

# BEAVER

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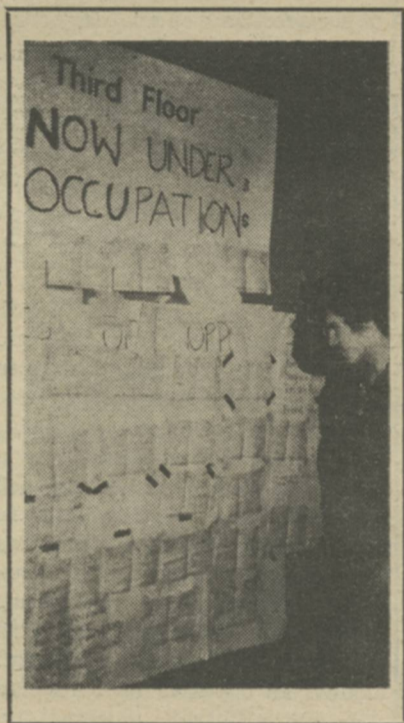
## 'WHAT IS TO BE DONE?'

THROUGHOUT the days so far, the militants involved in the occupation have been united around the essential demand of "No fee increases." The heartening thing about the occupation has been the continued involvement of Overseas Students and those so-called "apathetic" British students.

According to the reformist, these people need to be won over by "broadbased and reasonable" demands. Our demand, by those definitions, was specific and militant, yet time after time, our position has been endorsed by massive union meetings. We feel it necessary to praise those non-aligned activists, who unlike those who have tried to stab the occupation in the back, have stuck magnificently to the principle of education for all, regardless of nationality or personal wealth. It is these people who have made the occupation what it is.

When the Tories crawled on their bellies to Ralf and the Press, they were shown the door by those militants; when the Broad-left tried to water down our demands, they were defeated again and again. When these activists were sold out finally by the Broad-left-Tory alliance, so much for "reason and responsibility" when the School threatened and intimidated them, they stood firm. It is a pity that it takes an occupation to bring people together in solidarity and for a collective consciousness to ensue. The comradeship shown by these non-aligned militants was fantastic.

Whether or not Dahrendorf ends this occupation through bully-boy tactics, this is not the end of the campaign. The colleges that have followed our lead grow day by day. Only



national leadership and co-ordination are lacking.

To end: If our demand of no fee increases cannot be met under this system, then we, through our own collective action and self-activity, must HELP change this society into a socialist society.

Roger Galloway and Richard Bennett

BEAVER would like to apologise for the bitterness of this front page but this is due to the fact that we hoped to get the latest news of what was happening in the occupation and this was only possible by leaving spaces to be filled when we got the proof copies back on Saturday, the rest of the copy for this page having been sent for printing last Thursday. We present below an eye-witness account by Carol Saunders and Martin Peacock, two Beaver reporters who were in Connaught House when the events of Saturday morning took place.

### Occupational sayings

**Overheard in Union Meeting:** "I'd like to stay and vote against the occupation, but unfortunately I've got to go to a hockey match."

**Overheard in Registry, 23.2.77:** A Trot: "I suppose I shouldn't be saying this, but I can't help wishing the police would hurry up and come."

**Overheard in Beaver Office:** Paul Brown: "Where bigots lead, fools follow."

**Overheard elsewhere:** "From out of the gloom a voice spake unto me saying: "Smile and be happy, things could get worse."

"So I smiled and was happy and lo and behold things did get worse"—Ralf Dahrendorf.

**The Editor, Beaver:** "Beaver is not an impartial paper."

**Poster:** "Welcome to our friends in blue. Fight for the right to strike."

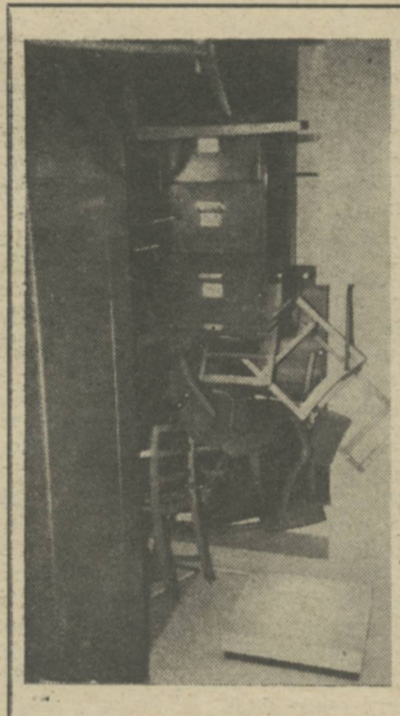
**Another poster:** "It's not against Union Policy to smile."

**Jim Montgomery,** giving instructions for tackling the police "We must be very careful, especially overseas students who don't want to be deported to Turkey, Iran, Iraq—or wherever they're unfortunate enough to come from."

James Gausson

The occupation, which had lasted 17 days, finally reached its conclusion early on Saturday morning. At 2.45 am sleepers in Connaught House were awakened by security who were on duty on the doors whose suspicions had been aroused by prowling policemen. These were later confirmed by the appearance of newspapermen at the corner of Houghton Street and Aldwych. As the occupiers waited they could hear the sounds of the police breaking in from the fire escape and smashing down the front doors of Connaught House, which still bear the signs.

Our correspondents on the spot report that the exit was an orderly one down the stairs and out into the Aldwych. The police seemed surprised to find so few occupiers—54—whilst they numbered in excess of 300, having been drafted from all over London. The mass of occupiers then made their way up Kingsway and found in every street emanating from it lines



EIGHT months after the announcement of massive fee increases for next year, and three months after the slight reduction of the scale of these increases, LSE students were seized by an impulse of militancy and decided to change Government policy by occupying two floors of the administrative building.

It is understandable that at a college of L.S.E.'s composition there should be militant opposition to the fee increases, but why should the opposition have crystallised on Wednesday, 9th February? The answer may lie in the prior intentions of the tired hacks of the L.S.E. Union.

The occupation was spontaneous and well-meaning but unfortunately such demonstrations of feeling usually entrenched offensive Government policy by alienating public support from the demonstrators. Surprisingly, in this instance publicity was generally favourable to students and sympathetic to their case.

After the weekend of 19th and 20th it was apparent by the reduced size of Union meetings that the mass support of the previous week had dissipated itself. If the occupation had ended before the court deadline it would have achieved worthwhile publicity for the occupation and possibly a waiver of free increases for current self-financing students. Now, however, the I.S. and I.M.G. and their fellow-travellers appear determined to force the confrontation everyone would wish to avoid.

Mungo Deans



The gang of 4 meets the Press.



Trevor Phillips tries to get in.



# LETTERS . . .

## BEAVER BALANCED

DEAR EDITOR,—Knowing that several of the Beaver Publications Committee have supported the occupation and intend writing about it in this issue I feel it is necessary that a politically non-aligned moderate should put the other side of the argument.

But, let me first make it quite clear that I am as worried about the students of LSE as anyone. The proposed fee level is obviously a very serious problem and it would be tragic if students were unable to come here, or indeed have to leave prematurely as a result. However to simply say "No fee increases" is a very negative attitude. In fact the irresponsible attitude of some members of the school on this matter was exemplified in one of the Union meetings when someone shouted out "where's the money going to come from?" to be answered with a shout of "that's irrelevant." With that sort of verbal exchange is it really surprising that many people don't think very much of students and begrudge paying our grants out of their taxes.

In asking for the eventual abolition of fees, the students are threatening to put an even heavier burden upon the tax-payer, whilst doing nothing to win them over to their side. The occupation at LSE is really only serving to alienate the public who are merely having their suspicions, that students are essentially impractical, idealistic and unreasonable, justified.

The point I'm making is that the government is responsible for the fee increases, not the school. Any action at the school has not really been against "no fees" but a battle with the school to increase student power in decision making. And in many cases to let the public know that LSE hasn't really been nursed back to the fold of the majority of colleges which have maintained their Right-wing outlooks over the last few years. It is basically to let the school know that the Left isn't really dead and the Director can't really count on having an

easy time of it for the remainder of his stay as Director of the school.

If students really feel that fees should not be increased they should be taking action against the Department of Education and Science, or the government itself in a broad based campaign. The only way in which occupations can really be of any use in terms of a nationwide perspective is if every college is occupied. But of course, this would be detrimental to the students themselves in the same way that this occupation is having harmful effects on the school. Most supporters of the occupation have remained oblivious to the fact that, for example, applicants to LSE are being presented with very severe difficulties as a result of the occupation in the Admissions Office. Furthermore it would be interesting to know how many potential students have been dissuaded from coming here as a result of the bad publicity the occupation has attracted.

