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BEAVER

NEXT ISSUE:
PROBABLY ON
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23rd FEBRUARY

NEWSPAPER OF THE STUDENTS' UNION, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON).

FEBRUARY 11th, 1954.

3d.—MONTHLY

U.S.S.R. TRIP IN DOUBT

Director May Block L.S.E. Student's Participation

AS this paper went to press, plans to send an L.S.E. student with the N.U.S.-sponsored visit to the U.S.S.R. next spring were still in an indefinite state. First announced to the Union by Bob Weinberg, External Affairs Vice-President, at the Union meeting of 21st January, the trip is to start shortly before the beginning of the Summer Term.

Nominations for an L.S.E. delegate were open until Thursday, 4th February, and Union voted for the candidates that evening. Unfortunately, "BEAVER" had already gone to press at that time, so we cannot announce the name of the successful candidate. Further complications have arisen, however, from the Office of the Director.

Since it is almost certain that the visit will extend some two weeks into term time, the Director has reserved permission for the trip. According to the Director's Office, permission will be granted only on an individual basis, and no assurance could be given that the delegate will be excused from school until a name had actually been submitted to the Director. The position was that if the student selected for the trip had the approval of his tutor, if his absence from the school for several weeks would not be contrary to the requirements for his degree, and if it could not be construed that absence was inconsistent with the conditions of any grant the student might be receiving, then the Director might approve the absence.

Under these circumstances, it seems likely that a research student has the best chance of winning approval. As an alternative, if the question of school approval is raised at several institutions, it may be possible to have the NUS and the Soviet Committee of Anti-fascist Youth (the host organization) move the date of the visit ahead

STOP PRESS

At last Thursday's Union meeting Claudio Veliz, president of the Research Student's Association, was chosen by a large plurality to represent L.S.E. on the N.U.S. delegation to Russia. Thomas Sloan was second in the balloting. A further report will appear in our next issue.

by two weeks so that the trip will take place wholly in vacation time. Such a move would probably be blocked, however, by the fact that the NUS Council meeting is scheduled for the vacation and as many as three delegates may be NUS Council members.

As this is being written, efforts are being made by Union officers to establish a precedent for student participation during term time in various student-interest projects, entailing absence from school for a short period. If this precedent can be established, in the future it will be presumed that such absences will be approved unless there are particular circumstances contradicting.

T.U.C. at L.S.E.

"Of 93 students who have completed the Trade Union course at LSE since 1945 the great majority have returned to their previous occupations and trade union activities, 60 of them to hold part- or full-time offices in their unions. Three are in whole-time employment with the Labour Party and one is now Labour M.P. for Barnsley."

An extract from an article in the T.U.C. magazine "LABOUR" (January, 1954) entitled "LSE Men Make The Grade."

Mrs. Eirene White, M.P.



Photo by "Daily Herald"
TO speak at Labour Society meeting
(Story on page 3)

BRADEN ACCEPTS HONOUR

AFTER a search extending over two continents, several telephone systems and the Christmas vacation, we are pleased to be able to say that our new Honorary President, Mr. Bernard Braden, has been told of his election and has accepted the position.

At the time of his election his wife, Miss Barbara Kelly, was ill and we were informed by the national press that they had departed to Switzerland for a much needed rest. Efforts to trace him through his agent were unavailing, and the B.B.C. refused to give any clue to his whereabouts. In the attempts to find him, reports from helpful students placing his residence at Shepperton were used.

It was not immediately established whether he lives on a barge on the river (with a dinghy moored aft containing Miss Kelly's fan mail) according to some sources, or in a large house, staffed by two secretaries. It appears from his letter, recently received, that he does live in a house. We thank the Boat Club and the Y.H.A. Club for offering to assist in providing search parties.

The sole duty of the Honorary President is to address Union during the Michaelmas Term, 1954. It is not known whether Mr. Braden was aware of this responsibility when he accepted office.

Now that his whereabouts are fairly definitely ascertained, it is hoped that Mr. Braden may be persuaded to write a short article for "Beaver" in our next issue. Failing this, we shall seek Miss Kelly's views on her husband's election.

Readers may be interested to learn that our Honorary President is to produce "Angels in Love", at the Savoy Theatre this month. May we suggest that Beaver Club take the earliest opportunity of organising a visit? The leading role is being played by Miss Kelly.

JOHN JONES

A SECOND-YEAR Economics student at L.S.E., John Jones, died in a road accident in the North of England on January 8th while hitch-hiking home with two friends from the School. He had been climbing in Glencoe on the Mountaineering Club's New Year Meet.

At his funeral, which took place in Cardiganshire on January 15th the School was represented by Miss Jackie Needham, Jimmy Young, Don Aldridge, Mike Holton (all of whom also represented the Mountaineering Club, the Y.H.A. Club and the Athletic Union), and Tony Burbridge (also representing the Tennis and Table Tennis Clubs).

It is sad at the beginning of a new term to find that a tragic accident has taken away from the School one of its happiest and most cheerful members.

