

BEAVER

The Newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union

Issue 414

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January 23, 1995

'County Hall off'?

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County Hall - The subject of a National Audit Office inquiry

Photo: Mark Baltovic



Hardship Fund

ARE YOU IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE? ARE YOU SELF FINANCING* OR FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP BECAUSE OF MAJOR UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES? IF YES

THE STUDENTS' UNION HARDSHIP FUND MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH AN AWARD. ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE WELFARE AND HOUSING OFFICE, ROOM E297, EAST BUILDING,

FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY NO LATER THAN JANUARY 27, 1995 TO E297

*Please note that self financing refers to those students who are not in receipt of any award that covers fees and / or maintenance

The Director of the LSE, Dr John Ashworth, addressed the UGM last week as speculation continued about the future of the School's site.

Dr Ashworth, making a rare visit to the UGM, ruled out any move to County Hall immediately. He stated that the present owner of the building, Shirayama Shokusan, had announced their intention to

Nick Sutton News Editor

retain the building.

Mr Okamoto, Shirayama's London representative, was reported as saying that County Hall was not up for sale and would not be given to LSE.

However, speculation about the issue rose last week following reports that the Director, together with senior administration staff,

had a meeting with the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard MP.

Mrs Shephard, known to be a strong supporter of LSE's move to County Hall, was reported in *The Guardian*, as having requested a meeting with the Director to discuss the possibility of the School moving to County Hall.

Senior sources within the School rejected suggestions that this was the motive behind the

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The Beaver goes global

Publishing history has been made this week with the arrival of the first ever issue of *The Electronic Beaver*, the on-line version of this newspaper.

Over 26 million people worldwide can now access *The Electronic Beaver* via the Internet, the global communications system.

Featuring over 20 photographs, some in full colour, the arrival of this newspaper on the internet promises to take student publish-

ing into new realms. Traditional print limitations of deadlines and space are set to become things of the past, thanks to the rapidly emerging breakthroughs in new technology.

The Electronic Beaver is the result of the work and initiative of two students at LSE. Steve Roy, the technical mind behind the project, commented: "This represents a major advance for the LSE as *The Electronic Beaver* is one of the first student newspapers to

make use of new multimedia and communication technologies."

The students behind the project stressed that the first issue is strictly a pilot scheme. A spokesperson for the School acknowledged the importance of this landmark development, and welcomed the move wholeheartedly.

The Electronic Beaver can be viewed at: [HTTP://158.143.104.209/Beaver/](http://158.143.104.209/Beaver/)

Comments can be E-mailed to: ELECBEAV@LSE.AC.UK

Senate House success

Nicola Hobday

Following complaints by students over limited access and a decision at the UGM, attempts have been made to gain more places at Senate House Library.

Martin Lewis, Students' Union General Secretary, has now managed to obtain more places for students to study at the Library.

At a meeting of the School Library Committee last week Lewis managed to secure 150-200 places that will give access for the rest of the school year.

Details about the distribution of these tickets will be advertised in the BLPES Library and in *News and Views*. However, *The Beaver* can reveal that the tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis from February 2nd.

Although this measure is only guaranteed for this year, Lewis hopes that his successors will follow suit and enable some more LSE students to use Senate House without having to adhere to the usual strict criteria for admission.

