

# Countdown to Occupation

FEB  
23rd

## United Student Front on Divestment to be Relunched

by BEAVER STAFF

LSE's investments in South Africa are back at the forefront of controversy this week after the student's union gave a three week ultimatum to the administration to deliver its divestment promises. If they don't, an occupation of Connaught House is on the cards - and already some activists are demanding speedier action than the timetable now emerging.

In a hard hitting attack on both the evils of the apartheid system and the LSE's attempts to delay divestment, Avinash Pershad helped a motion committing the union to action to be passed overwhelmingly. The new policy has three key points:

1. Shares in eighteen companies that breach the LSE's 'Code of Conduct' on South Africa to be sold by February 23rd.

2. A public statement naming the companies to be made to the student governors on February 23rd at the meeting of the Joint Standing Committee of the Court of Governors.

3. A re-affirmation of support for the anti-apartheid movement and its call for economic sanctions against the Botha regime.

This Tuesday, the United Student Front will be relaunched at a meeting of students and society representatives. Last year this organisation, set up on The Beaver's initiative, formed the basis of a six week campaign which ended in an occupation and a subsequent decision (in

principle) by the Court of Governors to divest. Among plans under consideration are letters to all academics to try and gain their support, and staging a rally of prominent supporters such as MP's and representatives of the ANC and SWAPO.

But divestment campaigners face a great deal of uncertainty due to the administration's continuing refusal to issue a statement on the matter. Rumours circulating among academics and various sources in Connaught House have led to wildly differing estimates of the number of companies whose shares have been sold. Some have told The Beaver that up to eleven of the eighteen companies that breach the 'Code of Conduct' have been sold. Others say that it is not clear if any have been disposed of at all. Student governors will this week seek to clarify the situation by demanding, as directors of the LSE, a full breakdown of the School's shareholdings. But this may be refused on the grounds that the divestment process is supposed to be carried out "without publicity".

This lack of openness has angered student governors. Andrew Cornwell said: "the whole purpose of divestment isn't just to sell the £1.7 million which was tainted by apartheid. It is to gain publicity for further divestment as well. If we get a conclusive decision and a lot of press coverage on divestment here, it could be a trigger for a national campaign for British universities to sell." Cornwell added that students from King's College had already contacted him about setting up their own divestment campaign following LSE's example.

The problem this year for those who want to renew pressure on the apartheid



Student arrested at Witwatersrand University anti-apartheid demonstration - now LSE pledges solidarity.

issue is that South Africa has disappeared from media coverage, giving way to other areas of human rights concern, like the Gaza Strip. Also, the South African government's clampdown on the media has diverted attention from the townships to the so-called 'black-on-black' conflict in Natal between Zulus and non-tribal groups such as the United Democratic Front. But human rights abuse by the state, according to Amnesty International, is continuing on a massive scale. "The mood of Thursday's Union meeting surprised me", said General Secretary Nick Randall. "There is just as much support for direct action as last year, despite threatening noises from the School. The consensus behind divestment is still there".

As The Beaver went to press, there was still no statement from the School. But we understand that high-level meetings have been taking place to consider urgent action, with the Chair of the LSE's Investments Committee, Sir Anthony Burney, involved. Clearly student pressure is already yielding results. But will passing resolutions be enough to make them sell?

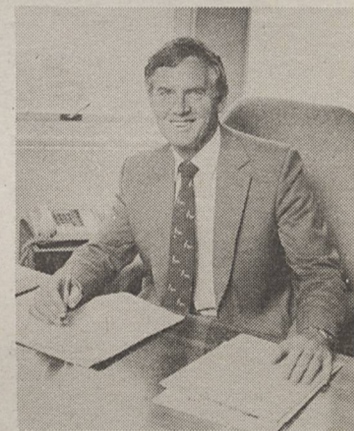
## Goodbye Moore As Nurses Strike

by ANDREW CORNWELL

Students at LSE have voted to support to striking London health workers this Wednesday - and stuck two fingers at Health Minister John Moore.

Moore was President of the Students' Union in 1960, the last Tory ever to hold the post. As such he became an honorary student. But now, on a proposal from Social Secretary Richard Ford, a letter will be sent to the Minister revoking this honour. Ford said he moved the action so LSE students could show their disgust at the prices in the N.H.S. and Moore's refusal to alter government policy.

Later in the Union meeting a motion was overwhelmingly passed to make Union facilities available to striking nurses and urging Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party to also give full backing to those in dispute. A nurse from the Middlesex Hospital, which is located near LSE Halls of Residence and faces ward closures, explained to a packed meeting how her colleagues have voted almost unanimously to strike for the first time. A Tory motion which proposed sending in letter of support to John Moore and using money paid to the National Union of Students to finance private health insurance for students were not



Moore smiles - less cash.

discussed due to lack of time.

This Wednesday's industrial action in London is unprecedented. Charing Cross, Hammersmith and the Royal Free are among hospitals where nurses will strike. Shop stewards from NUPE and COHSE are reporting large scale defections of nurses from the no-strike union, the RCN. But the RCN itself may change its no strike rule, following pressure from nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital for a national ballot.

Dr John Payne, Director of the Student Health Service said "If the strike is about the way the NHS is run, I support it 100%".

The Beaver urges all students to attend the first meeting of the relaunched United Student Front on Tuesday 2nd February at 2pm in the Quadrangle (East Building). We would also like as many societies as possible to send a representative to ensure all LSE students are represented.

# THE BEAVER

## How can we believe them?

We have been here before. We have seen United Student Fronts, lists of companies and threats of occupation already. We have passed Union motions and issued executive statements. The Beaver itself has given thousands of column inches to divestment and the anti-apartheid movement. So why the sense of déjà-vu?

Not because last time the campaign was unsuccessful. It gained an embarrassingly large amount of media attention for LSE's hypocrisy of investing in South Africa while verbally condemning apartheid. It united students as never before. And it led to the selling of some shares, believed to be around 11 companies until now.

The problem is that nobody is sure if that figure of 11 is accurate, because nobody in Connaught House will say. The names of the companies are unknown. The share values concerned are a secret. In short, how are we to believe that LSE is proceeding with divestment? What if the "eleven companies" is a rumour put out to dampen student concern? What if the eleven don't contain the big holdings like Shell and B.P. that account for most of the £3 million investment?

But there is a wider point. The purpose of divestment was not merely to sell shares in secret, but to generate publicity against Pretoria and so encourage other universities to follow LSE's lead. Such a bandwagon effect began successfully in California, with the result that universities as well as state governments removed billions of dollars, putting major pressure on multinationals. LSE's reticent approach may be explained by the conflicts of interest felt by some members of the Court of Governors who are also company directors or shareholders. But this is a weak excuse. There is no indication from the U.S. that the corporate donations have dried up after the divestment.

The controversy over investing in South Africa could be over very soon - if only the LSE would make a clear public statement. Student governors are complaining that they, as directors of the LSE, which is a public company, are in the ridiculous position of not being allowed to know what shares their company holds. The Beaver supports the deadline of February 23rd for this statement. If it is not forthcoming and if it does not show substantial proof of progress on divestment, the administration will have to live with the consequences of student anger.