John came to the School in 1953 having finished his National Service in the R.A.F. From the start he enjoyed life at L.S.E. He joined many clubs and became one of the School's best table tennis players. One of his achievements was the elimination of

the reigning champion from the University championships. This season he played many times for the University teams in the Central and London Leagues; he was also a keen tennis player, playing occasionally for the second team. He went hostelling with the Y.H.A. Club and was a committee member of the Mountaineering Club; with them he climbed in North Wales, Scotland and the Alps, and many times on the outcrops of Southern England.

Few young men could have lived life so fully and yet given so much to it at the same time; all those he met were his friends, and they will always remember him for his great kindness, his deep thoughtfulness for others, his sparkling humour, his zest and vitality.

In mountaineering, John was in his element for he loved travelling, the open air and the hills. The School, the Athletic Union and all his clubs and friends were represented at his funeral among the Welsh hills of his family home.

* * * * *
"And saw Heaven's rampart in the rocks he led."

Bulgarian Visit Exchange Plan

An exchange visit between LSE and the Karl Marx Institute of Economics in Sofia, Bulgaria, will take place this spring. Originally planned at the Warsaw IUS meeting last summer by representatives of both schools the exchange was confirmed by a letter from Bulgaria received early this term.

A letter was sent to the Sofia Institution at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term to which no reply was received. A second letter dispatched at the end of last term with a copy going to IUS headquarters in Prague brought results.

LSE's proposal was for an exchange visit of one student from each school, but the reply indicated that the Bulgarians will send two students to England. LSE, nevertheless, intends to send only the one student. It is just possible that the Bulgarian authorities thought that a student travelling by himself might be lonely.

C.M.R. OUT 1st MARCH

Beaver's elderly rival, Clare Market Review, will be out this term on March 1st. In desperation at the scarcity of contributions from the School's sluggish students, C.M.R. has adopted the controversial course of printing several articles by non-students from Oxford and L.S.E. including Profs. G. D. H. Cole and R. A. Billington, Messrs. D. G. MacRae, and G. F. Thirlby, and Mrs. Harold Laski, giving their opinions on aims and results of British University policy.

MORNING SERVICE

The LSE Morning Service is held at 9.30 a.m. every Wednesday in the Graham Wallis Room. The denominational chaplains to the University have agreed to lead the services in turn and Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and others will be represented.

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Houghton Street, London, W.C.2
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Assistant Editor Ronald Freeman
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Advertisement Manager
C. Ian Jackson
Sub-Editors Myra Baum and
Margaret Flint
Christine Merritt
Circulation Manager... Glenda Griffiths

Letters to the Editor

Worthwhile Pursuits . . .

Dear Sir,

I should like to congratulate you on your "eye-witness" accounts of the events and personalities of last November 5th. To those who were not witnesses of these momentous events, they reveal quite a lot about the mentality of our fellow-students.

My only criticism of your otherwise excellent articles is that they assume that a "rag" is a natural right of students, indeed almost a prerequisite for their law-abiding existence on the other 364 days of the year. I would suggest that one only has a right to do anything if one's intentions are completely peaceful. Yet no one has ever denied that some students on every rag do in fact break the law. Why then do their fellow-students, who claim peaceful intentions, deliberately create the conditions for others to break the law and bring themselves into disrepute?

I am not trying to justify the police actions, but I think they provide the occasion for us to reconsider our attitude towards rags. Let those who want rags do something constructive for a change and suggest more peaceful ways of letting off their high spirits. However it is probably significant that we only hear from them once a year. If they realised the harm their present irresponsibility does to the student cause that is championed, not on one but on every day of the year, by a minority of their colleagues, they might devote their energies to more worthwhile and less selfish pursuits.

Yours etc.,

HARVEY BABIAK.

Ridiculous Position . . .

To the Editor of "Beaver"

Dear Sir,

I wish to focus your attention on the ridiculous position of Chess at L.S.E. Apart from Draughts, which is no longer of importance (it has been superseded by Chess), it is the oldest game in the World. Its antiquity, its history, its literature, which is larger than that on any other subject, and the air of the platonic that surrounds it, raises it above the categories of games and pastimes into a sport. But the obvious fact remains that it is not an athletic sport and so it is not incorporated into the Athletic Union. So the position is that Chess is supposed to exist on a par with games like Bridge and Poker.

This is obviously bad for promoting the standard of Chess, because in L.S.E. "freshers" tend to underestimate its significance both in L.S.E.'s sporting and social life (even though Liz does not play). Something must be done to rectify this sad state. Why not take the plunge and do the game justice by making it a part of the Athletic Union?

Yours etc.,

"NEUTRAL OBSERVER."

Newfashioned Man . . .

To the Editor of "Beaver"

Dear Sir,

Your correspondent, masquerading under the name of "An Old-Fashioned Girl" and claiming to be a fresher straight from a convent, has a very weak case when she complains of the behaviour Miss Wheeler received at the hands of Union in the Presidential hustings.

