

THE BEAVER

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Protecting the Nursery from the CHB

By RORY O'DRISCOLL

"Every revolution evaporates leaving the slime of a new bureaucracy," said Che Guevara. Fittingly enough, the Fabian gradualist revolutionaries who set up the LSE have gradually evaporated, and the slime has slowly settled to form the Connaught House Bureaucracy (the C.H.B.), which is dealing so ineptly with the nursery today. The only question left to the C.H.B. is to ask them whether they see what the results of their actions will be and won't admit it, or whether they fail to understand themselves what they have done. In short, are we dealing with liars or buffoons?

Briefly, the School and the Union jointly fund a nursery which provides 24 places for pre-school children. It had an income-graded fee system so that the fees were directly related to the income of the student or employee. This made the nursery available equally—or as equally as possible—to all parents regardless of income.

Last financial year, the nursery once again ran a deficit, and this deficit was the problem which confronted the C.H.B. at the start of the sum-



mer. In dealing with it, they made three crucial assumptions which led to the changes with which we are now faced. The first was that the deficit should be eliminated immediately; the second was that the fee banding system was causing the deficit; the final assumption was that changing the banded system to a flat one would eliminate this deficit. I am not convinced that any of the above assumptions are correct.

First, is it fair to expect the deficit to be eliminated immediately, despite the anguish and upset it would

cause and the immense social cost? If the short term cost of keeping 24 toddlers in a nursery creates a deficit of £16,000 p.a.; the cost of keeping one of the C.H.B. in office is approximately the same. Quite frankly, I would take the toddlers any day.

Second, no adequate case has been made to show that it was the banded system itself which led to the deficit. At the last Nursery Sub-Committee Meeting, no one, including the administration, advocated a flat fee system; indeed the paper arising from that meeting advocated a banded system which would "meet the requirement that the nursery breaks even". This was a paper presented by the C.H.B. itself.

It is when we get to third assumption that the plot thickens. In the short run, the switch to a flat rate system has not eliminated the deficit because students, forced into financial problems by the changes, have applied to the School's Hardship Fund. They have been helped and are reasonably content. Peace has been bought, very little money has been saved, so why did the C.H.B. bother?

They bothered because in the long term, students will not be helped by the School; in the long term, students will not come to the LSE when they see the nursery fees; in the long term, the School will give no assurances of help to students before they are here. Thus, following the School's policy of "do not apply unless your finances are secure", no one with children will apply. In the long term, the school will fill the nursery with 24 parents who

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The Nursery – The School's View

By R.A. PINKER
PRO-DIRECTOR

The first thing to be clear about is that there is no threat to the nursery as long as the service it provides is in demand by student parents and provided that significant progress can be made in achieving an improvement in the nursery's financial position. The second thing to note is that parents who approached the Scholarships Office following the introduction of a flat rate nursery fee from 2 October 1986, have all received financial help to enable them to keep their children in the School's nursery. The School is particularly mindful of students who registered last year and who have registered this year. These students will have come to the School in the expectation of lower nursery fees and this will be fully taken into account in considering their circumstances for the time that they remain at the School. New student parents have the opportunity to apply for assistance through the Scholarships Office. It is clear from these arrangements that the School is not closing doors in the faces of parents.

University nurseries are run according to very rigid regulation. The financial arrangements which are permitted by the University Grants Committee, which funds UK universities are also strict: institutions are permitted only to fund "landlord's repairs and maintenance" from public money. Nurseries themselves are required to carry those charges directly attributable to their use including staff salaries, heat, light, power, rates and other running costs. Apart from fee income, the only other permitted sources of support must be drawn from non public funds, or the proceeds of charitable enterprises.

It would be difficult to underestimate the financial difficulties which beset the nursery. This has been a long-standing problem. In 1984/85 there was an £8,000 deficit. The School agreed that this deficit could be capitalised on the loan which it had made from non UGC funds to establish the nursery, provided that there was an improvement in the recurrent financial position of the nursery. But last year, 1985/86, income to the nursery from fees and meals was £32,250, while Expenditure

totalled £77,000. The School contributed £22,000 from its very limited non public funds and the Students' Union £5,600 as a basic subsidy. However, this left a net deficit of more than £17,000. In addition, the nursery has an outstanding accumulated loan debt of £32,600 which under UGC rules must eventually be discharged. In terms of the rate per child, each place cost £3,200 to provide but produced only £1,344 in fee income, a shortfall of £1,856 for the year.

The School could not ignore the deteriorating position and the Director agreed in July to the introduction of a flat rate nursery fee to be effective from 2 October 1986. The former banded fee system linked to parents' income had failed to realize the fee income it had been designed to produce and had probably depressed overall occupancy. The two other University nurseries in London with baby units charge a flat rate nursery fee comparable to the weekly £42.50 School fee. (The rate in commercially run nurseries is about £60 per week.) The introduction of the flat rate fee

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The Cafe Offers a Wealth of Goods (Finally)

By GILLIAN BAXENDALE

From today, balancing trays in the Brunchbowl and queuing down the corridor in the Pizza-burger are not your only choices. At midday, "Florries" will reopen, refitted, refurbished and renamed "The Cafe". The name may lack imagination, but Shirlee, the new manageress, has plenty of ideas.

"People keep waling past and maoning that the place looks different but that the food will taste the same. I think they're in for a pleasant surprise." So what are the changes, apart from a new name and a coat of paint?

For a start, all the food will be vegetarian, using no animal products. This is not just for health freaks, but also for Jewish and Muslim students, whose dietary restrictions make eating in the main restaurants a problem. As well as this, everything will be made on the premises, using fresh ingredients and a wide range of recipes. Shirlee is determined to prove that vegetarian food need not be dull.

"The Cafe" will start serving breakfast at 9:45 – eggs and alfalfa rolls, vegetable pates, croissants and pastries. At lunchtime, there will be three or more main dishes such as stuffed peppers, bean casseroles, tirianis, lentil lasagnes...with dozens of variation no one should get bored, but just in case, there will be a salad bar, quiches and baked potatoes.

If you still are not convinced, how about an Italian coffee machine which can brew a cup of capuccino, espresso or hot chocolate every twenty seconds? Coffee, tea and herbal teas will be served all day (in real china cups if you have had enough of vending machines). Cakes – baked on the premises – will be ready for afternoon tea.

How "The Cafe" develops will depend on demand – soup and veggie burgers all day, a take-away facility, perhaps a supper service. Ahd as for the prices? According to Shirlee, these may be a little higher than those in the Brunchbowl. "You have to pay for the best ingredients, and we do need to make a profit! But main dishes starting at £1.20 are still good value."

The pastel decor and the hanging plants should provide a pleasant retreat from the scruffy school building, at least until a generation of students have carved their name on th stained wood tables and spilt their Italian coffee on the new carpets. But if you want to keep prices low, the management beg you not to walk off with the cutlery and china, however underfurnished your lodgings may be!



Shirlee, the manageress of The Cafe

Shirlee's enthusiasm for health food began when she worked in a Holborn delicatessan. Since then, she has run her own wholefood bakery in Cheltenham, but, despite its success, she missed the excitement of living in London. For the last couple of years, she has managed the Designs Centre's restaurant, turning its fortunes around from a loss to a profit. Her plans for "The Cafe" include this same aim as well as improving the working atmosphere. As Shirlee herself says, "if the staff are happy, everyone gets better service".



After this summer's major re-designing and replacement of old fixtures and fittings, FLORRIES COFFEE BAR will emerge from its wrappings on October 13th as THE CAFE.

The LSE Students Union have gone to great lengths and horrendous expense to create a cafe where you will be welcomed, well fed and watered – guaranteed additive free!

THE CAFE is situated on the quadrangle and will open 9.45 – 4.30, so come and enjoy these excellent facilities, instead of dashing down the Kingsway for an overpriced sandwich and drink.

**Beaver Collective Meetings
Monday 5PM E204**

News

Student Housing Shortage

By RICHARD SNELL and JJ JONES

One of the most important factors governing the degree to which you enjoy your time at the LSE is where and how you live when the Tuns or library are closed. Good or bad accommodation can, for some, mean a good or bad degree, and at worst, unsuccessful flat-hunting can see some pack their bags and go home, often on a one way ticket.

