

BEAVER

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THE Student Union has now taken up the places offered to it by the School on its committees. After eight years of negotiations and deadlocks, both sides have agreed a compromised position which has been accepted by the Court of Governors and the Academic Board.

The main stumbling block, ever since the offer of places was first made in 1968, has been the method of selection of student members. The Union also thought that not enough places had been offered. The School wanted departments to choose from within its departmental students, whilst the Student Union wanted elections at a Union General Meeting.

What has finally been decided

is that elections for these student places will take place on a full day using a secret ballot with single transferable vote, the method used by the Student Union to elect members to its own Executive Committee. Two of the most important committees of the Academic Board which the Union have been hoping to get on are the General Purposes Committee and the Accommodation Committee. The Union now has places on them, along with more on other committees of both the Academic Board and the Court of Governors.

However, students will not be able to sit on all committees of the School. One committee which students will be excluded from is the Standing Committee of the Court of Governors which

in fact is its business management committee. However, a concession has been made so that there will be regular obligatory meetings between Student Government and members of the Standing Committee. Students will be allowed to sit on the Court of Governors itself, although this is very much seen as a rubber-stamping body and its unwieldy size would seem to bear this out.

The main reason for the exclusion of student members from some of the committees of both the Academic Board and the Court of Governors is due to an agreement drawn up between the Vice-Chancellors and the NUS in 1968 which said there are various committees which students should not ask for membership of. These are

the ones which deal with examinations and the selection of staff and students.

The biggest problem facing the Student Union is finding a sufficient number of people from the Union willing to act on the committees. It is hoped that now agreement has finally been reached, there will be sufficient individual student response not to make the many hours spent on negotiating a waste of time. Notices of elections will be posted very soon in order that the quota can be taken up with the least possible delay.

The situation reached now is the culmination of much activity from within the Student Union itself. The offer of places was periodically made by the School but was each time rejected out

of hand. However, last year a motion proposed by Peter Timmins urging positive action from the Student Union in taking up its membership was passed and indeed members were elected. As they were elected from the Union floor they were unacceptable to the School. Last term another motion was passed, this time in favour of the position now held by the SU and it was this move that broke the deadlock.

There is much relief from the administration as many of them have been involved with trying to find common ground for the past eight years. There is also a feeling in the Union that a long-awaited breakthrough has taken place and that something constructive can now happen.

A.C.

RALF REMAINS



PROFESSOR DAHRENDORF has denied reports that he is going to leave LSE to run a policy institute which he has suggested might examine Britain's social, economic and political problems.

He believes that the need for such an institution has been accentuated by political instability and the economic atrophy from which Britain has suffered in recent years. "The British are afraid of taking initiatives," he says, and thinks that his idea may help.

Centre of Excellence

He first made the proposal in a memorandum circulated last year among academic colleagues and senior Whitehall officials. The institute's main function would be to bring together those engaged in research and the politicians and civil servants responsible for formulating Government policy. "What is needed is a meeting-place which is also a place of scholarship, and one which attracts the best brains in the country as well as those in positions of major responsibility."

The proposed institute would have a permanent Director, a board of 10, and as many as 80 fellows and visiting fellows. It is thought that one of its first tasks would be to produce a comprehensive report on the contemporary health of the welfare state, examining social security, unemployment and health insurance schemes, and related taxation policy. It would also turn its attention to the problem of how North Sea oil revenue should be used to reorganise the British economy, and to other social and political issues such as devolution, industrial democracy and the possible contents of a Bill of Rights.

One of the options which Professor Dahrendorf recommends is associating the institute with London University. Last week, however, he made it clear to "Beaver" that he is not interested in administering any part of it, and reaffirmed a 10-year commitment he made to LSE two years ago. Could it be that 1984 will be a more suitable date for a change?

John Emerson

Professor Dahrendorf has also been in the news as a member selected for Harold Wilson's Committee of Inquiry into the City. He will be in the company of such illustrious people as Sir Harold himself and Len Murray.

"Beaver" spoke to the Director just after his appointment had been announced. He said that he had no idea why he was chosen but he feels that LSE is as good a vantage-point as any and that it is good that LSE is represented because of its reputation.

By being picked he seems to have been dropped in at the deep end but Professor Dahrendorf says that is how it should be. He says he is going in with a wide-open mind without any preconceived notions. Friction is anticipated on the body as Clive Jenkins has often expressed views in favour of nationalising banks. But the Director says that it is necessary to accommodate all sorts of people with differing viewpoints and opinions.

A.C.

AMNESTY

REPRESSION and torture are NOT things which happen to somebody else, somewhere else, at some other time. They are going on, right now, throughout the world. Because of their beliefs, people are persecuted, imprisoned, tortured or murdered around the world.

Amnesty International is an organisation which exists to set free those imprisoned for the non-violent expression of their beliefs, their religion or their racial or ethnic origin. Amnesty also seeks to put an end to the cruel and inhuman treatment of all prisoners, to torture and to the infliction of the death penalty.

Amnesty International was founded fifteen years ago, on May 28th, 1961 by a British lawyer, Peter Benenson. In the face of a growing tendency by governments to imprison and/or torture political dissidents, Benenson launched a year-long campaign for the "forgotten prisoners" — those imprisoned for the non-violent expression of their beliefs and then "forgotten" by the outside world. He was joined by Sean MacBride, former foreign minister of Ireland, now United Nations High Commissioner for Namibia, and recipient of the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize. This campaign for an amnesty, initially to last only one year, continues today, and out of it has grown Amnesty International, a movement which now has 33 national sections, over 1,600 "adoption groups" and 100,000 members in 78 countries.

From the beginning, the basis of Amnesty's work has been the

"adoption group." Each adoption group works for the release of three "prisoners of conscience" assigned them by the central research bureau, the International Secretariat, on Theobalds Road. The motivation for this work for prisoners is a humanitarian concern for the individual prisoner — as a human being.

Even if they disagree with the views of their adopted prisoner, Amnesty members will work for his or her release because they believe that the prisoner has the right to express his or her beliefs in a non-violent fashion. To help demonstrate that their concern for the prisoner is humanitarian, not partisan, each group is assigned a prisoner from the "Western bloc," one from the "Socialist bloc" and one from the "Third World."

Before adoption, each prisoner's case is thoroughly researched by the research department in London. Case sheets and background information on the prisoner and his country of detention are provided, as well as up-to-date records of arrests, allegations of torture and other violations of human rights.

Work for an adopted prisoner of conscience involves persistent but courteous correspondence with the government and prison officials concerned, urging humane treatment, a fair and open trial and ultimately the release of the prisoner. Newspapers, television and radio are contacted to publicise the case, and the support of other sympathetic organisations and individuals is sought.



QUOTE FROM MARTIN NIEMOLLER :

"First they arrested the communists, but I was not a communist, so I did nothing. Then they came for the Social Democrats, but I was not a Social Democrat, so I did nothing. Then they arrested the trade unionists, and I did nothing because I was not one. And then they came for the Jews and the Catholics, but I was neither a Jew nor a Catholic, and I did nothing. At last they came and arrested me, and there was no-one left to do anything about it."

Martin Niemoller, a Protestant clergyman, was imprisoned in the camps of the Third Reich during World War Two.

Financial and legal assistance for the prisoner and his or her family is provided where possible. If possible, the adoption group corresponds with the prisoner, offering letters of encouragement and support, which bring hope to a prisoner who might otherwise feel he has been forgotten by the outside world.

Very often these efforts help bring the release of adopted prisoners—in fact in about 50 per cent of cases publicised in the international newsletter, for example. Even in cases where release has not been obtained, pressure by groups results in more humane treatment for their prisoners, as former prisoners have testified.

Amnesty International also seeks to inform and to arouse public opinion, in order to secure more effective national and international safeguards for human rights. The Research Department of the Amnesty Secretariat has published documents outlining, for example, the increasing use of torture worldwide, the violations of

human rights and the torture in Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, Yemen, Rhodesia and other countries. Last year they published a major report on the treatment of prisoners of conscience in the USSR.

Yet ultimately the most important work of Amnesty does not lie in the publication of reports, the sending of missions or the passage of United Nations resolutions, although these things are important. The real work of Amnesty, and the thing which has caused it to grow in the last 15 years, is the work of individual groups and members for individual prisoners, through the adoption of prisoners of conscience or through Urgent Action Appeals. The individual often seems powerless in the face of vast "social forces" or powerful national states. Working for Amnesty International is one demonstrably effective way by which individuals can work for fundamental human rights and decency.

There is a group, still in its formative stages, at the LSE. It is not yet an adoption group, since this involves payment of substantial annual fee to support the research necessary for case sheets on prisoners. Despite this, the group has found a great deal to do, even as an "action" group, including letter writing on behalf of other groups' adopted prisoners.

