

BEAVER

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

OCTOBER 4th, 1956

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BUMPER CROP OF FIRSTS

OUTSTANDING B.Sc. (Econ.) FINALS RESULTS.
NOTHING COMPARABLE SINCE 1949

Perhaps the first thing that students want to know when they return for the new session is, what were last year's exam results like? Last year, "Beaver" opened on a pessimistic, and as it happened, mathematically inaccurate, note so it makes a pleasant change to be able to open the session more optimistically.

Finals Figures

The figures we give here are based on the unofficial lists of results for this year, and the published results from 1949 to 1955. Reducing the percentages to round figures it appears that some 8% of the degrees gained this year by L.S.E. Students were First Class Honours; 24% Upper Seconds; 49% Lower Seconds and 19% passes. The last time that there were anything like such good results was 1949 when the approximate percentages were 7%, 23%, 51% and 19% respectively.

Marked Improvement

It is only by comparison with the results of the last few years that the significance of this year's figures can be seen. The approximate average of Firsts from 1953-5 inclusive, has been 3%, Upper and Lower Seconds much the same, and Passes 22%.

The results of Part I, which we understand are slightly down on last year, are not yet available, but will be published in due course.

* * * *

JEAN ELDING

We deeply regret to record the death of Miss Jean Elding in a motor accident on August 2nd last.

Jean had just completed her first year at L.S.E. and she had served the Students' Union well, especially in her work on the Entertainments Committee and for the Dramatic Society. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

* * * *

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TOM DALE.

Tom Dale will be reporting back to the Union rather more fully in due course, on his visit to Prague.



PRAGUE 1956
A view of the building in which the Congress was held, with delegates in the fore court

"THE BEAUTIFUL CITY"

TOM DALE REPORTS BACK ON THE I.U.S. CONGRESS AT PRAGUE

"Though the latitude's rather uncertain,
And the longitude also is vague,
The person I pity who knows not the city,
The beautiful city of Prague."
J.W.P.

The IV World Student Congress was one tremendous jamboree at the expense of the Czech Government. No expense had been spared to give all attending it the impression that everything in the Eastern European garden was lovely.

Greeted with flowers and food in tremendous quantities, we attended gala performances at the Opera, special art shows and exhibitions of folk dancing and a free tour outside Prague after the Congress.

The Congress itself lasted from Sunday, August 26th to Sunday,

September 2nd, and was attended by 250 delegates from the 22 member unions and the numerous minority groups which make up the I.U.S. It was roughly in three sections: the first the plenary sessions which consisted of a supposed discussion on the first point of the agenda—"Ways and means of regaining World Student Unity," but which in fact ranged over every international problem, from Disarmament to Atom Weapons, from Colonialism to the Israel/Arab problem and from the Suez Canal to Cyprus, as well as launching into a general attack on the 55 member National Unions which make up the I.S.C. at every opportunity.

Politics

As was pointed out by the leader of the N.U.S. Group, Roland Freeman, very little of the discussion was related to Student problems as we understand them, and the majority was highly political. The majority of the interventions were very long, but there were occasional fireworks which brightened the hours.

The second section, the Commissions, were the most constructive part of the Congress. As the official N.U.S. Observer on the Commission on "The extension of Faculty and Cultural Co-operation, Student Travel and Exchanges," I managed to make several constructive suggestions, one of my interventions lasting nearly half an hour, in an effort to improve Cultural and Travel links with the Eastern bloc. Other Commissions were on Colonialism, Student needs, Reform of Education, Student Sport, Student Press and the Revision of the I.U.S. Constitution. From the little I heard of the latter there was a crying need for an L.S.E. Constitutional lawyer!

Hot Air!

The executive of the I.U.S. seemed worried about their steady decline in membership and were trying hard to find some way of

regaining world unity. The students of the colonial territories, whose views were put by the minority groups, resisted "unity at any price" and were only prepared to accept it at their price. The Executive Committee of the I.U.S. must be disappointed. No visible advance was made at the congress and much "hot air" was expanded. The continuous use of meaningless cliches was positively nauseating.

It was, however, in the informal discussions outside the Congress that it seemed to me that the only benefit to student problems was gained. It is essential that we continue to send observers to these events for two reasons: to find out what the other fellow is thinking and saying (this can be very annoying when the pronouncements are of a political character and the British N.U.S. can make no comment because it has non-political status), and to let the "Eastern Bloc" students know what we think and show them that we have not forgotten them.

The Old Issue

The IV World Student Congress confirmed several things, but above all it proved that the I.U.S. can never regain its position as the only medium of world student unity, and also that a conference of co-operation would serve no useful purpose except as a means of propaganda for the I.U.S. The students of the world are divided like the two poles of a magnet, on political issues. De-magnetising depends on the absence of political discussion. The I.U.S. admits it is political; the I.S.C. claims it is not. From that it follows that we should plump for the I.S.C.—but then, what is and is not political? What came first, the chicken or the egg?

STOP PRESS

THE REFECTORY

We have been informed at the time of going to press, that a short pamphlet—"A Fresher's Introduction to the Refectory Question"—will be issued on Saturday, October 29th.

This concise statement, which has been prepared by Keith Beaumont, the Union Refectory Officer, deserves attention as a calm and unbiased appraisal of the situation.

Anybody who does not obtain a copy on Saturday may do so by adding their names to the list which will be found on the Welfare Notice Board (next to the Official Correspondence Pigeon-Holes).

♦ ♦

SECOMBE ACCEPTS

Mr. Harry Secombe, who was elected Honorary President of the Students' Union at last year's Annual General Meeting, has informed the President that he will be pleased to accept. Mr. Secombe triumphed over opponents who ranged from Aneurin Bevan to Kenneth Horne and Humphrey Lyttleton.

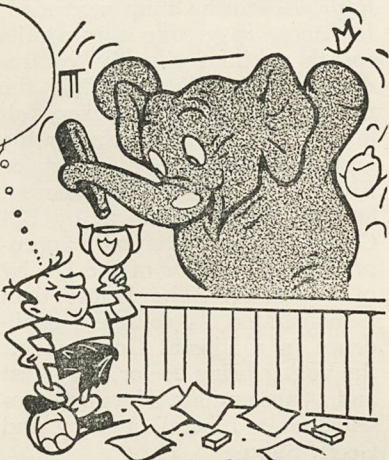
We are looking forward with pleasure, not unmingled with a certain amount of trepidation, to the day Neddy makes his Presidential Address to the Goonion. Until such time we shall do our best to prevent Union Council from walking backwards for Christmas.

Leonard Lyle

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

And so another year commences. After three months vacation, most of us will be glad to be back at L.S.E., and Freshers coming up for the first time will, no doubt, welcome the beginning of term and be anxious to settle down to life at London University's greatest college.

