



Recession Bites at L.S.E.

by Pernilla Malmfalt

The LSE Student's Union has come to feel changes in the consumption of students. Whereas the school this year has had an increase in number of students which would point toward an increase in revenue in the Three Tuns, the Cafe and the Union Shop the sales figures have remained at last year's levels. This indicates that a growing number of students are actually spending less per head.

This seems to be the case above all for the Union shop, who has installed a third till to cope with the increased number of customers. The offer made by the Financial Times to subsidise the price from 60 pence to 12 pence for all universities around the UK has definitely attracted many more students to the shop, says Jean Lupton, Assistant Manageress of the shop.

She does, however, point towards trend of less spending.

"Although we are only one month into the term and things can still turn around, there seems to be a pattern of more students who are spending less money."

Asked whether she knew which products the students are cutting down on, she said it was too early to distinguish such a trend.

The exact sales figure for this term are not yet available but Miss Lupton insisted that sales have not gone down in the shop but remained stable, which in turn means a relative decline.

A similar picture is found in the Three Tuns. Jim Fagan, the manager, first pointed to the potential trend for students to be cutting down on expenditure. This, he said, does not seem to affect the Monday to Friday visits to the bar but more the evening "gigs" or special events which may have



an entry charge. He was generally disappointed of the low turnout at such events but recognised the financial burdens which may have hit some of the students this year, induced by the bad economic climate of today.

Mr Fagan pointed out how the un-encouraging job market has had an indirect effect on the sales of the Tuns Bar. In previous years anyone who graduated from the LSE with any kind of second class honours was guaranteed immediate em-

ployment. Today there are no such guarantees and more students seem to feel the pressure of having to perform to get a better degree. Hence, he said, they spend less time in the bar and more time in the library. Even among first year students this more serious approach can be noticed.

John Spurling, the Finance Secretary of the student union, was inclined to agree with Mr Fagan. He also stressed the changing pattern of new students at the LSE. He

pointed out that the high increase in post-graduate students will not do the Three Tuns Bar any favours as these students generally have heavier workloads and less time for their social life. He added that the increase in overseas students tends to mean a moving away from the traditional British student life characterised by social evenings in the student pub, as foreign students are often eager to explore other parts of London.

Generally the reaction

from the union is one of slight disappointment that the growing number of students does not equal growing sales. This must be attributed to the effect that the recession, an uncertain future and a competitive job market are having on students today, both in terms of less spending-money and more time spent studying.

As sales have remained static the union does not appear to be heading for a loss as yet.

DSG campaign on Underfunding takes off

By Tony Thirulinganathan

The last Union General Meeting saw the Democratic Socialist Group raising a motion on Overcrowding and Underfunding. The DSG hopes to publicize this motion through the UGM and leaflets which are to be distributed among students of the School.

Peter Harris, the Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer (WEOF) who also happens to be a member of the DSG "fully" supports this motion. He believes that the School should concentrate more on the students' needs and less on "cosmetic considerations". He thinks that

the School has sufficient funds to satisfy student needs. His argument is that the School can very well afford to pay for much better student facilities if it can pay for MFI decorations.

The DSG leaflet claims that the library, Brunch Bowl, lectures and even

classes are prominent examples of overcrowded areas in the School. According to the WEOF there's an acute shortage of text books for courses at the Masters level and computer terminals are often insufficient. An instance of the former was highlighted at a meeting

of the staff-student committee of the Economics Department last year.

The DSG claims its demands are realistic and thinks that the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) "can do more". The WEOF is expected to urge the Director to initiate a na-

tion-wide campaign against the higher education policy of the government. Veteran member of the DSG, Bob Gross was not available for comment (even at the Three Tuns).

The General Secretary, Fazile Zahir feels that the DSG should work together with the School instead of maintaining an "enough is enough" stance in this issue. She is also skeptical regarding the successful implementation of this motion. Nevertheless she concedes that the successful implementation of this motion would benefit the student community at large.

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Union Jack

Glory Be! We at LSE are entered upon the silly season. The griping and sniping bemoaned by Jack passeth into dim memory. Elections have come and gone. Our feuds be ended, and we head for the great Tent Meeting that is our Unholy God-damned Mess (UGM). Feel the Power!

Taking to the pulpit, Pontiff Faz harkened unto the Dark Future of Voluntary Membership. Acolyte PHarris sought lodging removed from London Town for our Palestinian scholar and his family over the holidays. Alter-acolyte Jonni, He of the Good Manners, thanked Chris Short, the Officer Who Returneth, and the sixteen misguided souls who felt that the Court of Those Who Govern needed the Bollocks of the Dog.

Questions from Heretics bear no further scrutiny, save spirited interchanges of the ribald nature between Those Who Sitteth on the Right and Those Who Sitteth Elsewhere.

Lo! On to the Motions of Business of Priority. Dominique the Light, She of the Hair of the Colour of the Wine of Mogen-David, brought to pass a Plague on Intolerance. Jamsheda Ahmad, She Who Seeks Divine Spiritual Guidance (DSG), called down a second plague, lest the one from The Light have been not enough. Jack, He of This Affected Style of Writing, ponders what she meant by 'gay or lesbian men' in her invocation to the assembled.

There might have ended the Motions of Business of Priority, save for the intercession of Acolyte Pharris who taketh not nay for an answer. Yearning for Learning (Trans. for our lay members: 'Higher Education Funding.') For We Have Been to the Mount of Steve and from its Peake we bring the Commandments to Pharaoh, He of the Worth of Ash, to Let Our People Know! To the Peake called out a voice from the cheap seats: 'We just hate you, that's all.'

Those Who Sitteth to the Left Further than Most sought to bash upside the heads Those Who Sitteth to the Left But Not So Far. Doth the Cult of DSG admit the folly of not seizing Pharaoh in the House of Connaught last year? Nay, sayeth Gavin, our Fall from the Garden of the Hall of the County renders life different now. Woe!

Further Woe! Suke, She of the Jawbone of an Ass, sought in vain to rewrite portions of Our Text, for Pharaoh remains hardened in his heart. Jack knoweth, however, that when Pharaoh came down from seeing God in the Little Town of Brighton (Jack knows others who saw Him there, but that was at the Club of Zap; worry ye not, for they too came down), Pharaoh were mightily off-pissed that the Stock of Learning could be sold short by the moneylenders in the Temple.

Further strife and blasphemy! Ali Nikpay, He of the Path of the Man of the Bull, sought to place this onus with the Pontiff Zahir and not the Acolyte Pharris because he be not divine enough for the glory. PHarris decreed that all among the Disciples shall be deemed equal, and that his hands would become dirty so that those of Our Pontiff might remain clean. With Ali vanquished, we allowed that taking over the Pharaoh's Castle might still be necessary and put Our Seal onto Our Business.

The lesson concludeth with a preaching to the unholy of the unholy, he that be known as Martin Stupid. Those who sitteth in the congregation felt a little aggrieved that Martin be not dragged to the altar with nowt but a sack about his loins, so it came to pass. It has been said that the followers be a funny gathering, and Martin was no different. Oh exceedingly obnoxious and arrogant git!

Here Endeth the Lesson.

Selah.

Glenda Jackson at LSE

By Jaap Breugem

Glenda Jackson, Labour MP for Highgate and Hampstead held a talk on "Whose Wealth, Whose Interest?" at the LSE on the Monday of last week. The talk had been organised by the Chaplaincy in the lecture series called "Private Affairs: Public Morality".

Jackson began by describing her trip to Ethiopia in 1985, which she had made for Oxfam in order to look at long-term projects of the charity. On different examples she described how on the micro-level little projects which only cost us a small amount of money could "transform life" in the Third World. She claimed that on the macro-level two-thirds of the world supported us in the Western countries.

On the issue of social justice she said that there was a deepening gap between "the haves and the have-nots in our society."

This she called an "appalling state eight years before the 21st century."

Referring to the British society she thought it "monstrous, immoral and obscene" that there was an implicit acceptance of the social problems. In particular she referred to the problems of the homeless, where in her view the society had moved to a position of "how do we best manage the problem" instead of solving it. All this, Jackson said, was caused by "the attitude of owing the first responsibility to oneself." From her perspective the greatest diminution of wealth was in terms of the loss of moral and social health and wealth of the country.

Concerning the Third World debts she said that the money owed by developing countries was "funny money", as most of it was accumulated interest. In order to help the developing countries, a

"real market price had to be paid" for their products. Imports from those countries should not just be restricted to raw materials. It was possible to have sustainable development in the developing countries, as long as one did "not loose patience". On the micro-level she pointed to several encouraging small projects, which initially might seem "green and crazy", but which - in her eyes - were another case of a "small change here, a big change there."

Changes, however, could only come about if the general public pressed for those changes to be implemented. She added that it had been seen during the debate on pit closures that public opinion played a big role. Jackson emphasised that the public should equally insist on changes of this country's policy towards the Third world.

US-Students on Election night

By Mark Dantos

Last Tuesday night as millions around the globe watched the proceedings of the U.S. presidential election, pockets of LSE students convened to share the excitement with each other. Residence halls such as Passfield and Carr-Saunders found small groups huddled around BBC's coverage of the event which began close to midnight. Rumours of an "election party" at the Three Tuns proved false because John Bradburn, Societies and Entertainments Officer of the Student Union had failed to organise and prepare the party in time. Instead, students gathered in smaller numbers to watch on the TVs provided as part of the residence hall common room. When asked what the scene was like in Passfield, one resident responded that there were

only about "twenty people, mostly Americans, and generally pro-Clinton".

Carr-Saunders residence echoed this description when asked about their hall's election night. The lack of a designated convention area at a school social focal point like The Tuns contributed to the dispersal of viewers around London.

