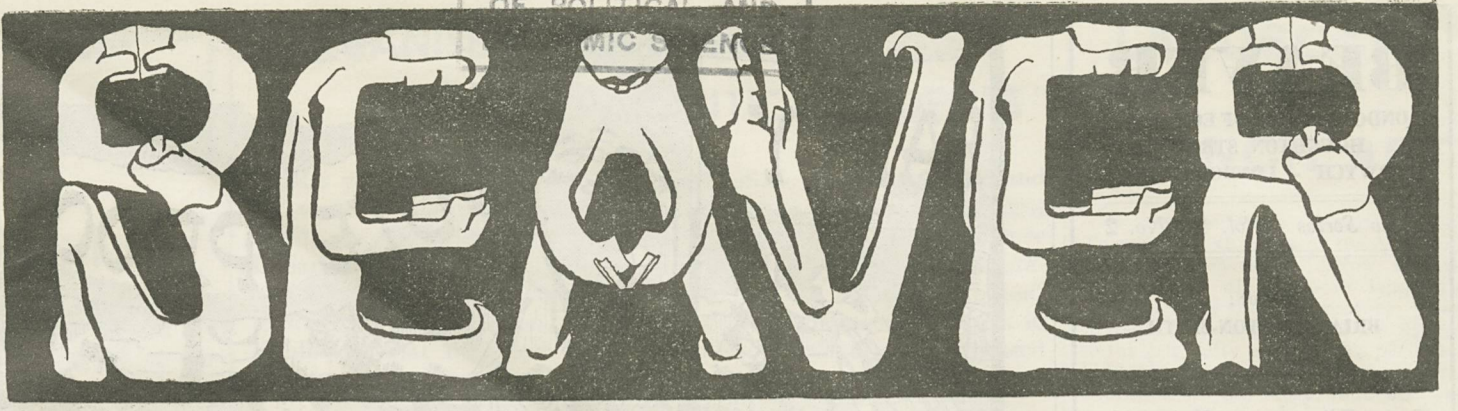


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LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

New Series. VOL 2. No. 2. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1950. Published Fortnightly—Price 3d.

“A CLEAN FIGHT AND NO HOLDS BARRED”



ONE FOR “THE ROAD” ?

NOMINATION day in Clare Market Double Membership Constituency (Room 8 at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 2nd) saw the official opening of an election unsurpassed in merriment, corruption, platitudes and jollity.

The first nominee to appear was Mr. Bill Balfour, put up by the Labour Society. Mr. Balfour's nomination speech was devoted to extending Labour Society funds.

put over a long, largely inaudible and wholly incoherent speech, realised his college affiliation and flaunted his scarf. Dashing but not effective, for most of his supporters had already fled in search of a mysterious George.

his party men enlivened the evening with their party tricks.

In contrast, Miss Betty Bastin, the second Labour Society nominee, proclaimed her candidature openly, as well she might for her very appearance attracted votes despite her policy.

But meanwhile what of George, this ubiquitous pillar of all parties? George was in a way disappointing. Lacking human qualities himself he yet seemed to promote the most human weaknesses in all his companions.

NEW REGS. RUMPUS

THE New Regulations are having a stormy maiden voyage. Uneasiness and dissatisfaction among Freshers has become more and more outspoken as the dreaded Collections draw nearer.

Harvey then threw the meeting over to the floor, and a verbal onslaught of protests, complaints, proposals, schemes and criticisms followed. Collections, essays, the diversity of subjects, tutorial ignorance, office organisation, statistics, maths exercises and mediaeval French, all took a beating.

not so much the number of essays which caused the overload of work, as the length required. At any rate there was general agreement that too much time had to be spent on essays.

Collections

It was obvious throughout the meeting that collections loomed large and ominous in the minds of all. Extremists demanded the abolition of Collections, seeing them as an invidious means of attacking a defenceless student proletariat—the one aim of the Staff being, apparently, to eliminate as large a percentage of the freshers as possible.

Not Competitive, But . . .

All the points were discussed, amended, and classified by the Sub-Committee, and were then passed on to Dr. Anstey. Another meeting was held on Friday, January 28th, at which Dr. Anstey, Miss Thorpe, and Prof. Robbins, were present.

What is Wrong?

Now, while this complaint is hardly peculiar to the L.S.E., and while students cannot be expected to take a wholly objective view on this subject, nevertheless, it was obvious that something was wrong. But in what way were the New Regulations failing? What was the fundamental reason for there being too much work? There was little agreement on this, and still less constructive suggestion for improvements.

Too Many Essays

Some speakers saw it as an attempt to emulate the tutorial system of the “Oxford” Universities—an attempt which must fail as a tutorial system and a wide diversity of subjects are, they felt, incompatible. They therefore attacked the large number of subjects which they now had to take, and some ingenious schemes for reducing the number of exam. subjects were proposed.

“HARD TIMES” or “SHE PASSED THROUGH LORRAINE”

THERE is no doubt that everyone should have seen L.S.E.'s Dramatic Society working on the production of this brain-teasing, elfish show. For surely everyone would have been thrilled and elevated at the spectacle of sociologists, statisticians, potential officials of the Board of Trade and the Natural History Museum all swearing and suffering together under the iron hand of their steely-eyed producer.

The show was enjoyable for its Huxlean-like humour (“I feel like you know . . .” and “Oh! the wild joy of being an animal”). The simplicity of the set was much admired; as Sidney said it was almost straight out of “Paradise Lost,” whilst the tender, anxious love of Simon and Edite (“Won't your mouth work properly?”) warmed the hearts of all but the most captious critics.

existentialist film—as if you can hurry fate. He thought they fitted very well together, however.

And a Gyroscopic Head

We were very glad to see that girls knew when to stop in the Middle Ages. “As much as that, as that, as that,” cries Edite, opening her arms wider when asking Simon how much he loves her.

(continued on back page, col. 4)

STOP PRESS

L.S.E. 1st XV — 11 pts. Worcester College, Oxford — nil.

Worcester College, Oxford, lost to the L.S.E. 1st XV last Saturday morning at Malden by a goal, a penalty goal and a try to nil. The game, played on a drying pitch, was brisk and open throughout, the result being in doubt until the last few minutes due to the unpredictable flight of the ball in the very strong cross wind.

Advertisement for THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT, including details on subscription rates and content.