Affairs in the Union promise to get off to a fine start. Held over from last term is a motion of censure on the General Secretary for the way in which Union appointments were handled. For Freshers a word of explanation. There are a large number of jobs in connection with Union activities which students are invited to apply for: interviews are then held by elected Union officers who make recommendations to Union Council about appointments. The motion of censure on the General Secretary, David Jones, who is responsible for these arrange-

ments, promises to provide material for a lively debate. David tells me that he has a full answer for all his critics and, knowing David as I do, I am sure that his replies will be really pungent!

Sits. Vac.

For Freshers, and for others who did not trouble to apply last term, there are still a number of Union posts to be filled. They include important positions like Secretaries of Social and Welfare Committees, N.U.S. (National Union of Students) Officer and many more besides. In addition there is the important post of Senior Treasurer to be filled. Last term Council's recommendation for appointment was turned down by the Annual General Meeting of Union and the post has remained vacant. The two personalities over whom the controversy raged—Geoff. Read (Council's nomination) and Eric Thompson

(proposed for appointment by the A.G.M.) are no longer in the field. Geoff., who is at present in hospital recovering from an operation, is not intending to re-apply and Eric is now doing his National Service: so the matter is in the melting pot.

Public Business

If private Union business is likely to include some interesting debates, so too is Public Business. Council has decided to continue the practise started last year of holding Public Business at less than weekly intervals. It has also decided that the main emphasis should be on Debates rather than addresses. We hope very early in the term to arrange a debate on Suez: there is also to be a debate on Government Security measures, and towards the end of term the Laski Memorial Debate will be held.



SPOTLIGHT on PETER FLETCHER

"*Rerum Cognoscere Causas*" being the School motto, we thought a little information on our President would be useful, especially for the new inmates. Fletcher is a little older than the average student. Old enough, in fact, to have participated in the defeat of the Nazi hordes from an obscure R.A.F. establishment in rural Kent, and later to enjoy the post-liberation debauché in Belgium. Since then, many things have happened.

After an auspicious start in accounting, he transferred his allegiance from Mammon to the London Labour Party, becoming Assistant Secretary. After a prolonged flirtation with the B.Sc. (Econ.) Prelim. at Regent Street Polytechnic, he arrived at L.S.E. in 1954 with an L.C.C. Scholarship and the hope of a three years retirement from politics.

Busman's Holiday

It was a forlorn hope, however; on the School front he became the Chairman of the Labour Society, dabbled in the Union beaurocracy and was elected President of the Union in the Lent Term last, in what has been generally recognised as one of the most exciting elections in living memory.

At the General Election he kept Holborn and St. Pancras safe for Labour, just by acting as Agent for Lena Jager. On the personal side he is a likeable fellow, essen-

tially a bit of a father figure. He hopes all Freshers will not hesitate to approach him on any—well, almost any—problem.

Although a Government specialist, he has a wide interest in the arts, with a marked weakness for Romantic Opera. This artistic bent was admirably displayed when, clad in shorts, he taught some Bulgarian children 'Ring-a-Ring-O-Roses' when an L.S.E. delegate to Bulgaria last summer.

Future Plans

Although a Londoner, he lives away from home in an Islington cellar disguised rather cunningly as a tourist Bureau with travel posters "gathered" from various sources. (Latest information is that he has just been evicted from this desirable residence and he and his pitiful possessions, several hundred books, will shortly be thrown mercilessly upon the streets).

When asked about his future,

he proved suitably coy; politics or the life academic seem to be the two most likely possibilities. During the last general election he was offered the possibility of a Seat, but declined, whilst a short period of lecturing to the Co-op. Women's Guild has whetted his appetite for teaching.

As for his term of office, he looks forward to a lively year and we wish him the best of luck.

AUTOLYCUS.

POLITICS AND PERSONALITIES

In a Union which divides its time between debating purely internal issues of day to day life at L.S.E., and the larger and broader problems of the British student body as a whole, and especially the relations of that body to International student affairs, there should be a place for both the politically minded, politically affiliated student, and for the student who has no axe to grind, no society to follow, but merely an open but active mind and the personality to stand alone and keep outside the group. He who can sit on a political fence

without the support of the props which are L.S.E.'s Political Societies is surely worth hearing in Union.

Wrong Emphasis

It is true that anyone who cares to may speak in a Union meeting. It is also regrettably true that very few students who are not involved in the Political Societies bother to come to Union meetings and make themselves heard. The result is that as far as internal problems and issues are concerned, Union tends to be divided on political lines, which both confuses the issue and wraps alternative pro-

posals into neat little bundles labelled Lib., Lab., Com. or Con., where such labels are not only unjustified but also confusing and dangerous. It is only in the matter of External Affairs that politics should play a part and even then it should be unnecessary to pack Union meetings to get resolutions through. If Union were a little less addicted to political bickering and Constitution mongering, it is even conceivable that students would come to Union meetings regularly and not only to record their votes.

A Closed Shop

But by far the most short-sighted policy of the over-zealous politicians is to pack Union Council and all Union Offices and posts with students of a like political view. It is a policy that all Union Councils for the past few sessions have attempted to follow, with varying degrees of success, and it results not only in intensifying the political pressure in Union but in failing to get the best possible Officers and Officials. This last affects us all, whatever our views, and Council should take note and open the door a little wider to their opposites in the general interest.

It is a sad reflection of the political life here that without the backing of a Political Society no-one can succeed as a candidate for Council office. While an interest in politics is all to the good, it can be taken too far and personality can be and is being pushed into unimportance. It is surely time for a reassessment of the relative values of politics and personality in the Union, when elections and the Officers we get depend on what and not who a candidate is. SALLY SHULMAN.

BEAVER

LONDON SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS

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"... HIGHER THAN WEEVILS"

"Lower than rats but a little higher than weevils" used to be the expression to describe Midshipmen in the "good old days" when sailors had one wooden leg, a tarry pigtail and a parrot on the shoulder. We regret to say that this epithet is equally applicable to the status of Freshers in many foreign, American and old and new British Provincial Universities.

Initiation

On another page you will find a graphic account of a typical Student Corps initiation ceremony which many of your Continental fellow-students are doubtless bravely suffering at the moment. Very amusing, unless you happen to be one of the aspirants.

L.S.E., it has been said, is much more adult in its attitude to Freshers, but there is none the less a form of initiation. Initiation, however, into the wider life of a University rather than into a narrow and somewhat class-conscious Corps, Fraternity or Sorority. It takes the form of handing over the bulk of the work of the student Societies to first year students as early as possible in the session.

