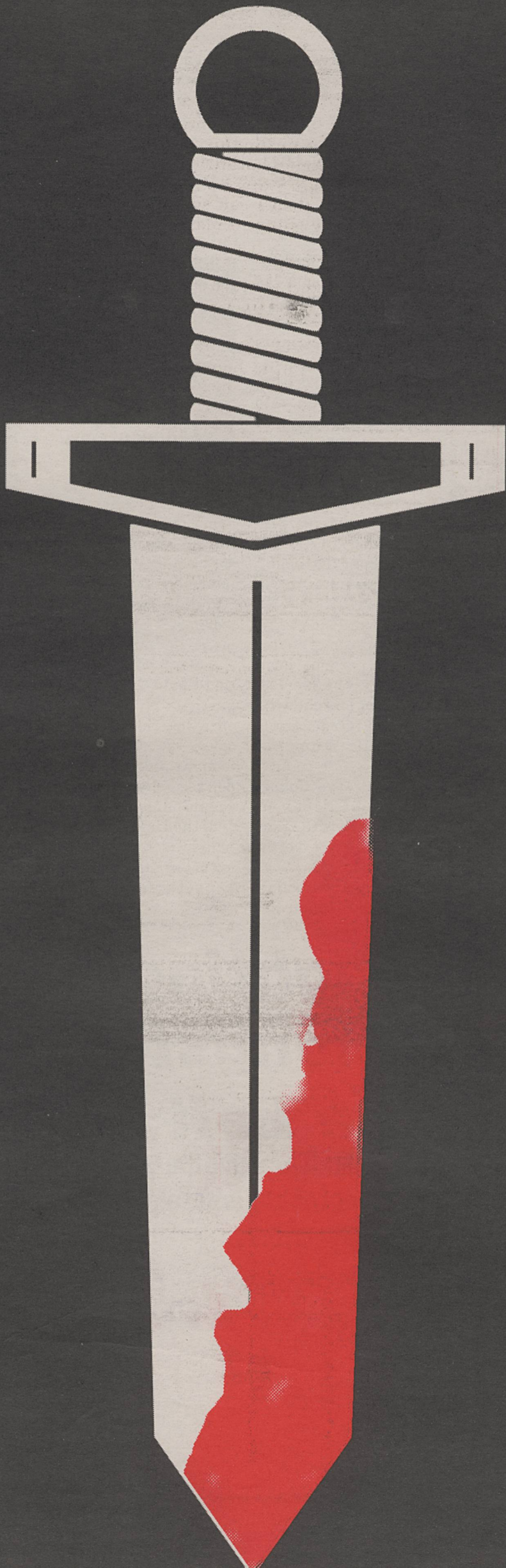


THE BEAVER³⁸³



Something Better Change

The Stranglers.

Union Jack

For those who don't know, Jack's job is to describe the week's UGM in a witty and slightly sardonic manner. Unfortunately this week's UGM was so unremittingly tedious that not even the grossest misrepresentation or vilest tabloid scandal mongering could render it even mildly amusing. This said, Jack does feel it incumbent upon himself to comment on the bizarre and increasingly irrational behaviour of some of the participants in this week's fiasco.

Firstly, call me a bluff old traditionalist (to plagiarize in the best journalistic style) but I thought that the Socialist workers were supposed to be fighting the oppressive capitalistic state, the Tories or, at the very least, the BNP. Had Jack known that when Louise Ashon was campaigning for a "fighting Union" she was talking about the Socialist Workers fighting each other, he might very well have voted for her. Still I suppose that if Peter Lilley isn't around, one might as well clobber the nearest available ideological fellow traveller.

Another thing that caught Jack's attention at this week's UGM was the strange way members of the Union have taken to expressing themselves. How should one react when the chair of the constitution committee announces that the "blood-donating" van will visit the LSE? Should one offer to "done" some blood? If so; how? Is it cool? And when Ron tells us that a "mistake isn't an excuse in the eyes of the law," what does he mean?

Still on the subject of odd expressions, why say that the GLF was founded "twenty-two years to the day but one", why not say 'twenty-two years ago tomorrow', in fact why not just say 'twenty-two years ago'? I mean, nobody is going to quibble over a day and most people probably don't know when the organization was founded anyway.

Though he hasn't yet resorted to 'news-speak' Jack does have to note that Simon, erstwhile chair of the Union, did make some uncharacteristically 'right-on' remarks during this week's proceedings. When Simon-the-righteous is applauded by both left and right one does begin to wonder about the mental balance of the UGM. More worrying still, and further evidence of mass psychosis is the fact that Martin Lewis was granted an extension in order to witter on about his grand scheme for re-organising the exec. and received some applause for his efforts. This is all the more strange since Martin's plans had been thrown out by the constitution committee for reasons given to us by Ron but which Jack found far too confusing to follow, let alone repeat.

Incidentally, a chap whose name Jack can't recall but remembers vaguely from last year's shambles appears to have helped formulate Martin's plans; well we all know that power is a drug which some people just can't do without. Any suggestions as to who this person is and what he is doing will be gladly received. Anyway, talking of power, it strikes Jack that the post of exec. Rag Officer would perfectly suit someone who enjoys the glamour of the entertainments industry but who possesses an irresistible desire to shove his or her oar in elsewhere when the opportunity offers itself, hang on, no but Jack thought Martin.....

When he remarked on the tedious nature of this week's UGM one thing must have slipped Jack's mind. For those with the patience to attend will have witnessed one amazing moment: Dean (a rugby player) spoke (and if that isn't amazing enough in itself) managed to do so without outraging the Unions' equal opportunities policy OR uttering the words beer, me, a or give. Long may such admirable behaviour last, if only because it gives Jack something to write about.

Lastly, as the pangs of conscience gradually permeate the cynical, alcohol-soaked object that Jack calls his brain, he feels himself beholden to report what actually happened at the UGM; we considered having a Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual Officer but decided against it.

The Essential Beer Guide to Higher Education

— Ben Oliver —

Freshers currently discovering just how much rubbish is written in university prospectuses will regret missing the latest publication for higher education hopefuls.

PUSH 94, the Polytechnic and University Students' Handbook is aimed at cutting through the academic clap-trap and giving applicants what they want; sex, politics and the price of beer.

Compilers Ben and Johnny Rich have put together a series of ratings on topics such as rent, ents and male/female ratios. Their aim is to "match students with the college of their dreams, or near enough."

Of major interest will be their "UBI", or University Booze Index. Liverpool Uni. comes out top with 92p per pint, beating the Tuns by 38p. Belfast is best for rent, with a £26pw average. An obscure political ratings system ranks our country cousins at Wye College as the most right-wing student body, with Luton College the hardest of the hard left.

On ents, Abba tribute band Bjorn Again are

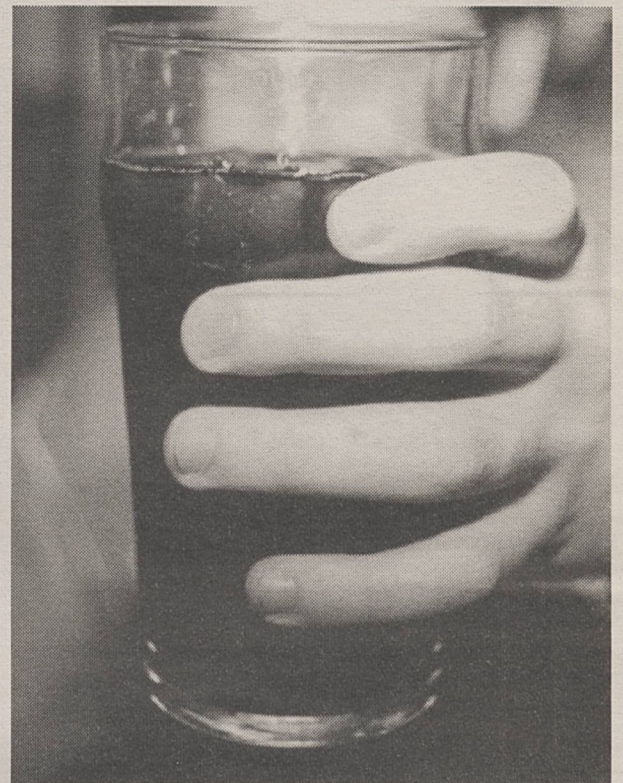
rated as the most popular student band with 24 campus performances, justifying the flood of tribute bands playing London student venues. Old stager Jools Holland still manages fifth place, and Jo Brand is the top ranked comedian.

"If the Union wants to help students it should lower beer prices to compensate for London rents."

Reaction in the Tuns was enthusiastic. Wayne Rogers, a Fresher Economics student said, "I think it's great. If I'd read it I would never have come here."

Paul Birrell, also a fresher, claimed pint prices were no surprise. "In Scotland we know that English pub prices, particularly southern ones, are ridiculous because the English are foolish and gullible. I don't see why Union bars should be any different."

"If the Union wants to help students it should lower beer prices to compensate for London rents."



Editor Criticises School's Lack of Co-operation

— Ben Oliver —

Beaver editor Kevin Green has hit out against Computer Services for their alleged "lockout" of his production staff.

System changes have led to Beaver layout teams being denied access to S501, one of the best equipped rooms in the School. Green claims that this will affect new recruits to his paper, who cannot be trained on the Beaver's own overloaded computers.

Computer Services manager David Dalby restricted access in order to have new facilities in place in time for the start of term. This, along with his reluctance to let trainees use the system, has caused him to deny The Beaver access.

Green claims that this is typical of School hostility to the Beaver. "Staff are always unresponsive to our requests. Their sympathies lie elsewhere, and I can't see anything

changing."

"It's crazy that such a heavy investment should be used by a limited number of people."

David Dalby denies accusations of a lockout. "The Beaver wants a major change in the way it uses our computers. Its original permission was for layout, but now they want to train staff. This makes us a little nervous. We need time to consider."

In a letter to the Editor he states his support for The Beaver, but outlines plans to restrict access in the future after previous misuse of facilities.

For further details of this story, and the attitude of the Student Union, see the Editor's special news feature on page 5

Infighting Amongst The Left

Beaver Staff examine the reasons why direct action is not always politically correct.

It appears that antagonism between various political factions on the left of the spectrum is not confined to the UGM, but has spilled out onto Houghton Street.

Mr Russell's reply, as one observer described it, was to "smack Josh in the mouth"

Reports say that Dennis Russell, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, while manning the Parties stall last Thursday, took offence to allegedly being called a "scab" by Josh from the Socialist Workers party. Mr Russell's reply, as one observer described it, was to "smack Josh in the mouth", leaving the victim requiring medical treatment.

The issue of disciplinary action is being considered.

Do They Never Learn?



Crowds gather in Houghton Street prior to Virginia Bottomley's arrival. Exclusive Photo: Pam Keenan.

What the papers said

BOT YA! Ginny pelted with eggs
Daily Star

Eggs pelt Virginia
Daily Mail

GINNY DOES RUNNER FROM EGG-CHUCKING MOB
Demo nurses halt speech
The Sun

Egg-pelters force Bottomley to scrap speech.
The Guardian

GINNY FLEES EGGS DEMO
Daily Mirror

Bottomley abandons speech amid protests
Independent

Bottomley barracked by nurses
Daily Telegraph



Bottomley abandoned the stage, leaving Sir Peter to try and placate the crowd
Photo: Pam Keenan

Once again the LSE found itself the centre of much controversy, as a familiar display of vociferous protest marked the Founder's Day speech, which was to have been given last Thursday by the Secretary of State for Health, Virginia Bottomley.

Students and invited guests were met by a group of approximately 80 picketers in Houghton Street, brandishing placards and discordantly chanting phrases such as "You say cut back, we say fight back." They were opposed by a small group of LSE Tories, also gathered on the steps of the Old Building, who seemed intent on provoking the situation: in response to a left wing heckle, one Tory was reported to have said "sorry I don't understand; I don't speak unemployed."

In the event, all the demonstrators were frustrated when the Minister chose to arrive at the entrance to Connaught

Sarita Khajuria, Ben Oliver and Phil Gomm

House, being met there by Sir Peter Parker, the Chairman of the School's Court of Governors. She was then whisked straight into the Old Theatre, which now contained the protestors as well as the School guests.

Immediately upon her entrance, she was confronted by a barrage of abuse from the balcony. Despite various attempts to calm the situation, all movements to start the lecture were shouted down. This was accompanied by a series of mis-fired eggs and paper missiles. As the situation showed no signs of improving Bottomley abandoned the stage, leaving Sir Peter to try and placate the crowd. At this point several demonstrators broke through the security and armed with their placards, 'stormed' the platform grabbing the microphone, providing excellent photo opportunities for the ranks of the national media who were present.

The whole affair had now degenerated into a political pantomime, with all the various factions calling for freedom of speech, yet no one was making any concessions.

In the end the meeting broke up in disarray with Bottomley and the invited guests retiring upstairs to the Shaw library, while in the foyer there was a furious atmosphere amongst those who had been prepared to hear either argument, but in the event heard neither.

Speaking to the Beaver afterward, Bottomley said that "having got my education at the LSE, it's a shame that I was unable to deliver a speech at the institution where I learned so much." Even so, in the quieter environs of the sixth floor, she managed to give an impromptu address where she admitted to having taken part in 'similar' activities at the University of Essex: "when visiting speakers came, we removed the signs from the toilets knowing that segregation of the sexes was no more than an Establishment control on the masses!"

Back in Houghton street, Nurse Brid Hehir from University College Hospital, who had helped lead the protest said "the public sector is angry. Virginia Bottomley never

answers questions. My job is secure, but many others are on the scrap heap, along with the NHS."

She added, "my aim in seizing the microphone was to get her to answer our questions and account for her policies." Alan Harding, of the Public Sector Fight Back Campaign, who helped orchestrate the protest said "Virginia Bottomley is the pretty face on some pretty ugly politics."

"My aim in seizing the microphone was to get her to answer our questions and account for her policies."

He continued, "She has just come from her stage managed party conference and we offered her the chance to really discuss the issues, but she wasn't up to it." However, as a neutral member of the audience commented, "these supposedly good intentions didn't seem to materialize, and the ideal of freedom of speech was regressed rather than progressed this evening."



In defiance a lone nurse occupies centre stage. Photo: Pam Keenan

Take My Advice I'm Not Using It.

In a series of articles Peter Harris discusses the Students' Union. Last year he was the Union's first Equal Opportunity and Welfare Sabbatical, and has been the chair of the influential and controversial Democratic Socialist Group (DSG)

Academic Jack: The Battle over Top Up Fees

In June of this year the Students' Union was engaged in a battle with the School Administration over the issue of "top-up fees". The administration proposed making all home and EC LSE students pay an extra fee from their own pockets. For undergraduates this would have meant an extra bill of up to £1000 per year.

The Union reacted quickly to oppose this proposal. A meeting of the Executive drafted a motion for consideration at an Emergency General Meeting.

Although the Director, John Ashworth, had toyed with this sort of idea before, all indications suggested that this time he was deadly serious about breaking ranks with other institutions by moving the LSE into a top-up fee sector of Higher Education. Feeling rather pessimistic, I asked the new Executive how ruthless they were willing to be in their campaign. "Where does the Director park his bicycle", they replied. They meant business. In addition to wanting to hijack the LSE balloon and fly it to Cuba, the Executive also proposed a rolling response to fee increases that ranged from initial lobbying to a possible severing of relations with the School Administration. These proposals were overwhelmingly supported by the EGM.

Over a couple of weeks the under-strength Students' Union, suffering from Summer-term syndrome, engaged the School in the debate over higher fees through national media. Jon Spurling's televised debate with alumni and academics put the funding of Higher Education at the top of the broadsheet political agenda.

What disturbed me at this time was that it was impossible to find an academic to argue our side of the case. I phoned up a large number of academics and even those on the left sympathised with some of the Director's ideas. For example, Professor Lord Megnad Desai, until recently Labour's treasury front-bencher, supported the sweeping fee increases proposed by John Ashworth. Others supported masters' fee increases; others were too busy to participate in the debate.

However, there was one good piece of news coming from the Academic community. Their Academic Planning and Resources Committee (APRC), had sided with us on the issue of higher fees for undergraduates. They now faced the combined strength of the Student Recruitment (Privatisation) Group (SRG) (my brackets), the Senior School Administration and those academics siding with the Director. The arena for this battle was the Academic Board which, unusually, had the presence of a student representative.

I took the opportunity to deliver a short speech developing on the letter I had hand-delivered to all Academics a few days earlier. This letter had gone down quite well. At this stage I was confident that we would win the debate on undergraduate fees. However, there still remained the threat that the SRG report would pass through the Board. This report recommended higher masters' fees from 1994, for example, for all MSc Economics programmes.

The level of debate at the Academic Board was very impressive. On the whole the academics were very polite. I feel that a well-informed permanent student representative (the General Secretary perhaps) could make a useful contribution to the Board and this is something we must keep pressing for. My ultimate objective of scuppering any fee increase for 1994 was very nearly achieved at the meeting, but there lingered support for some kind of experimental fee increase. This idea was referred to the APRC. It is exactly this kind of proposal that we must now beware of.

In my view there is considerable support in the academic community for masters' fee increases of some unspecified kind at some unspecified date (ie in principle at least). However, the academic community still have reservations about how higher fees would work in practise. I am sure that, against a background of government underfunding, the debate will rage on. The Students' Union must play a full part in it.

Inter-Halls Victory

—Michael Goulding—

During the summer vacation a decision was made by the academic board to cut student representation on the Inter Halls Committee, an important body which meets once a term to make policy concerning all aspects of the School's Halls of Residence, including rents and facilities available.

Until now the committee has had equal numbers of staff and students who can vote, along with other members who cannot. The new rule would have limited the number of student voices on the

committee to only one per Hall, half the previous number, with no change in the number of staff representatives.

