

# The Beaver

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

Issue 454

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No tears for  
Madonna or  
Che Banderas  
Movies p13

Free Love - Sports p15

Women in Islam  
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## LSE Moves A Step Closer To Topping Itself

Students gathered for a candle light vigil outside the Court of Governors meeting last month. The LSE Governors voted powers to the Standing Committee to bring in top-up fees by 1998.

### Peter Udeshi & Dhara Ranasinghe

The Court of Governors voted in favour of a resolution to empower the Standing Committee to decide on top-up fees, unmoved by a candle-lit vigil which stretched down the Aldwych to Clement House, where the meeting was held on 12 December 1996. Speaking to *The Beaver*, SU General Secretary Dan Crowe commented that the vigil was "a brilliant turn-out" and while it did not achieve its aim, "you can't blame us for not trying".

The resolution was passed unamended by 31 to 14 votes. Leslie Hannah, former acting-Director of the School, welcomed the decision and stated that the Court did not approve the implementation of top-up fees but approved a "mechanism" to institute them. Yet it appears that the decision signals the go-ahead for the introduction of a top-up fee in its means-tested form Scheme A-plus. Next year's prospectus is to carry a warning about its implementation.

Sir Peter Parker, Chairman of the Court of Governors, stressed that "the

final decision would depend on other variables". In view of the general election and its ramifications, combined with the Dearing Committee (on the future funding of higher education) due to report this summer, it appears that the School, unlike other British universities which are waiting for the results of these events, has acted prematurely. It is unclear whether the School's new Director, Professor Anthony Giddens, was consulted on a scheme which is likely to be implemented during his tenure. The question arises as to whether the School would have appointed someone they believed to be vehemently opposed to top-up fees.

Scheme A-plus is considered to be the most viable option if the School decides to charge all UK/EU students tuition fees. Hannah deemed anyone "mad" who considered a "means tested fee" (like Scheme A-plus) was a dressed-up version of top-up fees and argued that such a scheme would allow those from "poor families" to study at the LSE. The potential delay involved in fixing grant levels, recent surveys establishing the number of parents assessed to make contributions defaulting on their payments and the high rate of students working during term-time to fund their education,



A last flicker of hope for the anti top-up fee campaign

Photo: Sarah Cope

indicate that an extra £3000 for the privilege of attending the LSE will prove to be a decisive disincentive.

The financial situation faced by

most students is certainly recognised by the School as shown by its participation in the planned loan-package to graduate students. However this sympathy

appears not have been heeded in the issue of top-up fees.

*Continues on page three*

## Confusion surrounds university research league table

### Jonathan Black

Confusion has surrounded the latest research figures for Britain's top universities. In the national rankings LSE has been placed in anything from second to nineteenth place.

The survey, which is crucial in the annual battle for funds from central government, is conducted by the Higher

Education Funding Council for England. The Council used four articles published by each research active academic since 1992 and looked for "original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding". Each university department was then ranked on a seven point scale from 1 to 5\*.

Ten out of the fourteen research areas submitted by LSE were given top marks (5 or 5\*). Economics, Economic History, Government, International Relations and Social Policy all were

graded "internationally excellent in a majority of their sub-areas" thus giving them a 5\* rating. In effect, 83% of the School's staff work in top rated areas. It was not all good news however, Pure Maths only managed a 3A grade.

Overall, the results confirm LSE as one of the country's leading research universities. "I am delighted with this result, the achievement of which owes everything to the hard work of the whole School" was the reaction of Leslie Hannah (Acting Director when

the results were published). Professor Julian Le Grand of the Social Policy and Administration, was "very pleased" with his department's 5\* rating (the only Social Policy department in the country with a top rating) again citing, "planning and effort by all members of staff involved" as an explanation.

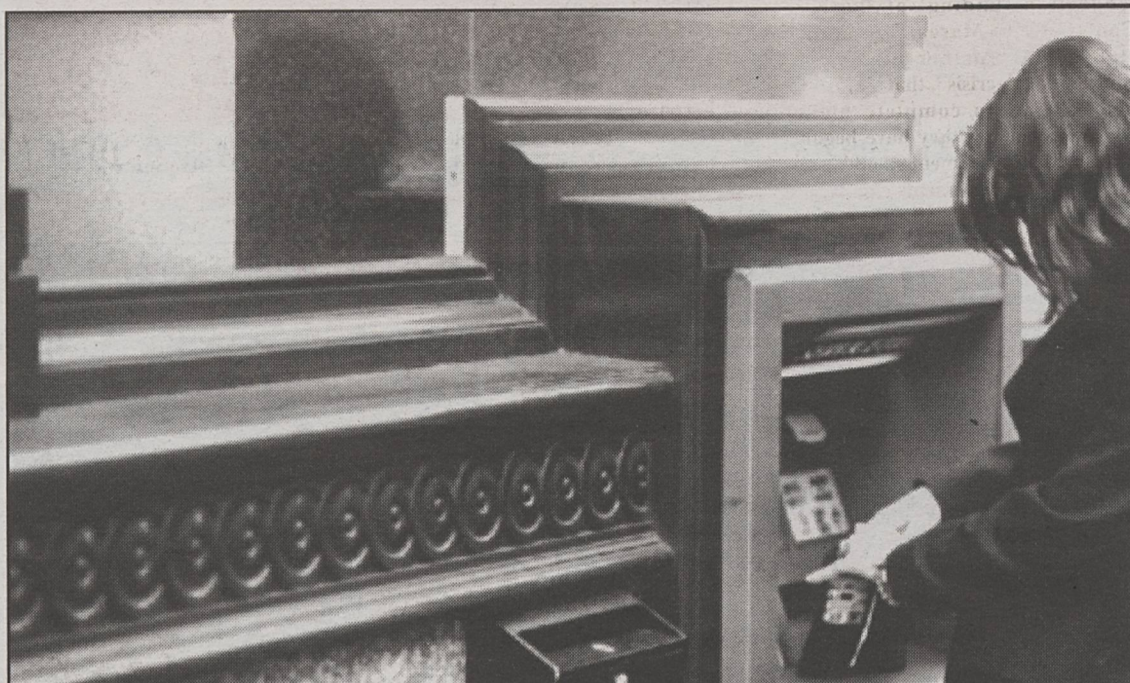
Confusion emanates in attempts to rank the universities, because universities submit a different number of departments and academics, the results are then averaged and adjusted to make a comparison fair. The figures

are adjusted to take into account the proportion of assessed academics from each university. LSE's unadjusted average is 5.18, but its adjusted average is 4.81. The School has published an internal league table using the unadjusted figures which places LSE second behind Cambridge. However, most observers have used the adjusted figures which put LSE third, with Oxford first and Cambridge second. Imperial and UCL were fourth and fifth.

*Continues on page three*

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# New LSE Postgraduate Pay Package



Loan dispensing in the future?

Photo: Kenneth Lo

If you are interested in writing, photography or helping production international affairs, music, politics, arts or features or have any other issues which you feel should be voiced by your student paper then come to : **The Beaver Meeting** 6.00 pm every Monday in C023.

If you are interested in writing for the news section come to the meeting or ring us on 955 6705.\*

## Stormin Norman collides with Europe

Former Chancellor Norman Lamont was guest of the LSE Conservatives last week.

**Jonathan Black**

Norman Lamont, former Chancellor of the Exchequer denounced the European Currency during his visit to LSE last Monday. Having seen his Kingston constituency abolished by the Boundary Commission his search for a new seat has ended with Harrogate, where the former Chancellor now finds himself.

As one unsympathetic member of the audience reminded him, he was sacked from the Cabinet in 1994 and since then has been an ardent critic of the government's European policy.

The former close friend of the Prime Minister, applauded plans to hold a referendum on the Euro-currency and supported the free trade aspect of the European Union. However, he dismissed claims that Britain would

lose influence in the global arena if they were not a member of the EU, saying the "two plus two equals five" idea of a collective voice was wrong.

The out spoken Euro-sceptic was highly critical of the Euro-currency and claimed, attempts to link UK interest rates with that of Germany was "highly inappropriate". This included the duration in which he was Chancellor.

The well known Euro-sceptic view that a single currency would lead to political union was reaffirmed. Mr Lamont commented that he became more convinced that this was increasingly the view adhered to by his continental counterparts during his time in office when he dealt with European leaders directly. He concluded by saying that the UK's objectives were so different to those of other member states that "Britain was on a collision course with Europe".

## New Computers Installed.

**Dhara Ranasinghe**

The School in its efforts to increase the accessibility of computers has confirmed that A038 will remain as a twenty four hour Computer Room. A further eighty Pentium computers have been installed in the library basement as well as twenty more in Kingsway. A 30% e-mail ban has also been enacted in all teaching rooms.

Yuan Potts (LDYS National Vice chair), submitted a motion to the UGM on this issue last term, commented that he was "excited" that, the LSE had now made "a step into the late 1990s".

attempt to shift from government to independent funding of higher education following last month's approval of the plans for tuition fees by the Court of Governors. Iain Crawford of the LSE's Centre for Education Research commented in *The Times* last week that "universities are the ideal bodies for administering student loans because they would always be motivated to act in the interests of the borrower".

Max Steuer, the LSE's Dean of Postgraduate Studies was more sceptical, but stressed that he was not fully aware of the details of the proposed scheme. Steuer stated that he was in favour of a "more substantial scholarship scheme" thus shifting the emphasis from a need orientated system to a more merit orientated one. His comments reaffirm general concerns that academic standards may fall as a result of entrance to the LSE being dictated by finance.

The details such as to who exactly the loans will be available and when they could be introduced are as yet unavailable. However, if the scheme does go ahead it is expected to substantially ease the financial strain of post-graduate students while further heating the argument over the future of higher education funding.

**Andrew Yule**

The LSE seems set to introduce a new postgraduate loan scheme in association with Midland Bank. The proposed scheme would mean that postgraduate students at the LSE, would, along with eleven other British universities, be entitled to a loan of up to £10,000, with a seven year pay-back period after completing their studies.

The exact details of the scheme are still uncertain though the general idea met with approval from SU Treasurer Darrell Hare. Hare commented on the difficulties he had in independently financing his own postgraduate studies.

This new proposition appears to be yet another step in the LSE's apparent

## Dynamic Director? Anthony Giddens arrives

**Rima White**

Professor Anthony Giddens, the new Director of the LSE, seems determined not to be a distant, faceless senior member of the School. He has already made his presence felt by sending an e-mail to all students and if you are not an e-mail fan, then a

(hand written) letter to the same effect is available in the Main Building. The e-mail/letter is a hint of the kind of approach Professor Giddens intends to pursue as the new Director, of what he describes as "one of the greatest academic institutions in Agreeable Anthony

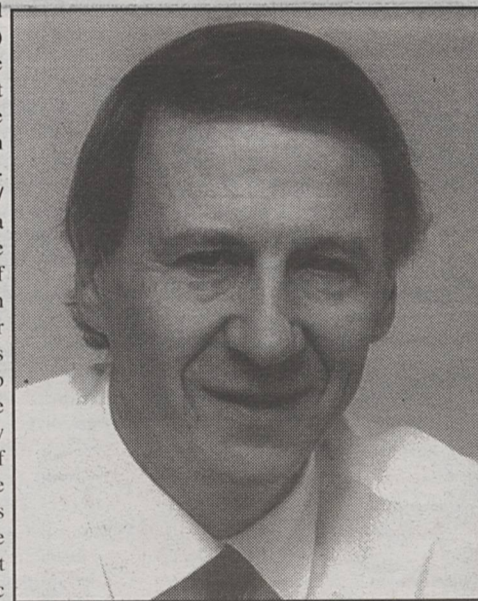


Photo: Library

ensure that the LSE retains, and expands, the reputation it has for intellectual radicalism and adventure" seems to have come just a little too late as far as top-up fees are concerned. However, he has made evident his intentions and commitments to the

student body by making the effort to establish a more intimate modus operandi. Professor Giddens will lecture on "The Interpretation of Modernity" in The Director's Lectures series which begin on Wednesday. The lectures, aimed primarily at first-year

students, are open to all LSE students and are "a basic introduction to the social sciences". If you wish to attend, get there early as half the School will wish to sample our Director's version of the fireside chat.

## News From The Archives From This Week: 19 January 1962

On 19 January 1961, the NUS held an emergency meeting to launch a 'Grant's Week Campaign' at the LSE. The external affairs Vice-President was reported to have attacked the government on its 'half-hearted' attitude towards student grants at the emergency meeting.

It was further decided that the main methods used for campaigning would include, writing to the local press, a signed petition by students of the LSE and letters written by the parents of students asking for the abolition of the proposed means test.

Janet Alker, the NUS officer of the Union, was said to be 'dissatisfied' with the outcome of the campaign which ran

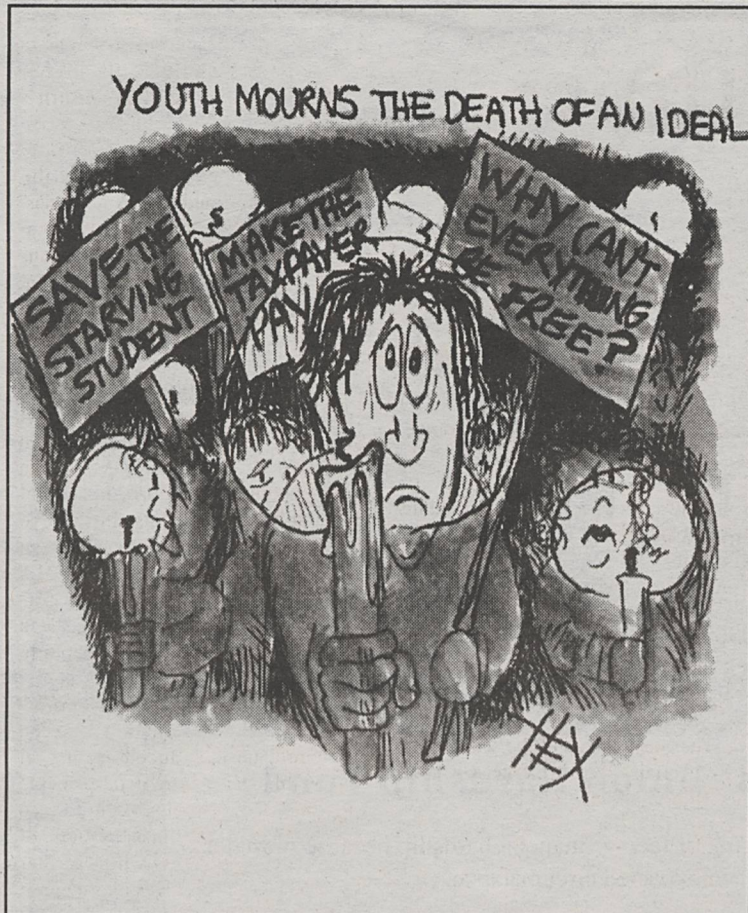
from 15 to 18 December. Only thirty-nine students had been able to lobby their MP and there was an equally poor response from MPs to see their student constituents. Some of those who did manage to meet with their student constituents were strongly in favour of the Anderson Report, while others were unaware that it even existed!

The campaign was branded as being a sign of student 'apathy over grants' when only 537 students out of the then, three thousand plus body of the LSE, signed the petition organised by the Union. It was said to have "turned out to be a fiasco" as only one student volunteered to write a letter to the local press.



Nevertheless, the one decisive result of the campaign was the invitation of the president of the NUS to meet with the Minister of Education, Sir David Eccles. The poor effort displayed in the campaign was explained by the fact that it was "held at an awkward time. It was too near the end of term for students and MPs alike" but the members of the Union were still shocked at such a response considering that the "outcome of the Anderson Report [would] affect most LSE students".