To what extent this attitude is due to genuine enlightenment we will not enquire, though we have a sneaking suspicion that the fact that most students, at the begin-

ning of their second session, suddenly realise that examinations are near at hand, plays a part.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that Freshers in their first few weeks at L.S.E. find themselves attacked from all quarters in the attempt to persuade them to give their services to the many and various Societies. In the hope that advice will not be taken amiss, we suggest that you give yourself a little time to decide which Society gives you the most scope for self-expression and then go ahead with the intention of playing a major part in the running of it as soon as you are able. Join several by all means, but make one of them *your* Society.

"Wisdom for Others"

Finally, a word about work. If the "old hands"—or at least those of them who still read Editorials—will bear with us, we would like to drive home the point we made in our last Editorial. Please do not take too seriously the oft-heard advice, "don't bother to work in the first year—nobody does". As hardy and ancient students it boosts our little egos to try to give the impression that all those hours we put in last year were not really work. It is evidence of our good intentions for the coming year. Let us have our little day; try to bear with our rather superior airs—but don't take us too seriously when we talk about work.

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Bill Gaussmann on "The Voting Figures after the United States Presidential Elections"

John Murray of the "44 Club"

LABOUR SOCIETY

Chairman — John Greve

PUBLIC MEETINGS

SYDNEY SILVERMAN on CYPRUS & SUEZ
Thurs. Oct. 11th. — Old Theatre — 4.15 p.m.

ANTHONY WEDGWOOD BENN — Thurs. Oct. 18th O.T.
KINGSLEY MARTIN — Thurs. Nov. 1st O.T.

THE CLARE MARKET PARLIAMENT

When the Clare Market Parliament met on June 25th for its annual session the Speaker, Mr. Chapman, was faced by what the last "Beaver" described as the anachronistic sight of a Liberal government. Nevertheless, the Government could not help thinking that such a label was more appropriate for the 'Opposition'. Led by the Tories, its other half was a Popular Front (more Front than Popular)—with each half periodically threatening to abstain because it refused to vote the same way as the other.

Free Trade Motion

After a brief Question Time, the Prime Minister—Gus Moran—introduced the Government motion which embodied the general principles of getting rid of monopolies, restrictive practices and closed shops. He pointed out how this was completely in line with the Liberal Party's favourite principle—Free Trade. The lack of this, the Popular Front told us, had

nothing to do with the growth of monopolies. Their way to create good, healthy competition was to 'nationalise the blinking lot'.

Government Victory

The Cheap Food League appeared with an attractive splodge of lipstick on its collar and the Radical Reform Group succeeded, for once, in getting through its speech without directly contradicting him. We then had the intentionally funny speeches, followed by a summing up for the Opposition by the Member for Ebbw Vale—Richard Whitehouse, and for the Government by Bill Capstick, who was equally appropriately Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. The House then demonstrated its complete confidence in a Liberal Government, the voting being 20 for, 3 against and 15 abstentions. The three consisted of a Liberal, a Tory and Geoff. Stern.

JOHN WILLIAMSON.

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OCTOBER 4th, 1956

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IN RETROSPECT

COMMEMORATION BALL

The Annual Commemoration Ball will be held this term in the Royal Festival Hall on December 7th. Before embarking on a description of all the fun which can be had at this august function, it would be best to announce that a double ticket will cost 37/6d. (as usual). For the impecunious types, Ents. Comm. will again be offering 'Hire Purchase' terms for the tickets.

This ticket will provide you with the opportunity of livening up the 'Left Bank' and enjoying a night to be remembered. Those who want to indulge in the bourgeois pastime of dancing can do so to the excellent music of Nat Temple and his Orchestra. Those who wish to imbibe alcoholic beverages and indulge in less bourgeois pastimes have full opportunities to do so.

It is further hoped that the Honorary President of the Union, one Harry Secombe, will come along with some of his "goon" friends and help liven up the proceedings.

LES BRADSHAW, Social V.P.

To put you in the picture, Beaver opens its files to give you the outstanding events of last year as seen through some of its front page headlines

27% FAIL PART I; WHY?

OCTOBER: This was the headline which greeted freshers last October. "Beaver" commented "Notorious slackers pass! Hard working syllabus stickers fail! Is this desirable? If not, what is the

cause of this situation?" The controversy aroused by this provocative article raged through several issues. The validity of the figures was questioned but the basic queries remain unanswered.

IT'S THE POOR WHAT PAYS

NOVEMBER: With the question "Why do our refectory prices compare so unfavourably with prices elsewhere?" "Beaver" fired the first salvo in a battle which led up to the boycotting of the refectory by the students on

December 2nd. "Beaver's" vigorous support for this campaign led to the accusation that we had actually inspired it. Three issues later we countered with a headline "O! WHAT A WICKED PAPER!"

L.S.E.'s SPRING DOUBLE

MAY: "Success dogs the footsteps of our President and General Secretary." With these words "Beaver" announced that Roland Freeman had been elected unopposed to the post of President of the National Union of Students

and that Tom Dale had been elected Deputy President of the University of London Union. "Expansion—bigger and better," said Roland when "Beaver" asked him for a policy statement.

NEW PRESIDENT DIANA

JUNE: "Bringing off what is undoubtedly the scoop of the session, the Film Society informed our special correspondent that Miss Diana Dors had kindly agreed to become the Society's Honorary President for the

coming session." With a picture even more sensational than the headline, "Beaver" completely sold out. We can still hope that Miss Dors will return to Britain, if only to give her Presidential address.



THE COMMEMORATION BALL
A "STILL" FROM THE FILM "HOLBORN 7686"

Consider YOURSELVES LUCKY

BEING AN OPEN LETTER TO FRESHERS
FROM JOHN BROWN

Freshers,

This letter is couched in terms of affection and respect. Never shall I swerve from the rigid path of politesse. Perhaps in Charlie's I might hear, or might be heard to say "those . . . freshers", but even here one traces a benign sentimentality. This is an L.S.E. reception, and this is a British welcome.

Treasure it! And consider its worth vis-a-vis the situation of your counterparts beyond the pale of our society.

Your First Parade

In Holland and Germany you would be at this time 'candidates' (and notice the subtlety of this word) for entrance to a student corps. Perhaps you would not, but you would be damned in the eyes of the world as a 'nihilist'.

WANTED

"BEAVER" WANTS TO RECRUIT NEW STAFF FROM AMONG FRESHERS. TYPISTS (VERY IMPORTANT), REPORTERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE PRODUCTION OF A STUDENT NEWSPAPER ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. MOST OF THE PRESENT STAFF WILL BE RETIRING SHORTLY AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT A NEW STAFF SHOULD BE TRAINED BEFORE CHRISTMAS. ANY OFFERS?

