciences or mathematics) would do better at any polytechnic.

As in writing, there is some "trick" to reading the lengthy and turgid articles on the reading-lists which can be, but is not being passed on to students. In general, there is a sad lack of verbal culture, which among other things evidently afflicts lecturers when they arrive.

THE LECTURES

The lectures and classes in the course help to break up the day and provide an opportunity to meet other students, and delineate the content of the course and the mentality of the examiners. But in an objective sense, the LSE could as well issue transcripts of the lectures and worked examples, and a reading list, at the beginning of term, shut up shop in October, and have

BIG BROTHER BAD J MSc Economics at L

people come back in June to take the exams.

Meanwhile Ralf Dahrendorf could rest easy in the certainty that this economy had not lowered academic standards. Particular lectures have been quite good, but not one can be truly described as a well-prepared survey of the literature, replete with critical insights. This is probably why lecturers do not visit their colleagues' lectures. When no-one in the department is interested in what other people in it are doing, the results are predictable. The best lectures tend to be those which are drawn from someone else's book! Incidentally, an eloquent proof that students do want to do more than absorb lectures passively comes from an amusing defence mechanism which lecturers come to learn: at the end of the lecture, they scurry off as quickly as possible, to avoid being "caught" by students wanting to ask questions or tell them that their lecture was filled with mistakes!

COURSE CONTENT

This article now moves on to the more controversial, and ultimately more important, subject of course content. In an economics course, it would be possible to discuss such topics as "What determines the difference in countries' long-term growth-rates", "Management techniques and the social composition of management in Britain since the war", "Does the history of the Soviet Union indicate that inefficiencies are endemic to a centralised economy?".

Some undergraduate courses (though certainly not the MSc pre-lim year) do attempt this kind of question, but for us they only serve to draw the strongest possible contrast with our MSc. Though called "Economics" the course is in fact on economic theory of the sort which proceeds by logical deduction from the basis of a few well-defined assumptions.

To an ex-maths student, the course seems similar in character to set theory or analysis, and to an ex-philosophy student it seems like philosophical logic. Much of the argument is couched in the form of diagram-pushing rather than in a symbolic form, and the axes of a graph receive the names "output", "unemployment", "consumption", but this does not alter their basic character.

The comparison with mathematics teaches us two things: firstly, that intellectuals can find this sort of thing very interesting (maths was a well-developed subject long before physics, chemistry, or social sciences); and secondly, that the fact that a logico-deductive chain is interesting in no way means that it necessarily corresponds in the slightest to anything in reality.

Some types of maths describe the behaviour of gravitation or of intermolecular forces with astonishing accuracy, while others have no practical application at all. In economics, the division is not so clear-cut. The assumptions of theory hold to some greater or lesser extent, in some areas of the subject

but not in others, at some times in history but not others. We can illustrate.

MACROECONOMICS

In macroeconomics, wealth has been defined by the lecturer (or is it a behavioural rule? Or what wealth would be if people were rational?) as being "expected income" divided by the "interest rate". Compare this with an historical example, and you notice that in the 1929 stock market crash share values and other forms of paper wealth (the "real capital stock" was not in question) plummeted in value, while interest rates

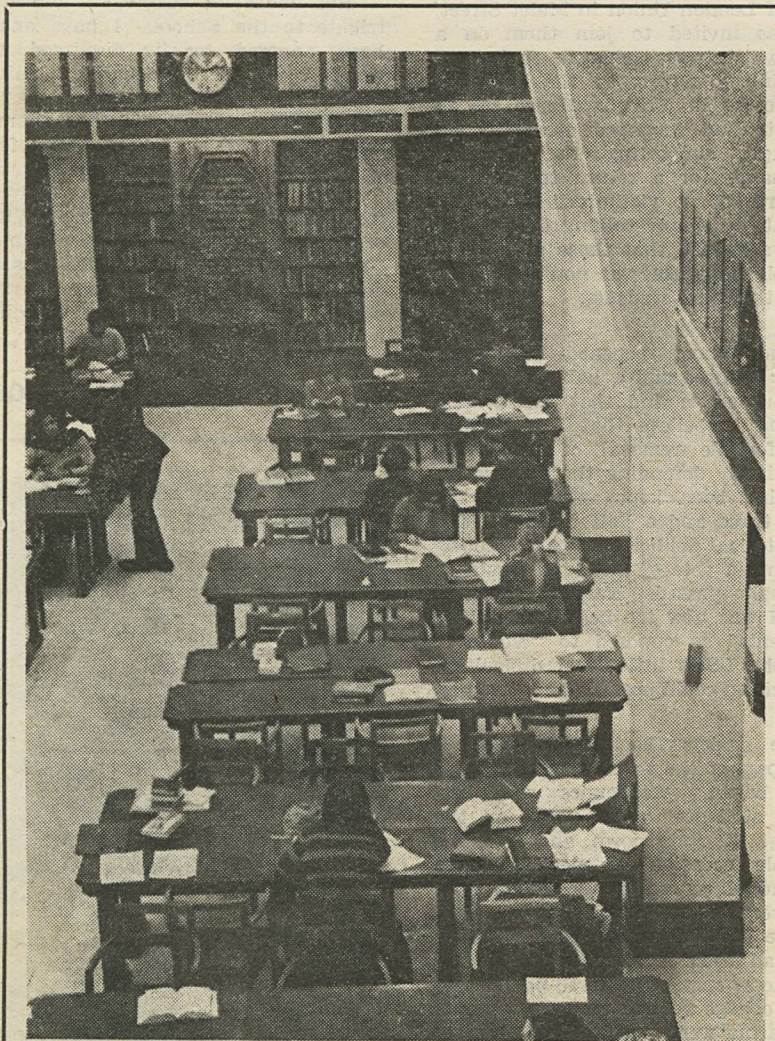


also reached all-time lows. That is, they went in the opposite direction to the way the "Y/r" formula says they should. The size of the falls were far larger than can be explained by the actual reduction in national income.

In Britain, in 1974, the "real" interest rate (allowing for inflation) went down, through zero, to negative figures: and yet wealth did not go to infinity and beyond. Sometimes, as in the recent stock-market revival, a fall in interest rates can lead directly to a rise in share and other prices, so that the economy does sometimes work in the direction of the "Y/r" formula.

Now, the idea of the present value of an income flow being given by "Y/r" is used in several places in economics, and often nothing more needs to be said. So when wealth is explained as being "Y/r" this may have the pleasant effect of bringing a difficult subject into place among a network of pre-existing mental associations. But if the value of the formula is purely psychological, then its adoption signals the final stage of the divorce of economic theory from reality.

If such a formula is to be used at all, at least some time should be devoted to discussing, with appropriate empirical examples, how far it explains the significant facts about wealth movements. Instead, the formula has been written up, split up, manipulated, diagrammed, and (the final consummation) differentiated! Typically, once the initial assumptions of a



"There is some 'trick' to reading the lengthy and turgid articles."

OTHER'S JOKE

LSE — A Critique

Lectures have been stated, the tenor of the final result is clear even before the banal algebraic manipulations have taken place. Lecture after lecture tells the same story, and the genuine theoretical insights which the lectures have made could be stated far more concisely. The references to empirical results which are made in the reading-list are the sort which best fit with this anti-verbal scientific — econometric estimates from aggregate data. Not only have the theories "supported" by such data often been proven wrong many years later, but also, the validity of this type of evidence should have

Here, some readers will mentally reply "But micro theory can take (at least some) such possibilities into account". But the point is, that it will only do so after empirical knowledge has suggested what the appropriate initial conditions are. Are we to be left to glean examples such as these from the Guardian?

LSE ECONOMICS AND WORLD ECONOMICS

At other times, the theory reaches the level of true vacuity, being merely a long-winded way of stating some obvious facts and obscuring others. The "time-preference diagram" demonstrates that as the

the use of equally impressive mathematics is an everyday activity for mathematicians proper.

A mathematician can never have seen anything so risible as the fuss made here about the "Koyck transformation"! Undergraduate courses in economics are now serving partly to root out the tendency of students to compare economics with their own knowledge of the world (condemned as "introspection") and make the cleavage between theory and reality: after which theoretical refinements can continue unchecked, operating with such concepts as "human capital", "compensated demand curves", and the like.

Once you're a graduate, or a lecturer, there is some tendency for an article published in the journals to acquire a reputation proportional to the difficulty of the mathematics or the econometric techniques involved. After all, there is no air of exclusiveness to an article which just anyone could read! If, on the other hand, you have just understood an article after 3 hours' hard struggle, it is "psychologically impossible" to admit that the upshot of it all was not very useful. And if the reader simply had to give up, this is even better: the author is credited with knowledge of arcane mysteries beyond the capabilities of ordinary mortals.

In contrast to a system which grades articles by their obscurity, some judgment is needed to distinguish the brilliant from the mediocre article when both are purely verbal, a judgmental ability which the LSE does absolutely nothing to encourage, so that it must bear responsibility for the popularity of bad articles. Analysis of the reasons for the mathematicisation of economics could continue in this vein until it fills a book, so we won't continue.

This trend may be international, but there is no inescapable force which constrains the LSE to be at the forefront of the decline. For people at the LSE, thinking about what economics should be, and movement in that direction, without losing contact with mainstream economics, is perfectly possible and should be revived from its current state of neglect.

CHANGES

This is not to say that theory should be thrown out lock, stock and barrel. The general ability to think logically and to recognise that "models" are often implicit in verbal analyses is very valuable. But so are the abilities to write well, read carefully, and to weigh up the relative importance of different factors in a complex system such as the economy. The logical analysis of which micro and macro presently consist should be balanced half-and-half with

(1) Critical discussion of the validity of the assumptions of economic models. While many models may be constructed, our teaching never discusses where and in what circumstances one model may be an approximation to reality, and where another.

(2) Information about the economic history and institutional structure of actual societies, to give an idea of the relative importance of different components of the economy (e.g. how far politics cannot move the economy from the path it is already following, whether monetary mismanagement produces slight ripples in economic growth or major disasters, etc.). This could provide a standard against which to judge the relevance, breadth of applicability, and realism of economic theory. It should also include some Marxist economics.

The ignorance of economists in the East and West of each others' ideas is scandalous, and the double-consciousness of many MSc students — privately Marxist, but neo-classical on the exam paper — is ludicrous. For Marxists, theory is a bogus legitimisation of capitalist efficiency, while non-Marxists can



"LSE could issue a reading list . . . shut up shop in October" (until June)—leaving the Library to do the teaching?

only lament the fact that the course's lack of material for forming an overall perspective on economy and society leaves a vacuum for crude Marxist ideologies to fill.

