

The Beaver

20th January, 1992

Newspaper of the London School of Economics Student Union

Issue 351

Police seal off Tuns

By Julian Sykes

The Three Tuns bar was cordoned off by police at the end of last term following the fatal stabbing of a police officer near the LSE.

On Friday 13th of December, off-duty Detective Constable Jim Morrison had given chase to a man, who was described as "well dressed".

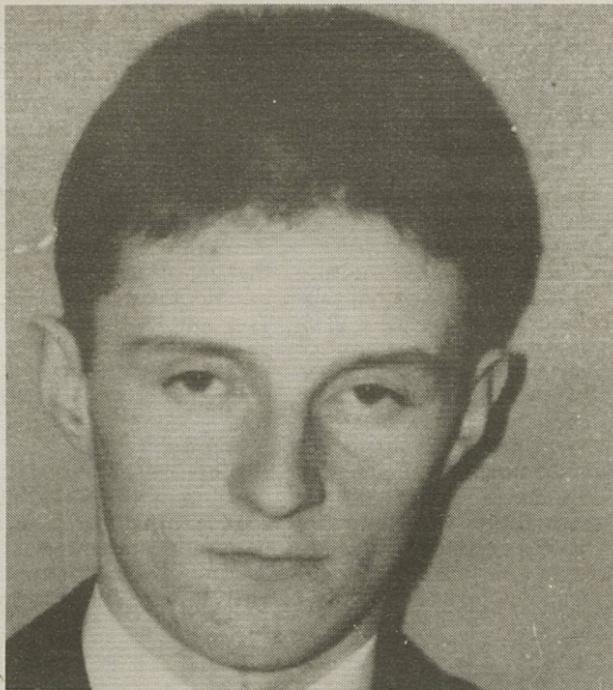
The chase took place through the streets between Covent Garden and the Aldwych before the man was cornered at which point he stabbed DC Morrison in Montreal Place just off the Aldwych. The policeman

died two hours later in St Bartholomew's hospital.

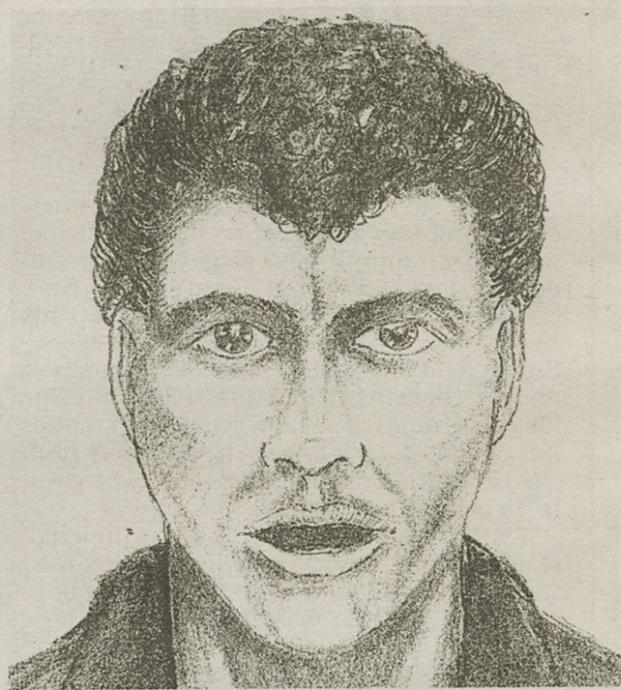
Immediately following the incident, a man fitting the description of the attacker was reported to have run into the LSE bar which was packed with students celebrating the end of term.

The police arrived just after 11 pm and sealed off the building, requesting that no-one be allowed to leave. The bar re-opened for about an hour.

When attempts by some students to leave were prevented, stewards, including Social and Services secretary Fiona Macdonald, were attacked. As a result



Murdered off-duty police officer D.C. Morrison



Artist's impression of the suspect

four students were taken into custody and held for four hours but were later released without charge.

A procedure whereby each student was frisked before leaving, took over two

hours. All 270 students had their names and addresses taken, and were photographed. Assurances were given that the photographs would be destroyed.

Transport was arranged

by the police for minibuses to go to most directions.

Over the weekend, the CID searched the premises and a knife was found in the Old Building. It is not known whether this has

any connection with the incident. It was also discovered that the door to C018 had been forced in but again no connection was established.

School considers increasing student participation

By Adrian May

The Review Group on Student Participation has recommended a dramatic opening up of School committees to the student body.

The report is described by the Review Group as being a "significant basis for the further enhancement of constructive and cordial relations between the School and the Students' Union". It is being described as the fruits of full agreement between School and Students' Union members, to replace the "unsatisfactory and illogical set of principles" that were said to exist prior to the Review Group being set up.

The Review Group, established in July 1991, claims that it worked from the "assumption of inclu-

sion rather than exclusion of students on school committees". The group referred to policies in place at other universities in the country, and they now believe that 15 years after student representation on school committees began, "the current arrangements no longer reflect the contribution that students can be expected to make to the life and work of the school."

The existing arrangements for student representation were first adopted in 1976, and precluded student membership of academic committees and those committees that dealt with any kind of 'reserved' business; reserved business being anything concerning personnel, staff discipline, academic matters relating to students and determination of aca-

demical standards.

Students were thus not allowed access to the School's two most influential bodies, namely the Academic Board and the Standing Committee of the Court. With the latter, provision was made in the 1976 agreement for a joint meeting between the Standing committee and Student Governors, but not being a 'committee' the joint meeting had no formal powers.

In considering the future role of students on School committees the Review Group identified three key areas which it believed were at the heart of the debate as far as opposition to any extension was concerned. Firstly the group was concerned about the key issue of confidentiality and reserved business. If the recommendations of the

group are accepted in full, committees where there is confidential subject matter will have split agendas, the students being present at the part of the meeting concerning the non-confidential material. Where confidential material makes up the bulk of a committee's work, student involvement will be limited to discussion of general principles only.

