

## Russell guru

Reminiscing for the BBC, a journalist who covered the first civil disobedience demonstration of the Committee of 100 has compared Russell's stature that day to that of a guru, or spiritual teacher. Peter Lewis writes in the *Listener* (14 Oct. 1976): "I often think of him with gratitude because, on that day, he came nearer than anyone I have known to the status of a guru. 'I really do hope that no one thinks of me as a saint. I thought I'd taken adequate precautions against *that*,' he said. But we did think of him as a philosopher in the true, the Greek, the public tradition--the only one in a long while who was not too grand, and not too busy, and not too old to go into the streets and get down on the pavement for the sake of a matter of principle. As he walked down Whitehall, that, I believe, was what his eyes were fixed on, out beyond Big Ben."

---