

The Beaver

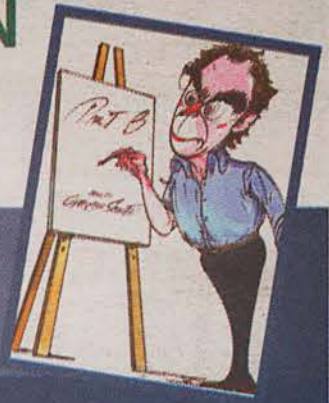
27 February 2007 Issue 661 The newspaper of the LSESU

Conspiracy theories JFK, 9/11, Holocaust denial

Pages 12 & 13



SU ELECTION pullout inside



PART B. HAND DRAWN ISSUE

SPECIAL EDITION

NEWS6 SU Elections kick off **C&A8** Israel Palestine conflict **FEATURES16** The causes of gun crime **SPORTS22** AU election time **PARTB3** Writing vs Drawing

Peacock Theatre asbestos scare

- ASBESTOS LEAK LED TO AN EVACUATION OF AN AREA OF THE PEACOCK THEATRE LAST YEAR
- AIR QUALITY OF THE PEACOCK THEATRE IS CHECKED QUARTERLY FOR ASBESTOS LEVELS

Rajan Patel
Senior Reporter

The Peacock Theatre suffered a release of asbestos fibres last year, after a maintenance workman drilled into a door containing the dangerous material. The incident caused an asbestos disturbance that forced evacuation and a one-day isolation of an area inside the Theatre.

The accident occurred on 14 June 2006 in the plant room of the Peacock Theatre, when staff drilled through an asbestos panel contained within a fire door. Upon noting the release of suspicious dust, staff contacted the School's Asbestos Manager who instituted the standard clean-up procedure.

In accordance with Section Four of the School's Asbestos Policy, the damage was classified as "slight". The affected area was sealed off to prevent asbestos fibres spreading to surrounding areas and an asbestos removal contractor was called in to decontaminate the plant room. The damaged panel itself was removed.

Asbestos materials are used for fireproofing and acoustical ceilings among other uses. Products with asbestos content are frequently referred to as asbestos-containing material (ACM). While ACMs are used widely, the inhalation of some types can result in serious illnesses, including cancer.

Air quality in the Peacock Theatre is monitored as per regulations and checked quarterly for asbestos levels. Other buildings on campus are checked less frequently.

The website of the Health and Safety Executive, a government body responsible for enforcing health and safety regulations in the workplace, estimated last year that deaths

from asbestos related diseases will continue to increase for the next five decades. Most of these deaths will involve construction and maintenance workers including plumbers and electricians.

The website also identifies "panel[s] on or inside fire doors" as potential ACMs within buildings and encourages employers to check their fire doors when conducting standard asbestos surveys.

There are three different levels of asbestos survey, two of

“There is no issue with exposed asbestos on campus at all.”

School spokesperson

which - type one and type two - are undertaken as a standard by the School.

Type one surveys involve a relatively superficial examination of suspected ACMs, while type two requires the collection and analysis of 'representative samples' for asbestos.

Type three surveys are the most intrusive and most complete sampling method, often requiring examination of wall cavities and other immediately inaccessible areas. They are usually conducted only before major refurbishment work because of their destructive nature.

As there were no plans to refurbish the affected area of the Peacock Theatre, such a



Students protest against the war

>> 5

survey had not been carried out.

The results of such surveys are used to build up the School's 'asbestos register', which aims to detail the nature and location of all ACMs on the LSE campus. Fire doors in the Peacock Theatre were not on the School's asbestos register before the accident in June. Since then, every door at the Peacock Theatre has been checked for inner asbestos panels sandwiched between layers of plywood and plaster. Several doors in various areas of the theatre have been found to contain such panels, but only those that are superficially damaged have been removed.

This is in accordance with asbestos control policy, which

has to consider the risk of disturbance while removing the ACM. In the case of the undamaged doors, it was decided that there was a greater chance of releasing asbestos fibres if they were removed.

The School's asbestos register has been updated to include the remaining fire-doors and the risk of casual disturbance of the panels has been declared minimal.

An LSE spokesperson said: "There was an incident in June last year when a small amount of asbestos was discovered as part of the infill between some door panels in the Peacock Theatre. The discovery was made by a member of maintenance staff installing a vent in a door. The member of staff

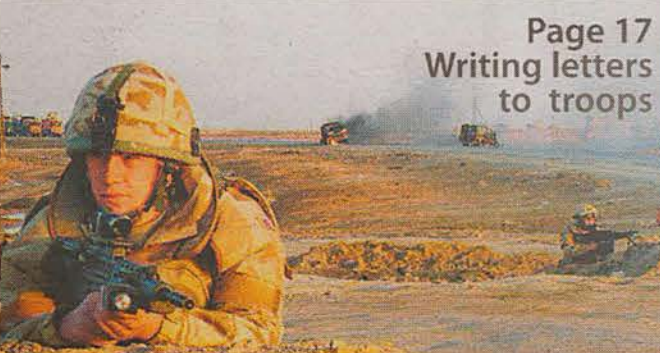
immediately stopped work, followed the School's asbestos management procedures and the area was made safe immediately. The Health and Safety Committee, which includes four student representatives, Estates staff and others, received a report about the incident at its next meeting, and noted the report and the action taken. The School's Asbestos Management Plan is regularly reviewed and is being updated, following recent legislative changes. There is no issue with exposed asbestos on campus at all."

There are ACMs in many areas of the Peacock Theatre, particularly in the 'void' above the auditorium. However, most of these locations - such as the

plant room - are far removed from areas frequented by students and the ACMs themselves are kept under lock and key.

The School's Asbestos Policy encourages awareness of possible ACMs and vigilance on the part of all staff and students. Exposure to asbestos can cause asbestosis or lung scarring that leads to breathing problems and possibly heart failure. Lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest and abdomen lining is also a risk. Any suspicious panels or exposed fibrous material should be reported immediately to the School's Asbestos Manager, Emma Lovegrove, or to the Health and Safety department.

Features: Letter-writing campaign



Page 17
Writing letters
to troops

Sports: Karate



Page 23
Getting
unfriendly

Part B: Gerald Scarfe Interview



NEWS

4 DRINKING WATER UNSAFE AT LSE

5 LSE ACTIVISTS ATTEND ANTI-WAR PROTEST

6 ELECTION SEASON BEGINS

LSE report on council housing; Union concerns over privatisation; SU plans for online voting system; LSE has highest paid union leaders

In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

V-Cs' 7.9% pay rise is twice that of staff's

The salaries of university chiefs rose by more than twice that of academic staff in 2005-06, according to The Times Higher's exclusive annual vice-chancellors' pay survey.

Vice-chancellors earned an average of 7.9 per cent more in 2005-06 than in 2004-05, according to an analysis of official figures for vice-chancellor pay published by universities.

EducationGuardian

Audit office criticises spiralling cost of academies

The prime minister's flagship academies programme is raising attainment levels in deprived areas - but at huge cost, a National Audit Office report said today.

Two thirds (17 out of 26) of the first academy buildings have suffered cost overruns averaging £3m (the other nine were within their original budgets), and academies have cost an average of £24m each, which makes them more expensive than other secondary schools, noted the NAO.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Varsity Streeting hangs CUSU out to dry

Former CUSU President Wes Streeting has been accused of "betraying" former student union by current Exec members after changing his stance on the inclusion of Cambridge students in the National Student Survey (NSS). Streeting, who initiated the CUSU boycott of the survey while President in 2004-5, went before the Common's Education Select Committee on Monday February 19 and accused the CUSU policy of "perpetuating the old school tie and secret handshake" and "doing themselves no favours".

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Cherwell College plunged into turmoil as staff axed

Financial problems have forced St Peter's to eliminate a number of key staff positions.

The head porter, the catering manager and the Senior Common Room butler have been asked to leave by the College in a move to balance its budget.

Staff have described how the cutbacks have destroyed morale and students are outraged at changes they believe will have serious effects on the life of the College.

Picture of the week



Photograph: Andreas Koester

Please send your submissions for 'Picture of the Week' to photos@thebeaveronline.co.uk to be featured here

READER OF THE WEEK



If this is you, email secretary@thebeaveronline.co.uk for your prize

The present LSE Students' Union (SU) Sabbatical officers Rishi Madlani and Natalie Black have received mixed reviews regarding their performance over the past year.

Thumbnail image of the Beaver magazine cover featuring 'The Future of Our Union' and 'Sabb review 2005-06'.

This year's Students' Union (SU) Lent term elections are proving to be some of the most exciting and intriguing to date. Since nominations closed on Wednesday, there has been widespread campaigning, with candidates presenting their policies at six separate hustings, posters placed across the School and emails sent to societies in order to receive their backing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Northumberland elevator escapade

Two LSE students trapped in a lift at Northumberland residence in the early morning hours of 13 February called the London Fire Brigade after security guards refused.

Dominic Rampat and Shane Garvin, the two trapped students, pressed the emergency alarm and security guards told them that help was on the way, but it appeared that security were unable to make contact with the engineer they were trying to call.

Rampat tried to call the LFB but was unable to get a wireless signal for his mobile phone. One of the security guards informed Rampat that it was not standard protocol to call the LFB in the situation.

Security guards were able to pry the door open a few inches, after which Rampat was able to get some reception on mobile phone. He called the LFB but lost the connection signal, and the LFB subsequently arrived prepared to handle a range of situations.

Sex in Senate House Library

The student newspaper of UCL revealed that the Senate House library, the main library of the University of London, is used as a meeting place for members of a sexually explicit website for gay men looking for sex.

The page dedicated to the library on the website, which is subtly named 'Squirt', has been viewed more than 1,500 times.

In emails revealed to the UCL newspaper, it was suggested that a particular website user, who has said "I work in the library upstairs", may have had sex with students on university premises, but this has not been verified.

In one email, the sender said, "There's a few places to go up here - toilets in basement around five usually."

When confronted, the library staff member vehemently denied having solicited sex in the library, though the emails were sent from his account.

Harvard elects first female chief

Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts has elected the first female president in its 371 year history.

Drew Gilpin Faust, a historian specialising in the American South and the Civil War, has been the dean of Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study since 2001.

Her predecessor as Harvard President, Lawrence Summers, formerly served as secretary of US Treasury.

Summers resigned last spring amid controversy and accusations from the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences about his public remarks.

Faust is the first President to be chosen from within the university since Derek Bok, former dean of Harvard Law School.

THIS WEEK IN 2006

£12,000 raise for Davies

■ LSE DIRECTOR 14TH HIGHEST PAID VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE UK AT £226,000

■ NATIONAL AVERAGE UP 7.9% FROM £153,061 TO £165,105

Laura Deck
News Editor

LSE Director Howard Davies is the 14th highest paid vice-chancellor in the UK, with a salary of £226,000 in 2005-06.

Davies had a 5.6 percent increase between 2004-05 and 2005-06. He also had a pension contribution of £29,000.

The average pay package nationwide increased from

“ [Large salaries can] exacerbate tensions that too often exist between faculty and administration

Derek Bok
Former Harvard
President

£153,061 in 2004-05 to £165,105 in 2005-06, representing a 7.9 percent rise.

Several universities have recently argued in favour of the current average salaries of

vice-chancellors due to the necessity to compete with the corporate sector and maintain high-profile leadership.

Davies is a prominent figure in both the public and private sectors. He was formerly the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority and has numerous other directorships in the corporate sector. In 2004, he joined the board of Morgan Stanley as a non-executive director.

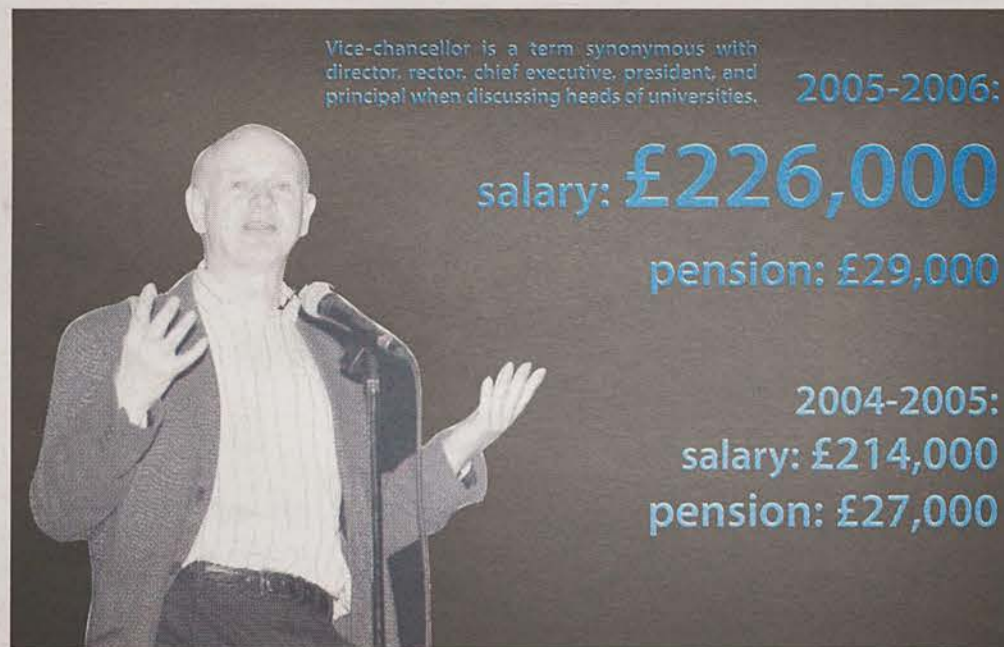
The *Times Higher Education Supplement* (THES) conducted a survey of vice-chancellors' pay and found that the average pay increased by more than £12,000, including benefits but excluding employer pension contributions.

THES also reported that large pension contributions for vice-chancellors are on the rise, either as annual or 'one-off' payments. Davies' pension contribution was £27,000 in 2004-05, and £29,000 in 2005-06.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Michael Sterling, received a pension contribution of £126,000 in 2005-06. He is also the third-highest paid vice-chancellor with a salary of £250,000.

Russell Group universities, a group of high-profile research institutions in the UK that includes the LSE, is often compared to the US Ivy League and had the highest paid vice-chancellors.

The Russell Group vice-chancellors were paid an average of £217,927 in 2005-06,



indicating an 8.2 percent increase.

Laura Tyson, former director of the London Business School, had the highest salary, with £322,000. Imperial College London Rector Sir Richard Sykes followed Tyson with a salary of £290,000.

Derek Bok, former President of Harvard University, has argued that large salaries for university chiefs can "exacerbate tensions that too often exist between faculty and administration."

UK universities have defended increases in vice-chancellors' pay by arguing

Salaries for high-profile public positions:

Head of Transport for London
Bob Kiley earns
£1,146,425

Head of Royal Mail
Adam Crozier earns
£1,038,000

Head of BBC
Mark Thompson
earns £619,000

Metropolitan Police
Commissioner
Sir Ian Blair
earns £210,000

Prime Minister
Tony Blair makes
£187,677

that it reflects the high quality of the performance of vice-chancellors and their contributions to the universities.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England said that it did not have the power to influence vice-chancellors' salaries or pension contributions.

A spokesperson for Universities UK said: "This year's average remuneration level for vice-chancellors is much lower than the average gross pay of directors and chief executives of major organizations."



Union Jack

TAMPON'S TIME IS SOON UP AS MASS-DEBATER CONTINUES TIRADE

A full hour in the Old Theatre and Jack emerged squeaky clean, having surfaced from beneath glorious showers of saliva. Generous helpings from the likes of Green "Hit-and-Run" Ken and the rest of the executive aspirants, sugar-coated with sweet-nothing promises and delicate commitments. The smooth operator parade produced several men of the hour, while other nameless few probably should use this campaign to prepare for elections '08.

Unfortunate as it is, our flabbergasted four are the only viable targets in Jack's sights this week. With Jack's lip zipped up by foul election regulations, Jack shall bore you with further melodramatics of the mass-debating Dewj bag. Perhaps our dear Miskommunications officer took a leaf from the page of a Chinese proverb guide when he cursed at the locust tree while pointing at the mulberry tree. His thinly-veiled assault on his media groupies made while directing a general question towards the four miscommunication hopefuls can perhaps be euphemistically described as "out-of-line". But if Jack has anything to say about it - it was totally in character!

Jack spies with his little eye, and spots Kreepy Krebbers drowned in the crowd. Why isn't the Flamboyant Dutchman on stage, declaring his nightly wish to take over the world? This amazing turn of events has left Jack in bewilderment. The astounding numbers on Facebook watch (pushing 900 the last time Jack noticed) rather disappointingly, revealed not a gargantuan political hunger but perhaps a deep-seated insecurity that can only be mended by a earth-shattering, ego-boosting friend count. Or maybe Jack is being mean, and Kreepy Krebbers does have 900 numbers in his phone and 900 cards to post every Christmas holidays. The jury is still out.

While the glorious oratory spouted forth from Green "I-ran-for-GenSec-for-the-hell-of-it" Ken, Jack could not miss the incessant jibes directed back towards a forlorn figure that sat behind him. Jimboidee Tampon might have been busy with his dissertation on the public-speaking skills of SU hacks, but surely he could not fail to sense the fiery passion emanating from centre stage. Envious he must have been, for if he himself had possessed such ardent fervour, the unfulfilled promises of yesteryear would never have been. Alas, consigned to the stage corner, Tampon probably recognised that his 15 minutes is fast becoming a memory.

Academic staff salaries up 3%

■ LABOUR FORCE SURVEY SUGGESTS TEACHERS AND LECTURERS WORK MORE THAN 11 HOURS OF OVERTIME A WEEK

Laura Deck
News Editor

While vice-chancellors' salaries increased by an average of 7.9 percent, academic staff salaries increased by only three percent.

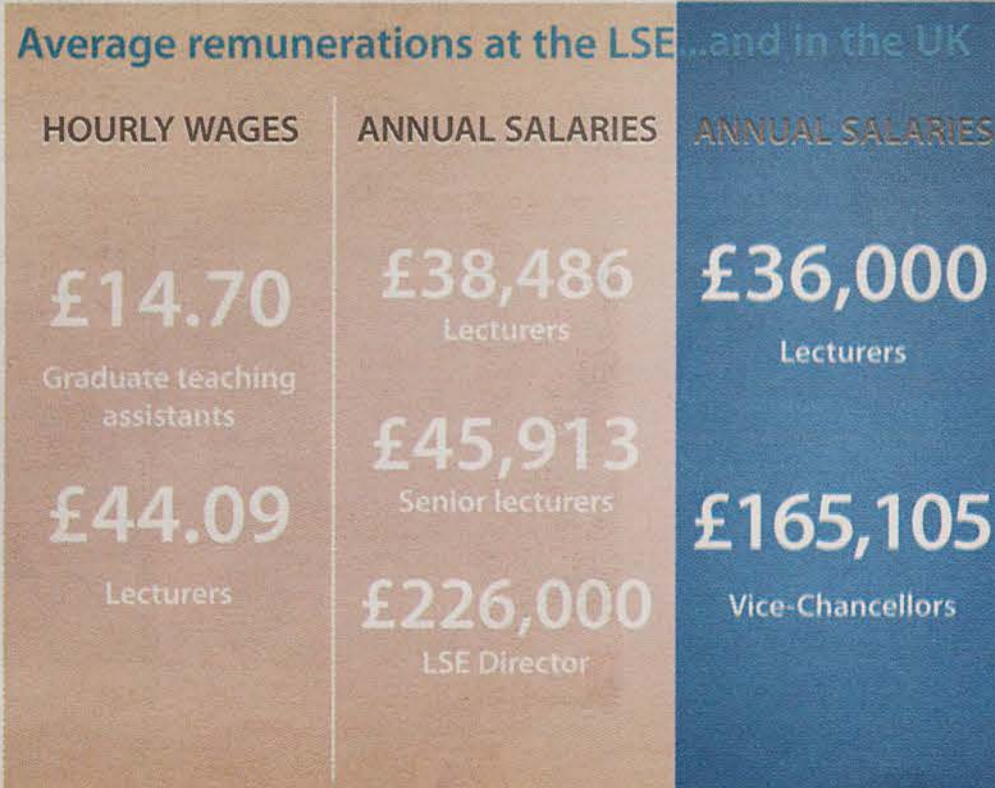
The Trades Union Congress (TUC) recently concluded from a Labour Force Survey that lecturers and teachers usually work more than 11 hours of unpaid overtime every week.

The TUC estimated that teachers would make an extra £10,000 per year if they were paid for their overtime working hours.

The *Guardian* newspaper reported that teachers and lecturers work one hour longer than the senior officers in the fire, police and armed services, the next busiest professional group in terms of overtime working hours.

The General Secretary of the University and College Union (UCU) Sally Hunt said, "What we really need is a recognition by universities and colleges that we cannot build a world-class education sector on the exploitation of staff."

Hunt said that she was unsurprised that higher education professionals were working extra hours to complete their duties, given increases in



class sizes, competition and bureaucracy.

Last year the Association of University Teachers (AUT), which is associated with UCU, called for a strike that disrupted some Summer Term exami-

nations at the LSE.

The AUT reached an agreement with employers in July 2006 which would increase academic and other related staff salaries over the next two years.

After the agreement was reached, which 71 percent of members voted in favour of, Hunt said that it was "a solid first step towards restoring pay levels in our universities to those of comparable profes-

sions". She added that employers should expect additional claims in 2008-09.

Since the AUT negotiations, salaried lecturers and research fellows at the LSE are paid between £35,662 and £41,310 a year. Senior lecturers and research fellows are paid between £42,543 and £49,282.

The standard teaching rate at the LSE for guest teachers and graduate teaching assistants starts at £14.70 per hour. The rate for lectures starts at £44.09 per hour. The hourly rates apply to casual staff working irregular hours, while staff working regular hours have annual salaries.

The THES noted that "universities receive large amounts of public cash, but they are not centrally directed" and that a few thousand pounds added to a vice-chancellor's pay could be used elsewhere in universities.

Derek Bok, the former President of Harvard University, argued in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* newsletter in 2002 that "The influence of money is already too strong on many campuses, distorting priorities, distracting faculty members, and eroding academic values."

Lecturers in the UK have an average salary of £36,000 per year, while vice-chancellors average £165,105 per year.

Safe drinking water scarce at LSE and in halls

Peter Barton
Senior Reporter

Limited availability of drinking water on the LSE campus and in halls of residence has raised concerns about the sustainability of the School in light of recent efforts towards more environmentally friendly policies.

Many students buy bottled water on campus due to the shortage of drinking water outlets. In halls of residence, students are often unaware that they are drinking unsafe water from taps.

A recent survey on drinking water outlets at the LSE found that there are 30 water fountains on campus. The School is planning to install more.

LSE Students' Union (SU) Treasurer Joel Kenrick has voiced concerns about the environmental sustainability of the LSE campus and the money wasted by students buying bottled water.

Kenrick said, "[The SU] and the School have a commitment to move away from bottled water to the use of filtered water."

The SU shop has started stocking bio-degradable water bottles.

Water by-laws and workplace regulations require buildings to have acceptable drinking water outlets for employees.

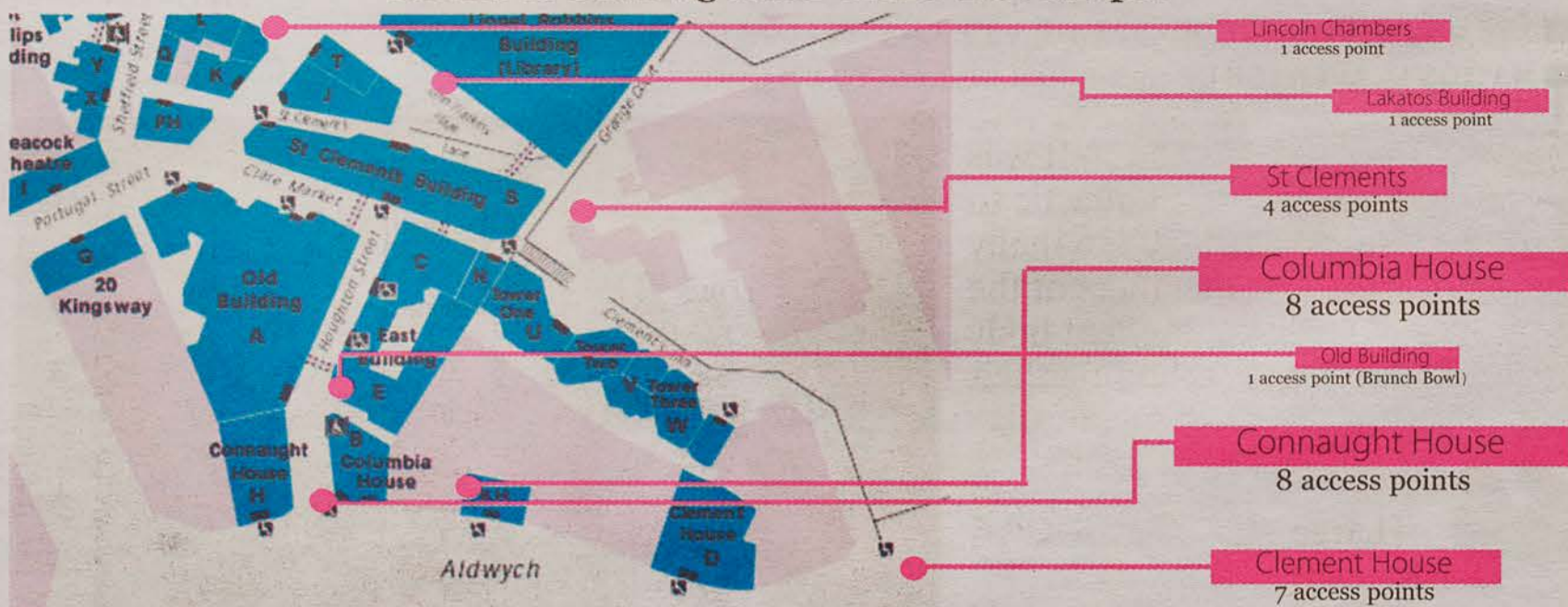
The School complies with these regulations. However,

there is no requirement for student access. Academic institutions are only required to have enough access for employees.

Many water taps in LSE buildings and halls of residence do not meet drinking water standards.

The School is making moves to improve the situation in response to pressure from the SU to reduce environmental waste from plastic bottles.

Access to drinking water on the LSE campus



*Access point: any source of drinking water, including water fountains and taps in toilets and kitchens

Two additional water outlets are to be installed at the LSE by the start of the Summer Term. The School has also agreed to place drinking water outlets in all new buildings.

Kenrick said that it was good that the School was responding to students' demands.

Currently, seven buildings have access to drinking water for students.

Drinking water in LSE halls of residence is accessible, but many students are unknowingly drinking unsafe water from taps. This is due to a lack of information in some halls. At the beginning of the year, many students were not warned about the unsafe water in individual rooms' taps.

Some halls keep large water tanks on the roof to maintain water pressure, but

because these are not pressure sealed and are left for long periods of time, the water is not safe for drinking. This water supplies taps in rooms and bathrooms.

In Passfield Hall, there are no taps that deliver healthy drinking water, while in Carr-Saunders Hall only the water in the kitchens is drinkable.

In neither residence have students been clearly warned

not to drink the tap water.

In most halls, all of the tap water, including the drinking water, has high mineral content. Hard water is a problem in many parts of London and is caused by a high level of calcium in the water. In excess it can be damaging to health and in smaller quantities it causes skin to dry out and sore throats.

Red tape restricts postering

The author is an election candidate

The LSE Students' Union (SU) has decided on a new set of rules and restrictions for the application and removal of posters following controversy in recent weeks.

The SU has decided that putting up posters will now be subject to constraints on where

they can be placed and when they can be taken down.

Several SU societies had complained that their posters had been prematurely removed, causing them to lose opportunities to publicise their events on Houghton Street.

School staff, unaware of any regulations for the posters, tended to remove the posters at their discretion.

The large amounts of paper used on Houghton Street have

also prompted environmental concerns from both the School and the SU.

Part of the new rules state that posters can now only be placed along the length of Houghton Street, and must have the words 'LSE' or 'LSE SU' on them. Whenever any event is taking place, SU societies are obliged to refer to themselves as a specific 'LSESU' society.

SU Societies Officer Arthur Krebbers said that he was "extremely pleased that we have managed to come to an agreement with the School on a consistent postering policy. I have received a lot of complaints from societies about this issue, who have found School staff unaware of any regulation and thus randomly taking down their posters. This is obviously a waste of society time, energy and resources, and detrimental to the environment."

The School is hoping that the new rules will be fairer and more transparent for stewards who must enforce the rules.

The School also said that they hope the new rules will help smaller societies with a lower budget for publicity.

New methods of advertising are also being researched by SU societies. Special notice boards are being considered as a new advertising method on Houghton Street.

There have also been discussions of placing television screens along Houghton Street, in an attempt to remove the environmental concerns of paper waste.

This week's SU elections will also generate paper waste from fliers and posters. Candidates can put posters on noticeboards, but not on the buildings on Houghton Street.

Snow says fees stifle student activism

Erica Gornall
Senior Reporter

Award-winning news presenter Jon Snow argued that student activism is being limited by the pressures on students to live up to high expectations of a more expensive degree created by rising fees.

Snow spoke at an event last week organised by the LSE Students' Union (SU) Question Time Society, which has hosted both panel debates and individual speakers in past years.

Snow discussed his own student days, where his activism at Liverpool University led to his expulsion.

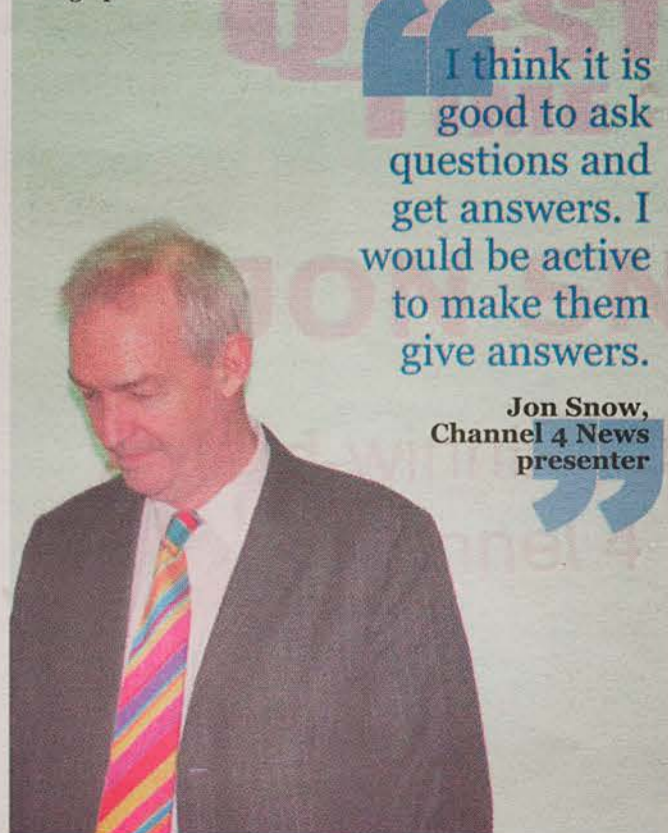
He said that he still believes that activism is necessary for a healthy student body: "I think it is good to ask questions and to get answers. I would be active to make them give answers."

Snow also discussed his move into journalism. He highlighted the difficulties in getting jobs at the end of a university education: "In my day you could go into the workplace and know that a job was there. It is different now."

The increase of financial responsibility for students is seen by Snow as restricting activism within universities. He said that students feel they have to live up to the pressure placed on them by the financial investments undertaken by parents or the students themselves.

Snow's argument was particularly relevant in light of recent student direct action on

Photograph: Erica Gornall



I think it is good to ask questions and get answers. I would be active to make them give answers.

Jon Snow, Channel 4 News presenter

representatives on the Court of Governors for greater student consultation on School appointments.

Last term, students participated in a controversial sit-in protest in the Old Theatre, which prevented Peter Sutherland, the incoming Chair of the LSE Council, from speaking.

There have been recent calls from members of the SU Executive and student repre-

sentatives on the Court of Governors for greater student consultation on School appointments.

Talking about accessibility to university, Snow said, "I think that the danger is that you will get an elite system that those that can afford, or can find the jobs to sustain coming to university will come to university. And the people that can't just won't."



Many are concerned by the large amounts of paper waste created from postering on Houghton Street

LSE activists join anti-war demo

Laura Deck
Johannes Opfermann

Lindsay German of the national Stop the War Coalition said that many feel

“It was fantastic to see so many members of the student body spending their Saturday protesting against unnecessary weapon replacements and bloody and illegal wars. This show of strength by the anti-war movement is a positive step in opposing future wars and weapon replacement.”

SU Executive Officer

that the government is “addicted to war”.

German added that she was not placated by Prime Minister Tony Blair's recent announcement that 1,600 British troops would return home from Iraq in the next few months: “Whether 2,000 troops come home this year or not, it is too little too late and we must



Up to 200 LSE students participated in the anti-war protest on Saturday in Trafalgar Square

intensify our call for all troops to be withdrawn and for Britain to break links with the Bush Administration's foreign policy.”

Speakers at the rally inclu-

ded relatives of soldiers killed in Iraq, Caroline Lucas MEP, and Stop the War Coalition President Tony Benn, who said he was “not protesting against war and Trident replacement,

but demanding that troops are brought home and Trident is abandoned.”

George Galloway MP asked demonstrators to “vote for peace” by purchasing a cover of

Photograph: Jess Cartwright

the Edwin Starr song “War (What Is It Good For?)” by text-message. Galloway told protesters “Put your phone in the air. Let's get this to number one a send a clear message to Tony Blair.” Galloway was later seen dancing to a performance of the song.

Military families and relatives of soldiers killed or serving in Iraq came to 10 Downing Street on the day before the protest and delivered a letter to the Prime Minister asking for troops to be withdrawn from Iraq.

The LSE SU Stop the War Coalition Society made a banner on Houghton Street last week as part of their promotion of the demonstration. LSE students were invited to add their own anti-war messages. By the end of the week, approximately 150 messages and signatures in 30 different languages were on the banner.

The Metropolitan Police estimated that between 10,000 people maximum took part in protest, while the Stop the War Coalition estimated that at the most 100,000 people participated.

In Glasgow a concurrent protest was held in George Square for a “Bin the Bomb Anti-Trident Rally”.

LSE report: council housing causes class divide, extremism

The author is an election candidate

An independent review commissioned by the government and performed by an LSE professor is calling for major reforms of council estates and serious debate on the character of social housing in the UK.

The report, called *Ends and Means: The Future Roles of Social Housing in England* is by Professor John Hills of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) at the LSE.

The CASE report looked at how social housing, which is provided by councils and not-for-profit housing associations, performs against its key objectives.

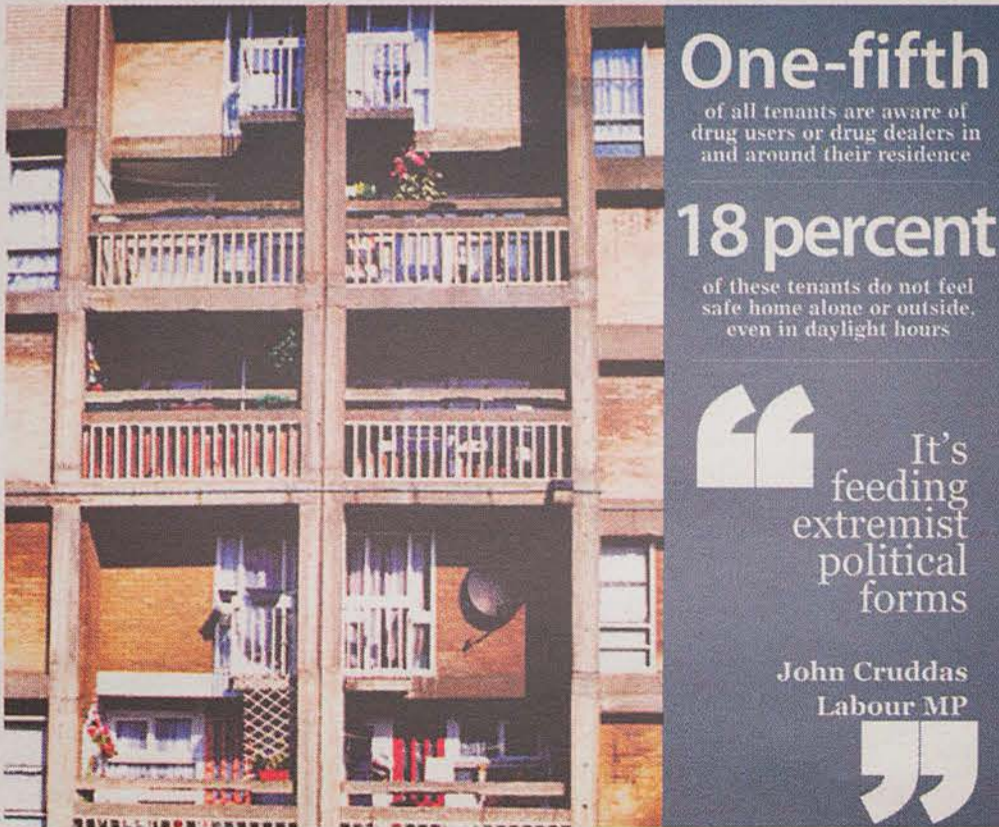
Hill argues that while such housing performs a “crucial role” in the lives of almost four million households, its full potential is not realized.