However, the Beaver College program headquarters at Palace Court just off Bayswater was host to over 70 American students over the course of the late evening and early morning. LSE students were well represented at this election party complete with champagne and streamers.

A pro-Clinton majority grew pleased as the election went on and Clinton sewed up the presidency.

With the commencement of coverage around midnight here, most viewers only watched long enough to be assured of the results. For many this meant going to bed around 2 AM after Clinton had surpassed 200 electoral votes and was well on his way to steaming towards victory. LSE students' political sentiment seemed to reflect the national trend in the United States. Clinton supporters talked about the need to rebuild America's infrastructure over the next four years as the first priority. The economy, the educational system and the health care issues were included in this assessment. Bush supporters like LSE's John Utley expressed a different message, "Its going to be just like Jimmy Carter. See how happy you are in four years..."

News in Brief

Delight controversy

Some controversy was created last week by a banner put up by Dominique Delight. The controversy related to a statement of "Only a dead fascist is a good fascist". Many students saw this as an incitement to violence. Delight confirmed this view by saying that it was "completely justified to beat up fascists." She added that murdering fascists was justified and repeated that "only a dead fascist is a good fascist."

No interest in NUS

Lorna Fitzsimmons, General Secretary of NUS, came to visit LSE on Wednesday afternoon. Initially a lecture had been planned for three o'clock in the Old Theatre. Less than ten students came to the event. In a subsequent meeting Zahir pointed out that she planned to hold a referendum on NUS next term and she indicated her willingness to help Fitzsimmons in her campaign. Zahir said that she was confident that a referendum was going to result in a vote in favour of NUS. Fitzsimmons agreed with Zahir that a campaign targeting LSE-Director Ashworth, LSE-alumni, lecturers, MP's and even Students' parents should be launched this week in order to influence the government not to put its proposals into practice.

An Apology

"I would like to apologise to Alston Slaven of the LSE-Liberal Democrats whose name was omitted from the list of candidates for the Student Health Committee on the ballot paper. This was caused by an unfortunate clerical error. I would also like to thank the Liberal Democrats for accepting the mistake in good faith and for not insisting that the election should be re-held."

Chris Short
(Returning Officer)



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Labour MPs visit the LSE.

By
Phillip Gomm

Last Tuesday saw the visit of Keith Vaz MP and Ken Livingstone MP as part of the Student's Union week of anti-racism. While Vaz has made his name as a supporter of the BCCI collapse victims, Livingstone has become famous both during his time as leader of the Greater London Council and - in the view of some - as scourge of both Labour and Conservative parties alike.

Speaking first, Vaz started by reminding those present of the 1968 Enoch Powell speech in which he said that by 1992 black people would have the 'whip hand' in this country. He observed that not only was this evidently untrue but Britain still had a very long way to go before becoming a tolerant multicultural society. He criticized the Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke for introducing the Asylum Bill which he claimed would further curtail the rights of entry for asylum seekers, and restrict the right of appeal for those whose application had

been rejected. Vaz described the bill as a "political gimmick to satisfy the worst supporters of the Government."

Moving on from legislation, Vaz mentioned statutory bodies that had been instigated to combat racialism. Both the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission were described by him as fine in theory but lacking the muscle or resources to operate effectively.

Perhaps the most important sign of an increase in ethnic vociferousness had been the way that minorities are now prepared to stand up for themselves and demonstrate on such issues as the Salman Rushdie affair and the BCCI collapse.

Ken Livingstone broadened the debate by comparing Britain's progress on anti racism to that in the USA and Europe. He felt that we were behind the former who in the last 30 years had taken large strides forward on the issue. In political terms this

was the result of pressure from the Democratic party who had attacked more conservative views. Livingstone was not so impressed with Europe who were lagging behind the UK and he cited the German Social Democratic party's indifference to the future of Turkish women immigrant workers in the Federal Republic and the rise of the National Front in France.

Continuing the European theme, Livingstone mentioned the 'terrifying' wording of clause 103 in the Maastricht treaty which he saw as tantamount to embodying racism.

Summing up, he praised the work of the Anti-Fascist Alliance and appealed to minorities to ensure that their voice was heard.

Peter Harris, the Chair of the meeting, was "pleased with the turn out, though disappointed that the questions that followed were less than spontaneous and seemed

to be more like pre planned left wing rhetoric."



Ken Livingstone: Pictured speaking at The School last Tuesday

Good & the Bad Secret of Joy

This section of the column will from now on, be dedicated to reviewing/reproducing news stories that have a specific interest to women. If you want to send a cutting in just leave it in the Women's Officers Pigeonhole in E65.

GOOD NEWS: A new CERVICAL CANCER TEST developed could raise detection rates by 95%. Hydrolised DNA Assay (HDA) instantly locates cancerous or pre-cancerous cells with a dye. Leader of the study programme at University College's Galton Laboratory, Dr Andrew Sincock, said the HDA test process has been refined by computer enabling up to 100 tests to be carried out in the time it takes one Pap test to be studied under a microscope.

...& the BAD NEWS: Dozens of women have died because of the inaccuracies of the Department of Health approved smear tests. Death rates from the disease have stayed at 2,000 a year. This month survivors lobbied the Commons at the

launch of a £480,000 appeal to fund a clinical trial to prove the accuracy of the HDA process. The funding would ensure a large-scale four-centre study of 2,000 women, with the aim of reducing the amount of women dying after they have been given false negative tests.

ACTION: Contact, Jean Pitt, founder of the five year-old charity Quest for a Cancer Test. (Source: *Ev. Std.* 29/10/92)

GOOD NEWS: The UK has a higher percentage of women working than any other European country (apart from Denmark) as was revealed by the 1992 edition of *Women and Men in Britain*. About 52% of women in the UK are economically active - that is, considered to be part of the working population, whether in or out of work. Not unsurprisingly, the UK tops the chart again with the result that 86% of part-timers in the workforce are women. In 1990, nearly 15 million women worked part-time in the European Community, 5 million of whom were in

Britain.

...& the BAD NEWS:

The results published by the Equal Opportunities Commission also demonstrate that the earnings gap between men and women in major EC countries is at its highest in Britain. In general, women in British industry received 69% of gross hourly male earnings, compared with 85% in Denmark. Furthermore, the tendency for part-time jobs to be lowly paid is an important factor in the persistent gap between men and women's earnings. Sadly, although Government needs to give a lead to employers, it's own 'House' is not yet in order. The proportion of women representatives in the lower houses of European parliaments averaged 13%, the figure in the Commons was only 9% (despite a rise in the number of female MPs from 44 to 60 after the April election). *Women and Men in Britain 1992*; Equal Opportunities Commission; HMSO; £10.95. (source; *Indpt.* 20/10/92)

Fran Jacobson

Alice Walker's latest novel is an exposure of the nature and form of ritual clitoridectomy/excision, euphemistically known as "bathing". Writing as sharply as the tsunga's knife ('tsunga' being the woman who performs the surgery), Walker forces the reader to experience the pain of the traditional female initiation ceremony. This act of genital mutilation, which is still practiced globally, is then further pushed to the boundaries of our consciousness in order to allow some comprehension of the symbol-

ism of the act, which even now defines the position of women within African society.

This is the main theme of the book, which is the story of Tashi (a minor character from 'The Colour Purple'), her journey from Africa to America and her struggle for sanity. Walker also explores the connection between Africans and diasporic black people, the relevance of psychoanalysis for black people, the relationships between black and white women and AIDS in Africa.

Despite (or perhaps because of) the clarity of the writing, 'Possessing the

Secret of Joy' is a difficult book to read. Relentlessly slicing the vagina, the style is uncompromising in its intent to make the reader identify with Tashi's physical and emotional pain. However, Walker manages to infuse her writing with enough spirituality to enable us to survive and to begin to glimpse the secret of joy.

ACTION: Foundation for Women's Health (FORWARD)

The Africa Centre, 38 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2

Weekly: Chaplaincy Women's Group, 5.30pm K51.

Upcoming Events

10/11/92: (TUE) 1pm Women's Group. Video on the pornography issue. Discussion. Those interested in writing a short article on any issue, please ask for Sian Evans or leave a note C/o Women's Officer at the SU Reception E65.

12/11/92: (THU) UGM 'CRISIS' MOTION on IRISH ABORTION ISSUE: The date of the referendum has been brought forward by one week, it is therefore of the utmost importance to attend the UGM. If you would like to lend your support to the cause you can do so by donating money either at the Student Union Cafe/reception or alternatively at the

UGM. There will be collections in the Three Tuns.
14/11/92: (SAT) 7.30 pm Andrea Dworkin talks on PORNOGRAPHY. Conway House, Red Lion Square, London WC1. (five mins from LSE past Holborn Tube Station).
28/11/92 (SAT) Intl. day to end violence against women. 'women only', meet 1.30pm at Reformers Tree, Marble Arch. march to Trafalgar.