The group is also participating in the Urgent Action campaigns and is organising film showings and speakers during the coming months.

Between now and February the group will also be participating actively in worldwide Amnesty campaigns on behalf of prisoners in Tanzania, Guatemala, Czechoslovakia and the Philippines. The campaigns will involve letter writing, publicity booths, petitions and other forms of pressure on the governments concerned.

Violations of human rights are widespread, pervasive and increasingly frequent. In the last 15 years, Amnesty has done much good work and relieved much suffering—but much remains to be done. The LSE Action Group meets Wednesdays, at 1.10 in Room 404, Old Building. We also have a table outside the library on Thursdays, where more information can be obtained.

Amnesty International is not a movement with grand slogans and magnificent plans to make over the face of the earth and bring Utopia. Instead, its concern is limited, pragmatic, and focussed on the rights of the individual prisoners and victims of repression. Its work in defence of these rights demands patience and persistence. Is it glamorous and exciting? Hardly. Is it effective? Yes.

Stephen Yeo

NUS SPIES BACK

ALLEGATIONS of widespread interference by foreign intelligence agents in the affairs of student organisations throughout Britain are to be made in a report published by the National Union of Students next month. Among those agencies accused of infiltrating the campuses will be the KGB, CIA, SAVAK (the Iranian security network), and BOSS, South Africa's Bureau of State Security.

The report, which was commissioned by Francis Beckett, the editor of 'National Student,' and compiled by Phillip Kelly, a London-based journalist with Inter-Press Services, will concentrate on the activities of the CIA and British security agents. Beckett says that the CIA has long taken a close interest in student organisations, and David Aaronovitch, the NUS Vice-president, claims that many former members and executives of the Union have had extensive, if unwitting contact with the British Special Branch.

Charles Clarke, the NUS President, has warned that agents from other security organisations are at work in nearly all universities. In Bradford and Leeds, for instance, both SAVAK

and the KGB seem to have been particularly active.

Stephen Pearson, President of Bradford Union, revealed last week that two of his students had been exposed as SAVAK agents instructed to monitor the activities of some of their 40 compatriots studying at the university. One agent, it had been discovered, has been using the Photographic Society's equipment to take pictures of Iranians taking part in a recent demonstration against the Shah.

A group of 20 Russian students at Bradford on an exchange course have also been under surveillance. A 'courier' has shepherded them everywhere, constantly advising them what not to read and watching closely their contacts with other people both inside and outside the university.

At Leeds University, Iranian students have decided not to register an Iranian Society in their own names, through fear of reprisal from SAVAK agents.

John Emerson

Union news and views

The price of peace

IN November last year a Government ban on the use of Trafalgar Square for demonstrations was lifted by the Home Secretary in order to allow a rally by the 'Peace People' to take place. At the meeting songs were sung, prayers chanted and everyone went home feeling that they had done something towards peace in Ulster; well almost everyone. As an impartial observer I could hardly help asking myself what some of these people really knew of the situation in Northern Ireland or indeed what they wanted to know.

It is surprising that after persecuting the Catholics in Ireland for over three hundred years we British know so little of Ulster. The "Six Counties" was, and still is, the creation of British Capitalists in collusion with their Orange brethren in order to maintain their financial interests in the North of Ireland and to suppress all aspirations of the Catholic Working Class by force. Before the adoption of Direct Rule from Westminster (an act many "Loyalists" would like to reverse) Ulster was ruled by an aristocratic land-owning élite such as Major Chichester-Clark and his cousin Captain Terence O'Neill; elections were renowned for the resurrection of the Protestant dead and for the jerry-mandering which assured, for example, that despite a Catholic majority in the city of Derry of 5,000, the City Council contained a Protestant majority of 12 to 8.

Ulster was, and still is an "Orange State," in which Catholics are excluded from all but the worst, lowest paid jobs. Harland and Woolf, for example, of a workforce of over 10,000, has never employed more than 400 Catholics. The Police, the Judiciary and the Civil Service are all exclusively Protestant and discrimination is practised against Catholics in Housing, Education, Employment and Politics, all with the full co-operation of successive British Governments.

These are the facts which the Unionists and their allies in England, the Conservative and Unionist Party were unable to hide; the Labour Government, however, has been more successful in preventing the dissemination of the truth. Only recently has it been revealed that the SAS—the Army's crack murderers, are operating in Ulster, an admission which nevertheless refuses to acknowledge their presence since 1972. Facts such as the convictions of two soldiers for the

massacre of the Miami Showband in July last year, or the charging of soldiers with murder of other civilians are ignored by the free press, whilst stories of IRA atrocities proliferate. To the people of the Falls Road and Andersonstown the IRA seem to provide the only force willing and capable of defending them from the attacks of the Protestant Police, the Protestant Ulster Defence Regiment (mostly ex-B Specials re-armed by the Army), the Protestant Extremists (who are now mysteriously able to manufacture British Stirling sub-machine guns) and the SAS and MRF assassination squads.

So long as these forces exist to oppress the Catholic minority, the IRA will have the support of the people of Andersonstown, despite the actions of the Provos.

If there is to be a solution to the violence in Ulster it is not in the extermination of the Provisional IRA (and the oppression of the Catholics this entails); these policies are bankrupt. The IRA are not the cause of the present conflict but rather a result of it; let us remember that it was the politicians of Stormont who created the present situation by their repression of Civil Rights. It was they who in 1968 authorised the razing of Bombay Street, and the armoured cars which machine gunned Divis Street flats, and the B-Specials who invaded and terrorised the Catholic Districts of Belfast, and finally when the minority sought to defend itself against these attempts to annihilate it, called in the British Army. It is hardly surprising that the Catholics distrust British motives when the same man who ordered this repression, William Craig, now sits in Parliament.

If there are people who really want peace, they must realise that this cannot be achieved by eliminating the symptoms of violence but only redressing the grievances of those oppressed. There can be no lasting Peace in Ulster whilst it is governed by the Orange autocracy, or while Catholics remain without proper housing or jobs, or while there exists an army of occupation, or while there remain forces of oppression under the protection of that army. If peace is to come to Ireland it must be a Just Peace and not a return to the situation before 1968.

L. P. Solkin

ABORTION

A FINANCIAL motion has been submitted for the U.G.M. this week, about the S.U.'s affiliation to the Abortion Law Reform Association.

A.L.R.A. was formed in 1936 to fight for more liberal legislation on abortion. It has been instrumental in getting the 1967 Abortion Act through Parliament. Since 1967 it has opposed all attempts to restrict the Act. (The James White Bill was not the first one!).

In January 1975, A.L.R.A., in conjunction with N.C.C.L., launched the "A Woman's Right to choose Campaign." Since then it has stepped up its activities, partly because of the strong anti-abortion campaign.

A.L.R.A. is now mobilising support against the Bill proposed by Mr Benyon (C) which is based on the recommendations the select Committee on Abortion made in its first report in July, 1976.

A.L.R.A. is not only concerned about defending the 1967 Act against attempts to restrict it: it is going to Press release on January 28th, its own Bill which will make Abortion more easily available on the N.H.S.

A.L.R.A. is a parliamentary

pressure group. It commands support within all sides of the House, and can work within the Establishment. However, the Association is aware that a law is not enough. There is a need for education and better facilities. A.L.R.A. has in the past two years organised conferences for young politicians, members of C.H.C.s, and trade unions, and has published literature to help local campaigns for better abortion facilities.

I hope the S.U. will support A.L.R.A. as well as N.A.C. for the following reasons: A.L.R.A. is an established pressure group which can focus on the parliamentary nitty-gritty of the campaign. N.A.C. is more orientated towards mobilising mass support for the Women's Right to Choose. Both aspects of the campaign complement each other and are necessary if we are to win this Right to Choose. A.L.R.A. wants to command as much support as possible. It is not geared to any political party, or the Women's Institute, the Right or the Left. We welcome anybody who wants the women's right to control their own fertility to become reality.

Andrea Duffy.

Treasurer's report

A CONTINUAL problem for me has been the need to keep Union informed both of the financial state of Union, and the possibilities open to it. The Budget Meeting, because of its size, was I feel a considerable success, as was the fact that many members felt able to pose alternatives. However, even that meeting, due to the necessity of hearing "appeals", having discussions with all those affected, etc. really occurred two or three weeks after it would have been most desirable for a Budget Meeting. The same length of time is simply not possible for the budget submission of next term. The importance of being approachable has often made it difficult for me to spend time on consistently working on various projects, without interruption, a problem which I think is one the Senior Treasurer has to live with.