Concerns have also been raised by the Government that the deficiencies of social housing are increasing crime and leading to political radicalism.

More than one-fifth of tenants on traditional council estates are aware of drug users or drug dealers near and around their residences, and 18 percent of these tenants do not feel safe at home when alone, or outside, even in daylight hours.

In the report, Hills calls for an end to a system where “rich people live on one side of the tracks and poor people on the other side of the tracks.”

As a result, the poor quality of life amongst tenants in social housing, and a distinct lack of housing places has enabled political parties such as the British National Party to capitalise on what the Industry



Minister Margaret Hodge has called the abandonment of the white working class by mainstream parties.

Hills' report encouraged mixed communities in social housing which would prevent “social polarisation between areas”. Hill also said that housing and support problems needed to be dealt with together and not as separate issues.

Other recommendations included: tenants should be given a greater voice in how social housing is run, better housing support and support for finding jobs should be provided, and social housing ten-

ants should be able to move locations to be closer to their place of work.

Many fear that the effect of living in such estates is more damaging than is understood.

Labour MP John Cruddas described the scarcity of affordable housing to the Press Association as “becoming racialised because of a lack of supply. It's feeding extremist political forms.”

Communities and Local Government Secretary Ruth Kelly, who launched the LSE report at an event in the Old Theatre, said that progress has been made in improving social

housing over last ten years but there was more to be done.

Kelly said, “The Hills review confronts us with other challenges: how can social housing be even better at achieving the twin goals of providing support to those who most need it while also equipping people to progress and get on with their lives? This report marks the start of that debate.”

While some say that the report proves that the last decade of Labour's housing policy has failed, social housing rents have remained affordable while housing prices in the UK have doubled.

Privatisation provokes reputation concerns

The author is an election candidate

Continued concerns over university privatisation have been expressed by UK academics who have argued that increased privatisation of universities could harm the international reputation of Britain.

The University and College Union (UCU) polled more than 2300 people through YouGov, where it was discovered that over two thirds of people thought that Britain's education reputation would be damaged because of privatisation, or the increase in involvement of private firms in UK. Around one in three wanted a decrease in involvement.

The UCU said that the poll was a reaction to a complaint against a private job advertisement for a centre director at the University of Exeter in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* in January that had been described as a ‘university-led’ initiative (which was considered to be misleading). The UCU is concerned over the fact that universities are becoming less of a public good and more of an “earning environment for privateers”.

Sally Hunt, UCU joint General Secretary stated that “Private companies that view our universities as cash cows should think again. The public is opposed to them being milked for profit and we are concerned that misleading information may dupe students into paying for a service that is simply not up to scratch.”

This comes on top of worries that university standards may fall in the future. Around half of the public think that the standard will fall, while three-fifths think that Britain's high-

er education reputation will be harmed abroad. The public are generally against any further involvement of private firms in UK universities.

There are also concerns that there are fewer and fewer students going into further education – there is a fear that there could be as much as 500,000 fewer school-leavers

“Private companies that view our universities as cash cows should think again”

Sally Hunt
UCU Joint General Secretary

by 2017.

University sector experts are considering concentrating more on non-traditional and older learners in order to keep Britain competitive, and hope that British universities may ultimately have the size and clout to compete with bigger US Ivy League institutions.

However, universities are currently enjoying soaring numbers of overseas students, which many argue is cause for optimism and reflects an important way for British universities to continue to attract students.

For details on candidates & manifestos turn to The Beaver's Election Pullout in this issue

GenSec candidate drops out Photos banned for UCU elections

CURRENT SU TREASURER ATTEMPTS TO ENCOURAGE DEBATE IN GENSEC RACE

Rajan Patel
Senior Reporter

Lent Term elections for the LSE Students' Union (SU) began last Thursday as hustings took place at the Union General Meeting (UGM), with candidates for sabbatical positions addressing the audience.

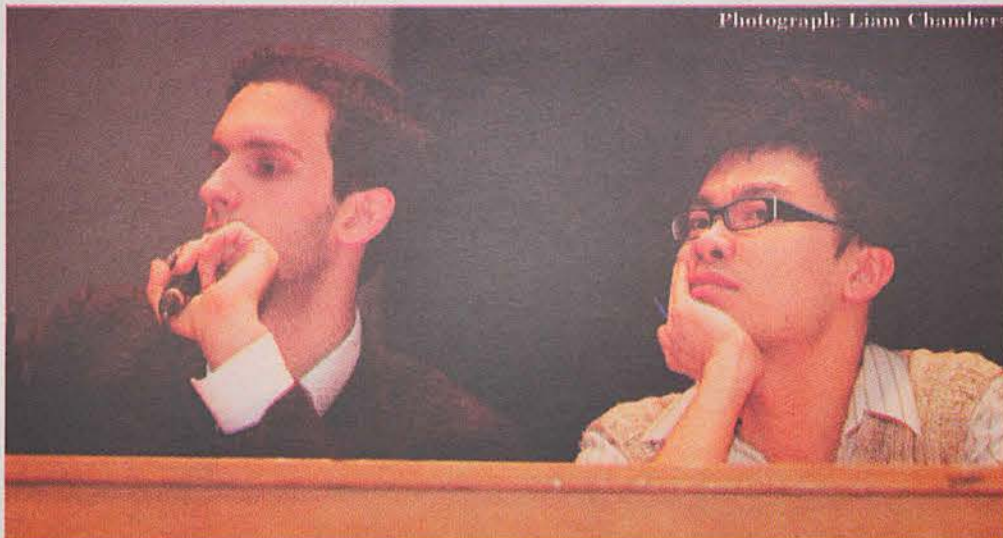
Students contesting positions on the Executive Committee spoke at a second hustings held on Friday afternoon in the Quad.

The position of SU General Secretary is being contested by Zoe Sullivan and Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, after current SU Treasurer Joel Kenrick withdrew his nomination for the position after hustings at the UGM.

Rumours had been circulating that Kenrick was considering a run however he had continually denied any ambition to remain a sabbatical officer for another year.

Even members of Kenrick's inner-circle were surprised on Wednesday night when the Returning Officer reported that Kenrick had handed in a nomination for General Secretary.

On Thursday evening, Kenrick announced his withdrawal from the race. In a message to close friends and supporters Kenrick said: "I have been humbled by the amount of support and enthusiasm that I



Photograph: Liam Chambers

SU Returning Officer and General Secretary controlled their excitement at UGM hustings

have received in the last 24 hours. I would like to thank you for your belief in a Union that reclaims the great tradition of LSE, and which is unafraid to tackle the important issues that face us, or the imposing characters that oppose us. It is my sincere hope that my actions may have in a small way encouraged others to feel emboldened in the year ahead."

It was suspected that Kenrick intended to run in order to push the other two candidates, with less experience, to speak out on issues such as university governance, where the School and the SU

have at times had opposing views.

At present, sabbatical positions are contested with four candidates for the post of Communications Officer, three for Treasurer, two for Education and Welfare Officer and two for General Secretary.

The Lent Term elections at the LSE SU have a particular significance with extensive campaigns conducted by all candidates. Candidates have an election budget and informal campaign managers and teams which plan for the candidate's street campaign and general strategy. Stringent rules and codes of practice are monitored

by the Returning Officer, an elected member of the SU Executive. The voter turnout is one of the highest in the country.

This year's elections will also see a student consultation on the reappointment of LSE Director Howard Davies, in the form of a vote on Davies.

Campaigning will continue this week around campus, while LSE halls of residence will also stage hustings. Candidates' street campaigning will begin closer to the opening of polls on Wednesday 28 February. The count will take place on Thursday night.

Ali Moussavi
News Editor

The University and College Union (UCU) has banned photographs of candidates for the Union's upcoming elections in order to prevent voters from being influenced by the candidates' looks over their policies.

The new rules will affect 100 candidates who are running for elected positions in the UCU. The Union has argued that this new policy is not unique and many other elections have similar rules for election materials.

UCU Equality Officer Kate Heasman said: "Photos are a distraction and we should not be basing decisions on how people look."

However, other members described the move as "complete nonsense" suggesting that the UCU was being too sensitive.

Fawzi Ibrahim, who is standing for election argued that the UCU is "out of touch with reality".

He said to the *Times Higher Education Supplement (THES)*: "Not publishing the photographs is an insult to members who, it seems, cannot be trusted to make a proper judgment."

Ibrahim also argued that the new policy caused inconvenience to voters who know

the candidates by face. Roger Kline, who is running for position of UCU General Secretary, said: "I hope UCU members will choose can-

Photos are a distraction and we should not be basing decisions on how people look.

Kate Heasman
UCU Equality Officer

didates on the basis of their policies and track record. Every member has seen the candidates' pictures in the Union journal last month. I am entirely agnostic on the use of photos in the GS election. The real test for members should be track record. Past performance is a pretty good guide to future performance for trade union officials. Photos don't really come into it."

Online voting system planned

The author is an election candidate

Plans to introduce a system of online voting for the LSE Students' Union (SU) elections have been put forward by the SU Returning Officer Adrian Beciri.

Official online voting will not be functional in time for Lent Term elections due to a number of problems caused by the complexity of the programming.

However, following advice from the Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S), Beciri hopes to implement electronic voting in the Quad on Wednesday and Thursday, alongside paper ballots, to enable students to gain an understanding of the system.

The aim of the system is to increase voter turnout by making it possible for people to log in to the system and vote from outside the Quad. The software has had to cope with the intricacies of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system, which is used in SU elections.

Since Beciri's election pledge to introduce online voting, he has been working on an entirely new system with a team of professional developers and programmers.

Beciri told *The Beaver* that online voting in the Quad will "only happen if I am 100 per-

cent confident about the solubility of the results," and a "hard copy database" will be provided in case of any problems.

How do you campaign? What breaches election regulations? The use of websites and e-mail becomes more serious

A member of C&S

A previous trial, from committee elections in Rosebery Hall was useful, said one resident, but "the election was not heavily contested, [and] it wasn't really the right time to try it."

The software is designed to emulate the paper ballot as closely as possible. It is, Beciri said, a "unique application. We can facilitate paper and online

voting at the same time. We can prevent people [voting twice]."

SU General Secretary Jimmy Tam has expressed an interest in the commercial value of the program, which could potentially be used not only by SU societies but also by other universities and Students' Unions. It can also be used for student consultation in School appointments.

There are also constitutional problems preventing the implementation of online voting during the current elections. One member of C&S said that "the Returning Officer must check ID cards, and this can't be done if the voter is elsewhere."

The same C&S member added: "I don't quite see the benefits. It complicates issues, is unconstitutional and causes "a radically different election environment. How do you campaign? What breaches election regulations? The use of websites and e-mail becomes more serious."

Another member of C&S, told *The Beaver* that it was more a question of "making the fairly complex STV system - the most democratic means of voting - work."

"I would be surprised if there wasn't some form of e-voting" at the coming elections, although this person stressed the importance of hard-copy backups in case of a repeat of the blackout, or other unforeseen problem.

The highest paid Sabbs

The author is an election candidate

The LSE Students' Union's (SU) Sabbatical Officers are the highest paid in the country.

The news comes after all the candidates for General Secretary in the upcoming Lent Term elections backtracked from commitments to taking a wage cut to fund a 'Sabbatical Scholarship'.

The SU's four Sabbatical Officers, who are charged with the running of the Union, are currently paid £23,623 per year. They earn £8,000 more than sabbaticals at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and significantly more than sabbaticals at other London Universities.

During the sabbatical election hustings at last week's Union General Meeting (UGM), a member of the audience

asked the General Secretary candidates if they would give up £1,000 of their wages in order to fund a 'Sabbatical Scholarship' for students experiencing financial difficulties.

While candidates seemed in favour of the idea, neither of the candidates pledged they would work towards creating a Sabbatical Scholarship.

Sabbatical Officers took a £3,000 pay cut last year, with the money going towards a newly installed line manager. The current officers are therefore paid less than those who served in the 2003/4 academic year.

Fadhil Bakeer-Marker, a candidate for LSE SU General Secretary, told *The Beaver*, "Every year they say cut sabbatical pay, when will they stop? I'd do it if it was essential, but I think we should be concentrating on raising more money for existing scholarships and funds from alumni."

Another General Secretary

candidate, Zoe Sullivan, said: "I fully intend to keep to my pledge that I made in the UGM hustings to take a pay cut and set up a Sabb bursary for international students... we should also be looking at other sources... such as departmental awards... alumni... and future employers."

SU Treasurer Joel Kenrick, who has since withdrawn from the race for General Secretary, refused to commit to a pay cut at hustings. Kenrick told *The Beaver*, "Living in Central London is very expensive and we need to attract the best candidates. We don't want to be in the same positions as other unions who suffer from poor management and uncontested elections. The salary is also lower than that of the average LSE graduate."

How LSE SU Sabbatical salaries compare across the UK:

LSE Officers: 4 Pay: £23,623	Cambridge Officers: 6 Pay: £15,500	Leeds Officers: 6 Pay: £14,900	Bristol Officers: 4 Pay: £14,000
Oxford Officers: 7 Pay: £15,500	UCL Officers: 6 Pay: £22,000	King's Officers: 4 Pay: £17,099	Bath Officers: 6 Pay: £11,500

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

A tolerant rule



Daniel Jason

Despite accusations of Apartheid and denunciations of the Israeli West Bank barrier, there are perhaps some virtues to Israeli governance

Spending winter-break over in the Holy Land and looking out over the snowy roof tops is for many something out of a dream. The entire city seemed to have a blanket of peacefulness spread over it, as people stopped their daily business to enjoy the snow. For others, this blanket of snow merely covers the craters of bombs. But it cannot hide the destroyed buildings, the entire sides of houses collapsed, not to mention the dying echo of those who perished in the last so-called "Lebanese War." For others, this was more something out of a nightmare than a dream.

I was standing in a city where Palestinians live in relative peace and security, where they live in solid buildings, have electricity and running water like you and I. Their children can go to good, decent schools and universities on a par with any in Israel and the west, opening their future to a colourful array of prospects. They have jobs, can vote, have equal opportunities and above all else, are treated as human beings.

This doesn't take place in

Nablus or Ramallah, nor any other Gaza or West Bank town, but a city to the north of Israel called Haifa, where Israelis and Palestinians live together peacefully. The bomb craters and destroyed buildings are the result of Hezbollah rockets and missiles, which rained down over Israeli-Palestinian cities like Haifa, regardless of who lived there. "We are Palestinians," says the head of the People's Council, "but we

Israel is more of a tolerant democracy than the world acknowledges

happen to live in Israel and have Israeli citizenship." The elected council is based in Wadi Nisnas and lobbies the Israeli national government for a separate Palestinian state. When asked if he would move to a newly created Palestinian state, he replied "No. I am a Palestinian, but I live in Israel. My home is here." The treatment of the Palestinians in Haifa stands in

stark contrast to Palestinians a short while away in nearby camps over the Israeli-Lebanese border. According to the UN Relief and Works Agency, Palestinians living in camps in Lebanon "suffer from serious problems...They do not have social and civil rights, and have very limited access to the government's public health or educational facilities and no access to public social services...Considered as foreigners, (they) are prohibited by law from working in more than 70 trades and professions."

The freedom and equality afforded to Palestinians living within Israel proper is not limited to Haifa as a showcase example, neither is the city by any means an exception. Israeli-Palestinians live in many towns across Israel, with the same freedoms any Israeli citizen can expect. But what of the anti-terrorist wall?

According to Jo Davis, Vice-President of the Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC), a foremost advisory body to the UN on terrorists, the "wall" is mainly just a fence. "97% is a simple wire fence;

the remaining 3% is actual concrete wall. The walls are only present in urban areas...to stop terrorists shooting into them...The aim of the fence is to delay a terrorist with wire-cutters by 15 minutes. [That time] will enable the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to catch a terrorist bomber before they infiltrate a city."

As well as pointing out that the fence is not electrified and that Saudi Arabia's barrier will include minefields, Davis said "The Saudi Arabian anti-terrorist barrier puts Israel's fence to shame." *The Independent* reported that the barrier between Saudi Arabia and Yemen will cover air, land and sea, include electronic detection equipment and may cost up to £4.58bn to construct.

In the face of such a construction, it's laughable. Israel's effective anti-terror fence is hailed as a concrete, apartheid wall.

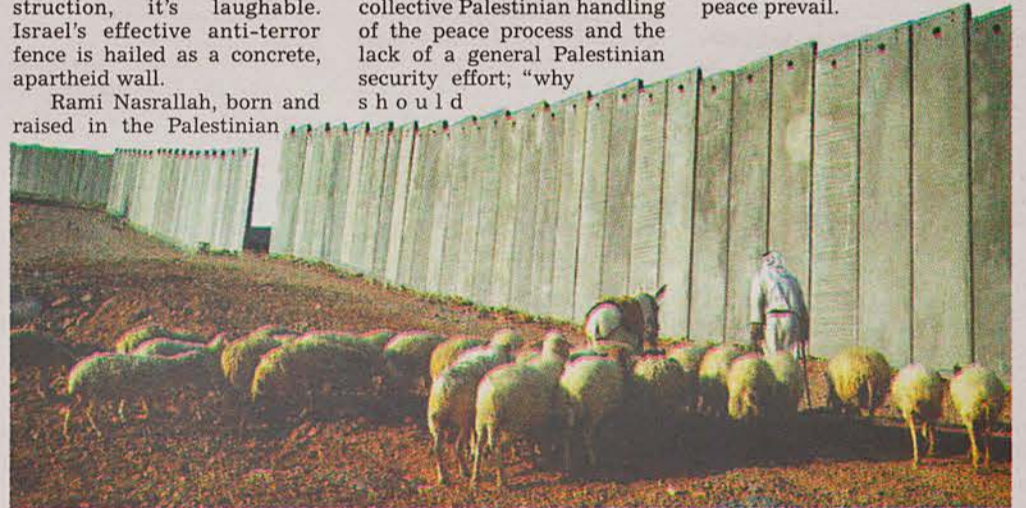
Rami Nasrallah, born and raised in the Palestinian

territories and now heading the International Peace Cooperation Centre, dispels any thoughts of apartheid feeling in Israel. "I see many Palestinian doctors in Israeli hospitals...Orthodox Jews ask specifically to be treated by Palestinians." With regards to education, his comments slam any academic ban on Israeli universities, as well as the UGM vote to block the amendments twinning LSE SU with an Israeli and Palestinian university. "I was educated at the Hebrew University (a top Jerusalem university). It is a very prestigious thing to study in Israeli universities...It is a weird decision by British academics to block Israeli academics...Palestinian universities have good relations with Hebrew academics."

Nasrallah criticised the collective Palestinian handling of the peace process and the lack of a general Palestinian security effort; "why should

Israel support peace if the Palestinians continue to fire rockets into Israel? There's no border (for Palestinians) between crime and nationalism..." He cites establishment of "rule of law and anti-corruption (measures)" within the West Bank and Gaza as some main issues to be addressed prior to securing a peace deal with Israel.

Israel is more of a tolerant democracy than the world acknowledges and a far cry from the corrupt policy makers of apartheid South Africa. Such comparisons merely serve to create unnecessary tensions instead of focusing our attentions on peace. Perhaps it is time for us to rethink attitudes of the past in an effort to secure peace: for only with international cooperation, can international peace prevail.



An iron curtain

The author is an election candidate

An internationally and domestically powerful Israel is in control of its destiny, but some think the same can hardly be said of the Palestinians

'We are a tiny nation surrounded by enemies that want to wipe us off the map.' 'Palestinian suicide bombers are the only obstacle for peace.' These are the two most common myths that Zionists make to justify their racist and murderous policies towards the Palestinians. These claims are supported by an extremely powerful 'Israel lobby' that reaches the heart of the American government and

determines most of the hawkish Western foreign policy in the Middle East.

The 'Israel lobby' is one of the main financiers of American political parties (\$40 million since 1978) and has a sophisticated propaganda machine that influences much of the 'official view' of the mainstream news agencies in the West. More recently for example, a mistranslation of alleged declarations of the Iranian president about Israel were left unchallenged by Western media and served to strengthen pro-Israel hawks. A fluent Farsi speaker would translate the now infamous

'wipe Israel off the map' quote as 'the regime occupying Jerusalem must vanish from the page of time' referring to the occupation of Palestine. Only *The Guardian* and a few others have so far dispelled the myth and very few seem to notice that Israel is the one that has 'wiped Palestine off the map'.

In January last year a member of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the main Israel lobby organisation in the US, was convicted for thirteen years on charges of espionage against the US government and for passing sensitive information to Israel about its policy towards Iran. When two American professors, Mearsheimer and Walt, wrote an academic piece criticizing the Israeli lobby and its efforts to distort American foreign policy, they were fiercely attacked and cen-

sured for their views whilst Harvard University swiftly distanced itself from the paper. Criticism of the Israeli state is off-limits and this is well reflected at the LSE when amateur Israel lobbyists fend off criticism through the diffusion of more Zionist myths.

Israel is by far the biggest military power in the region, spending almost 10% of its GDP or \$9 billion on military technology. Israel is also the

Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tutu and more recently the UN special envoy John Dugard, have all condemned Israel as an Apartheid state

biggest receiver of US 'foreign aid', having cashed in almost \$95 billion in direct aid at the expense of American tax payers. Israel holds stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, an advanced nuclear arsenal and an atomic bomb. So much for 'the myth of Israel as a poor defenceless state'. Ilan Pappé, one of the few Israeli academics that criticizes Israel's policies, says that domination through military might has been the policy of the Zionist regime well before the creation of the state in 1948. Ben Gurion, the first Israeli Prime Minister once said "The war will give us the land. The concept of 'ours' and 'not ours' are only concepts for peacetime,

and during war they lose all their meaning."

Today, the occupied Palestinian territories are part of Israel's long-term expansionist policies to achieve the vision of Eretz Yisra'el or the Greater Israel. These policies are pursued through settlement expansion, house demolition, mass expulsion and an illegal apartheid wall that make life unbearable in the Palestinian occupied territories. Soon after the 1967 war, the then-Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan said "we must understand the motives and causes of the continued emigration of the (Palestinian) Arabs, from both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and not to undermine these because after all, we want to create a new map." Israel's onslaught has seen no limits with violations over 70 UN resolutions, an appalling human rights record and the pursuit of murderous wars whilst maintaining the longest military occupation of modern history.

More recently, Israel apologists have orchestrated the myth of the suicide bomber. The 8-metre high concrete wall inside illegally occupied Palestinian territory has an alleged intent to hold back potential suicide attacks. Suicide bombings are deplorable and unjustifiable acts of indiscriminate murder derived from deep frustration. However, the Israel lobby seem to forget that the first Palestinian suicide bombing occurred in 1993, 45 years after the ethnic cleansing and

destruction of over four hundred Palestinian villages of historical Palestine and 26 years after the illegal 1967 occupation of the West Bank and Gaza strip. Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tutu and more recently the UN special envoy John Dugard, have all condemned Israel as an Apartheid state. Dugard, a highly respected South African professor of international law, has studied the South African Apartheid extensively and has compared it to Israeli policies calling the latter a form of 'controlled strangulation'.

Perhaps it is with no surprise that the Israel lobby have stepped up their efforts to discredit these facts. The wall was strategically built to annex the illegal extremist settlements of the West Bank and to confiscate vital Palestinian agricultural land and natural resources. Israel knows that by 2020 the Palestinian population between the Mediterranean sea and the river Jordan will outnumber the Jews and this 'demographic threat' is seen as the biggest obstacle to the existence of the Apartheid Jewish state. The ghetto-isation of Palestinian towns packs Palestinians in poverty stricken areas, restricting their natural growth and increasing their sense of hopelessness. Peace can only come when discrimination and racism is ruled out and when equal rights between Israelis and Palestinians are finally recognised. LSE students should be at the forefront in pursuing this goal.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Arts Week

Artistic affairs



Jennifer Sparks

The LSE, being a institution for economics and the social sciences, is neither renowned for its artistic output nor noted for its creativity. Occasionally, it's even mocked for the apparent lack thereof. This does not however mean that our campus has to be, or is, devoid of arts-related

Problem sets and essays do not lend themselves to artistic flair, but perhaps it is worth finding time for indulgence in the arts

Way back in 1895, or thereabouts, one of the founding members of our esteemed School expressed the sentiment that it should become "a centre not only of lectures on special subjects but an association of students who would be directed and supported in doing original work." Since then, the LSE has made its name distinct for original work in the field of social sciences in more or less the way envisioned by Sidney Webb. This has not been the case for original work in the arts. This is not because there isn't any occurring, but because the profile of arts-related events and societies here at the LSE is remarkably low and has not always been very well supported. We know all about the Athletics Union and we're all too familiar with the political stances on show here, but much of the hard and determined work done by arts societies frequently goes unnoticed.

This is due to three key causes: limited facilities, limited advertising, and perhaps fundamentally, the misconception that the arts and numbers are incompatible.

The first is due to past under-funding of facilities on campus, which the recently formed SU Arts Forum is fighting to correct in the future. The theatre space available here is still exceptionally small. There is no specific drama, visual arts or dance studio. The darkroom appears to have been boarded up. There are hardly any fiction books, let alone a fiction library (the Shaw Library does have a few). Societies are up against a number of restrictions that place boundaries on the development of activities and creative development.

Secondly, advertising space and funding is hard to come by. Faced with large societies with extensive advertising budgets and organised armies of poster-people, arts societies have struggled to find wall space on which to promote their interests with the limited printing-power available to them. Printing costs money, and for a number of societies this is acquired through sponsorship. In the past, arts societies have not received funding from companies such as KPMG or

Goldman Sachs, as such societies were often seen not to attract or target the appropriate groups of students - art and finance being incompatible, of course. Recently, such firms have taken far greater interest in funding arts societies, implying a change in the general attitude of such banks and consultancies. One can only hope that this will trickle down to future employees, thereby affecting the views of students as well. This change in attitude is linked to, and has perpetuated my final point, which is that many students do not believe that their studies and their ambitions to become shining lights in the world of social science graduates are compatible with the arts.

However, all is not lost. Not all students believe this horrendous lie. In an attempt to make both staff and students sit up and notice artistic activity on campus, the SU Arts Forum is hosting the first (in living memory, at least) SU Arts Week. This will be in week

9 and will include a range of interactive events that will take place between 12-2pm every day, not to mention concerts, an Opinions Collection Box installation (in the Quad), Speaker's Corner (have your rant) and of course, the Visual Arts Exhibition in Parish Hall (10-5pm, Tuesday-Friday). Look out for The Curious Beaver too. The forum will publish leaflets with information of all arts-related activities that will be happening on campus throughout the week.

As Sidney Webb himself pointed out, producing original work is the vision of an intellectual community that we ought to hold fast to. Artistic urges, curiosity, or even dabbling and experimentation, should not be suppressed or assumed unimportant and irrelevant. Having a go at something faintly 'arts-related' probably hasn't killed anyone yet, and is extremely unlikely to kill your degree. You never know, it might even benefit it. Or you. It's Arts Week next week: give it a go.

Artistic urges, curiosity, or even dabbling should not be suppressed or assumed unimportant or irrelevant

activities. In fact as both Tom Eshelby and Danny Newport have pointed out in other articles, there is a wealth of opportunity here, and those opportunities extend far beyond that of the reading list.

Baptism of fire



Tom Eshelby

I have followed the recent debate over the arts at the LSE in *The Beaver* with great interest. Perhaps I have been foolish in allowing so much time to pass before responding, but I felt articles in the C&A section responding to 'funding issues' were more than satisfactory replies. However, with so many arts events fast approaching I thought I would attempt to put the debate firmly to rest.

I was significantly confused by *The Beaver* article referring to the Drama Society's 'plight' in many ways. Firstly, the facts were wrong. The situation regarding the funding of 'Into The Woods' was completely different to the one reported. The Drama

Arts in the LSE may have suffered from criticism and lack of support, but with your support, its bid for revival can translate into reality

Society has received support in no less than three ways. The Old Theatre improvements and the Joint Budget funding were mentioned in a very good article by Ben Partridge. The third form of support was an application received by the Arts Advisory Group (the school committee responsible for the arts) within days of the article being published which has since been approved. As far as I understand it, the Drama Society does not support the sentiment of the article, so why was the Society used as its basis?

Secondly, my words were taken out of context to support a flawed argument. The Arts Advisory Group does wish to fund student and staff initia-

tives, but they wish to manage their funds in the most prudent fashion. This is a sentiment I fully agree with on the tested assumption that if a student initiative is good enough then the funding will be found and granted. During my interview for the piece, I mentioned that the story was a few years too late. There has been a fundamental change in thought within the Arts Advisory Group. Where it was once reactionary, it is now being more proactive and we are already experiencing a few of the benefits of this new approach. One such benefit is the appointment of Rothna Begum as the part-time Arts Co-ordinator. Rothna is (amongst other things) respon-

sible for the music and arts website, she has played a fundamental role in Arts Week and has organised many events and exhibitions in the Atrium including the photography competition. Also, the school is helping support a 2 year project here at the LSE called ReCollect: Creative Explorations of the LSE. There are many further examples of this change, not least the recently purchased piano for the Shaw Library.

Thirdly, I made it clear to the reporter that rather than being under funded, the arts at the LSE are in the ascendancy. I hope this will become clearer over the next few weeks. Currently, there is an exhibition of a student and staff photography competition in the Atrium; these photographs

10 is firmly dominated by the first LSE Musical in 20 years: 'Into The Woods'. In short, I hope the arts are going to hit the LSE hard. This would not happen without support from the School and the Students Union.

A lack of awareness is the fundamental problem that the arts at the LSE face; communication, advertising and such like are the biggest issues that arts societies struggle with. If communication was better for example, there would be more volunteers, more work to exhibit and significantly for this debate, a clearer idea about funding. Although just finding its feet, the Arts Forum has been set up to fulfil this role. For example the forum has organised Arts Week purely to make students and staff more aware of the huge talent that the student body possess. As the Arts Forum and Arts Week become institutionalised, our hope is that the arts at LSE will be celebrated rather than hidden and bemoaned.

For these next few weeks, the arts will be on trial. You, as the jury, will vote to support and therefore help expand them or to consign them to be locked away in the rooms of the St Philips block where nobody will find. Vote with your feet. Go to a few Arts Week events, perhaps even help out, stay away from the library, miss your essay deadlines, go and watch 'Into The Woods'. But please, above all, find out if you have been missing something, and if you feel you have, lend your support to fellow students on their respective arts crusades.

Vote with your feet. Go to a few Arts Week events, perhaps even help out

along with many others are to be displayed in newly decorated classrooms. This week the Drama Society are putting on 'Do you want to intern at KPM Sachs? : a PowerPoint comedy'. This is followed by SU Arts Week in week 9 with a multitude of activities and events going on all over campus. Week



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COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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The Beaver

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Candidates will represent everyone...

...except the business minded majority

On the eve of the SU's Lent Term elections, it is necessary to analyse carefully the prospective candidates.

At first glance, this year's candidates for the SU Executive are not particularly inspiring. From the race for General Secretary, to the hotly contested Constitution & Steering (C&S) positions, it does not appear that there is anybody who would come in and shake the foundations of our Union.

In general we are promised more campaigning for various policies, better representation when dealing with the School, and a will to make Union politics more relevant.

One can't help but think that these candidates would not be as inclusive as they should be. The priority of the elected Union officers will be to reach out to all members of the student body - not just the hacks. As Channel Four news presenter Jon Snow said in his visit to the SU this week, there is more pressure on students than ever to study hard when they get to university. For some students, to deviate from their strict regime of study would feel like financial suicide, after sacrificing so much just to be here.

We need to wake up to the hard truth that many, if not most LSE students believe that their academic life here is vital. The even harder pill to swallow is that they see the LSE as a business school, where they can pick up the skills necessary to get them to where they want in life.

This does not mean that the Union loses its campaigning edge, or it suddenly advocates the oil loving, money grabbing lifestyle. But it does mean that it realises the welfare as well as the opinion of these students must be recognised if we want to live up to the School's Fabian values.

Vice-chancellors laughing their way to the bank...

...while academic staff slog on in silence

A survey published in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* (THES) revealed a 7.9 percent increase from 2005 to 2006 in the salaries of vice-chancellors in the United Kingdom. While this figure in itself does not make any cause for concern, when viewed in the light of the 3 percent salary increase of university academic staff, the disparity between the two statistics points to a worrying trend. More alarmingly, the Trades Union Congress derived from a Labour Force Survey that academic staff, on average, work more than eleven hours of unpaid overtime weekly. The extra effort put in by academic staff is estimated to warrant £10,000 of pay annually.

Whistleblowers have already sounded the alarm bells on the potential problems such a trend could produce. Former President of Harvard University Derek Bok has already asserted that the massive salaries paid to top university personnel would distort priorities and erode academic values. If lack of recognition for the extra efforts of academic staff is undesirable and damaging to staff morale, further salary increases for top echelon personnel at the expense of the rest of the university is almost unforgivable.

While keeping vice-chancellorships competitive to correlating corporate positions is important, the backbone of any university is undoubtedly its academic and research staff. If universities claim justification for vice-chancellor pay rises in terms of recognition of performance quality and overall contributions, surely eleven unrewarded hours of work a week is equally deserving of credit. If maintaining teaching quality and research excellence are the primary concerns of a university administration, then boosting staff morale surely must be considered as fundamental to their success. A re-run of last year's teachers' strike is not an attractive prospect. Maybe it is time to translate words into action, and redress the growing disparities before they reach breaking point.

**Got an opinion?
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hear from you.**

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Letters to the Editor

The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.



"dirt path"

Dear Sir

The most recent ill-advised anti-Israel demonstration on the LSE campus denounces Israel for yet another alleged "breach of international law," this time concerning archaeology. The issue is of the opening of a temporary wooden ramp which was built due to a partial landslide of an old dirt-path which deemed it unsafe. The Israel Antiquities Authority are working to reinforce the bridge to the Mugrabi Gate. Why wait for the complete collapse of a dirt path which could kill those standing beneath it, as these protestors apparently seem to prefer? - And hell, if you can sift through some dirt at the same time go for it.

As Lunat and fellow protestors wish to talk about potential inadvertent harm to archaeological sites, let us then speak of the wilful destruction of Christian and Jewish sites and artefacts by the self same Palestinian Waqf who is now up in arms about some essential repair works. Let us speak of Solomon's Stables, which were converted into mosques in 1996. Or of the tons of dirt which was dug up from the Temple Mount by the Waqf and dumped at the foot of Mt. Scopus, in what appears to be an ill-disguised and laughable attempt to hide evidence (which was later found in self-same dirt) of pre-Islamic presence on the Temple Mount. Or more recently, the 2005 vandalism of the Jewish Temple walls, where Arabic lettering a foot tall was carved. Israel has forgone the right to explore the Temple Mount for 40 years, thus demonstrating their commitment to the agreements reached in 1967 that "the holy sites of all religions shall be respected." Can the Palestinians really say the same?