Finally a word about the behaviour of the Director. The ineptitude he has shown in the handling of the occupation is unbelievable. Many say that his actions were designed to split the student body, but it could equally be considered a blunder since if the occupation had been allowed to continue without any fuss being made, support for it would quite probably have waned after a few days. And in threatening legal action he has alienated many people who were sympathetic towards him to start with, when it seemed that he had been caught in the middle of a dispute caused by a government decision. Finally, however, his decision to reject the demands of Monday 21st, which appeared to be quite reasonable in the eyes of most people, surprised and disgusted everyone and I think now that Dahrendorf has done irreversible damage to his reputation at LSE, and it's not difficult to see now why so many of the occupation supporters have shown so little trust in him. The sincerity of his statements to the effect that he is on our side must now be looked at with scepticism.

21/2/77

Richard Kitchen

## Carr Saunders lashes back

DEAR EDITOR,—Having once been the target of "anonymous" snidelines it's about time we had our share of print. Previously it was the fact that Trade Union Studies were agitating and taking over the LSE—that wouldn't be such a bad thing, a little awareness might creep in somewhere—and, anyway, as your muck-raking correspondents from Carr Saunders might admit, no political indoctrination has been introduced and the vast majority of Carr Saunders Hall are as politically unknowing as before.

In the last issue our finances were in question and this time it went a little too far. (1) For anyone who read with glee that Carr Saunders Society is about to be declared bankrupt will, I am afraid, be disappointed. Our finances will by the end of this term be as healthy as ever with over £300 in the deposit account once again. The main reason for running an overdraft over Christmas was the fact that the School was slow in giving us our money. (2) And—more importantly—we welcome justified criticism from people justified to give it, but, we don't think "anonymous" Paul Brown can "justify" himself on either point. (Furthermore we don't think we appreciate criticism which has no signature and the fellow committee member hasn't got the

manners to tell us he wrote it—we do read "Beaver").

It is poignant that this article has come from Paul Brown who was the only committee member whose lack of enthusiasm was manifest in matters ranging from the Bar Committee to Christmas dinners to Society meetings and so on. We also ask ourselves why we allowed Paul Brown to run his Social events unhindered, considering his premeditated knowledge of financial loss. Perhaps if he used a little more commonsense, our finances might not have sunk so low. We wonder if the reason for this sly and false attack and his general lack of keenness is because of total failure at the beginning of the Autumn Term to turn the Carr Saunders Committee into a Paul Brown clique. Well, Paul, that's what elections are all about!

With love,

Paul Theiner (ex-President)

Mark Cottell (ex-Vice President) President

G. Thomas (Porter Manager)

PS: Lots of love to all committee members (including Paul Brown) and thanks for all last term's good work.

## Assuredly conned

LARGE numbers of LSE students have recently received letters from 'University Assurances Services Ltd' inviting them to return a questionnaire containing such questions as what the student's marital status is, his probable future occupation, whether he will be likely to require a mortgage, whether he has or has not had a serious illness (if so detailed medical history of the family is required) and how much he considers he could invest per month, in other words, questions of a personal nature. This, we are told, is a free service intended to help you establish

the "foundations of a secure financial future."

If these forms are not filled in, the company sends out a reminder a couple of months later giving the lucky student "another opportunity." I wonder how the company found out names and addresses of students so I phoned up one of the directors, Mr. R. E. Cross. He refused to divulge this information. It should be obvious that this company is not a "philanthropic" organisation, but it is concerned with making profits.

Students may not realise that Life Assurance is a long-term affair. The problem is that, if you become broke after a year

of paying considerable sums of money into an Assurance Policy, if you wish to cash it in you can expect practically nothing back. With the rickety financial position of students, I do not think that they are in any position to effect long-term investment programmes. My advice to them, if they receive the above-mentioned questionnaire, is to write a short note, return it in the reply-paid envelope enclosed, quoting the reference number on the form, saying that they do not wish to complete it, and asking the company to delete their names from its lists.

Jonathan Richmond

## Another schoolboy's view on Ireland

DEAR EDITOR,—I agree with M. M. Gallagher's sentiments in the last issue of 'Beaver' that the 'English schoolboy' interpretation of the situation in Ireland needs correcting. But all we were offered by way of a correction was an Irish schoolboy interpretation of the problem.

It is a fact that every Irish schoolboy leaves school with a burning grievance against Britain as the perpetrator of the most unforgivable act against Ireland, the partition of the country.

There was never any allowance made for the possibility that there might be an internal basis in Irish society for partition. A separate historical development leading to a unique economic, cultural and political experience was the basis for different nation states throughout Europe but nothing like this could be countenanced as having happened within Ireland. Every Irish nationalist worth his salt will fight against an objective reevaluation of the 'official' Irish history. The nationalist is far happier spinning fantasies out of his mind as Gallagher does when he depicts the Ulster industrial working class as the confused stooges of backwoods landowners and the British ruling class. This combined power, so the story has it, is preventing the Protestant working class from realising its true destiny in the bosom of a United Irish state.

Both the Officials and the Provos are agreed that there is a national liberation struggle to be fought in Northern Ireland. But in latter years the Officials have held back from fighting a military struggle. The Provos went ahead with the military struggle which came surprisingly close to success when Ted Heath was P.M. If there is actually a liberation struggle being fought in Northern Ireland, the Provos have an absolute historical sanction for the use of armed violence. No national liberation struggle in history ever succeeded without armed violence.

Why don't the Officials fight an armed struggle which they are undoubtedly capable of? Since the early 'sixties the Republican movement had been flirting with progressive ideas of a democratic and socialist nature. Consequently a large section of it developed a conscience about taking up arms against the largest concentration of industrial labour anywhere in Ireland. For it is not necessary to fight the good fight on the ground as the Officials did in the late 'sixties and early 'seventies, to realise that the obstacle to a United Ireland was not the British Army.

To get a United Ireland the Protestant working class would have to be taken on militarily. The Provos on the other hand were nationalists for whom democratic or socialist notions were of little account. They had no qualms about provoking a full-scale military struggle against an industrial working class. They set about systematically to demoralise the Protestant community by the wholesale bombing cam-

paign. But in this they have dismally failed.

The only socialism the Officials are interested in is of the United Ireland variety. They are now fighting the 'national liberation struggle' by trying to gain attention for a Bill of Rights which no right-minded person would disagree with, but for the fact that it is irrelevant to the real problem. The real problem is, what do you do with a substantial community which regards the liberation struggle as national oppression. It is a developed class structured society, the backbone of which is an industrial labour force and confronting it is a nationalist movement that has long since run out of steam. Every intelligent person in Southern Ireland is busy trying to undo the damage caused by catholic nationalist excesses rather than extend its influence further afield.

The assumption of every nationalist is that it's a crime against humanity that Ireland should be partitioned. But the Ulster Unionist when forced to make the choice whether he should remain part of the United Kingdom or join an abstract United Irish Republic will have nothing to do with the latter. And it's extremely difficult to find fault with his reasoning.

It is the view of a growing section of the democratic and socialist movement in Ireland that Ulster has right to independence from Southern Ireland if they democratically so wish.

Whether taken from the historical, cultural or economic point of view, Ulster has as much right to self-determination as any other section of these islands. Ulster's exercise of that democratic right to self-determination is expressed in the wish to remain part of the UK and that should be supported by democrats and socialists.

Gallagher is right when he says that discrimination and sectarianism have been supported by institutions in both communities rather than simply being an expression of the Protestant attitude to the Catholic minority. The Catholics of Ireland both South and North have been educated and culturally groomed to see Northern Ireland as a state that had to be undermined which periodically included supporting military campaigns.

But unfortunately it is the Catholic minority in the North which has had to bear the brunt of the Protestant determination to maintain the union with Britain. It is not surprising that they did not get red-carpet treatment from the majority but the Catholic minority of the North were treated better than the Protestant minority of the South. The Protestant community of the South has been more than halved from about 12 per cent of the population when the state was founded in the 'twenties to its present 5 per cent. This was sectarianism of a far more effective, subtle and sophisticated kind than anything that went on in the North.

Gallagher is also right when he argues that class politics are retarded while the national struggle is going on. But he is wrong to urge one kind of national liberation struggle as a substitute for another.

James O'Leary



# JUDGES 'JUST'

## OR JUST JUDGES?

THIS odd slogan was prompted by Roger Galloway's recent exclamations against judges on the pages of Beaver. I thought I would approach the subject a little less earthily and try to discover whether there is more than just naked revolutionary prejudice in his ideas. The question raised by Roger really amounts to this:

Are English judges just and unbiased in their handling of the law, or do they just make the grade by way of friends and influence rather than their high sense of social duty?

This is not as black and white an issue as might be expected. The functioning of the judiciary depends on many influences: on their method of selection, their privileges of office, their duties as defined by the constitution, the actual exercise of their power in court, and changes in attitudes to law and its administration.

Obviously the social background and political views of judges have a great influence on their consciousness of the nature of their duties and position. But these influences are ever present among all people in public life.

Throughout the argument we cannot ignore the fact that judges, irrespective of their politics or background, make up a powerful interest group, which stands in tension with the other interest groups that constitute the elements of our constitution. I believe that it is in this realisation, more than any other, that the true threat of excessive judicial mishandling of the law in its own favour comes. I would submit that judicial bias in the exercise of their functions exists and is more a factor of position than of social influence or background.