Miriam Chalabi



## Trainer or Traitor?

Kush D

The LSE will jointly pass a motion with forty six other British universities under the policy heading 'education funding' at the NUS Conference in March. The motion states that "further and higher education is in crisis", that "one in six people" fail to complete higher education courses they have begun". "The student movement should argue for a policy that students can accept: fair repayment of maintenance costs linked to increased funding from business and industry, as well as more money from central government. They then wish to mandate the National Exec "to unite the movement against hardship and fees" and "to make education funding a general election issue".

LSESU has gone one step further by passing a censure motion against current NUS President Douglas Trainer. It states that the NUS recently changed its Higher Education (HE) funding policy in favour of abolishing grants and replacing them with income contingent loans. Immediately after this the Labour party coincidentally also reviewed its funding agenda on HE and changed policy in alignment with the new NUS position. Dan Crowe, LSESU General Secretary, commented that the student Labour party is "running policies in favour of a right wing clique" and is following the orders of the national Labour party in order to ensure that the student movement will not come into conflict with a Labour government.. Crowe attacked Trainer personally, stating that he had interfered in the "liberation campaign" whose independence is guaranteed by NUS policy. Crowe added that we should call Trainer "Douglas Traitor".

The individuals among Trainer's associates who have spoken out against this issue have, as the amendment states, been faced with 'NUS witch hunts against those who do not agree with the leadership'.

The motion is a step forward towards bringing the NUS back to students' control and stop it being used as a pawn in Labours game of political chess. The motion hopes to stop those like Trainer abusing their positions to further their own careers.

## We Don't Need Another Hero...

Narius Aga

The LSE appears to be defying a national student trend. South African President Nelson Mandela is fast losing his status as a youth icon, according to a recent article in *The Times*. The article lamented the fact that "two thirds of student unions in the country have dropped his name from their bars or buildings in favour of more trendy heroes", such as Oasis, Des Lynam and Freddie Mercury. In the Michaelmas term SU elections students

here overwhelmingly voted Mandela as Honorary President, for the second time in ten years, lending credence to the argument that LSE is still a place where a political crusade is held in higher esteem than super stardom in the pop or sporting world. No plans are in the offing to rename the SU bar anyway. Chris Cooper, SU Entertainments sabbatical pointed out that such a tradition has never taken root in this Union and does not see it forthcoming as the 'Tuns' has popularly been entrenched in LSE jargon.



Pathway to Paradise?

Photo: Kenneth Lo

## And they're building a doorway to Heaven...

Narius Aga

Students returning to the Tuns after the winter break could not have failed to notice a welcome addition - a brand new door leading out on to Houghton Street, designated as a fire exit. Regulations stipulated the need for a new one, particularly since a permanent weekend lam extension is forthcoming shortly, leading to an anticipated increase in custom.

Standing majestically among its

forlorn surroundings however, makes it a misfit. That should be rectified in the near future when the long awaited refurbishment of the Tuns occurs, due to take place in the Easter break. Initial plans to have it done during the winter break were shelved when it was realised that it could not be done in three weeks, once the Christmas holidays were counted out. No more delays are expected and students will return with bated breath after Easter to witness the miracle.

## Top-Up Fees

Continued From page one

The Standing Committee will make a decision in the near future and it appears they will be influenced by the funding application from the Higher Education Funding Council expected by March. LSESU policy remains vehemently opposed to top-up fees as Dan Crowe stated, "it is impractical and very short-termist". The Socialist Workers Student Society (SWSS) organised a demonstration, without LSESU backing when the Standing

Committee convened last Tuesday. LSESU will maintain publicity on the issue and a National Anti-top-up Fee Conference is scheduled for next month.

The principle of universal higher education is at stake, implicated in Hannah's comment that the "sacred cow is no longer the sacred cow", is clear evidence that the LSE is now at a crucial turning-point in its history. In its attempts to solve its funding crisis, will the LSE be remembered as the institution which opted for privatisation and, as a result introduced a two-tier system of Higher Education in the UK?

## Research League Tables

Continued from page one

Bath was the top university outside Oxbridge and London.

The national newspaper which placed LSE nineteenth behind Liverpool and Southampton did not even use an average, but simply the number of areas rated with 5 or 5\*. It is

hardly surprising that the School performed poorly in this misleading table as it only entered fourteen departments, compared to the fifty entered by Cambridge.

The confusion was exacerbated when another newspaper by mistake omitted LSE from its table entirely. It apologised the next day and placed the School third.

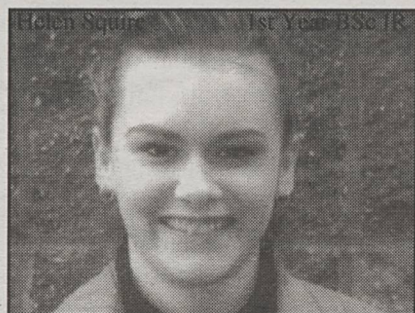
Professor Le Grand commented that "all league tables have problems, but most of them put LSE in the top two or three in the country".

## ST & ABOUT

Views from Houghton Street

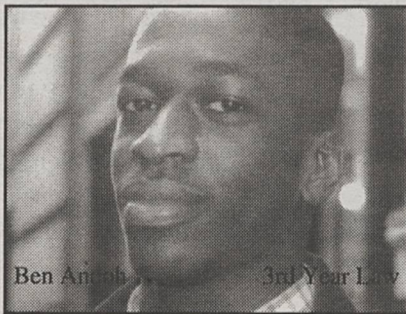
## Q Have you made any New Years Resolutions?

Compiled by Nina Duncan

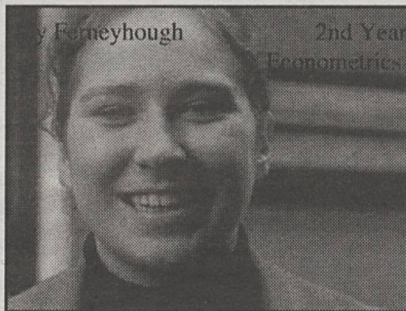


"To keep my room tidy and not take any shit from blokes."

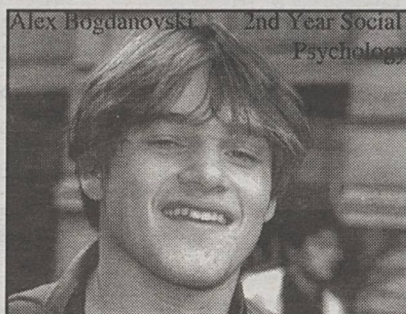
"Play hard, work harder."



"To keep myself focused. Just get a job and get myself clear from exams. And less frequent visits to pubs".



"To reduce my McDonalds consumption to only two times a week."



"Get a haircut and remember people's name when i'm talking to them."



# The Beaver

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## EDITORIAL

**S**exual harassment is a dirty word. No matter which way anyone may argue, it does happen, in society at large and at the LSE. These incidents usually go unreported at the LSE, partly due to the structure of the response mechanisms of the SU.

The decision to let the matter rest, however, is entirely that of the victim's, yet the perpetrators who are unchecked will only proceed to cause pain and anguish to others. This is not an attempt to criticise the men at the LSE. What we must realise is that there are some undesirables who thrive on making women feel uncomfortable and ultimately, on the feeling of power they receive from such an unsavoury act. Sexual harassment is entirely about power (and subsequently, a disordered mind).

There are few women who were not harassed at least once last year. These were your girlfriends, sisters and friends who experienced a rude comment or an unwanted touch, or even physical assault. What many do view as a stumbling block, however, is verbal harassment. The consensus amongst some is: no 'touch', no problem at all. That is entirely wrong. Verbal harassment is just another form of the power game: a woman can walk away after the incident feeling completely violated. No matter what your view, someone's own personal experience cannot be discounted. There is a large gap between actual harassment and mere flippancy, but harassment does not stop at the physical.

This is not an attempt to condemn the male sex, merely a discussion of a topic which has been relatively quiet for too long a time.

On other matters, speculation has already begun about the oncoming elections. This is proving to be an exceptionally difficult year for predictions and personal bets. Experienced union punters have admitted themselves at a loss as to sure victors. Perhaps a saner election will occur this year, then again..

LIZ CHONG

## What's On

### Spanish Classes

Beginners 1: Fridays 4.30-6.00

Beginners 2: Tuesdays 4.30-6.00

Intermediate: Thursdays 4.30-6.00

Only £25 for 9 sessions

e-mail: Trosso, EM @ lse.ac.uk  
phone: 0171-326-0369

### National Blood Service

Recruitment of donors will take place for the clinic on  
January 27

Please help us make it a successful day

### Students' Union Hardship Fund

If you are self financing or facing financial hardship because of major unexpected circumstance.

The SU Hardship Fund may be able to help you with an award. All applications are treated confidentially.

Forms are available from Welfare & Housing Office, Room E297, East Building from Monday January 13.

Closing date for applications is Friday January, 31 at 4pm

### Director's Lectures

The Lectures will take place once a week during the Lent Term and the early part of the Summer Term on Wednesdays at 1.00pm in The Old Theatre

### Ramadhan Announcement

For people who are fasting, Iftar is provided in the Prayer room (King's Chambers) after Maghrib, on Mondays to Fridays

## Fundraisers Required

Are you persuasive, articulate and good on the telephone? Do you feel good about the LSE and would you like to do something worthwhile to help the School?

If so, the LSE Foundation is offering students the opportunity to work as callers for the Telephone Fundraising Campaign. LSE Students are needed to call alumni between February and May to talk about and promote the School and request donations for Scholarship funds.

We are particularly looking for International Relations and Law students to help raise funds for scholarships in those departments - but students from any departments, undergraduate or postgraduate, may apply.

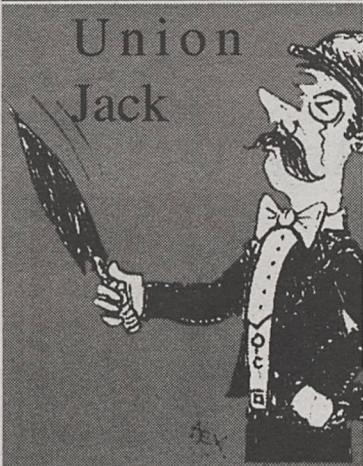
You must have a bright, outgoing, polite, patient and friendly approach. Some experience of telephone fundraising is desirable but not essential as full training will be provided.

There will be no 'cold-calling' involved - alumni will already have been contacted by letter. Working hours will be between 6pm and 9pm and callers will be required to work at least two evenings (6hrs per week). There may also be some afternoon or weekend calling. Overseas students must check how many hours they are permitted to work before applying.

Payment will be £6.00 per hour and there will be an incentives scheme for good performance.

Please send your name, address and study details and a statement of why you think you would be suitable for this position on no more than one side of A4. **DO NOT SEND CVs.** Successful applicants will be selected for further evaluation and training. Interviews will be held by telephone and applicants must include a daytime or evening telephone number at which they can be contacted.

Applications should be sent to Raymond Cairo c/o LSE Foundation, Room H810 or e-mailed to RE\Cairo(lse.ac.uk). The closing date is 5.30pm, Friday, 24 January 1997.



As Jack entered the Old Theatre for the first UGM of 1997, she sensed it was going to be a bit special. After all, Anthony Giddens, the new Director, was to address the masses with his new year's message, at the request of Gen Sex. In true Union tradition he failed to appear, as Whitley Bay's favourite son's promises once again proved unfulfilled. In the week when one Geordie figurehead left, never to return, Jack could only wish that her sexy stalker had not followed suit. Fortunately, due to a lack of "Communications", no-one knew that Giddens was to be present (or indeed that the UGM was taking place), so disappointment was minimal. Zeeshan Azhar for Ed & Welfare seems the obvious step. It appears Crowe had a nice Christmas in his Tyneside Grotto (grotty?), playing tunes on his organ and bouncing small children on his knee. Or should that be the other way round?

The first action of the day was the election of a new chair, following the abdication of King Tom, to spend more time with his family. Despite his best intentions to keep a low profile, his quest for intelligent debate would not keep the Ginger Oracle quiet for long. In the true spirit of LSE SU democracy, his successor was elected by STV (shit token vote), as Phil Hampshire graduated (look it up Crowe) to the microphone following a glowing apprenticeship with the pen & paper. His successor was elected by DYMIMPDIV (do you mind if my friend does it vote) and so the fun began. It's been a while since the muppet tones of Peter 'vote' Doralt (Independent) "I" had been heard in debate, and his return was as memorable as ever.

With the frivolities over, it was time for the important debate for the day – which Spice Girl do you fancy? Jon French set the ball rolling with his vote for Emma (blonde Spice), a decision made more on the basis of his infatuation with the lovely Georgina than any other criteria. Tom Smith plumped on the side of Victoria (posh Spice), while Stephen Little went for the fat, red-headed dirty Geri (Tom Spice). Surprisingly for LSE men, no-one lauded the qualities of either of the Mel's, especially considering the propensity of Tuns regulars to go for the ugly one. After the motion was mutilated beyond recognition by numerous amendments, it was left to Jon French to redraft his letter with his free hand while stalking the St Pauls area.

And so we came to the annual LGB motion. Proposed by the Labour Club, who were conspicuous by their absence, it was left to Tom Smith to put forward a convincing argument. Unable to do this, he resorted to sheltering from the hailstones of common sense under the umbrella of Political Correctness. It must have been a big umbrella, as it managed to encompass Sam Parham instead, seizing the opportunity to reduce his job remit with the same ferocity as he seizes Ginsters products from the Tuns while Jim isn't watching. The two political heavyweights used the argument that "if you vote or speak against this you are a bigot", while Yuan Potts and Fatma Msumi focused on the logistics of the motion. As Jack well knows, LSE students have no sympathies to be preyed upon, and so the two-thirds majority required for passing was narrowly missed. In this case Political Correctness did not kill debate, but merely made for a low quality one. One day someone will approach this from the right angle and it will pass, but in the meantime, go and see Parham.

# General Crowe, Daniel Crowe Spells Out His New Year Message.

**H**appy New Year and welcome back to LSE! This year promises to be an exciting year for the LSE and the LSE Students' Union, if such a thing is possible. At last we have a new Director, the renowned sociologist Anthony Giddens, who will shortly be addressing a Union General Meeting (1pm every Thursday in the Old Theatre). Details of this will be released as soon as possible. The Union wishes him well in his new job, and hope he provides better leadership and goodwill than his predecessor.

1997 is also the Students' Union Centenary, and a whole skipful of events and activities are planned to commemorate our 100th anniversary. Unlike the LSE's Centenary in 1995, the main focus of our celebrations will be in involving students, rather than School officials and VIP's. Our Union has a long and proud history of championing the rights of students and campaigning for progressive causes from around the world. This year will be a time to take stock of this, looking back at the past whilst facing the future that we are being educated to shape. As graduates of the LSE it will be our responsibility to tackle the many problems and uncertainties that face us all as we enter the next millenium.

The point of this editorial is to outline what will be happening over the next couple of months, and to give a brief run-down on where we stand as a Union at the present.

## CENTENARY GLOBAL FESTIVAL

**T**he forthcoming Centenary Celebrations are scheduled for the 8th week of term, with the Global Festival culminating in an "International Night" on Friday 7th March in the Peacock Theatre. The evening will involve the many Student Union cultural, national and ethnic societies uniting to produce a show of epic proportions, and will surely be a success. Anja Madsen, the Union Equal Opportunities Officer is coordinating the Weeks' events, and anyone interested should come to a meeting on Tuesday 21st January at 5pm in C120. Other events include a talk on the student unrest and radicalism at LSE in the 1960s, known euphemistically as "The Troubles", and a "Re-trial of the LSE". Following on from 1995s acquittal of the LSE as being not-guilty of betraying the principles of the LSE's

socialist founders', new evidence has come to light suggesting the contrary, and a further hearing has been deemed necessary.