Encouraging signs, though, are coming from the School Administration, the obvious need for more and better accommodation has been identified in the offices of Connaught House, and steps in the right direction are being made.

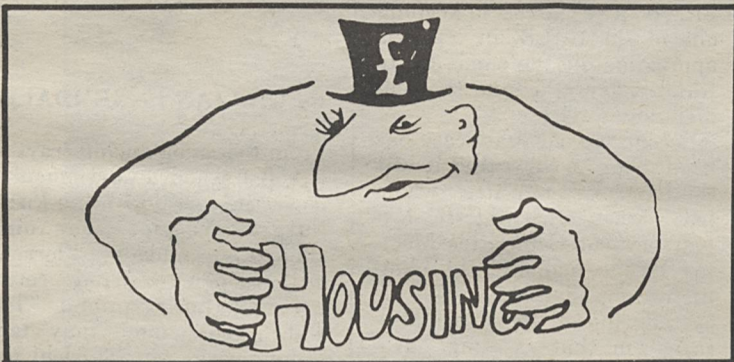
Towards the end of last year came the decision by the School to build a new hall of residence at Bulter's Wharf. Sadly however, the summer has been a breakdown in communications between architects and builders and failure to check relevant planning regulations at an earlier date has meant that the plan for the proposed building would not fit on the site available. We must now hope the School sticks to its commitment, sorts out these difficulties and does not shelve the idea.

Such plans, though welcome, are long term, and so of more immediate value to LSE students has been the provision of funds over the summer from the School that allowed a third person to be employed in the Welfare Office, and importantly the employing of "casuals" to help find accommodation for students before term started. Such help is very welcome, and must be continued.

The Administration has also given a boost to students seeking homes, by launching its own

"Company Let" scheme. Much of the accommodation offered to the S.U. Accommodation Office are company lets; and now that the School is providing the necessary backing, many students have benefited from this scheme. Finally for those unfortunate enough to arrive homeless and unable to afford hotel

take time but everyone does find somewhere to live. Advice from the Accommodation Office is firstly, don't expect too much from accommodation in London, £30/week will not buy a bachelor pad in Chelsea. High expectations seem particularly a problem with overseas students. Secondly, be prepared to look at



bills, the gym in the basement of the Old Building has been used as a "hostel" during the night. Thankfully, only two or three students per night have found it necessary to crash in the gym. It may not be The Ritz but its better than a bench in Hyde Park.

Clearly, all this is heartening to see; but the School must continue to help students and the Students' Union find more and better accommodation.

Talking to the Accommodation Office reveals that flats and rooms are available, but whether they are affordable is a different matter. Cuts in real terms in the grant and removal of Housing Benefits are forcing students to look for poorer quality housing, in less desirable areas. What is more alarming, is the possibility that over the Christmas and Easter holidays students may be forced to let flats as vacation rents become impossible to pay.

Yet despite this situation, students should not despair; it may

areas given a bad press in the past. South London is just as good/safe as anywhere else—bad tube links are generally compensated by better overland rail and bus links.

Accommodation prospects for first years have improved since last year; all who applied to Passfield and Carr-Saunders were offered places, all be it, rushed towards the start of October. Accommodation for post graduates (in halls) and students with children is however a different story, and does need serious consideration and help.

It is heartening to see the School helping students and the Students Union to alleviate the accommodation problems faced by many. Improvements have been made, but they must continue to receive funding on a longer term basis if these improvements are to be consolidated and pushed further. Sadly, the greatest restraint still appears to be central government's miserly attitude to the plight of students.

A Proper Equal Opportunities Policy?

By ANTHEA BURTON

The L.S.E.S.U. is supposed to have positive commitment to ensuring that no person should be disadvantaged either in seeking employment or for any reason during the course of their employment, on the grounds of age, race, nationality, gender, disability, religion, marital status, or sexual orientation. However, the vagaries inherent in Student Union policy have led to procedural defects. These, coupled with misunderstandings over the nature of the policy have meant that this policy has not been properly implemented. (And that is letting the S.U. off lightly!)

In an attempt to go some way to rectifying its inadequate employment practices, the S.U. has produced a properly drafted equal opportunities policy. About time, too! It will be the responsibility of the equal opportunities officer on the exec to ensure that this policy is properly implemented and to monitor its success. In order that the person holding this position is fully able to do this, she/he will occupy a place on the Administrative sub-committee, the body which carries out the employment decisions of the union.

At last Wednesday's executive meeting, it was disturbing to

find that the Liberal/Tory contingent was opposed to this measure. They were willing to support the post of equal opportunities officer (fine), most of the policy (all well & good), but they opposed the notion that the equal opportunity officer should be on the A.S.C. It does seem to point towards the fact that they don't want an equal opportunity policy at all. If there is no one to carry the can for implementing the policy for monitoring its effect on employment practices, surely it is not worth the paper it is written on?

Fortunately, the executive managed to make a wise decision and the equal opportunities officer will now be on the A.S.C. Having an equal opportunities policy officer is actually written down on paper, rather than being dependent on the discretion of our esteemed Sabbaticals and this is definitely a step forward. However, such a policy without a commitment to positive action in the employment of people from disadvantaged and oppressed groups is ineffective.

Let's hope the Student Union considers this as the next step.

Copies of the original draft of the new equal opportunities policy are available from the General Secretary's office, E298

The Difficulties of Being Disabled

Society Seeks to Enlighten the Able-bodied

by HANS NIJENHUIS

Disabled students are still facing more problems at LSE than just their disability, but this could soon be changed. At last week's Intro Fair, the Society for the Enlightenment of the Able-bodied (S.E.A.) could be seen. The society comprises both disabled and able-bodied LSE students and staff. Its existence was explained to BEAVER by chairman Bashir Koray.

Beside allowing disabled students to meet each other, the S.E.A. aims primarily at improving communications between students with disabilities and the rest of the school.

Bashir says, many of the difficulties faced by disabled students seem to originate from ignorance and prejudice by the able-bodied population. Apart from being knocked down in the corridor by bustling fellow-students, the disabled person is sometimes perceived, as being also mentally disabled. It is the others that are asked if he drinks his tea with milk and sugar. As Bashir says, "To be disabled

seems to obscure the potential of the individual in the minds of most people." Bringing disabled and able-bodied students together in a society seems to be at least part of the solution.

The S.E.A. also strives for the improvement of the practical wording and living conditions at the School. This has for example resulted in the brailleing of LSE lifts. You might have noticed the plastic tabs. These have been installed by the S.E.A., who are still waiting for the metal ones promised by the school. The latter seem to be very necessary, because some of the plastic tabs are already being pulled off, probably by students who do not have to use them.

Is LSE an endurable place to study for a disabled person? Bashir says that it isn't, although it is already much more accessible than it was a few years ago. But for example the lifts in the Clare Market building cannot be used by students with disabilities. You may have noticed that the use of those lifts requires a lot of practice anyway. There are a few special study rooms for blind students in the library, but

even people with normal vision need at least ten minutes to find them, and more are sometimes required.

Things are improving, however. The school's advisor to disabled students, Sally Sainsbury, ran a questionnaire survey to incoming disabled students, to get to know their special problems and wishes. Recently a tape-library was set up by the Student's Union Welfare Office and Library. (Readers for Blind Students are still urgently needed. Please contact room E 299).

Under pressure of the NUS and the National Bureau for Handicapped Students, with which the S.E.A. keeps contact, the School's administration is working out a policy statement of intent on the issue of disability. A draft included the intention that "...to take all practicable steps to ensure for disabled students safe access and working conditions on the premises if the school, and full participation in all aspects of School life." So there is still a lot of work to do. The S.E.A.'s next meeting is 5th November. Do attend.

NURSERY ARRANGEMENTS

FROM PAGE 1

can afford to pay £42.50 p.w. per child. In the long term, it will be game, set, match to the school. If we let them!

So, of course, we can't. The S.U. have produced a series of demands which we feel are vital if the nursery is to continue to be a relevant service to the student parent.