2. UNION'S FINANCES:

The cash flow problem, due to last year's deficit, has been quite chronic. At one point in early September, we had only £8,000 liquid assets and £4,000 liabilities, on all our activities, and until mid November, the Students' Union was using trading income to avoid insolvency—the situation of NUS about five years ago.

3. THE EXECUTIVE:

As a body I've found the Executive very useful both in helping to frame informed recommendations about priorities, and in helping to

control certain items of expenditure. I would add, however, that in common with the Finance Committee, we all tend to only occupy ourselves with immediate problems, not question our overall role, the relationships between ourselves and most students, etc. I believe this stems mainly from the fact that most members have portfolios which entail too much administrative work, but could also be a product of the desire to avoid "political" conflicts stemming from the many different positions.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

In general, the Committee has operated quite well, although again, perhaps we've become too "crisis control" orientated. A criticism I would make of those responsible for trading is that despite agreeing a number of times, they've not produced break-downs of the "mark up" in our various trading concerns. However, the amount of time most members have spent discussing Union's finances, and the detailed information they've been providing the Committee, which have framed the Reports I've regularly submitted to Union, show the hard work the Committee is collectively undertaking.

5. NEXT TERM:

I believe there are two major problems, first the submission for next year's "per capita" claim, and secondly the Three Tuns Bar, where I hope the new beers and decorations will improve trade greatly.

HERE are a few general points of information from the Senior Treasurer:

1. The Overseas Students' Fund is again open, until Friday, 28th January. All Overseas Students facing hardship should apply, even if rejected last term.

2. The Budget submission for next year will be presented to Union on the fifth or sixth week of term, so anyone interested should contact the Senior Treas-

urer immediately.

3. The NUS Executive have accepted, in principle, an offer for Endsleigh Insurance from Goudse Verzekering Maatschappij N.V., which gives a guarantee of no redundancies, £300,000 over three years, two places on a Board of six, and 1½% of all commissions received.

4. The Three Tuns Bar has been redecorated and is open as usual.

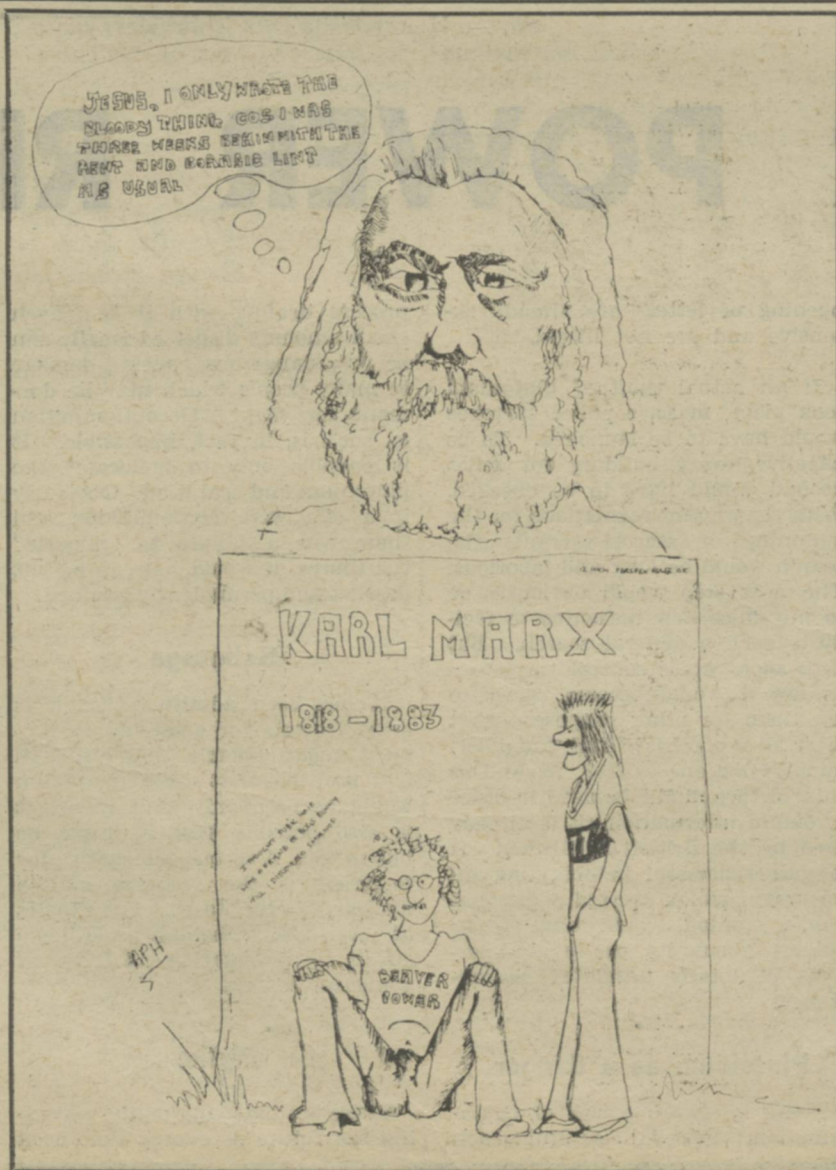
John Cruse

SOD ENTS

ENTS. seems to exist solely for students who enjoy the mind-shattering noise of rock and the like. It is all very well to cater for a sizeable proportion of the student body, but no attempt is made to provide for the sizeable minority who enjoy more artistic forms of entertainment.

The Music Society does have occasional concerts in the Shaw Library, and these are successful, but I feel Ents. should make some attempt to bring culture to the school. All too often "culture" is a dirty word and those who rarely listen to classical music etc. do not seem to be capable of realising that it can be enjoyed. A move by Ents. to try to increase cultural awareness within the school, as well as to provide for those who already appreciate it, would be most valuable.

Jonathan Richmond



Covent Garden City

THE decision to transplant the heart of Covent Garden—to its colourful fruit and vegetable market—south of the river, to Nine Elms, was taken in 1971. In 1974 the traders, accompanied by the noise, the ribald humour and the debris, disappeared—and left in their wake some 1,500,000 sq ft of vacant floorspace and a fall of 4,000 in the area's working population. Not until last November had a potentially acceptable plan been put forward for the redevelopment of the area.

The formation of the plan has been a lengthy process. Planning authority for the area rests with the GLC, but their own interests apart, the local authorities have walked a tight-rope beset on all sides by different interest-groups—outside firms, local businesses, residents (of whom less than 5% were employed in market activities), pressures for social facilities, even the "down-and-outs".

The initial proposals for the area were published in 1972, and were greeted with a howl of protest from local residents. After that burst of adverse publicity, the GLC trod more carefully; in 1974, the GLC Local Team produced a series of discussion papers on various aspects of the area, and courted comment. The current plan, drawn up largely on policy recommendations that came out of the discussion papers, is eager to stress that intensive public consultation is reflected in the proposals: "over 100 organisations and groups commented on draft proposals, as well as hundreds of individuals, and we paid regard to all of them" says Jean Merriton, chairman of the CG Committee of the GLC.

So precisely what has this consensus of opinion resulted in? The Plan objectives declare that there will be an improvement in the residential conditions, whilst "promoting the growth of new and traditional uses appropriate to the area". As far as housing is concerned, estimates have been made of the prospective increases in population, within the area and it is hoped that the planned increase of about 800 dwellings will accommodate both new and old residents. Guarantees have been given that all residents will if necessary be rehoused within the area, and, although the time-schedules for building activity seem somewhat vague, the Oldhams site should provide re-housing capacity by 1979.

The battle between residents and the homeless, about 1,000 of whom find nightly accommodation in the area, seems to have been won by the former. There are no plans for further modernisation of the two hostels, nor for the provision of any further hostel accommodation.

As far as industry is concerned, anyone walking through the area can already see a mushroom growth of craft-shops, local artisans, restaurants and the like, all of which are in line with the current proposals. The seedier side of the entertainment business will be outlawed—definitely no massage parlours, sauna establishments, strip clubs, casinos or gaming clubs—but limited showroom space will be permitted, exhibition halls, wine bars, cafes and restaurants positively encouraged, and even the odd night-club or disco tolerated.

Despite the reluctance to permit extensive hotel building, it seems

clear that tourists will become an essential feature of the area, and one of the principal attractions for them will be the old market building itself. Built in 1830, to alleviate the unsanitary conditions of the market, the main hall is now being cleared of its C19 and C20 additions, and repainted in the original colours of pale green and buff. The restoration of the two storeys inside should allow it to house the Theatre Museum and the London Transport Museum.