Daniel Jason

"distinguish this"

Dear Sir

Your editorial last week argued that it is important to understand that social and cultural values held here are not held universally. Indeed, but the student magazine in question published these cartoons in Britain, so the principles of freedom of expression and freedom from religious censorship should apply.

Surely it is the values such as freedom of speech that are held in the West but not in other parts of the world that make the West the best place for people to live. Levelling down our values to those held elsewhere is to sacrifice those things which distinguish this part of the world and make it great, and to hold us back. You argue that we need to take account of shifting sensibilities, and that 'standing still while the world keeps moving is a dangerous proposition', but surely sacrificing freedom of speech in accordance with the sensibilities of those who do not believe in it is an even more dangerous one?

Peter John Cannon

"ethos within"

Dear Sir

I agree with the letter sent into *The Beaver* on 20/02/07 commenting on a student's disappointment with LSE. My disappointment however, lies not in the teaching (I've found this to be excellent), but instead the underlying ethos within the School. I had expected to come to a left-wing, politically-ambitious university, with students focusing their futures on global restoration. Instead it seems more like a training camp for wannabe investment bankers.

Every week *The Beaver* has articles on the financial sector, and wherever I turn there's a poster advertising a talk to be given by some European banker. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing bad about such jobs per se, and I can even see how they might be interesting. My problem is that most of these students have one of two frames of mind: either they're completely indifferent to fact that their careers will effect no positive change in the world; or they're kidding themselves into thinking that they will. Maybe LSE should push for its graduates to pursue more ambitious careers. Personally, I'd rather not spend the rest of my life moving money from one account to another, no matter how much it pays.

Lawrence Hill-Cawthorne
2nd Year LLB

"week work"

Dear Sir

I am writing in response to last week's C&A piece on RAG week. I find the views expressed therein somewhat naïve.

I have no problem with criticisms of the LSE SU's RAG week; it was under-publicised, poorly led and the week's successes were little more than punctuation marks in an incomplete sentence. However, the idea that the SU could orchestrate an entire year of charitable endeavours when it couldn't hold it together for a week seems fairly ludicrous, not to mention the fact that LSE students have hardly shown themselves to be even remotely charitable in RAG weeks past, demonstrating instead a frankly embarrassing apathy.

The complaints against the very concept of a RAG week seem somewhat short sighted. The fact is year-long charity drives would so far outlast the average, and even the more than usually altruistic student's attention span, as to begin to generate resentment, the very opposite feeling that most charities seek to inspire. One week is pretty much the longest time that most people will be happy to put up with guilt trips, dorky stunts and to be honest, any kind of charitable self-sacrifice. I would love to have more faith in the ability of my fellow man to empathise with the less fortunate, but most either can't or don't want to for any longer than a week. Even those who profess



to care more are nowhere to be seen volunteering to help make things like RAG week work, or campaigning for their chosen charity year-round, with or without the help of the SU. I'd ask those who share Mr Heller's views to contribute something slightly more practical and substantial than an opinion piece. There are numerous ways that people can help to make charity what it 'can and should be'; whining about what others aren't doing and negating the efforts of those that are trying is a little unhelpful. The fact is other universities have been able to raise in excess of £600,000 (Loughborough, if you care) during their RAG weeks. And while it's true that this is not enough to 'correct the massive social injustices that exist', the idea that abandoning the concept entirely will somehow do more is ridiculous.

People should be making charity a part of their lives more, and encouraging this is both admirable and necessary. However, one must inject a healthy dose of realism and practicality into the proceedings, especially when dealing with students who are notoriously both lazy and stingy - neither quality being suited to extraordinary and long-term charitable efforts. Sure, we should all do more, and all year round. So stop writing about it, and do it!

Molly Tucker

"most frequent"

Dear Sir

Two weeks ago you used my quotes out of context in your appraisal of Ali Dewji. I emphasised to you that Ali has been very good at supporting soci-

eties, through giving talks on sponsorship and generally responding to their queries in an efficient way. It is predominantly inquiries related to the website which take some time to respond to, mainly because there are so many and getting access for all of them to the new website is a slow process. Second to Ali, I am perhaps the most frequent editor of the SU Website, and the new website which Ali has implemented is definitely a major improvement on the old one.

Arthur Krebbers
LSE SU Societies Officer

"54 minutes"

Dear Sir,

Last week on Wednesday before the close of nominations an email was sent to the school body asking them to take part in the up coming SU Elections. However this email was only received 54 minutes before the close of close of nominations. This email was duly regarded by many as redundant and negligent on my part.

However the email was intended to serve as a last day reminder for the close of nominations, targeted at those who do not associate themselves with the day to day affairs of the SU. Instead of promptly being sent it went through a long process which I had no part in. Its late arrival was not my fault or that of the Comms Officer.

Adrian Beciri
Returning Officer

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Reappointment of Howard Davies

The case for Howard



Arthur Krebbers

With a proven track record, array of accolades and respectable public image, surely Howard Davies deserves a second term as Director?

As the frenzy that is the Lent Term elections gathers pace, you may be excused for overlooking another fundamental aspect of SU democracy recently launched. This week, you will be asked to give your verdict over a potential reappointment of LSE Director Howard Davies. Though your input will not be binding to the school's final decision (made by a number of stakeholders), it will strongly influence the way in which your student governors vote. It is easy to isolate one or two (unrelated) factors about the School and project them onto Davies' leadership - i.e. top-up fees or (perceived) low

quality of class teaching/mentoring at the LSE. On the whole, however, there is a very strong positive case to be made for his reappointment.

Firstly, one should note his breadth of experience. Davies has had a highly distinguished career in both business, public sector and academia. He has worked for, amongst others, McKinsey & Company, Morgan Stanley, the Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This has earned him a raft of awards and accolades, not least amongst which is knighthood. Despite his eminence, many students will agree that Howard has been a real 'students' director'.

Anyone who has studied here for longer than a year will have crossed paths with him on numerous occasions. They'll have seen him munching crisps in the Quad, drinking snakebite at an AU night out, offering himself for sale at a Development Society auction. Yet not all of his student-related pursuits were this light-hearted. He has also chaired and hosted a variety of public lectures for societies, been a consistent supporter of Students' Union fundraising and awareness events (i.e. through visiting a discussion group at the disability awareness week) and has been working with many of the School's

different faith communities (i.e. through talking to Muslim students at a Ramadan gathering and attending the annual Christmas carol service).

Generally speaking, the School as a whole is also in a strong position. Though recent news stories may lead you to

Many students will agree that Howard has been a real 'students' director'

think standards and facilities are plummeting, our overall performance is actually far from gloomy. Student demand is soaring: at the undergraduate level we are now the most popular university in the country in terms of applications per place and consistent-

ly features in the top handful of universities in the various domestic league tables. Turnover amongst academic staff is low, and morale amongst employee is high - a recent survey shows the great majority enjoy their work at the LSE.

Howard Davies recognizes the importance of strengthening the school's ties with alumni, employers and governments. Over recent years, funding from these 'strategic partners' has been on the up (i.e. easyGroup's Stelios multi-million pound donation, or the Turkish government's funding of a new professorship) - allowing the LSE to build on its reputation as the world's pre-eminent social science university and take this forward into the 21st Century.

Davies has already presented an ambitious and forward-looking plan for his next five years in office. He wants to build on the LSE's links with prestigious universities overseas and is set to appoint a new Director of External

Relations to this end. He wants to bolster the LSE's research centres and investigate areas where the school is "well-placed to make a difference", such as Middle Eastern politics. He is working on upgrading the campus (i.e. through redeveloping several tower blocks) and has promised to kick start a new campaign to cater for a "significant" increase in scholarship funding.

The LSE in many ways is headed in the right direction. With Howard Davies at the helm, it will continue to go from strength to strength.

A recourse to arms

James Meadway

Honorary Student

This is an account of GKN plc's company record in the early 1990s, during Sir Howard Davies' time on its board of directors. Sources are given as GKN's Annual Reports, 1989-1995, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Yearbook, 1990-1996. It covers GKN's transition from a diversified engineering conglomerate to a more focused concern with a particular emphasis on the military sector. GKN became, whilst Davies was on the board, Britain's third largest manufacturer of military equipment. GKN, during his tenure as director, supplied military hardware to some of the world's most repressive regimes.

Davies was appointed as a non-executive director to the board of GKN plc on 1st January 1990. In 1990, military sales accounted for approximately 4% of GKN's total sales, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, GKN Defence. This consisted mainly of sales of the Warrior infantry fighting vehicle. GKN was in addition a minority shareholder in other military manufacturers, most notably Westland. By 1995, at the time of Davies' departure from the board, GKN's military sales amounted to 23% of its total. Military manufacture moved from being of merely

Howard Davies' glittering CV may not be as impeccable as it seems; his tenure with GKN was marked with its growth in military production

"strategic importance" to the Group (1990 Annual Report, p.6) to being one of the Group's "three core activities" (1995 Annual Report, p.4).

Shift to arms manufacture

From 1994 to 1995, GKN's military sales expanded by 115%, from \$550m to \$1.18bn (SIPRI Yearbook, 1995). Revealingly, total sales increased by only 10% over the same period. GKN moved from being a marginal company in the armaments industry to a significant international player: From the Stockholm Institute's figures, GKN moved from being 59th largest arms manufacturer (by volume of sales) in 1994 to 34th by 1995. By the close of the decade, it made top twenty of the world's major arms manufacturers, supplying close to \$2bn worth military hardware. By 1995, the Annual Report was able to boast that GKN Defence was "the largest manufacturer of light armoured vehicles in the UK" (p. 22).

This huge expansion of arms manufacture was driven by a widespread manufacturing recession in the early 1990s. In such conditions, military sales offer an unusually protected environment: demand is driven almost solely by government policy, and the UK

more directly subsidises arms manufacture through such arrangements as the Export Credit Guarantee system - subsidies to arms exports amounted in total to a little over £750m in 2001. (Estimates from the Centre for Defence Economics, York University). On the other hand, whilst demand remains unusually stable and predictable, and suppliers receive substantial government assistance in recognition of their political importance, competition with-

If GKN was not an arms manufacturer as Davies had claimed, he is being unusually modest

in the arms industry is stiff: the experience in dealing with government procurement departments, the diplomatic nuances of international arms sales, and technical knowledge required ensures it is dominated by a few large manufacturing concerns. Equally, the uncertainties caused by the end of the Cold War were felt particularly acutely by military suppliers. In the event, the "peace dividend" has been tiny - witness the US's skyrocketing military budget - but the global arms trade has become significantly more "globalised", with suppliers competing for contracts in a range of new and emerging markets. Faced with these concerns, most engineering firms did not have the option of expansion into the sector.

GKN already had a toe-hold with its "strategic" 4% of sales and its minority shareholdings, which gave it a decisive advantage. In 1992, a grin-

ning Sir David Lees is pictured at the opening of his report in front of a Warrior tank, and the shift in GKN's business direction is illustrated by the photos of military hardware accompanying its Annual Reports, which appear with increasing frequency from 1992. A total of 250 Desert Warriors were eventually delivered to Kuwait. The 1993 Report notes the sale of Simba Armoured Personnel Carriers to the Philippines. Previous customers included the Royal Saudi Land Forces, who bought "specially adapted" armoured vehicles in 1992. (SIPRI Yearbook 1995, p. 464)

The key to GKN's expansion strategy was the acquisition of Westland, the UK's leading helicopter manufacturer. GKN Defence had bought a 22% share of Westland in 1988, becoming the largest shareholder, but had taken over the remainder of the company by 1994. Lees previously justified the decision to turn Westland into a wholly-owned subsidiary as follows: "We believe the combined businesses will have a unique position as a prime contractor to the world's defence industry, specialising in mobile, rapid response equipment..." (1993 Annual Report, p. 7) Westland, on its takeover, sold \$461m worth of military equipment: 72% of its total sales. There is little doubt that Westland was sought precisely for its advantageous position in the military equipment market.

Sale to human rights violators

More seriously, a GKN subsidiary supplied Tactica water cannon armoured vehicle to President Suharto's regime in Indonesia. Tactica was manufactured by Glover Webb, a company GKN acquired in 1994. They have a capacity of 4,000 litres, which the Indonesia government mixed with other chemicals to "mark" demonstrators. The jet

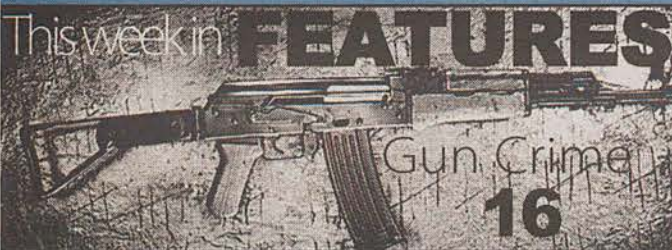
"can knock down anyone in its path" and is alone "sufficient to cause serious injury." Despite Suharto's assurances to the Foreign Office in 1995 that they would not be used for "internal repression", the water cannon were used to disperse a pro-democracy demonstration in 1996, during which one protester died. GKN spokesmen were on hand to issue apologies. ("Britain fuels Suharto repression", *The Observer*, 21 July 1996, p.25)

A decision was made by the GKN board in the early 1990s to expand an otherwise a highly marginal element of GKN's operations. GKN then transformed itself from a diversified engineering conglomerate into the UK's third largest arms manufacturer. If GKN was not an arms manufacturer as Davies has claimed, he is being unusually modest. During his stay on its board of directors, it would appear that a decisive shift in corporate strategy was well undertaken. Of wider relevance are the serious humanitarian issues presented by the proliferation of conventional military hardware. GKN's sales, though comparatively small, of military equipment to regimes with exceptionally poor human rights record are a matter for concern; as are the large and systematic subsidies the British government continue to offer for such sales. The common defence of job preservation does not hold. Current estimates suggest that only around 0.3% of the UK workforce are in the industry, whilst MoD research suggests job losses from cutting subsidies to military suppliers will be more than offset by gains in the civilian sector. Pressure can be applied on both government and the major arms manufacturers themselves through such means as active disinvestment - withdrawing investment funding from companies, like GKN, that engage themselves in a dismal trade. We might also question Davies' judgement in apparently backing

the export of repressive military equipment to some of the world's most unpleasant governments.



This week in **FEATURES**
 Gun Crime **16**



A stolen island **15**



Conspiracy theories **12-13**



The Vladical Left



Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

The Balkans are a land without justice. The Ahtisaari plan is a blow both to the Kosovar Albanians' own hopes and for ordinary Serbs. It reinforces ethnic divisions and denies a truly independent state to Kosovo Albanians. At the same time, it aims to blackmail Serbia into implementing further neoliberal counter-reforms in exchange for a hand in the running of the territory. It is in the interests of both ordinary Albanians and Serbs to reject the Ahtisaari plan and to defend the right to immediate independence for Kosovo as a precondition for a common struggle against the imposition from the outside of neoliberalism.

'The aim of this policy is as clear as day. No matter what, they want a new pygmy in the Balkans incapable of living, so that another pygmy that has been striving to break its chains does not become capable of living.' These were the words of Serbian Marxist Dimitrije Tucovic in his 1913 work entitled *Serbia and Albania*. They refer to Austrian and Italian sponsorship of an Albanian state designed to block the expansionist plans of the Serbian bourgeoisie into territory abandoned by the crumbling Turkish empire. But they apply just as well to US and EU policy in the wars of succession of the crumbling Yugoslav federation in the 1990s.

The Ahtisaari plan is a long-awaited document. NATO launched its war of aggression against Yugoslavia in 1999 under the pretence that it was interested in the welfare of the province's Albanian population, who had endured second-class citizenship in the South Slav state since its very inception. Intervention was to halt ethnic cleansing and end Belgrade's authoritarian brutality. Almost eight years later, the 'international community' has presided over reverse ethnic cleansing (only 16,000 of the 25,000 non-Albanians have returned according to UNMIK) and has now produced a plan which effectively cantonises Kosovo. Serbian brutality is gone, but it is replaced by UNMIK brutality: just this month a peaceful demonstration organised by Vetevendosje! (Self-Determination!), a radical but pacifist nationalist grass-roots movement led by Albin Kurti, was forcefully broken up. Two protestors were shot dead while Kurti himself was arrested.

Kurti's group's criticism of the Ahtisaari plan is a powerful condemnation of what it terms 'neo-colonial' rule. It points out the limitations placed on Kosovo: it cannot join a neighbouring state in union; its complex system of decentralisation leaves Belgrade with the possibility of interfering with policy made by Pristina; and it leaves ultimate power with outside forces - an International Civilian Representative unelected and unaccountable with jurisdiction over security, law and implementation of the Agreement. The ICR is backed by foreign troops, while Kosovo's Security Force is seen as an adjunct to this all-powerful neo-colonial machine.

Meanwhile, the hard stance in Belgrade appears to have been encouraged by circles not only in Russia but also within some EU members states. But whatever happens, it must be clear that any agreement on the part of Serbia will neither guarantee true independence for Kosovo nor will it be reached without the carrot of membership in the European Union. Since membership requires permanent and painful neoliberal counter-reforms, there certainly seems to be only one winner: Western-based multinationals.

As Tucovic had warned: 'The boundless hostility of the Albanian people towards Serbia is the first concrete result of the Albanian policy of the Serbian government. The second, still more dangerous, result is the consolidation in Albania of two of the Great Powers who have the greatest interest in the Balkans. ... [The left in Serbia] is duty bound to track step by step our rulers' policy of extermination towards the Albanians, to stigmatise as barbaric a policy carried out on the false pretext of a "higher culture"... and as an anti-national policy of aggression which brings the peace and freedom of the country into danger and which greatly worsens the position of the masses...' In defending the right to self-determination of the Kosovan Albanians, the left should make sure that it does so as part of a strategy against neoliberal imperialism and for greater unity from below. Blair's 'humanitarian interventions' should conclude by the greatest humanitarian act of all: his resignation.

features@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Notes on Nothing

The news cycle has a funny way of bringing up issues when they're in need of some attention. We've spent the last few weeks fretting about one or two talking points (North Korea, how shit it is to be a child; the usual really) but inevitably they will be replaced by something which has been off the spectrum for the while. The behaviour of the Royal family is one of these issues. It has been a few months since the stories of Prince Harry visiting a strip club and William spending an indecent amount of money at the sort of parties we all wish we'd get invited to have hit the front pages. Time goes by and we forget we have a Royal family and then events take their course and its' back on the agenda again. So what do we think about Prince Harry being deployed in Iraq? Posh boy plays soldier for a while, or heir to the throne upholds a sense of national pride and duty? Answers on a postcard please and while you're in the mood to write something, check out Charles Laurence's campaign to send letters to troops overseas. You never know...Harry might get one.

Harry might not need to worry, as he clearly has some muscle on his side. Former boxing champion Chris Eubank got himself arrested this week by staging a one man (and a truck) protest against the Iraq war. Eubank drove up and down Whitehall displaying the words "Blair, don't send our young prince to your catastrophic illegal war to make it look plausible" on the back of the enormous vehicle. The event proved that Eubank has both principles and a thesaurus.



Getting a message across has become a lot easier for one section of society this week, as Scotland saw the launch of its first bi-lingual newspaper. But before you heartily agree that it's about time the Gaelic language had more coverage, I should point out that *Gazeta z Highland* is a Polish newspaper. Fans of *The London Paper* and *The London Lite* might have to be concerned with another free newspaper entering the game. This reflects the growing number of immigrants from the EU country, who now number in excess of 5,000 north of the border. This coincides with two other stories in the news this week; that road signs in certain parts of the country will contain Polish translations and that in London Catholicism is experiencing a massive boost to its numbers. Any of planning to take a taxi or read a tabloid newspaper this week brace yourself for an unhealthy dose of traditional British intolerance and the familiar beginning to a conversation 'Now some of my best friends are Polish but...'

Also brace yourself for a different kind of emotional outburst as the movie awards season is now in full swing. So far the big winner has been *Basic Instinct 2* scooping four major awards in one evening. Unfortunately for the cast and crew of the film, these were not *Academy Awards* but the *Annual Golden Raspberry Awards* (or *Razzies*) dished out to the worst movies of the year. Other winners included M. Night Shyamalan for the truly terrible *Lady in the Water* and "actress" Carmen Electra for her "performance" in *Date Movie*. Just like the Oscars I'm sure the *Razzie* award winners cried real tears. But perhaps not for the same reason.

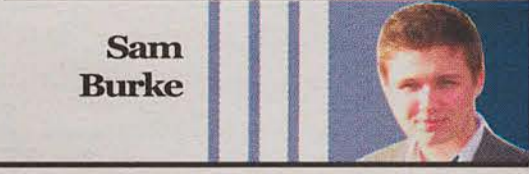
Online this week

Find out more about the issues in this week's Features by searching for:

- One World Government
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_World_Order_%28conspiracy%29 WIKIPEDIA
- 2005 Pakistan Earthquake
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The Right Approach



What are you doing on 25th March? When that day comes it will have been 200 years since William Wilberforce at last convinced the Parliament to abolish the slave trade. We would do well to take this opportunity to reflect on the story of Wilberforce's mission; the faith, perseverance and compassion of Wilberforce is a great testimony to the indomitable human spirit. And yet there remain 27 million people in modern-day slavery across the world, 50% of them children. I wonder how history will judge our actions in the face of this injustice.

This week, I was privileged to see an advance screening of the masterly *Amazing Grace* film. It's an entertaining account of the life of Wilberforce and his struggle to end the slave trade. If you were to pick up a book on this, Stephen Tomkins' biography, as a relatively short and accessible portrait of the man would be a good choice. Melvyn Bragg has done a fantastic piece on Radio 4; just google "In Our Time Wilberforce" and it's sure to be in the first page of hits. Get started now: read the Tomkins book, book tickets for *Amazing Grace*, listen to the radio show and get the most out of the bi-centenary. I'm not just talking about you, but your friends and family too; we should all be in on this. Let's not allow this great moment pass us by.

But it must not stop there. William Wilberforce's work is far from finished! Modern day slavery can come in many different forms. Entire families may work long days in rice-mills, brick kilns or on plantations. Children may be abducted and forced to fight in a rebel's army. They are slaves; they cannot come and go as they please and are often beaten or threatened with violence. They have no autonomy in their day-to-day lives and deserve the right to be free. We must liberate those who are enslaved - to modify the remarks of Aung San Suu Kyi, we must use our freedom to promote theirs. It begs the question: who among us will write the next chapter in the emancipation of our fellow man?

Wilberforce did not challenge us, "Love thy neighbour", Christ had brought that message some seventeen centuries earlier. No; Wilberforce showed us who our neighbour was and what that meant. So, we must today do the same. Who is my neighbour? It is the enslaved families discussed above, but it is also the less obvious asylum seeker, the raped woman in Darfur, the beggar, the unborn child. Josiah Wedgwood, a collaborator of Wilberforce and the abolitionists produced fine crafts with the imprint "Am I not a man and a brother?"

Some will groan at the same old story. Another humanitarian crisis here, a genocide there - it can feel overwhelming. But just because we cannot solve all the world's problems in one fell swoop, doesn't mean we can't do our bit to solve some.

Take the example of Zach Hunter. Deeply disturbed that slavery was not a chapter in a history book, and facing the horror that slavery was a modern day reality, he decided to act. He launched "Loose Change to Loosen Chains" or "LC2LC". Zach travelled Northern Virginia, giving PowerPoint presentations to tens of thousands of students. You might have guessed that Zach is American, but what you might not have realised is that when he started his campaign around two years ago, he was just thirteen.

It's trendy now, of course, to be interested in human rights - but it wasn't then. Wilberforce embraced the labels others cast upon him: "If to be feelingly alive to the sufferings of my fellow-creatures is to be a fanatic, I am one of the most incurable fanatics ever permitted to be at large." This is the one thing that hasn't changed, though: self-sacrifice. It is always going to be time-consuming, there will always be opponents seeking to undermine and ridicule your work, motivation, integrity. Nobody said it was going to be easy.

Wilberforce's vision was enlightened by his luminous faith. We are all made "imargo Dei": in the image and likeness of God. His actions, rooted in faith, serve as a valuable lesson for those secularists who claim that Religion just causes wars. Christ, after all, brought a message of peace. But regardless of one's religious views, we all in some way fit into the poetic words of Newton's song:

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
 That sav'd a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 Was blind, but now I see.

The truth

Susan Cook finds some people to blame for tragedy

Most people know about 9/11 conspiracy theories. In the age of youtube, we have seen "Loose Change," or "9/11: In Plane Sight," or similar films about what "really" happened on the 11th of September, 2001. Most watch and move on, interested but wary of the type of person who spends their time investigating what we've already had explained to us. Still, it's not just a few crackpots with a DSL connection who believe that the U.S. government orchestrated 9/11, or at least allowed it to happen, in order to embark on the "War on Terror." Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11 elevated the conspiracy theory to pop culture level, with box office grosses of over 200 million worldwide. Not that Moore defines the movement - scepticism is expressed among scholars, scientists and politicians, not just muckrakers.

The typical conspiracy theorist crosses over from scepticism into paranoia. The people behind organizations such as "Scholars for 9/11 Truth" will accept nothing less than a full-fledged "the U.S. did it" theory. Their weakness is seeing in terms of absolutes; there is absolutely nothing but evil in organized government, "the man" is out to get us all, we are constantly lied to and cheated by those in power. Not that the U.S. government has

behaved much differently in the wake of 9/11, shutting down any dissent or questioning using a "with us or against us" mantra. Apparently the terrorists will win if people question 9/11 or government actions relating to it. The truth is usually much more nuanced, and once in a while it actually comes out.

“ In most legitimate conspiracy theory cases, the truth doesn't come out until the general public is past caring. ”

Because "truth crushed to the earth shall rise again" ...eventually.

In November of 1999, a Memphis jury found in favour of Dr. Martin Luther King's family in a civil lawsuit against the U.S. government. It took them about an hour to find the government guilty of conspiracy in King's execution. Did you know that?

Probably not; it was not well-attended or extensively covered by the media. The only people who paid attention were devotees of King, King scholars, and various politicians who had been around when the assassination took place.

In most legitimate conspiracy theory cases, the truth doesn't come out until the general public is past caring. Consider the assassination - or rather, the execution - of Dr. King. King spoke out against U.S. actions in Vietnam, and did not hesitate to label his country as "the greatest purveyor of violence on earth" at a time when the President's associates were oil men and weapons manufacturers. He had the power to make his Poor People's Campaign huge and effective. Years later, evidence and interviews make it clear that the FBI, the CIA, among others, were part of a conspiracy to murder him. It's a classic conspiracy theory, following the usual line about government and Big Business, but it turned out to be true.

Because governments DO mislead us, and the media covers for them

Conspiracy theories often follow a common thread - politicians lie, and the mainstream media has their back. This statement has been expressed, proven and harped on so many times

that we tend to forget that it's true. The conspiracy theorists want an alternative to a media which does not question, or look at the underside of things. Media failure to cover the King trial cannot be justified: this was not a crazy, unfounded theory but a genuine judicial verdict.

The failure to find WMDs is just part of a tapestry of distrust woven by broken election promises and other scandals. It's only reasonable to distrust the powers-that-be with a track record like the American government's. It also cannot be denied that they are up to some pretty scary stuff. If you want a terrifying read, check out "Project for the New American Century", the uber-conservative think tank whose illustrious members include the deposed Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney. Their plans for America in the future are enough to send the most uninterested person out on the street with flyers and placards.

Because everybody has an agenda.

Not all conspiracy theories are created equal, of course. Everybody has an agenda and the internet allows every nut to share his or her theory about 9/11: anti-Semites blame Jews, Scientologists blame psychiatrists ...and the list goes on.

There are other motivations as well: a visit to Michael Rodriguez's website. A link offers to tell me the truth about 9/11, but it only takes me to a page which exhorts me to buy the "truth" in video format, and to donate to Rodriguez's campaign of truth-telling. Perhaps this is just cynicism (after all, even whistle-blowers need to make a living), but there are those who would capitalise on people's refusal to accept random acts of horror, their suspicious natures and general curiosity.

Conspiracy theories may be driven by the conviction that "great tragedies must have great reasons," but that is not the whole story. Such a glib dismissal overlooks the fact that some theories are correct, and that it is completely reasonable to be suspicious of the information we are fed on a daily basis. As for the 9/11 conspiracy, "the truth" is not going to be revealed any time soon. The 9/11 Commission Report has been attacked for glaring omissions and outright inaccuracy, and anything we don't know is going to be classified for a long time. Maybe in 50 years the truth will come out, and no one will care except a dedicated group of watchdogs, intellectuals and - let's be honest - weirdos.

The Features team assesses some well-known

Holocaust Denial

'Historian' David Irving represents the 'intellectual wing' of the holocaust denial movement.

1977

Irving published Hitler's War, the first of his two-part biography on Adolf Hitler. In it, Irving tried to describe the war from "Hitler's point of view". He portrayed Hitler as a rational, intelligent politician, whose only goal was to increase Germany's prosperity and influence on the continent.

“ I don't think there was any overall Reich policy to kill the Jews. If there was, they would have been killed and there would not be now so many millions of survivors. And believe me, I am glad for every survivor that there was. ”

David Irving

In September 1996, Irving filed a libel suit against Deborah Lipstadt and her British publisher Penguin Books, for calling him a Holocaust denier, falsifier, and bigot, and saying that he manipulated and distorted real documents.

1996

1998

The case concluded when an English court found that he is "an active Holocaust denier; that he is anti-Semitic and racist and that he associates with right-wing extremists who promote neo-Nazism."

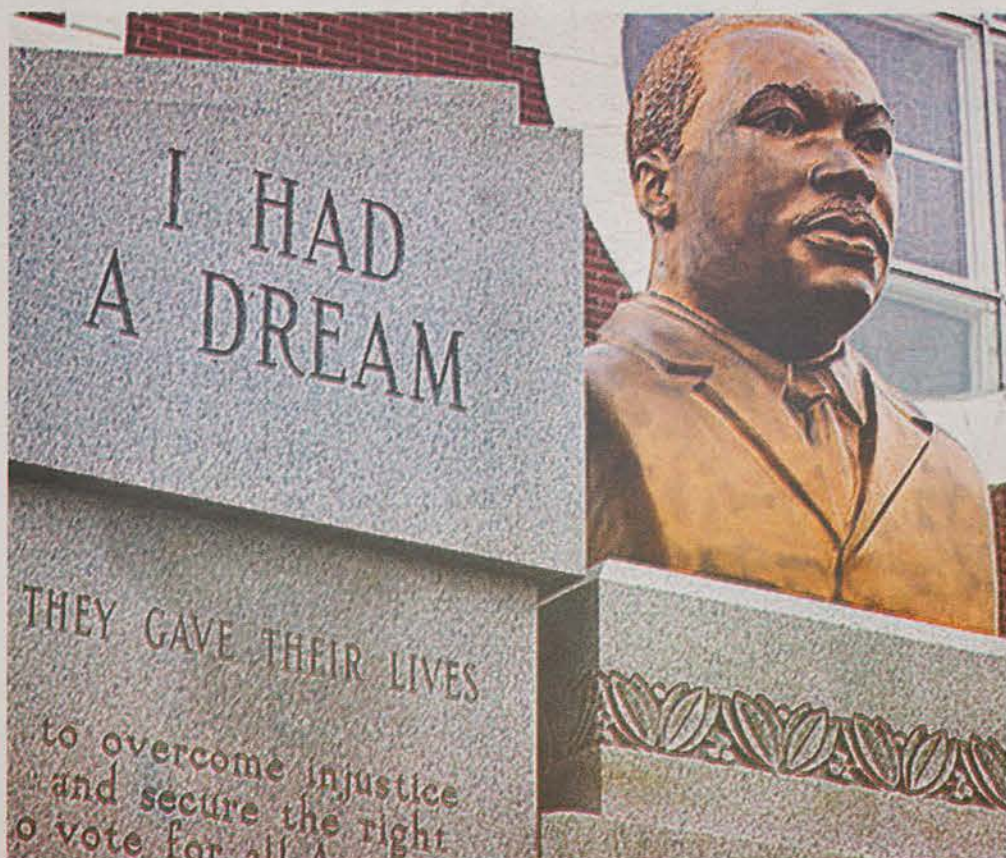
“ Irving has for his own ideological reasons persistently and deliberately misrepresented and manipulated historical evidence; that for the same reasons he has portrayed Hitler in an unwarrantably favourable light, principally in relation to his attitude towards and responsibility for the treatment of the Jews; that he is an active Holocaust denier; that he is anti-Semitic and racist, and that he associates with right-wing extremists who promote neo-Nazism. ”

Justice Gray, in his ruling

Chance of being true:

0%

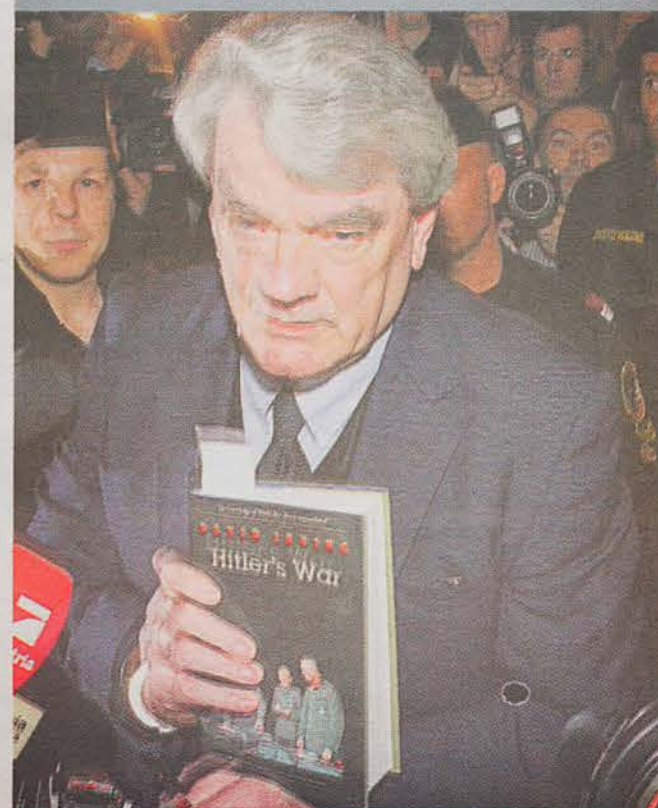
This conspiracy theory doesn't even get off the ground. It's been proven wrong again and again. Please give it up.