Secondly the group assessed the competence of students to serve on School committees, and concluded that the intelligence of students is confirmed by their ability in gaining entrance to the school. The group also questioned the level of contribution that students could make to a committee that they serve for only one year — but it was agreed that students

had 'invaluable' experience of student concerns, which were pertinent to most committees.

Thirdly the group discussed the method by which students are elected to committees, and they endorsed the current practice of cross-campus ballot, as well as selection of representatives for relevant committee places. The group regarded as "entirely welcome" plans to ensure proper representation for postgraduate students.

The General Secretary of the Students' Union, Michiel van Hulst claims, "this report shows the School sees the Union as partners rather than opponents, and thus reflects well on the way that the Union is working." Despite this the Review Group has failed to guarantee any place on the

Academic Board, membership of which would be a significant boost for the student body.

Responding to accusations that the Academic Board had almost 'masonic' characteristics in that it may be conceived to be highly secretive and influential, Van Hulst suggested, "The Academic Board describe themselves as an informal gathering, for fellowship purposes, with no real powers. Since they claim to have no influence they say there is no need to have student members on the board." Although the Review Group recommended that students should be either represented or allowed to have observers, the final decision on this lies with the Board when they meet on 23 January.

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The LSESU proposes a radically redesigned Constitution, in *News* see page 2

Joe Lavin compares British and American television programmes, in *Campus* see page 4

Should LSE students have to wear I.D. badges to improve campus safety? in *Opinion* see page 5

Denzel Washington stars in *Mississippi Masala*, a film about interracial relationships, in *Arts* see page 6

The Bethnal Green Bonecrusher defeats the Aldwych Altruist in support of boxing, in *Sports* see page 8

Commentary

Union Jack

A new year, a new UGM. Jack knew something was wrong when he saw Michiel wandering around on the stage wearing a suit and what can just about be called a tie. Sure enough, MVH had a cunning plan up his sleeve; take the two biggest crowd pleasers - Simon Reid and Ron Voce - of last years riot, and put them in to run it this time round! The idea of turning the asylum over to the lunatics has, as far as Jack knows, never before been tried at LSE, and credit must surely be given to its originator.

"It's from my brother, and he's from Imperial" stated Michiel sagely. People suddenly realised that he meant the tie, and tried hard not to look at it. His tie was not the only thing upsetting people. Michiel wanted us to get rid of one of his task force members - apparently Steve Prince has been being a naughty boy.

Up came the man himself. "It's all going on behind the scenes" he said. "What?" thought Jack. "Michiel's advancing his career, mentally jerking himself off" Steve clarified. "Ah!" thought Jack. Simon thought this was a bit off, however; he wanted to throw Steve out. No, it was okay; it seems that Michiel didn't mind. Hmm. Jack wondered why he was wearing dark trousers.

The new look theme continued, with Toby actually giving money to people, and Fiona having almost nothing to say. Then came Martin Raiser. A new image indeed for him; out with the woolly hat, in with the swept-back hair. Mr. Raiser is also frequenting different company nowadays; "If you have any grief as an overseas student, see me in the Three Tuns Bar"; presumably he'll buy them a drink to cheer them up.

Just when it seemed that nothing was the same, the SWSS tried to suspend standing orders. Even more reassuring, it was about the Asylum Bill. This pleasant interlude continued right up to the point when Steve Peake came up and apologised for his coat. This upset Jack. Many a time S.P. has come up to speak, and seems to have ignored the people reaching for their sunglasses with not a word of explanation or apology. So why start now? Well, at least his tie was okay.

On to business motion 1, a fascinating discussion of NUS conferences. It seems Mubin Haq is also in the precedent-setting game; he started by warning "I haven't actually had time to read this", despite being the proposer of the motion. Jack was duly impressed by this, and feels that more hacks should stop reading the motions they propose and/or speak about. Sinisa Vacic seemed to be being very honest. "This is completely useless" he shouted reasonably into the microphone - and for a moment it seemed like we faced peace in our time. Hopes were dashed when it was discovered he just meant the motion.

The motion was defeated nonetheless, and it was at this point we discovered Michael McGrath's New Year resolution - "I will pretend that I am a seal at random moments during the UGM". His request for a fish to swallow was denied by a stunned Union Chair.

Finally, it fell to Simon to bring in a note from the olden days. On noticing that everyone had got bored and was already leaving, he raised the time-honoured cry 'shall we close the meeting?'. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose...

SU gets a new Constitution

By Adrian May

Far reaching changes to the Students' Union Constitution, which will radically change the way the Union functions, have been proposed, and may be in operation as early as 20th February.

The changes include provisions for another sabbatical position, as well as reforms to the Committee structure, which involves removing non-sabbatical students from one of the key Union committees.

General Secretary to the Students' Union Michiel van Hulten wants to create a fourth sabbatical post, with responsibility for Equal Opportunities and

Welfare, whilst transferring responsibility for services away from the Entertainment Sabbatical to the Vice-President Finance and Services, the current Senior Treasurer's post.

Entertainments will, along with societies, become the responsibility of the Vice-President Entertainments and Societies. The package of name changes also includes a president, to assume the responsibilities of the current position of General Secretary.

The proposals include the appointment of a non-Executive sabbatical Publications Officer, who would assume the Editorship of The Beaver. The Publica-

tions Officer would also be responsible for the Alternative Prospectus, the Handbook and the Ents Diary.

Reaction to the restriction of membership on the Administration and Staffing Committee, to Sabbaticals and the General Manager, has not been accepted well by some students. Ludwig Kenzler, Junior Treasurer, suggests, "This will only distance the Sabbaticals from the students and their concerns."

Kenzler is also concerned about the plan to make members of the Executive, Members without Portfolio, in other words without specific responsibilities.