Your correspondent made four points concerning (1) the President not calling upon Miss Wheeler to speak first, (2) male candidates not helping Miss Wheeler up the steps, (3) no one rising when Miss Wheeler took the platform, and lastly, a condemnation of the President's action in not calling upon Miss Wheeler to answer the questions first.

Sir, do you not feel that Miss Wheeler is capable of climbing a few steps? Do you consider it an essential part of manners for a man to rise whenever a woman appears? And do you consider that every woman candidate should be saddled with the initial

(Continued at foot of next Col.)

Psst. . . .

By TACTLESS

THERE is an epidemic in LSE—women who wear black drain-pipe slacks when God did not ever intend them to wear such. I have been expecting an outcry before now, but perhaps the LSE male has become immune to his surroundings.

One wonders who was responsible for the notice which declared that the LSE barber had died during the vacation. However the barber has returned complete in the same person as last term. Is this a record in re-birth?

The feelings in the minds of many people is that the powers-that-be of the Students' Union did not show much forethought in the distribution of the various V.P.'s. Ray Newbiggin, who is, I think, the most knowledgeable person in the School on external affairs now controls the Welfare department, when he alone of the candidates stood for a specific post—as External Affairs V.P. I am sure, too, that NUS will have deep thoughts upon LSE being represented by an American; perhaps Senator McCarthy might think twice too. The third successful candidate fought the election completely on his administrative abilities—where better could they have been of use than in the Welfare

Vice-Presidency; especially with his knowledge of statistics to help him take Gallup Polls.

An aura of peace pervaded the features of the Deputy President, after his Christmas vacation; let us hope that the successful conclusion to his affairs in Newport will safeguard all the innocent young females from his predatory habits.

One notices the absence of one of the LSE's most prominent Returning Officers this term; there is hope that there an unlimited number of lifts in his new place of abode.

There is another epidemic; especially among the 2nd Year B.Sc. (Econ.): engagements. I'm sure the lecturers were dazzled by the flash of diamonds which met his gaze on the first day of term. All men please note the following list of beautiful women who are now out of circulation:—

- (1) A brunette from South Wales.
- (2) A blonde from the Potteries.
- (3) A former third-floor room inhabitant—brunette.
- (4) Perhaps an ex-General Secretary?

NB. "Beaver" will print any future engagement announcements free of charge. These need not, of course, come from the persons concerned.

ORATION DAY DOUBLE BILL

Reviewed by ANDREW MAYS

IT IS A pleasure to be able to use the single standard in reviewing amateur theatre. We would be more surprised at the high level of the LSE Dramatic Society—as shown in its Oration Day Comedies—if we had not experienced before now fine drama from college and civic theatres, given the necessary ingredients. With even a little talent, real direction, and the proper will and work of all hands, theatre can be created of which no one need be ashamed.

The double bill for Oration Day—Christopher Fry's "A Phoenix Too Frequent" and "Mirandolina" (Lady Gregory out of Goldini)—can quite properly be discussed in such terms. One senses a good deal of thought in the production of these plays, and an equal amount of care in their preparation. Both were a success, "Mirandolina" slightly the more so, in our opinion, simply because it is a less ambitious endeavour than Christopher Fry.

ROBUST PERFORMANCE

"Mirandolina" is that kind of period play which, if polished up for a modern audience (as in this version) can be such good fun—for actors as well as audience. It presents no problems of dramatic subtlety, but requires adept handling of the comic conventions, much as in English Restoration drama. The entire cast was up to this, giving robust performances one and all.

The leads, John Taylor (Captain Rivafratta) and Margaret Roberts (Mirandolina) were outstanding. As the misogynic Captain who finally meets his master in women, Taylor turned in a polished performance. Miss Roberts makes a very handsome Mirandolina indeed: deep dimpled, dark and sparkly, like Jean Simmons. These two obviously know their way around a stage. Their mastery of the comic devices is surprisingly professional.

The second leads were scarcely less good. Alan Fraser as the Cyrano-nosed Marquis was the epicene fop to

(Continued from previous Col.)

DISadvantage of having to speak first?

No sir, the details don't bear examination, but the principle is even more important. If women want equality they must be treated and expect to be treated, on a par with men. But does your correspondent want equality?

Yours etc.,

RAY NEWBIGGIN

(Probably not. — Ed.)

And More Politics

By

Our A-political Correspondent

SO the great debate has fizzled out. The tumult and the shouting having died away, the Union which decided last term that it deplored apoliticism, this term decided not to decide! When the motion came up for confirmation last week the "previous question" was moved and carried so that no final decision could be taken. Was this a victory for the Tories who consistently opposed the motion? Or is it the case that the supporters of the motion having made their point were content to let the matter drop? As a completely independent and unbiased commentator (that's my story and I'm sticking to it), I don't believe it will make much difference any way. Politics have always played a vital part in Union affairs and elections and always will. And I would hazard a guess that if the Conservatives found themselves in a majority we should soon have a flush of Tory Union officers.