The reason given for this was that the committee, in its original state, was of an "unwieldly size". But, as one student commented, "If that were true then why were there only voting students removed, and not any of the non-voting members of the committee." The school had countered that when students did actually turn up, they were disorganized, unprepared and often disagreed in their

voting and intentions.

In answer to this, a motion was passed at the Student Union General Meeting last Thursday opposing the change, mandating the General Secretary of the Union to write to the Director outlining the Union's dissatisfaction. Then early this week it was announced by the Board that all representation will be reduced equally, leaving a committee which is of a more manageable size, while still maintaining a fair balance of power. The situation is resolved, or so it would seem. But as one student representa-

tive commented "there is a somewhat sinister aftertaste which involves a wider issue; why were the SU or indeed the committee itself not consulted before the decision was taken." Unless this were merely a show of strength, or indeed a testing of the waters to see how the Union would react (as if they didn't know), it was all a waste of time, and ultimately only showed that the opinions of the students and of their committees are listened to by an authority which may all the time be laughing up its sleeve."

Beaver Sabbatical?



Certainly the way forward, but not a reality given the current financial climate within the Student Union. Photos: Steve East

—Chris Burchfield—

Preliminary discussions are taking place between the Union and The Beaver on the method of election of the editor. At present the editor is elected by the Beaver Collective, made up of past contributors to the paper. Yet suggestions have been made to

"They won't know what they could have had, until they've lost it."

make the post sabbatical and so elected by all students.

Kevin Green, the present Executive Editor, argues that although the paper has improved it can only continue to do so with a full-time editor capable of putting the dedication, knowledge and organization into expanding the paper. Perversely many other student publications, published less frequently, and with less regular content, the Beaver is currently fully staffed by students concurrently

studying for a degree. A full-time editor would also give the paper more respect, and power for campaigning on behalf of LSE students.

However, the change may alter The Beaver. No longer the voice of students against the Union, it could end up speaking for the Union; become politicized and be full of "bickering cliques". Yet Navin Reddy, Arts Editor, thought it would give strength to the Union and cliques would be no worse than now.

Further, Green dis-

putes the charge that the £10,000 a year job may go to 'outsiders', ignorant to journalism. He believes the strong quality of serious writers and the value students place on the paper make this fear unfounded.

To encourage the good and avoid the bad in the change the editor believes Sabbatical candidates should only be permitted after approval by the Beaver collective. But he adds ominously that, "they won't know what they could have had, until they've lost it."

If Only There Were Union

The support given to the Beaver has always been, at best, weak. But in a climate of chronic underfunding from a Student Union purporting pro-Beaver attitudes, and hinderence from The School, Kevin Green, the current Executive Editor discusses why the newspaper will not be printed next week. He also outlines his hopes and fears for the future and why resignation is now his only option.

Four thousand students at LSE read the Beaver each and every week in which it is published. Only around 200 regularly attend the UGM's! More and more students are getting involved. This week alone we had some twenty students working until after 11pm, and reporters from the national press chasing exclusive photographs taken by our photographers. This week we are publishing the second 24 page issue this term, and that is a size which I have had to restrict. Against all odds there is considerable interest and participation in this newspaper, which is something which I have made my priority as editor.

The student union at LSE does not value its newspaper. I have become increasingly frustrated over the past few weeks talking to the sabbaticals who profess their support and vision for the newspaper. They tell me that they have confidence in myself, and they tell me that they have confidence in the newspaper. Indeed there have been talks concerning a sabbatical position for us.

But talk is all that ever seems to generate from the top floor of the East building. Last term I began to initiate my plans to get more students involved in the newspaper. A meeting towards the end of the summer term discussed a new confidence, and the need for investment. Gethin Roberts, Union General Manager, stated that the Beaver needed investment in the form of a cash injection to purchase new equipment. The student union provided this in the form of a £2000 grant and we invested £2000 from our budget for last year, and made further spending decisions based on the

expected support from the union concerning our budget this year.

If you are told that the student union is committed to investment and improvement you don't expect them to cut £1500 from our proposed budget for this year. In effect, the decisions which we made last term, in the light of positive reactions from the student union have now been turned around. We may be forgiven for expecting an increase in budget for this year, but given the general cut made by the school of 2.8% on the whole union submission for this year, perhaps stabilization of funding was more realistic. But a cut of 17% on the previous year has not only negated the effect of any extra contribution, it is a total reversal of intent after considerable investment has been made, and now totally absorbed by the Beaver.

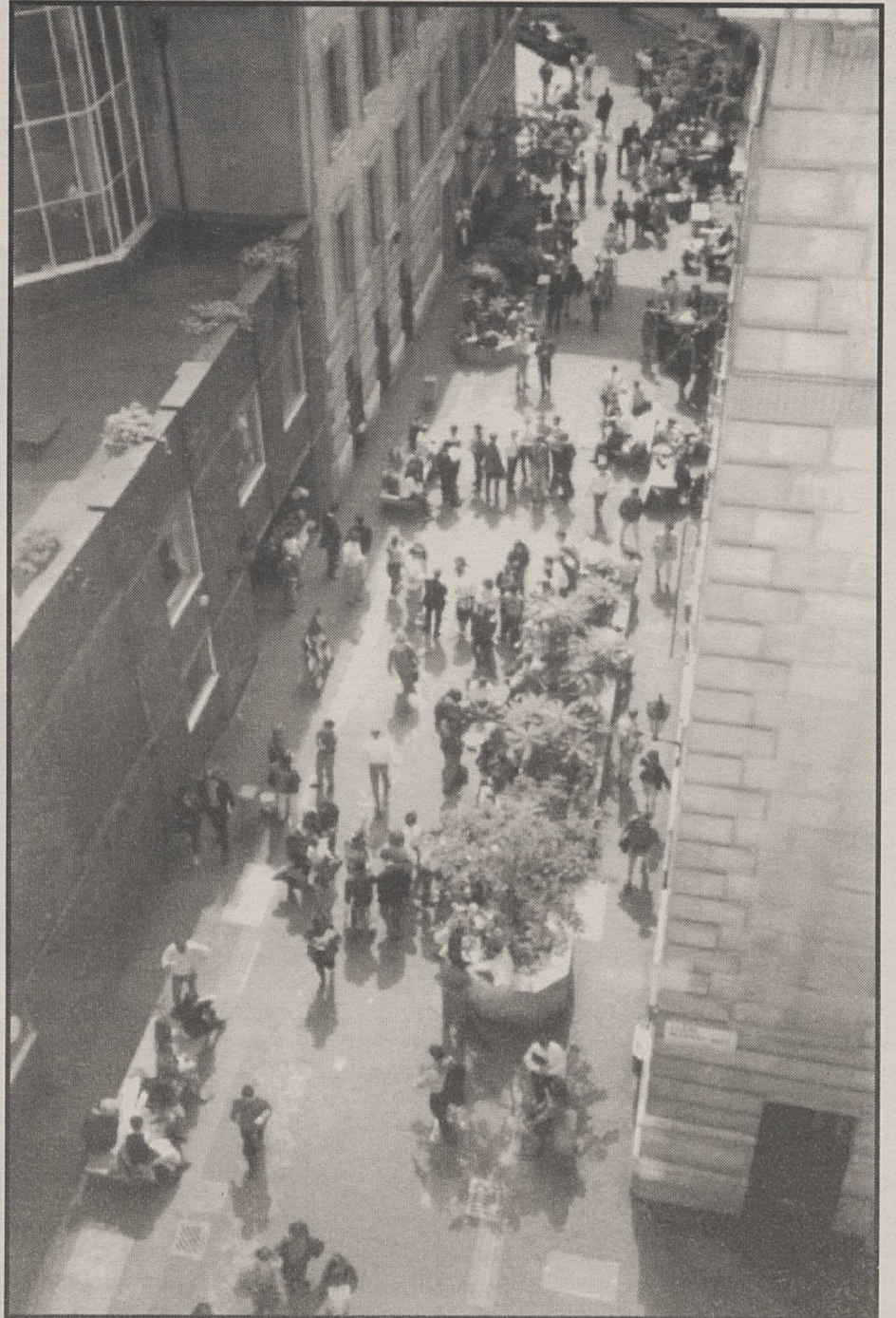
Combine all of this with the absurd actions currently being made by Computer Services to prevent large numbers of students from using expensive equipment, and suddenly it seems as if it has just become 'block the Beaver' year at LSE. Because of the size and regularity of this newspaper, we need certain equipment with which to produce. Historically we have used our software on Macintosh computers in S501. The School has now withdrawn this privilege due to technical reasons. The most advanced and expensive equipment at LSE cannot now be used. Computer Services have also informed us that even if we could use the room, we could not use it to train production staff. How odd? Are we really to believe that a university is telling us that we can't use equipment unless we are expert in its operation? Perhaps all of the

computers here are for the exclusive use of Computer Services, after all, they know what they are doing?

The most infuriating thing about this entire lack of support is the dedication, given voluntarily, to this newspaper by many students every week. Our cramped office does not help, but I ask myself, why are we being subjected to a total lack of support? Look at the content of this issue. We are bursting at the seams. Financially we cannot continue much needed investment, compounded by the withdrawal of support from the school. Perversely I was told by certain union staff that it was highly unlikely that the school would take their current course of action and that we didn't need to make any investment. If these people had their way then we would now have no newspaper because we wouldn't be able to produce. We cannot afford to publish 24 pages, but we could publish much more, we have the copy.

Publish and be damned. The students which dedicate their time to us deserve publication and I will not be party to continued financial restraint.

There is a groundswell of support for this newspaper as it struggles to improve. If the student union can't help us then I sincerely ask them to stop hindering. What other student organisation generates the same kind of interest and participation at LSE? It is



Houghton Street on high. Perception can often become distorted if one doesn't remain on level terms. The Beaver is of great service to LSE students.

time that the student union stopped talking about investing whilst stabbing us in the back. If you want a good newspaper it's here. If we lose support from our contributors and the paper slides downhill again, then it is totally the fault of the current Sabbatical team and executive. I have done all that I physically can to improve the base of this newspaper and I will not remain to see it destroyed by the narrow-sightedness of the school and the union. I hope and pray that they

will look around and wake up. One thing which is in within their power this year is the success of the student union newspaper. Forget their petty politics, this is tangible and I'm sick of the lack of support and blasé attitude of elected officers and full time staff.

I have been told by union staff that I am too ambitious, and to that I resign. Publish and be damned. The students which dedicate their time to us deserve publication and I will not be party to

continued financial restraint. We need to make new investment, and can't afford to publish 24 pages. Next week we will not publish in protest, and through necessity. Hopefully in this time your elected student union representatives will start to take their roles seriously, and hopefully the permanent staff will be reminded of their status, employees of the LSE Student Union. They have already ground me down. The real work takes place within the student body. Wake up.

**No Beaver Next Week
Blame Them Not Us.**

David Ames proves there's life in Essex

—Paul Birrell—

Basildon will always be remembered as being synonymous with the last general election. Whoever won it would form the next government. Last Wednesday, the M.P. for Basildon, Mr. David Ames, who holds the record for mentioning his constituency in a speech more times than anyone else, came to the L.S.E. to speak.

A lifelong Thatcherite, his constituency represents 'Essex man' more than any other. At the last general election, this otherwise indifferent seat was crowded with reporters. Why? One reason is that 'Essex man' was part of the 'miracle of Thatcher'. If the Tories lost him, it was thought, they had lost the election.

Basildon was to be the first to declare its results. This was the seat to watch. David Ames, speaking to a gathering of Conservative Stu-

dents, gave his opinion on this. It was, he told the meeting, because the Labour council believed the seat was theirs; an early defeat for the Tories would smash their morale. They hired bank workers in order to ensure a fast result - which took less than an hour to establish. When it came through, John Major turned to Norma, and said, simply, '... we've won...', or so the story goes.

David Ames took Basildon when it first became a constituency in 1983. His victory was thought an anomaly, brought about by a combination of Michael Foot and the Falkland's War. Only when he doubled his majority in 1987 was he taken seriously. It seemed as much of a surprise to him as it was to the rest of the country. When, in the council elections, all fifteen Tory candidates won their seats on the council, his position was consolidated.

Mr. Ames has plans to win his seat again the next time around. An assault on crime and absentee fathers is what he wants. The first he sees as a major Tory policy, which the Labour Party seemed to have taken. Strong law and order he still regards as a vote winner. Ames also argued that corporal punishment in schools should be brought back. Likewise he wanted Capital punishment reinstated '... the sooner the better.'

His constituency has the highest number of single parents in the country. Whilst admiring those women who do bring up a child on their own, he believes that absent fathers should be brought to book.

David Ames believes that 'Essex man' is here to stay, and that his constituency will remain an indicator of electoral - and Thatcher's - success. We will soon see if he is right.



David Ames. Photo credit. Pam Keenan.

Foster defends NUS

—Phil Tod—

In a talk at the LSE on Monday, Don Foster MP, the Liberal Democrat spokesman for Education, spoke out against Secretary of State for Education John Patten and defended the National Union of Students from Tory claims that it is the last "closed shop".

Foster attacked the Conservative government for centralizing power, citing the 1988 Education Reform Act as an example. He claimed that the Act gave the Secretary of State for Education 500 new powers, many at the expense of local government.

The MP accused Patten of being out of touch, saying he was "not willing to come out and consult with people". He maintained that Patten's proposals for league tables, the national curriculum and higher education were opposed by parents, teachers and the Committee for Vice Chancellors and Principals alike.

He employed a slogan similar to one used by the Conservatives at the last election to attack the Tories' record on higher education, claiming that students faced a "triple whammy": greater difficulty obtaining grants, growing student debt and

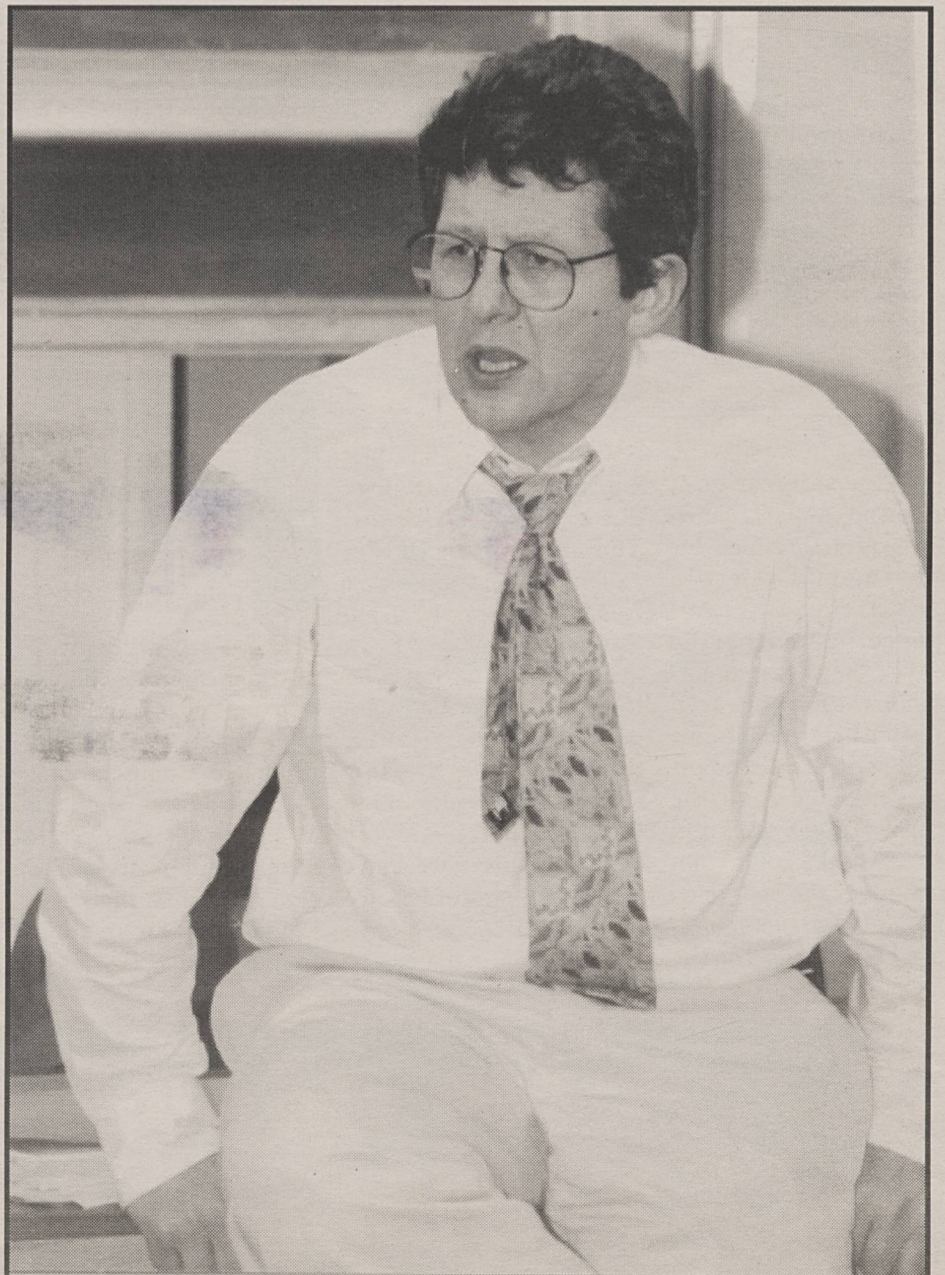
rising graduate unemployment. He added that funding and quality in higher education were questions that all parties had to address.