New Task force takes off

Negotiations underway to allay student grievances

By Hans Gutbrot

The LSE has commissioned a survey of the realities of student hardship from the Centre for Educational Research in the Government department. The move, revealed in a paper marked "Strictly Private and Confidential", comes as a response to proposals by the Review Group on Student Hardship and Services; the so-called "Task Force".

The Task Force, set up in December as an alternative to occupation, comprises The Director, Pro-Director, Finance Officer, Academic Registrar, and Press and Information Officer from the School, and the three Sabbaticals, Adrian Cattley and Steve Prince from the Student Union. It is primarily working from a paper by General Secretary Michiel van Hulten, the 'Christmas shopping list', which lists six specific grievances, with

suggested solutions.

Overcrowded lectures, he explains could be solved by two separate lecture times and possibly video links. Hardship funds he concedes are the responsibility of Parliament, though suggesting that overseas student fees could be increased to make extra monies available.

On complaints over expensive hall accommodation, Van Hulten suggests that the School should concentrate on improving pay and conditions for senior staff to ensure continuity and increased efficiency. Food prices could be lowered, he suggests, by reducing variety and increasing prices in the Beaver's Retreat.

Expensive childcare, he feels, needs "a clear resource decision".

Responding in the document, Adrian Hall, Senior Assistant Secretary of the LSE classifies demands into four categories; non-negotiable, ideas offered early to

set a constructive tone, those offered in task force discussions, and those held in reserve for possible later use. He concedes the "justice" of several of the demands but also emphasises the limits of the LSE's role. He describes it as vital that it should be a cooperation and not just a yielding on the side of the School.

At the moment there is controversy over the choice of delegates for the Task Force. Last week, Social Services Secretary, Fiona McDonald sought the removal of Steve Prince from the group, and his reliability was questioned during Thursday's UGM.

The results of the survey are to be announced in a joint press conference sometime this term. The first concrete results were expected to come from the second meeting of the Task Force last week, which was still to take place as the Beaver went to press.

News in Brief

Plans to turn London University into all encompassing administrative body for the whole of the London region will be put to the heads of the Universities and polytechnics later this month. LSE and another seven of the larger colleges are hoping to be treated as universities in their own right.

Disappointed at the deal Britain reached at Maastricht in December due to be ratified later this month Dr Alan Sked, of the Anti

Federalist League and a lecturer in International History at LSE, is planning to stand as many as 50 candidates of the Anti Federalist League in key Tory marginals. This is despite the opt-out clauses Britain managed to obtain on the Social Chapter and moves to a single currency.

Appointments

Sandra Cohen started work in the Welfare Office on the 7th January. Frances Jacobson started work as the fifth member of staff in the Cafe on the 16th

January. Mel Taylor was appointed as temporary secretary/receptionist to cover for the Admin Assistant, who is currently on maternity leave.

Correction

In the issue of the 9th December, The Beaver referred to Dr. Safieh of the PLO. The correct spelling is Afif Safieh. In addition he referred to Israel as being the "slowest actor" in previous talks, and not as printed "the strongest actor". The Beaver apologises for these errors.

"Bessa" option to finance Rosebery extension

At a meeting hosted by Dr John Ashworth last Thursday, plans were unveiled to finance the proposed extension of Rosebery.

The new scheme would involve "Bessa": Business Expansion Secure Share Account which is currently the most tax efficient form of investment on the market. This will provide £5,000,000 to finance the Middleton Street extension to the rear of Rosebery, and will create an extra 150 accommodation places for students.

Concerns have been voiced over the means by which the School can repay the loan. However, Ashworth is confident that the required £6,500,000 can be found during the LSE centenary fundraising celebrations in 1995.

Shake up in Econ. Department

Sweeping changes have been introduced to the way LSE Economics degrees are taught. A letter distributed to all current first year Economists describes the changes, and speaks of plans to introduce them starting next year, depending upon responses to an accompanying questionnaire.

Plans include the expansion of the pure economics content to two of the four courses taken in the second year, the amalgamation of the first year econ courses into two, Economics A & B; in addition, Special Subjects I-V will be amalgamated into a single Economics option.

Ludwig Kenzler, a student representative on the Student Staff Committee, has criticised the reforms, and feels that the way the changes have been introduced is high-handed. Kenzler originally suggested that a working party be set up to represent student views, but was informed that the changes had already been agreed upon. He noted that Professor Bean, the chair of the group which proposed the changes, also felt that there had been insufficient consultation.

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ELSIE'S EVENTS

(To be read with a deep, gravely New York accent, with a light jazz musical accompaniment in the background.)

The frosty morning sun burnt through the blind. It was a cool morning so I woke myself up with a lighter under my armpit and a self-slapped face. Walking across the cess-pit that is my apartment, I came to the large oaken desk. My diary loomed on the top, holding its breath to see if this morning I would be brave enough to enter into its covers. The decision had to be immediate, did I dare open it and find a previously made commitment that I had long since forgotten, or should I just ignore it, go to the beach and stamp on some errant children's sandcastle?

With my decision made I reached for my holster and took my gun. At least in this case, if I didn't see what I liked, I could blow it away. Page one read like a book: it told me that for the **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** of this week, I had to see **Dr. Pedro Aspe, Mexican finance Minister, in the Old Theatre at 5:30 p.m.** That was only the first thing; my damn secretary is so inefficient I have to ring her to remind her to remind me to ring her, so it came as no surprise to learn that she had put the whole week's calendar on the one page.

Then I read that I had accepted an invitation by the **Liberal Democrats** to hear **Paul Burston speak on 'the environment', in S53 at 1p.m. on Wednesday.** That reminds me, I must buy a new deodorant, and at **7:30p.m. Northern Ireland** is on my agenda at a discussion in **S419.** The next thing I saw made me feel like a sewer rat who'd just discovered fifteen pounds of rotting apples. That same Wednesday at **8 pm,** I had a date with Dolores down to the **Underground** club. There's a **Shakedown** going on, a new jazz band's replacing Benny and d'boyz.

