

POLE POSITION

You do see some peculiar sights around Bath early in the morning. Last year we were confronted by the intriguing spectacle of two men pushing a lavatory pan on a hand cart, surmounted by an orange flashing light, at 7am on the A36.

Yesterday we passed a lorry packed with old red telephone boxes, no doubt destined to become shower cubicles in California. (A recent German auction catalogue advertises unconverted ones at around £350 a throw.)

Finally, as Tompkins eased the "Galleries" limousine to a halt in the car park, a tall bearded man with a rucksack was leaning on a ten foot bamboo pole, butted into the kerb, bending it like a pole vaulter making a jump. Either the poor chap was ninepence in the shilling, or this was a performance Sean hadn't told us about.

ON THE DOG AND BONE

Why is it that whenever you pass Louise Hallett's stand (12) she's on the telephone? Is she running her Robert Medley show by remote control? Does she have a direct line to a bookie and a hot tip for the 3.30 at Newmarket? Maybe she's just waiting for directory enquiries.

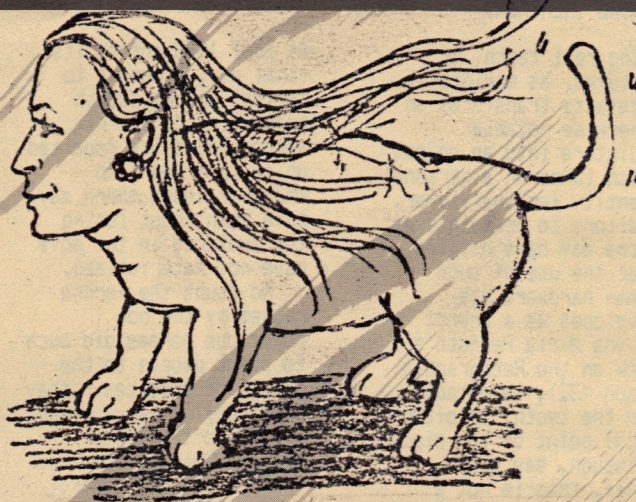
BULL MARKET

Austin/Desmond (3) have just set up shop in Pied Bull Yard, between Bloomsbury Square and Bury Place. After eight years of trading in 20th century British art from Sunninghill near Ascot, the move to London with a second gallery will herald more exhibitions by contemporary artists, as distinct from their Modern British stock. These will include Michael Cullimore, Martin Fuller, Michael Williams and Graham Dean. The latter's work is particularly prominent on the A/D stand and Willie "Art Should Be Fun" Desmond reckons they'll shift.



FASHION VICTIM

Fashion watchers were thrilled by the long awaited reappearance of Sean "looks like he slept in it" Kelly's rumpled grey suit yesterday. A dapper Sean at last disclosed the practical secret of his favourite "whistle": it's drip dry.



A Long-Haired Hossack by Nicola Godden (sculptor).

BLATANT SELF PUBLICITY

Only the other day an advertiser regaled us with the story of how he had just clinched a £12,000 sale from a quarter page advert in the magazine. This to an Australian and what is more the gallery was out of London. This proves lots of things.

For those who have not yet tested the "Galleries" water we recommend booking long series adverts of full colour pages and payment by bankers order - you never know your luck. Enquiries on 01-740 7020

As we leave, thanks to Sean & Brenda, "who we are sure will soon become Modern Britain's leading art fair organisers." Thanks to everyone for the hot gossip, thanks for the memories. . . .

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DAY 4

Barrington Publications
54 Uxbridge Road, W12
Tel. 01-740 7020

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