Questioned about the alleged political activities of the NUS, he defended the organisation from accusations that it is a "closed shop". Foster asserted that this was untrue, as campus unions choose whether or not to affiliate, and accused Patten of throwing a bone to appease the Tory right. Foster also argued that it was "perfectly legitimate" for an organisation that represented a group in society to put over their views, and receive government funding to do so. Speaking of a "fine line" between lobbying and partisan campaigning, he condemned the latter as "wrong". He suggested that the NUS should steer away from activities such as the campaign targeting 70 seats at the last election where students could decide the outcome, and which called on them to vote against the government.

However, Foster agreed that some changes to the NUS were necessary. He expressed concern that the internal structures could "be hijacked by a particular group" and suggested that campus

students' unions should assess the democratic structures of NUS.

In the discussion which followed the talk, Foster accepted that the funding of university education was a problem in view of the £50 billion public sector deficit. He welcomed the expansion in student numbers, but stressed the need to match this with the required funding. Assessing different methods of financing education, he opposed "top-up fees" on principle, arguing that education should be free at the time of study. Foster described the student loans scheme as "farfetched", claiming that it wouldn't even break even until 2025; a graduate tax would be a disincentive to higher education, as it would be "grossly unfair" to pay extra tax for the rest of your life because you went to university. Despite his personal opposition to these schemes, he suggested that the Liberal Democrats were reviewing their position and would not rule anything out. In conclusion, he called for a move towards part-time study and support for part-time students, to facilitate greater equality of access to higher education.



Don Foster, Liberal Democrat education spokesman. Photo Scott Wayne

PUBLIC LECTURES

MICHAELMAS TERM 1993

Staff, students and LSE Club members are welcome to attend

OCTOBER

1st Friday
CEP Conference Room
1.00 p.m.

SERGEI VASILIEV,

Director of the Economic Staff,
Council of Ministers, Government of Russia.
"The State of the Russian Economy"
Centre for Economic Performance
Lecture.
Chairman: *Professor Richard Layard.*

14th Thursday
Old Theatre
5.30 p.m.

THE RT. HON. VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, JP, MP

Secretary of State for Health.
Title: To be announced
The Founders' Day Lecture.
Chairman: *Sir Peter Parker.*

28th Thursday
Old Theatre
5.30 p.m.

CAROL GILLIGAN,

Professor of Psychology, Harvard University
Visiting Pitt Professor at Cambridge University.
"In a Distant Voice: The Gendered
Articulation of Self 10 Years Later"
Gender Institute Lecture.
Chairman: *Dr. Henrietta Moore*

NOVEMBER

3rd Wednesday
Shaw Library
5.30 p.m.

VISCOUNT RUNCIMAN OF DOXFORD, CBE, FBA,

Chairman of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.
"An Outsider's View of the Criminal Justice System"
The Chorley Lecture.
Chairman: *Professor Robert Reiner.*

4th Thursday
Old Theatre
5.30 p.m.

SIR NICHOLAS BAYNE, KCMG

British High Commissioner, Ottawa.
"International Economic Relations
After the Cold War, Government and Opposition"
Leonard Schapiro Lecture.
Chairman: *Professor Michael Leifer, Pro-Director.*

9th Tuesday
10th Wednesday
Old Theatre
5.30 p.m.

MR. KARL OTTO POHL

Partner, Sal. Oppenheim Jr. & Cie
"International Monetary Policy: a Personal View"
The Lionel Robbins Memorial Lectures.
Chairmen: *to be announced.*

16th Tuesday
Old Theatre
5.30 p.m.

MRS. GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

Prime Minister of Norway.
"Government Rededicated: Setting
Course Towards a Common Future"
The 1949 Seminar Memorial Lecture
Chairman: *Dr. John Ashworth, Director.*

18th Thursday
Old Theatre
5.30 p.m.

MR. EDDIE GEORGE

"The Pursuit of Financial Stability"
The Bank of England Lecture
Chairman: *Dr. John Ashworth, Director.*

ADMISSION FREE

This programme may be subject to alteration..

The Beaver

This editorial is sponsored by;
Marlboro Lights: they melt in your mouth
in association with Goodyear Tyres: Keeping the buses
running
The Cocteau Twins: na na na na, la la la
and my brothers new car: which seriously pisses me off.

Sorry about the sponsorship but we have to raise money somehow.

I haven't bought a new CD, new clothes or anything other than basic food and obligatory drink for over a year now and yet I've spent more money than ever before in the same time period. Curious? No not really.

Last year the government, in all their infinite wisdom, donated almost a full grant to my cause. LSE accommodation office required that for the privilege of living at Butlers Wharf residence I give them nearly a full grant. London Underground shrugged its shoulders and ordered another substantial sum, and food is another story.

The lecturers at LSE then suggested rather forcefully that I purchase the course text, which just happened to be the only book on the respective shelf which was £25 more expensive than all of the others. Much more to my disappointment I then realised that the books were all written by them. Personally I think that I would be better off if John Ashworth did introduce higher fees for undergraduate courses, but only if he exposed the current lecturer top-up fees that we already pay. And of course the Student Union would be very concerned.

This next story will scare you, because it's absolutely true. It was with much amusement that we emptied the Beaver collection boxes this week only to find £1.20 in the one which serves the Brunch Bowl. If anyone knows from whence it came we would be very interested, but you can't have it back because we've spent it already: and anyway it's not a money box and that was pretty stupid. Anyway, the point being that it just goes to prove that a lot of students at LSE have far too much money for their own good, which is obvious I suppose if you're even in the Brunch Bowl. Isn't it reassuring to know that the social composition of LSE perfectly mirrors that of England, apart from the one minor exception that there is a far higher proportion of students at LSE who are loaded. I think I really miss the collective experience of being a poor 'S.E.G. D' miserable bastard, and just have to suffer on my own, perhaps I'll move to Birmingham or Leamington Spa, at least I won't get blown up then.

Anyway, going back to finance, I really love the way in which the student loan is so painfully low because the government are concerned that some students may just invest the money. Well yes I suppose that is the case if you include the Bank of Sainsbury's, Philip Morris and the astute businessman, sorry person, who is my landlord. I just look forward to the day when I graduate and get my roadsweeping job, if I'm lucky, and don't consider that buying a £3.00 Wright's mixed grill, when I haven't eaten all day, an extravagance. Thanks Jon. M. I hope you die in a freak yachting accident.

The fact that there will not be a Beaver next week, but you expected there to be one....turns me on! . **Jarvis**

Executive Editor	Kevin Green
News Editors	Phil Gomm, Steve Roy
Campus Editor	Ron Voce
Arts Editors	Navin Reddy Geoff Robertson
Music Editor	Rob Hick
Sports Editor	Neil Andrews
Photographic Editors	Steve East Thorsten Moos

Staff: Selman Ahmad, Caroline Barnes, Emma Bearcroft, Graham Bell, George Binette, Anika Bosenquet, Nigel Boyce, James T. Brown, Chris Burchfield, Matt Claxton, Adam Cleary, Mark Dantos, John Fenton-Fischer, Teshar Fitzpatrick, Nick Fletcher, Sarah Jane Gibbs, Gavin Gilham, Michael Goulding, Andrew Graveson, Louise Grogan, Hans Gutbrod, Courtney Hagen, Melissa Hall, Kate Hampton, Peter Harris, Gerard Harris, Pam Keenan, Tom Kenyon, Sanita Khajuria, Steve Kinkee, Kevin Leisure-gurkin, Martin Lewis, Chris Longridge, Stavros Makris, Adrian May, Emmanuel Ohajah, Ben Oliver, Sorrel Osbourne, Sarah Owen, David Price, Tom Randell, Zaf Rashid, Mervyn Rees, Simon Reid, John Santa-Cruz, Bella Sleeman, Matthew Smith, Jon Spurling, Ian Staples, Tony Thirulinganathan, Ian Turner, Scott Wayne, Dave Whetham, Ralph Wilde, L. A. Wildethorpe, Faz Zahir.

Printed by;	Negatives by
Eastway Offset,	Printronics,
3-13 Hepscott Road,	75 Shelton Street,
London E9	Covent Garden.

Computer Services Defended

Dear Kevin,

I am writing to confirm the outcome of our telephone conversation the other day, and to clarify one or two points relating to it.

You phoned me about the change in software access arrangements in Room S501, the School Graphics Laboratory. Specifically, we had now mounted protection software that prevented unauthorised software from being put on the hard discs in that room. You felt this was deliberate discrimination against the Beaver, who had been using that room for DTP purposes.

I explained that the only reason that the arrangements had changed was because a move to System 7 required different methods of working,

at least temporarily, that required rigid protection of the discs. It had nothing to do with Beaver whatsoever.

You then explained that Beaver now had its own production facilities, and that what you really wanted to use S501 for was training new students on production techniques.

I then reviewed the history of use of S501 by Beaver. There had been several instances of interference with the network, resulting in lost teaching time; there had been illegal use of software; there had been some (disputed by Beaver) misuse of the room by taking drinks etc in there. I had, despite these problems, supported Beaver in its use as a production facility. In this respect, only a very

few trained, experienced operators would use the room, and Beaver would have a valuable production facility otherwise not available to them.

I then said that the request to use S501 for training new staff in production use raised different, new issues which, in the light of experience, would inevitably require careful consideration, which would be given. In the meantime, in view of the fact that Beaver now had production facilities, and could presumably carry out at least limited training on those facilities, it would be better if I consulted the academic users of the room, and others, before making a decision on extending the use of the room to training. You may recall that the room is not, in fact, intended for ANY

DTP work at all (PageMaker etc. is not available in the room as a matter of policy), and that the use Beaver has made in the past was a specific concession to help Beaver, not granted to other bodies in the School. I hope this accurately reflects your understanding of the situation. Perhaps you would confirm your request to me in writing, explaining in more detail what it would entail - how many students to train, what hours involved, that you have multiple licences available, what supervision you propose etc. I will then progress the matter. Many thanks for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,
David Dalby
Computer Services
Manager

Ex Sabbatical Speaks Out!

Dear Sir,

As an ex-student at the L.S.E and fellow sabbatical colleague of the ever so virtuous and goodly Peter Harris. I read with considerable interest Peter's "Take My Advice" column in last weeks Beaver. Now, far be it from me to think myself worldly wise and mature as to offer my advice let alone that anyone should actually take heed of it, but I felt I had to chip my two-penny worth in.

I would like to take Mr Harris's suggestions down point-by-point. Firstly his idea of suggesting "that students should be able to submit articles in any legible format (IBM, APPLE, Bic) to SU reception", fine idea indeed, however I have to point out that it is a little late as this was implemented over a year ago.

On the issue of the evil Beaver staff editing submitted articles. As far as I am aware, articles are only edited when they contravene union policy over racism, sexism, homophobia etc. , or if due to space they are cut shorter without altering the meaning, or in one notable exception last year to an article by Martin Lewis which on reflection was a little harsh but eminently fair. Of

course, if Kevin , tyrannical dictator that he is, did decide to alter this policy and hack and slay the text of articles at will, I'm sure questions would be asked.

Thirdly in suggesting that the layout and typing " should be carried out by full time S.U. staff" is Mr Harris suggesting that the S.U. staff do not have enough work to fill their time already? If so, certainly, let them do the technical side, however having worked with the S.U. staff for a year, I know how overworked they are and I doubt the staff would appreciate this plan. A far better idea would be to elect a Beaver sabbatical editor directly accountable to the student union and responsible for paying for more of the Beaver budget via advertising which he/she would be able to spend more time attracting. Who knows The Beaver may even be able to pay for itself, a frightening thought indeed.

Quite frankly I read Mr Harris's next points with considerable amusement. His references to "producers" , "consumers", "bias of market power", "disenfranchisement of students with large over-

drafts and long essays" may indicate his preferences towards being an economics student with a large vocabulary but it also indicates he is able to spout rubbish with consummate ease. The paper maybe a clique, but this is not because it wants to be, it is because on the whole not enough students can be bothered to write for it. This last statement may seem a little sad, but it is also true. I know the whole the editorial staff would be overjoyed if they had a multitude of quality journalistic masterpieces to shift through, but at this moment this just isn't the case. True there maybe a few in. Jokes in the paper but it also addresses a large number of issues important to all students as well as some humorous items as well. I suggest Mr Harris may like to try his hand at writing at writing one of these items rather than his destructive, self-opinionated rambling reminiscent of a man who is a little bitter towards a newspaper who exposed his beloved D.S.G. as a bunch of self-promoting charlatans. Sour grapes ? Nah surely not.

Yours sincerely,
Jon Bradburn
Ex-Ents. sabbatical

Letters to the
Editor
must arrive by
6.00pm of the
Wednesday
preceding
publication.
They can be
posted in the
New Beaver
Post Boxes,
E-mailed or
Handed in to the
Beaver Office in
E197. Next week
we will intro-
duce a tutorial
section on how
to use the
School Vax
system to send
us mail and
messages

LGB Officer Necessary at LSE

Dear Beaver,

I am writing concerning Thursday's UGM. You will probably receive many letters on what turned out to be such a contentious issue: the post of LGB (Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual) officer.

The issue was discussed at Exec training a few weeks ago and since then I had been mentally battling with myself in order to channel my thoughts into a coherent opinion on LGB officership. Initially I had reservations, some of which were raised during the debate: would an

officership make a difference? should it not be the job of the Equal Opportunities sabbatical? does this mean we should also have a black officer? and so on.

I am now strongly in favour. I feel that the degree of ignorance and discrimination involved requires, as Teshar put it, "institutionalised representation".

Many heterosexuals believe that LGB issues do not concern them, or they are unwilling to confront their own prejudice, ignorance or lack of understanding. Homophobia, whether it is expressed violently or not

at all, is rarely met with the same vehement opposition as, say, racism or sexism.

Thursday's debate was symptomatic of a deep-seated indifference regarding gay, lesbian and bisexual rights. Confusion is rife; alarmingly, few people realise this. An LGB officer will have a lot to do. For that reason I voted in favour. I am worried that the issue will be swept under the carpet, so I hope this letter will contribute to continuing the debate.

**Kate Hampton
and Chris Longridge**

Conservative Disassociation

The Editor,

I would like to respond to certain allegations made in last week's Beaver concerning the removal of Nalin Jayaratne from his post of Conservative Association Chairman. The Tory EGM which unanimously supported his dismissal did so on two grounds, firstly that he was not doing a good job as Chairman, and secondly that he was not a Conservative.

On the first point, Nalin had failed to call a meeting of the association or of the committee since his election three months earlier. He was also intending to leave the country for the summer without organising any events for the

following year, he had organised nothing for the Freshers' Fair, and had failed to organise any speaker meetings.

Turning to the motion which he signed, Nalin claims that he was unable to consult his fellow Conservatives as no more meetings were planned. Leaving aside the fact that it was his responsibility to call meetings, he could easily have consulted the Association committee. I was living in the same hall as Nalin, the other committee members could all have been contacted by telephone. To claim that he was unaware of the motion that he signed is ridiculous. No sensible Conservative would allow his name to be put to a motion being drafted

by the left-dominated Executive without at least reading it. Nalin had ample opportunity to disown the motion, but instead he spoke in favour of it at the meeting.

The purpose of using proportional representation to conduct Executive elections is surely to allow candidates of differing views to be elected. Nalin was not elected by socialists or liberals, but by Conservative voters. He has a responsibility to represent those voters and if he feels unable to do so, he should resign and contest a by-election under his true political allegiances.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh O'Leary

Peter's Advice: Ron's Not Taking It

Dear Sir,

So Peter Harris doesn't like me being on the cover of the Beaver. Why does Peter just name me in the whole article in a derogatory manner? So, I appeared on the cover of the Beaver last year just once during Rag Week when I was on the Rag stall. The front cover of the fresher edition this year featured myself cut from another picture. But as only five people worked on the paper, as well as Uncle Rob, so what!!

I'm writing this at 11.15 am Saturday morning of the 9th October. We, Kevin Green, Neil Andrews and myself were here last night till 2 am, laying up the paper. Peter suggests that the Union staff should do this. Well no offence, but the budget's been cut, Union staff are at present unable to use their present IBM's well enough and with students being as busy as he says, would Union staff have the patience to hang around after a long day to lay up a paper and wait for stories. I think not!

To The Tottenham Boys

Dear Sir,

While an overview of London's Premiership teams has been long overdue in the Beaver, may I point out some inaccuracies present in Tim Payton's comments on Tottenham.

Firstly we are one of England's elite. Although we haven't won the League since 1961, we have won eleven other trophies in that time. Just in the last decade names such as Ossie Ardiles, Glen Hoddle, Paul Gascoigne, Gary Lineker, Chris Waddle

Students become involved in the Beaver, because they do get published. Look at my Campus pages this week. I'm not on them. Three freshers, and a new second year are. This year 160 people signed up at freshers fair and 80 turned up to the first collective, mostly freshers and second years willing to write and work. It was a site I have longed for for many years. Most of these are not on Peter's so called producer-collective and surprisingly most do not want to be. Most just want to write the odd article, most are only here for one term, or one year.

Most students do not write for it after a year due to other commitments, but they still remain on it whilst at LSE, having the right to vote and contribute, just as do all students.

Students already can hand in articles on Mac, IBM and paper and with our new drop boxes it's even easier. Cross campus surveys are not practical. We only can afford to print 2,000 copies and

if replies to our competitions are anything to go by, the response would be almost zero.

Lastly Peter calls for higher standards, but doesn't define them. Let's be honest very few actually READ the Beaver, they just glance at it and that's it. The problem we have is finance. The SU have cut our budget to such an extent that The Beaver will run out of money by February. If people really want that then so be it, but everyone, Peter included, complains when the paper is late, so we must be doing something right.