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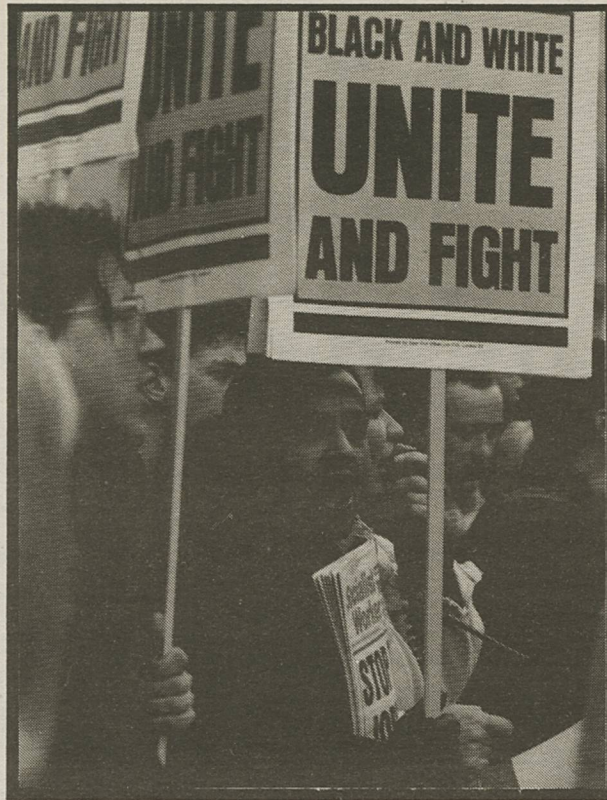
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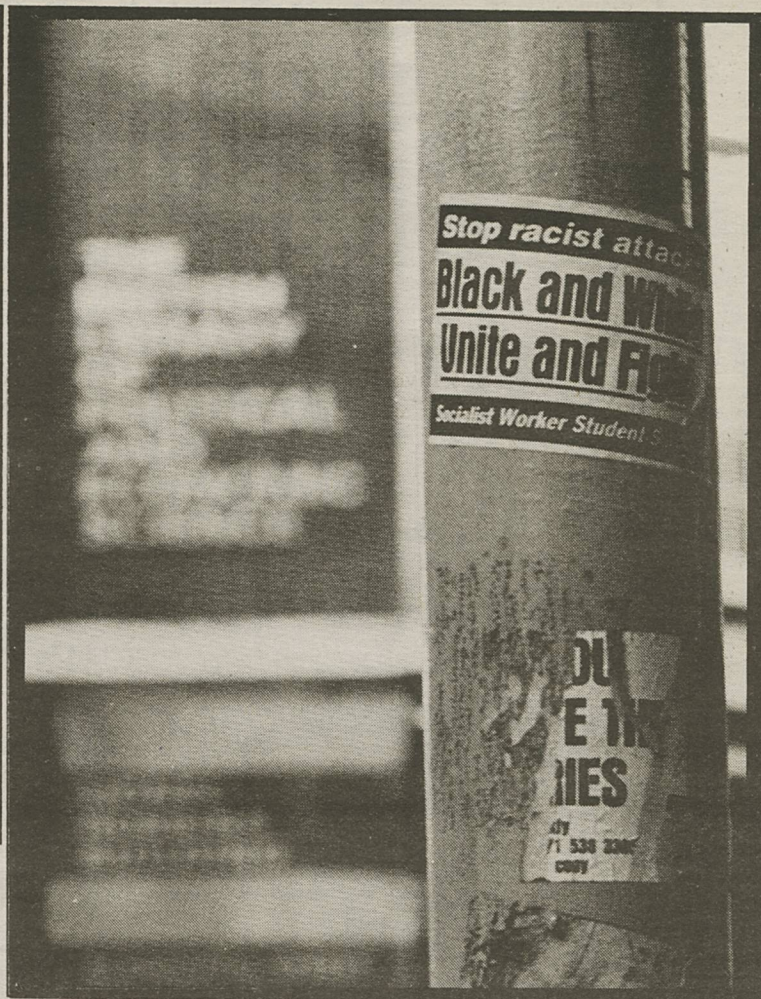
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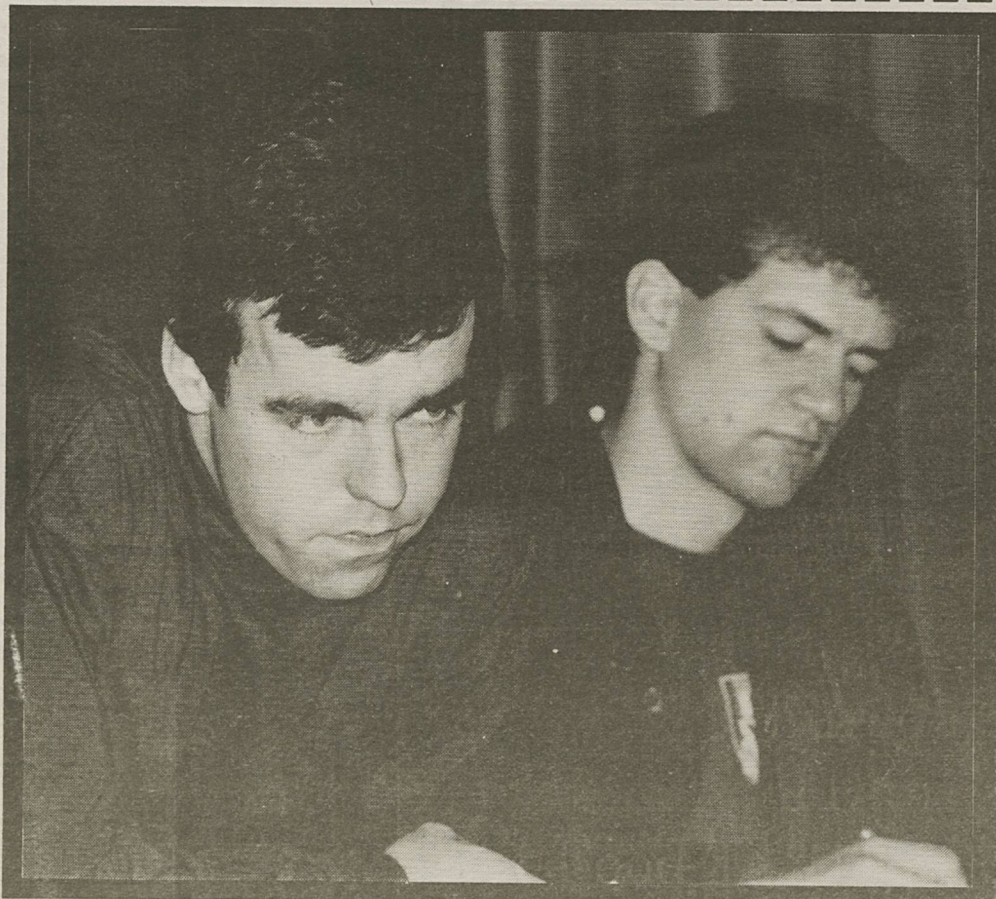
ANTI-RACISM WEEK AT THE LSE



...And a Sunday Morning at Brick Lane



Photos by Steve East



Just Another U.G.M.

By Thorsten Moos

Uganda: L.S.E.



The Terror Continues

In 1986, when the National Resistance Movement (NRM) took power in Uganda, the names Idi Amin and Milton Obote were relegated to the history books of a bloody past. Twenty years of civil war in Uganda had destroyed the economy, and left many with the scars and stories of gross human rights violations. Nevertheless, there was a sense of optimism in Uganda, at the United Nations, and at Amnesty International as the new president of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, pledged that "The Uganda Government under the National Resistance Movement (NRM) begins first and foremost with the unwavering commitment to the respect of human rights."

Six years later, over 40 soldiers have been executed at the hands of the government, and death by firing squad is not uncommon. Anti-government rebels routinely rape, abduct, murder and mutilate those who resist cooperation. Amnesty International reports that the rebel United Democratic Christian Army is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of civilians in the north of Uganda, and for injuries such as having hands, nose, ears, and lips hacked off.

The NRM government's "unwavering commitment to human rights" is centered around using the death penalty as a deterrent for serious crimes. Convictions for rape, murder, and treason lead automatically to a death sentence. In a country in which 63 people were last year detained for five months before being charged with treason, the chances of a fair and prompt trial are small.

This Thursday Amnesty LSE will be writing letters in the Quad on behalf of Ugandan prisoners of conscience. Please take five minutes to write a letter. It won't change your life, but it could well change someone else's.

Louise Grogan

Security Alert

During the past week there has been a worrying increase in the number of daytime incidents at L.S.E. involving intruders and staff and students. An illustration of this occurred at 2.50pm on Monday 2nd November when the Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer, Mr Reza Mahmoud encountered a drunken man attempting to enter the womens' toilets near A46 in the Old Building. Reza had to forcibly prevent the man from entering the toilets (which contained a

lone female overseas student) and when he questioned the man as to his identity the man first pretended to be a student and then asked for money - saying that he had not eaten for a week, Reza escorted him out of the building.

During the week the S.U. Manager, Gethin Price also (bravely and heroically, according to him) removed two people from the East Building, one of these became violent and abusive and the porters were called to help eject

him. Jean Claude, the Manager of the Cafe also had occasion to expel a drunken man from the Cafe.

Possibly one of the most concerning incidents occurred on Thursday, it involved a female student who on coming out of the womens toilets in the St. Clements building was accosted by two drunken men who first demanded money, and when she refused, gave her verbal sexual harassment. This incident happened at around 5pm and there was

Jerome Harris looks at the problem of security at L.S.E. in the light of the incidents which occurred last week

no-one around to help and after escaping, this student informed the porters.

Daytime security has been in effect at L.S.E. in the past, during the summer the school employed two daytime security guards who patrolled the building to protect the staff and prevent the theft of computers and other equipment. Since Freshers week this security has stopped, and in spite of a recent escalation of the intruder problem the school authorities have refused to reinstate any

such measures. The administration has commissioned an outside security firm to review school security, the report is due to be presented in two weeks' time, and although daytime security is not under consideration the administration claims it will make the school a "safe area". It must be stressed that these are only those cases which were reported, and the nature of this problem, though obviously severe, is difficult to quantify.

Emergency phone number (LSE internal phones) **666**

Screech alarms available for a £1 deposit from the SU reception



A cynic writes ...

