

# BEAVER

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## 'Goodbye'

This is the last 'Beaver' to be produced under my editorship. Next term Lis Faulkner will be taking over, though some of the old team will be continuing in service.

To those who thought 'Beaver' to be overdull our answer is that recently LSE has been apathetic and that a paper reflects to a large extent the context in which it is written.

It is easy to sit and criticise in the safety of Florries, brilliant concepts however, do not usually work in practice — and certainly not without a lot of hard work. If however you feel you have something positive to contribute, how about coming along and helping out, everyone is welcome.

Happy Christmas readers wherever you are.



## What's Inside

Houghton Street, pictures and comments with a little analysis.

Nurses—slaves of a 19th Century ideal.

Apocalypse—on defence, the green bomber, how to avoid rape and the personal ad section.

What's it like to be a Nun at L.S.E.

Reviews, Sport, etc.

## The failure of militancy

by Tom Munch-Petersen

Few would deny that, at present, the political life of the Students Union is stagnating and trivial. A moderate Council faces a Union meeting dominated by a revolutionary rump which seems to have no policy except to thwart Council. Very little is accomplished and sterile bickering is the order of the day.

And yet most students are in broad agreement that students should have a bigger say in the running of the School. Why then has the

### present situation arisen?

I believe it has come about from false conclusions being drawn about the past history of LSE and from false analogies being made between the situation in England and abroad.

First, there was the Adelstein-Bloom affair, which ended in a successful sit-in at LSE. Then, there were the convulsions at universities in West Germany, France and the United States.

On the Continent, an auto-

cratic system of professorial domination persisted which held students in a restricted and stifling role, while in the States that country's peculiar social tensions, and above all the Vietnam war aroused the passionate involvement of students.

The results were the same on both sides of the Atlantic—a student revolt which achieved a certain measure of success.

In France, the "evènements" of May 1968 led to considerable university reform, and

in the States student protest made a big contribution to causing the present floundering attempts at extrication from South Vietnam.

### Marxist minority

This background of events at home and abroad led to a small Marxist minority being able to persuade a significant number of people that the adoption of similar tactics would achieve the sort of student participation in the administration of LSE which liberal and social de-

mocratic students believed in.

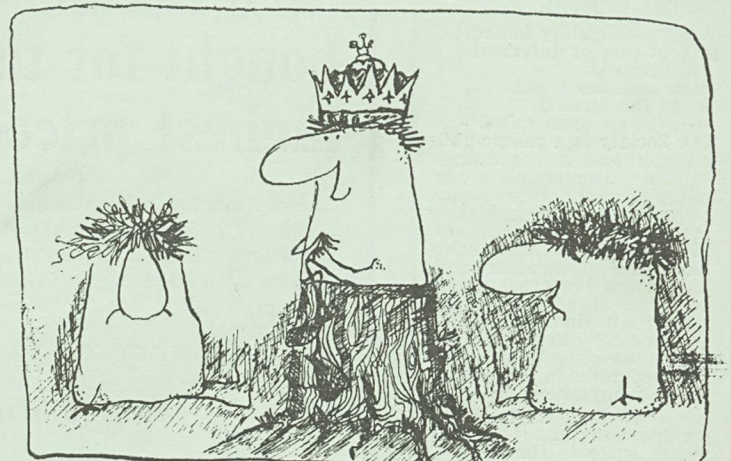
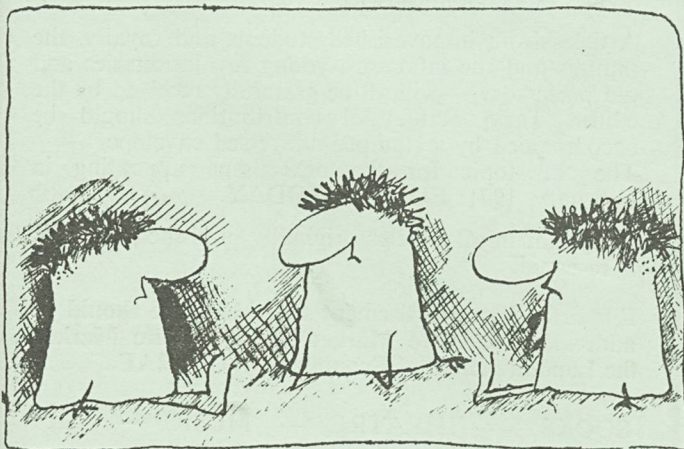
(It is pertinent to add that while participation was the aim of such students, some of the revolutionaries whose lead they followed were merely determined on disruption for its own sake).

However, the situation at LSE was different from that in other countries. The sit-in over the suspension of Adelstein and Bloom had succeeded because the authorities by a gross case of autocracy and ham-fistedness

had outraged the ordinarily apathetic student and alienated liberal opinion.

The university system in England is far more open than on the Continent, and cannot sufficiently frustrate the average student for him to support violent action against the authorities. The scattered nature of London University makes any real unity of action among colleges difficult, so that each must stand alone in times of crisis.

continued on p. 3



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# EDITORIAL

## On take-over bids

Once upon a time the Else Valley was an uninhabitable, marshy waste, the haunt of peabrain ducks. That is, until the Beaver Dam Project was completed.

The dam controlled the flow of water, directing it in useful ways to the people who could now farm the area, and establish industries. The valley grew prosperous and people moved there from far and wide.

It so happened that a company called the Anarcho Shredding Syndicate, who were facing commercial bankruptcy owing to the failure of various logging projects elsewhere, looked avariciously on the virgin forests lying untouched below the dam, which they could lay bare with such ease. But because the dam hindered the flow of water, their efforts were thwarted in floating the logs down-river to the shredding plant. The dam had to go!

At a closed shareholders' meeting of the Beaver Dam Project they secured a majority vote in a bid to take the dam over. The people of the valley, meanwhile, ignorant of the possible threat to their well-being. Only the local lawyer, Mr. Lib. E. Rals Jnr., and a few sympathisers, realised what was afoot.

They tried to arouse the local people and make them

understand the danger. But in vain! There was only one thing they felt they could do—take the case to the Supreme Court.

Both sides prepared a case. The A.S.S., with its money and friends, had little difficulty in persuading some members of the Supreme Court of the propriety of Big Business development of the area.

The Supreme Court, in recognition of the public spiritedness of Mr. Rals' stand, decided to set up a new management of the Beaver Dam Project, figure-headed by Mr. Rals, but with an A.S.S. dominated Board.

The results were obvious. The A.S.S. people persuaded Mr. Rals that the valley needed more water, and to increase supplies it would be a good plan to knock a hole in the dam. Mr. Rals was in no position to disagree.

The hole was made. The people of the valley could see no difference at first. Another hole was made, and another. The water in the valley rose slowly, and they noticed that the ground became more fertile, enabling them to grow more crops, establish more industries, and grow more prosperous. The new board of the Beaver Dam Project was praised for bringing new life and energy to the Else Valley.

The A.S.S. people knocked more and more holes in the dam.

The water in the valley rose higher, and began to flood the fertile land. But the people ignored it. They still remembered the great prosperity the new Beaver Dam Project board had brought them.

Meanwhile, the Anarcho Shredding Syndicate were floating trees down-river as fast as they could, and raking in the dollars. But they could make even more if the dam came down completely.

Plans for the final demolition were set for a cold spring morning, a day which coincided with a visit to A.S.S. Holdings in Else Valley, by certain interested members of the Supreme Court.

10 a.m., and the final hole was knocked in the Beaver Dam's structure. The pressure of water was too great, and in a fearful roar, millions of tons of water gushed over the Else Valley. The A.S.S. works were splintered; the inhabitants of the valley, and visiting members of the Supreme Court were all drowned.

In three days the Else Valley became an uninhabitable marshy waste, the haunt of peabrain ducks.

Moral: *Après Lib, E. Rals, le deluge.*

## IR is your business as well

Dear Editor,

Too many school members of other departments, International Relations is thought of as little more than esoteric history or Diplomatic journalism.

Those who are more informed know better.

They know, for example, that it embraces aspects of Sociology, Social Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, Government, Cybernetics, Statistics and Law. You name it, we do it.

Some weeks ago at the AGM of the Grimshaw Club (The International Relations Departmental Society) the idea was proposed of inaugurating a Journal.

The journal would concentrate on topics of international interest covering a wide range of issues, drawing for inspiration on specialist knowledge from as many departments as possible.

Those of you who have read 'Insight' and 'Interstate', published by the University of Sussex and UCW (Aberystwyth) will probably have an idea of the kind of magazine we are interested in organising at LSE which incidentally boasts the largest IR department in the country.

So this is by way of an open invitation to interested persons of all Departments to attend a meeting on Friday, December 11 at 5.30 in

the New Theatre, where the whole issue will be debated. It is hoped that a sufficient number of students, undergraduate and graduate and staff, with ideas, experience and the inclination, will 'emerge' to form the nucleus of an editorial body.

Initial response from the IR Department has so far been encouraging, but to labour the point, IR is a subject which is your business as well as ours.

If you think SALT is stuff you sprinkle on chips for example, you have much to learn, and a Journal of the kind envisaged is one way to find out, so come along on the 11th.

Tony Bannister.

## LETTERS

### Men's liberation

Dear Martha,

I am writing in protest at your publication of John Morton's witty comments on Men's Liberation in the last edition of **Beaver**.

I am amazed that you should see fit to support humourists who get cheap laughs at the expense of such an important movement as Women's Liberation when I am sure you and your male colleagues would consider in bad taste similar attitudes at the time of Emmeline Pankhurst.

All I can say is that Mrs. Pankhurst and her crew achieved less than is commonly supposed.

Yours faithfully,

Annie Mansfield.