Not for you welcoming arms and an active interest in your welfare. Rather would you, with head shaved bare, be parading miserably in clothes which have achieved respectability through extreme old age. One of your seniors, a new second year student or even, possibly, a fourth year, would be ambling up and down the line, pushing you into place and, with Freudian cunning, appropriate all watches and valu-

ables. They will be returned—that you are assured—but what lies in store for you, this your first day as a student, if your valuables are taken for protection? You feel a strange nakedness with a watchless wrist.

Forward March

Right turn to the cathedral, down the tram route to the college. Not far—and a strange undertone to the noises of the city takes on reality as the frightening welcome of your future fraternity. Things seem to have been prepared—a current of anticipation runs through six hundred assorted gods and devils hanging from inconceivable positions in your new 'corps' headquarters. A crowd from the city's populace has also gathered with the same anticipation, but these, like you young fresher, regard the scene with curiosity. Of course there is one emotion which seems to be yours alone. Naked fear.

Initiation

The object becomes clear—like a scientist experimenting with monkey intelligence and initiative your corps has set you a puzzle to teach you a lesson in student co-operation. You (plural) must hoist your bodies up the boarding and so effect an entrance into the corps. The ease of this feat has obviously impressed generations of your predecessors for the experience is slightly complicated by sporadic avalanches of tomatoes, water and flour.

Your President, aided by a Deputy, both distinguished by huge white floral button-holes and willow switches, is conducting the

business like a military operation, with the élan of a Napoleon. You no longer have a cap (a direct hit, suitably applauded by the crowd, has seen to that); a rather ripe tomato is trickling in a lop-sided fashion from your pate over one ear; a general depression has descended upon you in the form of a bucket of water. The President, bless him, has just found one of your shoes and to the laughter of the crowd, dangles it in front of your worried eyes.

However, you have more urgent considerations. You are grimly concentrating on a foothold provided by a convenient knot-hole, and one of the heads of your fellow miserables. With luck, and with an effort, you might be the next to enter. You see the window opening again, and with the apprehension of a Jonah and flung by a mighty effort, you enter the whale.

. . . Into the Fire

Momentarily your legs are squashed by the window descending behind you. Rough, enthusiastic hands seize you and pull you clear, into a room darkened deliberately, and you get just a vague impression of its contents before you are flung onto your hands and knees and into a religious contemplation of the floor. All hell seems to have been let loose—drums are booming, tables are shuddering and from below comes the deathly strain of the organ. For the next quarter of an hour you will only hear your tormentors, you will not see them from your animal crouch on the floor.

This then is your first hour, of your first day, of your first week. Your initiation will be spread over a period of two weeks and, as an outcast and an untouchable, you will have a programme of amusement devised for you of such torment that you will remember it for the rest of your life.

Just remember these things.

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO LONDON

The N.U.S. have begun this academic year most auspiciously with the appearance of their first STUDENTS' GUIDE TO LONDON. Aimed primarily at freshers, it contains a store of information to benefit those students who are no longer quite so fresh. The Editors, Geoffrey Kean, David J. Kingsley and Laurence Rosenbaum can be proud of the presentation as well as the content of their Guide, though advertisements and reading matter are cunningly and sometimes confusingly combined. Incidentally, there are special offers of reduced subscription rates for leading periodicals such as the N.S. & N., Encounter, Financial Times, etc., which more than offset the mere 2/- which it costs to non-freshers.

Apart from some amusing hints on how to (a) become a professional student, (b) get hold of mascots, (c) be a woman student and (d) enjoy London on a shoe-string, the Guide is stacked with bus-route times, cinema and theatre guides of a most comprehensive kind. A witty and concise appraisal of "all kinds" of clubs, pubs, cafés and Commons (Clapham and House of) plus every other source of entertainment imaginable is also available—including how to gatecrash balls—"just follow the tulle and taxis."

Le Sport

For those freshers who honestly think they are going to work, there are thumbnail sketches of libraries, book centres and, for light relief, museums. But a section on sport and another on vacation work should restore a sense of proportion.

Don Aldridge, whose work has enlivened the pages of "Beaver" and the L.S.E. Handbook, has cleverly and amusingly illustrated this guide and provided a double-page map.

It is gratifying to know that this Guide is to be followed by one bigger and better next year.



SENATE HOUSE
By DON ALDRIDGE
Reproduced from the Guide

Readers are invited to send in suggestions and recommendations. "Students' Guide to London," c/o. Educational Publicity Co., 15 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1 is the address. The Editors would probably welcome contributions too.

IAN WOOLF.

THE OFF-SIDERS

by Paul Stibbe

Newcomers to the London School of Polemics are amazed by the number of societies—political, social, cultural, athletic or religious—which vie for their attention at the beginning of the session. Few, however, will have heard of the Off-siders Society.

Off-Soc. is L.S.P.'s own branch of the new cult based on a recently published book, *THE OFF-SIDER: A DEMONSTRATION OF THE SICKNESS OF MANKIND IN THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY* by C*1*n W*ls*n. ("The author of this remarkable book has not yet been born."—Publisher's blurb).

Last week "Beaver" arranged an interview in which a representative fresher put questions to the president of this interesting new group. Some of his answers are reported below.

Q. Why have I never heard of Off-Soc.?

Off-Soc. does not advertise itself. Only on-side societies are anxious to recruit new members. It is terribly off to be on, and amongst off-siders one can only be on by being off. In fact, there is a danger of off-sidedness catching on, in which case it would become off to be off, and to be non-off would be on; for if it were on-side to be off then one would have to get on in order to be sufficiently off to be on with the off-siders.

Q. What is an off-sider?

This is adequately explained in our founder's work, *THE OFF-SIDER*. A short extract may help you to understand.

There can be little doubt that Gripe was closely identified to the hero of his best known novel, *THE MEMOIRS OF ADOLF*. It is no coincidence that Adolf is shown as

spending his life in a bog, whilst Gripe himself was born in South Kensington. In moments of supreme illumination he sees that all is dark:

"Father was a sport," he writes, "and always interested in young people. I reflected upon this after his wedding to my ex-fiancée."

But this was not the primary instinct of revelation. Adolf had shown that an understanding of pointlessness had come to him earlier. In his own words:

"I had realised, as I watched Aunt Ethel drowning, that Father was likely to marry again."

Q. Thank you. How can I become an off-sider?

If you aren't an off-sider you will probably believe that you are one; and if you are off-side you will fear that you aren't. It is only by worrying about being on that one can really get off. No off-sider thinks that he is off-side, because if he did he would feel that he was coming on and this would put him off.

Q. Are the Off-siders having a freshers' tea?

No. An off-sider feels himself to be entirely alone. He realises that life is blank and meaningless; and furthermore he is the only person who does realise that he is the only person who realises it. It would therefore be unfortunate for an off-sider to meet anyone who claimed to realise what the other realised or to realise it himself. That would be rather non-off.