The approach suggested here is quite different from the approach to facts used in micro, which starts from theory and then seeks out illustrations of its applicability, when possible. It would start with a judgment of what have been and are the most important events and facts in the economic system, and then show where theory explains these, where we need to appeal to political forces, and where an analysis of the uniquely historical event is necessary — for an understanding of economics.

At the moment economists in the LSE have lost their nerve for this type of analysis, and the econometricians, who explicitly adopt the scientific approach, and are very good at it, give the best course. The absence of an effective counterbalance to this approach lets the imperialistic tendency of econometricians to take over the subject (which is only natural) win by default! Economists need to stand up and assert that other methods of economic analysis are equally valid. It might be argued that the course would then become fragmented, but providing each component individually is worth studying, this could only serve to keep students' minds open. Do we want this, or a monolithic conformism?

CONCLUSIONS

1. In some way, a more personal and lively teaching system must be brought into existence and made to work, whether through bringing down the size of classes to the level where individual tuition becomes possible, or by a modification of the present tutorial system. And on balance, although incentives in academia are fraught with dangers, some incentive to penalise the lazy professor or PhD student should be introduced. If it's said that this is financially impossible, consider these data about the total number of staff teaching hours (lectures plus classes) currently paid for by the school, per year: macro, 72 hours; micro, 80 hours; econometrics, 120 hours; the optional subjects, 860 hours (figures taken from A. Day's "Introduction" handed out in the first term). Another 160 hours in micro would bring the class sizes down to six, one-quarter of their present size. Another 256 hours in macro would not only bring classes down to six, but would also provide one hour of class-teachers' time for handling written work against every one-hour class. And after all this, the options would still employ a bloated proportion of the school's financial resources. At the moment, macro and micro are subsidising the optional courses and the whole MSc. Economics is subsidising other MSc's. Every foreign student brings with him £250 of fees which

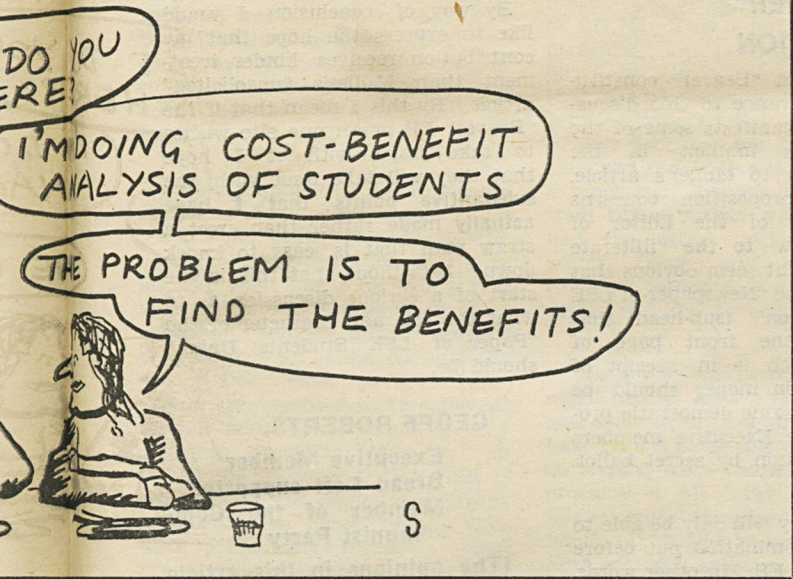
he expects to be used in teaching him. If the only reason for strangulating the micro and macro courses is that those in power dislike the Chicago school of thought prevailing there, they are sacrificing students' education for the sake of academic whimsicalities. If it is because teachers of the options collude to get the maximum of the faculty's money, this is a sign of rottenness in the political body of the faculty.

2. Where there is bureaucracy, it should be clearly defined and enforced; this applies, not to the secretarial staff who do their jobs very well, but to the academic staff themselves. It's no fun for students to come halfway across London on a day when there's no other reason to come in, and then find that the class-teacher doesn't show — twice.

3. The major change in intellectual outlook cannot be achieved by "policy measures" alone, but rather by a gradual process. As many individuals as possible, from Ralf Dahrendorf as he appoints new lecturers, through the lecturers themselves as they give lectures and choose reading-lists, to we students ourselves, should be asking: what sort of questions in economics are important? Teaching some of the optional subjects there are staff who reveal themselves as something more than frustrated artists and mathematicians, and they could go and see what kind of courses are being offered elsewhere in the LSE and push for changes accordingly. As a short-run measure (although this has not been agreed by all commentators on this article) it might be possible to have someone from the Economic History department give a course on 20th century economic history. It could replace some of the literature of irrelevant controversies in macro, and in micro replace some of the groping attempts towards a "Principia Microeconomics" as well as readings which are redundant with the lecture notes.

With the departure of Harry Johnson, economics at the LSE faces a watershed where it will drift until it settles into the rigidity of habit, unless the faculty takes stock of itself and reinjects vitality into its academic approach. We will be glad to provide specific examples of the assertions we have made. Sentences here could have been paragraphs, and much of our case is unanswerable. But we welcome a point-by-point response from a member of the faculty.

The original draft for this has been written by David Grubb. Thanks go to Dave Bockman for valuable suggestions, to Cliff Winston for critical editing, to Ben for unfailing comprehension and to Rick for moral guidance — and to Tom and other students too numerous to mention. Needless to say, agreement on the form the article should take has not been complete.



be highly suspect from the first, and only an acquiescent dearth of critical thought let them become so popular. The permanent income hypothesis and many demand-former functions are fine examples.

MICROECONOMICS

In parts of microeconomics, it is arguable that the assumptions of theory hold quite well (e.g. price theory when it allows for imperfect competition), and thus that theory "works". In other aspects — e.g. the theory of international trade and of income distribution — this is less true. And the only mention of immigration on the course has been a diagrammatic demonstration that it drives down the real wage. In fact, immigration has various effects which the micro model is too crude to allow for.

In Germany, the immigrant population of Turks, etc., acts as a buffer against economic fluctuations: booms are fuelled by the importation of foreign workers, who are sent home when the economy turns down. In this inhumanitarian way, the immigration makes the German worker better off. In England, coloured immigrants, originally imported to do jobs which it was difficult to get English workers to do, are to some extent kept in low-paid jobs by discrimination, and the English-by-birth worker may on the average be better off. In the US, one reason for the highest real wage in the world is that wave after wave of immigration has sustained (until recently) the social spirit of aggressive competitiveness.

rate of interest falls, people tend to save less, but obscures the fact that when the interest rate is negative people still save.

Keynes relates an anecdote which throws great light on these developments (?) in economics. In his biography of Marshall, he wrote "Professor Planck of Berlin, the famous originator of the Quantum Theory, once remarked to me that in early life he had thought of economics, but had found it too difficult! Professor Planck could easily master the whole corpus of mathematical economics in a few days. He did not mean that! But the amalgam of logic and intuition and the wide knowledge of facts, most of which are not known precisely, which is required for economic interpretation of the highest form, is". Keynes continues, "Overwhelmingly difficult" — for those whose forte lies in precise logical deduction. Keynes was being over-generous, for he could have added that the people who are most attracted to the logico-deductive approach are often those who could most usefully work in other parts of the subject.

Criticism of economic theory on the grounds given here is far from original. But nevertheless economics is sliding into the seductions of this approach — witness the high status accorded to Arrow, Debreu, Solow, and closer to home, Prof. Sen. To keep the wonders of excellence in mathematical economics in perspective, remember that

BEAVER Students rule OK...

FACT AND FANTASY

IT is a pity that an issue of such importance as what has been and what should be the role of "Beaver" was introduced in the manner that it was in the last issue. Under the headline of "Workers' Control Threat!" — an obvious attempt at ridicule — readers were told that what follows is an article written by members of the Communist Party and the International Socialists which had fallen into the hands of "Beaver".

Those who read the two statements in the "Beaver Daily News-sheet" of Wednesday, 19th February will be aware that "Beaver's" description of the article and its source is completely inaccurate. It is, in fact, an article written by Ken Muller (IS) which has not been discussed or even considered by either of the two organisations in question and represents the views of Muller and only Muller.

Further, far from "falling" into "Beaver's" hands the article was stolen from the office of the Senior Treasurer. Ignoring the latter point one can well ask on what basis did "Beaver" make the claims that it did for the article? Why was no attempt made to confront the CP and the IS with the article? Are we to believe that the fact that it contained the words "CP/IS etc" is sufficient evidence for "Beaver's" claims? I raise these questions not in an effort to score debating points but because I believe that "Beaver's" attitude in this regard reflects a far more profound malaise that emanates from the pages of "Beaver". Namely:

- (1) A certain contempt for the facts when they do not suit.
- (2) An almost paranoid obsession with the "conspiratorial Left" at LSE.
- (3) Elitist notions that "Beaver" knows best" however scant the evidence.

These particular tendencies permeate the "Beaver" reply to Muller. For example, the claim is made that this term the IS and CP made a pact to take over "Beaver" (this assumes that "Beaver" is in the hands of someone...). Evidence? Verified internal minutes perhaps, or witnesses to the crime? Not on your life?! 3-4 members of these two organisations turn up to a "Beaver" Editorial Meeting to voice some criticism (which, after all, is one of the major reasons for such meetings) and make proposals. Readers can judge for themselves whether or not these actions may be construed as an attempt to take over "Beaver".

This incident is coupled with another concerning the Executive meeting of February 12th at which it was decided to refer the new proposed "Beaver" Constitution to the next meeting. No reason is given for this decision. The reader is left to make his own "dark" conclusions.

THE MITCHELL AFFAIR

In fact, the argument put for referral was that to have a fruitful discussion of the proposals Executive members would need time to study them. A reasonable decision or sinister plot? Further the article claims that Broad Left held a caucus after the Executive meeting which discussed "Beaver". I was at this meeting (there was no caucus) and no such discussion took place. It is the height of ar-

rogance to assume (again no proof is offered) that this was the case.

Examples of that character can be gleaned from every issue of "Beaver" — and are not just occasional oversights. If "Beaver" will give me the space in a future issue I will undertake to substantiate this allegation. For the present, one further example will suffice. The January 21st issue carried a front page lead article concerning the library which referred to a letter of James Mitchell, Union Academic Affairs Officer, sent to the Librarian. Following this article, which was the first that most Executive members had heard of Mitchell's letter, he was censured by the Executive because:

- (1) He had sent the letter on behalf of the Executive without its prior consent.
- (2) The letter did not reflect Union policy, which it is his duty to represent in his capacity as an Executive member, in that it accepted the need for cuts — which Union does not.
- (3) He agreed to meetings with the Librarian without the prior consent of the Executive.