October comes around once more and before much of the month has passed, a Freshers mind (allegedly - JH) turns to love (or is it sex? Delete as applicable), - though that's not to say its necessarily a new thought for most certainly not in this age of enlightenment and prepubescent sophistication. No, the real attraction of this time of life for the Fresher is the lure of easy coupling, which though it may be a myth, is one that is rarely dispelled(?) members of University life and perennially believed, or at least hoped for, by the new comer.

Clutching their plethora of event tickets (cheaper if you buy early and in

bulk) the Freshers gather wit their new found friends to plan their assault on college society. The comedy night may be funny (or otherwise!), but will it get us noticed (and not just by the comic who spies our zits breaking through the layers of makeup) or would a quiet drink in the refined atmosphere of the Three Tuñs be preferable?? Well the drink may be quiet but that's about all that is in the Trois Barrels each holding 210 gallons. In small groups are the first years clutching their pints of cider and lager, wary of both each other (who will commit the first faux pas) and also the prowling groups of been there, done that, 2nd and 3rd years (amazing how worldly

wise and mature they suddenly become, NOT!); this could be Custer's last stand revisited; circling savages (no offence to Red Indians) picking off disorientated stragglers at will.

Besides the younger Freshers we must also consider the large contingent of mature students and postgrads. These (allegedly - JH) sad people cannot face the prospect of ever being over 25, let alone 30 something! They haplessly chase a youth now lost forever. Unsuccessfully they look for relationships with nubile youngsters, forlornly hoping that they have the Michael Winner touch. Alas, most are doomed to failure as their increased maturity (if only in age

and not actions) unsuccessfully competes with the wrinkles, receding hairlines and failing eyesight.

But hold on, is this picture of events totally true? Maybe not. Perhaps the Freshers aren't as vulnerable as first thought. Perhaps they don't all want immediate carnal knowledge of the same sex (or even the same sex). Perhaps some have come to the LSE to concentrate on their studies and not to offer their hearts to the 'raping' and pillaging hoards. Perhaps the reason the 2nd and 3rd years are forced to trawl the waters is because they never actually got IT (no not information technology) in the last year; but who will we get to ever

admit this.

Similarly aren't I being rather harsh on the older generation? Well maybe, but then they should be old enough to take it! Anyway who wants to be a spotty, shy teenager again (ME!). Good luck to one and all in the love/sex/romance stakes, and just remember that without the lows in life (continual rejections) you can't enjoy the highs (bollocks!).

Phil Gomm

If Alexi, who wrote us the scathing letter about the Beaver redesign, is so shit-hot at using a DTP then maybe (s)he would like to join our production team instead of whinging about our work.

The Beaver

Last week we saw two motions passed in the UGM on the same topic: discrimination. While one dealt with Anti-Racism Week the other dealt with discrimination as a whole, except it left one vital area out: religion.

It was ironic that both motions were passed on November 5th, a day when the protestants of England celebrate the persecution of Catholics. It seems strange to me that even the most radical and right on members of this Union turn a blind eye towards the events that occur every year. Most of them probably went to a Bonfire that evening. Let's not be two-faced in the future because Catholics like myself really do get offended at remarks such as "Here Neil, we need a Catholic to burn. You'll do!"

On a more lighter note, Rag Week raised well over £600 last year and this was divided equally between the three charities. But don't relax just yet because next year's Rag Week is under preparation even as we speak! So, if you'd like to get involved then why not go along to the Rag Society meeting this Tuesday at 6pm, room A47. The Rag Mag also needs contributions, so if you know any good jokes then why not pop them into the Beaver Office, in room E197, or go along to the meeting on Tuesday. After all, we do an awful lot of good work for charity, don't we.

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A Liberal State of Mind

Dear Beaver,

As a member of the Liberal Democrats, I would like to express my general agreement with AOB, issue 364. I was pleased to see that the elections were dominated by the "centre" parties: the Liberal Democrats and DSG, which gained the second greatest and greatest number of seats respectively. Even though the ability of the elected candidates to actually make any real impact is limited, taking part in the school democracy is important, if only in the hope that it will lead to the students getting a real say in the running of the School at some time in the future.

But student politics is fairly impotent at the moment, so what is there beyond the narrow confines of Houghton Street into the world at large. Local, national and European elections effect us all, and the major parties are only too happy to have volunteers for their cause. Internally, certainly in the Liberal Democrats, policy is made by the party members so individuals have the opportunity to influence it if they wish. National pressure groups can also effect government policies, but many are, in reality, ineffective as they are just ignored.

Student politics is not without achievements (though normally only in matters directly related to students) but much of it is pointless and seems to be undertaken for personal prestige, to boost the ego of the participant or just for something to put on a CV.

To anyone who is interested in making the world a better place, whether at a local, national or international level, I urge you to look beyond student politics. No matter what your political beliefs are, you can probably make a difference if you make the effort.

To all those who persevere with student politics in the hope of doing some good, I wish you the best of luck, but I'm afraid I can't hold out much hope for you.

Iain Roberts.

NB The views expressed in this letter are my personal opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the LSE Liberal Democrats or any other Liberal Democrat group.

Umbrella Sour Grapes?

Dear Beaver,

I was saddened by the crude inaccuracies in your article "Sweet Little Sixteen" in issue 364. As the agent for the Umbrellas group in these elections, I feel a number of points need to be clarified. The article stated the reformed Umbrella group was made up of "those students who failed to get elected last time round". This is complete rubbish: of the 11 candidates we stood, to my knowledge only two of them lost in the elections in March. One of them is me, and the other Steve John and we both lost very narrowly. I wasn't even an Umbrella candidate then. Most of our candidates for this election were people who were new to the LSE political scene and who in my opinion were often a damn sight better than most of the other candidates standing. I don't honestly believe that the election of such people as Paul Trivett (solely elected due to being top of the list), Ralph Wilde (1st year opportunist party) and John McCarthy (I waste Wednesday afternoon in the Library club) is going to help the student influence on the school committees.

The LSE is going through an important crossroads: we can either surrender to the director's vision of a graduate school for rich kids or we can oppose that. The DSG seems to vacillate wildly (well, if they do introduce tuition fees, we'll send a joint memorandum to the director condemning his actions or we might consider some extra studentships instead), the Torys (sic -NA) seem to be wishy washy yes-men, and the left seems to be made up of people who do actually oppose these new measures (that's why they did so well), but seem to be reduced to shouting empty slogans (let's wait for the revolution, or a Labour government). It can hardly be any wonder that most students are apathetic-look at the choices!

In the Umbrellas group we aimed to change that by bringing independently minded candidates under a joint set of policies that we all agreed on, such as reducing queues to the library, extending the Brunch Bowl seating

area and most of all opposing masters fees increases for EC and UK students. Naturally there were varying levels of commitments to these policies: to claim that a group of independents could be united as a political association is obviously untrue. But the fundamental point was to allow capable people to have a chance to have a say in the running of their own university, which surely is the whole point of democracy. I was particularly angered by the suggestion we were only doing it for our CV's. It seems unfair to suggest that the Umbrella candidates were any more doing it for their CV's than those in the DSG (such as those who swan off to Israel during the campaign) and the Torys (sic -NA) (who are proud of getting it on their CV's).

I believe it is time that the students of LSE could take student politics seriously by having a group of candidates actually capable of doing something. Perhaps the Umbrellas group wasn't that group at this election, but it believes we deserve credit for trying to push student issues back into the political arena rather than outdated political bickering.

Timothy Lewis
Agent, Umbrellas
Group

Tim, last week's article was a joke....

Thanks For The Memory

Dear Beaver,

I should like to use your columns to thank all those that voted DSG in the recent elections. All DSG voters should know that they have elected candidates that will oppose the continual overcrowding and underfunding at the school wherever possible. The DSG asks the school to get over the setback of losing County Hall by announcing definite plans to expand the Houghton Street site, the Library and Student facilities.

All DSG committee members will be asking their respective committees to oppose underfunding and overcrowding, whether they sit on the Library Committee, Catering Services or Court of Governors. Hopefully by the time you read this you will have had the chance to sign a petition calling for united school opposition to the underfunding and overcrowding of LSE.

Yet again it is the DSG that is taking the initia-

tive. The DSG has opposed Masters Fee increases of £5000 and proposals to make Union membership fee paying. Now the DSG is taking the lead on the most pressing issue facing the LSE. Those who share our concerns of improving conditions and enlarging student rights are welcome to attend our weekly meeting Monday A42 1-2pm. Tony Banks MP will be speaking 12-1 A42 Monday 9th November. Other guest speakers are planned.

Thanks for your support,

Gavin Blackburn,
DSG Chair.

P.S. If any members of LSE Liberal Democrats and Labour Club are interested in debating the motion "An Electoral Agreement between Liberal Democrats and Labour is the best way to defeat the Conservatives". Please get in touch.

Here endth the lesson.....

Let's Have A Choice

Dear Beaver,

I would be grateful if you would lend me some print space to clear up an apparent misunderstanding. The CHOICE Society at LSE is one that is concerned with encouraging and motivating school kids from certain backgrounds and with certain attitudes to continue their education and training after their GCSE's.

I wish to make this clear because I feel someone, possibly thinking we are a Pro-Choice Group, has been removing our posters advertising our meetings. For those who can remember signing up at Freshers' Week or anyone else interested for that matter, we will now be meeting at 1pm every Tuesday in S75. Please come along - It's good fun and very worthwhile for you and the kids - really!

Thank You
Robin Jouglah

P.S. Did you know the letters in Virginia Bottomley's name can be re-arranged to spell 'I'm an Evil Tory Bigot!?' I know this has nothing to do with anything, but it's such a good anagram, I wanted to share it with you!!!

Can anyone else out there in studentland think of an amusing anagram of a politician's name? If so, send it to us at the usual address.....