### Mind Bogglers

Dear Martha,

As a former member of the editorial staff and contributor to 'Beaver', I would like to draw your attention to what can only be described as a lamentable decline in the quality of your paper. I am referring, of course, to the printing.

In view of the fact that Beaver is heavily subsidised by the Union, can you justify the appalling show through of red ink on page two? And what about the quality of the photograph on page four? But the mind boggles when one reads on page eight "Academia in Experiments" (**Experimentis?**). No doubt too, your theatre critic will not take kindly to the assertion in his article

on Joyce's "Exiles", that "the characters remain unrealistic" (**unrealised**, of course)—not his, for I saw the play with him.

One could cite further instances of this sort of thing, but enough is enough.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Tuckett.

**Dear Mike, I am as embarrassed as the rest of Beaver staff about the last issue, and have taken the matter up with the printers. Ed.**

### Anna Sokolow ballet

Dear Editor,

Your otherwise excellent ballet critic has made one statement which should not be allowed to go unchal-

lenged. He or she states that Anna Sokolow "became famous for her choreography of **Hair** on Broadway". Of course, there is 'famous' and 'famous', but, in fact, Anna Sokolow was famous in some circles in the late-1930's for her choreographies which, deriving from the method of Graham, were applied to social and political themes (this should be of considerable interest to readers of **Beaver**), including ballets on the Spanish civil war and Italian fascism. By the mid-1950's Sokolow had a worldwide reputation: this world doubtless excluded little England, which has only recently really discovered the varieties of modern dance which it applauds with a distasteful lack of discrimination.

I am grateful to your reviewer for the information that Opus 65 is in one of the current programmes.

Percy S. Cohen.

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BOOKS — THEATRE — MUSIC — ART



## More Than Nun - A sister-student looks at LSE

Apparently some people are either intrigued, fascinated or stunned at seeing nuns walk around fully garbed at LSE. No doubt the novelty will soon wear and those black figures which suddenly emerge from lifts or are seen dashing across Houghton Street (to avoid the traffic) will soon be commonplace.

And why not? Surely at LSE "anything goes"? One wonders what must have the greatest impact, a nun on the LSE or LSE on the nun!

### FIRST CONTACT

For many it is undoubtedly their first contact with a Sister and they are presented with an enigma. A co-student recently confronted me with the terrible reality — there were people who were actually afraid of me; the traumatic experience undergone by some in my presence was, in his own words "like suddenly meeting a tiger". Not very complimentary, I must say, and I trust he was mistaken. My own personal experiences do not confirm this view, but whatever the case, I assure everyone that nuns do not bite!

That black may be equated with a policeman's uniform is unfortunate and one must also realize that in a place such as LSE, hall-marked by the Gay Libs, the Anarchists etc., etc., the presence of a person whose values are the very antithesis of theirs, can be disconcerting for some.

As for myself, was I bewildered at suddenly finding myself in the most liberal seat of learning of the country and among extremely liberal thinkers? Perhaps the best reply to this question is that, believe it or not, LSE was my first choice; This does not of course imply that a certain degree of adaptation was not needed. But this would surely apply to all Freshers? However, a nun's

integration into college life, particularly when continuing to live within her own religious community, can obtain for a certain degree of duality.

By this I do not mean that college and convent life are incompatible. But to follow a heavily loaded course and keep within a rather exacting schedule (up at 6 a.m., an hour's meditation and Mass every morning before leaving for College, with an additional half an hour's prayer on returning home, plus the running of a Saturday Youth Club) can be pretty heavy going when there is no ulterior motivation. I do not find it difficult — when you do something because you want to you enjoy it! Rather than an external imposition it is an accepted way of life. Sacrifice? Call it what you will; the important thing is to be happy in what one is doing. I am.

What were my first and subsequent impressions of LSE? Fortunately I was unwaived by the bad image inflicted on the college by the mass media and, thank God, came to LSE with an open mind. My first contact was through the administrative staff, whom I found extremely friendly and helpful; it is to them that I owe my initial impression of the warmth and good humour of the college. This impression has carried through into the first term. The same applies to the members of the academic staff who interviewed me and who were all so encouraging and made one feel that perhaps one was not such a block-head after all!

### GETTING INVOLVED

There is within the School an atmosphere of great vitality, liberality, and a fair degree of solidarity — witness to this the fines' collection, the concern with the underprivileged, the Third World, the Pakistani victims,



yes, and Industrial Relations Bill. There is always something happening: lectures, meetings, concerts in the Founders' Room, films, jazz concerts . . . with Unions covering almost every religious creed and cultural activity, (except art, surprisingly enough), one could not expect otherwise. However, LSE is no place for the introvert, who could, I imagine, easily go through his three year's degree course in complete isolation, should he wish to do so. Here, in order to survive, one needs to be open and outgoing in one's relationship with others, and this can be very enriching. In a place where such a vast variety of people from different races, creeds and cultures come together, there is so much one can give and receive from others. I have already met some very wonderful people, not only among the staff and students of my own department but also from other departments — Industrial Relations, Linguistics, Law, History, Geography, Social Admin. etc.

This may sound altogether too idealistic and Utopian to some, particularly to those who are militating for greater student participation. I sympathise with them, for I realise how easy it is for the majority, too involved with their studies and personal interests, to shirk their obligations towards each other, leaving the decision-making in the hands of a few, yet but quick to criticise when their interests are not taken into account. Yes, my impressions may appear extremely benevolent, but surely beauty is in the eye of the beholder. My eyesight may deteriorate with time but at present it is fine. I admit, no society, organization, group or individual is perfect, or can ever hope to be; we all have our faults and none of us is above criticism. However, allowing for this fact, I still find that my favourable impressions of the college far outweigh the unfavourable ones. As I said, LSE was my first choice. *Jene regrette rien!*

Zoe Williams

## B.Sc. (Econ) Revisited

**Reforming the BSc Econ is a permanent feature of School life. In my fifteen years here I have lived with two different degrees — many of my colleagues have lived with three. Reform is fashionable now: it is a good thing if it leads to real improvement: and a very bad thing if undertaken without much thought and without the preservation of all that is good well in mind.**

Few of us who teach for this degree can fail to be aware of two facts: that for each criticism on one side advanced by students, there are often as many advocates for the other side; and, that many criticisms advanced in the first or second years are often withdrawn or substantially modified by the third year, because by that time the degree is seen as a whole, and its component parts fall into perspective.

My personal view is that the BSc Econ exhibits four features of great excellence, and I should be sorry to see any reform which seriously undermined any one of them.

- 1 It is intended to be, and usually is, a general liberal education for those whose primary concern is with the social sciences. In that respect it is the opposite of what used to be fashionably known as the "two cultures" situation.
- 2 While training students in the analytical approach it does not neglect the historical approach. Both are essential for a well trained mind. Hence, the need for the degree to include, whatever the ultimate specialization, both History and Economics, as well as Politics which often combines the historical and analytical approaches.

3 It avoids over-specialization, and yet at the same time offers the specialist (usually in six papers out of eight in finals) a thorough grounding in his chosen field.

4 It provides for a whole year, — the second — free of examinations.

I know that those reeling under the impact of doing eight papers in a row often lament that the final examination is not divided between the second and third years. Finals are certainly an ordeal.

But — it is the same ordeal for all, and we have all had to go through it in our time. While the second year free of examinations is recognized by very many students with whom I have discussed the question as a unique and invaluable opportunity for wider and deeper reading than actual preparation for an examination makes possible.

### WIDEST CHOICE

This said, there are many minor reforms which could be of advantage and which require consideration. Many of them would achieve the aim of sound reform: improvement, without the loss of basic virtues.

For example, I think there could be more flexibility over options, and in some specializations subjects at present compulsory could possibly become optional. The principle should be: the widest possible choice, within a minimum framework which determines the character of the degree.

Similarly, no doubt there is room for new options in some specializations. I should like to see some changes in examining, perhaps. We should make more use of the viva (as the Government Department already does).

Perhaps we should introduce an essay in place of one of the papers — though opinions vary whether this should be an essay paper; or a short dissertation written at home (a "mini-thesis", as we call it in the Government Department, after the late lamented mini-skirts).

There are many more such matters which have been or could be suggested and discussed. Some of them could lead to solid improvements, but would not, like some more radical suggestions which I have heard advanced, have the effect of throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Tom Munch-Petersen

Leonard Shapiro

## Militancy

(Continued from p.1.)

England also has peaceful, democratic traditions and a relatively unrepresive state apparatus, compared to Germany and France, and no really burning political issues like those which exist in the United States.

Revolutionary tactics were thus unable to arouse real grass-roots support among students either at LSE or other colleges, and isolated militants from the liberal opinion, whose initial support had done so much for French students in 1968.

### Failure of Disruption

The inapplicability of the tactics of the 1967 sit-in or of students abroad to achieving participation at the LSE was shown during the 1968-69 session. Here was an at-

tempt to achieve student power by disruption.

It failed. The militants were never able to break out of the position as a significant but nonetheless small minority.

Possibly the student body was strengthened to some extent by focussing attention on our grievances and producing a heightened awareness that something should be done about the "student problem". But beyond that, in securing any say in the running of the School, failure was complete.

The result has been the situation outlined in the first paragraph of this article. The majority of students, who either never supported disruptive tactics or have realised their futility have to some extent become disillusioned with the possibilities of

students having a meaningful role in the administration of the college, and have dropped out (hence the great fall in attendance at Union meetings), but would, no doubt, become pretty active if disruption was threatened again.

Some, at least, of this majority turn out at elections to return a moderate, reformist Council. The militants have learned nothing.

Caught in the straight-jacket of a Marxist ideology, which admits of only one strategy but sensing they are too weak to pursue it actively, they exercise a stranglehold on Union meetings, only by the sufferance of the apathetic majority.

