



HOW SAFE ARE OUR HALLS?

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
Issue No. 372 7th June 1978



The dirty, grimy, filthy, grotty front quad, which is to have a £30,000 face-lift with the help of a University of London grant. The work, to start later in the year, will consist of repairs followed by a complete wash-and-brush-up. Some would question whether the money could be better spent on academic projects, but it should give you a good excuse to put on your sunglasses next summer

Recent months have seen a spate of thefts at Ifor Evans Hall and Max Rayne House, with the loss of property worth a great deal of money. This recurrent problem which, in the past, has included the theft of colour televisions from common rooms there, raises the question of whether the policy of "open access" should be discontinued, and security tightened up.

Ifor Evans and Max Rayne House between them house over 500 students, and this is to increase still further when a new extension is opened next year. This site is the only one amongst

U.C.'s student housing where one can come and go, with no security measures whatsoever for most of the time.

SECURITY

At Ramsey Hall, a similar purpose-built block, where a porter calls residents to the entrance hall to meet guests, there have been only two or three incidents of theft in the past five years.

Pi asked a number of residents at Ifor and Max what they would like to see done, if anything, to tighten up security.

Every person questioned said that they wished to see the policy of open access remain, as did Ifor Evans' warden, Mr. John Andrews. "An atmosphere of distrust" was what people feared if entrance doors were to be kept locked during the day. The problem of intruders entering ground floor rooms through open windows seems simply the

result of student carelessness. A student who had lost a cassette recorder recently, pointed out that window locks had now been fitted to all ground floor windows.

INTRUDERS

By far the largest group of thefts is due to intruders, possibly other residents, entering students' rooms which have been left unlocked. There have been isolated cases when a door has been kicked in, but none of the students whom Pi spoke to, who kept their rooms locked, had lost any property.

Outside the hall, there have been countless incidents of bicycle thefts and cars broken into. One of the residents suggested that this problem could be reduced by better lighting outside the hall.

"VIGILANCE"

Students are naturally reluctant to lock their rooms when they only go out for a couple of minutes to a kitchen or to a friend's room, but, as recent incidents have shown, this is the only way to prevent intruders. As John Andrews said of the free access policy: "the price we pay is constant vigilance".

UCL IN SPACE?

this moment, the IWG is deciding upon which four of those eight men will eventually go to be trained for the mission.

TENTERHOOKS

If Keith Strong is among them, he will then have to prove himself skilled enough to be one of the two technicians ultimately to go up in the Lab.

Speaking to me on the phone, Mr. Strong explained that the competition is very fierce, since the Americans have put up six extremely strong candidates, but he feels that he still has a good chance. He will be on tenterhooks during most of this week while the bureaucratic machinations of the selection committee grind towards their final decision, but whether or not he is finally chosen, it will still be quite a feather in UC's cap that he has got as far as he has.

Skylab II, the second orbital space laboratory, planned for launching sometime in the early '80's, could have a UC scientist among its crew. At the time of going to press, the final decision as to who should be on board had not been made, but there is every possibility that Keith Strong, 27, a research assistant with the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, could be among those selected.

Mr. Strong has been working at the Mullard Laboratories in Mill Hill since he

graduated from UC in 1973. Since his particular field is solar physics, he is a likely contender for the part of the team who will be dealing exclusively with the observation of the sun.

The selection procedure has been long and gruelling. It began with an elite of 10 scientists who were chosen by the Investigating Workers' Group to go for a medical at Houston. Of those 10, 8 went on for interview at the Marshall Space Flight Centre at Huntsville, Alabama. At

KING'S v NUS

A nationwide campaign for the reform of NUS may be launched at Kings College at the beginning of next session.

This follows the recent defeat of a motion calling for disaffiliation from NUS at King's. Tony Atherton, proposer of the motion and Vice-President of the Union, told "Pi" that there was still

strong feeling amongst many students at King's that NUS is not serving individual students' unions as well as it might.

He hopes to launch a concerted effort next session, with the chief aim of creating a Universities Association within NUS. This would actively work as a reform body, analysing and bringing to light NUS failures.

INSIDE:

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ANL AT UCL

On Thursday 18th of May a disappointing audience of 12 gathered in the Conference Room to hear Simon Hebelitch give the first public meeting of the ANL in College.

The new body has resulted from the affiliation of SCARF (Student Campaign Against Racism and Fascism) to the Anti-Nazi League in an effort to reach a far wider audience than the latter grouping, and to co-ordinate students and staff of all grades in the fight against racist and fascist ideology.