Shopping facilities under the current plan, will be concentrated in Drury Lane, with Earlham and Monmouth Street as subsidiaries, and there will be a total provision of three acres of open space. Residents were against the idea of one large park north and south of Long Acre, so the three acres will be split up into one small park north of Long Acre and numerous other

two primary schools in the area, and the nearest County primary school is a mile away, across many busy roads. The projected population, however, does not qualify the area for a third school, although with the increase in housing, perhaps a hundred children will have to be sent outside the area. Perhaps more seriously, there is no secondary school in the Covent Garden, and no immediate plans to build one, though discussions with the Inner London Education Authority are continuing.

The plans do not stop here—there are detailed traffic schemes, guidelines for social facilities and many other recommendations. On the whole, and education apart, it would seem that the current plan is a victory for the permanent residents of the area.

Two questions however remain.

seen whether conflict between them will delay overall progress. A tentative time-table has been drawn up, (see below), but it is by no means confirmed.

The second question is that of funds. Meeting residents' demands entails a sacrifice of revenue from potential alternative uses, such as office space, and with current financial stringency public money is hardly prodigal. Hopefully, funds from Central Government will pay for the Royal Opera House extension and the Theatre Museum, and London Transport will undertake the Transport Museum. The following sources of revenue can, it is felt, be tapped, and will be broadly in line with capital requirements until 1981. Much however must depend on the rate at which building costs escalate, and controls on public money are tightened.

PUBLICLY FAVOURED OPTIONS: REALISTIC PHASING DATES
Involvement of Covent Garden Committee

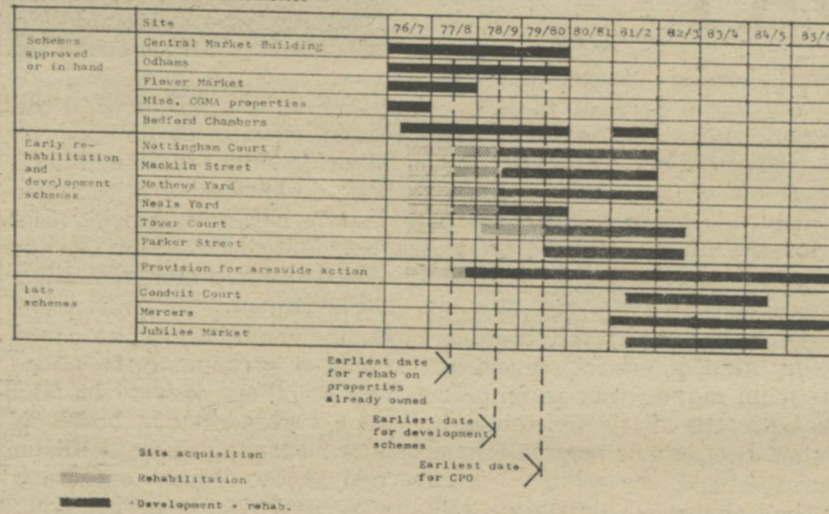


Table of Possible Capital Expenditure by all Agencies During Plan Period

GLC Planning Programme proposed ..	£15.0m
GLC Housing Programme (including land acquisition) .	£10-12.0m
Borough Councils ...	£4.0m
*Gov. Agencies	£3.5m
Other Public Agencies	£7.7m
Private Sector	£25.4m
(*includes only Phase 1 of Royal Opera House Extension)	

spaces specially intended for the elderly, young children and teenagers.

Educational facilities remain a fraught issue. Currently there are

First, "between the idea and the reality . . . falls the shadow"—how long before the plan, if it is different groups have different accepted, is implemented? Clearly priorities, and it remains to be

Such reservations aside, the Garden may not be in full bloom yet, but spring at least would seem to be in the air.

Nikki Tait

NUCLEAR POWER RISK

THE extensive campaigning of such groups as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has throughout the years alerted many people to the horrors of nuclear war and the dangerous game that is being played by the major states of the world. The Friends of the Earth would like us to consider another nuclear problem—the implications of the increasing use of nuclear power.

Security and Civil Liberty

Widespread use of nuclear power would almost certainly lead to further infringements on civil liberties. An increasing dependence on nuclear energy necessarily involves a greater need for tight security. In the interests of public safety there must be as little risk of plutonium theft as possible. As it is the security for plutonium bases is probably already in the hands of the MI5—thus even our own repre-

sentatives in Parliament have no access to information about how security is organised. On a more immediate plane, high-risk centres are already guarded by a private (and armed) police force. With an increase in high-risk centres there would be an inevitable increase in this force. It is then alarming to discover that of the Government only the Secretary of State has any control over this force and this control is strictly limited.

At present the CEGB owns the nuclear power stations and will probably continue to do so. Strict "positive vetting" is already used to check out workers with access to any classified information and as nuclear bases increase in number there will of necessity be thousands of ordinary CEGB workers forced to submit to security vetting. Inevitably many will lose their jobs.

Outside the industry MI5 will be concerned to keep an even more constant check on political groups and individuals that might conceivably consider plutonium theft or sabotage. Phone-tapping and the

opening of letters are already extensive and are not illegal.

If an actual theft of plutonium took place, massive police searches would have to be launched. To be effective, every building for miles around would have to be checked. With the present regulations for the obtaining of search-warrants the search would be long and laborious. The next step would obviously be to introduce new measures to facilitate such a general search. But with such "crisis control" measures as law it would become easier to use them for other purposes—what after all is a crisis? And who determines when one exists? As well as this, torture might be used in order to obtain information (it is already used by the British in Ulster). If it were successful in obtaining information which averted a disaster, public opinion would have fewer qualms about its use again—perhaps in totally unrelated circumstances.

Plutonium as a danger

There is always a risk of contamination, however careful each

process dealing with it is. Even small amounts dispersed locally can be very dangerous, causing damage to many people which may lie dormant for years. Decontamination as such is, in fact, impossible. It is possible only to "relocate" the plutonium and seal it off. Obviously if a site were contaminated and there was a failure to "relocate" the source, it would have to be left derelict and permanently manned.

Sabotage

It has been admitted that it is quite feasible for amateurs to produce nuclear bombs and although it is probable that stolen plutonium would be used only as a threat, it is also possible that it might be put to use. A second alternative for terrorists is the sabotage of the nuclear reactor itself. The results of large-scale sabotage could have effects as devastating as those of a nuclear attack.

Myths

There are too many myths regarding the future of energy that need

to be dispelled. It is true that official estimates of the amount of energy which will be required in the future have almost certainly been very much over-exaggerated. There is, for example, no evidence to support the view that the so-called "energy gap" will even exist, let alone whether or not only nuclear electricity can fill the "gap". As well as this, experience has shown that the setting-up of fast breeder reactors (which are at the centre of UK planning) has proved to be more expensive and less safe than almost all other options. There are, for example, the options of solar, wind, tidal and wind energy which are all being researched at this moment.

Despite the validity of much of what anti-nuclear power groups are saying, it is nevertheless believed by many that opposition to nuclear power is purely political; that the aim of such groups is merely to hold Britain back, to keep her in a state of energy shortage and dependent on foreign fuel.

Carol Saunders
(for Lib Soc)

NUS CON-ference

CONSIDERING some of the issues that were raised at Blackpool, this Conference was marked by a very low level of debate and a seeming desire not to discuss anything other than points of order and challenges to the chair.

In fact a number of debates were conducted, the most important being on Services. It was over this debate that there was the most eager anticipation but when it came it went off like a damp squib: no removal of responsibility or resignations—just censure and a promise of an enquiry into the collapse. The looks of relief from the predominantly Broad Left Executive were quite startling especially on the faces of the four responsible for Services: Charles Clarke, Penny Cooper, Chris Morgan, and Dave Aaronovitch.

The most immediate feature of the Conference was the change in stance of the Broad Left and the lack of power wielded by the Tories, despite quite high numerical strength. They were mostly in disarray and were without any sort of lead from Steve Moon, the only Tory on the Executive. Consequently the Broad Left is becoming even broader and the Tories are virtually impotent.

Any hopes of an alliance between IS and the Tories were dashed to the ground throughout and this is one reason why the Executive got off so lightly over Services.

Following is a chronological run-down of the happenings at conference, with the main events in depth and how your delegation represented you.

FRIDAY

Charles Clarke was in provocative mood in his opening address saying the Tories were "lurking like a pack of wolves in the wings." This was well received of course but the rest was the normal speech Clarke uses on such occasions. That is, let's all pull together and we can make it out of the crisis. In this respect he was reminiscent of our beloved Prime Minister. He said there were three alternatives for the future. One, "Not to fight at all"; secondly, "to fight amongst ourselves"; or thirdly, "to fight the problems together."