(continued on page 4, col. 3)

BEAVER

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
HOUGHTON STREET
ALDWYCH - LONDON - W.C.2

New Series Vol. 2 No. 2

Editor:

BRIAN MORTON-SMITH

Sports Editor: M. Peacock
Business Manager: J. Malloy
Photographic and Film Editor: P. E. Burke
Art Editor: Ronald Moody
Theatre Critic: A. C. Bernel
Film Critic: J. H. Smith
Photographer: Alan Kingsbury

"LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER"

During the nine months that have passed since it first appeared in printed form, "Beaver" has enjoyed, to put it mildly, a chequered career. Its appearances have been spasmodic, and its policy and content have ranged from a fair imitation of the Poor-man's Punch to a diluted version of "Pravda." Only two things have remained constant—the total absence of profits, and the almost apathetic attitude of seventy per cent. of the L.S.E. towards this, the newspaper of their Students' Union. In spite of these handicaps, "Beaver" has struggled on, and now appears in print again after an absence of three months. But even an animal as hardy as the "Beaver" cannot go on taking such punishment indefinitely, and unless he receives a little more consideration, there is a very real possibility that he will follow the dinosaur into extinction.

The fortunes of any paper depend to a large extent, of course, on the editorial staff, but they in turn must depend greatly on their readers to give them an indication of the sort of paper they want. This is especially the case with "Beaver," which is still in its infancy. This is your newspaper, and in the long run its success or failure will depend on you the readers. If you have any ideas which you think would improve the paper, don't just brood on them, write to us and let us know; and if you have any criticisms of the staff, just brood on them. With your co-operation there is no limit to the dizzy heights "Beaver" may reach; so remember, if you are going to—burn down Senate House; assassinate the President of the Union; or join the Communist Society—let us know and we'll see that you get your name in print.

In this issue we feature another article in the series "Controversy," this time on the subject of Rags. Many people have spent many hours discussing this topic, and with the possibility of another Carnival lurking in the background, it is bound to assume even greater prominence. The last word on Ragging is still to come, so if you have anything you want to get off your chest, let's hear from you.

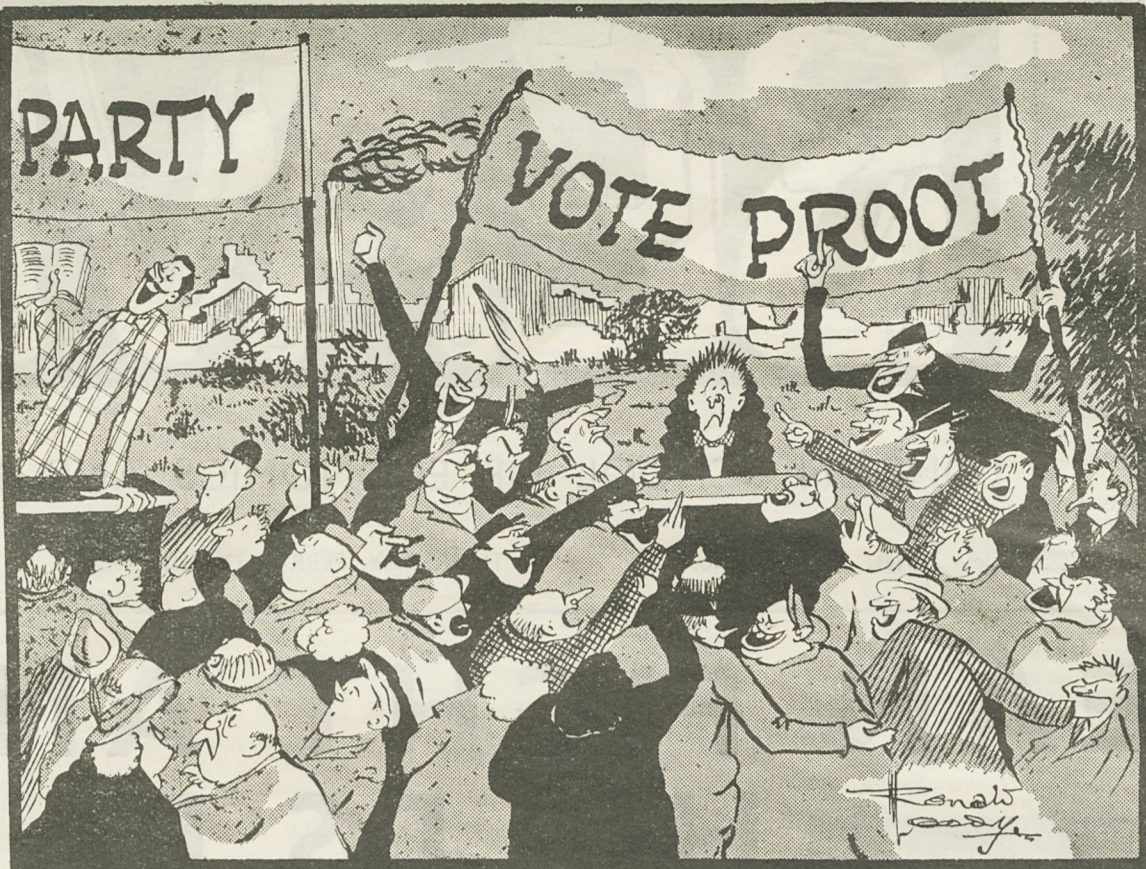
One last word; in the next issue of "Beaver," to be published on March 2nd, look out for the first of a series of articles especially for those students who intend to go job hunting during the long vac.

THE EDITOR.

LETTERS

Any Offers?

Dear Sir,
Perhaps out of the kindness of your heart you will help me in my ignorance. The fact is that the other night, the other gentlemen and myself, who all aid and abet the extravagance of the same landlady, were arguing about education. At last, filled with a vague intention of suffocating all opposition with a weighty platitude, I



THE SPEAKER WHO LEFT HIS HANDBOOK AT HOME.

POLITICS AND ART

A DISTURBING TREND

ARTICLE 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation and signed in Paris on December 10th, 1948, proclaims the right of all individuals to participate freely in the cultural life of the community and to enjoy the Arts, adding that everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from literary or artistic production of which he or she is the author. Moreover, in the Democracies it has been accepted for a long time now that those with artistic inclinations should be free to express themselves in the artistic form most suited to their peculiar talents and that each member of the community should be permitted to accept or reject, criticise or praise, patronise or ignore, according to his or her own tastes.