Hebelitch spoke of the explicitly Fascist nature of the National Front, formed, as it was, from a number of extreme rightist and overtly Nazi groupings in 1967. But his warning was also against the 'respectable' racism of the Tories: Margaret Thatcher's broadcast in January was not a mistake, it was an experimental thrust to test public reaction. In short, he said, the National Front was the 'stalking horse' of the Tories.

The ANL's campaign should be two-fold. Firstly to continue picketing and active street campaigning, thereby complementing electoral work and preventing Nazi control of the streets. Secondly campaigning for the coming General Election must be intensified since the promised 319 NF candidates will be bringing racist propaganda into the home on an equal footing with the manifestoes of the main parties.

The Anti-Nazi Carnival, of course, outshone all predictions, attracting large numbers of politically unaligned young people. The overwhelming response amounted to an emphatic 'NO' to 'respectable' racism. But this is not enough — it is important

to canalise and mobilise this well-spring of potential support. The July activists' Conference will be an opportunity to discuss, and implement the way forward in a non-sectarian manner. We have enough committees and talking-shops — now let's have some action!

(Further information, propaganda and supporters cards [£1 each] from Tim Nicholls. I.S. Soc. Badges from the Union Exec.)

Tim Nicholls
(International Socialist Society).



The Unacceptable Face of Fascism: a stark reminder from Lewisham and a grim warning against complacency. The National Front is a very real, insidiously evil threat and the ANL needs all the help it can get if this menace is to be effectively combated. Photo: courtesy Peter Marlow, Camerawork.

CANNABIS :

The Case for Legal Change

120 people showed up at the inaugural public meeting of the Legalise Cannabis Campaign held at the Central Hall, Westminster, last Saturday. This marked the start of a serious campaign for the legalisation of cannabis through Parliament. Speakers included Maureen Colquhoun, MP, and David Offenbach and Don Aitken, both active in the defence of people tried on cannabis charges.

LEGALISE CANNABIS CAMPAIGN



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The audience were told that every year an estimated ten thousand people are arrested or questioned in connection with suspected

cannabis offences, and that of the one thousand convictions for possession, cultivation or conspiracy to obtain cannabis, six hundred people receive some sort of prison sentence per year. The Legalise Cannabis Campaign estimates that in the U.K. there are five million smokers, an astonishing figure which indicates that almost nine percent of the population have tried or regularly use cannabis.

FACT

The arguments presented by the speakers proposing legalisation were convincing and based on fact. Over a dozen committees throughout the world, including the Wotton Committee in Britain in 1968, have concluded that cannabis is harmless — in fact more harmless than either alcohol or tobacco. The speakers also refuted the theory that smoking cannabis leads to addiction to harder drugs, saying that if the present official estimate of 7-15% were true there would be over 35,000 junkies in Britain. Their main argument, used against the one dissenter at the meeting, was the suffering caused to those arrested on a futile law; occupations such as law, medicine and teaching are closed to those with convictions for possessing cannabis, and it can also lead to eviction from rented property.

POLITICAL

The meeting concluded that the legalisation of cannabis is not a medical question, but purely a political problem.

APOLOGIA

The Editors would like to apologise both for the shortness of this issue and for the lack of sports coverage. This is due mainly to the double plague of exams and illness which has plagued our staff over the last couple of weeks. We hope that this will not have to happen too often in the future.

Editors: Steve Jacobs and John Williams.
News: Mark Paton, Russell Gould, Eddie Green, Bob Tivey, Paul Probyn, Jacqui Harman, Gareth David.

Arts: Pete Sheridan, Roger Tetstall, Nick Jones, Chris Bell, Grace Brindle, Dave Watts.
Cartoons: Jeff Dennis.
Photography: Graham Sinclair.
Advertising: Phil Wainwright.

UCL IN THE '90's

During the next 15 years, the future of UCL will be in the balance. The Government is at present planning the shape of Higher Education into the 1990's, and if decisions are taken to the College's disadvantage, while UC fails to respond positively and progressively to the challenges ahead, the College may not be around to celebrate its bicentenary.

What is all the fuss about? Well, during the 1980's, the number of students throughout Higher Education will rise by 80,000, to a total of 600,000. The fall in the birth rate will then bring about a fall of the same amount in the 1990's.