Splitting Images

Apathy hits several states in the Union

Much has been said recently about the state of union meetings; the two most common complaints seem to be a) continual ranting from the hard left, and b) childishness from the balcony. Also prevalent is the view that student apathy at the LSE is a terrible thing. Having spoken to many first years this year, and from my memories of being one, the reason for this seems to be the idea that the voice of the LSE doesn't really count as a significant political force, so "it doesn't really matter anyway." The usual response to this is "Well what about '68, or Winston Silcott?". Fair enough, on those, and a few other occasions, the LSE did make a difference; in most cases however, the effect of a letter from the Gen. Sec., or a petition from the students to a particular political leader or controversial public figure is surely very small. This is not to say the LSE should stop cam-

paing for justice, in whatever form it may take - in fact, the more the better - but that people should alter their view of the purpose of the union. It is not just to raise the voice of some social science students in London, but, and I think this is in fact more important than the campaign topic-of-the-week, to politicise the student body in general, for many of whom the union is their first involvement with active politics. I, for one, and I know there are others, came to the LSE as undecided as regards politics, and through listening to those with strong, informed opinions (from both sides of the political fence) was able to make my mind up for the first time. If this kind of education was to become a part of more students' (or indeed, anyone's) lives, we would in the long term, see a more politicised, clued-up voting body in the country. I say this because I am, as I am sure

many others are, aware of a frightening number of intelligent people who think the news is boring, and made up their minds at election time on the strength of opinions gleaned from 'Spitting Image'.

This is why the student union must allow those with opinions, no matter how strong, to speak. It is also, to return to my opening sentences, why the 'childishness from the balcony' must also stay - it is one of the prime reasons many first years attend the UGM's. Therefore it serves the purpose of attracting more students, and although it is also accused of wasting time that could be spent discussing issues of importance, these issues are often, as I have said earlier, not really of vital importance when one considers the 'voice of the LSE'. Maybe, in years to come, the LSE will once again start to attract students who are already politically

sophisticated, and the balcony will die out. That's fine - it served its purpose. In the meantime, students will continue to come to hear the gags from on high, and throw aeroplanes at those speaking, and at the same time form opinions on the issues being discussed by being confronted by an opinion that makes them think. The union today holds a fine balance between humour and matters of importance (admittedly with humour on the bigger side) and doesn't do too badly. I see things as only improving from now on, and I hope I'm still at the LSE when the student body is so strong a political force that its voice is loud once again. Until then, keep the union informative and entertaining.

Balshazzar Thistlewhip

P.S. Bring back the Norseman song soon!



Election Apology

I would like to apologise to Alison Slaven of the LSE Liberal Democrats for the omission of her name from the list of candidates on the ballot paper for the Student Health Committee. This was due to an unfortunate clerical error. I would also like to thank the Liberal Democrats for accepting the mistake in good faith and for not insisting that the election should be re-held.

Chris Short
Returning Officer.

"Bigmouth Strikes Again"

"In head to head fights we beat the Umbrellas, we beat the Liberal Democrats, we beat the Conservatives, we usually beat the Left but that was a confused result..."

A confused Peter Harris.

"Fuck off you twat!"

Martin Lewis' response on being asked whether he was obnoxious.

".....Don't you think I'm obnoxious?...."

Martin Lewis confronts a disbeliever.

"Spurling is a tight-fisted wanker"

Fellow Sabbatical, John Bradburn, on being asked about his feelings towards Spurling and his reluctance to buy a PA.

"Crash and Burn!"

Mild-mannered Lib Dem, Dave Whetham

Apology

We wish to apologise to Lord Donoughue, a member of the LSE Court of Governors, over last week's front page article, "LSE Governor involved in Maxwell-fraud?", written by Steve Roy and Phillip Gomm.

The opening paragraph contained the line "...was paid £50000 in return for keeping silent...". However, during the typesetting process the word "allegedly" was accidentally omitted. The line should have read "...was allegedly paid £50000 in return for keeping silent...".

We wish to apologise unreservedly for any distress caused to Lord Donoughue.

Announcement

Nominations for the position of Music Editor must be handed in to Neil Andrews by 5pm next Monday. Nominations must be proposed by a full member of the Beaver Collective.

What do Arts' Editors Get up to at the Weekend

by Geoff Robertson

For those of you who recall last year's Beaving, you'll remember criticism being levelled at the music pages for bringing review of only one ilk - for not being open minded enough to experiment with different mixtures of music. However, we are going to destroy this myth here and now, because I'm going to review to 'events' I saw on last Friday and Saturday night - the "Best of British" DJ's night at the "Ministry of Sound" (at the Elephant and Castle) and "Metallica" at Wembley Arena respectively. Now if that isn't an open minded combination, then I don't know what is!

The "Ministry of Sound" is renowned as one of the hottest clubs in Britain, and certainly knocked the proverbial spots off anything like it that I'd ever seen before. It's a (strict) over 21's only club, situated fairly close to Elephant and Castle underground station, inside what I suspect to be a converted warehouse of some sort. The club has a no drugs policy (which isn't surprising!) but also has a no alcohol policy (which I was much more disappointed about!). I am told (by dubious Mancunian sources i.e. the effervescent Jules) that this is because alcohol is more conducive to falling over than to dancing the night away!

In 'recompense' for the lack of alcoholic beverages, and as well as a soft drinks bar, the club offers "Psychoactive Cocktails" - mostly fruit juice and stuff laced with 'natural' energy giving substances, which is usually Guarana (excuse my spelling if that's wrong!). In the bar area there is also one part of the musical set up, as DJ's serve a slightly mellower beat than that in the main 'raving' area. Said area is a rather large dance floor with a huge "Ministry

of Sound" logo at one end, with a DJ's stage/box/call-it-what-you-will.

It, like the bar is decorated with some of the strangest (but very cool) paintings I've ever seen. They are painted with luminous paints, and depict mostly rolling Sci-fi scenes of planets and arid/spooky landscapes.

The club also has its own mini-cinema, where you can rest your weary legs and exercise your eyes/ears on a different level. The night we went we could only identify Robocop and The Karate Kid from the selection of clips we walked in and out on. The club also has the huge advantage of serving fresh cream cakes, and apparently also sells frozen yoghurt. This was advertised in the thousands of leaflets lying around as "the taste of ecstasy", but one punter opined to your avid reporter "yeah, but ecstasy tastes like shit" - what was he doing tasting shit, readers? What a naughty boy!

I suppose that I should mention who played the night we went - the DJ's were Chris Castle, Nic Loveur, Fat Tony, Phil Perry and either Sacha or Sasha (there was contention over this point). If these names mean 'owt 't thee then all well 'n good lad. Aye. Unfortunately, I didn't recognise any except Sas(c)ha, but I still knew that it was a bloody good time!

Well, after these delights, and catching the first tube home (about 6.00 a.m.), I retired to bed to sleep until it was time to see Metallica. Having done that, I got up refreshed and ready to rock'n'roll (as they say in the biz!). Metallica last returned to these shores (except for brief Monsters of Rock and Freddie Mercury Tribute stints) over four years ago, I missed them then, but was determined not to now. The only real obstacle to this ambition was the brilliant entrance policy at the Arena. There were five doors to each section, but only two were open - brilliant

thinking! Apparently this was because to they only had turnstiles for two doors (presumably to save on staffing costs). Anyway, once we'd braved the queues outside we got into a sold out Wembley Arena. Tonight, contrary to normal practice, we were not to have a support band. Instead we were treated to a video of the band on tour, in action, recording, etc., etc. Interspersed in this were comments from the band back stage. James Hetfield told the crowd that they had no support, to jeers, but then announced that this was so they could "kick our asses" for three hours instead. This was a promise they kept with interest!

Their actual set lasted about two hours and forty minutes (without breaks), but no-one left short-changed. One of the other special features of this concert was that for the first time, the band were bringing over their full American stage set, which consisted of moving drumkit, a "Snake-pit" INSIDE the stage, covered by gantrys which the band moved around and over. Couple this lot with the TV cameras used to get better close up's of the band and broadcasted on the huge screens around the place and you've got a pretty amazing show lined up.

Metallica needed most of their time onstage just to cover the basic amount of material they use - they have so many good songs and regular covers that the set list is just huge! But, to have a go anyway, I'll list most of the best ones: opening with "Enter Sandman" and "Creeping Death", they followed with "Harvester of Sorrow", a medley from the "...And Justice For All" album, "The Unforgiven", "Fade to Black", "Sad But True", "Wherever I May Roam", "Whiplash", "Sanitarium (Welcome Home)", "One", "Seek and Destroy", and so on the list is huge!

My personal favourites

of the night were "One", "Fade to Black" and "Seek and Destroy" (although the sing-song during this was pretty sad) closely followed by another twenty or so songs. The most visually and orally impressive was "One", the first of the second set of encores, introduced with the machine gun fire and explosions of World War I trench warfare, complete with on stage fireworks, before the band emerged through thick smoke playing the opening riffs. This song has to be one of the most powerful ever written (inspired by the film "Johnny got his Gun" of the book of the same name). This is the sort of thing that some of the more vocal (usually very blind) critics of 'heavy metal' should be forced to note and made to understand. Ok, the Spinal Tap jokes are very funny, and good to sell papers, but to imply all these bands follow this lifestyle is just a little TOO stupid, don't you think? Mind you, all of this is not helped at all by the likes of the G'n'R publicity wagon for getting your name in the papers as often as possible. Metallica took the stage (literally!) without any of the so-called rock trappings - dressed in black jeans and plain t-shirts, and without any outstanding jewellery. They came to kick our asses as they said, and they did so without any bollocks, except for the rather annoying guitar solo spots for Kirk and Jason (lead and bass respectively). However, stereotypes are difficult to break, and easy victims for criticism when you don't have much news is no doubt a god-send. Anyway, any press which can glorify The Shamen has got to be suspect! Well, that's enough ranting (for now!). Metallica were superb, and, by rounding the evening off with a nice Chicken Vindaloo and several pints of lager, plus Keema Nan's of course, you can't really go wrong! Enough said.