### End Stagnation

The problem facing Union today is how to end the stag-

nation. Clearly disruption has failed and it must be replaced by a strategy of working through the existing structure and by negotiation.

I believe that the academic staff and the administration accept the inevitability and perhaps the desirability of student participation (though not as much of it as students want).

Equally clearly, the offer of representation would be a significant step towards securing a larger student voice in LSE affairs, and a foundation upon which more could be built.

The present tussle over representation presents an opportunity of adopting a more realistic approach to politics at the LSE but success or failure on this point will not be deceived.

If representation is not





The lines are drawn on Houghton Street.



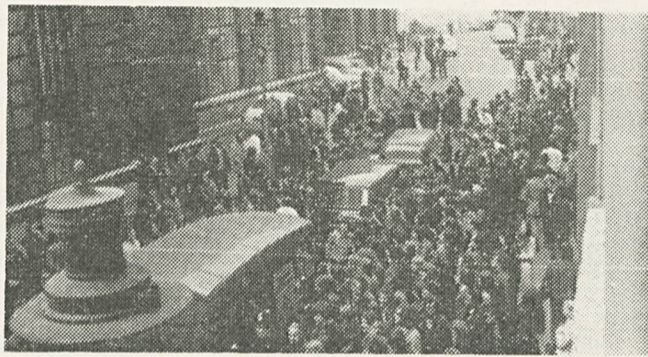
Taxis feel the squeeze.



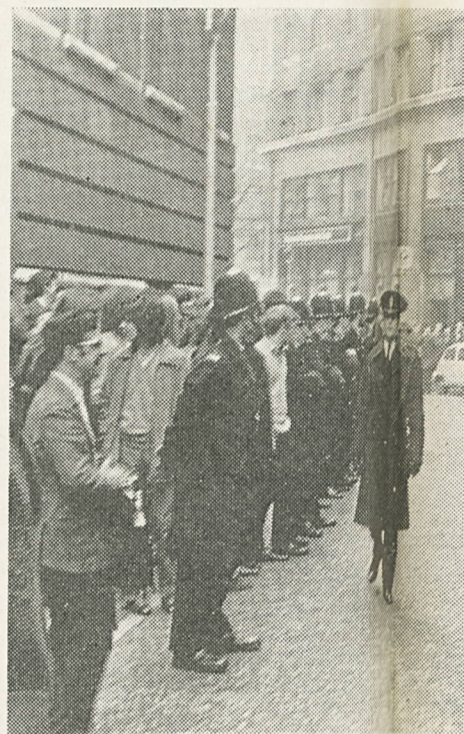
Streets for the people. I Sutton, Bob Dent, Gareth F and Andrew Hickley on barricade.



The street closed.



Traffic was impeded to 1/16 of normal flow.



Waiting for G

## THE DEMOS HOUGHTON ST., REVISITED

### The theatre of politics

Statement issued by Westminster City Council 27 November 1970:

"The Council has not been consulted by LSE or students concerning difficulties arising from Houghton Street traffic. If they wish, the question of road safety in the street can be considered by the Road Safety Advisory Committee, which will meet on 8 December. In the last four years, no road accidents have been reported by the police."

LSE Information Sheet of 30 November 1970:

"Representations have been made on three separate occasions by the School and by the Union to several authorities about the street problem. In 1959 the School conferred with the then LCC, Westminster City Council and the Ministry of Works. In 1967 Union approached directly the Ministry of Transport which referred it to the GLC, the competent traffic authority. In February 1968 the School had talks with the GLC

traffic management (West) sub-committee."

The Westminster statement in reply was that consideration could be given to the formation of a traffic-free precinct to the Lincoln's Inn Fields area, including Houghton Street. A traffic survey would be the necessary first step, but because of Christmas traffic the earliest feasible time for such a survey would not be until February 1971. LSE Information Sheet:

"A traffic survey was conducted by members of the Geography Department in March 1968, who informed the GLC of their findings. The GLC argued that any alteration to the existing one-way system would have 'serious' effects on traffic 'elsewhere'."

How serious is serious?

The 1968 survey showed that: about 85 per cent of the traffic using Houghton Street sought not access, but a short cut to Holborn Circus via Portugal Street, Carey Street, Chancery Lane and Fetter Lane. About 25 per cent of the 'recorded' traffic was in fact

taxis, the remainder including private cars and commercial vehicles.

The total traffic flow showed an average of 200 vehicles per hour using the Street; during the peak hour 9-10 a.m., something like 360 vehicles used the Street.

The 1962 London Traffic Survey conducted by the Metropolitan Police and Council authorities indicates that the traffic density in the lower Aldwych area was over 3,000 vehicles per hour. If allowance is made for improvements in traffic flow achieved by a great extension of the Central London one-way system in the past eight years, the GLC might well argue that the 3,000 vehicles per hour figure is 'unrealistic'.

The counter-arguments would indicate, however, that:

3,000 per hour is a very conservative estimate, since a total of 80,000 vehicles per 24-hour period was recorded; how many London streets carry 3,000 vehicles per hour from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.?

In the past eight years, the

traffic density has increased over London generally, and especially in the central area, leading to even higher densities than were recorded in 1962.

Thus, on the basis of the above figures, closing the Street would divert an extra 200 vehicles per hour into a 3,000+ stream, much of which cuts up Chancery Lane anyway. In their pamphlet "Tomorrow's London", background to the Greater London Development Plan, the GLC say, "Planning Is For People".

Dear GLC: 300+ people in Houghton Street every day would like you to plan for them too—by closing it to traffic—PDQ.

### The politics of theatre

November 26 and 27. You've read all about it in your value-free Telegraph, Mirror, Standard, etc.

The pictures speak for themselves. Are you there? Students closed Houghton for four hours. The point was made, and made well.

If you weren't 'there' should have been. You doubt be pleased to know 'Beaver' staff were in thick of it—mobbing, lining, jeering, blocking, n shoving, chanting, broad ing, charging—along with rest.

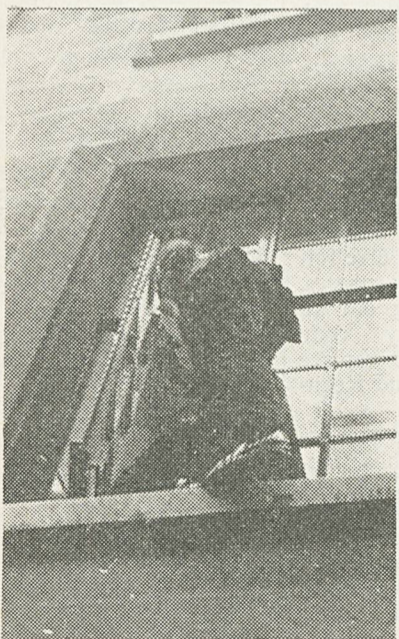
Spare a thought though the gallant few arrested. enthusiasm and bad luck the part of one and all.

### Aftermath

The fight goes on.

The school is preparing submission to the authorities seeking the closure of Houghton Street and Clare Market on amenity grounds. So the Director had endorsed action taken, but had pointed out that the School could condone 'overt' violence. Walter Adams has said publicly that the school is prepared to go as far as a Planning Inquiry, if that be necessary.

As if Kleenex architecture isn't enough, we have to daily the structural violence committed by our schizophrenic institution—so goodnight School!

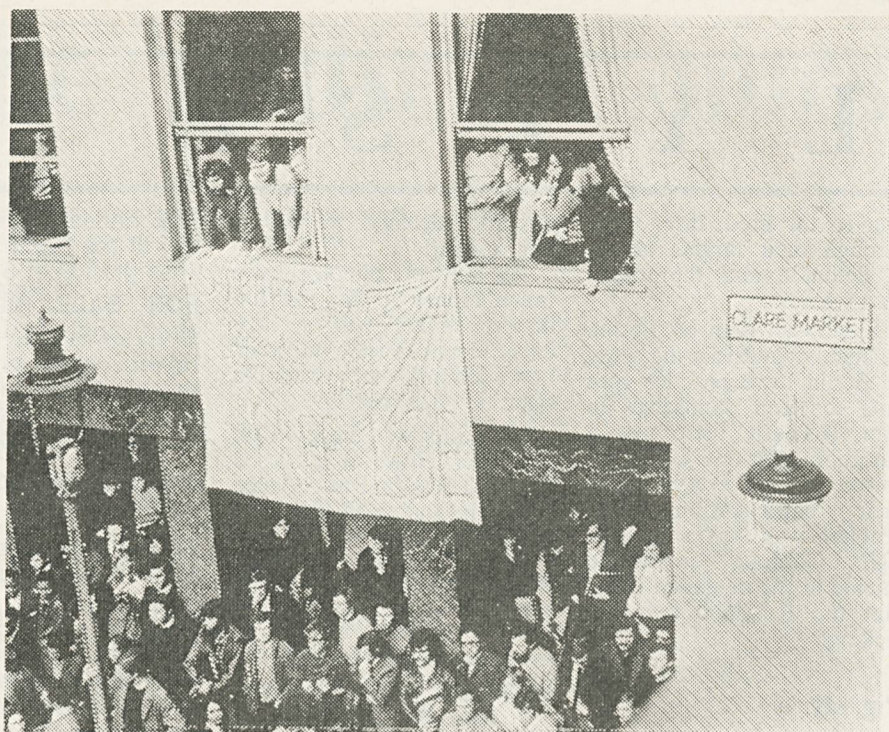


Neil Lockwood, dragged from window by policeman after appealing to people to end the Demo.





the people. Roger... ent, Gareth Pryce, Hickley on the barricade.



Watch or participate?



Police block Clare Market.



Waiting for Godot.

weren't "there", you... ve been. You'll no... pleased to know that... staff were in the... it—mobbing, scuff... ng, blocking, notting... chanting broadcast... ng—along with the... thought though, for... t few arrested. Over... n and had luck on... of one and all.