MOCK PARLIAMENT SHOCK

The University Mock Parliament held at L.S.E. this term was a shock for the Socialists. The opposition vote of 56 is significant in that it included 19 Liberals and a few Communists. Against this the Conservatives mustered 90, a formidable achievement since their support comes mostly from other colleges, whereas the Socialists were on their home ground. Not that they need give any premature whoops of delight—the Labour Society can still pack the Old Theatre for a meeting; can the Tories?

CASTING PEARLS BEFORE . . .

The noticeboard war is livening up. The Con. Soc. and Lab. Soc. go in for a dignified—respectability at all costs—display, while Lib. Soc. have indulged in erudite comments on the Lysenko controversy—as if anyone cared! Soc. Soc. and Com. Soc.—the Siamese twins of L.S.E. politics—vie with each other in shrieking headlines. So far Com. Soc. has emitted the loudest shriek: "Lyttleton—Swine"! This, the crowning inspiration of last term, was hastily covered up after a few hours, not before it had done some damage to the anti-Lyttleton brigade. The Colonial Secretary is evidently not the only bull who carries his own china shop around with him.

PARTING SHOT . . .

"A politician's speech, in order to be immortal, does not also have to be everlasting" (Source unknown).

HOAX

"BEAVER" understands that an elaborate hoax has been played on students of the Economics Department. A printed invitation card purporting to come from "the Director and Mrs. Reeves" was sent to economics students inviting them to meet Prof. Samuelson on Tuesday 9th February in the Founders' Room.

A "BEAVER" reporter's suspicions were at once aroused by the unusual wording of the address (L.S.E. Clare Market, Kingsway, W.C.2). Further investigations revealed that Prof. Samuelson was in America and that Mrs. Reeves had been dead for several years.

We hear that inquiries are proceeding; but we regret that no reward can be offered for the name of the perpetrator.

perfection. Frank Judd, if a shade loud at times, was entirely adequate as the heavy pursed nouveau riche who tries to buy Mirandolina's favors. And Jeffrey Burgess was Fabrizio, loving and long suffering servant of Mirandolina, whom she marries in the end, spurning nobility and wealth. John Webber played the Captain's servant.

The strong evidence of direction we think we detect in "Mirandolina" must be credited to Trevor Stratford. Stylized farce such as this has got to be well controlled or it becomes merely jejune. Such control was present, although it weakened, in our opinion, in the last act where the actors ran away with the play a bit. Gusto in comedy is generally a good thing, but too much of it can destroy the dramatic illusion.

PHOENIX

Any criticism of "A Phoenix Too Frequent" must be immediately qualified by the recognition that it is a more difficult play than "Mirandolina". Saying that it was a success is, therefore, saying a good deal. This is a very easy Fry to enjoy: witty, satiric, with an intoxicating spume of words, and untortured as are some of his other plays, such as "A Sleep Of Prisoners".

These lines, with their flicker and froth of verbiage, require some very agile tongues. For the most part Margaret Jenkins as Dynamene, the noble Roman dame who chooses to die with her husband (almost); Pat Amy, as her bright, vulgar serving woman, Doto; and Clive Bateson, as the poetic young legionary, met this challenge admirably. It is almost a quibble to say that Miss Jenkins occasionally fails to project all her tricky lines. Pat Amy got everything, but everything, from the part of Doto. She is a very accomplished comedienne. The play needs this part for balance; it is a good thing it was made the most of. Clive Bateson was a quite convincing Roman. "A Phoenix Too Frequent" was produced by Molly Howard.

That LSE is no arts school makes all the more credible such a standard of theatre. We have seen worse at schools with tremendous theatre departments and the best of professional equipment. The Dramatic Society would seem to be one of the more genuinely creative at LSE.

A long letter has been received from Mr. Alan Cohen, Propaganda Secretary of the Communist Society, in reply to "R.G.S." whose letter on "Communism or Christianity" was published in our last issue. Mr. Cohen's letter will appear in the next edition of "BEAVER".

Success, At 0-Day Concert

by "BEAVER" Music Critic

THE L.S.E. orchestra, twenty strong including woodwind section (one clarinet) and Brass (one French Horn), gave a spirited performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra, at the Oration Day Concert. Following a rather pedestrian interpretation of "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" they played the charming Minuet from the same composer's 39th Symphony, with great skill—almost concealing the absence of a flute in the Trio. The conductor was J. Malcolm Davies and the Leader, David Winch.

The L.S.E. Choir made a valiant attempt to master the complexities of Bach's Motet "Jesu Priceless Treasure". It was something of an unequal struggle, not helped by the pianist who several times joined in a chorus after the Choir had dropped half a tone in pitch. The conductor, J. Malcolm Davies, did not appear to impart that confidence in the choir which is so necessary in Bach's contrapuntal music.

By contrast the two part songs, "Linden Lea" and "Italian Salad", were effectively done, although in the latter Peter Mussett's pleasant baritone voice was frequently drowned by the enthusiasm of the Choir in spite of Mr. Davies' very audible "Shhh"!

This term the Choir, which rehearses on Tuesdays at 4.15 p.m., will be under a new conductor. It is understood that the principal work for the end of term concert will be Gluck's "Orpheus".