Post Mortem at the Kings Head

Mark Dantos dissects Noel Coward

This show opens to the sound of gunfire in the distance. The audience is immediately thrust into the horror and tragedy of World War I trench life, complete with dying soldiers. But to sustain this amount of emotional audience attachment is not an easy task. "Post Mortem" by Noel Coward falls just short, but in doing so, he succeeds in involving the viewers on a more intellectual level. Although the presentations of the moral and ethical issues found in "Post Mortem" is quite straight forward and often over exaggerated, one has trouble ignoring them.

John Covan (played by Harry Burton) is shot and killed on the battlefield as the play begins. The year is 1917. The remainder of the ninety minute show finds John, thirteen years later, returning briefly as a ghost to pay one last visit to the mortals who influenced his life. He starts with his mother and then encounters his former fiancée, his army buddies and his father. Each meeting adds to the growing disillusion-

ment of this once ideological young man. John finds the human nature of 1930 to be as twisted as it was in 1917.

Steven Pacey plays my favourite role as Percy Lomas, the realist cynic who, after attempting to make a difference, has given up. His book about the truths of war has been condemned by all the familiar targets of liberal literature, namely the press, the church, and the old. The final exchange between the ideology of John and the realism of Percy encapsulates the power of the play (however predictable it may be).

In "Post Mortem", Coward deals with some important issues, including the nature of war and the follies of the church and the state. In an undisguised manner, he presents his views on the subjects and leaves little work for the imagination. One will leave the Kings Head theatre in Islington thoroughly entertained and contemplative, but too emotionally stable, at least for my taste.

"Post Mortem" will, we are told, "shortly" be moving to the West End, so if you're thinking of going, check where it's playing!

Chunky Time Competition

Beer Of The Week

All that has brought on a great thirst and now its time for the beer of the week (not weak at all). This comes from Sainsbury's and is their Belgian Ale. It's six per cent proof and has a wonderful fruity taste. At £2.00 a bottle you can't say its cheap but it comes in a champagne sized (750ml) bottle and can fill three tumblers worth of space. A couple of bottles of this and you will be anybody's. It is a perfect accompaniment to anything edible (!) including another bottle of the stuff. Enjoy.



Would you like six of the best in this giveaway competition?

Anybody's fruit little Belgian

Food Page Puzzle Of The Week

Hi Foodies. Today I want you to examine the two words printed (right) and turn the top one into the bottom one by changing one letter only. It might be a bit of a puzzler to those DSG challenged out there but give it a go.

F A X
 _ _ _
 F A Z

Answers (only on fax) to the General Secretary.

I bet I know one smell students who live away from home are missing. The morning ritual of opening a tin of pet food and letting that wonderful aroma pervade the kitchen and your sensory organs. Not for you the shaking of coffee beans in your hand as you struggle with the cappuccino machine. That's reserved for the adverts. No, in the morning you are immediately concerned with trying to get rid of that pesky pet that appears unfocussed to your bloodshot morning eyes which is wrapped around your feet and won't stop bleating until its little furry gob is full of Katomeat. This neatly brings me on to a second point. Now that your grant is wearing down a bit what with food, the bar and those wonderful shows pre-

sented by the student entertainments officer you are starting to worry about fading away. You wander around supermarkets looking at all the food and wish you were back with mummy and her full cheque account secretly dropping those favourite tins into the trolley while she is examining something marked NEW! What can you afford these days to eat as you attempt to save some money for Christmas presents. Well now, thanks to this page we are proud to announce The Beaver Pet Food Eating Competition. This competition and the results will enable you to select and enjoy the cheapest possible food in the supermarket. Dismiss the expensive Chicken Tikka, turn your nose up at New Zealand mussels in half shell, we are talk-

ing cheap, filling wholesome food. You will soon be wandering around with a Chunky Six Pak, and, thanks to us, will be able to turn it into a glorious meal for two. A delicate lovers meal for those intimate moments. Candles lit, microwave a'buzzing and the feral population outside your room going WILD! But you will know that you have chosen the best thanks to the Beaver. So next Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Beaver offices, room E197, we will be having a pet food tasting competition. Also on hand will be a Marks and Sparks Cumberland meat pie. Will you be able to tell the difference? Free drinks (naturally low in alcohol. NOT!) will be available to wash down that puurfect meal. See you there.

Thursday
 11am
 Pet Food Tasting Competition
 Beaver Office E197

Ready To Attack Acid Jazz

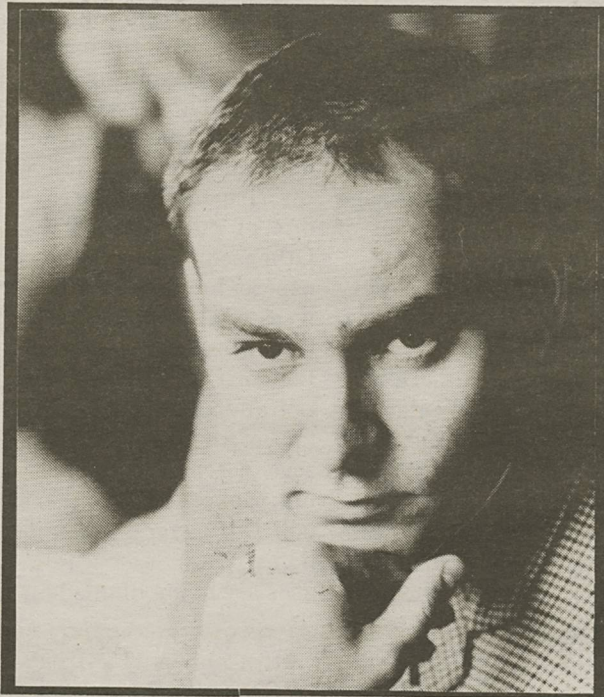
The Khan hits again

"Totally Wired" are these guys. Fresh, funky and touching the smooth accords that made our older bros and sisters shmoove. MOTHER EARTH, THE GRAND ORAL DISCEMINATOR (forget oral sex) and VIBRAPHONIC are just some of the musicians vibing on ACID JAZZ. Do you "Believe in me", riding together on a "Sunship" while thinking that "A Change had better come"? If the answer is yes, then don't let the "Machine Stop", 'cause it's grooving, tantalizing, hitting your flourishing soul and vanishing body.

Let me tell you how it all begun: 5 years ago Edward Piller founded his own label labelled "ACID JAZZ" (not to be mistaken with Aciiid). Dedicated to music. Pure groovy, funky, jazzy music. Nothing more, nothing less, the Jazz Thing was blessed. Compilation volumes (the one I'm listening to is number 7) hit the number 9 these days, reaching a total sales volume of over 250,000. Proud to be independent, Piller hit the right road by contracting THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES (top act work-

ing at the moment on their new LP in New York). The outstanding brand new & "Heavy Rhyme Experience" (last stroke) joins the almighty forces of nature: "they share with rappers a healthy respect for complex rhythms that aren't afraid to get nasty with the funk". Featured are rap giants like MAIN SOURCE, GANG STARR (check out DJ PREMIER's & THE GURU's LP "Daily Operation"), GRAND PUBA (hitting your bass with "Reel to Reel"), MASTER ACE, BLACK SHEEP, KOOL G. RAP (rap's strongest in my view).

"The Masterplan" goes on with such bands like DIANA BROWN & BARRIE K. SHARPE, who promote intercultural interaction on their sleeve: "Racism is superstition / Caused by Oppression / Brought on by mass confusion / But who really cares". Sponsored by Levi's (first time I saw a company sponsoring Groundbeat) ... Do you JAMIROQUAI? Me? Yes! But politicians won't cope with it: "Greedy men been killing all the life there ever was, so you'd better play it Natures way, or she will Take it all away".



Mr James Taylor, without his quartet

JAMIROQUAI on their single "When You Gonna learn?". "Nothing" have learnt the SANDALS with their own thing.

DOO DOO OF THE WEEK:

Forget Government, Industrial Relations and Law, it's time for inter-muscular orgasm. Try to remember the good old '60s and '70s (although your wet pants may have been more of a concern). Embrace the sound, the feeling and the vibration of those great singers. And now stand up and groove

on: "I see my babe / Dancing out there / With someone else / He's dancing out there".

NEXT WEEK:

Sparing rhymes on the Battle of the Rappers presented by ONYX featuring ROXANNE SHANTE (new album "The Bitch is Back"), LORDS OF THE UNDERGROUND (hitting with "Psycho") and WRECKS'N'EFFECT. C YA !!

Orbiting Above The Shamen

The Orb pull an all-nighter

When the Orb finally motivated themselves onto the stage, and you found that what you thought was the smoke machine was in fact just Thrash, then the sentence was left uncompleted. The intro-tape of ex-President Bush addressing a shuttle crew fades, the mosh-pit fills up, the audience goes wild - GOAL!!! The band roar into their first ambient number, 'Spanish Castles In Space'. Imagine the Floyds' 'Careful With That Axe Eugene' with the bass line played by Lemmy. For ten minutes the audience waits until they can dance.

Then the Orb play their 'Silver Machine' - 'Little Fluffy Clouds' and the audience start to move about a bit. Then they do that one with the bassline and the drums and the planes and stuff, you know the one. Then the one with the drums, the

bassline, the waves and the earwigs. That one. And so on for nearly two hours. Totally cool trance-dancing. Basically this was a bloody cool concert (concept?). Whether it was worth making it an all-nighter is in doubt. Although Steve Hillage was there, System 7 didn't play nor did anyone else, in fact the rest of the night was just DJ's. Mind you, the light show was good for those who had their eyes open.