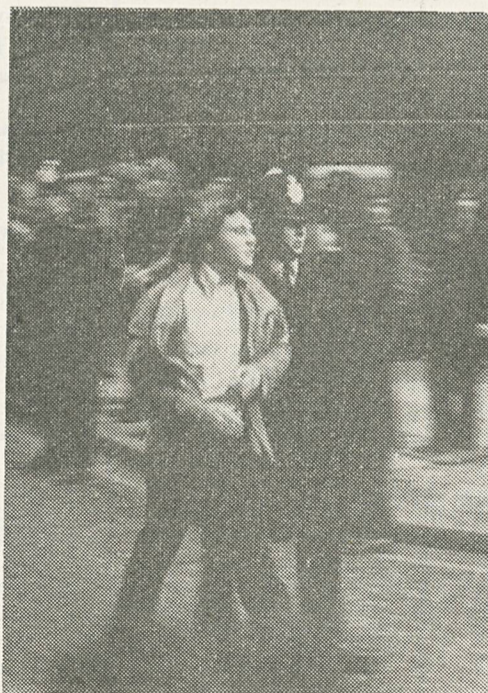
Police and their bus block Clare Market again.



What fire?



In Defence of Democracy?



Meanwhile, Union Council supports the action taken and will support all further peaceful protests against traffic in Houghton Street.

Support from Staff, Administration and Students is virtually unanimous.

We all suffer noise, dirt, fumes, and inconvenience, not to mention possible damage to life and limb—so at least there is an issue which unites us all.

Writing on walls can be fun, but writing to your MP and GLC Councillor can be much more productive, so let's keep up the pressure on all fronts.

Tony Bannister

Postscript on demos

One of the factors that contributed towards the success of the Nov. 25, 26, 27 demonstrations was that they were a social, and not a political phenomenon. Those who say that such an argument is mistaken on the grounds that everything in life is political, are misguided, at least as far

as Houghton Street is concerned.

LSE occupied Houghton Street because it has to be closed, not because it's closure is to be the first step in a world revolution. The minority who attempted to turn it into a political demonstration had misinterpreted the mood of the majority of those students taking part. An example of this is how, at the first General Assembly, the audience would only tolerate those proposals relevant to the LSE situation. Thus the group that attempted to identify the Houghton Street issue with the West Way problem were rapidly disillusioned.

However, the demonstration on Thursday Dec. 3 was in many ways unrelated to those earlier events. It would appear the move arose out of an argument amongst some of those involved in the anti-oration day festival. There was hardly any organisation. A small number of people, the majority of whom were not from LSE attempted to build a barricade which survived at least five minutes before being

cleared with little or no trouble. There was hardly any support from the main body of students and hence the whole episode quickly collapsed in failure. Outsiders had tried to turn a domestic LSE issue into a political demonstration; the evidence of what happened proved that there was no support for this type of demonstration as a means to close Houghton Street.

If Houghton Street is to be closed it can only be achieved by a mix of consultation with the authorities and organised demonstrations. LSE is quite capable of organising itself without the help of those who drift around looking for a local Vietnam.

The first move on Wednesday 25 was a spontaneous effort which then developed by itself into the much larger and successful demonstrations of Thursday and Friday. No one forced the people onto the streets, they went because they felt it was necessary, not because any one group told them to do so.

John Andrews



# A P O C A L Y P S E

## Re your letter

*You stupid little idiot — your father wants to thrash you. Do you think Barclays care — other banks have to trade abroad to help pay for your education, including me, an OAP who is taxed. You are sent to College to learn not to interfere in politics outside your comprehension. Unions are out to ruins this country, and I hope when you leave ["like a sheep"] when your education is finished that your find it d - - n hard to get a job. Mind your own business and get on with earning your living.*

*I'd like to see all universities closed after the behaviour we are witnessing. You scum you are degrading this good country.*

Letter received by Simon Cannell, B.Sc.(Econ.) 3rd year, who closed his Barclays account and sent a copy of the letter to the "Wiltshire Times & News". The letter was anonymous, and written on a child's notepaper: it had a bunny on the front in full colour. Next to the bunny rabbit was written, "The paper is to suit your mentality".

## Fire alarm

On Friday, November 27th someone obviously thought he was being very clever when at 12.20 he or she set the fire alarm off. As it happened this did not affect the eventual success of the demonstration, however the confusion caused by the alarm could easily have ruined the whole proceedings.

Much more important though was the effect of the alarm on those blind and crippled students (and staff) who are at LSE. One such person was extremely shaken when he found himself un-

able to descend from the top of the East Building as the alarm sounded. It is easy enough for a fit, sighted person to discover that the alarm was a hoax, but how would you feel if you were blind, and in a room alone?

The fire alarm is not a toy to be played with, any heroes who think otherwise might like to have chat with some of LSE's blind students.

## Satisfaction guaranteed

Following several attacks and attempts at rape on girls returning to their digs late at night through Becketts Park an escort service has been set up. The girls—students at Carnegie Teachers Training College—have been concerned about their safety.

Now any of the 500 students who feel afraid phone a male students' hostel and one of the men on the all-night rota goes through the park with her.

There have been no more reports of attacks since the service began. (Leeds Student Newspaper.)

## Vivat regina

Edinburgh University Union is debating a motion to change its constitution to admit women, previously accorded only 'guest' status.

The Provost has officially denied rumours that John Knox is dead.

## The lost word

Following protests about our spelling, *Beaver* took up the matter with our printers. As proof of their zeal, they sent us earlier 'pulls' of pages which they had corrected (we only see final proofs, except for two pages which we don't see at all).

Students of medieval texts

will know what havoc a copyist can wreak, but the scientists among us were enraptured to read these examples of a (de)compositor's art:

"Fou Ts'ong" . . . will be playing cooks by Chapin, Handel . . . and Pookaview"  
". . . a piece of buttered coast at ninepence . . ."

"A number of Law uogonuuwrw" (?)

". . . men who have deserted [add: or gone] without leave"

This last should have read: ". . . men who have deserted or gone absent without leave . . ."

A prize inanity which we noticed too late ("I didn't see it," claims the Chief Sub Editor) was "The Bill—introduced by Lord Gifford—is having its second reading in the Commons." Damned cunning, these Peers!

The people in LSE who moan about our English little suspect the constant struggle against the forces of chaos witch wu frage in cessa. Antly.

## Defence Apocalypse

If you are worried that the British armed services are becoming efficient, read on. It so happens N.A.T.O. wanted a large piece of new equipment, therefore three member countries joined together in producing the necessary item.

Two pre-production models were manufactured, one of which came to Britain for testing, problem number one: the only person who knew how the thing worked could only speak German. Anyway, they decided in the end to have a go at testing it, three missiles were fired, all dud. The fourth missile blew the thing up. Back to the drawing-board folks.

To even the balance, a Navy story, also true. Her Majesty's navy recently designed a new missile. Of the

four so far fired, three went through their targets failing to detonate and the fourth hit a whale!

Finally an item on Berlin. At regular intervals the army in Berlin have practice turn outs to keep themselves in trim. Recently there was a battalion turn-out which involved putting everything at their battle-stations: the problem was that a total of eight Germans committed suicide in the mistaken belief that the Russians were attacking!

## Pig sty

Would the minority who seem to want to make the new Florries extension look like a pig sty kindly desist. It's up to those using it to maintain a certain level of tidiness, one cannot expect porters, etc., to act as servants, clearing up after students.

## Green bomber

On December 1 a bomb was discovered in the Three Tuns Bar area. As bombs go it was reasonably large and efficient-looking, painted a sickly green colour, it had "to LSE a bomb" written on it.

Apparently it was a present from the "Green Bomber" who has been active in these parts before: so long as he remains concerned with making bombs look efficient and not at making them explode we are reasonably secure.

## In the woods

Once there was a zoo, it had a steady turnover but some of the directors felt it was not exciting enough. Their main attraction was a rather sedate lion, so in order to liven everything up the

directors decided to buy a new animal.

As the zoo did not have much money it was decided not to bother with a new cage, therefore they put their new animal, an excitable tiger, in with the lion.

The result was the Lion ate the Tiger. However it caused so much fuss that attendance suffered; and eventually the zoo had to close.

## Personal

**WANTED**—Prime Minister for Granada: apply Mecca with curriculum vitae and two photographs (old) in Bikini.

**AUCTION:** Peter Walker will dispose of the Environment by private auction on 25 December.

**FOR SALE:** Welfare State, frequently overhauled and regularly cut back; apply Floggitt and Chopper, Whitehall.

**THE EDITOR** is dead: long live the Business Manager!  
**THE BUSINESS** Manager is dead; long live the Editor!

**WANTED:** Expert systems engineer required to service H.A.L. type, overhaul of memory banks urgently required.

**FOR SALE:** attractive semi-detached warren, apply Rabbit.

**THE** time of Day is come!  
**WILL** anyone finding the Music Society quorum please return it to the Shaw Library.

**GO** Gay—join LSE Rugby Club: contact 'Jeremy' Mendoza.

**ARE** your carples distinct—see Apocalypse.

**FREAK** out at Florrie's 9—9.30 a.m. every day.

**THE** dansant every Thursday in the Robinson Room—single ticket 5 gns.

**FOR SALE:** the mighty atom, apply HAL.

**HAVE:** your preferences revealed! your indifference field; your utils maximised! Computamate, S200.

**LINCOLN's** Inn but Alex is out.

**BLUE** screentests—VP's room Tuesday lunchhours.

**R E R U M** cognoscere? Causas!

**FOR SALE:** 'The terrible twins', apply Ministry of Defence.

**CASTRATO** Reginald Maudling will sing "How Ruddier than the Cherry"—Shaw Library, Wednesday 1.30.

"**THE** Alchian and Allen Laugh-In", produced by Max Steuer. Every Tuesday 2—3 p.m. Old Theatre.