These consequences may be severe. Already some are calling for more immediate action (see page one) and if the United Student Front proves to be even half as successful as last year in building a broadly based coalition for action there is no doubt that occupation is a real possibility. But it need not happen. With a bit more frankness, sincerity and better public relations the LSE can extricate itself from an uncomfortable situation and strike a small, but potentially important blow against apartheid. There are 22 days left for it to do so.



## The Beaver

Executive Editor: Mark Mosher

Managing Editor: Julian Mack

News Editor: Tom Parker

Features Editors: Ali Fassa, Tom Lloyd

Arts Editor: Katherine Pena

Photographic Editor: Rebecca Dutton

Sports Editor: Ian Hart

Societies Editor: Stavros V. S. Makris

Layout: Nico Macdonald, Kazuko Hirao

Staff: Alex Crawford, Jon Eastick, Ross Broadstock, James Robertson, Andy Cornwell, Shan Mitra, Andy Blakeman, Julian Flanagan, Kfir Yefet, Tom Elliot, Mark Wynne-Jones, Philippe Papaphilipou, Jeremy Jeffs, Paul Wood, Vanessa Brechling, Jennifer Clapp, Chris Phillipshorn, Ben Gilbey and Sivan Lewin.

Many thanks to Helen, Emily and Angélique for typing and to Thea for production.

Typeset by Clerkenwell Graphics, 13 Vandy Street EC2

Printed by Eastway Offset

Published by LSE Students' Union, East Building, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Tel 01-405 7686 ext 2870



# Rag 88

Rag Week 1988 will run from Friday 12th to Sunday 21st February, and time is running short for those wishing to get involved in the various sponsored events being organised. Those interested in taking part in these events can sign up on the top floor of the Cafe; sponsorship forms are available from the Social Secretary's office (E206). Volunteers are still needed to participate in the street collection - those willing to help should give their names in at the Social Secretary's office. The full provisional agenda is as follows:

- Friday 12th**  
Street Collection  
Valentine Flowers  
Passfield Hall
- Saturday 13th**  
Sports Day  
Carr Saunders Hall Disco
- Sunday 14th**
- Monday 15th**  
Multicultural Evening  
Record Auction
- Tuesday 16th**  
Question of Sport
- Wednesday 17th**  
All day opening of The Three Tuns
- Thursday 18th**  
Underground Treasure Hunt  
Comedy Evening
- Friday 19th**  
Rag Gig  
Beer Festival
- Saturday 20th**  
Sports Day  
Jail Break  
Rosebery Hall Disco
- Sunday 21st**  
Hall Bowl (American Football)  
Football Tournament

The distribution of funds raised will be as follows: from the street collection, 70% will go to the principal charity (Save the Children) and 30% to the Housing Association; of the remainder of the funds raised, 40% will go to Save the Children, 40% to the Housing Association, and 20% to the South African Scholarship.

The Rag Mag should be ready for distribution by the end of the week, though the editors' (Emma Hurd and Fiona Weir) task has been complicated by the negligible response to their request for contributions. More detailed information will be in next week's issue.

## Petty Politics?

Dear Beaver,

On Tuesday, 26 January, Passfield Hall held its Inter-hall Representative elections. The function of these officers is to represent and defend the *interest* of students living in hall versus the School administration. It seems natural that the people holding this post should be constructive, cooperative and vigilant in their task to be effective representatives of their hall.

Unfortunately, the elections were marred by an undue politicisation. There were three candidates, Steve King, Servaes Peeten and Stuart Baucroft each of whom was called upon to speak. Neither of them gave a politicised speech and they basically had similar platforms. However, Steve King, a well known Labour follower, was cornered by Passfield Tories, one of whom, our dear Chas, holds the other Inter-hall Rep. position. The inevitable happened, as Steve was accused of wanting to bring politics (and in Chas' opinion wrong politics) into the Inter-hall Committee. The majority of residents were obviously annoyed with this, because the ensuing discussion diverted attention from the real issue at hand and seemed to have roots that ran deeper than political affiliations/persuasions.

By forcing a post which is inherently apolitical to become otherwise, the possibility for compromise and constructive work is pre-empted due to inflexibility on either side of the political fence. Such a result would deny us residents the proper representation in a very important committee.

Fortunately, the Passfield residents recognised this and overwhelmingly elected Servaes Peeten, a centrist, who stressed explicitly the exact attitudes and approaches necessary to be an effective Inter-hall Representative. Hopefully, this election carried a message - that many students are getting fed up with petty party politics in areas where they inhibit and distract instead of working progressively and effectively to the benefit of all students.

Yours sincerely

C. Wendel

## This is the Verst!!!

### The Perfect Dream

Sleep came on fast and fair  
And rushed into a dream  
It wasn't wet or even fanciful  
Just the best there's ever been

The world was right and even  
If only for one short night  
Tequila was my seventh heaven  
My head felt dizzy and light

Then in the morn' the dream was real  
The figures were not cooked  
Six hundred or more middle class  
plebs  
Had drowned in each other's  
puke.

John Jeffers

## Unfair Chair(s)

Dear Editor,

The Chair of the UGM saw fit on Thursday to expel me from the meeting, for referring to the right wing members of the Union as "Nazis".

Although admittedly the parallel was a bit too overdrawn, the expression does carry a core of truth. For these individuals refuse to combat (and in some cases even support) the South African apartheid system; deny homosexuals their (in other countries constitutional) rights, and seek to ban such classics as Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" from school libraries.

Combined with this Government's policy of gagging the press and violently suppressing demonstrations, your readers will have to admit that the comparison easily comes to mind.

Yours sincerely,

Michiel van Hulst

## Unfair Chair - The Sequel

Dear Beaver,

I wish to express my condemnation of the action of the Chair at this week's UGM. During the debate of Clause 28, a student was evicted for a whispered comment, the abusive content of which seemed questionable.

During my one and a half years at LSE, Phil Evans has continuously shouted foul and abusive language at anyone who mildly disagrees with his politics. Such behaviour only serves to alienate potential speakers, especially foreign and first-time speakers, and thus runs counter to one of the basic principles of the Student Union. Such harassment should not be allowed to continue.

Given the consistent and blatant nature of Evans' behaviour, I feel that the Chair's decision was a worrying example of double standards.

Ian Colley

## Stop Clause 28 Campaign DAY OF ACTION

Feb 17th

Speaker Meeting 1.00pm in the Quad

Speakers:

Peter Tatchell

Rebecca Fleming (NUS)

Don Mulligan

Ken Livingstone

Evening benefit with cabaret

7.00pm, the Quad.

All Welcome!

by JAMES ROBERTSON

After last week's short, and as it turned out, not very sweet experience, the UGM bounced back on Thursday with a vintage performance, harking back to the days when the Thatcherite Disaster had seemed a momentary aberration rather than a prolonged nightmare. The Old Theatre had been decked out in banners "LSE Stand Up! Fight Back! Stop Clause 28!", "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" (a play running next week), and "LSE Says No More Bloody Sundays", perhaps in expectation of the BBC who didn't turn up (anyway it was supposed to be on the radio), perhaps to greet some of its long lost sons who did.