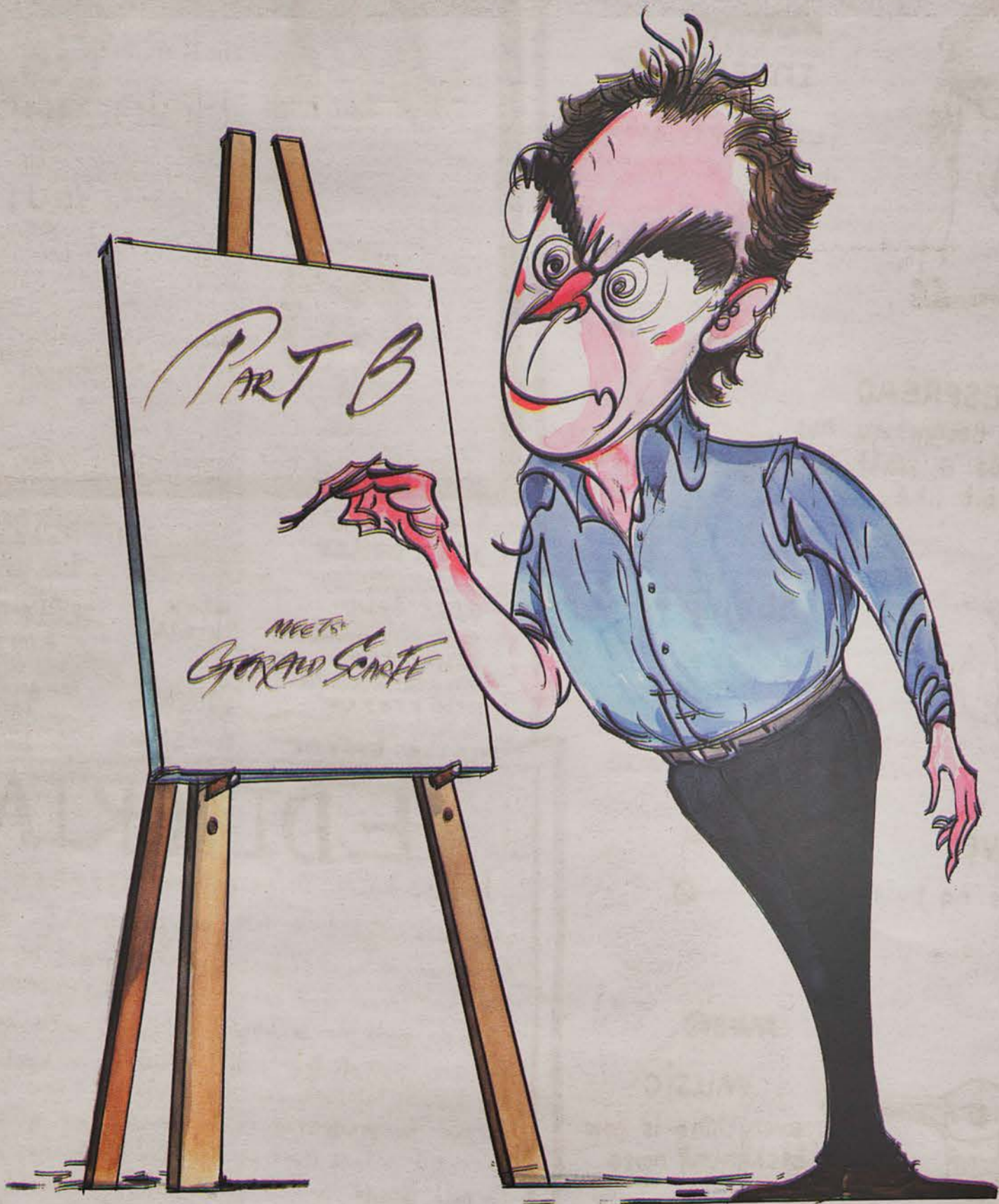


Martin Luther King Jr, a conspiracy theory that turned out to be true

- www.thekingcenter.com
- www.newamericancentury.org
- www.whatreallyhappened.com
- www.911keymaster.com
- <http://911scholars.org/>
- www.9-11commission.gov/report/index.htm

find out more
if you dare





INSIDE THIS ISSUE



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

Interview

Gerald Scarfo tells it like he draws it.

CENTRESPREAD
 All the technology has gone. This is what it looks a bit like.



STYLE

there are no clothes left.

Travel

there are no buses

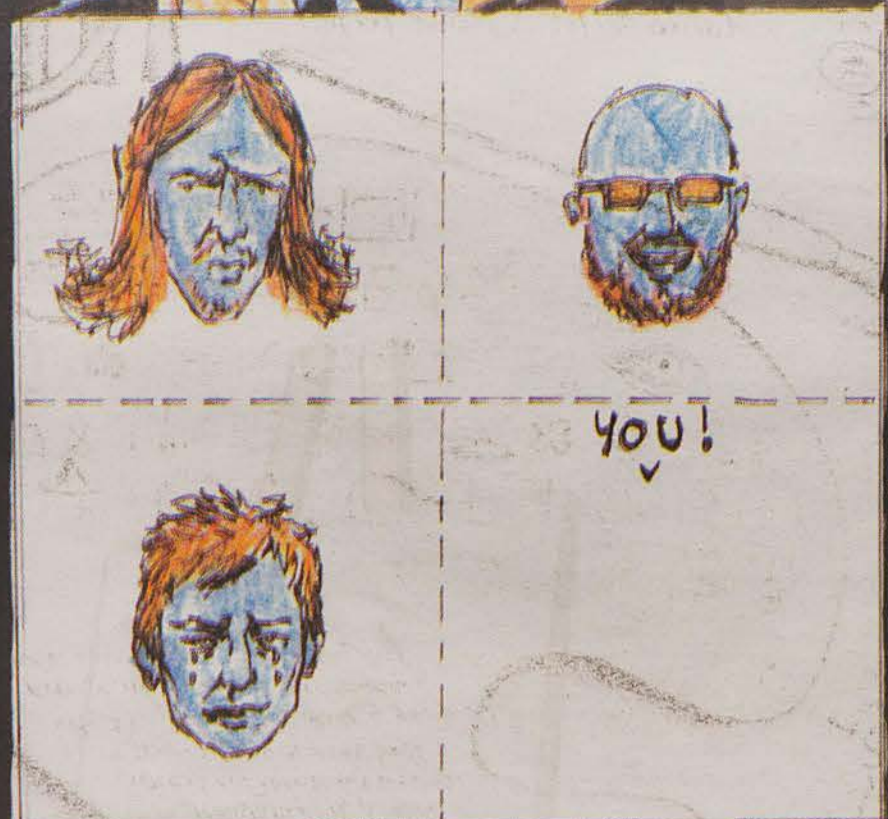


MUSIC

everything is now background noise

& C...

Jews: they go on forever



Part controller
 josh heller

& c controller
 alex levy

Film controller
 angus tse

Literature controller
 ERIN OROZCO

Theatre controller
 molli tucker

Cartoon controller

alex small

Call him
 Kevin Perry and David B. Yates

Style controller
 aba osunsade

Travel controller
 jessica mearns

Food & drinking controller
 kim mandens

MUSIC controller
 ian gordon and Lois Jeary

Editorial assistant
 bea long

EDITORIAL

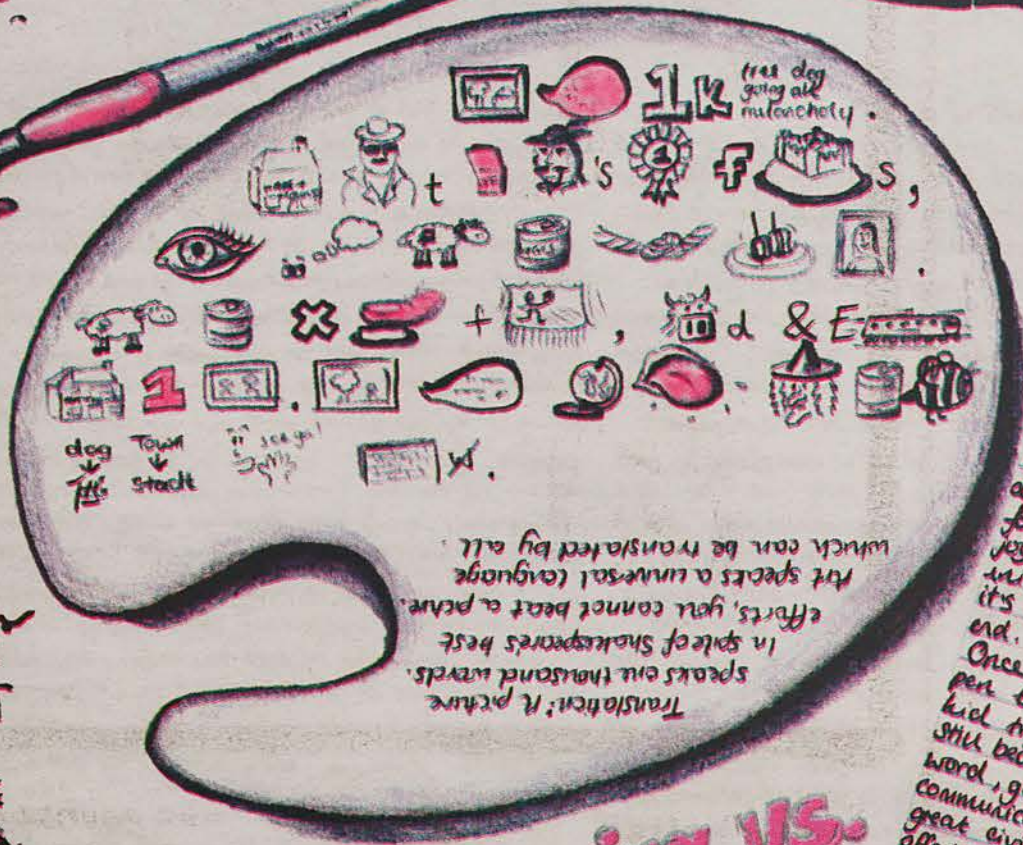
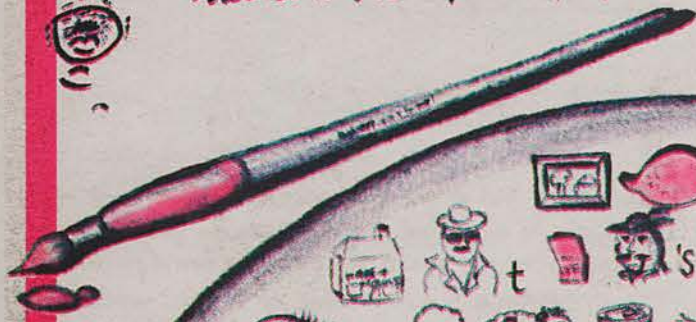
I was sitting in the Beaver office at the beginning of last week when Dan Yates wrenched through the door, wheeling Kevin Perry in a wheelbarrow. 'Alright Small,' he said, his speech sturred and breath stale with cigarette smoke, 'How do you's fancy drawing Part B this week, cos Kevin and me are going on the lash'. Struck by a bout of nausea as Kevin retched into his burrow, I was keen to escape the presence of the pair, and quietly demurred. The result is this issue of Part B. Kevin has been to meet Gerald Scarfo, and ABA Osunsade designed an amazing style page. Laura Parfitt drew a rant, and Dan drew a willy (amongst some other things). We wrestled bravely with the concept of trying to design a paper without the use of the computer, and found that we couldn't do it, as we needed to scan everything in. But we did nearly everything else. My centre spread is inspired by this brief abandonment of technology, albeit on a terminal, dystopian scale. It took bloody ages. We hope you enjoy it!

Daniel Yates Kevin Perry Alex Small

RAINT!



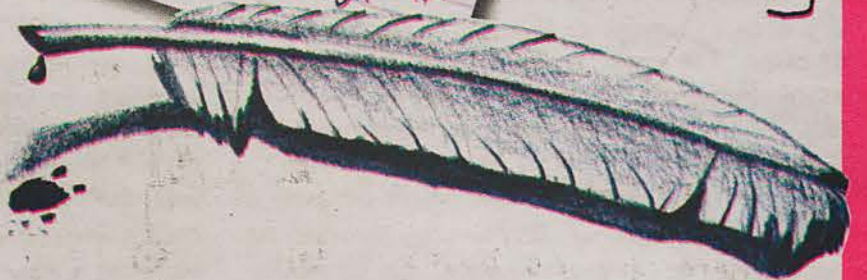
Laura Parfitt is picture perfect.



Translation: A picture speaks one thousand words. In spite of Shakespeare's best efforts, you cannot beat a picture which can be translated by all.

DRAWING VS. Writing

1. Sarah Higgins, that I'm write... Both writing and drawing entail the heady rush of stuff distilled from a blank piece of paper's each equally loads its creator with that hard-earned bump on the side of a middle finger - indignant at being abused. There's usually discarded attempts, frustrated practice. I think the venerable Bede's amanuensis would have a good claim that writing and drawing are two sides of the same coin, symbiotic twins to the cause. To an extent, that's true. Notably screw crazy art teachers with billowing skirts and/or lairs for rooms were always at the stinky end of school, or shared to an outbuilding. If you couldn't automatically draw you were simply discarded. Only the chosen few experienced any joyous step up from still lifes of mouldy vegetables. By contrast, writing entailed a universal rite of passage, writing pencils, to Bird's (or those awesome triangular rubber grip thingamabobs), then the red-letter day when you finally owned your first letter fountain pen. By the first few ink stains the joy sapped from that too, so that by university the only requisite for a pen is that it's not already been chewed down at the end. Once you've conquered the art of putting pen to paper without resembling a white kid trying to eat with chopsticks, writing still beats drawing hands down. The written word, glorying in its own versatility, transcends communications mediums and cultures. It makes great civilisations possible, records great love affairs, brings about wars and peace. The best comics draw in tandem with little bubbles of writing. Artists go so far as to sign their stuff. Drawing can only get its glory through writing about it.



Time by Philip Rusanowski

My comrades, we face a terrible enemy. It is a faceless, remorseless, fearless and redneck. It lingers everywhere, like the plague gone super nasty like a malevolent catapult it flings you from one place to the next. Our enemy is time. Thanks to time, we can never pause for breath. We must dash from lecture to meeting to class to some film festival your friend begged you to go to even though you'd rather sit eating muffins in your room, alone. You can't relax. Basterd time dictates that you'll always have a huge workload threatening to smack you upside the head. Yet time cannot be held to account we must presume its intentions are pure evil. As more sleepless nights go by we become fatigued and drained. It's all time's fault. I suggest we ban time, or bomb it into oblivion. Did I mention that time kills approximately one bazillion people a day? Ironically I've used my own time to tell you this. Use my sacrifice well, damn it.

Things that are great... The snooze button by Chun Han Wong



The button sits atop the hideous yet indispensible instrument of sleep disturbance that is the alarm clock. Like a sultry femme fatale it beckons your soothing touch to silence its cries of passion, it veils the unseen perils of procrastination with a lusty promise of blissful sack time. Having satisfied yourself countless times with your incessant fondling, you finally rise to realise the folly of your overindulgence. Your 9am class started ten minutes ago. Unlike alarm clocks of old where smashing down on the offending contraption resulted in a bollocking from the boss, the snooze button offers a sympathetic hand to the sleep-deprived. With a single tap of a button, the vagaries of a cruel world are put off for another idyllic five minutes.

DRAWN

FROM MEMORY

KEVIN PERRY TALKS TO GERALD SCARFE ABOUT PINK FLOYD, GOING TO 'NAM AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BIG WILLIES

If Scarfe was in the newspaper when it arrived on the breakfast table it would be just as if the family dog had shat on the table. It was an outrage within their little world. There is more than geography that separates Gerald Scarfe's rooftop studio from the homes around the Shires that he is referring to. The difference is in the mindset, an almost pathological mistrust of authority and those who wield it.



Examples of his latest works of irreverence adorn the wall behind him, huge caricatures of Tony Blair and George Bush, waiting to be sent off to the pages of The Sunday Times and The New Yorker. Next to them, amongst printed emails, is a smaller cartoon, with the word FAITHLESS printed above it. "Have you heard of them?" he asks, "It's an old cartoon but one of the band's a fan, apparently, so they want to use it for a single cover." The room is littered with memorabilia amassed throughout his career, a gold disc of Pink Floyd's 'The Wall', which he designed the artwork for and provided animations for the film, a mug with Disney's Hercules on it, for which Scarfe designed all the characters, videos of Yes Minister, for which he famously drew the opening sequence. On his desk, amid the paints and the vast shelves of papers, sits a copy of his book, 'Drawing Blood', which collected some of his most famous political cartoons alongside censored drawings that his employers refused to print.

There was no shortage of these drawings, as Scarfe has never been afraid of tackling taboo subjects. "I thought, being an artist, I should be able to draw everything, you know? I can draw life and death and love and sex and whatever." However, early in his career he was shown that there were limits to what even he could draw. "The Daily Mail didn't know how to handle me, because the stuff I'd been doing in Private Eye was fine for a cult audience, but for the general public it was too much. So they sent me off to Vietnam. I suppose they thought, 'cruel, grotesque artist, let's send him to a cruel, grotesque situation'. It was my first experience of war, before I was drawing it symbolically. President Johnson shifting bombs on Vietnam, that sort of thing, but I hadn't actually realised what it was like, young guys pulled out of college and flown to the other side of the world and told to kill these people, shoot these gooks, as they called them. I found it too much to stand, the blood and guts of it all, and the incompetence of it all and the stupidity of it all. I went into the morgue in Saigon. I went in there and I was just shocked, because it hadn't struck me that there'd be bits of bodies. Some were

just like lumps of meat."

The Mail refused to print some of the drawings he sent back, particularly those that showed Americans in Vietnamese brothels, but Scarfe has never regretted working for papers that don't share his political views. "There's no political censorship. I'm often against what the leader page is saying. I'm against the Iraq war, I've been against the Vietnam war, but I enjoy preaching to the unconverted. There are newspapers who hold my point of view completely, and but I'm then just doing the party line. The idea of a cartoonist is to offer an opinion, even if it's an opposite one. The great thing in this country is that one can do that. It's very healthy. When 'Drawing Blood' was printed in China, they wouldn't print pictures of Chairman Mao. They even censored - there are some very large willies in here, some erect penises, and they wouldn't print them. I said 'Why not?' and they said 'Oh... too big,' so I said, 'That's the way we are in Britain.' There is a lot of censorship around the world, so I appreciate our ability to print freely."

Totalitarian control was one of the central themes of 'The Wall', which Scarfe worked on with Roger Waters. "Roger came here with his Wall tapes, which he'd done with a synthesiser himself, and he said 'We're going to make a film and a record, and we're going to make a show out of it.' The show part was fun. That was travelling around from LA, the rock 'n' roll stuff backstage that you can imagine. But I know 'The Wall' has applied to your generation as well as mine. God knows what it was in it that somehow struck a chord. I don't know what that chord was, but we all hit it. I don't know what that magic ingredient is." At the time, Scarfe expressed a fear that certain aspects of the film might strike too much of a chord with far-right groups. "When you're railing against something, you have to depict it, and there might be those that enjoy that depiction. A lot of young guys came to filming with crossed hammers shaved into their hair, and I thought 'Shit', because the last thing I wanted to do was



Bisfor - Rust Obscurity

start some kind of pseudo-fascist movement. That was the opposite of what we were saying. We were saying 'these are bastards, these are horrid people.'"

Irreverence is a key theme of Scarfe's work, something he traces to his bedridden childhood. "I think I very much mistrust authority, and I think that comes from relying on doctors. I've had some dodgy treatment. There was an osteopath who used to rabbit punch me on the back of the neck, because he thought my vertebrae were out of line. I mistrust people, politicians obviously, because I think we're all fallible. I mean, I'm part of it. I'm often talking about myself in my drawings when I talk about fallibility. We're all here not quite knowing why we're here, what we're doing or why we're doing it. Really, it's all very mysterious, the whole question."

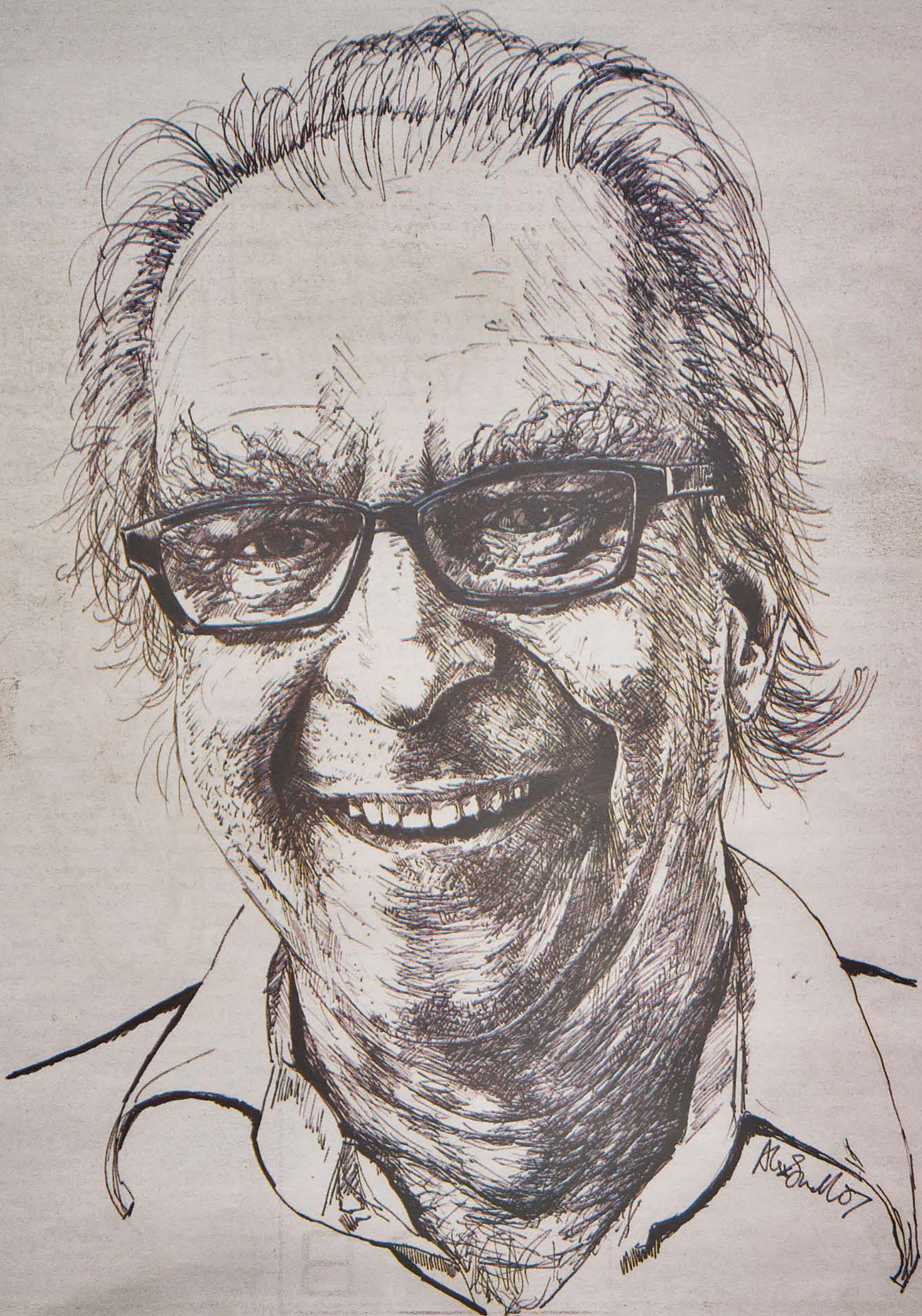
I ask about the impact technology has had on his work. "I'm an artist, and I think you can't beat hand drawn. When I was working on Hercules with Disney, they did a whole



I did one drawing, and then they made a model and computerised it. It took about six or seven months to do this whole sequence, which was probably only about half a minute, and it just looked computerised. They then had to spend a whole stash of money to redo it graphically, to make it look graphic like my work. I said to them at the end, "Wouldn't it have been quicker to do it the old Walt Disney way?" and they said, "Yeah, probably, and cheaper too." The ultimate result of the film, I thought there was some of me in it. There were 900 of them, and I got me, so I didn't do too badly, considering the odds. But it was a great experience, and the nearest I'll ever get to being Tom Cruise."

Technology has also aided his ability to work internationally. "Used to have to send my New Yorker drawings on Concorde. I'd work all night, then a courier would put it on the plane at nine and it would arrive in New York at eight."

Finally, I ask about his remaining ambitions, but he replies contentedly that it is "Only to go on." Fittingly for someone whose work has spanned artistic mediums and insinuated itself into popular culture, he says he has no more burning ambitions. "I've been very lucky, considering where I started, as a timorous, asthmatic, anxious child in the war; I've done what I wanted to do for years, and still feel incredibly privileged to be able to walk up here in the mornings and draw."





Alan Watts
and words by
DANIEL YATES

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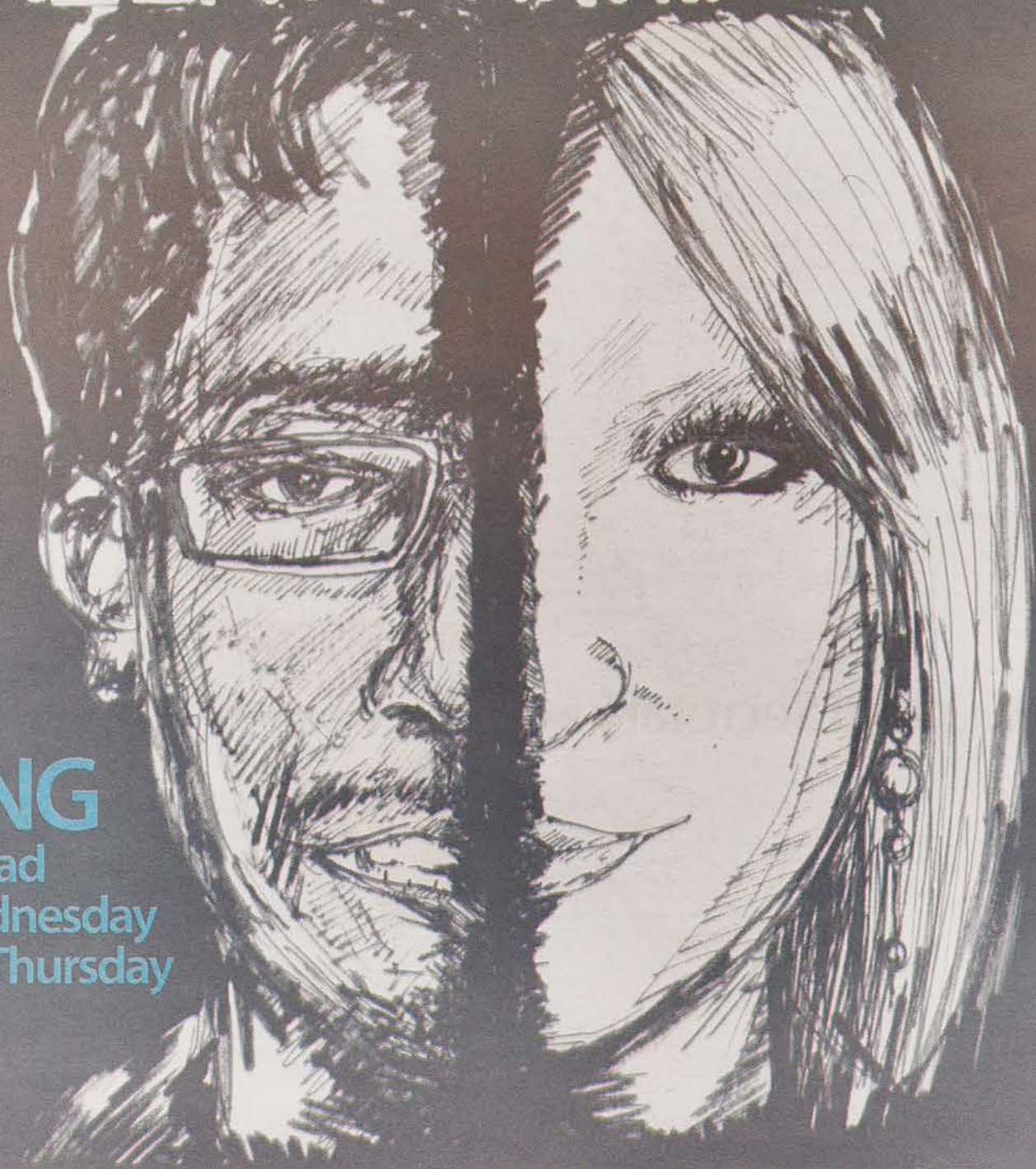
27th February 2006 Issue 661 The newspaper of the LSESU

ELECTION pullout

FADHIL

ZOE

BAKEER-MARKAR/SULLIVAN



VOTING

Where: Quad
When: Wednesday
and Thursday

FACE/ON



On LooSETV you can see last Thursday's UGM hustings for sabbatical candidates. You can also watch 30 second video manifestos for candidates in various exec races.

Then, on Tuesday at 7pm, come to the Quad for the Media Group Hustings, where the sabbatical candidates will face the student media's most piercing questions and where you can ask questions as a member of the audience.

We will be interviewing candidates and campaign teams on Houghton Street throughout Wednesday and Thursday, and will also be conducting exit polls as students hit the ballot box.

Thursday night is Election Night, and for a second year, LooSE TV and PuLSE FM will be bringing you a live broadcast from the Robinson Rooms. Streaming on

www.loosetv.co.uk

Election Night 2007 will feature live announcements of all the results as they happen, interviews and commentary in the studio and on the count room floor, a game show, and much more on this most exciting of nights.

Its election time. Go vote

University politics are vicious because the stakes are so small." - Henry Kissinger

This week, the London School of Economics, that old hotbed of supposed student radicalism and activism will hold elections for leading positions in its Students' Union.

However, while one LSE student will experience the fast-paced politicized environment of a pro-active university and the buzz of Houghton Street, there will be another LSE student who will enjoy a parallel experience. This latter student will hold his head down to avoid eye contact with the campaigners and trot to the library where he will hide himself in the deepest corner behind a parapet of books.

He will not listen to the street campaign. He won't read the posters. He'll ignore the issues and avoid the debates.

This year we would be fortunate to aim for a turnout of 20 percent. Why will the latter student fall into the 80 percent of students who don't care?

He'll tell himself that there is no real power in student politics. He'll tell himself that it's all about a bunch of self-representing "hacks" trying to win popularity contests. He'll tell himself that he's at university to get a degree and not to play politician.

I'm not going to tell tales of idealism and activism and



Photographs: Frank Chaudhary

how we should care about the environment and ethical investment because it's morally right. Instead, I'll leave him with a simple thought.

The nastiest of nasty regimes around the world don't survive because they're so evil. They survive through the acquiescence of the many. They survive because people think in terms of their day to day business and not the governance of their society. They survive because people think politics is pointless and they don't have a voice or the courage to stand up to their leaders.

I am not suggesting that the LSE SU can be compared to the GULAG, but if a student has a problem with the system then he can do one of two things: take part in it to change it, or overthrow it. The failings of our leaders are our failings as voters or non-voters.

If we really cared about the issue of university governance, we would hold the UGM in the Peacock Theatre and it would be packed out with 1000 students and the School would listen to us.

A hundred years ago, a bunch of guys got together and set up a small faculty of economics in the centre of a large European city. Their objective: "to know the cause of things". The saddest thing about our library-go is not that he won't care about politics. It's that he will refuse to answer why he doesn't care about politics, because he doesn't care about politics. That is one thing we won't be finding out the cause of for a while.

As students at this institution with this history, it is not only our privilege to exercise our rights in a democracy. It is our duty to exercise them to improve representation.

Ali Moussavi

The Howard Davies Ballot:

There is a student consultation vote to be held on whether current LSE Director Howard Davies should be reappointed. Below are the manifestos submitted.

REJECT his Reappointment

Are you fed up with spiralling tuition fees, the denial of resits and the exploitation of our cleaners? If so, vote to REJECT the reappointment of Howard Davies - have YOUR voice heard.

-Howard Davies currently earns over £200,000 per year. He regularly flies around the world using thousand of pounds of our tuition fees to travel in business class.

-Meanwhile, student debt is at record levels, state school admissions have fallen under his directorship and our cleaners are languishing on poverty pay.

-Upon his arrival Davies' appointment was regarded as extremely controversial by students and academics alike, given his previous career in the financial sector and lack of academic distinction. Such concerns still prevail across the School community.

-In 2003, Davies promised the student body that he would not publicly advocate support for variable tuition fees, only to sign a public letter published in the national press advocating the marketisation of the higher education system.

-Tuition fees are at record levels, both for postgraduates and undergraduates, making LSE one of the most expensive and elitist institutions in the world.

-Graduate fees for home/EU students have risen from £6668 in 2000 to £11187 in 2006 and for overseas students, from £9684 to £13373 over the same period.

-As a result, applications are falling as students are priced out, which will have an increasingly detrimental effect on the high standing of this university.

-State School application have fallen under his tenure and nothing substantial has been done to rectify this.

-The School has repeatedly ignored student concerns regarding lack of free wenesday afternoons for sports and recreational activities, our demands for resits and the abolition of postgraduate application and deferral fees.

-When academics, such as Dr Erik Ringmar, have spoken out about the overt business direction that Davies is taking the School in, Davies has upheld threats to suppress freedom of speech and dismiss those who do not support such decision.

-The LSE was founded 112 years ago for the betterment of society by Fabians to understand the causes of things. As an institution we should never forget this.

If you believe that LSE should be more than just a business school, and that all students should have an equal access to higher education regardless of economic background, then vote to REJECT the reappointment of Howard Davies and have YOUR voice heard.

APPROVE his Reappointment

No manifesto was submitted to The Beaver. The Comment&Analysis section carries a debate on this topic.

Referendum on reappointment of Director

General Secretary



Fadhil Bakeer-Markar

VOTE FADHIL FOR GENSEC. I want us to be the most active, inclusive, and responsive Students' Union in the country, standing up for students on issues such as: Affordable Education and Better Student Support - improving the quality of teaching. I will lobby for affordable education, exam feedback and summer re-sits, and against visa charge rises; Greater SU-School consultation - there is no excuse for the LSE excluding the SU and muting its concerns, including on controversial issues. I will be an effective bridge between the School and SU, involving more students in SU activities and effectively representing your interests; Improving daily student life - I stand for better quality food on campus, more comfortable seating, more options for banks and phone companies at Freshers' Fair, better Media Group facilities, increased language support and more postgraduate study spaces; Environment and Ethics - we need a more environmentally sound LSE, promoting ethical investment; supporting international justice and initiatives such as the Living Wage Campaign; Equality for All - working for a culture of tolerance and diversity; campaigning against racism, sexism, homophobia and discrimination towards disabled students; Sports facilities - with LSE's expansion, I want to prioritise the need for excellent facilities on campus; Residences - I will push residences to prioritise students with financial difficulties in less expensive halls, support more budget places and will work to make it easier to find accommodation after 1st yr.

There's a lot of work to be done, but given my experience, energy and ideas, I believe I am the candidate capable of involving more students and taking the Union forward.

EXPERIENCE

Students' Union International Students' Officer, NUS Delegate, Member of the Court of Governors, Treasurer of High Holborn Hall, Treasurer of UN Society, Chair Global Show Production Crew, President of the International Society.

YOUR VOICE, OUR VISION, ONE UNION



Zoe Sullivan

My name is Zoe Sullivan and I'm running for General Secretary. I'm running because I want to make the Students Union more relevant to the majority of students and inject it with a new dynamism. Our union is changing. In five years, we will be in a new building and have 10,000 members. With so much at stake being decided now, the next General Secretary will have a massive effect on the future of the SU.

Here are some of my priorities: BETTER TEACHING QUALITY - by giving programme representatives the strength to tackle issues like tutor contact and value-for-money. I also want to work with them on securing exam feedback and re-sits; A DUAL RESPONSE TO FEES - that includes campaigning to keep the cap but also increasing financial support and debt management advice; STUDENT-FOCUSED POLICY - through campaigns to extend Oystercard discounts and to secure a 24-hour common space for students working late to relax in, so that university feels less like a 9-to-5 job and more like a place where students meet, study and live; MORE ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT - in order to make the SU more relevant to the majority of students I propose holding events like student policy conferences as part of awareness weeks, and peer-review essay competitions by department; PROTECTION OF STUDENTS - from all forms of discrimination and abuse, and improving security around campus and in halls.

I believe I have the necessary vision, experience and determination. If you give me the chance, I will succeed.

Let's make a good union great: Vote Zoe Sullivan for General Secretary.

Candidate manifestos that exceeded their respective word limits were cut. The Beaver does not endorse any candidate in this election.

Voting takes place in the Quad on Wednesday and Thursday. For more on election coverage, go to www.thebeaveronline.co.uk

Treasurer



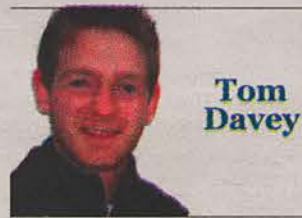
Jeff Courtney

Vote Jeff for Treasurer if you want increased access to improved services. The SU provides many services including food outlets, drinking venues societies and the AU. These services should be as good as possible and available and accessible to all.

For Better Services: Increased range of drinks in the Tuns, including draught ale and wine by the bottle to encourage a wider array of students to visit the Tuns; Creating a more sustainable, greener Union through working towards Gold Standard in the Sound Impact Awards; Improved Gym and Shower facilities on campus; Greater freedom for self-funding societies - allowing them to more widely benefit their entire membership; More organic, fair-trade, vegan, halal and kosher food across campus; A better publicised, more enticing reFresher's Fair - to allow newer and more established societies to attract new members.