1. No further reduction in staff numbers, with a written assurance to those members of staff left that this will be the case.

2. An agreement on the criteria by which [A\$].38 = A\$).38 = [hardship need is assessed. This would be sent to parents, prior to their coming to the LSE so that they could realistically assess their financial ability to attend the LSE.

3. A change in the present system of decision-making in the nursery. Neither the S.U., which foots 20% of the bill, nor

the Nursery Sub-Committee has any say; we are all "advisors to the Director", who makes and has made a decision which no one has even discussed, much less agreed to.

4. A commitment to expand the nursery and to "sell" it to students and staff so that as many parents as possible can escape the debilitating problem of child vs. career. No human being should be penalised for creating and caring for other humans.

These are our demands, which we have presented to the School. They represent an acceptance by us of the School's problem, indeed of its solution, "the flat fee" which will hopefully make their accounts easier to manage! But what we do not accept is that the price of peace is the long term elimination of nursery provisions for all, regardless of income. We do not accept it and are prepared to fight it.

BEAVER TEAM

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Special Thanks to Jared, Sasu, Loren, Jane, Nico, Amy, and Paul for the typing.

College Scene

At The Union

Jonathan Putsman

Once more into the valley of death rode... the two candidates for Chairperson. Yet the Bexonite horse was drugged with advantage - leaflets in the Tuns for two days beforehand? The man's lust for power supercedes his prior lust for flesh.

Once enthroned, those who voted for him (through no fault of their own) looked doubtful as his eyes filled with venom and his mouth promised Justice as unbiased as the days of Hayes or even the far off days of Bull.

Yet in fairness our chairman made no promises of equality or ideal justice. His platform was one of realism and it will be enthralling to watch the definition of this word grow and grow as the term proceeds!

The formalities of election being finished Babs Band took the microphone for her first time in office and promised with a certain naive optimism that the next gig will be ten times as good as the last one. R.I.P. HARVEY & THE WALL-BANGERS.

Moving on to our stout General Secretary, Peter Wilcock, self confessed 'acceptable face of the Labour Club' showed true signs of state-manship (except for his voting for a motion condemning his own autocratic behaviour). His remark concerning AIESEC: "I welcome any debate on the issue" will strike fear into the less democratic fringes of his very own party. And it will

surely be these very same people who will grow to mistrust the acceptable face's performance qualities.

And finally our Senior Treasurer grasped his predictable position on Student Loans (woe betide the blinkered Liberal voter of last March). "I am in favour of loans because I believe they could work" seems fair, if somewhat simplistic for such a master of the blarney. Could it be that he did not want to wider the debate in front of his new flock?

Having dealt with our Sabbaticals, a resume of other events begs. AIESEC, surprisingly given two bites of the cherry, succeeded only in biting off their own thumb, as two middle-aged teenagers snarled the principle of 'I'm alright Jack' to a justly disgusted audience.

And, reader, "mark well" Hazel Smith ("brothers and sisters") could this surcharged Lambeth Councillor be a Labour candidate for postgraduate officer?

In between AIESEC wranglings, the union heard of the School's cowardly assault on the Nursery's finances, and unanimously registered their disgust and desire to fight back. In the election for the Constitution Committee Alan Evans' consistent rejection by the masses reminded us that terms had really started. Surely he and Malcolm Lowe could decide in private who is more commonly reviled rather than having to thrash it out in public.

JJ's Hall Report

Term is now well underway and so here's the first installment of a light-hearted look at life in the good old LS of E.

A survey of third years reflects that naturally things were better in their day don't you know!! Freshers seem unusually quiet even boring (especially in Passfield - c'mon chaps/chapesses get your acts together.) However on a more positive note, freshman are a vast improvement. (And yess I know that's sexist).

Last week, I donned sunglasses and ventured into the all-new fourth floor service area. A vast improvement, all we have to do is keep those bloody hacks out of there. Anyone seeing Malcolm Lowe or David Marr there has full permission to shoot them.

As yet, Florries (stuff all that "Cafe" twaddle) is an unknown commodity. It looks good (and for the cost it should). One tip - any figure Tory O'Liberal tells you should be doubled at least. And finally "where's the beef", I'm all for carrot-crunchers, but meat pies are what made Britain great. Did our lads retake the Falklands on nut-burgers? Does Woolings ever smile?

On the political front... all three parties should now seek a Tequila alliance for any hope of electoral success. All three sabbaticals want out and have done for sometime, they're only hanging on for the redundancy. Beadlemia goes on. Ron is now the acceptable face of the Labour Club, and in truth their only hope of having a sabbatical next year. Sorry Anthea.

Catherine Bruce is also showing the softer face of the Women's Group (a good sign for all sexes.)

Most comical event of Freshers Week was "oldest swinger in Town" Bob Page, aged 57, drunk at Passfield. Photographs can be bought in the union shop. And talking of Passfield... will the occupant of T18 please move his bed to the centre of the room, that way your horisontal jogging won't chip plaster off the wall!!



Equally ridiculous was news that Elwyn Watkins and Simon Bexon defeated Harvard in a debate. One can only deduce that going to Harvard is akin to going to be educated at Grange Hill or worse, Kings College!!!

POST SCRIPT.

On behalf of myself, the A.U. and his friends, may we send our deepest sympathies to the family of Rob Bull.

CONTRIBUTE TO
THE BEAVER

L.S.E. Hot Bed Or Rose Bed?

By IQBAL WAHHAB

It was Bertrand Russel who said, 'I am firm, you are stubborn, and he is a pig-headed fool'. Twenty years later the New Statesman ran a competition to find modern day equivalents to 'firm', 'stubborn' and 'pig-headed fool'. One of the winning entries was, 'I am Oxford, you are Cambridge, and he is the London School of Economics', the implication being not so much to establish a once-and-for-all pecking order of the universities but rather to show that the differences between them are essentially differences of style. Believe it or not, most people choose to come to this den of arrogance and aggression.

Being a university concerned solely with the social sciences makes for a strongly political atmosphere; be unpolitical and you will have little joy at L.S.E. Dammit, even the choice of where to eat or drink in college is a political decision. There is a bar for the Tories and a bar for the 'Trots', while the Liberals eat their banana-flavoured yoghurts in the School canteen. Nobody bats an eyelid, therefore, when freshers are told that at L.S.E., food is political; an interesting variation to the feminist dictum that the personal is political.

Despite its reputation, the L.S.E. isn't just a 'lefty' institution, concerned with the training of international terrorists to export revolution. One American rips the yarn that when he told his father that he was going to study at the L.S.E., his father erupted, "You can't go to the L.S.E. - Karl Marx went there!" Despite the fact that three of the past five union sabbaticals have been Liberal or independent, the Left remains the most organised political force - an instantly appreciable fact if the union meetings are witnessed, and witnessed they must be. 600-plus turn up every Thursday for what is, for most, the high point of the week. Shouting, screaming, crying, fighting - it all happens there.

In terms of academia, the courses are less regimented than elsewhere - none of this compulsory two-essays-a-week non-

sense. The school prefers to take students with experience of the 'outside world'. Those who come fresh from A-levels think that they are on holiday for three years, after which time they bomb out with a third. Standards are exacting and marking is harsh. There is a story currently doing the rounds that the last person to get a first in Monetary Economics was Lipsey! Big names to watch out for in the academic staff include Fred Halliday in the International Relations department and Patrick Dunleavy in the Government department (he's my tutor; a mention keeps him happy - you know the sort of thing).

L.S.E. may be set in a maze of concrete but it is far from dull. Oxbridge snobbery is laughed at and everyone seems to remember the sketch in 'Yes Minister' where Hacker's permanent secretary is discussing with the Cabinet secretary his minister's shortcomings:

Permanent Secretary: He went to the L.S.E., you know.
Cabinet Secretary: So did I.
Permanent Secretary: Oh, I am sorry.