Peter, if all you can do is knock us (me by name) then go ahead but really the Beaver and its staff are a lot more important to me than a sad old hack from Myddelton Street. By the way, how come you, an ex sabbatical, got into Hall and others did not. Is there a story there? Take my advice those in glass houses shouldn't throw bricks!

**Yours affectionately,
Ron Voce**

and of course Nayim, have graced the turf at the Lane. Name another club outside of Italy can boast such a gallery of stars? Our fans are far from fickle. What other London team could possibly attract 21,000 for a Coca-Cola cup tie against a bunch of amateurs (Burnley) from the Second Division when it's pissing down with rain? Neither has the highlight of the last two years been the 3-1 win at Highbury (by the way we had six reserves that night.) May I remind you of our games

last season against Norwich (5-1, 2-0), Leeds (4-0), Liverpool (2-0), and Manchester City (1-0, 1-0, 4-2, 3-1).re

In conclusion, for the uncommitted, the Lane is the place to be this year. We're still the aristocrats of English football, as we're going to prove to those upstairs from Manchester. Ossie's dream is about to become a reality and I suggest that you all should join me on the shelf to watch it.

**Yours sincerely,
Micky Khurawa**

Unequal Age of Consent Must Be Changed

—Ralph Wilde—

When I began this case, many people wondered why I was bothered about an apparently obsolete law that the police don't seem interested in and that clearly has a negligible effect on stopping young people from having sex.

But this is exactly why the law must now be changed in line with how society is in the 1990s rather than how it was in the 1960s when it was introduced.

People are in fact still being arrested and charged. Just as important is the social effect of such a law. Teenagers are

very aware of the milestones that they are approaching—being able to sleep with someone of the opposite sex at 16, drive a car at 17 and vote at 18. The age of consent at 21 tells young gay men that they are somehow "different" and that the feelings they have will be illegal for all of their teenage years. To deny young people an adolescence is a particularly cruel aspect of this law.

Young people who aren't heterosexual also have needs that cannot be addressed with the law in its current irresponsible state. Survey after survey has concluded that non-hetero-

sexual youth are more at risk of suicide, substance abuse and HIV infection than their heterosexual peers. A US Health and Human Resources Report in 1988 warned that homo youth are three times more likely to commit suicide. These distressing figures underline how crucial it is to see this law beyond its obvious criminal context.

School is, after all, the only place where society has the opportunity to make available the crucial health education information that all young people deserve. It is also a place where we have access to sympathetic people to turn to for help.

Yet the invidious combination of Section 28 and an age of consent of 21 means these basic rights are denied.

Young people of course need to be protected against things they don't want to do. But surely we want to protect all teenagers, irrespective of their sexuality, yet no one is calling for a heterosexual age of consent of 21 to protect young girls against the predatory advances of old men. Of course not. This is what laws dealing with rape, assault and abuse are for. What we are dealing with here is consent.

Far from protecting young people, this law ac-

tually puts them at risk. People attacked in the street are afraid to go to the police for fear that they will end up being investigated. The atmosphere of fear and alienation engendered by this law disenfranchises youth at the very time when we should be encouraged to begin to play our part in society.

I am taking the government to the European Court of Human Rights because I believe the time has come to end this unnecessary intrusion into young people's private lives. All across Europe we see countries that have an equal age of consent or one that is very

close (14 and 16 for example.) At the start of this year Ireland and Cyprus both had laws that outlawed homosexuality completely. Since then Ireland has decriminalized it completely, with an equal age of consent irrespective of sexuality at 17. The European Court of Human Rights ruled against Cyprus and it is currently in the process of changing its laws. We are the laughing stock of Europe on this issue and if we believe we are a democracy that stands for freedom and equality and have a law that is respected then we need an equal age of consent.

Afghanistan: Caught in the Past

—Fazile Zahir—

Geography; Twice the size of Italy. Half the country is at an altitude of over 6000ft. One fifth is desert.

Population; Difficult to estimate, computed at 15.5m in 1979. There are numerous tribes (over 20), the largest are the Pathans (6.5m), then the Tadjiks (3.5m) and the Uzbeks (1m). There are also numerous different languages.

G.N.P. / capita; N.A.

Refugees; Estimated in 1991 as 7.6m of which 5.6m are external refugees

Casualties; USSR, 15,000 killed 135,478 wounded. Afghanis estimates vary between 100,000 and 1 million killed.

History; The country Afghanistan is a wholly artificial creation, its arbitrary boundaries are inhabited by peoples who have spent most of history fighting each other. Many tribes inhabit areas across national boundaries and refuse to recognise frontiers. The territory that is now Afghanistan has usually been part of some larger empire. In ancient times it was part of the Persian Empire, then it was conquered by Alexander. Later its tribes spread and conquered all of Persia, Iraq and the Punjab too. The Mongols passed through as did Tamburlaine. In the 18th and 19th century the British conquered India. They never seriously attempted to extend their Empire beyond the Khyber Pass but on the three occasions that they did invade (1838, 1878 and 1919), they were unsuccessful.

The British designated it a buffer state between Russia and India and the Russians accepted this. In 1917 Russia's new revolutionary leaders continued the policy of the Tsars and left well enough alone.

1947; Until 1947 Afghanistan was a British client state which maintained good relations with the USSR. Trouble started in 1947 when Britain left India. Pakistan inherited Britain's old borders but Afghanistan now refused to accept these. Pakistan turned to the USA (already its ally) for support, Afghanistan turned to the USSR.

Russia soon became major suppliers of aid to Afghanistan, including military aid.

1965; A group of radical intellectuals founds the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

1969; The party splits into 2 factions "KHALQ" - The Masses. Led by Nur Mohammed Taraki. They were Leninists who believed in a small militant party who would seize power as soon as possible and force communism upon the country

"PARCHAM" - The Banner. Led by Babrak Karmal. They believed that Afghanistan was not ready for communism and believed in a gradualist approach. The Russian attitude at this time was that Afghanistan was not ripe for communism (it had no proletariat!) and supported Parcham.

1972; Following a famine which kills 100,000 people, Sardar Mohammed Daoud Khan (a cousin of the King, Zahir Shah) with the aid of Parcham stages a coup and establishes a republic. Daoud tried to move away from dependence on the USSR and to improve relations with Pakistan but this was largely unsuccessful. In the mid-1970's Daoud tried to purge the Parchamis but they were too well established in the army. When after a demonstration in 1978 Daoud arrested leading leftists their allies in the armed forces staged a coup against the President. He was killed defending his palace. 'Khalq' seized this opportunity to seize and Taraki (and his right hand man Hafizullah Amin) set about communizing Afghan at full tilt. Disaffection broke out one month after the revolution and by September 1978 there was full scale insurrection throughout the East.

1979; On the 12th of March a resistance group known as the National Liberation Front declares 'jihad' against the "godless government" in Kabul. The Soviets attempted to persuade Khalq to conciliate and work with traditional

leaders but to little effect. Amin instead started to investigate the possibilities of reconciliation with the USA. An uprising in Herat took place, government forces recaptured the city but at the cost of 5000 civilian lives. Afghanistan was sliding into anarchy. The Soviets had increased their presence during the year and in July 1979 they deployed their first combat unit. They tried to depose Amin by setting Taraki against him (who was now rumoured to be a hopeless alcoholic). Taraki made a failed attempt at

to surrender, he refused and died in defence of his government. The Russians set about building a new establishment with new policies which would they hoped restore some semblance of security to the country. The new government was even less successful than those before.

1979 - 1989

The Soviets ruled Afghanistan through Babrak Karmal for 6 years. His obvious compliance to his Soviet masters made him so unpopular that on the 4th May 1986 the Soviets deposed him and

staged a brutal block-by-block World War 2 style assault."

1981; The Afghani army had melted away from 100,000 men to 30,000. Whole units deserted and took their weapons with them. The Soviets had to entertain a siege mentality while in Afghanistan. Unable to hold the entire country without an estimated million troops they settled for the essential minimum. They employed 120,000 men to hold the main cities and keep open lines of communication. Elsewhere they relied on air

force and widespread mining of the countryside. Some mines were allegedly disguised as children's toys and there was certainly a high instance of armless and legless children in refugee camps. They set about destroying irrigation works and burning arable land in a deliberate 'scorched earth policy'.

Despite the USSR driving 5 million refugees out of the country Mujaheddin numbers continued to increase. Once men had taken their families to safety they would return to Afghanistan to fight. Afghani rebels proved themselves remarkably apt at learning the techniques of modern warfare. They learnt not only how to handle modern weapons but also the importance of the need to obey and to collaborate with other Afghans. They am-

bushed Soviet convoys, attacked isolated bases and air strips, infiltrated Kabul and attacked the PDPA headquarters and Soviet military high command. The Soviets began their last offensive at Christmas 1987, they fought their way through to besieged forts, resupplied them but had to leave them besieged.

From 1986 however the Soviets had seriously been losing ground. The USA, who had been supplying the Mujaheddin since 1980, stated delivering Stinger and Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles in large numbers. By summer 1987 the Soviets were losing a plane a day. Glasnost meant that the

extent of the war and Soviet losses were finally revealed to the Russian public. The war became deeply unpopular, negotiations began with the US about cutting off arms supplies to their respective clients and on the 7th of April 1988 the Soviets announced their withdrawal. The withdrawal was scheduled to be completed by the 15th of February 1989 and it was conducted efficiently and successfully. The Western press were all invited to watch troops leaving Kabul and thus demonstrated the vast improvement in Soviet public relations techniques under the Gorbachev regime.

The prospect that their puppet regime would probably collapse immediately did not seem to bother the USSR. In fact Najibullah's regime survived three more years without suffering any major defeats. The Soviet Union continued to provide supplies and the Afghani rebel coalition had started to splinter. Then in spring 1991 Pakistan and Saudi Arabia supplied the rebels with weapons from the Gulf war - this took place just as the USSR began to disintegrate and stop aid.

The situation early in 1992 was that both the USSR and the USA had completely withdrawn all aid. The rivalries in Afghanistan were again developing along the lines of tribal conflict. The old government are largely Pushtan and are becoming involved in conflict with the Tadjikis. Many tribes are now drawing upon tribal help from Soviet Central Asia and it is quite possible that the Afghan civil war will expand into a wider conflict.

Synopsis; Afghanistan had the misfortune to mark the high tide in Soviet expansionism. It was the last place where a small band of revolutionaries overthrew the government and the last where the Socialist motherland would guarantee a Communist state. The Afghani people will be credited with being the first people in history to defeat and drive out a Soviet army of occupation.



assassinating Amin and two days later resigned all his posts for 'health reasons'. On October 10th the Kabul Times announced his death from a 'serious illness'. One observer said his illness "was lack of oxygen, brought on by the application of fingers to the neck and pillows over the nose and mouth." Amin became President. He controlled very little of the government and the government controlled very little of the country. The Soviets became increasingly concerned and on the 27th of December 1979 the Soviets occupied Afghani military bases and government buildings. They invited Amin

installed Mohammed Najib. They hoped he would be a more presentable and competent figurehead but in this too they were mistaken.

Very early on the Soviet army realised they had to rule Afghanistan directly. The years of Parcham / Khalq rivalry and "eye for an eye" killings had decimated the numbers of Afghani communists. As a united response to the Soviet intervention the country rose against the government. The Mujaheddin ('holy warriors') rebels took the countries second and third largest cities - the Soviets retook them with bombers and tanks. One observer said; "In Kandahar, they

Political Dictionary

Some words for the wise

A -**Aberration:** No cause for concern.

-USAGE: Insistence that a certain event or pattern was a fluke e.g. The impropriety committed by the minister was an unfortunate assertion".

-Across-the-board: Intended to sound even handed. Designed so no one should have reason to complain when budgets don't meet needs and when taxation remains unbalanced.

-Adrift: Means a new captain must be needed at the helm to steer the ship of state.

-Aggression: Any military attack that G.B. is not involved in or favours.

-USAGE: Britain wants to prevent "aggression" (except in Yugoslavia where it might involve opposing Christians).

-Air quality: the extent of ability to breathe without interference from pollution.

-USAGE: Encourages people to think in terms of oxygen still in the air as opposed to the oxygen their lungs are being deprived of.

-Point in case: The Conservative Govt. placing of air quality monitors in parks as opposed to on road sides.

-Aliens, illegal: People who have entered Great Britain illegally.

-USAGE: Often used to imply that G.B. is under seige from within.

-Antonym: At one time our "fellow Citizens" in the Great British Commonwealth.

-Ambiguity: Blurring of right and wrong.

-Anti-Christian: Activities that do not fit in with the speakers definition of "Christian".

-USAGE: Plays well to the centre-right, can be used about the breakdown in family life, out of wedlock births and the "sexual revolution" as well as homosexuality ("anti-Christian behaviours" reward is AIDS)

-Anti-Western: hostile to the goals of Britain and her closest allies (i.e. the U.S.A.)

-USAGE: Similar to "anti-American" but makes Britain sound as if she has a choice in her actions.

-Austerity measures: Code words for economic steps detrimental to the well being of large numbers of people.

-USAGE: "In the long run, these austerity measures will benefit the entire society".

B -**Bankrupt policies:** Failed political programs of opponents.

-USAGE: Often by Labour to the Conservatives.

-Barbarian: Customarily reserved for selected foreigner, preferably Muslims.

-Best interests of the country: A ready made rationale for all and any actions.

-Brilliant: Not as dull and mediocre as some e.g. John Prescott's final speech at the Labour conference.

-Broad minded: Of similar outlook

-Bully: Refers to a rival world of affairs who is willing to inflict human suffering to gain geo-political advantage. Many people would say that the U.S. qualifies although this seems impossible to acknowledge by U.S. politicians.

Point-in-case: What the "bully" Saddam Hussein did to Kuwait but definitely not what the U.S. and her allies did to Iraq.

Shooting From The Left Wing

The conference ended with Conservatives celebrating a rare blunder-free week. Organised as a display of unity to conceal the inherent disunity, party managers congratulated themselves, failing to realise that by publicly stating their intention they destroyed the desired appearance. But then this is the logic governing the party.

All speakers agreed that in general various things were wrong with the country, and that something must be done. Their particular solution seems particularly ineffective; Howard outlined his plans to end the right to silence to cut crime - the aim of every home secretary in fourteen years. Lilley played the nationalist card, failing to see the social security problem needs major reform rather than tinkering with. Bottomley pressed on with NHS reforms despite their utter inability to cut waiting lists. Clarke hinted at tax increases, an acknowledgement that the government has got it wrong by £50 billion and three million unemployed.

It is the last case which clearly displays the failure of fourteen years of Conservative government. In 1979 the Tory's pledged to cut tax and spending, we are now taxed more than ever before. Moreover, watching the ministers on the platform admit things were wrong in a spectacular own goal, they have only themselves to blame. If after fourteen years uninterrupted office conditions are still poor and they have failed to deliver their manifesto pledges, what can they think about themselves other than shame, ineptitude and acute embarrassment?

Call John Major stupid but he realises this as he harked back to a golden age of the 50s and 60s, before the problems he presides over existed, before his party came along with their now defunct ideas. The decay of office is perfectly evident, the Tory's in their intellectual void lurch from crisis to crisis, their ethos in pieces around them. This was starkly obvious at the Conference, they had nothing to produce from fourteen years of power and unless new ideas are injected into the system the abject sense of failure will continue.

The Connecticut Yankee in the Court of King Arthur

The New Vietnam War

—Trooper Saunders— Since then, Vietnam has opened itself and aggressively courted prospective international partners. Coupled with its economic reform plan, doi moi, Vietnam's economic future looks bright. A coalition of nations, including France and Japan, are introducing Vietnam to world financial institutions. These "Friends of Vietnam" are also staking claim to a 70 million member consumer market and labour force. Having

lifted its opposition to multilateral aid agency lending, the US government continues its trade embargo against Vietnam. While Vietnam takes advantage of newly available funds and world investors tear into the Vietnamese market, US economic opportunity is stifled by this archaic, cold war policy. Meant to punish Vietnam for its inaction over American MIAs, this policy now only punishes American business. Lifting the embargo does not abandon American MIAs. A strong American economic presence would enable the US to resolve this issue and pursue its economic interests. The new Vietnam War is not political, it is economic. If maintained, the US trade embargo will prove to be nothing more than an own-goal scored against American business.

WHAT'S ON * WHAT'S ON**The Definitive Weekly Guide For LSE Students Covering All LSE & London Specials****Hellfire Draw Winners**

The winners of the Hellfire draw were presented with their prizes outside the Old Building. Adam Morris won champagne, Anika Bosanquet won £100, C.P. Flynn won perfume, and they are pictured with Mandy from STA Travel, who helped sponsor the contest. **Photo by Steve East**

**Monday
18th**

The Athletic Union holds its budget meeting at 1.15pm in C023. Find out how much your sport gets, and how much is spent on booze at the annual rugby party.

Also held today are the Pakistan Society elections, one of the most hotly fought elections at the LSE, as you can probably see by the amount of posters that adorn all available space this week.

If you fancy doing a good deed this week, the National Blood Transfusion Group are offering the chance for you to become a blood donor. Every day this week at The Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, from 9.30am to 4.15pm, you will have the chance of donating blood and if by any chance you are group O POS, then they are in special need.

**Tuesday
19th**

The great NME music quiz takes place in the Underground. The winners of tonight's heat go on to represent the LSE in the NME's national competition with the chance to win loads of great prizes, including a trip to New York. Entry is only £3 for a team of up to five.

If you are planning on going to the Latin American bash later in the week and can't tell your salsa from your lambada you may want to consider these classes. A regular event held in the Quad between 4pm and 7pm will help you learn how to groove with style (so maybe you won't look like a right twat on Thursday)

Also, the European Society introduce Anthony Lester QC, who will be speaking on 'Reforming

the European Court of Rights', the lecture takes place in A160 at 5pm.

