

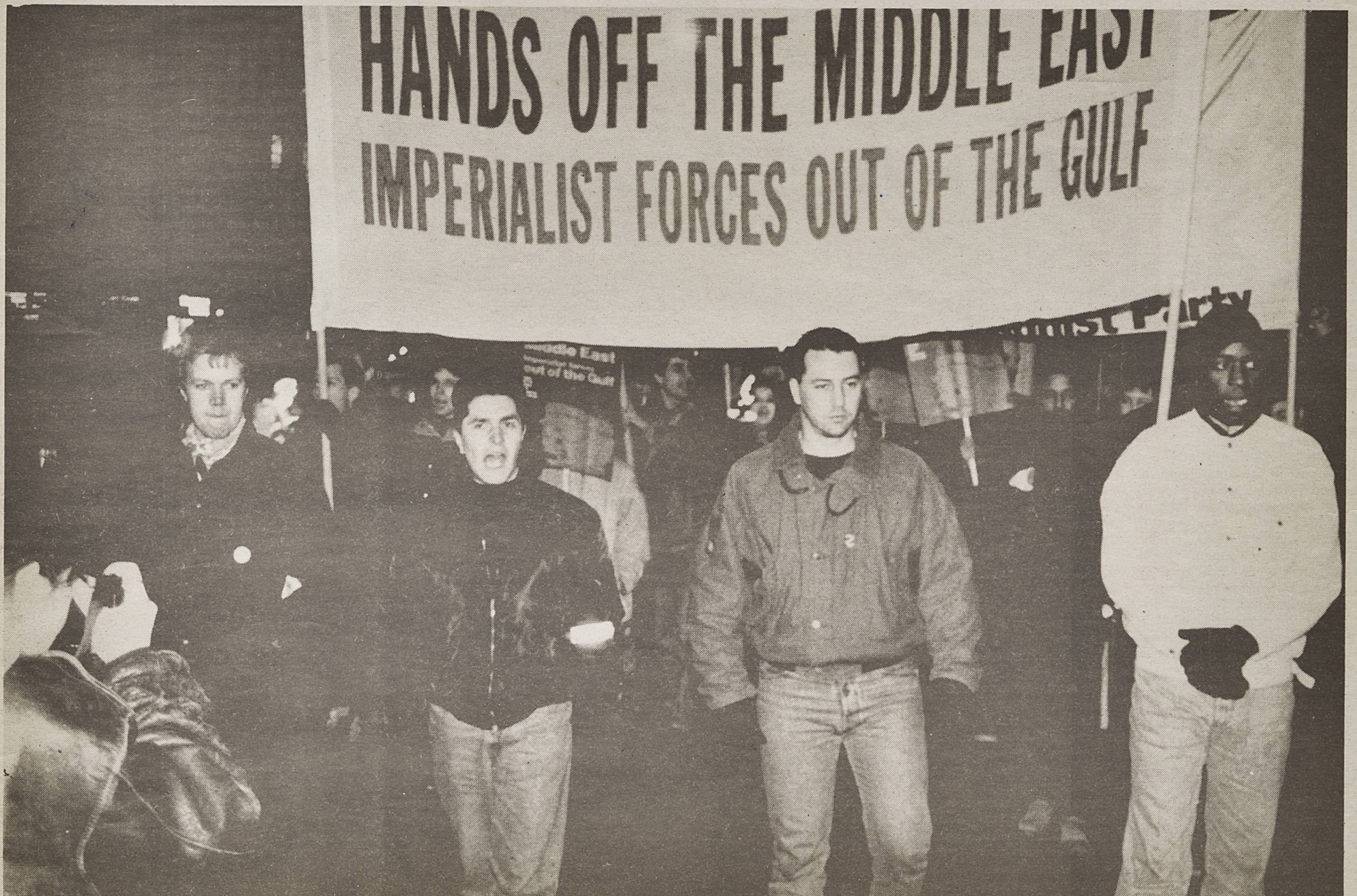
The Beaver

21st January, 1991

Newspaper of the London School of Economics Student Union

Issue 332

War in the Gulf



London Students Protest Against the War

Photo: Alex McDowell

LSE staff and students react to outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East

By Christian Forman

"I knew the war was coming," said one first year student, "but I never really thought about what it would be like. Actually hearing those reports made me think that this was for real. It isn't some political debate anymore. People are going to die."

As the eye witness accounts of bombs hitting Baghdad were relayed to the rest of the world through the voices of the few western journalists left in Iraq, the reality of the whole situation finally hit home for the majority of the LSE community.

The light hearted conversation which normally dominates the Three Tuns at lunch was replaced by more serious conversation of war and peace. Television reports of the most recent fighting were received with deadpan stares in silence.

Bitter and angry debate in the Union General Meeting

revealed the depth of feeling right across the campus. Andy Struthers, a member of the Socialist Workers Students Society suspended standing orders as soon as the meeting opened. Struthers introduced an emergency resolution condemning western action in the Gulf, and called for an immediate closure of the meeting so that the assembly could adjourn to Downing street to picket against the conflict. Struthers called the conflict a "war for oil," and noted that the Western allies had done nothing when a country the approximate size of Kuwait, Lithuania, was being brutalized by the Soviet Union.

Chris Pincher, member of the Conservative Association, responded to this statement accusing Struthers and his supporters of being "apologists for the butcher" Saddam Hussein. Lee Marriott, amid much shouting and throwing of paper,

shouted "Long Live the Emir."

Julian "Woody" Bild spoke in favour of the Anti-West resolution. He argued that public support was not behind the action in the gulf and that Bush and Major were acting in the gulf to purely extend their power in the Middle East.

Marriott responded to Bild's allegations and proceeded to "teach the boys and girls about the middle-east." Marriott stated that Western intervention in the Gulf was necessary to punish Iraqi barbarity. He ended his speech with a haranguing attack on the opposition, accusing them of operating on a "different wave length", divorced from reality.

After 35 minutes of debate the resolution to condemn action in the Gulf was narrowly defeated. Sources say the resolution fell by as little as twelve votes. The failure of the parliamentary motion did not deter

the left, many of whom walked out of the meeting to join the anti-war protest outside Downing street.

The President of the National Union of Students, Stephen Twigg, though not on the streets protesting with some members of the LSE community, did release a statement condemning the war. He stated, "I reiterate NUS condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. However, the death toll from the precipitous action taken by the United States and her allies is likely to run into the hundreds of thousands and this reality is of great concern to the student movement. The attacks on Iraq, particularly the bombing of Baghdad, are irresponsible and immature. Insufficient time has been given to the diplomatic effort and sanctions."

In addition to the students, the staff have braced themselves for war. With unsubstantiated

rumours of bomb threats and terrorist attacks echoing through the halls of the Old Building, the administration has met with the Student Union General Secretary to discuss school security. Mr. Coops, Director of Site Services and Development, who oversees the safety and security of the school, explained, "we shall keep a low profile. We urge all students and staff to keep their eyes open. If you see a bag or a package which has been left around, do not touch it. Notify the main porter's lodge and they will deal with the situation. If they believe the situation requires the police, they will be contacted. The security staff has been briefed. With such groups as the IRA operating in London, this is not the first time we have faced terrorist threats."

The School Registrar's office has published a special edition of the "LSE Circular" which lists

a number of contact names and numbers for students who may have problems as a result of the crisis. However, no special office has been established for the express purpose of dealing with the gulf issue.

Foreign students are particularly worried about the developments in the Gulf. Many American General Course students have received letters from their home institutions warning them that could be possible terrorist targets. These letters have outlined a number of safety precautions which will help ensure the avoidance of violence. Among the suggestions are not to wear baseball caps and to try and speak with a British accent.

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Potential leader: candidate Pincher exhibits his political charm

Photo: Alex McDowell

NUS election next week

By Beaver Staff

A special election is to be held this week for the position of National Union of Students (NUS) External officer. The post in contention was vacated last term when Lee Marriott was dismissed from the job for his failure to complete his duties. Four candidates have filed nomination papers with the Student Union.

Rick Livingston, standing on a Labour ticket, believes that the job will require a lot of work. There are only a few months left in the executive's calendar year and Livingston believes that the majority of the time will be spent, "cleaning up the mess that Lee created over the last six months."

Having been the LSE delegate to the NUS national conference, Livingston is confident that he can handle the responsibilities of the job. In addition, having just returned from the Christmas conference, he intends to emphasise the students' interests within the NUS rather than "the interests of the careers of the Union executive members."

Jai Durai of the Democratic Socialist Group (DSG), also believes that she is qualified for the position having been a former NUS London delegate leader. If elected, Durai wishes to highlight such issues as the environment, equal opportunity, and the right to free speech. She believes that her previous LSE committee experience will be

useful in providing her with a knowledge of the mechanics of the LSE student union.

Chris Pincher, member of the Conservative Association, spoke of using the position to place pressure on the NUS to support the United Nations activities in the Gulf. He is aware that his fellow conservative, Marriott, was dismissed for failing to fulfill his duties. However, Pincher is adamant that if he is elected, such a situation would not reoccur.

The Green candidate, Awenna Williams was not available for comment.

Voting will take place on Thursday afternoon in the lobby of the Old Building.

QMW funding still in doubt

By Madeline Gwyon

Despite fierce student opposition, proposals to shut several of Queen Mary Westfield College's academic departments seem set to go ahead.

The college's council, headed by acting chairman Graham Zellick, recommended last term that the college's financial losses should be minimised by closing down the Mediterranean studies, Biological sciences, and possibly the Engineering department. At a meeting with the University's Funding Council (UFC) on December 12th, students maintained a continual lobby outside the meeting and some broke into disrupt the negotiations for cost

cutting.

This term it seems that these departments have gained a small reprieve. The Mediterranean studies department, the most immediately threatened, has now been given three months to either cut their own losses or find outside funding in order to relieve the school of some of its financial burden. The engineering department was already placed on probation in the hopes that it could cut costs overall. This action followed the department's decision not to dissect the department, and cut unprofitable departments such as Aeronautics.

The plight of the Biological science department is not so desperate because of its great

size and reputation. However, it still must cut up to £800,000 each year from its present budget. Staff members have brought in over £250,000 for the college through private consulting. The department is now looking into expanding this side business to create more income.

Staff and students at QMW remain concerned. The head of the centre for Research in Aquatic Biology at QMW remains bitter over the threatened cuts. "It is a terrible indictment of what we're doing to our students. We encourage them to come up here and we do our best for undergraduates and then other people turn around and kick them in the teeth."

NOLS on probation

LSE Labour voices differences with national organization

by Christian K Forman

On January 14th, the LSE Labour Club voted in favor of potentially disaffiliating from the National Organization of Students (NOLS) if political differences between the two organizations cannot be resolved in the immediate future.