However, as even the least cynical might expect, there are some rabid individuals in the arts, as in everything else, who would deny to others the same freedom of expression they vociferously retain for themselves. More often than not this arises merely from a lack of understanding, sometimes it is the result of jealousy, but often, and this is more serious, it is the attempt of a small clique to exert some form of bureaucratic and rigid censorship directing the flow of cultural expression into certain well defined and controlled channels acceptable to their own reactionary views and tyrannical dispositions.

Picasso and the Kremlin

We in England should be thankful and justly relieved that for the most part we have to contend merely with those whose attempts at restriction spring mainly from some lack of understanding, and although on occasions even fools can be dangerous, they should not be denied the right to their often pompous, banal and largely ineffective criticism.

Reports from Paris indicate once again that controversy on the subject of Mr. Picasso's work has found its way to the surface, and that this time, apart from the usual accusations hurled at the long suffering aesthete, there are some springing mainly from a dislike of Pablo's politics. Mr. Picasso is well known

remarked, "Of course L.S.E. is the most important college in London University." This brought such a hush that I repeated the comment yet more defiantly. Yellow with fright a young scientist crawled over to me and with the rich satirism of a Shavian prophet in his voice asked why? In my folly I had imagined that I was speaking of something generally accepted as true, consequently the challenge found me weakened and all I could say before the floods of irony broke loose, was, "We have a Barley Sugar room!"

But really those other fellows were awfully rude, they said that economics was a "black art," and finished up by pointing out that the very name of the place, L.S.E. made it sound like a factory, such as I.C.I. or any other works.

So you can see it is a serious matter and our honour is at stake, so I wondered if you would help, "Why is L.S.E. the best college in London University?" Strange isn't it, but for the life of me I can't justify the place at all.

Yours with vinegar,
"BLINKY."

Foul Play, By Gad

Dear Sir,
As the election approaches, efforts to lure Liberals into the Conservative clutches are intensifying. Newspaper campaigns that seek to convince Liberals that there is no difference between them and Conservatives continue unabated, and the bogey of the "wasted vote" is brandished

as a member of the French Communist Party. Vlamincq, the leader of this latest assault is known to be a man of a more conservative political outlook, and although many of Picasso's admirers dismiss the whole attack as one prompted simply by jealousy there are many others who see in it a deeper significance.

Another gentleman whose work has resulted in a certain stirring in Parisian artistic circles recently is Mr. Fougerson, whose exhibits in the Salon d'Automne have aroused the indignation of many sensitive viewers because certain of his pictures have been inspired by some political formula. Needless to say, Mr. Fougerson's efforts are not "manifestations of any Bourgeois mentality."

One shudders to think what reactions Mr. Fougerson would draw from that American Congressman who made such a ludicrous spectacle of himself on the floor of Congress some months ago by his violent attacks on modern art, after having admitted that he knew nothing about the subject himself. This unhappy politician, whom we might label as one of the more dangerous unenlightened, based his "criticism" on the fact that in his opinion modern art is the product of artists of left-wing political beliefs and is therefore dangerously subversive—a kind of fifth column activity directed from Moscow, whose agents now work on the "studio" rather than the "cell

before the electors in the same way as the "Zinoviev letter" and the "Savings scare" have been used at previous elections. Not to be outdone in this respect, L.S.E. Tories, alarmed at the resurgence of Liberalism taking place all over the country, and not least at L.S.E., have resorted to other methods to bring discredit upon the Liberals.

A Conservative Society meeting was held recently at which the speaker, Brigadier Anthony Head, M.P., stated that he had been expecting the meeting to take the form of a debate with the Liberals, but that now he understood that the Liberals were not coming. This was news to L.S.E. Liberal Society, for the Tories had made no approach to us whatsoever requesting us to participate, and the first that we knew about the meeting was a note sent to our Secretary, on the day that the meeting took place, giving notice of when and where Brigadier Head was speaking.

We would suggest to the Tories that this might be a good way to bring some more "Conservative-Liberal" Associations into existence. Logically, the best way to ensure that the opposition does not oppose is to refrain from inviting them. Anyway, we hope that L.S.E. Tories will be able to explain this particular case in a better fashion than their Leader has explained the National issue. We await their reply with interest.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM TAYLOR,
Secretary Liberal Society.

system." Moreover, not content to limit his attack to the artists, he went on to accuse the art critics on certain papers and magazines of aiding and abetting the spread of communism because they reviewed exhibitions of modern art.

Of course, what makes the Congressman's remarks particularly ludicrous is the fact that the modern art he so bitterly condemns is precisely that type of art which the central committee of the Communist Party finds equally distasteful. It has been attacked ruthlessly and with increased vigour since the famous Zhdanov Decree of 1948. This decree, as will be remembered, led to the direct condemnation of the "cruder manifestations of formalism such as atonalism and cacophony" in the works of all Russia's leading composers, notably, Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Khachaturian and Miaskovsky. At the same time equally bitter attacks were directed against authors, critics and painters for adopting the "far fetched psychological contortions," etc., of the decadent Western bloc. The type of painting approved at the moment in Russia is just that sort of banal story-telling art of which our American Congressman is so fond, and it is very doubtful whether even Mr. Fougerson's colourful "Hommage à André Houlhier," dedicated to a Communist agitator who met a violent death in a Paris suburb, would be acceptable to the powers that be in the Kremlin.

Cultural Witch Hunts

The dangerous aspect of the sort of attack made by the Congressman lies in the trick of using the red scare to bring about the kind of repressive controls they claim to be denouncing in Russia, and the great trouble is that in many cases these attacks have succeeded in instigating cultural witch hunts which have resulted in much injustice. These cultural witch hunts, which were once associated with Germany's National Socialist régime, and which we now associate with the blanket controls of Soviet bureaucracy are the fore-runners of those acts which bring about the eventual suppression of all civil liberties.

DILETTANTE.

Atta Boy, Charlie

Dear Beaver,

I write to protest at the deplorably low standard of debate shown on the evening of February the 2nd, when the L.S.E. made an attempt to discuss the motion that "This house desires the return of a Labour government."