So what are judges supposed to be doing? Basically they have a twofold job. Firstly, they are supposed to apply the law Parliament makes. Secondly, and perhaps more dangerously, they can create law in their own right. It is in this latter function that the judiciary are most likely to clash with other interests in society, not only by creating law favourable to their own interests, but also by negating the desired effect of statutes in setting precedents of interpretation which may distort Parliament's true intentions, and which must be followed by subsequent courts, thereby making the judicial view of the law stick.

The recent case of **Gouriet v. National Union of Post Office Workers** is an excellent example of how judges can attempt to increase their power. Fortunately, Lord Denning's views are the minority view and so not yet the law. But the case has still to go to the House of Lords and his view may be adopted.

Lord Denning held that where the Attorney General refuses to give his consent to an action brought by a private citizen to stop a future breach of the law, the latter should be entitled to go to court and pursue the claim on his own.

All very well, but it is assuming more power for judges than they are supposed to have. Lord Denning's view amounts to saying that the courts can decide whether a law is about to be broken and allow preventative action, which up to now has been the Attorney General's function, and also would transfer the review of the A.G.'s decisions from Parliament to the courts, irrespective of the fact that the Attorney General is a government minister.

A more outrageous case was **Novotnik v. Novotnik**, where judicial misinterpretation of the 1964 Legal Aid Act effectively prevented legal aid from being distributed to the very people it was intended for. Ironically it was Lord Denning in **Hanning v. Maitland** who set the law right. The point is, however, that a serious error was made and distorted the law as laid down by Parliament.

But why do judges behave this way? I would summarise the reasons in the following words: Judges have a conceited view of their role as "guardians of liberty, an attitude evolved by their position, and excessive law-making powers.

Both have their origin in history. Before the 1870's judges were the major source of law in this country. Parliament merely adjusted any shortcomings in what the judges declared to be the law. These roles have now been reversed, but at the same time judges still retain their ancient law-making powers more or less intact.

These powers are generally used with restraint and so no great errors ensue. But now and again the judges falter seriously. In the notorious case of **Shaw v. D.P.P.** Lord Simonds said: "In the sphere of criminal law, I entertain no doubt that there remains in the courts of law a residual power to enforce the supreme and fundamental purpose of the law, to conserve not only the safety and order but also the moral welfare of the state."

This is an unacceptable idea in a modern democracy where Parliament is supposed to voice the views of the people on such matters. Indeed one commentator has said its effect is similar

to an Act of 1935, passed in Nazi Germany, which stated that: "any person who commits an act which the law declares to be punishable or which is deserving of punishment according to the fundamental conceptions of penal law and sound popular feeling shall be punished."

What is the solution to this? It certainly does not depend on selecting judges from a broader area of society, although this would serve to ensure that judges are more in contact with the people they are supposed to serve. What is needed is a revision of the powers and duties of judges. They should no longer be creators of the law—Parliament is a wholly adequate organ for this.

Judges should be nothing more or less than administrators of the law, in other words functionaries with executive but not creative powers.

That way they would be prevented from steering the law in their own favour by interpreting past cases and statutes in a light based on fiction and obscure reasoning. They would be forced to take note of the fact that people are not interested in a system of courts where judges are free to misapply the words of statutes, or to dictate standards upon society which may have little if no approval, or indeed to cloud constitutional issues with a view to overstating their place within it.

They would no longer be judges "just" but just judges.

P. T. Muchlinski.

# FREEDOM

IT was announced at the Union meeting on January 28th that we had received a letter from the wife of the Chilean prisoner adopted by the Union.

Here is an approximate translation of that letter:

"Dear Friend,—I am writing to you on behalf of my husband to give you my sincere thanks for everything you are doing to get a visa for him and for me. I can tell you everything about his present situation, which I will be happy to do since now we have regained our optimism, faith and hope now that we see more clearly the future ahead of us. It makes us very happy to know that in a country so far away from ours there are people like you and the organisation for which you work, supporting us. There is no doubt that freedom is the greatest thing that any human being in my husband's situation could wish for.

We will often think about your help and let us hope that we'll soon be able to thank you personally when we emigrate to England.

We are a young married couple, both students, and we would very much like to continue our studies and be able to work to build our own future.

The details of my husband's situation are:

**Name:** Alfonso Calixto Sebastian Alvarez Miranda.

**Born:** 1st March, 1955.

**Married:** 4th August, 1976.

Studied to 3rd year and passed to 4th.

Sentenced to 7 years and 300 days by military justice. He is covered by decree 504 which allows his sentence to be commuted to exile if a visa is gained. He has no right to conditional liberties such as Sunday visits, etc. He has been imprisoned since 23rd September, 1973.

We have received no help apart from yours in gaining a visa for any other country. We have been in touch with the Embassy and have let them know about the adoption.

I hope the details are clear enough but I am ready to answer any further enquiries.

Our most cordial greetings and eternal thanks to you and the whole of your organisation—Affectionately."

We have since found out that a visa has been granted to Alfonso and Patricia and we are now waiting for their arrival in England, though it is not possible to know exactly when they will come. We are planning to give them a really warm reception when they arrive and one of the things we had in mind was to have accommodation set up for them. Obviously this will not be easy, so any offers will be a great help. If you know of anything please tell Emma in S100a at any time you can catch her there. Or come to one of our meetings held on Tuesdays in S100a at 1 p.m. New members are always welcome.

Chile Solidarity Committee.

## Meditation

TRANSCENDENTAL Meditation is fun. It is primarily a method for unfolding the full capacity of the individual to enjoy life. Far from being an escape from the demands of life, it is invariably found to increase the freshness with which one approaches everyday activity.

Essentially the technique consists of a very simple procedure for allowing mind and body to settle down to a very quiet state, while at the same time maintaining an increasing degree of alertness. This combination of restful alertness, gained during the practice, is then spontaneously felt throughout the day and influences such activities as decision-making, personal encounters, and ability to study. Twice a day a person sits for 20 minutes, with eyes closed in a comfortable chair. At a subjective level what is felt during meditation is simply that the thinking process becomes much less active.

The experience is a little like what happens when the volume of a noisy radio is gradually switched off, and we become conscious of silence itself.

When practised correctly the process is completely effortless and happens by itself. For this reason it is necessary to learn the method from a trained teacher. Instruction takes place in four lessons, preceded by two introductory talks.

The effects of TM on everyday life vary somewhat from one person to another. Most people notice beneficial changes within the first few days, often in the form of lessened tension, better memory and concentration. A common report is that there seems to be more time available during the day even though the work load remains the same, probably because of a lessened sense of hurry and anxiety.

Relationships are often profoundly affected with more openness and ease. People who play sports generally notice an improvement in their perform-

ance. They are always looking for an advantage in their rigorous competition. People in other fields can sometimes slide by at less than full potential, but an athlete knows he must perform at his peak, not only physically and with the ability to concentrate mentally, but under severe pressure. As scientific research has indicated and important athletes now attest, TM is one technique that improves all three areas at once.

There have been over a hundred published studies on TM indicating that a total physiological change occurs as a result of this easy mechanical mental technique. One researcher suggested that the unique synchrony of the brain wave patterns produced during TM could be correlated to increased perception and learning ability shown in meditating students.

The LSE TM Society invites you to a talk on March 3rd in the TV Room at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



# STRAND HOUSE

NEXT year sees the move of the Main Library to Strand House which is now undergoing conversion. This accounts for the cacophony emanating from behind the St. Clements Building. It is hoped that the builders will be finished by January 1978 and that the mammoth task of transferring the library will be completed in the ensuing six months. Hence present first year under-graduates can expect to enjoy the new delights for the whole of their third year, teething troubles and all. Of course unforeseen circumstances etc . . .

It was in 1970 that the School first entered into negotiations with W. H. Smith and Sons concerning the possible acquisition of Strand House by L.S.E. Strand House was a prime site and being Smith's administrative wholesale headquarters and a warehouse, it was structurally sound and able to bear very heavy weight. Agreement was reached in 1973 and on February 5th, of that year, Lord Robbins launched an appeal at the Mansion House to raise the minimum of £2m which was required to pay for the building. Another £1.9m was forthcoming from the Government. Last year on March 31st, L.S.E. officially took possession of Strand House but as the target for the appeal was continually running away the original con-

version plans have had to be cut down. Consequently air conditioning and a second lift have been left out of the scheme although provision in the rebuilding has been made for their incorporation once more money has been raised.

Tenders for conversion were submitted at the time of a very keen market and consequently were relatively low, the successful offer coming from J. Jarvis and Son.

The money that has been raised from the appeal for the purchase and conversion has come from a variety of interesting sources. The Ford Foundation and the Nuffield Foundation gave \$400,000 and £200,000 respectively. Barclays Bank gave £3,000 and £5,000 came P and O Lines Ltd., £10,000 from the National Coal Board. The Economist gave £5,000, the Daily Telegraph £2,000 and the Financial Times £10,000. The largest single anonymous donation was worth \$250,000.