**IS** Harry having trouble getting his Johns on?

**TITMUSS** go! Down with Women's Lib!

**UNION** Shop Special Offer—ringbinders and rubbers in latest midi styles by Christian du Rex.

**IF** Gareth can Pryce it, Mike can Tuckett. AD.

**BETTER** wed than Ed! Male dominance for Beaver!

**WATCH** out on Treasurer's Island—Blind Pugh is coming!

**WANTED**—variable dummy for regressing statistician: CP.

**WRESTLERS**, apply 'drop kick' microbe.

**WANTED**—First Lady for LabSoc, contact David Evans.

## ACCOMMODATION

Sub Lets etc for the Christmas vacation are now available. Details from Union Office, Third Floor, St. Clements Building.

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People's Dance  
Tuesday, 22nd December  
8 p.m.—1 a.m.  
Kensington Town Hall,  
High St., Kensington  
admission 6/-  
bar/buffet  
two or three groups,  
including  
Noir and Pink Fairies  
all friends of  
Gay Liberation welcome

L.S.E. FOLK CLUB  
+  
TUDOR LODGE  
+  
ADRIAN CRICK  
BART KAVENAGH  
Old Theatre  
Thursday, Dec. 10  
7.00  
Admission L.S.E. 4/-  
others 6/-

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# The nadir of nursing

by JOHN ANDREWS

LSE students, and this is equally applicable to all university students, are granted some important luxuries that they tend to take for granted will be provided. They have a considerable degree of freedom of choice, including the 'right' to try to change the environment within which they operate. At LSE, many students regard matters like representation and the eradication of industrial investments in the universities as a matter of some importance, yet these are only the icing on the cake, the real battles in LSE have long since been fought. For some students, what we regard as the most basic rights have yet to be achieved; such is the position of student nurses.

It is perhaps best to assert from the beginning that we shall be dealing with what happens in practice rather than what should happen according to the rule book. My qualifications for writing such an article as this have, I feel, to be stated and I consider are reasonably adequate. I have spent a considerable time both as a patient and as a ward orderly in a hospital; I am an interested layman, with some practical experience of the subject.

The student nurse is perhaps in one of the worst positions of students in general: they have almost no freedom and their basic rights are minimal. Reflection on their problems can go a long way in helping university students to put their own position in perspective.

In the average town hospital (as opposed to the big London teaching hospitals), the nurses are trained in a system that relies partly on their going to school and partly on their being rotated around the different wards of the hospital to gain practical experience. It is in the school that the basic theories and practices are taught, but it is left to the ward sisters to introduce the students to the practical everyday routine of ward life.

## Poor teaching

It is in the wards that the first major weakness of the system develops: like the rest of humanity, ward sisters differ in degrees of competence, and there is no reason why a good medical sister should also make a good teacher. There are still those who take the view that as it was tough in their student days, there is no reason why it should be any different for the present generation of trainee nurses. But for the system to operate the majority of sisters are prepared to ensure the students under their care receive proper instruction.

However, in a system which relies to such a degree on ward instruction it is vital that there should be precautions to guard against weaknesses in the teaching structure. Those wards which have sisters more concerned with keeping the ward clean for the doctors, and maintaining good relations with male staff will prove of little use to the student. One of the most difficult problems is that of the foreign nurses who have a less than complete command

of English. With these students there are special problems attached, yet in practice they are often expected to make do with the same type of tuition as the native girls. Those sisters who do not bother to take account of these girls' special problems are probably going to be of more harm than benefit to the nurses' education.

There is then a basic difficulty in the structure of nurses training; as in any situation there are going to be differences in the standards of the teachers. This is not a problem alien to other students; the difference lies in the ability of the student nurse to do something to change their predicament.

It is not over dramatic to say that the student nurse in the hospital structure is the lowest of the low. In some areas even the domestic and untrained staff are paid more. In theory a nurse who has a grievance can go to the Matron, but this to ignore the fact that in most cases the young nurse is terrified of even talking to the Matron, let alone complaining to her. Even if she does complain it is very probable that for most of the time she will back the sister; within the hospital there is, as in the army, a rigid hierarchical structure which it seems has to be preserved. The fact remains though that there is no way in which the student nurse can complain against a senior member of the hospital staff without risking being branded a trouble-maker and hence make life very complicated for herself.

The student has no security of tenure; a sister can complain about a student to the matron, who can then sack that person from the hospital which for all practical purposes means the end of her nursing career.

## Restrictions

Naturally by the very nature of their work student nurses have to contend with more restrictions than their university counterparts. However, that is no reason why they should have so few rights. Why is their no independent body to which the student can complain? Why no guarantee of basic rights such as appeal against dismissal in a form less dramatic than writing to the minister or going through the cum-

bersome regional board system.

The degree of paternity in the nursing system is overwhelming, students being allowed hardly any say whatsoever in how their lives are organised. Many hospitals have nurses' homes that can be compared to our own halls of residences. Nurses are allowed no say in how these are run, it is the administration who decide how the faculties shall be employed, thus it is impossible for the nurses to organise a party in their own home without the support of the administration, who will usually frown on any activity of this sort.

Student nurses often even need permission to organise something away from the hospital grounds.

No one is going to argue that the hospital should not have a say in how its premises are used, but it is difficult to see the objections that can be made against the nurses home being run by a 'house-committee' made up of all interested parties. There is nothing very revolutionary in having a say in how one's social life is organised. It was once explained to me that such a scheme was impossible as the hospital had a responsibility to the young nurses' parents for the moral welfare of the students!

A disgraceful aspect of student nursing, and this applies to most grades of nursing, are the conditions of work they have to tolerate. Their social life is disrupted by their having to operate split shifts and night work, and for students especially there is the problem of not being able to plan ahead as the shifts are only worked out on a weekly basis. Nurses are paid no overtime and if a sister decides she wants a nurse to remain on duty after the end of her shift, that nurse must remain on duty and not be paid any overtime for it.

It is notorious the extent to which student nurses are expected to do work that should be the responsibility of the cleaning staff, in the name of training. That nurses should be expected to work horrifyingly long hours is bad enough, but what they are expected to do in these is nothing short of ridiculous. Not only are they required to act as waitresses in serving meals but they are also required to tidy the ward up, empty wastepaper bins, and cleaning the sluice, etc.

## Technology

This type of activity as has been stated takes up an appreciable amount of time in the training course, therefore it must be asked whether such an education is suitable for future requirements. Medicine is become increas-

ingly complicated, with machines becoming more and more important. Yet nursing continues to take its inspiration from a nineteenth century figure, and hence training is still largely bound to the traditional view of a nurses' vocational role. Students are going to be faced with the paradox that whilst their training contains a lot of routine domestic chores, i.e. how to make a bed correctly, their future will be increasingly bound up with operating sophisticated machinery. There can be no doubt that for the great majority 'tender loving care' remains at the centre of their concept of nursing, and yet it seems inevitable that under the present system she will have less time for this aspect of nursing.

How much longer the 'complete nurse' concept will remain valid is doubtful, it may well be inevitable that nurses will soon have to be split into those who are highly qualified technically, and those who concentrate on the practical side of nursing.

Thus it is clear that a stu-

dent nurse faces a challenge far more urgent than any LSE student, yet the conditions she is expected to accept remain Dickensian. Below are a few details of how the nurse is expected to behave, accepting that the student nurse must maintain a certain level of confidence from the patients, the fact remains that she is treated more as if she were an irresponsible schoolgirl.

## Alliance?

One would expect the 'loving care' concept to encourage students to talk to the patients, yet in most wards just chatting to the patient is regarded as idle gossip, the student apparently should study her books whenever possible. Yet for the patient a chat with the nurse can be just as important as the drugs he is on. The system, though, fails to recognise this.

Every student expects to be free to discuss the hierarchy and criticise as he or she feels necessary, yet in theory nurses are forbidden to discuss the pros and cons of

senior staff! From personal experience I was warned that to discuss other staff with the students was to be a serious breach of conduct. It is hardly surprising that nursing recruitment is becoming steadily more difficult and that wastage once training has started is increasing. Nursing is no longer one of the few jobs a girl can do, yet it would seem nothing is being done to attract girls into nursing, and reliance on vocation is becoming increasingly unsatisfactory.

It should be obvious that as students our problems are of a relatively minor nature in relation to some. Few pupil nurses regard themselves as students alongside ourselves; this I think is a pity. No one would suggest nurses should take militant action like strikes etc... they have too many responsibilities for that, but they should make it clear that they have rights like anyone else. The hierarchy will have to recognise that if they are to attract nurses they are going to have to offer modern conditions of service.

## Gay liberation front does it

We had our second action last Friday night. Around a hundred of us met at Highbury and Islington tube station and walked up to Highbury Fields with candles, balloons and flaming torches. There was a re-enactment of the incident last August which led to the arrest of Louis Eakes of the Young Liberals on a charge of Gross Indecency: we asked each other the time and lit each other's cigarettes. The press looked on, taking photographs and asking questions. A list of our demands was read out.

We object to the fact that people, gay or not, can be harassed by the police in this way. In the Courts it comes down to your word against that of the police. We remember this charge being brought against a man when the police testimony referred to tool-flashing which is what Gross Indecency customarily means. The defence were fortunately able to produce a medical report stating that, due to a dreadful accident during the war, their client was physically incapable of...

We are angry that gay people are subject to more of this kind of harassment than heterosexuals. Many of us are driven to meeting in open public places, in public conveniences, or in the dreary handful of gay pubs and clubs which are like meat-markets.