The coming election will see many abortive and inadequate debates on the current political issues, but surely few will be so miserably lacking in informed and constructive thinking as that in the School that evening. Does it not seem reasonable to expect that a debate at the L.S.E. at such a time and on such an issue would be on a somewhat higher level than the Church hall, pre-election, free-for-all variety? Apparently not, for the opening speaker, after addressing us as "fellow students," did his utmost to insult our intelligence with unadulterated street corner stuff. Did he really believe that we would be impressed by cheap references to Mr. Churchill's physical appearance, attempts to place bets with the Opposition, and "widows and children sob-stuff" from the "Daily Mirror"? His scander presumably took her line from her principal. We had the edifying spectacle of a student hissing "deceitful" at her Opposition fellows as if they were all supplementing their F.E.T. Grants from Lord Woolton's millions. Has intolerance gone so far that we are unable to credit our fellows with sincerity in their beliefs, simply because they do not coincide with our

FUN AND GAMES FOR 1950

The potential scope for an Entertainments Committee in L.S.E. is very wide in theory, but in practice care has to be taken to avoid overlapping with the functions of other societies in the college.

Dances Galore

Nevertheless, the range of activities for the coming year should satisfy most people. First we have the Valentine, Commemoration and Michaelmas Balls, in addition to the numerous smaller dances to be held during the course of the year. For those lacking in ballroom confidence and skill, dancing classes are provided, with a separate series of classes in the Latin American dances for the exotically minded.

"Then the 'Beaver' Evenings! These will come round about twice a term.

Women Wanted

We shall be organising theatre parties and also invitations to the dances of other colleges. It is hoped to shanghai a sufficient number of women to our dances to level up the disparity between the sexes.

The Michaelmas term will see the production of a revue, following the phenomenally successful "Place Pigalle" of last year.

We shall welcome further practical suggestions.

BRIDGE TABLE

New Series

No. 1

NORTH

S — K73
H — K4
D — AQ10832
C — 84

WEST

S — 1092
H — 96
D — J94
C — K10732

EAST

S — A8
H — A72
D — K75
C — AQ965

SOUTH

S — QJ654
H — QJ1085J
D — 6
C — J

N—S play four hearts. West leads ten of spades, which is won by East, who leads back the eight of spades?

How should South play to get his contract?

DUMMY.

own? A speaker mentions reading something in the "Daily Express," and then hastily and apologetically, adds the excuse that it was read "over someone's shoulder." Have we all grown so dogmatic and doctrinaire that we are ashamed to be caught reading the other side's point of view?

The Opposition did nothing to improve matters. They failed miserably to state any sort of coherent case, and dealt at far too great a length with far too few aspects. They too could not resist the temptation to insult, and Mr. Bevin's sartorial shortcomings were pointed out to the accompaniment of dutiful titters from the Right. They too could not resist the temptation to introduce their speeches, that witless chestnut, "Ladies, gentlemen, and Mr. X."

Finally—and perhaps most reprehensible of all—whenever a speaker got near to expressing a point in slightly technical language, he would shy like a frightened pony, and run off to hide behind the nearest quotation from the other side's speeches. And that in a hall in which, above all others, a sensible discussion of moral, social and economic matters might be expected to get a sympathetic hearing.

The contributions from the floor were, with a few exceptions, little better. Mercifully they were shorter, but by 8.30 I had had enough.

Lacking in a sense of humour? Far from it. But there is a world of difference between, say, the wit of Professor Laski in his address to the Union last Term on the "Beauty of Controversy," and the petty jibes, parrot cries of "Gestapo," and sneering taunts which we were unfortunate enough to witness on this particular evening. Lack of both good taste and wit is surely inexcusable in this institution, even though it may be a standard weapon in the armoury of those who seek to conquer through the emotions, those whom they are incapable of convincing through reason.

I left the hall saddened, angered, and ashamed—these feelings being deepened by the fact that the most deplorable incident of the evening had been perpetrated by the party with which my own political sympathies lie.

CHARLES A. WAGHORN.

Controversy

RAGGING: "OUR DUTY TO THE COMMUNITY"

FREEDOM to think and act on one's own inclinations is only granted to a privileged few. The university student alone is offered an interim respite from the trammels of home and school life, and from the civilised restrictions of society as a whole.

Yet how many students fail to seize the opportunity by neglecting the lighter side of their education? The decline of ragging in the English universities within the last few years has largely been attributed to the increased number of ex-servicemen. The large majority of these men who were demobilised at the end of the war were weighed down by family responsibilities. However, the ex-servicemen of to-day are younger, with less worries. Freed from military restriction, it appears that they search quickly for other forms of discipline, and find them in the library and serious scholastic activities. The few lucky students, who have come straight from school, are immediately disillusioned, and have no alternative but to follow. To female students it is either a waste of time to rag or too "infra dig."

Honours Through Joy

When the time for exams arrives, an individual under these conditions possesses an infinite capacity for knowing more and more about less and less. The student who always has his head in a book is incapable of thinking properly for himself and loses the art of criticism. When the time comes to take "Finals," he finds that his mind is a mass of unconnected thoughts.

"Th' enthusiast Fancy was a truant ever," wrote Hazlitt, and this is still true of many famous personalities to-day whose "First Class Honours" were stimulated by a riotous party the night before.

Free Entertainment

Psychologists are fond of telling us of our repressed emotions which cannot always remain "bottled-up" for ever, the student is certainly no exception. (I refer to intellectual emotions, of course!) A great many revolutions have begun from universities in the past. We have a great tradition which we cannot ignore.

Now I am not suggesting necessarily that we should storm the Senate House next Saturday! I am merely suggesting that we maintain an intellectual balance and that we should not spend all our time in the library, nor all our time in insulting policemen. Who knows, if K. Marx had allowed his youthful spirits full play, he might never have felt himself impelled to retire to the British Museum. Perhaps A. Hitler might have spared the world his wrath if interior decorating had been able to satisfy his egotism.

We must once again give entertainment, free of tax, to the community, which we have served so badly of late. It is both a right and a duty. Let us, also, try to give vent to our feelings so that after three years we shall feel so exhausted, that we shall be only too willing to accept the world as it is!

Neither need we neglect our work if we remember the Shavian advice "that economy is the art of making the most of life."