In short, it seemed that everybody had missed not having their weekly group regression session and was eager to make up for lost time. "Serious" matters were not going to interfere.

First to the mike, an outside speaker from the Health Service found it all "a bit overwhelming", being treated to the usual round of abuse carefully reserved for those from beyond Houghton Street who make the unfortunate, but understandable error of assuming that we are "educated" people. Nevertheless, we were given an outline of the "unprecedented action" which has been taken by health workers, the RCN notwithstanding, since the turn of the year.

The issues are familiar ones: pay and conditions, cuts, privatisation. "Basically nurses are pissed off". February 3rd sees the first National Day of Action by health workers. We can support them on the picket lines at local hospitals and on the march from Trafalgar Square (2:30) to Downing Street, and at the rally in Camden that night.

As our "guest" left for another meeting, the UGM embarked on an emergency motion on divestment, which sought to encourage the School to honour the agreed "code of conduct", and sell its shares in 18 offending companies by the February 23rd meeting of the governors, or face the threat of renewed occupation.

Avinash Persaud, returned to his eloquent best, promoted the motion, outlining the 11 year student campaign on the issue on the one hand, and the ongoing "autocracies of apartheid" on the other. He accused the school of "moving the goalposts of divestment processes" once it had lost the game.

Perhaps, a nod in the direction of SWSS, he stated himself "no... our of occupation for occup... take".

"We must not," Avi concluded however, "shirk our responsibilities", and the threat of renewed direct action remains if there is no movement by the 23rd.

The "opposition" speech came from prodigal son no.1, Nigel Kilby, a ghost of anarchy past,

# AT THE UNION

who, one presumes, gave up his lunch hour to patronise the Three Tuns and "throw a little light" on the matter at hand. This he singularly failed to do, beyond suggesting that the only worthwhile "direct action" would be to "blow the director away". As ever, ena-

threatening to those promoting the motion.

As the offender stood firm-ish, Imogen sought to assert her authority. "If you're not willing to leave I'm going to have to ask people to encourage you to leave". In flew the challenge to the Chair.



The union meeting threatens occupation - will this flag fly over Connaught House again?

moured with his own voice, Nigel merely re-emphasised the rule: once you've gone you should stay gone. A man out of time, it seems that he must have found a grey job to go with his grey suit, and now needs to slink back to Houghton Street for a little fun. Sad.

We finally got on to Officers' reports, which just appeared to be a list of meetings and events, until Richard Ford offered us a "serious note". Some might consider this on a par with being offered the National Theatre by a grubby old man in a Soho doorway, but Ford has often flattered to deceive. Coming up with the interesting piece of information that John Moore was the last Conservative Sabbatical at the LSE, in the 1960's (not counting Elwyn Watkins, or Rory O'Tory), the Social Secretary suggested that, given the "quite despicable" NHS crisis we should revoke Moore's honorary studentship - which we did.

Various other reports, and Nick Randall's admission that he was "not a member of the RCP", led us to another suspension of standing orders to get a motion on Clause 28 (Clause 27 as it was) back to the top of the agenda paper and re-assert the Union's support for lesbian and gay rights. There was never any doubt that this would be done. But perhaps inspired by the return of the lost hero Kilby, the gremlins sought to weave chaos out of order.

As a speaker sought to lay into the "moral re-armament brigade", the Chair requested a white, male, presumably middle class, presumably heterosexual, to remove himself, for largely unheard remarks which Imogen later described as "contravening every Union policy" on the matter and



Photo: Rebecca Dutton

orders to eject Phil Evans "for insulting my parentage". Cries of "Out!Out!Out" rang around the "right". Francis von Hapsburg, forgetting his noble breeding, was in a state of complete discomposure, but standing orders were not suspended. The challenge, as always, fell. The motion, in support of lesbian and gay rights, in case you'd forgotten, was passed.

We moved on to another emergency motion on the NHS. This saw the appearance of up and coming hacks Catherine Parsons and Justin McCurry who went through the reasons why the health service "is not safe in Tory hands". Opposition came from a would-be Thatcher clone who gave an impersonation of Prime Minister's Question time. He talked of a "bigger commitment to health than ever before". No one was convinced. The General Secretary weighed in with a prolonged point of information about "fiddling figures... cuts... etc.". With a passion rarely seen these days, he spelled out today's bottom line: "Choice for people with money not for people who are ill".

Kilby returned, again, to the microphone, to outline his view of a cross-party middle-class conspiracy against the NHS. The motion was passed. We go on now to the 3rd of February.

"Victory to the nurses, victory to the health workers, a bloody nose to the Tories!". We left to the rallying cry of George Binette, prodigal son no.2. George had not made his proposed comeback speech as the NHS motion had been cut short. There are those who would argue against it. But as Thatcher's own "Winter of Discontent" looms even larger, it seems that we will seek our stage again.

## BEYOND THESE WALLS

by TOM PARKER

### Strip Show

The main story from Scotland this week comes from Edinburgh University. The Students' Union had been expecting to host a debate on the unrest in the Gaza Strip but this had to be cancelled when four Middle Eastern speakers announced they would be "unable" to attend. Three were students from Bethlehem University and they had all been unable to obtain visas to leave Israel while two of them had been arrested by the Israeli authorities at the request of the military governor of the West Bank. The other speaker, from Gaza University, fared a little better by reaching the UK before being turned away by immigration officials, despite the intercession of Labour MPs, because he did not have an entry visa. Edinburgh students are now claiming that they have evidence of an international conspiracy to keep events in Gaza from reaching the outside world.

### Holiday On Ice

The Vice Chancellor of Durham University, Professor Holliday, has produced a set of proposals for the consideration of the University's Policy Committee which amount to the privatisation of the more popular degree courses. In essence he would like to open up the courses to wealthy 'A' candidates who failed to meet the university's stringent entrance requirements but are nevertheless prepared to pay the equivalent of overseas rates to attend such an august institution. Holliday's suggestions have horrified his colleagues and positively enraged the Students' Union, as one Durham student put it, "Holliday is skating on thin, very thin ice." Sources at Durham that we spoke to expressed the concern that if Holliday's proposals were adopted by the university then Durham might be overrun by upper class twits - there are those that think it already is!

### Diplomatic Incident

Christ Church, Oxford is currently mourning the loss of twenty golden carp given to the college by the Emperor of Japan. It seems that one night last week vandals crept into the college and poured bleach into the carp pond killing all the fish.

The college authorities are understandably outraged by this "horrible" crime not least because the carp will cost £1000 apiece to replace. It occurred to us that Japanese officials might want to comment on the incident but when we rang the Embassy the only comment we could extract was: "What's bleach?"