In all of these places we are subject to unnecessary police aggravation. We demand our right to meet openly in the same way as heterosexuals. We demand the right to be free to hold hands and show affection in public.

We demand that sex-education in schools (such as it is) ceases to be exclusively heterosexual.

We demand the end to discrimination by employers and the law. We are angry that our gay sisters and brothers in the professions cannot feel free to give us their open support. Some teachers and solicitors have said that they

are even too frightened to come to our meetings.

We are pleased by the support of Women's Liberation for our struggle. We support them in their fight against stereo-typed sex-roles, and all forms of sexism. We will welcome our straight sisters and brothers at our people's dance on 22nd December.

When we started seven weeks ago most people thought we were a joke. Now we're a strong militant group a few super-straight students and hide-bound academics are getting uptight about us.

We want our freedom, and we're taking it now!

Watch out!

Members of Gay Liberation Front

## Review: country home

### Bronco ILPS 9124

I remember the time when an LP bearing the adjective "country" would be the sole prerogative of such legendary figures as Tex Ritter and Buck Owens. Bronco are not by any means a country and western band; what they do offer in fact is an assortment of gentle easy listening which for its simplicity deserves praise. Simplicity is revealed in the uncomplicated vocals and wholesome backing.

Producer and vocalist Jess Roden's talents are best displayed on the outstanding tracks 'Well anyhow' and 'Time', the former song of-

fering very fine guitar break, guaranteed to please all idiot dancers.

One can be forgiven for disliking this LP on the initial hearing, for it is one of those albums which takes its time to grow on you. But patience prevailing, Bronco on their first record have displayed qualities which could establish them as one of the most important new groups around. With ability to fuse varying sounds together they still emerge with an overall result which is co-ordinated and is certainly never boring, which is more than can be said for their heavier contemporaries.



## book review by R. H. Pear

# The middle-class student in revolt

Having left LSE for the spacious campus of Nottingham in 1965 the first question one was asked there was whether there were in 1965 or before any intimations of the excitements of 1966 and after. The plain answer should be no.

(Review of "Students in Conflict: LSE in 1967" by Tessa Blackstone, Kathleen Gales, Roger Hadley and Wyn Lewis. Weidenfeld and Nicholson 65/-).

With hindsight, proddings of memory, telescoping of dates etc., it is easy to believe that one did foresee disaster. In a general sense LSE in 1965 was, it could be said, beginning to pile up trouble for itself.

The main causes of future trouble were then thought to be uncertainty (i.e. lack of will to decide) about the future proportions of graduate / undergraduate numbers, increasing congestion, and the library.

There was too, some audible grumbling about unequal teaching burdens as between different departments — SCR grumbled but students knew about it — and there were beginning to be complaints about the very small number of staff who were uninterested in teaching and neglected their students.

### A Conservative LSE

In the 1950's and 1960's LSE was not very different from many other colleges in respect of students' political views. There were universities where in the early '60's students seemed far more radical and politically committed than they were at the School. Indeed it seemed that LSE was under the influence of free-market economics, the anti-planning of Popper and the persuasive conservatism of Oakeshott.

There were many on the staff who compared LSE unfavourably with practically any large American institution; who complained about the paltry sums available for research, the failure to attract the big private funds for business and management studies and the generally small-scale, parochial, and traditional outlook of the LSE.

### Scholarly haven

Considering what has happened in American universities, LSE even during a sit-in must appear a haven of peace, quiet and scholarly purpose. Staff-student consultations (at many levels) have not resulted, as far as I know, in frightening the staff into giving courses, or adopting teaching practices which degrade their subjects; and as for vast expenditure on social science research, has it 'paid off' in economic

advances and social improvements suggested by American universities and adopted by governments there? There is alas little evidence that it has.

It is necessary, in my view to introduce this book about LSE's troubles in something of the manner attempted above, for people are bound to ask what caused the explosion? Was not there something radically wrong with LSE? Was not LSE in some way differently run, or possessed of peculiar students, or specially odd teachers, who ladled out fiery brews — or such dull reactionary potions that the self-respecting student had to reject them?

The sad, because uninteresting, fact is that none of these reasons seem very persuasive. The book shows that most LSE students were not too critical of their accommodation at LSE; they were not even much worried about where or how they had to live in London.

Most students took the view that what was provided for them at LSE — in the way of societies, offices, was not too bad, although 54% of undergraduates thought the common rooms were most inadequate.

### Satisfied majority

If one switches to academic provision by the School, again it is clear that most students found that teaching was satisfactory. High percentages considered lectures satisfactory; these percentages are markedly reduced when satisfaction with "staff contacts" is the question, but even here about 50% found contacts satisfactory.

Chapter 5 ("Dissatisfaction with the School") does not show that, apart from the inadequacy of the main library, life at LSE was so vile as to be a probable prime cause of the troubles.

"Student unrest" is a shapeless and emotionally charged topic and one on which opinions and remedies differ radically. What this book does is to show that while there were many rather unimportant problems at LSE, when battle was joined and students were lined up against the "Administration" very large numbers of students felt committed to their own side.

This was not, at all times, the minority of 5% to 10% causing trouble — as is said to be the case in many American univer-

sities. Up to 50% of the whole LSE student body were at times involved in various forms of action.

There seems no doubt about the political skill of the Bloom-Adelstein leadership; they started from small beginnings and finished up with very substantial student support. The fact that it all started with particularly nasty anonymous McCarthyite selective smears about Dr. Adams and the Smith regime should not be forgotten, but those who wanted an upheaval (and there is evidence that the late Marshall Bloom intended this on leaving America for LSE) knew that Rhodesia was a theme that could unite all centre and Left elements if handled imaginatively.

### Middle-class students

LSE students are interesting. They are very middle class — many universities have far higher percentages of working class students than LSE. Their parents vote more conservatively than the average citizen, but somewhat less conservatively than other middle class people. LSE students are strongly but not overwhelmingly Labour in sympathy. Far left enthusiasts are not numerous; Conservatives and Liberals are. Geographers and Accountancy students are significantly less radical (and dissatisfied) than Sociology and Government students.

But if it's academic excellence one is assessing the LSE student is a person of very high 'A' level quality.

### Superficial diagnoses

This is not the place to go into diagnoses of student troubles throughout the world, but a few general remarks may be in order. In Rome, in Nanterre, in the Sorbonne there have been, and are, grave problems of the scandalous inadequacy of academic provision for students—especially in Rome.

In such conditions students must do something—and probably something drastic — to bring their university problems to the attention of the public. In many other countries there are problems which are not academic or educational in nature but which concern students as future leaders, and where the university may provide the premises on which to stage demon-

strations against injustice.

In many American universities there is a conjunction of these two concerns where a racial injustice is manifested in the small number of blacks in a college. Protests in the college can then be about admission of blacks, and racial prejudice.

In British universities, which are for the students the plushiest in the world it is difficult to explain to the inquiring foreigner what has been the main cause of troubles.

Each turbulent activity can be explained as the reaction to a particular event — Warwick and the files issue, the Garden House Hotel affair, Barclays DCO — but all these 'revelant' issues must be made to appear so by relating them to a general condition, the condition of capitalist oppression in the world today.

As a university teacher it is no part of my business to discourage attempts at radical social diagnoses — quite the contrary — but have the student radicals got it in the correct perspective? Universities are part of the cultural superstructure of the capitalist economy of the Western world.

We need not argue about that, but perhaps should point out that some of their peculiar ways — and values antedate modern capitalism; but we cannot expect that a university can totally transcend all the values of the environment in which it is allowed to exist.

### Irrelevant Left

But how does attacking or 'destroying' universities and their values help to weaken capitalism? To many observers of the student far Left this seems to be the most irrelevant, unhistorical and unpolitical aspect of the far Left's analysis of students and their environment, and gives rise to the suspicion that politically they don't expect to be taken seriously.

A sad note on which to end, for the old Left knows its own limitations, of the hardening of its intellectual arteries and of its need to be refreshed; and it should be getting its refreshment from the best young minds in the social sciences, from the students at LSE. It is perhaps a pity that *Students in Conflict*, mine of information that it is, does not help much towards an understanding of the student mind at LSE.

## cinema

### Christmas spirits

*Scrooge* or *A Christmas Carol* is the latest musical extravaganza on the West End screens. Inspired from a short story by Charles Dickens the film has kept a certain Victorian look on Christmas which is now so obsolete that one wonders what on earth it's all about.

This is the typical film to make a hit at the box office during the Christmas season: children will love it, parents will smile in approval. What else can the producers of the film want.

*Scrooge* is a fairy-tale where spirits come from Heaven and Hell to tell the nasty miser what will hap-

pen to him if he does not comply with the spirit of Christmas.

The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future haunt Scrooge until he realizes how horrid he has been.

But Scrooge is not altogether a horrible old miser, and, as in all fairy-tales a sad tear of repentance is followed by a sudden change: Scrooge becomes charitable, kind and splendid and tries to remedy all the misery that surrounds him.

Albert Finney portrays the part of Scrooge with great ability: it is sheer enjoyment for any cinema fan to watch his acting all through the film.

Edith Evans, Alec Guinness, Kenneth More each succeed brilliantly in their portrayal of the three Ghosts.



Albert Finney as Scrooge

### Hunters in the sky

Two men, a helicopter, a landscape. Such is the basic structure of the film *Figures in a Landscape*. Who are the men, what are they fleeing from?

The film is the story of their desperate battle for freedom, symbolised by the border they must reach, and their pursuit by the forces of oppression, symbolised by the helicopter which darts and wheels relentlessly above them a mechanical bird of prey.

Tracked like animals, maddened, degraded, the initial mistrust between them disperses as they try to outwit the hunters. Exhausted, almost dehumanised, they struggle on, keeping just ahead of their pursuers.