The object of the move to Strand House is to improve the library and L.S.E. facilities generally which are cramped to say the least. It is hoped that once the transition is made, all material will be readily available, as compared with now when only one-ninth of the stock is on the shelves, i.e. about 7,000 out of over 60,000. At the moment, most books are

shelved underground along 10 miles of shelves and stories are told of how a large part of the Aldwych rests on the foundations of the LSE library. Books are also stored at a depository in Egham.

The floor area of Strand House is half that of the space available at the moment so summer 1978 will see quite a considerable move around. The Accommodation Committee has been and will be examining the overall allocation of space and has been consulting Students'

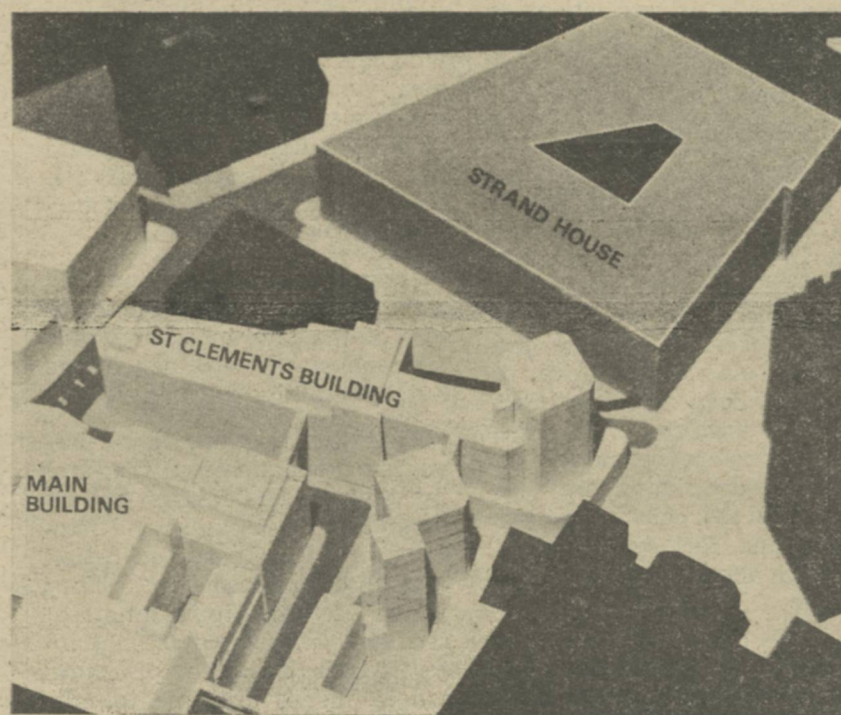
Union, Departments and the Administration. It appears that the Students' Union will be appreciably better off and it seems likely that it will transfer its offices to the East Building, although nothing is finalised yet.

Looking at the changes from an environmental viewpoint it appears that the "Centre of Gravity" will change. This affects the siting of key functions which should emanate from it and is the place where key pedestrian routes converge.

It is at the moment, the Foyer of the Old Building, but with interest focused largely on Strand House it will move to further along Houghton Street and probably to St. Clements.

Above all, the move to Strand House will make L.S.E. a bigger University and go some way to rectifying the feeling students and staff have of being claustrophobically confined to a very small area. Coupled with this will be a vastly improved library, hopefully in a clean, light atmosphere where all books are available when required.

A.C.



THIS week Beaver presents as its Middle Page Feature a survey of the British Library of Political and Economic Science now and in the future. On this page we have a look at the implications of the move to Strand House next year; on page five we attempt to show the state of the Library at the present time and it is not very pleasant. We hope that in light of the article action will ensue but cannot help feeling that as in the past the whole matter will soon be forgotten. We hope this will not be the case.

# Covent Garden Proms

"50p: pay at the door, take your friends and sit on the floor."

**Four performances by The Royal Opera:**

Monday 11th April at 7.30 pm  
Tosca (Puccini)

Wednesday 13th April at 7.30 pm  
Peter Grimes (Britten)

Thursday 14th April at 7.30 pm  
Tosca (Puccini)

Tuesday 19th April at 7.00 pm  
Faust (Gounod)

**Four performances by The Royal Ballet:**

Tuesday 12th April at 7.30 pm  
La Fille mal gardée

Friday 15th April at 7.30 pm  
La Bayadère, Triad, Humoresque

Saturday 16th April at 7.30 pm  
The Taming of the Shrew

Monday 18th April at 7.00 pm  
The Dream, A Month in the Country, Voluntaries



700 Stalls Promenade places available on the day of performance one hour before curtain up. 50p each, including VAT. Seats: £1.00 to £12.50.

Further details: 01-240 1911 (24-hour information service).



Royal Opera House



Midland Bank

The Royal Opera House Covent Garden Limited receives financial assistance from The Arts Council of Great Britain.

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# WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

IF you have not recognised the pictures on this page, they are of a place which all students pass through many times during their period of study at LSE. It is the Main Library and these photos highlight the absolutely filthy and decrepit position it is in, not only for students but also for the staff who have to permanently work in it.

Everyone of you is doubtless aware of the general dirt; just think of the number of times you have walked out of the Library after doing some work and finding your hands black from touching both books and shelves. However, the general malaise runs deeper. This does not mean to say that it needs hunting out; it is just that most students enter the Library with a specific taste in mind; they sit down to do it and leave when it is completed. Consequently little attention is paid to the surroundings but to give it closer inspection is horrifyingly revealing. Broken chairs stacked on each other and left unattended for months;

cleaned only once or twice in the past decade; books left to acquire dust in the basement or strewn all over the floor in complete disarray.

This is just a sample of the delights which the present British Library of Political and Economic Science holds. As probably the most important feature of LSE it is in a shocking state and this hits not only those who go there to study: people work there full time.

There is a limit to the amount of clearing up they can do and it is a total waste of their time to have to chase around ensuring that cleaning is done, repairs are made and generally that the library is not too ramshackle (which indeed it is at the moment).

As far as can be ascertained it is cleaned every day and the very fact that it is in constant use too ensures that dust does not accumulate in many areas. However there are layers of filth all over the place which have obviously not been touched for years. Going on to the library a few weeks ago I rubbed a cloth along a window-sill and it came away leaving a white line amidst the black.

A fortnight later, the sill had still not been cleaned."

An example of the ludicrous cleaning position is over the space between the double glazing which is in some parts of the library. The cleaners' contract specifies that they should clean up to the windows and no further; the window-cleaners' job is to clean the windows—the space in between is just left. Similarly there are stacks of chairs with their seats broken around the library, usually with the seats stacked nearby. It would be the easiest thing in the world to create an alliance between the two, yet no-one seems to consider it, let alone consider it worthwhile.

Of course all these criticisms can be answered in two words: Strand House. Why go to all the trouble of cleaning up the place and achieving some semblance of order when the Library is going to move?

Simply, the situation outlined above has existed for many years now and could quite soon come into being in the new Library. Also it is 18



A Cleaners' Cupboard

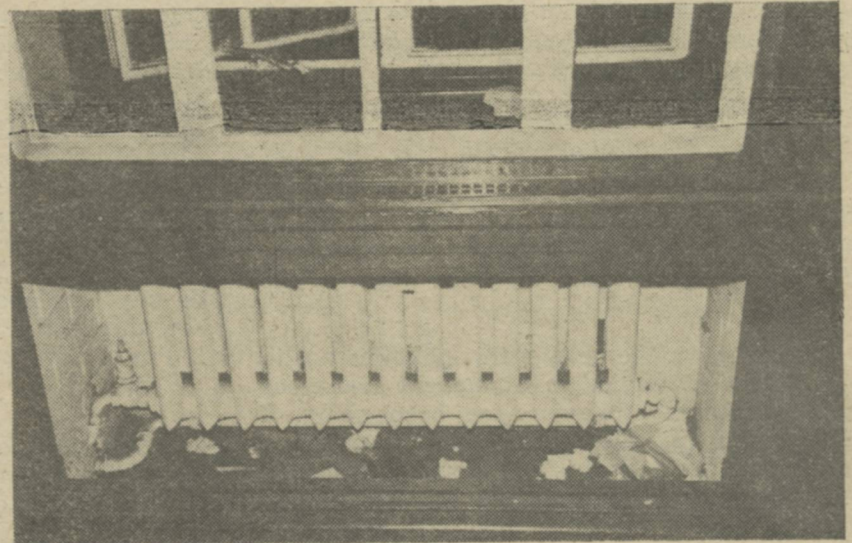
months before the great move will be completed and until that day many people will be forced to work in almost intolerable conditions. Approaches have been made to the School on many occasions to find solutions to the problems, but have met with little positive response.