One would expect that this piece of "news" would find its way into the following issue of "Beaver". It was not mentioned — not even in an article on the front page devoted to the Library. 100 to 1 that if the Executive member concerned had been Broad Left it would have received considerable attention in



'Beaver should be a campaigning union newspaper and its editorial content should be directed toward this end'

the pages of "Beaver". As I said "a certain contempt for the facts when they do not suit."

P.S.: The motion of censure was passed with some degree of support from all of the "independents" on the Executive.

'BEAVER': "NEWSPAPER OF LSE STUDENTS' UNION" ?

I would now like to turn to more substantive issues and comment on Ken Muller's stolen article and on your reply. Firstly, despite the fact that I am a member of the Communist Party and supposedly had a hand in writing it, I do not agree with all the points against "Beaver" that Ken Muller makes. However, I do agree with the main thrust of the article which is that:

- (a) "Beaver" should be a campaigning Union newspaper and that its editorial content should be directed toward this end.
- (b) This has been the main failing of "Beaver" this year.

In your reply you make two points. Firstly, that "Beaver" has carried considerable material on Union activities and you quote examples to justify this claim.

Secondly, that the direction of editorial policy would be censorship.

Your first point is irrelevant since no one disputes that this is the case — although I would argue that too often there is a confusion in "Beaver" between fact and comment, with the need for more of the former, and that coverage of Union activities should be institutionalised in some way via the allocation of 2-3 pages specifically devoted to Union affairs.

What is in dispute is the fact that a paper which is getting nearly £4,000 of Union money (by far the largest proportion of the budget excepting wages) has a role other than this to play. A major pre-occupation of "Beaver" should be the active propagation of Union policy. This plainly has not been the case. To give just one example the November 12th issue carried a front-page interview with Dahrendorf. An interview which was interesting and important which should rightly be given prominence in "Beaver". Tucked away on page 5, however, was a piece on the Grants Week of Action less than a fifth of the size of the interview. Surely, "Beaver's" role should have been the propagation of this policy and it was this issue which should have found its way on to the front page.

Indeed, if you take the front pages of "Beaver" this year (which indicates the extent to which "Beaver" has been a campaigning Union paper) a similar set of priorities are also in evidence (with the possible

exception of the one which covered the Union elections).

CENSORSHIP OR DEMOCRACY ?

Your second point concerning censorship is of more importance. You are correct in your assertion that if Editorial content were directed toward campaigning for Union policy this would be censorship. But, then, what does this mean? In a sense the editorial content of "Beaver" is already censored — censored by those who formulate it. At present this is the Editor in conjunction with the Editorial Board (EB).

All that we are saying is that such "censorship" should be the prerogative of all LSE students as expressed through the democratic structures of the Students' Union. Censorship of this character is preferable to that of a single individual or even an editorial board (in this case an unelected one).

What makes Peter Timmins and/or the EB so special? Why should they have the privilege of determining the editorial content of a Union newspaper? Is it that "they know best"? Why should £4,000 of Union money be used as a vehicle for the propagation of the views of the

"Beaver" EB? What "Beaver" calls censorship is more properly called an aspect of Union democracy: the right of all students to determine the editorial opinion of "Beaver". This can only be done on the basis of majority decisions which in turn can only be taken via the democratic structure of the Union. (If these structures are inadequate they need to be reformed).

This does not mean that the opinions of minorities or those of individuals have no place in "Beaver". One of the main functions of "Beaver" should be to encourage discussion of Union policy and to act as a forum for dissent or otherwise. Of course, the editor and the individuals of the EB should have the right to express their opinions, whatever the character of those opinions. But they should be able to do so on the same basis as any other Union member. To expect the Editor of "Beaver" or the EB as some kind of Guardian of the Union is to give them not rights but privileges — privileges which they deserve no more or no less than any other Union member. Which brings me to the aforementioned proposed "Beaver" Constitution.

THE "BEAVER" CONSTITUTION

The proposed "Beaver" constitution is of relevance to this discussion since it manifests some of the elitist notions implicit in the "Beaver" reply to Muller's article. The central proposition concerns the "election" of the Editor of "Beaver". Now to the "illiterate masses" it might seem obvious that the editor of the "Newspaper of LSE Students' Union" (sub-head that appears on the front page of "Beaver") which is in receipt of £4,000 of Union money should be subject to the same democratic procedures as the Executive members i.e. direct election by secret ballot.

Not so! They will only be able to "approve" a nomination put before a UGM by the EB. In other words, the EB will decide whom we may vote for, and not only that we won't even be given a choice of candidates. This proposal will actually give effective power to the EB since Union will be dependent on it for recommendations. Whoever gets elected, it will be the recommendation of the EB (or if it fails to agree the Executive will adjudicate). Who then elects the EB which is given so much power? NOBODY. The EB is comprised of "recognised members of staff". Who "recognises" the members of staff... who knows...

When I suggested to Peter Timmins that such proposals were undemocratic and that following their logic the Senior Treasurer should be elected by the same method, i.e. the finance committee (which is at least elected) playing the role of the EB, he replied, to the effect, that it wouldn't be a bad idea. I hope he will expand upon this point at the hustings for Senior Treasurer since he is one of the candidates.

Underlying these proposals is the notion of "Beaver" as the Union's "Guardian Angel". It is elitist through and through. It is the idea that some students, to paraphrase Orwell, are more equal than others. It carries the danger of "Beaver" falling into the hands of a self-perpetuating clique. The Union's "Guardian" is its democracy. This is the only real guarantee that it will serve the interests of its members.

A "BEAVER" CLIQUE ?

Indeed, in some respects this is already the case. This aspect is perfectly illustrated by the use of "Beaver" as a vehicle for personal attacks, smears, and general pissing-taking (more often than not of the LEFT and Union activists) via Felicity's Diary, Snidelines, and more recently Stars on Tuesday. Ken Muller rightly described these as "pathetic attempts to be funny at other people's expense."

The "Beaver" reply that such items are a "matter of taste" is inadequate. When a Union newspaper consistently carries unsigned articles whose content is nothing short of slanderous — both legally and morally — it ceases to be a matter of taste and becomes one of public concern.

Such material cannot be defended on the grounds that it is satire. Satire is a medium for presenting reality. Felicity's Diary et al consist, in the main of unsubstantiated gossip — which can only be of interest to the members of a "clique". If "Beaver" so desires I will give chapter and verse to substantiate these allegations.

CONCLUSION

By way of conclusion I would like to express the hope that my contribution receives kinder treatment than Muller's "unsolicited" article. By this I mean that if the "Beaver" EB or anyone else wishes to take issue with it I hope that they will take issue with the substantive points that I have actually made rather than erect a straw man that is easy to knock down. Let's hope that this is the start of a serious discussion as to what the role and character of the "Paper of LSE Students' Union" should be.

GEOFF ROBERTS,
Executive Member
Broad Left supporter
Member of the Communist Party

(The opinions in this article are mine and mine alone.)

Solution to crosswords

Crossword 1

Across: 1, Gnome; 5, Acme; 9, Lo; 10, Ominous; 11, ER; 12, Devour; 15, Hoe; 17, Most; 18, Cell; 19, Hike; 20, Crag; 21, Ate; 22, Scarab; 2, TT; 26, Private; 30, Mr; 31, Side; 32, Preen.
Down: 1, Glad; 2, No; 3, Morose; 4, EM; 5, Ant; 6, CO; 7, MU; 8, Estel; 11, Evoke; 13, Emit; 14, UT; 15, Heart; 16, Olga; 18, Crater; 19, Harps; 20, CC; 23, Barn; 24, Eve; 27, RI; 28, ID; 29, TP; 30, Me.

Crossword 2

Across: 1, Sparrow; 7, Proof; 8, Destroy; 9, Barrel; 11, Cabin; 13, Ache; 14, Everest; 15, Liar; 16, Cadet; 17, Intern; 21, Fortran; 22, Awake; 23, Parsley.
Down: 2, Precaution; 3, Retailer; 3, Oboe; 5, Area; 6, Four; 9, Brief; 10, Exhilarate; 12, Lemon; 13, Atlantis; 18, Town; 19, Rake; 20, Coda.

Crossword No. 3

Across: 1 Respect. 7 Canoe. 8 Orderly. 9 Bloody. 11 Least. 13 Ache. 14 Narwhal. 15 Pint. 16 Crone. 17 Engels. 21 Venison. 22 Spell. 23 Sent-off.
Down: 2 Expression. 3 Pleasant. 4 Call. 5 Sail. 6 Mono. 8 Bight. 10 Dahrendorf. 12 Trots. 13 Alt-ruiet. 18 Gape. 19 Lull. 20 Bede.

Refectory Pricing

unpalatable facts from a Refectory Committee member

AS one of the student members on the Refectory Committee, and in view of the Union demand for price reductions and the recent decision to put some prices up, I think I had better give you some idea of the size of the problem.

The LSE club — in other words the catering side of LSE's authorities — is in one hell of a mess. They lost £19,793 last year (August to August) on an operation that is supposed to break even. This year's budget has gone so far astray that a new one has just been cobbled together which shows a loss of £38,329 (or a 22.8 per cent on an estimated income of £167,584).

The only good thing from our point of view is that this school, not the students, is booked to foot the bill. It is recognised that the present pricing policy will not stand any overall price rise, at least not in the major loss outlet, the Refectory, without serious loss of trade (ie we're price elastic), and it is proposed that certain prices only should go up (on price inelastic goods). This may allow the operation to break even, but could involve some cross subsidisation between main meal eaters and snack eaters. Is this what we want?

Before commenting on Union demands to lower prices to last year's level it is worth looking at the whole catering operation to try to identify what has gone wrong, and where. The school does not exist to subsidise student meals (anyone care to write an article on what the school does exist to do?). Our grants are supposed to be sufficient for our needs (no comment). Any catering operating run by an establishment such as the LSE is required by the University Grants Authorities to break even. They have presumably turned a blind eye to the loss made in the past (£19,793 last year), which is equivalent to a small subsidy paid by the School to the users of the catering facilities (Academic Staff, Students and Permanent Staff). While the loss was small and funds were plentiful no one minded and nothing got done. But these are hard times and £40,000 is a lot of money to lose without careful thought.

The catering staff keep very detailed accounts of the various outlets, so it is relatively easy to see where this money is going. The

revised budget puts the loss on the Refectory this year at £23,209, against an income of £78,154. Another way of putting this is to say that we are at present paying only 78 per cent of the costs of what we eat. If there is to be no cross subsidisation from other outlets (and why should there be?) and if the present cost structure continues (approx 36 per cent on provisions, 35 per cent on staff, 29 per cent on overheads) we need to raise another £22,900.

Assuming everyone is price inelastic, we need a price rise in the Refectory of almost 30 per cent to break even. But if we put up prices by this large amount there will be an outcry and one suspects that things may get worse as people switch to other meal types or other outlets. If we lower prices, we may sell more meals but will our loss be reduced? And what will happen if we put some prices up and some down? This looks the best line to take, and is discussed later on.