LSE Labour became disenchanted with the national executive after attending the latest NOLS conference where the national leaders allegedly used their position to steer the assembly towards their own political ends. Allegations include charges that NOLS executives refusing to nominate Left wing delegates for the National Union of Students (NUS) and that they steered conference debate unconstitutionally. Specifically, LSE Labour officials claim a note was found, written by the NUS president and NOLS

member, Steven Twiggs, giving instructions to the chair as to whom should be selected for the 'free' speeches which are used to second motions.

The Labour club plans to contact the NUS and NOLS executive and voice their discontent with the situation. They will also be in contact with other university Labour associations in an attempt to forge a coalition which will be able to confront the National leadership at the next NOLS conference.

Mel Taylor, Senior Treasurer and an active Labour member, explained the main motivation behind the LSE action was to make "NOLS openly investigate the situation in a democratic manner. In the mean time we are going to organize and talk to other groups throughout the country. Hopefully we will be able to come up with some concrete plans"

"If effective action is not taken," Taylor continues, "we will leave NOLS and create another national organization which will improve on the NOLS example."

Taylor went on to explain that the problem with NOLS may be a result of political factionalisation. "Labour is an extremely diverse group. If you take the Gulf as an example, you go from the center-right with individuals such as Kinnoch who support British troops in the gulf, to people like Allison Mann who support a UN resolution to the affair, to people who wish to see British troops out. Like the national party, NOLS has become too factionalised. This creates in-fighting and problems like we have."

NOLS was contacted but did not wish to comment on the situation at the present time.

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Scholarship Surplus

£70,000 left in overseas student fund

by Jonathan Drew

Over £70,000 in the overseas scholarship fund has not been applied for by foreign students. The school has refused to pass on this surplus to the SU's over-subscribed Hardship Fund.

The Fund was generated by an extra-inflationary rise in overseas student tuition fees. Originally the fund was to be open only to new students at the school. However, at the start of this year, continuing students were encouraged to apply for a partial reimbursement of their tuition fees.

All overseas students were sent a letter by the School detailing how they could claim such funding. However few have applied by the original closing date and it has been extended at the Scholarships Officer's discretion. To date only 116 of the 386 eligible students have requested such assistance. This has left the £70,000 raised by the increase unclaimed. As further fees are paid this figure may rise.

The suggestion by one student member of the Working Party to Review Overseas Tuition Fees and Scholarships to add this surplus money to the School's Hardship Fund was met with a negative response. Student Union General Secretary, Rob Middleton, called this "a major problem in itself."

Reacting with surprise to this admission by the School, Mid-

dleton said that the SU's own hardship fund has been greatly over-subscribed this year. Furthermore, he suggested that many overseas students may not be going to the School for help because of the fear that by asking for money they would be accused by the School of lying when filling in their application forms showing they were capable of paying their fees. Moreover, he emphasized that this was a "failure of the School's system rather than their staff." Middleton expects the £70,000 surplus of the Scholarship Fund to be carried over into next year's Fund. He said that the final aim was to create a Fund of around £1 million to help poorer overseas students who have had little opportunity to study here since the huge increase in student fees in the 1980s. Middleton is optimistic about the future of the fund. He feels it will truly benefit a number of students in the future.

One 3rd year overseas student remained unconvinced of the benefits of the Fund. She said "I feel that the whole of this scheme has caused me much stress. Some of my friends have preferred not to claim the money as they regard it as only for those in desperate need. The LSE authorities appear to have simply created a lot of bureaucracy for themselves and distracted students from their studies in the years when exam results really count."



Additional scholarship funding available; but no takers

Photo: Alex McDowell

Beaver debate

Fur flies in education argument

by Rick Livingstone

Following the inaugural Beaver Debate, the house pronounced that it did not have "Every Confidence In The Government's Higher Education Policies." Chris Pincher of the LSE Tories and Alex Aitken of the central office opposed the Labour Club's Gareth Roberts and the President of NUS, Steven Twigg.

The audience was very sparse. However, the few who made it were treated to a standard of debate that is absent from the average UGM. Chris Pincher opened proceedings by telling us that the Government's aim was to encourage educational opportunities, that it had increased funding by £520 million since 1979, and that it was in-

creasing the number of students in university. He then went on to defend Student Loans, saying students don't accept Labour's claim that they made Higher Education less attractive. Loans made students less reliant on parents and tax payers. He told Labour it had no right to criticize the Government when it had no price tag on its own education policies.

Gareth Roberts attacked the Conservatives for seeing education as a burden, "like washing your underpants". He stated that education benefitted the whole of society, by providing technology, growth, teachers and doctors. Higher Education allowed people to break through the barriers of sex, race and class. The Government had cut the

proportion of GDP spent on Higher Education causing colleges to axe large departments, such as Queen Mary and Westfield College. Loans dissuaded the least privileged from coming to university and the loss of Housing Benefit had led to large increases in the number of students in squalid accommodation.

Alex Aitken claimed loans had not deterred students. Government policy was to increase opportunities, to treat students as consumers and to rid education of bureaucracy. As examples of the latter he cited the Inner London Education Authority and the National Union Of Students. "No-one mourned ILEA, and no-one will mourn the NUS!" he cried. Loans increased the

resources available to students and ensured that students contributed to the cost of their education.

The final speaker, Steven Twigg, deplored the Government's squandering of additional income from North Sea Oil, spending it on defence and tax cuts instead of education. Agreeing student numbers should increase, he scorned the Government for not providing the extra resources for this cause, leading to chronic accommodation shortages and the threat of Top-Up Fees.

The debate was then opened up to the floor, where issues such as the recent restrictions put on the Access Fund were raised. The vote at the end rejected the motion substantively.

Union Jack

The world watched and waited. The sands in the hourglass slowly ran out. Would the aggressive tyrant see sense and withdraw his forces as the people throughout the region demanded? The hushed and expectant masses knew that right was on their side, last minute diplomacy between the prospective belligerents proved to no avail, and so, reluctantly, the final terrible step was taken.

The deadline passed at 1300 hrs. local time on Thursday 17th January. George Bush, recklessly defying the LSE emergency motion of the previous week had failed to pull out, and the UGM was left with no alternative but to open hostilities. The attack, when it came, was sudden and unexpected. Out of nowhere came "Suspend Standing Orders!", and in the face of such overwhelming hot air superiority, Chair Dairmuir Boyd could only give ground.

Jack, having shunned the many comforts of the Al-Rashid Hotel in downtown Baghdad, where less audacious CNN colleagues were holed up in the cocktail bar complaining about the noise, donned protective clothing and crouched in his frontline foxhole. The allies' first wave consisted of the little-known Julian "Woody" Bild whose combat readiness was the subject of much speculation amongst analysts. This was followed up by a low-level assault from the ageing but battle-hardened Andy Strouthous, previously thought by many to be obsolete but apparently brought out of mothballs for a final campaign. In the face of such a massive onslaught, it seemed only a matter of time before resistance crumbled.

The Allies had however underestimated the resolve and firepower of their adversaries. Chris "Death to the Infidel" Pincher had spent several months digging into his positions. Along with his 'Bunkum mentality', Pincher had other factors in his favour. His forces had already spent many years fighting against seemingly insuperable odds in what history now knows as the "Ideological Gulf" War. Perhaps more critically, after years of being treated as second-class citizens by the political capitalists of the Alliance, the usually passive and nomadic tribes who drift in and out of UGMs had now swung round behind him.

The Allies had hoped for a surgical strike, decisive in outcome, which would allow them to turn on the 'Great Satan' in Westminster. "We'll be in Downing Street by Christmas", one optimistic conscript told Jack.

But as in so many wars before, optimism was not enough. Whilst military pundits observed that the Simkin capability of the entrenched forces had been taken out in a pre-emptive strike at the end of last term, unconfirmed reports suggested that Pincher had been developing a new secret weapon. The rumours now proved to be true. With the launching of Lee "Scud" Marriott the tide of war turned decisively. Marriott, a frightening indiscriminate weapon which directly attacks the nervous system, bringing on nausea and dizziness amongst those in the vicinity, was deployed to devastating effect. "Your brains are on a different wavelength," he boomed, seemingly unmoved by the cries of the wounded. "God save the Queen!"

The nightmare scenario was coming true. As the Allied chain of command fell apart, the generals resorted to babbling incoherently about Kentish Town and East Timor. Again Marriott was sent into action. "Our brave RAF," he roared, and it was enough. The Allies were on the run. Bravely disregarding his own credibility, Strouthous heroically undertook one final sortie, his Kamikaze flight plan hastily scribbled on the back of a Neil Kinnock postcard.

Shaken by the ferocity of the counter-attack, the vote was only a formality. The arms went up, and the faces fell. The rout was complete. A tactical cry of "Card vote!" produced a flurry of Gold Amex cards amongst the victors now pouring out of their defensive positions, but the respite was brief. Those who could still walk did, bringing their wounded egos out under the cover of megaphones.

Peace was not finally declared until civilian casualties reached inordinate levels. As in all wars, it was the innocent who suffered most.

The Beaver

It is true that the UN resolution demanding Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories has not been enforced. It is true that while acting against the Iraqis in the Gulf, the UN is leaving the Soviet Union to do what it wants. It is true that the only reason the UN has sanctioned action in the Gulf is because of oil. It is true that Kuwait was never a very nice place.

So what?

Leftist arguments that the UN is hypocritical are as irrelevant as the Right's jingoistic "our boys" rhetoric is nauseating.

The facts are, and still remain, that Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and in so doing broke every tenet of international law. Hussein must be removed from Kuwait and it is the responsibility of the whole international community, embodied in the UN, to ensure that he goes. Unless we adopt the pacifist line that nothing is ever worth killing for then the certainty that Iraq is the aggressor makes the Gulf conflict a just war.

Past UN failures do not undermine the validity of its current actions. The moral charge on both the left and the right is that they must now throw their weight behind the Gulf campaign. They must support a war fought on the smallest scale possible. A war limited to the freeing of Kuwait.

Once this has been achieved the next, and by far the most important challenge must be taken up. The reform of the United Nations. War in the Gulf will have been for nothing if international security is not enhanced. The blood of soldiers from all over the world will have been wasted unless this rare opportunity is taken to develop order between nations. Such international understanding cannot be based upon American hegemony. It is such a flaw which currently leaves us defending Kuwaiti oil fields while ignoring the suffering in Palestine and Lithuania.

Instead we must campaign for a new system binding all nations, irrespective of their size and wealth, to one another. A system enshrining the principles of international justice whose basis must be that any nation using forces against another without the permission of the international community must expect the full force of that community to be turned upon it. The same force that Iraq is feeling now.

We must not fear a UN with teeth. Such teeth are the key to peace. But we must demand that it be utilised on behalf of the whole world, not just the rich West as it is now.

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The case for:

The commencement of the war to liberate Kuwait was made inevitable by the intransigence of Saddam Hussein. Over the past five months those that have searched for a peaceful solution have been left with not a single shred of evidence on which to base a case for the prolonging of negotiations. President Bush, throughout the crisis, has been motivated not by the desire to protect the supply of oil to America but by the belief that the invasion of Kuwait was unjust. George Bush left school to sign up and fight for freedom and justice in the second world war. At one point he was the youngest flier in the US navy. Then as now Bush has acted because of a flagrant aggression by one country against another. A peace that left Saddam Hussein unchallenged in Kuwait would mean sacrificing an undeniable principle: no country has the right to over-run and annex another.