One question. Why was the balding guy in the fading Roxy Music t-shirt muttering to himself and complaining about these young upstarts?

Having 'Singing In The Rain' as an outro-tape was cool. And they pissed all over the Shamen.

Gad (with a little help from Ash).

Power To The Dictionary

The Rebel MC's still a Londoner



Rebel MC: Armchair Anarchist.

Rebel MC: Word Sound Power

People who don't know about these things probably remember Rebel MC for the cheesy but fun poppy ragga-rap song 'Street Tuff', which is definitely not the way to know about this artist nor is it the way he is today. His music today is a quality blend of ragga/rap/soul/techno, definitely in the politically and humanly aware vein, this, like his previous album 'Black Meaning Good' (which is very similar too) is very much a lot more rootsy and ragga and well worth a listen.

It is rare that pop and politics are mixed in a way that works, the results often being either musically dire or merely em-

barrassingly trite. Rap, however, can be considered to be the perfect medium for putting over a message in a musical context. Rebel MC puts his message forward uncompromisingly and there is no beating around the bush, although there is a good bit of government beating on tracks such as 'Government Fail'. This track begins with a sampled news announcement declaring Winston Silcott being cleared and goes on to put the case that ultimately it is the government who wasted this man and others' lives. People should remember this as it is not the police who make the laws, they are somebody higher up's foot boys and girls.

The album is not all heavy ragga as might be

expected, although there are definite techno ragga influences but on tracks such as 'Let Jah Light Shine' it veers much more towards a soul/garage influence, the different musical styles being excellently linked. which brings me onto the religious aspect of the album. Generally I think institutionalised religion sucks but here Rastafaari is put forward in an excellent almost existential way, sort of live the life you want to live without fucking others over and don't take no shit kind of angle. You can't say fairer than that.

Well, in conclusion, although it does not necessarily break that much new ground, it is still a very good politicised album. Definitely warrants

a listen over pseudo-new age pretend political nonsense such as Spiral Tribe and several thousand times more worthy than 'plagiaristic talent-vacuum for those who were too young to listen to The Smiths, who have outgrown their Bros posters and are now too scared to listen to anything new' also known as Suede.

Go on, do your brain a favour.

Steve Kinkee.

'Word Sound Power' is released through Big Life Records next week.

The Asylum Bill: A LICENCE TO KILL

The government is giving the green light to attacks on refugees, argues Emmanuel Ohajah

The issue of asylum and refugees seems to be in the news constantly. Images of German neo-Nazis fire-bombing Romanian refugee hostels are becoming familiar. In France hostility towards immigrants is a fact of life. Violence against Africans in Italian cities is increasing. Such attacks are being replicated all over Europe.

Reading the national papers, you could be forgiven for thinking that Britain is a safe haven for immigrants and refugees. Most racist attacks and murders are presented as an aberration from normal British behaviour. Yet a close look at the local press reveals attacks taking place all over Britain, often matching those occurring in France or Germany in their ferocity.

Over the past six months there has been an increase in racist murders and attacks on blacks and immigrants in Britain. From Scotland down to London, there seems to be no place which hasn't been the scene of a horror story. Take the death of Ashiq Hussain, a young Birmingham taxi driver who died after being attacked by three white passengers on 1 September. Or the murder of Rohit Duggal, a 16 year old school boy from South London, stabbed after leaving a birthday party in July.

Perhaps the most notorious case was the death of Ruhullah Arsmesh, a 24 year old Afghan refugee living in Thornton Heath, South London. On the night of 31 July 1992, Ruhullah was attacked by a gang of 15 youths. He was beaten with iron bars so severely that he died two days later. Not surprisingly, the incident made the front pages of the London press. Even the local police expressed sympathy. Superintendent John Jones, the officer in charge of the investigation, condemned the attack: 'This appears to have been a racist attack with no provocation. This is a crime that the police service and all right thinking members of the public will abhor and condemn.'

The implicit apportioning of blame by Superintendent Jones is interesting. It suggests that there exists in Britain a group

of people who go around assaulting and murdering refugees and blacks, and it is the task of the government and the police to mop up the mess.

This is in fact the opposite of reality. British racism begins in the stately surroundings of government offices and the editorial boards of the press. All the fire bombings, murders and assaults which occur would not happen if freelance racists did not receive their sanction from the respectable members of society who draw up legislation such as the Asylum Bill

distinction criminalises all refugees by suggesting that many immigrants should not be in Britain in the first place. How can anyone make a meaningful distinction? To ordinary people the message is clear: be suspicious of all foreigners.

Former home secretary Kenneth Baker was responsible for drawing up the Asylum Bill. During the April 1992 election campaign he argued that the growth of racist violence in Germany was due to a flood of refugees and immigrants, and that to maintain good race rela-

Standard loved the story about illegal immigrants jumping out of the back of a lorry and running down the M4. There have been countless tales about organised teams of Romanian beggars getting cash out of tube travellers. Other sensationalist press exposes have revealed that it costs #400 million a year to process refugees. The London Boroughs Association announced on the very day of the Asylum Bill's second reading that asylum seekers cost London's poll tax payers #30 million a year. So now refugees are being blamed for

not be allowed off the hook. Often racist attacks on refugees and immigrants are blamed on the far right. But whether in Germany, France or Britain, such attacks are the practical consequences of the official propaganda campaigns which run in tandem with anti immigration legislation. By targeting 'bogus' refugees, the authorities have created the conditions for a modern day racial pogrom.

Today once more mainstream political leaders are voicing anti-refugee statements. Last year, John Major suggested a fairly draconian approach to immigration: 'We cannot open our doors to all comers just because London, Rome and Paris may seem preferable to Bombay and Algiers.... We have need of a perimeter fence around Europe.' The perimeter fence is already in place: immigration to

Britain over the past 10 years has amounted to 0.1 of the population. Yet still a ferocious debate rages about Britain being swamped by immigrants.

It seems fairly clear that the renewed focus on race, refugees, the third world and immigration has little to do with numbers and everything to do with creating a climate of reaction and

anti-foreign chauvinism. And it is hardly surprising that ordinary people draw the conclusion that blacks and immigrants are fair game when that is so obviously the view of officialdom. To continue along these lines of scapegoating refugees for the social ills of Britain in the 1990s means that the problems are never going to be addressed. In addition to this, the increasing clamp-down on the rights of immigrants sends a message to many people that blacks and refugees are responsible for the problems of unemployment, bad housing and social disintegration. All the crocodile tears shed by the media and the government over the brutal murder of Ruhullah Arsmesh are little more than an attempt to distance the establishment from the consequences of their racist policies. But officialdom should

It is important to reject any attempt to blame immigrants for Britain's problems. Logically it makes no sense: the decline of Britain is entirely the fault of those who organise society. They are the ones who have decided that unemployment is 'a price worth paying' (Norman Lamont). Instead of appeasing the racists by conceding that immigration is a problem that needs to be curbed, anti-racists should go the offensive against the powers that be who are really responsible for all our problems.



which is now receiving its second reading. The Asylum Bill's proposals include the 'fast track processing of claims' (faster deportations), compulsory finger printing of all asylum seekers, the abolition of independent legal aid and #2000 fines for airlines which carry passengers with invalid documents.

The history of the Asylum Bill indicates that the government is responsible for the climate of racist violence which characterises Britain today.

The government argued last year that the Asylum Bill is necessary because the number of people seeking asylum has increased to about 50 000 a year. Most of these, the Tories claim, are bogus because they are merely seeking a better life and are not suffering from political persecution. The distinction being made is between economic migrants and political refugees. Such a

tions tough immigration controls are necessary. This perverse logic suggests that immigration, rather than government policy, causes racism.

Kenneth Clarke, Baker's successor, wants to ease immigration procedures for EC nationals and visitors from the USA and Japan, but tighten restrictions for those travelling from the third world. The only conclusion to be drawn is that vigilance is needed to protect Britain from third world immigrants. Every time the home secretary makes a statement about immigration he condemns someone to another racist attack.

The police and media play their role in creating an anti-immigrant atmosphere by conducting high profile dawn raids to hunt down 'illegal immigrants' and printing lurid stories about scams by immigrants trying to get into Britain. The Evening

the poll tax!

All these stories add up to the image of refugees being a burden on British people, a drain on resources and a problem which needs to be dealt with. The Asylum Bill threatens to enshrine further the social inferiority of immigrants in Britain. The treatment meted out to those seeking asylum by the government and the media ensures that refugees are held in contempt by many and seen as legitimate targets for violence.

This has been the case for many years. Whenever governments have introduced new anti immigration legislation, racist attacks have increased. This was the case with Nationality Act 1981, the imposition of visas for people travelling from Bangladesh and India (1987) and the 1988 Carriers Act. Of the 64 racist murders which took place between 1970 and 1986, 50 oc-

anti-foreign chauvinism. And it is hardly surprising that ordinary people draw the conclusion that blacks and immigrants are fair game when that is so obviously the view of officialdom.

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But officialdom should

The Beaver staff would like to wish Paul Bou Habib (the Features editor) a speedy recovery from his flu which has kept him away from us for so long.