Turning to other outlets, the Robinson Room is budgeted to make a loss of £3,845 on an income of £17,749. This is not such a large percentage loss as in the Refectory, but it is still a loss at an outlet that should break even. My personal opinion is that this outlet is neither fish, fowl nor good red herring, and should be closed or become a snack bar. I think it takes trade from other outlets which, if they had the extra trade, might do better. Others will disagree, but are they willing to pay the higher prices required to break even?

The snack bar plans to make a small loss of £585. This is ridiculous and shows poor pricing policy. Last year it made a profit of £3,302 on slightly more trading (thinks — probably a bit large unless one allows cross subsidisation of outlets!). It should be made to break even straight away.

We budget to lose £881 on vending machines. I am told that this is because we are tied up in an unfavourable long term contract (who made it? — let him pay). This sounds pretty feeble. I wonder if the firm would really take us to court if we sling them out (with a small back hander?).

Now — the staff dining room and bar. Believe it or not, they run their bar at a loss! Yes, they do. Incredible, but the School is budgeted to stump up £450 for the

privilege of keeping the bar open upstairs. They made a small profit last year, but to even consider making a loss — well, words fail me.

The Dining Room is much more serious. The Staff Dining Room is scheduled to lose £10,446 this year, on an income of £23,153. The School may wish to subsidise its officer class for reasons of prestige etc., but let it do this as a conscious act of policy, defiantly and openly, not as the result of bumbling on using past policies that are now being torn apart by inflation. To be fair, things are moving fast and the staff are of this moment being canvassed about sweeping changes that will hopefully alter the picture. The main one is a large increase in the monthly subscription. But as a matter of School policy, I for one think that this outlet too should break even. If the School wants to put on a spread for visitors, well and good. But let them pay for it by making such an event self accounting.

So, where does that leave us? We still have the Refectory loss to deal with. Here, I suggest, we need a number of changes. No one change will solve things at a stroke, but a number of small ones may do the trick:

- (1) As a matter of policy, let us accept that we need to break even on catering. The School is no welfare state. If you cannot afford meals, put your energy into the general campaign for higher grants.
- (2) Given the above, we must either pay fully for each item we use, or allow some cross subsidisation between either products or outlets. I suggest the former but not the latter.
- (3) Let us try a cautious experiment to see just what is the price elasticity of main meals in the Refectory and Staff Dining Room. Maybe, unwittingly, Union has stumbled on something!
- (4) Instead of pricing all products at apportioned average cost, let us price according to elasticity, or "what the trade will bear".
- (5) Let us face it, students are poor. We cannot (do not wish to?) afford the expensive traditional meal any more. The style of meals should be made simpler and

cheaper. I don't suggest that the quality of the dishes should fall, but that cheaper dishes should be produced.

(6) If staff savings can be made by reducing the choice of what is available, or reducing operating hours, then we should accept this loss.

(7) If staff savings can be made, how about a minimum charge of 15p in the Refectory? This should drive snack trade to the snack bars (I assume that the Robinson Room is now a snack bar) and clear the limited space in the refectory for main meal takers. This might become important if we find that we are getting congested as a result of

lowering prices and increasing trade.

(8) Staff and overhead costs must be ruthlessly pruned. Provision costs in the Refectory of 36 per cent against other costs of 64 per cent are too far the wrong way. The ratio in the staff dining room is a horrific 24 per cent against 76 per cent.

Right, I have all the accounts available for study by anyone who will buy me a beer. Frankly, the Refectory Committee will consider any constructive suggestions. The School does not have the answer. If you think you have, come and see Crispin O'Brien, Ian Binney or me. Or even Mr Fowerdew, if you can catch him.

TIM DELAP



The Refectory—where the loss is made.



LSE CLUB - REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY BY COST CENTRE 1974 - 75										
	Refectory	Robinson Room	Snack Bar	S.D.R.	S.C.R. Bar	Evening Functions	Students Union	Vending	Total	Income %
INCOME	78154	17749	18029	23453	5960	19399	4440	700	167584	
EXPENDITURE										
Direct Staff Costs	33167	8943	6915	15313	941	2364		1008	69151	
Arrears of Lond Wtg	1275	530	485	520					2810	
Total Staff Cost	34442	9473	7400	15833	941	2364		1008	71961	42.9
Provision Costs	35950	7100	7031	8104	3695	7668	2664	210	72422	43.2
Staff Meals	1538	350	356	455	119	383	86	13	3300	2.0
Total	71930	16923	14787	24892	4755	10415	2750	1231	147683	88.1
Contribution to Indirect Costs	6224	826	3242	(-1739)	1205	8984	1690	(-531)	19901	11.9
Apportioned Indirect Costs										
Admin & Stores	7751	1751	900	2295	884	2873	442	102	16998	10.1
Arrears of Lond Wtg	312	70	36	92	36	116	18	4	684	.4
Kitchen	11456	662	662	3384		2489	641	156	19450	11.6
Arrears of Lond Wtg	396	23	23	117		86	22	6	673	.4
General Overheads	9518	2165	2206	2819	735	2369	531	82	20425	12.2
Total	29433	4671	3827	8707	1655	7933	1654	350	58230	34.7
Surplus						1051	36			
Deficit	23209	3845	585	10446	450			851	38329	22.8

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NEW APPEAL FOR BANNED REFUGEES

Passing the buck

MR. ROBERT CARR, the Home Secretary, has always worn one of the more humane faces in the Tory Government. And nobody has ever suggested that it is merely a mask.

Carr insists 'Chileans must go at once'

By BEATRIX CAMPBELL
A LAST-DITCH ATTEMPT to persuade the Home Office not to deport seven Chileans who arrived in Britain earlier this month failed yesterday. The Home Office told them to get out of the country by last night.

they were being returned was not the place where political persecution had occurred, but the Chileans' legal advisers had rejected this argument as the wrong interpretation of the immigration rules. Yesterday's deputation included the Bishop of Edmonton, Mgr. Bruce Kent, Catholic chaplain to London University, the Board of

CHILEANS SEEK ASYLUM AFTER 'QUIT' ORDER

By CLARE COLVIN

THE departure of the seven Chilean students refused entry to Britain by the Home Office, was delayed last night after an application for political asylum by Mrs Judith Hart, Shadow Minister.

Chileans given a temporary stay

By our own Reporter

A decision whether the seven Chilean students can stay in this country will be made in the High Court today.

The students were granted a temporary injunction on Monday by Mr Justice Reeves. He ordered the Home Office to allow them to stay until their case had been argued fully.

The National Council on Civil Liberties, which has taken up their case, has applied to the court for three injunctions which will be considered today. The council has asked for an injunction requiring the Home Office to grant the student entry clearance and admit them here. If that fails an order will be requested restraining the

CHILE NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
SATURDAY, MARCH 15th
Special train from Euston 8.50. See Emma for reservations: Room S100.

IN November 1973 the first seven Chilean Refugees arrived in Britain, four of whom had applied for places at the L.S.E. and one of whom is still here. A blaze of publicity surrounded their consequent struggle to remain in Britain. Prior to arriving here the Chileans were advised to obtain tourist visas so that their Chilean nationality would not be affected, however, on arrival at Heathrow Airport they were detained and refused entry as they did not have refugee status. Robert Carr, the Home Secretary at the time, ignored appeals from Labour M.P.s and the N.C.C.L. that the refugees should be allowed to stay in Britain, although the group were released for a limited period whilst their case was being considered.

After a week of freedom, the Chileans were requested to go back to Heathrow to collect their luggage, and were once more placed under detention prior to being deported to Paris on Boxing Day. The Chileans, then advised to ask for political asylum, had to take the unusual step of issuing a High Court writ against the Home Secretary. Following hearings in the High Court the seven were allowed to stay on producing evidence of places of study and British citizens willing to sponsor them. With the election of the Labour Government in this country in February 1974, the position of seven refugees was made secure and seemed to open the way for the arrival of many more refugees following the attacks made on the previous Tory Government when Labour was in opposition. It is, however, interesting to note that even now, in March 1975, Britain has accepted relatively few Chilean refugees: there are only 700 in the country at the moment, with another 1,500 awaiting replies about their visa applications, whereas the rest of Western Europe has already taken in almost 15,000 refugees.

The majority of the Chilean refugees who have either come to Britain or hope to enter the country do not come directly from Chile. Most have come from Argentina or Peru, where many have had to

wait up to twelve months in U.N. refugee centres for permission to enter the country. The situation for refugees fleeing the neo-fascist regime in Chile can only be described as desperate. Since the shift of political power in Peru, the position of the refugees is far more insecure: they are only allowed transit visas, are not officially allowed to work, and are crowded 8-10 people into grimy hotel rooms. During the recent visit of General Pinochet to Lima, the Peruvian capital, the refugees were forced out of their hotels and into squalid detention camps on the outskirts of the city for the duration of his visit. Now, more than ever, these people need to be got out of Peru as quickly as possible.

In Argentina the situation is, if anything, worse. The government has established a number of zones prohibited to refugees, and these include both the capital and all areas adjacent to the Chilean frontier. Despite strong complaints lodged by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees about these prohibited areas and the general conditions, the situation of the refugees in Argentina has got worse. Alianza Anticomunista Argentina, a very powerful para-military organisation which has police support, is often allowed a free hand in the control of "undesirable foreign elements" within the country. Their right-wing and xenophobic influence has infiltrated virtually all walks of life: for example if you are a Chilean and apply for a job, you are immediately labelled either a robber or a communist. Many Chileans are now afraid to admit their nationality and continually live in fear of arrest by either D.I.N.A. (the Chilean secret police) or the Argentinian police.

With this sort of welcome in the countries of Latin America, it is not surprising that the Chileans are anxious to leave and try to settle in another continent. In the long term, the economic and social implications of this mass exodus of people from the continent are very serious; especially as traditionally the area has always been a haven for refugees. For example, in Chile, at the time of the coup in September 1973, there were an estimated 13,000 exiles; mainly from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Uruguay, who had fled their homelands for some reason. Many of these people have been forced to find alternative places in which to stay, and their flight has been followed by thousands of Chileans forced into exile. The only positive side effect of this enforced exodus could be that the members of the indigenous population who have moved to the countries of the Western world will overcome their chauvinistic conceptions and patriotic prejudices, which in the past have so often been used by various dictatorships to create an artificial sense of internal unity and nationalistic feeling.