Because of the long lull between the invasion and the war of liberation the world has had time to think about the costs of war. Hussein has used this opportunity to spread the notion that Kuwait is a nation not worth fighting over. It has been said that Kuwait is an artificial and undemocratic state. The truth is that the Kuwaitis were happy with the independence they were granted by the British. Kuwait may not have been a democratic state but compared to most other middle eastern states it had a relatively free press and a high level of political debate. Kuwait had given a higher share of her GDP to foreign aid than any other country and had given employment to thousands of migrant workers.

Hussein has told many lies in justifying his invasion of Kuwait, perhaps the greatest has been his claim to have invaded Kuwait for the sake of Palestine. The United Nations were right in not allowing 'linkage' between the question of the Palestine and the invasion of Kuwait. This would have awarded Iraqis original aggression, something that would have been unacceptable. This solution to the crisis would have also greatly enhanced Hussein's stature in the region and would have made him an even more dangerous threat to the security of other nations.

Some have argued that sanctions should have been given more time to work. It is, however, difficult to believe that the massive coalition of nations ranged against Iraq could have lasted long enough for sanctions to have had an effect. Hussein is not a man to back down simply because his people are suffering from the effect of sanctions.

The British troops in the Gulf can have clear consciences, they are fighting a just war. A belief in peace means nothing if it means that those who believe in peace allow those that don't to enslave those that are too weak to fight back.

Scott Kelly

Post Haste

Letters to E205 by hand or internal mail by 3pm on Thursday

No room

Dear Beaver,
In his report "Hall entries to be centralised" 3/12/90, your correspondent Ralf Yves-Zurbugg quotes the Assistant Secretary, Robert Smith, who stated the main argument for an Accommodation Office, viz. the centralisation of information about available vacancies. However, your correspondent thinks an Accommodation Office would help alleviate other problems such as that of "unoccupied hall places". Where did Yves-Zurbugg hear of this "problem"? I am now in my ninth year of service as Warden of Rosebery Hall and can assure him that I would often like to have vacancies in order to accommodate students. Rosebery Hall is invariably full in term-time, except when students start to leave during the Summer Term and the vacancies created by them are, as often as possible, let to tourists

Kurt Klappholz
Warden, Rosebery Hall

NOLS reply

Dear Beaver,
I can understand that the Beaver may have been short of stories last week, but the hyperbole of the front page story about the Labour Club is inexcusable.

There was never any sign of a "split" in the Labour Club; it was almost unanimous in its con-

demnation of the way NOLS conducted itself. Neither is there any danger of prosecution: NOLS is not an integral part of the Labour Party, it is only an affiliated body. What is more, in its final decisions on this matter, the Labour Club decided to provide NOLS with "a last last chance" for democracy.

The differences between the LSE Labour Club and NOLS are not political: our sole objection is that NOLS has attempted to prevent the LSE from having its say in its running and its policy. NOLS may have momentarily lost sight of its aim to make the education system better and more just, but we have not. We only hope that it listens to our objections and that it once more places the wellbeing of students above the political careers of some of its members

Rick Livingstone, Gareth Roberts

Beaver replies

Your letter shows how embarrassing the entire episode was for the Labour Club. To be divided over the fundamental issue of national affiliation undermines your credibility and threatens your identity. While you may have sorted your differences by agreeing to postpone discussion of the issue until "later" last week's front page story did expose a very real rift in the Labour Club and we stand by all we printed.

Racism

Dear Beaver,
Michael Ellam purports that a high profile anti-racist campaign will have little effect at the LSE. He also says that there is very little racism at the LSE. What

The case against

"Operation Desert Shield" was not launched, contrary to CNN claims, to 'liberate' Kuwait. In the first place, Kuwait never has been liberated. Under the personal fiefdom of the al-Sabah, only 60,000 of the country's two million population had the vote to a parliament, dissolved in 1986, where political parties were banned. Slavery was only officially abolished in 1963, and unofficial estimates put the number of slaves held at 500,000 a decade later. Yet democracy in a Kuwait liberated from Saddam Hussain does not remain an issue. According to the Times, "the sheikdom's identity would be lost without the al-Sababs at the helm."

This is not to condone Saddam Hussein's barbarous regime or his decision to annex Kuwait. Although a dictator with expansionist desires, he is not alone in a region which in recent years has been notorious for its barbarity. Indeed, while serving the interests of the US domesticated "international community" by attempting to crush the Iranian revolution, he was able to gas unarmed Kurdish civilians at Halabja. The following year, despite muted protests, US and British trade peaked and arms shipments from East and West continued. Saddam Hussain's major crime in the eyes of the West was not Halabja but turning against his former masters by invading a strategically important region, thus threatening the uninterrupted flow of 'our oil'. Economic reasons determined Saddam Hussein's decision to emulate Kassim, who he helped to depose, by attacking a country to which he was massively indebted, and it is for economic reasons that countless Iraqi civilians and Western soldiers

will perish. It certainly is not for the principle that the aggressor must be punished. The generals of Indonesia were never even censured let alone threatened with war, for their genocidal annexation of East Timor, a country in which an estimated fifth of the population have been slaughtered. Israel, like Iraq, similarly refused to abide by UN resolutions urging it to withdraw from the occupied territories, yet Israeli citizens were never bombed by a UN force twenty three years ago. Nor was Israel or Syria censured for their cynical invasion of Lebanon. When the Israeli's invaded in 1982, an estimated 20,000 Lebanese civilians died. Similarly Gorbachev has not been threatened for his suppression of Baltic nationalism.

Bush's USA, the guardian of the new international order, is also far from blameless and evidently hasn't needed the lesson of the Vietnam war. Today's champion of the UN contravened an ICJ ruling by continuing to mine Nicaraguan ports and maintained her hemispherical hegemony by invading Grenada and Panama. Now in 1991 she is seeking to maintain and even extend her influence in the Middle-East.

The solution to the Gulf crisis is not a war whose scars of resentment and ecological damage will be borne for generations to come, but a comprehensive settlement linking the Kuwaiti, Palestinian, Kurdish and Lebanese issues. One in which Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is directly linked with the establishment of a Palestinian homeland - this settlement was not sabotaged by Saddam, but by George Bush.

Giorgio Shani

umn featuring nude photographs of the LSE's female Marxists so that other students can determine whether they are Homo Sapiens.

RJ Wilson

Daphne replies

I was somewhat startled to read RJ Wilson's letter of complaint above.

It would appear that his penchant for erotica overrides his interest in good stout advice for the conduct of one's affairs. Of course, this state of mind is not at all unusual due to the moral state of some of our public schools, particularly those Clarendon Schools of which I imagine young Wilson is an old boy.

Yet I must warn you that no good will come of it. It rather reminds me of my youngest Godson Captain Archibald Truscott (Rtd) whose predilection for photographing nude Massai Warriors whilst in Kenya came to the attention of his CO. Sadly for young Archibald his artistry led to a rather abrupt transfer to the Penguin Dependencies in the British Antarctic where he lost both ears and lower lip to frost bite. I believe he now runs a tobacconists in Cabsby-de-la-Zouche. With this in mind I urge young Wilson to resist temptation and escape the fate of Captain Archibald Truscott.

DD

MSS

In issue 330 we carried a letter of complaint from the MSS about an article written by John Pannu on their AGM. Further enquiry has verified Pannu's account of the meeting entirely.

Labour Club Black Caucus

Damning Daphne

Dear Beaver,
With no small measure of presumption, I feel I am not alone when I consider the Daphne Dare column largely irrelevant and of negligible interest.

I suggest an alternative col-

Views across the gulf

Miriam Quayum argues that the press has failed to see the Gulf War from an Islamic angle, and criticises the representation of Muslims in the western media.

Edward Said, a prominent Arab American recently raised the issue in "The Guardian" of how little Arabs and Muslims had been mentioned in the whole Gulf Crisis.

Everyday, the papers are full of articles about Israeli concerns, Mitterand's peace proposals and U.S. military plans. But where are the Muslims? It is easy to forget that countless Muslims living in Iraq and Saudi Arabia will be the first victims in this bloody war. Oh no, instead we focus on the dangers for our British and American "boys". In fact, the western media fails to look at the Gulf war from an Islamic angle. If any such perspective is raised, it is always negative.

It is a shame that British soldiers in the Gulf cannot consume alcohol openly or that Bob Hope cannot bring dancing girls to entertain the troops when they strip. In the western media, the majority of Muslims have been portrayed as supporters of Saddam. And yet we think, how can these Muslims support a man who wiped out thousands of Kurds in Haladje in 1988 with mustard gas? Easy, Islam must be, as Said referred to it, "a medieval, fanatical and anti-woman religion".

However, as a Muslim, I feel that the point of view of many ordinary Muslims has been ignored. In the days of the "Satanic Verses" issue the only voice on the six o'clock

news was that of young Pakistanis in Bradford chanting, "Kill Rushdie", and today news coverage is little different. Many Muslims, although rejecting his book, did not want to see his death but this view was not presented in the media. Ever since Rushdie was re-converted to Islam, he has been blotted out of the landscape and has lost his anti-Muslim supporters.

Certainly, there are contradicting viewpoints in the Islamic world, none more so than the views I have assembled here of a British Muslim and a spokesperson from the Kuwaiti Embassy. Despite possessing the same religion their opinions deviate sharply.

The British Muslim I spoke to

"In the western media, the majority of Muslims have been portrayed as supporters of Saddam."