D. T. MUGGERIDGE.

"ORGANISED EXHIBITIONISM BY PARASITIC STUDENTS"

SOME people are difficult to satisfy; L.S.E. provides many and varied forms of relaxation for its students, ranging from chess sets to playing fields, from the Socialist Society to the Social Science Department, throwing in Professor—(fill in to suit), and a Commemoration Ball, for good measure. But so deep-rooted are the inhibitions of some young gentlemen, such peculiar things happened to them in childhood, that they feel an urgent desire to engage in organised exhibitionism.

At least, such is the most favourable interpretation that I can place upon the campaign for the adoption of "rags" as a feature of L.S.E. life. This campaign, so far waged in public houses where the *élite* gather, has now opened upon a wider front. Perhaps the falling average age of students is thought to provide a better climate for these proposals—although L.S.E. was never noted for such activities in the pre-F.E.T.S. days when education was influenced to a greater degree by a freely-operating price mechanism.

Rude Gestures

Seriously, though, surely we can do without this sort of student hooliganism? For such it is, however its protagonists seek to hide the rather ugly fact. High spirits and rude gestures at authority are excellent things in the right context, but rags have a way of degenerating into public nuisances, with damage to private or public property. If there is ever mass unemployment in this country again (i.e., if—but let it pass), there may be some excuse for the unemployed if they break windows in Downing Street, or in the Carlton Club. But is there any reason why students, many of them supported out of public funds, and all of them at least temporarily parasitic upon the nation, should be given a licence not extended to their contemporaries in workshops or offices?

It is true that L.S.E. lacks corporate spirit; so does the rest of the formless, soulless entity miscalled the University of London. Will such a spirit be fostered if the student body

encourages a minority of its members to make public nuisances of themselves? Surely the contrary is more likely. We shall not gain the better features of the residential universities by imitating the behaviour of a small and irresponsible minority in them, who seek to revive an out-moded convention.

Sense of Responsibility

From time to time those of us who take some slight interest in student affairs feel moved to protest against the rather cavalier treatment meted out to us, and to our organisations, by the powers-that-be. It is to be hoped that a younger generation of students will not submit tamely to whatever treatment a beneficent authority sees fit to dole out; but (as the economists are so fond of telling trade unionists), the claim to be consulted and to have one's opinions taken into account, must be accompanied by a sense of responsibility, publicly demonstrated. As long as students are associated in the public mind, and in the official mind, with exploits in the decoration of monuments, or with the rather ungraceful ceremony of de-bagging, it will be difficult for our representatives to claim successfully the right to be treated as responsible members of the community. Yet we have serious problems, on which we need the support of public opinion. Old attitudes die hard, and it seems a pity to strengthen them by infantile behaviour. There must be other ways in which our frustrated friends can find an outlet for their inhibitions.

V. F. BECK.

LANDSCAPE IN FRENCH ART

If one excludes Constable and Turner, the exhibition at the Academy is a comprehensive history of the development of European landscape painting since the 17th century, when Poussin first subordinated his figures to the generality of landscape patterns. Undoubtedly Constable influenced the evolution of the story, but his was a comparatively slight contribution in the impressive bulk of the French volume.

* * *

Claude (1600-1682) was certainly one of the greatest innovators. He was the first to accord nature the sovereign right of prime subject in a picture. Looking, for instance, at "Erminia and the Shepherds" one's eye rests immediately on the quiet reflections of the distance, and is disturbed only by the slight formal asymmetry of the tree groupings, poor Erminia merely provides an acceptable title for an essay in nature.

* * *

Poussin (1594-1665) is by contrast more restrained and more traditional. His carefully composed landscapes are exasperatingly free from emotional participation—almost from sympathy. In the main his figures dominate the scene and the landscape, as in "The Finding of Moses" seems to be in a different dimension. It is an excellent but formal pattern. It was not for 200 years that Claude's curiosity was to become an accepted part of the tradition of landscape painting.

* * *

I must confess that I found Watteau (1684-1721), though colourful, somewhat scrappy in his conception of design. True here is the break with Italy, but Watteau is lacking in both the enthusiasm of Claude and the balance of Poussin. My preference is for minor 18th century contributors like Boucher (1703-1770), or Hubert Robert (1733-1808), who, though deplorably incoherent in his rendering of "The Chateau de Baye," can be so superbly logical in the "Pont au Change."

* * *

Jean Corot's (1796-1875) link with Claude is manifested in his frequent curiosity about the moods of nature. "The Fisherman" and "Chateau Pierrefonds" are testimonies of his sincerity. Particularly striking is his rejection of the traditional chromatic schemes of the academicians when we compare his "Chateau Pierrefonds" with Tuet's heavy rendering of the same subject some 20 years later. In Millet and Rousseau (1814-1875 and 1812-1867) we find also the Barbizon sincerity; "The Gleaners" from the Louvre is a familiar work, the sultry landscape is live, even though subordinate to the movement of the natural, but undeniably temporary, posture of the peasants.

* * *

If Impressionism sought to portray the nature of light and air it rose with Corot and Millet, and reached its apogee in the dancing almost formless colour of Monet's (1840-1926) "Road at La Roche-Guyon" and was engulfed, for it was too artificial to survive, in the mists at Charing Cross. This movement in search of light and atmosphere could be interpreted as being antithetical to the 300 years of a thesis in line and form. Cezanne is on this basis the ultimate synthesis but this basis is not necessary to an appreciation of the exhibition.

★ CHAMONIX ★



DURING the Vac. 15 hardy members of the Alpine Ski Club showed the flag at the Chamonix Youth Hostel, high in the French Alps. After a long journey, involving only such minor mishaps as getting off at the wrong station and losing half of Percy's luggage, we arrived at the Auberge de Jeunesse in high spirits, which were not even dampened by our first introduction to French sanitation in the raw. (Hélas! Monsieur, il n'y a pas de cabinet!)

Good Old Mike

Another feature, somewhat disturbing for Mike Thomson in particular, was the presence of forty boisterous French students, who had obviously never been to a Public School. Nevertheless, Anglo-French relations were very friendly, and, on occasions, even intimate!

"Schuss" and Shaw

Skiing classes were arranged for all under the expert tutelage of a qualified French instructor, and the party soon found (or lost?) its ski legs. A potential "schuss" champion was unearthed in "Mighty" Jim Hillan, whose daredevil technique astonished even the local experts.

