

# BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

STUDENTS' UNION

Issue 228

22 October 1984



## VICTORY IN SIGHT FOR HARRINGTON PICKET

Last Friday brought partial success for the students of the Polytechnic of North London (PNL) when Patrick Harrington, student organiser of the National Front, was very nearly prevented from attending lectures. Earlier in the week the Director of the college decided to move Harrington's lectures from the Kentish Town site to the Holloway Road site. It was outside there that 300 students from PNL and colleges all over London formed a mass picket and came very close to stopping Harrington from entering.

The students expected Harrington to arrive at the usual time of nine-thirty am but last minute alterations to his time-table allowed him a ten o'clock start and kept the picket waiting longer. This change gave Harrington the advantage of allowing him to walk to the back of the picket without anyone noticing. Fortunately for the students, no-one had told the police either. So without reinforcements the police had to force a way through for Harrington. At one point this looked like failing as the students surged forward trapping Harrington in the middle of the picket. Pushing and shoving continued for several more minutes with the police eventually managing to get Harrington into the building.

As Harrington entered the building forty students walked out, showing their disgust at having to share the same building with him. As they did so they were cheered

and clapped by the students outside.

This action by the students of the Holloway Road site was an unexpected success for the campaign to rid PNL of Harrington because up until Friday they had not been involved in the campaign. In fact the forty students who walked out represented 25% of those who use the site. This means another success for a campaign which has seen Harrington's lectures all moved to a Friday, and also to have them on his own.

Up until Friday the demonstrations had centred around the Kentish Town site where the Arts Department is located. However, following the prevention of Harrington attending lectures there two weeks ago, the Director moved his lectures to the small, and up until Friday relatively neutral, Marlborough House on Holloway Road, which mainly houses Science and Business Studies. The failure of the Business and Science sections to

respond to the Director's calls for no further action is beginning to rule out his last option within the structure of PNL. Soon he will have to decide whether Harrington should be asked to leave PNL or whether he should call the police in to patrol the building to keep passageways clear. This occurred at the end of the Summer Term. However, then it was due to Harrington obtaining a Court Order. Harrington being asked to leave would be seen as success for the students since it is their stated aim that Harrington should not be educated at PNL as he constitutes a threat to their personal safety.

Harrington has been linked with various attacks against black people and left-wing activists. In fact, some at PNL allege that he was behind the various attempts to break up meetings and discos during the anti-racism week at LSE last year. More recently, he was the electoral agent for the NF in the

by-elections in Paddington when Ken Livingstone contested the abolition of the GLC. Also he has been on tape saying he approves of fire-bombing against political opponents.

An attempt by the Director to use the police to force a way in for Harrington would probably create deep resentment and produce the opposite effect than that intended by providing the impetus for greater picketing by PNL students.

However, the Director's problem may be solved for him if Harrington's return to the courts for a Court Order is successful. This would enforce the injunction Harrington already has and would require the police to clear a way and then line the corridors. It is likely that in those circumstances the lecturers may be asked once again to name students involved in the picketing by the courts.

Jim McCallum.

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## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I believe that I am not a member of the minority when I say that I was rather disappointed with the organisation of the "Intro Ball" last Saturday. At its conclusion I was left wondering what the purpose of the ball was, seeing as it was by no means geared to the "fresher", as its title would have one believe.

My first grievance is that the LSE "fresher" was afforded no preferential treatment over the general public. Not all of us had the foresight to buy tickets in advance, so we were confronted by a 40 minute queue to gain access to the buildings in which the entertainments were to take place. The natural thing to do, having encountered a queue of this size was to find somewhere to wait while it dwindled - the Three Tuns was the obvious choice - but this was not to be, a little black stamp was required for admission and could only be obtained by waiting in the queue. I was dismayed and it

left one not only feeling rather alien at an event supposedly aimed at welcoming "freshers" to the LSE, but also wondering who presumed the right to refuse access to the Three Tuns to a member of the LSE Student Union. Who owns the bar anyway?

My other grievance concerns numbers. The main attraction certainly seemed to work - it attracted so many people that it was impossible to enjoy the music. It seems to me that the organisers are treading perilously near something that can be described as fraud. The Monochrome Set were heavily advertised and tickets were bought, but then only some of the ticket holders could actually get a look at the band.

I am by no means advocating the abolition of the "Intro Ball" since it brought a lot of pleasure to numerous people, but I am asking those responsible to take a long hard look at the results of such an event and to ask themselves whether the finances involved in hiring such a costly set of groups did not distract their minds from the true purpose of the Intro Ball.

Yours,  
Andrew Oldland (1st Year)

Dear Editor,

The ugly face of traditional bigotted Ulster Unionism has at last reared itself in our Students' Union. On Thursday 11th October, a male student stood up to oppose the policy of no platform.

"I am an Ulster protestant" he began. Then paused as if to expect the assembled students to be stunned into reverence at this amazing revelation. "Go back to the Ulster Tavern" shouted another Ulster protestant from the back of the hall.

Unperturbed, out loyalist friend from the Six Counties (the Irish province of Ulster incidentally has nine counties) proceeded to launch himself into a much interrupted speech that reeked of Paisleyite rhetoric.

The Ulster loyalist population are second class citizens he cried. Of course, rah, rah, that's why for sixty years they ruled the Six Counties in a one party, gerrymandered, artificial state and discriminated against the downtrodden nationalist population (masquerading as first class citizens) in issues such as employment, housing, public office and voting rights.

The "Republicans" are now wagging, claimed our friend, a "systematic murder campaign" against the

protestant population. In the tradition of blind Unionism he has failed to notice that the system in Northern Ireland is the system of British/Unionist oppression. Systematic murder is that executed by the RUC, the UDR and the SAS. Over the years, British oppression exercised through the "security forces", the judiciary and the NIO has taken the form of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, torture, internment, the PTA, plastic bullets and the latest development - the supergrass system.

Continuing his tirade in favour of no platform for Sinn Fein while supposedly opposing no platform as a policy did our dear friend ever stop to consider the relevance of his prejudiced rantings to the issue then being debated?

I fear not, for such common sense is not in the tradition of Ulster Unionism. No doubt we are destined to hear more of this bigotted, narrowminded DUP type prattling in the future. May God, whatever side He's on, forbid!!

Yours,  
Sean O'Neill  
Peter Wilcock  
Rory O'Driscoll  
John McLaughlin  
Thomas McCann

Dear Editor,

Copies of a magazine which advocated the execution of honorary life president of our Students Union, Nelson Mandela, were on sale at the Conservatives' stall at the Intro Fair, two weeks ago.

It is not unusual for a political club's stall to display material to which many students will object, but this year the FCS have surely gone too far, even in this, the most open-minded of colleges.

The publication in question was issued by the Young Monday Club and sarcastically entitled "Capitalist Worker". The magazine contained an advertisement for a Young Conservative sticker brandishing the slogan "Hang Nelson Mandela and all ANC terrorists!" over a picture of Mandela's head with a noose around his neck.

Nelson Mandela is the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress, the leading black freedom movement in south Africa. He has spent twenty-one years in a South African gaol and the apartheid regime has no intention of releasing him despite continuous international pressure.

Our Students Union has repeatedly endorsed Nelson Mandela as its president. Even the Conservative dominated Kings College has named its principal concert hall the "Nelson Mandela Hall".

Naturally enough such objectionable literature on display at the Intro Fair produced a reaction from people who felt strongly about the issue. One incensed Labour Club member ripped up some of the offending magazines. The Tories remained unrepentant, and even the usually moralistic Philip Groves demanded to be reimbursed for the destroyed material.

I wonder how many of the first year students who joined the FCS realise what that club stands for? How many realise the hypocrisy of the Tory who, in the "free speech" debate suggested that he would permit free speech for Mandela when he and his kind back the apartheid South African regime and would prefer to see Nelson Mandela swinging at the end of a rope.

Julian Cooke  
(on behalf of the Labour Club Exec.)

.... Meanwhile in Arthur Scargill's bedroom

HEADACHE?  
I'M SORRY, I CAN  
ONLY ACCEPT EXHAUSTION  
AS GROUNDS FOR  
CLOSURE.

© Donkeyjacket 1984.

Dear Editor,

I wish to complain about the conduct of one Edward Lucas (General Secretary) over the summer. It is bad enough using union facilities for one's own personal ends but to actually use union facilities and a member of staff, paid and employed by this union, to print propaganda for Bermondsey Liberal Party is sickening; in my view it amounts to gross misappropriation of union funds. Fortunately these misdeeds were apprehended and when presented with a bill he was forced to pay out of his own pocket, no doubt

too embarrassed to go crawling back to Bermondsey Liberals asking for money.

I hope the General Secretary is not intending to spend his whole year of office appropriating union facilities to further his personal political career, if this is to be the case perhaps he should consider examining the 'Ultra Vires' laws under which he has previously refused to meet the democratic demands of this Union.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Scott,  
Academic Affairs Officer

BEAVER PRODUCTION  
MEETINGS: Every monday  
in E 204. 1-2 p.m.  
Everybody welcome



Lucy Cohen

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Eleanor Edwards

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Photosetters: Gee Graphics.  
Printed by: Cambridge Heath Press.

Published by the London School of Economics Students' Union, East Building, Houghton Street, London WC2.

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my opposition to the section of the Students' Union Handbook (84/85) entitled "Being Gay".

I feel that someone must at least explain that there are many alternative theories as to the nature of sexuality and homosexuality, in particular to the biological explanation offered in the article. It worries me that a lot of so-called straights and people questioning their sexuality, will be misled by some gays describing themselves as "genetically" gay.

It is most dangerous for us as lesbians and gays to trace "reasons" for our sexuality at all, let alone end up saying we are born "one" or "the other". When do we hear heterosexuals trying to explain how come they fancy the opposite sex?

I am not aware that any trait or gene has been found that is inherited, generation after generation, causing homosexuality. (Wouldn't it soon die out as a trait, when carriers of the gene "failed" to reproduce with the opposite sex?)

This sort of argument is evocative of conservative and functionalist (if not fascist) perspectives. Wouldn't some people who hold these views have us all locked up, "cured", or hung?

Sexuality is not a naturally determined but socially constructed phenomena, and none of us can really get to the bottom of this complex question: how do so many people escape recognising the natural attraction to their own sex and turn to an awkward, messy and accident prone sexuality with the opposite sex? Could it be something to do with the economic unit of the family?

I would also like to point out that the cartoon by Jo Nesbit: "it's a lesbian", although being really witty, has been printed out of context, in that it is one of a line of cartoons, taking the rise out of various explanations for lesbianism.

Can't we just say "we're gay because we've thought about it and want to be"?

Yours  
Frances Gant

## "Poetry or Piffle?"

Dear Editor,

I write with considerable dismay. I refer, of course, to the Poetry Corner in your Freshers' Issue. Poetry is, as any soundly educated and well-healed gentleman will inform you, an expression of the aesthetics of life. Quite in contrast, you publish some crass drivel entitled: "Who does not believe me nor thought I had the guts". One can only offer the explanation that it was a poor attempt at translation from a foreign language. I feel deep sympathy with the fellow who had the misfortune to share this column with that ragamuffin.

I remain, your obedient servant,

Christopher ffytche-Hamilton,  
The Reform Club



## Staff Team Raise Money For Nursery

All five members of the LSE maintenance team completed the Capital Hi-Tec Half Marafun held at Chelmsford on 16 September. They were running to raise funds for the LSE Nursery Hardship Fund and were sponsored by Office Supplies Hendon (who gave the team their outfits), as well as many members of the LSE staff.

The team was made up of Pat Causley (running time: 1.34), Alan Chapman (2.13), Dave Langford (1.43), Peter Fennelly (1.41) and Ian Reilly (2.02). The team were able to raise £100 for the Nursery Hardship Fund and this was handed over on Friday 12 October.

The team have applied for entry forms to run in the London Marathon in April '85, when they will again be raising funds for the Nursery.



## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Many women at the LSE have been daily made to feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, emotionally upset or even afraid because of a prevalent, yet elusive problem: sexual harassment. The nature and scope of this problem was investigated last year when a group of female undergraduates, backed by the school, compiled a questionnaire. This was sent to all women students, asking them about their experiences of sexual harassment at the LSE. The response rate was 51% which was considered to give a representative sample of the female population being surveyed. Another fact considered to be significant was the high rate of response from overseas students (61.7% of all questionnaires returned).

The results of the survey showed that a high percentage (52.6%) of the women surveyed have experienced some form of sexual harassment. The most obvious forms reported included the exhibition of offensive pin-ups, sexual propositioning, persistent pestering and verbal abuse, unwanted physical contact, and, in some cases, sexually motivated violence. Other less obvious forms included teasing and joking, sexual remarks and innuendo, staring and leering and intellectual intimidation. Another factor indicative of discrimination against women is the general exclusion from courses of issues related to women. It should be noted that all these forms of harassment came from academic and non-academic staff as well as from students.

The effects of the above on female students were disturbing. Women replied that they had to take a variety of actions to avoid harassment. Some found themselves modifying their behaviour, for instance avoiding eye contact, altering their appearance and no longer using certain school facilities. Fifty-eight respondents stated that their work had been affected and eight felt emotionally unable to cope with the problem at all.

Of the women who had experienced sexual harassment, most (84.8%) did not feel able to report the incident to or confide in any one in authority (including their tutors). This indicates that there is a large problem, and that remedies to the situation are needed. Much unpleasantness could be avoided if men were aware that certain types of behaviour can discriminate against and offend women. Their first step could be to re-examine their actions for elements of traditional "masculine" behaviour which might make others feel uncomfortable.

In the light of the survey results the school has undertaken to introduce long term measures to deal with sexual harassment. At present the recommendations arising from the survey are being processed by the General Purposes Committee and it is hoped that a female member of staff will be appointed in early 1985 to deal with complaints relating to sexual harassment. Until such channels exist, if you experience harassment the following steps can be taken:

Firstly, it is very important to try and have the courage to ask the

harasser to stop. If you are with other people seek support from them, point out that his behaviour is neither funny nor admirable and that you find it offensive. If he continues, or if you feel unable to say anything to him, you can seek advice from various people:

1. The Students' Union Welfare Officers, Felicity Criddle and Phil Wood, are available in rooms E294 and E295.
2. The Women's Officer, Fiona Sorotos, holds an open hour in room E 206 from 1-2pm on Wednesdays.
3. The Student Health Service on the 8th floor of Connaught House provides a counselling service.
4. See your tutor, supervisor or Departmental Tutor.
5. The Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Eileen Barker in room S684, the Dean of the Graduate School, Peter Dawson in room H207, and the Academic Registrar, Dr G. Ashley in room H308, are all there to help and advise you.

In cases of sexual harassment by staff you may:

1. Change your tutor/supervisor/class teacher. To change your tutor you may go to your Departmental Tutor or, if you feel unable to do this, go to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Eileen Barker in room S684, or the Dean of the Graduate School, Peter Dawson in room H207. You do not have to give a reason for this. To change your class teacher ask him or her to write to the Timetabling Officer, Dr John Wood. Again no reason need be given.
2. If you wish to make an informal complaint against a member of staff or a student the above procedure should be used. If you wish to make a formal complaint you should contact Dr G Ashley, the Academic Registrar, in room H308 or Dr Christine Challis, the School Secretary, in room H607. Disciplinary action can be taken against both students and staff.

It is more difficult to act in cases of biased course content since members of academic staff have the right to expound any view which they consider to be academic theory. However, staff-student committees are useful for pressing for changes within individual departments. Don't forget that Student Union representatives sit on various school committees, in particular the General Secretary (Ed Lucas in room E298), the Student Union Executive members for Academic

## BYE BYE RED BUS?

London Regional Transport (LRT), the Government created replacement to the GLC as overlords of London's public transport, have started to put plans to privatise parts of the system into practice. 13 bus routes, mostly in the outer suburbs and all running at a loss, are being put out to tender for private contractors to run them on behalf of LRT. The routes will remain part of the LRT system, with the same fares structure and included in LRT publicity, and to be run to the same standards. It is simply felt in some quarters that a small operator with lower overheads can provide a service at a lower cost and thus make currently unprofitable routes viable. London Buses, the operating arm of LRT, will be tendering, and expect to do well as they have vast experience in this area that ambitious coach companies do not.

This will not be the first time routes have passed to the private sector, many routes abandoned by LT in the 70's as too costly to run were taken over by local coach companies with the aid of local authority grants. This would be a direct transfer however, like that recently proposed for BA and BCal.

It will be seen by the unions as the thin end of the wedge. No one will make a financial killing out of these 13 routes, and redundancies, if any, will be light. But if successful, it could lead to tenders being sought for the highly profitable Inner and Central London routes. All this will take some time - Bloggs Buses will not be plying the 81 for a year at least - but the Thatcherite winds of change have started blowing down the streets of London.

Alan Peakall

## A Gentleman's Disagreement?

Personality clashes emerged soon after the start of term at Passfield Hall, ending in fighting and hospital treatment for one participant.

The clash was between the former Hall President, Martin Graham and the new one, Faisal. Graham was trying to bring a touch of class to hall dinners. While this amused some residents, it annoyed others including the new hall president.

At a later reception the argument continued and a fight broke out between the two. This ended in a running battle with bottles being thrown and Faisal being eventually restrained by a passer-by. Martin Graham, who admitted "winding Faisal up a bit", later had a gashed finger stitched at University College Hospital.

Malcolm Lowe

Affairs (Richard Scott and Rory O'Driscoll), the Overseas Officer (Shakunt Shah) and the Postgraduate Officer (Rajat Kohli), all of whom may be contacted via their pigeonholes in room E297.

In Halls of Residence there are Hall committees and the Wardens and sub-Wardens should be available for you to talk to.

Self-defence classes will be available to all women this term, free of charge (look out for notices, see the Women's Officer or go to the Student Union Information Centre, room E203), and self-assertion classes will be available in the Women's Centre, room C023 (unfortunately at a cost, but we are hoping to persuade the School to fund this facility as well).

We hope that by raising the issue of sexual harassment and challenging its legitimacy we can make people look more critically at their actions and realise the discomfort they can cause. Meanwhile, these guidelines should help women deal with the problem as it exists at the LSE.

Marie Helly  
Torunn Olsen  
Anthea Ashton

## DONKEY JACKET VISITS THE UNION

There was a time when the Church of England was considered to be the Tory Party at prayer. Nowadays it has been accused of being CND at prayer but, as I doubt the Labour Party would want the C of E, its political affiliations presumably lie with the Liberals.