### Aussies Four-X-ed



Photo: Rebecca Dutton

by ANDREW CORNWELL

LSE students were among 100 demonstrators who picketed Australia House last Tuesday to protest the "birthday" celebrations. They demanded land rights for aborigines and claimed Australia was built on 200 years of exploitation of blacks, which continues today with dozens of deaths

in police custody in suspicious circumstances.

An attempt to occupy Qantas House failed, however, due to a strong police presence. But demonstrators still pronounced themselves happy with the attention their cause had attracted during the Bicentennial Year.



Photo: Rebecca Dutton

# Owen Stakes Claim to SDP



Photo: Rebecca Dutton

by PAUL WOOD

Monday 25th January 1988.

Dr David Owen said today that the Social Democratic Party will remain an independent fourth force in British politics. The party's former leader told a capacity audience in the London School of Economics' Old Theatre that there were 20,000 party members still loyal to the SDP. "That is no rump, no splinter group, no faction, no fan club, but the solid basis on which the SDP can continue", he said.

His speech marked the seventh anniversary of the Limehouse Declaration. It was at Limehouse (Owen's home) that the "Gang of Four"; Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams, Bill Rodgers and Dr Owen, laid down the principles that later became the constitution of the SDP.

They had set out to reverse Britain's economic decline, and create a more "equal, open and classless society" by rejecting the "rigid and sterile" political framework of the previous two decades.

Owen said that the SDP had been created to fill a vacuum left by the other parties. It was still unique and those loyal to the Declaration and the original constitution would not accept unity with the Liberals. The push for merger had come not from the grass-roots of either party but from top figures such as Jenkins, Williams and David Steel.

Looking back on the formation of the Alliance Owen said that although the Liberals had brought new ideas such as PR and de-

centralization the innovations in economic and social policy had come from the SDP.

Listing his objections to merger Owen said that the liberals needed a stiffening of their resolve, their policies and their attitudes. Specifically, there was no common ground on defense. The rejection of the Steel/ McLennan joint policy document showed this.

The Social Democratic tradition was distinct from Liberalism or any other view point. It could only exist in a separate party. Its philosophical basis had turned away from Tawney and Titmuss to Dworkin and Rawls. Tawney's goal of equality had "moral resonance" but in practice was an "unbelievable dream". Rawls's justice would allow inequalities if they raised the position of the worst off.

On the issue of re-distribution Owen put himself firmly on the left of the political spectrum. He had come into politics because of the appalling social conditions amongst his patients in Lambeth and had initiated the child poverty debate in parliament.

The merger can only go ahead when the Council for Social Democracy has approved it by a two-thirds majority and the members by a simple majority. Owen referred to the CSD vote, which takes place on Saturday, as a "constitutional outrage". But he re-affirmed his view that it would be wrong for his supporters to block the merger.

Owen implied that the mergerites were Liberals and said that true Social Democrats would remain. They would however seek a working relationship with a new

party. His promise to continue the SDP after the merger has met with different reactions. The party's HQ says that they are taking the SDP with them into the new party. They have not ruled out legal action to stop continued use of the name.

Alec McGiven, who moved from the job of SDP National Organiser to become David Steel's personal assistant, said Owen's claim to the SDP was "an insult to the membership". On all moral or democratic grounds no one could continue the SDP if the majority had voted to merge. He would not support an electoral pact with Owen.

Charles Kennedy, a Scottish SDP MP and possible future leader of the new party, said that Owen could carry on under the SDP banner after the merger if he wanted to. But he rejected his view that differences on defence were a bar to merger. He said that there was no significant difference between the Parliamentary Liberal Party and himself on the issue and that unilateralism would only have minority support in the new party.

Liberal Vice-Chairman David Hughes disputed that the joint policy document had been rejected because of defence differences. He said that Liberal MPs had made it clear to him that "Trident was not an issue". It was VAT on children's clothes and the abolition of universal child benefit that the MPs could not accept. Hughes also said it was untrue that the Liberals brought no economic and social policy ideas. Integrated tax and benefits - negative income tax which provides a floor for income - had been in the Liberals' 1979 manifesto.

Iain Crawford, a former Chairman of LSE Liberals and Alliance candidate in the last election said after the meeting that Owen was wrong to say that merger was inspired from the top down. His Gravesham constituency party was the first in England to merge. They had done so on election night, before any leading figures from either party had made their statements. The Welsh SDP and Liberals were a single organisation before the election.

Neither the creation of the new party nor the survival of the SDP is certain. But it is possible that, in the absence of an electoral pact, the new party, an Owenite tendency and even a group of break-away Liberals will all put up candidates. The resulting split might mean no centre party MPs at all.

" Various others had also made the trek down to the old watering hole and almost managed to recreate the seediness of last year. Trying to complete the image, Nick Randall dumped the suit and just for the rumoured cameras dug out his old jeans and leathers. Very radical Slick, but don't forget the suit when you take on the city again next week.

Life, seediness and trivia had all returned. But soon they had all left us again for the world of crime, sorry business, and we returned to boring, uneventful normality.

The only sad news was hearing that Angie (alias Mark Rhodda) is going to leave Dagmar. He'll be sorely missed by all, but I have the funniest feeling that we haven't seen the last of the Banbury cockney just yet.

Wind up of the week number 1 was on Slick Scandall. He was told that the nasty Sun people wanted to know why we hadn't had a Fosters promotion. (The Sun were

sponsoring an Australia day Fosters function, but we're more moralistic than that!). They were going to come down and report on our Union.

Justin Russell backed this up and even the school publicity officer was in on the play! Slick was just recovering from this shock when the wind-up number 2 went into play. This was that the Beeb were covering the UGM and the laugh was on all those who don't usually turn up. Life was injected by the old hack who'd turned up for the 20th anniversary of the demos, but the sabbos just about weathered it.

Just about the only excitement was the bomb scare that prevented some Passfield inmates from entering their hall. But as it turns out, Passfield's nervous neighbors in Adolf Tuck House often mistake autos parked for long periods of time in front of their building for car bombs.

P.S. Please do something next week, everyone.

## SOCIETIES RNER

by STAVROS MAKRIS



A Memorial Service for Nicholas Macrodimitras, a postgraduate MSc student in the department of Accounting & Finance who was tragically killed near Rosebery Hall on Thursday 10th December, will be held on Tuesday 2nd February at noon (12:00pm) at the College Chaple, Kings College London, The Strand, London WC2. The LSE Hellenic Society would like to invite its members and all Nikos's friends to attend. For further information contact the Department of Accounting and Finance.

The LSE South American Society invites all its members to a Coctail Party to be hosted in the Vera Anstrey Room on Tuesday, 2nd February at 6pm.