On **Thursday at 7p.m.** in the **New Theatre** I've a meet with a tall man, with a sharp sword and a nose the size of Dolores's heel. He's a fellow private dick from Jersey, goes by the name of Bergerac, **Cyrano de Bergerac.**

After Mexico and Dolores earlier in the week, by **Friday** I'll need some true European culture, unfortunately I've to hear **Sir Leon Brittain, British EEC commissioner, at 11a.m. in C120** so there's not much chance of any of that. Later on in the day I've got to chew the fat and rustle the crisps, back in the **Underground** club for its inaugural disco.

That was it, the week's events listed in full. Not too bad, so I returned my gun to its holster, where it gave a sigh and settled back to rest. After dressing I left, the walk to the office lasted as long as one of Dolores's legs, so after an hour I climbed the steps and polished the brass plate on the front door. Once inside I placed my feet on the desk and adopted my usual working position, tie off, feet crossed, eyes shut.

But Dolores swaggered into the room with hips that were an invitation to dine. "I've come here to hire you to make sure people know about Rag Week," she said. "We've got a problem. Rag Week's February 10th to the 17th, but not enough people know about it. There's a lot of stuff happening like ULU's Tequila Party on the 15th, and the LSE Rag Ball in the Waldorf on the 22nd. We also need you to get us some contestants for blind date — the prizes are tickets to the LSE Rag Ball — but they must pick an application form up from the Social Sec's office." It sounded like my type of job, something to work on for next week, so that's what I'm going to do now.

(To place events in this column, please leave, time, date, place event in the Campus tray in the Beaver office.)

'At least it's not Cop Rock'

Joe Lavin turns on Cilla Black with surprising results

I must admit that I am rather disappointed with British television. You see, in the U.S., we only get the best of British television, such as *Fawlty Towers*, *The Singing Detective*, and *Monty Python*, and because of this I somehow expected all British television to be like that. I honestly thought that the best and most amazing programs would be on television all the time. Silly me. I guess there's probably a reason why *Blind Date* isn't exported.

In order not to create a giant throng of enemies, I will first qualify my statements. British television is definitely not any worse than American television. Actually, many of the worst programs on it are American. So the problem here is that British television is just as bad as American television, and this was a bit disappointing.

As an example, let me discuss the Saturday night viewing in my flat. First, somewhere around 6 p.m., there is *Baywatch*, a beautiful, touching and meaningful examination of breasts and how they relate to the greater issue of sex in general. I'm not complaining, of course. Breasts are very important, and I'm glad that ITV has decided to take some time

out of its busy schedule to examine them.

Most other men I know are also glad. We obviously don't take this show seriously. In fact, we constantly make fun of the flimsy plots and contrived dialogue, and many of us only watch the show for about ten or fifteen minutes. Still, we do watch, and other channels are never sampled. I'm sure ITV knows this.

Baywatch used to be shown in the States a year or two ago, but I think it was called by a different name, something along the lines of *Hey, Cool, That Show with the Playboy Centerfold*. The show did not last too long before being cancelled, but at least the producers have sent it over here and are making back some of their money.

The same thing happened with *Cop Rock*, a show that is now being shown on the BBC. I remember hearing about this show but never got around to seeing it as it was pulled off the air after about two weeks. The only reason I know about it at all is because it became a barometer for critics, as in "This new show is clearly an awful and disgusting piece of television, but hey at least it's not *Cop Rock*."

The show does seem

rather silly. In it, police people in mid-exciting police activity suddenly burst out into song. To be honest, I don't quite understand the concept. I don't think Clint Eastwood would either. "Go ahead. Make my — Hold on, I suddenly have this urge to sing. Don't mind me." Realistic things actually happen on this show. It's just that they are postponed every five minutes or so when some character gets sick of his lines and decides to sing instead.

Anyway, back to Saturday, because after *Baywatch*, another great show comes on — *Blind Date*. The main reason I hate this show is because of its insipid theme song. The song is like a parasite. Once it's in your head, it won't leave. In fact, for the rest of Saturday night, the only thought allowed in my head is "Do Doot Do Doot Do Doot Doot Do Doot Doot."

That, by the way, is the entire theme song. There is no other part. Occasionally, for the sake of variety it changes to "Da Dump Da Dump Da Dump Dump Da Da Dump," but that's still it.

The show itself isn't that evil. In fact, I think it's an excellent show. (Notice the exciting use of sarcasm by the writer.) Indeed, the for-

mat would be particularly helpful for politics. That is why as a general election slowly approaches I propose that the leaders of the three major political parties should appear on *Blind Date* for a debate.

"Mr. Major, I'm now going to tell you my most private secret. Before I go to bed, I like to smear oil all over my body. What's your most private secret?"

"Well, I'm going to privatise the NHS, but first I'd like to get private with you and your secret."

Sorry, I think I've seen too much of this show, but I bet more people would vote if they did do this. I have to go now and find other bad television shows to make fun of, but in conclusion I would just like to say "Do Doot Do Doot Do Doot Doot Do Doot Doot."

Busy Beaver is currently shadowing certain members of the Royal family on the slopes and in the bars of Kloisters and so is unable to write his column this week. He assures us that he will be back in time to dish up the dirt in next week's bountiful Beaver. Keep that gossip coming in to the Campus section.....

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There have been a number of events in the past few years which have prompted an examination by the School into existing security procedures; the alleged rape of a girl at a Tequila Party in June 1990 had led to the installation of surveillance cameras and high intensity lighting to areas outside School buildings.

Although this was the beginning of a comprehensive security scheme, the Students' Union feels that further measures to ensure the safety of property and persons on School premises should be taken in the form of 24 hour security patrols. The hiring of security staff is a waste of limited budget resources if there is no way of identifying persons authorised to be on School grounds.