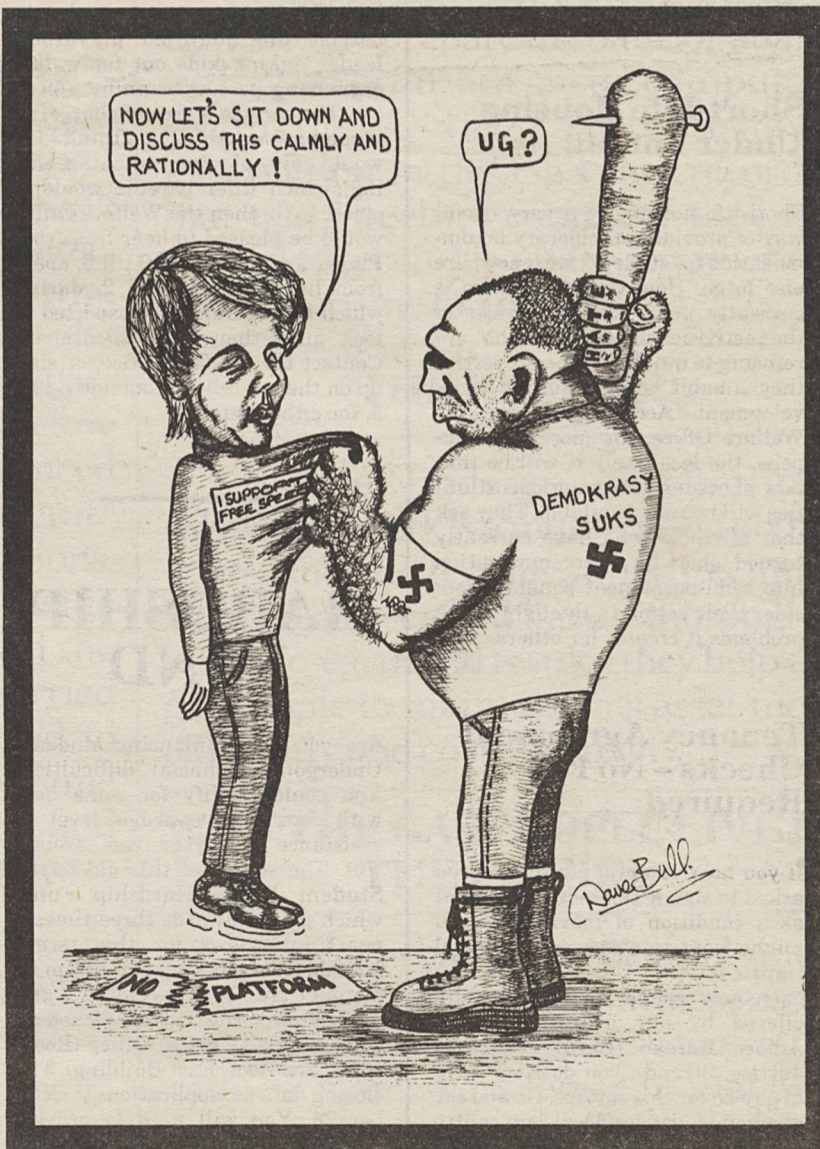
Perhaps one piece of evidence confirming this is the behaviour of Ed "The Vicar" Lucas. At Thursday's UGM it seemed that butter certainly wouldn't melt in his mouth. The Old Theatre swelled with the presence of flocks of adoring first years and American Democrats, each labelled with an orange "Free Speech" sticker. Combined with all the white angora pullovers, it reminded me somewhat of branded moorland sheep yet to be dipped in reality. It was certainly Ed's flock today.

Ed made a principled speech on a principled subject. The "no platform for fascists and fascists" policy, which he sought to overturn, was immoral, wrong and ineffective. What is more it differed from his election manifesto of tablets handed down from on high (well, certainly higher than the Union of Liberal Students as they support No Platform). Brilliant speeches defending No Platform came from Narinder, an East-end Asian, and Richard Snell, a South African, but the voices of those touched by bigotry and racial hatred did not seem to convince a larger proportion than the voices of Winchester and the Debating Society. Perhaps it was because the "evil" of left-wing politics or "intolerance" seemed to be peeping over their shoulders whereas only brightness shone from behind Ed. Of course, Ed does not smoke, take drugs, and drinks only

ginger beer (something which almost ruined the LSE's reputation at the University of London Union Training School - past sabbaticals have done all this and skinny-dipped into the bargain). But slowly, as with all politicians he will be attacked rightly, and wrongly, for most things in Christendom.

Already little people are ringing little bells inside little heads. Why was Ed so keen to avoid questions to officers? Surely there were no nasty questions about Ed's summertime activities, and Ed seemed remarkably keen on the miners as compared with his private attitude to the miners? His report went unchallenged. Mike Moszynski is lumbered with the triple disadvantages of being a poor speaker, having principles, and following an incumbent who increased the controversy and public scrutiny of the post. His report was promptly challenged. The miners again, and a history of payments and advice and motions that must be all but understandable to old and new students alike. As a result of this, the challenge failed and the main business, recounted above, taken.

Earlier, Dave Bull was elected as chair, a chair that, despite his year as Social Secretary, must be the same shape as his bum. Defeat for the candidates of the hard-left and soft-right was inevitable once the marshmallow left-of-centre had entered the field anyway. Dave's previous incumbency and the sneaking regard everyone has for the Old Man of Burton virtually sealed his fate. What would Ed's flock have thought of Diane Lye, last year's chair? I think they would have smelt mint sauce.



## Overseas Students Come Together

On Wednesday October 10th, the Overseas Students Society put on a whole day event introducing London life for overseas students. The intention was to show that London has a lot to offer apart from the Lionel Robbins Building or Senate House and that it is just as much an education to know what the White Tower is as it is to know about the four quadrants of the ISLM curve. Speakers came from UKCOSA, NUS, GLC, and the Home Office and films were shown courtesy of the London Tourist Board, as was Chariots of Fire and The Meaning

of Life. Scottish dancers played to an amused and bemused audience being drowned in "British culture" and not being able to make head or tail of what was going on.

The Overseas Students Society are planning many more functions throughout the year bringing people from different nationalities together into one big forum. We already have over 300 members: come along to our meetings (1pm Mondays Vera Anstey Room) and take part in what promises to be one of the most active and exciting societies this year.

Iqbal Wahhab  
Chairman, Overseas Students Society



# WELFARE

## New LSE Society for Squatters

If you've managed to avoid all landlords/parents/mortgage hassles by finding a squat, you may be interested to know that the LSE Squatters' Society has been formed to cater exclusively to your interests. Contact them through the societies' pigeonholes in the TV Room.

## Housing Benefits: Claim Them!

Many students eligible for rent rebates do not claim because either they do not know of the scheme, or do not think that would qualify. Most people paying over £20 a week on basic rent would qualify, though exact details vary in each case. Foreign students may be advised that any claim makes them: "a charge on public funds" and so liable for deportation. In fact, all the EEC countries, and many others also, have reciprocal benefits agreements with the UK, so if you have paid taxes or unemployment insurance contributions in your home country, you may still be eligible. If in doubt, check first with the Welfare Office or CAB. Otherwise claim as soon as possible as all rebates are based on the date of the original claim.

## Short-Life Housing Under Threat!

Short-life housing is a very useful way of providing temporary accommodation for students with nowhere else to go. However, the system is currently under threat because of the activities of a few, who are refusing to quit when the properties they inhabit become due for redevelopment. According to the SU Welfare Office, the more this happens, the less likely it will be that new short-term housing opportunities will become available. They ask that all those who have currently turned short-term accommodation into semi-permanent squats reconsider their action in the light of the problems it creates for others.

## Tenancy Agreement Checks - No Fee Required

If you have found a place and been asked to sign a Tenancy Agreement as a condition of moving in, you might want to check out the legal implications. Contrary to the extremely sound advice normally offered by our nearest Citizens' Advice Bureau (Royal Courts of Justice, Strand), you do NOT have to pay £5 for this service. Go and see a solicitor at your local law centre or come and see LSE's own legal advice assistants, who are again offering a service at the Welfare Office (E294), Mondays and Thursdays only, between 1 and 2pm. The CAB is open 10-12.30, 1.30-4.30, Monday to Friday.

## WELCOME RESPONSE TO APPEAL

Within a day of the Welfare Office's appeal for volunteers for readers to blind students at LSE, enough students came forward to completely meet this need.

"The students in this institution are often considered to be particularly apathetic, but the response to this appeal shows how untrue this view is", said Welfare Officer Felicity Criddle. The Welfare Office would like to thank all those who so generously volunteered their time".

All volunteers should now let the Welfare Office know when they will be available as soon as possible.

## Half-term Playgroup

Grown-ups as well as kids will be welcome at the half-term playgroup being run by the SU, Monday 29 October through Friday 2 November. The grown-ups are needed to assist the qualified playgroup leader, taking kids out for walks, organising parties, running videos etc. The service is free of charge, so if you have anything you think kids would enjoy playing, watching, eating, which their parents wouldn't object to (!), then the Welfare Office would be pleased to hear from you. Playgroup hours are 10 till 5, apart from lunch hour, 1 till 2, during which time parents are expected to look after their kids themselves. Contact the Welfare Office, or sign up on the noticeboard outside E294/5, for either activity.

## HARDSHIP FUND

Are you a self-financing student? Undergoing financial difficulties? You could qualify for some help with fees (the average level of assistance last year was around '70). The source of this aid is the Student Union Hardship Fund, which makes awards three times a year. Interviews for this term's awards will be taking place from 29 October to 16 November, and application forms may be picked up from the SU Welfare Office (Room E294, 2nd floor, East Building). The closing date for applications is October 26. You will need to provide proof of need, for example, a current bank statement, but all applications will be treated in confidence. Remember also that you are eligible to apply each time awards are being considered, whether the Fund is able to help you this time or not.

## Nursery News

Now that LSE Nursery is accepting children under 2 years of age, additional staff have had to be recruited to meet legal requirements for looking after children of this age group.

"It is to be hoped that nursery fees will not be charged as a result," said Felicity Criddle, SU Welfare Officer, "but it is more than ever necessary to fight to maintain the nursery at any cost. Other nurseries at other London colleges are at present under threat of closure, and it would be a retrogressive move to see the same happen at LSE."

If you do have to place your child at a nursery where fees are charged, and find this a difficult financial burden, you may be able to get help from the Nursery Hardship Fund, details from the Welfare Office. Unlike the SU Hardship Fund, the Nursery Fund relies entirely on voluntary donations, i.e., largely on the goodwill of the SU, which, it is hoped, will raise or vote monies for this project in the course of this year.

## Form Filing - The Reasons Why

If you've been wondering why the Accommodation Office seems to have succumbed to the bureaucratic disease of gigantism in form design, with this year's accommodation request forms being three times longer than last year, here's your answer. Around exam time this summer, LSE Admin. sent out a questionnaire on housing needs for students and (on the basis of the replies received) set up a working party to look into the problem and recommend policies. In the opinion of the SU Accommodation Office, this questionnaire was seriously deficient in its design. The number of couples sharing accommodation was badly underestimated for example, because only married couples were included as a category in the questionnaire. Now that the SU Accommodation Office has input into the working party, it needs more and better statistics to give the other members a truer picture of student housing needs. We will be reporting next time on what progress, if any, the working party has made.

## WELFARE

During their first few weeks at LSE, new students are bombarded with information - I hope, however, you will bear with me if I briefly run through some of the ways in which the Welfare Office can make college life easier.

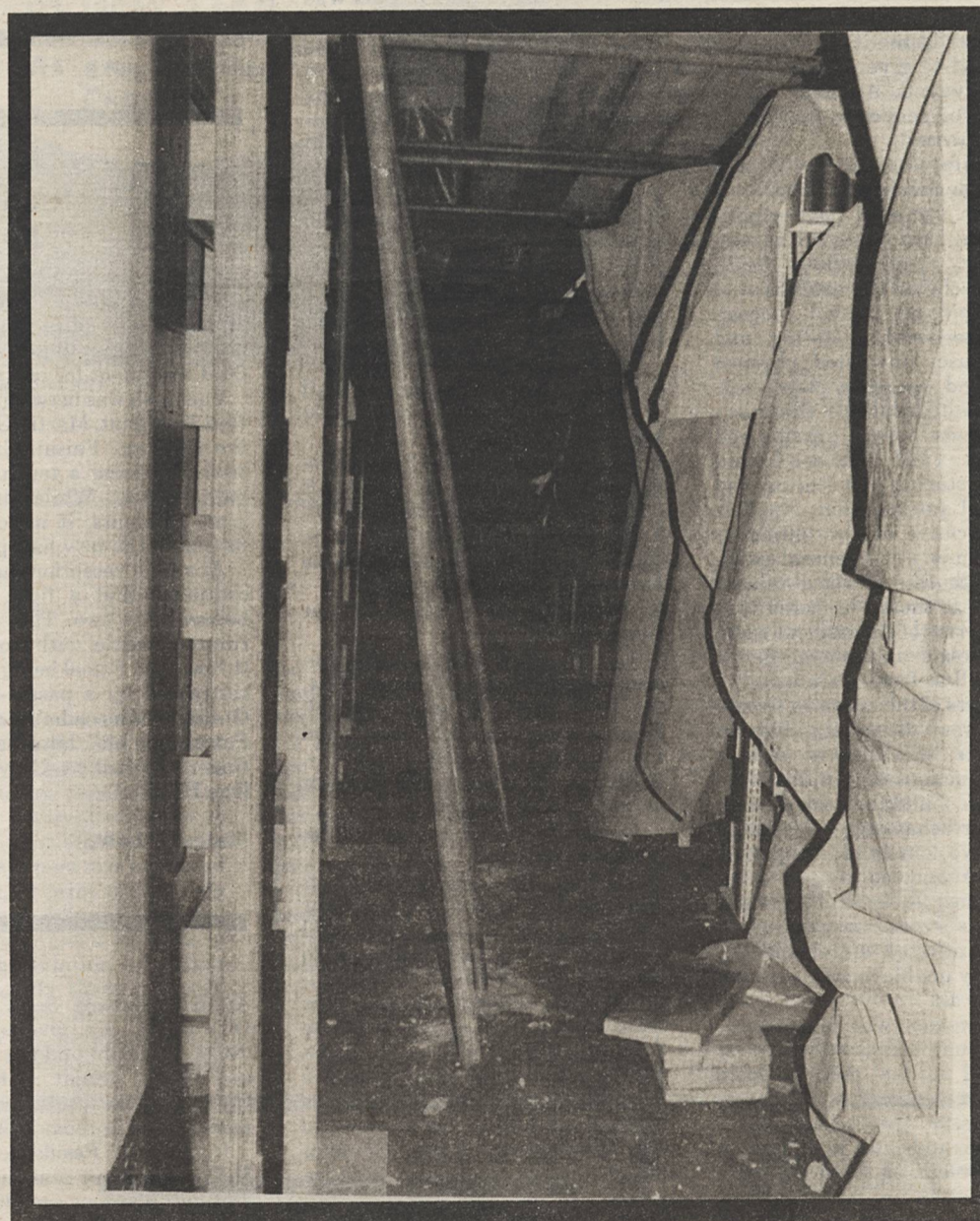
You have probably heard of the Hardship Fund, provided by the Student Union. It is only available to self-financing students and applications should be in by the end of the fourth week of each term. For details please see Felicity or Phil (E294/5) on the 2nd floor of the East Building; alternatively contact me through my pigeonhole in the Print Room (E297).

Help is also at hand for the impoverished student on a local authority grant; this is in the form of a small interest-free loan from the Registry. Applications forms may be collected from H.212.

Another useful fund is for LSE parents who find nursery fees hard to afford once again, please contact Felicity, Phil or myself for details.

Finally, I would like to add that if you need information on any subject from LSE Legal Services to the new Squatters Society - or even if you would just like to talk - don't hesitate to contact me - I am here to help. If you cannot make my regular open hour (for time and place, watch the notice boards), just pop a note in my pigeonhole, and I will be in touch.

Lynn Huggins  
SU Welfare Officer



## WHO NEEDS BOOKS?

Users of the Library who have been surprised to find that their favourite stack of books has either been replaced by an empty space or an accumulation of stacks so thick that books can only be found by difficult physical contortions, may be pleased to know that the work should be finished by Christmas. The building work, now only going on in the basement, should not hinder those who want to reach reading list material. These books have been brought upstairs, while the shelving of the upper two stories should be in order by the end of this month.

Readers may also be pleased to know that had it not been for the

threat of an injunction by Ed Lucas, General Secretary, and a group of militant postgraduate students, the right of students to reach under tarpaulines to get whichever book they want would not have been established.

A greater problem at the moment, however, is that many cannot find the books they want. Since the Library staff cannot renew the maps every day, it is perhaps worth knowing that the maps currently on the walls signify the areas to which the books were moved during the summer. If they are not where stated they may be found in their original location. Those who don't know where they were last term will have to ask a member of staff who should be able to locate missing stacks.

Toby Kramers.

## Homeless? Keep Checking

While we are on the subject of housing, the Accommodation Office tells us that new offers of accom-

modation are still coming in. Keep contacting the office regularly should you still be in need.

Welfare News from Paul Redfearn.



# IN THIS ALIEN ENVIRONMENT, SPACE TECHNOLOGY IS OUT OF ITS DEPTH

Inspecting underground gas pipelines for faults may not sound like the ultimate high-tech challenge. But, in fact, the task proved to be beyond the 'state-of-the-art' technologies previously available – even in military and aerospace applications.

## PROBLEM:

Design a vehicle which can travel inside the pipe, carrying equipment capable of identifying any significant defect, and pinpointing its position to within a metre in a run of up to a hundred kilometres or more.

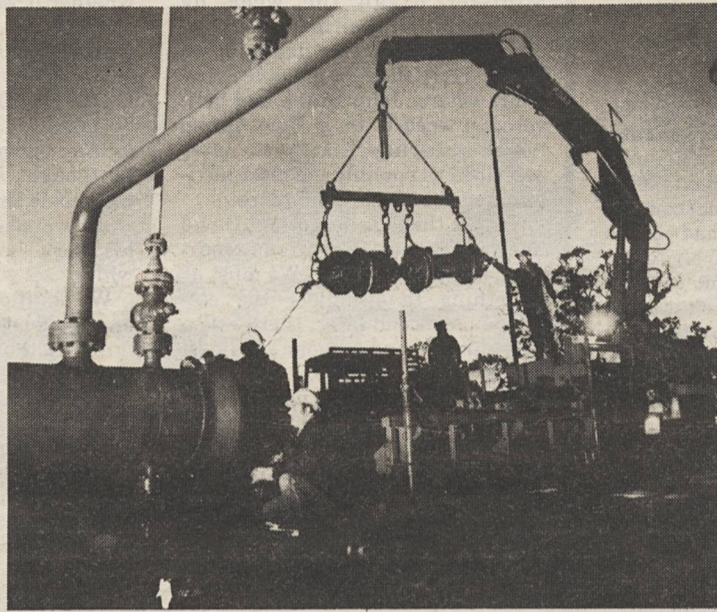
## SOLUTION: THE INTELLIGENT PIG

The Intelligent Pig, developed by the gas people, is a vehicle carrying highly advanced sensing, data processing and recording equipment. Driven through the pipe by the gas pressure within it, the Pig can be used without taking the pipe out of service.

What is more, it can not only pinpoint any defect on the inside or outside of a steel pipe, but even describe its nature.

## HOW?

Using strong magnetic fields or elastic waves propagated at ultrasonic frequencies, different types of sensors can detect corrosion, cracks, impact damage or distortion of the pipe. But the real challenge lay in processing the hundreds of millions of signals produced by the sensors in an average run.



## THERE WASN'T A COMPUTER SMALL ENOUGH AND TOUGH ENOUGH

Many of the pipes to be inspected are less than 305mm in diameter. To fit sufficiently powerful data processing equipment into the tiny space available, hybrid microcircuits incorporating custom-designed silicon chips had to be developed. And since the space restrictions also limit battery size and therefore power, many of these highly advanced electronic components have to operate at the very limits of their specifications. What's more, the environment inside the pipe isn't exactly friendly. All the highly sophisticated equipment carried by the Pig has had to be designed to tolerate or be protected from extreme vibration, mechanical shock, dirt, and gas pressure of up to 70 atmospheres.

## A 'TOMORROW'S WORLD' TAPE RECORDER

The sheer volume of data to be stored inspired the development of what is probably the most advanced ultra-miniaturised tape recorder currently in

existence. Making extensive use of sub-miniature hybrid microelectronics, new types of recording heads and ultra-precision mechanical engineering, this little marvel can store up to 500 million readings on a single reel of standard one-inch tape, with an accuracy of better than one-thousandth of one percent!

## FROM REEL TO REELS

Once the Pig has finished its run, the next job is to prepare the data for analysis by powerful, advanced computers such as the VAX 11/780. There's so much information in the Pig's tiny recorder that many reels of computer tape are needed to receive it, and many hours of computer time to analyse it.