Q. Do any of the academic staff belong to Off-Soc.?

It's hard to tell. Some of them seem to be definitely off. Others appear to suppose that their lectures have meaning. One or two of them are potential off-siders. Professor Zimmermann, for instance, who concluded his final lecture by throwing a toilet roll at the audience, was reputed to have

been off-side. On the other hand, many lecturers have adopted the new form of syllabus: the first three weeks are devoted to a discussion of what the subject is about; then the next few lectures are taken up by a discussion on whether the subject should be discussed at all; and for the remainder of the course students are divided into small groups to decide whether it matters anyway. In this manner lecturers are able to avoid disclosing whether they are on or off.

Q. Does Off-Soc. support the present government?

Here again we can do no better than to examine the words which our founder put into the mouth of one of the characters of one of the writers that he was writing about:

"The difference between dreams and reality is a simple one. In real life I think that I must be dreaming, whilst during a nightmare I imagine that I am awake."

Q. Do the Off-siders have a slogan?

Be off!

Woman's Place

There are some 1,950 full-time day students at L.S.E., of whom 550 are women. If evening students are included these figures swell to 2,450 and 600 respectively. It is always rash to attempt to assess woman's place in a college like L.S.E., where politics are rife and women tend to be regarded as merely decorative or as openly hunting a husband, as an edition of this journal last year alleged.

Whatever the validity of this view, it is clear that this attitude is widespread and the experience of the past few years has borne it out.

It is the male view that women may hold minor posts in Union, and be a part of the backroom brigade, but major offices elude them when they stand for election; they may write for "Beaver" and sell it, but a woman has never sat in the Editorial Chair. It is true that there was a female President of the Union in 1950-1, but it should be realised that she is only the fourth member of her sex to hold this office in the sixty years this college has been flourishing, and two of those four held joint office with a male co-president. There was, on one occasion, a female Deputy President and there have been occasional Vice-Presidents, but these have been few and very far between. Those of the fairer sex who have stood for the office of Vice-President in recent years have polled few votes.

Last Year

The office of General Secretary is the Council place generally considered to be the most suitable for a woman to hold. Indeed, in 1954-5 Miss Wendy Yates distinguished herself in that post, but when a woman stood against David Jones for that office last year she was defeated by a clear majority of over 100 votes. It is useless and very naive to argue that this was a political victory, for as Chairman of the Communist Society David triumphed in spite of, and not because of, his political views. His was a victory of the male over the female.

On a Society scale, where Presidents and Chairmen of mixed Clubs are elected, only 4 out of 43 are women.

AS I SEE IT . . .

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AND GAIN CONFIDENCES AT L.S.E.

L.S.E. is a shocking place for 'freshers'. In fact, it is a shocking place for most people. It has a singular affinity to Charing Cross Station. People are either huddling together in groups or striding purposefully about on their own business with a preoccupied look on their countenances. To a 'fresher' looking forward to the over-publicised virtues of University existence this can come as a rude awakening.

Throw work to the winds. Go to lectures by all means, but only to see who is there. Try and sit next to someone you like the look of. Do not hurry away after a lecture. Far better to make a point of having lunch in the college somewhere. Even if your fellow-students do look and act like something out of Frankenstein's horrors you will have to live with them for the next two years at least and you might as well start getting to know what you will have to put up with. Suggestions for lunch are the Refectory, the Barley Sugar

Room, the Bar, Mrs. Popper's and Charlie's. Mrs. Popper's and Charlie's are especially distinctive; the former is inhabited by Sociologists, the latter by would-be politicians.

Leisure Time

Lunch being over, do not make a bee-line for the Library; that is reserved for second and third year students who have to make up for the time they wasted during their first year while looking for friends! Your turn will come! In the meantime, leave the little space there is to those who need it most. Either stay where you are and let lunch-time turn into tea-time, or go and recline in the Shaw Library—men may also use the Common Room on the third floor, but it would be a brave girl who would venture there. It is a room that has been taken over by the mysogenists and males seeking the privacy of male company. Females are definitely not welcome.

A Niche

Finally there are, of course, the Clubs and Societies. Most of these are extremely flourishing and anxious for new blood. Anyone with surplus energy to spare is welcomed with open arms. Use your gifts and abilities now. Next year it may be too late. If the worst comes to the worst you could always bribe the Union to form one or two surplus committees on which you will be able to work out some of your pet theories, but it ought not to come to that. L.S.E. already does practically everything that has ever been thought of. There is a niche for everyone—the trouble is to find it!

SCORPIO.

FOR EVENING STUDENTS

There is no simple answer to the evening student who asks why, with the limited time at his disposal, he should take any part in Union or Society affairs. But as a former sufferer myself I suggest that the matter deserves some careful consideration and not simply a curt dismissal.

A Cambridge Arts graduate once said to me, "What I found most difficult about my exam. was not the factual knowledge required but the development of thought which was expected". Now this development takes place not only in the quiet of your own thinking but also in the rough and tumble of exchanging ideas and contrasting opinions with others, and the society at the L.S.E. provides ideal opportunities for just this type of discussion.

These Advantages

Nowadays as much emphasis is placed upon personality fitness for jobs as is placed upon qualifications, and one question regularly asked is, "How does he get on

with people?" Here again the L.S.E. can provide valuable experience. Mixing with the wide variety of people in the college must produce a certain understanding and some of those other qualities required of people who are to occupy responsible positions.

So from both of these aspects there is a lot to be said for taking part in some Union or Society activity as it is only by this means that these advantages can be fully exploited, and that something of what is really implied in a University education will be obtained.

In order to avoid the staleness that results from over-much studying it is essential to have some form of relaxation and exercise. Here again the Union Societies and the Athletic Union provide facilities which many evening students have already taken advantage of.

More Progress?

Continual progress is being made towards the integration of evening students into the life of the School. There is an Evening Students' Committee, and an Evening Students' Liaison Officer who at the last Union meeting was appointed a place on the Welfare Committee. Freshers' Receptions are arranged for them and socials are held. But I should like to see an even greater integration, as I feel that there is much to be said for having the representation of a body of evening student opinion in student affairs. Whether this is possible will depend to a large extent on the response made by evening students to the facilities available for them.

ALAN HALE.