## TUNS REFURBISHMENT

**A**s part of the Centenary Celebrations the infamous Three Tuns Bar is to be completely refurbished over the Easter

the Official 1997 LSE Ball, taking place in the third terms after exams. If you go home early you'll miss it, so stay an extra day for the party of the year. To reserve tickets contact Student Union Reception.

## TOP UP FEES

organised to mobilise against them. In the meantime, the Union will be aiming to keep Top Up Fees on the news agenda, and a National Anti-Top Up Fees Conference is in the pipeline for the end of February. We are also keeping up the pressure on the National Union of Students, and will be linking up with other Student Unions in demanding that the NUS call a National Demonstration against Fees.

## LSE v NUS

**T**he NUS leadership is currently in a shaky position. Dominated by the right-wing of Labour Students it has consistently decided to follow the line set by the national Labour Party rather than representing the best interests of students. The LSE Students' Union believes that students should be entitled to a life free from debt and hardship, calling for a living grant for all student. This is at odds with the newly changed policy of the NUS, which calls for an income-contingent loan scheme for living costs whilst at university. Students would then emerge from Higher Education burdened with debts of up to £20, 000! Unfortunately, senior Labour Party figures have recently speculated (as reported in the Financial Times) that students should also take out loans for up to 20% of their tuition fees! Ultimately, we will end up in the same position as the Australian National Union of Students. Once their leadership had accepted the principle that students should pay for their maintenance, they were unable to resist the demands that students pay their tuition as well. Now they are limited to campaigning against further increases in tuition fees. Unrepresentative of the students whom they claim to represent, the NUS leadership is intent on selling out students in a similar fashion. They are choosing to further their careers at the expense of what students and future students really need: a living grant whilst at University.

It is therefore with great pride that I will hopefully take our Union's motion to NUS Conference in the Easter, condemning the recent sellouts and betrayals of the NUS leadership and calling for the censure of the NUS President, Douglas Trainer.

## STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS

**U**nion elections will take place in the 8th week of this term, so if you want to get yourself elected have a think about it and come and see myself or one of the other sabbaticals for more information. Referenda on important issues facing students at LSE are also likely to feature in this cross-campus ballot, so when the time arises remember to exercise your democratic right to vote. And if you think you can do a better job than the present incumbents, why not stand for election?

Above all, enjoy this term. Don't let the workload get you down, but remember that ultimately you're here to get that piece of paper. All the best.



holidays. Quotes have been obtained from various companies, and a decision is to be made soon as to whom gets the tender. The most pressing question at the moment however, it to whether the bar should be carpeted or fitted with floorboards. Chris Cooper, Ents Sab will be selling off pieces of the 10 year old carpet, framed and labelled with a map as to its location and complete with a history of the origins of the various stains and markings. All moneys to charity, naturally. Coupled with this, Chris has managed to secure permanent lam extensions for Friday and Saturday nights. With the new Sound and Lights system in the Quad up and running, outside promoters are now planning to use the Tuns as a major Saturday night venue. This could be the start of a beautiful relationship. (Bands and the Quad that is, not Chris and myself). Look out for a Grand Reopening of the Tuns after the Easter break.

## CENTENARY BALL

**L**incoln's Inn Fields (just up the road) is being secured as a venue for a one-off black-tie Centenary Ball, featuring dinner and dancing, bands, marquees, dodgems and the like. Plans are to be finalised soon, and tickets are expected to sell out. This is

# Queen or President? That is the question

*The Beaver* debates the issue no political party will touch. First, **James Crabtree** argues the case for retaining the monarchy into the 21st Century. And below, **Guy Burton** says, that on the eve of the millennium, it is time for a Republic.

So, this is how we treat the great issues of modern times. A mind-numbing tirade of vacuous prejudiced inanity - the very hiatus of inanity - in which scarcely a sensible opinion was brought to bear. A 'debate' in which plummy (but vacant) toadies from the *Daily Express* traded insults with monosyllabic (but well meaning) pseudo-Republicans. Reasoned discussion for people who think *Gladiators* is the definition of top quality entertainment: Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the 'Great Monarchy Debate'!

Yet, it is possible that this pantomime served a purpose. The next day's press seemed unanimous in their sentiment that, despite the lack of serious comment, this was an issue worthy of comment. Should a modern liberal democratic society be seen to be headed by an antiquarian establishment, or should Britain remove its monarchy and herald the 21st century by bravely leaping into the 19th?

Upon what criteria do we judge the suitability of a constitutional monarchy? Certainly, we should raise the level and ignore the doubtless dreadful prospect of Queen Camilla. Although not brought up in the TV debate, it seems that there should be two principal questions. Firstly, taking the efficacy of democracy *a priori*, does the undemocratic monarchy wield undue influence over the elective process? Secondly, if this theoretical boundary is cleared, do the various benefits of the present system outweigh those of a given alternative?

The issue of Democratic theory is

undoubtedly contentious. The Queen has numerous *de jure* powers, which she ought not have in a society which purports to place the sovereignty of the people in parliament. She can declare war upon another nation. She can deny her assent to an act of parliament. However, it is incontestable that a power which will never be used is not a power at all. Her Majesty understands her role, as Walter Bagehot wrote in *The English Constitution*, is "in a dignified capacity. It would not be dignified for her, *de facto*, to utilise the powers which are provided by her office. She understands all too well that the public and media outcry from such an event would almost certainly result in the renunciation of her Royal Assent. Why take the risk? Those who fume at the injustice of a monarch having such powers ought to redirect their wrath towards the House of Lords, an arena in which far less responsible members of the establishment wield real *de facto* power.

Nevertheless, what of those who claim that the monarch represents all that is inherently wrong with the British class system? These people should realise that



Should her descendants continue to rule Britain into the 21st Century?

Like James Crabtree, I found the recent televised debate on the monarchy a shambles. Not only was the subject bereft of any serious discussion and substance and the final poll figures highly self-selecting, it ended up focusing almost entirely on the Royal Family and their shenanigans. Yet it was not the Royals that were supposed to be on trial but the institution of the monarchy which they represent. And therein lies the problem. People in this country have come to personalise the structure to the point that they are unable to take the necessary steps back in order to study the dangers and evils of this archaic and anachronistic establishment.

I am opposed to the monarchy and what it stands for on several counts. Not only is it too expensive, it is extremely undemocratic and unrepresentative of society today.

It is the undemocratic nature of the monarchy that I find the most distasteful and dangerous aspect of the whole charade. For example, the Queen is required to pass bills that are put before her. In practice she does not refuse to sign any of them into law. But in theory, if she so chose, she could turn them down. And if this were to happen what would the government of the day do? There are no constitutional barriers to prevent her from carrying out such an act. Added to that, the Queen is also able to appoint whoever she wishes from the Houses of Parliament to be her Prime Minister. In practice she has only ever done this once, when Douglas-Home was awarded the honour in the early 1960s. Then she let herself be guided by the advice of her most trusted ministers. But had she chosen otherwise, she could have selected whosoever she might have liked. Again,

there are no constitutional safeguards to prevent her from doing that.

How is it that someone who I have never voted for is able to wield such arbitrary power? 'But that's not a problem,' monarchists cry, 'for if she or any other monarch were to try to carry out such an activist policy the Government of the day would pass legislation preventing him or her from doing so.' All very well, but who besides the monarch of the day would be able to pass that bill into law? And even if monarchists scoff at such a suggestion and say that such a scenario is unlikely, who is to say that it could not happen? Surely we should take preventive measures now before anything disastrous happens, rather than after the event, by which time it might be too late to effect a change. Leaving the system as it is might be an accident waiting to happen. Instead we should take advantage of the present situation, in which the monarchy is currently lying low, to ensure that such a possibility might never happen.

Sadly too, the monarchy appears unrepresentative and out of touch with ordinary people's aspirations. While the background and the character of the monarchy has been relatively constant and unchanging in Britain over the centuries, British society has seen a complete restructuring in the last fifty years. No longer is the average Briton white and English speaking. Today there are more immigrants than ever flooding on to Britain's shores, from the West Indies, the Indian subcontinent and Hong Kong, bringing in different values, identities and beliefs. And yet the monarchy has not adjusted to take

the ice-berg will not disappear if you cleverly sever the tip above water.

The second question; does the monarchy present advantages over an alternative. People claim it to be an expensive gimmick our declining nation can scarcely afford. The truth is monarchy is relatively cheap. All told, the bill for Windsor inc. scarcely tops the £80m mark. Those who suggest we introduce a Presidential system seem to forget that the cost for such a figure

would not be much less. Moreover, as the British PM wields more power than any other western leader, what role would we give any potential elected President? Logically, it would involve a good deal of worthless foreign excursions, in combination with worthy charity work and the occasional super-market opening. What is the point of having a redundant figurehead president along the lines of the Irish model? We already have a redundant figurehead

monarch performing these tasks, and whose family provides far more entertaining *News of the World* headlines. Further, if we were to abolish the monarchy tomorrow, I would give extremely short odds on one Betty Windsor being the front runner in a presidential election.

Let us be frank. There is not much for which the UK is remarkable.

Our reputation is tarnished, our economy is second tier, and our cricketers are embarrassing. The monarchy provides a real British soap opera in which the greater world truly takes an interest. Do the American love our weather? Certainly not - but they are fascinated by the quaint ye olde worldness of our Royal Family. Would the French pay their hard earned francs to read salacious gossip concerning President Branson? Never - but *Paris Match* will always find room for Prince William. For Britain, all publicity is good publicity, and the Windsors' provide undeniably sparkling copy. Their benefit to tourism is incalculable but arguably considerable, and their ability to raise the national profile is unmatched. Perhaps they are not the image that UK plc wants to portray, but their iconicity and charming antiquity is certainly superior to grey, tedious mediocrity.

It would be fair to say that if the United Kingdom was to be created anew, it would not be sensible to design a system headed by a Monarch. Yet, there is no denying that this is the arrangement from which all discussion must commence. There are many things in need of remedy in the modern United Kingdom, and it is time for republicans to realise that sacrificing Her Majesty for their own morality would do the country more damage than good.

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

something that we seem to be incapable of doing at a time when recent evidence suggests that a s o l u t e

poverty levels seem to be worsening in Britain.

Another argument that is made in favour of spending so much on the monarchy includes the fact that it brings in investment and business to this country. Quite frankly, I fail to see the logic. Surely the reason we receive such business is because of the relatively secure state of infrastructure within our economy and not because the Princess of Wales happens to be wearing a diamond tiara at a state banquet on her last trip abroad?

At this point I would expect indignant royalists to leap in and say that we cannot just abolish the monarchy - it is part of our heritage. And indeed it is. But why should we keep the Queen and her family simply for the benefit of a few million tourists a year? None of them actually come to see the Royal Family and neither do they come to see a monarchy in action. Explain how it is possible to see such an intangible legacy in action? Perhaps at the State Opening of Parliament, but even then you would be unable to obtain tickets. No, the tourists come here to see our history and they would still come here to see Buckingham Palace even if the monarch was gone. You need only look at the Summer Palace in St Petersburg and Versailles in France to see that tourism would not cease if we were to rid ourselves of the monarchy.

Condemning the abolition of the

monarchy is the easy part of republicanism in Britain. The harder part is suggesting what we might replace it with. Few people want to see a president with the same amount of power as the French or American models in this country - a possible 'President Thatcher'. This leaves open the possibility of a presidential figurehead as in Germany. But here lies another problem. The monarchy and the whole structure of the British constitution are inextricably woven together. If we are to abolish the monarchy we would also have to make changes to other aspects of the state apparatus in Britain. To abolish the monarchy and hope for the best is simply not feasible. It would indeed be like breaking the tip off an iceberg. But surely it is not impossible.

Clearly, the complete revamp of the British constitution is something that we can and should work towards. For too long politicians in this country have gone on about Britain being a leading democracy. It is time that they showed that we are. It is time that we addressed the fact that we are now living in a more plural society in which the links between the average man on the street and the upper class Establishment are becoming so tenuous as to be verging on the irrelevant. John Major says that he wants a 'classless society'. Tony Blair talks about 'New Life for a New Britain.' When are we going to see such rhetoric translated into political action? If nothing else, isn't the dawning of a new millennium a suitable time to reconsider Britain's institutions and to try to better them? And why not start with addressing the most notable institution of them all; the monarchy?

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# Being Politically Incorrect...

Guy Burton asks whether the West has any right to be critical of 'authoritarian governments'

Recently I attended a conference where great consternation was expressed at the Indonesians' treatment of the East Timorese. What annoyed me was the quality of the debate and the atmosphere that surrounded it in the conference hall.

Not only did the debates show the level of ignorance on recent Indonesian history, it was also clear that few around me seemed interested in hearing the other side of the argument. I accept that the Indonesian government is both corrupt and inclined to nepotism. I agree that it has perhaps been too heavy-handed in its actions in both East Timor and more recently in Jakarta last July. But we in the West are not faultless. We have painted these issues black and white.

Many people forget that the authoritarian regime in Indonesia has now brought economic development to the country and has created a stable political climate conducive to that end.

What had been forgotten by all participants during the debate was the fact that since Indonesia has been assisting economic development in East Timor, something its former colonial rulers, the Portuguese, never did. As for Fretilin, East Timor's militaristic "freedom fighters", they are hardly saints, having killed off all those opposed to them prior to Indonesian annexation. It was because of Fretilin's extremism that a defensive Jakarta sent in troops to quell the disturbance.

Sadly, those who spoke in the debate chose to omit these finer points. It was clear that despite our claims to the contrary in the West, we tend to reject ideas that are contrary to our own.

Look at three particular issues that we in the West pride ourselves on: democracy, human rights and liberty. While I agree that in principle these are sound ideas, how many people have actually sat down and considered what exactly these concepts entail? Why are democracy, human rights and liberty so important? If democracy means the freedom to choose who is to govern us, human rights the protection of a man's basic needs and liberties and liberty the freedom of choice in all matters, how can this be measured or achieved?

In this country we assume that

our style of government as democratic. So too does Communist China, neo-authoritarian Singapore and Islamic Kuwait. Yet to the Western mind these last three examples are not democratic because they do not reflect the will of the people. Yet to these regimes they do. China's government supporters, for example, claim that the will of the people is shown through their uncritical support for the existing regime and thus for the principles of Marxist-Leninism.

Point to the Beijing Spring of 1989 as evidence that their government was not popular and they will scoff at you. The students, they claim, were but a small minority. And not only were they a small minority, they were also counter-revolutionaries, conspiring to work against the government. And by trying to bring down the government the very existence of the state was threatened, for the state and government are inextricably linked to the principles of Marxist-Leninism. Consequently the collapse of the state would not only have been against the silent majority's wishes but also undemocratic as a result.

Singapore, too, claims to have a democratic and accountable government. They can point to free and fair elections that are held periodically without any threat of coercion. The government is accountable to its citizens at all times. All good and well.

Yet critics claim that the government - and in particular Senior Minister Lee Kwan Yew - is prone to seek legal redress through the courts for comments made by the political Opposition that they consider defamatory. Fair enough. But does that impinge on Singaporean democracy? So you might be sued for writing or saying something that is considered slanderous. But that does not prevent you from saying it.

And finally tiny Kuwait. Part of its agreement with the US following the Gulf War was to establish democracy and this they have done. Only it appears that women are not represented in it. And while we may consider this to be scandalous in the West we should bare in mind that the political culture in that country is rather different to that of our own. And besides, when did we first allow women the vote? Not until after the First World War. Yet we had been

calling ourselves a democracy for well over a hundred years by then.

As for human rights I do not deny that they are a 'good' thing. But what I do find annoying is when people accept it unquestioningly. Would someone please tell me what exactly are human rights? The whole concept is so vaguely worded that it can mean anything that you want it to mean and indeed it has been that at different times. In nineteenth century Europe as in many 'undemocratic' countries today it meant social and political stability in order to maintain harmony and peace amongst people.