For Greater Participation and Equal Access: Creating a hardship fund to cover costs of sports kit and equipment; Seeking to provide online booking for squash courts; Helping fledgling societies to get outside sponsorship; Raising additional funds by seeking donations from Alumni and in particular Honorary Students; Allowing society events to be run free of charge in the underground on Fridays to raise Crush attendance; Expanding the use of Parish hall for societies; With the coming of the smoking ban I will look to open the Clare market roof as a beer garden and smoking terrace; Making funds available to provide more English as a foreign language courses.

I'd like your vote for Treasurer as I have the practical policies to improve SU services and the experience to implement them. Reliable. Passionate. Experienced. Vote Jeff #1 for Treasurer.



Tom Davey

The Student's Union is about students. Its policies, as well as investments, should consult and involve them. We can make the LSESU even more reputable. Further training programs will be set up to improve interview and personal skills amongst students, making them even more attractive to employers. In addition, the development of skills through societies will be encouraged, not stifled and we will build an SU that can surpass our Oxbridge and Ivy League rivals.

I plan to encourage more sponsorship and investment from business and alumni; communication with whom I have already started. This will be used to ensure an SU with a healthier budget.

More efficiency, more resources and more money are achievable. Societies need a chance to defend budget proposals, through a process of negotiation in meetings, in order to get the money they deserve, regardless how small or new. This will negate any unnecessary future questioning and criticism about the allocation of funds. Furthermore, we will allow a roll-over of any unused money to the following year, and develop a system allowing societies to monitor their spending consistently. Additionally, the financial planning over the next few years must be geared to our move to a new SU building and I plan to begin the necessary preparation.

I'm a second year Government and Economics student who has been heavily involved in the committees of both Question Time (Vice-Chair) and Debate societies. I was the Convenor responsible for the planning and budgeting of the London IV debate competition. During Global week, I also arranged the One World Ambassadors series, and got 15 ambassadors to come speak. I have secured sponsorship from PWC, The Economist and The Daily Telegraph for societies over the past 6 months, therefore successfully raising money.

For an efficient Union, vote Tom Davey for Treasurer.



Libby Meyer

Iam running for treasurer because this is everyone's union so I want to see everyone using the SU facilities. I will: Improve Freshers Fair by training the volunteers. I will also get volunteers to walk Freshers between Clement House and the Old Gym so they can sign up to all the societies and AU clubs they want to. I will have sign up sheets for all societies and clubs in both the SU reception and halls. Therefore everyone has every opportunity to join the societies and clubs they want to.

Make Parish Hall more accessible to AU teams by replacing the existing floor with hard flooring

I am always approachable and willing to chat to you!

I will encourage more people to use SU services by: Better publicising 3TK and introducing a loyalty card system; Diversifying the entertainments program; Ensuring the new space for the Advice Centre is fully utilised

I will improve the efficiency of societies by: Holding an induction evening for society officers at the beginning of the year. This will expand the current training system in place; Improve the use of money allocated to societies by sending an email to societies in week 5 of Lent term informing them of their remaining budget; Improve the society handover procedure; Increase storage space for societies by utilising the space in Parish Hall.

I have a lot of experience and commitment: I have served as treasurer and chair of the Australian and New Zealand Society, I am netball club captain and was also a netball captain, I have developed strong established relationships with the Entertainments Manager, Societies Manager, Sports Administrator and other SU officials through active society and AU involvement.

So aim higher, vote Libby Meyer!

Communications



Kayt Berry

I'm Kayt Berry. This year I have been Station Manager for PuLSEfm and one of the main controllers of the media group. This role has given me a great experience in running a team and promoting events, brands and campaigns. I also know how the SU works.

The Communications Officer should build a bridge between student government and the Media Group, and publicise events and services administered by the SU. My experience in promotions and media makes me an ideal candidate for this role. But it hasn't just prepared me to work within the Student's Union. It has also given me the knowledge and drive to change it. Too often are crucial issues dominated by the same few committed people, because of a lack of effective publicity for the Union.

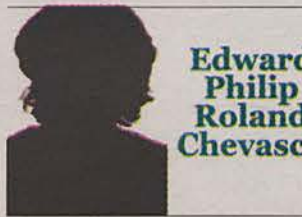
The UGM is the heart of student democracy but currently sparsely attended; it needs to evolve. I propose simple measures to change this with the use of a bell on Houghton Street to announce the beginning of the UGM, an A-board to advertise, sponsored incentives to attend, themed society weeks and encouragement for society motions.

Increased use and development of web-use is the way forward for the SU. I will build up a healthy working relationship with OnCampus to ensure it is working the best it can. Advances that I would propose include refining an SU news feed, creating personalised calendars, and designing a payment scheme for SU events and society membership drives.

I'm looking into separating Global and RAG week to divide the Communication Officer's workload more efficiently.

I also have a brilliant working relationship with all SU staff already and this is vital to the role of Communications Officer.

Because BERRY CAN COMMUNI-KAYT - vote Kayt Berry No. 1 for Comms.



Edward Philip Roland Chevasco

CHEVASCO Stop the War, SWSS, Respect; No Fees, No Racism, No War. Why I want to be elected: I want to transform the way the LSE student union does things. I believe we can make huge amount of progress by introducing referenda for all students on all critical school decisions and appointments. I want the LSE to foster participant student democracy and encourage radical student activism.

A strong Campaigning, Engaging Communicating Student Union

A believe that the students union can be a force for good and progressive change, improving the lives of not only LSE students but also fighting for a better world. History has proved that student activism works, and LSE has a proud history of student activism. It is only when united that we have any influence though, and so as Communications officer I would work hard to get more students to the UGM, encourage greater student activism and campaign to give every student vote in matters that affect our lives at university. Everyone should have a stake in students politics not just professional hacks

Free Education:

I want to campaign to make free education a priority for the NUS. I like many other students was on the demo in October to scrap tuition fees, but to stop the government from raising the "cap" on Top Up Fees, we need more student activism and pressure from both LSE SU and NUS as a whole. We in the LSE union need to campaign as hard as possible for the Universal Human Right of Education

Stop the war- Free Palestine -Don't attack Iran:

And where has the money for education gone? Into fighting Bush and Blair's bloody and illegal war and into building nuclear warheads. If elected to the student executive I would continue to campaign against the war on a



Simon Douglas

Although I have a vast experience of work in the Union and the Media Group, I strongly believe that the candidate who wins should have the best policy, and I believe that person is me:

Media Group: It should be easier for people to get involved in the Media Group, so I will foster closer co-ordination between the different branches; I will use the Media Group Forum to produce a long term plan for LSESU media.

Website: I want to form a team of students - who may be paid - for keeping the website updated and relevant on a day-to-day basis, while the Comms officer retains overall control and responsibility.

Campaigns: Once campaigns have been mandated by the UGM - indicating that the Union cares about them - I will follow up on these with material support, using my design skills to produce booklets, leaflets, flyers and more.

Marketing: I will create a Societies' Forum for different societies to share best practice in gaining sponsorship; I will lobby potential sponsors early in the Summer, before most societies and other Unions are able to speak to these companies and their graduate recruitment budgets are allocated away from the LSE; I will operate a preferential pricing policy for ethical companies and those we don't usually see sponsoring and advertising around the LSESU - making the LSE environment more diverse and stimulating; I will produce an AU handbook, with the AU Comms Officer, for Freshers' Week so that new students are more likely to get involved with sports.

Accountability: I will mandate myself to explain exactly what I've done with each of these pledges - and more - at the UGM, meaning I will have to follow through on every promise.

Simon Says... Vote Simon Douglas for Comms.

CONTINUED>>

Communications continued



Dan Sheldon

I'd like to be your Communications Officer because I believe I have the combination of political activism and technical competency this Union needs.

TURN ON AN SU CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU

There is a strong campaigning tradition at LSE, and this works best when the goals are practical, achievable and will make a real difference to the world around us. I have a proven track record of social justice campaigning: Living Wage, TfL student discounts and keeping the cap on top-up fees. I believe the SU should be at the forefront of student activism at LSE, and as Comms offer this will be a priority.

TURN ON A FUN & ACTIVE STUDENT LIFE

I see the role of Comms - and the SU in general - as overseeing all student activity on campus, whether that be Badminton, Brazilian Society or the Beaver. I will make it my business to make sure you have a fun time at LSE by letting you know what's on and co-ordinating events around campus. The keys to this will be comprehensive society training, an easy to digest events guide and a proper website for the AU.

TURN ON SMARTER & GREENER TECHNOLOGY

We could harness new technologies like blogs, wikis and social networks to make the SU run more efficiently, use less paper and make promotion easier for society events. I want to lobby the School on technological issues such as increasing our email inbox size, upgrading WebCT and using more open source software. As a professional web developer, I admit that I am a bit of a geek but with my knowledge and the SU's bargaining power, we can make a practical difference to our day-to-day student experience.

Please email d.j.sheldon@lse.ac.uk for a full manifesto.

VOTE SHELDON: TURN THE UNION

Education & Welfare



Ruhana Ali

If elected as your Education and Welfare Officer, I will work for an inclusive Students' Union which defends your education and supports your welfare, by standing for:

Affordable Education: Campaigning against fee increases and proposals to lift limits on undergraduate fees; Pressing for an end to visa charges for international students; Lobbying LSE against fees for postgraduate applications; Pushing for more bursaries; Supporting greater "London weighting" for financial support for students, due to the city's high living costs.

Improved Student Support: Arguing for more structure in teaching by ensuring easy access to lecture notes and adequate course packs; Pressing for more efficient, useful evaluation of performance; Making pastoral care work for you through better tutorial support; Campaigning for re-sits and fast collective exam feedback; Proactively encouraging state school applications

A Healthier Student Experience: Improving awareness of access to local medical services including registration procedures at St. Phillips; Raising Mental Health Awareness; Lobbying for better facilities for learning languages through course subsidisation; Providing First Aid, Self-Defence and yoga classes; Working for more stress management and sports facilities; Keeping Wednesday afternoons free for all students.

An Inclusive Union with Strong Student Involvement: Termly welfare student forums to voice your concerns; Improving disabled access to union buildings; Setting up a Residences Welfare Committee with all halls represented; Standing for equality for all - working closely with ALL the Diversity officers to combat discrimination; Supporting initiatives for international justice and human rights; Action for a greener, more ethical LSE

An Experienced Candidate: Union General Meeting Vice-Chair, LooSE TV Head of Journalis, PuLSE radio presenter International News Show, Luton Youth Education Forum, State School Student Mentor, Brixton Youth Worker, Student Assembly Against Racism supporter, Global Show co-host.

SuperRu - Supporting you all the way through.



James Ketteringham

Equal Opportunities for All. I believe in equality, opportunity and justice. I am running for Education and Welfare Officer to realise these ideals at the LSE. I want to be an approachable first point of contact for students to find solutions to their problems; academic or personal.

Consistency

The quality of our teaching and pastoral care is inconsistent. I believe we are all entitled to the high standards currently found only in the best departments. I will push the school to make 'best practice' consistent practice across the LSE, focusing on: the amount and quality of student-tutor contact time, department subsidised language courses, greater use of professors to teach third year students, state school applications and uptake

Community

Many students at LSE feel isolated and alone. I believe the best student experience results from close, inclusive and mutually supportive student communities. Such communities cannot be created artificially, but I will ensure that the Students' Union creates the conditions where they can grow, by: introducing new and alternative social opportunities, not just based in bars, providing more common rooms and other social space, including a dedicated postgraduate common room, facilitating study groups, standing firmly against discrimination

Care

I believe that, as a community, students are entitled to support from one and other, the School and the Students' Union. This support should begin when problems begin and should be available when students need it the most, therefore I will: Establish a 'Support Week' in Michaelmas term making students aware of available support; Running a stress "field hospital" during exams for urgent advice and guidance; Introducing and lobbying for schemes to assist low income and international students, including the Rent Guarantor Scheme, preventing costs and bureaucracy from becoming a barrier to study.

Societies



Om Dhumatkar

OMG! You're still thinking?! Vote for OM Your Only Man for Societies. Hi my name is Om Dhumatkar and over the past year I've Chaired India Week, been Vice-President for SPICE Society, Committee Member for the Hindu Society and International Students Taskforce, in addition to raising £1,700 for this Union. I'm asking for your vote to ensure a transparent, committed and supportive union for societies and for all students.

For societies: Umbrellas on Houghton Street so society volunteers don't soak every time it rains; Summer storage facilities for societies; Double Societies Forums and Training events to ensure access to sponsorships and funding; Innovative promotions in collaboration with the Beaver, Pulse FM and LOOSE TV; Clear poster policy.

For us: Get on your society Committee; More society funding - for cheaper, fun events; Cut the bureaucracy; Get heard by the Union!



Andy Hallett

Societies are crucial for a healthy Union, and I would act as someone who knows when to interfere and when to leave societies alone. Some societies are already thriving; they should receive more independence and their expertise being passed on to other societies. Those that are struggling will benefit from my policies of more budget application assistance, more training for society committees and the opportunity to join any society at my office hours rather than merely at Freshers' Fair.

I would encourage greener advertising, pushing societies to use the internet and facebook more in place of papering Houghton Street. We need something of a welfare state so as to enable all societies to be the backbone of the Union they can, and should be. There is such thing as a society, so vote for many great ones. Andy Hallett No. 1 for Societies officer - for the societies you deserve.



Carys Morgan

I'm Carys Morgan and this is my manifesto: 1) Some of our societies self-finance, and with the right help and guidance, so could others. I want to share best practice between societies so we can direct more money to the niche societies which are vital to our campus' diversity. 2) I want to massively increase society involvement in RAG. I got really involved this year, so did many societies and it greatly adds to our success. I want to motivate competition between national societies. 3) One criticism of LSE is the lack of community between national groups. The joint budget is currently underused and I want to change this. I would invite societies to put on halls events, funded by halls budgets in order to better cater for different groups. I will consider societies' individual needs - from publicity to storage space.

Vote Carys Morgan: more for societies, no more politics.

Residences



Louise Robinson

Re-elect Louise Robinson as your SU Residences Officer for proven experience in actively representing students: Living Wage - Vocally supporting the campaign on demonstrations and in committees to secure a commitment from the School on campus and in halls; Environmental sustainability - continuing to work within the SU Green Party to demand a real commitment to widespread environmental practices to reduce wastage, and environmental and financial costs, in strategic and viable plans; Communications and Websites - Improving information available to prospective and current students: supporting students moving into and within London; Making Hall Bars work for students - strategic plans for common space use, using innovation and consultation; Supporting Committees - offering support and experience to affect the changes residents want in individual halls; Improvements in bandwidth - faster, secure internet connections are a necessity!

Re-elect success and move towards progress

Green Party - Robinson - Ensuring safer, affordable, sustainable residences



Students with Disabilities



**Shayaan
Afsar**

SHAYAAN FOR Students With Disabilities Officer. My aims: More accessible LSE for all students with disabilities; Shorter waiting periods in Disability Office; Better access to course materials; Obtaining best help possible; Informing you about your rights; Providing practical ways to cope; Dealing with stigma; Always being there to talk to.

About me: Current ULU Part-Time and Mature Students' Officer; Member of the LSESU Finance and Services Committee (F&S) since 2005; Suffered from Clinical Depression in 2006 and passionate about mental health; Have dyspraxia (a Specific Learning Difficulty).



**Lizzie
Fison**

Lizzie Fison – “an experienced advocate for accountable action” Advocate with experience: familiar with services for Students with Disabilities (SWD), proposed UGM motions, raised issues through questions to SU officers & written to Beaver, taught sign language workshops here, actively evaluating development of LSE's Disability Equality Scheme with other SWD, approachable, friendly & trained mentor

Action: raise profile of diversity of disabilities & wellbeing issues, publicise resources available, including explicit reference in freshers' info, increase awareness & motivate disability friendliness with articles, posters, workshops & SU recognition awards, continue co-operating with Disability & Wellbeing Office and Circles

Accountability: create “one-stop-shop” website: help available, LSE accessibility guides, disability friendly tips, progress reports & comments/questions section, accessible, weekly surgery, maintain regular email correspondence, Chair SU SWD forum (before School's Termly Disability Consultative Forum); encourage attendance from Sabbs & other officers.

Mature/ Part time students



**Michael
Christian
Blackwell**

“Students' welfare, not politics” My commitments if elected: Student issues first: as member of the SU Exec ensure that SU policy focuses on the interests of students as students (eg education, welfare, societies, sports...) rather than divisive issues; Responsive: hold office hours and regularly convene and work with the Mature and Part Times Students Mature and Part-time Students' Forum to address the needs and concerns of mature and part-time students; Integration and accessibility: ensure, so far as is practicable, that School and SU are accessible to mature and part-time students and that the particular needs and concerns of mature and part-time students are addressed.



**Ziyaad
Lunat**

The school's institutional support addressing our particular needs is very limited. As the mature and part-time student officer I will work to change this.

My work will focus in three main areas

Careers: I will work with the Careers Service to address OUR specific career requirements and ensure equal opportunities for mature graduates; Finance: I will campaign to reduce tuition fees and work for the establishment of specialist support grants; Learning: I will lobby for extra academic support, different office hours for PT students, extension of administrative and academic deadlines

Experience: Msc Global Politics, President of LSESU Palestine Society, People and Planet PR Officer, Former elected member of C & S, Former chair of Beaver collective, RAG Week Task Force 07, Editor of LSE student academic journal “IS Channel”, Co-founder of LSE Sustainable Futures Consultancy

Vote for experience, Vote for Ziyaad.

Bridging the gap!

International Students



**Firoz Riaz
Noordeen**

Vote for A Union of Diversity- Vote Firoz. He will...Increase Representation: Be the voice of all International Students at LSE; Work with the Residences Officer to make residence International Representatives more effectual.

Improve LSE Induction: Encourage familiarisation of London, via a pioneering year-long series of cultural and enjoyable events; Further develop the International Students' Handbook and work with the General Course representative to create a General Course Guide

Expand SU diversity: Develop diverse, inter-cultural events by increasing mutual co-operation amongst societies; Raise cultural awareness by encouraging all students to join a diverse range of societies.

Enhance Welfare: Lobby against fee rises and push for more bursaries/grants; Oppose rising visa charges and work-permit restrictions; Work with the Anti-Racism Officer to fight discrimination in all its forms, especially Racism; Work with the Environment & Ethics Officer to form a more Eco-friendly and Health-conscious LSE.



**Adrian
Rogstad**

As International Students' Officer, I will increase Union campaigning around international social and economic justice and human rights issues. Specifically, I will increase the focus on international solidarity among the great society events that are already a part of Global Week.

Furthermore, I will aim to improve support and information for international students on arrival at the LSE about matters including opening bank accounts and English language support. I will lobby departments to increase funding for language courses, both English for non-native speakers and foreign languages.

Finally, I will lobby for fairer financial opportunities for international students, including reduced academic fees and introducing targeted scholarships for students from conflict zones and areas of extreme poverty.

As vice-chair of the LSESU Amnesty Society I have developed a broad understanding of international issues and gained experience in organising campaigns and events.

Vote Adrian Rogstad to improve the LSE's international conscience.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender



**Dominic
Rampart**

1. An LGBT for all: Encourage higher levels of participation within the society for all regardless of their sexuality; Work closely with the Women's and International Students' officers to ensure fair representation of these students; Support the NUS 'What Women Want' Lesbian rights campaign.

2. Better advertising of Office Hours and LGBT counseling services: Integrate services with the Welfare Sab to help those in need seek help or advice.

3. A truly integrated LGBT society within the SU: Encourage more LGBT involvement within SU; discourage such a strong clique defining the LGBT society; Fight the homophobia inherent in some societies.

4. A high-profile LGBT awareness week: More emphasise on the extent of homophobia that still exists in large parts of both the UK and world; Work with gay rights organisations such as Stonewall to facilitate LGBT career fairs and health workshops.

Environment & Ethics



**Aled
Dilwyn
Fisher**

RE-ELECT ALED DILWYN FISHER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS OFFICER

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

Raising Awareness: First ever Climate Change Awareness Week, biggest Environment Week; Increasing Sustainability: Secured mandatory double-sided printing, introduced Biodegradable Belu bottled water, secured pledges from LSE to install water fountains and move towards zero-carbon campus; Actively Campaigning: Actively supported Living Wage, successfully banned arms trade funding in the SU.

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR: Another Climate Change Awareness Week; Environmental Careers Fair; Organise Freshers' Ethical Induction – promoting affordable, ethical lifestyles; Campaign to extend TFL student discount; Achieve Gold Class in Sound Impact Environmental Awards; Reduce Houghton Street postering using noticeboards and electronic advertising; Passionately support Living Wage; Pursue ethical investment

VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE: LSESU NUS Delegate, Member of inaugural London Student Assembly, Stop Climate Chaos, Amnesty, People and Planet, antiwar campaigner



**Doug
Oliver**

Ican't offer the Earth in this election: whatever it's outcome, it's unfortunately likely that the Polar Ice Caps will still be melting and London's streets will still be polluted by West London plutocrats in Chelsea Tractors. However, I want our Union to make the simple but necessary steps to ensure that LSE reduces its ecological footprint:

Re-affirm the Union's commitment to Recycling; Provide full support to the campaign to extend TfL student discounts; Press the school for the installation of water fountains; Support the campaign for the Living Wage.

As former SU Returning Officer and Bankside Committee member and as a current Society Treasurer, LSE delegate to NUS, and Amnesty Committee member, I know how to make our school work better for students.

A political moderate I want a new environment in our SU where positive politics comes before personality-driven acrimony. For a better environment for students, Vote Doug.



Anti-Racism



Amina Adewusi

I am committed to tackling all forms of racism by working with national organisations such as SAAR and NUS Black Students' Campaign. I want to celebrate diversity between different ethnic, cultural and religious groups through joint events to eliminate racism and promote better understanding on campus.

We need increased representation for an inclusive union, people should feel that the union is relevant to them, that they do have the power to make a difference and that their voice can be heard.

I am committed to ensuring that important topics concerning anti-racism are debated and discussed throughout LSE in a conducive environment, so that students are aware of issues relevant to them.

I have four years voluntary experience with the NGO Operation Black Vote and I worked with the EU to develop youth participation and volunteering policy.

Vote Amina Adewusi, the independent candidate committed to building bridges and breaking barriers.



Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang

I believe that at LSE the problems we face are not blatant, overt racism, but the lack of cross cultural communication and acceptance of some cultures in certain spheres.

I intend to ensure that we now begin to foster a culture of inclusion whereby we strive to include all LSE students into as many activities as possible.

I will encourage inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue by building and expanding on past successes such as the International Food Fair and Rise Week. Furthermore we need to have an anti-racism forum that focuses on bringing all cultures to all students together with regular feedback, so that students feel represented. We can therefore stand united against racism wherever it rears its head.

Tolerance, interaction and integration at LSE are all good however with true acceptance and communication we can learn a lot more from each other.



Abul 'Abz' Hussain

Vote Abul 'Abz' Khoyer Mohammed Iftakar Hussain #1 for Anti Racism Officer. My Experience: Society President, UGM Motion Proposer, Stop The War Coalition Activist, Living Wage Campaigner, Non-Violence Project Peer. The union has failed to commemorate events such as Black History Month, nor has it addressed sensitive religious issues such as Holocaust Denial and Islamophobia. Enough time has been wasted!

I am committed to taking a PROACTIVE approach to the role rather than a REACTIVE approach to the protection of student's rights. After all prevention is better than a cure!

I will be achieving this using my 5-point plan: 1) Work with national/religious societies to develop their own programme to promote understanding of their values; 2) Organise events with City firms to highlight their commitments to non-discrimination in their application process; 3) Maintain the tolerant nature of the Union; 4) Respond to complaints within 24 hours and provide

Womens



Daisy Mitchell-Forster

I'm running for women's officer to change day-to-day experiences of gender inequalities on campus, building a community based on inclusivity - through race, sexuality, economic background and religion.

In defending a woman's Right to Choose I'd ensure fuller information of the options available, whatever decision is taken - support groups will provide welcoming long-term support and safety.

Free self-defence workshops - in halls and on campus, announcements for an extended night bus route to intercollegiate halls during Crush - simple steps to improve your safety.

Co-ordination with local GUM clinics to ensure a welcoming environment and service for students. Working with St Phillips to safeguard confidential access to healthcare, advice and widespread promotion of smear testing.

More sustainable and healthier products - from mooncups to glycerine-free lubricants.

From living wage to increased childcare provision, through to queer rights and into the pay gap, I'll campaign and assert continuously the need for GENDER EQUALITY.



Helen Roberts

ROBERTS FOR REFORM. Representation: I will hold regular meetings and office hours to discuss issues you feel are important, including the gender equality scheme; I will promote participation so that more of your voices are heard.

Safety: I will lobby TFL for increased investment in safety; I will increase awareness of the dangers of unlicensed cabs; I will organise regular self defence classes; I will provide information on how to reduce the risks of drink spiking.

Health: I will offer confidential advice and support on women's health issues; I believe in a woman's right to chose and will act as a source of guidance.

Women's week: I will strive to make it bigger and better; I will focus on equality of opportunity in the work place for women, men and transgender of all races, and awareness for breast cancer and domestic violence.

HELEN ROBERTS: YOUR #1 PREFERENCE FOR WOMEN'S OFFICER.

Returning Officer



James Bacon

I will ensure all election campaigns are run within the guidelines set out in the codes of practice and Intervene where necessary to ensure free and fair elections, encourage currently underrepresented sections of the student population to participate in SU elections, primarily through contact with societies, increase voter turnout during elections by utilising all forms of on campus media to their full potential, support the introduction of an electronic voting system, raise awareness of AV and STV voting systems ensuring students are aware of the systems implication on results, investigate possible reform to allow the utilisation of various internet based campaign options, maintain levels of support and guidance available to nominated candidates by improving upon current election documentation.

VOTE BACON For Returning Officer.

Constitution & Steering



Tom Bousfield

#1 for Constitution and Steering

Why me? Once voted third-best hand counter in my class, I feel suitably equipped for the role.

A strong, campaigning, union: UGMs should (and can) be an orderly forum for debate, not a breeding ground for hacks and bigots.

Free education: Education is not a product; everyone should have an equal opportunity to educate himself.

Stop the War: The arsonist who burns down a house is not the man to re-build it.

Anti-racism: Racial divisions should be appeased, not exploited for political support.

Living wage for cleaners: We must



Patrick MacLeod Cullen

I promise nothing but honesty and integrity - and the ability to count. A vote for me is a vote in favour of an honest, sound, consistent, and efficient C&S!



Eleanor Dodd

I am re-standing for the C&S having spent this year working with the SU Executive, and other SU members to reform the Constitution to make the LSE SU more inclusive, democratic and to ensure equal opportunities for all.

I have experience both within the SU and as a trustee of the British Youth Council and I hope to be able to continue to serve the union on this committee.

To some C&S is dull and insignificant, however I believe it has a vital role to play in maintaining the high standards we expect from our union.

Vote Elle Dodd #1



Andy Hallett

I've attended C & S meetings as an observer for months now, and I know how it works. I would act as a facilitator, not an initiator, as I believe the UGM is the sovereign body of our Union. To this end, I would act solely to ensure proper procedures, the SU constitution and equal opportunity policies are upheld. C & S is not a campaigning platform; what it needs are people like me who are committed to the Union and its proper (if sometimes dull) functioning. So vote Andy Hallett No.1 for C & S.

CONTINUED>>



Kevin Heutschi

This candidate did not submit a manifesto



James Ketteringham

I am one of the most experienced candidates, I was elected to C&S in Lent Term 2006 and re-elected in Michelmas 2006. I was Secretary of C&S and I am currently Vice-Chair of C&S. I helped to set up the Governance Review and I chair its meetings. I'm very familiar with the role of C&S, the constitution and the way the SU operates, I'm prepared to take controversial decisions when I believe it is right thing to do and I believe C&S has an invaluable role to play in the smooth running of the Union.



Tony Luo

This candidate did not submit a manifesto



Adrian Rogstad

As a member of the Constitution and Steering Committee, I will work to ensure that the high level of democratic standards and accountability that students expect from their Union are maintained. I will involve myself with the ongoing reform of the Constitution and Codes of Practice in order to make rules and regulations accessible and easy to understand for all students. Finally, I will work to ensure that C&S itself is an accessible, transparent part of the Union's democratic institutions.



Abul 'Abz' Hussain

I believe it is time that someone is elected on this committee that has actually read and tried to rewrite the societies SU Constitution. As a Society President I have had the experience of learning the workings of the C&S Committee this year and have also passed a successful motion at the UGM, after it was vetted without any problems at the C&S scrutiny age.

When elected I pledge 3 things: 1) Help with writing up constitutionally apt motions; 2) Greater transparency of the working of the committee; 3) Create greater awareness of the UGM to the student population.



Hudda Khaireh

The LSESU constitution enshrines the democratic rights and privileges for every student. Vote Hudda Khaireh for C&S and know your rights are protected!

I want A BALANCED LSE Student Union - a forum where EVERYONE can have their say, more CONSULTATION with students over decisions - establishing clearer and easier procedures to contact C&S, for student concerns to be ACTED upon.

Above all I want to encourage the diversity our Student Union by ensuring it is still a vehicle for free speech and fair representation of the entire student body.

For REPRESENTATION and TRANSPARENCY.



Helen Roberts

A key part of being a member of C&S is to be impartial and fair. Last term I was Returning Officer where I demonstrated my ability to be efficient, rational, unbiased and treat people equally.

I believe in a transparent and accountable C&S.

I want to use C&S to help eradicate discrimination and promote equality throughout LSE.

I have read the codes of practice.

If elected I will be committed to working with C&S and the students to help improve your union.

I will work hard and I will listen to your opinions.

HELEN ROBERTS: YOUR #1 PREFERENCE FOR C&S.



Rachael O'Rourke

Discrimination is alive in our Union: not only in official settings, in the UGM motions that use homophobic and sexist language, but also more casually, such as when a politically-active Muslim student was described as a being fundamentalist by our newspaper.

The LSE SU already has sensible, effective rules to protect students from sexism, racism, homophobia and disabilities discrimination through our Equal Opportunities policy. As a member of the Constitution and Steering Committee, I will strive to enforce these rules and promote a positive atmosphere where everyone can feel involved as a member of our student body.

Finance & Services



Shayaan Afsar

Vote Shayaan #1 for F&S! I have served two terms on F&S and have facilitated many improvements in society budget allocations, better parity in society budgets, society awards, environmental aspects of the union that affect finances and societies, the Quad refurbishment, improvements in the Tuns and 3 Tuns Kitchen (though more is still to be done!) and a financially healthy union.

Re-elect me for continued progress!



Joseph Cotterill

Where's F&S? The Union's most reclusive committee needs governance change. Surely every society wants F&S minutes published online, and at least an occasional showing by members at the UGM. It's not a massive transformation; but it's something we should have, given wider movements for transparent governance in LSESU.

I like it when societies self-finance: the more freedom, the better. But then there are Arts societies. (I'm LitSoc's Poetry Officer.) More funds and joint events are just the start. I want to overhaul Arts morale, all the while taking a bipartisan long view of the Union's service structure. Vote Joseph



Michael Deas

Green Party - Promoting Sustainability and Social Justice at the LSE. As Europe's premier social science institution the LSE, and it's Student's Union, is uniquely placed to lead by example in creating a sustainable future and social justice. If elected, I will push for greater funding of projects that promote sustainability and reduce the ecological footprint of our Union and School. I will also ensure that campaigning societies receive adequate funding so that the LSESU can continue strongly fighting for social justice, not just on campus but throughout London and the world.



Kevin Heutschi

This candidate did not submit a manifesto



Adrian Kaye

I would like to see a fairer distribution of the budget between societies. Also, the Student Union needs to give more recognition and support to the creative and performing arts. Currently, there is a lot of creative talent at LSE going wholly unnoticed. We need to make more of an effort to encourage joint events between societies. This will increase participation, integration and communication between diverse groups at the LSE. I will do my best to help the SU shop, café and bars attain the highest standards, ensuring that they respond effectively to student opinion.



Sadia Najma Kidwai

Improve Union services with greater emphasis on student feedback- have YOUR views heard! Campaign to reduce the costs of living in London, especially to help international students and students from low income backgrounds.

Develop new ideas to generate greater Union revenue- more money for YOUR societies and services.

Facilitating an ethical and environmentally friendly Union.

Increase transparency of F&S: regular reports on the SU website.

Investing in the Beaver, PuLSE FM and LooSE TV to encourage student participation in the Media Group.

For proactive persistence- vote for Kid!



Daisy O'Brien

Allocating budgets is a contentious issue in this years Treasurer and Society offices race - however it is easily forgotten that a very important part is played the Finance and Service committee. The best way to ensure funds get allocated appropriately and used, is to elect an experienced member to F and S, who know the trends and has worked with all the societies before. I sat on the committee last year and am in an excellent position to do that. I am non-aligned and non-political which allows me to be fair, accountable and transparent.



Ken Wang

Firstly, my main aim is to let you all know the allocation of budgets for your societies. in order to give you the rights to inspect on your money used by school.

Secondly, I will try my best to publish the annual performance of your societies at the end of the academic year ,so you will know if your money has been best used.

Thirdly, by having a FSC E-mail which you can directly give your opinions on the allocation of budgets and the performance of the SU services such as shops, bars and café.

Your money + BEST

Candidate manifestos that exceeded their respective word limits were cut. The Beaver does not endorse any candidate in this election.

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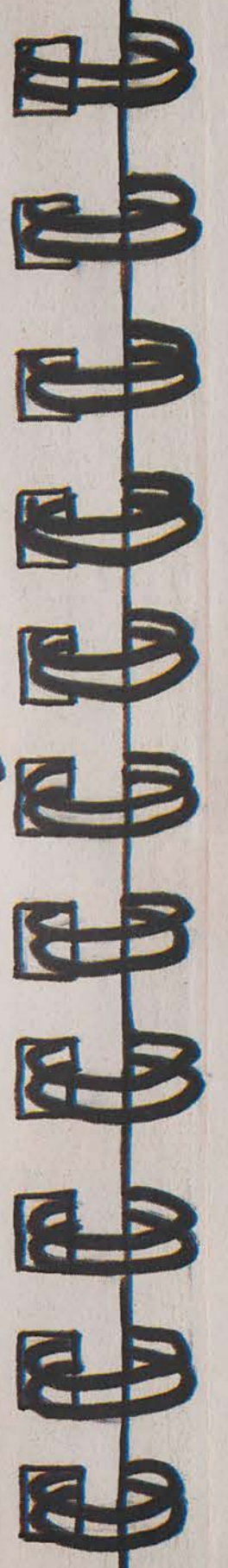
Our experienced staff have all been there so who better to ask for advice when booking your travels?

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Flights
Accommodation
Adventure tours

Volunteer projects
Language courses
Teaching abroad
Short Breaks
Global travel help

Group bookings
Travel Insurance
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Back-to-Basics



As a child, we dreaded another "hand-me-down". Now, vintage clothes are considered "cool". The line dividing "old crap" and "vintage chic" is blurry, I admit, but "hand-me-downs" can become a vital source of wardrobe rejuvenation. With the fashion world always drawing inspiration from the past, it makes sense for us to tap into an original source. So be happy next time your gran offers you a rummage through her closet - the "old" is the **new "new"**!

Estimote



Skin is in: smooth, bronzed and, most importantly, lots of it! Sky-rocking hem lines and plunging V-necks are the latest ways to channel the most natural fashion essential. Whilst the thought of winter skin terrifies us all, it's coming to that time of year when we rediscover what we actually look like underneath all those layers. There's no excuse: it's free, we all have it and it's definitely of the moment. It's time to do your skin. (Recommendation: not exclusively!)

Temifer Leggett



You have one, I have one, and the person nearest you as you read this probably has five, too. Not a "Facebook" addition - I'm talking about a favourite pair of jeans. A necessary basic. It's seen you through the good and the bad times, hot dates and drunken nights. Like a good friend, it's always there when you need it. Sure, it gets strained, maybe torn at the knee, and the fly lets you down every now and then - but nobody's perfect. They're not fussy, either. They'll go unwashed for weeks without a single complaint. And, like a fine wine, they only get better with age.