## THE RESULT

Britain's underground gas transmission network is a multi-billion pound asset. And the technical pyrotechnics we've just described have a thoroughly down-to-earth end result—they help the gas people to maintain this asset more efficiently and cost effectively.

## WHY THE GAS PEOPLE LIVE IN THE FUTURE

The fact that gas is Britain's most popular domestic fuel—and a powerful and growing force in industry, too—is the result of many years' foresight, planning and massive investment by British Gas scientists and engineers. And they're still working for the future—to meet Britain's energy needs in the next century.

# THE GAS PEOPLE - WORKING FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD TODAY

**Gas**



# PROPHET KEN SPEAKS AGAIN

After the reinstatement of the much vaunted principle of free speech at the UGM, Tuesday's visit of Ken Livingstone at the invitation of the Labour Club demonstrated that they have one of the great current practitioners of that art. His message to Labour Party supporters was one of optimism. Labour could and would take power and, once there, would enact genuine socialist policies.

Labour could win because, unlike the alliance, they have strength in the one hundred and twenty or so marginal constituencies which, without a change in the electoral system would be the key to gaining power. Evidence of the change in public opinion which would reduce Conservative voting strength to derisory levels already existed, he claimed, in the support for the retention of the GLC. Even within Tory ranks, he believed he could see that confidence was crumbling. He quoted Ted Heath as warning during the "Paving Bill" debate that insolence and arrogance in power would lead to electoral defeat. Even at present the Tories are unable to maintain their declared policies as evidenced by the capitulation to the Liverpool City Council.

He believes that the Government is being assisted by American growth funded by deficit budgeting to foster an illusion of success. This would end after the US elections with either taxes being raised and spending being cut back or in a collapse of the banking system.

He prophesied that once in power the large number of new Labour MPs, and the need to undo the work of years of appalling Tory government would lead to a complete transformation of what we have come to accept as the political norm of the last decade. Radical socialist government would be seen, not merely to be a daydream of the

Labour Left, but as a reality which would dominate British politics for the rest of our lives.

First among the questions was one from Union General Secretary Ed Lucas, who asked if Mr Livingstone supported the right of workers to cross picket lines. The reply characterised those who did so as voting other workers out of jobs. The next question concerned rate-capping which Mr Livingstone decried as the Government being able to pass laws to instruct councillors to attack those who had elected them. He was then asked about the inflationary effect of the genuine socialist policies which he espoused and prophesied; his answer to which was an outline of the necessity to redirect foreign investment to home industry through the public control of major financial institutions. Another questioner wished to know how an "old guard" Labour cabinet could be forced to adopt radical policies. Mr Livingstone believed that this would come about through PLP elections for the cabinet and through the power of conference. Finally, from a question on the issue of a miners' ballot came Mr Livingstone's statement of the importance of the miners winning this war with the government. With this the faithful headed out of the meeting towards the collection buckets for the miners.

Richard Cranmer.



# THE BRIGHTON BOMBING

Richard Bacon, former Beaver editor, was in the bar of the Grand Hotel on the night of the explosion. Here he tells of the horror of that night.

"Earth-shattering" would not be an exaggeration of the noise that terminated our conversation.

## - The Inside Story

I had been sitting in the foyer of the Grand Hotel, only fifteen feet from the door, talking with several members of the Bow Group. We had had a good conference. The Prime Minister began the week by denouncing our chairman as "crackers", guaranteeing us exposure we had scarcely thought possible. Only hours before, John Biffen had delivered a speech to a Bow Group fringe meeting that was later described as possibly the most intriguing of the whole conference.

Yet all this was forgotten. David Shaw, a former Bow Group chairman, had just told me: "We must do something to stimulate the economy". A second later, there was a stimulus beyond anyone's wildest expectations.

I have never heard a noise of such awesome intensity, such power and volume. It was as if our world was being ripped apart in some terrifying earthquake. Within a split second, I was on my feet, running. I remember Michael Fallon, MP for Darlington, two yards ahead as we raced away from the noise.

Then someone shouted: "get down! get down!" Voices everywhere screamed: "Bastards!" including my own, I think. We lay horizontal, my only thought the sheer terror that there would be another explosion. After twenty seconds we moved on, through a room recently used for a cocktail party, and through a fire exit.

A woman was semi-hysterical,

and said her husband was still inside. Michael Fallon was trying to calm her down. I kept saying: "I'm sure he is okay, I'm sure he is alright", although I had no idea whether it was true. I was shaking as I said it.

Someone came out of the hotel, shouting my name again and again. It was Nirj Deva-Aditya, the editor of *Crossbow*. I had been sitting next to him, but nearer to the door, and he thought I had been trapped in the rubble that blasted inwards. He was covered from head to foot, and his dark hair had turned dusty white.

We shuffled around to the promenade, disbelieving, Cabinet Ministers with the rest of us, some clutching their red leather despatch boxes. We stood in horror, staring at the huge gaping hole in the hotel. Soon afterwards, we were bathed in TV lights, and a camera and microphone pointed at Nirj - black, Conservative, articulate, a bomb survivor covered in debris - it made excellent television.

We wandered into the Metropole Hotel and drank coffee and brandy. I surveyed the occupants of the room; Patrick Jenkin, demure from the neck upwards, but dressed in a raincoat and a pair of old brown slippers; Sir Keith Joseph, whose silk dressing gown was an object of fascination for the photographers, clamouring everywhere like parasites; Sir Robin Day, who looked ill at ease without a bow-tie.

Shortly after we arrived, we were herded out again, as if in some grotesque parody of musical chairs - there was a bomb scare in the Metropole. On we went, to the Beach Hotel; more coffee, more Cabinet Ministers. The Earl of Gowrie wondered round looking slightly lost. A man from *The Times* and a young girl from Breakfast Time crowded round Patrick Jenkin.

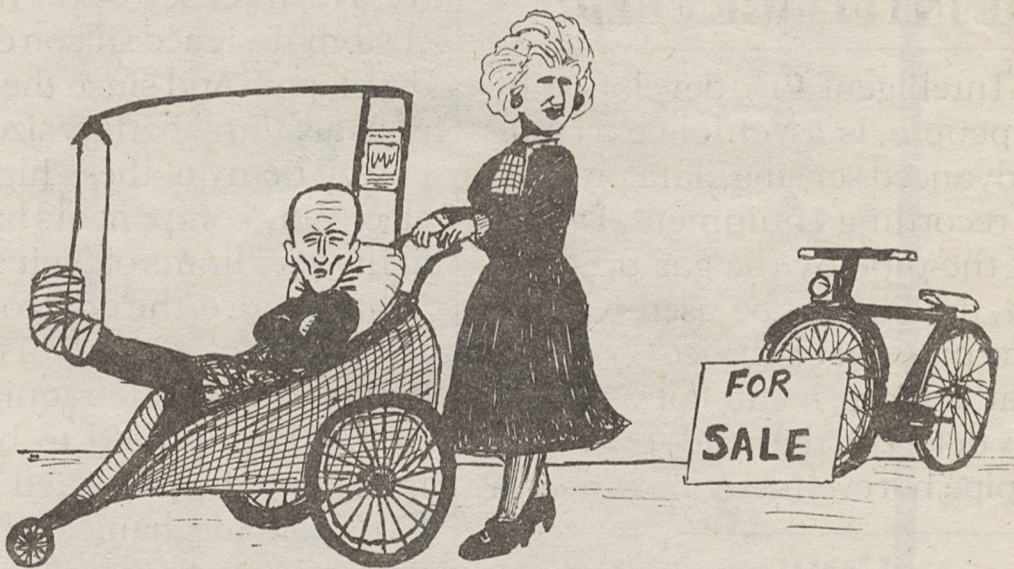
By now I had recovered from the initial shock, and decided that where *The Times* and the BBC led, *Beaver* should follow. Mr Jenkin sat in an armchair, relaxed yet bemused, his bare legs crossed, and told me that he slept through the whole thing.

"I only woke up because of the alarm" he said, "and then someone came into my room and told me to get out".

Sir Keith Joseph told me that he had been "very lucky", and then scuttled out of the hotel, party apparatchiks at his heels.

Eventually, I went back to my hotel to clean up, and arrived back at the Conference Hall by nine thirty.

John Selwyn Gummer spoke quietly, saying that bombers would never stop democratic assembly. As we recited the Lord's Prayer, I felt tears rolling down my cheeks, more in thanks for my own life than because of the scale of the carnage, of which we were still unaware.



"AT LEAST HE WON'T BE NEEDING HIS BIKE AGAIN..."

## THE NEW DEAL CAMPAIGN

The New Deal was formulated by NUS in 1984 to replace the previous Grants and Cuts campaign, as a response to the harshest attack that students in further education have suffered since the war. One issue, for instance, which will have an especially devastating effect on London students is the abolition of the separate travel grant provision. From this academic year onward, travel costs will no longer be claimed on a separate basis, but as a flat rate element within the standard grant. The Department of Education have seen fit to fix this flat rate at £160 per annum for students living at home, and £100

per annum for those living at college. Thus any travel costs incurred over £160 (or £100) will have to be met out of the main grant, or as Sir Keith Joseph says: "It will be up to them to decide how best to arrange their affairs in the light of the total resources available". It would appear that the Secretary of State, while being a more or less permanent fixture at Westminster has not yet ventured onto London Transport with its ever increasing fares. It is somewhat ironic that while the Tories preach freedom of choice in education, their practice means that potential students may be forced to choose a college closer to

their lodgings rather than a college they feel happy with. On July 25th this year, Simon Hughes, the MP for Bermondsey, asked Sir Keith what assessments he had made of the effect of the new travel grant arrangements. The Secretary of State's reply was illuminating: "None".

It is clear from these cuts and from further proposals concerning the removal of rent rebates for students, that the government's attitude to further education is the same as its attitude to the Health Service and the public sector in general: cut until it bleeds.

In the past students have enjoyed

a degree of complacency over their futures, but we must recognise now that the climate has changed and our attitude must change with it; mass unemployment is now as real for graduates as for any other sector of society. The New Deal represents a radical break from the past trend of NUS campaigns, and we should give our full support to it.

This term the campaign will centre on three major issues. On October 24th the first parliamentary debate on higher education for over three years will take place. NUS has called for a lobby of Parliament for 1pm. On October 31st NUS, in conjunction with the British Youth

Council, have arranged for a youth lobby of Parliament. On November 5th, there will be a national demand for a boycott of college catering facilities to try and ensure that price rises are kept in line with student grants. At the next UGM the Open Committee on Education will be reconvened to coordinate the LSE SU's input into the New Deal campaign. It can only be effective if it receives full support from students; otherwise if the Tory proposals go ahead unchecked, the old adage that education is a right and not a privilege will be quickly reversed.

Simon Ellis  
NUS Officer



# THE BRITISH PRESS

## - Is it Fact, or Fiction?

If someone asked you if you believed everything that you read in the papers, the only sensible answer would be "no". We accept that they are privately owned and controlled, have loyalties to certain political parties and aim to persuade as well as inform their readers. This is true of newspapers in many countries. However, Britain's media has characteristics that make it potentially a more powerful and pervasive influence on our society than most would imagine. The main constraint on the ideal of unbiased journalism in Britain is the ownership pattern of the newspapers. Since the 1920s, the number of national newspapers in Britain has steadily shrunk. We have 36% fewer national dailies and 50% fewer Sunday papers than we did 50 years ago. This trend had been accompanied by the concentration of ownership in that time. Today, three groups, all controlled by conglomerates, own 75% of the national dailies and 83% of the Sunday circulation. They are Reed, Fleet Holdings and News International; not a situation that would make for a great diversity of views. The owners of national newspapers have shown that they have direct control of what is printed. (When Victor Matthews took over the Trafalgar Group in 1977, he said "By and large the editors will have complete freedom as long as they agree with the policy I have laid down.") And, of course, if the editor does not oblige, he is expendable. The Daily Express, for example, has had ten editors in twenty years.

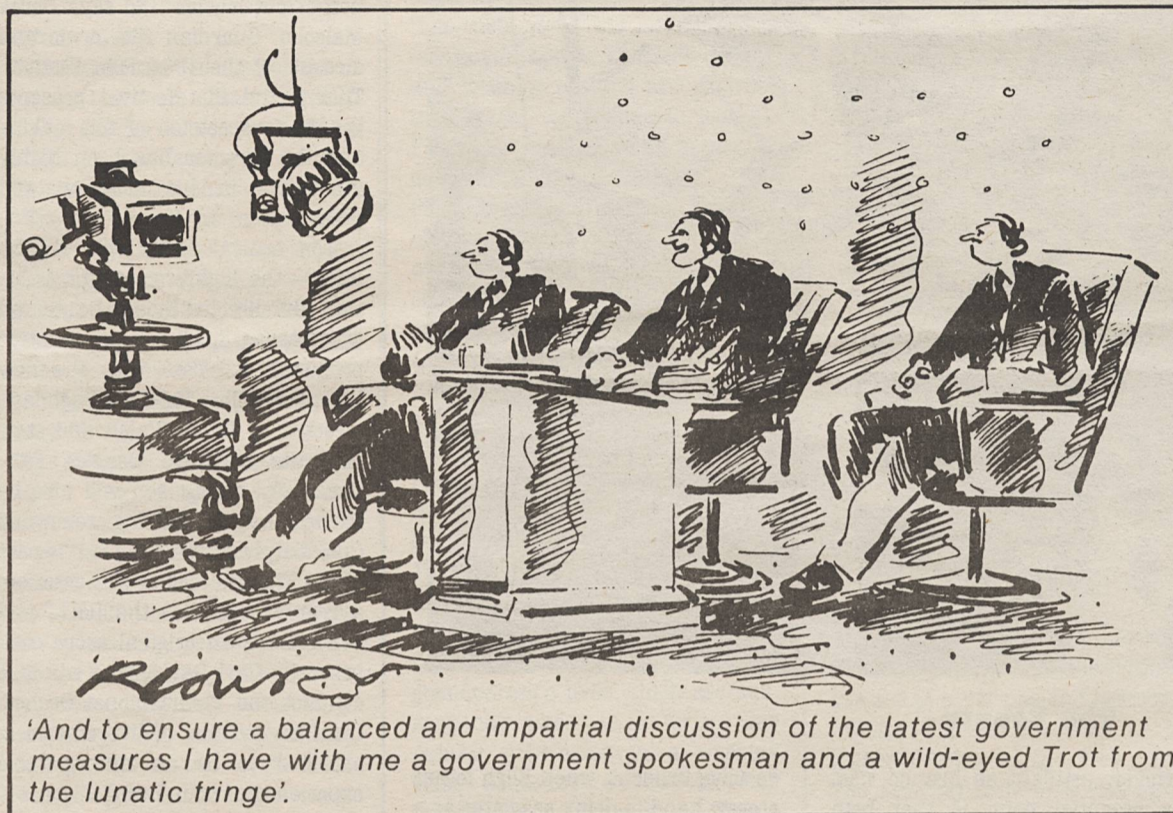
The same controllers of these newspaper groups also have a wide interest in other media; Pearson, which controls the Financial Times and the largest chain of weekly newspapers in the country, also has a large stake in The Bank, The Economist, Penguin Books, Ladybird Books, and Yorkshire Television. In addition, it controls Madame Tussauds, the London Planetarium, Chessington Zoo, Doulton Tableware and a merchant bank. And, surprise surprise, they run Fairey Holdings, which makes nuclear weapons systems and defence equipment.

So obviously, the interests that decide what goes into the papers we read are not solely concerned with unbiased and informative journalism. Looking at press ownership, it is not surprising that leading figures on the Left end up in the public mind as "King Arthur", "Bully Boy Benn" and "Red Ken". All are seen as presenting a threat to the status quo that favours conglomerate owners, but not necessarily us.

As if the wishes of the newspaper owners were not enough of a threat to media freedom, journalists also face a whole barrage of obstacles between them and "telling it like it is". Laws governing the media certainly do not seem to provide much protection to individuals. The libel laws are so rarely used by anyone other than the very rich because defamation is the only branch of common law where legal aid IS NOT available. That is why the papers are able to continue to talk about "scroungers on the dole" and "black muggers" unchallenged. The law does work against satirical newspapers such as Private Eye, who are prevented from displaying the dirty linen of the rich. That is why "tired and emotional" replaces "drunk" in their descriptions of whacky behaviour among the rich. Those who can afford it can issue "gagging writs", which don't even have to go to court, but still scare journalists off "sensitive issues". In the same way, the law of contempt of court, while seeming to ensure a fair trial for defendants, actually does the opposite. The Sunday Telegraph bought a witness at the Jeremy Thorpe trial and promised him £25,000 extra if Thorpe was found guilty. The most pervasive of the laws governing the media are the secrets acts. Apart from the Official Secrets Act itself, there are 89 other acts which forbid disclosure of information in the media. In fact, the premise is that everything in Britain is secret unless it is specifically labelled not secret. Situations then arise like the case against Chrispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell in 1978 where they were arrested for compiling information on the British Secret Service. They had simply gathered published information in one place, and their crime was in putting it together - a "do-it-yourself" secret.

On top of these laws are the infamous "D Notices" - a voluntary system of self-censorship by journalists. There are eight general D Notices and editors simply exclude any information which falls under any one of these. Individual journalists will not put their jobs on the line by risking sensitive articles that might annoy either editors or the D Notice Committee. Issues such as nuclear weapons often never get as far as the copy room because of the system of "voluntary checks and balances" that exists.

The mass of national newspapers themselves, however, do just as much to control public opinion as



the laws that constrain them. "Public opinion" appears to be more a creation of the media than something that exists independently. How far is "public opinion" the opinion of the media? A look at major political issues between 1970 and 1980 gives some answer. In the early 1970s, every national newspaper supported increasing constraints on Trade Unions. In 1975 there was across the board support for entry into the EEC; in 1976 all national newspapers supported right-winger Callaghan for the Labour Party leadership, and in 1980 they backed Healey rather than Benn for the deputy leadership. The same still goes for British control and British troops in Northern Ireland.

There is an organisation that exists solely to combat these restrictions on a "free press" in Britain. The Press Council, established in 1953, was to safeguard media and public alike from all the problems so far explored. It is funded by the newspaper proprietors themselves and aims to prevent the increase of government legislation against the media by fighting against media injustice using force of argument and advice. It has not been effective in either way, and indeed soothes away the fears of the public by suggesting that an effective watchdog exists. In 1980, the NUJ described it as "wholly ineffective and incapable of reform". Editors react in the same way, by ignoring its decisions or discounting it altogether. For example, when Sunday Express editor Sir John Junor was accused by the Council of racialism, he reprinted the offending article and added a description of the Press Council as "po-faced, pompous, pinstriped humourless twits".

So what's being done about these threats to press freedom? Who can offer help, and what kind of help? The present Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom (CPBF) was set up in 1979 after a fringe meeting of the TUC and though still in its infancy has had several successes in redressing the balance of media distortion. It has the support of over 1,000 individual members, 30 national trade unions, and an increasing number of political parties (Ecology, Labour, Young Liber-

als, Plaid Cymru). At the recent Labour and TUC conferences they were successful in having a Right of Reply resolution adopted unanimously. In the context of monopoly ownership, editorial control and the political demands of massive advertising revenue, the campaign for a Right of Reply has swelled and now dominates the play.

Quite simply, it means the right of any individual or group who feel themselves misrepresented in the media to obtain redress quickly and effectively. This means the printing or broadcasting of a statement from the group or individual concerned; this statement should be given a prominence equal to the original, and it should be passed without distorting headline or comment, and quickly. Such a system exists as a statutory right in France, West Germany, Austria, Sweden, Denmark and Canada. Letters to the editors can be one way of answering an unfair attack but restitution still relies on the discretion of the editor and the dictates of space. The libel laws and the failures of the Press Council have already been described. So Right of Reply appears to be one of the few recourses open to the complainant, and hence has become the main drive of the CPBF.