There are about half a dozen toffs and snobs at L.S.E. and they are generally made to feel as unwelcome as possible. If anyone is 18th in line to the throne here, it is much more likely that this refers to a person's position in the queue for the lavatory rather than having anything to do with royalty. If the latter were the case the person concerned would keep it very quiet; it's not the place for that sort of thing. L.S.E. is, if I may use the awful expression, 'declassé'. It is quite common, in fact, for people with public school accents to have something called 'de-elocution lessons'. Linton Kwesi Johnson, the Black poet, reputedly spoke the Queen's English when he first arrived, but he left with a degree in Sociology and a street-cred accent.

On the top floor of our Administration building sits the Director of the L.S.E., who for the next five years at least is Dr. I.G. Patel, and Indian economist and civil servant. The Director is

what any other college would call a principal and his functions include such gargantuan tasks as attending the naming of a train at Euston Station called 'The London School of Economics'.



For many Americans L.S.E. becomes a base from which to sample the delights of 'foreign fields'. Invariably the 'culture shock' suffered on arrival at the LSE leads to an initial dislike of the place. (Although it could be pointed out that they don't tend to spend enough time here between trips to the USSR and Western Europe to appreciate fully the fine points of the L.S.E.). Paradoxically those self-same Americans spend their Christmas holidays working on ways in which to transfer their credits in order to graduate from the L.S.E.!

How therefore can one survive at the L.S.E., herd you with the 'natives' and avoid pitfalls? Yearly, codes of conduct emerge, the observance of which helps assimilation into society. Certain traits are identifiably "Red" - the holding of three bank accounts (all are drained.), drinking G & T in the Beavers Retreat at lunchtime, living in South London, and being gay. Continuing in the same vein - living in Leyton, eating at the L.S.E., drinking beer in the "tuns" at lunchtime, joining the labour club and gaining a 2/1 are seen by those who are considered knowledgeable of such things - to be tacky!

Hot bed or Rose bed? That was the question, the answer must lie with you.

More on Americans at LSE

by GREG LANE

As an American student here at LSE, I felt an obligation to write and warn my compatriots about taking Matt Price's cautious suggestions on how we luckless Americans can best achieve chicdom in Britain.

1. Matt's fashion advice - "Go native in dress" - has worked wonders for many Britons as well as Americans. After reading his article I decided to toss out my unsophisticated, American garb in favor of the hipper "London look" - something akin to GQ's Ash can casual wear. Unfortunately, the salesman at the sporting goods store didn't tell me that West Ham Utd. shirts don't wear well on the streets of Liverpool. I guess popular dress in Britain is determined by region.

I must admit, however, that I was somewhat sceptical about buying used clothes from the

Camden Market even before my run in with the Liverpool fashion critics. Matt wrote that at Princeton (one of the last bastions of cosmopolitan cretinism) he was complimented on his wardrobe. If that's so, and he was wearing one of those secondhand overcoats, then it confirms what I have always suspected - Americans have little or no taste.

2. Though I have tried, I just can't give up the Herald Tribune. This is after all the season of the "October Classic". When I first arrived in London, I became a regular reader of The Times, but I soon grew tired of waking up with newsprint on my forehead. The next papers I sampled, The Star and The Daily Mail, were interesting, but I always got the feeling that I was invading the privacy of others. "How Bambi killed his family", and "Why the Queen scolded Di" it seemed, was none of my

business. I did eventually settle with a paper that gave me "a sense of the mood of the nation" but made the mistake of reading on the steps of the old Building where I was fair game for a roving group of anti-nuclear, pro-whale revolutionaries. I was firmly lectured on my fascistic, anti-human, racist action. Little did I know that The Sun, Sid Vicious' paper of choice, could lead to so much trouble.

3. In addition to adding boiled potatoes, beans, and bitter to my diet - I wanted to get that pale, constipated, intellectual look - I decided to take Matt's third bit of advice and joined a few of LSE's political societies. I was really surprised at the number of choices: Revolutionary Communists, Marxist Students, Sikh Separatists, Socialists. Unfortunately, I soon had to quit most of the clubs. It seems that I just

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Features

AN INTERVIEW WITH WILLY BRANDT

The recent graphic descriptions of famine and poverty in Africa have stimulated more people to overcome their own apathy and try to help. One of those who believes in the emergence of a new consciousness is Willy Brandt, who spoke at the LSE in the Spring of last year. In his speech, Brandt, 1971 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and former Social Democratic chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, explained his argument that the underdevelopment of the Southern hemisphere is closely linked with the arms race and East-West confrontation. This theme is also worked out in Brandt's new book, 'World Armament and World Hunger'. (see box) Although many analysts have been aware of these linkages for decades, determined action against this injustice has not been forthcoming. Bernd Barutta asked Willy Brandt his opinion about the possibility of concrete actions, specifically about the usefulness of private charity and 'live aid' concerts.



BEAVER: Mr. Brandt, in your book "World Armament & World Hunger" you have provided a very good analysis of the contemporary situation of the arms race. But in my opinion, a problem not addressed by the analysis is that we need more concrete action on the arms race. In your belief, would a German government led by the Social Democrats be able to reduce the defence budget within the 4-year legislative period after the 1987 elections?

Brandt: That is not so easy! I also think that the crucial point is not that countries fall out of their NATO and Warsaw Pact alliances but that they call for a more constructive policy within their alliances. I am sure that a government led by the Social Democrats would not increase the defence budget relatively more than the entire budget – if at all. But the main focus has to be on persuading the allies to form a more constructive position on arms control questions together.

BEAVER: Don't you think that it would encourage others if we could say: "We cut our defence budget about two percent within four years!" Aren't the Federal Republic, Great Britain and especially the superpowers the ones who have to make the first unilateral step?

Brandt: Certainly, but the Federal Republic is still viewed with such distrust that it is in her own interest to pursue policies that would be in accord – if not with the United States, than at least with her immediate West European neighbours.

BEAVER: Last year, numerous 'aid' campaigns for Africa took place in the Federal Republic and in Great Britain. Do you believe that such relief campaigns are useful?

Brandt: I consider such actions very useful! Firstly, it is already a step forward if one can actually help people, rather than just talk about them. Secondly, it leads to an increasing interest which often does not stop at the charitable level, but stimulates people to think about the deep-seated causes of famine.

BEAVER: Could such actions put too much emphasis on private responsibility and distract from the actual structural causes such as the 'terms of trade'?

Brandt: Quite right! I would be very unhappy if private charity were seen as an alternative for extremely necessary major reforms. I very much hope that those who are engaged in relief actions will also begin to think about the more deep-seated causes, as well as the fundamental changes which have to be brought about through pressure on the superpowers.

BEAVER: In your lecture, you mentioned the summit between Reagan and Gorbachev. Can such summits become an occasion for yet more posturing, thereby thrusting the actual content into the background?

Brandt: This danger actually exists and it is good to remain very critical about the problem. Nevertheless, I believe that beyond the public relations elements, both sides – I won't say on which side more – have an interest in achieving progress in arms reductions. On the other hand, if I am wrong, it is an additional reason to exert pressure on our own governments, and through our own governments, on the superpowers, so that they really negotiate and not just hold empty meetings.

BEAVER: In the Federal Republic as well as in other European countries, people discuss the possibility of the reunification of Germany as a neutral state. Do you believe that this would be the first step to real detente?

Brandt: This remains only a theoretical possibility and one that will not be realized. Over and beyond the actual wishes of both East and West Germans, the main powers in West and East disagree about 100 issues but they agree in the 101st – namely that they will not allow a reunified and neutral Germany.

It is important, however, that the Germans in East and West, although living in different political systems, work as far as possible with their allies in order that the tensions in Europe are overcome. It is a crucial task to reunite the different parts of Europe. I think that a real chance of this does exist, but there is not possibility of an isolated approach to the 'German question'.

BEAVER: The London School of Economics is a scientific institution. Should science formulate normative suggestions for political policy?

Brandt: What should a high level of education be used for if not for suggesting alternatives for political policy? It is the main duty of science to supply politicians with knowledge which is not derived from emotions, but which is based on analysis of objective factors and their connections.

BEAVER: Mr. Brandt, thank you very much.

Brandt: Thank you.