Aba Osunsade

"Back-to-Basics". Taken to its extreme, this term (so deliciously devoid of meaningful significance) would suggest that we remind the clocks of couture all the way back to the dress of choice for the homo-erectus: nakedness. Fuelled by the axiom 'less is more', this most primordial form of garb is undergoing a flourishing renaissance. So far from being nebular flannel basics are the new "complexities"... rejoice for the come-back of simplicity!

Zia Yusuf



terraform transformer

DANIEL VALES TALKS ABOUT TRAVELLING LIGHT IN THE TECHNO-DUSK

Contemporary landscapes are littered with the machinery of travel. Roads and rail criss-cross the world like scars, boats lie around on dry land like freak chops. Travel is wreckage of the natural. We travel through and over nature like herds of mechanical buffalo, ripping bits of nature, trampling it under our massive bionic footprint. Often our technologies break and old people die in hot buffet cars, or fall from their mechanical perches as zimmer frames buckle. With this in mind here are some travel tips that side-step the caprices of our fail-safe technologies...

1. Walking - stress fracture your calves by walking across continents. This will give you the leg-profile of a glazed ham and a healthy attitude. Inside of your legs.

2. Wood - Forget the Euro Tunnel, a stab-wound through mother nature's dermis which

is bound to leak sooner or later. Instead cling to driftwood at Dover and pray for neatly directional currents.

3. Sewer - Haul your way through the sludge of London's sewers. Quicker and cheaper than the creaking, blu-tacked, tin machine of death they call 'the tube'.

4. Piss - Urinate in your own mouth. Y'know, For Kicks.

5. GPS - Never, under any circumstances, use GPS. It once told me there was a 'inforest' in Dagenham. Instead rely on maps and old-fashioned guesswork.

6. Torches - When the machines take over batteries won't help you. Moreover they let you down in the dark. Eat carrots and wave finder-sticks around like you just don't care.



Animation is Dead, Long Live Animation!

Simon Wang is a Cartoon hero...

Animation is currently undergoing a revolution, no less dramatic for the fact that it has taken years to develop. Soon after Disney Pixar released 'Toy Story' in 1995, all the big studios and publishers (Disney, Dreamworks, Sony Pictures et al) gradually scrapped classic animation for the more hi-tech Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) Animation.

It's a real pity that classic animation has died out in this way, as it always seemed to have something that CGI didn't, something beyond the lifelike precision of CGI. Sometimes CGI feels more two-dimensional than classic animation. I have yet to see another 'Lion King', or indeed, another golden age of animation such as Disney had when it seemed that they could do no wrong. Although CGI is improving, it has not yet learned how to inspire the kind of emotion I feel when I watch Aladdin for the millionth time.

It almost seems like the baton of classic animation has been passed to the far East - as any 'otaku' will tell you, Japanese

anime has exploded internationally. One of the most famous producers of anime is of course, Studio Ghibli, best known for 'Spirited Away', among others. Although they have been going for a long time, they still produce some of the most original animation I have ever seen. They definitely capture that special 'spark' that Disney films pioneered, and of course, add a Japanese twist to it. Studio Ghibli is a perfect introduction to the whole anime craze that is spreading like wildfire, as well as being a great way of starting to learn more about animation in general.

Another great way of getting into anime is through animated adaptations of famous Western films. An excellent example of is the 'Animatrix' (based on the 'Matrix' series), which features several shorts showcasing different styles, and is a great introduction to anime in general. More films than ever before are using different animation styles; not just CGI, but also exploring cell-shading, a technique which makes photo-realism look hand drawn. A good example is the recently released 'A Scanner Darkly', which mimics what happens after drug

use, demonstrating significantly more vivid pigmentation, and less precision.

However, CGI has come a long way since the first use of 3D imagery in 'Future World' in 1976. Complete feature-length films are now created using CGI, and it has taken the place of classic traditional animation (in the West, at least).

All animation studios' films are definitely improving, as the technology progresses to make creating animated movies so much easier. With CGI, production studios have a much greater scope to be creative.

However, it feels as though we haven't reached the peak of what CGI animation is capable of yet, and you can tell that many of the studios and their designers are still experimenting. So although I do lament the death of the 'old' animation, I predict great things ahead. Animation is dead, long live animations!



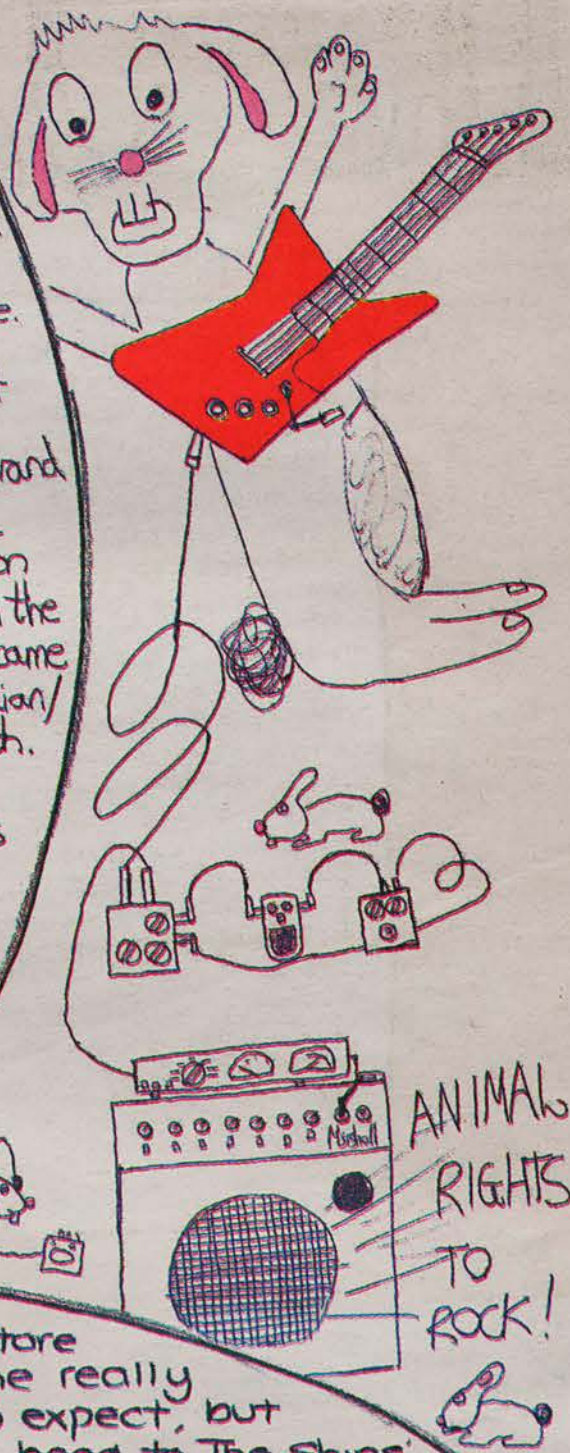
'Twas a night of untempered adventure when the Decemberists came to Southampton-ton. The American college-rock Gods and recent runners-up to Steven Colbert in the rock battle of the century descended from their big blue turbans into what resembled a townhall filled with adoring undergrads. I had arrived in the centre of the post-industrialist city on the channel just a few hours previously and had become hopelessly lost trying to find a B&B and so the Decemberists were in full flight when I arrived at the back of the aforementioned hall. The crowd were in high spirits, ceaselessly shouting poetic-sounding phrases that were presumably intended as requests for tracks from the back-catalogue.

My experience from an song Southern f-mellow accessible nodding occasional out of left-organ-led I am in no way



Decemberists song you have heard them all, quite the opposite in fact as Southampton's show demonstrated their ability to switch from murder-ballad to sing-along with ease, rather I merely suggest that one can comfortably feel where each song is headed.

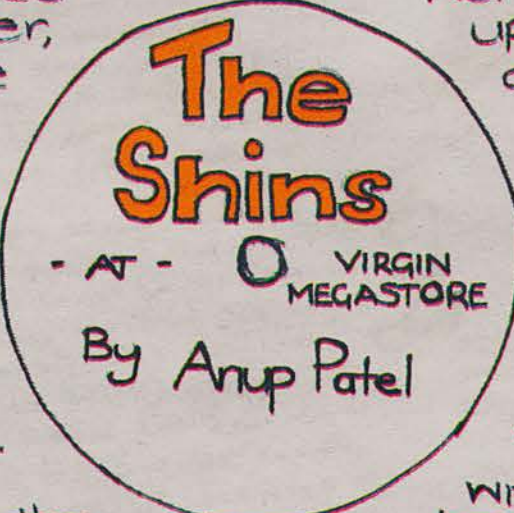
The Decemberists on-stage act is entertaining enough with lead-singer Moley organising what resembled a Rangers vs. Celtic shouting competition amongst the crowd. Famed multi-instrumentalist Chris Funk spent most of the concert behind an amplifier next to the fire-exit, indeed Moley could have sitting at least six mature cats round his head without fear of hitting a band member. No matter though as Moley's voice was the star of the show. His vocal chords produce a bizarre noise that is all the more striking in person, it is grating, it is nasal, but also very melodic and perfectly suited to the organ-grinder accompaniment of his band. The Decemberists have such an innocent happy-go-luck aura that one scarcely notices the deep melancholy that informs most of their songs. There certainly exists no current British band that matches their sound, despite the very British pantheon of influences that Moley cites, and for that reason alone we ought to embrace them.



At an in-store event no-one really knows what to expect, but after bobbing my head to The Shins' new album 'Winning the Night Away', I felt compelled to attend. After half an hour of

sound checking the band began... or so they thought. The set and album opener, 'Sleeping Lessons' never really materialised - some technical nonsense to blame. The last band I saw play without a sound check severely berated the sound engineer; but not so in this case, these guys are just far too nice! Their latest single, 'Phantom Limb' was well received and is beautiful live; however the basement of Virgin Megastores didn't quite do it justice. Think summer festival, sun setting over yonder trees, cup of warm beer in your hand and you get the picture.

The band then treated their loyal fan base to a few tracks from their debut album 'Oh, Inverted opening lines of the heavier, is creepy' were sung out the interest in the gig - clearly which appeared on the the film 'Garden State', a great things for the band's position in the U.S chart. mellowed out towards its to try the set opener again spoil-sport sound engineers. things to an end, a track guitar strumming away in the quaint lyric 'you had to know that I was fond of you.' It was a nice way to end a relaxed promo show where, even if the band could not hear themselves playing, the audience was captured by their charm.



World. When the up-tempo 'Caring crowd upped their fond of the track soundtrack to film that did exposure and The short set end, with requests refused by the 'Turn on Me' brought with an acoustic background and the

The Jewry Is Out

I'd never before had my Jewish credentials questioned. I consider myself a bona fide chosen person; I kvetch better than Woody Allen, I was snip-shipped as a baby, I had a fabulous Broadway-themed Bar Mitzvah, I was president of my Jewish youth group, there are trees planted in my name in Israel and I regularly eat gefilte fish. But as I discovered last weekend, as far as Orthodox Jews are concerned, I'm a goy.

It all began rather innocuously. I received an e-mail about a retreat for Jewish students across London—a relaxing weekend in the countryside with some nice Jewish boys and girls. Sure, I didn't know anything about the organization hosting it, but it seemed so harmless. Jews are Jews, I assured myself.

But from the moment I arrived at Waterloo station, it was apparent that one of these Jews was not like the others. For starters, I was the only one without a kippah (the Hebrew word for yarmulke). One student, staring at my naked head asked, "Hi, uh, I was just wondering, uh, why aren't you wearing a kippah? You are Jewish, right?" I explained that I am a Reform Jew and that while I always wear one when I pray, I don't think it's necessary to wear one outside synagogue. He replied, straight-faced, "Wearing a kippah shows your constant devotion to G-d. Are you not constantly devoted to G-d?" I smiled politely and put on my iPod. OY VET!

Of course, my iPod would later be confiscated. As would my mobile and my laptop. These Jews were Shomer Shabbos—they followed an archaic set of laws dictating exactly what one can and cannot do on the Sabbath. And my iPod was clearly verboten.

When we arrived at the old, neglected country house, we were told to get ready for services. I dressed as I would for my temple in New York: pressed black trousers, a crisp Harvie & Hudson shirt with Hermes cufflinks and a cashmere sweater—smart, but not so flashy as to be inappropriate for shul. I later discovered, however, that "flashy" is a relative term.

The services were held in a stunning Victorian drawing room, its beauty only slightly diminished by the giant sheets of tin-foil that adorned the walls. Apparently, the Rabbi disapproved of the room's murals (which depicted scenes from Roman mythology) and ordered that they be covered. The men and women sat separately. The women were quarantined in the corner, under a Bedouin-style tent that was created using some spare linens. We were each handed an all-Hebrew prayer book—no transliteration for the Hebrew impaired. Luckily, I know how to read Hebrew, but I do so at the same pace George Bush reads English. I was instantly lost. They shrieked and chanted at a road-runner's pace, all the while swaying violently up and down and side to side, like extras in a Kylie Minogue video. The service was essentially an eighty-minute cardiovascular work-out of extreme praying.

For Shabbat dinner, I was seated at a table of Sephardic Jews who spoke French and Hebrew, but precious little English. I kept to myself, ate the delicious challah and kugel and lifted my head only to field the occasional

question. Most of these exchanges ended with a condescending "I see..." and an awkward silence. Example: where do you live in London? LSE halls. Really? what do you eat? well, there's a Tesco and an M&S within walking distance, so I mostly cook for myself. But how do you keep kosher in a shared kitchen? Oh, I don't keep kosher. You don't? Oh, I see...

After dinner I attended a discussion, led by the Rabbi's wife, about whether or not Jewish students should socialize with non-Jewish students. Joked that they'd even pose such a question, I raised my hand to ask the Rabbi's wife (who, à la Fiddler on the Roof had a proper double chin) what's the worst that can come of me going for a pint with a Christian friend? With eerie candor she told me that fraternizing with non-Jewish girls leads to inter-marriage which, ipso facto, leads to the end of the Jewish people, therefore finishing the job Hitler began.

She thought that dropping the "H" Bomb would shut me up, but I decided to respond with a small clarification: "I understand your point, Ma'am, but one thing—I'm gay, so it's the non-Jewish boys you need to worry about." Gasp! Shock! A real homosexual? A Jewish homosexual? Holy Moses!

I left the plenary as inconspicuously as possible (given the fact that everyone was now staring at me) and went upstairs to brush my teeth. I turned on the lights in the bedroom in order to find my toothbrush. When I returned from the bathroom, I found a half dozen boys crowded around the room. "YOU TURNED ON THE LIGHT," one squealed.

"Yeah, so what?" I replied. Well, as it turns out, Shomer Shabbos Jews can't turn lights on or off. So, thanks to my carelessness, we had to sleep with the lights on. Whoops!

The next day, I attended morning prayers, ate lunch, and then got ready for the afternoon discussion, which focused on a tradition associated with the festival of Purim: cross-dressing. The Rabbi's thesis was essentially that although G-d says that Purim should be a holiday full of simcha, or gaiety, perhaps cross-dressing involves a little too much "gaiety" in the modern sense of the word.

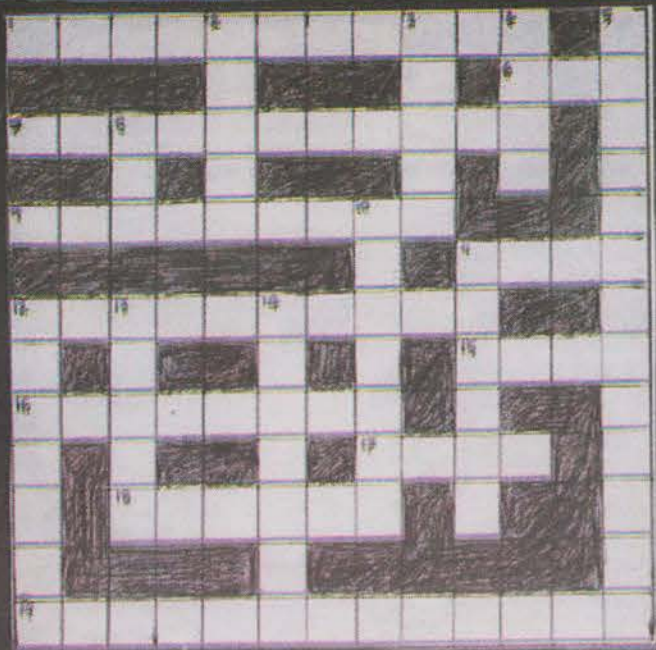
I was mortified. I respect that each sect of Judaism interprets the religion's texts and traditions differently, but I'd had enough of this mishegas! I went upstairs, packed my suitcase and was about to leave when I realized, much like the Bush Administration in Iraq, I didn't have an exit strategy. When we arrived the day before, we were driven from the station to the house, but that was before sunset. It was now the Sabbath and none of these Orthodox Jews were about to jump in a Jetta to take me, the gay heathen, to the bloody train station.

So, I fled on foot. In Diesel sneakers and with my suitcase rolling behind me, I made my way down the meandering country roads towards the Holy Land: the Dorking train station. After forty minutes of wandering (admittedly easier than the forty years my ancestors endured), I boarded the train, sweating (nay, shvitzing) profoundly.

Halleluiah, I thought.



by Alex Levy



The C-WORD

Across:

- 1: manually scriben (11)
- 6: possess (3)
- 7: info disseminators (11)
- 9: OK; 1971 Bowie Album (5-4)
- 11: Legume (4)
- 12: can't be wrong (10)
- 15: one in two (4)
- 16: frame of mind (8)
- 17: wander (4)
- 18: really nice (6)
- 19: amusement (13)

Down:

- 2: askew (5)
- 3: flavourome (6)
- 4: curious (4)
- 5: implying nothing (13)
- 8: ash container (3)
- 10: theft (7)
- 11: decapitate (6)
- 12: fantastize (7)
- 13: deadly (5)
- 14: most noisy (7)



ASK Auntie Shaw

Dear Mrs Shaw,

When LSE blacked-out last week, I got stuck in a building and I was very scared because I was about to lose a bid on e-bay, about to poke someone on facebook and find out how relevant my diet was on a microwave. I need some advice on how to live my life (and enjoy it) without the internet and/or electricity.

Dependent on your response,
Mr X

Dearest X,

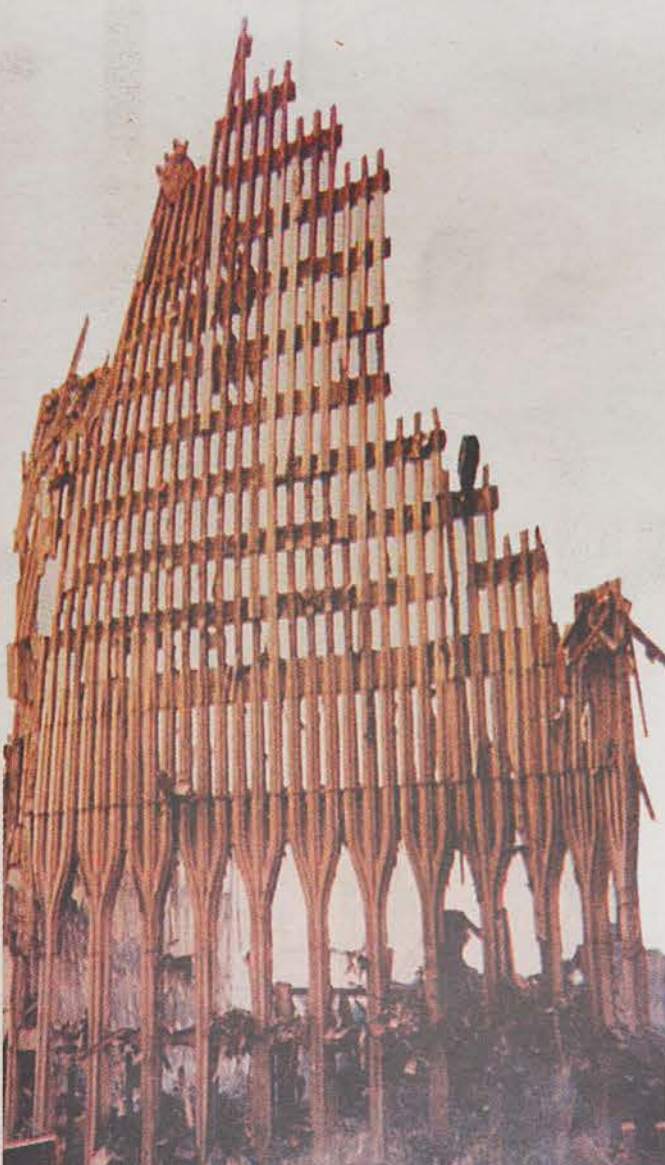
As you made your letter during the blackout, I decided to do the same in the name of solidarity! The illegible handwriting tells me that your very dependent on your laptop (as am I). Make a start by getting on horseback and studying under sheet lamps and you'll soon be on your way!

Auntie Shaw
Koko

I LOVE YOU

s o u t h e r e

conspiracy theories and gives them some arbitrary ratings based on how likely we think they are



World Order

The godfather of conspiracy theories. 9/11 hoaxes, Area 51, faked moon landings all fit under this one. There are people out there who want to take over and they are plotting stuff...scary stuff.

The Theory

Basically the theory is that some secret groups have a plan to overthrow the current order of sovereign states and replace it with One World Government – an Orwellian state with suppression of dissenting minorities, enforced political correctness and promotion of the vested interests of the powerful (e.g. high oil prices).

There have also been a few people identified as the one plotting to take over the world. The standard explanation is that the 'establishment' (big business and world leaders) are conspiring behind closed doors to bring about enforced world peace. However some people have been more specific citing the Jews, the Freemasons, Skull and Bones Neo-cons, the Illuminati, extra-terrestrial agents and the powerful families such as the Rothschilds.

The LSE has been linked to the ideas of New World Order. Bertrand Russell supported the Baruch Plan whereby the UK and America would use their atomic power to ensure perpetual world peace. The Fabian Society has also been accused of being a vehicle for the Windsor family to take control of world government.

Theorists seen signs of conspiracy in the modern world from international support for Israel to the Illuminati seal on the back of the US dollar bill (see below). Check it out for yourself...pentagrams in architecture and anagrams are usually a good place to start looking. Alternatively pop down to the Grand Masonic Lodge of the Freemasons just off Kingsway and ask about the secret handshake.

Chance of being true:

A lot of this is fairly typical of conspiracy theories – therefore a lot of it is crap; maybe one of two things make a bit of sense (yes, some companies are very powerful and yes, the Freemasons are weird) but grouping them together is very silly.

And yet...it just could happen. Who knows what really gets said between world leaders and business men and all those powerful interest groups we don't know about. Also however scary the idea is, it's a bit cool. Who doesn't like the image of CIA black-ops and shady influential people in suits trying to take over the world?

23%



JFK Assassination

Dallas, Texas is famous for two things – who shot JR (in the TV show named after the town) and who shot JFK. Unlike most other conspiracy theories, this is not confined to a few loners with a laptop and an over-active imagination – the majority of the public do not believe in the official verdict of what happened in November, 1963.

The Theory

America's sexiest and most Irish President was visiting Dallas, where his popularity was failing ahead of elections. Ironically he underestimated how unpopular he was in the neighbourhood. Whilst touring the city in an open top limo, Kennedy was shot and pronounced dead shortly afterwards. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the assassination later in the day but claimed that he been framed. He was later murdered by Jack Ruby. The Warren Report concluded that Kennedy had been shot by Oswald – a lone gunman.

The idea that Oswald was a lone political dissident with a grudge against JFK has been written off by almost everyone. Jim Garrison (the one played by Kevin Costner in Oliver Stone's JFK) led a counter investigation, his main conclusion being that there were four shots fired at JFK's limo not two hence Oswald was not acting alone.

That's only the start. Almost everything about the shooting is dodgy; Kennedy's autopsy was a joke conducted in secret, Oswald had FBI agents names in his address book before his arrest, hours of evidence had been 'lost' and the files sealed for 75 years, you only have to google "magic bullet" to see that the official verdict of the shooting itself is hilariously unrealistic.

The Motives

The who, rather than the how of JFK's assassination has tended to be more interesting but there are plenty of candidates. The most popular candidates are the CIA, Hoover and the FBI and Cuban exiles. However Irish dissidents, and Israeli conspiracy and Lyndon Johnson (Kennedy's Vice-President) are also in the frame.

Chance of being true:

A further review of the issue by the House Select Committee in 1970 concluded that JFK was "most likely killed as the result of a conspiracy".

Some conspiracy theorists would have you believe everyone in the world wanted JFK dead and was part of an incredibly intricate plan leading to his assassination. That's probably a lie. However, the odds that there are more to this than meets the eye are overwhelming. Either way we will find out in 2017 when the files relating to the case have to be made public.

95%

Loose Change

Loose Change is an internet film, available on youtube, which sets forth a conspiracy theory claim that elements within the United States government planned and executed the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

The Theory

The film favours the controlled demolition theory of the destruction of World Trade Center. In particular, the film alleges that the fires inside the twin towers were not hot enough to melt the steel reinforcements in the building and that the towers fell in 10 seconds (that means then collapsed in free-fall), significantly faster than should have happened if they had collapsed on themselves. Small explosions as the tower fell also suggest controlled demolition. In the case of Flight 93, the film ignores the mainstream theory of the plane being shot down and instead alleges it landed safely at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and was evacuated by government personnel into an unused NASA research centre.

The Motives

Larry Silverstein - substantial insurance payout after the attacks due to a specific anti-terrorism clause
Halliburton - subsequent launch of America's "War on Terror".
Project for the New American Century think tank and the Re-building America's Defenses report - bringing revolutionary change to American policy

Chance of being true:

5%

It all sounds a bit too well-organised and amazingly well-executed for this administration. Maybe if they were blaming the Democrats, it'd stand up better.



Stolen away

Marvin Tse, Robin Nundoo, and Kanishka Aubeelack
on how the British Government betrayed
its own people for the USA.



A Royal Navy T class submarine arrives at Diego Garcia amidst tight security to embark Tomahawk missiles

Try to imagine how you would feel if your government labelled you as disposable. Even worse imagine that one day your government tells you to leave your house because it is no longer yours.

The Chagossians are a people whose lives have been ruined by such a betrayal.

The setting: Early 1960s. Diego Garcia is the main island of the Chagos Archipelago and home to some 2000 inhabitants: The Chagossians. The archipelago has been a territory of Mauritius since the 18th century. Mauritius, then still under British colonial rule was allowed to gain independence on the condition that the UK would acquire sovereignty over Chagos.

Why? So that the UK could lease the island to the US to build what would become the biggest military base outside the USA. From there B52 bombers would take off to bombard Afghanistan and Iraq a few decades later.

Maintaining the fiction

The US however demanded that the island be swept of its inhabitants, to which the British Government promptly yielded.

Enter a web of conspiracies in order to evict the islanders, including the creation of a cover colony, the British Indian Ocean Territories (BIOT). The UK falsely declared that the inhabitants of the island were

contract workers, despite them having lived on the islands for 5 generations - the tombs of their ancestors were there as proof. Dennis Greenhill, working in Foreign Office wrote in the 1960-70's, "unfortunately, along with the birds go some few Tarzans or Man Fridays whose origins are obscure and who will hopefully be wished on to

Forced into exile

As from 1965, the British Government proceeded to systematically remove its own citizens, and came up with devices reminiscent of a bygone age, like free trips to Mauritius, which turned out to be

Mauritius. There they were dumped on the docks and abandoned to a life of extreme poverty and deprivation.

Upon their eviction the islanders were offered peanuts as compensation, that too only under the condition that they sign/thumbprint a document officially renouncing their right to return. Most of the islanders could

The Quest for Justice

And yet, in the year 2000, the Chagossians saw light at the end of the tunnel. The British High Court ruled that the UK Government had unlawfully sent the islanders into exile. The ruling was an embarrassment for the British Government. However, the Blair regime had another dirty trick rolled up its sleeve. Have you ever heard of an Order in Council? It is essentially a royal decree manufactured by the government which the Queen rubberstamps, without any parliamentary oversight. On the 10th of June 2004 election-day, when it thought nobody would notice, the government (under US pressure) passed an Order in Council to ban the Chagossians from ever returning home.

However in 2006, the High Court overturned the Queen's Orders of 2004. The judges ruled that 'the suggestion that a minister can, through the means of an Order in Council, exile a whole population (...) is repugnant.' And yet, the government stubbornly appealed against the verdict two weeks ago.

Although the judgment due to be delivered in April is likely to again support the Chagossians, the government can still bring the case to the House of Lords, thus lengthening the procedures even more. The tragedy is that soon there will not be any more remaining native Chagossians. They have waited for more than 40 years for justice. Is this not enough?



Mauritius." Another wrote in a Foreign Office memorandum, that although the islanders had been there for generations "the intention is (...) that none of them should be regarded as permanent inhabitants..."

one-way trips. Supplies to the island were cut off, and there were even rumours that they would be bombed by the Americans. This eventually culminated in their outright deportation to neighbouring Seychelles and

neither read nor write and did not even know what they were signing. What they saw was a way to delay starvation by a few months. One could only blame them for being naive and intimidated.

A DISPUTED NATION

The US initially considered building a base in Aldabra, an uninhabited island in the archipelago. But they switched to the settled and inhabited island of Diego Garcia after realizing that Aldabra was the home of giant tortoises.

America paid the UK for the island in the form of a discount on nuclear weapons.

In the Falkland Wars, the government spent more than £100 million to defend 2000 (White) British inhabitants.

In all about 2000 (Black) British people were sent in exile from their homes on the island.

When forcing the residents in the early 1970's the British government crammed 300 people in a ship designed for 50.

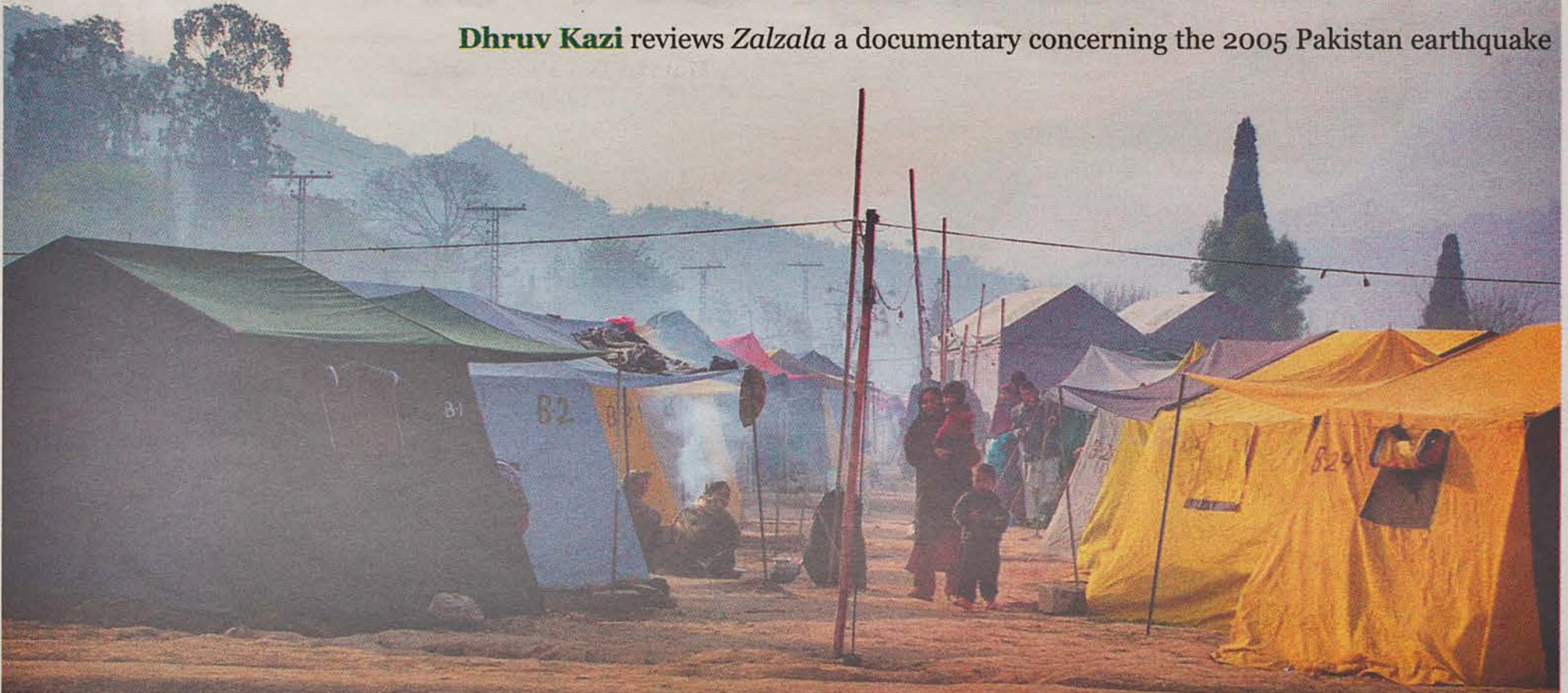
The appeal has already cost the British taxpayer almost £2 million, resettlement of the inhabitants would cost about £3 million.

Want to know more?

If you want to know more, the Mauritian Society and Public Affairs Society are holding a panel discussion 'Stealing a Nation, How the UK sold its own people' on the 5th of March as from 18 00 at S75. There will be a screening of 'Stealing A Nation', the award-winning documentary exposing the UK conspiracy after which you will get the chance to hear the views of a native Chagossian, the solicitor representing the Chagos group and a former high official at the Foreign Office.

Groundbreaking film-making

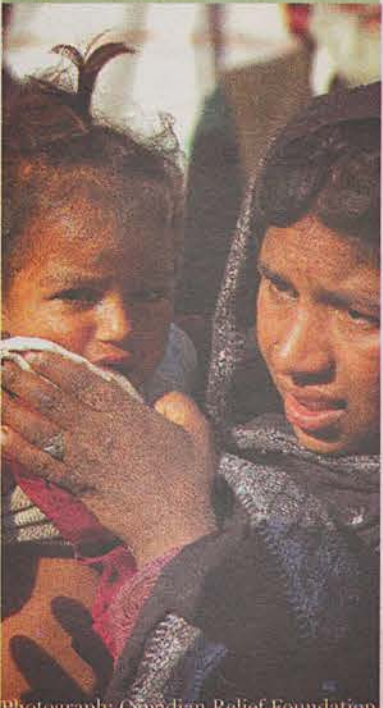
Dhruv Kazi reviews *Zalzala* a documentary concerning the 2005 Pakistan earthquake



Displaced victims of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan

Pakistan Earthquake

On the morning of October 8th, 2005, just as children had settled down for a normal school day, a massive earthquake struck Kashmir, with its epicentre near Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale, it claimed an estimated 87,000 lives – about half of them school-aged children – and caused billions of dollars worth of damage to property. About 1400 people were killed on the Indian side of the border. The difficult terrain of the region, combined with the destruction of the road infrastructure by the quake itself, rendered large parts of the affected area inaccessible by land and impeded the timely arrival of relief and rescue operations. That was a year and a half ago. But as *Zalzala* poignantly reminds us, those impacted by the quake continue to suffer in silence.



Photograph: Canadian Relief Foundation

Wednesday saw the world premiere of Jason and Michelle Watt's *Zalzala*, a documentary about the Pakistan earthquake of October 2005, in LSE's New Theatre.

Jason, a Canadian paramedic, was part of an initial medical response team that arrived in Pakistan a few weeks after the quake. Overwhelmed by the scale of the devastation around him, he decided it was a story that needed to be brought to the attention of the outside world, and so he returned with a small crew and a shoe-string budget to make his first documentary film. For the couple this film has been a labour of love – Michelle admitted they had been working eighteen hour days on this project since June last year.

The premiere was hosted by the LSE Health, LSE Film, LSE Development, LSE Pakistan societies, and their relentless attempts to promote it were wildly successful – I have never seen the New Theater so packed with people. Pretty much every seat was taken – and a couple dozen students were seated on the stairs. Representatives from the Pakistani Embassy, the Canadian High Commission and the World Food Program were also present.