Today if you ask a European they would probably say that human rights are political freedoms: the right to speak, write and act freely without any fear of reprisals from political authority. Rather a far cry from the nineteenth century citizen who would have been arrested on the spot for such shocking

long ago?

In addition, the woolly meaning of the term 'human rights' has meant that while the West see rights in a political and civil light, those in Asia and Africa tend to see rights as a more economic issue, where a person is much more concerned with having enough to eat and live as opposed to speaking out. And if the government is pledged to achieve that aim for its citizens is there any need for the Western interpretation of human rights? After all, 'a vote does not fill your stomach'.

As for the concept of liberty, what does this mean? In the West

does not mean democracy. In fact it can mean the freedom to choose through the alternative of the market, to cite one example. And indeed that is what is

**"...despite our claims to the contrary in the West, we tend to reject ideas that are contrary to our own."**

happening in the increasingly authoritarian democracy of Argentina, the Asian tiger economies and still relatively controlled Russia.

So what did I learn from that conference and have tried to show in this article? Namely that Western conceptions are not always the same as those in other, less 'democratic', 'oppressive' regimes. But rather than condemn such institutions, portraying them in either black or white, we should

look closer at these regimes and their perceptions of democracy, human rights and liberty.

We should be more open to their points of view and the rationality behind it. We should question more rather than accept blindly what we are constantly told is 'good'.

We constantly harp on about tolerance but the truth is we don't use it very often as I saw in that conference hall. I am opposed to censorship, be it externally or self-imposed, in Africa, Asia, Europe or America.

I believe that issues and ideas should be brought out in the open and discussed. Even if people don't agree with those ideas,

fine. But only by doing this will the West learn to be a little less judgmental and show the tolerance that it claims to have but rarely shows.



Would India see these arguments in quite the same light?

insurrection. Consequently, can we in the West be so quick to judge and condemn other states for actions that we would have undertaken ourselves not so

liberty has become synonymous with the idea of democracy, yet history shows that the two are very distinct. Liberty means freedom to choose, but it

## Islam: Balancing the *Din*

Tanveer Hussain suggests that Islam is not about spiritualism, or fundamentalism...

In a recent speech the Prince of Wales extolled the virtues of tradition and castigated materialism making particular reference to Islam and the spiritualism

inherent within it. One can only praise the Prince for taking a sincere interest in the world's second largest religion and trying to understand its teachings (which is more than can be said for many leading figures) although the Prince's credentials in wishing to be seen as a defender of faith are perhaps not so clear. But the danger apparent in taking an interest in whatever subject is that one may only get to hear a particular side of the story and moreover, that prejudice and sentiment prevent an objective opinion being formed.

In the case of Islam I wish to point out that the spiritual aspect is not the be all and end all. Indeed, in the Koran, the Arabic word used to describe Islam is

*din* which translated is "way of life" providing a clue to the essence of Islam which is about balance - it assists in all aspects; money, our dealings with

**"Islam, in the 6th century no less, gave women the right to vote, hold property and seek an education."**

others, our responsibilities, not forgetting faith. The economic system of Islam is based upon a principle common to most countries around the world - a mixture of the public and the private sector.

Moreover, a little known fact is that Islam has a defined taxation and judicial system with enshrined basic rights to shelter, food and clothing. Islam does not ask that you give up all material aspects of your life. Rather it recognises the opposite, that the world revolves around trade and production. Instead, we are asked to appreciate that if (a big if, to be sure) God exists we cannot expect to not let this conclusion influence our lives in some way or

other.

As for tradition, I urge caution.

Nostalgia leads us to look back *en masse* at a bygone age but I'm sure we can all agree that the tradition of burying baby girls alive, only men voting and being educated are best consigned to the history bin.

However, tradition can also be badly misunderstood. In my own community arranged marriages are the norm and often the bride and groom are forced into marrying. Many people associate such practices with Islam. In

reality, however, this is a gross slur on Muslim marriage for they are invariably

kitchen" but once again I must emphasise that tradition and culture



Living the Muslim life

based on consent and preference. Another commonly held view is that women in Islam are "chained to the

point. But unfortunately, they will bear the burden of the latter too.



# Friends discuss LSE ...

## A. Nonymous creates the new award - winning screenplay for the upcoming Edinburgh Festival ...

Phoebe: Did you see the article in the Economist about the LSE?

Monica: Yeah, I did. A professor in another university said about LSE academics "people go there if they want a two day week."

Phoebe: But it is! My tutors and professors are almost impossible to find. They have one office hour and would you believe that some of them are during a compulsory lecture. So we have to make appointments with the secretaries (who are available only after 2pm) if we want to see them. For our tutors it's fashionable to be at least 15 minutes late for their office hour.

Phoebe: Perhaps that why the article says "rivals accuse LSE of resting on their laurels." Although I have to confess that I've been pretty impressed so far.

Rachel: That's probably because you've had a British education which isn't what it used to be, as it isn't a priority for the government.

Monica: You can say that again.

British education appears to have deteriorated. Considering that LSE is ranked third in the UK, the quality of education and support facilities are pretty ordinary. I mean MSc students for tutors, some of whom do not have English as a first or second language! That really shocked me!

Rachel: Yes, I agree LSE is living off its laurels. If I was at a university back home I'd be getting the same standard of education. It just doesn't have the international reputation.

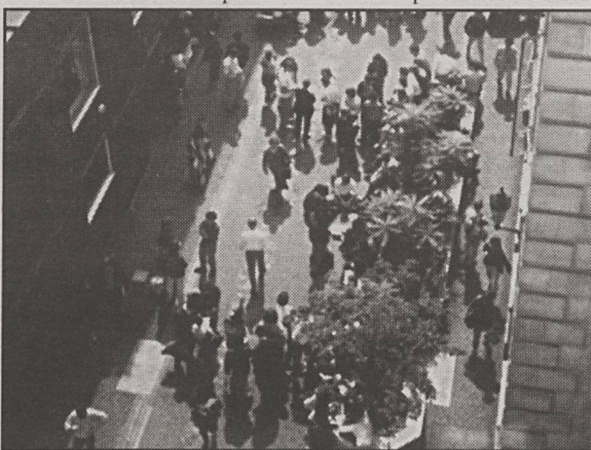
Monica: If this is the third best university, I dread to think what the others are like!

Phoebe: (Looking at the article again) It is an outrage that overseas students are subsidizing the British students.

"This leads to manifest unfairness." Rachel: So are you supporting top-up fees? Don't you think that its absurd that I pay £7800 a year. That works out at £22 per hour of timetable teaching (yes she can add).

I've lost over £100 in cancelled

lectures and classes in only eight weeks. Can I have a refund please???? I could



do with the money to pay for my exorbitant textbooks because they are never available in the library, though frequent promises are made to correct this in the student union elections. Come on then surely top-up fees is the answer. Phoebe: I can see where you are coming

from, but no it's not. Its a matter of priorities. Do students really need residences that masquerade as five-star hotels? Was the one million pounds face-lift of St. Clements building really an efficient allocation of resources, considering that we are £2.5 million pounds in debt.

Monica: No way! Isn't it more important to provide adequate and affordable accommodation to all students rather than posh accommodation for the select few who have the luck of the draw.

Rachel: ...or provide better computer facilities. I appreciate that LSE has

upgraded its computers over the summer, but what's the point if I can hardly get to use them. During the day, a room with room with thirty computers is booked for a class of 6-8 students. So computers lie idle while we queue ... and queue.

Phoebe: Another brilliant example of an efficient allocation of resources!

Monica: If they are not lying idle, they're lying in the repair queue.

Rachel: ...and have you ever heard of paying for printouts? Only LSE will squeeze every penny out of you!!

Monica: Talking about pennies .. the scholarship office is a real farce. It's a challenge just to get them to part with an application form. Imagine them parting with a year's worth of fees.

Phoebe: Well it's alright to sit and complain, finding solutions isn't as easy. Don't forget that we are in debt and that higher education desperately lacks funds.

Rachel: Welcome to the LSE!

Monica: Good luck Mr Giddens!

## Smoking - (The Facts: Sort Of)

Nina Soteri ponders the fate of tobacco

My instructions have been to write about one of the activities most commonly performed by LSE students. They can be found doing it in all kinds of places-they risk life and limb certainly the chance of pneumonia in the winter, by doing it on Houghton Street throughout the year, they do it in very concentrated numbers in the bar, they venture from their seminars in their ten minute break, just for a quickie to calm their nerves before they return for more torture. They enjoy it so much that it almost led to revolution (yeah right!) earlier this year in protest at suggestions that they'd be stopped from doing it in the Brunch Bowl. So what is this activity, I hear you ask?.....Why smoking, of course!!!

So here I am scribbling away at some ungodly hour, in which if I am going to be conscious, it certainly shouldn't be with a pen in hand, having failed miserably to submit my pathetic attempt at journalism in time for my deadline (grovel, grovel, Anita, please forgive me!), writing about a habit which I don't participate in. The latter point makes it difficult for me to write in favour of smoking and it would be a little out of character for me to send out a message urging students to write in taking their cigarettes in arms and choking themselves to death, however I'm not going to write some fanatical article condemning this as some evil pastime that should be criminalised upon punishment of death either.

Frankly, anyone who adamantly wants to dog up their lungs with tar and die painfully of some beastly cancer has my blessing and I wouldn't want to convince them of the contrary. After all, one of the strongest messages that comes across throughout life at LSE is that it's a democracy and we should all be free to think and behave as we see fit, and the chances of persuading someone to quit in one brief article are a little less favourable than managing to sell ice to an Eskimo, so why bother?

Well, the usual arguments about the unsociable smell that this ironically named "social habit" produces are rarely sufficient to change a smoker's ways, as are comments on the yellowish tinge of their teeth and nails, so I won't waste any further time on these rather dull points.

A somewhat more persuasive argument for those anti-establishment, anti-government readers out there, is

the fact that you are pouring millions of Pounds into the Treasury every year as, (...a bit of economics coming up I'm afraid!) Fags are amongst the most inelastic and unresponsive goods to change in price and those wise men in the Treasury (pardon the sarc) have picked upon this and therefore levy a hefty tax on the price of each packet that is bought! So why not do yourself a favour and keep that money in your pocket making yourself a little richer!! (Perhaps this may be a little self-defeating, but that way, you have an estimated £50 more cash per month, which could easily be spent on booze, (Friday night in the bar!!!) Whilst I wouldn't want to be encouraging drug abuse, a different solution to the funding-the-Treasury problem would be to smoke marijuana instead! - No taxes, and it's supposedly a less addictive substance to be inhaling!

Realising that I'm not getting too far with this article, I've desperately turned to my emergency resources - a series of leaflets that I picked up from St Phillips Health Centre earlier today, in the hope that they might bail me out somehow. So here's a cheerful fact: around 5000 in Britain die in road accidents each year. Smoking kills more than 20 times as many. Well isn't that a pleasant thought for the day.

Oooh! Here's a less suicide-inspiring and more environmentalist approach to the issue. To grow one acre of tobacco, 150 large trees are cut down and burned. The average smoker gets through one tree every fortnight. Tobacco production requires the use of large amounts of fertilisers, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals. There is also a danger to tobacco workers of nicotine poisoning and on family-owned farms, this can include children. "If you stop, you'll help save the environment," it says on the leaflet. But if a smoker were to recycle their paper (now there's a use for your lecture notes!) and glass bottles and oppose the building of the next proposed motorway, would that balance out the effect of their smoking and gain them some credit as against the non-smoker who doesn't give a toss about the environment and throws out their rubbish indiscriminately?.....Hmm. Maybe I'm losing the point a little here.

There's an entertaining piece here in the leaflet attempting to rebutt common "excuses" preventing someone

from quitting, and surprisingly, having read it I find myself sympathising with the smoking lobby. "The average weight gain when smokers stop is only about 4 pounds and the weight can be lost again when you've kicked the habit." Excuse me!!! What kind of sick, mentally disturbed exercise freak is behind the production of these leaflets!!!! Have they ever ried sweating out in the gym before?!

On a momentarily serious note however, there is some encouragement in the quoted statistic that the ten million people in Britain have stopped smoking permanently in the last fifteen years, which is about a thousand people a day. So there is some hope if you are determined and here are two helpful numbers if you think you are going to need help, 0171 487 3000/0800 002200.

For those smokers who remain unpersuaded, well I do not blame you it's a sh\*t old world anyway and old age, incontinence and senility do not not sound like a bundle of laughs either!!!

## APPEAL FOR WRITERS

If you have a sharp eye, write well and are interested in seeing your name in print, attend *The Beaver's* collective meetings held every Monday, 6.00 pm in C023 (opposite The Underground). *The Beaver's* collective members automatically become eligible for NUS/NUJ membership, providing you with an official press card.

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# Single Minded

**Artist: Perfume**  
**Single: Lover**

I expected Perfume to be a couple of luscious, lusty, leggy ladies like Shampoo. In fact they turned out to be four loutish lads from Leicester lacking in ingenuity and any new ideas of their



own. Imagine Jarvis Cocker singing for R.E.M. Sounds good? Trust me, it isn't. Perfume's songs are just so average. Nothing stands out (apart from their atrocious wailing harmonies, that is). There are too many guitar bands around now as it is. We want something new. If you have to listen to "happy" pop songs sung by a singer that can't sing listen to the Lightning Seeds or someone. At least Ian Broudie writes catchy tunes that stick in your mind rather than Perfume's which are instantly forgettable. Keep the lid on this Perfume - it smells bad.

Sunil Sodha

**Artist: Byron Stingily**  
**Single: Get Up (Everybody)**

I must admit to having a chuckle or two at Mr Stingily's name. This is not a bad house track - if it was pumping out in a club I get the distinct feeling this would get the crowds rather aroused. At a time when I desperately needed something uplifting to elevate me out of post-relationship trauma and brokenhearted blues along came Byron Stingily to save the day with this uplifting house track. Thanks. Mr Stingily or shall I call you Byron? I'm still a bit disgruntled though - out of all the singles I've reviewed this is the first one that I've actually liked. However all the other 'undesirables' were on CD, while this one has been presented to me to keep on a less-than-desirable-quality cassette. Oh. Mr Music Editor. can you please fix it for me to have this on CD? Yours.

Shabnum Hasan

**Artist: Bennet**  
**Single: Mum's Gone to Iceland**

Not a single about a cruel and evil mum emigrating to a foreign country and leaving her children to fend for themselves. No, this is one about mum going shopping, hardly the most inspiring subject matter is it? Bennet manage to make it interesting enough though, with lines about dad having to give mum more money so that she can buy more things, which is of course EVIL and capitalist, despite the fact that it is exactly what happens in 90% of families today. Still, apart from the half hearted attempt at social comment it's not a bad song really. Quite reminiscent of Blur, not new Blur no, but old-not-quite-as-good Blur. Still not a bad band to sound like.

I'd hazard a guess however that Bennet would be rather more successful



if they actually put their decent material on A sides rather than hiding them away on B sides. *Hope You'd Like To*, is a B side to this single, and it's mixture of ballady verse and shouty chorus outshines any of the bands A sides I have heard to date.

## Blur's Beatley Bottom

**Artist: Blur**  
**Single: Beetlebum**

Blur are back, and after the smelly turd that was *The Great Escape* they've got quite a bit of cleaning up to do if they are to ever again be compared with Oasis. So this is it. *Beetlebum*, and it's certainly an impressive turnaround. Gone are annoying whiny synthesizers, gone too is the annoying whininess of Damon All-Bran's voice, but most importantly gone are the shit unimaginative lyrics which plagued the band post-*Parklife*. Here instead is a single which is unashamedly retrospective, yes it's a bit Beatlesy but what isn't? More importantly it has definite 70's influences in there, the second track *All Your Life* sounds so much like early



Bowie I reckon you could stick it on the end of his *Hunky Dory* album and no-one would notice the difference!