**Wednesday
20th**

Elections for this year's Rag Charity Appeal will be held today. Positions that are up for grabs include Rag Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Election for these offices can often lead to great things (maybe you want to be Ent's sabbatical), so the competition should be fierce.

The weekly Rag film night takes place this evening, the films are still to be announced but are sure to be crackers. The first begins showing at 7pm in the Old Theatre. £1 for members, otherwise £2.

Time Out**MAGAZINE**

Tower House
8-14 Southampton Street
London WC2E 7HD
Telephone: 071-836 4411
Fax: 071-836 7118
Display Ads: 071-497 8856
Classified Ads: 071-836 5131

Time Out's Five Freebies

**Five
Bargain
Band
Nights**

Wed 20th
October
JC001
Penhryn Road
Bar, Kingston
University Guild
of Students,
Kingston
(081 549 9961).
Kingston BR.
8pm; £6.

Thur 21
October
Redwood
City University
Student Union,
Northampton
Square, EC1
(071 250 0955).
Angel,
Barbican
tubes. 8pm; £2.

WHAT'S ON * WHAT'S ON

Pull Out Guide 2 - For Micheltmas Term 1993 - October 18th to October 24th

The Afro Caribbean society elections are also being held today and the party afterwards in the Quad should attract plenty.

The Beaver also holds a party tonight. Featuring 'Ruby Zoom' live on stage, it promises to be a highlight of term. Tickets are available from the Beaver office, or on the door of the Underground. Plenty of cheap drinks, the merri-ment kicks off at 7.30pm.

Renown throughout the country, the first Tequila party of the year is held tonight. The infamous gathering will be at the Cafe de Paris, and all those rumours you first years have been hearing are probably true. The party they tried to ban, and ban again, and again; starts at 11pm and finishes whenever you stop standing up.

So give up any hope of attending that Thursday lecture and join in the fun. At time of print tickets were still on sale but selling fast, priced £5 from the stall on Houghton Street. One further note if you do spot any Beaver hacks tonight do give them a wide berth as they will just have spent the last four hours at their own party and no doubt will be past caring when they arrive.

Thursday 21st

Following this week's UGM, there is the grand opening of the International Resource Centre. It is hoped many SU society members will attend. Top floor of Hacker's Bar.

The Jazz Society present 'Linton Chiswick'. Listen to some serious tunes and mellow out to

his excellent brand of jazz. In the Underground at 8pm, tickets are priced £2 for members and £3 otherwise.

It's time to put into practice all those funky moves you learnt on Tuesday... The Latin American Society are holding 'Sabor y Ritmo', a sophisticated evening at the Circa in Berkeley Square. Tickets are on sale in Houghton Street priced £3 (members) or £5 (non-members). Finishes 3am, dress 'to pull', (whatever that means?)

Friday 22nd

The regular Time Tunnel disco has been cancelled to make way for the massive Greenpeace party. With an expected audience of thousands, the Quad, Three Tuns and the Underground have been taken over to provide enough space.

Entry is free to those in Hall, and £3 otherwise. The bar has been extended till 12am, radiation suit optional.

Saturday 23rd

As far as information received goes, Saturday is looking like a real dull night but somehow I doubt that can be true. Keep your eyes on the noticeboards for updates. Club Noyz, at ULU, is always a good bet, with bar prices likely to be a lot cheaper than other clubs. Try consulting 'Time Out', the outstanding weekly publication with literally millions of excellent ideas for spending your time in London. Available at 'all good newsagents' and the LSE shop.

Sunday Zoom

Time Out

Julie Emery, Time Out Student Guide Editor, Writes a Regular Column for *The Beaver*

With the dizzying heights of Intro Week over and done with, it's time to settle into term-time proper. You've eaten all the goodies from your student welcome pack, and those provisions of baked beans and spaghetti culled from your kitchen cupboards at home are long gone. You can't face making another chilli-con-carne, and you've already sampled the fare from every takeaway within walking distance. So where, in this city of high prices and fancy restaurants, can you feed your face on a budget? Wherever you live, you're bound to become a regular at the local curry house or cheap trattoria. But while central London and the West End may be home to the Planet Hollywoods, Langans and Quaglinos of this world, it's still possible to eat cheaply in the middle of our fair capital city.

Centrale at Cambridge Circus has long been a favourite with those wanting to fill up on a huge plate of well-cooked pasta for well under a fiver. Two steps' away is the slightly more expensive and still fashionable **Pollo**, where queues to get in still form almost nightly. The atmosphere is frenetic and it's certainly not the place for a long lingering meal *à deux* with the one you lurve. With its kitschy formica décor and plastic sunflowers, the **New Piccadilly** in Denman Street, W1, has been frozen in time since the late fifties and so have the prices. Fill up on fry-ups, pies, lasagnes, chips with everything, and endless cups of cappuccino served in authentic '60s smoked-glass cups.

Gaby's Continental Bar on Charing Cross Road wouldn't win any interior design prizes, but the massive helpings of Middle Eastern-influenced dishes such as shashlik and moussaka all cost around the £5 mark. Whereas **Wagamama** in, Streatham Street, WC1, manages to be hideously trendy and cheap at the same time. In fact, we foodie folks at *Time Out* liked the combination of healthy Japanese noodles served in a sleek, modern canteen so much, we gave it our award for best budget meal.

Vegetarians don't need to miss out on bargain eating: **Govinda's** in Soho Street is a good bet for veggie thalis, lasagne and salads, whereas **Mildred's** in Greek Street serves mainly veggie food that's tasty and cheap. At the **Neal's Yard Dining Rooms** in Covent Garden, the self-proclaimed 'world food café' raids the whole planet for ideas and all of them are affordable.

And then there are the chains of course. **Pizzaland** and **Pizza Hut** are always having some sort of promotion or other, which are mostly worthwhile, although some can be of the 'buy 50 pizzas, get an free trip to the salad bar' variety. **Pizza Express** is still, well in my opinion anyway, the best place in town for pizzas – and the best garlic bread. Pasta chains such as **Bella Pasta** and **Spaghetti Classics** are also excellent places to visit for cheap and cheerful deals, although if you want to indulge in more than one course it's best to stick to Centrale or Pollo.

Covent Garden, home to *Time Out* and a gentle stroll from the LSE, has few eating places that are gentle on your wallet. But if you think I'm going to tell you about them, you'd be wrong. There are some things a girl just has to keep to herself.

Details of these restaurants and approximately 1,500 others can be found in the new edition of *Time Out Guide to Eating & Drinking in London* (£6.99), published on Tuesday 19 October.

Around Town: Part Trois

Fri 22
October
My Life Story
Imperial
College
Student Union,
Beit Quad,
Prince Consort
Road, SW7
(071 225 8670).
8pm; £2.

Fri 22
October
Urban Species
Thames Valley
University Student
Union, North
Building, St Mary's
Road, W5 (081
579 2300). Ealing
Broadway tube.
8pm; £2.50.

Sat 23
October
Papa Brittle
East Slope Bar,
University of
Sussex,
Brighton, Sus-
sex (0273
678555).
Falmer BR.
8pm; free.

At The Bar

I caught up with Miles Lanham shortly after the constitutional amendment he proposed to elect a Lesbian Gay and Bisexual officer to the executive, was narrowly defeated.

So Miles, what are you drowning your sorrows with?

Well, it's a double whisky-but they're not my sorrows- more those of the Lesbian Gay and Bisexual people at LSE, who are denied the representation they should have and need. Especially those who are frightened to admit their sexuality.

So, why wasn't the amendment passed?

Largely due to the majority of people 'against', arriving with pre-conceived ideas, and not being prepared to listen, or understand the issues that face lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Gay politics are not party political; they are fundamental human rights issues.

Surely the gay student doesn't suffer as much when the Union has anti homophobic and equal opportunities legislation?

That is a start, but people fail to realise the full extent of the issue. Last year, a Singaporean gay student told me of how he had to visit LGB meetings incognito as the authorities in Singapore had asked certain other students to "spy" and report back about homosexual activities resulting in harassment when he returned home. It's hard to believe but some countries have even more frightening anti-gay legislation than our own. I myself was "queer-bashed" i.e. violently assaulted for appearing gay in Islington of all places in the summer. My friend was covered in blood and we were simply walking down the street.

There was only one speaker against who could be described as homophobic surely?

Well to my mind, the others who sought its defeat via bureaucratic wrangling are as bad because they hide their true ignorance and fear behind theoretical dogma. They have failed to acknowledge their own problems. After all, what harm would an LGB officer do to the Union? The Executive were unanimously in favour of the Amendment for the positive good that it would cause.

You're hardly a hack, Miles. What have you been doing so far at the LSE?

It's not surprising really, as the UGM's are hardly gay-friendly, barely women friendly, environments. Eugene Isaacs was treated badly in UGM's in my first year. The loves of my life are second hand books and er, men I suppose. I was rapidly disenchanted with LSE student life. That coupled with a really enjoyable job at Skoob books, up the road made me pretty reclusive, so far as LSE is concerned. Until recently, most students recognised me more from Skoob than college.

How will you reflect on today?

Initially as a missed opportunity for real productive change- It's also an insult to the GLF who had their first meeting at the LSE 23 years ago.

Tonight, however, I'm going over to Graham's, my partner, and hopefully it's his turn to cook.

The future?

Well tomorrow I'll bleach my hair, and work with the LGB society and the Executive to keep Gay issues at the top of the agenda.

Raving Loonies

With LSESU Elections Looming, The Beaver Examines Reasons to Vote and Reasons to Stand?

—Ron Voce—

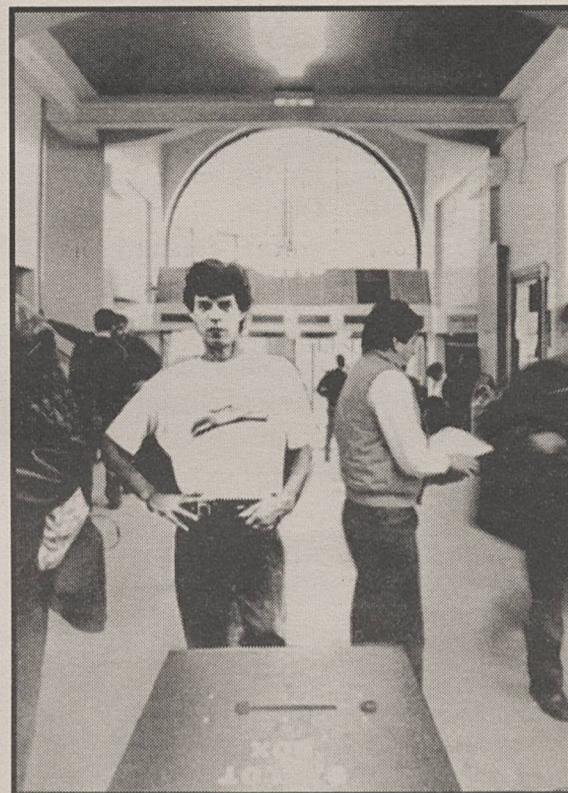
Why should I ask you why you should stand for an election or why vote, because for the first election since the dawn of time I'm not standing in an election. Why? Well because members of the Constitution and Steering Committee are not allowed to under the Constitution. So from the fence I have to monitor the elections and look down with benevolence on everyone trying to make themselves popular and get elected.

Over the next few weeks you will be bombarded with paper and persons, generally unknown, trying to impress you with empty promises and obvious rhetoric. Yet these people have put themselves on the line. They have stood up to be counted. We

will probably never know the reasons, but at least they have taken part.

One thing the LSESU elections throw up, are fringe candidates, with fringe ideas. If you have any ideas that are not what others call mainstream, or you wish to stand as a serious candidate with a jokey name do not be put off. The LSE has a reputation of electing silly candidates to things. I should know. I represented the planet Zarg at NUS Conference last year, but I assure I'm not the only one!

Here's an example from British politics. David, Lord Sutch, leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party first advocated such radical policies as votes for 18-year-olds, commercial radio and longer pub opening hours. These have all been adopted since then, so even if you have radical, for now, ideas do not work. In a few years things change.



Even Mick voted when he was here. Shouldn't you?

So what am I trying to say. Well the usual thing. Democracy only works when people take part from right across the spectrum. From shades of grey to revolutionary red. Pick up your nominations pack and get involved. Three years in the LSE needn't all be educational work, work, work.

LSE Debating Society

Wednesday 13th October
Freshers Competition-First Round

Wednesday 20th October
Freshers Competition-Second Round

Wednesday 27th October
Freshers Competition-Third Round

Wednesday 3rd November
Freshers Competition-Final

Wednesday 10th November
"This House regrets the existence of the United States of America"

Wednesday 17th November
"This House believes that Women are the Root of all Evil"

Wednesday 24th November
"This House believes Sex kills Romance"

Wednesday 1st December
"This House believes that Education is a Luxury"

Wednesday 8th December
"This House believes..."

All debates are held on Wednesdays between 1-2pm in C120, unless notice is given otherwise. For more details contact Ayasha Ahmad, President, or James Comyn, Secretary.

If I Can, So Can You!



Next week in The Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn donor sessions are from 9.30am-12.15pm and 2.00pm-4.15pm. If anyone needs any information please get in touch with Ron Voce (20+ pints) in the Beaver office E197 or ext.6705

Charity: Home or Away?

Let's talk about the third world, the first world and a lot of fun

—Carolyn Wilson—

Charity begins at home; what happens if your home is a rural village in Somalia or a shanty town in Bombay? Then who do you count on to raise funds to help you and your family live to see the next day?

We can switch off our televisions, we can afford to say "Charity begins at home" but how many of you are guilty of using the old cliché "isn't the world a small place". It is small and extremely interdependent and people's actions around the world affect each other and every one of us.

We can all remember the Ethiopian famine of 1984, the horrendous news reports of starving millions. The time and effort of people throughout the world who raise funds to supply much needed aid also stays vividly in our memories.

Again and again we are witnessing widespread famines throughout Africa. Somalia's plight hit headlines but political headlines throughout the rest of the world mean more competition for scarce funds.

These famines can only get worse as water shortages continue, populations grow and agricultural output diminishes. One answer is therefore to invest more

money in development programmes to make these countries more independent.

One of the most cost effective ways of improving the quality of life is providing family planning services. In 1973 ex President Lyndon Johnson, stated that \$5 spent on family planning was the equivalent of \$100 invested in any other form of development.

Emotive photographs of starving children, walking skeletons and wounded civilians make people reach into their pockets and donate funds. However, trying to raise funds for family planning is a different matter.

Why should the West impose our values on people in the developing world? It's part of their culture to have 6 to 8 children and why should the West try and change their culture.

All these arguments have been used ad nauseam and result in 500,000 women dying each year as a result of pregnancy or child birth complications. These attitudes are holding back women's rights in countries like Kenya, India,

Bangladesh and many other developing countries.

Marie Stopes International (MSI) works in 25 countries around the world providing maternal and child healthcare and family planning services to people in rural and urban areas. Worldwide evidence indicates that 300 million

what right have we to impose our values of family planning rather what right does the industrialised world have to speak on behalf of the developing world. If it is part of their culture to have continual pregnancies, to die from illegal and unsafe abortions or complicated childbirth, to have girls as young as

with rather than against the culture.

By enabling individuals to make educated and informed choices about their families futures maternal and infant mortality can be reduced. Population growth rates will slow down which will in turn relieve pressures on socioeconomic conditions and the environment.

Next time you got to the chemist to buy some contraceptives spare a thought for those who can not stroll down the road to buy some. The next time you have sex, imagine the consequences of being continually pregnant or father of eight children with a ninth on the way. Remember you have the choice to determine your life and so should everyone on this Planet Earth.

PLAN-it EARTH CAMPAIGN

So charity begins with the Plan-it Earth campaign. MSI is launching this initiative throughout all the UK universities to increase awareness about inaccessible

family planning services, rapid population growth rates and environmental degradation.

MSI feels that as future graduates many of you will become future decision makers and opinion leaders. If you are capable of achieving great heights after graduating then why wait till then?

In return for a big effort of having fun over the academic year and raising funds, MSI is offering 5 students the chance to visit one of their programmes in Africa or Asia. Innovative and original ideas are the order of the day so that whilst raising money you are meeting new people, being creative and enjoying yourselves.

The Plan-it-Earth campaign will be covering serious issues but raising funds in an enjoyable way- so if your hobby is blowing up condoms keep doing it but do it for money. If you enjoy crawling from one pub to pub great- but get it sponsored! If you are interested in joining in this nationwide initiative then contact Carolyn Wilson, Women's Officer, for further details. Get those brain working as all ideas, the funnier the better, will be explored.



women and men throughout the world want to use family planning but are unable to do so because of lack of services. A large demand for money making commodities would immediately be fulfilled by some budding entrepreneur. Why, therefore, should the basic demand and human right of planned parenthood not also be met?

The question is not

12 becoming mothers then MSI will respect that.

However, experience suggests that these are the result of limited education and inaccessible family planning services rather than cultural traditions. MSI's objective is therefore to provide those who wish to use family planning with the opportunity to do so; in a climate supportive of women's right and work

New Room for International Students

—Louise Grogan—

In October 1993 the LSE Students' Union will be opening an International Resource Centre in the top floor of the Vegetarian Cafe. It is hoped that the creation of an International Resource Centre, which was overwhelmingly agreed-upon by the S.U. executive in May 1993, will help the Students'

Union reflect the very international nature of the LSE student body.