While introducing the film, Jason asserted that he wanted this to be a movie about the victims of the quake, not a story about himself. Despite this aim the movie was at least as much about the emotional impact of the devastation on the team, including their Pakistan-born Canadian interpreter, as it was about the quake victims themselves. But that's precisely what made the film more compelling. It wasn't a sterile piece of news reporting – it felt immensely personal. And several home-video like shots further enhanced the feeling of intimacy, drove the emotions home. You were no longer a distant spectator watching the story unfold through the frosted glass of time and distance. The emotional responses of the crew made the experience real – and truly got under your skin.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Q&A session that followed. The audience clearly had very diverse backgrounds – there were those who had been part of the disaster response on the ground, some had

strong local ties and were therefore affected by the quake, and others for whom this had been just another news blip of death and destruction in the developing world. A Pakistani lady received a round of applause when she pointed out that previous governments had had remarkable success with generating housing over a short period of time – the entire capital had been created rapidly after the partition – and asked whether the inability to provide housing for those rendered homeless by the quake reflected the absence of political will. The representative of the Pakistan high commission answered the question with great skill, emphasizing the difficulty with disaster response in the region's unforgiving terrain. Several members of the audience – visibly moved – thanked Jason for the work his team had done in Pakistan, and for putting the spotlight on a disaster that much of the world has now forgotten about. Others asked if it would have been better to have more interviews with the victims themselves, or a greater focus on their current needs. The questions showed how the film had meant different things to different people, an enviable achievement for any documentary filmmaker.

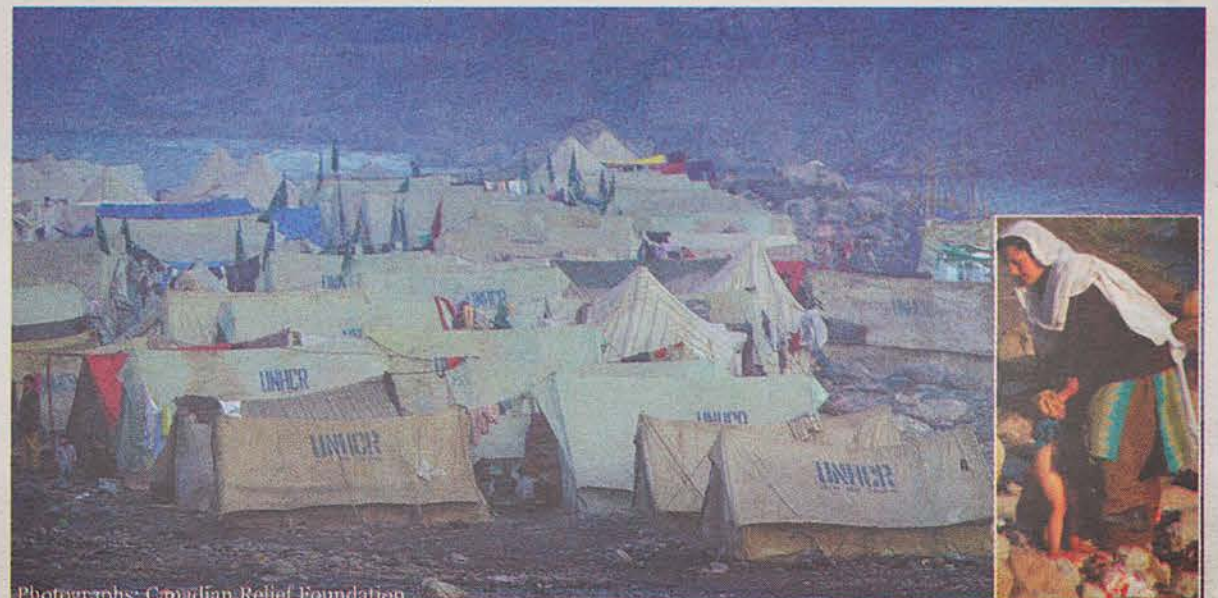
Despite the magnitude of the quake itself, it was hard to overlook the human component of this catastrophe. Surely more lives could have been saved if the disaster relief had been more coordinated or medical response had been more robust and prompt. It was hard to comprehend why 1.8 million people were still homeless a year after the quake, despite the reassurances of the representative from the Pakistani High Commission that everything possible was being done. This is now their second bitter winter in tents perched on some of the highest mountains of the world. Why was donor response inadequate and delayed – in contrast to the swift, overwhelming response to the Tsunami, when MSF Holland had to close their bank account because they received too much money in earmarked donations, more than they thought they could ever spend? What could the media have done differently? What should the media have done differently?

The film does not claim to be a comprehensive documentary of the disaster response or the issues involved. It gleans over the political

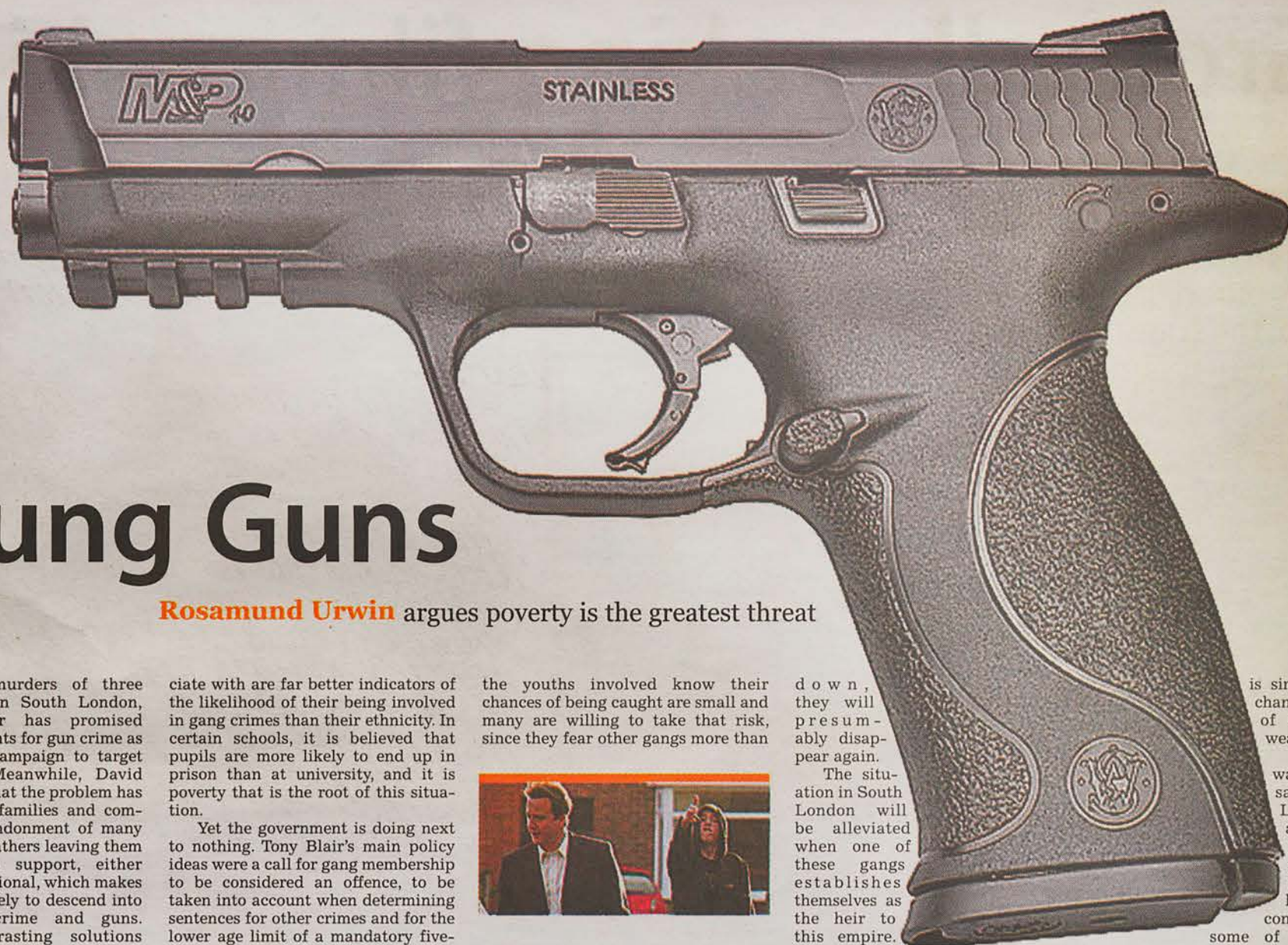
dimension of disaster in the backyard of one of the world's most dangerous international conflicts. For instance, while it highlights the central role of helicopters in bringing food and medical aid to remote villages in the mountainous terrain, there is no mention of the administration's initial reluctance to accept foreign choppers for fear of allowing foreign pilots into this zone of immense political sensitivity. Nor does it show the traffic bottlenecks along the roads that resulted from a highly fractionated disaster response resulting in unacceptable delays. Michelle emphasized that their intent was not to point fingers but to highlight that a lot more needed to be done. Given that mandate, I think the film did exceedingly well – largely steering clear of controversy and focusing instead on the human cost of this disaster. Using the same words he tells his nursing students back home, Jason said to the audience at the end of the film, "Now you know. So I am holding you accountable."

I came away feeling that the filmmakers had set before themselves this giant canvas, and with broad yet deliberate brushstrokes, created a documentary masterpiece.

The disaster in pictures: (Below) A refugee camp in Kashmir; (Inset) A woman bathing her child in the Neelum river - Muzaffarabad, Kashmir



Photographs: Canadian Relief Foundation



Young Guns

Rosamund Urwin argues poverty is the greatest threat

After the murders of three teenagers in South London, Tony Blair has promised tougher punishments for gun crime as part of a wider campaign to target gang violence. Meanwhile, David Cameron argued that the problem has its root amongst families and communities: the abandonment of many children by their fathers leaving them without paternal support, either financial and emotional, which makes teenagers more likely to descend into the world of crime and guns. Completely contrasting solutions offered to an issue interpreted very differently; but unfortunately, both equally misguided in both their understanding of the problem and its solution.

It is inevitable that Cameron and Blair disagree: the opposition will always interpret shocking events such as the recent spate of shootings as indicative of some deeper societal malaise (that would, of course, be cured were they in power), while it is quite natural that the government should pretend any such problem is limited in scope and fairly easy to treat. Yet neither leader has come up with policies that are in any way close to what needs to be done. On the whole, Tony Blair was correct to claim that the issue of gang violence is a problem of a specific group and that it does not shed much light on the state of British society in general. This is not to say that gang crime is concentrated in the black community alone: recent victims of shootings and the believed perpetrators have been of assorted races, but rather Blair's specific group refers to the most disadvantaged in our society. In fact, where children go to school, which estate they live on and the group they asso-

ciate with are far better indicators of the likelihood of their being involved in gang crimes than their ethnicity. In certain schools, it is believed that pupils are more likely to end up in prison than at university, and it is poverty that is the root of this situation.

Yet the government is doing next to nothing. Tony Blair's main policy ideas were a call for gang membership to be considered an offence, to be taken into account when determining sentences for other crimes and for the lower age limit of a mandatory five-year prison sentence for carrying an illegal firearm to be lowered from 21 to 17. As anyone who has picked up a newspaper in the last few months will realise, we have a rather considerable problem of over-crowding in our prisons, raising the question of where these young criminals are supposed to go. But actually, the suggested law reforms amount to very little: since 2004, the law has already imposed this mandatory five-year sentence for those 18 and over. So Tony Blair's attempt to get tough on gun crime constituted a rather pathetic two extra years in prison for 17-year olds: hardly likely to deter many. Further, the chances of getting caught are minimal: the chairman of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, Stephen Lander, noted that, "If you are an organised crook for 20 years, you have a 5 per cent chance of getting nicked". This is not because the police are failing the country but because drugs represent such a massive industry in this country that the police only have the resources to scratch the surface. The tougher sentences suggested are thus a feeble disincentive and simply will not deter gang members from carrying guns or committing crimes;

the youths involved know their chances of being caught are small and many are willing to take that risk, since they fear other gangs more than



“ It is inevitable Cameron and Blair disagree ... Yet neither leader has come up with policies that are in any way close to what needs to be done. ”

In contrast, where David Cameron went wrong was to blame the problem largely on absent fathers since studies have shown that children begin to do worse, both academically, and in terms of getting in trouble with the police, for a long time before their father leaves. What really disadvantages children is thus that their parents were completely incompatible in the first place. Where Cameron was correct, however, was that fathers need to be forced to provide economic support, but the issue is not so much about family breakdown as deprivation. Many children are better off in numerous ways without their father in their lives, but men failing to make child support payments leaves many families in great financial difficulty.

What both Tony Blair and David Cameron have missed is how closely gun crime and drugs are intertwined. The recent shootings in South London are not the mindless violence of an American high-school shooting, but based around the sound economic principle of maximising profit. Two of the main drug dealers in the area have recently been sent to prison, resulting in a turf war; those involved in the shootings are either unlucky victims caught in the crossfire or members of rival gangs trying to stake a claim on the potential booty, monopoly control of the drug sales in the area. In response, the police are suddenly lining the streets of South London, but residents say it is the first time they have been seen in some of the nastier estates: as soon as the crimes die

down, they will presumably disappear again.

The situation in South London will be alleviated when one of these gangs establishes themselves as the heir to this empire. But this will

be no reason to celebrate, since gun crime is spreading, shifting from the inner cities to the shires, with 45% of firearms offences now registered outside the usual trouble spots of London, Manchester and Birmingham [The Times]. The spread of gang warfare to smaller cities and the provinces can partly be attributed to successful policing which has driven gang members away from the inner cities but it is also closely linked to the growing market for crack cocaine across the country. While recent figures have revealed a 14% fall in firearms offences, this statistic may not be the reason for optimism it first appears: as drug dealers move out of the large cities, they temporarily enter markets where there is not enough competition to generate violence between the dealers. In the future, however, it is likely that these markets will become as saturated as those in the bigger cities, leading to more turf wars and a new spate of shootings which smaller police forces will lack the resources to handle effectively.

Since older gang members have been imprisoned, the average age of gang members in Britain has fallen dramatically over the last ten years. Detectives have noted a growing trend of "youth sections" within adult gangs, acting as gun runners and trying to imitate their older "role models". These youths have so few role models to aspire to that it is hardly surprising that the drug dealers with their flashy cars and glamorous clothes win the respect of many adolescents. Many of these teenagers consider crime alluring and that it is the only option they have that will truly pay: around £50,000 a week, if they "make it". As anyone who has read Freakonomics will know, drug dealers earn very little money at all until they reach the top of the supply chain, but the hope of reaching this point and reaping the financial rewards keep many in the game: it

is simply the best chance they have of accumulating wealth.

John Reid was correct to say South London is not a ghetto, it is not in the strict sense, but it does have a high concentration of

some of the poorest members of society. Certainly, there are a number of non-economic measures which could help alleviate gun crime: people giving evidence against gangs should be given much greater police protection, for example. Yet the main treatments are economic: by tackling poverty, we can give teenagers much-needed options to help them escape drug dealing. The quick-fix solution of longer sentences and sudden heavy policing will do little on their own to cut gun crime. What is needed is a much more long-term approach: investment in education and recreational facilities and a broader campaign to tackle the reliance of the economies of the most disadvantaged areas on the drug trade. The demand for drugs needs also to be addressed, since it is this which makes the enterprise so profitable in the first place that it is worth killing over. The answer is not drug legalisation, but many more police working on drug investigations. And we need more police on the streets permanently, not just when these crimes are hitting the headlines.

In a few weeks, the recent murders will no longer be mentioned in the newspapers and with the stories, the impetus to combat the deep-rooted problems in some of the most deprived areas of London will presumably go too. We must not let these teenagers be murdered in vain, but in their names tackle poverty and empower other young people to live a life free from crime.



Gun Crime Statistics

22,789 recorded crimes involved firearms (including air weapons) in 2004/05, 5% down on the previous year

78 homicides involved firearms in 2004/05, up from 68 the previous year.

54% of all firearm offences (excluding air weapons) in 2004/05 occurred in just 3 police authorities: Metropolitan (London), Greater Manchester and West Midlands.

Statistics from www.homeoffice.gov.uk

“Back our Boys”

Charles Laurence launches his campaign “Back our Boys”, asking LSE students to renew the tradition of writing letters to British service men and women overseas.

University life is a long way from the ‘real’ world. There are many young people not in our position, they chose a different path and as a consequence they know exactly where they will be this year and the next. If this sounds like a reassuring and appealing employer, you won’t find them at an LSE careers fair. These are the people serving in the British Armed Forces, who have been sent round the world to fight for their country.

In Britain we do not have the same tradition of writing to the troops as they do in America, but such letters are no less appreciated. There is no simpler or more effective way to support our troops than to write and tell them that you do. Having spoken to the Ministry of Defence, and British Forces Post Office I can confirm that letters are very welcome and seldom received. A letter is not just ‘kind’ in the words of an officer friend of mine, but also patriotic; this century, our security at home will depend more and more on events in far flung countries, our soldiers, sailors and airmen need to know that we are behind them.

The two theatres of war in which Britain is most heavily engaged are of course Iraq and Afghanistan. There has been so much political controversy over these operations that the work of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force often seems forgotten. I thought I would give you a flavour of these places from the soldier’s perspective. The operation in Iraq since the invasion is called TELIC, now in its 4th year and 9th phase; many soldiers jokingly suggest the name is an acronym

for Tell Everyone Leave Is Cancelled. Multiple army regiments are working with the Iraqis to secure the south of Iraq. Regiments like The Royal Green Jackets, who are now known as the 2nd Battalion of The Rifles. They recently took part in a daring raid to seize weapons and logistics from insurgents in conjunction with the Iraqi security forces. The best reflection of their distinguished conduct is the fact that they still enjoy good relations with the local Iraqis despite the anarchy that has gripped so much of the country. Another regiment of note are the Queen’s Royal Lancers with the cheery motto ‘Death or Glory’ they spent Christmas in the desert, supplied by helicopter. Recently they lost Sgt. Rees in an accident he left behind a wife and two young children.

In Afghanistan, the armed forces are engaging in bloody close quarters, fighting on an almost daily basis as they attempt to stop the Taliban from re-claiming the south. Just one example is the 45 Commando Unit, part of 3 Commando Brigade. They are at the cutting edge of our defence strategy, remaining, as they do, in a state of permanent readiness to deploy immediately anywhere in the world. They are currently in the Helmand province in Afghanistan as part of Operation Herrick. On the 15th of January after a ferocious

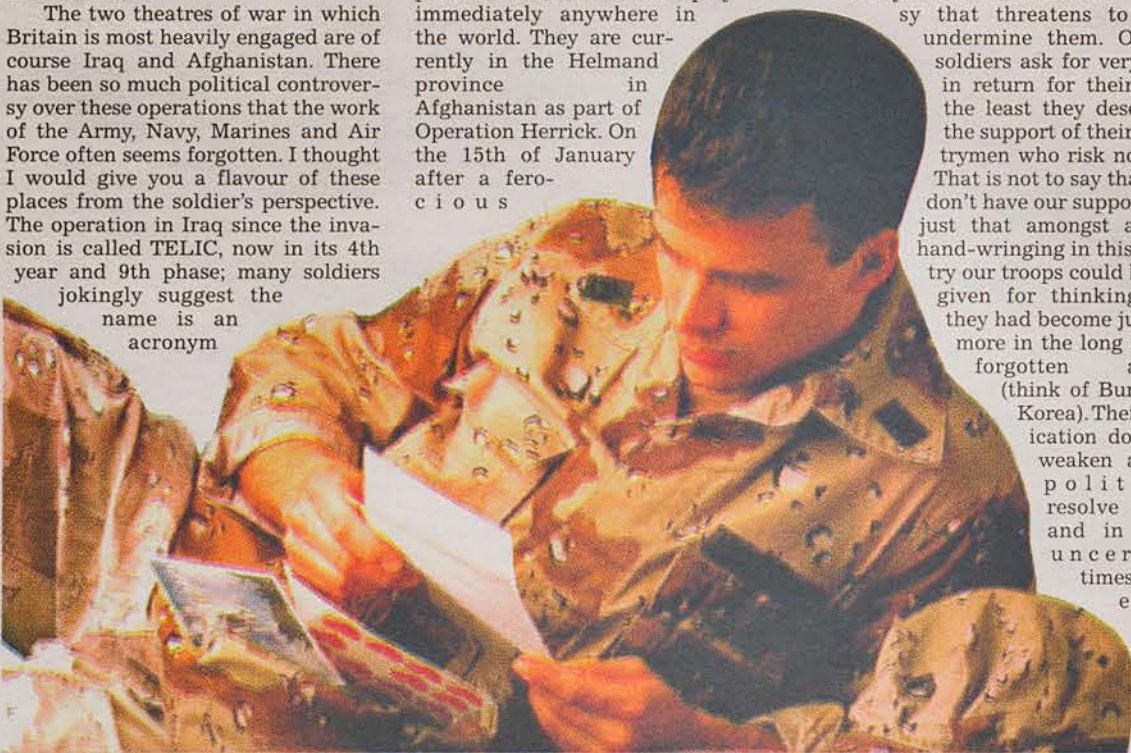
battle with the Taliban, they realised Lance Corporal Ford was missing, four marines immediately strapped themselves to an Apache and under heavy fire recovered the body of their comrade. In the words of Regimental Sergeant Major Colin Hearn “I’m just grateful that we found Lance Corporal Ford and got him back on the helicopter and back with us. I’m a Royal Marine, I’m RSM of the unit, he’s a Royal Marine the same as me - there was no way we were ever going to leave him, or anyone else on that battlefield.”

These examples are just a tiny fraction of the litany of distinction that characterises the British Armed Forces abroad. I have tried to give examples free of the political controversy that swirls about the servicemen, and yet it is this controversy

that threatens to undermine them. Our soldiers ask for very little in return for their duty; the least they deserve is the support of their countrymen who risk nothing. That is not to say that they don’t have our support, it is just that amongst all the hand-wringing in this country our troops could be forgiven for thinking that they had become just one more in the long line of forgotten armies (think of Burma or Korea). Their dedication does not weaken as our political resolve does, and in these uncertain times it is even more

141 Drury Lane,
Covent Garden
London

Dear Dan, I hope you're keeping well, and everything is going well. LSE is the same as always, classes, essays, lecture, repeat until graduation. Though a funny thing did happen on Friday Night, I was walking home from Crush cke, dreaded Crush - I know I promised myself I wouldn't go again, but it seem so tempting at 9pm on Friday, and so so awful on Saturday morning, and I bumped onto a friend from school, all the Rayheredin London



important to show our solidarity with the army.

That’s why I’ve started the campaign. From this week I will start collecting letters from students. All you need to do is give me a letter along with your contact details and whether it is intended for Afghanistan or Iraq; from there I will collect them and send them to the commanding officers of regiments in the field, who can distribute them to the men (for security reasons we cannot send messages directly to the individual soldiers). It takes no time at all and makes such a big difference. In terms of content, personal ones are best, but keep it upbeat - it’s support not sympathy we’re aiming for. There’s no excuse not to, you could write two in the time it takes to go through the ceremony of impotence that is the UGM.

This century, our security at home will depend more and more on events in far flung countries, our soldiers, sailors and airmen need to know we are behind them.

● Letters will be collected in the Quad 12-1pm on Friday

● You can also send letters or any inquiries to:

c.d.laurence@lse.ac.uk

● Check out the Facebook group “Back Our Boys in Iraq and Afghanistan”



the Beaver Previews



CHINA WEEK 2007

MONDAY 26/02	14:00	"China's Financial System" with Sir Howard Davies, <i>U8</i>
	19:30	Chinese New Year Show, <i>Old Theatre</i>
TUESDAY 27/02	13:00-19:00	Grand Chinese Food Fair, <i>Houghton Street</i> CDS Cup Chinese Debate Competition - LSE vs. UCL, <i>Hong Kong Theatre</i>
WEDNESDAY 28/02	14:00	Chinese International Trade - Achievements and Future Challenges, <i>D302</i>
	18:00	Film Night: Farewell My Concubine (Ba Wang Bie Ji), <i>U8</i>
THURSDAY 01/03	14:00	"Knowledge Economies in China" with Danny Quah, <i>Hong Kong Theatre</i>
	19:00	Film Night: The Last Emperor, <i>D302</i>
FRIDAY 02/03	14:00	Two Faces of China FDI, <i>G108</i>
	16:00	Introduction to Chinese Martial Art, <i>D202</i>



MEXICO WEEK 2007

TUESDAY 27/02	11:30-19:00	Mexican Food at the Brunch Bowl Mexican Film Night: Vámonos con Pancho Villa, <i>Z032</i>
WEDNESDAY 28/02	11:00	Inauguration, <i>Hong Kong Theatre</i> with Sir Howard Davies and Ambassador Juan José Bremer
	11:30	Lecture: Political Foresight, <i>Hong Kong Theatre</i>
	16:00	Lecture: Social Development Priorities and Policies, <i>U8</i>
THURSDAY 01/03	11:30-16:00	Mexican Food at the Brunch Bowl Lecture: Economic Development Policies, <i>New Theatre</i>
	18:30	Lecture: New Global Economic Challenges, <i>Hong Kong Theatre</i>

Dr Diane Coyle - The Soulful Science

Renowned writer and Harvard economics Ph.D. Diane Coyle will be speaking about her forthcoming book, "The Soulful Science". To many, Thomas Carlyle's put-down of economics as "the dismal science" is as fitting now as it was 150 years ago. But Diane Coyle argues that economics today is more soulful than dismal, a more practical and human science than ever before. The book surveys key developments in economics during the past 20 years, as well as advances which have revolutionised economists' ability to analyse society and improve policies.

The Soulful Science describes the remarkable creative renaissance in how economics is addressing the most fundamental questions--and how it is starting to help solve problems such as poverty and global warming. A lively and entertaining tour of the most exciting new economic thinking about big-picture problems, The Soulful Science uncovers the hidden humanization of economics over the past two decades.

Diane Coyle previous works include Sex, Drugs and Economics: An Unconventional Introduction to Economics and The Weightless World: Strategies for Managing the Digital Economy. A member of the UK Competition Commission and a visiting professor at the University of Manchester, she also runs an economic consulting firm, Enlightenment Economics. She is also a former economics editor of the Independent newspaper.

WHEN 27th February
16:00

WHERE D209

HOW MUCH Free

Do you want to work for KPM Sachs?

Ever wondered what it would be like to work for a consultancy investment management banking profit corporation? This talk will tell you a little about the corporation's philosophy and show you what you can expect as an intern.

Will Joe get his dream job as a management banking investment consultant? What has African dictator Milton Obote got to do with all of this? What is a remboscope? Aren't graphs amazing?

A comedy show that harnesses the comic potential of powerpoint, word art and corporate culture. Written and performed by Benjamin Partridge, Dan Dolan, Erin Orozco and Little Joey Meadway.

WHEN 28th February 14:00
and 2nd March 19:30

WHERE U8

HOW MUCH Free
and Unticketed

COMING UP INTO THE WOODS

WEEK 10: LSESU Drama, Music and Dance Societies present Into The Woods, LSE's first musical in over twenty years, and is certainly not to be missed. Come and join the fantastic cast in a tale consequences and misconceptions, with the message: 'Be Careful What You Wish For...it just might come true'.

Tickets are from £4, and 100 advance tickets will be on sale in Week 8 for £1! Available on Houghton Street everyday from 11:00-15:00.

Meet a Fairtrade Producer

Learn about the benefits of Fairtrade first-hand

Mr Silver Kasoro-Atwoki is a Ugandan tea grower and cooperative member who is touring Britain with the Fairtrade Foundation for Fairtrade Fortnight 2007. Together, the Business Society and People and Planet are delighted to host him at LSE to talk about how the Fairtrade market is helping local farmers to improve their business and farming methods and provide services for the whole community. After his presentation there will be time for questions, followed by Fairtrade tea, coffee and chocolate!



WHEN 27th February,
13:00

WHERE New Theatre

HOW MUCH Free

What role for indigenous rights?



"The Experiences of Political Conflict and Land Loss by Twa Pygmies in the Great Lakes Region", with Dr. Jerome Lewis (LSE)

Dr. Lewis will be discussing issues that the Twa people of the Great Lakes Region in Central Africa have faced and continue to face. Issues covered will be the Rwandan genocide, government policy before and since this and how conservation initiatives have robbed the Twa of their access to remaining forest areas. Questions of how effective protective legislation has been will be raised and how indigenous rights could help the Twa.

WHEN 27th February,
17:30

WHERE Z325

HOW MUCH Free

PUBLIC LECTURE OF THE WEEK: Justice in Conflict? War, Peace and Impunity in Africa

The International Criminal Court is the first permanent international institution set up to prosecute those responsible for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The ICC has undertaken its first investigations, issued its first warrants and begun its first prosecution - all in Africa. Yet in northern Uganda, some have questioned whether the ICC's efforts to try rebel leaders for atrocities may be hampering peace negotiations. Others argue that the ICC has had a positive impact on the prospects for peace and reconciliation. The ICC's investigations in the DRC and Darfur also present the challenge of combating impunity in the context of ongoing violations and peace negotiations. When the demands of peace and justice are at odds, there are difficult choices to be made. How can the search for justice best support the search for peace and reconciliation?

Luis Moreno-Ocampo is the ICC's first Chief Prosecutor, elected in 2003. His keynote speech is entitled Peace, Justice and the International Criminal Court. Nick Grono is from the Crisis Group. Barney Afako is a legal advisor to the Ugandan peace negotiations. Marieke Wierda is with the International Center for Transitional Justice. Helena Kennedy QC is one of Britain's leading lawyers.

WHEN 2nd March,
17:00

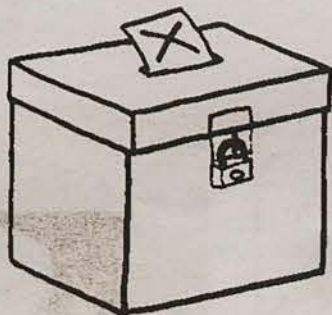
WHERE Old Theatre

HOW MUCH Free

the Beaver Listings

TUESDAY
27/02

- 08:30 CU prayer meeting, *Chaplaincy [Everyday]*
 09:10 Catholic Pro-life Group meeting, *Caffé Nero*
 10:00 Entrepreneurs, EPOCH -, Entrepreneurs Open Challenge, *Across Campus*
 13:00 People and Planet, Fairtrade Fortnight: Meet a Fairtrade Producer, *New Theatre*
 14:00 Yoga Ashtanga Yoga, *Badminton Court*
 14:00 Drama, "Do you want to work for KPM Sachs?", *U8*
 15:00 CSSA Chinese Classes - B-class, *D206*
 16:00 Economics, Talk: "The Soulful Science" with Dr. Diane Coyle, *D209*
 17:30 Survival International, Talk: "What Role for Indigenous Rights?" with Dr. Jerome Lewis, *Z325*
 18:15 Yoga Intermediate Ashtanga Yoga, *Parish Hall*
 18:30 People and Planet, Fairtrade Fortnight: What does Fair Trade mean for Trade Justice?, *E304*
 19:00 Debate Weekly meeting, *D302*
 19:00 Dance Ballet (Beginners), *H216*
 19:30 Columbian, Boat Party! Free Salsa lessons, Free Aguardiente, Cheap Drinks, *The Yacht Club*
 19:30 Live Music, Last open mic of the Year, *Underground Bar*
 20:00 Dance Ballet (advanced) *H216*

WEDNESDAY
28/02

- 09:30 SU, Lent Term Elections: VOTING, *Quad*
 11:00 SU, Societies Forum, *S78*
 13:00 Catholic Mass, *Chaplaincy*
 13:00 Green party, Weekly meeting, *H104*
 13:00 Hindu, Vedic lunch, *D211*
 13:00 Anime & Manga, Drawing Class and Gaming Session, *Z129*
 13:00 Accounting, Homework help session, *G107*
 13:00 Student Action for Refugees, Weekly meeting, *A283*
 13:00 Go, Weekly meeting, *V103*
 14:00 Pakistan, Weekly meeting, *U203*
 14:00 Opera, Weekly meeting, *H104*
 14:00 Yoga, Intermediate Yoga, *Parish Hall*
 15:00 Maths and Stats, Homework help session, *K05*
 15:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - B-class, *V103*
 16:00 Bridge, Weekly meeting, *G107*
 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - I-class, *H206*
 18:15 Politics Discussion forum / meeting *H103*
 19:00 Swing Dance, Improvers Classes, *G108*
 19:30 Thai, THAI NIGHT, *Underground Bar*

THURSDAY
01/03

- 09:30 SU, Lent Term Elections: VOTING, *Quad*
 11:00 Australia and New Zealand, Weekly meeting, *D9*
 13:00 SU UGM, *Old Theatre*
 15:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes, *K05*
 17:00 AIESEC, Weekly meeting, *H106*
 17:30 Yoga, Hatha Yoga, *Badminton Court*
 17:30 Argentinean, Tango classes, *K05*
 18:00 People and planet, Weekly meeting, *H103*
 18:00 Sikh-Punjab, Music class, *S78*
 18:00 Dance, Intermediate hip hop class, *S75*
 18:00 Filipino, Tagalog lessons, *G107*
 18:00 Visual Arts, Life drawing class, *D206*
 18:15 Catholic, Bible-sharing Group, *Chaplaincy*
 18:30 CU, CU Central, *G1*
 18:30 Austrian, Conflict Resolution in a Multi-ethnic State, *D602*
 19:00 Debate, Workshop, *D302*
 19:00 Dance, Hip Hop (advanced), *H202*
 19:30 Philosophy, Philosophy Rock Band - 'Critique of Pure Reason', *Underground Bar*
 20:30 Dance, Hip Hop (beginners), *Badminton courts*

FRIDAY
02/03

- 14:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - A-Class, *Y115*
 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - O-class, *S221*
 16:00 GO, Weekly meeting, *H104*
 17:00 Hindu, Gita Classes, *D11*
 19:00 Dance, Ballet Class, *S75*
 19:30 Drama, "Do you want to work for KPM Sachs?", *U8*
 20:00 SU, Skool Disko CRUSH, *Underground Bar, Quad, The Three Tuns*

MONDAY
05/03

- 08:30 CU Prayer Breakfast, *Chaplaincy*
 12:00 Knitting Workshop, *Quad*
 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - B-class, *K05*
 17:30 Yoga, Hatha Yoga, *Badminton Court*
 18:00 Mauritian and Public Affairs, Stealing a Nation: How the UK sold its own people, *S75*
 18:30 Peruvian, The Politics of Economic Intergration: "Where does Peru Stand in the Global Context?", *S75*
 19:00 Swing Dance, Beginner's Classes, *D502*
 19:00 Dance, Street Jazz, *G1*

COMING
UP

CYCLING WEEK



WEEK 9: Cycling in London is cheap, healthy and quick: the ideal combination for LSE students. Cycling Week aims to motivate students and staff to give up the bus or tube, and give cycling a go. If you do, you could be rewarded with a delicious Cyclists' Breakfast, whilst at the same time getting your bike fixed by Dr Bike. If you're nervous about riding in London, Cycle Training sessions shall be available to give you the skills and confidence necessary. Prominent speakers on Cycle Safety, Security and Parking shall also be available to answer questions. Events are free and available to all. Full information available at: www.lsecycling.com

QUAD OFFICE HOURS

Aled Dilwyn Fisher Environment and Ethics Officer, *Monday, 13.00*
 Anushka Shenoy General Course Officer, *Tuesday 13.00*
 Sid Kamath Executive Editor, The Beaver, *Tuesday 14.00 E204*
 Fadhil Bakeer Markar International Students Officer, *Tuesday 13.00*
 Ali Dewji Communications Officer, *Tuesday 16.00*
 Emma Hallgren Students with Disabilities Officer, *Tuesday 15.00*
 Jimmy Tam General Secretary, *Thursday 14.00*

Michail Retsinas Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer,
Wednesday 16.00 D302
 Joel Kenrick Treasurer, *Thursday 14.00*
 Alex Finnegan LGBT Officer, *Thursday 14.00* (Alex
 Vincenti's office)
 Adrian Beciri Returning Officer, *Thursday 14.00*
 James Caspell Postgraduate Officer, *Thursday 15.00*

Zoe Sullivan Women's Officer, *Thursday 10.00 D703*
 Louise Robinson Residences' Officer, *Thursday 12.00*
 Alexandra Vincenti Education and Welfare Officer, *Friday 14.00*
 Shanela Haque Anti-Racism Officer, *Friday 11.00*
 Arthur Krebbers Societies' Officer, *Friday 13.00*

www.lsesu.com/whatson

the BeaverReviews

Pizza Hut

I can see you scoffing before I've even started, but give me a minute of your time to sing the praises of the oft-despised phenomena that is Pizza Hut. I used to be with you: Pizza Hut belonged firmly in a past of awful kid birthday parties and hung-over teenage Sundays, pushing a tough chewy slice listlessly around your plate and wanting to die.