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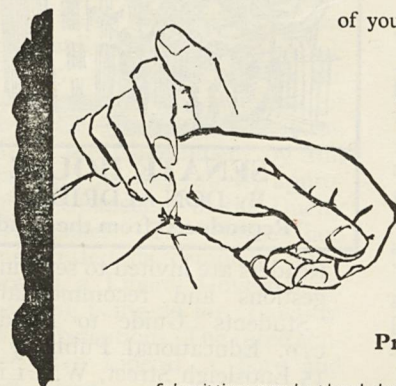
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PARTIES CATERED FOR

"Twelfth Night" on tour

During the vacation fifteen intrepid members of the Dramatic Society braved the hazards of a Continental Tour in a production of "Twelfth Night". After a journey (too eventful for publication) to France we presented our first performance at St. Jorioz, near Annecy, at a student summer camp, which we shared with 850 Frenchmen, none of whom spoke more than three words of English. The play was, however, a great success in spite of the obstacles of language, tropical storms, etc. (ask any of the girls for details of the obstacles covered by "etc.").

So to Interlaken, where we spent two pleasant days recuperating from camping and preparing for a performance in Austria. Here some of our members had an argument with a brown bear who they invited to accompany them back to Charlie's Bar to act as a souvenir. He, however, declined their offer and sought protection (use your imaginations here).

At Innsbruck we had the fortune to have an audience who understood English, but this was offset by a University Hall with an echo loud enough to drown all but the most forte among us, but in spite of this we were complimented by no less a person than Prof. Karl Brunner, Professor of English at the University.

From Innsbruck we travelled to Germany and here, at Munich, we said farewell, sadly and fondly, to our Volkswagen Microbus, in which nine of us had thus far journeyed. Farewell was also said, rather more cheerfully, to Youth Hostelling, which although cheap and relatively comfortable, involved us in the obvious problems and risks occasioned by the 10.00 p.m. curfew always enforced.

In Germany we stayed in American Service Hotels; played to Service audiences in conditions ranging from an aeroplane hangar at Munich to beautiful little theatres at Heidelberg and Weisbaden. The Americans, sad to record, did not live up to their reputation for generosity and we were compelled to pay for all accommodation and food without being allowed to charge for admission or programmes or to take up a collection.



From left to right: Tom Dale (Malvolio), Michael Davis (Sir Andrew Aguecheek), Glyn Roberts (Feste), Sally Shulman (Maria), and Michael Bernstein (Sir Toby Belch).

But this was just another facet of a tour which on the whole was enjoyable from the day we set out to our return to London.

Finally, no article on the tour would be complete without some mention of the very fine standard of the performances of all the cast and it would be unjust and ungenerous not to make special mention of Tom Dale's Malvolio, Jean Elding's Viola, Cecilia Smith's Olivia, and of Michael Bernstein and Michael Davis as the two Knights. Their polished performances helped to make the tour the success it was.

S. SHULMAN.

ART AT THE CINEMA

Students of the sciences who so often tend to allow themselves to be completely enveloped in their own subjects, especially when these are of a political or economic nature, should welcome the opportunity of widening their fields of interest. A morning programme of films at the Academy Cinema, Oxford Street, dealing with the history of Art, covers the Italian Renaissance and offers such an opportunity.

Four films are shown of the works of Giotto, Piero della Francesca, Botticelli and Fra Angelico. The presentation by Director Luciano Emmer is at best imaginative and almost alive and never for one moment is it dull. He takes a particular theme of each of the artists and makes from a variety of paintings a continuous story on that theme, using portions of different canvasses together.

For anyone who has not yet had the opportunity of seeing these paintings in Italy this programme will perhaps not suffer so much from the fact that all these films are in black and white; others who

have seen the vivid colours, especially the reds and blues which these artists used to such good effect, will no doubt regret their loss. None the less they will appreciate the more being able to see these frescoes and vast canvasses close-up, without walking their feet down to their ankles and gazing ever upward to the high walls where the frescoes are painted.

Da Vinci's Sketches

The final film in the programme is a British film from those of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings which are in England, in the Windsor Collection, Royal Academy, etc. This is a colour film and has a beautiful commentary spoken by Sir Laurence Olivier and C. Day Lewis. It is perhaps the best of the films, partly because Leonardo's small sketches lend themselves better to film than the larger paintings which cannot be shown as compositions, complete conceptions of the artist, without becoming boring.

The programme commences at 11.00 a.m. daily, except Sundays, and anyone who is interested in the arts at all should not miss the opportunity. It is far less painful and more enjoyable than twice the time spent "doing" the National Gallery.

S.S.

MUSICAL NOTES

by

GEORGE GROSZ

Top line news from the Music Society this session is the plan to present the first-ever staged Opera in the Old Theatre next Lent Term. The remarkable fact is that it is our own Opera—being written, composed, orchestrated, conducted, produced, sung and played by members of the School. The action is based on Goldsmith's comedy "She Stoops to Conquer", and promises to be hilarious.

For its success, this ambitious venture requires the willing co-operation of many individuals, and we ask Freshers and others who are interested in any aspects of the production—on stage or off—to give us the benefit of their interest. Auditions will be held early this term, so watch the Music Society notice board on the third floor.

The School Orchestra and Choir is the core of the Society. There are regular weekly rehearsals—Orchestra: Wednesday evenings at 7.00 in the Founder's Room; Choir: Tuesdays at 4.15 in the Graham Wallis Room. This year's Oration Day Concert will consist of Acts II and III from Gluck's "Orpheus and Euridice", and will also be the last one conducted by

our energetic and inspiring conductor, Mr. Alan Peacock, who is leaving L.S.E. to take a Chair at Edinburgh University. We need many new singers and instrumentalists to replace those who have left, so come along to the rehearsals, whatever your present standard.

That aspect of the Society's activities which caters for those who prefer to listen to good music, is the presentation of live professional concerts in the Founder's Room. These usually attract large audiences, and no wonder, for the standard of the artists is very high. This term's include Irene Kohler, the Aeolian String Quartet, Doreen Murray of Glynebourne and Sadlers Wells, William Pleeth and (we hope) Alan Loveday and Leonard Cassini. For all details watch the notice boards or contact the Shaw Librarian in the Founder's Room.

AS IT IS WRITTEN . . . A NEW SERIES BY GEOFFREY STERN

THE SPACE SHIP STORY

"10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, ZERO!" "FOOL," Prof. Katgut cursed himself for having omitted the vital figures 2 and 1 in the intensity of the moment. Nevertheless, a blinding flash, a deafening crash and a nauseating smell, and the 1,000 ft. rocket ship 'Silver Sewer,' built with the aid of a 'do-it-yourself' kit, was launched from the top of Nelson's column. Destination . . . Lune.