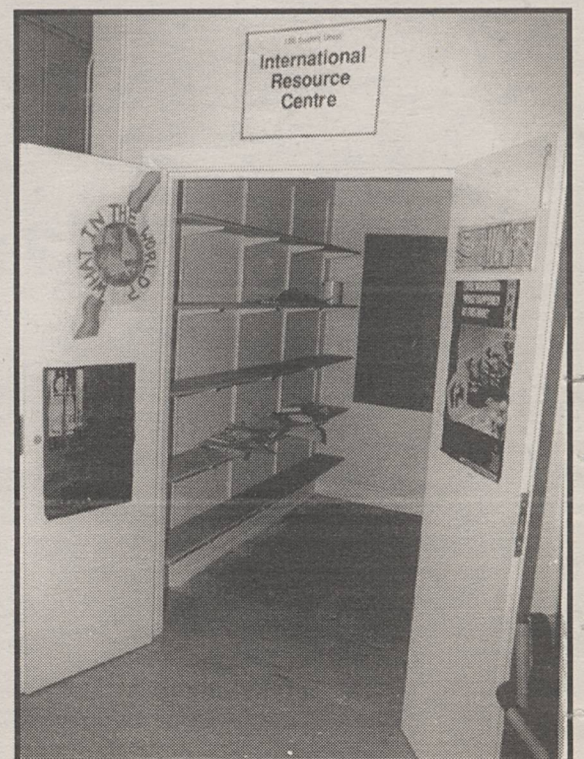
The International Resource Centre will be available as a meeting place for the many cultural societies of the Students' Union and will present a series of speakers on international issues. The International Resource Centre will also house information on academic exchanges and work opportunities

abroad, and provide a range of periodicals from around the world.

The new International Resource Centre will rely entirely on the help of LSE students to function efficiently. An open committee of the Students' Union will be set up at the beginning of the first term to help organise events and gather information for the International Resource Centre. It is hoped that many stu-

dents who are not so interested in the political aspects of the students' union, but are still keen to participate, will be interested in joining this co-operative effort.

The room is being opened on Thursday, 21st of October, at 2 pm. The Executive and members of other societies will be there. Please come along and make use of this room.



The new International Resource Room on the top floor of the Cafe. Photo by Steve East.

Rusty Bullet Hole

Radio. That out-dated form of media that the British public are so fond of waking up to, working to, eating and shitting to. Why?

Not that there is anything wrong with radio - it's just that in this country, there's absolutely toss all worth listening to. In the morning, if you don't feel like listening to some self-promoting politician on Radio 4, or classical music on Radio 3 or Classic FM, what have you got? Not a lot. Radio 1 FM? What bollocks. Gone are the days of a vaguely entertaining breakfast show with Mike Read - Simon Mayo / Mark Goodier. Capital FM? Crivens. If Chris Tarrant is what Londoners wish to wake up to, it's a sad fucking city. Who wants an over-exuberant halfwit, with a mental age considerably less than his shoe size (allegedly), gibbering incessantly over the mic with that bastard annoying advert voice-over drawl? Not RBH. Then there's Kiss FM - cardboard presenter, one good record surrounded by ten shit watery soul ones. The other stations don't even bear thinking about.

But there is good news on the horizon. For those who wake up later, but still in the morning - it's Bates' Motel, except this time it's our Simes who is getting the knife. Fucking brilliant! Yippee! Mine's a Theakstons! Wishing you a really unhappy retirement, you twat.

This splenetic outburst might all seem a little over-the-top, but if - as RBH has - you've spent long weeks of your vacation working in some crappy factory which has Radio 1 (or, even worse, Local Radio) on in the background all day fucking long, you would understand. So, for all of us: Hooray! Three cheers! Now sod off and take "Our Tune" with you. It's a pity we have to have another Simes taking over, let's just hope Mr. Mayo isn't so bloody patronising.

The afternoon is no better. Steve Wright? Steve Wright's fave artist is that young, next big thing of the music world, Phil Collins. That pretty much says it all, really. Granted, there are some vaguely amusing bits ever-so occasionally, but the music is simply dreadful. If you fancy a change, why not try Tommy Vance on Virgin 1215? Even bloody worse. Lord High Patroniser of the Completely Condescending Bastard group of Patronisers Anonymous (if only they would remain so), Tommy Vance, that toothless old git who used to do the Friday Rock Show (stunning programme, prime-time slot, yeah mate) talks cack so incessantly it's amazing he can fit any records into the bloody show. And he's always giving us, the General Public, a little bit of info on the artists - what a nice guy. Wrong!

Thankfully, there's been a little bit of a shake-up at Radio 1. John Peel, the saviour of the station, has got a Saturday afternoon slot, and Mark Radcliffe - probably the best presenter Radio 1 has - takes over Nicky Campbell's late show. The real fun comes at weekends - No more DLT! Fucking superb! Trebles all round! The Hairy Cornflake is a thing of the past. Danny Baker takes over - much as RBH detests professional Cockernees, it's an improvement nonetheless. It's a pity that DLT got the chance to resign - RBH would have got a lot of pleasure seeing the fat neanderthal turfed out onto his fucking arse. Still now he can sit at home in his rocking chair and listen to "the wonderful new Rod Stewart single", or more accurately, Rod Stewart taking another Tom Waits masterpiece and murdering it, the dirty Jocko bastard. Well, Travis mate, RBH hopes you spend your last few years in a state of incontinence and Alzheimer's - at least then we'll know there's some justice in the world. **Ciao!**

East West Records

Trans-Global Underground's debut album "Dream of 100 Nations"

Every once in a while an album is released which you know is going to be bloody amazing. We've not had one for a long time - the last, to my mind, being the yardstick for much music in the 1990s, Primal Scream's unparalleled 1991 classic, "Screamadelica". Therefore, it has been over two years since anything has been innovative enough to shake the foundations of the music world.

Until now, that is. Trans-Global Underground's much-anticipated (and much-delayed) debut album, "Dream of 100 Nations", without any hint of doubt, is the best record since "Screamadelica" - and may possibly be even better.

Sounds improbable? Well, not once you've heard it. If there is any sanity in the world, this record will be hailed as the best, and most important, album of the year by the music press. "Dream of 100 Nations" would be a glaring omission from anyone's record collection, and if you pass up any opportunity to see them live (they play Subterania on November ---), you are a complete idiot.

Notting Hill's Nation Records keep a quite impressive stable. There's Fun-Da-Mental, Bradford's Asian rap combo; Loop Guru, suppliers of Indonesian-based trip-out dub; and the cream of the crop, Trans-Global Underground, whose music is pretty much impossible to describe, but we can try...

Basically, imagine a big pot. Chuck in some Indian instruments and rhythms, half-a-pound of house, a few bits of dub, some techno, a pinch of rap and chanting and anything else you have lying around in your musical larder, then heat and serve. It's that easy, and it tastes marvellous.

Trans-Global Underground have a hardcore of keyboardist Alex Kasiak, DJ ManTu and bass player Count Dubula. They are assisted, at times, by associate members Natacha



Trans-Global Underground: Would you buy these folk a pint?

Atlas, a singer/dancer, "beat poet" Neal Sparkes, vocalist Bad-Sha Lallaman and tabla-playing Goldfinger from Fun-Da-Mental, "out-of-time" percussionist (and mixer) Aki Nawaz and a Ghanaian rapper who styles himself "The Unorthodox Unprecedented Preacher", or T.U.U.P., in short.

The band first emerged in 1991, with the incredible "Temple Head", which opens the album in all its glory. "From a different hemisphere / we bring you Global Music", it announces, and it is perfectly accurate. "Temple Head" is as much mainstream "Western" dance as can be imagined, with rap, piano breaks and all associated typical trademarks, but featuring a profoundly "Eastern" tinge. "Global Music", perhaps, has been attempted by an assortment of folk, but never to any great effect. The Beatles, Jah Wobble, and anyone who has ever sampled Ofra Haza, have tried, but it's all been a bit vague. Trans-Global Underground

have succeeded where those before them have failed.

"Shimmer", the second single, is the second track, happy house giving way to a more hardcore edge, and T.U.U.P.'s vocal acrobatics; "Slowfinger" ensues, its sound pitched somewhere between the previous two.

By the time this first side (of four) is over - you're absorbed by the brilliance of Trans-Global Underground. The whole fucking album is superb. It's difficult to pick out the highlights - there are too many - but, at a push, "El Heddud"'s colourful pop sound and the dub weirdness of "Zombie'ites" should be mentioned. However, these songs, wonderful as they are, pale into insignificance compared to the middle track of side three.

"Sirius B" is, quite simply, the best track on any album this year. You should pray that it is released as a single. "Sirius B" features Lallaman with a break-neck rap on the most perfect east-meets-west pop-dance piece of excellence ever. How do

you describe a song so good? I'm afraid you'll have to buy the album and find out, but that's no bad thing - you will not be disappointed.

Live, Trans-Global Underground are similarly outstanding and amazing. Three nutters in wooden Nepalese masks prancing around with a belly-dancer and heaven knows what else is a sight to be seen.

The much-delayed release of the album has perhaps been a blessing - in the wake of BNP scum being elected in Millwall and violence in Stepney and Spitalfields, "Dream of 100 Nations" could hardly be more poignant. Diverse peoples, cultures and music living together in the most beautiful harmony. Two fingers to Nazi shitheads. Trans-Global Underground will not go away, neither will any of the people the fascists tell to "go home". And, what's more, we like it that way, thank you very much, otherwise records like "Dream of 100 Nations" could never be made. But they will.

Unlucky For Some

Teenage Fanclub's new LP "Thirteen"

—Dennis Lim—

For those who haven't been paying attention, the Teenage Fanclub Story so far goes something like this: Debut album "A Catholic Education" is, by and large, overlooked. No wonder, really - aside from the still-magnificent "Everything Flows", it's a bloody mess. The follow-up, "Bandwagon-esque", is a marked improvement, spawns another minor classic in the form of "The Concept" and is met with mass, almost hysterical approval.

Let's begin with the inevitable - it's impossible to discuss Teenage Fanclub without, at some point, mentioning Big Star, The Byrds, The Beatles, Neil Young et al. Accusations of plagiarism are commonplace, but TFC have an exceptionally strong case against them. Most bands pinch other people's ideas; TFC clone other people's records.

Their unnervingly brave cut-and-paste approach to songwriting actually works sometimes - to their credit, they usually choose the best bits to rip off. But, in all honesty, the joke's worn a little thin - at first, there might have been some novelty

in saying "Hey, that sounds like (fill in the blank as appropriate)" everytime you hear a TFC record, but three albums on, people are more likely to say "Oh God, those bastards are at it again."

On "Thirteen", they're at it right from the very start. "Hang On", the first track, just about samples the riff off "Twentieth-Century Boy" for the first minute or so, then launches into this reasonably pleasant bit for about another minute. Then the band decide that they'd like to be The Boo Radleys for a while, so they rope in some woodwinds - but it doesn't quite work like it did on "Giant Steps" and starts to sound a little daft. "The Cabbage" is up next and it's a perfectly satisfactory pop song.

From then on, however, it all goes worryingly wrong. Neither of the two singles, "Radio" and "Norman 3" is terribly memorable. The arduous "Song For A Cynic", probably directed to everyone who thinks they're crap, is bloody torture to sit through, but is saved by one marvellous line. It's difficult not to snigger when they sing (to the tune of someone else's song), "I'm protected by an honesty." The next

track, "120 Mins" seems to last for just that and the next two "Escher" and "Commercial Alternative" merge into a nondescript blur.

There is some respite at last in the form of "Fear Of Flying", the album's standout track. Lazy, sprawling, insanely tuneless and - like "Alcohol Holiday" before - does the one thing which TFC are probably better at than any other band - the casual, weary inclusion of the f-word in a lyric (although the latter's "Baby, I've been fucked already" still has the edge over the former's "This is your one-way ticket, so don't fuck it up"). If only they could be like this more often. But they're not and "Fear Of Flying" fails to reverse the downhill trend - the next track "Tears Are Cool" almost entirely dispenses with percussion and, in doing so, sounds somehow claustrophobic and vaguely annoying.

The last three tracks seal the fate of this album. "Rev Lit Dead" is a flimsy, little piece of fluff. "Get Funky" is simply abysmal - an unamusing, directionless self-indulgence, which is also thankfully brief. Unlike the closing "Gene Clark" (now they're even credit-

ing people for writing the songs), which has a seemingly interminable intro. It's not too bad once it gets started, but chances are you would have reached impatiently for the remote control by then.

On its own and without reference points, "Thirteen" might be an acceptable pop album, but we don't live in a vacuum and comparisons must be made. To put it bluntly, "Bandwagon-esque" spits on this. It clearly takes more than passable tunes dressed up with syrupy harmonies to make an album great (or else Wilson Phillips would be brilliant) and besides, "Thirteen" has a higher-than-acceptable quota of dodgy tracks. Compare this with what other bands are doing and the differences are even starker. Try playing "Thirteen" back-to-back with the Bjork or Boo Radleys albums - you'll find yourself wondering (rather cruelly) why TFC even bother to make records anymore. Ludicrously enough, Norman had the gall to say in an NME interview that Teenage Fanclub are making the most subversive music in the country at the moment. Try telling that to PJ Harvey and



Teenage Fanclub: Looks like they've read this before

Cornershop.

Some people will have you believe that Teenage Fanclub are brilliant at what they do - without ever making it clear what exactly it is they do. The truth is that they've been constantly overrated by some sad, backward-looking critics. Let's get a few

things straight - TFC have written a few brilliant pop songs, but they have yet to make a great album and "Thirteen" is, unfortunately, overwhelming evidence that they almost certainly never will.

Very Tasteless Splendour

The Fatima Mansions kick Papal ass in Clapham

Anyone who reads the Music Pages with anything approaching regularity will not need telling that the Fatima Mansions are my favourite band. I know, I know, I try to get their name in the paper as often as possible - after all, someone has to give them some coverage.

So how do I write an objective review of their Clapham Grand gig on Thursday 7th, when they were obviously superb? It's difficult, but I'll try - perhaps giving some reasons as to why, when Cathal Coughlan bends over, verily the sun doth shine.

I have, as millions of others around the world, been "educated" by Catholics. This, I have to say, is a contradiction

in terms. This is also why the Fatima Mansions appeal so much to me. A band that kicks against the pricks of the Roman Catholic Church in the main and secondly against the current Government has got to be worth listening to - and if their polemic is accompanied by stunning and innovative music, all the better.

So, in the wake of *Veritas Splendor*, the Pope's encyclical letter to all RC Bishops which reaffirms the Catholic Church's commitment to a policy of anti-abortionism, anti-contraception and anti-homosexuality, as well as many other totally fucking crass, outdated ideals, the Fatima Mansions and Cathal Coughlan are a

mite pissed off. Which is good news for gig-goers.

So, onto the gig. Support was from Compulsion, some spunky new Irish band whom we were unfortunate to miss, Rosa Mota, whose 45 minute set seemed like a bloody marathon of crap tunes and indeterminable lyrics, and Midway Still, who were fairly Midway-Stillish as usual, i.e. boring. Thankfully, respite was to come in the shape of the headline band.

For about four years now, the Fatima Mansions have been writing intelligent, fierce and contemporary popular music - from their 1989 mini-album debut, "Against Nature", through 1990's ranting "Viva Hate", "Bertie's Brochures", another mini-album in 1991,

and last year's "Valhalla Avenue", their finest work to date, which was given the accolade of "Album of the Year" by *The Independent*.

Yet still there are pricks to kick against. Radio "1 FM", who seem to be in complete ignorance (par for the course) of the Fatima Mansions; the popular music press, who for some reason give bastard good reviews to their singles and albums yet still spend their time fawning over twats like Suede etc.; and the general public, who just don't seem to get the message. Apity. Some of us, though, are enlightened.

Sadly, as a music venue, Clapham Grand is wank - the ceiling is too high and the acoustics are dreadful. Their perform-

ance suffered, as their sound could not dominate such a cavern effectively enough. They still managed to do enough, however, to put most bands to shame.

A host of classics were performed with customary aplomb, "Only Losers Take The Bus", their first single, "Evil Man" and "1000%", the two singles lifted from "Valhalla Avenue", and anthems such as "Bishop Of Babel", "Look What I Stole For Us, Darling", "Chemical Cosh" and "North Atlantic Wind". Newer songs were road-tested and worked well: "Humiliate Me", "Brain Blitz", "A Walk In The Woods" and the wonderfully-titled "Popemobile To Paraguay". All went down well with an appreciative au-

dience.

Time prevented some of their best anthems from being performed - the one exception being a second encore for "Angel's Delight", a delightful ditty (?) about killing police officers. "Angel's Delight" makes "Cop-Killer" sound like "The Laughing Policeman", and is fairly indicative of the Fatima Mansions style. A good night was had by all, Sean Hughes included.

Sadly, there will be no new product until January/February, so we'll have to make do with what we've got. You could, in the meantime, get into the spirit of it all and pop down your local RC Church and tell the priest a few home truths.

It's Raining Stones!

A review of the latest film offering from British director Ken Loach

— Ben Oliver —

British director Ken Loach, whose 1991 film 'Riff-Raff' was European Film of the Year, looks set to give us more of the same with the release of 'Raining Stones.'

Loach reassembled many of the cast and crew from his previous film, uses the same simple film techniques, and once again takes poverty and the struggle to find work as his main themes.

'Raining Stones' is set in Manchester, and is the story of Bob Williams's efforts to get the cash to buy a communion dress for his young daughter. The film is initially very funny, as Bob and friend Tommy rustle sheep on the moors and steal the turf from a Conservative club lawn. As Bob gets increasingly frustrated the film becomes more serious, and as he falls into the hands of loan sharks Loach builds several terrifying moments.

Loach has denied that this film is just another 'Riff-Raff', claiming that it is funnier even though it deals with the trademark Loach themes that have made him popular abroad but earned suspicion from the British establishment.