The New Year was seen in at the local Casino in a manner befitting "Les Bêtes Anglaises." 20-franc chips were tossed around with debonair abandon at the "Boule" tables, and by 3 a.m. various shirtless members of the party were seen to be seeking merciful oblivion at the bar. Techniques acquired after long nights of research in the Shaw Library now showed to good effect, and as the dawn broke, the party staggered back to the hostel ready to face the day's skiing.

A scratch slalom race was held that afternoon, and Mike Peacock, pride of

the Ski Club, won, only to collapse in an alcoholic stupor at the finish. Snow then fell for two days, and for the rest of the holiday we enjoyed perfect skiing conditions.

The ski-run at the neighbouring village of Les Houches was stiff enough to test the best of us, yet at the same time was negotiated with varying degrees of success by even the beginners. A new record of 3½ hours for the 15-minute course was established by Audrey Reece, Barbara Bregman and others, and on this occasion, even the mighty Hillan was subdued.

And Smuggling

Some of the more enthusiastic skiers found time to hitch-hike to Geneva, and returned laden with nylons, cigarettes, chocolates, and other skiing essentials, while others nursed their injuries back at the hostel.

The time soon came for us to return, and now a vote of thanks must go to our indefatigable organising genius, Percy Rockwell (he of the Lamppost!), who showed Thos. Cook's men how the job should really be done.

The last word must come from our "schuss" champion, who remarked, "It was a damn fine holiday, but the skiing was a bit of a nuisance!"

N.U.S. HEALTH AND WELFARE CONFERENCE

IT is estimated that 15,000 students now at Universities with F.E.T. grants will leave at the end of the present session, and there will not be any new ones to replace them. This is the major fact revealed to the second national Grants and Welfare Conference organised by the N.U.S., which was held at Bedford College on Saturday and Sunday, January 28th and 29th.

More L.E.A. Grants

It was attended by specialists in these problems from many universities in England and Wales, and they responded by pressing that there should be at least 4,000 State Scholarships and 7,000 Local Education Authority awards each year to try to fill these places.

For Mature Students

Attention was paid to the needs of the mature student coming to the universities from industry, and we resolved that the number of State Scholarships for Mature Students should be substantially increased.

Housing Policy

Our delegation was especially involved in the debate over the provision of sufficient housing accommodation for Colonial students. We found that our resolution cut across basic N.U.S. policy which opposes as a fundamental principle any attempts to discriminate over these students. However, it was possible to insert into the final resolution of the conference a clause drawing attention to their special needs and pressing for the provision of more hostels for both United Kingdom and Colonial students.

Few or Inadequate

During the evening session on Saturday we heard a most interesting statement from Mr. Stone, Director of Education for Brighton. I feel that his point that grants can be either few and generous or more numerous and inadequate was given insufficient attention by delegates. It may well

be that the next N.U.S. council will hear more about this very point, after delegates have reported back to their unions.

Student Health Service

There is not enough space to describe the many facets of this important conference, but mention must be made to the contribution of Dr. Ronald J. Still, Medical Officer of Health, of Leeds University, who has become medical adviser to the N.U.S. He set forth with illuminating clarity the many factors which affect student health, not forgetting the problems caused by moral laxity, whose results can be "shattering" in their intensity. We can be sure that his speech will be of great help in our deliberations over the student health service.

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PERSONAL Advertisements can now be accepted for student exchanges and sales. A nominal rate of 6d. for four lines will be charged. Advertisements for the next issue should be sent to the Editor before February 18th.

PROFILE :

DANIELS IN THE LION'S DEN

At the Council elections last term, Miss Kay Graw was returned as the President of the Union. Since then, she has got married, so it is as Mrs. Daniels that she will rule us.

Kay was born in Chicago in 1916—and doesn't mind admitting it. School in her native city and at Minneapolis left her, she says, without suspicion of academic or athletic distinction. In 1933, she went to work for the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission for some months, till transferred to the Information Bureau at the Chicago World's Fair. The next four years saw her keeping the hire-purchase books for a chain of radio-dealers. Then she moved, gladly, to New York and was secretary in a furniture warehouse for two years.

Relief

The outbreak of war in Europe enabled Kay to return to what seems to have been her "first love"—practical help for the needy. She became an organiser, speaker and collector for one of those great and generous enterprises so characteristic of our friends in the U.S.A.—in this case, the Fosterparents' Plan for War Children orphaned or separated from their parents by the evening. In 1941, she undertook similar work for British War Relief. From 1942 to 1944, Kay worked for the materials procurement division of a Californian aircraft company, except for a short period in Philadelphia, when aptly enough in that city, she helped some friends in the Women's International League, a pacifist organisation which couldn't afford staff at war-inflated wages!

And Rehabilitation

Kay next entered upon a third distinct period of her life, which was to have a profound influence on her, and to bring her to L.S.E. She was taken on by UNRRA and sent to Italy at the beginning of 1945, when the Allies had liberated most of the peninsula and the vital work of "relief and re-

habilitation" had begun. In 1947, Kay was transferred to China, where she was executive officer of the UNRRA mission in Shanghai. Her impression of this period is that she had thought Italian officialdom corrupt and inefficient, until she saw the Chinese Nationalists.

To The L.S.E.

In 1948 Kay came to Britain and L.S.E. She was tired of being told by UNRRA'S tame economists that she didn't understand the mystical science (*sic*) and L.S.E. has an excellent reputation in the U.S.A. Her previous history makes it evident why she became chairman of the Health Committee and secretary of the Welfare Committee in the "Burgh administration," posts in which she did a great deal of work on the Blood-donor and Chest X-ray services in particular. These facts explain in turn why she will be an excellent President. Given the structure and functions of the Union, the prime quality of a good President is a keen interest in, and a desire to serve, his or her fellow-students. In addition, Kay has already shown a good sense of the "feel" of the meeting and clearly has the Union's confidence. Her election, unopposed, was in marked contrast to the deluge of candidates at the nether—or fresher—end of the scale.

But fundamental problems face Kay and the new Council. In the first place, the perennial lack of interest in the Union makes it essential that fewer meetings be held. "Student Business" be discussed less often and more top-level debates be held, as Professor Laski urged us last term. Secondly, the New Regulations make it likely that even less support for the Union will be forthcoming in the future, in which case the whole structure and function of the Union will need fundamental reconsideration. A Union which rarely attracts 100 out of over 2,000 regular students is no Union at all. It is by their success in creating a "more perfect Union" that Kay Daniels and her Council will be judged.