The idea fielded by the School's Site Development and Services Department was that all members of staff and students of the LSE should be required to wear photo identification. The School has recently provided all members of School and Union staff with a photo I.D. card and students are issued with photo I.D. cards at registration. To provide students and staff with clips to attach the cards to their outer clothing would not be a costly step.

Many businesses in London already operate similar schemes which complete a cohesive and cost effective security scheme. Forms of identification in other countries (i.e. U.S. drivers' licenses) have photographs of the holder on them. Not only does this make it increasingly difficult to forge these documents, it also enables those who need to identify the holder to do so more quickly and

more easily.

The School cannot afford to employ fully trained security staff on a 24 hour basis. There are also concerns that having 24 hours security staff would make staff and students less diligent about locking office doors, reporting strangers in buildings and looking after their personal

Against:

The LSE Task Force on Student Hardship has met and established an agenda which includes considering proposals for a comprehensive security system to be implemented within The School. There have been a series of thefts

Compulsory I.D. cards for students?

safety. The porters themselves perform a security function by being present in the School buildings before nighttime security come on duty at 9pm. With photo I.D. cards, they are able to do their job far more effectively without a large increased expenditure on security that is not part of a comprehensive security plan. Some additional security guards would be provided to aid porters in spotting those persons without I.D. cards in LSE buildings. Also, students would be able to easily identify persons without visible I.D. and could alert porters or security staff.

These new security measures would be a practical way of helping to resolve the security problems of a School in central London that only encourages intruders with its many entrances and exits. Therefore, ensuring previous attacks and thefts are not repeated.

Madeline Gwyon,
Executive Editor,
The Beaver

from Students' Union offices, several physical assaults on students and the infiltration of a School building by a murder suspect all within the last term. A meeting with senior Site Managers afforded me the opportunity to present the results of the Students' Union Safety Questionnaire, plus put forward my proposals for a safer LSE.

Although I felt having trained and recognizable security patrols would act as a deterrent to potential thieves and attackers, as well as be able to act quickly and effectively in case any such incident were to occur, the Schools' Site Managers felt that security patrols are only effective if all students and staff were to wear visible photo I.D. cards. Proposers of the scheme claim that these incidents would be drastically reduced if everyone entering the school had to wear some form visible ID, allowing porters or security staff to identify unauthorised persons on School premises immediately.

This scheme is obviously fundamentally flawed. As anyone who has tried to walk into the Old building at 1pm will tell you, the whole LSE is too crowded to allow for efficient checking. Mischievous people would still be able to blend in with the crowds.

Moreover, the scheme heavily relies on all 27 exits and entrances to the School being sufficiently staffed to allow only bona-fide persons into the school. The School would still have to hire security staff to be stationed at all entrances all hours that doors are not locked, therefore creating enormous costs which have been a prohibitive factor for the School employing 24 hour trained security staff to begin with.

Other problems also arise. With over 5,000 students at the LSE it is highly probable that many students will forget their cards or lose them. This will mean that temporary cards will have to be issued and checked - very convenient when your late for that ten o'clock lecture. The same problem also arises with outside visitors and friends who may want to enter the building.

The most fundamental flaw, however, is that the majority of the student population would bitterly oppose such a draconian measure. The whole thought of having to walk around wearing a photo ID card would be alien to the freedom students enjoy at present.

Please make your thoughts about this scheme known to the Social Secretary (in writing or in person to E206) so that a report on students reaction to the scheme can be substantiated.

Toby Johnson,
Senior Treasurer,
and **Fiona MacDonald,**
Social & Services Sec.

The Beaver

In the first draft of the new constitution is a clause introducing a Publications Sabbatical. This job would involve running The Beaver, the Alternative Prospectus and the Students Handbook, and candidates would be elected by cross-campus ballot.

In theory I believe this is a good idea. If the Beaver is to significantly improve over the next few years, it will do so only if a great deal more time is spent by those involved. As a Sabbatical post is a full-time, one-year position, extra time would undoubtedly be spent on the publication.

Such a post would cost the Students Union an extra £11,000 per year. Therefore, if a salary were to be paid, the newspaper would lose its current Union subsidy. The newspaper now costs about £13,000 per year to produce, of which £8,500 comes from the Union, the rest from advertising. Even if the present Beaver team succeeds in expanding the paper and increasing the advertising revenue, the paper would still need Union funding of about £4,000 per year: a substantial reduction in the reliance the Beaver places upon the Union but one that would still financially veto a Sabbatical. Maybe by July 1993, the paper will have improved its financial standing sufficiently to enable such a plan to work.

It is perfectly reasonable to expect there to be a cross-campus ballot for the post of Publications Sabbatical if the Union is shelling out so much money. Unfortunately, this will mean that political parties are likely to stand their own candidates and turn it into another political post. No-one expects that an editor will have no political views - quite the reverse - editors will have opinions.

The danger is that the post of editor will end up being controlled totally by the most dominant political party on the LSE campus at the time of the elections. This is not likely to result in a Beaver that provides a better quality read for the students.

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Post Haste

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Apology

The Beaver apologises for the error on the front page of the Dec. 9 issue. In the article, entitled "Union deficit slashed by 60%" it was stated that, "This year's deficit is substantially down from last year's figure of £28,405."

The Beaver regrets that this sentence is incorrect. The figure of £28,405 was actually the projected deficit for the year 1991-'92 as included in the budget submission to the School for '91-'92.

The Beaver accepts that there was a surplus of £9,823 for the year 1990-'91 and that the projected deficit of £28,405 never occurred.

The Beaver would like to add that the projected deficit for the year 1990-'91 was £12,272.

Let me introduce myself...

Dear Beaver, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all those who voted for me as Chairman at the UGM last Thursday.

Could I take this opportunity of assuring everybody that I shall do my best to be as impartial as possible and I hope that I can count on the Union's continued support.

Simon Reid
Union Chair.