Chilean refugees arriving in this country are initially taken to one of the two London hotels rented by the Joint Working Party on Refugees. Their immediate needs are catered for, and elementary English lessons are given. However, as the number of refugees coming into the country increases, moving from 30 a month in June 1974 to approximately 100 a month in December 1974, their stay at the London hotels is short. The refugees are moved as soon as possible to one of the reception centres run by the locally organised Chile Solidarity Committees. The majority of the refugees are currently centred around Liverpool, Southampton, Oxford, Bristol, Bradford, Leeds, Cambridge and Edinburgh; but it is urgently hoped that other centres will be opened in other areas of Britain.

It is far from easy for many Chileans to settle in the United Kingdom. A major part of their thinking is that they are not here to settle, but are only in transit, either from one city to another, or from one country to another. Their main desire is to return to their homes in Chile, and they fervently hope that their stay here will be short, and this makes the job of getting them settled and happy in this country all the more difficult.

For students, once the initial period of learning the language is over, the situation is nominally better, as they have a set course of study to undertake in a specified period of time, and this tends to give some form and security to their stay in this country. Although the majority of the initial rush of refugees were students, they now number 200 in this country, the remainder are taken from all walks of life. Among the refugees here there are dockers, skilled artisans, professors, doctors, actors and even peasants. It takes very little effort of the imagination to put oneself in their place, as a stranger in a cold Britain, faced with the difficulty of learning a new and difficult language, whilst often having to adjust to a new trade as well.

Working for the Chilean refugees is often compared to the work done by charities such as Oxfam, but the political implication of this humane work is important also. The presence of many refugees in countries all over the world is a direct juxtaposition of the image portrayed by the Junta. Why should so many people flee a "benign and liberal" regime, whose sole aim is to right the terrible things that were done by the "communist" regime of Allende? The stories that the refugees tell of the oppression and murder that is the "benign" method of control used by the Junta are now common knowledge throughout many countries and can only help to isolate and overthrow the present government in Chile.

It must not be forgotten that not all have fled from Chile. Many remain in the country today, actively resisting the Junta, sometimes fighting for their families who have escaped. They are suffering more than any refugee in Britain, and that is why we must do all in our power to ensure that the Resistance movement in Chile has all our support, so that the refugees we look after today can return to their homes as free men and women.

URGENTLY NEEDED FOR THE CHILEAN REFUGEES:

China: Clothing
Saucepans: Cutlery
Kitchen Utensils

All contributions to Emma S100
Also anyone who can speak Spanish and is willing to act as an interpreter for a few hours a week, please contact Emma, S100 as soon as possible.



Gaston Gnome is back, with dreams!

WITH the "concord" signed between Ralf and Brezhnev, I have pleasure in informing people that Gaston has finally been released from "Coldishes". Henceforth, the popular television series of BBC 1 has been scrapped. This scrapping is not unconnected with "cuts" being made in the film of Gaston's life. That erstwhile dishwasher, T. Venables, has been seen floating in a small vat of "Chilli con Carne" off the west coast of England.

Though Gaston's release is timely, it also coincides with an impending increase in food prices in our eating establishments. What is even more perturbing is the fact that Gaston does seem to have recanted. This could only be due to the fact that Brezhnev has taken a fond liking to "Fish and Chips" or, to put it in Russian, "Debriviskaya Tovarichina Kipskaya".

The Psychology Department has been made aware of this "sudden" change on the part of Gaston, and we hope that we will be able to induce him to undergo a battery of tests to ascertain the exact cause of his change of attitude towards the food (sic) being served up in our eating places. We include Gaston's first impression of refectory food since his release.

"It is with joy that I once more enter the 'Dorchester' of London University. It is like walking into a hall where many silent conversations are taking place. All about people are experiencing an existential rapport with dishes of 'Chilli con Carne', 'Spaghetti Provinciale', 'Golden Fried Cod and French

Fries', and sundry vegetable dishes, neatly arranged on pure white dishes enhancing the fragrance and colour of pure sustenance.

"Knives and forks silently are affected by the overwhelming consciousness that hangs like a sensuous mist over the clientele, only broken by nymph-like figures silently gathering up "Wedgewood" that had once been vibrant with life; that had communicated in an ethereal sense with the fragile, yet hard, beings whose life depended so much, and yet so little, on the refectory.

"I wrenched myself away from this scene of pure sensuality and walked slowly towards the "Gentleman's Club". The Senior Common Room has changed little since I last saw it save for a slight touch of gaiety. Here the men and women who cradle in their gentle hands the fate of mankind were amiably debating the impending flight of capital from themselves. I listened intently, hoping to feel rather than hear what was being said. Like most genteel debates, this one about the impending rise in fees to £18 per annum for the philosopher kings, and lesser sums for aspiring dons, seemed totally at variance with the true nature of the Club.

"And yet these titanic minds were using this genteel debate to chew the cud, so to speak. One can only marvel at the depth with which these issues were being debated without the slightest hint of undue concern. As my eyes slowly drank in this scene I espied the barwoman and the waitresses wait-

Hypocritical Henry Jackson—the prism of convictions...

IT was a bold move, but then he needed a bold move after what he had done. Just over a fortnight ago, Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson threw his proverbial hat into the Presidential ring with an unprecedented fanfare. His 30-minute prime-time television presentation represented the ultimate in sophisticated media packaging. Designed with the utmost skill (and expense), the show portrayed Jackson the Patriot, Jackson the Potent Legislator, Jackson the Voice of All the People; in effect — it portrayed all but the real Henry M. Jackson — Senator from Boeing...

Even if this profile is incomplete, it is sufficient as a departure point



ing patiently for the change which joined them, so to speak, with these titanic minds. Now they seemed lost, as though adrift in a sea of helplessness.

"I tried to tear myself away from this scene but, like any lesser mortal, my head was spinning with the wine of knowledge. Here I was, gazing up at the dizzy heights of pure consciousness, a mere mortal before the Gods of Knowledge.

"I managed to cast myself adrift by slow stages. And now I sit alone, contemplating the universe in which we live."

for examining the Senator's policies. The Senator's record, during a 35-year political career, has not mirrored those qualities desirable in a President — honesty, objectivity, and concern for the well-being of the American people. This is not to imply that the sole requirements of a President are only the aforementioned, rather these are basic attitudes sorely lacking in Jackson's previous actions.

The recent Soviet rejection of the U.S. trade bill typifies Jackson's cockeyed approach to international politics. He is a cold warrior who has not grown up to the realities of the detente he so boldly espouses. The U.S. extension of Most Favoured Nation status to the Soviet Union was conceived as a step toward practical reciprocal trade; to Jackson however, it was an opportunity. If a basic alteration in the Soviet domestic structure could be hinged on to the trade bill, namely elimination of emigration quotas, then the U.S. would not only reap the economic benefits which accompany expansion in world trade, but it would be exalted as the preserver of liberty. And who but the Champion of the cause would claim victory?

There can certainly be no question as to the inherent value in achieving such a goal, but it is simply not something the United States can force upon a sovereign state like the USSR. Moreover, given the U.S. obsession with the integrity of its own policies as well as its commitments to safeguard the integrity of its allies vis-a-vis the Monroe Doctrine, it is surprising that Jackson would advocate such blatant interference with the Soviet system.

Why was Henry Jackson unaware

of such elementary political concepts? And if he was conscious of such factors, what were his other motivations in pursuing the emigration clause?

We would suggest that Jackson's motives were influenced by at least two main factors:

(1) Misinterpretations of Russian thinking and misperception of Soviet flexibility.

(2) Jackson the Senator could not divorce himself from Jackson the Presidential Candidate, and therefore could not ignore the political and economic support which would be forthcoming from an American Jewish community pleased with Jackson's efforts on their brethren's behalf.

We question whether these motivations truly reflect personal honesty. Can any man sincerely believe that a nation as powerful as the Soviet Union would allow itself to be coerced by its principal rival and thereby demean itself in the world arena? And if he can, is that a worthy of the Presidency?

We question whether these motivations truly demonstrate an objective approach. Can one appropriately evaluate a policy through the prism of unshakable convictions?

Finally, we question whether Jackson's amendment rests on an overriding concern for the well-being of the American people, the American way of life, or even the improvement of human conditions, or whether it is more reflective of a calculated gesture designed to garner the support of a specific ethnic group.

AF & MR

Read page 10? Well, this is the reply to it . . .

1. THE article that fell into "Beaver" hands, appeared as a photostat, between 9.30-10 p.m., and has at the bottom of it the signature, "IS/CP etc." Thus the description of its source, given the information available, was correct. Mr Muller later admitted he should not have signed the document as he did. We did not question the person who brought the photostat in, how he obtained it.

2. Why were no IS or CP confronted? When the decision was taken to make a reply, it was 11 p.m., and the paper had to leave that night. There were no IS or CP to confront. Further, why is it up to others to do the confronting? If one is trying to be democratic, then as many people should be involved in the debate as possible. The original document contained errors of undisputable fact (a paper can be produced in a week) that could have been easily avoided if consultation had taken place.

The problem with conspiratorial theories is that they can't be falsified or substantiated. The "pact" referred to was reported by three non-"Beaver" people to us. Some Broad Left members were disturbed by the "pact". The fact that Mr Muller stopped turning up to these meetings and then started writing criticisms signed "IS/CP etc.", far away from the open "Beaver" meetings "(which, after all, is one

of the major reasons for such meetings)", is some sort of evidence.

4. I agree that fruitful discussion of the proposed, and note, proposed (i.e. liable to change) Constitution should take place, but there were five members who thought that discussion could take place there and then, the six who voted that it be deferred all belonged to the Broad Left. The important part of that section was the meeting afterwards, which Mr Cockerell in denying that there had been a caucus meeting, also said he was a bad liar, i.e. there had been a caucus meeting. Proof enough?

5. The Mitchell Affair. The letter by James Mitchell was written on Thursday, January 14th, two days before the front page of the issue Mr Roberts referred to, was sent off. One can't help it if the Executive does not tell each other what is going on, but the Librarian did ring "Beaver" up on the Wednesday to put his case, which was heard on the Thursday. The part of the letter quoted in the article, "Mr Mitchell registers 'in the strongest terms, my disgust,'" were the non-contentious parts of the letter that Mr Mitchell was not censured over.

As for the censuring, I saw it as an internal Executive issue, not worth printing, just as I did not print the Finance Committee's censure on the Senior Treasurer for not turning up to a meeting he arranged, and he's in the Broad Left!

6. Like the Broad Left, "Beaver"

cannot campaign too far ahead of its readership — that is called posturing. Anyway, what is "editorial content"? There has only been one editorial in "Beaver" this academic year. If what is meant is that the content of the newspaper should be heavily Union-orientated, it is when there is the material. Perhaps the Week of Action was not given enough prominence, but at the time, it seemed right. Why have we had to wait until now for the complaints?