BULGE

The Government has suggested five different ways of tackling the problems posed by this rise and fall. The first four have met strong opposition. They envisage such measures as overcrowding, longer terms, two-year degree courses, part-time lecturers, and redundancies at the end of the "bulge". Only the fifth, Model E, has met with much support.

Model E expands the system during the 1980's to take in all the extra school-leavers, and then replaces them in the 1990's with an influx of mature students and working class students.

CLOSURE

Significantly, both responsible ministers at the Department of Education have said in recent weeks that they favour Model E. This, however, suggests a deliberate government policy of increasing the number of mature students, without giving the Colleges all the necessary resources. Those Colleges which do not show themselves wholly willing to accept large numbers of such students will suffer most, and may even face closure. Hence the danger for UC.

There seem to be three choices for UC. The first is to take part in the debate on future policy and then sit back and let things take their course. The second is to "concentrate on doing those things we do best"; that is, rely on our reputation for academic excellence.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The third and most realistic attitude is to play a full part in the debate about the future, and then help to make that future a reality. To adapt to a system which offers greater opportunity to mature and working class students, the College will have to change radically, adapting its entry requirements, the content and style of its courses and other aspects of its personality. It must make itself more attractive to prospective students, and to a large extent that means being more responsive to the needs and aspirations of students — something which it does not show itself to be at present.

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WHETHER IN THE SUN?

Every year it gets more and more difficult to plan a holiday abroad and 1978 is no exception. With rocketing prices and charter flights booked solid for months to come it's not going to be easy for anyone to get away this summer, but just in case you are hoping to escape Britain for a while, here are a few guidelines.

TRAVEL

EUROPE AND AFRICA
Most conventional ABC flights are fully booked by now, but there are a few Student Charters operating throughout Europe which make flying a little cheaper. These vary from company to company, but SATA (Student Air Travel Association) makes sure that prices are kept pretty low. For example:
PARIS £18.50 return
COLOGNE £52.00 return
ATHENS £98.00 return
VIENNA £65.00 return
AMSTERDAM £33.00 return
OSLO £71.00 return
MADRID £71.00 return

It is also possible for students with an ISIC to obtain a 25% discount on scheduled flights to various European destinations.

Coaches and trains often work out to be little cheaper than air-travel, but there are a couple of companies like Eurotrain and Transalpine which are quite economical. The best bet, though, is undoubtedly the Interail Card; this costs £91, and entitles the holder to a month's free travel throughout 19 European countries including Morocco. The only condition is that you are a student under 23 years of age.

Flights to Africa work out rather expensive, but there charters running to Lagos and Nairobi for around £270 return.

Hints: Athens by coach is comparatively cheap this summer (£55-£60) but it's a long and very wearing journey. If considering Greece, book early, as it's one of the most popular European resorts.

LSTB are operating cheap return flights (around £70) to 11 destinations in Italy this year.

U.S.A. AND SOUTH AMERICA

As with Europe, most ABC flights to the U.S.A. are now fully booked, but there are many other ways. SATA run flights from Dublin to New York at upwards of £139 re-

turn, while the Laker Sky-train flies daily from Gatwick to New York for £59 single.

Another method is by Budget, Stanby: book 21 days before the Sunday of the week of travel and the company confirm the day 2 weeks before departure. This would cost you about £156 return to the East Coast.

Once there, the best way to travel is by coach: a month pass for travel on Greyhound or Continental Trailways buses will set you back around £100.

At the moment there is little chance of flying direct to South America for less than about £950 return and regulations are very tight, but AUS are hoping to develop this part of the world during the next couple of years.

AUSTRALIA AND THE FAR EAST

Australia is obviously one of the most costly countries to visit, with return fares never lower than around £506, but fares to Asia can be quite reasonable considering the distance involved:
KARACHI £190 return
DELHI £240 return
HONG KONG £336 return
SINGAPORE ... £312 return
BANGKOK £280 return

If your bank balance still won't stretch that far, however, AUS offers a large selection of European and overland tours to India and Africa, details of which are all available from their office.

They also have copies of a marvellous well-researched little book entitled "Overland to India and Australia" (published by 'bit' at £2.25) which is full of useful information on flights, trains, ferries, hotels, dope laws, etc.

Incidentally, while we're on the subject, another excellent book which has recently appeared is "Travel on the Cheap" by Jonathon Walters (published by Penguin at 90p) — a comprehensive guide to travel throughout Europe, Africa and India.