A Crown of Thorns

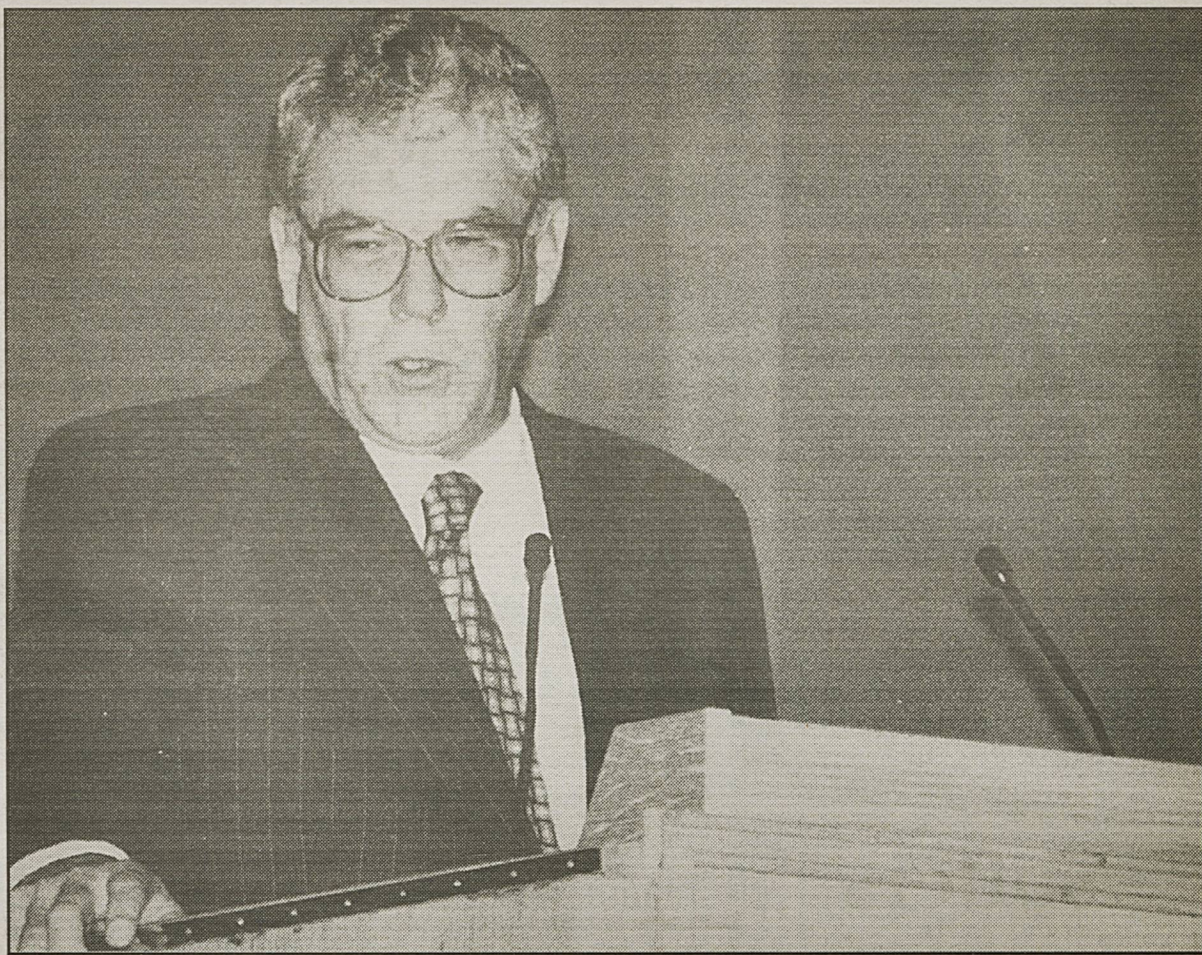
Oliver Adelman

Dr Cedric Thornberry, the former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), gave the first of three lectures on the development of international peacekeeping last Tuesday. The lecture, given in the Old Theatre, broadly summarized United Nations peacekeeping operations prior to 1987.

Thornberry identified that year as the dividing point between what he called the "second generation" peacekeeping efforts of the post 1987 years, including those in Somalia, Bosnia and Namibia, and the sixteen operations prior to 1987. He identified the mission in the Golan as one of the organization's most successful efforts.

The holder of an honorary doctorate from the LSE, and a possible future candidate for the next Directorship, Thornberry said that the United Nations peacekeeping efforts had reached a plateau by the mid-1980s.

He cited the loss of interest by the United States in the peacekeeping process as one cause of this situation. Despite the fact that Chinese and Russian cooperation with the UN increased during this period, many member states did not pay all of their bills to the UN



Dr Cedric Thornberry speaking in the Old Theatre last week.

Photo: Stephen Hau

on time. A crisis in the organization was the predictable result.

"It was a knife edge time for the UN," Thornberry recalled. "There is no question but that, had the rules of strict accountability been applied, the UN would have faced closure - when new

missions started to come in the late 1980s, the cupboard was completely bare."