Following this speech was the main debate of the evening about Government Economic policy. In fact Conference succeeded in not deciding anything because the main motion was an IS one, which we voted for, and although both the Tory amendment (which we voted against) and the Broad Left amendment fell (we abstained), so did the main motion.

During this debate, Sir Keith Joseph appeared in the balcony and as soon as Charles Clarke saw this he grabbed the platform mike to announce it to an unsuspecting Conference. The place erupted. Our delegation number was depleted as Pete Baines rushed upstairs to verbally harass the man who tried hard not to notice that 500 people were jeering obscenities at him. Conveniently, all this time the Chairperson's mike was turned off so he was not able to bring conference to order. However, eventually a vote was taken to decide whether to ask him to leave or not and on the waves of hysteria that had been generated, the vote was for him to go.

This he did to massive cheering, a Tory walk-out in disgust, and a general blow to democracy. On this sour note Conference continued until the adjournment at midnight.

SATURDAY

Surprise, surprise. There was much in the papers about the Keith Joseph incident of the previous night and from the Broad Left members of the Executive, who to a man had voted for his removal, there was regret and an apology for what had happened.

First on the agenda was a motion on Grants and Cuts. On this we voted for the substantive and against any amendments. Then came the debate on a subject very close to LSE hearts, on racism. It did not seem to matter much to the Executive, most of whom left the platform for this debate. It marked a reversal of NUS policy and quite a radical one which was seen by some as a sop to the Tories. The motion rejected the "No Platform for Rascists and Fascists" idea and substituted a "No invitation" one. Not surprisingly, there was a left wing backlash against this but Trevor Philips spoke very vehemently about how we must unite against racialism and consequently we must accept compromises. The main motion was passed and the delegation voted against it because of Union policy.

The evening session was closed because it was discussing Finance and there was much questioning of Chris Morgan, the National Treasurer. The audited accounts were referred back because massive discrepancies appeared to be present even to most of those present who probably did not understand much about finance.

At this point it came to light that Endsleigh Insurance was almost sold on November 26th and that it was only through the obstinate efforts of Mike Hill, a member of the Finance Committee that the sale was resisted. Discussion was guillotined but a vote was carried to continue next morning because of the importance of finance.

SUNDAY

At 10.20 a.m. the delegation made its first contribution when Wanda Goldwag asked for proceedings to be speeded up. Her next contribution two hours later was less constructive because she lost her delegate's card, and with it went one-quarter of our voting strength. However, Conference continued undaunted to dis-



Ms Sue Slipman

cuss regional reports. The Northern Ireland part marked a further reversal in Broad Left policy. The line is now to support wholeheartedly the Peace Movement and Sue Slipman praised its supporters for their tremendous efforts.

It is perhaps worth noting that in supporting the Peace Group the NUS committed itself to a high outlay in terms of posters, leaflets, and a speaking tour at the end of January. All this seemed to be kept very quiet, especially over such a contentious issue, and it looked like an attempt to sneak it through as a section of an Executive report. Due to our Union policy, which gives unconditional support for the Provisional IRA, a piece of Union policy no-one has seen fit to attempt to change since it was passed many years ago, we voted against the report.

We then reached the debate on Services everyone had been waiting for. It was strangely inconclusive in many ways, not least of all that although massive incompetence and financial mismanagement was revealed, little action was taken. Pertinent questions were left unanswered such as why the Broad Left group at Manchester were told about the Services collapse before the two IS and Tory members of the National Executive, which meant that Manchester were able to submit a motion to Conference about Services.

From what was said it appears that a certain sum was needed to keep NUS Travel going and this sum did not materialise. It was also massively under-capitalised and whilst steadily increasing in size, the necessary adjustments that entailed, were not made quickly enough.

A question was posed as to why so little was forthcoming to keep SUs in touch with the Services situation, especially after Charles Clarke pledged himself at last Conference to do just that. The not too convincing answer was that it was difficult to get across to each Union the complexity of the situation.

No answer was given of why no notice was given to staff, but the Executive did say sacked staff had been given due entitlements in lieu of notice. A further disturbing fact to come to light was that two hours before the end of the day, the staff were told they were redundant, and half an hour before the end of the same day the liquidators were in.

All this time our delegation had been without one member—Pete Baines—who had taken

his delegate's card and so cut our voting strength, but the three present voted to refer back the Executive Report on the collapse.

Then came Endsleigh. For the first time, everyone was let into the financial secrets of what a position this firm is in. It needed an injection of £200,000 to £300,000 to trade solvently and the bank had only offered £100,000. If NUS ploughed everything they owned into Endsleigh it might possibly make up the sum. SUs could be asked for contributions but this was seen as unrealistic. The only real alternative was an external injection which amounted to a virtual sale.

Further dirty linen was brought into the open when it was revealed that the firm of accountants NUS use, Andersons, have offices in South Africa, Spain and Iran. The question as to why this state of affairs existed was glossed over by saying the firm was a reputable one with an "international reputation."

Our delegation was unable to find agreement about the sale. It was undecided about whether we should take a sudden decision or whether we had any such right considering we had no idea at all what a UGM would decide. Conference as a whole voted to accept the Executive Report on Endsleigh which recommended sale.

NUS Marketing came next and the most important question was why no SUs were consulted about setting up the NUS Discount Scheme. This was answered by saying that all SUs had been informed over a period of months about the scheme's introduction. Our delegation was again split: three abstained over this report while Jackie Rushforth voted for acceptance.

Partly because they were deemed responsible and partly because some elements of Conference were after blood, motions of censure had been tabled against the four Executive members on the Services Board and against Chris Morgan individually. The LSE delegation voted in favour of censure but abstained over the question of removing responsibility from the individuals concerned. Charles Clarke made a very impressive speech at this point which is hardly surprising since his life as President of NUS was at stake. The majority when it came was slim—only 40—but it was in favour of them retaining their posts.

The next happening of any substance was a speech by Philip Agee which got the best standing ovation of the entire Conference. He gave a frightening run-down of CIA activities which spread everywhere. In New York, for instance, there is one front organisation called "The Christian Women Agitators for Truth"—at this point one clever wit shouted out, "We call them FCS."

MONDAY

At the start of the day, Conference received an assurance that all SUs would be informed at all stages on the terms of the sale of Endsleigh; although on the surface this appeared adequate it must be remembered that the Conference came just before the Christmas vacation. Nobody was likely to be around in their Unions for about four weeks to get the information and so this was something of an empty concession.

The only motion of this, the final morning, was on Social Security and the right to claim which we supported. The total Executive report, most of which had not been discussed was passed. The LSE delegation which was split by internal dispute abstained but voted in favour of acceptance of the amended minutes of a past Conference.

Conference closed at 12.35 p.m.

REVIEWS

Festival ballet

AMONG the productions of "The Nutcracker" that proliferate, perhaps the most interesting is that by Ronald Hynd for the London Festival Ballet at the Festival. His primary concern, and rightly so, is to rectify the near-fatal weakness of the plot. He used Tchaikovsky's score as his touchstone, noting in it a deeper emotion than is to be found in Petipa's libretto.

Clara, a mere child, was hardly the romantic heroine suggested by the score; instead, Hynd elevates her older sister Louise to this role, later to be transformed into the Sugar Plum Fairy in Clara's dream. In this way he has created a character which serves both as a full ballerina role and as a coherent element in the plot. The Prince in Clara's dream is represented in the party scene by Drosselmeyer's nephew Karl, Louise's admirer. The dramatic structure is further strengthened by the creation of a proud, bullying suitor to Louise, Hermann von Rattenstein, whose

rivalry with Karl becomes apparent in the party scene, presaging the battle between rats and soldiers in the dream.

The leading roles of Karl and Louise are taken in turn by several of the Festival Ballet's best dancers; I saw Patrice Bart and Patricia Ruane. The latter gave a generally pleasing account, though some of her movements seemed nervous. Patrice Bart, a guest from the Paris Opera, was supple and agile when dancing solo, but was unable to deal satisfactorily with the pas de deux. Among the other dancers, the outstanding performance, notable for its vigour and technical brilliance, was given by Nicholas Johnson as Fritz, Clara's brother. The work of the corps was generally excellent throughout, as were the children in Act II. The orchestra, conducted by Bramwell Tovey, sounded under-rehearsed, particularly in the delicate string passages.

The next London season of the Festival Ballet is at the Coliseum from April 26th to July 2nd.

Michael Cleary

'A Night in Venice'

A NIGHT in Venice is a new production of the English National Opera by Murray Dickie. The work has evolved over time, changing much in the process, due to a large extent to the appalling libretto written by Zell and Genée for the original production. Dickie has, in translation, condensed the libretto and replaced topical references to Strauss's time with such lines as "The Government is taxing us to death" which are more likely to entertain today's audience.