Labour Should not Abandon Productive Values

by PAUL KLEBNIKOV

Industriousness, professionalism, duty, and loyalty to the group – why are these values seen as the property of the Right? These are values that are much respected by most of the working class, but they have been scornfully thrown aside by most leftist intellectuals. No, this is not admitted by the leading politicians of the Labour Party, but it comes through unmistakably as the character of the party.

Surely the structural economic problems of Britain (let alone the world around us) have not been so resolved as to induce complacency and an attitude of putting one's feet up to enjoy the products of one's labour. Yet, this is the impression that comes across when we hear Labour talking about increasing material rewards without first mentioning the increase of production as the top priority. Redistribution without raising production – is this the Labour program? It smacks of utopianism and of what Lenin called the "infantilism of the left".

We are living on the fruits of a financial empire and of a world trading system that permits us much greater rewards for much less work compared to other peoples. What hypocrisy, then, for so many welfarists to demand greater benefits for less work.

The only people with a genuine claim to special consideration in receiving social welfare benefits are the more helpless members of our society: the elderly, the handicapped, and children. For the rest, what should be demanded is not more crumbs from the table (for that would be a justification of the feast) but the resolution of the class struggle and the abolition of the unequal class system. This would mean the nationalisation of the heights of national industry, the elimination of the vastly unequal system of material rewards, and the elimination of the militaristic and pornographic ideas that are constantly corrupting our minds.

Labour, for one, has failed to move strongly in this direction. They have gotten bogged down on the one hand by economism (more crumbs from the table)

and on the other by their inability to produce a technological counter-elite to run the new economic order. Economism, feminism, and gay liberation, if they were supposed to serve as catalysts to ignite class consciousness (in pursuit of revolutionary goals), certainly have not done so, since they substitute self-centredness and solipsism for collective unity and dedication to a historical goal.

The left has also failed to produce a genuine counter-elite. We have been quite successful in producing a counter-culture, but this is inevitably a fragile plant, dependent on the socio-economic infrastructure. No revolution has ever been made without the appearance of a counter-elite, which not only could run the country on more morally just principles, but also could run it more efficiently. The absence of this counter-elite has forced the Labour Party, for one, into a dependence either on the existing business community or on a small group of technocrats who profess left-wing loyalties but are actually firmly emplaced within the establishment.

It is in institutions like the LSE where the counter-elite must arise. It is here that a person can acquire a broad political consciousness combined with specific skills in administering society and the economy. If the counter-elite does not arise here, then we are doomed to continuing economic stagnation and social discord.

Let's see some socialist managerialism, then. Let's see revolutionary commitment and a practical approach to the challenge of managing a different kind of society. Surely the Tories' claim to efficiency and professionalism in managing the country is a lie. The UK is sliding in virtually all economic sectors. It is a mark of the Left's complete ineptitude that it hasn't been able to capitalise on this situation. We want a redirection of resources away from missiles, corporate profits, and aristocratic luxuries and towards economic development, popular welfare, and international cooperation. The contemporary leftist intelligentsia wants these things too, but they scorn the very values that are needed to work great changes and administer a new order. We want redirection, not dissipation.

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College Scene

The Dated Club

Labour's Vanishing Radicalism

By SIMON BEXON

If, during Freshers Week, you were confronted by a nice looking, middle-class, well-groomed, and, most of all, moderate sales representative on the Labour Club stall, you might well have wondered where all the radical socialist went to. Have all the radical Socialists joined SWSS, or have they decided that Neil Kinnock is right and that the electorate want to hear realistic, moderate Socialist policies?

The Labour Club seems to have opted for a new "solid" front, typified by the highly successful party conference at Blackpool. Like the national party, electoral defeat has shaken the Left at LSE into a more professional approach.

Gone are the days when the Labour Club regarded compromising their political ideals for the sake of electoral success

as sacrilege, but they still maintain some of their old traditions, like the "undated letter of resignation".

This is in itself a reflection of the problems that the Labour Club has had in the last five years or so. Getting people elected as Sabbaticals is the acid test of popularity at the LSE. The Labour Club has had mixed success recently, but then the major problem has been that their Sabbaticals have always had difficulty maintaining the Labour Club's "Black and White" views, while trying to undertake the business of running the Student Union. The business of negotiating pay deals with staff and being the "big boss" does not come easily to a Socialist, who tends to think that the faults of the British Industry are caused by Management error and are never the fault of workers.

First John Donkersley and then Richard Snell tried, with differing degrees of success, to improve the performance of the services by staff changes, but both had to watch their backs, because their own party found any form of worker dismissal, even when incompetence was blatant, difficult to stomach.

In the early 80's, the defection of Labour Sabbaticals to the SDP during their period in office

caused the Labour Club to introduce a method of keeping their Sabbaticals in order. Their candidates for Union elections must sign, before standing, a letter to the General Secretary offering their resignation. This letter is kept undated so if the naughty candidate transgresses Labour Club policy, the members of the aforementioned organization can vote to date the letter and hand it in.

The previous Labour Club idealistic approach provided the Liberals with a perfect breeding ground. If we (as I am a Liberal) lose out due to the Labour Club coming to its senses and acting realistically, then so be it. Socialism tinged with reality will always be attractive to students, and if Labour can't get the votes of young people, they may as well go home now. Labour is really the only probable alternative to Thatcherism at the next election, so if those of us who quit the ranks of the soft left due to the extremes of the "Trots" have had some effect on the course of the party, both nationally and at LSE, then we have done a good job for society.

Radical Change In The Legal System

By RYND SMITH

A strong call for radical change in the English Legal System was made by Mr Tony Gifford Q.C., a prominent left wing barrister who has recently finished an independent enquiry into the rioting at Broadwater Farm, Tottenham, last year.

Presenting the D. N. Pritt Memorial Lecture to the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers Mr Gifford referred to Pritt's identification of the class-basis of the English Legal System as an obstacle to justice and social reform.

Mr Gifford continued to state the pressing need for reform of the Legal System and called upon the Haldane Society to lobby the Labour Party with a view to the adoption of a radical four point programme of legal reform.

Mr Gifford first demanded the establishment of a Ministry of Justice which would bring the administration of the Judiciary within the control of the House of Commons.

This would involve the abolition of the current legal duties of the Lord Chancellor and the removal of responsibility for the magistracy from the Home Office to the new Ministry: judicial appointments would be the responsibility of a "Justice Select Committee".

His second demand was for the creation of an open selection system for the magistracy, whereby the selection could be seen by the public at large to be qualitatively based. In tandem with this he called for a more open method of judicial appointment, allowing all qualified lawyers of three years standing the possibility of call.

Those called would have to undertake further and specialised studies. The admission of Academic Lawyers to the Judiciary would also be allowed, hopefully elevating the intellectual calibre and cohesion of judgements particularly in the higher courts.

Mr Gifford stated that the combined Judiciary under the new Ministry of Justice should be subject to the scrutiny of the Commission for Legal Administration accomplishing a role similar to that of ombudsmen combined with a function as an Inspectorate of Judiciary.

His third demand was for a governmental extension of the Legal Aid system. He rejected the establishment of a "National Legal Service" after the N.H.S. model on the grounds that such a service could exacerbate the split in the legal profession between the high calibre, highly rewarded, city private practitioner and the correspondingly lower calibre, low paid, public service Lawyer.

As extension of the Legal Aid system as currently run would be in the best interest of the underprivileged in society, maintaining as it does at least some access by the poor to high calibre practitioners.

His fourth and final demand was for the abolition of the separate professions of Barrister and Solicitor. He singled out for particular criticism the unprogressive system of call to the bar which effectively calls for most aspirant barristers to be self-funding.

In future, he said, all lawyers should undergo a non-specialised and salaried professional vocational training period, somewhat similar to soli-

citors' articles. Any qualified lawyer would then be free to take further, perhaps part time, study and to join Chambers on a junior basis with a view to becoming a specialist consultant.

Concluding his talk, Mr Gifford stated his view that it was the task of the Haldane Society to provide a forum for radical legal discussion and policy making, with a view to creating a progressive policy on Legal Service to the community to be implemented by the next Labour Government.

While undoubtedly Mr Gifford addressed many of the problems currently bedeviling the English Legal System, he did not appear to adequately consider the method of reform, or indeed changes contained within. His four basic demands would involve the Labour Party in a direct confrontation with the legal establishment.