Whatever your viewpoint, whether you think that it is necessary to keep up the reputation of the BLPES or that there should at least be minimum standards, it is obvious that action should be taken to improve the material condition of the Library. It is in a sorry condition and what is even sadder is that nothing has been

done to rectify it and probably to overcome as there seems to be no one person who is actually responsible for making sure that the Library is adequately maintained—so that it is a fit place to work in. Let us hope that this time the cry will not be ignored nor made in isolation, but that sufficient students and academics will feel strongly motivated to try and alter matters which, and it cannot be emphasised too often, are in a shocking state. The fact that the Library staff have lived with them for so long is no justification for their continuation. As the School seems to have washed its hands of the whole affair it is up to our student representatives on the Library Committee — and you, students and academic staff — to exert pressure for change.

It seems a difficult problem

Anton Chapman.



Many Months' Rubbish



"Reserve Stacks"!

plumbing jobs which are started but are never properly completed; fire doors actually propped open by fire extinguishers; window ledges and high shelves which have been



Broken Chairs Acquiring Dust

## GERMANY: 40 YEARS ON

THE praised "German model" shows its Mr Hyde face in eroding democratic rights and liberties, undemocratic changes and extensions of the legal system, militarisation and policing throughout the country. The restriction of protest and resistance inside the system by criminalisation and harassment, leading to individuals' economic ruin, calls for a united stand, international action indicating concern and disgust about the measures and methods used by governmental institutions. To prove this reproaches an incomplete but exemplary chronological list of measurements in the Federal Republic seems to be adequate.

After rearmament and prohibition of the KPD (Communist Party of Germany) in the 'fifties a climax was reached after the student riots by the pass of the "emergency laws" (providing deviations from constitutional principles in the case of emergency) in 1968.

The "Conference of the Ministers of Interior" implemented the "Decree against Radicals" in 1972 as a legal device to prevent the employment of "extremists" in the public service. The Border Guard was officially defined as a "Police Reserve Force" in 1973.

The "Lex-Baader-Meinhof" was passed in parliament in 1974 providing the exemption of lawyers from trials on grounds of "sympathising with their defendants." In 1975 the crown witness and the supervision of lawyers were instituted and in the same year the Supreme Court of the FRG confirmed the "Act against Radicals." In 1976, finally, paragraphs 88a and 130a are passed in parliament allowing political censorship, confiscation and penalisation of publishers and their publications if these

"incite to the use of violence" or present "violence as a means of political strife".

The examination of 500,000 applications for public employment in three years leading to nearly 500 job sackings (Berufsverbote—now an international term) on behalf of the politically based "Decree against Radicals" and various other measures exemplify the gigantic bureaucratic set-up guaranteeing a biased "political democratic order".

This political record is highlighted by a statement of Chancellor Schmidt, declaring the Baader-Meinhof Group as criminals before the trials were finished, the deaths of political prisoners like Holger Meins after a hunger-strike against prison conditions (isolation and the "suicide" of Ulrike Meinhof, or the political and economical pressure leading to the extradition of Rolf Pohle from Greece.

The growing international resistance and organisation of the fight against repression in West Germany is understandable because of the obvious similarities to fascist tactics in the thirties. In several European countries like Sweden, Italy, Belgium, Denmark and England, committees were set up and the "Mitterand-committee" in France or the committee of the Social democratic Workers' Party of Holland forced public statements of German politicians against this institutional conduct.

The talk of lawyer Kurt Groenewold (defence counsel of the RAF (Red Army Fraction) at the Stuttgart trials, himself facing victimisation and a trial on the charge of conspiracy) at the L.S.E. in January 77 and the publication of "Verboten", a bulletin with news, information and background articles on the situation in West Germany, have been the first actions of the committee against repression in West Germany in England. In March a conference is planned in conjunction with comrades from Germany on the subject of repression and resistance in West Germany with films, theatre and workshops around particular topics. If you wish to help in any of these areas contact the Campaign at 35 Wellington Street, London WC2.

Hannes Weber



# Occupation hazards

PROFESSOR RALF "I am a Liberal" DANDRUFF is utterly against the fee increases. He is so strongly opposed that he is taking LSE students to court for trying to do something about them.

Speaking from his palatial-style home in Cloudcuckooland, a residence he is forever telling students not to live in, Dandruff spoke of the "enormous struggle" he had single-handedly waged against the fee increases.

"I have lost hours of sleep worrying about the fees. When I last had a chat with the Prime Minister over a glass of champagne I told him I was deeply concerned about them. I think I might have written a letter to The Times (or was it the Telegraph?) on the subject. I have made it clear on several occasions that I am opposed to the fees increases because I believe they will cause great hardship to students and will do great damage to the LSE.

"Nevertheless," Dandruff went on warming to his theme, "I am opposed to the sit-in by students. And for why? I will tell you. Because it will cause great hardship to students and will do great damage to the LSE.

"I repeat, I am wholly against fee increases. I will even go so far as to say that, taking one thing with another the government's policy on this may not be the most sensible or enlightened action which they have taken in the last three years.

"But the way to change this policy is not to occupy the lavatories in Connaught house—or whatever those students have been doing. I tell you, raping the cleaners and threatening to blow up the School is not the way to change the government's policy. The way to do that is to do what I've been doing—talking sensibly and rationally with the government. My method has been highly successful as you can see."

A statement issued by a group called 'Cease the Occupation Now and Talk to Ralf Immediately, Chaps—(signed) Kay' (CONTRICK) has given support to Dandruff. It says in part: "This totally irresponsible action by hooligans has the support of a tiny minority of students — after all, only half the school will be affected by the fee increases. Anyway, the increases are very reasonable if you are rich, bigoted, apathetic and self-centred like we are. Besides, how can the country possibly afford to educate people when it is having enough difficulty maintaining spending on such essential things as Concorde, new weapons with which to kill greater numbers of people, motorways (which are pretty effective in killing people, too), the Queen (who must find it pretty difficult to survive on her paltry salary of £1,665,000 tax free—no incentive to work these days, is there?) and such people as the numerous senile, half-witted, decrepid reactionary flunkies and parasites more commonly known as the Court of Governors.

"This action is also very undemocratic. It has only been supported by meetings of up to 700 students. And we all know that those supporting the action are either evil-minded Trotskyists, or have been duped by them. And there have been acts of intimidation, too. Many students have been told that if they do not support the action, they will have their heads nailed to the floor and their knees stapled together.

"So don't be led by the nose up the garden path into a false paradise—and don't mix your metaphors either. Join us and help the Conservative Party, woops, people of moderation to join together," etc., etc.

The news that Mr Paul W. Lice, 14, had resigned as Chairman of LSE's Labour Club over the sit-in, came as a great shock to a number of people who had never previously known Lice to state his position on any issue. It has come as an even greater shock to a larger number of people who were not aware that Lice was Chairman of the Labour Club in the first place. But it is not certain whether he will now join the Conservatives; the Liberals seem to be closer to his viewpoint, though there is some doubt as to whether he might not be too right-wing for them. In one of the 47 Union meetings held during the occupation, Lice said that, rather than taking action which might actually have some effect on Dandruff and his cronies, students should waste their time and energy lobbying the Department of Education. He also claimed that not all of those against the sit-in were Tories: "Look at me! I'm completely against fees increases—as passionately and sincerely so as Margot "Thatcher in the Rye" James herself. It's just I don't think we should do anything about them. No, I mean, let me see, this is the wrong way to go about it . . . if I'm to advance my career in the right way."

\* \* \*

At the time of writing it is not known what has happened in the courts. All that is known is that, in the best traditions of "liberal democracy" the opponents of the sit-in have gone running squealing for help from their friends in Fleet Street and the judiciary.

Dandruff and co. have made some great "concessions" which apparently include bicentennial meetings with students in which the latter will be told to accept new fees; students who do not agree with the economic theories of the reactionary Economics Department will not be made to pay even higher fees than everyone else; and a "special committee" will be set up to investigate "alternatives" to the fees increases—e.g., closing down the library, sacking all the teaching staff except the reactionaries (in which case 95 per cent of the staff will stay—Ed) and raising the price of a hamburger and chips to £1.50. The only alternatives the Director will not contemplate is forcing the Government to change its policies, or cutting the lucrative salaries of all the various upper class twits in the Court of Governors, etc., most of whom have probably never even visited LSE before.

James Gausson,  
Occupational correspondent.

# Cross Country

BRITISH STUDENTS' SPORTS FEDERATION  
CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP 1977

ON February 5th, over 100 women from the British Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities battled over two-and-a-half miles of swamplike cross-country course in Guildford.

After the usual jostling at the start, a group of about ten pulled away from the field led by British international Cheryl Hanson (Loughborough) and Jill Clarke (Birmingham). However, the first incline took further toll and as five emerged in front at the top of the hill, Kathryn Binns (ULU/LSE) was amongst them. She was the first to pull away after Hanson and

over the last three-quarter mile ran herself into second place ahead of Clarke and Scholfield (Loughborough). Even then the mud-splattered Kathy started a second lap in her enthusiasm until spectators called her back.

Lynne Tennant (LSE) came in a very creditable tenth and these two—two-thirds of the ULU team—pushed the University into fourth place in the BUSF championship.