But Right of Reply has matured only recently, assuming a whole new dimension with the advent of the miners' strike. Prior to the strike the idea as a tactic was strictly small scale and intermittent. In 1978 a group of lesbian mothers occupied the newsroom of the Evening News to protest about an article exposing a doctor for providing lesbians with artificial insemination. The protesters secured a right of reply from the paper and also extensive coverage elsewhere.

In the past, however, it has not been easy to obtain such redress. Newspaper proprietors and editors are touchy about the whole issue and will not voluntarily supply the right of reply (although The Sunday Times apparently offered Arthur Scargill a right of reply from the start of the miners' strike). The law moves slowly and under some governments more slowly than at other times. Labour MP for Grimsby, Austin Mitchell, introduced a Right

"By and large the editors will have complete freedom as long as they agree with the policy that I have laid down."

of Reply Bill in Parliament in the summer. Such a law would give members of the public the right to reply to distortions or allegations made against them, but given government opposition was doomed from the start. Mr Mitchell told MPs: "We have a press which sensationalizes and trivializes and whose only deference to the great American tradition of inquiring and vigorous journalism is a prurient interest in sex and anything that is sordid and sensational." He also said, "It is overwhelmingly Tory, with no higher sense of duty than to act, not as the Prime Minister's lapdogs, but as her yapdogs."

The 1980 Trades Union Congress supported the resolution on press freedom proposed by the NUJ. In this proposal it was asked that "the right of reply for victims of bias or distortion in the press" be ensured, and that some system for monitoring the press be set up. The vacuum left by the Press Council highlights this question once again. Of several solutions to the monitoring problem, the one adopted by several American newspapers, The Washington Post for instance, might ultimately prove satisfactory. However, their system of appointing an ombudsman to their own paper is still being looked at by the CPBF, who for the moment are willing only to admit some cautious approval of the system. Time will tell, they say.



For further information concerning the issues mentioned here write to: CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG. Tel: 01-437 2795.

The real strength of the campaign still lies with the right of reply, at least for the time being, and the strength of this campaign seems to be with the miners who, since the Sun printed their phoney ballot form for the overtime ban on January 10th this year, have demanded that their voice be heard, and heard without distortion. It is worth looking at some of the incidents that have occurred. In May this year confrontation arose at the Daily Express when the paper attempted to print a front page picture of Scargill with the headline, 'Mine Fuhrer'. This was successfully blocked by printworkers. John Brown, Deputy Imperial FoC of the Sun Composing Chapel said, "The editors refused to change the 'Mine Fuhrer' headline. Members of the NGA process and composing departments were threatened with dismissal for not being prepared to handle it, but this didn't deter us." In the end the paper appeared without the picture and with this caption in large headlines that filled the page: "Members of all the Sun production chapels refused to handle the Arthur Scargill picture and major headline on our lead story. The Sun has decided, reluctantly, to print the paper without either." Interestingly, the last line identifies the paper with its workers and begins perhaps to pinpoint the central issue here: who will take responsibility for damage done, who will act?

On a more personal note, the life of miner Frank Branwell was put under severe pressure when five national newspapers printed a picture of him, with accompanying text, apparently crossing the picket line. In fact, Branwell had simply responded to the rumour that had gone through the Markham community that a return to work was expected at any moment. The rumour was false and when Branwell was informed he quickly joined the picket line as had been his custom previously. None of this was explained in any of the published stories. The charge of 'blackleg' had been levelled and Frank Branwell and his family were placed under unnecessary stress and embarrassment. The response of the papers to a prominently displayed correction was poor. The Guardian grudgingly printed a paragraph the next day while the others showed even greater reluctance (two never did print a correction).

The argument that the private ownership of the press and editorial freedom is the best guarantee of press freedom is severely questioned by the recent record of abuses that have arisen out of the miners' strike. The management's argument that industrial action on this issue is tantamount to "totalitarianism" and together with legislation would constitute censorship of the press is alarmist and rather sinister, since what is being sought is not a restricted press but an ACCOUNTABLE press: power WITH responsibility! But already the attacks on the campaign for press freedom have begun. Paul Johnson in the Daily Mail (4 Sept 80) condemned the campaign as "a campaign for press censorship". The Sunday Times admitted (7 Sept 80) that victims of bias should have an "opportunity" to tell their side but anything further was simply going too far. The Observer put in its piece when it declared that the Press Council was a sufficient defence of press standards and freedom.

But in the absence of accountable ownership and editorship the proprietor's guarantee of press freedom sounds a bit hollow. And as the CPBF ask, "Can a campaign which seeks to EXTEND access to the media justly be accused of censorship?" As for providing an opportunity to reply this merely returns us to editorial discretion and hence guarantees us nothing.

The CPBF is concerned then with shattering two long-standing myths. Firstly, the myth of an impartial press, or indeed that such a thing ever existed in this country. And secondly, that the media and the new-style press barons are NOT all-powerful and in fact can and have been challenged.

Randal Flynn  
Giles Perritt



# LONDON ARTS

## FILMS



### The Bounty

Tragedy is a concept rarely seen in its full ironic magnificence. Shakespeare's reputation may rest on such plays as Othello, Hamlet, and Macbeth, but their value is often lost in stage productions. The Bounty, however, does not dissipate guilt or emotion; it gains intensity as both plot and feeling develop leading to the inevitable tragic ending.

This is the third film to be made on the subject. The first, a Hollywood extravaganza of the '30's cast Charles Laughton as a villainous Lieutenant William Bligh whilst Clark Gable played Fletcher Christian. In the early '60's Marlon Brando immortalized Christian with a memorable accent reminiscent of a perpetual drunk. These films were very melodramatic, but had little feeling. Moreover, fact was invariably neglected for sensationalism.

The Bounty, conversely, is a film based closely on fact. Bligh and Christian are not shown as belligerents. They are friends. Indeed, Christian had twice sailed with Bligh. Furthermore, Bligh is portrayed not as a stubborn harsh captain but is painted in a sympathetic light. He is a strong willed person whose pride emanates from his devotion to his duty and, yet, one sees shades of warmth and caring in his character. Fletcher Christian, however, is young and inexperienced and consequently less certain of himself. He is not,

however, petulant as Brando was. The essential point is that both Bligh and Christian are seen to be human and believable characters who know each other well, perhaps too ominously well.

Roger Donaldson, the director, has focussed the film on the interplay of character between these two figures, which Robert Bolt has scripted well, not by creating a series of separate eclectic incidents but by a gradual development of their relationship. Tension emerges in all quarters of the Bounty: the crew, the junior officers, the drunken doctor, and senior officers are all isolated, confined to a ship which fails to round the Cape Horn. Frustration and exasperation readily set in.

The belated arrival of the bounty in Tahiti momentarily lessens the discontent. The crew fall for the lascivious pleasures of Tahiti, exposing a veritable Pandora's Box. Fatally, Fletcher Christian falls desperately in love with the daughter of King Tyna. Moral anarchy erupts, and Lieutenant Bligh's authority slowly erodes. Christian cannot readily accept Bligh's commands, nor can he fully reject them - that is his tragedy. Yet, one cannot fault Bligh for appearing unsympathetic. He has an assignment to complete, and his principled self prevents him from doing otherwise that is his tragedy.

This disparity in interests leads to the inevitable confrontation. The

desicive incident, when Bligh forces a crew hand to drink seawater as a punishment, pushes Christian to the verge of insanity. His is a tormented soul who is torn between love for his 'wife' and loyalty to Bligh. Encouraged by the crew, Christian finds himself the unwilling leader of a mutiny.

Antony Hopkins is magnificent as Captain Bligh. As the tension increases, nervous spasms engulf his taut body. His stentorian voice is raised to a loud shout as he finds himself losing control of the Bounty, but not the respect of all her crew. Mel Gibson, though, is not so confident as Fletcher Christian; he is subdued in the first half of the film. Only when the simmering tension explodes full-bloodedly does Gibson look in command; his Fletcher is quite splendid from then on. David Ibbotson, the director of photography, has memorably captured images of the Bounty nestling on the warm waters of the South Pacific against a backdrop of soft sunlight and a sombre sky.

"It must have been that place (Tahiti)", reflects Bligh sorrowfully, attempting to explain the mutiny. Neither he nor Fletcher Christian are responsible for their antagonism. It is rare to witness a tragedy so pure - that is the essence of the film and the very reason for its success.

Rajat Kohli

The plot follows the changes in the relationships between the four characters. Maria, the girl hostage (Laura Del Sol), plays dumb in both senses but is shrewd enough to see that Myron's evident attraction toward her is her guarantee of survival. Compared to Maria, Myron seems to be rather slow on the uptake. Roth's portrayal of him as a vicious and thoughtless murderer who still has faith in the good intentions of others is disturbingly convincing. The supergrass' attitude, however, is an enigma. For a man facing probable death he seems to be remarkably cheerful. Is this an overcompensation for his real feelings or does he know more than he lets on?

Whatever the reason, young Myron's attitude towards him changes from amusement to admiration.

The film dwells on the sparse aridity of the rural Spain through which the characters are travelling, which emphasises their isolation and growing mutual interdependence. Even Myron's cocksure manner becomes laughably out of place in this alien environment.

John Hurt's acting presence gives the film continuity and is itself a source of tension. The Hit manages to generate suspense on several levels and is therefore successful within the limits of its genre.

Charles Walker

### The 28th London Film Festival

"The 28th London Film Festival is a celebration of cinema, not a collection of cut movies". So says Derek Malcolm, Guardian film critic and director of the 1984 Film Festival. This year's film festival presents the whole spectrum of film-making and the Director has been highly innovative in his selection and presentation.

The festival opens with GREMLINS - the highly successful American film directed by Joe Dante and with Steven Spielberg as executive producer. It closes with the now legendary 'The Thief of Baghdad', directed by Raoul Walsh and starring the immortal Douglas Fairbanks Jr., whose son will also be giving one of N.F.T.'s renowned Guardian Lectures. This film is part of the Thames Silents presentation, a regular event at the L.F.F. and will include an original score composed by Carl Davis, who will also conduct the Philharmonic Orchestra. This evening of live cinema is expected to be an unforgettable experience of sound and vision.

This year the L.F.F. presents over 140 films from 40 different countries including Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa and Taiwan. 1984 will also see a number of novel ventures: the first ever London Childrens Film Festival; a programme of Rock Videos

and super-8 movies. Derek Jarman will be organising a special late-night programme at the Lumiere of the latest work of British Directors.

Of special mention are a number of excellent jazz films and the amazing 'Jack Johnson', a boxing film made in 1970 (hardly ever seen in Britain), which is much quoted for its classic Miles Davis jazz score, and voluminous use of archival film material.

A number of film makers will be present, including Robert Altman and Louis Malle who, following the screening of his new film 'CRACKERS', will be giving the second Guardian lecture. Other presentations by individuals will be arranged at the I.C.A.

Encouragingly, to herald the advent of British Film Year, there is a large selection of new British films, headed by David Puttman's remarkable 'Killin' Fields' and Alan Bennett's first film for the cinema, 'A Private Function'.

The 1984 London Film Festival reflects an unprecedented level of film making. Returning to the words of Derek Malcolm: 'The London Film Festival is neither an art movie ghetto nor merely a commercial operation. Every type of film is included, so long as it is good. It's a very ambitious programme which takes considerable risks with extremely limited finances. But if it works, there's no going back.'

Full details are available from the N.F.T.

### THE COMPANY OF WOLVES

The Company of Wolves is the most original film to reach our screens since the new wave science fiction commercial blockbusters. However, Wolves is a more substantial and meaningful offering than anything Mr Spielberg has manufactured so far.

The film is a study of early adolescence focusing on temptation, an awareness of evil forces and the gradual control of these evil forces.

The exploration of the themes is instigated through a series of sophisticated gothic myths, which rely heavily on sinister and sexual overtones. Our first sight of the pre-pubescent Rosaleen, played brilliantly by thirteen year old newcomer Sarah Paterson, confirms this approach as she sleeps uneasily, her cheeks glowing and lips pouting lasciviously at the camera (quite enough to excite any red-blooded paedophile). Her room is filled with childhood dolls which malevolently awaken, of which the tantalisingly ambivalent granny (Angela Lansbury) is the most effective.

Despite being restricted by a nine-week filming schedule and an absence of rehearsals, director Neil Jordan maintains an enervating level of tension. Light relief is however, never far away; puns being equally in vogue, as when Stephen Rea leaves the climactic moments of his wedding night to answer a 'call of nature' and duly turns into a wolf. The film however, is not for the fainthearted. The bloodiest scene, involving Mr Rea ripping his own flesh in colourful lumps leaves a nasty aftertaste. Patrons were silly to leave the cinema when there were still twenty minutes to run. As the credits roll on, you might find yourself left alone with the ensuing noise of a mass exit obliterating the last voice-over:

"Little girls this seems to say,  
Never stop upon your way.  
Never trust a stranger friend,  
No-one knows how it will end;  
As you're pretty, so be wise,  
Wolves may lurk in every guise,  
Handsome they may be and kind,  
Gay, or charming, never mind,  
Now, as then, tis simple truth  
Sweetest tongue has sharpest tooth."

Michael Salo



### THE HIT

An atmospheric thriller starring John Hurt as a kidnapper hired by gangland characters to track down the supergrass (Terence Stamp) who had shopped them ten years earlier. Tim Roth plays the would-be hard man, Myron, who is his accomplice. At first things go according to plan and the kidnap victim is ambushed in his Spanish hideaway and bundled into a car. But when they find the safe house in Madrid is unexpectedly occupied, their problems begin. Now they have nowhere to hide until the hunt for them has died down. Also they are forced to take a hostage.



# THEATRE

## A Nerd Encounter

We have all met him, or had nightmares about him at one time or another. He is the party guest who never leaves. He is incapable of coming out of the toilet without metres of Andrex hanging out of his trousers. He has always had dinner for lunch, and can't wait to tell you; and when you prepare him something extra he is no longer hungry. He is conspicuously lacking in all the social graces that we take for granted, but he demands nothing of his hosts save to stand in the same room as them. Who is he? He is The Nerd.

"A Nerd has no redeeming qualities. He's a person who hears what you say but not how you say it. He presumes a friendship where none exists. He makes you feel guilty because he asks for nothing. Its very hard for someone who was raised a Christian to admit that another human being is just a waste of food. There are no female Nerds. There are no English Nerds. Nerds have no sexuality" (Larry Shue, author).

Willum Cubbert is a successful architect, who when serving in Vietnam had his life saved by one Rick Steadman, whom he had never met before or since. Years later Rick Steadman turns up in Willum's life and his arrival leads to all sorts of disasters and surprises. Rick Steadman is The Nerd, the hapless Willum his unfortunate, unwilling and unlucky victim. In the first act Rick arrives in the midst of Willum's birthday party, and never leaves. The second act, which takes place a week later, details the hilarious lengths to which Willum and his two friends Axel and Tansy go to to make Rick leave of his own volition. For Rick saved Willum's life, and no matter how unbearable he is, Willum cannot bring himself to say the two little words: "get out!"



The Nerd, by Larry Shue is currently playing at the Aldwych Theatre.

In the title role, Rowan Atkinson is in his element. The audience is left alternately speechless with horror and breathless with laughter as Atkinson develops his character to its awesome, nauseating potential. Whether he is spraying his food all over his neighbour at dinner, picking his nose, or simply standing still, he has the ability to reduce his audience to jelly. Seemingly oblivious of the havoc that he wreaks about him, The Nerd goes about the business of enjoying himself at everyone else's expense. The play is quite merciless. The malicious pleasure which Shue takes in introducing his monstrous creation is plain, and the results are quite literally,

painfully funny.

But despite the comic potential of the story there are areas in which the play fails to deliver. Part of the problem is the author's obvious dislike of his main character:

"The Nerd is all the really awful people in my life. One of the things I've always had to wrestle with is that you're supposed to be nice, but if you're nice to these people they become your friends for life...and this play is about people I hate" (Larry Shue).

This distaste for his characters deadens any sympathy that the audience might feel for Steadman's victim. The cruelty of many of the practical jokes contained in the story is such, that there were times when I noticed members of the audience looking away even though they were laughing; thus what could have been big belly-laughs became brittle titters as the audience prepared for the next onslaught on their social sensibilities.

When Shue ties up the loose ends in his story, our interest in the characters has become largely academic. Only the very neat twist at the end saves us from complete disillusionment. There is an element of The Nerd in all of us, but the idea that someone as awful as Rick

Steadman might really exist is almost too much to take home with us after an evening at the theatre.

Consequently this is not a play for everyone. If you do not take great pleasure in the mockery of others then this play is not for you. Nor is it if you cannot bear the comedies of manners - milking an embarrassing situation for all it is worth. But if you are a Rowan Atkinson fan, and fall about merely at the sight of him, you will probably think this is one of the funniest plays to appear on a West End stage for ages.

Lucy Cohen

## Tea in a China Cup

Tea in a China Cup is produced by Sphinx, a women's collective formed in May this year. The group intends to work with more diverse theatre forms and to explore the middle ground between 'straight' and experimental theatre. They intend that their work will contribute to building a popular women's culture and to show positive and alternative images for women to look at. Furthermore, it is being presented as part of the nationwide Peace Plays Festival, under the auspices of the Theatre Writer's Guild in conjunction with MEND (Members of Equity for Nuclear Disarmament). Add to this the overtly casual venue of the impressive Riverside Studios, one is placed in an atmospheric setting.

The play portrays the life of a Protestant family in Northern Ireland. It spans three generations, beginning in 1939 and ending in 1972, after the arrival of British troops in the province. It is introduced by Beth who narrates incidents in her, her mother's, and grandparent's lives which are subsequently acted out. It traces her painful upbringing in a working class household in Belfast. Her father was a drunkard, her uncle was killed in the war, and her grandfather lacks compassion. She therefore relies heavily on her mother and Aunt Maisie. We are told of the difficulties of being a woman, and of living in Northern Ireland. Being a woman means that you go about your daily chores with monotonous acquiescence. Living in Northern Ireland becomes an increasingly arduous experience. When an adolescent, Beth (Caroline Embling) plays cheerfully with her Catholic friend Theresa (Theresa Boden), they talk of school, of adulthood, of finding a job. However, as the troubles begin, strains appear in their relationship. They are plunged into a conflict in which they are unwitting partners. Beth and Theresa prefer to retain the innocent, happy friendship of their childhood, but cannot. This is particularly hard for Beth to comprehend. She faces the future with nonchalance and bewilderment. "But I've never made a decision in my life", she tells Theresa. Marriage is no panacea for her present state. The death of her mother, Sarah, is just another event which she accepts without questioning. For Beth the acceptance of daily events is the only means of survival. She does not quarrel with this, she remains stoic.

The austere set, the bare walls, the plain furniture, are contrasted only by the china cups which bring together Beth, her mother, and Aunt Maisie. It is the one item of personal value to Beth, who retains a cup and saucer as everything else in her mother's house is sold after her death. It is her one link with her happy past, when the idea of being a woman seemed an uncomplicated task. A compassionate production, Shaila Reid's Tea in a China Cup deserves viewing.

Rajat Kohli



## A Dishonourable Trade?

G F Newman's play "The Honourable Trade" suffers from an identity crisis as severe as that represented in its central character, the Attorney-General.