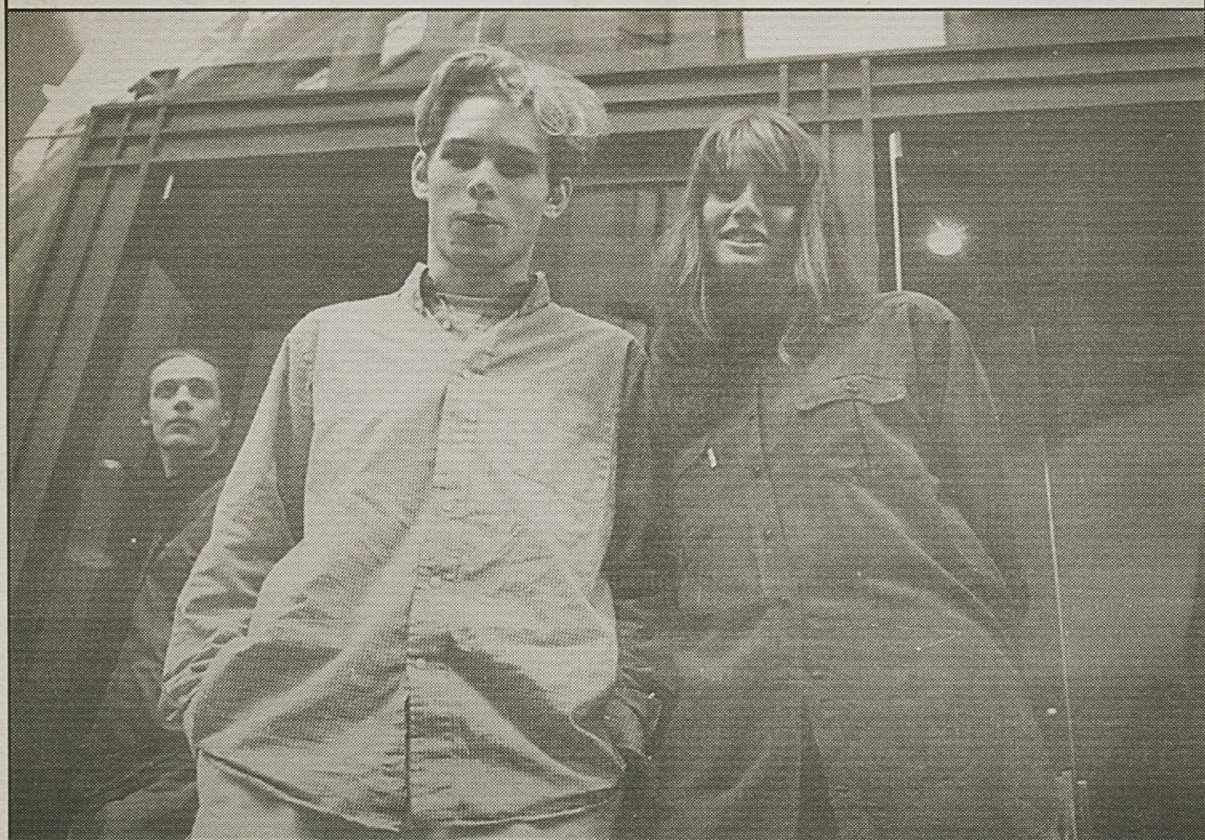
Yet by the late 1980s things had improved markedly. For example, Security Council Resolution 598 regarding the Iran-Iraq conflict was passed by the body's

five permanent members.

This resolution subsequently formed the basis for the end of the conflict.

Dr Thornberry will give the final lecture in this series on Monday, January 23 at 5:30p.m., in the Old Theatre.

New dawn for News



This week sees the birth of a new dawn as Helena McLeod and Nick Sutton take to the news pages of *The Beaver* as the new News Editors. Steve Roy and Phil Gomm, who have faithfully served the news pages for the last two years, stepped down in order to concentrate on their work in the final year. The quality of the work achieved by Steve and Phil leaves Helena and Nick with a high standard to maintain but we wish them the best and assure our readers that the news pages will continue to inform and arouse!

Anyone interested in writing for the new News Section should contact Nick Sutton or Helena McLeod in the Beaver office (E197), or phone (071) 955 6705. You can also email Beaver@LSE.AC.UK

Powell wants more money

Toby Childs

Autonomy came from Sally Powell, a representative of the Committee of the Regions for London in Brussels, last week.

Attacking the Conservatives for stripping the capital of a central authority she argued it was essential to have a voice in an era of integration, leading towards the ultimate goal of a "Europe of the regions."