The story is complicated in detail, but has similarities to the Barber of Seville. The Duke of Urbino is in the same sort of situation as Count Almaviva, Caramello his servant is like Figaro. Barbara, the imprisoned ward of Delaqua, the equivalent of Bartholo, has many of Rosina's problems.

The performances given by individuals were of mixed quality. Valerie Masterson played a most effective Annina, the highlight of her performance being her most amusing rendition of the Topsy Song (sung to the music of the Anna Polka). "Can it be that I am tipsy, that is quite ridiculous", she sings drunkenly as she downs yet another glass of champagne.

In some ways the three Senators are Gilbert and Sullivan characters in their performances and lines, for example singing, "we make sure they come from the right sort of school," seeming very English rather than Venetian. Delaqua, played by Eric Shilling and well known for his Gilbert and Sullivan roles, comes across well. In his pompous

robes, a balloon of a character from the start, he schemes to marry his ward Barbara. Perhaps we feel better disposed to him than to Bartholo, as he does not possess the latter's malicious cunning, and we feel quite sorry for him when he sings at the end, "they have taken her away, O my beloved, and her dowry as well."

Emile Belcourt does not play a convincing Duke, singing the part with little feeling or meaning. Terry Jenkins in the part of Caramello, did not show the sort of wit expected from a Figaro type character. Many of the other singers, though good in places, did not manage to give this operetta the air of vivacity so necessary to this kind of Strauss.

The ballet sequence in Act 2 was extremely successful. With traditional "Commedia dell'Arte" characters such as Colubina, Harlequin, and Pantalone, this scene was colourful, played with much humour and was clearly enjoyed by the audience. The chorus was strong and the orchestra under Henry Krips was alive to the occasion. The sets were well designed, managing to capture the atmosphere of Venice well.

A Night in Venice, a curious mixture of Ronin and Sullivan, though essentially Strauss, provides a good evening's entertainment despite the deficiencies mentioned. Perhaps these teething troubles will be overcome in later revivals of the production. I am always pleased to see relatively obscure works unearthed and performed and would urge others to try out this operetta.

Jonathan Richmond

London Contemporary Dance Theatre

LONDON Contemporary Dance Theatre is Britain's most popular modern dance company. Robert Cohan, the company's artistic director, has not achieved this success by lowering standards; rather, he has built up an audience for Graham-style movement by raising the level of public understanding of contemporary dance.

The company has three main strengths. First, its dancers are all very good, and some are exceptionally talented. Second, it employs designs which are uniformly of a quality higher than that of other companies. Third, Cohan always encourages innovation and new work, with the result that 10 of the 19 dancers are choreographers. All the dances in the Sadler's Wells programme were written by members of the company, except for the weak "David and Goliath". This is a joint effort by the Royal Ballet's Wayne Sleep and LCDT's Robert North.

Of the five dances which received their London premières this season, Cohan's "Nymphaeas" (inspired by Monet's Water-lilies) is my favourite. The set design for this work comprises a large split-level wall across the back of the stage, which allows the movement to develop on different levels. Cohan is a very musical choreographer and the dance successfully reflects, and yet adds to the rippling texture of Debussy's music. Cohan has told me that he feels most comfortable writing duets; Nymphaeas contains a beautiful pas de deux for Robert North and Linda Gibbs which uses graceful lifts to produce a soft romantic effect.

The company's associate choreographers, Robert North and Siobhan



"STEP AT A TIME"

Davies, each contributed a new dance to the season. North's "Just a Moment" is very enjoyable and entertaining. However, it shows little development from "Conversation Piece", the first dance which he contributed to the company's repertoire, over six years ago.

For Siobhan Davies, dance is about "energy and moving in space". Her new work, "Step at a Time", consists of a series of five duets. These are preceded and followed by solos for Linda Gibbs, and interspersed with brief appearances from the other dancers dressed in capacious white costumes. Throughout this dance the same statement gradually progresses on different planes. Davies is one of our best young

choreographers, and this is an interesting new work.

The other two new dances were "Khamsin" and Micha Bergese's "Nema". Khamsin is instantly recognisable as a Cohan-Downes work but is certainly none the worse for that. Nema is a psychological study. The relationship between the movement and meaning is so close it is a pity that the whole piece seems so esoteric on a first viewing.

Currently LCDT is on tour, but will return to give another season at Sadler's Wells during April. The company will make its first visit to the USA this summer and may, I hear, go on to Canada.

Richard Vines

Lindsay Kemp Company

BACK in England from a highly successful year in Australia, the Lindsay Kemp Company is currently giving a season at the Round House.

It is impossible to place Lindsay Kemp in a single artistic category. He trained as a painter at Bradford College of Art, and subsequently studied dance with Ballet Rambert, Sigurd Leeder and Charles Weidman. Since then he has worked in theatre, films (he appears in "Savage Messiah" which is being shown at the LSE this term) in musicals, variety, cabaret and strip clubs. He has choreographed for Ballet Rambert and David Bowie.

Lindsay Kemp says that his Company has always been based on "the development of technique through training and a sharing of life-styles and influences." Over Christmas the Company performed "Mr Punch's Pantomime"; Kemp's entrance with the words "Me only a puppet, but me very gay" set the tone of this outrageously camp and immensely funny show.

In Britain, perhaps Lindsay Kemp is best known for "Flowers," a pantomime for Jean Genet. This show first appeared in Edinburgh in 1967, and can currently be seen at the Round House. Loosely based on Genet's "Our Lady of the Flowers," the work combines dance, mime and music to produce dramatic images which are splendidly theatrical and profoundly moving.

Critics have described "Flowers" variously as erotic, shocking and obscene. It is, but only by so being can it faithfully represent the world of fantasy and sordidness which Genet inhabits.

Richard Vines

The thoughts of of Chairman Alf

WARREN MITCHELL gives one of the best performances on the West End stage in this one man show. For two-and-a-half hours he abuses, insults and amuses his audience with his racial and political bigotry. The show is if anything a fraction too long, but despite this criticism it is one of the most remarkable shows on at the moment.

Not since the Barry Humphries Show earlier last year have I heard an audience enjoy themselves so much. On the evening I went George Best was in the audience and he received the full venom of Mitchell's sense of humour.

If you have a hang-up about being Jewish, coloured, American, Welsh, Irish, Scottish or a Fulham supporter, this is not

the show for you. If you appreciate Johnny Speight's style of humour it is a terrific evening out. It is on at the Whitehall Theatre.

Paul Wilce.

Coming soon

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (Tues., Jan. 18th).

Winnie the Pooh and the blustery day (Tues., Jan. 18th).

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' smarter brother. (Wed., Jan. 19th).

Women in Love (Thursday, Jan. 20th).

Passport Pimlico (Tuesday, Jan. 25th).

Whisky Galore (Tuesday, Jan. 25th).

Return of the Pink Panther (Wednesday, Jan. 26th).

The Boyfriend (Thursday, Jan. 27th).

ENTSNEWS AND REVIEWS

LAST YEAR was certainly one helluva twelve months for Entertainments. 1976 saw an overall diversification which at the same time succeeded in entertaining the silent majority (Mud!) and the more vociferous cult-orientated minorities.

The month of December included proof that the Geography Association Dance goes on for ever and that artists of the calibre of **John Martyn** and **Mud** are not only within the financial reach of LSE Ents but that, given careful promotion, such events can actually result in a profit for the Students' Union.

When the financial record of almost every other college in the country is taken into account, LSE Ents is virtually unique in ending the term with a net profit from our major Saturday promotions. This has enabled us to organise bigger and better events where admission is free to LSE students (ie, lunchtime concerts and bar socials). In this respect thanks should be extended to Mike Stubbs whose work-load as a non-sabbatical Social Secretary last year meant that he was forced to defer his degree course for a year, thus making him yet another Ents academic casualty.

Quite simply, if the position of Social Secretary were sabbatical then not only would the quality of entertainment be improved but the subsequent larger profits could be used to offset the cost of an additional sabbatical post to the Student Union.

Despite certain restrictions from the LSE administration, Ents hopes to be just as active during the next few months.

ALBUM REVIEWS

QUITE a backlog of new releases has accumulated since the last "Beaver" appeared hence I intend to give specific attention to those albums which thanks to the vagaries of the BBC's playlist policy rarely reach the notice of the discerning public.

"A POKE IN THE EYE WITH A SHARP STICK"
FEATURING 18 OF BRITAIN'S TOP COMEDY STARS.
(Transatlantic).

