

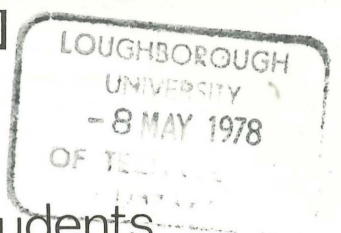
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LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENT



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FINALISTS FACE DELAY

OVER DEGREES

lecturer still angry over 'assassination'

A LECTURER WHO WAS SMOTHERED IN CUSTARD-PIE FOAM, FOLLOWING AN "ASSASSINATION" ATTEMPT DURING A LECTURE BY MASKED STUDENTS AS PART OF LAST TERM'S RAG WEEK, IS STILL ANGRY ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND HAS WARNED THAT THE MATTER IS STILL NOT CLOSED.

In a letter, dated 12th April and circulated to Rag, LSU, lecturers and student representatives, the lecturer concerned, Dr. Owen Smith of the Economics Department described the disruption of his lecture as "thoughtless" and "embarrassing" and stated that the Rag Committee "will know of even more serious repercussions".

conditions

Since the incident occurred on 15th February Dr. Owen has been refusing to lecture until certain conditions have been met. These have included written apologies from the Rag Committee, the Engineering Students who paid a total of £25.00 for the assassination to take place, as well as the handing over of a negative of a photo to Dr. Owen that was taken during the incident. In this recent letter Dr. Owen recognises that these conditions have been fulfilled, but he also is keen to point out that senior officials of the University deplored the incident, and that a number of students "who innocently 'commissioned' the so-called 'assassination' have contacted me to say that the form which the stunt took was 'irresponsible', 'sick', 'totally lacking in judgement' and 'discourteous in the extreme'". He added that he is "far from alone in resenting this type of attack". Next year's Rag Chairman, Greg Wimbourne told 'L.S.' that his reaction to the letter had been one of amazement and thought Dr. Owen was "making a mountain out of a molehill". He pointed out that he had received no other complaints from a total of 150 lecturers and students alike who were hit by the assassins and their pies on that particular day - and all for Charity. Dr. Owen has recommenced lecturing and gave his first lecture to the same class of Engineers on April 26th - he was reported to be in reasonably good humour!

IT IS NOW ALMOST CERTAIN THAT LECTURERS AT LOUGHBOROUGH, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS (A.U.T.) WILL GO AHEAD WITH THEIR PLANNED STRIKE, AND ALONG WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES, WILL REFUSE TO MARK FINALISTS' EXAM PAPERS AS FROM MAY 1ST AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO UNTIL SOME SORT OF PAY AGREEMENT IS REACHED BETWEEN THE A.U.T. AND THE GOVERNMENT.

This was confirmed by the secretary of the A.U.T. last week. If no action has been taken to settle the dispute by May 8th, the whole routine of marking degree exam papers and collating the subsequent results will have been so badly disrupted and delayed that no degrees will be awarded in June or July as is the normal custom. Instead exam scripts will be stored until the dispute has been settled.

Although some students will not be affected too badly, four groups of finalists in particular will be hit the hardest. Overseas students, many of whom are registered on a series of courses, could face the prospect of not having visas extended. Finalists intending to do post-grad. courses are largely dependent upon their degree results for gaining their places. Some salaries of prospective employees are also gauged by their degrees and students contemplating doing research might have to wait longer while their future hangs in the balance.

When asked the reason for boycotting only finalists, Mr. Buchanan Currie (secretary of Loughborough A.U.T.) said: "Any action can only be effective if someone is hurt". He went on to say that he would be

surprised if there would be any real antagonism by finalists towards lecturing staff; "Students are normally sympathetic" he said while at the same time advising them "to keep their heads".

I.A.V.P. Dave Bright has been discussing the situation with the AUT although they refused to let him speak at a meeting they held on April 20th - nevertheless the IAVP has made a firm statement that the AUT have already asked for support from LSU. Mr. Currie on the other hand has flatly denied this - by saying "we have carefully not asked for support." LSU executive are not committing themselves either way until the matter has been debated at a UGM, the result of which should be known by today (Thursday May 4th).

MAGGIE slips in through LSU demo

Report by Rob Nash

MARGARET THATCHER WAS WHISKED IN THROUGH A SIDE DOOR IN THE EDWARD HERBERT BUILDING AND ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN AVOIDING A DEMONSTRATION BY 200 LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS WHEN SHE VISITED THE CAMPUS ON APRIL 12TH TO SPEAK AT THE FEDERATION OF CONSERVATIVE STUDENTS' NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD HERE DURING THE EASTER VACATION.

UNPLEASANT SCENES WERE ONLY JUST AVERTED AS ANGRY STUDENTS TRYING TO PUSH THEIR WAY INTO THE CONFERENCE HALL WERE PREVENTED BY SECURITY STAFF AND THE ORGANISERS. The demonstration was organised by L.S.U. Executive in protest against the Tories' latest proposals on immigration control. The Executive had previously written to Mrs. Thatcher informing her that "in the light of her recent inflammatory remarks on black immigration to this country" she would be "an unwelcome guest to this campus" - and the demonstrators certainly proved their point.



Photo by John Birdsall



A glimpse of President George Skalski and Deputy Allen Clegg as they appeared on the front page of the Daily Express the day after the demo.

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