Despite all that there is still an unmistakable sound to it that could only be Blur.

Unless I'm very much mistaken I have a vision of a heavenly host of pop star angels floating around Blur's heads and strumming their Stratocasters to

herald the return of Blur to the respectable pop-star arena. This single is a laid back start to their return, and that is the main beauty of it. It's not exactly a slow song, in fact it rocks, but it's the laid back arrogance in the way that it's delivered that fills you with confidence that Blur still have what it takes. This, of course is only the first single from their new album, we shall have to wait to see what they come up with next. I've been let down by Blur before and I'm quite prepared for them to become shit again. For now,

however, Blur reign supreme and can bask in the glory of their forthcoming inevitable storming comeback. For *Beetlebum* is cool, everyone I know who's heard it says it's cool, and it will, yes it will be number one.

Tom Stone

## The Return Of The Thin White Duke.

**Artist: David Bowie**  
**Single: Little Wonder**

Tick-tick-boom-tick-tikka-boom! Yep it's what's known these days as drum and bass. Now if someone was going to sing over that kind of smashing crashing bashing beat then I've come to expect it to be either be Tracey Thorn *f o r m* everything but the girl or a firestarter (twisted



firestarter). But the problem with new ideas like this is that pretty soon everyone's jumps on the band wagon just for the ride. So I'm afraid that Bowie's new drum 'n' bass effort gets a big fat zero

*f o r* originality, despite what he says I'm not convinced that his music has always contained a jungle element, when he was crooning away about Major Tom did he really

lines lurking in the back of his mind, somehow I think that's about as likely as Kylie wanting to emulate Napalm Death.

Still I'm a miserable old git, maybe I've just been doing this job for too long and I'm getting too cynical (What do you reckon James?). However I like to think I can spot a stonking track when I hear it, and that's certainly what this is. More energetic, interesting and catchy than anything he's done in the last 10 years. At last something from Bowie that we don't have to file under 'experimental soundtracks'. When Bowie does something he does it well, so the fact that it's not the most original idea in the world, Bowie's voice is still as haunting and emotionally charged as ever and frankly knocks ten shades of shit out of any of Tracey Thorn's self-indulgent crooning. At 50 Bowie's still sexy and still cool, this is a sure fire top tenner pop pickers. TS

## Supernaturally gifted

**Artist: The Supernaturals**  
**Single: The Day before Yesterday's man**

Exuberant Glaswegians. The Supernaturals follow-up their Number 34 hit *Lazy Lover* with their third single, *Day Before Yesterday's Man*, on the 27th January.

Supernatural, indeed they are. The five dropped out of university and gave up exciting careers as postmen. "As a pop band", their keyboardist explains. "We can do anything we want. A rock or indie band on the other hand has to conform to certain rules, you're not allowed to have certain influences or have a synthesiser." This single will certainly prove to be a chart topper.

The Supernaturals are a band that single-handedly reaffirm your faith in love of dedication to pop music. A band to wake you up from the musical



torpor of most 1996 guitar bands. A band whose ambition, self belief, style, ability and above all TUNES has set

them soaring. I greatly recommend this one.

Amir Absoud

**Artist: Jai**  
**Single: Don't Give Me Away**

This new band sound great. They are hard to categorise, but seem to be very jazz and blues influenced. Jai's songs are seductively slow, simple and sensuous. Their lead singer sounds a lot like George Michael, although sometimes you can hear Jamiroquai, and even Harry Connick Jr., slipping in. He has a very soft, feminine, haunting voice. *Don't Give Me Away* is their debut single, full of synthesised sounds, and arranged as a crescendo climaxing with strings towards the end. It is very different to anything I have heard before - not different as in weird, but different as in special, breaking new ground. Surprisingly, the other three tracks on the sampler CD were just as good, if not better than the single *My favourite*, *Let Me In*, is a beautiful blues number, ideal for playing at a candlelit dinner for two. JAI are excellent, and if there is any justice in the world, are going to be BIG!

Sunil Sodha

**Artist: Michelle Gayle**  
**Single: Do you Know**

Michelle Gayle releases her new single *Do You Know* on January 27th. The single was co-written by Michelle and Shep Soloman and showcases Michelle's mature sound, which incorporates acoustic elements, taking Michelle to a new level in her career.

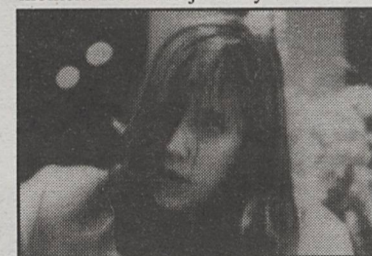
The single is one of many superb songs featured on the long-awaited second album "Come Fly Away" (due for release on 14th April). This excellent and long awaited collection of new work will undoubtedly confirm Michelle's status as Britain's foremost soul diva.

Did you know That Michelle's eponymous debut album sold over 100,000 copies (gold status) in the UK alone and spawned 4 top 20 singles including 'Looking Up', 'Sweetness', 'Freedom' & 'Happy Just To Be With You'?

Amir Absoud

**Artist: Beth Orton**  
**Single: Touch Me With Your Love**

Lie back and let yourself drift away on a tide of jazz double bass, sixties guitar sounds and a voice which is so smooth and creamy that you wouldn't be surprised if Beth Orton turned out to be a singing tub of cream. This is the second single from her debut album *Trailer Park*, and is released on January 20th. The album is absolutely stunning, very mellow and with lyrics thoughtful enough to really make you listen. This single is a sparkling moment from the jewellery box that is



*Trailer Park*.

"Put your loving on a slow burner/ If you wanna keep your loving warmer/ Put your loving on a slow simmer/ If it helps to keep a light from growing dimmer." These are the first lines of the song, thought provoking with their strange imagery, and with Beth's voice singing you just know somehow that it's all true. The other tracks on the CD are *Pedestal* (a brand new song) and *Galaxy of Emptiness*, which is also taken from the album and includes some amazing violin and piano parts woven in with Beth's guitar and voice. Both continue in a similar vein to the first, laid back, haunting with a strangely sad and sentimental tinge, which when it comes down to it, is what you really need from a girl and her guitar. Basically this stuff is nothing short of breathtaking.

# This Week's Albums

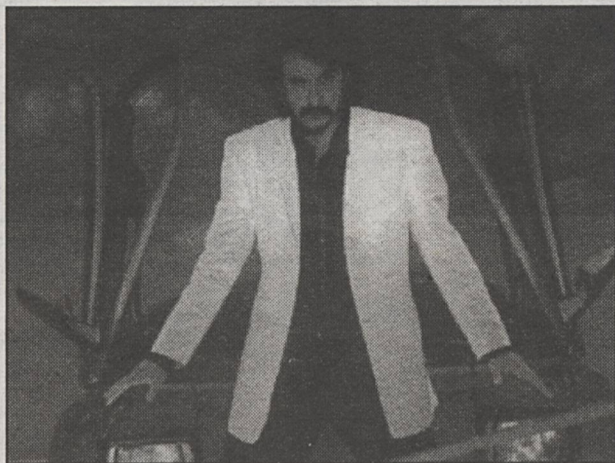
## The Ferrino Phenomenon

Artist: Tony Ferrino  
Album: Phenomenon

It's arrived, the most eagerly awaited album of the decade:

Tony Ferrino's *Phenomenon*. Tony has been Portugal's number one pop star since the early eighties when he stormed the country with his debut album *The Peacock*. Since then Ferrino's fame has spread across the whole of Europe, outselling Michael Jackson and The Beatles put together in France alone. Tony, however, has never had much success in the UK, *Phenomenon* is set to be the album that will change all that. Never has Tony's genius as number one Portuguese lover shone through in his song writing with such stunning style and sensuality. Take the song *Lap Dancing Lady*, only Tony's genius could so beautifully evoke the scene: "Soon as she said/ 'Good evening sir'/ I felt something/ Begin to stir/ All at once/ Quick as a flash/ From my pants/ I pulled out the cash/ So that she/ Would lap dance for me."

This, Tony's seventh album, develops his style whilst reminding us of some of the greatest moments in his back-catalogue. It's a greatest hits with extra bits. Tony's fame began way back



in 1980 when he won the eurovision song contest with his song 'Papa Bendi' and what album called *Phenomenon* would be complete without the song that started the whole phenomenon? This song actually provides a connection between Tony Ferrino and the LSE as it has been suggested that this song was actually a coded message to ex-LSE student and Tony's old

buddy Carlos the Jackal to get the hell out of Gibraltar where he was hiding, as the SAS were preparing to attempt an arrest/ambush after his cover as an ice-cream vendor had been blown. Tony has never officially confirmed these rumours but I think the lyrics; "Papa papa/ Bendi bendi/ Papa papa/ Bendi bendi/ Papa papa/ Bendi bendi/ Thank you very much" just say it all.

The album is a roller coaster for the emotions. Who could forget the sensitive Tony who we first got to know on his Third album *The Dog's Ballads*? This side of the man who is the phenomenon comes across exquisitely on the track *The Valley of our Souls* with lyrics like the beautiful; "From the river of our kisses/ To the desert of your stare/ The volcano of your laughter/ And the cornfield of your hair/ Past the wasteland of your waistline/ And your hands like tiny Birds./ From the highland of your heartbeat/ Came the winter of your words/ Through the forest of our memories/ And along it's

grassy knolls/ I will slowly wander down/ The valley of our souls", pure poetry! Not only is Tony a very talented man he is also a very sexy man, as Editor of *The Beaver* Liz Chong said "Tony Ferrino is so sexy, he's more sexy than any man at LSE". Well normally I'd be the first to leap to the defence of LSE lads, and more particularly of course myself; but when faced with competition from a man such as Ferrino it would clearly be futile for me to argue, the man is clearly a sex god. As the man himself puts it in his song *Man Stallion*: "Man Stallion, Man Stallion/ That's what I'll be/ For all eternity." Other classics on this truly extraordinary album include *Other Men's Wives*, *Silence of the lambs* (taken from Tony's musical version of the film) the meaningful *What is Life?* And not forgetting the highlight of the album for me the classic *Taxi Taxi*, when it came on down in *The Beaver* office we just couldn't stop dancing, in Tony's words "This Samba is a celebration of the time honoured maxim, let's get a taxi back to my place!". Lover, fighter and sensitive 90's man, Tony Ferrino has it all, along with the most musical talent this Century. Experience the phenomenon, experience Tony Ferrino. TS

Artist: Nada Surf  
Album: High/Low

Nada Surf are American Grunge, you may have heard their song *Popular*: "I'm a Football Star/ I'm Popular" it goes, and then in between there's this bloke saying things like "Be good, conform with everything, do what you're told." and you just know that he's being sarcastic. I mean you just *know*. Does sarcasm make a good song? Does sarcasm make a good joke? Or is it in fact the lowest form of wit? Following this logic maybe sarcastic songs are the lowest form of pop. Sure they might be vaguely OK, but in your heart of hearts you know that it is just cheap tacky crap. But wait! There's a bigger problem, and I see it looming on the horizon like a great big wobbly pile of marmalade which has gone off and smells rancid. The problem is that apart from the aforementioned *Popular* it seems highly unlikely that any of the rest of the songs on this album would be popular with anyone. They're boring guitar, guitar, guitar, guitar. They make you switch off they make you fall asleep, or they just make you annoyed. Like someone who won't give you something back but waves it around just out of your reach thinking that it is the funniest and most original practical joke in the world, I bet these blokes reckon that their music is pretty funny, and pretty original too. Well I've got news for you Americans with no lives and no ideas and no girlfriends and no talent, your crap so fuck off and die. Tim Bow

## Boring as Ice

David Balfour reviews a literately boring play in the New End Theatre

In 1984 Liz Lochhead wrote a great play about literary gods Byron, Shelley and the rest the Regencies Romantic writers. It portrayed them as the pampered self-obsessed people they were. It made them look like a contemporary version of our modern whining rock-stars. Her writing was

witty and intense. She structured her play like psychological portrait instead of the usual plot-lead drama.

The play follows Mary Shelley as she suffers in shadow of her

husband's creativity and fame. She is constantly haunted by a creature that is either a result or a cause her most famous work 'Frankenstein'. Through Mary Shelley and her experiences

Lochhead relates what she feels were the import issues of the day: freedom, justice and the nature of society. She also skillfully connects them to many themes of the twentieth century like the nature of guilt.

Unfortunately the actors nor the director were up to the job of pulling such a cunning script off. They totally miss the mark when trying to create a feeling of terror or psychological drama. The parts of Byron and Shelley are played without arrogance or intensity that is required of them. Byron played by Luke Shaw is so over the top that every time he spoke my entire body cringed in agony. His counterpart Shelley, played by Justin Trefgarne, certainly looked the part but his manner was unsure. It seemed as if he could not decide whether Shelley was flamboyant or insecure. Which is a shame because he started off really well by showing the possible duality of Shelley's personality. However it soon became quite evident that I was reading too much into the acting. Oh, well.

The only noteworthy performance is made by Molly Gainsford as Mary Shelley. She convincingly switches from anguish to anger and back again through out the play. She stops the whole production from becoming a farce of over-indulgent actors playing over indulgent poets. While I was watching I kept thinking how good this script would be in another's companies hands. In the end the script is engaging, the acting is not.

'Blood and Ice' is on at the New End Theatre in Hampstead till Feb.2. Tickets priced 4-10 pounds.

## Wild Drama Rompous: a Satisfaction!!!

Hector Birchwood really enjoyed "You Never Can Tell"

With the opening of Bernard Shaw's Victorian satire, "You Never Can Tell" at the Old Theatre last semester, Market Forces has given the LSE yet another theatrical success. Last year Market Forces brought us the challenging 'Andorra'. In this context, Market Forces is not a dynamic economic phenomenon, but it is the name of LSE's official drama company, supplying students with the sort of mischief, hilarity and naughtiness they crave.

Like any quality sandwich from Wright's Bar, this performance of "You Never Can Tell" had plenty of fresh lettuce, juicy tomatoes, and a dab of spicy mustard to augment the meaty plot between two tasty granary bap buns and of course heavily garnished by Aggie Petchey, Nik Morandi once again out did himself in his quasi-porn star aspiration. Of course it goes without saying that that mysterious bloke named Hank was

absolutely brilliant. The whole play was a visual, cultural and gastronomic feast fit for the most

discerning art connoisseur, or the average sexually and emotionally repressed English student.

Talking to the producer Mo F. and he commented that "You Never Can Tell" was one of the most successful plays the Drama Society and Market Forces have put on in recent memory. This is very encouraging for the LSE cynics who had thought that the LSE was a culturally ignorant college. Hopefully "You Never Can Tell" will stimulate more quality drama at the LSE.

For those of you who missed the last performance of "You Never Can Tell", you have my sincere regrets. However, as long as demand outstrips the supply of quality student theatre, the entrepreneurial talent of Market Forces will be there to deliver the goods. As a humble thespian analyst I would advice that you don't miss their next production at the Global Festival!