ELDER STATESMAN.

(NEW REGS.—continued)

differentiation between students who had studied economics previously, and those who had studied the subject for only two terms.

Fewer Subjects

Prof. Robbins then took over to deal with the aims and purposes of the new degree, with special reference to essays. He first outlined the faults of the Old Regs—the main ones being too much specialisation, not enough essays, compulsory lectures, and lack of tutorial supervision. The New Regulations were therefore framed to avoid specialisation and to provide a much wider foundation on which to base specialisation at a later stage. A carefully devised essay programme was introduced whereby students had 26 essays in their first two years. The number of lectures was reduced and they were made voluntary, while many more compulsory classes were arranged to provide for more adequate discussion of essays. Prof. Robbins then went on to challenge the notion that students had too much work to do. Oxford and Cambridge had at least one essay a week. In contrast to the Old Regulations, there were fewer lectures and fewer papers in the finals. Why then did the New Regulations students feel they had too much work?

Lost Causes

Many speakers eagerly accepted this challenge, but students' views received little sympathy from Prof. Robbins. Tales of anything up to five essays in the Vacation were shown (to Prof. Robbins' satisfaction, at least) to be gross exaggerations. Despite evidence to the contrary, he could not believe that students were really unable to find time to do reading outside the scope of essay subjects.

Apparently Prof. Robbins regarded any complaints outside the realm of the Economics Department as exceptional and unique. Sociology and International Relations students were unfortunate in that their tutors couldn't give help on the intricacies of the Cost theory. Historians were exceptional in the amount of reading they had to face, and the small amount of ground covered by their essays.

In fact when the meeting finally ended, it was obvious that the New Regulations had weathered the storm intact. Pilot Robbins was still triumphantly seated at the wheel with the decks around him littered with the mangled remains of Lost Causes.

(SHE PASSED THROUGH LORRAINE—continued)

of militarism ancient and modern, the final justification for conscription. On the other hand it is rather difficult to justify Father Michael ethically for he portrayed the downfall of the Church before fêtes in Vicarage Gardens went to work. He compensated to some degree for his evil influence by having a gyrosopic head which revolved most endearingly, presenting his sickly leer to every member of the audience and cast, whilst his questionnaires had all the sinister intonation of a B.B.C. Quiz Master. Nicholas disseminated the seeds of his great learning on all sides with a most devil-may-care contortion of the lips. But as he tumbled to Joan's deceit before anyone else, we don't trust that gentleman.

And Miracles

Before finishing we cannot omit a few brief comments about the girl who caused all the fuss. After seeing the saintly light twinkling in those big, beautiful eyes we conclude that we know quite a few people who qualify for haloes. Her miracle-making was high grade stuff. The genuine surprise of the cast on the return of Robert towards the end of the second act can only be explained by those fortunate to have witnessed the rehearsals; even the electricians breathed a devout "Amen" on his dramatic re-appearance.

To convince us that the play had social significance, two mediaeval journalists exposed the technique of our own exonerated Press Lords. They left us as helpless as their successors leave us.

All in all we may say that this show was remarkable entertainment and it certainly shows that the Dramatic Society is pulsating with life. Elsewhere one might be embarrassed by terms like "decor," "acting-technique," "controlled-suspense" and "dramatic force." Not so here—and we enjoyed it all the more.

THE MIRACLE

Academy Cinema. Director: Roberto Rosellini.

This is the story of a simple Italian peasant woman, who, while tending the goats on the hills one day, imagines a passing tramp to be her patron saint, St. Joseph. Overcome by the heat of the day and the wine given to her by the tramp, she falls asleep. Some time later while she is looking after the children at harvest time she faints, and the villagers discover that she is pregnant. They pretend to believe her assertion that it is a holy child at first, but later they mock her, placing a bowl on her head as a halo.

* * *

She flies to the hills and reaches a little church on top of the mountain, where she gives birth to her child.

Rosellini has always been a great director, but in "The Miracle" he surpasses himself. He has a story to tell, and he tells it with great beauty and sincerity. The superb camera work which blends the actions of the characters so well with the landscape is another noticeable feature of the film.

* * *

"The Miracle" is dedicated by Rosellini to the art of Anna Magnani, and rightly so, for in it she gives her finest performance to date. With other actresses one is often all too well aware that they are playing a part, but Anna Magnani assumes the character of Nannina, the peasant woman who is convinced God has chosen her to bear a holy child, to the minutest detail, and it is difficult to believe that she is merely acting.

SOCIETIES COLUMN

CONTINUED and frantic appeals in prominent places to all Society Secretaries for information of projected activities, etc., have in the main confirmed my earlier suspicion that these worthy personages are for the most part illiterate (except in the case of the political societies where continued mental oblivion has presumably transcended to the physical level). Therefore this column must perforce resort for material to corridor-gossip rather than cloak itself behind the voluminous mantle of "authoritative sources."

Anarchy Forever

One of these titbits is to the effect that there is at L.S.E. a small but enlightened group of people who believe with eager zeal in the blessings of anarchy, but are precluded from doing anything about their beliefs by the constitutional contradictions inherent in any form of "anarchic organisation" as well as by lack of sympathy, support and liquid assets. If you have any of these to offer, please do so to Peter Avis.

Gerald Phillips, Secretary of the Industry and Commerce Society which has now over a hundred members, tells me that they have an interesting and active programme mapped out for this term. Among their speakers they expect Doctor Northcott, the Personal Management expert, on "Are Incentives Effective?" and Mr. George Chelioti, of the G.E.C., who has just returned from the U.S. where he created a first-rate rumpus by his remarks about British workmen. Of the Society's visits, a popular one promises to be the one to Guinness's Brewery at Park Royal. Others are planned (all, however, on Wednesday afternoons), to the Pyrene Co. (Fire Extinguishers), and to the Glacier Metal Co. as well as a probable one to a T.V. and record factory. For an annual subscription of one shilling it seems good value.