Double Dutch

Dear friends of The Beaver,

The critique of the performance of the Ancient Greek tragedy "Agamemnon" written by Aeschylus in the fifth century B.C., which was published at the issue No. 349 (2 Dec. 1991) was obviously written by somebody who has no idea what theatre means.

Theatre is not a

matching of actors, costumes, scenography, music, dance, speeches, and songs performed in an order set up by the text and the director. **Theatre is mystagogy.** What is **essential** while attending a theatrical performance is **to participate in the drama**; to feel as if you were witnessing the events developed in the stage; to get familiar with the characters, their situation, and their environment. If such emotions and "messages" are transmitted to the spectators then the performance has achieved its basic aim of recreation - entertainment; if not, then it consists a complete failure.

More specifically, the structure of the Ancient Greek drama (which encompasses few main characters - usually not more than five - and a chorus of 15 people who have no role on the main story but who comment on the events - the chorus is the public opinion, the link between the stage and the audience) offers a great opportunity to a skilful director and actors to show

their talent in transmitting emotions and messages to the spectators making them participants in the drama. In other words, the Ancient Greek drama gives them extremely wide opportunities to **make theatre**. This is the difficulty and, at the same moment, the challenge in performing Ancient Greek drama (either tragedy or comedy).

From the flat and incoherent report of your collaborator, one can assume that the people at the Bridge Lane may have failed in making theatre. Anyway, I can't comment on the performance as I have not seen it yet.

Yours sincerely,
George Yiannitsiotis

P.S. The words theatre, drama, tragedy, comedy, scene, and scenography, mystagogy, and chorus are Greek. Therefore, if you don't understand their meaning please check it in a good English or Greek dictionary.



Sarita Choudhury and Denzel Washington in "Mississippi Masala"

Passions Boil

Denzel Washington stars in an interracial love story

Mira Nair follows up her widely acclaimed "Salaam Bombay" with "Mississippi Masala", a combination of an interracial love story and an account of Idi Amin's deportation of Indians from Uganda in the early 70's.

It is 1972 and Jay (Roshan Seth), a lawyer who has never lost a case finds he has to leave the country of his birth like most other Indians who are being deported. Matters become complicated when he is thrown into jail after telling an English journalist that the Ugandan leader is an evil man. He is only released when his friend, Okello (Konga Mbanda), a black Ugandan mananges to bribe his jailers. Okello is angry with Jay because his actions could have got his wife Kinu (Sharmila

Tagore) and little daughter, Mina killed. "Kampala is my home" Jay argues "Not anymore" Okello answers, unwittingly "Africa is for Africans, Black Africans". This statement sees the end of their friendship.

Twenty years later, Mina (Sarita Choudhury) who has grown into an attractive young woman is driving her boss's brand new car when she smashes into a van driven by Demetrius (Denzel Washington). Fortunately, no one is hurt and they both exchange addresses for their insurance companies. They smile at each other and Mina tells Demetrius how much she likes his name after which they part goodbye. Mina goes to a nightclub with Harry, a guy who

Mina's mother would like to see her married to. Surprise, surprise, Demetrius is in there and has just been jilted by a girlfriend of his. Just to get his ex-girlfriend jealous he asks Mina to dance, however they both fall in love later on. They are in a motel room when Mina's boss, who happens to be related to her, breaks in and gets into a punch-up with Demetrius. Her family gets to know of the relationship and this causes the cleaning firm, owned by Demetrius and his womanising partner Tyrone (Charles Dutton) to lose all the contracts it has in the area. As you would have guessed the story goes on....

Mira Nair manages to use both experienced actors and new talent to convey to

Films At A Glance

Mississippi

Masala

at the Curzon,

West End

Merci La Vie

at selected cinemas

Liebestraum

general release

the audience the conflicts between traditional upbringing and growing up in another country whilst also managing to direct the film in a humorous and touching way.

Benjamin Accam

Mississippi Masala is currently running at the Curzon, West End.

Life is strange

A look at sex, war and venereal disease in 'Merci La Vie'

Camille (Charlotte Gainsbourg) is pushing a shopping trolley full of seagulls when she comes across a battered bride lying by the road. The bride Joelle (Anouk Grinberg) says "I am a lost girl..." Camille replies "Stay with me. You are the friend I've been waiting for! You are heaven sent." This is a taste of things to come in Bertrand Blier's latest film *Merci La Vie* (Thanks Life).

Camille, who is trying to study hard for her exams and does not get on well with her parents, not surprisingly finds herself drawn into the adventurous lifestyle of Joelle. The duo hit the town, wreak havoc and are especially ruthless in dealing with the opposite sex. Joelle's sexual promiscuity means she has slept with a whole townful of men and spreads a disease which nearly results in her being lynched by them. Enter Gerard Depardieu as Marc Antoine, Joelle's doctor-cum-pimp whose reply to the statement that he

would be unable to find work as a doctor (because people either die suddenly or are not ill at all) is "What if I bring in a disease". To "crown it all" Camille "offers" Joelle to her father (Michel Blanc) because her mother won't give in to his sexual demands.

Blier's passion for playing around with time if not overdone, is very much in evidence; one moment we witness Camille, her father, Joelle and Marc-Antoine as members of the French Resistance under attack from the Luftwaffe during the World War and the next moment we are back in modern France. You can't even be sure of the disease Joelle is spreading; it could be an "ordinary" venereal disease in the pre-war era or Aids in the latter part of this century. The use of concepts like filming within a film and the juxtaposition of black and white and colour photography to signify mood changes also contributes to the feeling of being lost through time. Whilst he



Michel Blanc, Anouk Grinberg, Charlotte Gainsbourg and Gerard Depardieu in "Merci La Vie."

does manage to make fun of doctors, politicians and film directors in the process of using these techniques, they result in the film losing momentum just

when one is beginning to wonder whether there would be much left of this world if these girls lived down everyone's street.