GENERAL POINTS

VISAS

It's as well to remember that visas sometimes take a while to sort out if you're planning to visit Eastern Europe, so don't leave it until the last minute. Foreign nationals should check with their embassy or consulate.

HEALTH AND INSURANCE

Some countries have reciprocal arrangements with our own NHS, but if you're in doubt, then it's always a good idea to take out some form of insurance. Endsleigh's Student Holiday Insurance is a safe bet with premiums from under £2.

As regards vaccinations, the Health Centre are armed to the teeth with leaflets, but basically most countries require International Certificates guaranteeing inoculation against smallpox, yellow fever and cholera. These requirements vary from country to country, and there are areas where additional vaccinations are advisable, though not statutory. Check with the clinic for details.

PASSPORTS

Simple stuff, admittedly, but remember that at the height of the season it sometimes takes as long as 4-6 weeks for an application from a British subject to go through. A one-year passport can be obtained from Post Offices, but this is restricted to Western Europe. Travel insurance does not cover you if an invalid passport prevents you from taking your holiday.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD

This is available from NUS Marketing at a cost of £140 and is invaluable for foreign travel. It proves that you are a student and therefore eligible for discounts in museums, cinemas, hostels, etc.

TRAVEL BUREAU

TRAVEL BUREAU

There are dozens of student travel bureaux throughout London, of which the best known are LST (London Student Travel) and AUS (Austrian Union of Students) both at 117 Euston Road and both recommended. But that doesn't mean that there are no other companies operating who have attractive terms for students. Host's Student Travel Office in Great Portland Street, for

example, are running a very cheap accommodation system in America this year called ECON. There are places available in 12 hotels, 36 University halls and five National Parks, all at under £4.00 a night.

ACCOMMODATION

There are obvious ways to find accommodation abroad, ranging from a haystack in the Dordogne to a luxury hotel in Miami. Generally speaking, camping is a safe bet, although sites on the continent are apt to be expensive and are often packed with holidaymakers — again it's best to book in advance. One of the best ways to live, however, is in one of the many pensions or small boarding houses to be found on the Continent — these again often fall vacant at a moment's notice and can be quite cheap and comfortable. The other obvious alternative is to stay in Youth Hostels, which are ubiquitous world-wide.

WORKING ABROAD

The main thing to remember is that it's vital to apply for most vacancies early of course, if you head for France and Germany during the grape-harvest there's an excellent chance of getting a job, and even on the various European rivers it's possible to find hoteliers who employ temporary staff at very short notice, but usually arrangements have to be made with employers well in advance.

Perhaps the best way of going about it is by using books like "The Directory of Summer Jobs Abroad" or, for America, "The Summer Employment Directory of the United States", both published by 'Vacation Work' at £1.95 and £4.00 respective-

ly and available from the Union. These contain a reasonably comprehensive list of employers and addresses and details of how best to ingratiate yourself with them. Alternatively, there are organisations like BUNAC B U N A C m p and Camp America, but be warned that in the case of the latter two, pay is low, hours are long and free time is limited.

Another point to note is that it's not always easy to obtain a work-permit in some countries. Although many employers will take care of the technicalities at their end, it's always worthwhile checking with the embassies before making a decision.

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DAVE WATTS'

SHIRES BAR

Only a ten minute walk from UC eastwards is the Shires Bar in St. Pancras Station. British Rail are at the moment introducing real ale into a growing number of their station bars and the Shires, with its friendly green decor, is one of the most rewarding of these in which to drink. This is not only because the beers available, at standard pub prices, include Greene King Abbot, Rayments BBA, Sam Smiths and Ruddles Bitter and County, but also because interest can be derived from observing the heterogenous clientele. Drinkers with vivid imaginations, who enjoy testing their powers of character assessment, can while away many an enjoyable and alcoholic hour guessing whether the businessmen who pop in will turn out to be pints or shorts drinkers, or else guessing the origins and destinations of the many suitcase-carrying customers.

Finally, for those drinkers remaining in London over the summer, Britain's biggest real beer festival will take place this year from the 5th to the 10th of September at Alexandra Palace. Last year's was excellent; this year's promises to be even better.