THIS live recording of three shows at Her Majesty's Theatre last April was in aid of Amnesty International and the following luminaries from the Oxbridge satirical revue set of the early sixties donated their services: the entire **Monty Python** and **Goodies** teams plus three quarters of **Beyond the Fringe**. Transatlantic Records nobly offered to record this veritable feast of comedy/satirical/impromptu goodies and the end result has proved to be a good deal more lasting than the majority of comedy albums. The sketches include a pot pourrie of old faves and hitherto unheard delights. By the time this review reaches you the show will probably have received a Christmas TV airing. The "Bangladesh" of comedy!!!!

SATURDAY, 22nd JANUARY: "DECRIMINALISATION OF MARIJUANA BENEFIT CONCERT"

LSE Ents was approached by **Release** to promote the country's first decriminalisation of cannabis benefit concert in an effort to galvanise every other college into following suit and to accumulate sufficient funds to fight the cause.

The following artists have agreed to offer their talents to what ought to be a fine evening's entertainment and also a memorable event with MPs such as Marcus Lipton anxious to put forward a Private Member's Bill to support the plans of **Release**. It will be intriguing to watch Press coverage of the concert and its implications.

KEVIN COYNE

Virgin Records were so pleased with Kevin Coyne's last appearance at the LSE that they have chosen to make the Old Theatre the venue for his main London concert which will tie in nicely with the release of the highly-acclaimed live double album at the end of January. For more details about the man refer back to the first "Beaver" of last term. Blues enthusiasts might be interested to hear that **Zoot Money** is very likely to appear with Kevin, depending on his prior commitments to Kevin Ayers' new touring band.

BERT JANSCH

Undoubtedly a pioneer and leader of the late 'sixties school of British folk artists, Bert Jansch has recently returned to the live circuit along with a band which features past members of **Lindisfarne**. As a member of **Pentangle** he broke through to the wider contem-

porary audience now supporting similar performers such as Roy Harper, John Martyn, Al Stewart and John Renbourn. After many years as a mainstay to Transatlantic Records, Bert Jansch moved to Warner Bros. and subsequently Charisma for the release of his 11th album. On Saturday, 22nd, Bert will be making a rare solo appearance.

JOHN STEVENS AWAY

Of all the many bands and line-ups that John Stevens has been associated with **Away** have met with the best reaction from rock audiences. The recent album "Somewhere In Between" and appearances on the BBC 2 O.G.W.T. and the British tour by Steve Hillage all met with a very positive reaction. His contribution to almost every field of jazz has been enormous and at long last he is beginning to see strong record company support and its associated financial security.

Because of the nature of the event literally any musician or performer who has benefited from the creative powers of cannabis in the past might feel sufficiently motivated to wander down to the LSE and join in. Your guesses are as good as mine . . .!!!! Tickets are a mere £1.00 in advance; £1.20 on the door. Come early!

Completing the line-up will be the highly-rated Newcastle band, "**LAST EXIT**" who recently played a well received lunchtime concert in the Old Theatre. Supplementing the blues, folk, jazz and rock artists listed above will be specially compiled recordings of songs whose subject matter is largely the object of this benefit concert.

RORY GALLAGHER "CALLING CARD"
(Chrysalis Chr 1124).

Representing the Irishman's second album for Chrysalis this release goes one step further towards reducing the discrepancy between his live albums and appearances and efforts in the recording studio. Gallagher himself has stated that he feels very happy with the end results and remember that he is surely the most unassuming and modest rocker currently playing the circuit. So much so in fact that he insisted on paying £1.00 like anyone else when he arrived at LSE last May to see David Bromberg! The blues remain as true to Gallagher's heart as his now legendary battered Statocaster guitar; personally he'll always remain an essentially live performer.

STYX—"CRYSTAL BALL"
(A & M 64604).

A new American rock band whose debut album has charted across the Atlantic, a fact that suggests that the emerging generation of record buyers are young enough not to consider this kind of cliched, soul-less, heavy metal as derivative and unoriginal as I do.

PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA — "ISN'T IT ROMANTIC"

(Transatlantic 335).

Ignoring the impact that nostalgia and temporary vogue appeal can have on the durability of a musical era then the faithful recreation of the "hot dance band music of the 1920s and 1930s" by the **Pasadena Roof Orchestra** proves that the music of the golden age of the dance band is as lasting as any musical era. The band's leader, Johnny Arthy has described such music as being uncomplicated, melodic and entertaining. Analysis aside, this album shouldn't be dismissed too lightly by those who consider themselves unable to appreciate music from any era other than their own.

BILLY PRESTON — "BILLY PRESTON"
(A & M 64587).

A new release from the man whose solo spot on the last Rolling Stones tour had arguably as much energy as the band themselves. The respect he commands from other musicians is well proven by the presence on this album of Jeff Beck, Merry Clayton, George Johnson and the Tower Of Power horn section. Such is the diversity of tempos and



SAT., 29th JAN, 7.45 pm.
ALKATRAZ (& FRIENDS ?).
TICKETS : 90p.

FOLLOWING the demise of the legendary "**Man**" band, **Alkatraz** have emerged as the optimistic front line in the continuing tradition of great Welsh rock bands. With a line-up comprising **Will Youatt** on lead guitar (ex-**Man & Neutrons**), **Stuart Halliday** on drums (ex-**Neutrons**), **Jimmy Davies** on lead guitar (ex-**Quicksand**), and **Jeff Singer** on bass, **Alkatraz** combine the melodic precision of say, **Steely Dan**, with the aggressive raunch of **Man** at their mid-period best.

Adding further Welsh flavour to the evening's entertainment will be the presence of a disco/sound system which has been contracted to fill the third floor refectory with the sound of obscure "**Man**" bootlegs and other Celtic rarities. Since the members of **Man** have split to

pursue their own musical interests there's a good chance that **Deke & Co.** will not only show up but join in as well! Help to make this concert as legendary as all the other appearances by Welsh bands at the LSE by purchasing your advance ticket from the **LSE Union Shop**. **Alkatraz** are promising a lengthy set which will entertain you with four-part harmonies, voice boxes, a late sixties San Francisco mode of dress and tales of Zen cookies . . .!

Their debut **United Artists** album was recently released to very favourable press reviews and no doubt the name "**Alkatraz**" will mean a good deal more around Houghton St. by the time the ever-faithful team of unpaid Ents. helpers have cleared up the final king size Rizla packet from the Old Theatre in the early hours of Sun., 30th Jan.

Andy Cornwell

musical styles on this album that for once I'm at a loss to select a suitable category under which to file this release. In the words of the immortal Van Morrison "s' got soul."

DRANSFIELDS — "THE FIDDLER'S DREAM"
(Transatlantic TRA 322).

To folk enthusiasts the multi-instrumental talents of Robin and Barry Dransfield need no introduction. Here they are augmented by bassist Brian Harrison and ex-**Longdancer** drummer Charlie Smith. The results ought to maintain the interest of the purists and widen their audience at the same time. What with the abused power of the radio controllers in this country and the reluctance of record shops to play new albums to prospective customers (**Oasis Records**, 18 Newport Court, Nr. Soho Market being a rare exception), then only John Peel's radio programmes plus "In Concerts" and Local Radio remain the sole salvation in exposing such fine albums as this to the music loving public. Since recording "**The Fiddler's Dream**" nine months ago, the Dransfields may well have reached your notice with their appearances as special guest on the British tour by Tom Paxton.

A number of other albums have been received and subsequently reviewed elsewhere. Those particularly worthy of

note include "**The Humours of Lewis Furey**", **Andy Fairweather Low's "Be Bop 'n' Holla"**, **Joan Baez** with "**Gulf Winds**", and **Gato Barbieri's "Galiente"** (all four available from A & M Records), new releases from **Robin Trower**, "**Long Misty Days**", **Leo Sayer**, "**Endless Flight**" and **Steeleye Span "Rocket Cottage"** on Chrysalis plus the long-awaited solo album by **Dave Swarbrick** released on Transatlantic Records. These albums have been reviewed in greater depth in the last fanzine-orientated Ents. handout.

GATO BARBIERI — "CALIENTE"
(A & M 64597)

From the man who wrote the jazz/pop score for "**Last Tango In Paris**" comes a blend of jazz and Argentinian roots which possesses the ideal kind of vitality to serve as music to start the day to. Backed by some of New York's less clinical session musicians Barbieri tackles everything from heavily-orchestrated ballads to somewhat more ethnic pieces where percussion is given more prominence in the mix. Ultimately though it's not worth the current price of an album. In this respect few albums get played enough to warrant such expenditure; think of how many refectory rock cakes one could purchase for £3.49 . . .