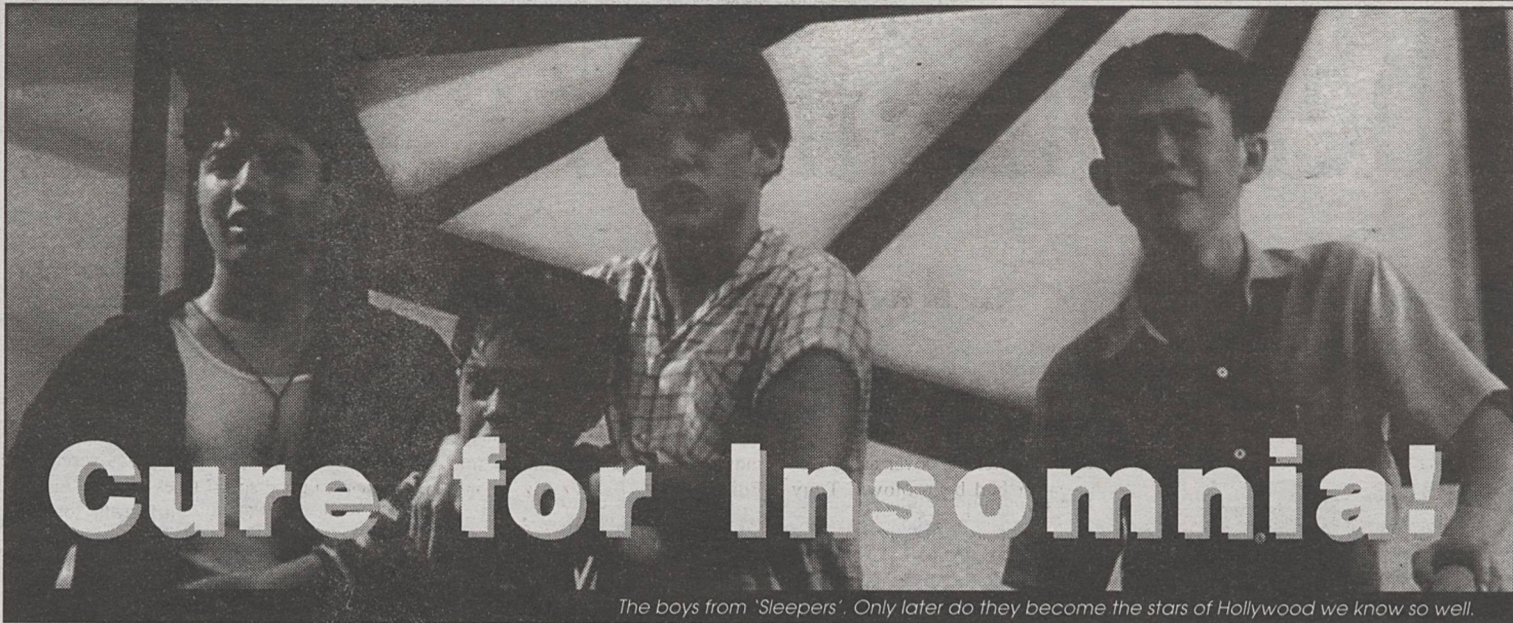


The Ghost of Shaw in the Old Theatre

## Editors Pick n' Mix

This week the Editor tells you all the must-see plays of the term.

1. **Guys And Dolls** - This classic fifties musical rears its beautiful head at the **National Theatre**. Full review to come shortly in the Beaver.
2. **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf** - The duo of Suchet and Rigg continue to triumph in London in this classic American play by E. Albee at the **Aldwych**. Until March 22.
3. **The Cherry Orchard** - Another introspective play by Chekhov. The same theatre that had '**Uncle Vanya**' last term, have another truly emotional performance by the Russian bard. It is a heavy night of theatre, expect nothing less. See it at the **Albery Theatre** on St. Martin's Lane until the end of the month. Student standby available.
4. **A Street Named Desire** - Starring Jessica and Imogen Stubbs in the sweat ridden play about New Orleans. This play had success written all over it. Needless to say it is. See it at the **Haymarket** until March 22. Sold out for most of these performances it might be extended, but with new cast.
5. **Laughter on the 23rd Floor** - Neil Simon's funniest play in a long time. Gene Wilder is beyond brilliant as the frenetic Caesar. A true evening of enjoyable and inconsequential entertainment. At **Queen's Theatre**.
6. **The Herbal Bed** - This stunning play is a must see for any serious theatre patron. A completely engaging moral tale. At the **RSC PIT**. *Closing soon!!*



# Cure for Insomnia!

The boys from 'Sleepers'. Only later do they become the stars of Hollywood we know so well.

**Film: Sleepers**  
The big Christmas movie will not induce sleep, explains Valerie Tesler.

**S**leepers' boasts an all-star cast which ensures that you do anything but sleep during its duration. The likes of Jason Patric, Brad Pitt and Robert De Niro successfully enhance what would anyway have been a powerful and dramatic film, which benefits all the more from their presence.

Although the majority of the attractive cast do not appear until well into the film, one feels drawn into the trials and tribulations of four young boys growing up in New York's Hell's Kitchen during the 1960's. Their world of reformed gangsters and mafia bosses

comes to an abrupt end when they are sentenced to attend a tough reform school for boys. Upon arrival, their lives are transformed into existence in a miserable hell by the brutality and ruthlessness of the guards. Their persecution and harassment comes in the form of Kevin Bacon who deviates from his earlier role as the victim of such oppression, (in 'Murder in the First') to give a charged and powered portrayal of their vicious tormentor.

The repercussions of the abuse and molestation suffered by the boys is examined during their lives as men, and the remainder of the film focuses on a

quest for justice to prevail. Two of the men instinctively wreak their own revenge when the opportunity arises.

## Film Information

**Title:** Sleepers  
**Starring:** Brad Pitt, Kevin Bacon, Dustin Hoffman, Jason Patric.  
**Released:** Over Christmas.  
**Director:** Barry Levinson  
**Info:** cert. 18.

'Conveniently' for them, Brad Pitt's character has grown up to be the Assistant DA, who, in conjunction with Lorenzo (Jason Patric), conspires to manipulate the courtroom proceedings to ensure that vengeance is executed. To this end, the services of Hoffman and De Niro are called into play, as well as established mafia connections.

The drama is absorbing and stirring, aided ably by effective performances from all the principal characters. De Niro gives a commanding and distinguished depiction of the worldly priest, whose loyalties are subjected to the toughest of tests, while Patric gives an indicator of what will hopefully be greater leading roles for him in the future. The most compelling performances, however, come from the younger actors whose expressive portrayal of the tormented boys is most formidable.

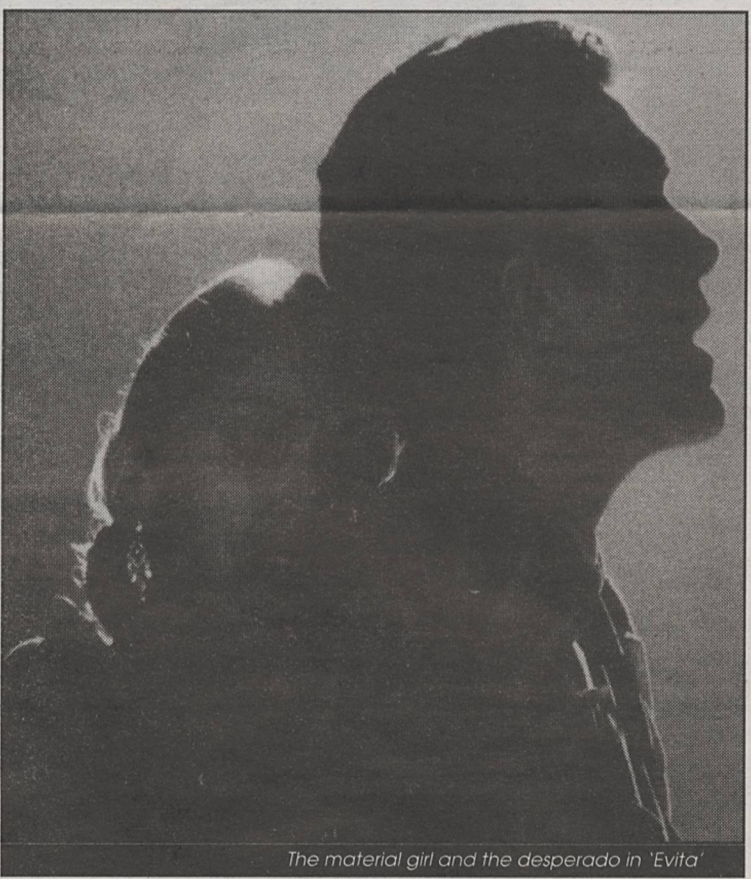
There seems to be a controversy regarding the authenticity of the film's contention to being a true story (based on the book by Lorenzo Carcaterra), but whether or not it is based on real life events, "Sleepers" recounts a memorable tale. Although the film is a long one, and the plausibility of the plot is somewhat lacking, its examination of abuse and justice is forceful and emotional. The brutality and violence are intensely vivid, ensuring that this is one film that will not be forgotten the moment the cinema doors are left behind.

Valerie Tesler

4

# Musical Erotica

**Film: Evita**  
Simon Green gets into the groove with Madonna



The material girl and the desperado in 'Evita'

**T**he drama that spawned a thousand in-shower sing-alongs. The gripping tale of the street urchin who sleeps her way to the top, accumulating untold riches and power in the process. Madonna's life certainly makes for a fascinating story, and the latest installment, the starring role in 'Evita', has done her no harm in her bid for world domination. The film version of the Andrew Lloyd-Webber/Tim Rice musical has been a long time coming. Indeed, it may well have been condemned for eternity to endless, lavishly-staged tours of minor English seaside towns had not Oliver Stone expressed an interest in it. After a long and tortuous pre-production process, director Alan Parker has finally brought the story of Argentina's most famous first-lady to the screen. We've heard the hype. We've bought the sound-track for Granny. But is it any good?

The film opens with the funeral of Evita Peron, the young and glamorous wife of Argentina's dictator, Colonel Peron. It then goes back to chart her rise, by means of her womanly charms and instinct for survival, from a lower-class country girl to the lover of the ambitious Peron, whom she provides with the popular appeal and determination to win the election for president. Her humble roots and radical social rhetoric raise her to saint-like status with the poor and dispossessed. Unfortunately the fairy tale comes to an abrupt end when she develops cancer and dies, aged only thirty-two, leaving the nation in shock. Cue Che, the cynical narrator, who is disgusted by the hysterical sorrow around him, and denounces the Peron regime as a sham betrayal of the high-hopes that Evita engendered in the masses.

'Evita' is much better than might have been expected. The plot, already based on a strong story, has transferred very well onto the screen. Only minor alterations have been made to the music and lyrics to ensure narrative continuity, and all the classic songs are there. Judging by the gusto with which the lady sitting next to me in the cinema was warbling 'another suitcase in another hall', fans of the original stage show should have no complaints. In this respect it can only have been a good thing that Stone's involvement was kept to

a minimum, as co-scriptwriter, as it is now abundantly clear that he took far too many drugs whilst in the 'Nam. Parker does a good job of evocating the atmosphere of a second-rate 1940's dictatorship, and he does justice to the ironic subtleties of the story, blending music and images seamlessly. Antonio Banderas, as the journalist-agitator-barman Che, reveals a talent for the sarcastic sneer and for singing 'Casa Rosada' in a manner guaranteed to relieve women of their knickers. Jimmy Nail, on the other hand, confirms his status as heavy-duty ugly bloke.

And so to Madonna. After all the hype, she is actually rather good. Her

voice, her looks, her bearing all seem to have been made to play Evita. She even manages to act like her, which will come as a surprise to anyone familiar with her previous cinema work. Her seduction of Peron, or the moment where she 'unemploys' his previous mistress, finally allow her talent to show through. The emotion in Madonna's portrayal suggests a real empathy with her subject, and it is not hard to see the similarities in their lifestyles. In 'Desperately Seeking Susan', her only previous film to be anything less than a flop, she also played a street-wise girl who survives on her wits. From now on, Madonna should insist only on roles with which she can identify. Evita should herald her inception as a global screen star, and erase the memories of her past cinematic exploits.

Meanwhile her next blockbuster is already in the works: *Madonna, the Musical*.

Simon Green

## Film Information

**Title:** Evita  
**Starring:** Antonio Banderas, Some pop star we can't recall.  
**Released:** A while back  
**Director:** Alan Parker  
**Info:** cert. 15.

4

# More tea, vicar?

**Film: The Preacher's Wife**  
Whitney guards my body, writes Dave Balfour

**R**emakes and sequels are one of the most frustrating and pathetic facets of the modern American movie industry. They are a sign that there is no imagination left in Hollywood. Remakes are usually far inferior to the original. The dire 'Assasin' from the thrilling 'Le Femme Nikita' and the stunningly average 'The Birdcage' from the exciting 'les Cage aux Folles'. Sequels too are often less than the original: look at Robocop II & III. However, both usually made a lot of money. This year movie goers will be treated to at least three sequels, Batman & Robin with Arnie as Mr. Freeze, Speed 2: Cruise Control with Sandra Bullock and the fourth installment of Alien, Resurrection with a resurrected Sigourney Weaver (she died in the last one) and a gun totting muscle clad Wynona Ryder.

From such logic Hollywood has decided that it should repackage this classic Cary Grant film 'The Bishop's Wife' as the 90's black romantic comedy 'The Preacher's Wife'.

Certainly an interesting remake; 'The Bishop's Wife' was originally a rip-off of 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Replacing the Cary Grant is the infinitely less charming Denzel Washington. The plot centers around a stressed out preacher Henry Biggs (Courtney B Vance) of an inner city church which is in danger from a shifty property tycoon (Gregory Hines). To further add to his troubles, fewer and fewer people come to church. As a result of these pressures he spends less and less time with his gorgeous wife (Whitney Houston). In his frustration he asks god to help him out (what else would you expect him to do?). God answers, in the form of the angel Dudley. In the course of trying to sort out Henry's life Dudley gets a little too close to the misses and cause poor

Henry to get very angry at his lecherous saviour. At times Dudley enjoys earth so much you begin to wonder what kind of place heaven is.

Denzel Washington may well be an angel to some, but not to me. He wanders through the film with out a care for character development or personality. There is simply no life in this angel. He is neither funny nor persuasive. Indeed his looks remain his sole endearing attribute. All the women in the movie fall all over our angel. Whitney Houston does give rather a good performance as a frustrated house wife who faces the problem of deeply loving her husband but who seems to have no interest in her. Indeed, the female characters in this film come off better than the male. The Gregory Hines character is a cold-hearted cad. The male roles lack any real depth of feeling. This might have something to do with the fact that the Preacher's Wife is directed by Penny Marshall, one of the more successful (if not one of the better) female directors.

Penny Marshall, director of 'A League of their Own', has used her usual sickly-sweet style to adapt the film. The result is a boringly told tale of love that can not be. The tension between the angel Dudley and Whitney is often referred but never shown. Though the two are together in over half the movie, their's is a relationship without sparkle. It never feels like a serious romance could blossom.

Further, the directing is so disgustingly sentimental that the cinema stank of honey. But that might have been the girl from 'Home and

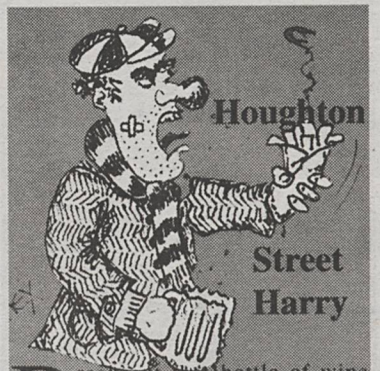
Away' that sat next to me. It only remains to be said that if your a loser who lusts over Mrs. Houston, or gets wet at the mere mention of Mr. Washington, then you will not be dissuaded from a trip to the flicks. However, for any one that does not suffer from such ailments I recommend that this flick be skipped.

Davie 'boy' Balfour

2

# LSE heaven, in '97

Dan Gallagher looks into his crystal ball and previews the year ahead in *The Beaver's* exclusive glimpse of the year to come...