7. Censorship — of course the paper's content is limited by those who formulate it — that is why the "Beaver" meetings that decide what goes into the paper are open — the censorship is in people not walking through the door with their suggestions and written articles. Even with specific allocation of pages to issue "X", this fact will not change. I can't think of anything more democratic than an open meeting! What makes Timmins so special is that he was elected (democratically) to be Editor. If the job he is doing is bad, then he can be made unspecial by electing him out of that job. "They" don't know best, nor would "they" claim to (see article in previous issue that mentions "the grave deficiencies" of the paper).

8. Editors — the proposed constitution says, "Candidacy for the position of Editor is open to any registered LSE student. An Editor will be chosen by the EB from the nominations received. Their recommendations will be passed by

the Executive to a Union Meeting (UM), who will approve it (or not). Full explanation of the EB's choice must be given to the Executive and the UM. If the EB cannot arrive at a recommendation, the Executive is empowered to adjudicate and recommend to the UM. Full explanations by the EB and the Executive must be given at the UM."

This is just one way of electing an Editor and was proposed because of the following advantages. The EB has to work with the Editor and may be the best judge of his/her capabilities. But the Union Meeting, with the "full explanations" of the EB's recommendation, can turn down the candidacy and elect another of the applicants because it does not think the EB's reasons are good enough. All the EB does is grade the applicants on technical merit. Obviously this section needs clarification.

9. The problem of the Editorial Board. Up to now the Editor has had the complete say and the EB was an attempt to limit his powers. But how was it to be chosen? Given that people drift into the newspaper, and then leave, some method had to be devised to allow these people to have their say, whilst protecting the paper from being temporarily flooded by the current "in" political group, be it Left or Right. That's how the deliberately vague "recognised members of staff" was constructed. Around the Union, it is apparent who "works" on the paper, and who just contributes articles. Again if

the device is being abused the Editor can be removed, or one can scrap the whole attempt to limit the Editor and with it the EB. This section is open to any suggestions on the subject.

10. As for the Senior Treasurer, perhaps the loss on the Shop bears out the need to have the candidates graded on technical merit!

11. The matter of taste still stands. Although Mr Roberts does not like Snidelines, etc., others do. Sorry about this. And as for morals, Mr Roberts, as a member of the CP, should be fully aware that they are a device of the ruling class to maintain social control; and if there is some substance in the legal slander allegation, for heaven's sake SUE!

12. What Mr Roberts has not commented upon is how the independence of the Editor paper is to be maintained so that it can remain a watchdog on whoever is in power. One member of the CP has proposed that the Editor should be a member of the Executive, not an arrangement that would ensure independence. Mr Roberts has also just rehearsed the usual criticisms of a student newspaper, and has produced no new ideas.

If the paper is to become something of standing, it will have to be essential reading for all the School's inhabitants. Only in this way will it have the influence that, in part, Mr Roberts seeks. I think it is with this idea that the discussion must proceed.

PT

REVIEWS

PROFESSOR ANDRESKI'S judgement, on the current state of the social sciences is that "Pretentious and nebulous verbosity, interminable repetition of platitudes and disguised propaganda are the order of the day, while at least 95 per cent of research is indeed re-search for things that have been found long ago and many times since." He goes on to document these claims.

His argument is not unsophisticated, for although he attacks the work of many famous individual social scientists, he recognises that their failings arise from nothing more reprehensible than limited intelligence. It is at the lower levels that the social sciences are "infested by charlatans". He lays moral blame squarely upon the institutional conditions which surround academic life nowadays, which positively select for shoddy work to be produced and then acclaimed. He lambasts the situation in which it is possible to find

Social sciences as sorcery: Stanislav Andreski: Pelican 45p

Professors in America who are not only not very knowledgeable, but also semi-literate!

Although he demonstrates that he does not suffer from the same disabilities, the results are not always fortunate. When we find the word "tenebrous" (dark, gloomy) used once this may be reasonable, but when it is repeated we feel that the author is revelling in his command of English: the effect is to leave the reader punch-drunk with the rhetoric. In addition, the book's pages are littered with the names of so many social scientists (and others) that few readers will be able to judge whether Andreski's opinions of them are fair even in half the cases. I suppose he does not want to appear as another

half-baked radical. As far as I can tell, his opinions on sociology are correct: although he should allow that some of his pet hates, such as ethnomethodology, do hide some meaning behind their alienating (or clique-forming) terminology, even if it could often be said more concisely in plain English. His suggested rewordings of obfuscating terminology (e.g. he suggests that Merton's terms "manifest" and "latent" function" could be called "proclaimed and real purpose or reason") will appear to professional sociologists to miss the nuances of meaning in the original.

The book centres on sociology and psychology, and (because it is only half a social science?) economics gets comparatively little mention: we find that it has not sunk to the depths of other social sciences because its data are meaningfully quantifiable, and because the results of applying the wrong economic policy are enough to provide some check on economic theorising. The book makes much of the fact that, while the professionalisation of the social sciences

has made them into a means of extracting a living from society, there is no good way of judging the value of an academic's output. If a car-plant manager fails to produce cars which work, this is clear for all to see. But the attempt to apply such criteria to sociology leads to the situation where the chairman of a department literally weighs the publications of candidates for promotion—so as to choose fairly!

The social sciences badly need a "little red book" of thirty pages or so which every student and teacher has to read at the beginning of every term: it would warn against cliquism, jargon, scientism, laziness in writing or reading, intellectual oneupmanship, and a host of other temptations besetting one as one reads or writes sociology, psychology or economics.

Professor Andreski's book does not quite fill the bill: too many of his ideas, though interesting, are not central to his argument. I would have been happier if he had first set out the evidence for the decline in the quality of social scientific work over the last

half-century, and then done a straight sociological analysis of the reasons for this.

Finally, a warning to the book's readers: the sections where Andreski traces the history of sociological thought country by country are heavy with pathos, and may succeed in inspiring not moral indignation, but a sense of weariness which makes one feel it's not worth bothering with the social sciences at all. The "few hints" on how to improve the situation, which Andreski promises us, scarcely materialise. People are by all means free to abandon the social sciences in disgust, but if they want to continue studying it, be warned that a general disdain for nearly all social scientists is unlikely to be of use to anybody! One of the most difficult things in the world is to criticise competently and fairly an author whose work you judge on first impressions and probably correctly, to be useless: for this requires you to read the rubbish he has produced, understand it, and then explain to yourself and others where precisely he goes wrong.

"Social Sciences as Sorcery" is hardly likely to give anyone the heart for such detailed analysis! But all in all, a thought-provoking book with many interesting and well-stated arguments, and since it is a Pelican, if you have time to read its 240 pages, the money should be no problem.

D.G.

Limitations—John Baker Almost Free Theatre

DESPITE the fact that homosexuality is deemed "the love that dare not speak its name" gays have been remarkably (and rightly) vociferous since the passing of the Sexual Offences Act 1967. The latest development in this process is the running of three plays produced, written and acted by members of "Gay Sweatshop", a group of gay actors, producers, and "interested people who came along and got involved."

The first of the three plays, which can be seen at the Almost Free Theatre every lunch-hour at 1.15 (not Sundays) is called "Limitations", by John Roman Baker, and is both interesting and (I found), thought-provoking.

The play concerns two gays who have been living together for four years, and the desires of the elder, Mark, to have a son. He will not however accept that the idea of sharing their life with Ana (the intended mother) and the baby, as a sort of commune, imposes intolerable strains as far as Stephen, his partner, is concerned.

The ways in which human beings oppress each other and themselves are exhaustively dealt with in the

45 minutes of the play, and it leaves one with several questions, not to mention quite acute depression. The major question the play asks is: Who is truly liberated? Is it Mark, in wanting both a gay relationship, yet wanting to be a father and have his relationship with Steve blessed by a gay priest? Is it Steve who, when the strain becomes too much, lambasts his lover as a "straight romantic" and then goes off to have a liaison in a public toilet, resulting in arrest and consequent painful publicity (as far as Mark is concerned)?

The woman in the play incidentally comes over as a self-seeking, rather cold little bitch who is blamed by both parties as the cause of the break-up, and I feel that the part has not been written well at all for she is certainly more central to the plot than she appears in this production. It is an extremely difficult part to play and Margaret Ford makes the best of it—the two gays are played consummately by Jeremy Arnold and William (no relation) Hoyland.

I shall certainly be going to see the next plays in the series, and suggest that you make an effort to go and see this company who will certainly provide more than average lunchtime entertainment, and hopefully get you thinking as well.

A.C.

R. McKibbin: Evolution of the Labour Party 1910-24 £5.75

THE British Labour Party, the largest of European Labour or Social Democratic parties, took its place as one of the two major British parties in the early 1920s. Like its European equivalents, the British Labour Party emerged with the express aim of changing the reward structure to the advantage of the working classes. The formation of a new partisan alignment after the Great War reflects the co-optation by capitalism of new social forces challenging a previous hierarchy of rewards.

Ross McKibbin's *The Evolution of the Labour Party 1910-1924* presents a detailed account of the formation of the Party organisation as it emerged from a fourth party (behind the Irish Nationalists) to the party of government in 1924. Playing down the significance of World War I as a factor in the Party's development, McKibbin argues that the Labour Party growth exhibited continuity of leadership, policy and organisation. It was political allegiance determined more and more by a class

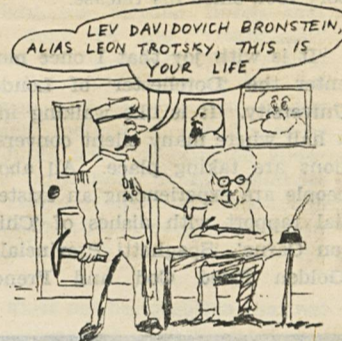
self-awareness that promoted the increasing centralisation of the Party organisation and, simultaneously, undercut the middle-class Liberal Party. The increasing predominance of the trade unions within the Labour Party resulted in class loyalty winning out over socialist doctrine. In the end, it was a commitment to the "movement" rather than to socialism that drove the party forward.

While this study is by far the most scholarly account of the emergence of the British Labour Party yet written, its contribution is flawed by a failure to understand the role of ideology or values in the Party's organisational development. The class-consciousness fostering Party growth involved the desire of a class to improve its relative social, economic, and political standing as a whole within the society as much as a loyalty to the Labour movement.

As Samuel Beer has argued in his seminal *Modern British Politics*, the rise of the Labour Party involved a new set of demands, a new theory of representation, and a new organisational form. Because McKibbin ignores the role of class-demands, he is uncertain whether the Labour Party is an end-in-itself or a means to Trade Union ends. McKibbin's own documentation of Labour's increasing submission to Trade Union interests, contradicts his claim that Labour's organisational growth represented an end in itself. This means-ends inconsistency runs throughout his work and results from his neglect of the genesis and role of Socialism within the Party.