Set in 1984, in a Tory-ruled England, with a Government devoted to cover-ups and secrecy, it focuses on sex scandals in the higher reaches of the Tory Party. The Attorney-General is having an affair with a high-class prostitute and the Chairman of the Conservative Party liaises with the Attorney-General's wife. In a series of swift moving, episodic scenes we watch the opening world of order and sobriety degenerate into murky, politically expedient manoeuvring, where the idea of "honour" is ludicrously absent. Behind the rationality of the politico-legal language the emptiness and weakness of these senior men of government shine out. Hypocrisy discovers new depths.

The play's problem lies in its shifts in tone from Tory high-jinks farce to serious documentary exposition, with some satire along the way. Newman regards intensive research as vital to the process of writing and his fictional world has an immaculate factual pedigree from Thorpe through Profumo to the Cleveland Street scandal of 1886. Yet when laughing at the absurd posturings of these depress-

ing characters on stage, farce distances fact. They cease to be naturalistic representatives of politicians and become figures of fun.

The slips from character to caricature afflict some of the acting but Richard Wilson's performance as the Attorney-General has a convincing unity when the paragon of upper-class decency is reduced to whimpering fury through his emotional insecurity. Equally compelling is Phillip Voss playing the smoothest of Harley Street psychiatrists with sinister relish, as he labels potentially political embarrassments with the neutralising tag of madness.

With an austere, imposing set suggesting a cross between the Commons Chamber and a gentlemen's club together with well-placed direction, the author's arguments are given fair hearing.

G F Newman believes in "theatre of confrontation", as was evident from his excellent television series "The Nation's Health". In that the piercing of myths about the Health Service seemed all too real whereas here the issues confronted, although fascinating, funny and potentially horrific, don't ring with an equal conviction. What would really happen to an Attorney-General accused of double rape? To find the answer, pay a visit to the Royal Court Theatre.

Nicola Shaldon.

## Drama Society

Viewed on a simple level "Entertaining Mr Sloane" is about the eternal triangle of two men and one woman. But being a play by Joe Orton, things are not that simple. The rivals are a middle-aged brother and sister, both unmarried due to the brother's homosexual leanings (he believes she "corrupted" his best friend, and has supervised her life ever since to "stop any scandal"). The object of their mutual desire is the androgynous Mr Sloane, persuaded by the sister, Cath, to become her lodger on first meeting. Her brother Ed calls round and takes an immediate shine to Sloane, offering him work and accommodation to keep him away from Cath. Their senile father is not so keen on the newcomer.

Six months later Cath is pregnant and Ed is beginning to wonder whether Sloane is as malleable and amenable as he had anticipated. Sloane is in total control, playing up to each in turn, getting all he wants - sex, money, fast cars - when the father accuses him of being his ex-employer's murderer. To avoid exposure Sloane beats him to death and tries to avoid the consequences of this

act by playing on the emotional weaknesses of Cath and Ed. At first he appears to be succeeding, but in the end finds he will be "shopped" by which ever he does not go and live with. A sudden and unexpected agreement between Cath and Ed leaves Sloane condemned to oscillate between them as a sex-slave.

Given the passages of overt sexuality in the play, and the difficulties of taking part in a semi-undressed romp in front of your friends and acquaintances, the cast made a very competent job of this production, particularly as rehearsals did not start until just before the start of this term. Credit is due to director Mark Pearce (his last effort for Drama Society as he is in his final year and the Library beckons), and the cast of four for a gripping and entertaining performance which held the attention throughout. Props and costumes were plentiful and appropriate, which has not always been the case in the past.

Drama Society seem to have got their year off to a good start, and I look forward to their next production, "Abigail's Party" in early December.

Alan Peakall.



## Elvis Costello in Hammersmith

On his first night at the Palais, Elvis Costello held a packed house captive for some two and a half hours. In that time he dispelled all the fears of his fans that perhaps he was going off the boil and instead established himself as a supreme live performer.

Onstage Costello is the master of all moods. Long gone is the image of the angry young man, boggle-eyed and ranting. Behind those shades, dressed in that dapper suit and gleaming red shoes resides someone who has cultivated a great rapport with his audience. He pleads for

and is given help for his throat troubles which the previous week almost ruined his Dublin show.

He gives the crowd what they want. Backed by the masterful Attractions, Costello takes a journey through the greatest back catalogue of songs to have been compiled in the last decade. The set produces a blend of sarcasm and wit, incision and observation, talk and tease, bitterness and poignance. Every mood is captured perfectly, from the pulsing, unnerving "Clubland" to the plaintive "Shipbuilding" and the rocking teasing splendour of

"Mystery Dance".

Costello and the Attractions hold their audience because they play with confidence and ability. Their style is direct, their performance rich and their music both enjoyable and important - they have no need for dry ice, huge lighting rigs or elaborate stage sets.

His genius is on display now, and should not be overlooked. At the Palais a great misshaped monster of a concert hall, Costello never put a foot wrong and established himself, yet again, as This Year's Model

Sean O'Neil



## THE SECRET FRESHERS' "OTHER" BALL

The Freshers' Ball was undoubtedly a great success, as was the whole programme of events over the Intro Week and the first week of term. There was a disco in the Passmore Edwards room, videos in the Three Tuns and films in the Old Theatre; sadly, no giant airbed to be silly on as last year. All these things are of course necessary to keep the punters occupied during the inevitable sound-check delay, which amazingly, didn't happen. Is this a record? No...it's a live band, namely the Spectres, featuring ex-LSE student Jes Wallace of the late LSE band Rescue. The music was lively, the female vocalist particularly impressive, but the audience reaction was somewhat mixed. Not that of the Music Biz though, as apparently Stiff Records were enquiring of them later. Next on stage were the Triffids. A groan of disappointment went round the assembled throng of Sci-Fi fanatics, clutching their John Wyndham tomes, as there were no three-legged carnivorous plants, just bi-

ped humanoids. To make matters worse, despite their highly contemporary appearance, their sound was strictly circa '68 West Coast, and either they hadn't been "getting it together very long man", or their sting had been severely impaired by cross-pollination with a strain of the genus cannabis. Given, however, that those not clutching John Wyndham compendiums were there to see one of the best known exponents of latter-day downbeat psychedelia, Monochrome Set, the Triffids were well received for the most part, and given regular watering plus five drops of BabyBio, they will no doubt propagate in a temperate climate. Since the current music scene is not so hot...who knows?

As the more astute amongst you may have guessed, Monochrome Set are in fact not an old television, but four musicians with a healthy cult following. They have the amazing ability to whip audiences into a frenzy without themselves ever breaking into a sweat or overstretching the bounds of musical

virtuosity. Stage presence and style they have in abundance; the capacity audience loved every minute, yelling for their favourite titles between numbers. Jacob's Ladder and Cast A Long Shadow were particularly well received and many were elevated into Nirvana as the boys returned for an encore to play their theme tune Monochrome Set.

Given the difficulties faced by Social Secretary, Phil Hague, in staging a Freshers' Ball at all following the cynical withdrawal by Orange Juice - a blight on their groves - criticism of the event would be somewhat churlish. However, why did the Cobden Bar shut at 11pm? Why was there no draught beer on? It also suffered a little as an overall event due to its very success as a gig. There were so many bloody Monochrome Set fans that there wasn't room for a self-respecting pisshead to fall over. Well, you've got to be a bit churlish.

Dave Bull

## Trappist Monk Speaks

An album from Billy Bragg is, like a reflationary budget from the present Government, very desirable but not something you'd been led to expect. Nevertheless "Brewing Up With Billy Bragg", his first true album (the self-made "Life's A Riot", at 45 r.p.m. was more a mega-single), has been in the shops for 10 days now, so why are you reading this instead of playing your own?

Side one opens and closes with political broadsides, "It Says Here" and "Island Of No Return", which lose little of their urgency or power in the recording process - play them LOUD and sod the neighbours

for best effect. The rest of the material can loosely be described as love songs, though the love is usually in the past or unrequited, Billy's lyrics conducting an accusing inquest. These, often listener, songs can be painful to listen to, such is the emotion efficiently packed into a few words. The album closes on a more optimistic note with the moody "A Lover Sings", added organ giving the track a "Style Council" feel.

I was a little disappointed on first hearing, many of the songs lacked the immediate appeal of earlier material, but grew to like it more with each playing. Billy hav-

ing written a song which changed my life ("The Man In The Iron Mask" on "Riot"), putting him on a level with John Lennon, I can hardly claim to be an unbiased reviewer. It does seem though that, like Duran Duran, people either love him or hate him. If you have not yet heard Billy, listen to "Brewing Up", listen to "Riot", see him if you can. The electric troubador is here, catch him before stardom or the recording industry he chooses to work outside have a chance to destroy him.

Alan Peakall

## A Long Hot Summer: Jazz in London

Right, what I did in my summer hols (vol 1). To fill this temporary and welcome void in my existence, I flipped to the Jazz Pages in City Limits, and what a bloody line-up!

Sun Rah, Archie Shepp, Dave Brubeck (God in Heaven, is he still playing "Take Five"?), Miles Davis, Weather Report and even John McLaughlin...God that guy can play! So I paid a huge amount of money and listened to Him being the best guitarist alive for a couple of hours; sheer bliss chums...

Had to go home for a couple of weeks so I missed the mighty Evan Parker at Riverside, but there was still stacks to see on my return, such as Duku Pukwana's Zila (a veritable funk machine if ever there was one!) and Anne Whitehead (groove trombonist of Fun Boy Three and Jah Wobble fame) who fronts her own very wonderful mixed sextet. The Seven Dials Club benefit was an event to remember as well. It took a while to warm up but Alan Skidmore and Paul Rogers played disgustingly well (jealous...? Me!?) and Lol Coxhill was sheer style as usual, "hero of the night" must be the extraordinary John Stevens for his anarchic orgasm of a performance; as soon as he touched the drumkit it was ecstasy; he just hammered the life out of them, pounding me and the rest of the unsuspecting audience into a wobbly pulp. Sud-

denly he'd go quiet for a while and then just when you think you're safe...KAPOW! Another avalanche. Incidentally, last time I was at the Dials Annie Whitehead asked me for a light...its a bit like Jesus trotting up to a vicar and asking where the bog is...She smokes Golden Virginia by the way - not that that's of any relevance.

"Ah!" I hear you shout, "but what of your fave records of '84 so far?" Well, surprisingly, most of them are British releases: the snappy "Intensive Care" by the Jazz Doctors (with Frank Lowe on tenor and Billy Bang on violin) and "Hard" by the Tommy Chase Quartet featuring Alan Barnes (a shy unassuming sort of godlike genius of a sax player) both of which would make worthy additions to anyone's collection. Worth checking out as well are Stan Tracey's "Now" album and Miles Davis' "Decoy".

Best gig? Well that had to be the mindblowing Brotherhood of Breath party at the 100 Club way back in February which showed the multi-racial South African band at their glorious best. Newcomers to London are advised to check out the Seven Dials Club, the 100 Club, and the Camden Musicians Collective. Listings for all these venues can be found in City Limits every week. So have fun and get grooving.

Chunky

## DRUNK PUNK

Don't let anyone tell you punk is dead; its alive and kicking itself in the teeth at the LSE. Post-punk bands Serious Drinking, The Gymslips, and Mark Riley played at LSE on the Friday of Intro Week to a mixed audience of intros, students, and imported punks.

Mark Riley was, not to put too fine a point on it, awful. The mix was atrocious, all the songs sounded the same and the band had the stage presence of dead sheep. The Gymslips were much better. They have discovered a fourth chord to add to the three used by Mark Riley. It was possible to hear someone actually singing, although the lyrics were incomprehensible. It made a change to hear an all-women band, even if my

feminist friend moaned that they should have had a women road crew as well.

The main attraction of the evening's ear-crushing entertainment was Serious Drinking. They have mastered their idiom - their songs are loud, audible and varied, and the show is visually entertaining with plenty of movement on stage. One question I do have of Ents events in general is where do all the spiky hairstyles go during the week? Do they get combed down for classes, or do they disappear to other colleges or dole-queues, only to re-emerge in time for the next gig?

Malcolm Lowe.



## WHITE-HOT HEAT CLUB!

After a year's disillusionment with the hideous conventionality of 'alternative discos', the Music Co-op tackled the dismal CO18 and the even more dismal conception of what alternative music is. The traditional gremlins of this 'alternative scene' - hours of the DJ's tedious favourites, no-one daring to dance - were banished, as the more than plentiful supply of very cheap drink eased the dancers on to the floor. The DJs, Jamie,

Andy and Nick, treated us to an unending cascade of glorious, glamorous NOISE! From gothic to glam to incredibly groovy...wreckers snaked and stamped. It was a celebration; everyone went home happy and promised to come next time when the Heat Club hosts a real live band. The Heat Club returns bigger and better on Nov. 2nd. Dare you miss it?

Gindy Snide



# PETERBOROUGH: THE CULTURAL DEARTH OF THE NEW TOWN.

Hands up who's heard of Peterborough? You haven't? Well it's hardly surprising really and yet at the same time there is a lesson to be learned from Peterborough and towns like it which should not be ignored. Now read on...

It is important not to view a town like Peterborough, or any other New Town for that matter, in isolation. Not only do the new towns have an element of common identity, they also, unfortunately, bear part of the sad but inevitable stamp of western town degeneracy. The reason I choose to concentrate on Peterborough as our New Town for closer examination is perfectly simple - I live there and have done since before it was chosen for New Town development in...er...1969, I think. I have grown up with the expansion of the city from small market town, situated some 80 miles north of London, to booming regional centre, surpassing even Cambridge. Since 1970, Peterborough has acquired the following: reputedly the best shopping centre in Europe, a new award-winning theatre, a regional swimming pool complex, an ice rink, various leisure and sports centres, two new nightclubs, dozens of pubs, suburbs, roads and some 80,000 new inhabitants, more than doubling the pre-1970 population.

Am I proud to have witnessed this growth, the successful results of centralised planning, the truly twentieth century town, the beauty spot of our wonderful society? Nope. Peterborough, like other New Towns, Stevenage, Milton Keynes, Bracknell, Hemel Hempstead and so on into suburban eternity is something of a cultural backwater, a stagnant reservoir of wasted potential and squandered opportunity. Far from being the proof of our advanced industrial pudding, Peterborough is the result of an ever more class-divided, antagonistic society. "WHAT"!!!! I hear all the smug Abercrombieans cry, with more than just a little justice. Far be it from me to deny that the New Town project has gone much of the way to solving the original problems that it was designed to alleviate; overcrowding, disease, poverty, unemployment and lack of opportunity in a London grown too big for it's crock of gold. New Towns became the perfect home for the Reserve Army. What I do wish to suggest, however, is that curing these symptoms of the disease has merely led to new symptoms developing elsewhere. The 'disease' is industrial capitalism, the real and ultimate cure is not quite so easy.

One weekend, not so very long ago, I happened to venture with some friends into one of Peterborough's 'exciting Nitespots', the stamping ground of the young and fashionable of the area. Each weekend evening these nightclubs pulsate to the sound of music, dancing feet, shouting voices and clinking glasses. One would be forgiven for thinking of such places, the headquarters of the young and adventurous, as the spawning-ground of new ideas, tortuously forged over half-empty glasses and overflowing ash trays amongst the filtering sound of music and unfiltered blue smoke. Hear the voice of Young Britain, a force for the future! Sit up and take notice, the rest of you! But no, you'd be quite mistaken I'm afraid. Despite the media attention, however cynical, given to such 'youth spokespersons' as Boy George, living proof that the young are really unconventional, I can bring you the real news, direct from a nightclub in Peterborough. Young people are, as a group, boring, very boring...and what's more, it's not their fault.

Karl Marx may have been slightly mistaken when he wrote of the progressive proletarianisation of the mass of the populace, but he was not wholly incorrect. What has happened in my opinion, is the cultural if not economic proletarianisation of the masses whatever this may mean exactly. Let me explain what it means to me.

"What do we think of Kenny's hat?" asked the DJ, fading one song into the next, and pointing to a black guy on the stairs who was sporting a black leather cap adorned with thin chains a la

Grandmaster Flash (a well-known New York rapper, bonehead!).

"Hmmm! Groan! Boo!" came the cacophonous reply. Kenny, thankfully remained unperturbed.

"Take it back to the Gay shop you got it from!" enjoined the DJ. Very witty. Cheers from the crowd of dancing bods.

This isolated incident, however trivial, is indicative of the enforced consciousness of young people today. Places such as nightclubs don't so much cater for young tastes in a town like Peterborough, as determine them. And what do young people accept into their consciousness at such places? I'll tell you. They learn to spend their spare time searching for 'fun' with previously unknown members of the opposite sex and to drink plenty. Men are encouraged to look upon women as merely sex objects ('the Cattlemarket' is a common name for Peterborough's nightclubs); women are encouraged to accept male domination and are considered square if they go home alone. One DJ calls the part of the evening dedicated to slow, 'smoochy' records as the 'Erection Section'. The casual but smart dress code encourages a uniformity of dress (the 'high street' or 'Top Man' look), and the possibility of homosexuality or concern with women's rights or any form of progressive thinking is unmentioned, uncatered for and treated, if at all, with scorn.

You may well ask what exactly all this has to do with Peterborough as a New Town. Well Peterborough is supposedly one of our country's most successful cities, booming in a sea of decline, full of opportunity and exciting prospects; and yet in reality, it is no more than the mould into which people are poured and from which they emerge as rigid, impervious and monotonous - which takes me back to cultural proletarianisation.

New towns are hardly the playgrounds of the rich - your average Peterborough car is more likely to be a Mark III Cortina than a Porsche. Peterborough, like most cities is full of ordinary people, full of awareness and unfettered emotion, just waiting to be shown how to enjoy our treasured 'free' society. And what do they get for their troubles? They get a clever cultural socialisation. The example of the nightclub incident cited earlier is merely one of many...a continual process. Peterborough as a city caters for the conventional, the 'normal', the unquestioning. You either choose to join them because you feel you can't beat them alone, or you go mad with despair because there is nowhere for you to go and no-one like you to meet.

Our New Towns are not the land of opportunities to grow, to prosper,

## BAD TASTE IS BEST

"The problem with our material is that it's all in such bad taste!" This was the verdict of one half of Skint Video, the last act in the 'Alternative Cabaret' organised by Ents for the new students. As a comment on alternative comedy in general it really is quite accurate; what it does fail to mention is that much of it is also extremely funny.

Jenny Lecoate - by far the funniest performer in the 'Alternative Cabaret' - passes this test with flying colours. Her act starts with a promise that she is going to talk about men's willies, and whereas many performers would leave it at that, reckoning that will provide enough scandal, Jenny actually does.

Her jokes tell of the shortcomings of men, mostly in bed, and by being rabidly sexist she manages to satirise both men and the 'anti-men' type of feminist. The sexism of her act is really quite refreshing being 'the other way round', although it will destroy the sexual egos of any men listening, as it has that embarrassingly real ring to it common to all successful comedy.

'Alternative Comedy' has something to say for itself; it is definitely not entertainment for entertainment's sake. Its message will not please any Tories in the audience, especially any who intend to stay that way ("Why don't they have any toilets at Conservative Central Office?...Because they shit on each other!"). Anyone else who really feels that humour is possible, or even desirable, without insult to someone should also stay away - insult is stock in trade to the alternative comedian. But when all is said and done, you can take the political messages or leave them, but you cannot ignore the fact that alternative comedy is by far the funniest form of entertainment around.

Malcolm Lowe

to progress, to LIVE (unless in the conventional sense, the 'TSB Bank' sense if you like). They are centers of a subtle indoctrination process, creators of a subservient class, happy to lead a dull life never reaching nor wanting to reach their full potential as human beings, just so long as their life will pay for the drinks and the clothes and the secondhand car bought to take the mates home from the nightclub. Somebody's loss is another man's profit, and those who profit from this miserable scene are those who will defend ad infinitum the 'freedom' of England's green and pleasant land, and will pay ad infinitum for TV advertisements for Milton Keynes. I didn't see many of them in the nightclub that night, and I doubt very much if any of them will ever take up residence in Peterborough. Now you know what the 'Peterborough Effect' is!