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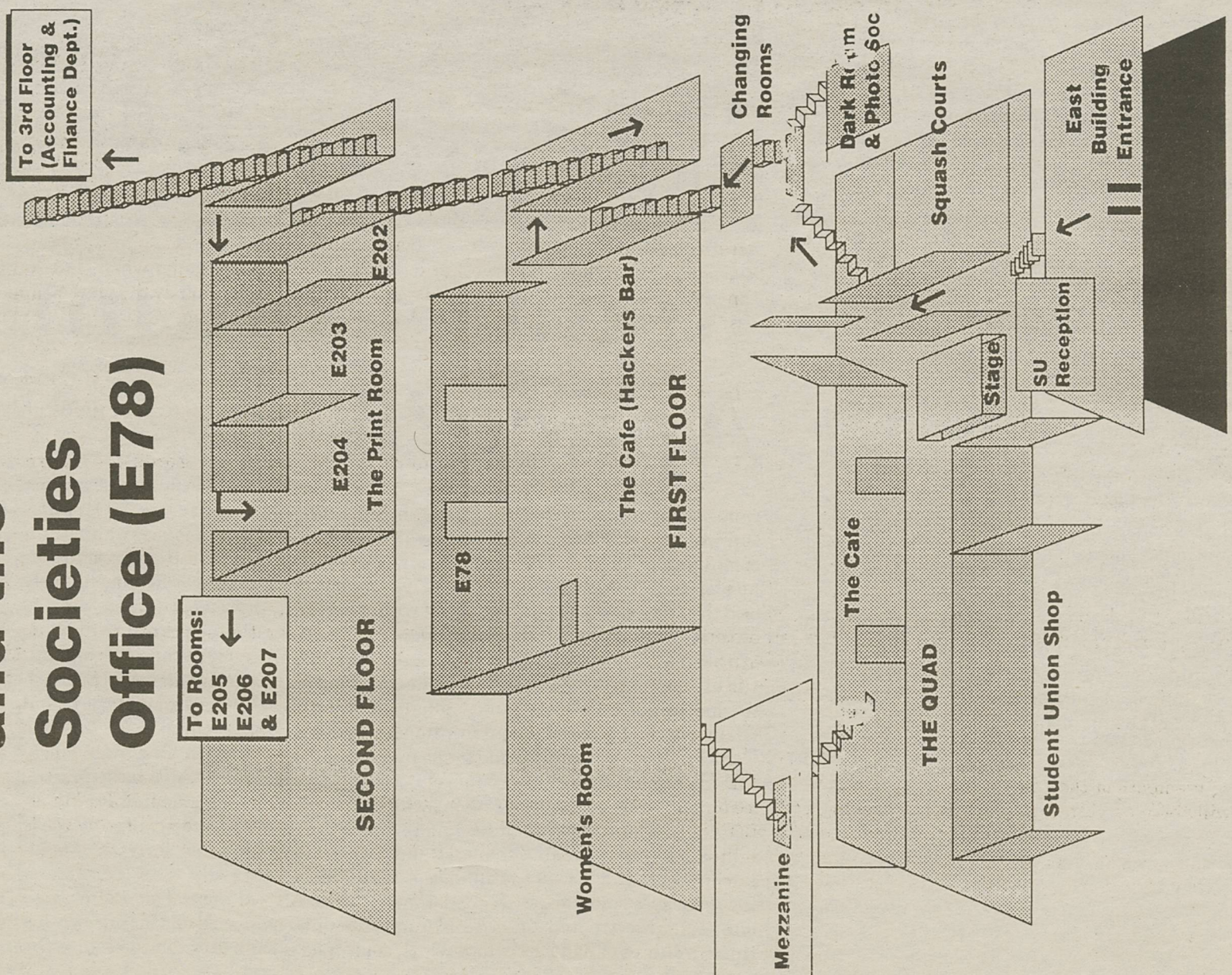
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Houghton Street Harry

As you read last week exclusively in HSH, Harry has resigned his position in order to spend more time in the library, the Tuns, and with his family (Harry Jnrs scattered far and wide in the world's main footballing capitals). Amazingly my name is also Harry so the name of the column will remain unchanged.

For my first foray into the world of public pub talk I had hoped to continue Harry's great tradition of berating the various soap-dodging minorities (majorities? -ed), but please note, Dungaree-Man will no longer feature as it has been determined that he is 'an-all-right-bloke' so no more bitterness/fame for him! Much was made last week on the subject of what a hard act ex-Harry would be to follow; intimidated as I was by this tone I was determined to ensure that standards would be maintained. To this end I had planned to write this in the optimum environment conducive to inspired writing, my day should have gone as follows: a tough but victorious game of football, a tasty free meal courtesy of our admiring hosts, good spirits homeward bound, a few pints watching Rangers\Leeds trounce Leeds\Rangers, a hot bath and then I'd finally sit back in bed and watch my creativity flow effortlessly to produce a Harry of incomparable wit, poetic alliteration and breathtakingly perceptive observations on daily life in 'the street'. We are all familiar with what happens to the best laid plans so I will now present the decidedly grim reality.

The climax of a painfully boring journey to Hove was to pull up in what appeared to be a retirement home complex in a field, but was in fact the University of Sussex. The prospect of our 112 man army being put into a single changing room somewhat dampened our warrior-like spirits, which were then totally soaked as not one of our teams could scrape a point on pitches which could have been used for the emotional trench scene in a fifties war movie. The 'free meal' turned out to be £1.20 off (three sausages were £1.10) in a kip which made the Brunch Bowl seem a model of civilisation and a centre of catering excellence in comparison. A dubious incident then occurred in which the Rugby 2nd's claim to have had half of their kit stolen by the opposition: as we know Rugby players aren't normally keen on confrontation but after much deliberation they strutted off to 'investigate'; sadly, mid-deliberation, the coach driver decided to leave and we can only wonder as to whether the Hove-six chose to walk seventeen miles to Brighton or brave the desolation of the P.W. Botha Bar, Sussex campus's only one.

The drivers kindness was rewarded as the coach broke down in a lay-by in Purley but this was not strictly a consolation since we were stranded in a place consisting of a hotel, a petrol station, no people and buses to popular destinations like Enders Green. The optimists headed into the sunset to find a train, leaving seven super-optimists to wait for a replacement coach, the astute reader now realising I hope that I was in this second group and that this column is indeed a letter from Purley. At least we had football commentary on the coach radio someone piped up, clearly unaware that Leicester vs. Charlton was no-one's idea of the big match that night.

Sausage Seconds Drink Tractors

LSE 2'nd XI.....0
Sussex 2'nd XI..3

Football is as football does, and this one was a modern tragedy in three acts. The first act was Sussex dribbling in a goal only good enough to grace an Argos catalogue. LSE took control but failed to score, a problem which extends to most of the lads after the game. After 88 minutes of pressure by LSE, Sussex scored twice. Quite frankly someone had to and it wasn't going to be us. Keane assaulted the ref and the pansy with the pony-tail. Fry called the man in black a blind bastard, and after the third goal went in Staples questioned his parentage

in no uncertain manner. The second act was complete. The third act involved the coach home getting stuck in second gear, getting a train home from Croydon and Leeds losing to the best team in Britain; Andrew was right as usual (I agree-ex ed). That put an end to one of the blandest days in LSE football as the seconds' learning curve looks more like the downslope of a very large roller coaster. So be it, indeed it may be, but that is certainly that. Paul Bradford also plays football.

Ian Staples.

Rugger Lads Drink Puke

Sussex 1st XV 17
LSE 1st XV 24

On wednesday the firsts maintained their hopes of remaining in the UAU with a last gasp win over Sussex. It took until the second half to establish our dominance on the game by which time we were trailing 12-7, our try coming from a mazy run by Tim White. Just when we thought we could take the game by the scruff of the neck Sussex scored an opportunist try making it 17-7.

At this stage our character and resilience began to show through, unlike last week against City. The forwards began to tighten up their game and the backs put together

some fine handing moves and as a result of constant LSE pressure Matt McNeill scored an unconverted try. Moving into the last ten minutes the side began to produce some awesome rugby, with forwards and backs interlinking to bring us back into the Sussex 22. Andy Lloyd scored a pushover try to level the scores and with Sussex fading Ben Wales ran 60 metres in the last movement of the game and Iwan converted to make the final score 17-24 to LSE. (Sorry, but the next paragraph is in the bin - ed).

Matt Claxton.



Another demolition job

Redux Continues Apace?!?

U.C.L. First XI 1
L.S.E. First XI 3

The LSE First's redux continues apace: the raison d'etre being a combination of wise old heads, youthful arrogance and the silky smooth substitution (not skills? -ed) of the team's own Ruud Gullit. Having in recent weeks fired a number of the proverbial blanks, Captain Clasper's taskforce spent Saturday creaming over an impotent UCL. A rapturous full house (Brian, Brian's lawnmower and Brian's lawnmower's spare grass box -ed) were treated to thirty minutes of flawless

teamwork before 'Orca' Butler stamped his seal of approval on a corner from fellow Essex man 'Tea Leaf' Grant, cleverly finishing with a deft flick of the elbow.

Come halftime, Clasper deemed the lead unassailable and left the pitch altogether, returning to the fray only after a couple of B&H and a walk with his whippet. By then LSE had the game by the bollocks and it wasn't long before the lead was extended-the rapacious 'Abberdeen' Angus finishing a move which contained all

the hallmarks of a team destined for silverware. The defence, unified under the Bismarckean tutelage of Stifan, fluently spread the play wide to the mercurial Dilly who, avoiding a low flying full-back, gave the Scottish forward ample time to find the onion bag. At this stage a fine half volley pulled one back for the home side and briefly instigated an all out siege of Justin's fortress. Fortunately the tenacious Jimmy 'The Palm' Tree pissed on their fire with a sweaty lob to restore the

two goal cushion and secure LSE 1st's first points of the season.

All in all an encouraging result made possible primarily through the efforts of Rob, Stifan, Nick and Copenhagen in defence. Perhaps a subdued UCL captain put it best when he conceded afterwards that penetrating the LSE last third was like trying to shove a suppository up a cat's arse-not an analogy that immediately springs to my mind but then I'm not a sad fat bastard.

Dilly