"none of the states in the Middle East were truly Islamic. They were either feudal or dictatorships."

declared his sympathy for the Islamic Liberation Party, a group that has recently been suppressed by Saddam Hussein in Iraq. He traced the roots of the crisis back to the break up of the Ottoman Empire into Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and so forth in

1916. Indeed, he claims it was hypocritical to drive wedges into the Middle East and to maintain them when unification had been widely applauded in Europe last year. Was it wrong for one Muslim brother to attack another? Or was Saddam merely standing up to Israel and the U.S.? The answer was that it clearly was wrong but the punishment for this, which was

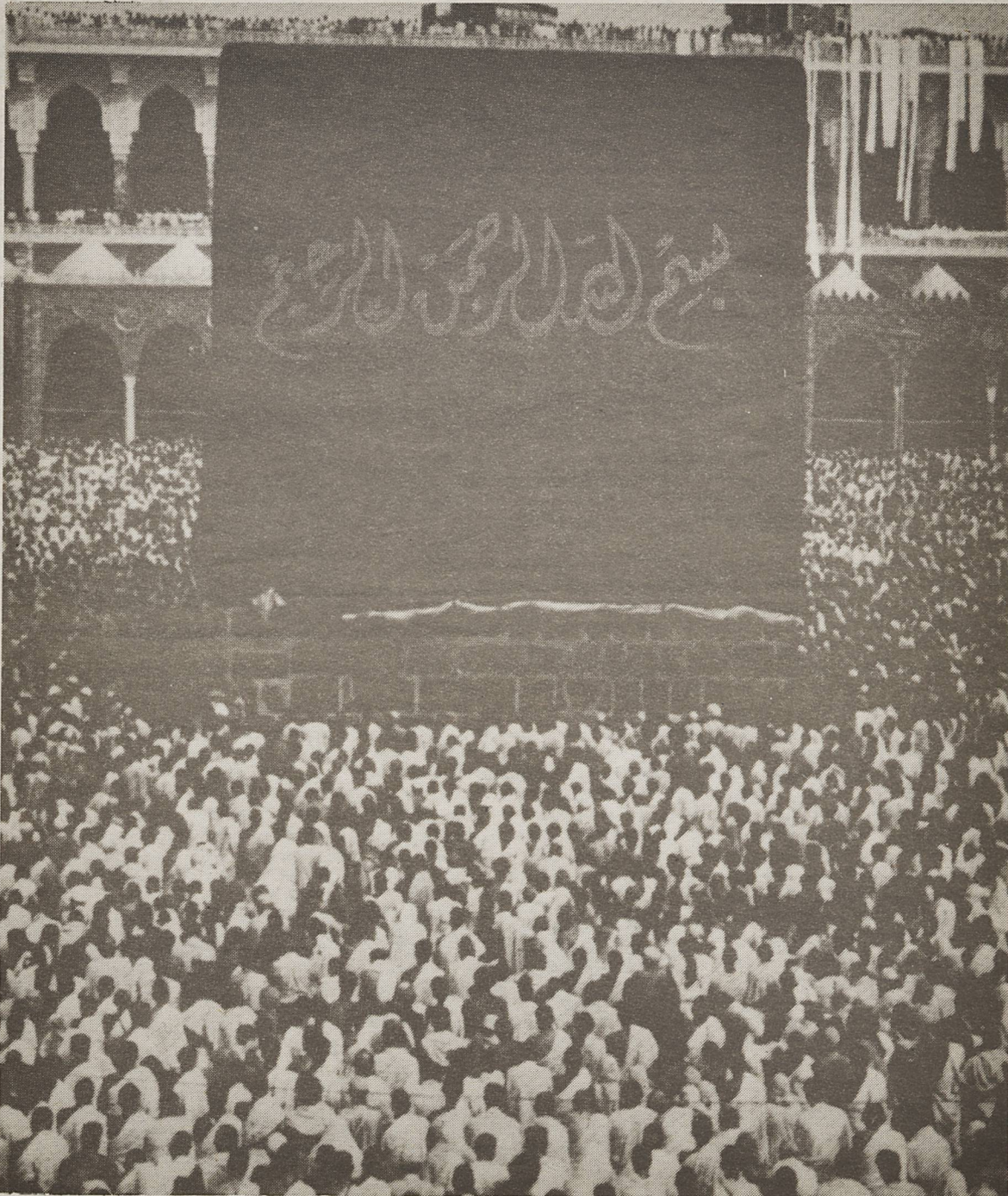
the death penalty under Islamic law, could not be applied, since none of the states in the Middle East were truly Islamic. They were either feudal or dictatorships. So was Saddam fighting on behalf of Islam? He denied this and called him a sinful Muslim, "We don't want Saddam Hussein to be our leader. We want self determination. He is an oppressor of Muslims. To assess the situation from a real Islamic point of view, the prophet Mohammed said a Muslim should not transgress upon another Muslim. The borders of the Middle East represent brick walls. All borders are false. We believe in a unified Islamic world."

Although this is not representative of majority Muslim opinion it certainly throws a new light on the way individual Muslims view the Gulf Crisis. According to this view there should only be

Muslim dominance in the Middle East. Yet as Edward Said rightly put it, the disturbing thing about this situation is that the right of the U.S. to intervene is never questioned. Hence the Muslim view that the U.N. is at best an extension of U.S. policy.

There are those who seek U.S. assistance and expect her to play the policeman in world affairs, none more so than the beleaguered Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Embassy spokesperson demonstrated how far Kuwait and Saudi Arabia relied on U.S. concern for the area. When asked if U.S. troops were infringing upon holy land, this was dismissed, "We are nowhere near the holy sites of Mecca and Medina."

He blamed Saddam for creating



What lies behind the veil? Images of Muslims in the media tend to rely on the stereotypes

this difficult situation by first invading Kuwait and then using the Palestine issue as a cover. When asked whether the U.S. is only concerned about oil and did not question the Syrian occupation of the Lebanon, he replied that nobody asked Iraq to invade Kuwait. However, the Arab League asked Syrian troops to come into the Lebanon to stop the murderous civil war since 1975.

Yet was it right for the democratic United States to be supporting undemocratic Kuwait? The spokesperson asserted that such action must not be judged in absolute terms but in relative terms. In that part of the world they had an advanced constitution. This was compared to Iraq in which there are no free

elections. "Even if the legislature was suspended, it was only because of difficulties between the state and the legislature."

There were a lot of contradictions

"The borders of the Middle East represent brick walls. All borders are false. We believe in a unified Islamic world."

in the Gulf Crisis. Here was a state taken over by Iraq, the same Iraq that Kuwait had helped finance in

the war effort against Iran. Didn't Kuwait then partly bring about its own downfall? He dismissed this saying that Kuwait did not create the Iran/Iraq war. All it did was try to restrain Iran who was dangerously trying to export a violent revolution. What if there was a war? "If there is be a war I hope it will be short. Besides Hussain's support in Iraq is fragile."

These opinions show a wide divergence of belief on the Gulf Crisis. Certainly there is no unity of opinion in the Islamic world. Politicians vie for important strategic areas and lost land and wealth. Meanwhile, in the background, the Muslim community stands wondering in disbelief while the Islamic world tears itself apart.

Shadow over the promised land

Daniel Harris describes his personal impressions of Israel before the outbreak of the war, a country struggling to continue normal life in the face of uncertainty and fear.

Having visited Israel since the New Year, I've been struck by something that has strangely been admitted from the comprehensive press coverage on the Gulf Crisis. Israel has remained totally neutral throughout this affair but Saddam Hussein has made it clear that he will use all the insidious means at his disposal - conventional, chemical and biological weapons to attack Israel.

Many have no sympathy for the state of Israel but surely the attitude I have sensed in this country - that Israeli retaliation would almost be an act of aggression itself - is unreasonable. Israel, as a Jewish state, might find it difficult to "turn the other cheek" as is advocated by Christian teaching. How could any state do so when faced with a totally unprovoked attack which could cause thousands of deaths.

By the time this article is printed this nightmare scenario may be history. I am no clairvoyant and the outcome may be different from anything I can envisage, but I can give a personal impression of a country in the throes of uncertainty, instability and fear.

On the streets there is a deceptive air of "business as usual". A closer look and with a little experience of Israel prior to the crisis one realizes that this is not quite so. The main street of Jerusalem, Ben Yehuda, may illustrate the mood. Normally, it is a busy, lively place overcrowded with people, but now it is empty. There appears to be a lack of younger men, most shops are dominated by women and the old. Usually the one language you don't hear is the native tongue, Hebrew, because of the many tourists, but now you hear no other. Hotels are considered to be doing well if they are half full. Eilat, a winter resort in the south which derives ninety percent of its income from tourism, is deserted.

When talking to Israelis the overall message is somewhat ambivalent. The older generation seem unafraid. They've seen it all before in four wars. At least in this time Israel is involved only indirectly. They have a great deal of faith in the army and defence forces. It is the younger ones, though, that are more disturbed, since they have grown up in an atmosphere of relative security.

One young woman had a distant memory of the 1973 war. She recounted how, during the holiest day of the Jewish calendar - Yom Kippur - sirens began to sound. As people rushed out of the synagogue, the men dressed in prayer shawls jumped on a truck which was going to the front. Some she would never see again.

She showed me her gas mask. I'd seen them before in markets and army shops but then they had only ever evoked almost romantic images of second world war precautions. Hitler never used gas in combat though, while Saddam Hussein already has. This gas mask was intended for use in the coming weeks.

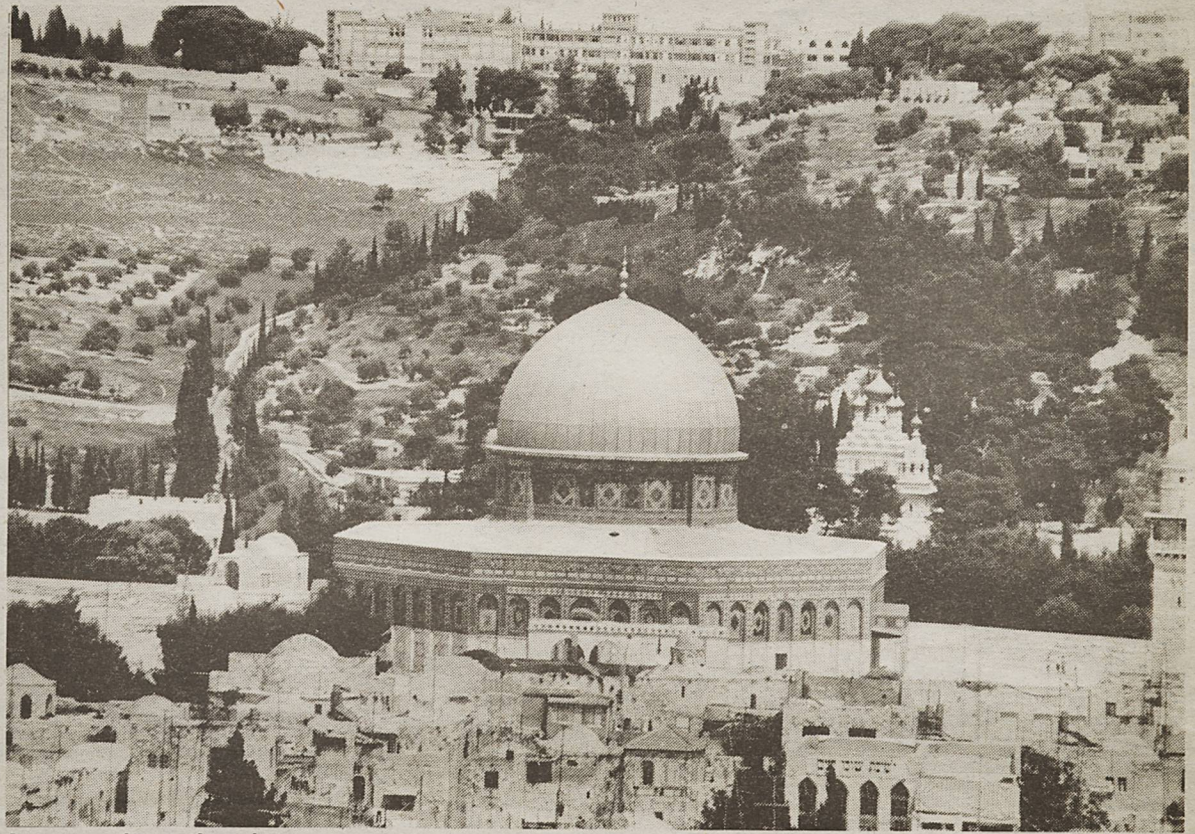
It was not only the grotesque appearance of the thing itself which was so horrifying but also the items which came with it. A syringe was included to alleviate the pain and convulsions from inhalation of nerve gas, and special cream to be applied in case of burns. Instructions included not eating within eight

hours of attack and drinking through a straw in the gas mask.