Something must be wrong in the LSE when only seven students turn up for the Grimshaw Club's presentation of the Editor of the Soviet Weekly, Viktor Orlik. This presentation was organised by Andy Cornwell himself who only a week before assured *The Beaver* that this would be a well attended meeting bearing in mind the high publicity exposure of the event and the current international interest attached to the speaker's topic. At that time Mr. Cornwell had also mentioned that the Club's Russia Trip was SOLD OUT soon after the finalised plans were announced. Incidentally at the same time that the Grimshaw Club's meeting was taking place, two other public lectures were also sceduled, one of them was the Paul Krugman lecture on *An Imperfect Integrated World* and the other a Financial Forum presentation. Since Mr. Cornwell can not be blamed for the low turn up one can but wonder about the motivation of the Grimshaw Club's members. Do they only join in order to go to Russia for Easter? And what about the rest of the students out there? The International Relations Department is one of the largest in the School. Don't I.R. students care about meeting the real people involved in the international policy making of Superpowers? Or is it because they are all members of the Financial Forum, or maybe they would rather go to an Economics lecture? **Careerism** is eating the heart of the LSE away.

The LSE Financial Forum, a society with over 200 members, has arranged an impressive array of speakers for the Lent Term. Its next tow guests are: on Tuesday, 2nd February, Archibald Cox Head of Morgan Stanley in London and on Thursday, 4th February, Lord Forte Chairman of Trusthouse Forte PLC. For more details watch out for the society's posters or contact its president Mr. Bologun in Passfield Hall.

The LSE Jewish Society on Tuesday, 2nd-February presents a prominent rabbi from the U.S.. He will be speaking on topical issues facing students in the modern world. The venue is S177at 1pm. As an extra treat free food, drink and bagels will be available, all are welcome.

EURIF (*European Integration Forum*) is "... on the move

again". This time on Wednesday, 3rd February this very young and active society will be presenting Sir Michael Butler The British Ambassador to the European Community (EEC). Sir Michael will be talking on *Steps towards 1992* and on *Internal Market*. This meeting will be chaired by Dr. Paul Taylor of the International relations Department. Dr Taylor is an expert on the affairs of the Community and author of books on the subject, some of which have come to be accepted as *the text books*. For more details all interested should watch out for the society's posters advising them of time and venue closer to the date.

The LSE Catholic Society meets every Wednesday at 1pm in the Chaplaincy (K51). The Society organises talks and prayer meeting on alternative weeks. Future speakers are to include the Area Bishop on February 24th. Additionally a retreat weekend is being organised for the 26-28 February. Mass takes place at 1pm every Friday. For more details please contact the Chaplaincy.

The LSE Italian Society wishes to remind its members that an Italian newspaper (which one?) is bought every day and left in the IR Common Room.

In celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Department of Social Science and Administration, the Social Science Society has organised three sessions of discussion to take place in the Webb Room between 5 and 7pm on February 15th (Education), February 29th (Health), and March 14th (Taxation versus Freedom). For further information watch out for posters in the Department. All students are welcome.

The LSE Ents. under the guidance of Dicky Ford and at times in association with certain societies present the following this month: February 1st, 2nd and 3rd The Drama Society's *Sexual Perversions in Chicago* in the Old Theatre; February 5th in the Quadrangle Talulah gosh. Tickets for this concert are £3.50 in advance; February 6th The Cricketers Ball in the Three Tuns Club between 7 and 11pm; February 9th, concert in the Quad Pussy Galore; February 13th Guinness Society Party, in the Quadrangle 7:30- midnight; and finally on February 17th, a benefit disco for Clause 28 in the Quadrangle again from 7:30 to midnight.

The Students' Union Welfare Office will be holding a Jumble Sale on Thursday 10th March 1988 in the Baby Nursery, The Parish Hall, St Clements Lane between 12 and 3pm. All proceeds will go towards buying new equipment for the nursery. So why not have a spring clean-out, anything you no longer require, books, records, clothes, toys, crockery, etc. and bring it along to the Student Welfare Office before March 10th.

## Has Beens, Never Beens and Try To Be's

by ROSS BROADSTOCK

The truth gradually dawned on me as the week passed. Nothing new has happened and in fact I'd been time-warped back a year for the week. Wandering around, Kilby had managed to temporarily free himself from the chains of management and lowered himself to explaining the facts of life to mere lowly students like us.

J.J. also made a fleeting visit, but wise enough not to offer his nuggets of wisdom and unfortunately I couldn't even catch him to write a few paragraphs of genuine prose for this column.

Various others had also made the trek down to the old watering

## INTERVIEW —



# Diane Abbott

*Diane Abbott is Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington. She is also Britain's first black female Member of Parliament. Born in London to Jamaican parents, she graduated from Newham College, Cambridge University with MA (Hons) History. she has had a varied career in the ten year run up to Parliament, working as Home Office trainee, TV researcher, press officer and Trade Union officer.*

Trying to see Diane Abbott was an assault course in itself; what with security checks, climbing stairs, being photographed, reporting to officials and signing the book, was there no respite? This came, in the end, when Diane ushered us into the members' bar. Drink in hand, gazing at the Thames, it was easy to forget that we were here to conduct an interview.

**"Then again I did not have a romantic view of Parliament. I had been here many times before, both as a journalist and as a councillor."**

Diane Abbott the MP seems to be doing OK. She may have to stay on in the House of Commons until 10 o'clock tonight, as she has done on other nights, but after 7 months in Parliament Diane's humour is still there. That's not to say she is having an easy time — no MP does — but it appears that the same enthusiasm and dedication that got her to the "top people's university" is as strong as ever.

Asked whether Parliament had lived up to her expectations, Diane replied that actually it had lived "down"; "Then again I did not have a romantic view of Parliament. I'd been here many times before both as a journalist and as a councillor."

We asked Diane what she thought about the potential of Britain becoming a "fascist" state given certain legislation like the Alton Bill, Clause 27 and the Immigration Bill. "I think that

**"Alton is absolutely opposed to abortions per se, the Alton Bill is an attempt to make the 1967 Abortion Act unworkable."**

there are two aspects to that. One is that you have a very authoritarian government led by a highly authoritarian leader. Mrs. Thatcher does not like to discuss things even with her own cabinet. Her authoritarian manner means that the attempt to reform the Official Secrets Act, mild though it was, was thrown out. We're a lot more restrictive on official secrets than America for instance." And as an ex-journalist Diane sympathised strongly with the BBC's fight against the injunctions set against it: "Here you've got an institution like the BBC, which is by no means a left-wing radical institution, but because it very occasionally broadcasts something that is not in line with Mrs. Thatcher's thinking — bang goes the Special Branch on the BBC." No institution, it seems, can be certain that it will escape criticism from the right. "Even middle of the road consensual organisations like the Church can expect to come into conflict with Mrs. Thatcher at some time."

As well as emphasizing the authoritarian stance of the present government, Diane sees the attempt by Mrs. Thatcher to "roll back the Liberal gains" of the 1960's and 70's as an equally important issue of British politics. Diane identifies the infringements of civil liberties as a key issue. "Clause 27 is an attempt to restrict the civil liberties of homosexuality . . . Alton is absolutely opposed to abortions per se, the Alton Bill is an attempt to make the 1967 Abortion Act unworkable. With regards to the Immigration Bill, French and German people have more rights to bring in their families than do British people who happen to be black."