Thus, while Mr Gifford's demands articulated undeniable problems in the Legal System, such as the uniformly middle-class input into the Bar and the lack of a common controlling Ministry of Justice accountable to the House of Commons, they do not appear to represent entirely practical policies capable of being adopted by the Labour Party.

However, the lecture and following discussion did raise many useful questions about the provision of legal services to the general public.

(This Lecture was the first in an Autumn series of lectures at which the Haldane Society and members of the public will be addressed by prominent members of the legal profession at venues to be announced by the LSE.)

Terisa Turner: Trade Union Action to Stop Oil to South Africa

University of Port Harcourt Press, Nigeria
(U.K. distributor: 36, Hillrise Mns, Warltersville Rd., London N19 3PU)
Price: £1.50 pp. 36

Terisa Turner, who earned a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics in 1977, has compiled an informative, useful and thoroughly documented work, which is also refreshingly free of insider jargon. It clearly reflects her intensive work in the field, and it is to her credit that she has been able to condense a great deal of information in such a clear and concise manner.

Whether you are involved in campaigning to bring an end to the Apartheid regime of South Africa, a researcher or student working around the issue of sanctions or simply a concerned individual wondering what you can do, this unassuming booklet is for you.

For campaigners, it provides empirical evidence on how internationally agreed-upon sanctions are circumvented. It lists specific companies and countries which are actively engaged in such practices or at least turn a blind eye to them. This obviously might prove very useful ammunition. It raises a wealth of issues which might serve as focal points for action, such as flying flags of convenience. For

researchers and students, the appendix reproduces documents in full from as varied sources as OPEC, the UN, the Nigerian shipping communique, the Trinidad oilworkers report, and newspaper reports of guerrilla action. The sources are cited complete with reference number, etc.; no doubt a welcome lead for academics in the field. Of course, one has to come to expect such meticulous work from a former LSE student.

Trade Unionists will find suggestions and examples of how they as individuals and/or as organizations can express their solidarity in a practical manner. The booklet emphasizes the importance of such individual and collective actions to ensure the effectiveness of an oil embargo. Individuals and other organizations could simply decide to enforce their own embargo by refusing to purchase oil or petrol from any company that is breaking the agreed sanctions.

Finally, it will not take you a year and a day to read Dr. Turner's booklet. For those of us under constant time pressure, this is definitely an advantage. I recommend Trade Union Action to Stop Oil to South Africa wholeheartedly.

Gerelinde Rambauek

Nursery's Survival

FROM PAGE 1

cial affairs while at the same time School student support funds can be used to assist those student parents who cannot afford this level of fee.

It is important at this point to correct the impression that the School has control over the staff/child ratio. In the first place, the School has a policy of no staff redundancies. The School also has a statutory obligation to register the nursery with Westminster City Council which determines the number of staff to be employed for a given number of children. The Council were made aware of the nursery's problems in August this year and in the circumstances agreed that the number of staff could be reduced by one from seven to six. A member of staff has

recently resigned so that School is now employing the minimum permissible number of staff. Westminster City Council have made clear that the staff numbers could only be further reduced if the parents were willing to operate a rota to provide a sixth adult in the nursery. There has been no indication that the parents are able or willing to pursue this option.

In a letter to Rory O'Driscoll, Senior Treasurer, I have offered to open discussion to explore ways in which the School and the Students' Union might cooperate in seeking solutions to our nursery's problems. There are no simple answers, and the task will require considerable effort by those whose aim it is to restore financial stability to the nursery.

Americans

FROM PAGE 3

didn't have the stamina for all that revolutionary activity. With candlelight vigils at night and marches during the day, I wasn't getting all of my assigned reading done. Call us sociopathic. Everyone knows that Americans read only to make other students nervous. I must confess, though, that the primary reason for leaving my communal comrades was the lack of any recognizable social life. I joined the clubs for "a sense of community" and to

meet women. The only sense I found was the common sense to quit. As for the women, they had a greater appetite for food than they did for revolution.

5. Just remember not to take all this anti-Americanism too seriously. Most Brits don't eat well, they have waxy toilet paper, and exercise infrequently, and are consequently uptight. So, if life in London has got you down, just remember that both the Vandals and the Goths went to Rome and did as they pleased.

Arts

Films

The Decline Of The American Empire

A penetrating view by the small community of Quebec on its mighty southern neighbour. Four academics are preparing a large dinner. Their conversation consists of a detailed study and description of their sexual experiences. Meanwhile, their wives are at a health club, also talking about their adventures. When they all sit down for dinner, everything turns sour, secrets are brought out, and what was meant to be a joyful occasion becomes a nightmare for these successful men and women in their forties and fifties. Gradually, they all turn out to be self-centred, egotistical people, mainly preoccupied with not missing their "quickies" with their mistresses or lovers.

Deeply satirical, sometimes black, sometimes irresistibly hilarious, "The Decline of the American Empire" is also somewhat discomfiting. By showing what little Quebec thinks of its Big Brother to the South, the director, Denys Arcand, helped by wonderful acting, does raise some questions on the lifestyles in America and in the West. Some (Norman Tebbit, Kenneth Baker, et al.) may see this as a consequence of the "sexual revolution", but even this film says that the word "adultery" was not created in 1968.

This astute self critique, in the line with Woody Allen, Peter Bogdanovitch, or Jim Jarmusch, is well worth seeing.

Alex Crawford

Exhibitions

Je Suis Le Cahier The Sketchbooks Of Picasso

(Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly. Until 19th November)

As part of an international tour sponsored by the American Express Company, the Sketchbooks of Pablo Picasso will only be in London for a brief period, but a visit is highly recommended. Going, as I did, a comparative ignoramus on the works of probably the most brilliant artist of this century and thinking that Picasso was synonymous with Cubism, the variety of his work will be striking.

On display are leaves from the sketchbooks he kept throughout his life showing simple pencil drawings, pen and ink sketches and work in crayon and watercolour. Arranged chronologically, his early work is very much in the French style of Toulouse-Lautrec. Born in Spain in 1881, Picasso trained in Barcelona and moved to Paris after 1900. But it was not until after about

1907 that he developed his Cubist style, having been influenced by Cezanne and African sculpture. The exhibition shows not only charcoal drawn examples of cubist sketches, but also full colour preparatory drawings for his major works.

The most enjoyable pictures were undoubtedly those he did later in life, before his death in 1973. In particular, there is a very witty series of cartoons depicting naked men running after naked women - drawn by a dirty old man, or drawn by a great artist? Other sketches of faces done in black ink are almost doodles, apparently dashed off in a moment, but showing natural free style as opposed to the unfortunately better-known heavy, rigid lines of his Cubism.

Fiona Chester



One of Pablo's Doodles Courtesy of Pace Galleries and the American Express



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Top Gun

(Empire, Leicester Square)

Aboard an aircraft carrier in the Indian Ocean, an F-14 Tomcat fighter awaits the signal for takeoff, the sun glinting on its menacing steel body. Capable of climbing 30,000 feet per minute and flying at more than twice the speed of sound, the aircraft is well suited for this mission - helping to intercept five Russian MIG fighters. The ensuing aerial encounter is successful enough for daredevil ace-pilot, Lt. Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (alias Tom Cruise), to win a place at the elite U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, known as "Top Gun".

But the hero is larger than life with his super-big ego, macho good looks and enough confidence to make the male cinema-goer feel like a wimp with a chip on his shoulder. An inspirational aviator, Maverick suffers badly, sinking further into depression, when his co-

pilot and closest friend is killed. But he pulls through. Helping him is his Intelligence instructor from the Pentagon (Kelly McGillis), tall, blonde and sexy, with whom he has fallen in love. If female cinema-goers exit feeling like dowdy old frumps, they have my sympathy. This film is a myth maker.

The story is simple to the point of nonexistence. American producers, however, apparently have an insatiable desire to continue a long line of Rambo style, jingoistic productions, desperately trying to bolster pride in the armed forces after the devastating loss of National face in Vietnam. For those whose pride is in a healthy condition, though, this film offers some brilliant action photography - see it on the largest screen possible.