I realize that I'm not really selling it, but I can tell you now, the Hut has changed. The décor still feels as though it was brought to you by the designers of airport waiting rooms the world over and the service is still far from silver, but things are different now. Well, ok. They aren't *very* different. However, they don't taste like shit anymore; it's actually pretty darn tasty, and you aren't going to find better value for money within a mile of school. It's also open pretty late, which is especially useful for those late-night essays in the library, when the sandwich you bought 6 hours before isn't looking so appealing. Pizza Hut has also obviously attempted to get classy, by installing an incongruously suited maitre'd at the front (and last time I was there I even saw one of those ludicrously sized pepper grinders—the ture mark of a fine dining experience!).

In particular, I can recommend the Feast for Four, which comes to 5.95 each. In exchange for this frankly frugal sum you'll get one large pizza, one medium, FOUR starters and four desserts. I've never been so full of so much tasty, tasty crap for so little. However if you feel like being a little classier, you can get your own, choosing from a range of options (from the familiar 'Meat Feast' to the somewhat less obviously titled 'Farmhouse'), and the Hut even serves wine now. Pastas and salads are also on the menu for the more discerning, health-conscious eater.

The snobs among you will probably still reject Pizza Hut, the Beaver's current favourite dining experience. However, we're students now and I personally cannot afford to be too picky. Plus the cheesecake kicks ass.

Website of the week:

www.peopleradar.com



"PeopleRadar has just launched" is what you're told as you log on, and then you see that there are already over two million members. The site is basically the same as HotOrNot.com and other superficial 'rate how I look' websites, but with an added Facebook edge. You log on with your Facebook profile, and the 'point' is simply to go around rating everyone on your friends list on a scale from one to ten. Sounds a bit sad? It is, but only at first. Many people are horrified to find out that their 'friends' have been grading their looks, some even more horrified at how low they scored (although they let you reset your rating if you can't handle the truth). After the initial shock though, www.peopleradar.com becomes just as addictive as Facebook; don't be surprised to be spending equal amounts of time on each site once you get into it. Pretty much developing into a popularity contest, the website allows you to see the hottest guys and girls at the LSE and links you to their profiles on Facebook, in case regular stalking had become too plain for you. An added feature of PeopleRadar is to create a list of secret crushes you have. Your secret love will never find out, unless they add you as a secret crush too that is - you're both then notified that you fancy each other and they leave the rest to you. PeopleRadar tries to claim that 672 couples are now together just from this button. Log on and see what you reckon.

London Zoo

After writing for a different section last week that we could get rid of endangered species, I decided that I should check them out. To make extra sure, on Saturday I went to London Zoo, the world's oldest scientific zoo.

I first found out that llamas are great. I was lucky enough to reach the zoo during the llama walk. I got to stroke it and gaze into its big beady eyes. However, as far as I know, they are not yet endangered. Next was a bird display, given to us by the zoo keepers and some of the zoo's flying finest.

My own group of animals was doing very well until we needed to eat. After stumping around the place for a couple of hours, we settled down to eat a decent portion of fish and chips, which came to under a fiver.

Again, making a point of not being a total wildlife snob, I made a concerted effort to check out all the animals, even the insects. In 'Bugs', you can check out a lot of creatures that don't make the headlines, such as the medicinal leech (endangered by the way). It was such a good display, I have decided that I am going to save it.

Overall a great day. Standout animal was the bearded pig. Tickets are £12.30 (including a £1.50 charity donation), if you book online, they're cheaper. If you go again within twelve months, you can get in for half price.



A Celebration of 50 years of African Independence

AFRICAN LIVERS

- **LSE Street Carnival**
Thursday 1st March '07, 1pm-2pm
- **African Independence Crush**
Fri 2nd March '07, Underground Bar
LSE, 8pm-2am
- **Ghanaian Independence Day Dinner**
Tuesday 6th March '07,
Contact SUAFCAR@lse.ac.uk
- **ROOTS Cultural Show '07**
Wednesday 7th March '07,
Buffet: LSE Underground Bar, 7pm, Price: £3
Main Show: LSE Old Theatre, 8.30pm

LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE • Info: 07932 621 122

LSESU Drama Society, Dance Society, & Music Society Proudly Present

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S

INTO THE WOODS

Great debate



SPORTSDESK
Sancha Bainton

Well it's been a dramatic few days in the sporting arena, in roughly chronological order: Giggs cheated, Lille threatened to leave, stayed and settled for some crowd crushing instead, Liverpool beat Barca, the guy in charge of prize money at Wimbledon turned up to the annual board meeting off his head, Graham Poll showed yellow at every possible opportunity, Murray won something, Johnny started and I had my first punt on alpine skiing...

The great thing about sports is that there is always something going on, if it's not the footy world cup then it's the cricket world cup, if it's not darts, its snooker. I thought the first few months of 2007 were looking pretty bleak especially when Sky's sporting headlines for March

included the Badminton All England Championships and dancing on ice. I have no issue with the shuttlecock; badminton is the second greatest racquet sport and one of LSE's little talents on the sporting circuit. Ice skating however is a different story. I'm one of those people who need to be good at whatever I'm doing to enjoy it. Due to my immense sporting ability this has never been a problem, however, Baintons and ice don't mix. This is a well known medical fact. My parents can't ice skate, my brother can't ice skate, my uncle had an ice sculpture incident a few Xmas's back that no one likes to mention... It's not won't skate can't skate, it's I can not move remotely in a vague direction without impaling myself into the floor and as my legs are on the lengthy side that's a long and painful way for an ass to travel.

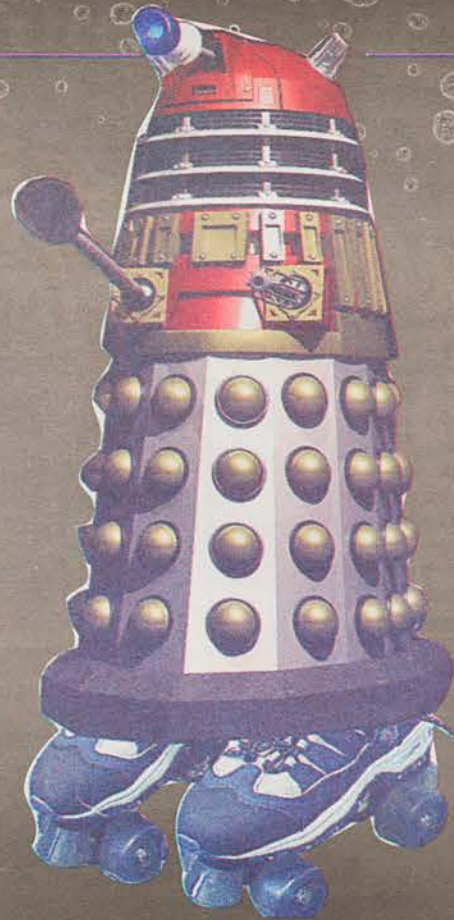
Last year my flat mate did a fancy dress roller disco for her birthday party, I was

strongly against the idea however it went ahead and I made an effort for her sake. I dressed up, got sufficiently intoxicated, got the skates on and then despised every second of it. I was in a living hell with strobe lighting and lots of ramps... the Dalek's would have had a field day. When I got home I pondered my flat mate's choice of birthday party. It would be like me inviting everyone to a tennis party and then spending the next two hours showing off my talents and serving at their heads. Next year she'll probably take me to an advanced ballet class and watch me attempt a triple Derrière-Arrière Rond de jambe Pirouette... well at least she'll have fun.

There is always something worth writing about regarding sport.

That's why I've spent this article being bitter and getting back at my flat mate.

Next week... the other flat mate.



The Punter

Matthew JCG Partridge

One of the more interesting bets available at the moment is on which party will regain the White House in 2008. The last time that I covered betting on the 2008 election, I consciously ignored this particular market because I felt that the prices didn't offer enough value to justify tying up your money until Election Day. However, the prices have moved since then with the current market consensus being that, whoever they ultimately choose to nominate, the American people are looking to elect a Democrat. The rationale behind this is that the Republicans are becoming increasingly divided over Iraq, the deficit shows no sign of going away and the list of potential candidates are unimpressive compared to the potential Democrat nominees.

However this doesn't stand up to detailed scrutiny. While Bill Richardson could be able to detach centrist voters away from the Republicans he is still unlikely to get the nomination (although he remains a good value bet). In contrast, Al Gore and Barack Obama have little support in 'middle America' and John Edwards seems to be intent on following them into deep leftfield. While I used to believe that Hillary Clinton could probably beat Giuliani or Romney the polls tell a different story, even before you consider that Bush's popularity can't get any lower. Republican candidate upwards. Furthermore, I believe that she would be completely crushed by a moderate Republican like McCain. Of course, an unexpected event (such as another Foley or Abramoff) could push the Republican off course, but the same could happen to the Democrats. My guess is that there is at least a 55% chance of the Republican candidate occupying the White House.

Although a bet on the Republican candidate (40.5-40.2) offers good value, a bolder bet would be on the chances of a third party candidate winning. Although such a scenario is unlikely it is far from impossible. If the Republicans implode over either Iraq or Trade and the Democrats continue to drift away from the centre this could create a vacuum which a candidate like John McCain or Michael Bloomberg could fill. Indeed, the only thing that would have to happen to enable a third party bid would be for McCain to be knocked out of the Republican primary early and for Bill Richardson's campaign to go nowhere. It is important to remember that a quarter of American describe themselves as 'independents' and there are large numbers of moderate Republicans and Democrats. Since I believe that the chances of McCain winning the nomination are roughly 50%, the chances of him running if he doesn't win at least 40% and the chances of him winning as an independent are about 30%. I think the current price of (1.6-2.2) is tremendous value.

Use any advice given here at your own risk and don't gamble what you cannot afford to lose. Columnist(s) may have positions in wagers mentioned. Prices quoted are correct at time of going to press.

Should men and women be awarded equal prize money?

Yes yes yes says Laura Parfitt

You can't deny the fact that women are biologically disadvantaged when it comes to sport. If women matched men in strength, stamina and speed, then they would have to look like men. Maybe that's why Amélie Mauresmo is so good at it. So yes, they can only play three set matches, otherwise they faint. But what is forgotten is the hours and hours of training they have put in beforehand. And they definitely match men when it comes to effort.

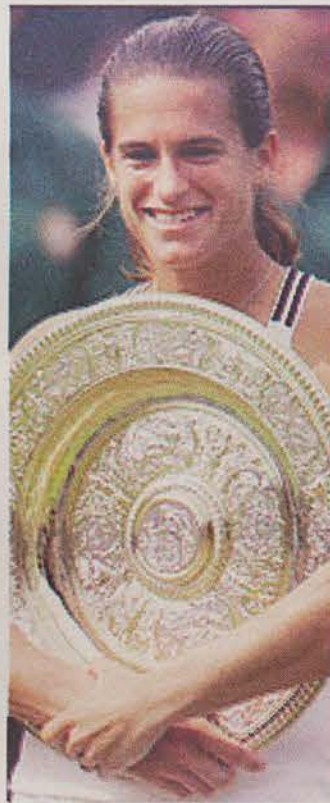
Tennis is a full time job for the top players, and prize money is their salary. Women and men end up putting in the same amount of hours working toward a competition and just because the length of the matches are significantly different it doesn't mean the winners should be unequally paid.

The women's is a very different game, focussing more on skill rather than strength. I completely disagree with anyone who considers the men's

game more exciting: I don't think many would deny that watching Kournikova v Sharapova makes for a thoroughly enthralling experience. And at least the girls can keep a rally or two going.

In Billy Jean King's day, she received 37.5% of the prize money earned by men's champion Rod Laver. I mean that's just bloody ridiculous. I don't know why she didn't give it all up to become a nurse or something if that's the thanks she got.

Of course things have moved on now, with Mauresmo getting \$1.117 million and Federer getting \$1.170 million last time around, but that discrepancy could be a sexy new BMW 5 series - an essential for any female tennis champ.



Sumit Buttoo thinks it isn't justified

The All England Club, ie Wimbledon made history last week as it announced that 2007 would be the year that men and women get equal prize money in every round.

As someone will be opposing me, I am staying away from any arguments for equal pay.

Five set matches against three set matches; is that not a good enough reason? Women's matches last less than 1 1/2 hours, whilst men can be out there for anything up to 4-5 hours. So that means that women actually get paid more per game, which is similar to them getting paid more per hour in "normal" jobs. And this is not the same thing as women getting paid the same in the workplace. I am completely for that argument, so you cannot call me sexist. Anyway when Wimbledon first started, women did play five sets. Guess what... they fainted as they couldn't handle it. Less airtime means less exposure for sponsors.

Next up, you are more likely to get men's matches that go all the way in the early rounds of any Grand Slam, with the top women not really being tested until the quarters at least. This reflects the relative lack of depth in the women's game. To be honest, only Maria Sharapova was a surprise female winner of Wimbledon in recent times.

Wimbledon make a totally invalid argument about this encouraging more female players. The differential last year was marginal: about £30000. So equality won't make any difference.

The French Open is now to review its prize structure as currently only the winners get equal prizes. In my view, they are the only Grand Slam doing it right! The fact is that men should actually get paid MORE; in fact almost two times more as five divided by three is 1.7. Quite simply the men's game is more popular and exciting to watch... you do the math.

Team of the week



SPORTSDESK
Josh Tendeter

Raymond Daamen - Goalkeeper

Matt Davenport - defender

Pedro Abreu - defender

Matteusz Drela - defender

Lee Smallwood - defender

Mike Maynard - midfield

Rich Morrow - midfield

Sherif Salem - midfield

Neil Sadler - midfield



Gareth Fishlock - striker

James Hackett - striker

AU Election Time

It's make your mind up time...

An exclusive investigation by *BeaverSports* can reveal that many high-profile AUers have been struck down in their prime by what is known in these parts as "Election Fever". Symptoms include unusually friendly and generous tendencies toward complete strangers, appearances at all social events and obsessive use of stickers.

You can vote at the same time as the SU elections (Wednesday and Thursday) in the quad and make sure you bring your LSE ID and AU or Gym card. Results will be announced on Thursday evening in the Tuns. Please choose wisely...

President: The essence of the AU, who shall lead the teams to glory. Can use "I'm AU President" as a chat-up line. And is on the SU Exec of course.

Dan Holness

What to write? A bead of sweat runs down my face. How can I possibly prove myself 150 words? I think of Napoleon's advice, "If you wish to be a success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing", and how many campaigns have been built around this mantra. It's just not me though, I take great pride fulfilling my promises. My head's flooded with ideas on how to improve the AU, but there's no way I can list them all. I decide to leave it and hope that people believe in me and who I am.



I think of my team's cup semi-final, the huge night afterwards with my teammates. I think of the countless Wednesdays surrounded by friends. I want everyone to have the same opportunity as I did and feel as involved as I do. THAT, I decide as I lean back in my chair, is my goal. "Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do them beautifully." Zig Ziglar

Treasurer: Responsible for your team's budget, as well as events' budgets. This one decides how cheap your drinks are!

Jen Barker

Hello possums! At the moment I'm Social Secretary of the beautiful Netball Club and I've enjoyed it so much that I want to be even more involved in the AU. I'm already a Calella veteran and have been to every major AU event over the last two years, including all, but two, Wednesday nights. As Treasurer I would like to provide club execs with costing sheets, allowing them to budget more accurately and hopefully allowing you guys to buy more goodies and equipment. I'm dedicated to equalling and probably exceeding the sponsorship revenue from last year and to aid this I am going to approach the SU to give me the same training as society treasurers get. I want to help improve every aspect of the AU, not just the balance sheets! I'll be ten out of ten so vote for Jen!



Neil Yogananther

I am a member of the FC, playing for the filthy 4ths. Although I am a first year I have already been heavily involved in the AU. It has been an integral part of my life at LSE; from Wednesdays nights in the Tuns and then Walkabout, followed by the UGM on Thursdays. I have enjoyed a great year, and would love to top it off by becoming AU Treasurer. I am currently doing a Maths and Econ degree, and I believe that this will enable me to manage all the finances of the AU. I want to make a difference in the AU, and I will do this by ensuring the effective operations of all the clubs and the efficient use of resources.



Finally, I can safely say that I have no ties to current senior members of the AU Exec (although that's not to say I wouldn't, Kav). Keep it real... vote Neil!

Events: Organises all the best nights of your life. AU Ball, fireworks, welcome party... and many more. You should be nice to this person...

Kimberlee James

Current WRFC Captain. Bringing back AU domination to a Wednesday night forever. Well, at least for all of next year if you vote me in. I'm fed up being the most pissed on a Wednesday night (bar Kathryn Nixon who doesn't play sport anyway). I'm out every Wednesday and went to Calella last year, going this year and will be there next year too. Help me to make Wednesdays as outrageously rude and banterous as they once were. I also think we don't make the most of Berrylands bar either, I have already spoken to the groundsman and he agrees that there should defo be more post-match involvement with cheap drink, corny discos and fireworks before we head to the Tuns. Naturally, I high-fived him. Most of you know me anyway so that's all. P.s. I'm not really fed up at all with getting ratted on a Weds night, even if I am the most pissed. Muchos Banteros.



Caoimhe Bradley

I've been a member of the 1st netball team for two years and am dedicated to making the AU a bigger and better party scene! The AU is my social home and I aim to make your next social calendar the envy of every student alive! I intend to build on the success of the current events such as welcome parties, AU Ball and the unforgettable Carol (shh Barrel) and also introduce some MORE. The AU parties hard at the beginning and end of term but neglects the middle, thus RAG week is our perfect excuse! A themed week of ragging, drinking, competing and partying all in FANCY DRESS! Domination in Calella with more sports in attendance! (it's fun and drunken, great week in cheeky Spain) More parties in Berrylands! With a massive Sports Day spectacular for all at the end of summer term with mixed-sex events, bbq and discounted booze! I'd be a fabulous events officer because I'm eternally optimistic, fun, approachable, friendly and am a fancy dress fanatic! So VOTE FOR ME!



Secretary: Takes the minutes at the exciting and heated AU Exec meetings. Errrr...

Rob Low

I'm running for Secretary to help continue the success of the AU within LSE. By running for Secretary I hope to increase the awareness of everyone in the AU of what is happening within the union, perhaps by introducing a monthly newsletter to send to everyone in the AU explaining what we've been doing to better each club over the previous month. It is important for people to know what it is the AU Exec do for you, and I would aim to make the process more accessible to all AU members. Whether I get your vote or not, make sure you come down on election day and make your voice heard as to who you want representing you in the AU next year!



Rhys Meggy

Rhys hasn't sent in his manifesto. But he's a lovely bloke (or so I've heard). Maybe he was just too busy doing secretary-type stuff to remember the deadline...



Comms: You may ask, "what does comms do?". I can honestly say I have no idea. (no offense Jimmy and Gareth)

Louis De-Ste-Croix

I am a first year Law student, I'm in the FC and play for the mighty 3rd team. Stories, and obscured memories of Liam Gallagher impressions, getting my arse out on stage and generally making myself look like a CUNT (a true reflection), have hopefully persuaded you to vote for me? If this is not the case I feel I could bring a great deal to the AU exec and the position of Communications, and not only from a social perspective. I feel the best thing I have done at LSE is join the AU, and would love to become a bigger part of it. If elected I pledge to send a weekly email reporting all results/fixtures and will be fully committed to the position. Much love Pompey!



Sophie De-La-Hunt

Sports results as part of puLSE's daily newsbeats and a full results list to be provided for The Beaver. LooSE TV to create a short promotional film to be shown at fresher's fair and on the AU website. Make your sport visible! Improved publicity and representation of ULU sports that aren't offered by LSE AU, e.g. swimming and athletics. Better publicity of the 'quieter' AU clubs through all modes of media. I already have links with the media group co-hosting 'The AU Hangover' on puLSE every Thursday morning. I play LSE netball and rugby and compete for ULU at athletics. I ♥ Wednesday night and attend all UGM's (Hungover!)



Club Liaison: Again, I'm not too sure what this one does. With candidate's strengths listed such as "lethargy" and "unreliability", I'm sure you can figure it out.

Josh Tendeter

Like my hero Joey Mellows before me, I just love liaising. If I've learnt anything from Joey's reign, it's that unreliability, lethargy and general drunkenness are not a hindrance to the role of liaisons officer. Whilst Joey is in a league of his own for these things, I am the next best thing. The AU is my life, I hate my degree and my only method of escape is playing football and embracing the lash. Whether you know me from football, Wednesday nights or Calella or I'm just that guy that contributes little and sleeps a lot during law class, please let me follow in my hero's footsteps. The AU is the only thing at the LSE that I can get excited about. Give me the chance to get more involved and I'll do everything in my power to improve the AU experience for everyone. Thanks.



Gaby Disandolo

2nd year Netball club member and dedicated component of the sexy sixths! Certified Facebook whore and capable to liaise for the beautiful people in the AU thanks to two years of drunken walkabout 'liaising' obviously among other talents! Major player in the AU and always a friendly face, 'special' liaisons already exist with rugby, football, yoga, women's rugby and hockey... always willing to expand and build on existing networks and create new ones. Vote for me for Liaisons because I heart the AU and the reprobates that make it the debaucherous, wonderful institution that we all know and love!! VOTE GABY FOR LIAISONS!



Ultimate Frisbee

Allah says: frisbee are the best



D Pidley

Allah has asked me to tell you that we are the best team in the UK. I'm just the humble messenger. If you want proof, read the upcoming 2008 edition of the Koran. It's in there. (If you find that offensive, switch 'Allah' for 'God' and 'Koran' for 'Bible' and have yourself a chuckle at the expense of the infidel).

If you are an atheist and only believe in 'facts,' then some scientists proved our top ranking using some godless test-tubes and a Bunsen burner, and posted their findings at www.regionalultimate.co.uk. Nobody can deny it, we are the best. God is great. Down Down Bush.

Unaware of our rise to pre-eminence, we trekked to Regent's Park on Saturday for a ladder league tournament organized by UCL. A number of our players couldn't make it for a variety of reasons. Some were sick, a few remain injured, Casey was waiting in

line for Bryan Adams tickets and Jonas was supposedly at Asda trying to find a cleaning product that can get oil-based lubricants out of cat fur. The best excuse for not showing up belongs to FQ though, who spent the night in the piss-tank after pounding a whole bottle of Knob Creek scotch and

Jonas was supposedly at Asda trying to find a cleaning product that can get oil-based lubricants out of cat fur

telling three officers that they looked like 'Starsky and Hutch and Cocksucker.' When they tried to put the handcuffs on her, she allegedly pissed herself and started yelling 'rape.' What a hero.

Chubby and Anthony turned up despite being sick/injured and kept stats throughout the tournament. Turns out I make a lot of "bad decisions." I suppose I'm not all that surprised, I make a lot of bad decisions generally. Once I unknowingly donated £20 to a terrorist organization and once I knowingly 'donated' £10 to a human trafficking gang. In that case I got a sweet advanced copy of Nicolai Does Novosibirsk in return. It's a real ball-drainer.

Anyway, our first game of the tournament was against Sublime. We lost in overtime. I don't want to talk about it.

Our second game was against Oxford. Some good handling by Frenchie and Darkness, and a spectacular layout block by Xian put us up 8-7. Yo! got a little excited near the end and leveled an Oxford player in a bid to catch the disc. Usually we don't care, but it was a girl, and Anthony's ex-girlfriend, so we all acted as though Yo! was a jerk. As she was nursing her injuries on the sidelines, she said she had, "never been nailed that hard." Anthony, something of a Don Juan, insists that's because he only made sweet, passionate



love to her. Anyways, after the game finished we were a little less impressed with their Oxford accents and a little more satisfied with our LSE education.

Our next game against UCL was a much friendlier affair. We sometimes arrange joint practices and have played them numerous times over the season, and share a congenial camaraderie. That didn't stop us from abusing them, sexually. By that I mean that for a few points they played an all female line and we kept our all

male line on the pitch. We took advantage of the perceived athletic disparity between the genders and socially constructed a 10-5 win. Fuck you, Gloria Steinem.

Our final match of the day was against 6ffu. There is some dispute as to whether they are a high school team or a university team. All I'll say is that one of them looked no older than 11, had the cutest mouth, and absolutely no body hair. Stein was overheard commenting that he has 'sperm bigger than

that kid.' Regardless of age, we took it to them. Yo! had an amazing layout block, Beatbox had some great throws and 6ffu suffered a number of injuries. After the whistle blew and we won 8-4, an ambulance was called to collect the little guy on their team. He was having an asthma attack. Their parents, who were on the sidelines watching, were so disappointed in their children that they tried to poke them in the head with coat hangers.

And that's why we're the best in the country.

Karate

LSEKC strikes again



K Kiyimbal

LSE Karate Club sent an elite force of four competitors to the recent Southern Regional Karate Championships in Slough. The force consisted of three black belts, an orange belt and a professional photographer to make a digital record of the anticipated glory. Given the minimalist structure of the force, we had agreed to spare our energy and save time by scoring only ippons or full points in matches where these would determine a knockout.

The shock hit the contingent early, when our number

one kata competitor, Dario Ghazi, was eliminated in the preliminaries of kata. We approached the presiding referee as sporting gentlemen, seeking more edification than explanation concerning his otherwise dodgy decision. We went away with even more questions. Dario, who has twice been champion of this particular tournament, accepted the result rather matter-of-factly, and we proceeded with more individual katas. Kizito seemed the unlikely hope of the team for kata. He seemed to have 'understood' the philosophy of this particularly troublesome kata that had caused us our first two losses (in Dario and Joseph). Then it all happened. At the end of his splendid performance, he failed to make a visible difference

between kata and a samba dance move. He did something in between. Or was it the approaching Rio Carnival getting in the way? The judges were not amused, and Kizito lost, shutting the last window of hope on individual kata silverware for this tournament. Aaron had gallantly convinced judges and fellow competitors that this might be his first, but certainly not his worst kata competition. None of them could guess that this apparent novice was standing in as a serious reserve to the senior kumite team.

Senior team kata followed. In both the eliminations and the finals, we chose to perform simple and direct black-belt katas but in an impeccable fashion. Many other teams decided to perform some fancy

kata, impressive on the whole but wobbly in the detail. Our strategy worked out very well. There had been moments of suspense when other teams presented more advanced katas after us. But for a time our points continued to lead the table for a time. Then out came some obscure club which seemed to impress the judges slightly more than we did. They took the gold and we settled for a silver.

But even when we win kata medals, I must confess that kata has never been a point of focus for our dojo at LSEKC. Our thing is mainly kumite - fighting. And soon we were at it again, contributing our fair share of sweeps, blows and kicks. In an effort to meet our agreed target of scoring only through ippons, sometimes excitement got the better of us. Kizito lost the individual medal race for going too hard (in spite of the bear knuckles) on an opponent's teeth (most are still in place). Joseph is engaged in sports-speak, claiming the better in his pool had to win. Dario went furthest (having been two times individual kumite champion in this tournament). But he too winked about the level of refereeing in the tournament. He settled for a bronze medal this time around.

Time tended towards eternity as we waited impatiently for the main event of the day: team kumite. Here, not only the combatants are pitted against one another in their teams. The coaches, too, show their ability to line up their men in a winning strategy. The rest depends on the expertise

and sometimes the whims of the referees and judges.

In the eliminations, we did precisely that - eliminated our opponents. In the semi-finals, our strategy for scoring ippons began to show in semi-fashion. Kizito opened the fray, trying to gain ippon by decisive reverse punches, his trademark. The referees refused to take notice, and it usually does not pay to check the opponent's body for marks. We decided to up the ante. Joseph swept his opponent's forward foot and followed up with a snap reverse punch to the head. His mistake, according to the same referees, was that he stopped short of his target - he had the wrong distance. As though to argue his point and stop the strip-tease approach to matters, Joseph repeated the technique a few seconds later, this time more emphatically. His punch went a few inches closer to make some contact. The opponent rammed his nose into Joseph's controlled punch and bled himself and Joseph out of the race. The judges contradicted themselves when they acknowledged that it was clearly a controlled punch.

It was time for the last man, Dario, to jump in. We were clearly losing, and Dario had a mission: to win by ippon alone and to maintain the image of a fearsome LSEKC. After covering the full length and breadth of the mat, Dario reminded his opponent that we were not here for a waltz. We were in the kitchen feeling the heat and tasting the salts. Before anyone knew it, the opponent was plumb the depths of the tatami, flat out

Glossary of Karate terms in case you were wondering what he's on about:

Ippon - "one full point", is a highest score a fighter can achieve

Kata - "forms" A stylized set of movements that use a variety of blocks and strikes against an invisible opponent. A kata is used to perfect style, learn focus as well as demonstrating attack, defense and counter attacks.

Kumite - "free fighting" Kumite or "sparring" is when a two or more martial artists fight each other.

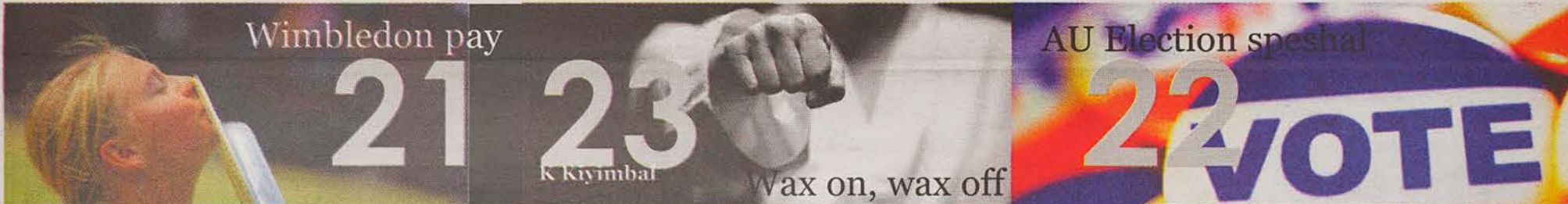
Dojo - "sacred hall of learning"

Tatami mats - originally meaning "folded and piled" are a traditional Japanese flooring

on his back, and to the applause of the whole arena. Dario had swept his feet clean off the mat, landed him thunderously, and polished him off with a reverse punch to his exposed belly, all in one flowing gesture. It was the technique of the tournament. Dario had done a 'Dario'. He made a tour of honour around the mat with eyes tinted red and popping out. I last saw such eyes on a warlord on duty. I doubt that Dario noticed when we hugged him.

Clearly, the organization left a lot to be desired. Not only were the referees too few and hence so overstretched, but even their particular interventions were often not totally unbiased. What matters most is that the skeleton team of four came back with eight medals, further confirming the already well-documented addiction to medals at the LSEKC.





27.02.07 | sports@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Beaver **sports**

Imperial whitewash



Sarah Phelan

LSE	12
Gimperial 2nds	0
Crystal Palace	

A funny old day it was on Wednesday. A 12-0 win is never going to be glorious. But the game really showed exactly how far our team has come: typifying our style, teamwork and ability to produce the right results, again and again. We'd not played in a while, which was very disappointing for a team now playing for the pure love (and constant gags and family love) every game. So it was a little harder than usual to feel the adrenalin build up at the start of the week (though I'm speaking perhaps for lazier-than-most self here, I'll admit). But we knew from Lolly's borderline-OCD fixtures-live-watching what the exact stakes were in this game,

from the start. In order to ensure our target of double promotion, we needed to score more goals than our only potential rivals, GKT, who put ten past the Imperial College 2nds. Giggling as if it was a wild, silly dream we were suggesting, we set ourselves the target of 11 (well, 12 for Parf, and secretly for me too). It seemed like a crazy plan, I mean, who scores that many goals that easily (unless you're playing LSERFC Men's 1sts)? But we are actually just so damn good, and committed to each other, our standards and our pride in our ability, that we bloody well pulled it off. Easily...

So a trek to Crystal Palace, but it was alright 'cause the whole train, as usual, got to hear Parf's latest sexploits, (I hate that I just used that word, but it's as ridiculous as her tales), in really graphic detail. Sorry to any unsuspecting members of the public who were on the 13.55 train to Crystal Palace last Wednesday, who also got an earful of Parf's weird experiences. That formality out of the way, we were ready to hit the pitch with no further ado.

I mean, Parf runs like hell but has to have a sit down and a fag for ten minutes afterwards

we got on the warm-ups hard to make up for lack of recent practice. Our goalie got more action than she's seen in, er... well, I wouldn't like to speculate. A looong time anyway. And she saved all the practice shots, which didn't bode too well for our strikers' 11-goal target (although Goals Against were looking about as likely as getting an 80 in an LSE essay subject). Anyway, lets get on to the good bits (after pushback, which Lol mentions she's lost

pre-match speech to date).

The opposition had a stick-to-ball contact akin to Himesh dipping a little toe in a swimming pool and Gabba was ON IT. There was no holding her back. She proceeded to harangu them, she did, terrier style. So they fumbled immediately. That was the case throughout really: on the rare occasion they had a moment of possession, you just had to sort of look at them funny and they soon lost it. And they actually ran away a lot, I noticed. Maybe they'd seen their dick-head first team play and expected us to imitate Imperial College 1sts, i.e. scream at them, or maybe push them over. I mean, usually it's good to pass around the defense when you're on the attack, right, so as to advance yourselves round them up the pitch, obviously? But it seemed with this lot you could just walk towards them with the ball and they retreated. Anyway, it did take us a few minutes to find our rhythm, but soon we were hearing the sweet sound of ball-on-back-board with pleasurable regularity. The first half finished 7-0...

Alex 'Hotchkiss' did her dynamo thing in the 'D' time and again: A perfectly placed lifted strike that left their keeper pointing to her hand and waving it at the umpire vaguely here... a most fooling, windy run all around their eight 'defenders' until the window opened for a flawlessly timed chip here, and a glorious shot from a reverse stick angle over there. Then there were the short corners, of which we had about 25, although sadly only converted two. Ah well, you can't have it all!

We HAVE to talk about Jade, who was relishing her return to the frontline from a spell in defence, and also having shown cat-like abilities in goal, thus far this season. Boy can she run. I mean, Parf runs like hell but has to have a sit down and a fag for ten minutes afterwards. Jade just keeps going! After a few fabulous attempts, against a most classic primary school 'stick that big girl in defence'-type, finally there was a moment of glory. Having run quite a substantial length of the pitch I was getting a little worried, as I do when I realise I'm alone, and "bugger it I might just have to have a shot 'cause I'm the only one here to do it, oh dear". I'm not a fan of that kind of pressure. No, my tried and tested tactic is to work my ass off to get to the right place, and then get someone else to take the shot so I don't have to prove my skills in public. It's infallible for all areas of life. So, I was way out right, when I heard my name screamed and spied Jade in the corner of my eye just hitting the top of the D, so gratefully handed the ball over. SLAP! Coach 'PP' would have gone nuts, if he hadn't been

After a few fabulous attempts, against a most classic primary school 'stick that big girl in defence'-type, finally there was a moment of glory



censored

umpiring for us! A first time effort, low-to-the-ground, great contact...IN!

There is not much more to be said of the onslaught, except to praise Gabba, Alex and Parfitt for all getting hat-tricks. Unnamed goalie had one save to make all game, a testy little one-on-one, and she deftly kicked it away to keep a clean sheet. Betty Lee is a Warrior Legend, and she ran about scampily all game, supporting the right-side attacks as well as dashing back to make the odd tackle. 12-0 it ended and into the next round of the BUSA Cup and to the top of our ULU League we march; after all, this game was a double-header. The lash was thoroughly embraced by at least half of the team, as well as our coach, late into the night. On Wednesday 28th we face RUMS in Round Two. Extreme banter has already been exchanged due to inter-team friendships, and the stakes really couldn't be higher...

"We're going to have a bath. Promise me we'll have a bath." - Fiona the fruitcake