BLACKFRIAR

One of London's most unique pubs, and one not too far from College, is the Blackfriar. On emerging from Blackfriars tube station, the building stands opposite, imposing because of the way it is set apart from its neighbours. Outside hangs wrought ironwork with a stone frieze running along parts of the walls, while inside the impression gained is that of stepping inside a monastery, presumably devoted to the worship of beer. One section of the pub is very much like a chapel, with a vaulted roof, walls which look like marble, with a series of aphorisms stretching round them, and rather impressive amber lighting. The clientele seems to consist of lost tourists, and businessmen delaying returning home to their wives, seeking refuge instead in the Charrington and Bass hand-pumped bitters. The peculiar character of the place makes it well worth a visit.

Executive Comment

Reading some reports of UGMs this year in PI, I wonder why I still bother to attend. Paul Probyn and I are presented as universally reviled, scheming, self-centred manipulators of a moronic, apathetic and despised student body. I am even more puzzled why students should return each week to have their intelligence so grossly insulted by the executive. When I actually recall the proceedings of any particular UGM, though, I begin to realise why I and so many others continue our weekly pilgrimage to exercise our democratic rights. Life is not always as PI reports it!

The Union's business is discussed—after a fashion. Reports are presented, items referred back, and motions are debated. I have had complaints that the time spent on the latter is both too long and too short, that the executive reports are tedious and time-consuming, and also, paradoxically, that they do not contain enough detail. It seems that you cannot please all of the people all of the time, but at least you can interest them enough to make constructive criticism.

The UGM is an unwieldy but democratic structure, and I would be interested in any ideas about how to improve the presentation of information to a meeting of between three and five hundred people weekly. It should be kept in mind that the activities of ten Union committees, their secretaries, the executive, and a variety of College bodies all have to be summarised in reports short enough to be read and discussed within an hour. Despite this problem, and the failings I will touch on later, the UGM does provide a forum for everyone's views to be aired, and for the Union officers to be held accountable. If this were not the case, then the farce occasionally described in PI would rapidly ensue.

From "my side of the stage" I would like to point out a number of improvements which could be made. I would like a greater variety of speakers to come forward. I realise that it can be frightening to speak in public for the first time, but it should not be only the knockabout comedians (Pete Sheridan and John Williams), the hardened "politicos"

(Tareq Khamis and Peter Hankins), or the executive who stand up. (Paul Probyn spent two years blundering incoherently before he learnt to speak properly; most people can manage it in less time.) The chair should encourage new faces to speak. Possibly a microphone might be placed by the side rather than on the stage. Questions to officers and on reports should be asked not merely to attempt to trap the executive (We usually win anyway!) but to clarify points of which the meeting is uncertain.

Both Ian Tunnacliffe and Simon Davies spoke in their election campaigns of issuing papers in advance of the meetings. I am not sure how, with a severely overworked office staff, this could be achieved, but I am sure it would aid participation. I hope that Simon succeeds in this. A further alteration in format may be the removal of the "Them and Us" mentality by not having the executive permanently seated on stage.

I recognise that these are only suggestions for fiddling with UGM procedure, but this is because I believe the structure to be fundamentally sound. It will cease to be so when a politically or disruptively motivated group is allowed to dominate the meeting and bore everyone else to death, or when the executive is not questioned and, occasionally, defeated.

Part of the burden of preserving more open and better attended UGMs than almost any comparable college union must rest with the executive, who should present reports clearly, argue their views, but accept and serve majority decisions. Part also should rest with the membership who should attend meetings and contribute fully, becoming neither mutely apathetic nor noisily anarchic.

Finally PI itself might help. A little more accuracy and information, and a little less juvenile satire and self-indulgent jokes would be a start. PI should exercise a critical and inquisitive role in the Union and its machinations, but to merely laugh at UGMs and smear the Union's officers is to debase its function.

BOB TIVEY

Drivel



The new editors of PI recently decided to start receiving press releases from all the major political parties in order to improve their political parties. So John Williams started phoning round their various headquarters, with the exception of the Liberals, who appear to have their phone cut off. All went well until he got to the National Front, who informed him that they were "not interested in students". Somewhat perturbed by this, he decided to try again later in the afternoon. This time, to the sound of jackboots marching up and down in the background, he was that that "once a decision has been taken it cannot be reversed."

Alas, this was not to be his only brush with the NF. Going to pay for the newspapers for his flat one day, sporting his Anti Nazi League badge, he discovered that his newsagent was an NF member. He was subjected to a lecture on how the newsagent had beaten the Nazis in the last war, capped by the cryptic comment that there was "no central heating in air-raid shelters".