Although we feel so detached from the horrors in England, when a missile is potentially only a few minutes away, the whole thing becomes more real.

Information is gold dust. Televisions and radios are permanently on in cafes, bars and restaurants in anticipation of the next news bulletin. People will stop what they are doing and gather round to hear the broadcast in subdued silence. There is an air of helplessness, after feeling for so long that each abortive attempt at negotiation for peace leads nearer to a potential tragedy.

One rather chilling aspect of this crisis which at the time was the other, less gloomy topic of conversation is the Russian immigrants. It is



An uneasy calm over Jerusalem

ironic that these bewildered people had escaped from the threat of death by anti-semitics at home, but now faced a similar threat in the "Promised Land".

Unlike in England, everyone is in some way involved directly with the crisis. Sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and fathers are in the army,

most on extended reserve duty. One old man I spoke to had four sons and a daughter in the army. "One, a pilot", he said, "had to sit in his cockpit almost continually even eating and sleeping there. Going to the toilet was the only opportunity to stretch your legs. The few seconds it takes to get into the plane could be

the crucial and decisive ones."

Before I left, I rang a friend to say goodbye. I felt almost treacherous. I would be safe home in England soon, but this was her home and it wasn't safe. She said "Shalom" - goodbye, but I got the feeling that she also intended to use its other meaning - peace.



On the streets of Israel there is a deceptive air of "business as usual"

Under suspicion

Many of the remaining Iraqis in England are opponents of Saddam Hussein and the existing regime, but still face hostility and suspicion from the rest of the world. A young Iraqi studying in London explains his situation and his views on the war.

"My family left Iraq in 1979, about a month after Saddam Hussein came to power. It was already getting difficult. My father was a ranking member of the Ba'ath party, and there was an order that any member wishing to leave the party had to go into interrogation and usually faced execution. When he left, he came here, originally to study. When he felt it safe to, he applied for asylum. But we still face harassment by the Iraqi authorities.

Most of my immediate family are now here, the last member came here in August last year, through Lebanon rather than directly from Iraq. I still have uncles and cousins there, since it's a very big family, but we can't get in contact because my father is considered a traitor.

We applied for asylum for about three or four years, and kept getting refused. I had an uncle in the United Arab Emirates who was tortured for a period of 52 days. Amnesty international got him out, and this managed to prove our case. I now have political refugee status under the 1952 protocol, which isn't full asylum. They could send me back if they wanted to, but it would be very difficult.

Some people are suspicious of me. In the last couple of days, because I can't get a grant, I've been trying to get some part time work as an Arabic to English translator. As soon as you mention that you're an Iraqi they say that there's no more space. They can't even be bothered to send you an ap-

plication form.

Through customs I got hassled a lot for papers, documentation. I got asked about the contents of some books I had, some poetry. They were asking me what it all meant- it was difficult to explain that it was Eastern Philosophy!

A lot of the problems in the Middle East, when you stop to examine them, spring from within Israel and Palestine, and that conflict there. Even the Israelis will tell you that.

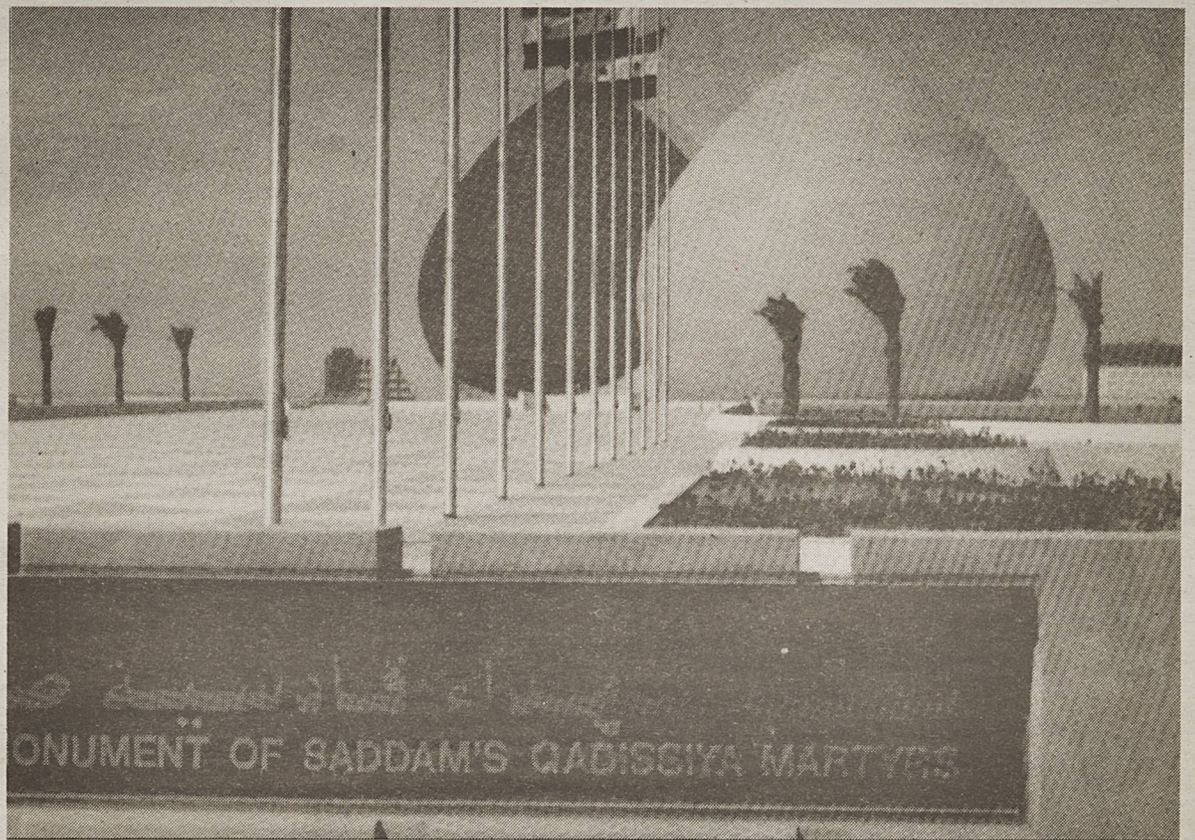
To address any problem you've got to start with what is happening there, and how the Palestinians are being treated.

I'm obviously against Saddam Hussein, but having said that doesn't mean that I'm in favour of America bombing the shit out of the Iraqis. It's condemning twenty million Iraqis to death because of the actions of one

"It's condemning twenty million Iraqis to death because of the actions of one man"

man, or of a party that's not even a majority party. The majority of Iraqis don't even support Saddam Hussein, but through fear and through the Iraqi system, he stays in power. People have been trying since 1979 to get him out of power, because some of them knew what was happening.

America and Britain and France were supporting Saddam Hussein throughout this period. Even in the late '70s there were orders being sent direct from Britain and America to execute such and such a person, who was, say, an active opponent of Saddam Hussein. He's been receiving his orders from these countries for such a long time and now he's at war with them. Certain things were being



dictated from Westminster and Washington, particularly during the war with Iran. I don't think the involvement of America and France in that war can be denied. Now the tables are turned because the Palestinian cause and Saddam Hussein's cause - whatever that is because it's very difficult to tell with Saddam Hussein - have become interlinked.

For a long time, since Nasser really, Arabs have been talking about Arab unity. And for a long time the Iraqis, or at least some Iraqis within the government, have been asking for Kuwait. But because of the Gulf States' support for Iraq in the war

against Iran, they've never actually gone ahead and done anything. Of course we need a conference. Yeah, many conferences.

I know quite a lot of Kuwaitis. I feel very bad about what my fellow countrymen are doing in Kuwait, but I don't see a war as solving anything.

I think it's quite right that the United Nations should get angry about it, but where have they been for the last fifty years when every U.N. protocol has been broken? All of a sudden, just because it's in the hands of America and the West, the U.N. is now acting. You've got to think about

what the U.N. stands for now. Where is it in South Africa, where is it in Israel, and where is it in the rest of the world? It's only when there's petrol at stake that the West needs for survival that the United Nations steps in. I have got faith in the U.N., but not for now, for the future maybe, because people are going to see what is wrong, and hopefully do something about it.

I don't really see myself as an Iraqi so much as an internationalist. It's like saying that your college is going to be hit by certain cuts, and only your college. Obviously it's got something to do with you, but only indirectly. I've always been anti the regime in Pretoria, but then that's got nothing to do with me as far as

nationality is concerned. On a humanitarian level, then it has got something to do with me.

There has been so much trouble in the Middle East and so much fighting, I think it's time for a lot of people to get together and do some talking. There's plans to get Jewish Societies together with Muslim Societies and secular Middle Eastern Societies and having conferences, so I'm hoping to be involved in that.

In the future I hope they talk properly instead of those so-called talks that they've been having recently, which have been totally

useless. I don't even think that these demos have had any positive effect - Vietnam went ahead in spite of the opposition.

Once the U.N. recognises that there is a connection running through the whole of the Middle East, and that a few variables depend on Israel and the other states, then something positive could

be sorted out. But until then we can't be too optimistic. Even if this war doesn't last long, then there could be another one. I mean Lebanon has been going on since 1979 still unsolved - and the essence of it seems to spring from 1948. I've known Jews in my time who also recognise that the Palestinians do have rights that aren't being recognised. But if we don't get that sorted out, then the area will always be unstable and this could go on and on".

"it's quite right that the United Nations should get angry about it, but where have they been for the last fifty years?"



Baghdad before the bombing

Kuwait : the reasons why

Two Kuwaiti students, **Maarit Kohonen** and **Amer al Baho**, give their views on the background to the war, and argue that there is more than simply oil at stake.

The United Nations Security Council resolution number 660 set the deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from the Emirate of Kuwait for the 15th of January. Never before in the history of the United Nations has one crisis produced so many resolutions in such a short space of time. The heightening tension in the Persian Gulf has reached a peak. Finally, the patience of the world community has been exhausted by Saddam Hussein's wilful violation of all the rules of international law.

On the 2nd of August 1990, when 140,000 Iraqi troops rolled into Kuwait with its mere 20,000 troops, much more was at stake than oil. The unprecedented build-up of foreign, largely Western forces in the Gulf, says much about the West's perception of its interests in the area. The scale of the commitment, its cost and the risks involved, suggest that the West in general and the US in particular feel that their vital interests are in jeopardy. The deeper origins of the crisis need to be examined in order to understand what is actually at stake in this highly explosive issue.