Visually, 'Raining Stones' is very similar to

earlier Loach films. He uses super 16mm film more suited to television, giving the film a documentary feel. This impression is reinforced by the lack of any artificial lighting, and no studios are used. Much of the film was recorded in flats loaned to the production team by residents of an estate in Middleton, Lancashire. As a result the camera is always somewhere the viewer could be, giving 'Raining Stones' a feeling of intimacy and reality. Unfussy photography is part of this documentary approach, but the art in 'Raining Stones' is in the script and the acting, rather than its appearance.

The Beaver tracked down the film's three lead actors to get their views on the making of 'Raining Stones' and working with Ken Loach. Bruce Jones and Ricky Tomlinson play Bob and his mate Tommy. Bruce had no acting experience before being cast and has returned to his job as a boilerman.

We asked him about his first experiences as an actor.

"Working with Ken is incredible," he said. "It's not really like acting - you only get the script on the day and much of the

dialogue is improvised, so you're really reacting personally. You live your role."

"Ken organized some surprises for me. There's a scene where I offer drain cleaning door-to-door. Ken discovered that

shock you see me express is totally real - I didn't have to act!"

Asked how he felt about Bob Williams, his character, he said, "Bob's a very genuine character. We've all met people like him, I know a lot myself.



I'm afraid of dogs, and arranged for two bloody great alsations to come leaping at me when I knocked on one door. Any

He's slightly comic, like Yosser in Boys from the Blackstuff. The whole film's like that, but the message is that things

are worse in the nineties than they were ten years ago."

Ricky Tomlinson has worked with Ken Loach in the past, but is best known as Bobby Grant in Brookside. He has some strong views on Loach's importance.

"He's the only intelligent voice in this fucked-up country. Why do you think 'Riff-Raff' was so true to life? Because we were all builders! I was even a union leader, locked up for two years stark naked in my cell. England has become a shithole, and my last hope is to see a revolution before I die. Politically, Ken Loach could be one of the most important people in the country."

"It's difficult for him to get funding for his films because the establishment is suspicious, particularly after 'Hidden Agenda'. But he's loved on the Continent, just look at the awards he's won. There's real talent about, and Ken's one of the best, but there's very little money."

We asked him about the scene where he drops his pants at a police helicopter. "Up north mooning really means something. It's just a petty act of defiance, of disrespect for the authorities, but

it's heartfelt. All the same I had difficulty running with my trousers down, as you'll see in the film."

Julie Brown plays Anne Williams, Bob's wife.

"Ken was looking for someone with no acting experience. I'm a nightclub singer and I'm not nervous parading myself, but soon I even forgot about the camera."

Julie plays in one of the most disturbing scenes in the film. Tansey, the local loan shark, bursts into her flat looking for Bob, and threatens her daughter Coleen. Julie found it the most enjoyable scene to make.

"I was physically exhausted at the end of the day. After the first take I was crying, because five minutes in I was living it out rather than acting it."

"I hope it strikes a chord with mothers. There's little violence but Anne's daughter is threatened by this evil force which has invaded the flat. It's terrifying, a really meaty scene which is why I enjoyed it so much."

And her future plans? "I'd love to do more auditions. I'm just a working mum with three kids, so if more work comes I won't turn it down!"

About 50 Words Per Minute

— Ben & Jerry Vermont —

Are you considering a career in politics? Do you revel in the folly of politicians? Have you wondered about the morality of civil servants? No matter if you admire or despise politicians, Keyboard Skills has an answer for everyone.

A junior minister faces a scandal that could ruin his career and his marriage. When Bernard Snowden left his house this morning, his marriage was secure and his political prospects were golden. But that was before Bromley. Now he returns home to his wife, Caroline, and in the few short hours before daybreak their whole future will be decided.

However, being a politician he experiences extreme difficulties in coming out with the truthful story. Apparently he mislaid some highly sensitive government papers in a pub in Bromley in Kent. Uncertain whether he drove there alone or accompanied by his old home office chum Brian, Bernard Snowden is terrified of the press catching on to his negligence.

His story continually changes, people appear

and reappear in the narration and it soon becomes obvious to his analytical wife that Bernard Snowden is too economical with the truth. However, what can one expect from a person who gives his reasons for embarking on a political career to his future wife Caroline as: 'I want to change people's lives for the better and for them to know that it was me.'

Keyboard Skills is the second play by Lesley Bruce, whose work in the past was almost exclusively geared towards television. Geraldine McEvan, as director, has managed to bring this play to life in a very limited space. Although most of the play takes place in the present, flashbacks to the past help explain the relationship of the main characters. Those flashbacks are one of the strengths of the piece. Witty dialogues and cunning insights into the role of a secretary/wife in the life of a successful man make for lighthearted entertainment. The spectator is left guessing until the very end as to what could have been so terrible that it would ruin the career of a promising Junior minister.

Surrounded by a decor resembling a bumper car set of a fun fair we are always reminded of the somewhat illusory world of politics where reputa-

tions are made or destroyed by a sensationalist press. Portraying the double standards of politicians always willing to leave their conscience behind for a career in the political lime light, the play denounces with humor the morality exhibited by today's elected civil servants.

Explaining to her husband why she was kissing his aide, Mrs. Snowden remarks sarcastically: "Andrew was just explaining why politicians do not need standards for personal behavior." Jonathan Coy gives a convincing performance as a junior minister facing total annihilation by the press. Deborah Lindlay manages to impersonate the curious and at times annoying wife so skillfully that even the audience start to feel pity for this husband caught with his pants down.

Keyboard Skills serves as a good reminder that the fringe theatres in London offer a good alternative to the big commercial shows in the West End. At a price of 6 pounds for students with student I.D., Keyboard Skills can be a welcome change from the movie routine. Keyboard Skills is playing Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. at the Bush Theatre.

Relief in Eastern Europe

Helen Brown experiences the aftermath of Ceausescu's population programme

"If I lived here," my Romanian friend told me, "I would never go back to Romania. The difference is too great."

After spending over a year attempting to get a British visa, Oleg had finally made it. The average Romanian wage

A legacy of the Ceausescu regime, which expected families to produce a large workforce. Ceausescu's desire to increase the country's population by ten million before the year 2000, led to contraception being made unavailable,

volunteers, long and short term, work alongside staff and children, throughout the year in the town's orphanage. In the summer teams of play scheme helpers spend a couple of months in orphanages in the

giving them the individual attention which they had previously lacked. The continuous presence of the team is helping to build the foundations for the transference of skills and an understanding of the Romanian way of working, rather than relying on the 'quick fix' solution of 'aid dumping'. There are many orphanages which are still in indescribable and appalling conditions, but the process of change will take a long time and there is a need for education, investment and commitment from the West, rather than the sporadic, reactive interest generated by sensationalist horror stories.

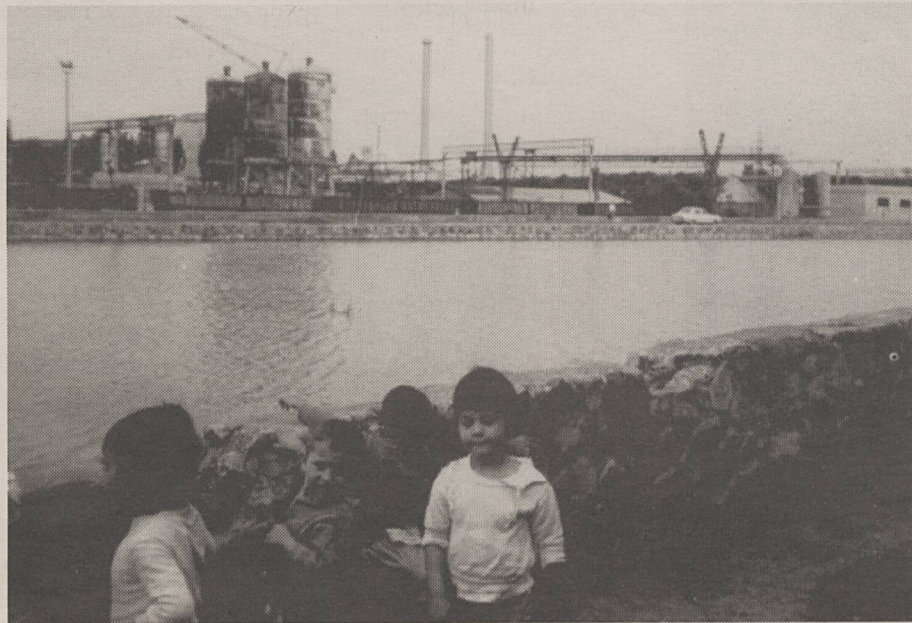
High inflation, the axing of state subsidies on basic food and the rising cost of day to day living, have created an atmosphere of disillusionment amongst many Romanians. The current, post revolutionary 'Iliescu' regime has been viewed with scepticism by the national press, which saw the revolution of 1989 as flawed and stage-managed to an



police on a few occasions for trivialities such as writing in my diary in a cafe. Our translator once said that the people who fought and died in 1989 would not have liked the political aftermath of their revolution. Romania is still marked by the oppressive influence of the Ceausescu years.

Theft formed an integral part of our daily life. Large amounts of clothing were stolen from the orphanage and the team experienced the theft of clothes, money, equipment and even cups of tea! It is easy, however, to criticize Romanians and impose a western ideal of civic morality upon them, when the dictatorial communist society under which they

wedding in which the bride and groom's families danced through the streets and celebrated in a style which the British could do well to emulate! A lady from the town's Baptist Church started to do some voluntary work with the children (although she had to contend with some opposition from the police); and the move to kindergarten also increased the children's contact with the outside world. However, there is a long way to go, both economically and socially. The streets are full of homeless children and disabled people. Yet, there are those who are determined to activate for change. One girl, a university student, had



is at present forty to fifty pounds a month, so this brief trip would probably be too expensive to repeat. He spent a large part of his visit in shock at the high standard of living and the wastage of food; and had taken photographs of supermarkets to show to his family at home. Oleg works in an orphanage in a village in Northern Romania; one of countless orphanages throughout the country.

forcing many large and undernourished families to abandon 'surplus' children.

I spent five months of 1993 working in an orphanage in a town in Northern Romania, as part of the Eastern European Relief Drive. This charity is sponsored by the Body Shop and has been working in conjunction with the Minister for Health for the region since 1990. A team of around six

nearby village, giving the children a chance to enjoy different activities.

Much of the work of the team consisted of helping to integrate the orphans into the community, taking them around the town, to the market place and park, so that the local people got used to them and vice versa. During the three and a half years that the Eastern European Relief Drive have been involved with the orphans, a lot has been achieved. The children have been moved to a better building and are benefiting from improved hygiene and health care. The volunteers and staff have recently been working on their educational assessments and while I was there most of the children were accepted into local kindergarten. This has been a long and slow step forward, as school staff were at first dubious about educating orphans with 'normal' children.

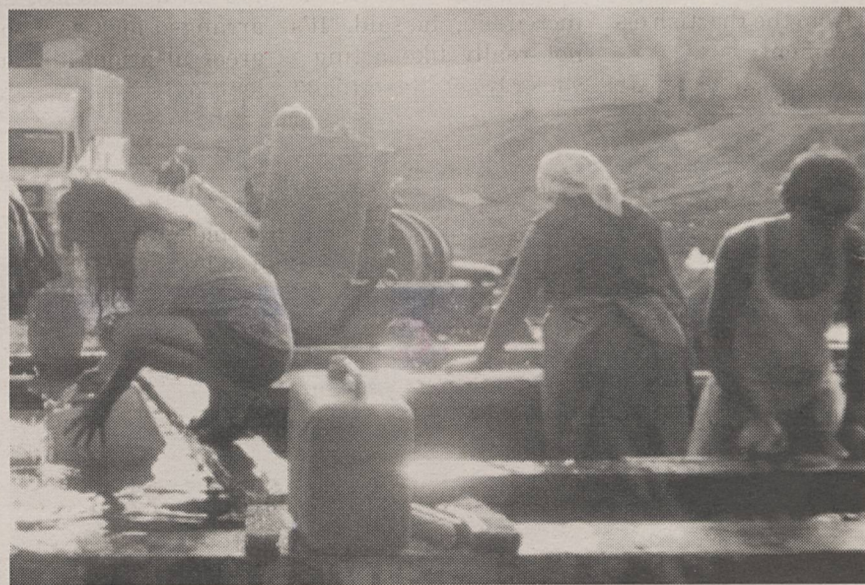
The acceptance of the majority of children into local kindergarten enabled the team to concentrate on those with special needs and a programme was started up for them within the orphanage, aimed at

extent, by the country's present leaders, who needed to prevent Ceausescu from disclosing potentially damaging information. 'Freedom of speech' does exist, up to a point, now, but the police still keep a watchful eye on any activity which might be construed as subversive. I found myself verging on the wrong side of the

were forced to live but has left a legacy of oppression and deprivation. A Romanian friend commented, "It's alright for you, eventually you can go home. But this country is killing me."

Yet we also felt the generosity and hospitality of local people. On one occasion we were invited to a

been to meetings proposing services for handicapped people and was interested in becoming involved in educational reform. She is realistic, however, seeing improvement as a process that might take twenty or thirty years to show tangible results. But the seeds are being sown.



Phoebe on Food

Grub on a Grant, eating well at university need not be a fallacy

==Phoebe Ashworth==

This is written for everyone who is faced with a kitchen the size of a shoe box, two rings to cook on, a battered saucepan and the dog spoon to cook with, a ravenous appetite, no time to eat AND write essays and a grant cheque that hasn't arrived/cleared. Like any skill the more you practice the better you'll get! Cooking from scratch is much much cheaper and the ingredients fresher than ready made and take-aways. Portions are generous. Prices are based on the cheapest brand available at Sainsbury's supermarkets. Small local London shops will be more expensive but regular local street markets may be cheaper

for fresh produce. Happy washing up! If you have any problems, good ideas, requests for favourite recipes or queries on methods I'd like to help, so leave a note at the Beaver office.

WINE SPOT

The Gyongyos Estate, Chardonnay, 1992. Available in Sainsbury's at £3.35. An amazingly good dry oak flavored Hungarian (Yes!) wine, tastes as if it cost much more.

Sainsbury's own label Entre-Deux Mers, Tertre du Moulin, 1991 Chateau bottled at £3.99 and the sister wine Chateau La Rose du Pin, 1991 at £4.25. Very dry. These may seem expensive but are worth every crispy mouthful.

When I went shopping Sainsbury's were doing a wine tasting for their

house Cote Du Rhone, £2.95, or 70p off for 2 bottles. This tasted like stale furry kettle water, only red, one to avoid. I also tasted their Anjou Rouge from the Loire

valley which was better, light and fruity, nice with salad and reasonable at £2.99 or 70p off for 2 bottles.

Chill white wine in the fridge door for about two

hours - too long spoils the flavour. If you have any favorites to share let the Beaver know. Next week Waitrose!!

INSIDE YOUR FRIDGE

The golden rule for your fridge is IF YOU OPEN THE DOOR AND IT WALKS, LET IT!

Clean the fridge with water and a little bicarbonate of soda with a tiny squeeze of washing up liquid. Detergents leave a smell that will contaminate the food.

On the top shelf keep: Butter, margarine, cheese, eggs (stored pointed end down) and convenience foods.

In the middle keep: Milk, yoghurts, cream, cooked meats.

At the bottom keep fresh fish, uncooked meats, sausages and poultry.

Fruit, salads and vegetables in the drawer at the bottom if you have one. If not it is important to keep them above raw meats so nothing drips.

Keep milk and fruit juice in the door.

Make sure everything is wrapped or covered so strong flavours such as cheese and fish don't affect the milk etc.

A good fridge temperature is around 4°C / 38°F in order to keep the micro-organisms dormant.

Don't put hot food in the fridge or the bacteria will party, let it cool down first.

Keeping times: Fish - eat on day of purchase. Meat and Poultry (cooked or uncooked) - 2 days. Bacon 7 days. Milk - 4 days. Hard cheese 7-14 days. Eggs - 2 weeks. Green vegetables and salads 2 - 3 days.



WELSH ONION SOUP

Takes 20 minutes cooking and preparation. Costs around £1.20. Makes 2 pints, serves 4.

INGREDIENTS

4 medium sized onions
2oz butter
2 pints milk
1 rounded table spoon plain flour
1 vegetable stock cube
salt and pepper
chopped parsley and cream to garnish (optional)

METHOD

Skin the onions and slice them very finely. In a large saucepan melt the butter and fry the onions gently until soft but not brown, about 4 minutes. Take the pan off the heat and stir in the flour with 3 table spoons of milk. Stir out the lumps, add the rest of the milk a little at a time. Crumble in the vegetable stock cube and a little salt and pepper. Put the pan back on the heat and gently simmer, stirring frequently, until the soup is smooth and creamy. Serve with a little cream and sprinkled with chopped parsley

BUTTERSCOTCH FUDGE SAUCE

For pouring over ice cream, bananas, rice pudding and thick yogurt. Takes 10 minutes cooking time. Costs around £1.20. Makes 1/2 pint.

INGREDIENTS

3oz butter
6oz soft brown sugar
3 table spoons golden syrup
1 small 170gr can evaporated milk

METHOD

Melt the butter gently in a large heavy bottomed saucepan. Add the sugar and golden syrup. Cook, stirring from the edges to the centre for 6-7 minutes until thick, bubbly and fudge like. Add the evaporated milk and stir rapidly until smooth.

Take care, hot sugar burns. Dip the table spoon in hot water from the kettle and then use it to measure the golden syrup so it doesn't stick.

RISOTTO

Takes 50 minutes cooking and preparation time. Costs around £3.00 including sausages. Makes 4 good portions.