At last the border is

reached, freedom is in sight; but the older man cannot resist a last attempt and challenges the helicopter. In the pathetically unequal duel, it is the man who falls lifeless. The helicopter, satisfied at last, retreats into the distance.

It is masterly, gripping film. Losey's direction is superb. Throughout the story, three characters only command our attention: Robert Shaw, Malcolm McDowell, and . . . the helicopter.

Shaw gives an experienced performance as the older man, crude and led by instincts, not afraid to kill if necessary. McDowell, as the youth, who prefers to follow reason rather than instincts, unwilling to kill but forced to do so, gives a most convincing portrayal.



# ballet

## Creative dedication

The controversy around modern ballet, its values as opposed to those of classical ballet, its reality in expressing the trends of our conflicting society, appear concretely in the performance of Ballet Rambert.

The unchallenged side of their performance is the perfect co-ordination of movement with rhythm, the fact that they have something to get across to us, and the idea that ballet is the most perfect means of expression of the human body.

Ballet Rambert tries hard and with success in most cases to create new ideas and styles within the limits of their art. Nevertheless such an aspiration of originality is accompanied by a certain number of clichés and 'deja-vue' ideas.

But leaving aside the first piece of the programme 'George Frederic', which could easily have been staged on any variety show, the rest of the pieces have all to-

gether managed to bring something new to the world of modern ballet.

Ballet Rambert are a cast of young dancers, who one feels are giving themselves totally to their art 'Ricer-care' is a provocative and beautifully staged ballet; the violence of the sexual act mixes with the poetry and tenderness of any human relationship and so achieves total fulfillment.

'The Empty Suit' created by Norman Morris relies on the mimics of the cast, which prove to be extremely efficient. It is a fine piece of ballet which doesn't lack in intensity and drama. The staging by Norman Morris is perfect and has an enormous visual impact.

We can only hope for the good of modern ballet that Ballet Rambert will soon be back in London, with a repertoire as good, if not better.

## Negro spirituals

Creating a new style, challenging a society of prejudices and frustrations, seems to be the aim of the works presented by the Alvin Ailey Dancers. A curious mixture of ballet and theatre, accompanied by jazz, is the result of their performance.

The first piece is superficial and deceiving, *Gymnopedies*, a solo danced by Dudley Williams is the most important piece of the first part of the programme.

This ballet is accompanied by the piano, and refers to the stages of creation that an artist goes through before reaching perfection. But this he will never attain, and therefore his art is at the same time his death sentence. Dudley Williams is superb, and his dancing is inspiring and provocative.

The main interest of the performance lies in a piece called *Relevations*. Based on well-known negro spirituals, it has its own outlook on the violence and the drama of the negro situation.

At first the idea is difficult to grasp but it suddenly starts growing in you, and you feel you have to participate in this tremendous display of soul music and dancing. The peak moment is when everybody joins the cast to sing 'Rest my soul in the bosom of Abraham'.

The Alvin Ailey dancers with a mixture of modern ballet and theatre have managed to create a new and exciting style of modern art.

# opera

## A mixed bag

### Sadlers Wells Opera at the London Coliseum — Tridelio (Beethoven)

This was an intense and exciting performance (conducted by Charles Mackerras) which was also marvelously atmospheric in the

dungeon scene (despite a *deus ex machina* trumpet call which threatened to break down altogether.)

Having said this, one must admit that the singing was a very mixed bag. While Hugh Beresford made a magnificent Florestan, his Leonore, Ava June, had some squally moments and was often covered by the orchestra.

The basses, Norman Bailey as Pizzaro and Don Garard as Rocco, were both ex-

cellent and got their words (horribly hackneyed some of them) over well; the rest of the cast was satisfactory, although Maurice Arthur as Jacquino was almost inaudible and therefore cannot be judged on the merits of his performance (when he could be heard he sounded quite effective).

The production was splendid and Beethoven's revolutionary point was well made. The production is running for three weeks.

# theatre

## Cyrano de Bergerac Cambridge Theatre

Rostand wrote *Cyrano de Bergerac* for a great actor friend who was seeking a role as varied and demanding as Hamlet. The result is a grandiose buffoon, renowned for his duelling skill, poetry and preposterous nose.

Patrick Garland's adap-

tion of the unfashionable, romantic fantasy stresses Cyrano's satire rather than his poetry, but the translation in prose lacks a sense of artifice and lightness.

Edward Woodward gives Cyrano all the sardonic humour, bravura and pathos that is needed to carry the plot and thankfully he is supported by Carl Toms' superb scenery; the Hotel de Bourgogne, the smoky battle-field and the sombre winter gardens all which add to the panache, pastiche and pantomime quality of the play.

## AC/DC: Royal Court

Heathcote Williams in AC/DC has given London its most original play since *Look Back in Anger*. The language is stunning and the message that vibrates throughout the performance should not be ignored. The script is highly charged with the complex jargon of metaphysics, electronics, science fiction, drug culture and a litany of obscenities.

But the furious pace at which these verbal fireworks are ejected means that half of them get lost — pity, for the author's brain has produced imaginative explosions which need to be pigeon-holed.

The theme is Fame. We are surrounded by the images of famous people, whose personalities are photostatted on our minds by communication media. From this point a cybernetics model is set up: public personalities are fed in, screened, digested and adapted so that we become more and more like those bill-board egos.

But the conscious human machine desperately struggles to rid himself of this personality absorption. There is a schizophrenic orgy to free one's mind, to liberate others through aggression and unplug the whole system.

This play is a sparking plug which I hope will ignite both the audiences and the writers of the 70s.

## The Merchant of Venice: Old Vic

Jonathan Miller's production brings new life to this classic. There is a luxurious and vivacious quality in this Edwardian setting of *The Merchant* which provides a welcome change from previous stereotyped productions.

Is it a sign of the times that Shylock was not portrayed as the sinister and demonic usurer, but as a more sympathetic figure, outcast only by debonair footmen and not by the wise Antonio. The hoarder of ducats, discriminated against for his race, is made to look ridiculous through buffoonery rather than through malice.

Joan Plowright's performance of Portia is superb and her 'quality of mercy' soliloquy is refreshingly un-sentimental.



Edward Woodward as *Cyrano de Bergerac* The Cambridge Theatre

## Palach in Memoriam: Open Space

As if we had forgotten Jan Palach's sacrifice! — who, critically aware of world events could forget — but Charles Marowitz and Alan Burns in their new play make a great impact by reminding us of the issues at stake in August 1968.

The struggle of the young philosophy student between the futile gossip in his family and the need to be above them; to become a hero, is not only applicable to Prague 1968.

The 'Boy's' concern for freedom to think and to choose his own way of life is a perennial problem and this is well demonstrated in scenes reminiscent of World War II and claustrophobic preaching of Mum and Dad at home.

Fear is a recurrent element in the play. It is built up by the sound of tanks, heavy breathing, darkness and jerked-out staccato music. It is very effective.

Romeo and Juliet's secret

Paris, which saw the emergence of the Surrealist, Cubist and Purist artistic movements.

Purism differed from the other movements in that it related art to the changing urban scene with all its dynamism and modernity.

Picasso, Braque, Robert Delauney and Le Corbusier all came under its influence and left their mark upon it, but it is Leger who remains the high priest of purism.

He was particularly stimulated by his surroundings, using split perspective colours and shapes of all combinations, to recreate the speed, power and impact of contemporary life.

His works range from complex dockscapes and street scenes to the beautifully balanced and powerful male and female forms of his later period.

Sculpture was also affected by Purism, and one can see in the works of Archipenko that in many ways its extra dimension and solidity helped to create more of an effect.

If however one knows nothing of the movement and its aims, the exhibition can simply comprise a series of paintings by different artists to which one reacts without looking for corresponding trends or recognising developments.

# records

## Tumbleweed Connection

### Elton John DJLPS 410

"From this day on I own my father's gun

We dug his grave beneath the sun

I laid his broken body down below the Southern land

It wouldn't do to bury him where any Yankee stands"

— a sample of the lyrics written by Bernie Taupin for this album.

The flavour of this album is one of North America in the latter half of the last century. Songs of the Railroads, Mississippi Riverboats, the Mission Hall, and of shotguns and rifles conjure nostalgic pictures of an American heritage, far removed from the materialistic excesses which characterise the USA today.

Elton John captures the freshness in mood and the youthful vigour of these pioneer days, when innovation could be seen in the perspective of giving unlimited hope for this expanding nation to realise its potential. The new methods of transport, industry and warfare had not yet had a chance to push the essence of country life into a position subordinate to an urban existence.

The homestead or farm community was still an integral part of American life, and new developments could still be regarded with a mixture of suspicion and awe, rather than complacency.

The rural aura is especially noticeable. Elton John's vocal style is distinct and powerful and his keyboard work varied and interesting.

The use of a central theme for all the material of this album is commendable as it gives cohesion to the individual tracks, something sadly lacking from so many an album.

# concerts

## Wilful Mahler Festival Hall: LPO, Conductor Bernard Haitink

Only one work in this programme: Mahler's Third Symphony, the longest of all Mahler's symphonies, running for nearly two hours.

Haitink's performance was excellent in the final slow movement and in the fourth movement, where Norma Procter was a good rich contralto soloist. But the rest varied from a mere average to a level which made me very angry.

Many alterations were made to Mahler's precise directions, which I imagine were deliberate: in the fifth movement the boys' choir and the bells were not placed together and in the distance, but apart and on stage; and in the scherzo, the posthorn solo (which Mahler marked very distant) was offstage, but for all the difference it made it might as well have been on. And it was far too quick and distinctly unsteady.

It was a great pity: it was dramatic (with Mahler it could hardly not be) but one could only regret the opportunities missed by Haitink's wilful mannerisms.