Music Society Appoints Conductor and Officers

The Music Society is pleased to announce that Mr. Alan T. Peacock, Reader in Public Finance, has accepted the post of Musical Director and Conductor of the L.S.E. Orchestra.

Concerts arranged for the Lent Term include a song recital by Oda Slobodskaya (soprano), at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16th, in the Shaw Library.

At its A.G.M., the Society elected the following officers for the coming year:—President, D. L. Howard; Secretary, J. Rodney Crossley; Treasurer, Miss Elsie Flint; Choir Officer, J. Robin Fox; Committee Member, Miss Pamela Houlton. In addition, Mr. D. F. Harris, the retiring President, has been co-opted as a Committee Member.

Debating Society News

Public Speaking Classes re-commenced on Thursday, February 4th in Room E38 at 4.30 under Mr. Chapman. Everyone who is interested should attend or contact John Hipkin.

Future Dates

Monday, 15th February at 4.30. The following motion will be debated. "This House regrets that the Homo is Sexual."

Tuesday, 2nd March at 4.15. We are entertaining two American speakers who are sponsored by the English Speaking Union. L.S.E. are providing seconers to both of these Americans, who will debate "That Capitalism offers the best form of economic progress." All are invited to attend both these meetings.

HEART-CRY FROM THE LIBRARY

No man can tell me this:
Do Economics really matter,
Must my life be ruined
By the Lecturer's slick patter?
Is all this justified
To write B.Sc. after one's name?
Who wants it anyway?
A Degree, so small a claim to fame.
There is no time for love,
Wine, women and song take second place
Till after next June
When we live again or fall from grace.
"Frustrated Economist".
(Why should being frustrated necessarily lead our contributor to write bad poetry?—Ed.)

Active Programme for Labour

EX-CHANCELLOR SPEAKS ON TORY ECONOMIC PLAN

THE Right Honourable Hugh Gaitskell, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last Labour Government, addressed a packed audience in the Old Theatre at an Open Meeting of the Labour Society on 26th January. He made what he described as a "fair and objective" survey of the economic policies and changing economic situation facing Great Britain since the Conservative government came to power.

The improved balance of payments position as compared to 1951 should, he stated, be attributed to a shift in the terms of trade in our favour; although the volume of our exports has increased very slightly over the period, import prices have fallen and thus saved us some £700 millions. It is often forgotten, he added, that stocks increased enormously in 1951 giving a false exaggeration to the balance of payments on the current account.

Mr. Booroff asked from the floor why the build-up of stocks during 1951 was not arrested to assist the balance of payments. Mr. Gaitskell replied that stocks had been allowed to accumulate at that time because of justifiable anxiety over the international situation, and because in any case in a commodity boom it is extremely difficult to restrain buyers from building up stocks if they think prices are going to go on rising.

The general shift in the terms of trade, large reductions in the volume of Sterling Area dollar purchases, and various kinds of dollar aid such as off-shore purchases for United States re-armament have resulted in an improvement in the Sterling-Dollar balance. But Mr. Gaitskell emphasised that external forces, not government policy, have put us in the happy position of having a net dollar surplus. Indeed, he felt, that bearing in mind the changed world conditions, the improvement should have been more marked.

Budget surplus—

The government, in his view, is at fault in failing to increase investment after the initial strain of the re-armament drive. John Hipkin, a member of the Conservative Society, asked Mr. Gaitskell if redistribution of the national income in accordance with Socialist principles did not tend to result in a low level of investment since it made it impossible for the upper and middle classes to carry out their traditional savings function in the economy. Mr. Gaitskell "with great respect" questioned the validity of the assumption that an effective investment policy could be carried out by relying on these classes to save when given the opportunity, and said that in a equalitarian society "the government has got to do the saving" and there must be budget surpluses.

Dan Greenwood, of the Labour Society, asked why Mr. Butler the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had not increased investment as the banks, "presumably on Mr. Butler's side of the fence," seemed on common ground with Mr. Gaitskell in wanting to increase investment.

Mr. Gaitskell replied that while Mr. Butler may have wanted investment to rise, he probably thought it more politically expedient to increase consumers' purchasing power, and that in any case by encouraging investment in the method suggested by the last question, Mr. Butler has been basing his policy on an out of date assumption.

"Recession under way"

Mr. Gaitskell felt the government was wrong too in restoring some free commodity markets and relaxing so many controls in the external trade field, for in the event of an American recession we would find it very difficult for instance to discriminate against dollar imports. And he felt that the general outlook did not justify the view that the Balance of Payments (especially the dollar balance) improvements were permanent or satisfactory. He drew attention to the Randall Commission's recommendation that direct dollar aid should cease, and to the tailing-off of both U.S. stockpiling and the buoyancy which has hitherto been a feature of the American market. "I personally believe," he said, "that the recession is already under way in America," although its extent he noted is not yet certain. In reply to a question from Mr. W. Habte-Wolde, Mr. Gaitskell said that although he was in favour of encouraging East-West Trade to an extent, it would not be of great benefit to Britain's economy though a few dollars could be saved, and it depended rather upon how much timber and grain Russia (for instance) would let us have, while remembering that it would be unwise to become too dependent upon supplies from that part of the world lest they be suddenly cut off.