Chris Hartley

### Coming Shortly

You'll find a great variety of entertainment in Peterborough. Two big three screen cinemas, the Key Theatre, two nightclubs (Anabelles and La Scala), and a whole calendar of concerts, plays and recitals for all ages and tastes.

There simply isn't enough space here to list them all. But you can get details of this busy city's forthcoming attractions from the Information Desk at the Town Hall (phone 0733 63141).

### The Queensgate Smile

When people shop at Queensgate they smile; simply because there is so much to enjoy in a single day when you visit Peterborough, your capital city of shopping, enjoyment and fun!

 Peterborough welcomes the physically disabled. Peterborough Shopmobility - provides electrically powered and hand-propelled wheelchairs free to help people with limited mobility. To be sure a wheelchair is available, phone (0733) 313133.

Catherine Campanella works at C & A. Why is she smiling? Because she knows about some of the good things in store for visitors to Peterborough and Queensgate.

# ASSESSMENT - WHEN, HOW AND WHY?

"An examination for a degree at Oxford was a farce in my time," said one Lord Eldon in 1770. "I was examined in Hebrew and History. 'What is the Hebrew for the place of the skull?' I replied, 'Golgotha.' Who founded University College? 'I stated (though by the way, the point is sometimes doubted), that King Alfred founded it. 'Very well sir' said my examiner, 'you are competent for your degree.'"

One never knows for sure what happens in England's rural colleges, but here in the city exams are far from being farcical. At LSE they are unforgiving and, because of this, a matter of dispute when various committees consider changing the college's grading system. The cornerstone of the present system is the three hour final exam; in 263 of the 386 courses the final mark rests entirely on this exam. Even where essays and laboratory reports count, they typically contribute no more than 20% to the final assessment. Indeed, for a professor to allow an essay to be much more important, he must first seek approval from the University of London. This regime, say many students, is unfair. When people give the matter a thought, ie. as they approach, or after they have failed their final papers, they seem to agree how nice it would be if exams didn't matter so much. A survey of our college made last year reckons that 90% of the students want some kind of change. For a moment assume this was not the whimsical dreaming of students, but a genuine displeasure with the draconian measure of reducing a year of learning to three hours of testing. Further assume there is a better way, and that students will speak with one voice for it. You would nevertheless find that, along with the East Building, the grading system is the other leaky thing at LSE that won't soon be repaired. Witness the present situation: last February the General Purposes Committee heard the report that students might prefer their grades spread out over the year. The Committee then asked that each department to state its view on the issue. To date, not one has responded.

That such sluggishness shouldn't interrupt the debate, bounded on one side by believers in the status quo, and on the other by advocates of something like the American system of continuous assessment. Pop quizzes, essays, mid-term tests, even class behaviour in America finds its way into the final mark, diluting the influence of the final exam.

The present system, even detractors will admit, has its bright side. For one thing all grading is done anonymously. That in turn relieves the alliance between students and teachers of much pressure. Without anonymity, say some, students would be reduced to servile flatter-

ers and teachers might give good grades for saying the right things, rather than the bright things. Also, claim a few people, very good students thrive under the present system in a way they would not if they were continually assessed. It gives them the freedom to roam; to read, for example, all the books ever written on poverty and still have time to salvage a first. And the rigour in making sense of the massive volume of material taught over the year is absent from the American of grading bite-sized chunks. Here again the present system favours the strong student.

Defenders of final papers suggest that those for change are a little naive; what exactly is to be done, and who is to do it? And, in the end, isn't it likely that students disapprove of such weighty final papers because, at bottom, they'd prefer not to be graded at all (or perhaps by old Oxford examiners). Let's not forget that continuous assessment has its continuous pain, like the drip, drip, drip, of Chinese water torture. But it has its advantages as well. First it distributes grading over the entire year and thereby de-emphasises the vagaries of any one moment. If you believe that people unjustly fall prey to the vagaries of the moment you are quite likely sympathetic to continuous assessment. A head cold for instance might freeze the brain at the wrong time, and the present system is merciless to such bad luck. Rather than restricting one's freedom, reformers claim, continuous assessment rewards those who roam through books devouring stray bits of information; these people can hand in essays on their pet subject for a grade. According to a report made to the General Purposes Committee last term, it is the present regime that quashes peculiar interests because students wish to study only those topics which appear on the final exam.

Implied by the strict importance of final papers, is that teachers should select topics on which students will be judged. There is precious little room at the LSE, far less than in American colleges, for a student to write about what his intellect fancies, and for his efforts to be recorded in his final mark. Mostly the teacher sets the exam questions and the students cope. Certainly, this regime does avoid as one professor put it, "first year students' papers that begin 'the problem with Keynes was obviously this...'" But at the same time it can be dull. It may waste the intellectual energy so necessary in pursuing one's chosen subject. Sad though it may seem, the student might be likened to the entrepreneur who has been told his profits will be taxed 100%. He will not strike out on his own because there is nothing in it for him.

Changing the system need not be too dramatic an affair. Critics would be pleased if they were offered a choice between continuous assessment and what we have now. But if we are to improve the grading system we must first know its motives. Is it, for example, a service provided to potential employers of LSE graduates, designed to distinguish corporate from corporate chaff? If so, the present scheme is surely weak according to a survey done by the Institute for Personnel Management. The survey showed that only 26% of potential employers thought that the final marks were important in evaluating applicants. And if grading is to be considered a handmaiden to some higher ideal of education, can we justify the pressures of our final exams?

Michael Lewis.



Published by Peterborough Development Corporation March 1983

Printed by Colorgraphic Leicester





# WHITHER AMERICAN CONSERVATISM?

Michael Rose.

When Ronald Reagan handily defeated Jimmy Carter, the incumbent Democrat in the 1980 election, many observers commented that a new conservative era was dawning in America. We have yet to see that prophesy crystalize into hard political reality. Today, on the eve of the next testing of the American political waters, one must wonder whether the heralded new conservative era will, in fact, become part of the future.

Because the flip side of the conservatives' ascension would be the decline of the liberal tradition, the significance of the coming election stretches beyond the selection of the next president. The future of the Democratic Party is hanging in the balance.

To illustrate why this election could become a turning point in political history a brief recapitulation of recent events is necessary. The startling emergence of the conservative movement began with Reagan's triumph over the more centrist George Bush in the Republican Party's primary of 1980. The movement was confirmed by the results of the congressional elections; on his coat-tails Reagan carried with him a virtual bumper crop of newly elected Republican congressmen; in addition, many Democrats who successfully defended their seats were faced with the tightest races of their careers.

Aided immensely by his impressive electoral mandate, Reagan began his term as the most secure president since the pre-Watergate Nixon. He enjoyed in particular, a long "honeymoon" with Congress during which time the legislative branch allowed the President to

implement his conservative programme with ease, which was perceived to have so captivated the electorate. Because Reagan appeared to hold such broadly based popular appeal, what might otherwise have been an adversarial Congress became the President's lamb. All this changed after the Congressional election of 1982 in which Reagan's Republican underlings were badly defeated. If there had been an electoral mandate for Reagan-initiated change in 1980 then the message from the people to Congress in 1982 seemed to read: he's gone too far. Congress, led by the Democratically controlled House of Representatives, adopted a more adversarial role. Ronnie has found it more difficult to have his way.

So, first the voters moved right, then they moved back towards the centre. The outcome of the '84 election, which takes place on November 6th, should not only determine the short-run trend of American politics, but it should also help chart the long-term course of political history in America.

There are really only four possible outcomes to the election. Moving from one side of the continuum to the other. The first possibility is a Reagan landslide which would feature a huge margin of victory for the President together with victories for Republicans in the House and Senate. A colossal defeat for Walter Mondale would signal more than just a short-run dislike for a party or a candidate because Mondale is the logical heir to the liberal tradition in American politics. Fritz is not just another Democratic; in many key policy areas, he is typical

of the direction the party has been moving in for the last sixty years. Reagan is the antithesis of liberalism, and a second consecutive thrashing of liberalism by conservatism would deal a fatal blow to the brand of liberalism the Democratic Party preaches. A Reagan landslide would compel changes in both leadership and policy in the upper echelons of the Democratic Party, yielding a more centrist, flexible and young leadership such as Bill Bradley, Gary Hart, and Diane Fienstein. A landslide would confirm the emergence of American conservatism.

The next possible scenario is a Reagan victory unaccompanied by any Congressional changes. If this happens, the message to Congress from the electorate will be one of affirmation, of approval. Congress would continue in its adversarial role, and Ronnie, lacking a renewed mandate would also find himself lacking the power to further move the Government to the right. The progress of conservatism will have been impeded.

The third scenario calls for a narrow Reagan victory and significant Republican losses in Congress, perhaps even a Democratic majority in the Senate. If Congress becomes Democratic, look for the President to spend even more time away from the White House. He will certainly not enjoy confronting a Congress led by the Opposition, and feeling empowered by the people to oppose. More importantly though, an outcome such as this would indicate that the phenomenon of conservatism in America was not the critical element in Reagan's victories. Had conservatism been the operational

commodity, then Reagan's republican comrades would have been swept into office with him. A narrow Reagan victory coupled with Republican Congressional losses would indicate that Reagan's image is the critical element in his electability. The existence of a conservative era would have to be questioned.

Should Reagan lose, the highly touted new conservatism will have to be tossed onto the rubbish heap, as just another mis-read blip on the long-term graph of American politics, a short-run trend generated by the popular appeal of a captivating personality. The American liberal tradition would receive a reprieve.

What will happen? Where will conservatism find itself on November 6th? Both landslide and loss are unlikely, though loss more so. Reagan will win comfortably, and the face of Congress will not change perceptibly. Only an overwhelming victory by Mondale in the foreign policy debate on October 21st could alter this prediction. Reagan's personality and media-built image has gained the President broadly-based popular support, which only he can destroy by botching another debate.

The country loves the image of its President: tough, courageous and fiercely independent, but is not yet ready for the translation of this image into public policy. Americans love their brand of welfare-capitalism. We are afraid we would not live as well stripped of Government intervention. This is why Reagan will triumph, but conservatism will perish.

**SOCIETIES:**  
Please notify us of any of your forthcoming events by Tuesday 30th Oct. for publication on Monday 5th Nov.

# THE SILENT HOLOCAUST

How many times have we been asked to imagine life after the bomb?

Total devastation — no doctors, no food, no hope.

But while we live in fear of a potential holocaust millions of people in the poorest countries of our world are part of a real one.

A silent holocaust.

Called Hunger.

Every day 40,000 children die from inadequate diet and disease — another Hiroshima every three days.

Every day 500 million people — the size of the entire population

of Europe — go without sufficient food.

Faced with this you may feel helpless. But we have the power and the food resources now to end world hunger completely.

If we have the will.

That is why Oxfam has launched a campaign of hope for all who suffer the effects of the silent killer.

This holocaust is not inevitable.

Help us save lives by joining 'Hungry for Change' our new campaign for justice for the poor.



Find out what you can do by filling in the coupon below and receiving your free information pack 'The Facts of Life' by return.

I want to join 'Hungry for Change' Please send me free 'The Facts of Life' action and information pack.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

In the meantime I'd like to donate £ . . . . . now for Oxfam's work.  
Oxfam, 724 High Road, Finchley, London N12 9QD.

For credit card donations please ring 0865 56916





# First Impressions

## REFLECTIONS OF A YANK

London School of Economics – the mere utterance of the name of the institution evoked images of dark musty corridors and petrified professors, at least in the mind of this American postgraduate. Granted, I had heard much evidence to the contrary, but somehow my perception of the mother country's ties with tradition managed to cloud the reality that I would find a few days after my descent to Gatwick.

The most startling discovery I've made so far would have to be the high level of student participation at LSE. I was amazed to find the multitude of clubs pleading with me to part with my last precious 50p at the recent Societies Fair, not to mention the fervor with which they did so. In Britain, extracurricular activities seem to be more goal-oriented, though this is by no means the case for all. At any rate, they come much closer to merging with academics than do those in America, where interests outside the classroom tend to revolve more around sports and the atmosphere provided by social fraternities and sororities.

I can't help but notice that part of the reason for LSE's diversity in the area of student activities stems from its reputation as a mecca for international students—another difference which conflicts with my previous mental picture of life as a student in London. Yes, quite a big change for a small-town girl whose previous personal dealings with foreign cultures consisted of little more than acquaintanceships with a few natives of some far-away land known as New York.

The degree to which LSE is integrated into the hub of city life is yet another feature which caught my attention during my first visit. My prior exposure to college campuses had revealed mini-communities sheltering their inhabitants from the cruel outside world, not the least of which was my own alma mater, situated in the Appalachian Mountains, its student body totalling a staggering five hundred! The location of the School expands its link with London even further to include not only ideological connections, but physical ones as well. With its proximity to such places as the Royal Courts of Justice and Fleet Street, long considered London institutions in their own right, LSE presents itself as still another integral part of the city.

Whatever happens, I'm sure that my transplant from the wilds of Georgia to the jungle of London will prove to be an "educating experience" in more ways than one.

I suspect most new institutions seem intimidating and confusing at first sight; LSE was no exception. It loomed large as a formidable fortress of education with long, intricate and labyrinthine corridors and rows upon rows of numbered rooms. Initially, it was quite perplexing. But it hasn't taken long to know them. In fact, LSE has been different from other institutions in that it has dispelled its apparent coldness and opened its doors with remarkable swiftness. One seems to have been literally swept off one's feet and seduced into liking the place.

The role played by the student activities towards this end has been immense. Their enormous variety lends to the School a vitality and vigour which is very evident. This is quite surprising in a place more renowned for its standards of

*As a re-fresher  
Thought I'd seen it all before  
Naive people, grant checks,  
Societies galore.*

*However, I succumbed  
To LSE persuasions,  
Direct glances, chat up lines  
free wine and then donations.*

*The debating group talk you round  
Self-defence daren't be rejected  
ENTS blows your mind with music  
By the end you're quite affected.*

*But I got a taste of LSE,  
A buzzing atmosphere,  
Produced by active students  
And an overflow of beer.*

*Quite sad when it's all over  
And lectures loom so near  
But I learnt the tactics of the other side  
See you there, same time next year!*

Claire Lange

The theatre of my first Michaelmas term opens in London as if to play with me a giant 'Monopoly'. From accommodation in the light blue of the Angel Islington I find myself by chance passing the community chest of Finsbury Town Hall and wandering into the Strand's pillar box red – the price of green houses has tripled in the walk from bed to lecture. As the die are rolled I count carefully the steps of new friendship and watch the smiling face of the food in Hall, moving my countenance, the game develops.

Things have changed from a board game to a pavement game and the old charm is a little concealed. No longer do I pass go and receive £200 from the hand of a smiling banker – now I lose my grant cheque to a cashier's window and receive my student pack. No longer can I talk to my bank: I have a plastic card and number – somehow a hole in a wall is not as inviting as a smile behind a glass-pane. This computer banking is a poor substitute for the smiling face of a blank clerk resting calmly under the haircut for yesterday.

Yesterday's haircuts were out in force as I rolled my dice and landed in the bright yellow of Piccadilly's Xenon's. Never has the colour of the 'Monopoly' board been more appropriate for this gaudy hole where the music had us, sweet children, quite seriously belonging to the devil. The joy of the streets was changed quite easily into the sadness of the nightclub by the quick actions of desire and expectation. Of course, a good night was had by all.

'Once more into the breach, dear friends.'

Gregory Thompson

academic excellence than for anything else and one would have expected to find it abounding with the erudite and scholarly types, with voluminous books tucked under their arms, hurrying solemnly from class to class. What one does find is very casually dressed young men and women, full of bonhomie and mirth.

The teachers too look different. Many of them look like students themselves and but for their conspicuous place at the head of the class, one would be hard put to locate them. Their scholastic prowess remains to be tested for lectures have only just begun but the way they've started, they seem to be as enthusiastic as us to contribute to the continuing legacy of this great institution.

Asad Alam

## Is this the place for me?

I first visited LSE two years ago – being only a middle-aged teenager I found the prevalent atmosphere of fast moving and 'radical' student activity rather intimidating. But when I came to fill in my UCCA form it was perhaps the recollection of this feeling that made me put 'the School' at the top of the list of scholarly institutions that I wished to attend. I had visited Exeter and had been conservatively bored; I had checked out Bristol and had met a lot of repressed Oxbridge failures; I attended a school next door to Reading university and without a doubt our school was the more active of the two. Therefore I was pleasantly surprised when I found myself rather intimidated by the LSE – in a slightly masochistic way I felt that I had found 'the place for me'. At LSE students seemed to be doing things; there were badly written notices everywhere, put up in no apparent order; there were not too many pool tables and HM did not seem to figure. Above all LSE did not as yet seem to be infiltrated by Margaret's most deadly weapon – new conservatism. So down on the form went 'the School', in went the earring and on went the thin red tie. I was now ready – I packed my bags, got on the train, and set out for the London School of Economics.

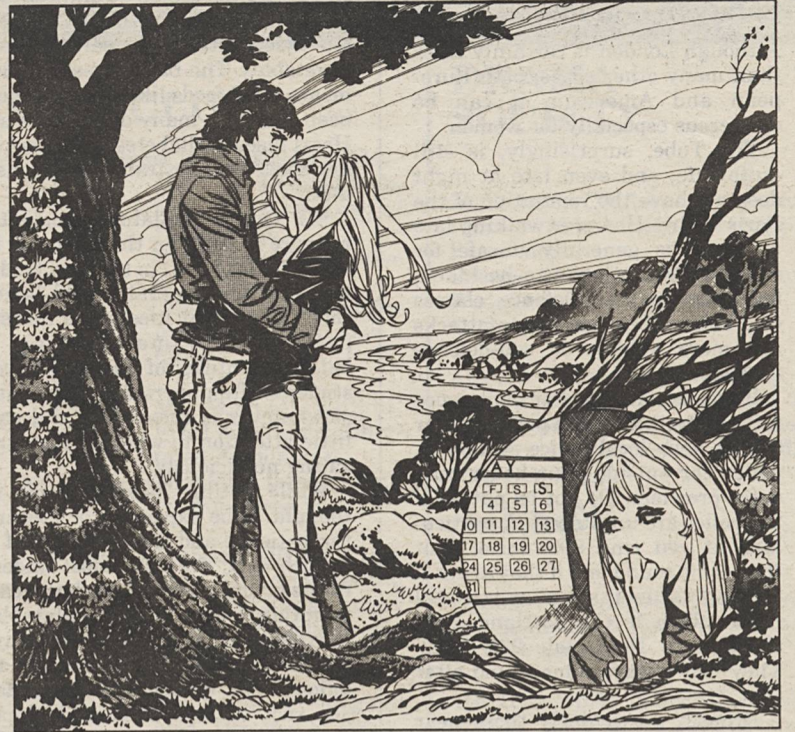
And now I am here what do I think? To me, LSE remains slightly intimidating; those disorganised notices are still there challenging me to stop in the corridors and look like a lost tourist examining the underground maps, or in this case a confused fresher wondering whether he should go to the Labour, Conservative, or for that matter the Liberal party meetings. Choices – even people with red ties find them hard to make.

And talking of politics, I fear that LSE has recently been infiltrated by lots of young Margarets and Denises. Perhaps we, the freshers, are political infiltrators, 'new conservatives' persuaded by our career advisors (Conservative Party activists) to come to LSE and help weaken the last stronghold of student activism in the UK. Why, after all, was the previously passed No Platform motion overturned in the first union meeting of this term?