We can assure our readers that the Executive-elect will not be wasting their valuable time in restaurants when they come to office. We have no definite information on Simon "What's a restaurant?" Davies, but we do know that Sally Shrier has been blacklisted at a substantial number of local spaghetti houses (not to mention any names), no

doubt due in part to her habitual cry of "as it got meat in it?". Meanwhile, Chris Walpole was recently almost forcibly evicted from a pancake house after the waitress found the bill crumpled up and buried in the sugar bowl.

The retiring Executive may be looking for pensions when they to the end of their terms of office. Paul Probyn has been reduced to shaving the fluff off his chin in an effort to impress potential employers, though as he has not yet been offered an interview, it would seem to be a futile gesture. Bob Tivey, as you may know, has also removed his rather more substantial beard, though we understand that in his case it was as a result of complaints from Jacqui Harman about skin irritation in certain sensitive areas. He was not successful in his negotiations for a job with ACAS ("Give me a job or else..."), but his considerable experience with typewriters may secure him a job in a scarpard. Barbara Alexander has not yet, as far as we know, started shaving.

Trevor Phillips, explaining why he is still on speaking terms with Paul Probyn, observed that, "If I didn't speak to all the stupid people I know I'd be a hermit".

Was it Andy Strouthous who commented that perhaps Scottish student unions' determination to be free of Pentonville Road has some bearing on the Scottish Nationalists' desire to be free of Westminster?

The Octogate scandal continues... Following our revelations last issue about the 'incestuous' and unadvertised way a number of the promotions and new posts were being filled within the College administration, readers are warned to look out for more of the same.

Attention should be paid in particular to the area of College services—two new posts have now been created where none existed before. We didn't realise the College's administration had come under the Government's 'Job Creation Scheme', but it is surely a welcome gesture when a few more bureaucrats and failed academics are kept from the dole queue...

It also seems that ever our administrators are having housing problems in Camden—not that they're faced with instant eviction at Max Rayne. It appears that for some reason unknown to us (answers on a postcard to the PI office please) the College Secretary has traditionally lived in a house paid for by the College. When Mr. Tovell, Finance Secretary, was appointed as Mr. Tattersall's successor in the post, he wished to be no exception to the rule, but did take exception to his predecessor's house in Camden Road (probably too close to students). His proposal to "swap" the house for a flat in Regent's Park was accepted by the powers that be—including his own College Finance Committee—and the flat overlooking the Park, was purchased with £45,000 of College money.

Unfortunately, when the time came to arrange for the balancing sale of the Camden Road House, difficulties arose. Mr. Tovell decided to see if the Student Accommodation Committee would be interested in buying the property for conversion to student accommodation. But Professor Kemp (Chairman of the S.A.C.) had already been informed that the property had originally been bought for this very purpose, by the S.A.C. with a U.G.C. grant. Not surprisingly, he objected to the Committee having to buy the house twice over.

Despite Mr. Tovell's protests, the S.A.C. has so far resisted his invitation to bail out whatever College fund was used for the purchase of the Regent's Park flat. Well done Prof. Kemp—we hope we can look forward to seeing the house actually used for its original purpose of housing students. Not a very auspicious or diplomatic start to life as College Secretary for Mr. Tovell though!!

"Deep Throat"

JAZZ SOC: next concert June 15th 8-12 pm in the small lounge. "Free Beer" and "EGO", who will also be appearing at the summer ball and at Ronnie Scott's in August.

BOWLED OUT

Former UCL student David Gower has been selected to play for England in the First Test against Pakistan.

Gower, a forceful left-hand batsman, plays for Leicestershire. His selection follows a century scored for England against Pakistan in the second of the one-day Prudential Trophy matches.

Gower, 21, was a student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in 1975-76. He was kicked out for failing his first-year exams.

SMALL ADS

FEMALE, 29, rather shy, would like to meet man of compatible age and tastes, preferably non smoker, to develop more outgoing interests in pleasant friendship. I'm a lazy person who would like to be woken up a bit—like literature, mythology and classical music, though not a very serious listener. Would be specially interested in meeting anyone interested in Icelandic literature and the Sagas, or speaking Icelandic. All letters welcomed (Box No. 22), or phone 01-226 1863, evenings, and ask for Rosemary.

Anyone wanting to help plan a mini-Freshers' Issue of OCTAGON please contact Richard Hawkins via Octagon pigeon-hole UCLU. SECONDHAND electric guitar wanted. Please contact Richard Hawkins via Octagon pigeon-hole UCLU.