Two years after the end of the war with Iran, Iraq was left economically drained with a foreign debt of approximately \$80 billion, which has since increased considerably. On the other hand, Kuwait with its overseas investments worth over \$100 billion, has no foreign debt. Iraq in 1988 had a GNP per capita of \$3,021, while Kuwait had a much higher figure of \$13,159.

But in terms of size, the tables are turned. Iraq has an area of 480,000 km square, and a population of 17.2 million, while the Emirate of Kuwait has an area of just under 18,000 km square, and a population of 1.9 million, out of which only three quarters of a million are Kuwaiti.

On the 18th of July, Foreign Minister Tarek Aziz of Iraq presented a memorandum to the Arab League containing Iraq's claims on Kuwait. These "war aims" included:

- The release of \$10 billion worth of loans made by Kuwait to Iraq.
- The return of land allegedly stolen from Iraq, including the Rumaila oil field.
- Compensation for the allegedly stolen oil from this field.

• The immediate end of "imperial-Zionist" policies practiced by Kuwait.

• The establishment of an Arab Fund to finance Iraq's reconstruction "after she has spent eight years guarding the eastern gate of the Arab world against the Iranian threat."

A further bone of contention between Iraq and Kuwait are the islands of Bubyah and Warba, as well as some of the northern areas of the Emirate. These islands are important in providing Iraq with a vital outlet to the sea. Finally, the ultimate claim of Iraq is Kuwait herself. President Hussein has repeatedly justified the annexation as

"a child returning to her mother."

These demands are not to be taken at face value. Firstly, Iraq demanded that Kuwait cancel the \$10 billion debt because she is in desperate need of hard currency to finance her reconstruction programme. But more importantly Iraq needs the money to maintain the military might which has come to dominate the Gulf area.

Kuwait has also been accused of

exceeding its OPEC quota by approximately a quarter of a million b. p. d. with the aim of keeping oil prices low. This would have deprived Iraq of high oil revenues, and was interpreted by her as an "imperial-Zionist" plot.

In fact, Kuwait is known to be guilty of having exceeded its quota. However, Kuwait claims that this was done in order to increase oil revenue, rather than as any plot. Ultimately, Iraq claimed that all these alleged violations by Kuwait constituted a military threat to Iraq. This was the pretext for the invasion of August 2nd.

Saddam Hussein's claim that Iraq belongs, historically, to Kuwait, is based on the fact that under Ottoman rule, Kuwait was controlled from the Iraqi city of Basra. Hence, apparently, there should be no reason for Kuwait to exist as an independent country.

On the 1st of August 1990, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Sa'ad met Saddam's envoy in Jeddah, where Iraq outlined her grievances. The Kuwaitis agreed to negotiate over most of the demands on condition that Iraq drop the hostile accusation that Kuwait had stolen land and oil from Iraq. Iraq refused, but there was no hint of that there could be an invasion the following day.

The United States' quick response to the Saudi invitation is not simply

out of concern for Saudi Arabia. The following issues are also of great importance to the U.S. in the Middle East:

• The Gulf is the largest source of cheap oil for the industrialised world.

• Perhaps more important are the USA's strategic foreign policy interests in the area. America's foremost concern is to maintain a balance of power between the Arab states, which entails keeping

Iraq from acquiring hegemony.

• Another source of American concern is the defense of Israel, a key American ally, against Saddam Hussein. It should also not be forgotten that the military presence of the U.S.A. in the Gulf brings it into convenient geographical proximity

with the U.S.S.R., even though current superpower relations might make this seem to be of peripheral concern.

An interesting incident, with possibly fatal consequences, occurred when the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ms. April Glaspie met with Saddam Hussein on the question of Iraqi claims to the islands of Bubyah and Warba. She commented that the

U.S.A. does not have a policy on inter-Arab conflicts. This remark enabled Iraq to deliberately misinterpret American reaction, and Saddam Hussein referred to it as implicit American consent for his actions in Kuwait.

Consequently, it seems painfully obvious that the much used slogan "no blood for oil"

touches only the tip of the iceberg. The conflict between Iraq and Kuwait ceased long ago to be an affair between neighboring states concerned over oil supplies.

Nevertheless, it is likely that Saddam Hussein made gross miscalculations in assessing the international reaction to Iraq's violation of international law and conduct. The Soviet Union, by turning its back on an ally, caught President Hussein by surprise and thereby strengthened the West in its efforts against Iraq. By invading Kuwait nearly six months ago, Iraq challenged the status quo of the Middle East, upset the price of oil worldwide, and set the scene for the positioning of international troops in the region at the very brink of war.

"The build-up of foreign, largely Western forces in the Gulf, says much about the West's perception of its interests in the area"

"it seems painfully obvious that the much used anti-war slogan of 'no blood for oil' touches only the tip of the iceberg"



The Beaver

Union

YOUR

The Beaver



Jack

PAPER

NEEDS

gone, the LSE left is faced with one ma isn't Jack's tip for Tuesday) probler chants and slogans. Although for t Thatcher, Thatcher, Thatcher...Going, is sufficient, after Tuesday there ce problems. Fortunately, all the candi Conservative Party leadership race two syllable first names (Michael and two syllable surnames (Major) and so f classic chants. However, the proble couplets that both rhyme and scan for ter Heseltine has already got many reaching for their thesauri. The pro course, not be so great should Dougl

The meeting itself got off to an unusu SU Press and Self-Publicity Officer, (on Blockbusters once' Roberts giving l of 'The Red Flag' on a piano that som to have carelessly left lying around Theatre. Traditionally, the left mar political occasions with such songs. H a couple of the comrades on the LSE able to get passed the first line. This f greeted with a flurry of requests rangl Internationale' to 'It's My Party and I'll



Champagne socialism in action and one by US Judg



YOU

Nc Collective meetings 6p.m. Monday in the Cafe, or
Anl or pop into the Beaver office E205 anytime.
We need people to help with production (learn valuable Desktop Publishing Skills-no prior experience needed) and writers for News, Campus, Features, Arts, and Sports. Have opinions you want expressed? Write us a letter.

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Daphne Dare



WRITES

Fresh from the Christmas vacation, Daphne Dare (LSE graduate of 1938) returns to write her regular advice column on a topic close to the heart of the modern student.

THIS WEEK: VACATIONAL PURSUITS

Whilst taking a brisk walk about the campus today, as is my confirmed habit, before settling down to my Apple Macintosh SE word processor, I was most struck by the lethargy and sunken demeanor with which all too many of our younger students seem to greet the onset of the new term. Apparently the bright young things had spent all too much of the Yuletide festivities indulging themselves to excess in the somewhat dubious pleasures of the liquor cabinet. Such sloth amongst the student family would have been unthinkable in my own undergraduate days when we all returned to these splendid environs with hearty cheer in excited anticipation of the spring to come.

Of course, in those far off days it was wholly natural for we members of the Bloomsbury Townswomens Guild to exercise a hale and hearty constitution by engaging in the most thrilling vacation pursuits. How well I remember those balmy spring mornings when we Townswomens Guilders, Agnes Cunard, who bore the most striking resemblance to Hungarian starlet Vilma Banky, Reginald Sackville Truscott, race-goer and friend of Sir Oswald Mosely, and a rather rugged American dandy Waldorf W Whirlitzer III, set off in our charabanc for such splendid coastal resorts as Worthing, St. Leonards-on-Sea, and glorious Rotherhithe (now sadly redeveloped, much to the chagrin of we naturalists who thrived on the veritable abundance of wildlife thereabouts). As always we were gallantly chauffeured by Reggie who motored helter skelter all the way.

From it's formation, I was the Guild's medical and safety transport officer, training which served me well when Reggie, Agnes and I, fired by youthful exuberance and a deep set desire to do the decent thing packed our suitcases, purchased a disused milk float from the Allied and Imperial Dairies of Mile End and set off to drive an ambulance in the Spanish Civil War. There we were led by swarthy lothario and maverick French aristocrat Desiree Almond De Cognac, Comte D' Avis who was an inspiration to us all. Sadly the revolutionary fervour which so enamoured him to we young girls soon began to fade after leaving the radical arena of student politics and poor Desiree subsequently spent many years languishing on Devils Island following his rather too close collaboration with the Vichy government. Of course his predilection for the more athletic members of the local Hitler Youth did little to endear him to the judge at Nuremburg. Unfortunately, our intrepid quest for high principle and the humanitarian spirit came to an abrupt end when our valiant shire horse Pericles who had pulled us across half of Spain finally succumbed after a brush with a young filly in Andelucia proved too strenuous for his grand old heart. We returned home on the boat train.

Yet, such extraordinary adventures, whether they be motoring to Torquay in a charabanc or riding across the Iberian peninsula in a milk float, were the very stuff that kept up our peckers in the darkest hours of 1940 and proof I feel sure of the value of vacation pursuits.

Yours ever, *Daphne*

10 Things You Never Knew About 'The Beaver'

- 1 It's free.
- 2 It comes out on Mondays.
- 3 It's unique absorbent qualities make it useful for life's little emergencies.
- 4 The staff all sleep with each other (except me - sad).
- 5 Gary Lidington isn't 'Union Jack', neither is Chris Pincher... anymore.
- 6 Mick Jagger never wrote for it ('cause it didn't give him no satisfaction).
- 7 Daphne Dare was briefly engaged to Trevor Howard.
- 8 'The Beaver' is produced using 1 mega-byte Macintoshes running Aldus pagemaker 3.02 before being sent via Kermit link to a Linbtron100 typesetter at ULCC.
- 9 The Managing Editor is a very interesting person to talk to.
- 10 It is a large semi-aquatic rodent mammal whose normal habitat is the shores of North America. (how did that one get in? - Ed).

A week in THE

Every Monday afternoon, (usually) without fail, copies of the weekly LSE newspaper 'The Beaver' are made available for students to make free with, to consume and devour, indeed to do with what they want - heaven forbid some even get read. Stacked in large red bins, "borrowed" from various locations across the capital (the ones used that house those freebie magazines), 'The Beaver' is a free publication published on behalf of the LSE Student Union. A collection of news stories, campus articles, opinions, features, arts reviews, and sport; 'The Beaver' has just about something for everyone (except, of course, bird watchers and stamp collectors - but they're just too sad for words anyway).

Produced by the efforts of a number of selfless and dedicated students, and a few others as well, 'The Beaver' is a newspaper of the highest standard. Not surprisingly a lot of work goes into getting the finished product out on time every week. It's quite a challenge.

A typical week in the life of 'The Beaver' starts in typical fashion with...