If you enjoyed "Trop Belle

Pour Toi" you will probably enjoy this, however do prepare to be shocked if not outraged, because absolutely no holds are barred in *Merci La Vie* !!!

Benjamin Accam

Merci La Vie is currently showing at the Lumiere, Chelsea Cinema and Camden Plaza.

Stormy Weather

Figgis hits a rough patch with 'Liebestraum'

Location: MGM Studios. Top executive speaks... "Well, Mike, after that wonderfully thrilling Internal Affairs that you did with Richard, I understand that you have another little thriller on your hands."

Mike shuffles from foot to foot crumpling the script in his tight fists... "Yeah, it's going to be as exciting... no real stars, but I've raked up Kim Novak so that she can spend most of her time on her back smelling people's fingers."

"And the plot, Mike?"

"Husband discovers wife and lover in splendid cast iron building and shoots them. but I can't tell you any more."

"And great dialogue?"

"Well, ...they do speak."

"And dramatic scenes?"

"Sure, we have sweat-ridden dream sequences. It's sure gonna be fun dragging the arc lights over the hill. Plus, you should see the train I've lined up."

"That leads to great sex. I hope?"

"Sure, I'll be hosing down the lens, it'll be so hot."

"Mike, what are those two coloured acetates doing in your pocket?"

"These...oh these I stick over the camera to make it moody...see—I've got a red and a blue one"

"You've hired Joe to do the script."

"Oh no...it's my own script and I'm going to produce it as well...the muzak is all mine as well."

"Ah...you sure you're up to this responsibility?"

"You have seen Internal Affairs? I'll see you at the rushes."

Mike turns. The executive notices the book in the director's back pocket.

"Mike what you reading...your next film after this?"

Mike sheepishly brandishes the book: "How To Make Dumb Movies The David Lynch Way."

Steve Thomas

Liebestraum is on release in London.

Houghton St. Harry

The television schedule for the festive period threw up its usual mixture of the bad and the abysmal. But there is always a little needle waiting to be found in the haystack although this year's came in a somewhat 'larger' form.

I know you shallow individuals are wracking your tiny brains with thoughts of the Batman film, but the setting for my choice was far removed from Gotham City. In fact the scenes of this tense melodrama centred on the humble backwater of Frimley Green, Surrey.

Yes, the beer-inflated gladiators competing in The World Professional Darts Championship provided the most compelling viewing of the holidays. Like the best soap operas, it gave a subtle mixture of drama, humour and aborted pregnancies (well, maybe not). The fashion, the crowd and of course the commentaries were straight out of the top drawer. Oh, and some of the matches weren't bad either.

Despite the early exit of the doyen of the nineteen eighties, crowd favourite, Eric 'crafty cockney' Bristow, the London contingent still found many to cheer. Graham Miller, the panel beater from Kilburn, progressed to the quarter finals, beating the Limestone cowboy, Bob Anderson, on the way. Fellow Londoner, Rod Harrington, surprised the predominantly working class crowd not only by reaching the semi final but also by his choice of attire.

The traditional dress for optimum Darts credibility is the silky, short sleeved shirt, open to the navel revealing the most erotic part of any dart player's body, his oversized stomach. This, I am reliably informed, sends the ladies weak at the knees as they watch their favourite performer wobbling at the oche (pronounced ockie). But this sexy style is shunned by Rod, preferring instead the shirt and tie (tucked into shirt, of course) which makes him the thinking woman's hero (there's logic).

The most exciting final in recent years reached a tumultuous climax in the final leg, Phil Taylor eventually overcoming Mike Gregory, who earlier had countless chances to clinch the match. Anyway, HSH demands that Darts return to our screens on a regular basis. More characters than snooker, more interesting than Rugby union. Write to your MP readers, make this an election issue. It's what the kids want!

Talking of what the kids want, or more accurately what I want, I've got a bone to pick with NatWest. That cash machine in Houghton Street is crap. It's so old that it creaks and takes twice as long to dispense money as the newer models. If it were replaced, the massive queue that sometimes occurs would move along faster than the snail's pace at which it now does. Also it only gives out denominations of ten pounds. This is important to a miser like me, who likes to withdraw a fiver every three days. Having to carry a weighty tenner sends me into a very nervous state; carrying large sums of money just isn't safe these days.

Come on NatWest you capitalist scumbags, don't we give you enough money? Don't we let you give us massive overdrafts upon which you charge us a small fortune in interest? Don't we let your financially prudent staff into the Tuns to drink our cheap beer? Yes I think we do. All I want is a nice shiny new cashpoint that I can polish and get five pound notes out of (without a 20 minute wait). Otherwise I might have to take drastic action such as taking my overdraft elsewhere, think about it?

Finally, certain moves have been made to try and silence (well, quiet down) the editors of this page. Let it be known that we will not be gagged, even if it means having to write for the alternative circular. Our artistic integrity cannot be compromised for anything less than a fiver a week, so send offers on a postcard to the Beaver office. Bye.

Title Challenge

Hat-Trick Patrick routs Hospital in football

LSE 3rd XI5
Royal Free Hospital1

Reading of the league tables gave little cheer for the thirds, nestled nicely in the bottom half of the table, facing the threat of mid-table obscurity. Never mind lads, we're still in the UAU, we can concentrate on that!

However, noticing the top team were UC 4ths gave a great deal of encouragement, as we played them in a friendly and they were, to say the least, crap. Thus this mid-table clash was to prove to be the litmus paper for our campaign for the league. Goal difference was suffering, and we need to win most of our matches, but, as we all know, the league's decided after Christmas!

The midfield was bolstered for this match, with the vacation signing of the Trans-Atlantic work-horse Dan O'Neil. Also, hatchet man Pat Eyre redeemed himself by becoming hat-trick Patrick for the first time in his career, and thus dispelling those spurious playground rumours which have haunted him for so long.