The address was in fact as the Chairman of Labour Society had predicted in introducing Mr. Gaitskell: "A lecture by an expert to the experts" and was enthusiastically received as such.

SOCIETY OUTLINES ITS LENT TERM PROGRAMMES

THE Labour Society announces its programme for the Lent Term. Discussion Groups on subjects of topical importance are held most Mondays in the Graham Wallas Room from 1 to 1.55, under the chairmanship of Gabriel Newfield.

To keep up with the news, these are often arranged at quite short notice so interested students are advised to keep a close watch on the Society's notice board on the 3rd floor. There too can be found details of the fortnightly discussions on Socialist Principles organised by Tom Sloan. A regular discussion group on Commonwealth and Colonial questions is to be held, but final arrangements are not yet completed, again the notice board will give details when known.

The following Open Meetings have so far been arranged. Room bookings are, of course, subject to confirmation or alteration so yet again the notice board is the only final guide.

4.15, Friday, 19th February: Mrs. Eirene White, M.P., "The Middle of the Road."

4.15, Tuesday, 23rd February: Tom Driberg, M.P. Subject to be announced.

4.15, Tuesday, 2nd March: Mrs. Barbara Castle, M.P., "Economic, Social and Ethical Problems of Re-Armament."

4.15, Tuesday, 16th March: Mr. John Strachey, M.P. Subject to be announced.

Further Open Meetings may be arranged. Visits have been booked to all sorts of interesting places, including a coal mine, and Ford's Dagenham works (4th February). Do watch that notice board if you don't want to miss things.

LIBERALS HEAR PLEA FOR CONVERTIBILITY NOW

In November the Liberal Society Discussion Group was entertained by a talk given by Mr. J. F. Eggleston, who described his feelings concerning the Conservative Party's financial policy. He suggested that a return to the free market in currencies would enable the latter find their own level, and remove what he considered to be the artificial shortage of dollars.

Another Discussion Group meeting on 10th December was addressed by Mr. Alan Batham on the subject of Co-Ownership of industry. He outlined the political proposals for applying and operating this scheme.

U.L.U.

At an informal meeting held at L.S.E. on 2nd February, the Presidents of L.S.E., Kings, U.C., Bedford and Westfield Colleges decided to request that an Extraordinary Meeting of the University Union Presidents' Council be convened to discuss the following motion: "That the Presidents of constituent colleges do now elect a delegation to meet representatives of Collegiate Council to enquire into the relations between the student body, Presidents' Council and the Collegiate Council. These delegates to report back to Presidents' Council."

This action was taken because of the extreme concern felt at the situation within the University Union. Next year part of the new £750,000 premises will be opened, and our action reflects our lack of confidence in both the constitution and in the officers. The new officers will be elected by the Presidents' Council at their meeting on March 4th and anyone interested should contact the President.

Pig Must Hit Mark!

AMONG the gratuitous literature which flows into "Beaver" office each month, we are especially grateful for a copy of "New Hungary", sent to us by the Hungarian News and Information Service in London. One of the interesting facts contained in the January issue is a summary of the new plan for agriculture in the republic. Those who have read George Orwell's "Animal Farm" will, for instance, be interested to learn that the pig population has to be raised to 5,500,000 by 1956, with an average of 7.6 pigs per litter per year. The national target average for hens is similarly to be 90 eggs per hen per year. English agriculturalists should learn the value of so educating their stock as to adjust their productive capacities to national requirements.

Conservatives Map Report on Colonies

Three prominent Tory backbenchers are among the speakers engaged for the Conservative Society's Thursday Open Forum this term. They are Ted Leather, M.P. (Feb. 11th), Beverly Baxter, M.P. (March 4th), and William Deedes, M.P. (March 11th). The well-known political writer Colm Brogan will speak on February 18th, and the second secretary of the American Embassy on the 25th.

A discussion group on "Conservatives and the Colonies" is meeting each week to prepare a report for the Party Research Department.

THE ASSISTANT MASTERS' ASSOCIATION

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Why Not Women's Water Polo at L.S.E.

WATER POLO is a man's game you think? But there is a Southern Counties Ladies League, a London Ladies League, and an extra Winter League. It is an exhilarating game, with no hypocritical sportsmanship, although we all say "Three Cheers" at the end. It is not as rough as it looks, and there are no nasty bruises or grazes as in hockey or netball, even if you do swallow a lot of water. There is no closed season, for once people become keen, nothing but death, or disability will stop them.

Any keen swimmer can soon learn to play: for example, Enfield S.C. practised for a short summer season and came second in the Winter League the same year. Water Polo much improves swimming, for just to swim up and down the same length may become pointless and boring, but with the object of playing a good game it becomes worth while.