**"For lots of black people around the world the struggle in South Africa is very important."**

This leads to the infamous issue of race relations. With tongue in cheek, we asked Diane if there has been any improvement in race relations in the last ten years. We got a typical politician's "yes" and "no". No in the sense that the structural effects of economic recession have resulted in a high level of unemployment for black people. There has also been "an upsurge in immigration controls". Despite this, she claims that black people's level of consciousness has risen. Diane sees this awareness extending into the international arena.

"For lots of black people around the world the struggle in South Africa is very important. I think that black people have a natural international perspective and an interest in Black and Third World affairs. I think also that we are stronger if we make those international links."

This was all very well, but what about Hackney. How does Diane respond to the pressures from the black community in her constituency?

"As MP you have to look after your constituency first. I have a mixed community of Jews, and Irish, Turkish as well as black people and my first responsibility is to look after their needs. However, there is a tremendous weight of expectations from the

community which you cannot ignore . . . I don't see that being a black MP, speaking out on black issues is incompatible with being a good constituent MP."

On the subject of black MPs we were curious to find out whether she saw any disadvantages in the fact that all four black MPs belonged to the same Party. She did not see it as a disadvantage: the majority of black people voted Labour so it was natural that the MPs should be in the same Party. So is the Black Section inevitable?

Diane found it difficult to comprehend the Labour Party's refusal to acknowledge that different groups should want to organise independently. Yet a women's caucus exists within the Labour Party. In other countries it is taken for granted that ethnic groups should wish to organise independently and she emphasized the fact that there is a black caucus in the US Congress. "There is a need for it (the Black Section) — it is the only way to get the black voice heard in the Labour Party. I wouldn't be an MP now, without the Black Section campaign."

Moving away from party politics, we asked what it was like being the only black woman in Parliament.

"It has its advantages, everyone knows you, which can't be bad for a politician . . . It gives you an edge because you are always one hundred per cent cleverer than they think you are. For instance, everyone said what a brilliant maiden speech I made — it was OK but no-one expected a black per-

son to make such a competent speech."

Diane welcomes the support of other women in the gruelling world of politics, a world "where people say the most awful things to you and say it's not personal, and you have to take it."

We asked her then, if she was well prepared for this. "Cambridge taught me how to deal with the "upper class", the Home Office about the structure of government and Journalism, how to deal with the media . . . We all know how important the media is to politics!"

**"My being here is partly historical — someone has to be the first."**

One could say that Diane Abbott was the latest in a long line of extraordinary black women but when we put this to her she seemed surprised at this suggestion. "I think all black women are extraordinary but not all get the chance to show it. My being here is partly historical — someone has to be the first."

Do you then intend to make a mark in politics?

"I hope so. If only to make it possible for young black people coming in my footsteps to perhaps do things I can't do in my life time. I would hate to turn fifty and look in the mirror and say, now Diane, what did you do for anybody? I think I owe it to black people to do what I can."


Patricia Burgess  
Yvette Chamberlain  
Val Small.

# ULU travel

Wherever you want to go..

- Worldwide flights.
- Special fares for students and academics.
- Tours and short breaks.
- Ski holidays.
- European trains.



Enquiries and Bookings   
European **01-581 8233**  
Intercontinental **01-581 1022**

**..we'll get you there!**

**Unbeatable prices — unbeatable quality!**  
Call in and see how far you can go.

ULU Travel  
East Building  
London School of Economics

A service of  
**STA** TRAVEL  
The Worldbeaters  


# Soul

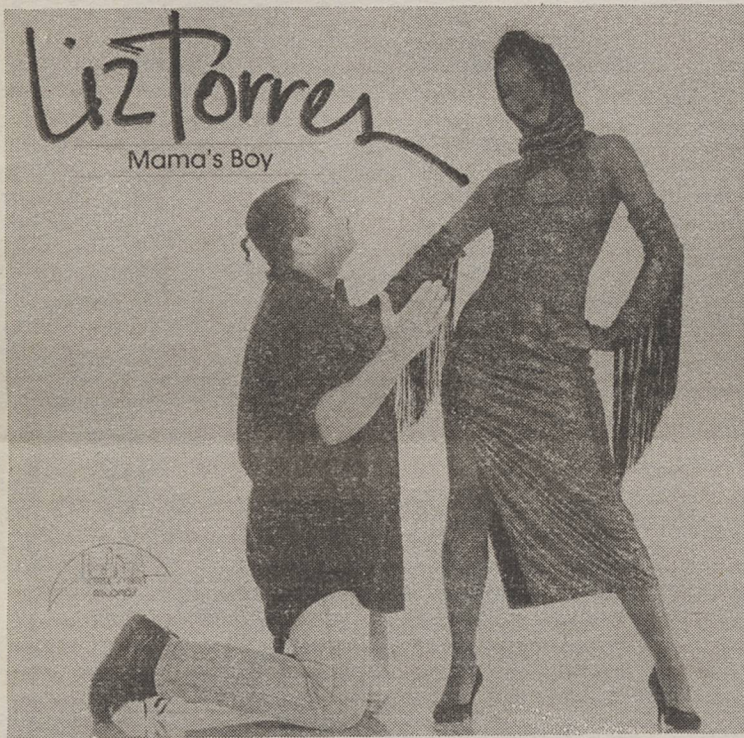
## We Pledge Allegiance to the House Groove

The persistence of that Seventies disco thud in the clubs and bars of Chicago's West and South sides long seemed ridiculous to the Fresh Fly residents of Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens and Watts. But the success of House music in turning that beat around and selling it to the world has proved once again Chicago's durability as a centre for Black music.

House music grew out of a persistent demand for a type of music long dead to the ears of American record companies. The Disco boom of '75-'79 threw up a huge volume of obscure classics, many of which

the first post-Aids dance music, parodies it. Jacking i.e. House

dancing is a vain attempt to satisfy all those urges on the dance floor. Compare Donna Summer gasping "Oooh Love to Love You Baby", embedded in lush orchestrations, with "Jack me, Jack me, Jack me, Jack me, Jack me till I start to scream" chanted Shirley Temple style over a thudding synthesized bass drum, Latin percussion and martial handclaps. You get the general idea. But remember that the cost of one import House 12" will buy you roughly 25 chocolate bars.



BT Express' "Peace Pipe", Positive Force's "We Got the Funk" and most of all First Choice's "Let No Man Asunder" – remain massive in Chicago today. But DJs could only rely on these old dusties for so long—they turned to the only parts of the world where Disco records were still being churned out: Spain, Germany and especially Italy. "Vamos a la Playa", which anyone who's ever downed a Watneys in a Spanish disco will be familiar with, has long been a favourite. While the supreme tackiness of Eurodisco remained dominant, records were still sought and found from every obscure corner of the music world. "Hot Hot Hot", the Soca classic from Trinidad's Arrow and New York New Wave band ESG's "Move" went into the mix along with healthy doses of the updated salsa of Chicago's Latino community. However, round about 1985 not even the Italians were still making Disco records anymore. Chicago's DJs had no alternative than to make their own.