# museums

## Leger Touch

The exhibition at the Tate Gallery is limited to the early nineteen-hundreds in



## Soccer team pukes again

One weekend recently the all too irregular happening of a visit to foreign parts (chiefly of a geographical nature, of course) was undertaken by those masters of political thought and chicanery, the LSE Soccer Club. Friday morning dawned brightly or just crept in for some (e.g. Dave Simpson who had felt compelled to practise diligently for the rigours to come) as the pilgrims descended on Victoria Station for the morning train to Newhaven. The pilgrims that is except for A. Wiggans who did not appreciate until 40 minutes before the departure of the train, and he did not even have a passport at the time, that it was time to roll out of his bed in deepest Kentish Town. However, he duly arrived literally micro-seconds before the departure of the train, cursing oaths about alarm clocks which were oft to be repeated in the coming hours.

The journey to Newhaven was marked only by the absence of sober athletes at its conclusion, and by the profusion of beer cans crashing around the floor of the buffet car. On the boat crossing to Dieppe another problem reared its ugly head in the form of completely drunken boys due to the fact that Whitbread Tankard proved to be cheaper on the boat than in Ben's bar—fiendishly cunning these Sealink people. Between Dieppe and Paris only one stop was made, at which a daring rush to the bar, or brassiere as they call them, was made to purchase numerous bottles of beer. The remainder of Friday is nothing more than a fog in the minds of everyone, though I am dimly able to perceive that we beat our hosts hands down in a wine drinking contest.

On Saturday morning final preparations were made for the match, including a nine mile run at 5 a.m. followed by 60 press-ups and a cold shower. We were then taken to Paris by bus and went for the regulation motor boat trip on the Seine. This is to be remembered chiefly for the repartee and wit shown in response to the banal comments of the guide.

The match against H.E.C., clearly the principal reason for our visit, deserves only limited space in my anthology of nonsense. We lost 1-2, they scored two blatantly offside goals by courtesy of the maniacal Frog referee. Our goal was a 90 yard thunderbolt (by popular estimate) from laughing John Aspinall. Despite two daring half-time substitutions and numerous disallowed goals, we finished the game defeated and disgraced.

We now return to the serious business of the tour, fraternising with the locals. A collective decision was made to stay in the village of Jouy-en-Josas, where the college is situated, rather than to go to Paris or Versailles for the evening. French was bandied about as if it were our mother tongue and the author astounded all by knowing how to ask for a box of matches. This illusion of invincibility was soon shattered by the aforementioned laughing boy demanding a packet of salt and vinegar crisps. The remainder of Saturday night is told by courtesy of Mick Young as I remember nothing further.

"I dunno wot 'appened—well—er—Andy Tremayne and Pete Murrell started to create bover, but was soon hauled apart. Messrs. Ellwood and Aspinall, working in shifts for talking, had to assist Andy Wiggans home, who very kindly threw up all over John Ellwood's shoe . . ."

I was dimly aware of the errors of my ways the next morning as even talking proved physically taxing! We proceeded to Paris for the almost ritualistic rigmarole of seeing the sights of the Pigalle, the Sorbonne and the Champs Elysees, also taking in a little culture at the Louvre. Our much vaunted A.U. President decreed that such pursuits were not for him, and he did his best to sleep whilst everyone else surveyed the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Ovale like dutiful tourists.

The return journey, like all others, proved to be an anti-climax, particularly as the sea crossing was rough which is not the prescribed treatment for delicate digestive systems. The boat train to Victoria was both bar-less and 80 minutes late because of a derailment, but lost time was made up for by the fortuitous location of a hostelry called the Victoria.

The following special awards are made following this visit:

- (1) Gold Medals for brilliant performance to D. Simpson and M. Young.
- (2) Commendation for being nominated "Bore of the Tour" goes to Andy Wiggans.
- (3) Frying pan for the stroppest member of the team goes to Pete Murrell.
- (4) Medallion for outstanding stamina to J. Barnett for his reply on being asked on Monday whether he felt O.K. he replied "Oh there's nothing wrong that a pint wouldn't put right!"

A Disgruntled Fan



Police prevent crowd from mobbing new LSE soccer club star, John Aspinall.

## AU amateur or professional?

In the last issue of Beaver you may have read a report written by John Ellwood (AU External Affairs V.P.) which questioned the employment of an Assistant. This article did not debate the issue in its full context and I would like to raise two further points in order that you may reach a more realistic conclusion.

Firstly the article contains many misconceptions, notably about the future role of the A.U. officers. It is not, and never has been the intention to substitute effective student decision-making by appointing a "professional bureaucrat". On the contrary an Administrative Assistant can undertake the routine day-to-day work of the A.U. and leave the officers to formulate a policy prospectus which will be both constructive and forward looking. Thus, for example, the purchase of W. H. Smith's property places a heavy burden on the Executive to press for further Squash and Badminton facilities in the School, a burden which will be eased by using our Assistant's time to good advantage.

This leads me to my second point. The Assistant is not necessarily, as the article suggests, a permanent addition to the A.U.'s organization. The Executive has decided to employ an Assistant on an experimental basis only and this, I feel, is the most sensible approach. By re-organizing the "division of Labour" within the A.U. for a short period we hope to be

able to see how an assistant can be best employed or failing that, whether we should have one at all.

I do not intend to enter into a philosophical discussion concerning the tasks which face the student bureaucrat—that is, when does one's devotion to one's duty as a bureaucrat impinge on one's devotion to an Academic Discipline. I

would however like to conclude by pointing out that at no time in the meetings held by the A.U. Executive and the A.U. Committee did John Ellwood voice an opinion against employing an assistant. Why then wait until this matter had been sanctioned before speaking out?

Andy Wiggans  
A.U. President

## Men unmasked

To most people, the words "Cross Country Running" conjure up lurid images of hordes of wild-eyed maniacs appearing, even on the coldest wettest day, in their underwear to go stampeding about the normally peaceful countryside, huffing and wheezing up hills and down, in order to arrive right back where they started, red-faced and gasping, covered from head to foot in slime, mud and other elements too disgusting to be mentioned. To a few people this is actually fun! These extraordinary creatures are known as Cross-Country Runners.

Most of these people run with clubs and it will come as no surprise that among the other dubious groups harboured at LSE is a Cross-Country Club.

During the lunch hour on most weekdays the hard core of LSE runners burst out of the East Building, scamper off wearing hardly a stitch of clothing and disappear into

the maze of office workers and snarling traffic. Out on the streets they run around Victoria Embankment for 5½ miles then return just as suddenly and re-assume their guise as normal people.

This little known Club has been making quite a name for itself while fighting its way, with professional skill and determination, up to third position in the first division, London Colleges League.

Leading this fanatical band of mud-slogging runners is Scotland's own Doug Gunstone, who recently won his third consecutive League Race. In close pursuit of the "Terror of The North" is Smilin' Andy Crompton, the Wonder Boy of Lancashire, and the Heir Apparent to the Scotsman's Crown. From London comes the courageous Captain, Dave Butler, who plays tennis, and wages a friendly war with the irrepressible Canadian, Jack Wessel. Running doggedly in 5th position is the sinister

## Regatta at its best

Beneath a threatening grey sky, last Saturday afternoon; the LSE VIII, lovingly carried their boat TUNNY II, out from the University of London's Boathouse at Chiswick; and set it down carefully on the dirty waters of the Thames in anticipation of their race in the Winter Regatta. As soon as the crew had settled in the boat, the clarion call came over the speakers, that U.C. II (University College, second VIII) had failed to turn up to race against LSE. LSE were through to the semi-finals. Despite this good news, Tunny II took to its paddles and went out for an energetic practice sprint, before their next race. Unfortunately this sapped too much energy from the men, as was obvious later on.

Late in the afternoon, Tunny II was out; ready to meet the challenge from the strong 'first VIII' of Imperial College I.C. 1. The LSE VIII consisted of four senior oarsmen with considerable experience, two junior-senior oarsmen, and two junior oarsmen—the basis of a very competent crew. On the other hand, I.C. 1 had not

only the University Captain but also Andy Bayles recently back from rowing for U.K. in Canada. The rest of their crew were well endowed with the 'white' track suits, that denote high standard competition. Despite the overwhelming odds, our crew rowed better than at any time previously; through some rough water and wind. The crew went well off from the start, and both boats were level for about twenty strokes. As expected, the stronger I.C. 1 gradually pulled ahead, and finished winning easily.

Our stroke-oarsman, Rolf Ehlers, set a high stroke rate and maintained it throughout the four-minute sprint. The row was well controlled and balanced, considering the very few outings the crew have had.

Next term we hope to be able to enter two VIII's for the 'Head of the River Races'; half of our second eight will be made up of novices.

JEREMY McLAUGHLIN  
Captain of Boats

## High hopes for tennis

Last season the men's 1st team were undefeated in Inter-College, University matches and won the Cup. With some useful newcomers to the side, plus several of last season's 'Old Hands', the Club has high hopes of maintaining its standards. Several practises have been held on the indoor courts at Crystal Palace with the occasional game on the Lincoln's Inn Courts when the weather has allowed. It is hoped that more practice sessions can be held next term, especially towards the end. In the summer term a new captain, John Chapman, a Norfolk County player, takes over. Next season for the first time the Club will be entering the Surrey County Championships and it is hoped that matches against Oxford and Cambridge teams can be arranged.

There has been no organized Women's tennis at LSE for the past two seasons. This is a pity as there are excellent facilities available and plenty of girls who wish to play. A meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday January 15th to try and get the Women's section re-started. Please see the Women's Tennis notice-boards in the St. Clement's building for further details.

Ralph Allemeno, from somewhere in South America.

In addition to these are three part-time runners, Ian Gardiner, the speed merchant of Cardiff University, Mike Jordan and John Chapman.