As the ship pulled away from the earth (and hopes of an agreement about the Suez Canal sank slowly in the West), the five occupants were flung out of their seats in all directions. Prof. Katgut, grim, determined, bald, was suspended vertically from a position high up in the dome of the ship and almost succeeded in smashing the goldfish bowl which, according to the best space-flight tradition, he was wearing upside down over his head. Eric de Vroon, the tough, fearless mechanic, lay inside the wall of the inferno-helicopter flange-sprung hydraulic generator to which was affixed the adrenoscopic solidifier amplified to O.OX° centigrade, and only he could possibly know what that meant. Adana, the Professor's beautiful daughter, was held by the television screen (she was not an intellectual like her father), and Mike, the 'Doc' as he was called, since he was a 10th year medical student at a London insaniatorium, was clinging on to Gladys, a woman. Outside, the gyros were whirring and there was a steady low hum coming from the Professor.

Whoosh!

The initial shock began to die away and the Professor, with all the confidence of an escaped Broadmoor inmate, set about surveying the scene with his periscope. Why he had brought a periscope and left the telescope behind he could not remember. After all, he had not travelled into outer space just to see the back of his head. Nevertheless he could tell they had travelled far; there was not a pigeon in sight. The Northern ice regions were disappearing rapidly, in fact, one could hardly see the actual pole at all. Outside the portals an occasional saucer flew by, and one or two cups and plates, but not sufficient to make a tea-service.

At this point, the Professor decided to radio a message back to earth and in a high pitched voice

Stroganoff, Viola; and François Thiebault, 'Cello. Now as this programme has ended rather early, 1½ hours before the next advertised one is scheduled to begin, here are some prose readings." So, all that could be heard was the third programme. Obviously the set had been sabotaged by the Russians and the 'Silver Sewer' was completely cut off from the world.

TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.

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THE ATHLETIC UNION AN INTRODUCTION

You have already gained some idea of the Clubs incorporated in the Athletic Union, and how to join them. The facilities for sport at L.S.E. are, as you can see, good and varied, but for the Clubs to thrive they must have new members—not necessarily people who have good sporting records but people interested in their sport and willing to work for it.

L.S.E. is an impersonal college—one reporter once said that from the front entrance it looked like a municipal swimming baths—and the best way to make friends and enjoy your stay here is by taking an interest in some facet of college life, whether it be sporting or otherwise. Of course, it may be added that Sports Clubs are likely to be more sociable than most Clubs. Many of our Athletic Union Clubs are well known for the excellent spirit which prevails in them; a spirit and friendliness which you will find on and off the field, and I am sure that whichever Club you join you will be made very welcome. Welshmen will, of course, find a little Wales in England in the Rugby Club.

Team Spirit

If the above gives a rather too rosy picture of good fellowship, good team spirit and "the result doesn't matter as long as we have a good game," I would hasten to tone it down a little. Our Clubs aren't perfect and it would be a rather dull Athletic Union if they were. The rivalry for places during cup matches is often hard and things I have heard said about selectors, behind their backs, would make this paper burn.

In the sporting world co-operation within the Clubs is supplied by the Club; co-operation without is supplied by the Athletic Union. Here again, we must have a spirit

and on the whole, particularly if one Club is in a tight corner, it exists. I must mention in this connection the recent helping hand of the Squash to the Rifle Club.

Lend a Hand

In the A.U. as an administrative entity there is much to be done this coming year, and the work is too often left to the same Clubs and the same people.

Freshers who obtain administrative posts within their Clubs this year, and many of you will, should remember this and lend a hand when needed.

In the sporting life of L.S.E. a full and worth while University life can be found, and we hope new students will become members of one or other of our Clubs.

J. B. ELLIOT.

HIMALAYANS!

The Mountaineering Club looks back this term on a decade of progress since its inception in 1946. We have now passed from the phase which was marked by ill-equipped enthusiasts wandering with umbrellas and soft hats in Highlands of Western Britain to the stage where L.S.E.M.C. has its first Himalayan Expedition. At first there was only enthusiasm to build on until the intrepid mountaineers of the 1940's, after gaining their experience by empirical method, could pass on their valuable knowledge to the new recruits. This accumulation of wide experience is for you to draw on, if you have a love for mountains.

Pluck Up Courage

Perhaps you are dubious about joining a mountaineering Club because you think it is a danger-

ous sport, or that you are not the right build, or have no head for heights. If you have an interest in the hills you will soon discover that these doubts are groundless, as the only essential to a successful mountaineering career is enthusiasm. Mountaineering is only dangerous to the careless and incompetent. For safe and enjoyable climbing it is, therefore, necessary to learn the technique involved and to realise your own limitations. Members of the Club are always interested in helping you to acquire practical knowledge of these basic techniques and in enabling you to climb with them at no great cost both in this country and abroad.

The Club has a fine climbing record and members have enjoyed first ascents in Britain, the Alps, Norway, the Atlas Mountains, the Rockies and the Himalayas.

This term the Club programme is specially designed for new members. A Freshers' tea with an introductory talk by a past president of the Club is being held in the Graham Wallis Room on October 11th at 5.00 p.m. The following Sunday, October 14th, there will be a meet at Harrison's Rocks, the Mecca for metropolitan mountaineers, and at the end of the month there will be a meet in the Ogwen Valley, in North Wales.

We hope that you will enjoy your climbing with us.

G.E.P.

tential rugby stars among this year's freshers, there can be no reason why this season shouldn't be one of the most memorable in the Club's history. However, to attempt to predict the ultimate outcome of the fortunes of the team is indeed an extremely dangerous task, but judging the Club's prospects in the light of last season's form, it is not easy to resist this feeling of optimism. One should be able to witness the realisation of many rugby hopes—and many achievements never before thought possible should be well within the Club's grasp; thus if the support is forthcoming, this season should see the L.S.E. Rugby Club installed as one of the strongest in the University of London.

Statistically, last year's record does not appear too impressive, due to the fact that at the end of last season there developed a serious atmosphere of apathy in the Club, and it was this lack of inclination rather than lack of ability that caused the loss of many games. The Club appeals to all members concerned, especially the newcomers to the college, to give the cause of promoting a good rugby circle in this college their whole-hearted support—because all sportsmen know the value of team spirit in any game—and it was this concept that was sorrowfully missed at the end of last season. This year it is hoped that all will do their best to ensure a good atmosphere of co-operation in the Club, for it is hoped to run a third and even perhaps a fourth team, which should serve as a valuable nursery for the First and Second sides.

This year's fixture list can be considered as a vast improvement on previous seasons, and gives an adequate opportunity to play some really first class rugby. With the introduction of such strong opponents as Reading University, Rosslyn Park "A" XV, Christ's College, Cambridge and University and Worcester Colleges, Oxford, our playing ability will be tested to the utmost, and it will be only through good club support that we will be able to fulfil these commitments.