This is an unfortunate oversight which mars his impressive effort to explain the growth of Britain's working-class Party.

JOEL WOLFE



Trotsky lives!

SOMETIMES Trotsky actually sounds like a Trot in his six-hundred page autobiography, appropriately entitled, "My Life" (Pelican, £1.25). And sometimes he doesn't, e.g. "But I must say that, by natural inclination, I have nothing in common with seekers after adventure. I am rather pedantic and conservative in my habits. I like and appreciate discipline and system."

Indeed one ends up, many visions and revisions later, wondering just what Trotsky was. It's a nicely-written book, apart from the odd excursion into cloudy obscurantese, and Lev Davidovich's views on his removal are fascinating. Rather than give us anything even vaguely approaching a Marxist account of the post-Lenin years, he showers us with psychology: the leaders were mentally corrupt, the officials were smug, etc., etc. On the other hand, "Stalinism is above all else the automatic work of the impersonal apparatus on the decline of the revolution."

On the one hand Stalin was just a mediocrity propelled by the apparatus, on the other hand Lenin's "Testament" said what a nasty man he was. MacDiarmid once wrote something like "Trotsky — Christ — no wi' a crown o' thorns But a wreath o' paper roses." But didn't he write well!

S.S.

© London School of Economics and Political Science Students' Union, 1975."



Boy, what an ego!

Dirty Mary, crazy Larry

THIS is not a film for ecologists, car-lovers, Goldie Hawn lovers, ego-haters or film fans. It's a vehicle in the worst sense of the word—Fonda swapping his motorbike for two cars, which he pilots across America with the "nice" police keeping him company.

There's no fuel crisis in Fonda's heaven, only Susan George doing a bad imitation of Ms Hawn and Fonda laughing inanely when he is short of a line to ego. In Fonda's heaven there are just fast cars, money to fuel them and Fonda to

star in them. In Fonda's heaven there is escape from the police but, whoops, he runs into a railway train. How dishonest.

The only worthy part of the epic is the clash between the police chief and his deputy over whether police cars should be used for public relations, in order to ensure adequate funds next year, or for catching criminals. But this interest was buried by Fonda's ego, travelling at high speed in slow motion, thataway.

P.T.

SPORT

The parting of the mists

The psychopathology of everyday life

Sigmund Freud Pelican 90p

FREUD'S book on the Psychopathology of Everyday Life is a fitting reminder of the way in which he tried to counteract the dehumanisation of neuroticism at the turn of the century. First published in 1901, it is a classic study of the way in which unconscious repressions manifest themselves in a behavioural manner.

Reading the book one becomes acutely aware of the problems facing a psychoanalyst in trying to "prove" the existence of the unconscious. One sometimes gets the feeling that Freud himself induces its existence "tongue-in-cheek". As it is, he almost relegates it into the category of a faith. And indeed,

one finds oneself in a "Catch 22"-like situation in trying to substantiate the existence of the unconscious.

Notwithstanding this empirical problem, the book opens up a vast sphere of behaviours to scrutiny in the sense that everyday actions are viewed in a new light. Eccentricity dissolves in the hazy mists of psychoanalysis until we are left with the bare bones of unconscious repressions. Pelican published this book in 1935 and its re-publication is part of the building up of a Pelican Freud Library. At present-day prices it is quite cheap which should bring it within the range of many students. For those interested in Freud, this book is a must.

A. Oppel

Heartwarming?

The intelligent radical's guide to economic policy

J. E. Meade Allen & Unwin

MEADE'S latest book is one which should warm the cockles of undergraduate hearts as well as those living in the more cocktail party belt of Hampstead and various garden cities around the country. Basically the book tries to give an intelligent (sic) person some sort of understanding between the vicissitudes of economic problems, e.g. prices and wages, and the individual; the individual being, of course, our intelligent person.

The style is almost banal in its apologetic attitude towards the mixed economy in Great Britain. To put it in the words of Meade himself,

"... He, like others, will be much concerned with the encouragement of economic efficiency and with individual security and participation in decision-making. But above all, he will dislike policies which lead to large concentrations of power which threaten personal independence, or too large concentrations of income and wealth which perpetuate class distinctions..." p.13.

Yet the book does have its topical points. The section of locating in-

flation within some international framework is a most welcome breath of fresh air from pedantic Keynesian nationalism. One wonders, however, whether it is Meade's parochial outlook which makes him completely ignore the socialist countries at this level or whether he is trying to wish them away by speculating, as per usual, about some mythical country, in this case, Ruritania.

But then one must almost inevitably expect an upholder of this "free" economic system to constantly plague the reader with what Smith wrote about sometime in the distant past viz. personal economic freedom, personal morality, and personal wealth.

A. OPPEL

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ENTSNEWS

AFTER a fairly quiet spell early in the term, Ents is now putting on quite a lot of events and we are glad to report that our mid-term activities all went well. The Isotope concert was a great success with a very large crowd, and a great performance by the band. The concert was reviewed in the "Guardian" on the following Monday and the reviewer was full of praise for what was an exceptionally fine concert. The Snafu concert however was rather poorly attended and Ents lost £40. The show itself was a great success as the band played exceptionally well and we had one of the best crowd reactions we've had for many days, probably the best since the legendary 10cc concert a year and a half ago. This concert was also reviewed in the "New Musical Express", and again it was a very good review.

The last remaining concert of this term is on March 8th and featuring MIKE HERON'S REPUTATION and THE SHORTWAVE BAND. This concert will be only the second London appearance of Reputation the previous one having been at Imperial College a month ago. At that concert they turned in a remarkably fine performance though they did seem to be a little rough at the edges at times. However they come to LSE after a month's solid gigging with the new album in the shops and a tour with the new Andy Fraser band scheduled to begin just a few days after the appearance at LSE. As most of you probably know, four of the members of Reputation are former members of the Incredible String Band. Apart from Mike Heron himself there's Graham Forbes, Malcolm le Maistre and John Gilston, the band being

formed just after the demise of the String Band last autumn. Mike takes up the story, "We dissolved the String Band not because of any personal dispute, but because we mutually decided the group in that form no longer served the individual purposes of each member". The fact that Heron should form his own band after the demise of the String Band came as no surprise to those who had followed the SB through their 10-year life span, for it was Heron who seemed to take an unofficial leadership assuming the role of producer for the last three albums, while guiding their stage act towards the current more rock style.

His first solo album was released in 1971, "Smiling men with bad reputations" and it indicated that under the folkie exterior there lurked a strong vocalist and writer. The album received a great deal of acclaim from the critics and did very well in America. It seemed crazy that Heron didn't follow this up with another solo album but as one saw a rock influence gradually affecting the Incredibles it became obvious that Heron was beginning to see the confines of the band. Following the split of the String Band in November 1974, the news came that Mike Heron was to form a band called Mike Heron's Reputation with obvious references to the title of the first solo album. The initial step for the new band was to get a record deal, and one was promptly secured with Melanie's Neighbourhood Records. They then went on to record the album which has just been released. Heron describes the material on the album as being more related to his solo album than to the work of the ISB but he does admit to certain influences. He says that the best description he's heard of



for the new material is: "a cross between Elton John and Simon and Garfunkel — if comparisons are to be made in terms of other musicians". The band then began live work in January. Heron comments: "I enjoy live work very much because it's very real. I love the atmosphere of an audience, I think that's what kept the String Band together for so long. The ISE was an exciting live act and I hope the new band will emanate the same feeling."

Talking of the direction of the new band he says it will be a reflection of what each member does best. For instance Malcolm le Maistre will concentrate on the visual element of the shows while each of the other members will contribute equally. Basically for Heron this band is a return to his old roots, not roots set in ethnic folk music but in Fats Domino and Buddy Holly. "Buddy Holly was a guy who really got through to me as a songwriter, he got me interested in the idea of communication." Two of the new album's 10 tracks are a form of dedication for Holly. The other

songs says Heron are "about being on road in America, and they're about relationships, personal and between the city and country. They're all very real and very direct".

The support act for this concert will be THE SHORTWAVE BAND who also feature another ex-Incredible String Band member in fiddler Stuart Gordon. Like Reputation they've just had their first album released and it is far nearer the Incredible's folkie style than Reputation's. It is a remarkably fine album which is undoubtedly suffering from a diabolical lack of promotion.

All in all the concert at LSE on Saturday, March 8th, should be a great night and tickets are available from the Union Shop price 90p.

Next term we aren't planning to do very much but we hope to negotiate a deal for an exclusive appearance of ROY HARPER and we have booked SONNY TERRY & BROWNIE MCGHEE for another appearance at the LSE on Saturday, May 17th.

R.R.

Racing

THE highlight of the jumping season is with us once more in the shape of next week's National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham. Centre-piece of the three-day meeting will be Thursday's fascinating clash of the land's greatest steeplechasers in the Piper Champagne Gold Cup. It must remain doubtful whether recently injured Pendil can completely recover form soon enough, and the race, far from being the "Pendil benefit" it was once assumed to be, now appears the most open Gold Cup for three years. One by one, formidable rivals have appeared and now the confrontation has assumed a distinct Anglo-Irish flavour, with the attempt of Fred Winter trained Pendil and Bula to repulse the overseas challenge from Ten Up and Captain Christy. If the recent decline of The Dikler is to be taken at face value, then this quartet stands head and shoulders above all other long-distance 'chasers.

Pendil originally fell from favour with his eight-length Boxing Day defeat at the hands of supererratic Captain Christy, since when both horses have failed (the latter dismally) under big weights in their respective countries. "The Captain's" frequent lapses make him an unattractive betting proposition at any odds, although his best form is outstanding. None will stay the 3½ mile trip better than Ten Up, who will carry the colours immortalised by Arkle, some ten years ago. Last month at Ascot he pulverised useful opposition in bottomless going. Though only eight, he already boasts a course-and-distance victory, having taken last year's "Sun Alliance" Chase in fine style.

No stranger to Cheltenham, but new to the 3¼ miles over fences is dual Champion Hurdler Bula. Success here would make racing history, since no horse has ever achieved the Champion Hurdle/Gold Cup double. I believe Bula could do it. His one real defeat over fences, when a lethargic fourth to Shock Result at Newbury, he made up for most impressively by slamming reigning Two-mile Champion Royal Relief by a comfortable eight lengths. In what should be a superb spectacle, I give the vote to BULA, and the less rain the better.

By contrast, the Champion Hurdle appears a two-horse affair. On the strength of his two big victories this season, slight preference is given to Comedy of Errors over arch-rival Lanzarote. Again, much will depend on the state of the ground, and COMEDY OF ERRORS is another who will appreciate a dry spell.