**B**reak out that bottle of wine you've been keeping for a special occasion, take the phone off the hook and sit down, as the prodigal son has returned, albeit for one week only due to overwhelming demand from the kids. As he breezes back into Houghton Street in an open-top bus, with ticker-tape streaming, it can mean only one thing - Harry is back. It has been one year and twenty issues since my ranting and raving last hit these hallowed pages, and times they are - a - changing. Who would have thought that 25% of power in this Union is now trusted in the hands of little old me, where I can plot my racism, homophobia and bigotry from up high. God bless democracy! (n.b. the previous sentence contained traces of irony and sarcasm, and should be ignored).

As I peruse the Tuns on a Friday night two changes are immediately apparent. Ents are now good, so full marks to whoever has mastered that so-called impossible job with such ease. The other change is, allegedly, that the quality of women has improved. Having returned to the lab to test this startling new theory, I am afraid to say that the results are not good. Consider the rational equation, based on my personal experience this year - less hair + nicer women = more pulling. Rearranging the terms - less hair + more pulling = nicer women. Remember girls, maths is an exact science, based on facts, not opinion, so I am right. What has actually occurred is a strange phenomenon known as Spiceophobia, a strain of the Brostitis disease which reached epidemic proportions in Britain in the late eighties, when hordes of teenage girls became smitten with two stumpy balding, bleached ugly twins, with the result that they became attracted to similar-looking people amongst their own social cliques. Basically, the Tuns is still a filthy-infested ming-hole, but compares rather well to today's pop icons, the Spice Girls. It is not the case that the standard of women has improved, merely that the standard of what is attractive in a woman has changed. Let's face it, if Louise was no.1 in the charts, I'd rather stay in and pause Top Of The Pops until the tape burnt at the edges than chance my arm in the Tuns.

As it is though, comparisons are only made with what we know, and The Spice Girls are not all that. Don't get me wrong, I wouldn't saw my arm off rather than wake them up in the morning, but if they walked into the Tuns on a Friday night I wouldn't bat an eyelid (except maybe the posh one. If she walked into my bedroom, she wouldn't be able to walk back out again). Don't worry though, LSE girls. At least I'm not saying you've got worse. Just keep on making the effort and us Brad Pitt-esque hunks of manhood won't say anything to your faces.

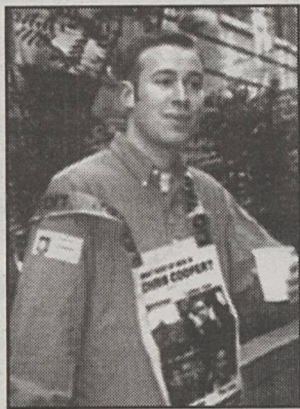
On a final note, who says that a dog is for life and not just for Christmas. I went out and bought a little fluffy puppy on Christmas Eve and left it on the frozen Thames, with the hope of meeting some new people. I didn't make any firm friends but it was a good ice-breaker. On a serious note, the last time I saw a dog on ice it was being held by Christopher Dean, and people didn't dive in, they just threw flowers, yet a dozen people have perished in Britain's icy waters trying to rescue their (or other people's) faithful friends. At the same time, dozens of clubbers die from dehydration caused from ecstasy. The simple solution is to employ a task force of loved up clubbers to rescue our stranded pooches. If they fall in, it will cool them down and if they die, then who gives a shit anyway. Radical problems, radical solutions...

## January

When it is explained to Dan Crowe that means-tested fees means that only those who can afford it will have to pay tuition fees, he is devastated. Realising that he has wasted three months of his life he resigns (again).

## April

Dan Crowe returns to office, maintaining that no-one should have to pay tuition fees regardless of financial status. He announces a move he feels is sure to change the minds of the LSE administration over top-up fees. His plan: a year-round torchlight vigil in East Building toilets. A number of LSE Labour Club activists and the entire paratrooper team from SWSS commence their planned year-round vigil



immediately, with meal deliveries from Bank restaurant, conveniently placed around the corner. Unfortunately, the restaurant's stocks of champagne and Courvoisier are decimated, and the champagne militants must desist and surrender.

## February

It is rumoured that the LSE women's football team are a real bunch of good-lookers. The rumour is immediately scorched, as it is decided by the young ladies and gentlemen of taste that they in fact resemble a herd of water buffalos.

## March

Chris Cooper launches another scathing attack on Sam Parnham, claiming that he is only interested in the welfare and education of students. Oh yes, the same Chris Cooper who gets 12k a year to organise piss-ups, for students, on a Friday night, in a bar. Passfield Hall finally decomposes this month and is declared fit for the compost heap by inspectors.



## May

The heads of those in LSE football teams shrink to nearly normal size as the squash teams are voted the coolest and best looking sportsmen in the school, by the young ladies and gentlemen of taste. Sam Parnham is also forced to resign his sabbatical post as he can no longer carry his huge frame up the stairs to his office.

## June

The Accommodation Committee decides to replace Passfield Hall rather than re-build it. As can be seen by looking at Holborn and Bankside, each LSE Hall must be grander and more luxurious than the last. The Savoy Hotel is promptly bought to replace Passfield. Dan Crowe is asked if he really only believes that domestic students have the right to free tuition because that's how it looks. He resigns... A mass demonstration is called for to reinstate Danny Boy... Few turn up.

## Summer Holidays

LSE continues its' buying of prime real estate, purchasing the Royal Courts of Justice and Grays Inn, to house among other things the much-needed gender department. Another new addition to the already magnificently luxurious LSE eating

facilities is a very charming Thai-Vegetarian canteen called the Thai Vegan Burger. New Director Anthony Giddens also recruits Sir Terence Conran to redesign the Brunch Bowl, thus enabling its' later conversion to even swisher new facilities for Quaglino's, which has been forced out of its premises on Bury Street for the socially unacceptable non-U crime of patronage by certain LSE Union Hacks. Euro-Sloanes are utterly delighted, dah-link, by the sudden influx of It Girls and Tory MPs.

## October

The entire editorial board of *The Beaver* resign in protest to reduced funding. A certain individual stands unopposed for all vacant positions, yet fails to win any (some things never change). The editorial board, à la Crowe, change their minds, beg forgiveness and are subsequently reinstated.

## November

Students are in an uproar at the LSE administration's new plan to raise money. If implemented, it will result in the introduction of 'Cop-off fees', whereby any exchanging of tongues in LSE buildings will cost you.



## December

The new Ents Sabbatical manages to organise several piss-ups, for students, on a Friday night, in a bar. He also manages to steal the hearts of many a Fresher floozy. The New Gen UnSexy, unlike his predecessor, whines a lot. The New Treasurer wears shiny shirts. The New Welfare Sab looks both unclean and unslim. The football team still also love themselves. Things have come full circle.

*Dan Gallagher is currently reading Tarot cards in Houghton Street (for a small fee).*

## The dreaded 'f' word

### Caroline Hooton sidelines into the feminist debate

**D**uring my short lifetime (so far) on this planet, I have been called many things, the majority of which are unrepeatable in a paper of *The Beaver's* standard. Of those which can be mentioned before your granny, the most popular seems to be 'Feminist'. I have a difficulty with this. Not so much because of what it represents, but because it seems to be thought of as a dirty word. You can just imagine five year olds in a playground, pointing at a girl in the corner, nudging each other and whispering that she was a filthy feminist. Oh those happy school days.

On a more serious note, if being a feminist means standing up for yourself and pointing out that there are certain aspects in society that are geared more to male than female needs then yes I am a feminist. If a feminist is someone who wears dungarees, doesn't wash her hair and couldn't pull to save her life, then I have to plead not guilty (well, Ok maybe the last one has a grain of truth).

The problem is that the feminist movement has become too much associated with right wing anti-male tendencies. As a result when some think of feminism they think of butch women with cattle prods seeking to round the

world's poor defenceless males into camps and chemically castrating them. While the idea has intriguing possibilities, you may be surprised to know that this is not what the movement stands for.

Feminism today is very much grounded in trying to equal the balance in society - its' roots lie in realism. Hence rather than coming at you with knives and machetes, you're more likely to see a feminist armed with a pen and a petition, asking you to help the campaign to get a creche or to protest against the fact that we have to pay VAT on sanitary products. Alternatively you may see feminists campaigning to raise awareness of the career glass ceiling, because despite the fact that this is the 90s, you're more likely to see a male nurse than a female company director.

Anyway, that's my take on the issue. If you don't like it, tough. If you find anything I've said sticking, then feel free to attend any meeting of the Women's Group as I'm sure they'd love to see you. The only problem is that you might find them depressingly normal. Oh yes, and you'll have to leave your hunting knives at the door. Male blood stains the carpet.

## So, You Want to be a Journalist?

- Enter the Catherine Pakenham Award sponsored by *The Sunday Telegraph* - The Catherine Pakenham Award is open to women journalists aged 18 - 25 who are resident in the UK.

Entrants are asked to submit a non-fiction article of between 750 and 2000 words long.

Each entrant must have had a piece of writing published, however humble the publication. The article submitted for the award can be original or have already been published.

The winner will receive £1000 plus the opportunity to write for one of the *Telegraph* publications. Three runners-up will each receive £200

The deadline for entries is March 3, 1997.

For an entry form, write to:

Lucy Goodwin, Press & Public Relations Department  
The *Sunday Telegraph*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DT  
Telephone: 0171 538 6259

## Top Ten:

### Things to do in a spare hour at the LSE

1. E:mail John at his new 'Government at 10 site'
2. See how many pints can be downed in an hour in the Tuns
3. Build a barricade in Houghton Street and hold a demo
4. Visit the Brunch Bowl and catch Salmonella
5. 'Mellow out' to classical music in the Shaw Library
6. Spend 'quality time' with your tutor
7. Confuse an American with your irony
8. Phone someone's mobile phone whilst they're in a lecture and hang up
9. Annoy the Germans, reserve your place in Houghton Street by throwing a towel onto a bench early in the morning
10. Go home...

# Keith Benson in Conversion Shocker

Rugby seconds come to terms with an emphatic victory while their fly half comes to terms with shock decent pass from 'Teflon Hands' Tallis

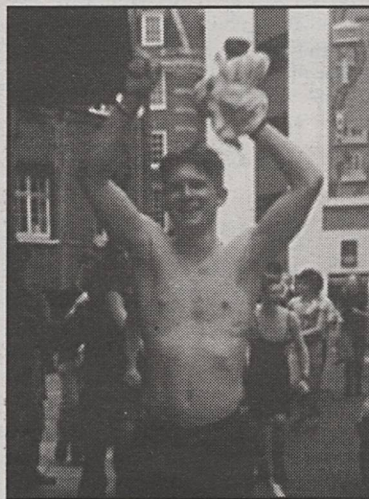
LSE 2nd XV 40 - 5 UCL 2nd XV

## Ben Tallis & Nick Germain

In previous encounters this season the LSE 2nd XI lost by the narrowest of margins (eg 75-3) to a UCL team more at home in the 'Blue Oyster Bar' with Benson than on a rugby pitch. Last Wednesday on a cold, foggy day the Seconds finally lived up to their potential and shat on Bloomsbury Poly left, right and centre.

Unable to keep a regular place in the First team several out of shape 'has-beens' muscled their way into the Seconds pack and got lucky. These hippo's were however the difference and highlighted what the LSE's nearly squad desperately requires. Physical effort normally reserved for 'Heaven' on a Tuesday night was unleashed by a back row desperate for some 'action'. Their obvious late night practice paid off as countless opportunities were presented for Hands Tallis to squander. The speed and agility of honking Martin, finesse of Andy Howard and worm hole tactics of First team reject Tom Jeans allowed the backs to play the kind of open attractive style game that the French only dream of.

The cavalier running of fly half



Mike Leigh shows Econ B his depreciation curves.

'boots' Benson was matched only by his desire for 'close' contact with the oppositions defense. Despite his attempts, the UCL players could not 'raise' their tackles and as a result were far to 'limp' for boots to really enjoy himself. He said afterwards "I wish they'd put up more of a fight, I quite enoy a good struggle."

Dense mist rendered it difficult to see beyond a few yards, and in the early minutes of the match, Nick the Hair made the most of the conditions as

he stole the ball from the UCL centres and vanished into a thick cloud, only to re-appear between the oppositions posts. This was only the hor d'oeuvre in a feast of tantalising tries for the LSE lads. The next came shortly afterwards: a characteristic Jeremiesque burst and Nick Germain finished off a move which had been practised all winter. Pearl Necklace, Andy Cho and Nick Guebard each scored a try in the second half making sure the team would come out victorious.

Each of the tries gave Boots great excitement as they allowed him to molest Nick the Hair in the name of celebration. He also got the chance to 'go up alone' and get 'closer' to the opposition whilst attempting to 'slot' the conversions. Benson proved his homosexuality beyond doubt succeeding in five out of six attempts in front of his newfound friends. Ordinarily he can't kick to save his life but as the Seconds didn't need the points the pressure was off and he had to show his 'mates' from UCL that he could take the dominant role in life, as well as in the shower.

The team unanimously voted 'Boots Benson man of the match but graciously declined when he offered to share his 'champagne'.

# Sixth's Win

LSE 6th XI 6 - 4 IC 6th XI

## Ben Newton

Beaverball™ points.

The LSE 6ths managed to get Gavin 'Sliver' Freeman to play for them this week. The difference that a quality player, clearly too good to grace the field can make, is truly amazing. We wouldn't know though, because Freeman played shit, but IC had an excellent ringer in their team. It was LSE's last friendly before joining the ULU League in Div 23, and we turned in a performance worthy of our bottom - of - the - table position with no points.

The first drama in the match came after ten minutes when Francis was tripped and landed awkwardly on the football. He limped off, having aggravated an injury to his left testicle that was sustained the day before whilst alone with his thoughts in his bedroom.

The first goal in the game was scored, predictably, by Freeman. A corner by Sergio was controlled by Gavin, who turned a defender and rifled home with his left foot. IC managed a shock equaliser soon afterwards. A corner was swung in from the right and their forward got a looping header towards goal. Cool and alert as ever, captain Tom Smith judged the flight of the ball perfectly and shouted "Leave it" to our keeper Nigel, as the ball dropped into the far corner of the net. Had it not been for Ginger Gazza his biggest blunder was still to come.

Minutes later it was 2 - 1 when Serg coolly converted from a Freeman pass. The third was scored again by Freeman and I don't know who set him up, so I'm claiming the assist for

With five minutes to go until the break we were awarded a penalty after a tariff 3.2 dive by Freeman. Smith coolly converted the spot kick, but the ref saw an infringement and ordered a retake, which Smith majestically scuffed straight at the keeper. His tally of one goal this season isn't very good considering he has now taken 3 penalties. Tom was probably still suffering from a heavy night at the Snow Show with his bride to be the previous day. Unusual for Tom, because for him a snow show normally consists of a line of snow and a rolled up tenner.

Minutes later Gav set up Sergio to make it 4 - 1 at the break, when the Sixths brought on Ben "Bitter Shandy" Wimbleton and George Hotar. Shandy insisted on wearing a hat to keep his balding pate warm and when the ref asked him to remove it he claimed he wore it for religious reasons. This aside, he had an immediate impact as IC pulled it back to 4 - 3 within minutes.

There followed a nervous couple of minutes and then a Freeman shot hit the keeper and fell to Charmer. As the keeper dived at his feet it was clear that Charms needed to get it up, but for the first time this season he managed it, and scored with ease.

Minutes later the game was settled when Camp set up Freeman for his hat trick. We had survived the last 20 minutes of the game with 10 men after Hotar was injured and we realised all our subs had decided to go home.