There are seven players in a team; a goalie, two backs, a half-back, two wings and a centre forward. Both speed and stamina are needed; ball-handling (one hand only, remember) soon comes. No one but the goalie may put his feet on the bottom—but the girls only play 10 minutes each way, instead of 20 minutes like the men. The standard of play may be lower, but it is also cleaner. One is allowed to push one's opponent under when he is holding the ball; but if he lets go of the ball, it becomes a foul. If you let go first you can get the ball, for they must not take it under the water.

With sufficient support it should be possible to train a College team, but we need about 10 crawl swimmers. If it proves impossible to raise a team in the College, a letter has been written to the University Swimming Secretary in the hope that other colleges will co-operate in making up a team or teams. Are you interested in polo or swimming? If so, contact Ruth Nixon, through the pigeon-holes, or come to L.S.E. Swimming Club on Tuesday evenings (7.15 p.m., under the clock).

How to break your Neck at St. Anton.

DURING the Christmas vacation, a party of ten went to ski at St. Anton in Austria. St. Anton is a winter and summer resort lying at 4,000 feet. It is ideal for a skiing holiday because it has close at hand nursery slopes on which beginners can learn, and two ski lifts and a funicular to take the more hardy to greater heights. The funicular goes to 6,000 feet. In addition a chair-lift is being built which will have three stopping places, the highest of which will be 8,000 feet.

The ski-school run courses for beginners and also refresher courses. The tariff varies according to how you have your lessons. A six day course costs 130 schilling, which at the rate of exchange given to the tourist is about £1-17-0. Special rates are obtainable on the ski-lifts while you are having a course.

Hotels are cheap compared with England. There is a choice between full pension and bed and breakfast, myself paid 12/3 a day for bed and breakfast and had a comfortable, centrally heated room. Lunch used to be rather frugal but satisfying, and would cost about 1/4 a time. However certain items of food are expensive such as coffee, chocolate, tea, and the delicious cakes in which the Austrians specialise. Dinner in the evening would vary in cost, depending on whether your taste was spaghetti, a large portion of which would cost 2/-. or a delicious Wienerschnitzel which would cost just over 4/-. In the evenings there was sure to be something on at one of the big hotels. We had several evenings' enjoyable dancing, and there was also one memorable Saturday evening when we joined some Austrians in a sing-song. All including our injured members thoroughly enjoyed the holiday.

Soccer:

Double in Sight

As in the past seasons, the Club runs four teams, and, on the whole, the season has been a successful one. The 3rd XI occupy a mid way position in their league while the 2nd XI, after a bad start have become a strong and well-knit team under Bill Todd's captaincy. From their last four league games they have taken six points and have also reached the 3rd round of the Surrey Junior Cup.

The 1st XI are enjoying their most successful season for many years. The team has reached the semi-final of the University Cup—disposing of I.C. and Westminster in the process; they are also firmly the established leaders of the League Division 1, and consequently the "Double" is a distinct possibility. The big set back of the season was the defeat by the City of London College in the Surrey Senior Cup Semi-final. As the game was played during the vacation great difficulty was experienced in raising a team; hence the defeat by five clear goals.

However, the team is playing very confidently: the defence is sound—Don Gardiner especially having played excellently throughout the season—and have conceded only six goals in seven league games. The forwards combine well and even though occasionally their shooting does not match their mid-field play, there are few occasions when the team has failed. Young having personally notched eighteen goals.

Turning to University football, Roy Sharrocks commands a regular place, while J. Widdop captains the Sidonians and occasionally joins Roy in the University Team.

1st team: P. Gillam; M. Finnie; G. Bartlett; M. Davies; D. Gardiner; D. Boulton; M. Brockhouse (Capt.); H. Elias; J. Young; J. Stephens; D. Booth.

Tanners Hatch and All That . . .

THE Youth Hostels Club celebrated Christmas with the traditional week-end party at Tanners Hatch. The first members to arrive had to break their way in, at the cost of a broken window, but soon the Christmas puddings were bubbling on the fire. During the daytime we tramped around the precincts of Box Hill and spent the evenings dining, ginger-wining and enjoying all the fun of the fair . . .

Much more energetic were the exertions of some sixteen club members who visited the Lakes after Christmas. We tramped from Borrowdale to Keswick and took Scafell Pike, Gable and the Langdales into our stride. At Elterwater, our President invented the new sport of warden-baiting, but at Keswick another representative of that much-maligned office made amends by showing us a series of colour films which he had taken in the district. Altogether it was a most successful holiday.

Au Bal

THE A.U. Ball is this year being held at the Astoria ballroom on Friday, 19th February from 11.30 p.m. to 5 a.m. The Astoria, which is almost at the junction of Charing Cross Road with Oxford Street, has no imposing entrance but behind its modest frontage it has excellent amenities. The dance floor itself is very good and is surrounded by tables at which couples or groups may wine and dine. There is a second ring of tables surrounding the floor but on a balcony above. Thus no matter where one has a table one is still part of the evening and not "left out in the cold". There are three bars, thus the need to wait long for, or the crush to get, drinks, is overcome.

The Paul London Orchestra and the Eric Silk Southern Jazz Band have been engaged, and a buffet meal will also be provided.