In the men's race, Colin Lizieri and Nick Lodge were our representatives in the ULU team that finished fifth, whilst our own team

did well to beat a usually stronger Brunel side. Nick Jeffries (ULU) won the race in which even Ray Smedley could only manage third spot.

**U.L.U.**

On February 9th, LSE hosted the ULU Men's Championship run at Richmond Park and ran home to a resounding victory (though rumour has it that two teams from among the stronger colleges may have been slow starters!). This was the culmination of a fine month of running from competitors more used to pavement and petrol fumes than mud and mizzle.

# Aid to Namibia

**SWAPO**—the South West Africa People's Organisation—is the National liberation movement of Namibia, a country which South Africa conquered from Germany in 1915, and refuses to leave.

Since 1966, South Africa has occupied Namibia in defiance of the UN and the International Court of Justice. The illegal regime continues to implement apartheid, to apply brutal labour legislation, to crush all strikes for anything more than sub-starvation wages, and with the collusion of Western multinationals and governments, uses its illegal hold over Namibia to exploit the territory's vast mineral wealth.

For the past four years, the people of Namibia, under SWAPO's leadership, have been engaged in an armed struggle to liberate their country. South Africa's answer has been to send in 50,000 troops and police to increase its hold over Namibia. Simultaneously villages have been arbitrary destroyed, areas defoliated, water supplies contaminated, and widespread torture takes place daily. South Africa also used its illegal hold over Namibia to launch an aggressive attack on the independence of Angola, and destroyed SWAPO guerilla camps in Angola.

SWAPO has had to intensify its campaign against the occupiers and is now fighting in the rainy season. Although this is generally considered strategically to be a good time, it puts great demands on SWAPO's soldiers. There is an urgent need for medical equipment for use by the SWAPO field doctors, both at the front and for the rural population.

Recently, the Namibia Support Committee announced that it is arranging for medical kits to be sent to SWAPO. Each kit, packed in specially designed haversacks, contains basic surgical equipment for casualties, a range of drugs and basic first-aid materials. SWAPO has acknowledged this initiative, saying that "medical supplies are a vital element in our guerilla struggle."

## What we can do

Each medical kit will cost £100, and it is not beyond the capacity of LSE students to raise such an amount. It is essential that we demonstrate our solidarity with SWAPO in its struggle against apartheid South Africa. You are urged to support any collections, benefit evenings and other events which will be launched in the future. You will be contributing material aid in a concrete way to the liberation of the Namibian people.

# Ivan Chan—superman

"CONGRATULATIONS" to Ivan Chan, LSE No 1 table tennis player. Although unseeded, Chan, in spectacular fashion, succeeded in taking both the men's singles and doubles titles at the British Universities Sports Federation individual championships.

The standard of play at the championships, held at the University of Bath on January 22nd and 23rd, was extremely high. To win any one title requires a great deal of skill and concentration. To take two titles requires nothing less than a superstar, and that is just what Chan has proved himself to be.

In the singles event, the road to success was a continuous struggle. In the preliminary rounds Chan beat opponents from Lancaster, Manchester, Sheffield and Sussex. His first real test came when he faced No. 2 seed, Fuller of Warwickshire. Fuller beat Chan in the UAU championships last year but this time Chan had his revenge. He won the first game convincingly but Fuller managed to draw level. In an electrifying third game Chan, leading 13-12, showed great skill, winning the next point after a spectacular rally that left the spectators spellbound. Thereafter he had no difficulty in winning the game and a match that will be remembered for years to come.

In the quarter-finals Chan, suffering from severe cramp in his right thigh, managed to beat his opponent from St Andrew's. The semi-final provided tough opposition from a Portuguese international, playing for Essex. However, with courage and confidence Chan cleared the path to the finals.

In the doubles event Chan partnered Simon Ball, a Medical student

at Middlesex Hospital. They had little trouble in the preliminary rounds but met with tough opposition in the quarter-final. The opposition was tougher still in the semi-final when they faced the No. 3 seeds from Sussex. In a superbly-played match they thrilled not only the spectators but also the umpire, who became so engrossed in the play that he lost track of the score several times.

In the finals arena on Sunday, January 23rd, they faced their opponents from Leeds. Both Chan and Ball played with such confidence and faultless co-ordination that it was obvious from the very first point that they were set to take the title. They won easily in straight games 21-17, 21-19.

In the single final Chan's victory did not come quite so easily. He faced P. Eden, an experienced player from Birmingham and a regular member of the British Universities team. Chan opened strongly, winning the first game 21-18. Undeterred, Eden, with strong resistance, recovered, taking the second game. In an exciting third game Chan decided on a change of strategy and adopted a more aggressive manner. He forged ahead leaving a points margin that Eden simply could not whittle down. With cool courage Chan won the third game 21-12 and with it the coveted title.

So quickly was the third game over that the faces of many, including Eden, registered surprise and bewilderment, but none more so than the new title-holder himself.

"I still can't believe it's true," he said. "I've always dreamt of winning the BUSF; it's certainly the greatest achievement of my life."

H. Hassan



# ENTSNEWS AND REVIEWS

THERE are no excuses for missing the next Ents. extravaganza planned for SATURDAY, MARCH 5th (note the running time: 7.00 p.m. until midnight). It's certain to be an "event" rather than simply five hours of entertainment. The occasion is a "RELEASE," the charity legal aid organisation benefit featuring the following array of talent:

**ARTHUR BROWN** (including Vincent Crane and surprise friends!)

**CAROL GRIMES AND THE LONDON BOOGIE BAND.**

**KEITH CHRISTMAS.**

**PAUL BRETT.**

**STEEL PULSE.**

**DELTA.**

plus all the usual luxuries like real ale, pizzas, hamburgers, disco . . . !

Purchasing advance tickets might well prove to be a necessity; they can be obtained from the Union Shop for £1.00. Those of you who are bold enough to risk coming without an advance ticket will have to pay £1.30.

The remarkable feats and pioneering achievements of **ARTHUR BROWN** (via a top five single with 'Fire,' The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, on stage pyrotechnical outrageousness and crucifixions, a self-imposed exile from the music scene, Kingdom Come . . .) have made his name legendary in every sense.

Although by no means a regular live performer, Arthur is currently in the midst of a week's intensive rehearsals alongside the likes of Vincent Crane, Andy Dalby and members of Kiki Dee's backing band. He has fond memories of previous appearances in the LSE Old Theatre, a venue which displays his remarkably charismatic performances to maximum advantage. (I would go on record as saying that Arthur Brown is the English eccentric version of Frank Zappa!).

**CAROL GRIMES** is a classic case of a blues singer who wants to perform live every night of the year and make just enough money to get by. A succession of pitfalls in every branch of the music business from lousy management to tasteless album covers has prevented her from achieving this modest ideal and also prevented the public from appreciating her true talent. Powered by the **LONDON BOOGIE BAND**, Carol Grimes delivers more soul than every "assembly line/top twenty/plastic/dreamy doll" churned out by record companies the world over.

**KEITH CHRISTMAS** makes a welcome return to the LSE in the promised guise of a coke-snortin', solo-tokin', nose (guitar) pickin', goodtime musician.

**PAUL BRETT'S** well-received recital of his 12-string guitar suite entitled "Earth Birth" at last year's Deaf School concert is a good indication of how he will be opening the evening's entertainment in the Old Theatre. During the next few weeks he'll be making numerous appearances on radio and television in response to media reaction, rather than

record company promotion, following the release of his album by Phoenix Co-operative.

**STEEL PULSE** are quite simply a hot new roots reggae band from Birmingham. No doubt they will appeal to those who witnessed 90 Degrees Inclusive in the Three Tuns recently as well as inducing the third floor refectory audience to move the odd limb or slip into some bodily rhythms.

Completing the "anticipated" lineup will be **DELTA**, about whom I know nothing except that they are friends of Arthur's and basically into having a good time. Come along on March 5th and LSE Ents. will make sure that you have a spliffing good time.

**Friday, March 11th, 7.30 p.m. In Concert: JOHN HARTFORD!**

Coming from southern USA, John Hartford has amassed a cult following among British fans of country/bluegrass music. His recent exposure to wider audiences at the Cambridge Folk Festival and the Wembley Country Music Festival has brought mass acclaim. Hartford's only appearances beside that secured by LSE Ents will be as support act on the imminent J. J. Cale tour.

Doubtless his dextrous display on banjo, stamping board (Ents are contracted to provide an 8 foot by 5 foot hunk of wood!) and stoned visual/vocal eccentricities will be ideal in warming up, or thawing out the audience at the New Victoria Theatre. One can only hope that John Hartford's performance of bluegrass and tales of the Mississippi, paddle boats, the misfortunes of leaving records in the sun and weed, will eventually rate with the concert at LSE by David Bromberg last year.

The ticket prices are £1.00 advance, £1.20 on the door. Those readers familiar with Jerry Jeff Walker can well imagine the overall feel and themes of Hartford's songs. With 12 albums, the latest release on Sonet, "Mark Twang," is a good example of where his roots and traditions lie. Whether Hartford will perform his most famous composition, "Gentle On My Mind" (a massive hit for Glen Campbell) remains to be seen. Retaining the country rock flavour to the evening will be the **ROY ST. JOHN BAND** whose E.P. is released by Virgin Records.