INGREDIENTS

8oz Italian ARBORIO Risotto rice
1 onion, chopped
1 fat clove garlic, chopped
2 table spoons vegetable oil
knob of butter
2 pints stock made with 2 chicken or vegetable stock cubes
3 carrots, peeled and chopped
4 table spoons frozen peas
3 tomatoes, skinned and chopped
4 table spoons fresh parmesan cheese (or cheddar for economy)
1 large tin mini cocktail sausages (optional)

METHOD

In a large heavy based saucepan heat the oil and butter. Gently fry the chopped onion and garlic for 4 minutes. Add the rice and stir for a further 2 minutes. Pour in 1/3 of the stock, Bring to the boil gently, stirring frequently so that nothing sticks to the bottom. Allow the rice to absorb the liquid before gradually stirring in the rest of the stock. Simmer for about 30 minutes. The idea is SLOW cooking. Test the rice by tasting a few grains. It should be smooth and creamy with whole grains of rice still apparent. 5 minutes before the end of cooking time add the chopped carrots, frozen peas, tomatoes, drained sausages, salt and pepper. Stir in the cheese just before serving.

Peel the tomatoes by covering with boiling water for 10 seconds, the skin should peel off easily.

Once you have the basic Risotto you can add other things, for example; crispy cooked bacon, leftover chicken, prawns, fried mushrooms or courgettes,

white wine, saffron strands - but not all at once!

CORNERED BEEF HASH

Takes 30 minutes cooking and preparation plus 20 minutes potato boiling. Costs around £1.50 Serves 2-3 people.

INGREDIENTS

1 lb potatoes
7oz can corned beef, chopped into cubes
1 small onion
loz butter salt and pepper dash of Worcestershire sauce (optional)
1 egg each person

METHOD

Put the potatoes in their skins covered in cold water in a pan. Bring to the boil and cook until tender (about 20 minutes). Drain and cool, then peel off the skins and chop the potatoes roughly. Chop the onion very finely or grate it. Mix together the corned beef, potatoes and onion with a little salt and pepper. Melt the butter in a large heavy based frying pan until sizzling. Add the potato mixture and pat it down gently with a fish slice. Turn the heat down and let it cook for about 10 minutes. Stir and break up the mixture so that crispy bits are mixed in, then pat it down again and cook for another 10 minutes or so until crispy on the bottom. Serve with a fried or poached egg.

TO POACH AN EGG

Use very fresh eggs. Put about 3 inches of water in a pan with one teaspoon of vinegar. Do not add salt. Bring the water to a fast rolling boil. Break the egg onto a saucer and then tip it into the water on a bubbling spot. Lower the heat so that the water just wobbles and poach the egg for 3 minutes for a soft egg. Lift it out with a slotted spoon. If your egg white spreads all over the pan your egg is too stale.

The Beaver Party

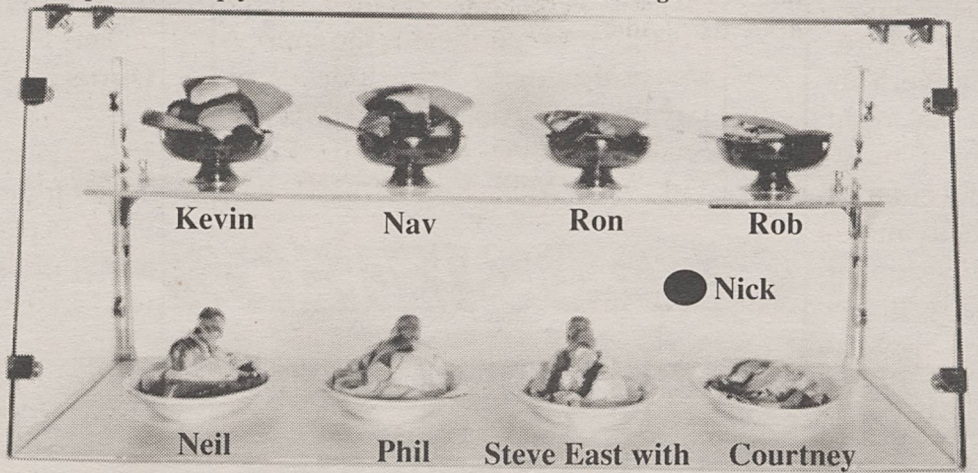


**It's Happening
In The Underground
Stupidly Cheap Bar &**

**Ruby Zoom Live 7.30 pm
Wednesday 20 October**

Meet the Editors

This photo is simply entitled 'The wonders of modern drugs'



Kevin

Nav

Ron

Rob

● Nick

Neil

Phil

Steve East with
some
Thorsten Mousse

Courtney
& Sorrel



MORGAN STANLEY INTERNATIONAL

invites students interested in a career in:

Investment Banking
Sales and Trading
Finance, Administration and Operations

to a presentation at

**The Churchill Hotel
30, Portman Square, London
at 6:30pm
on Monday 25th October, 1993**

Morgan Stanley is a leading global Investment Banking and Securities firm with major operations in Europe, the U.S. and the Far East

Postgraduate Required. Our client, an established Hampshire Company, seeks a go-getter entrepreneurial Postgrad Student as their on-site representative. This is a genuine opportunity for the right person to earn good money whilst studying. Only self-starting high achievers need apply. Full support, and publicity material supplied. No deposit or investment required, only hard work, loyalty, determination and ingenuity. For an application form send SAE to; PELORUS, Glendoone House, 1 Second Avenue, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2QP.

Who the hell do they think they are, and how can we get rid of them?

Let's give the politicians the chop. A practical guide, £7.99 (includes p&p), payable to PAUL GREENWOOD. Snakebite (Bvr), 67 London Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1DT.

CLASSIFIEDS

**will return in thier
normal format in two
weekstime**

Law student needed to be L.S.E Rep. to the London University Inner Temple Society.

Duties;

- 1: Liase with main organiser of UITS.
- 2: Organise LSE side of events, publicity etc.
- 3: Publish and organise LSE students who wish to go to inner temple careers evening.

CONTACT JAMES HILL 071 580 3965

The Pisshead Olympics

Gary & Nity give you the run down on this year's events.

Entrants please send name and address, attached to a four-pack of Scrumpy, to our table in the Tuns (office hours 5-11)

Events

1. Boggy's 'Blow Chunks Football'. Aim to cover as much of the table/coats/fellow contestants with chunder as possible in order to ingratiate Tuns staff (and score).

2. Bradburn and Muttley's swimming event. You will need a) The Thames b) Policeman.

3. Boggy's Heptathalon: Drinking, snogging, drinking, dancing, puking, snogging, drinking.

4. Front crawl

5. Hurling

6. Fatty's game: Who can jump out of the window the best (not recommended above the 18th floor).

7. Bradburn's nude 50m dash.

8. Pissing on the toilet floor event. Aim: to utterly miss the urinal and splash shoes/jeans/face of man on left (female contestants allowed extra time)

9. Failure to get an erection event

10. Nity's 'lie on your back whilst shouting your own name repeatedly at the top of your voice' event (Drink optional).

11. Muttley's window game (You don't want to do it like that).

12. Muttley's sad haircut event (You definitely don't want to do it like that)

13. Gerard's Trying to throw mushrooms through burning onion rings event (Onion rings and Mushrooms optional)

14. Gerard's pulling your trousers down in front of the whole of Rosebery to prove that he really wasn't talking out of his arse.

15. Steve's 'call everyone Phil for the evening' event.

16. Asking a policeman if he's black event (bandages supplied).

17. Ben's cunningly concealed traffic cone event. Policeman will be unaware of a 4ft luminous traffic cone if partially obscured by a coat/Ben/another traffic cone.

18. Gary's pass out in a puddle of piss event (piss supplied).



See event 33. And yes, it did hurt.

Photo: Caroline Barnes, oh dear Neil.



Every goal was a hotly disputed penalty

Photo: Neil Andrews

19. Boggy's taking the piss out of man with stupid tie event. Aim: to make him get off at the next stop.

20. Billy's elbowing short people on the head event (Not nity - he's too tall and got a huge cock, probly).

21. Bradburn's 'telling it how it is' to taxi driver event: "You haven't got a clue where you are going yer fat bastard".

22. Steve's semi naked citrus fruit event.

23. Steve's comic timing event. Aim: to tell Neil where he went for his summer holidays

24. Steve's 'telling people what you really think of them' event (avoid those larger than yourself)

25. Paruntha game: Ask kebab vendor for item he doesn't sell repeatedly each night for a year (Team event).

26. Boggy's 'losing your wallet' event. Aim: to fall asleep on the tube, end up at Cockfosters with no wallet and half-a-bottle of red wine. Try and hitch home.

27. Arndt's piss on the cupboard event (two attempts allowed)

28. Chris's go into the occupied bog event (two attempts allowed)

COMBAT EVENTS:

30. Bradburn's headbutt pavement event

31. Bradburn's start on European Heavyweight Thai Boxing Champion event (hospital supplied)

32. Bradburn's start on a car event (then start on the driver when he gets out to help you up).

33. Caroline's 'punch Neil very hard in the face in Copenhagen' event

Final Event: AU Barrel - find a member of the AU and shove a barrel up his arse.

A quick word from our sponsors: Aaaaaah gutted

Explanation Time

For further info on how you can enter this infamous sporting occasion see Gary or Nity because they'll be more than willing to fill you in. If you haven't got a clue about who the contestants are then see the gruesome twosome as well. Clique-corner? Nah. I don't think so mate.

CLUB NOISE

No.3 Charlton Athletic

Anyone who is familiar with the club will appreciate the remarkable achievement made on the 5th December 1992, when Charlton Athletic returned to their spiritual home, The Valley. It was certainly an emotional occasion for all concerned, celebrating the rich history of the club that was not allowed to die in our 7 years of exile. Branded the gypsies of football, Charlton's dire financial status forced closure of the Valley in 1985. Subsequently, the struggling club played at both Selhurst and Upton Park, homes of Crystal Palace and West Ham respectively.

For more years than I care to remember, Charlton were mere tenants to Palace Chairman Ron Noades. As a fan it was always very frustrating to watch our prize assets being off loaded to "the big boys", only to see the profits fund Mr Noades' latest buy.

West Ham may be forgiven, because although the rent was higher, the move to Upton Park was always viewed as a stop-gap. In fact, we remained the wrong side of the Blackwall tunnel for nearly two seasons, and at times it seemed likely that the club could fold. Our remarkable return can be attributed to three groups of people, who worked tirelessly together for their cause. These were the fans, the board of directors/chairman, and our "local rag" The S.E. London Mercury.

Campaign after campaign was designed by either the club or the fans, and promoted by the paper. Sadly, Greenwich council were nothing but destructive towards our efforts to return. Ambitious plans of a 25,000 all-seater stadium with business and leisure complexes at the Valley were rejected, and time after time the council opposed us. The former SDP MP for Greenwich, Rosie Barnes, once helped a campaign lobbying residents to oppose any future return. I can only hope that this stance helped you in the following elections, Rosie.

Our most notable campaign was politically orientated. "The Valley Party" was formed to stand in local elections, accumulating nearly 15,000 votes and earning nationwide publicity (Bear in mind that the average gate that season was only around the 7,000 mark). The club's financial problems remained a stumbling block and it was up to the fans to raise the cash needed to pay striking builders at the Valley, with the Valley Investment Plan raising the necessary £1 million coupled with the £700,000 sale of winger Robert Lee to Newcastle.

Unlike our neighbours Millwall we are deeply passionate about our historical stadium. Charlton Athletic belong at The Valley, just as Millwall belong to the (old) Den. Their "New London Stadium" is all very well with its nice new facilities and excess toilets, but where is the character and tradition in a purpose-built stadium? The Valley's 8,000 capacity is a far cry from the days of 75,000 crowds, but our ground is getting bigger. So, am I jealous of Millwall's empty 20,000 stadium, bursting with 7,000 fans every week? I'll keep the electric atmosphere in a packed out Valley, thanks very much.

Douglas Slater

Houghton Street Harry

With Taylor's donkeys fucking up yet again, I've decided that my American ancestry (my aunt once visited the States) should be brought up. At least then I can support a team who is actually going to play in the World Cup Finals next year. But enough about football, I think we've dwelt on the subject for long enough. Let's turn our attentions towards a less exotic sport.....erm, how about Judo?

Did you know that Britain has failed to win a medal at the Men's World Championships since Neil Adams's gold way back in 1981? Adams is now the manager of the British squad and could barely hide his disappointment when Britain failed yet again to clinch a medal. With Ray Stevens now retired from the sport (Stevens, you may remember, won an Olympic Silver medal last year in Barcelona), Adams pinned most of his hopes on Heavyweight Elvis Gordon, Britain's most consistent judo player of recent years, but Gordon failed to live up to his manager's expectations and was knocked out early on. Now Adams is at a loss over what to do. After all, Britain's Women had another successful Championships, picking up a number of medals during the week-long contest in Canada.

The problem appears to be in stamina and technique. Unlike other contact sports, like boxing for example, each weight division is decided in a day. The contest begins in the morning and the more fights the player wins, the further he/she progresses. One defeat, however, leads to the player being automatically knocked out. Bouts are decided on a points basis - but unlike boxing, there are no draws. If the contest is all equal at the end, the three judges will award the contest to the most aggressive fighter. Britain's men seemed short on stamina - with fighters becoming sluggish as the day went on. But with the Olympics another three years away, Adams and Co. have plenty of time to sort themselves out.

Unlike England's footballers. Everyone is so adamant that Taylor should not be blamed for Wednesday's result but who else should we blame? Who picked Carlton Palmer? Who picked "hopelessly out of position" David Seaman? Who picked an unfit Alan Shearer? In the good days it was customary for England to pick at least three donkeys to do the grafting - but they could be counter balanced with players of class and skill who could get things moving. Taylor, however, has now raised that quota to eleven and he wonders why we don't get results. Everyone's a critic but when you look at the success of countries like Holland, Eire and Wales, all of whom are short on the resources to continually churn out top class players, and then look at England, you can't help but think that the team that played in Rotterdam wasn't really England's eleven best players.

The F.A., epitomized by Graham Kelly, will probably hold an inquest. Blaming everyone and anyone for England's failing. Everyone except themselves. But those who should be blamed are at the top of the game. Until they go, England will not improve. Too many people put down our game, but there is nothing wrong with the players we produce. It's the managerial team of the F.A. that's at fault. A classic example of too many dicks spoiling the team.

Puff the Magic Dragon

The Lion Roar takes a look at the resurgence in the Welsh Valleys

Wales are on course to reach the World Cup for the first time since 1958 but it's been a tough ride. Always the nearly men, the Welsh have been perennially unlucky when the groups for both the European Championships and the World Cup qualifying stages have been drawn out by both UEFA and FIFA respectively. In both competitions they are usually drawn against some of the toughest teams in Europe but down in the Valleys, the never say die spirit is still going strong. Marginally edged out of the final stages of the last two major football competitions, Wales' fate this time round lies in their own hands. A convincing win against Romania on November 17th and they can book their flights to the USA. But it's been a

rough path.

Manager Terry Yorath has had to contend with the death of his 15-year-old son from heart failure, the suicide of club player Alan Davies and the death from cancer of Sheffield United goalkeeper Mel Rees. Furthermore, the Welsh FA is in dire financial straits. Deprived of its former annual windfall of the Home Championships, the Association can just about afford to supply the squad with twelve full kits and if you look closely at these strips, you'll notice that some of players have cut off their sleeves. In Wales, beggars can't be choosers. If you've got a long sleeve shirt and you don't want one, out come the scissors. But things on the financial front look rosy.

A £500,000 windfall is

expected from the gate receipts of the Romania match, to be staged at Cardiff Arms Park. Sponsorship and television revenue together with perimeter advertising should increase that figure to around £1 million. There will be no bonuses, however, for the players.

Players from the Republic of Ireland will receive around £50,000 each if they qualify. The Welsh squad will get their £200 match fee and get on with winning the match. Last year the English F.A. cut their players' appearance fees and bonuses which had been in existence since the days of Don Revie but it seems to have made little difference to the team. In Wales, a spirit is evident sadly lacking from the England team. Pride and self-belief is in

evidence throughout the squad but it's not going to be plain sailing. When the two sides met in Romania, the Balkan state came out on top with a demolishing 5-1 victory. This time around, Wales must win by two clear goals and they will be without Mark Aizlewood and Mark Hughes, who are both suspended.

If they do qualify then it's been well deserved. Neville Southall, however, has already expressed his doubts about going to America. He should seriously reconsider. Wales will be one of the strongest teams in the competition and if they fulfill their promise they could go further than their 1958 counterparts, who reached the Quarter Finals, going out to the eventual winners, Brazil.

Sporty Snaps



Carsten Thode can't get to grips with the concept of the game of football. He thinks he's playing basketball.

Photo: Joanna Arong

Competition Time

This week the LSE's favourite organ gives you, the reader, a chance to win a pint of milk. Interested? All you have to do is examine the player that lies behind the Club Noise headline and name him. If you think you know who he is, simply write his name on a piece of paper and drop into either the Beaver drop boxes or the Beaver Office, E197. Alternatively, you could drop us a line on the vax. Our personal is 'Beaver'.

Lost Weekend

On Saturday 9th October, LSE Women's Hockey Team played in the annual tournament at Motspur Park. From the start the odds were stacked against us. The team had never played together before and our goalkeeper unexpectedly left the college. On top of this we were fortunate enough to be drawn against the top two seeds of the tournament. Unfortunately, we were knocked out in the first round. This does

not, however, reflect accurately our standard of play which was excellent. Morale remained high throughout the tournament despite the rain and unfriendliness of our opponents.....we love you too Kings. Thanks to all of you who got up at 7am on Saturday to play (keep an eye on the A.U. notice-board for further fixtures).

-- Women's Hockey Squad

You can tell a chess player by their haircut