The wearing of formal evening dress is quite optional.

There is only one drawback—the tickets have to be strictly limited in number. So it is advisable to purchase them early. The price is 30/- per double ticket.

Sporting Letters From Sporting People

To the Editor of "Beaver"

Dear Sir,

Please could you explain why it is that the Sailing Club has been advertising for members and yet, when I applied last term, the answer was that no more members were required. Since some of the officials have complained about the small number of people turning up to sail, would it not be a good idea if the Club desisted from limiting its membership?

Yours etc.,

FRUSTRATED SAILOR.

(Ed.—We await with interest the Sailing Club's reply.)

To the Editor of "Beaver"

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you could help to solve my problem. I have an exquisite girl-friend, for whom I would give my all, except football. The trouble is that this is just what she does want me to give. I am almost crazy with worry and I beg you to advise me. I am writing to you because, as an obvious sportsman you will understand my point of view.

Yours etc.,

UNHAPPY WORRIED ONE.

(Ed.—My dear boy, as all the "Beaver" staff indulge solely in indoor sport, might I suggest that we take over the girl-friend when you are busy?

Mountaineering

UP IN THE HIGHLANDS

EIGHT members of the Club, led by Don Aldridge, went to Scotland after Christmas, and spent ten days at Glencoe Hostel. Jackie Needham, Jill Morgan and Janet Ruff ably represented the women members.

Mild weather prevented the conditions from being ideal for winter climbing, but, in addition to much hill-walking, ascents were made of the Central Gully of Bidean nam Bian, the Broad Gully of Stob Coire nan Lachan and the Curved Ridge of Buchaille Etive Mor. Snow added interest to the Aonach Eagach and the ridges of Bidean. Hogmanay was celebrated in true Scottish fashion, although all members of the party were sassenachs.

Professor Graham Brown, one of the Club's Vice-President's, spent a few days with the Secretary and Brenda Wallis in a cave in that part of Glencoe known as "Lost Valley". This cave is recommended as a cheap, convenient and comfortable lodging.

Results at a Glance

Soccer

1st XI: v. City of London (Quarter Final; Surrey Senior Cup), lost 1-6; v. King's College draw 1-1; v. University College, won 4-1.

2nd XI: v. Borough Road College, won 10-4; v. King's College, won 2-1.

Rugby

1st XV: v. Neath Athletic, won 6-3; v. University College, won 16-3.

Swimming:

v. Battersea, lost.

Lawn Tennis:

v. Imperial College, won 3-2; v. Bensons, won 4-1.

Fencing

v. St. Bart's Hospital, draw 9-9; v. Leicester University, won 22-5.

Rugby Club Opponents

THE Club is continuing to have a very successful season. Full-back Peter Cast has played regularly for the University, while Ron Hewson has gained a Kent County Trial. On the morning of the England v. Wales international, the XV defeated its bi-annual victors, Neath Athletic, by 6 points to 3 points, all unconverted.

L.S.E. began with a rush, Elterton scoring from a chance made by captain Tommy Barnes. Soon after, Stein scored an opportunist try, kicking the ball out of the scrum-half's hands and touching down.

The Visitors now closed the game up. For the rest of the match the forwards inspired by the whole-hearted efforts of pack-leader Stan Smith, played a valiant rearguard action against a much heavier pack. Neath's stand-off barged over the line for one try, but the defence stood firm for the rest of the match.

The day was completed by a visit to Twickenham.

On 13th January, the XV met its old rivals, University College for the third time this season, this time away from home. Once again, with the advantage of a strong wind, L.S.E. scored twice within the first 15 minutes, Griffiths and Little going over for unconverted tries. U.C. fought back hard and with the wind behind them in the second half scored a try. Until five minutes from time there was no more scoring.

Then at last the ball got into the open. Bagshaw, running magnificently, passed to Elton, on to Jones, who ran strongly to score under the posts. Cast converted the try. A minute later Cast picked up a loose ball well, and ran through a ruck of players to score near the corner. He converted this with a good kick against the wind.

This had been a good late scoring rush, but throughout the game the threequarters always looked the match of their opposite numbers whenever they got the ball.

Team: Cast, Griffiths, Barnes, Jones (G.G.), Little, Flude, Wilson, Weatherhogg Harry, Gould, Hewson, Smith, Elterton, Roberts, Bagshaw.

Pacifist Society Meeting

The Pacifist Society is somewhat unusual among the Political Societies in that its members range from the intitheses of Christianity and Atheism, Socialism and Anarchism. These differing viewpoints appear to be not inconsistent with a common rejection of war and an attempt to study all aspects of the phenomenon together. Discussion meetings are held EVERY TUESDAY at 4.15, and sympathisers and hostile critics are equally welcome at these meetings.

Bernard Withers, secretary of the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors, is coming to lecture, discuss and advise on the problems of objection to military service, on THURSDAY, 18th FEBRUARY. This meeting will doubtless prove popular particularly with those who are conscious that the sands of deferment are fast running out.