**Tuesday, March 8th: "ASCEND." 1 p.m.**

**Old Theatre.**

**ASCEND** are a nucleus of contemporary musicians who despite working in such established groups as King Crimson and National Youth Jazz Orchestra, have finally opted for the relative anonymity of a group where musical compromises are kept to an absolute minimum. The natural spontaneity that their skill as musicians allows has attracted the interest and support of that occasional NME scribe, Ian MacDonald. No further recommendation should be necessary.

**Wednesday, March 2nd: "FREE BLUES BAND"**

**9.00 p.m.**

**TEQUILA BROWN BLUES BAND.** Get down in the 3 Tuns Bar for some relaxed blues from Wokingham! We'll offset the cost of Theakston's by not charging for admission.

From Jah Andy Cornwell and the 'roots' Ents tribe.

## Forthcoming ballet

THE next two months should be exciting for those interested in dance.

A number of dance companies will perform in London during March and April, most notably Maurice Béjart and the Ballet of the 20th Century.

Béjart believes that the 20th century belongs to ballet, as the 16th and 17th centuries did to theatre, and the 18th and 19th centuries to opera. Whilst appreciating the roots of dance lie in antiquity, Béjart tries to make ballet relevant to this century; he does this in two ways. First, he uses cinema and theatre effects thus achieving "a total spectacle." Second, he reaches as many people as possible by performing in large sports arenas. In these ways, he tries to remove ballet from the patronage of the élite.

Based in Brussels, the company tours extensively. In Iran recently, a number of people walked out dur-

ing a performance. For this, his fourth London season, Béjart is bringing over five works. During this season at the Coliseum (April 12th to 23rd) there will be three separate programmes.

**Ballet Rambert** will perform a "workshop" season at the Jeanetta Cochrane Theatre from March 16th to 19th. Eight members of the company have choreographed dances, in conjunction with design students from the Central College of Art and Design. All seats are 80p.

**London Contemporary Dance Theatre** begins a three-week season at Sadler's Wells on April 5th. The programme consists of 15 works, including three London premières. One advertised work ("Consolation of the Rising Moon") has been dropped, and two works by Robert Cohan ("Forest" and "Eclipse") have been added. "Junctions," a company which has grown out of London School of Contemporary Dance will perform at the Shaw Theatre on March 23rd and 24th.

RICHARD VINES.

## THEATRE NOTES

IN the last month I have seen three new shows which impressed me. The best of the shows was "Separate Tables," which has opened at the Apollo on Shaftesbury Avenue. The show is made up of two playlets. The stage is graced by two quite superb performances from John Mills and Jill Bennett. The second of the playlets is a good deal better than the first. The show seems to be set for a long run.

The King's Head Theatre Club is at present presenting a musical tribute to Edith Piaf. The show is performed by four actor/singers. The show is devised by Libby Morris who also performs. If one has to criticise the show it is because there is not enough biographical material about Piaf. However, if

like me, you do have a passion for Piaf, "Edith Piaf: Je Vous Aime" is a marvellously entertaining evening.

The most ingenious new show to come on to the West End stage is "Spokesong": ingenious, because it attempts to combine the history of Northern Ireland with the history of the bicycle. The play is performed with several songs. Whether the show will run for that long is in some doubt. The idea is an exciting one, and some of the performances were very good. However, somehow the show seems to have lost something in transferring from a theatre club stage. The play is at the Vaudeville.

PAUL WILCE.

## REVOLUTIONARY

OPERA is seldom considered to be revolutionary in a political sense. Yet in the 1850s, Verdi's "Un ballo in maschera" was thought by the censor in Naples to have such dangerous tendencies. The opera portrays the assassination in 1792 of King Gustavus III of Sweden at a masked ball.

Verdi refused to implement the required changes and turned to Rome instead. Under papal requirements he was forced to adopt a non-European setting. It was not until 1935 that the opera was restored to its original Swedish setting in performance.

The plot is elegantly simple. Gustavus, King of Sweden, is in love with Amelia, wife of Anckarstrom, his secretary. Anckarstrom warns him of an assassination plot; a fortune teller confirms that he will be murdered by a friend; but Gustavus shrugs off these warnings.

Anckarstrom subsequently discovers that his wife has met the King in secret, and decides to join the conspirators. Lots are drawn, and he is to be the assassin at the masked ball. As the King dies, he pardons his murderers and protests Amelia's innocence.

The strong cast is headed by Nico-

lai Gedda, as Gustavus III. His was an outstanding performance: he combined an impressively wide range of vocal expression with accurate intonation and good diction. He gave an engaging interpretation of the character: sometimes playful, sometimes gracious and generous. Lilliana Molmar-Talajic's portrayal of Amelia was less praiseworthy; her singing lacked expression at first. However, she has a very beautiful voice, and was at times capable of highly emotive singing, as in her third act aria.

Norma Burrows was in excellent form as Oscar, a page, especially in the ensemble passages where her long, soaring high notes were delicately balanced with the other voices.

Elizabeth Bainbridge gave a confident performance of the part of the fortune-teller; the role of Anckarstrom was well taken by Yuri Masurok.

The sharply contrasting moods of the three acts were imaginatively captured by the production and the set in particular. The last scene was less good: the costumes were garish and the stage seemed overcrowded, even for a royal occasion.

MICHAEL CLEARY

## The real way to travel

THE following travel information might well prove of interest to any student who is likely to be bored and restless this summer and who has a minimum of £300 at his or her disposal. In a word, hitch hike around North America!

After concluding last Easter that NUS Travel offered no real advantages in terms of cost and convenience, I booked a 60-day notice Advance Booking Charter flight to New York with T.W.A. at a cost of £149 (shoulder season) inclusive of such sundries as insurance and airport taxes. Hence I found myself in New York with eight weeks and many thousands of miles at my disposal.

A whirlwind 56 days later I had hitch-hiked some 13,000 miles and taken in 30 states of the USA as well as parts of Canada and Northern Mexico.

The events of each day are worthy of not just an entry in a diary but a chapter in a book: you name it and it probably happened to me. I came through situations which even on reflection seem unbelievable: hitching out of downtown Detroit at midnight, stranded in the self-explanatory place name (rather than place) of Desert Centre, without water, being busted flat in Baton Rouge, crashing in the porch of a casino in Nevada . . . ! It was largely a combination of luck, skill, determination, optimism and the amazing generosity of America's 99.9 per cent Anglophile inhabitants, that enabled me to have the proverbial holiday of a lifetime.

Lifts of up to 1,400 miles non-stop became the norm rather than the exception by the time I reached California where I found it relatively easy to hitch the freeways and interstate highways of Los Angeles,

public transport being virtually non-existent in the city and its associated sprawl. Travelling "on the road" meant that instead of being tied to the schedule and rigours of a seat in a Greyhound Bus I was able to feel the buzz of possessing true liberty and self-sufficiency. Travelling through Kansas meant lifts from wheat farmers, in Texas I journeyed with oil millionaires, and in Florida I stayed with an all-American family.

The absence of the social taboos and myths which normally surround marijuana meant that it was enjoyed and proffered by everyone from an eminent but aging Canadian professor to a blonde, bleached and tanned Californian nymphette who was cruising highway 101 in search of gullible English travellers . . . ! I got into relationships that I've yet to recover from and I returned with an address book crammed with the names of new-found friends from Buffalo to Bakersfield.

Since music was a mutual interest/obsession for most people I met I naturally saw some fine concerts. Experiencing the power of the Grateful Dead at full throttle in their home town of San Francisco (on Uncle Jerry's birthday too!) is something only an ardent Dead Head could understand. Similarly to reach Denver in the foothills of Colorado and look back on thousands of miles of conquered highway was a hitherto unique emotion.

As an occasional geographer my eight weeks in North America was a £350 investment that will be hard to better. It gave me an invaluable perspective on three things: Britain, "home" and the reputation of the LSE overseas. Next stop India?

ANDY CORNWELL.



# Down your way

BURIED in the heart of the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, just a few minutes' walk from the L.S.E., is a room where selected documents from the national archives are on permanent display. Besides such 'memorable' documents as the Domesday Book and Magna Carta, there is a wide collection of manuscripts, court records and seals from the Middle Ages, and an excellent selection of letters and miscellanea from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Amongst the older exhibits is a sample of the earliest English printing done by Caxton around 1476 shortly after his arrival in England; a 15th century recipe for ink (using gall, copperas or vitriol and gum); Shakespeare's will in which he leaves his wife his 'second best bed with the furniture.' The Magna Carta on display is one of four existing from those of 1215 and is in excellent condition. There is a large collection of royal autographs, including that of Richard II, which is the earliest extant signature of an English king, Henry VIII's along with letters from his six wives, the signatures of Elizabeths I & II, and a warrant signed by Victoria appointing T. B. Macaulay a Fellow of London University.