As for the truth of Pat's goals, well yes one was a forty yard lob, but then again one was helped on its way. And speaking of the opposition goalie, what a star — voted LSE man-of-the-match. First, Pat catches him off his line, second Nigel Price floats a perfectly weighted ball over his head, then, as if he still hadn't learnt, he allows Si

Collier on to the scoresheet! Questions to be asked at Royal Free for that one.

The result probably doesn't bare true witness to the play of Royal Free. Many times they had the breaks and the chances, but, fortunately, failed to make them count, unlike LSE who exploited the oppositions weaknesses ruthlessly. Their best chance probably came before the break when a cross flashed across the goalmouth, with a two player overlap. The day was saved when Andy Graveson showed the better side of LSE sportsmanship, shouting a loud "BOO" to the oncoming forwards, who then complained to an unconvinced Ernie Parsons.

This was a tense thriller

watched by a capacity crowd at the Berylands ground of one, Laurence, who had to stroll on to replace Ben Nuttall midway through the second half. Obviously the Chrimbo pud was affecting him more than the rest of the team.

This was an encouraging start to this terms campaign, dispelling rumours that the thirds are heading for relegation. However, this was a last minute team and it appears that we may still be struggling to find a regular squad, despite the fact that we have an away trip to Southampton on Wednesday, overnight, paid for. You people don't realise how lucky you are.

An Honourable Draw

Hockey

LSE 1st XI2
ROYAL VETS2

A surprising exhibition of LSE style, improvisation and brutal firepower. Handicapped by a very late confirmation (as well as a lack of ability), the morning of the match saw our heroes an organisational shambles. In a matter of hours our team quadrupled from

2 to 8 players (2 x 4 = 8; I must remember that — Ed.). We didn't really need Jez, Jason or Mitesh anyway.

Enter Tom Reilly, innocently strolling down Houghton Street at 12:30 (his first of many mistakes that day). But for the love of God, Queen (a right pair of pratts) and country he risked life and limb, dodging cars and lorries to reach Kings Cross station a minute before our train left.

In typical vets style the pitch was of the rugby variety with plenty of muck and green wellies in view. Having overcome the mornings problems LSE proceeded to disembowel the opposition.

Gary hit the post three times but managed to give us the lead with a deft goal shortly before half time. Fatigue lead to the vets scrambling a lucky equaliser in the second half. But stung into action,

Brett Melzer showed a rare piece of aggression to score a vital goal.

Despite the valiant defense of Uco and John the vets fudged an even luckier goal to level the scores again.

To add insult to injury we were thoroughly peeved to find that their bar had shut, after the game. However, we managed to piss them off via Tom Reilly's inane banter to get our revenge.

Roger Irrelevant

Beauties or Beasts

Simon Collier discusses the ethics of boxing

As most of us know, Michael Watson is still in hospital following an operation to remove a blood clot from his brain. The injury was a result of his world Super-Middleweight title fight against Chris Eubank.

Possibly the greatest boxer of all time, Muhammad Ali, suffers from slurred speech and slowed movement. He has Parkinsons Syndrome; almost certainly a result of the repeated blows to the head he took in his long and glorious career.

Meanwhile, at the ringside at Madison Square Gardens, "The Fight of the Century", (the fifth this year) is about to take place. The long-awaited match between The Bethnal Green Bonecrusher, defending boxing; and The Aldwych Altruist, challenging the sport's right to exist.

Seconds out...Round one! The Bonecrusher attacks his opponent with a straight but powerful argument, "What right do you have to stop two consenting adults from doing whatever they choose if it does not harm anyone else?"

The Altruist responds

with an analogical argument, "A similar line of reasoning can be used to support the legalising of heroin. Hard drugs, like boxing, do harm to other people, particularly the victims' families. Also, society has an obligation to do what it can to protect people from themselves. Pointless self-destruction of any form can not be permitted in a civilised society."

Bonecrusher ducks, and counter-attacks, "Pointless? Boxing has the same point and purpose as other sports, that is, to keep people fit, and offer them a physical and mental challenge. The only thing that will be pointless is your score card at the end of this contest!"

This cheap shot allows The Altruist to respond with a painfully accurate, "There is a crucial difference between boxing and other sports. Boxing is the only sport where the participants regularly batter each other unconscious, or worse."

At this point the referee separates the two of them for the end of the round.

Seconds out...Round two! The Aldwych Altruist

makes an old and predictable attack, "Boxing is taken up by poor, predominantly black kids who want a way into the good times."

At this point the liberal's heart begins to bleed profusely.

The Bonecrusher hits back with great strength, "This is not the case. How do you explain the success of amateur boxing, not least at the LSE itself where numerous white, middle class students participate in the sport of the sheer enjoyment it offers?"

Reeling under the force of this argument, The Altruist is saved by the bell for the end of the round.

Seconds out...Round three, the final round!

The brave and plucky Aldwych Altruist goes for the knock-out, "The barbarity of two men punching each other repeatedly to the head and body is undeniable. Cases like Michael Watson and Muhammad Ali are inevitable."

The Bethnal Green Bonecrusher slips his opponent's best shot, and replies with a powerfully delivered, "Ali may have

trouble with his speech but his brain is as quick and sharp as ever. If you asked him if he would do it all again he would unequivocally reply "yes". Just because most of us are going to lead safe, boring lives does not allow us to stop Ali, or anyone else, from reaching the heights of enjoyment and achievement that he did. The ability to dream, and for some people to have those dreams come true, should not be removed."

The referee steps between the two exhausted opponents, and indicates that the fight is over. The decision is to be determined by the score card of tonight's judge — yours truly.

The result is a very narrow victory for The Bethnal Green Bonecrusher and the sport of Boxing. It is a brutal, and at times tragic sport. However, it gives those who watch it a great deal of pleasure, and offers those who participate in it both enjoyment and opportunity. There is too little of either in this world for such a rich source to be denied.