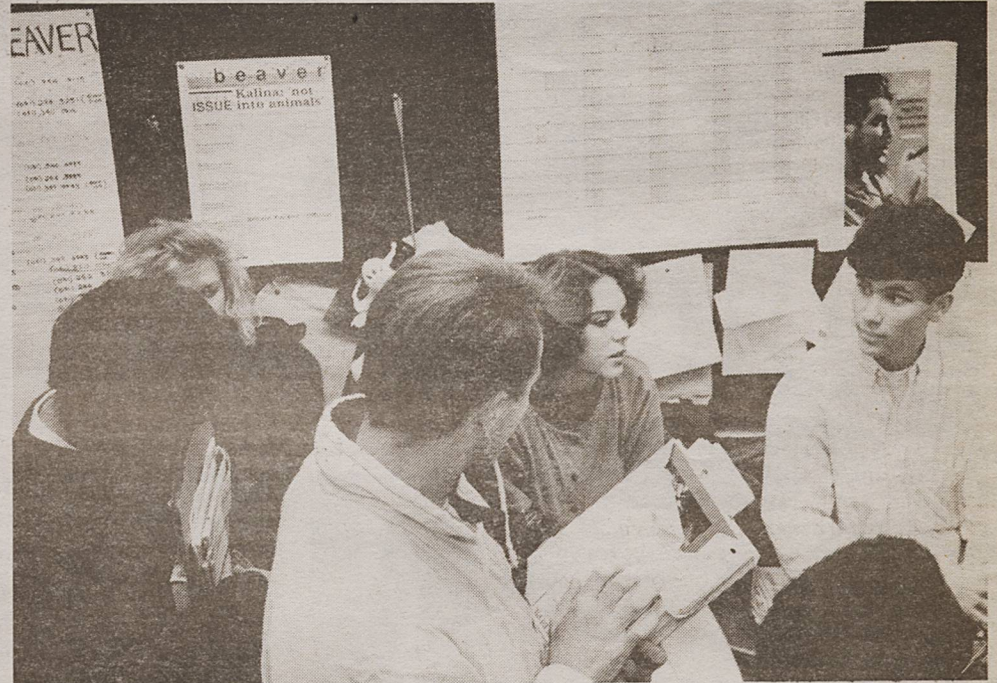
MONDAY (no surprises there)

A.M. The various section editors stagger into the Beaver office to collect a proof copy of the newspaper. These are meant to be read from cover to cover with the expressed purpose of commenting on and criticizing at an editorial meeting later in the day. Nice idea but rather fanciful. In reality this early edition is seldom read so comprehensively. It is more usual for each section editor to give the paper as a whole a cursory glance before settling down to the fifth reading of their own article.

2pm Little progression beyond the same article, each editor fumes over the number of typing errors that they failed to spot before going to print.

4.55pm Last minute preparation before the editorial meeting. Questions such as "what IS on the front page?" abound.

5pm The editorial meeting



Willing writers congregate at the weekly collective meeting

Photo: Alex McDowell

commences, as does the bullshit. This is a time of ritual backslapping and complementing of fellow editors whose pages each have only pretended to read. Searching questions by the Editor as to what each section editor enjoyed about a particular article are responded to in a suitably vague fashion, stressing the poignancy of the photo accompanying it, or the clever choice of headline.

6pm 'The Beaver' collective meeting, held on the top floor of the Cafe, gets underway. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend and volunteer ideas for articles or even volunteer themselves for an assignment. The editor usually says a few words and then the section editors says a few more. This is usually a plea for contributions and willing writers. The handing out of freebie tickets to review some Brechtian play, at some warehouse, somewhere in Islington is probably the highlight of this gathering.

6.30pm Some people go to the Three Tuns.

11pm Some people are still there.

TUESDAY

A.M. Work begins in earnest. Across the LSE campus writers everywhere are scribbling away,

Noon The first deadline for the submission of articles and diary entries expires. As usual the pigeon holes used for their



Mike Chappell; office hours Wed 1-2

Photo: Swaha Pattanaik



The sad people are hard at it

Photo: Alex McDowell

or at least trying to. The first sentence is always the worst...

In the meantime resident essayist Daphne Dare sets to work on her weekly advice column. At the ripe old age of seventy-four, Mrs. Dare (an ex-LSE student) is always punctual with her articles even to the point of word processing them herself. If only the Arts editor could expect the same of her band of reviewers...

11.15pm Someone, somewhere has just completed the first sentence of their article - it's downhill all the way now.

WEDNESDAY

A.M. Things are hotting up - the Editor opens a window.

collection remain as empty as a gathering of the 'Friends of Roger Whittaker Society'. Panic!

P.M. The rest of the day (and night) focusses on the 'Mac Room' (ie. Geek jargon for 'room in the basement housing Apple Macintosh word processors'). It is here that the various articles comprising the Arts, Features, and Campus pages are typed in and edited. Then, under the careful supervision of the Managing Editor, these are laid out on screen by a number of computer geeks (or 'sad people' as they are affectionately known). In these days of advanced technology and Desk Top Publishing only the best is used by 'The Beaver'!

While the layout team are

the life of BEAVER

beaver away with their graphic design, the various section editors rack their brains in search of those all important headlines and straps. Avoiding the obvious is the most difficult task - sadly "Union Crisis", "Rag Time", and "Mel Taylor Ate My Hamster" are all old hat these days. The task is challenging.

10pm A Tuns Run, ie. Someone runs to the Tuns, buys a few beers, and runs back again. (This, incidentally, would account for the huge collection of glasses still missing from the bar).

Midnight Some people go home, some stay.

THURSDAY

A.M. The heat is really on - the rheostat is turned down. Sadly there is still no front page story, but the News Editor remains calm. Alert, enthusiastic, pen at the ready he knows that at anytime, anywhere a story is bound to break.

12pm It hasn't.

1pm Slightly alarmed at this stage, the news staff stumble into the UGM hoping that a news story might unfold here. Mean-

and call of the production staff, ironing out any technical problems, it soon becomes clear that without the Managing Editor there would be no newspaper at all. During the course of Thursday evening the remaining pages (News, Opinions, and Sport) must all be completed and sent down the telephone line to the typesetters for printing. This astonishing feat of modern technology never ceases to bring tears to the eyes of those dedicated geeks. For them this is a new toy.

'Opinions' is probably the most fun page to work on - letters on all manner of controversial subjects engage the Editor, some are just a good laugh.

Late in the day the front page stories are finally written. Obviously something, somewhere - wherever that was - happened (and just as well).

Thursday night is also the turn of sport. 'Houghton Street Harry' does his usual bit while the Sports Editors get to work on editing the match reports of the weeks sports fixtures. What a good job these sporty boys do. Indeed, so dedicated to making

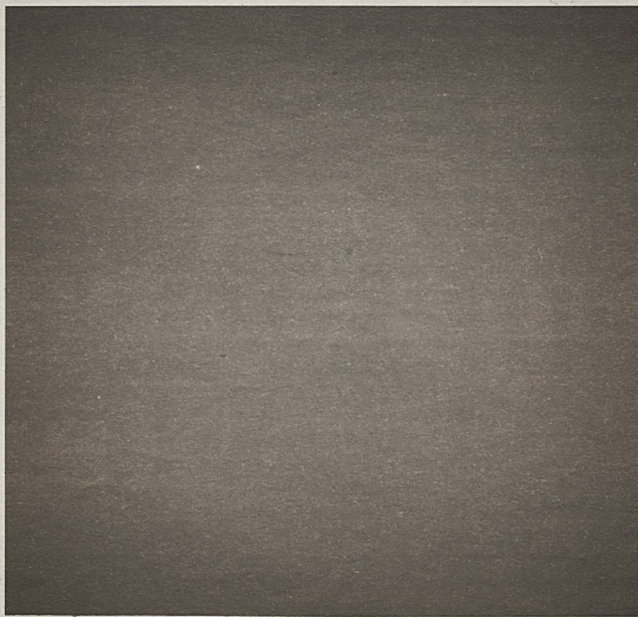


Photo Editor Alex McDowell in the Dark room

the doors to the St. Clements Building have been locked for the night. Getting to the Tuns involves taking a lift to the fourth floor, crossing the Brunch Bowl, through the bridge into the East Building and down to the bar -

happen), the man with the zoom lens patiently waits to see what develops. Nine times out of ten the results are a success - quite an accomplishment when you consider he does all this without the lights on.

FRIDAY

3am They're still there, in fact some of them stay until the morning.

A.M. (proper) The Photo Editor takes his newly developed snapshots off to be PMT'd. (PMT stands, of course, for Photo Magnetic Transmission). In other words, they get reduced in size.

P.M. The finished pages, returned from the typesetters, are pasted onto 'flats' along with the photographs by a bunch of people who enjoy messing around with glue. Last minute corrections are made before 'The Beaver' is put to sleep. Sadly some Beaver staff members manage to fall asleep before the paper is complete.

THE WEEKEND

If they did fall asleep it's back to the pasting board again!

MONDAY

A.M. the finished product is boxed up and sent off to the printers for return on masse sometime during the afternoon. And so begins another hectic week.

Michael Chappell



Managing Editor Peter Harrad demonstrates how to use the paste-up board

Photo: Alex McDowell

while 'Union Jack' (mystery columnist) records the noisy ongoings at the Union for his (or her) column.

P.M. Back in the Mac Room the Managing Editor supervises layout of the remaining pages. Frantically answering the beck-

his pages look pleasing, last years Sports Editor even credited the LSE rugby team with a win despite the fact that the report outlined how they had in fact lost.

10pm Another Tuns Run. These can be quite interesting if

and then back again of course. Try doing that without spilling a drop.

Meanwhile, in the dark room, the Photo Editor develops the prints that will accompany the weeks stories. Careful not to mix the wrong chemicals in his little dish (it has been known to



Outgoing Editor Simon Williams passes on some good advice to his successor Sarah Eglin

The Secret

diary

of an Undergraduate
aged 19³/₄

Monday 21st January: Dear Diary, went through the usual Monday morning syndrome today. Got up late, caught the wrong tube (ended up at Monument for some reason), missed my Sociology lecture, and it took me eight attempts to get through the library turnstile. Saw Pandora today sitting in the Cafe - she looked good enough to eat. I had a lentil pate roll. Went to the first of the Lionel Robbins Memorial Lectures at 5.30pm in the Old Theatre. Some bloke from Harvard University was talking on 'What is to be Done Now? Promoting Capitalism and Economic Prosperity in Eastern Europe.' Boring or what? I also enrolled today with the LSE Boxing Club (they meet in the Gym between 7-9pm). Those third years won't be giving me anymore trouble! The bank tell me that I am overdrawn - my "thingy" account is twenty pounds in the red. Must remember to do my laundry.

Tuesday 22nd January: Dear Diary, getting hassles from my tutor about not doing my essay, I've asked for a two week extension. Gave a class presentation this morning on the Protestant Work Ethic, the class all booted, including Pandora who said that it was a pity I had to give a class on something I knew nothing about, ie. work. Went to the Abortion Information Campaign meeting (C018, 5pm) and was made to feel really welcome. Sadly my overdraft grew again today, I'm keeping a wall chart.