Fiona Chester

Thumbs up for the U.S. Navy

Alpine Fire

The Everyman Cinema in Hampstead is lucky enough to present exclusively a small, low-budget film by a Swiss Director, Fredi M. Murer. I saw the film in Paris in the Spring, and suffice it to say that "Alpine Fire" is still playing there. It has been something of a "must" for film fanatics. Why?

The film starts out with a detailed description of every day life high up in the Swiss mountains, where a rural family struggles and lives with a few cows, a few stony acres and a deaf son. Gradually the story shifts from this view of life to concentrate on the relationship between the deaf son and his elder sister. She is his teacher and mentor, but he has difficulties seeing the difference between "normal" love for his sister and something much more powerful. The climax is devastating and beautiful, providing a surrealistic ending to this highly realistic film.

The documentary eye of the director blends an overpowering landscape with immaculate performances from the actors (unknown and mainly amateurs) into a disturbing film. He raises delicate issues like incest, patriarchy and the life of the disabled in a neutral way, but they will linger in your mind for quite a while. In short, a masterpiece. Miss a lecture if you must, but jump on the Northern Line up to Hampstead to see "Alpine Fire". (12th - 23rd October)

Alex Crawford

Mona Lisa

Simone is an independent whore with dignity and determination, unencumbered by a pimp and not bowed down by poverty. She is the whore of the eighties. But her past haunts her.

Cathy is a girl with whom she has a very special relationship. They need each other, but Cathy is in the control of an evil pimp who beats up little girls and destroys them.

Enter Mr George, Simone's new "minder", who searches the wretched, sleazy world of Soho and King's Cross to find Cathy. His eyes are opened to the horror of the prostitutes' world. The emotions stirred by these brutal realities are heightened by the similarities in age and looks between the young women and his own schoolgirl daughter. Mr George falls in love with Simone, but, when he finally rescues Cathy, it becomes apparent that she and Simone have a lesbian relationship.

Mona Lisa is a hard-hitting movie which will prove a rude awakening for a public idyllically entranced by such beautiful mulch as "A Room With A View". It is an illuminating portrayal of women trapped in such desperate situations that they become self-destructive. It is sad to note, though, that yet again the media has found itself incapable of accepting homosexuality as a form of love, but, as here, sees it as being born of hatred - in this instance, hatred of men.

Elizabeth Botsford

Music

Hammersmith Palais,

Trouble Funk

Fatback, Cameo and the fabulous Zapp! have all rightly earned a reputation for funk that is beyond the norm. However, each of these paled into insignificance with the mighty Troublefunk who stormed Kentish Town earlier this Summer and repeated the feat at the Palais on Tuesday. It is doubtful that any crowd have been taken to the limits of exhaustion that the best Go-Go requires, and then made to dance for a further two hours.

The hardest sound imaginable, save perhaps that of P-Funk, cozed over an audience that left the Palais shell-shocked at the power of the musicians they had just witnessed. A mixed crowd of the knowledgeable and the uninitiated, rocked, leapt, sang, whistled and sweated in a band-led initiative to 'burn down the muthafuckin' roof', an attempt which barely failed. And if the most loudly chanted lyrics were to the thumping bass of 'Drop the Bomb' and 'Pump Me Up', then the mania that greeted 'Let's Get Small', 'Still Smokin'', 'Good To Go' is a sure sign that Go-Go is finally influencing dance venues (and Cinemas) around London.

The set, apart from its awesome and irresistible call to dance, perfectly highlighted the individual talents of all ten musicians (and their guests). While the tempo slowed momentarily to numerous solos that included a one hand bass demonstration, it grabbed the crowd by the throat forced the final ounces of energy out.

Breathless, excited and very, very tired, people headed for bed. Two and a half hours previously they had been insulted with Bowie and Madonna over the P.A.. A few thousand sweat soaked bodies had then experienced troublefunk, which will prove and unforgettable night.

SPIKE

Stevie Ray Vaughan And Double Trouble

There are so many unsung guitar heroes and Stevie Ray Vaughan is just one of them. His is the sort of music that you are introduced to, or discover, and you wonder how you could have possibly overlooked him. He seems to have a universal following - from long-haired heavy-metallists to fellow musicians staring in awe at his sheer speed and brilliance.

The evening started with an unusual introduction from Remane Martinez on Classical guitar, whetting the audience's appetite. SRV introduced him as his "greatest friend in the world", clearly in admiration for his musical skills. SRV, with a tight backline of Chris Whipper-Layton on drums and Tommy Shannon on bass, followed by playing an exciting set. One and a half hours later, despite some of the old favourites like Cocaine being missed out, the audience was almost satisfied. After waiting five minutes SRV returned to play an encore but one felt that it was all too short. He left the stage not to return again and some of his followers were clearly disappointed.

The lighting was simple but effective and the sound system gave a more than adequate balance. SRV obviously had a great deal of trouble with his guitars - handing them to a member of the stage crew after almost every song. Throughout the gig SRV was his usual warm self, treating us all as friends. The only poor point of the evening was the lack of a sufficient encore but perhaps SRV was leaving us in anticipation of his return visit to Hammersmith on 10th October - worth a visit!

Richard Ford

Arts

Theatre

GHOSTS

at the Young Vic.

After Henrik Ibsen had finished writing "Ghosts" way back in the old days of 1880, no director in any respectable theatre in Europe would touch it. The play was considered too dirty. In the words of one director when asked to consider it for production: "One of the filthiest plays ever written in Scandinavia." It is because of the hard work done by Ibsen and his fellow writers of the past that plays such as "Ghosts" can be performed today and only offend the very few. Writers tend to knock society; society in turn takes offence and tries to strangle the writer. It is a shame that very seldom does a writer ever live to see the fruit of his struggle.

It is a curious fact that "Ghosts" received its world premiere in a country to which many of the more adventurous Scandinavians had emigrated. In 1882 an audience of Scandinavian immigrants became the first people to see the latest work of one of the greatest writers of their native land.

"Ghosts" speaks loudly and clearly to and for the young people. It deals with the destruction of youth by a society based on lies and deception. Oswald Alving (Adrian Dunbar), the prodigal son, as he calls himself, returns home to his mother (Vanessa Redgrave) after having lived in Paris for several years. His late father rates very highly in his esteem, but the picture of his father that he has conjured up in his mind is

torn to pieces by his mother's revelation about her late husband. An aspect of Ibsen's writing that is missing in this production is his support of the feminist cause. This is because Eve Mathson, playing Regina the maid, delivers a very unconvincing performance and fails to live up to the power of the script.

Even though the play was written a hundred years ago, many of the themes Ibsen chose to expose are still topical. The mother-son relationship was portrayed particularly well due to the fact that Vanessa Redgrave is a very good actress. The mother clings to her son and is even happy when she finds out that he is ill, because it means that he will have to stay home with her.

According to Ibsen, we live in a world full of Ghosts. With "Ghosts" he is referring to the old ideas of the past which are no longer of any importance, ideas which should be made redundant so that they no longer cloud the issue with which we are dealing. It is the fault of the Ghosts that we resist progress, and yet only those who desire progress feel their presence.

This production at the Young Vic is directed by David Thacker, and he does his job very well. It is a production well worth watching. It is interesting to draw parallels to today's society and discover that the same Ghosts which haunted us a hundred years ago still walk the corridors of our minds.

Martin Newson

The Petition

One of the best student standby deals ever achieved must have been on the opening night of 'The Petition', when four scruffy LSE students were offered box seats for half-price: so there we were in splendid isolation, peering over the stalls at the bow-tie brigade staring back up at us, rich, so young...and so dishevelled!

Of course there was another source of entertainment: the play itself. It has just been transferred to the West End from the National, and stars Sir John Mills and Rosemary Harris. He plays the part of a retired army general in the traditional mould of the Raj, who at first is seen reading "The Times"; she is reading "The Guardian" - enough said. To his horror, he discovers her name - included in a full page petition for the banning of the bomb. After fifty years of marriage, this finally opens the flood-gates for a river of revelation. They expose their hidden thoughts and feelings about and for each other. A past affair of hers leaps to the fore for heated discussion; his right wing rigidity comes under fire; and, finally, in the second act, Elizabeth's long-kept and tragic secret is disclosed, which jolts the play into a different gear.