There is Arkwright's original application for a patent for his spinning frame of 1769 together with a diagram showing how it was to

## THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE MUSEUM

work, while in the 'Men of Letters' case is a selection of letters from Dickens, Kipling and Walter Scott and in that of 'Arts and Sciences' are letters and documents of Newton, Darwin, Lely, Kneller, etc. From the 19th century are letters from Garibaldi and Bismarck, one from Florence Nightingale asking for better trained nurses for the war in the Crimea. There is also the 1839 'Scrap of Paper' treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium, while on a document of 1865 one can see Karl Marx's signature as an original shareholder in the Industrial Newspaper Company Ltd. Documents from the 20th century include the written police record of Emily Davison's action on Derby Day, 1913, a telegram from the British ambassador in Petrograd describing the outbreak of the March 1917 revolution as 'nothing serious,' the draft of Britain's Declaration of Non-Intervention in the Spanish Civil War, as well as the draft of the 1941 Atlantic Charter with amendments by Churchill.

Scattered around the room and along the corridors outside are travelling trunks and document chests up to 600 years old, and there is also the case in which the Domesday Book of 1086 was kept. I'm told that this is one of the least visited museums in London, but entrance is free and it is open 1-4 p.m., except Saturdays.

Jim Nason.

# THREE TUNS

AS most people are aware, the "Three Tuns" Bar was decorated over Christmas and various drinks introduced as the beginning of a series of improvements.

The repainted walls are now more interesting with suitable posters and pictures and with the help of the house-manager Mr. Strode, it is hoped to keep up the cleaning standards which have improved so much since last term.

As far as the cellar is concerned, the lift still poses problems of access for the large barrels, but there is now another gantry with 'stillion' space for ten kilns of draught beer. Welcome additions in the shape of Young's 'Winter Warrior,' 'Ram' keg and bottled beers including 'Ramrod' have been introduced and it is hoped that these will soon be followed by Young's 'Special' on draught which unfortunately has been held up due to the delay in obtaining beer engines.

Ted has managed to come up with something different in the new range of Theakston's bottled beers including 'Old Peculiar,' 'Strong Brown Ale,' 'Special Bitter' and 'Export' which are now available along with Worthington 'White Shield,' 'Tolly Cobbold Export,' half-pints of 'Newcastle Amber' and Whitbread 'English Ale' which is suitable for diabetics.

Amongst the augmented range of bottled beers is the slightly more expensive 'Budweiser' 12% (the Czech rather than the Milwaukee variety) as well as 'Swans,' 'Reiches' and 'Tennants' 'Special Lager.' The sale of draught lager will be resumed as soon as the Whitbread dispute is settled.

The demand for hot food has risen lately. When an infra-red cooker is available at a reasonable rate it is hoped to provide 'on-the-spot' snacks.

There is also news about the social scene in the 'Three Tuns' which has already improved with the Tuesday night discos which we hope to revive later this term. There are also plans for a series of joint Ents/Jazz Club 'Three Tuns' socials following the great success of the 'Mike Collins Big Band' last term and 'Landscape.' Ents also have various other entertainments lined up for later dates.

It is hoped that everyone will show their support of these improvements by coming to the 'Three Tuns' and remember that the Committee is always willing to hear of any other possible suggestions anyone cares to put forward.

Clare Furlonger.

# CHESS NEWS

The Chess Soc. has undergone a move recently to Room S600. Unfortunately this won't have come to the notice of most people in LSE even amongst the chess players who steadfastly refuse to acknowledge the existence of the Chess Soc. The members of the Soc. are, however, persevering and thanks to the enthusiasm of several members of the team, the society will continue to exist. But the enthusiasm of a few cannot compensate for a lack of members.

The Chess Soc. is not an exclusive society. We would welcome the presence of anybody who would like to learn, anybody who wants to play either friendly or serious chess and anybody who would be willing to help to improve the standard of the players who already attend the meetings on Wednesday afternoons.

The chess team also seems to be having problems, although this is not due to the lack of enthusiasm but to the lack of a really top class player. A few weeks ago the team travelled to Royal College, Holloway, and despite a few arguments over organisational details the match eventually got under way. But it soon became obvious that it wasn't going to be our night. A quick loss on top board served as an apt indicator of what was to follow, and a lucky victory on second board, following a series of mistakes by both players could do nothing to instil the slightest shred of hope. However, the eventual score line was not as bad as at one stage we feared it might be, with two draws on the bottom boards making the final score: RHC 4, LSE 2.

Richard Kitchen.

# PROMS

THIS year the proms season at the Royal Opera House will be from 11th to 19th April, during which the operas Tosca, Faust and Peter Grimes and the ballets La Fille Mal Gardée, 'The Taming of the Shrew, La Bayadere / Triad / Humoresque and The Dream/A Month in the Country / Volontaires' will be performed. Stalls prom places will be sold for 50p each, an hour before performances begin. At these low prices it is an excellent opportunity for "first timers" to discover the joys of Covent Garden.

# OPERETTA

DIE FLEDERMAUS is Strauss's best known and most popular operetta. Accompanying the supreme music is an unlikely, but well constructed story, including, among other things, a man chatting up his own wife and a prison governor flirting with the former's parlour maid.

Anne Evans sang Roselinda with much success. She has a flexible enough voice to be a convincing deep Hungarian countess, as well as the wife of Eisenstein. Emile Belcourt, though he clearly felt more comfortable than in "A Night in Venice," and sang and played certain passages well, failed to give a convincing performance for much of the time.

Anthony Roden was a flamboyant Alfred, Alan Opie, a conniving Falke. In this kind of production, a farcical element is just permissible, and Eric Shilling as Frank was especially hilarious. Ann Hood communicated the bored character of Orlofsky; Adele in one of the better performances of the evening, was shown to be quite an actress, sung spiritedly by Sandra Dugdale.

Brian Casey's acting of Frosch, the prison warden, as he stumbled around in an inebriated state, was very funny, if slightly overdone.

The sets, especially in act Two, were well designed. The balletic interlude in Act Two was charming, the chorus was strong and the orchestra under Henry Krips, was adequate.

Jonathan Richmond



THIS BEAVER was produced by Anton Chapman, Richard Kitchen, James Gausen, Peacock, Carol Saunders, Liz, and Jonathan Richmond.

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

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# SAD NEWS

IN the past few weeks there has been a series of thefts on the first floor of the St. Clements Building. Some person has systematically raided the General Secretary's office, S117 The Community Room, the Ents Room, Emma's Office and the Beaver Office. Amongst the items stolen have been:— a purse containing £30, a radio, records, a wallet containing £13, two expensive hats, a giant Panda, and a wallet containing a cash card and a new Bus pass.

Any act of theft is inexcusable but the person who committed these thefts must be the lowest of low. It is almost certainly a member of the school who is responsible, and all the people who have had things taken, work for the students in some way, whether paid or unpaid, and to steal from them is absolutely disgusting.

No doubt it is pointless to ask for the things to be returned, but perhaps the person responsible may feel a twinge of conscience and we at Beaver appeal to that person to refrain from committing any further acts of such an unsocial nature.

DUE to the occupation, the elections to School committees were submerged, so here are the results. It was a disappointing turnout—only 583 valid forms were completed. The Library Committee election will be redone because Chris Rutson's name was omitted from the ballot paper.

The successful candidates were as follows: General Purposes Committee: John Cruse, Kay Forrester, Jon McColl, James Mitchell. Building Committee: Paul Stock, Barry Kirkman. Court of Governors: John Cruse, Bruce Fell, James Mitchell, Simon Tyndall, Jackie Rushforth.

**NOMINATIONS** are now open for the post of Editor for Beaver. They will close next Friday, March 11th. Names should be given to Sheree Dodd, Publications Officer, or Anton Chapman, Editor. The election will take place on Tuesday, March 15th, at 1 p.m. in S116. Anyone can attend and vote by STV secret ballot. Anyone requiring information about the job should see either of the two above. Normally Anton is in the Beaver Office (S116) between 1 and 2 p.m.

COPY for the next Beaver, coming out early next term, should be in by the end of term or in the first three weeks of the holiday.

Beaver apologises for inaccuracies/anachronisms in the Three Tuns article. This was due to its being held over from the last issue. Nevertheless the Three Tuns is a place eminently worthy of a visit and we felt a little publicity would not go amiss.

# Mishan Impossible

A handy little book has come out by Prof. Mishan of LSE called "Twenty-one Economic Phalluses" (reviewer's note: the plural of phallus is phalli) which develops in detail some of the rather queer (sic) views which Mishan holds both on sexual and economic matters (see his letter in the last Beaver).

As always, Mishan is provocative and stimulating—as are the full colour, no-holds-barred, utterly explicit photos of couples trying to understand Mishan's archaic economic views whilst trying out some of his ludicrous "sexual postures." A snip at only £8.75, so go to your bookshop NOW! Hurry while stocks last!

James Gausen.