VIV. DAVIES.

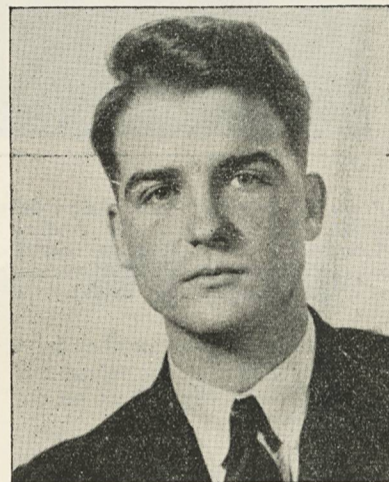
SIR/MADAM . . . YOUR CHANCE

Elsewhere on this page are articles by officials of some of the member Clubs of the Athletic Union. Also, there is the introductory article by the President. The purpose here, therefore, is to fill in the gap and try to tell you about the other Clubs and the vast opportunities provided by the Union.

To the fresher, who has had an inkling about Undergraduates in Universities, the separation of the Athletic Union from the Students' Union may be surprising. But as he becomes older, he finds that what has been applied is the simple principle of 'division of labour'—economics, hah! Yes, we have been able to prove by the obvious progress made since the separation from the Students' Union the truth of Adam Smith's theory.

Marked Progress

During the past two years, there was a continued increase in member Clubs, such as the Rifle and the Weight Lifting Clubs, without any decline in the administrative efficiency of the Union.



J. B. ELLIOT
President, Athletic Union

Apart from ensuring the good condition of the Sports Ground at Malden, the Union has successfully maintained the necessary co-ordination amongst the member Clubs with their varied interests. This was aptly put by the President, when he wrote "The Athletic Union cannot exist without the Clubs, and the Clubs cannot exist without the A.U."

Opportunity Knocks

For the open-air types, the Soccer, Rugby and Hockey Clubs provide vast opportunities. These Clubs have extensive fixtures, including tours of England and Wales and the usual yearly match in Paris.

For the indoor types, the Fencing, Rifle and Weight Lifting Clubs afford the necessary chances. The water-babies will find both the Boat and Sailing Clubs enjoyable. For the adventurous, we have vast opportunities in the branch of the Youth Hostels Association and the Mountaineering Club. For those who desire enjoyment from having a gallop on the four-footed beast, the gates of the Riding Club are wide open. Perhaps you have your eyes on Wimbledon, then your chance is in the Lawn Tennis Club. Also for the would-be Harlem Globe Trotters, the Basketball Club, the 1955-6 University Champions, has the answer to your worries.

Finally, "Beaver" offers opportunities for reporters and the Soccer Club is offering cash for referees.

There you are, Mr. and Miss Fresher, all is yours and yours to make use of.

FENCING CLUB

This is not, as has been suggested, a Society for the receiving of stolen property, nor again, a group of enthusiasts for the noble art of erecting chestnut palings, but a lively Club that meets in the gym, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons for instruction and practise of sword play.

We have, in the past, kept only to two weapons: foil—the beginner's and academic weapon, and epee—the descendant of the duelling and infantry weapon, but this term we have also arranged a number of matches with sabre.

Matches take us as far afield as Bristol, Birmingham and Southampton Universities—all of whom we have been known to beat—and Cambridge University, whom we have not.

However, with the help of Professor W. Nicklen, a professional epee champion and Maitre d'armes, we are still hoping and have found ourselves in a position to run two teams this coming season—one of them composed of last year's beginners—for a number of matches.

All Welcome

Any newcomer to L.S.E. from 1st year student to 21st year lecturer, will be very welcome to come along and join us: it doesn't matter whether you have done any fencing before or not—the First team (including Dennis Amanda who won the University Junior Foil Championship, and Graham Power, who was runner-

up in the L.U. Foil) and "Nick" will all be around to help, and there is every chance of getting into a team before long.

Ladies! Did you know that all the film stars (we don't include D. Duck) learn fencing to improve their poise and elegance? We have a Ladies' section and they seem to enjoy it whatever their reasons for joining.

We provide all the kit (except gym. shoes), so if you want a sport on the premises, energetic, but not taking up too much time that might be devoted to the more serious sides of University life (e.g., dances, parties, etc.), and not requiring 21 others to make up a game, come and meet us in Room 2 or in the Gym.

RUGGER? BRIGHT FUTURE

The L.S.E. Rugby Club can look forward to the coming season with bright optimism for making the grade in University rugby circles. With the nucleus of last year's team returning, thus forming a formidable reserve strength, and with the influx of po-

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SAILING CLUB

In the not so distant past the Sailing Club was not particularly popular in the Athletic Union or in the School.

Because of the poor facilities available (one Firefly on the Welsh Harp), the membership was restricted to a few not very active members, but during the last two years the Club has changed its policies and no longer provides opportunities for controversy in "Beaver".

The number of Fireflies has increased to two (prospects of a third this session), and cruising both on the Broads and offshore has been greatly developed. Five yachts were taken on the Broads recently, where "adventures" ashore and afloat, by day and by night, were enjoyed.

When the season really arrived an almost all L.S.E. crew, many having but little experience, entered into offshore racing to the Continent and imbibed gin at 10/- a bottle and whisky at 7/6d. Lack of time and money prevented anyone accepting an invitation to sail to the Mediterranean and to Miami.

For this season a weekend cruise, starting Friday, has been arranged, and a few vacancies still exist for both experienced and novice hands. We shall use the Stone Yacht Club—no members of which sail; some way around the Law has to be found!

KEN HARRY.

WANTED

If there is any girl at L.S.E. who knows how to run, hurdle, throw a discus or javelin, or jump, please will she contact Jane Mather either through the students' pigeon-holes or in person.

RIFLE CLUB

This being the youngest Club in L.S.E., I am particularly glad to be given this opportunity of introducing it through "Beaver". This Club was formed by a small band of enthusiasts in October of last year. We had been most disappointed when, on coming up to L.S.E., we discovered that although there were some 25 Clubs in the Athletic Union, there was no Rifle Club.

We soon discovered, however, that the reason for this omission was not that the school authorities were attempting to turn out pacifists, but simply that there was no rifle range on the premises and no possibility of building one. Apart from this minor drawback, there seemed no reason why we should not form a Club of our own.

Obtaining recognition from the Athletics Union was successfully accomplished, but greater problems were ahead, one of them financial. The problem of a range has now been largely solved: negotiations with King's College during the vacation have been successful and we will be able to use their very fine range on one day a week.

"Possible Hundred"

To those who have some experience of shooting, I have no need to recommend the sport. To others I can only say that it brings its own peculiar excitement and satisfaction. To be a good shot is not easy; to be a master shot is downright difficult, but there is something about the sport that gets you. The feel of a good rifle in your shoulder, the bluish glint of the barrel under your eye, and the smell of cordite in your nose are as much of the pleasure as that of getting a "possible hundred".

JOHN PERROW.