This is not to say that House is merely recycled Disco. It has a home-made, experimental feel all of its own. And the most sought after records had always been the more ludicrously perverse. Much of the appeal of Eurodisco was the Kirsch value of Germans trying to be sexy by initiating Black American accents. Whereas the original Disco records celebrated sex, House, which can legitimately claim to be

The earlier House records – Steve "Silk" Hurley's "Jack Your Body" is the best known example – were almost entirely percussion with the odd synth or piano riff thrown in and "Jack", "House" etcetera repeated endlessly over the top. More recent releases have a fuller sound; the more subdued and subtler sound of "deep House". New life has been injected into the Electro bassline, often by sampling classic Seventies basslines—check out Adonis' "No Way Back", The Children's "Freedom" or Phuture's "I'll Be Your Only Friend", a chilling cocaine warning. And House DJs have even discovered some great voices—Liz Torres, Paris Grey, Daryl Pandy ("Love Can't Turn Around")—compared with the (deliberately??) out of tune efforts on earlier records. Armando's "Land of Confusion" is something else altogether. Some call it "Acid House": just a rhythm track with a random synthesizer doodling on top. Unlistenable? Actually it's totally hypnotic and a new direction in dance music.

House is no longer made only in Chicago. Nowadays they're "Doing It Properly" in Detroit, New York (Raze's "Jack the Groove", Nitro Deluxe's "This Brutal House") where it's properly called "Garage", and even here in Britain. So if you're after a hit record sell that guitar and buy yourself a sampler and a couple of drum machines.

Tom Lloyd

# Theatre

## Andromache The Old Vic

There is a great problem faced by directors in adapting the plays of Jean Racine. Racine's tragedies are of such a catastrophic nature that it is difficult not to fall into the trap of producing a King Lear with a slightly different plot. But Lear is not of a tragic enough nature to be compared to a play such as *Andromache*. Shakespeare shows us a whole mixture of human emotions – there may be murder, rape and desolation, but there is still conviviality, or begetting, or healing sleep. Racine has none of these softer moments; his tragedy is complete and without pause.

Thus, when the acclaimed artistic director Jonathan Miller presented his *Andromache*, I could not help but glimpse the vestiges of a Shakespearean production. The emotional tragedy was there, but it was not powerful enough. Granted, there were no clowns or bumbling villagers in this production, but at moments, the audience actually found the play humorous.

The beauty of Racine is in the simplicity, which demands complete attention. There are no props, no action, no Cliffs of Dover, and the language is blunt. Thus, the actors are faced with a daunting task. My



attention was served for some time by performances from Penelope Wilton, whose portrayal of the jealous woman with no scruples was powerful and evocative, and Janet Suzman, the innocent, wounded by the defeat of her people and the death of her king, attempting desperately to defend against an attack on her heart. Peter Eyre turned in a good performance too, of the man desperate for love of a beautiful woman, while attempting

to service his pride.

It is a shame that English theatre cannot forget the Shakespearean heritage on which it has been bred, as plays such as Racine cannot be done service to in these circumstances. However, the Old Vic did give an enjoyable performance, and one with much feeling. I applaud too the attempt to translate a play which is French in all respects.

Ed Gibley Esq.

## Venus and Lucrece

Shakespeare wrote *Venus and Adonis* and *Rape of Lucrece* in his late twenties. The success of these poems greatly enhanced his fame as a dramatist and they remained best sellers throughout his life. Bardy Thomas' adaptation at the Almeida Theatre is the first theatrical presentation of these works.

*Venus and Adonis* is set during harvest time in the late sixteenth century. While resting, three peasant girls tease an adolescent youth by telling him how Venus tried to seduce Adonis, each of them in turn trying to seduce the

youth. However, this relatively short play fails to convey the full dramatic impact of the poem. Although very well acted, the comic characterisation of the peasant girls and the youth often seem incongruous with the tragedy of the myth, the evocative language and the powerful imagery.

Thus the action of the play, swaying in a middle ground between fantasy and reality, becomes difficult to follow at times as the youth is drawn towards the same fate as his mythological counterpart in the girls' mind. The tragic

## Almeida Theatre

dichotomy reaches its crescendo in the frenzied account of Adonis' death, but then collapses, and the four harvesters return to their work.

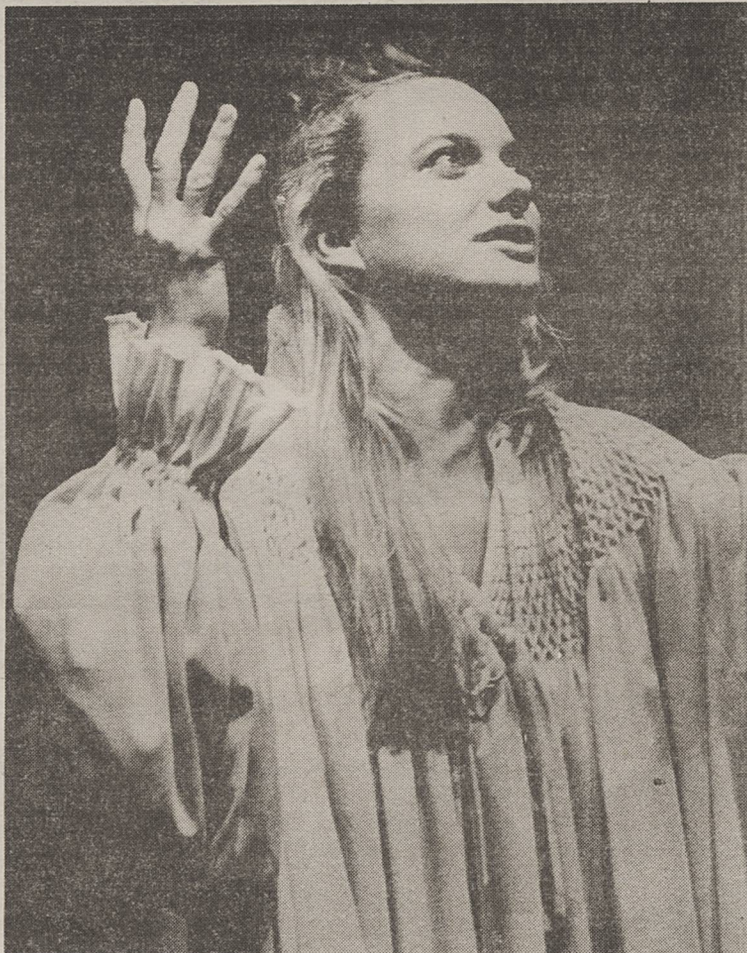
In the second play, Lucretia plays hostess to Tarquin, her husband's great friend, during the latter's absence. Tarquin is struck by Lucretia's beauty and innocent charm; that evening he resolves to force her to submit herself to his will. The play begins in a young girl's bedroom, a nurse telling her ward of the Rape of Lucretia. As in the first play, the characters step into the myth to enact the narrative.