The response to our small ads section has not exactly been overwhelming, so we'd just like to have one more try at destroying the apathy which seems to be reigning throughout UC at the moment. Next session there will be around 2,000 brand-new freshers arriving and it will be an excellent opportunity to get in touch with people new to college. Rates are ridiculously low (15p per 30 words) so we urge you to take advantage of the column next term.

LOGO COMPETITION

The PI Logo Competition is still open. We've had a few entries but want more! The closing date is June 24th and the winning logo will appear on the cover of the first PI of the Autumn term. There will also, of course, be a cash prize—as promised.

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Late Show Every Night 11.45.
Advance Booking, All Seats, All Performances.

THEATRE

The Unvarnished Truth (PHOENIX)

I rolled up at the Phoenix with preconceptions by way of good reports from friends and of course a rave write-up by Bernard Levin. In fact, as the evening progressed, the audience around me seemed to be judging Levin's review rather than the play itself.

Being a comedy, it is unnecessary to go into the plot, which concerns a house with an apparently fatal attraction for women. Graeme Garden is perhaps miscast as a police sergeant, but Tim Brooke-Taylor is excellent as an over-imaginative playwright. The real playwright, Royce Ryton, acts the latter's agent with gusto, but makes doubtful the wisdom of appearing in one's own play; at times he seemed a little artificial.

The play is, nevertheless, very funny, often more so through the visual aspect (which we know so well from the Goodies) — Tim Brooke Taylor's facial contortions and Garden's tumbles — than the script: many lines fishing for laughs met with little reaction when I was there. However, without being overcritical, I enjoyed the play, but felt that overall it was a case of good acting improving on an unexceptional script.

The Glad Hand (ROYAL COURT)



A South African despot heads for the Bermuda Triangle in a mysterious oil tanker with a motley crew of deviants, timesavers, artists and artistes and a pyramidologist hippy... The mission is to use a CIA-financed Hollywood reconstruction and save the world. The Glad Hand by Snoo Wilson is full of historical and cultural imagery, shifts of style, mood, comedy and pace. A shipwrecked girl from New York provides a fairly removed commentary on the outrageous voyage whilst herself symbolising democracy, people's rights and women's liberation. The play is haunted with irony and comments on a wide range of topics such as Lesbianism, religion, politics, apathy and dictatorship. It demands a great deal of concentration, but is full of interest, humour and passionate hysterical truths.

Sentenced to Life (WESTMINSTER)

"Sentenced to Life" is built around a story of mercy-killing. The leading roles — a paralysed woman and her husband who kills her at her request — are taken by Ruth Goring and John Byron. The play centres around the husband's inner struggle, before and after he kills his wife, between his deeply held convictions about the right to die and the reality of killing the person he loves. It is an attempt to delve into the human heart and find out why we act as we do. All sides of the problem, from moral, humane to religious are expounded, leaving the audience to form its own opinion. Electrical and mechanical imagery leads to the enquiry "are we heading for a human factory-farm, or for the human family with God as our father."

Muggeridge and Thornhill describe their play as a tragicomedy. It has the wit of a former editor of "Punch" and the humanity of a playwright. The play joins the current debate on euthanasia probing the moral and spiritual dilemmas faced in the extremes of suffering and disability.

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FILMS

** Coming Home (Cert. X)

Coming Home is one of the current crop of movies concerned with the Vietnam War and its effects. It is a depressing film — almost all its characters are crippled either physically or emotionally, who seem to have little hope of ever adjusting to their post-war lives.

In spite of an excellent cast headed by Jane Fonda, Bruce Dern and John Voight the film is somehow not completely successful. It relies on its subject matter for impact rather than on its somewhat predictable and creaky plot.

John Voight plays a disillusioned and crippled war veteran who falls in love with Jane Fonda, whose husband is away in Vietnam. The performances, particularly that of Bruce Dern, in part compensate for the unoriginal storyline and the imaginative use of contemporary rock music proves a useful counterpoint to the action.

Coming Home, whilst it arouses much sympathy for its characters, never really gets to grips with their problems. It is a serious and well-meaning attempt which never fully realises its potential. It seems from this film and others that American breast-beating over Vietnam is making it a difficult subject for film makers to deal with.