And It's Free

The Middle East Society no longer boasts, as Vice-President, Val Sherman who has forsaken it for another. But though the Society has lost Sherman, it has now found a policy composed of three tenets. These are:—1, Political independence of all Middle Eastern States. 2, Economic progress in the Middle East. 3, The harmonious co-operation of the member states of the Middle East, one with the other, so that their effective collaboration may be an integral factor in world peace. The Society is concentrating all its efforts this term on one terrific super-do on Monday, February 20th, consisting of a FREE Film-show, "Teheran," "Via Persia" and "To-day and Tomorrow," followed by dancing and convivialities in the Three Tuns.

Soc Soc has a lively and controversial programme which starts off with Betty Bartlett, whose husband is now under sentence of death in a Greek prison. She will speak on "The situation in Greece." The other events include a talk by the Dean of Canterbury on "Religion and Socialism" (the Dean is a recognised authority on the latter subject), and one by a member of the Unity Theatre on his job there. Later there will be talks on "Music in the Soviet Union," and on "Mapam in Israel," and also a series of discussions between members of the Lab. Soc. and Com. Soc. on "Socialism and Democracy." Apart from the discussions which are on Thursdays, all these talks take place on Fridays at 4 p.m. in Room 8.

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Despite a defeat in the first match of the Lent Term, club members are feeling justifiably confident. If few injuries are suffered the success of the Michaelmas Term should continue.

Only one season has since 1945 been as successful as the present. While the teams were settling down several games were lost. The Michaelmas Term ended after six consecutive victories by the 1st XV with the club record as below:—

	Pts.	Pts.	D.	For	Agst.	
1st XV	16	10	6	0	155	109
"A" XV	13	7	6	0	112	106

(The "A" XV were unfortunate, 3 matches were cancelled by opponents.)

The 1st XV collected 54 pts. in consecutive matches v. Shoreditch College and Inland Revenue, with no opposition score. They displayed best form v. University College, London (won 14—8) and Wadham College, Oxford (won 11—3). All visits to Oxford brought victory. At the opening of the season the Royal Veterinary College inflicted the heaviest defeat by 27 pts. to 6.

The team has failed to find a heavy attacking centre three-quarter. Russell, Jones, and Dowell, played consistently well in the forward; Cornelius, David, and Travis, outside the scrum.

Second XV play has been confident and effective. Their record does not do justice to them. It includes a heavy defeat by a strong Wasps Extra "A" at the opening of the season by 37 pts. to nil. In their first match of the Lent Term, thirteen of them made amends for this defeat by a 31 pts. to nil victory over West Ham College.

The club wishes a speedy recovery to injured members, especially F. W. Taylor.

We invite any reader to come along and join the club and help us in ensuring yet more successes.

G. G. ROBERTS.

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U.L.U. DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP:

L.S.E. DEFEATED

SHOULD female cyclists wear shorts or bloomers? Does the transcendent nature of a professor's calling justify such absent mindedness as lecturing in pyjama trousers or none at all? These and Professor Laski were topics which figured prominently in the second round of the U.L.U. Debating Championships on January 27th when an L.S.E. team met, and was defeated by a team from Wye College.

The motion proposed by L.S.E. ran "that a handful of commonsense is worth a heap of learning."

Idols and Nuts

For L.S.E., Val Sherman, who first of all confessed his faults in the manner of a Hungarian Cardinal, told how he had become disillusioned in his boyhood idols: Socrates who had drunk himself to death; Ovid whose love-lore had proved a double-edged weapon; Professor Laski; Napoleon who had stupidly marched on Moscow instead of establishing a few party cells in the city. Another member of the team, arguing that ignorance is conducive of bliss, quoted Professor Laski. The last speaker for L.S.E., Al Bermel, forgot to mention the Professor; instead the highlight of his speech was a remark that anybody without a kernel of commonsense was definitely a nut.

Open Spaces

The Wye College team were obviously impressed by this self-advertising campaign, and one of them, a Canadian student, said that they were proud to be debating an institution whose reputation for cussedness still echoed through the Gold Camps of the North West Provinces and was commemorated in a folk-song entitled "Morris-Jones and Laski."

The judges commented on the high standard of debating and spoke of the pleasant atmosphere in which it was conducted. They may have meant by this that there was plenty of fresh air—for the Old Theatre was less than a tenth full. It may be that debating is regarded as a means and not an end in this highly practical place.

The L.S.E. team was Alan Milne, Bernard Levin, Val Sherman, John Hutchinson, and Al Bermel.

MEN'S BOAT CLUB

The Michaelmas Term is not an easy term at the University Boat House. Crowds of "freshers" descending on the already overcrowded accommodation, put a great strain on the limited number of boats, and the ingenuity and organisational ability of club captains. As the policy of L.S.E. is to give the maximum opportunity for competitive rowing, an early start was made in training three crews for the Winter "Eights" Regatta—only two other clubs of the 12 or so men's clubs at Chiswick entered three crews. Illnesses took their toll, however, and the eights which eventually competed on Dec. 10th were not as strong as could have been wished.

The "A" and "B" crews were beaten in their heats by Q.M.C. "A" and N.E.C. "B" respectively, but the "C" crew, consisting entirely of "freshers," put up a very good show in beating U.C. "C" and then losing narrowly to N.E.C. "B" in the semifinal.

The main event of the Lent Term is the Thames "Head of the River" Race (rowed over the boat-race course of 4½ miles) on April 1st, and it is also hoped to enter for the Reading "Head of the River," which takes place a fortnight previously. Three crews are being selected, a 1st, a 2nd, and a "lightweight" crew, and in addition it is hoped to start training two fours for the summer regattas.

In view of the good performances of L.S.E. crews in the longer distance events last year, it is hoped that the Lent Term will be, competitively, more successful than the Michaelmas Term.

C. A. W. (Vice-Capt.).

WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLUB

Last year the writer on the Women's Hockey Club was at pains to show that femininity and grace are by no means incompatible with hockey. However, this does not, of necessity, mean that the teams are composed of drooping lilies only capable of playing an apathetic game. On the contrary, vigorous and energetic play, combined with a determination to score, has so far marked the club's career this season. Out of eleven 1st XI fixtures so far played this season, eight were victories, one a draw and two defeats, while the 1st XI has scored fifty-eight goals with only twenty-eight against it. On Wednesdays an "A" XI takes the field, while a 2nd XI is occasionally mastered.

In entering for the U.L.A.U. tournament the club hopes and intends to do well, while all members will endeavour to make this term's record one of unbroken success.

MARGARET A. McWILLIAM.