The performances are polished, the dialogue is poignant, varying in pace from a witty, cheerful samba to a slow, intimate waltz. The themes of nuclear war, left- and right-wing views, old age and illness, as well as deceit, make this a rich and rewarding production.

If a play can fill a theatre on a Tuesday night and receive three curtain calls, then it must be worth seeing, especially if you enjoy posing as someone famous!

Nicola Hill



Chinese Ballet performing Swan Lake

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

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The Other World Cup

Despite the efforts of the organizers to increase public awareness of the Hockey Cup, Willesden still retains the atmosphere of the final day at Lord's, with the diehards waiting for the draw. A paltry 3,000 have regularly rattled round the refurbished stadium this week, almost drowning out the cries from the coaches of the 12 best hockey nations. The organizers have not gone out of their way to help those arriving by London transport. There is one signpost off the 1/4 hour walk from Willesden Green tube station and the locals seem blissfully unaware.

A successful showing by England would no doubt increase interest in the game. The likelihood of such success – a place in the medals should be judged as such – has risen as they have convincingly beaten New Zealand and Argentina. More favoured teams such as India and Pakistan have failed after two games to gain a point. However, the 5-to-1 odds on England winning reflect domestic punting rather than true objectivity. The Netherlands, who convincingly beat Great Britain in a 4-sided competition at Willesden last year, look at worthwhile investment at 14-to-1.

The tournament ends on Sunday, 19th October with the semi-finals the day before. Tickets are £4 standing and £6 seated and are reservable by ringing 451-5339. Admission is for the day – i.e. 3 matches – and the serious competition usually starts at 2.00 p.m.

If you are not of international standard and feel slightly humbled by the speed and skill of the Willesden version, do not despair – LSE hockey caters for everyone. There are 2 women's, two men's and a mixed team. The latter is purely social while the others play other London colleges and in the UAU competition. If you are interested (and particularly a male goalkeeper) leave a message for Neil Cooper or Shannon Ellsmore in the AU office.

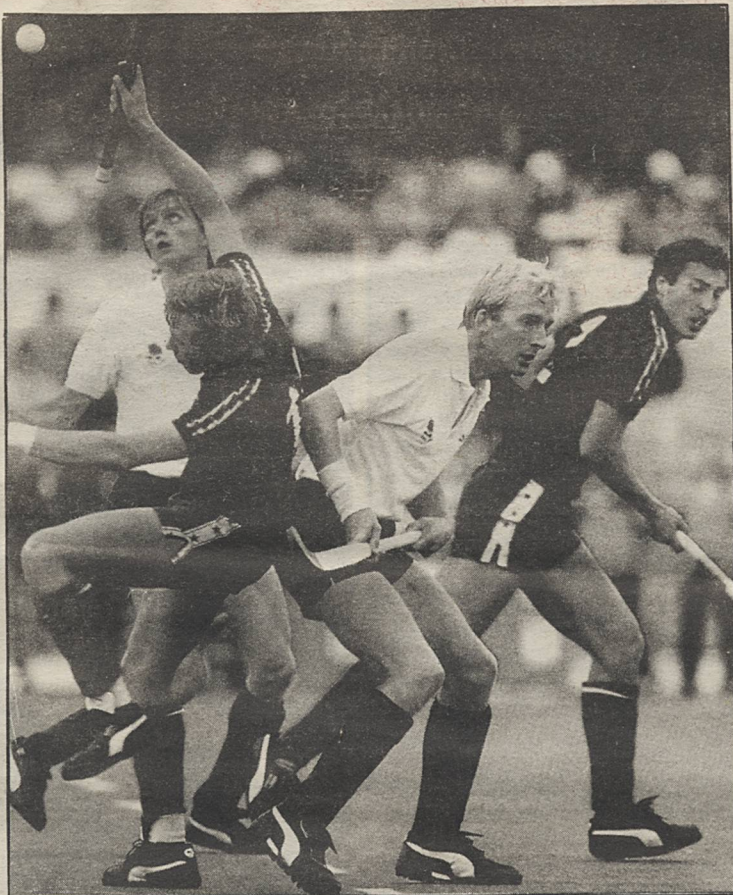
Houghton Street Harry

Throughout the year I will be giving up-to-the-minute tips on what I think will be the safest places to gamble your grants. It was only last week that the predictions of "Dallas" in the Cambridge and "Dancing Brave" in the Prix de l-Arz romped home at 10-1 and 9-4, respectively, to give a nice double.

Getting to the point, my nap for the year is "Coomb Ditch," a 10-year-old who is returning to the racing world after injury.

David Elsworth's horse will be running in the 'King George VI' on Boxing Day at Kempton Park – a long time to wait – but he's well worth a fiver. I'm even tempted to go a "pony." Although he has come second in the last two years (1984 to Burrough Hill Lad and 1985 to Wayward Lad) it has to be third time lucky.

On to football – a good bet at the moment seems to be Manchester United to be relegated to the 2nd division. Although a long time to wait until picking up the 'readies,' if present form persists, one can safely say "you can't go wrong, my son."



It's Just Not Cricket

by BASIL

English cricket has gone through trying times in the past few weeks, even before the Australia tour. Up at Yorkshire Geoff Boycott was finally and decidedly sacked by the committee. His crime (apart from being England's most consistent run-scorer in the last decade) was to be bigger than the inflated egos of the Yorkshire bosses.

Meanwhile, down in sleepy Somerset, Viv Richards and Joel Garner were sacked for similar reasons. In support of his friends, Ian Botham seems set to quit. These instances reflect the growing trend of club committees to think they are more important than the game. If they have their way a game that is slowly but surely losing its popularity will be stripped of its star attractions. Identifiable stars who excite and with whom the fans can identify will be replaced by David Gower clones. Committees will be happy, but will you?



Although spring is hardly in the air, the Cricket Club has already started preparations for the coming season. Nets are being held at Lord's on every Tuesday term-time evening from 8 until 9, while indoor 6-a-side matches are played most Saturdays. Vacancies exist for players of all standards, so if you are interested in playing either, come along one Tuesday, or contact Dave Bridges or Mike Gunber via the A.U. office.



Tennis: the Benson & Hedges championship at Wembley approaches, November 11-16. The winner here has to be Lendl. He has won it for the last two years and looks certain to clinch the hat trick: yet another safe bet from the psychic Napper of Houghton Street.

That's it for this week, but next week I'll have a few Horses and Dogs for you to get on.

by W. JUWES

FOOTBALL

The Demise of Goldfinger

Remember this time last year? Manchester United was winning the League, undefeated and with record points – of course you do. Big Ron was celebrating in champagne style.

What a difference a year makes: United, being saved from propping up the League by the incompetence of the Newcastle defence. A team of international stars failing miserably; how long before Robson and the like start crying off injured – too embarrassed to turn out for the first team.

Meanwhile, what of Big Ron, his hairline receding further with every result, surely the pressure is beginning to tell? If I were you, Ron, I'd sell some jewellery and invest in a penalty taker.

And the rest of the League? Liverpool and Everton have made their regular solid starts; Clough's young Forest side has an attractive look to it but may need a season or two to mature, while newly promoted Norwich and relegation Houdinis Coventry have made surprisingly good starts.

London's best bets look like last seasons unlucky losers West Ham, and after shrewd spending by David Pleat, Tottenham may take some stopping.

Looking at the rest of the pack, go and see Southampton for plenty of goals for an afternoon nap, visit Highbury (especially if Arsenal go one-up).

Finally, what do we make of poor Luton? The only progressive club in the League has had to fight the geriatric League which penalises clubs which suffer from hooliganism, and then penalises them for taking preventive action. Football quietly digs its own grave.

By May

The AU office has now been decorated and fitted with a luxury carpet (not one cigarette burn).

In the near future it hopes to acquire a kettle, toaster, a cooker, a fridge, a microwave, a drinks cabinet and fully trained staff!

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