Man - of - the - match went to 'keeper Nigel Geordie, who wasn't even a keeper until this season. He got lumbered with the gloves and made the

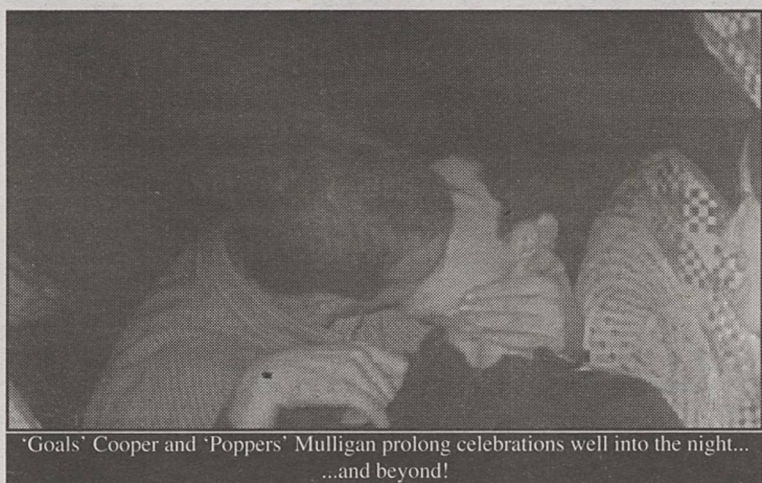
# Cooper 'comes out' to keep Thirds on title track

IC 2nd XI 0 - 3 LSE 3rd XI

## Chris 'Man-on-Man' Cooper

With the Thirds blazing start to the season beginning to falter, an away tie at Imperial Seconds was surely going to prove an impossible task. After all, this was the same IC team which narrowly lost to our mighty Seconds, a legendary team which has fielded some of the all-time greats, such as Will "he ever pop it" Hague, Darrell "DecAthlete sad bastard" Hare and Keith "DecAthlete sad bastard" Benson. And was it not the same centre-forward that had caused the most embarrassment to 'oaf' Miller and 'oaf' Fielding since, well since the last game? Faced with such a task, Theeps chose the unusual selection procedure of not telling anyone they were playing, and instead spending Tuesday night at Rhinos nite- spot in Southampton, with the result that 15 players turned up at Houghton Street. Fortunately, Duane Dibbly had gospel practice, and with the skipper himself having lost his bottle, it was left to the first eleven to get onto the coach to make the starting line-up.

The opening exchanges were closely fought, as IC's advantage was countered by the new centre-midfield pairing of Dirty Cooper™ and Andreäs Göödmán, the German international now officially recognised as being better looking than Miller, Fielding and Forrest Crump. While Goodman ran around a lot, Dirty Cooper™ chose the more subtle option of running the game, his passing splitting the defence like he splits first years with his aggressive



'Goals' Cooper and 'Poppers' Mulligan prolong celebrations well into the night... and beyond!

tackle. This combination dominated the midfield, Dirty Cooper™ providing the vision, industry and skill, and Goodman the floppy hair. James Mulligan once again dominated the left flank, and it was he who created the first goal. Dirty Cooper™ controlled a clearance and fed Gavin Freeman, who backheeled in into Mulligan's path. Mulligan's through-ball was 'inch-perfect' (© Julie 1996) and slipped easily into a gaping hole in the defence (© James 1996), where Dirty Cooper™, having continued his jog, drove it home with great power and skill, much to the admiration of the awe-struck Freeman, who was struggling to keep up with the action (© Dirty Alex™ 1996). And to no-one's surprise it was Dirty Cooper™ again who created a second just before half-time, as his curling free-kick was met by a Freeman header and forced home

by Fourth teamer Simon Morris, the first goal in LSE colours for the Arsenal-loving football appreciator. Attempts to bring some of Arsenal's strategy to the LSE have so far proved fruitless, with no-one able to play the Arsene Wenger role - the closest thing we have is Tom Jeans, although fifteen year-old girls are not quite the same as seven year-old boys, allegedly.

Despite the two-nil lead, Theeps decided to ring in the changes, bringing on Alessandro and Claudio for Shimin and Honu. Such is the depth of the Thirds that two quality players were only starting on the bench, but then you would expect depth when the shit, I-haven't - pulled - since - Louise - and - she - doesn't - really - count captain picks not only from the whole of LSE, but also the Wright's Bar back - room staff.

Into a biting wind, it was the turn for the back-line to stand up and be counted. Arjun made a number of fine saves, which were applauded by everyone on both sides (except for Gavin 'Combat 18' Freeman), while Zed had a fine game at left- back, his free-fall through the teams having come to a temporary halt. The Fourth team regulars Simon Morris and Pete Clegg played blinders, obviously relishing the chance to shrug off grubby Pickering's long-ball shite, while Chris Kuchanny was able to get hold of their striker like Miller never could (a bit like Jess really). (But not at all like Dirty Alex™, eh Chris - Sports Eds). Several times he was left with two players to mark, but the obese stopper is only really happy when faced with these odds.

The defence snuffed out any Imperial threat, and as time ran out there was time for Claudio to latch onto a forty-yard pass from filthy - man - of - the - match Dirty Cooper™ and finish exquisitely. Freeman tried desperately to equal Dirty Cooper™'s scoring efforts, but there was no comparison (© Hannah 1996). Referee Booth had by now realised Dirty Cooper™ was playing beneath himself (a position any girl should die to be in), and was also impressed by the fast - maturing Goodman. "If he works on his game he could make the Seconds in a couple of years." How true indeed. But are the Seconds better than the Thirds? One has to question whether Hague's mish - mash of dyke - jumpers, virgins, granddads, shit - shags and serial killers are worthy to step on the same pitch as Theeps' silky side. The challenge has been made...

## LSE Top the Leagues

The Footballing All-Stars of LSE are continuing to set a blistering pace in the ULU Men's Football leagues. 1996 saw a successful start to the annual campaign and if performances maintain the current high standards Houghton Street will soon be adorned with silverware as football comes home to the LSE.

The prestigious Premiere League is topped by the 1st XI, whose impressive +15 goal difference could decide the championship in a very tight league. The 1sts are also through to the London Cup Q-F and the National last 32. Curtis continues hoarding stocks of Brasso. The 2nd XI are kings of the castle in Division One where only RHUL threaten. Will Hague's lads are also through to the last eight of the Upper Reserves Cup and the National 32.

Theepan's 3rd XI have performed poorly in the cup competitions but could use their game-in-hand to move up to second place in Division Two, which will be keenly contested. LSE's 4th XI are the only side to under-perform. Despite the wealth of talent they are currently eighth in the Division Three with no more cups to contest. Two wins could lift Dan Pickering's side to third spot. Jon Webb's 5th XI are sitting third in Division Four. Holloway have opened up a lead but the 5ths could easily end runners-up in a League far too weak for them.

This year has seen the introduction of two new LSE sides: Tom Smith's proud 6th XI; and Jamie Tehrani's 7ths. While neither team have been entered into a league this season, they have performed admirably in 'friendly' fixtures and look set to assault Divisions Five and Six next season.

*BeaverSport BeaverSport BeaverSport*

# Brave 1st XV victory carries Cup closer

Rugby heroes through to next round despite fielding Tom Twat

**LSE XV 25 - 17 QMW XV**

**Tom Jeans & Danny Fielding**

The intrepid Red Indians Braves of LSE rugby were left trying to compensate for the absence of Andy Howard, Big Chief 'Man Mountain' in the pack, forcing skipper Tom Jeans (Red Indian name 'Runs Like A Bird') to make several changes to the tribe, the bringing in of Tom 'Little Totem Pole' Twat being the symbolic low point of Jean's tactical policies.

Nevertheless, brave skipper 'Runs Like A Bird' still managed to instil a quiet confidence, reminding the boys that it would be quite a feather in their head-dresses if they could take a few scalps out there on the pitch. With this thought firmly implanted in their memories, the 1sts quickly set about the task of acquiring London Cup glory.

Despite a spirited QMW defence, the sustained pressure by Richard 'Big Messiah' Bailey maintained LSE's lead. Unfortunately some suspect refereeing calls turned the tide against

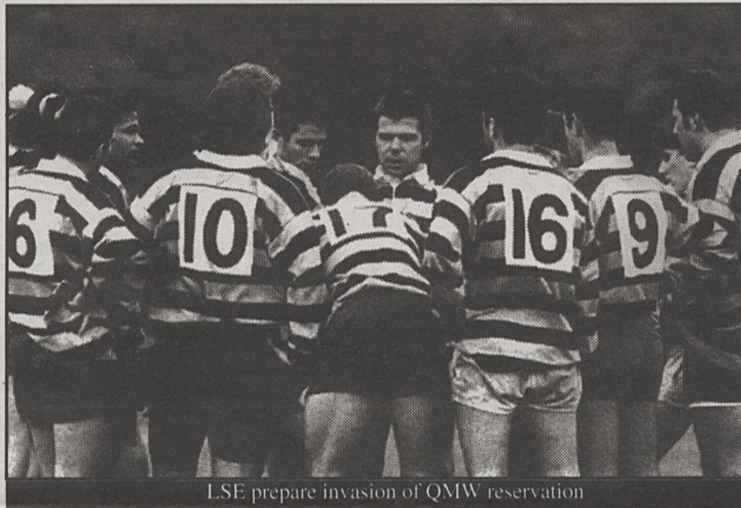
us and allowed them to sneak the lead through some weak tackles with a try under the posts. Undaunted, however, LSE began to scale the rocky mountain of victory through quality line-out possession from Tom 'Jumps Like A Bird' Jeans, leaving the centres with ample opportunities.

American import Mike 'Howling Wind' Pearl adjusted well considering

the language barrier with fellow centre I.K. 'Runs Like A Stag' Iroche, communicating with a series of "Yeehaa"s and "Gee Whizz"s, allowing I.K. to round the covering defence and clinch the game in the dying moments.

After such euphoria the Braves and their Chief returned to the sacred reservation 'The Tuns' to consume their favourite brand of fire-water and to chase the large breasted squaws in celebration of their memorable victory. It was there that news came in from

Hollywood, that the rights to this remarkable tale have been snapped up for the forthcoming release of the blockbuster movie 'Dances With Pints'. Rumour has it that Danny DeVito has been drafted in to play the mercurial Jeans, with Schwarzenegger the only man with the physique to play Andy Howard, Wesley Snipes as I.K. and any thirteen year old girl available to play Jeans' love interest..



LSE prepare invasion of QMW reservation

**Want a free trip to the Far East?**

The LSE men's hockey team need new players of all abilities to make up 1st and 2nd team squads for this season and their summer tour. Training for all players takes place this Wednesday. Meet Houghton St. 1.30p.m. or e-mail K.Lui@lse.ac.uk

Fed up being tossed around a busy Houghton Street? Then discover 'the way of the Warrior' with AU Evening Classes.

All the grace and power of the Far East...on your doorstep. (including the famous Oriental art forms of Boxing and Volleyball)

- Badminton Court:**  
**Mon**  
 Tae Kwon Do 7 - 9  
**Tues**  
 Karate 6 - 9  
**Wed**  
 Kung Fu Nam Pai Chaun 6:30 - 8:30  
 Volleyball 8:30 - 10  
**Thurs**  
 Karate 6 - 9  
**Fri**  
 Tae Kwon Do 7:30 - 9:30
- Gym:**  
**Mon**  
 Boxing 7 - 9  
**Tues**  
 Aikido 6 - 8  
 Muay Thai Boxing 8 - 10  
**Weds**  
 Judo 6:30 - 8:30  
 Boxing 8:30 - 10:30  
**Thurs**  
 Hapkido 6 - 8  
 Muay Thai 8 - 10

# Fielding: "I quit!"

Pressure too much for *Beaver Sport's* dedicated editor, a colossus of the sporting media, an institution in his own right (rather like Match of the Day)

**Steve Curtis**

While the footballing world continues to rock after the earth-shattering departure of Kevin Keegan from Premiere League title contenders, Newcastle United Football Club, equally important changes have been occurring within the perfectly formed pages of your Perrier Award winning *Beaver Sport*.

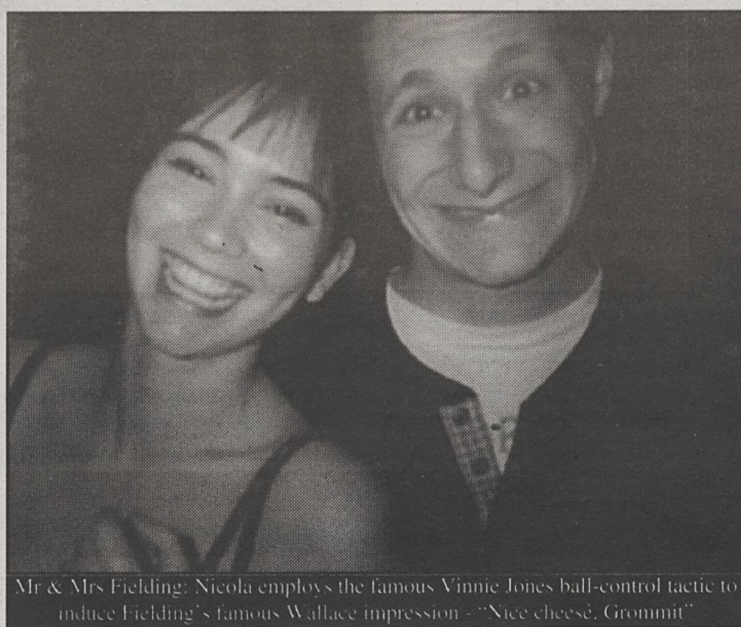
On Monday 13th January 1997 at 5:12pm, Daniel Fielding walked out on football journalism and his editorial career... for good.

There has been much speculation regarding the shock departure which has occupied the front-page headlines of many of Britain's larger broadsheets.

Initially, City speculators feared that Fielding's resignation could have an extremely detrimental effect on *The Beaver* share, sending prices plummeting and costing the national economy millions.

However, to counter this, high ranking *Beaver* officials have moved swiftly to secure a replacement Sports Editor before the next crunch publication (issue 454, 21st Jan 1997).

A number of big names have been put forward to succeed Fielding's throne, among them ex-Bluckbarn boss, Denny Kalglish, Robby Bobson (out of favour with Arselona) and the



Mr & Mrs Fielding: Nicola employs the famous Vinnie Jones ball-control tactic to induce Fielding's famous Wallace impression - "Nice cheesé, Grommit"

much fancied Kevin 'Webster' Lui of LSE 1st XI Hockey fame.

Sources close to Fielding have suggested that the pressures of a tight Thursday afternoon deadline, coupled with a 'magnificent' seven exams have contributed to the big man's departure from the top-flite.

Meanwhile other sources believe that Fielding had done much to salvage *The Beaver's* long established reputation as one of the best Student Union Newspapers in the country and

felt he could achieve little more.

Fielding's reputation as a family man was clearly shown after the publication of the impressive 'LSE on fire at UCL - Fielding wins game with crucial ninth goal' article (Issue 450, 19th Nov 1996). Instead of talking to the world's media, Fielding sped off to hospital to visit his wife (pictured) who was seriously ill in hospital after a crazy breast reduction operation had tragically the reverse (but pleasing) effect.

All of this has left the notorious F.A. match-rigging investigation in turmoil as they attempt to get to the bottom of just some of the under-hand deals which have secured Fielding a taste of the high-life in his plush Guildford mansion.

Serious allegations were made against Fielding after attempts to throw away numerous games, including his famous penalty concession as LSE struggled to overcome RFH in the London Cup.

Fielding was also shrouded with controversy after a crucial league fixture against title-contenders and Cup holders, Goldsmiths, when he appeared to power home a weak effort from Beowulf with his thigh, having spent half-time in discussions with a close Malaysian associate.

Even this Wednesday a sting film, co-ordinated by a famous national tabloid, caught Fielding handing £20,000 cash to 5th XI legend Paul 'McGrath' Drew who proceeded to celebrate his own-goal.

Match rigging aside, Fielding's resignation has shaken *The Beaver* to the core. Alan Hansen commented: "Ye canna win anything wi' kids and ye canna legislate for something like that. Terrible. The big man canna go on. Unbelievable. That could cost *The Beaver* dearly. Devastating."

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