SOOTHSAYER is my choice to win the Two-Mile Champion 'Chase from Royal Relief and luckless, Tingle Greek, while 20-1 appeals as good each-way value about HIRAM MAXIM for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle.

Trains run from Paddington, but students wishing to take advantage of half-fare must take a regular service, not to the racecourse, but to Cheltenham Town station, from whence buses run frequently. I am assured. Admission starts at £1, but comfort and cover may be bought for £3.50 (£3 on Tuesday), though even the cheapest enclosure provides betting and drinking facilities.

"MILLHOUSE"

Kids grow while nursery waits WO set to go

AFTER seven years of negotiations with the School over a nursery, we have at last been told that the idea of a nursery is acceptable, and that the School will finance conversion costs and give £5,000 a year towards running costs. This would still leave £4-£6 per child per week to be met. We have as yet, however, been offered no adequate space for a nursery, so that the final vital ingredient to get the nursery off the ground is still missing. (For information as to the exact position we have reached in negotiations with the School, please see the leaflet produced by the Nursery Action Committee at the beginning of last week).

It is because we are getting little

joy from the School at present that we decided on Monday, Feb. 24th, that an occupation for a nursery would be our chosen action on N.U.S. Baby Demo Day (Wednesday 26th). The School surely realises that if they can fob us off with inadequate offers of space until the end of this term, the Nursery Campaign will be difficult to continue, as we all face exams in the summer, and they will thus get away with not providing a nursery for yet another year. The grand total for the Nursery Campaign in L.S.E. will then be eight years! The occupation of S.75 and S.78, and the petition which has been circulating among staff and students,

are to show that we do not intend this to happen.

The occupation started at 9.30 in the morning, when a group of people from the Nursery Action Committee and the Women's Group went into the rooms, and it grew in size from then on. It was not intended to be a children's demonstration, because of the distress which could be caused to children by being shoved into a strange situation with strange people, and where we could not give a large number of children adequate care and attention. Our campaign is aiming to obtain precisely these things for children so it would go against our ideas to subject them to inadequate conditions.

At 5 p.m. the occupation was disbanded, as had been agreed previously: it had not been disruptive, and informed a large number of people about the Nursery Campaign. Classes scheduled for those rooms that day were redirected; in fact the School reallocated rooms, although we had booked S101A and the T.V. room ourselves to accommodate displaced classes. It seems that re-timetabling is not as impossible as the School would have us think. The ball is now in the School's court but, wherever they decide to throw it, it must be soon.

L.S.E. Nursery Action Committee.

A new Welfare Officer has been appointed and will start work with us on March 8th. Her name is Ms M. Comerford and she is currently employed as an assistant WO at the Inns of Court. I received about 24 applications for the post and after two sessions of interviews the interviewing board decided unanimously that Ms Comerford was the person most suitable for the job.

I am confident that because of Ms Comerford's experience in the welfare field she will prove a very useful asset to the Students' Union and I look forward very much to starting work with her on March 8th. The Welfare Office is S.100; anyone who has any problems or perhaps would just like to talk is more than welcome to come along any time.

C.O.B.

Library rights

AT 10.30 last Friday the Library Petition was handed in to the Director. Over 1,500 people signed the petition in one day alone—more were added later, bringing the total nearer to two thousand. A very considerable response in view of the number of students—3,500.

The petition read: "We the undersigned protest against the withdrawal of certain facilities from the Library—a direct result of the implementation of the Government's policy of education cuts at the LSE. This clearly represents an attack on academic standards. We therefore call for the immediate rescinding of this policy and the return of the Library to the pre-cuts position."

Not only does the Library need to be returned to the pre-cuts position—but to fulfil its aims and provide a good service a large injection of funds is necessary.



'Less on Royalty—more on education'

WHILST stringent economies are being made in the LSE, residents of Rosebery Hall claim that the School authorities are guilty of unnecessary and extravagant expenditure.

They claim that £200 was spent on frivolous, instead of essential repairs due to the visit of the Queen Mother to open the Hall on Thursday, February 27th. One example quoted is replastering around the dartboard, instead of getting the spindryers to work.

The Hall Society also objected to the 75-guest reception as being particularly irrelevant to a Hall of

Residence that has been open since the end of September 1974. Because of this, students who had passed the vetting process and had been "invited" to meet HRH, boycotted the reception.

At the same time about thirty students peacefully picketed outside with the slogan "Less on Royalty—More on Education." The Hall will now be called the Sir Walter Adams Hall, despite the students wanting to have it named Rosebery Hall. Student leaders have condemned the whole administration handling of the affair as "inept and hypocritical in the present atmosphere of education cuts."

3 feet equals 2 months

AS you will have noticed, Houghton Street is still open with students taking their lives in their hands daily as they play hop-scotch with the taxis.

The street was meant to have been closed for an experimental period at Christmas. This was not possible in that the bureaucrats at the GLC got the plans for Clare Market wrong. In the plans to close Houghton Street they forgot to make Clare Market a two-way access street. This problem has now been cleared up.

So why isn't Houghton Street closed yet? Well, there's a snag. Yes, folks, an original and genuine GLC snag! In applying for the closure of Houghton Street a five-

foot barrier has to be erected exactly in the correct position at the south end of Houghton Street. Mr "Get it wrong" of the GLC now informs me that Westminster Council positioned the barrier in the wrong place. The barrier was three feet out. Consequently, the application to close Houghton Street is invalid!

The matter will now go before the chairman of the relevant GLC committee who, we hope, will approve the new application. Even if he does, then Houghton Street will not be closed until April. Next time you are told that three feet equal one yard you can say that, in the case of Houghton, three feet equal two months.

T.B.

Student housing

A Government Bill is in preparation which will jeopardise students' security of tenure (at present protected by the 1974 Rent Act). The Letting to Students' Bill will enable private landlords to evict students once their course is finished.

The apparent reason is that the amount of student accommodation available was reduced after the 1974 Act through landlords' refusal to rent to students, possibly because they are more willing to apply for reduced rents, and that it was therefore a mistake to include students under the Act. Accommodation for students is already

Although the Labour Government put student grants up, they played a nasty (and unpublicised) trick on us as far as rent allowances go.

scarce and expensive; both problems will probably be exacerbated if such a Bill is passed.

Rent allowances used to be given (where they were given) with respect to "fair" rents. If your rent was uncontrolled, they would "estimate" a "notional" fair rent and give you the allowance with respect to that. For example, someone paying £7 a week might find his estimated "fair" rent to be £3.50, and he might get an allowance of about £1.50.

Now, if a student is in receipt of a (British) grant, £4 is lopped off the hypothetical fair rent. So our unlucky example's fair rent would sink to minus 50p, and his rent allowance would sink to nil.

Vote Labour. Labour really cares.

Staff scandal

THE Undergraduates Studies Committee (USC) plunged back into the Library again when it met on Monday, February 17th. The Librarian told us he was going to change the opening times of the Teaching Library from 10 a.m.-8.30 p.m. to 9.30 a.m.-8 p.m., and would that be all right? It was all right.

Mr Clarke then said he was experimenting with getting books from the reserve stacks. If a voucher was put in by 10.15 a.m. the book would be available by 11 a.m. The system would work very well, especially if it was badly advertised, which was what he proposed to do. When closely questioned about the Library, he denied that there had been a reduction in demand for

books from the reserve stacks due to the "new" system.

Two other pertinent matters discussed were exams, due to take place from May 29th to June 20th, and the housing problem for students. The L.S.E. is to send out a questionnaire to its students, asking them, amongst other things, what effect the Rent Act has had, in their experience.

The meeting broke up voluntarily at 6.45 p.m. due to the lack of staff members present (2), who were heavily outnumbered by the students (6), yet again. Because of this a further meeting was arranged for Monday, March 10th. Academics please, it's "Notes for Tutors" that are to be discussed!

P.T.

Electoral law

A MEAGRE forty members of the Law Department managed to drag themselves from lectures, classes, etc., to vote in the new Law Society committee on Thursday, Feb. 27th.

Katy Jennings, the outgoing chairperson, took the chair for the last time, to act as returning officer. A sign of the apathy present in the department was the fact that both the new chairperson and secretary were elected unopposed.

The names of the newly elected committee, and the voting figures, appear below:—

Chairperson: Michelle White (elected unopposed);
Secretary: Vanessa Peters (elected unopposed);
Treasurer: Sarah Jetsun (19), David Griffiths (16), abstentions (5); Sarah Jetsun elected.
Ordinary committee members: Elizabeth Drumm (30), Tania Thac Xuan Ky (26), John Scales (25), David Griffiths (24), Dick Graham (22).

The election of treasurer was by simple majority. For the other posts, each member present was allowed five votes.

J.M.

	Past Meetings	Future Meetings
A/c's	—	?
Econ.	Jan. 15	April 23
Stats	Feb. 3	Next term
Govt.	Jan. 27	March 10
Law	Feb. 20	Next term
Sociol.	Jan. 21	Feb. 18 April 29
Anthop.	Jan. 9	March 6
Soc. Psy.	Jan. 23	March 6
Soc. Ad.	Jan. 15	Feb. 26 May 21
Econ. Hist.	—	—
Geog.	Feb. 14	poss this term
Ind. Rel.	Yes	Yes
Int. Hist.	Feb. 11	April 29
Int. Rel.	Jan. 30	March 6
Lang. St.	Jan. 8	Next term
Philos.	—	March 4

Of the Departmental Student/Staff Committees herein listed, six will be having their next meeting next term. That's the term exams start—May 29th to be precise.

P.T.

Emigré from democracy? Exam time?

Professor Devletogou, who was at the LSE as economics lecturer during the years of the junta in Greece, has resigned from his post as economics professor at the University of Athens, following students' criticism of his record during the 1967-74 (junta) period.

At first, he offered to go before the Commission of Inquiry (set up to investigate academic collaborators with the military régime) voluntarily. Then he resigned, claiming that the students were irresponsible and dominated by leftists.

A letter from Greeks in London criticising Devletogou's record appeared in "I Avgi", the newspaper of the Communist Party of Greece (Interior). It is now presumed

that Devletogou's future lies at the LSE: he didn't resign his lectureship here, just took leave of absence to return to Athens. It will be interesting to see if the LSE is prepared to welcome back an academic who apparently finds his own country too democratic for comfort.

After a departmental secretary's office had been broken into over the weekend of February 1st/2nd some exam papers being set by the Sociology Department are being re-drafted—just in case someone was thinking of doing their exam a little before time.

Do you want some money?

Overseas Students who cannot pay their fees this term are advised to apply to the "OVERSEAS STUDENTS FUND," which is now open, for help.

Letters should be given in to the Senior Treasurer S105 as quickly as possible, giving the fullest financial details, which will be treated in the strictest confidence. DO APPLY OR ASK FOR DETAILS, NOW.