While there may be the odd small c floating around the place, I still feel perfectly free to wear my thin red tie and to walk on the cracks in the pavement. At LSE my individuality really feels threatened – I don't have to listen to HM nor do I have to play pool. Above all I don't even feel I have to feel depressed because I messed up Oxbridge. Instead I can listen to Picasso, look at Michael Jackson, tell King's geographers that they are all boring farts and feel really happy that I did mess up Oxbridge cos look where it's got me.

Hugh Sergeant.

## TOO GREAT A RISK!



## Androgyny – Could It Be Good For Us?

Who "wears the trousers" in your relationship when it comes to contraception? The Family Planning Association (FPA) has launched a campaign under the name "Men Too" in order to promote male involvement in the contraceptive process. According to Kaye Wellings, Research Officer at the FPA, increased male involvement in contraception would entail more males visiting FPA clinics – with or without their partners – and increased use of male contraception, the condom. In order to promote this, the "Men Too" campaign is directed towards opening public debate on the issue and removing obstacles which discourage men from becoming actively involved.

Many question the need for such a campaign – some are even hostile. Feminists argue very convincingly that after fighting for so many years to gain control over their own bodies, they are not going to hand it back to men. GPs are reluctant to supply free condoms to men as a means of birth control. In a letter to the British Medical Journal, one GP wrote: "It is surely the last straw if the Government intends to insult us by filling our surgeries with lots of louts queueing up for the issue of condoms".

Condoms are the second most popular method of birth control. In 1980 2.8 million couples used the condom in England, but only 6.6% of condoms are provided free through NHS clinics. Many NHS clinics will not provide free condoms to men although most will issue them to women. Why isn't the condom provided by the NHS as freely to men as female methods are supplied to women?

In 1983 only 1.2% of visitors to FPA clinics were men. There were over 200,000 unwanted pregnancies in Britain. This illustrates the need for a change in the stereotyped sex roles which now exist. These roles are the result of a society which still sees the man as a predator in sexual relationships. The female is seen as needing to "arm" herself with birth control against the possibility of pregnancy. Men supposedly use birth control as a weapon, whereas the woman uses it as a shield. It is the intent of the "Men Too" campaign to alter these narrow and

outdated public images. This will encourage men to discard their macho aspirations, to become more supportive of women and develop emotional qualities which they now suppress. This is a positive step in bringing the sexes closer together.

Since the introduction of the pill, responsibility for birth control has shifted mainly onto the shoulders of women. The 1983 pill scare in which the possibility of the pill being linked to cancer made many women more hesitant to use it as a method of birth control. Other methods of birth control are now being used which represent less of a risk to health. Pharmaceutical firms continue to invest in research to develop much needed new methods of birth control, but interestingly enough, only 9% of research funds go towards developing male contraceptive devices. This reflects the emphasis on female responsibility in birth control, and also ensures the continuance of predominantly female oriented contraception. Until the pharmaceutical companies spend the millions that go hand in hand with promotion and advertisement, attitudes are not likely to change.

It is the hope of the FPA that men will be allowed to drop the macho facade in order to reveal responsible interest and involvement in contraception. Perhaps then we will be facing the biggest sexual revolution since the introduction of the pill fifteen years ago.

Richard Jones  
Lori Nordgulen

UNION GENERAL MEETING  
EVERY THURSDAY AT 1P.M.  
OLD THEATRE



## NEWS FOR WOMEN!

### Safety in London

Although London is certainly safer than many other cities, both European and American, it can be dangerous especially for women.

The Tube, surprisingly, is still quite safe, and even late at night does not have the reputation of the Paris Metro. However walking late at night is generally unsafe for women. Precautions can be taken, for example, Self-Defence classes (see below), but sometimes attacks are more subtle, or self-defence inadequate.

If you are attacked or experience intimidation, ring the police, either 999 or your local police station. A police car outside your house may deter prowlers. Do not be put off if the police are uninterested, particularly if you ring 999. Insist that they come round and if they are still making excuses, say that you will report them to the Scotland Yard Complaints Dept. tel: 230 1212. They will always come round after that.

Attacks, particularly those near your home (this can range from your doorbell being rung in the middle of the night to actual physical assault), are very frightening. If possible find a friend (it need not be someone you know well) who lives close by. Keep their address and, where possible, their telephone number. Do not be embarrassed to ring them in the middle of the night.

Attacks are not only aimed at women, sexual harassment normally is. In practical terms, sexual harassment can mean anything from unwanted catcalls to rape. Again, if you want to call the police, do. If you want support, advice and especially if the harassment occurs within the LSE, contact Fiona Sorotos, Women's Officer via the pigeonholes in Room E297, or in the Women's Officer's open hour, Wednesday 1-2pm, venue TBA. Legal advice is available in the Welfare Office, Monday 1-2pm, Room E294.

### Self-Defence for Women

Not to be confused with Judo, Aikido and the like, the LSE Self-Defence classes are aimed at women without a black belt at Karate, who would like to feel safer while walking home at night.

The School fund these courses, so they are all free and all women staff and students are urged to take advantage of this free offer.

The classes are practical lessons in how to defend yourself and range from how to use your front door key as a lethal weapon to how to extricate yourself from a stranglehold.

The teacher, Joan Baxter, assures you that fitness is not a prerequisite, and aims to boost your confidence to cope with and avoid dangerous situations. She is reassuring and shows that a few basic techniques can help women in difficult circumstances.

The classes are fun. Joan Baxter has a great sense of humour. What more can I say...come and sign up (in the Information Centre, Room E203) for your free course in self-defence.

Classes are held at the following times:

Monday: 1.00-2.30 and 2.30-4.00  
Tuesday: 5.00-6.30  
Wednesday: 1.00-2.30  
Thursday: 2.30-4.00  
Friday: 1.00-2.30

The course lasts 8 weeks, starting Monday 29th October and is held in C018, under the Tuns and opposite the Women's Centre.

### Women's Health: Misprint!

Unfortunately, some of the information in the Students' Handbook was incorrect.

Not only does a gynaecologist visit the Health Centre twice weekly, but now the new GP is also a trained gynaecologist, so it should be possible to avoid long waiting lists. Some new students were confused about who could use the services available. All services, except for the GP, are available to all LSE students. The doctor has a catchment area which covers most of Central London. The services available to all students:

## How Beer Can Be Good For You!

According to Helen Quinn, State Registered Dietician at the London University Hospital, students and indeed much of the general public eat far too much fatty food, salt and sugar and not enough bread, fruit, and vegetables. The basic "western diet" characterised by a heavy reliance on meats, fried foods like fish and chips, pastry pies and rich dairy products has been linked to many of the most serious health ailments found in the West. Heart disease, diabetes and bowel cancer as well as some of the more common and socially undesirable afflictions like acne and obesity have all been tied to diet.

Ms Quinn explained students' reliance on what for the most part is an unhealthy diet, in terms of tradition and the generally held belief that the student lifestyle is incompatible with maintaining a balanced intake of foods. Indeed, students often hurriedly grab a bite of whatever is convenient and pay little attention to whether they are eating nutritiously.

While eating "healthy food" is thought to be expensive or require the patience and temperament of a French chef, even the most underfunded, over-taxed student can maintain a diet that is palatable, inexpensive and quite healthy. There are a few key guidelines to follow. First, cut down on foods that are rich in fats. Fish and chips, pastry pies and rich dairy products are very fatty, and as it is, people in Britain eat one quarter too much fat. While people look to these foods for protein the types of food listed above bring a lot of excess baggage in the form of calories. Try eating more vegetables like lentils and beans, which are a good source of protein and have far fewer calories. Ham sandwiches with salad on wholegrain bread are highly recommended, as is beans on wholegrain toast. Minced meat, if grilled and drained, is fine and it makes a tasty meal if cooked in chilli or spaghetti with wholewheat pasta.

One of Ms Quinn's strongest specific recommendations is for students to eat more wholegrain bread, fruit and vegetables as sources of fibre. Fibre is probably the single most important item lacking in students diets and is very useful in aiding digestion. These fibre

sources are particularly valuable because they are filling while also low in calories. The chart provided gives some useful facts about some common foods and their percentage of fat and fibre.

Although there is certainly room for improvement in students eating habits recent trends suggest that more students are becoming concerned about what they eat. Liz Thomas, Catering Manager of the LSE, has noted a substantial increase in the demand for vegetarian meals as well as in the consumption of wholegrain breads and in the use of the Salad Bar. Also, fewer students are eating the rich sugary deserts like crumble cakes, although some of this drop can be explained by the increasing number of students who are eating better quality deserts like eclairs and cream cakes. It would appear that students are at least developing better taste if not always better diet.

For those of you who occasionally indulge in fish and chips or sometimes give in to temptation and grab that last éclair, relax. Ms Quinn points out that occasionally eating rich or "unhealthy" foods is no sin. However, re-orienting your diet away from a steady consumption of such food towards more healthful ones will yield real benefits.

One final note: beer, if drunk in moderation - say three pints a day three times a week - is actually good for you. So next time you order that pint of lager smile, you're being good to yourself.

Dan Tuten

### MENU

	CALS	FAT(g)	FIBRE(g)
INDIVIDUAL PORK PIE	752	54.0	—
GRILLED PORK CHOP	645	47	—
PIZZA (CHEESE AND TOMATO)	527	25.9	—
1 SCOTCHEGG	419	31.4	—
FRIED COD IN BATTER	398	20.6	—
ROAST CHICKEN	296	10.8	—
MEAT CURRY	240	15.2	—
BOLOGNESE SAUCE	208	16.4	—
CHEDDAR CHEESE	203	16.8	—
CHIPS	379	16	2.0
MASHED POTATO	178	7	1.3
BAKED POTATO (1 MED)	127	0.1	3.0
BAKED BEANS	96	0.7	11.0
SWEET CORN	91	0.6	6.8
PEAS (FROZEN)	49	0.5	14.4
CARROTS	23	—	3.7
SUMMER SALAD	13	—	2.8
RICE	184	0.4	1.2
BROWN RICE	194	0.7	2.8
SPAGHETTI (WHOLEMEAL)	210	0.6	5.6
SLICE WHOLEMEAL BREAD	76	0.9	3.0
SLICE WHITE BREAD	82	0.6	0.9
BUTTER	110	12.3	—
CHEESECAKE	631	52.4	1.4
INDIVIDUAL FRUIT PIE	554	23.3	3.9
1 FRUIT YOGHURT	143	1.5	0.2
1 APPLE	53	—	2.3

These figures are based on normal servings

Psychiatric counselling service  
Gynaecological and contraceptive clinic  
Eye testing  
Nursing service  
Dental service.

The Health Service is open Monday to Friday, 9.30-12.00 and 2.30-4.45. Consultations are by appointment and students wishing to use the above services or the doctor should call at reception (Connaught House, 8th floor) or call 405 7686, Ex. 896.

### Women's Right to Choose Fund

Despite the fact that the Women's Right to Choose Fund has been set up for several years now, many

women and men are unaware of its existence. The Fund was set up by the Student Union, in recognition of the financial pressure on students, to offer aid to women who become pregnant. The Union provides financial aid to women wishing to terminate or continue their pregnancy.

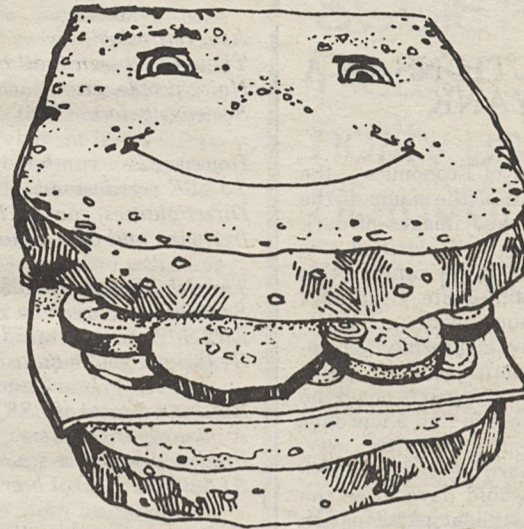
The Fund is open to women students who become pregnant, and male students whose partners become pregnant. Applications to the Fund can be made to Felicity Criddle, Welfare Officer (Room E294/5, Ex 391). Applications are dealt with in strict confidence. If you have any queries concerning the Fund you may contact Fiona Sorotos, Women's Officer, via the pigeonholes in Room E297 or in the Women's Officer's open hour Wednesday 1.00-2.00, venue TBA.

Fiona Sorotos

## THE "NEW STONE AGE" SANDWICH

Thick layer of unskinned tomatoes, unpeeled cucumber and spring onion

Thick slices of wholemeal bread



Thin slice of medium fat cheese

Thin layer of margarine high in polyunsaturates

## LONDON STUDENT ACTIVISTS

This column is going to be a new regular feature of Beaver, providing a publicity outlet for student political events in and around London. It will be based, to start with, on the London Student Organisation (LSO) programme of activities. If, however, anyone knows of events worth advertising, PLEASE bring the relevant information - times, places, access, etc. - to the Beaver Office one week (Thursday) before publication date. (Also see the Agit-Prop column in City Limits and events listed in London Women's Liberation Newsletter, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment.)

Although LSE is not at present affiliated to LSO (due to the peak in student apathy two years ago, when the sabbatical officers failed to take up their appointed LSO posts, LSE disaffiliated) the new strategy and motivation of the LSO executive (since 1st July 1984) has attracted renewed interest from many London Colleges. There are now about 40 member colleges and 5 major ones, including LSE, are considering reaffiliation.

LSO, under the NUS New Deal campaign banner, has devised a broad strategy aimed at complementing national event, highlighting London issues and broadening the base of student organisation in London as part of the wider London Community. The LSO New Deal Campaign has set out to highlight the problems faced by London Students, in particular with respect to housing and travel awards. The LSO has achieved financial support from ILEA in producing Welfare Cards, from the GLC for the "Claim It" leaflet and has approached the GLC Women's campaign for financial support and cooperation in producing a leaflet for and about women students. The LSO also showed considerable interest in the LSE's Sexual Harassment Survey and is considering negotiating with the GLC Women's Committee for assistance

in producing a similar inter-college survey.

If anyone would like further information about the October events, please contact the executive member with responsibility at LSO Office, basement of ULU, Malet Street.

### October:

Distribution of "Claim It" leaflets and coordination of campaign for housing benefit, Further Education grants, covenants. GLC Welfare Rights Campaign Unit has agreed to produce 100,000 leaflets explaining benefits that students are entitled to claim. (EO: Graham Nicholas)

Launch of London Income and Expenditure Survey - preliminary report to be produced by the end of October. (Pete Carr)

Publicity for Housing Survey London, housing posters and housing benefit in "Claim It" leaflet. (Graham Nicholas)

### October 24th:

Higher Education Lobby of Parliament. National letter writing campaign to MPs. Speaking tour of further Education Colleges. (Martin Biron)

London Briefing on Travel awards. Production of camera ready letters that students can sign. (Lynette Kelly)

### October 27th:

NUS London conference. (Pete Carr/David Brock)

### November 3rd:

LSO Conference. (Lynette Kelly/Pete Carr)  
Jane Wagner

Copy deadline for the next issue:

Tuesday 30th Oct.  
at 4 p.m.



## The Universal Message of Modern Jewish History

The extraordinarily swift transformation of Jewish life since the French Revolution has hurled the modern Jew across countless social and cultural barriers. Indeed, his recent history has been sufficiently dynamic to catapult the modern Jew into a sharp confrontation with himself as an individual and into a state of deep, albeit often subconscious, personal confusion.

In a world that is increasingly uniform and depersonalised, a knowledge of Jewish history, particularly over the past 200 years, can provide the individual Jew with a renewed sense of identity, and enhance his self understanding. Moreover, such knowledge may go a long way towards shattering myths in which ill conceived notions of Jewishness, Judaism and Jewish history abound.

There are sound reasons for believing that modern Jewish history can capture the interest and imagination of uncommitted Jewish youth and adults; this is true also, in my experience, of non-Jewish students. Primarily, it is a challengingly open-ended and multi-dimensional academic subject, potentially covering the entire gamut of Jewish social, cultural, political and intellectual history.

The subject can embrace comparative theology, psychology and sociology, as well as the more orthodox and recognisable forms of social, economic and political history. Above all, the student and teacher must be made conscious of the interaction between Jewish and world history, especially that of Europe and the Middle East.

At its highest conceptual level, comprehension of modern Jewish history rests on an understanding of feudalism, the enlightenment, emancipation, the rise of liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, socialism, political and racial anti-Semitism, communism, zionism, nazism, the Holocaust, and the State of Israel.

For the non-Jewish student, the universal messages that the subject carries are not only of interest, but of profound relevance. Through the (apparently) narrow prism of the Jewish experience in history, many of the racial, national and religious tensions that so bedevil today's pluralistic society can be drawn into sharp focus.

What "kind" of Jewish identity the student may acquire or redis-

cover is not for the modern Jewish history teacher to suggest, let alone seek to inculcate. In today's society, Jewish identity is not monolithic - it can not therefore be reduced to ethnic consciousness or even religious identification alone. Modern Jewishness is a highly complex amalgam of "cultural", "religious", "national", "social", and even intellectual components - perhaps the common link is what Isaiah Berlin has called "a sense of continuity with the past".

Much of the subject content of modern Jewish history is delicate, even contentious, the student having to address themes that may be very close to the minds, hearts and even hang-ups of both teacher and student. It demands the most responsible, sensitive handling and, above all, fidelity to the historical sources. It must certainly not represent another example of blandness or Jewish apologetics. Only a truly professional, academic approach that eschews bias, bigotry and political stance will win the subject the respect of students.

The study of modern Jewish history cannot guarantee relief from personal perplexedness. For some, it may resolve a number of doubts and confusions; a few others will perhaps have their emotional crises of identity reinforced; but, for the majority, the study will act as an illuminating guide through the contradictions and dynamics that make up the modern Jewish experience - a means of better coming to terms with the momentous confrontation between Jewish cultural and religious tradition and the challenge of the modern secular world. Above all, it is clear that for the Jew especially, knowledge of who he is related in many ways to a sharper understanding of who he was.

Ronnie Landau  
Director of Education,  
Spiro Institute of Jewish History  
and Culture.

## NOTICE: School committee elections: nominations close on Thurs. Oct. 25th. Election on Thurs. Nov. 1st

### Iraqi Students Society (ISS) in the UK

The ISS was formed in 1951 out of the objective necessity to organise the Iraqi students in the UK in order to safeguard their material and academic interests, work for the general democratic representation of their broad opinions and deepen the friendly relations between them and other student organisations. It forms an integral part of the General Union of Students in the Iraqi Republic, which plays an active role in the patriotic and democratic movement of our people, strives to safeguard its gains and halt the terror and repression against the Iraqi people, Arabs, Kurds and national minorities.

Today the ISS plays an important role in exposing the fascist nature of the Iraqi regime and its campaign of repression inside Iraq and abroad, through its embassies, using its terrorist arm, the so-called National Union of Iraqi Students and Youth (NUISY).

A case in point was the Iraqi Assistant Cultural Counsellor, Dr H. Al-Haditti, who headed a spying mission to British educational institutions in an attempt to extract names and addresses from administrations. These missions demonstrate the dictatorial nature of the Iraqi Ba'athist regime headed by Saddam Hussain, its deepening cri-

sis and war mentality with its damaging effects and its chauvinist suppression of the Kurdish people and other minorities in Iraq.

The struggle of the Iraqi students is an indivisible part of the struggle of the Iraqi people to overthrow the Ba'athist fascist regime and establish a democratic coalition government; to end the criminal war with Iran. This struggle has culminated in various uprisings in which students played a distinguished role, such as the heroic uprisings in the spring of 1982 and 1984. The latest uprising spread from Iraqi-Kurdistan to other parts of Iraq including Baghdad, where student strikes were declared in all its three universities.