** Heroes (Cert. AA)

Heroes is the second of the Vietnam movies recently released, but unlike "Coming Home" it is not completely serious in its treatment of the theme. The film's 'hero' Jack Dunne, played by Henry Winkler, is left mentally unstable by his war-time experiences, but in the nicest and zaniest possible way. His ambition is to set up a worm farm using money invested by his fellow patients at the mental hospital. The film describes his journey across America in search of his partners in the

MUSIC

Tom Robinson Band Power in the Darkness (EMI)

The TRB are almost unique in their unrelenting commitment to the various causes which they have championed on their way to the big time; now that they have made it the problems thrown up by this, their debut elpee, are similar to those of numerous other bands. They have failed to capture on vinyl that magic so evident in their live gigs. The title track, for example, played live is quite an experience but in the confines of your grotty front room, the freedom speech seems quite banal. On the other hand, "Up Against the Wall" retains all its power, and the provocative lyrics and compulsive riffs are enough to make even the most docile listener want to react. Even better is "We Ain't Gonna Take It",



Mel Brooks with Kate Minch, President of Filmsoc

*** High Anxiety (Cert. A)

Mel Brooks has now turned his attention to thrillers, with this tribute to Hitchcock's movies. "High Anxiety" parodies heavily (including its title) "Vertigo", "The Birds" and "Psycho" amongst others, and Brooks directed, wrote, produced, sang and cast himself as the star, (and presumably paid himself for each of the six jobs) filling this wardrobe of boots ably with much fine footage.

In a role that must have stretched him to the limit, Brooks plays a "sane" man; a leading psychologist sent to take over the Psycho-Neurotic Institute for the Very Very Nervous. There we see a moustachio'd, cigar-smoking whip-wielding woman with a bust like the twin towers of Wembley subjugating her bondage-loving sidekick in a cupboard; and

this is the hospital staff!

Good in front of the camera, behind it Brooks shines, bringing hilarious new slants on famous Hitchcock shots. The master's lens glides effortlessly through walls; Brooks' leaves rooms in ruins as anxious voices whisper "Keep going! Perhaps they won't notice". The plot twists and turns like Lulu used to do, and if you find any scenes predictable (the shower scene from "Psycho") then you'll relish them all the more for knowing the original product.

"High Anxiety" is Brooks' funniest film since "Blazing Saddles", and gains greatly from its lack of both slapsick and Marty Feldman. Easily watchable, instantly recallable, it'll be unmissable TV viewing in four years time, or a decent night out if you don't mind sea-sickness from the vertiginous seats of the Prince Charles Cinema.

- **** Highly recommended
- *** Recommended
- ** Good
- * Poor

scheme, and his love affair with a girl he meets on the bus on which he is travelling.

It is a rambling and somewhat disorganised film. The director — Jeremy Paul Kagan — seems unable to make up his mind whether it is a comedy or not. As a result Heroes, in spite of some very funny action and dialogue and good performances from both Henry Winkler and Sally Field, lacks cohesion. It slips from moments of high comedy to others of sadness and disillusionment in a rather uneasy, haphazard way.

Heroes is worth seeing but ultimately one feels its use of the Vietnam theme is rather superficial.

a full frontal assault on the establishment seething with energy and aggression, which "they" won't be able to contain for much longer. This is living rock music with something to say demonstrating the force of Robinson's lyrics, as does "Winter of '79" which is further enhanced by some ace guitar work from Danny Kuslow. The excellent construction of this cut ensures that the theme of 1984 style social oppression remains interesting and thought-provoking but elsewhere the obsession with this impending evil makes for a depressing and ultimately boring effect. The rest of the album almost seems superfluous but, despite all its faults, this is a good album though it's not quite what we hoped for.

ALSO RECOMMENDED. Patti Smith 'Easter' (Arista); The Gladiators 'Proverbial Reggae' (Virgin); Tapper Zukie, 'Peace in the Ghetto' (Virgin).

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GATE TWO
CINEMA · RUSSELL SQUARE
(Formerly EMI International)

LATE NIGHTS 11.15

Thursday June 8
LENNY BRUCE WITHOUT TEARS (X)

Friday June 9
Robert Altman's
THIEVES LIKE US (X)

Saturday June 10
Elliott Gould in
THE LONG GOODBYE (X)

Sunday June 11
Marlon Brando in
THE YOUNG LIONS (AA)

Monday June 12
Donald Sutherland in
DAY OF THE LOCUST (X)

Tuesday June 13
Jimi Hendrix in
WOODSTOCK (X)

Wednesday June 14
De Sica's
GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS (A)