Wednesday 23rd January: Dear Diary, got another Poll Tax demand this morning, I filed it with the others. I also got a letter telling me that I may already have won £20000 and a new Vauxall Astra - I'll wait and see. Decided to join the abortion picket outside the Irish Embassy, I met the other pro-lifers on the LSE steps at 12.15pm. Later on I went to the life drawing class organised by the Art Society in C018 at six. I was shocked to see Pandora there, I would never have agreed to model if I'd known she was coming. Got another rejection today. 'The Beaver' thought my article on 'laundry' was rather boring and did not merit a full page feature. My "thingy" (the unmentionable overdraft) grew again today.

Thursday 24th January: Dear Diary, had a blazing row with my flatmates today over the salami sausage. Gary said I shouldn't have eaten it - they're not meant for eating!?! I don't know what he does with them. Saw Pandora with my other flatmate making innocent conversation... so I flattened him (good job I'd joined the boxing club). Signed up for the East European Exchange outside the Old Theatre. Can't decide whether to go to Bucharest, Prague, Warsaw, or Moscow. After that I went to a talk organised by the Environmental Forum in A144 (5pm). Julian Bateson of the Nature Conservancy Council gave a talk on 'Nature Conservation - The Truth'. Had some free wine afterwards as well. The unmentionable peaked today - in some ways I'm quite proud!

Friday 25th January: Dear Diary, committed a bit of a faux pas. Tried to dry my wet socks in the microwave but only succeeded in burning holes in them. They smell nice though. At 1pm (in S75) I went to a lecture on 'Crisis in the USSR: Where to Now?' organised by the Workers Power Student Society. Speakers included Aleski Zverev, Don Filtzer, and Dave Hughes. Good stuff! Pandora refused to come with me, she said it was common. I think she's still angry with me for striking my flatmate. Dinner tonight was a little on the raw side. Can't seem to find those burnt socks I left in the microwave. The overdraft grew a bit longer today.

Saturday 26th January: Dear Diary, Tonight I went to the Tequila Party in the Three Tuns. Danced a bit, drank a bit, puked a bit. Me and the lads had a really good time (I left Pandora at home). My overdraft is now bigger than it's ever been. I wonder if I'll win that £20000 and the Vauxall Astra?

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR CAMPUS?

Please see Mike Chappell at collective meetings (every monday at 6p.m.) or in E205 at Wednesday lunchtime

Houghton Street Harry

Ben Johnson is back. Less than 30 months after striving his utmost to extinguish the ideal of the Olympic ethos, the Canadian athlete is once again competing on the track. The argument as to whether or not he should be allowed back into international competition has few agnostics. On the one hand, he cheated, got caught, paid the price and is now a free man. On the other hand, the argument goes rather further: he was caught cheating and should be barred from further competition. For a world class athlete, that is tantamount to life imprisonment.

It was right for Johnson to receive a harsh sentence, but the majority of public opinion - in this country at any rate - believes that he was lucky to be let off so lightly. Johnson has admitted that he was taking performance-enhancing drugs, and anabolic steroids in particular, over a period of at least six years between 1982 and 1988. The sole reason given for these activities was that he would be able to hold an unbeatable advantage over his opponents, especially Carl Lewis. His aim was realized, but he dope-tested positive after setting yet another 100 metres world record at the Olympic Games in Seoul. In the eyes of many, a life ban could have been the only satisfactory outcome to such an outrage. Doctors and lawyers may be barred from practice for committing acts of immorality; why not athletes? Instead, Johnson is free to compete, and is at present preparing for the World Championships in Tokyo later this year and for the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992. Johnson sees a realistic chance of "defending" both his 100m titles during these competitions. He may be two years older, and may have been kept away from serious opposition, but who is to say that he has not been continuing to administer banned substances while in exile?

It will no doubt be of great interest to see how he performs in the future, but as an athlete he will never again be looked upon in the same light; neither will athletics as a sport. Sometime between the moment a six-year-old boy rolled a loop during the opening ceremony and the moment Ben Johnson was branded a cheat in the 100 metres, the Games of the 24th Olympiad lost their innocence. And the watching world lost its perspective. It has yet to be regained. The boy and the sprinter were meant to have been symbols of a festival ballyhooed as being "beyond all barriers." Yoon Tae-Oong was chosen because he was born on the day Seoul was awarded the Games, to spin his hoop in a gesture suggesting the oneness of the human race and the circles of the Earth and of an Olympic ring. He was flawless. Johnson was the opposite - hero to dope in a single day.

Precious little has been done since then to repair athletics' loss of reputation. The Johnson incident - the tip of the iceberg - revealed to the world what those inside athletics had known and tried to hide for many years. Athletics, that last bastion of "amateurism", had fallen foul of the competitive and lucrative nature of modern sport. Although the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) were at pains to assure the public - and their sponsors - that the issue of drugs in athletics had been "exaggerated out of all proportion", they were also unable to deny that out of the world's top league athletes 30 to 40 per cent were probably guilty of having taken performance-enhancing drugs at some stage.

Random dope testing is, at best, random. It is by no means an effective method of dissuading athletes from cheating. Two ideas have been put forward to suggest how the problem might be resolved. The first proposes that top athletes should be obliged to be tested every month. It is known to take approximately four weeks for traces of steroids to be flushed out of the body; a monthly test would make taking steroids a very risky career option. This idealistic approach has run into problems, such as the definition of a "top" athlete, the problem of restricting testing to chosen athletes only and the cost in terms of time and money. It would unarguably be a costly project, but cost alone is not an adequate reason for failing to throw the net over a wider area. Moreover, money spent on improving athletics' image and reputation might be money well spent.

The second suggestion assumes the first would never work, and is highly controversial. It proposes that with the exception of drugs such as caffeine and ginseng, which have short-term effects, the use of drugs should not be banned. Instead, athletes would be free to choose whether or not they want to inject themselves with all sorts of chemicals - manufactured drugs have been used by athletes for at least 25 years and there are now more than 5,000 substances to choose from - while the IAAF would be left with the task of bringing home to its members the possibly harmful and potentially fatal effects such activities might induce. This suggestion argues that at present nothing is being done to sort the drugs problem in athletics and even if action was taken that it would be unproductive. Rather than brush the problem under the carpet, it should be held up and embraced.

Such a radical proposal is unlikely to come to much, but nevertheless it highlights the very obvious fears some have as to whether the problem of drugs will ever be eliminated. It is also a realization that no matter what is done, the public should be convinced that those in authority in athletics do not condone the immorality of cheating. Only this can prevent athletics from turning into the meaningless pursuit of unrecognized goals.

Leagues apart

LSE basketball and English football suffer from a gulf in class

L.S.E. 1st..... 85
U.L.U..... 94

At the end of last term half of our squad left the team to return to the U.S. Many thanks is due to them as they helped us to get through to the last eight of the U.A.U. national finals. In a very close game on the last Wednesday of term, we beat the University of Essex 88 to 86. Despite some problems with the refereeing and going behind at one point, we battled hard and won.

The national finals are to take place at the end of this month. It has therefore been necessary to recruit more players in the first week of this term. On the Friday before the game we had a one hour practice. The next day (the first Saturday of term) we had to play the U.L.U. team. They compete in a different league from us and have been national champions on a number of occasions.

We started off strongly and initially kept up. As the first half progressed our defence fell apart and they took full advantage of that. By the end of the half we were down by 19 points.

In the second half we began to penetrate their defence. With outside shooting, six three point shots by L.Romano and four by J.Meskin, and a change in our own defence we were able to come within three points of them. Unfortunately, our luck deserted us and they pulled away again to win by nine. Even so, we did outscore them by 10 points in the second half which is a good sign for the tournament.

If we play this well at the nationals we could come in the top four. We have one more game and a few more practices. A few changes may be made to the line up but essentially we have a very good nucleus. This team could go a long way with some hard work. The U.A.U nationals are being held at the University of Reading on Friday the 25th of January with one game in the evening, and two on Saturday the 26th. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The line up: R. Grieff, M. Thompson, J. Vogel, P. Solomon, L. Romano, B. Oduffy, G. Pope, R. Dickinson (Captain), J. Young, J. Meskin, J. "One Way" Briano, and P. Paraniakas.

Italian League 3
English League 0

In front of a crowd of only 10,000 in Naples, this contest lacked the bite of real competition. The host representative won by a margin made convincing only by appalling English defending.

The Barclay's League team started strongly but wasted good chances; the main culprit was Arsenal's Swedish jewel, Anders Limpar. However, the gulf in class soon shone through as the "Italians", featuring the likes of Matthaus, Van Basten and Careca, punished their opponents with slick finishing. The Dutchman and the Brazilian struck twice in a two minute blitz within the first half hour, first when Glen Hysen and then Mark Wright failed to do justice to their international reputations by gifting their opponents with two simple chances.

The game was put beyond the "English" in the 65th minute when the Argentine Simeone, one of the emerging Latin talents, scored with a crisp drive from outside the box.

The idea of a match between these two leagues is a good one, since both the English and Italian leagues consist of a bounty of quality international players. However, the promotion of the match could be vastly improved in both countries, as could the quality of the players involved. A representative English League team could have done with the services of Gascoigne, Lineker and Platt and the Italians couldn't have been worse off with Zenga, Baresi, Brehme, Gullit and possibly even Maradona in their ranks.

By H. Zaman



LSE hockey first team in action against King's College

Photo: Alex McDowall

Shoe-strings and whippings

Despite the enthusiasm for tennis at the LSE, severe organizational limitations exist. This is primarily due to the fact that the LSE doesn't have any tennis courts of its own, but also because of the budgetary constraints imposed on the tennis club at the School.

Although tennis has the second largest membership in the Athletics Union, after squash, it receives the second lowest budget. There are enough funds to finance only the first team of eight players even though ample talent exists to establish a competitive second team. Last year the team had to

pay ten pounds each to stay in bed and breakfast hotels every time they played away against other university teams.

At present three courts in Lincoln's Inn are used for the team who have now reached the semifinals of the UAU winter championships, having qualified from a round-robin group consisting of Imperial, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

The financial squeeze hampers the organization of tournaments and social events thereby limiting the involvement of the other 130 odd members who do not belong to the first eight.
Z. Taylor (Tennis Captain)

L.S.E. 1st XI..... 2
K.C.L. 1st XI..... 6

The team's first match this term was played in Wapping within sight of Tower Bridge, although the situation on the pitch was not as pretty soon after the start. Despite the fact that KCL could only muster 10 men, their superior class soon told on the score. One member of the opposition - Andy Thompson - is the younger brother of the Great Britain forward. By half-time the LSE was down 3 goals to 1, Hector having maintained

his customary successes at short corners. After half-time KCL struck back with two of their own, as well as an open play goal. Jes replied in kind. It is good to see the hockey team in good heart, despite the lack of success this season. A bit of confidence in their own abilities would not go amiss, however, as the Hockey Club is once again going on tour to Jersey this holiday to participate in a week-long international tournament there. Anyone interested, male or female, is asked to contact Hector in the AU office.