The British student movement plays an active role in the solidarity campaign with the struggle of Iraqi students and people, in order to consolidate their struggle, expose the fascist nature of the Iraqi regime and exert pressure on the British government to stop all financial and military contracts with the Iraqi regime, bringing nearer the day when Iraq achieves democracy and true autonomy for Iraqi-Kurdistan.

ISS - UK  
PO Box 226  
London E3 5RQ

# SOCIETIES 'N THINGS

## THE STERLING CLUB

The Sterling Club is a society which aims to encourage an interest and awareness in current matters of economics and finance. The LSE has a tradition of radical developments in economics and the Sterling Club tries to promote new ideas and concepts in this field. It has a regular list of guest speakers from varied fields, including industry, banking, accountancy, journalism and international institutions concerned with the development of the world economy. The speakers usually give a short talk on their field of expertise and then a period for discussion follows. After the meeting has been formally closed, there is an opportunity to meet the speaker and quiz them on specific details.

Our next speaker is Jean Denton, Managing Director of Herondrive. An acknowledged authority on the motoring industry, her accomplishments are widespread; in 1980 she was elected Adwoman of the Year, in 1982 she received the prestigious award of Female Executive of the Year. At the other end of the production line, she has twice won the British Women's Racing Driver Championship. Other racing feats include driving the only sports car to finish the 1968 London to Sydney Marathon.

Jean Denton has been involved in marketing for eight years. Her association with motoring and the motoring industry has been lifelong. As such, she is well qualified to speak on: "The European Motoring Industry - does it have a future?"

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 31st October at 1pm in room S169.

There will be an informal discussion and refreshments afterwards for members. Anyone wishing to join the Sterling Club may do so at meetings and should speak to the Secretary.

## LSE INDIA SOCIETY

Presents  
Diwali Night  
9th Nov: 7pm  
Featuring Mohammed Raza and Party (brought back by great public demand)  
Traditional dances, full Indian meal included.  
Old Theatre  
Tickets: '2.50 members, '3.00 non-members.

## OVERSEAS STUDENTS SOCIETY

Business Meetings every Monday, 1pm, Vera Anstey Room.

## LITERATURE SOCIETY

The Literature Society promotes an interest in the Arts. It was founded initially last year to discuss aspects of poetry and literature, and has since expanded to include other aspects of 'ART'. Business meetings take place regularly, and external speakers are invited to talk about their and other people's work in an informal atmosphere.

Our first meeting will take place on 23rd October at 5.30pm in S75, when Dr Leo Aylen, a noted poet-performer, will give a recital of a selection of his works. His credits include the play The Drinking Party which was nominated for a British Academy TV award, and he was the Cecil Day Lewis Fellow in 1979.

Wednesday 24th Oct  
2pm. A40:  
Left-wing Discussion Group.

## Programme of Speakers 1984/5

- 31 Oct. Mrs Jean Denton, Managing Director of Herondrive. 1982 Female Executive of the Year. 'The European Motor Industry - does it have a future?'  
14 Nov. Mr Michael Knight, Ernst & Whinney Chartered Accountants. 'Problems facing small-medium sized business'  
29 Nov. Professor Bryan Carsberg, Director General of 'OfTel' the newly formed 'watchdog' over British Telecom.  
3 Dec. Mr Azizali F. Mohammed, Director of External Relations International Monetary Fund.  
7 Feb. Mr Samuel Brittan of the Financial Times.  
27 Feb. Mr Roy Griffiths, Managing Director of J. Sainsbury plc, Chairman of the Committee on The Organisation and Management of the NHS. 'Management problems of large organisations.'

## LSE CHAPLAINCY PROGRAMME

REGULAR MEETINGS  
Mondays 1pm: Midday Prayer in the Chaplain's Room, 1, Portsmouth St.

Fridays midday: CU Prayer and Praise. Room TBA.

Fridays 1pm: Holy Communion, Graham Wallas Room.

Fridays 1pm: RC Mass, Room S67.

OPEN FORUM  
Tuesdays 1pm: Graham Wallas Room

23rd Oct: Violence and the Struggle for Justice in South Africa. Bishop Trevor Huddleston CR speaking.

6th Nov: Torture - The Facts of the Offence, with Dr Roger Williamson, Executive Secretary for Peace and Human Rights BCC.

## A LINE FOR THE LONELY

"Nightline" is a name familiar to many students at the LSE. Most will have seen wallposters or noticed a sticker on the back of a toilet door. But what exactly is "Nightline"?

I put this question to the director of Central London Nightline who told me: "Nightline is best explained as a student samaritan service run by students, primarily for students. It exists to help anyone with any kind of problem".

What many students do not realize is that London is not the only university where the Nightline service exists. In fact, almost every university in the country has one and recently the network has spread to some polytechnics. An annual national conference provides a link between the different autonomous organisations and gives volunteers the chance to discuss the delights and disappointments of being a Nightliner.

Central London Nightline, which for the past three years has been run by LSE students, receives about fifty calls a week. This may not seem very many until one realizes that some calls can last for six or seven hours! The majority of these calls are from students, though a sizeable number are from people who have never attended a university at all. I asked the director what kind of calls she received: "Just about every kind of problem you care to mention has been

## DRAMA SOCIETY

Auditions in C018 for a new production of Mike Leigh's "Abigail's Party" on:  
Tuesday 23rd Oct. 1.30-3.00pm and  
Wednesday 24th Oct. 1pm-7pm.  
Everybody welcome.

Anyone interested in working as part of the production team ie. lights, props, etc. please meet upstairs in Florries on Thursday 25th Oct. 1-2pm.

## AIESEC

2nd-4th Nov: AIESEC Area Training Seminar at Reading (for new and old members).

4th-10th Nov: AIESEC Triplet Week, hosting students from Switzerland, Norway and France.

## WOMEN'S GROUP

Wednesday 24th Oct: E206 1pm Women's Officer's Open Hour, for any woman who wants help and advice.

Tuesdays 1pm: regular Women's Group Meetings in the Women's Centre.

Tuesday 16th Oct: Seminar Sociology of Sex and Gender Roles, 5.30pm. "The Interaction Between Feminism and Bureaucracy".

Tuesday 30th Oct: Seminar Sociology of Sex and Gender Roles, 5.30pm. "Women's Employment and Economic Restructuring: In Interwar Britain"

## GAY SOC

Meets every Monday from 7 - 9pm in S175 for videos, discussions, excursions, parties, etc. All welcome.

## MATURE STUDENTS

A reception for you to get to know each other without any of those "school leavers".

Monday 29th Oct:  
6.30pm  
Graham Wallas Room  
Free wine and food available.

encountered by the Nightline volunteers. 'My girlfriend has left me', 'I'm worried about my exams', 'I think I might be gay' are all worries well known to those who man the phones. Sometimes it's just a train time or a concert venue that's needed but more often than not the caller wants to talk and it's the Nightliners' job to listen. We never put the phone down on anyone."

The most common problem that Nightliners encounter is one almost all of us have experienced - that of loneliness. The problem is one particularly prevalent in London: the fact that London is not a campus university and can not offer all its students accommodation in halls often means that students find themselves living miles from anywhere with no where to go to meet and make friends. Overseas students sometimes experience special difficulties, finding a new language and culture rather overwhelming at first. Large numbers of mature students phone to say they can't seem to fit in with the younger undergraduates. "Loneliness" says Nightline "is the single greatest cause of unhappiness in London".

If you are lonely or want to help Nightline help the lonely phone 387 0680.

Amanda Farnsworth.



# BEAVER SPORT

## 'Odd Shaped Balls'

This year the LSE Rugby Club has failed to capture the interest and attention it deserves: this is reflected in the small number of new members. The main reason for this poor response may lie in the lack of information available on a rugby club which arguably boasts the best college team in London.

In the past two seasons we have qualified from our UAU divisional group only to lose narrowly to one of the sides from a large university. With the nucleus of a very talented team, it is felt that we can better these already excellent achievements. In addition, we have re-entered the Gutteridge Cup, a competition between the London colleges, which we are favourites to win.

Socially, the Rugby Club is the envy of many clubs in the Athletics Union. The 'apres match' celebrations are well-known and well attended. The club is also continuing its string of successful tours with a trip to Dublin to coincide with the Ireland v. England International match. In addition, as an affiliated club of the RFU, we have access to a number of tickets for International Championship matches at Twickenham, generally available to playing members.

In order to continue the success of this club, we would welcome new members. Ability ranges from complete beginners to players with first class experience and schoolboy international honours, so we cater for all standards. If you are interested in joining, please contact Howard Clegg, Dave Conway or myself in the Athletic Union office.

Rod Jenkins

## HOCKEY

The LSE Men's Hockey Club appears to be moving from strength to strength, despite very recent promotion to the prestigious first division of the London College League and the presence of seven newcomers in the squad.

The 1st team recorded an exceptional result by defeating Royal Holloway College by 4 goals to 0 in the first match of the season. The team clearly has great potential, with several county players in its midst and, with a bit of luck, should

move on to great things in the first division - provided of course that one or two team members manage to overcome their lack of fitness!

There are about 35 members of the Men's Hockey Club and two teams are fielded for competition. For the more courageous, there is the option of mixed hockey with the LSE Women's Hockey, also a very active and successful club.

Mixed hockey takes place on Sundays and 1st and 2nd Hockey takes place on Wednesdays. Anyone wishing to join one of the most hospitable and friendly clubs should leave a note in the Club's pigeonholes outside the AU.

## RUGBY 1ST XV

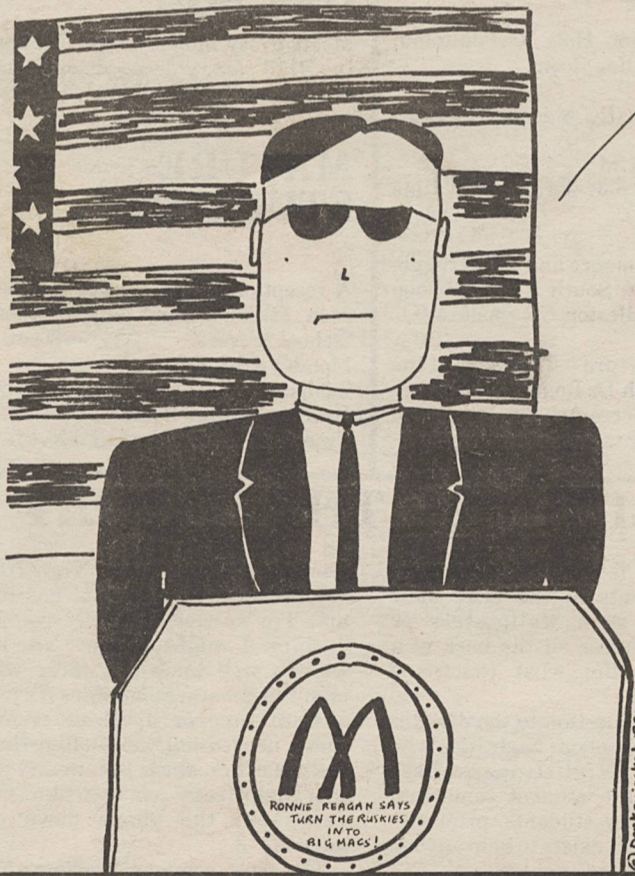
The rugby 1st XV opened their season's account with an impressive "W" over QMC at the luxurious Dytchleys sports ground nestling in rural Essex. A number of international selectors were rumoured to be present disguised as bemused members of a Camping Touring Party in the adjacent field. Names were taken including K. Amihyah, whose ability to grasp complex formulae issued at the line-out was a joy to behold.

David "I'm only staying for one" Conway scored the first try after following up a mistimed drop goal by Rod Jenkins who converted the try.

Steve Hall, playing on the flank, was looking for a scalp or two in the early exchanges (if you've seen his early exchanges (if you've seen his you'll know why) but had to settle for the odd piece of flesh under the fingernails; whilst Ritchie Dahill farted and belched his way around efficiently. One penalty apiece and the score was 9:3 at halftime.

As the wind strengthened the lead looked insecure until Howard Clegg tripped over the line trying to put Jenkins away in the corner. Retribution was forthcoming as the steady supply of cigarettes (used as a bribe to guarantee selection) quickly dried up after the match. Next time Rod. Final score 15:7. Oh, by the way; they scored a try.

Howard Clegg



AS THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS AIDE I CAN TELL YOU, THE GENTLEMAN OF THE PRESS, THAT, OFF THE RECORD, THE PRESIDENT THINKS MRS. THATCHER IS UP SHIT CREEK WITHOUT A DILDO....

THE MINERS' STRIKE IS DRAGGING ON, THE STOCK EXCHANGE IS JITTERY, THE PRICE OF NORTH SEA OIL HAS TUMBLED, KENNY DALGLISH IS OFF-FORM, LUCY COHEN IS EDITOR OF BEAVER, AND THE POUND IS LOSING VALUE.....

BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF ANY OF YOU COULD EXPLAIN TO THE PRESIDENT WHY ONE POUND IS STILL WORTH MORE THAN ONE DOLLAR.....!

## SOCCER

### LSE I XI 1 MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL 0

A workmanlike performance by the LSE 1st team earned them the points from their first league fixture of the season. With Adrian Roche and John Nolan dominant in the centre of the defence, Middlesex were restricted to only one clear cut chance when late in the second half slack marking on a free kick allowed the visitors' centre half to volley over from close range. That apart, emergency keeper George Styliandes was untroubled.

The game began at a furious pace, and LSE quickly took a grip of the midfield allowing Middlesex captain Tim Alder no opportunity to get his forwards moving. After fifteen minutes, Martin Hodgson collected a pass from left back Paul Day and went on a mazy run through the Middlesex defence, finally allowing Ray Bradley the simplest of tap-ins at the far post for the only goal of the game. Despite Middlesex claiming more possession as the game went on, the home defence held firm to deny them turning possession into goals.

### LSE II XI 2 ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL I XI 5

A disappointing result despite a fine debut at centre back by Billy O'Keefe, adding rapidly to his reputation as 'Mr Versatile'. Goals by Jim Berry and Mal Hargadon were not enough to secure a favourable result for the visitors.

### LSE III XI 4 : UCH 2

Goals by Parocki (2), Daglish and Adamson were enough to justify LSE's territorial superiority over UCH.

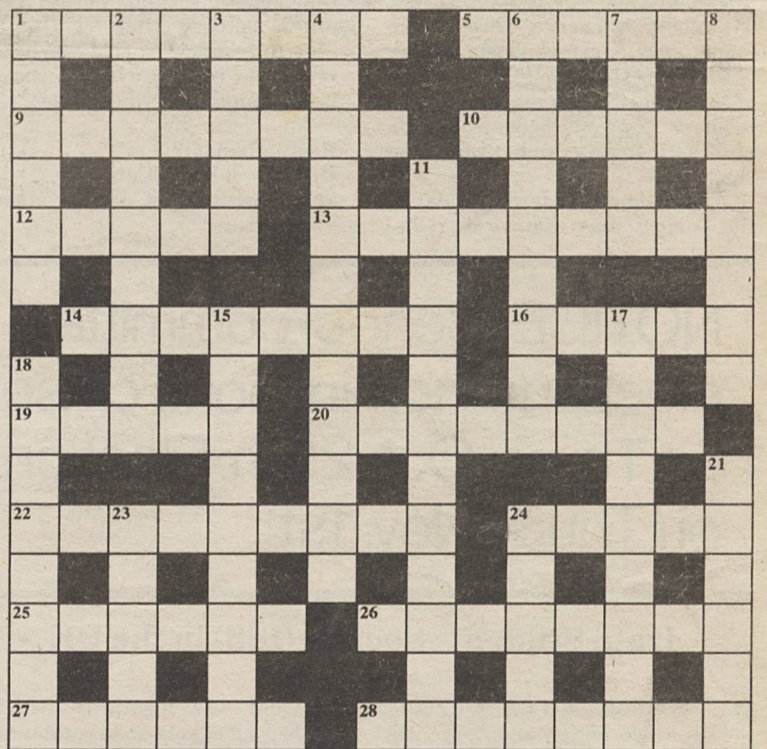
### LSE IV XI 3 : CHELSEA COLLEGE OF ART 3

A point was all LSE IV could manage from a game which they ought to have won, but slack defence after twice being in front enabled the visitors to force a draw. Captain Nigel Parsons was otherwise pleased with the 100% effort of the team. Goals from Mark Cox and Robert Westwood (2).

## UNIVERSITY PRIZE CROSSWORD 1984

COLLINS DICTIONARIES offer prizes of a copy of Collins English Dictionary (value £12.50) for each of the first TWO correct solutions opened from those submitted by readers of this magazine. In addition, all winners' names will go into a National University Magazine Draw, the winner to receive £100 worth of Collins books of his or her choice.

Entries must be postmarked not later than 13th December 1984 and sent to Collins Publishers, P.O. Box, Glasgow G4 0NB, marked University Prize Crossword.



NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
UNIVERSITY .....

### ACROSS

- 1 African climber found under gooseberry? (8)
- 5 Oriental priest - not the genuine article (6)
- 9 In this case, port is seen to be inaccessible (8)
- 10 Was this field marshal British? Yes and no (6)
- 12 Nymph's plea on behalf of authors? (5)
- 13 Tent-maker on the Mississippi (5,4)
- 14 Italian sector preoccupied Montgomery to some extent (8)
- 16 Lawman's artistic grandmother (5)
- 19 Lifeless as a Tibetan ox I caught (5)
- 20 Royalist up at Cambridge (5,3)
- 22 50% of the world's disreputable women? (9)
- 24 Sort of wing 18 down started with (5)
- 25 Opens it in Paris as art gallery (6)
- 26 Foreign princesses in endless whimsical speculation (8)
- 27 Novelist putting saint before eagle, unlike Hemingway (6)
- 28 Philip of Spain's complex involved calories (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Seat for a part of Shakespearean comedy (6)
- 2 Be no saint, perhaps, if wearing this (9)
- 3 Particular variety of lyrical drama (5)
- 4 Tory member's cover-up for female scholar (12)
- 6 Difficult paper in English Literature (4,5)
- 7 Table in Rome reserved for smart set (5)
- 8 Revolutionary extremist nothing will satisfy? (8)
- 11 Poet and economist at site of University (6,6)
- 15 Racy tales of French TV doctor (9)
- 17 Composer of operas involving 50 castrati (9)
- 18 Inventive father of ill-fated high-flier (8)
- 21 Dependent treated as slave, almost (6)
- 23 Blind trio member detailed as player in Tom's absence (5)
- 24 Harsh lawgiver upset Bennett's hero over nothing (5)

## WARNING

Bicycle thefts are on the increase. These people are professionals. Especially avoid the area around the Library at weekends.

## SOCIETIES' OFFICERS

There will be a meeting for all societies's officers on Wednesday 31st Oct. at 1pm in the TV Room to discuss facilities for the use of societies and other related issues with the Senior Treasurer.

## EVENTS

Friday 26th Oct:  
Old Theatre  
Seventh Seance  
£1.50/£2.00  
Seventh Seance are a very reasonable little duo with guitar, cello and backing tapes.

Friday 9th Nov:  
El Salvador Benefit  
Featuring the London School of Samba  
Haldane Room

Particular thanks to ULU for the use of their dark room whilst ours remains out of service after two and a half months of redecoration.

## REBOUND

A new magazine for London University Students has been set up this year, and the first issue will be out this week. Features include: an interview with Roger Scruton, A Guide to London Nightclubs, A Discussion on Modern Art and lots more. 40p from the Union Shop. Further information from Iqbal Wahhab.

## PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

A Blood Transfusion Service will be collecting in the gym of the Old Building all day. Please give generously.