Andy Cornwell

ODDS 'N' SODS

GAY OUTRAGE

"I NOTICE with dismay that you have begun to give space to advertisements which serve to promote homosexual purposes." So says Professor E. Mishan in a letter in *The Spectator* of 15th January, 1977. He is objecting to four Gay advertisements, namely "Gayway" (a homosexual lonely hearts service), a health club for Gays in Old Bond Street, a licensed club for gays in Brydges Place W.C.2., and a monthly glossy magazine for homosexuals called "Q" International, who have all had Classified Advertisements on the back page of *The Spectator* in recent weeks.

The Professor states that homosexuality is a "deviant outcome" resulting from the stress of a technological age. Prof. Mishan objects to homosexual advertising on the grounds that it furthers a "movement tending to de-heterosexualise society and to normalise homosexual activities, and indeed to make it appear chic and gay".

Let me say at this point that I am a healthy heterosexual with nothing to gain, financially or sexually, from espousing on the question of homosexuality. It does seem odd to me however that the Professor should suggest that it is only the heterosexuals in society who should be allowed to have lonely hearts clubs, health clubs, licensed clubs and glossy magazines. There are a number of homosexuals at the L.S.E. and even outside the grey walls of the College. What then are we to do with all these "deviants"? Prof. Mishan would presumably like to make homosexual contact and activities well nigh impossible.

What a great shame that a well known Professor at a place of high academic standing should seek to alienate a section of the population from the rest by denying them any enjoyment whatsoever.

Robin Cooper, B.Sc.

I'M DELIGHTED to hear that Prof. Mishan is willing to be persuaded that adverts "which advance homosexual ends may tend on balance to the general good of society," however, this is hardly the point. Homosexuals should be free to contact each other, not to make society feel more at ease and liberal, but for their own benefit.

It is a well-known myth that gay liberation should be supported solely on the grounds that in doing so, society itself will be improved. Gay liberation should be supported because it is the autonomous revolutionary movement of gay people against society as it exists in its present paternalistic and capitalist forms.

Thus to argue that gay people should be "allowed" to do this, that or the other merely indicates to me the depth of oppression that we as gay people face. We don't want people's permission to hold dances, meet in clubs or put our adverts in "The Spectator." We totally and utterly affirm our right to do so, with or without the permission of the so-called heterosexual majority.

Wanda Goldwag

Can you see yourself working for an International Accounting Firm? . . .

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all at ridiculously low rates; all colours, all sizes. Please contact MARC GARDINER, via Undergraduate pigeon-holes.

All those interested in helping at the next Freshers' Conference, please give their names to Emma (S101A) soon.

The Ents Disco is now available for hire at the low cost of £8. This is inclusive of records and DJ, however, this equipment cannot be taken outside of the L.S.E. Please contact S118 for further information.

NUS AND LSE

N.U.S. TRAVEL HAS GONE BUST. The decision to wind up the travel and printing companies was taken at the end of last term. Although criticism must be made of the Executive's mismanagement of the financial situation, and the sackings reduce the credibility of N.U.S.'s unemployment campaign, this must be seen in the context of the overall economic situation, including the reduction in the real level of student income which led to a decrease in demand for travel from the student market.

We must not allow arguments over travel to obscure the real justification for a National Union of Students. A united National Union is the sole body which can unite students to fight for their interests, for example, grants, cuts in students' standard of living, against racism and sexism, increased or discriminatory fees, unemployment etc.

A united National Union is necessary if students are to have an effective voice on issues which concern them, in negotiations with the D.E.S. for example. Where this is not the case, such as in France, the various organisations representing students can be ignored by the government, on the grounds that not one of these groups represent ALL students.

Individual S.U.s are in an extremely vulnerable position without the overall protection of a National Union. This was highlighted in the case of Dafydd, where the local education authority attempted to deprive the Union of its funds. Thus even in the short term, disaffiliation from N.U.S. might mean extra cash for social facilities this year, we might soon find no money available at all for these facilities, and no opportunity for providing for them out of a drastically reduced grant.

For the above reasons, a N.U.S. is indispensable. We urge you to continue to support and strengthen your National Union.

**Broad Left
Conservative Society
Liberal Society
International Marxist Group
International Socialists.**

Soane's museum

A FEW minutes' walk from the L.S.E. on the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields at No. 13 is Sir John Soane's Museum, a miscellaneous collection of antiquities—paintings, prints, drawings, casts, sculptures, bronzes and models of ancient buildings—which, together with the house, Soane bequeathed to the nation.

The English architect John Soane (1753-1837) was appointed architect to the Bank of England in 1788 and professor of architecture at the Royal Academy in 1806. Besides rebuilding the Bank of England, he also designed the Dulwich College Picture Gallery, three houses in Lincoln's Inn Fields (Nos. 12, 13, 14), a country house at Ealing (now a library), and his own tomb in the churchyard of St Pancras. As an architect he is remembered for his highly personal interpretation of the Neoclassical style, involving an ingenious handling of interior space, an imaginative use of Greek and Roman motives and quaint ornaments of his own, such as miniature domes and mirrors. Besides seeing this style in the house itself, there are many of his designs and sketches for buildings on display which illustrate it.

The collection of paintings includes Hogarth's "The Rake's Progress" and "The Election", as well as some by Canaletto, Reynolds and Turner. There are also a great number of "ruinscape" drawings by Piranesi. By a clever use of double panelling Soane was able to hang in his picture room enough paintings to fill a gallery three times its size.

Downstairs in the crypt is a contribution by Soane to romanticism in the shape of a monk's parlour. The guide says this "Gothic fantasy was built around an imaginary Padre Giovanni, whose tomb and the ruins of whose cloister are seen through the window". The cloister in fact comprises bits of 15th century masonry from the old Palace of Westminster. Undoubtedly the showpiece of the crypt is the sarcophagus of King Seti I of Egypt (1303-1290 B.C.) carved out of a single block of semi-transparent limestone and covered with hieroglyphics. When the British Museum refused to buy it (they had just lashed out on the Elgin Marbles), Soane got it for £2,000. Elsewhere are plaster models by John Flaxman, a French clock of 1820 showing the day, month, hour and rotation of earth and moon, Walpole's desk and cases of leather-bound books. Upstairs from the drawing room windows is a splendid view of Lincoln's Inn Fields, and under glass can be seen some of Soane's personal effects, a sketch-book of Joshua Reynolds and a first edition of Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe".

The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5; closed Sunday and Monday. There is a tour of the house every Saturday at 2.30. Sir John Summerson, an authority on Soane, gives the tour on the first Saturday of each month. This is all free.

Jim Nason

STUDENTS AND THE LAW

THIS term there will be four talks by lecturers in the Law Department.

- JANUARY 19th: Drugs and the Law by Jennifer Temkin.
- FEBRUARY 8th: Tenants' Rights by Martin Partington.
- FEBRUARY 22nd: Students and Social Security by Julian Fulbrook.
- MARCH 10th: Police Powers by Leonard Leigh.

All of these talks will take place in Room 404 between 1 and 2 p.m.

CAAT

EVER since flint arrowheads from Grimes Graves and other flint-knapping centres were sent abroad, Britain has been exporting weapons. Today Britain keeps her place among the foremost nations of the world with her arms exports.

Under the ægis of the Defence Sales Organisation, Britain's skill and know-how has provided products for such diverse places as Nigeria and Biafra, India and Pakistan, Israel and the Arab states. Even today our salesmen are working on the various fronts throughout the world, selling the merchandise to places such as South Africa, Chile, Iran and Brazil.

Our triumphs have not gone untrumpeted; Ron Ellis (head of the DSO) announced that arms exports for this year were expected to reach the value of one billion pounds. For interest's sake, if that was all plain rifle ammunition (at 8p a round) then this year we would wipe out the world's population with three bullets per person.

On Wednesday, January 26th, the LSE Young Liberals and Peace Group will be co-ordinating a picket of the Defence Sales Organisation (Soho Sq.).



THIS BEAVER was produced by Anton Chapman, Peacock, Richard Kitchen, Carol Saunders, Liz, Sheree, Jane Thorpe and John Emerson.

All opinions expressed in this paper are those of the writers.

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Chess Soc

A CHESS SOCIETY exists at LSE and meets on Wednesdays in Room SO78. We urge anyone interested to come and play. Instruction is given to beginners and coaching to those motivated enough to want to improve their playing standard.

There is a team which plays in the ULU League. We played one match last term which was a disaster with the School losing 4½-1½ to Queen Elizabeth College. A good individual victory was that of the captain, Nick Louth; one can't help feeling that the acquisition of at least one really good player would be a considerable boost to the team's chances in the future. Anyone who thinks they could help the team should come along to SO78 one Wednesday or contact Nick Louth through the U/G pigeonholes.