Rape of Lucrece is much more effective as a play than *Venus and Adonis*. The characters have strength and depth and are quickly established. Tarquin is at first the tragic hero, torn by his uncontrollable lust, his mind in turmoil. As he paces around sleeping Lucrece's bed his mad fever intensifies, and he slinks away in disgrace and disgust after the despicable act; a base criminal.

Lucrece too undergoes a violent change. Under Tarquin's knife she pleads with him, her innocence and loyalty to Collatine imploring him to act rationally. Yet it is this innocence which has smitten Tarquin, and her soft words only enrage him more. After the rape, she is filled with hate, postponing her suicide until she can ensure revenge.

None of the tragedy is lost on the audience as the characters are inevitably drawn to their fate. Unlike *Venus and Adonis*, *Rape of Lucrece* is very effective as a play. Though relatively short pieces, they complement each other well, and provide an interesting glimpse of the Bard's oft-invoked themes of innocence, bestiality and love at its earliest conception.

Mark Giles



# Film

## Nadine

In Tinseltown, the word of the moment is "package": get the major ingredients, slap on the minor ones, add some spice, wrap it all up and send it all off to be tasted. You can only hope that it won't get lost on the way and dream of that *je ne sais quoi* of chemistry which might just make it rise.

Give credit, then, to those Tinseltownsmen who put this particular package together: they know a chemically cute couple when they see one. As the about-to-be-divorced Hightowers, Kim Basinger and Jeff Bridges ramble endearingly through some improbable situations. Mrs Hightower, the Nadine of the title, is intent on retrieving some "art studies" taken of her by a seedy agent professing intimate friendship with Hugh Hefner. It seems they were a *soupcou* too "studied" for comfort.

To do this she insists on the company of one Vernon Hightower,

who has a bar called The Blue Bonnet, a girlfriend of titanic stupidity, and a tie the width of a table napkin. They retrieve the photo-dossier but end up admiring the contours, not of Ms Basinger's body, but of a map specifying the location of an about-to-be-constructed highway.

Confusion ensues, and soon enough, the hapless Hightowers are being chased around by distinguished graduates of the Stallone School of Minimal Acting. "I have a plan", exclaims Vernon at regular intervals, but Nadine, knowing that he has everything but a plan, screams at even more regular intervals until she is told to shut up. At just about this time, or sometime before or after it, the film ends.

The point is not that Nadine the film is useless, which it is quite far from being. The point is that director Robert Benton, who has done much better than this, and never much worse, just hasn't made the package rise. Somewhere in between, the *je ne sais quoi* became a *je ne sais pas*.

Ali Fassa



## Monsters and Heroes

Once upon a time people made legends out of those whose lives were littered with heroic deeds and tragic deaths. Nowadays we make legends out of muscle-bound, see-through meatheads with aryan accents battling for Good in Evil celluloid-land.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is on the verge of being canonised. The man, in real life, has achieved the impossible. Born in rural Austria he is now a seven time Mr Olympia, a multi-million movie industry and a new member of the Kennedy Clan. So imagine what happens when he decides to fight in Movieland where even the meekest guys (Hoffman, Alda) have superhuman power.

This time St Arnold is a member of a rescue team tricked by a *bad* CIA agent into destroying a guerilla force holding a "cabinet minister" somewhere in South America. The *guys* go in and plough the place

with exploding bullets. Once they realise they have been betrayed they retreat in anger. Their anger however turns into fear once they meet the Predator.

One by one the giants of Arnie's squad are killed and skinned till only St Muscle himself stands alone. The result is a foregone conclusion. *This is the Terminator's revenge. When faced with the ultimate he reverts to the Barbarian who is the Destroyer. This is really a Raw Deal.* There is no way such giants as indistructable Arnie's squad could survive in such a jungle, unless they ate their way through. (An average bodybuilder consumes as many calories in a day as an average human does in a week.)

Fast, tight editing, exaggerated action, gorgeous bodies, deafening music and innovative special effects make up for a weak plot and lack of

real acting. *Predator* should not be mistaken for a glorified blood-stained excuse for a movie. Schwarzenegger movies are tongue in cheek adventures, for visual adven-



ture has become the drug of the '80s. True we suffer from visual overload from our TV sets to the billboards on the streets. Yet we still crave for more and more. More stimulus to deadened nerves. More nightmares for our dreamless lives. We have lost our imagination. We no longer remember or believe in old myths. Yet we need something to excite us. Schwarzenegger has got his finger on our pulse. He knows our addiction and he supplies it.

*Predator* is a sensory overload. It starts as such and finishes as such with louder bits in between. Go and see it in 70mm and Dolby Sound System.

In comparison *Masters of the Universe* starts as a joke and finishes as a farce. Dolph Lundgren's publicity informs us that his biceps are larger than Arnold's. SO? His acting is worse than Stallone's, though he has an uncanny ability to imitate his speech. But slow gurgling noises and rippling muscles an actor do not make.

The pathetic plot would make a child cry in disgust. This is the worst adaptation of anything ever brought to the grey screen. It is based on the popular cartoon series of the same title which high-lights the adventures of one HE MAN the Champion of Castle Greyskull. But whereas the cartoon series is so obviously funny, the movie is embarrassingly unfunny. On top of all that there is no *Battle Cat*.

Stavros Makris

## King Lear



The news that Jean Luc Goddard had signed a contract with the Golan-Globus Cannon Machine (on a napkin during a dinner at the 1986 Cannes festival) shook the film world. Nobody knew what to expect; the worst - a Hollywood super production, a Shakespeare-meets-Technicolour epic - or the best - William "the Genius" Shakespeare-meets-Jean-Luc "the Genius" Goddard. In the end, what we see is Shakespeare meeting Goddard, and then both running away.

*King Lear*, Fear and Loathing has absolutely nothing to do with the tragedy from which one expects it to be inspired. It is not what one expects it to be. In fact, the film is virtually impossible to define. No synopsis, no storyline, no *anything!*

It starts out by showing Norman Mailer and his daughter who decide to drop out of the cast and jump on the first flight back to the States (the film is set in Geneva). They are replaced by Burgess Meredith as Don Learo, and Molly Ringwald as Cordelia. "Well," we say, "Now

we're getting down to it". But no. In comes William Shakespeare Jr. the Fifth, on a mission (from God?) to re-invent art and movies, destroyed by Chernobyl. In his quest, he meets The Professor, played by Goddard himself, hideously diffigured by electric dreadlocks and speaking, or rather muttering, with a cigar in his mouth.

Somewhere along the line, Virginia Woolfe's "the Waves" gets washed on some shore, Woody Allen as *the fool* recites some obscure text, close-ups of Old Master paintings rhythm the film, and so do puzzling messages, such as "Come not between the dragon and his wrath", "A picture shot in the back" or "Nothing = No thing" . . .

It is as presumptuous to pass judgement on such a film as it is to search for "messages" (which is always a waste of time anyway). At the same time, it is very hard to recommend the film. Just making it a masterpiece for "intellectuals" is subscribing to elitism as meaningless as the film itself. But is meaning everything?

Narr'Havas