Ms Powell, a Euro-enthusiast, believes Maastricht will revitalize local government and help overcome the so-called "democratic deficit".

In the same series of lectures last term, Dr Alan Sked agreed with this analysis but argued it was purely superficial so as to undercut the authority of national government and so strengthen Brussels and the regions.

Ms Powell was in favour of this policy but remained vulner-

able to the charge that it is only an effort to give more power and money to potentially self-aggrandizing local government, as the era of Tony Banks and Ken Livingstone testifies.

She proudly spoke of the success of the 33 London boroughs in winning £3.5m for urban regeneration. Lobbying Brussels was an increasingly important task so as to attract EU funds, reducing the jealously guarded rural subsidy and diverting it to the cities was a priority.

She admitted that she faced a continual conflict of loyalty as member of the Labour Party, the London lobby and a Committee of the Regions member (who allocate the cash), reinforcing the image of Brussels as a squabbling ground for sectional groups.

News in Brief

The trial of Saturday opening in the Brunch Bowl will continue this week after a successful start. The restricted service will be open from 10:30-2:30pm with hot and cold snacks, salads, sandwiches and beverages available.

Anyone interested in entering the Young Business Writer of the Year competition, organised by City University Business School, should contact Sarah Finch, the competition organiser, on (0171) 477 8604.

Hunt for Butlers' Arsonist

Michael Goulding
and Sinéad Logue

Malicious setting off of fire alarms has always been a problem amongst the Halls of Residence. This year has been no different, and recent chains of events have sparked off fresh concern at Butler's Wharf. At 1.15am Thursday night the alarm was set off, and the building was evacuated as normal. What made this night unusual was the discovery of some evidence in the form of some crumpled sheets of A4 paper, apparently lit for the desired effect.

As usual the fire brigade were called, and fairly soon the police also arrived on the scene to begin



Butlers Wharf Halls of Residence

Photo: Beaver Staff

their investigation of the incident. In the initial stages, the residents were kept waiting outside for approximately 50 minutes. Some students were questioned late into the morning.

Rumours are now rife among residents that this was a serious attempt to burn the building down, but the warden, Peter Urbach, maintains that "the incident is not being regarded as a full blown arson attack", adding that "of course any investigations will be carried out to their conclusion." Urbach is keen to reassure residents that every effort is being made to find whoever is responsible.

Barbara Serra, president of the Butlers Wharf Committee, commented, "in spite of being the only

time all of the residents actually see each other, hoax fire alarms are much more than a mere nuisance. It is disturbing to think that these people cannot see the implications of their actions." Earlier on in the same week there were two more malicious fire alarms, during one, a sub-warden injured his ankle whilst evacuating, illustrating some of the more immediate dangers involved. The malevolent setting off of fire alarms is illegal.

Anyone having any information can contact Peter Urbach in complete confidence at Butlers Wharf or in the Philosophy Department of the School, and in his words "this would be considered a very public-spirited act."

Klappholz suffers stroke

Helena McLeod
News Editor

The School received disturbing news this week when Kurt Klappholz suffered a stroke. Warden of Rosebury Hall, Head of the Department of Economics at the LSE and Chairman of the Undergraduate Staff Student Committee, Kurt Klappholz is one of the most involved lecturers in student issues. Although he will not be allowed visitors until next week, his wife has told the School that he has some paralysis on his left hand side but is eating and has retained his speech. He is expected to remain in the Latimer Ward of the Middlesex Hospital in Mortimer Street, for a further two and a half weeks. Everyone from *The Beaver* wishes him a speedy recovery.

Have you any info to offer, contact the News editors

County Hall off

(continued from page 1)

Director's meeting - claiming it was normal for the LSE Director to see the Secretary of State for Education at this time of year to discuss funding issues.

It appears likely that specu-

Beith on Blair

Judith Plastow

The LSE Liberal Democrats invited the Home Affairs spokesperson and party deputy leader, to speak to a sizeable group on Wednesday, January 18. The topic that Alan Beith MP addressed was, "Can Blair's strategy work, can it win the next general election and change the character of government in this country?"

Beith argued that Blair's honeymoon period was over. The Thatcher revolution could not be reversed on niceness alone. The Labour party lacked the values and beliefs needed, on which to

build a policy framework.

Beith believed, "the Lib Dem party reaches the parts Labour cannot reach." He regarded his party as the right one to change the patterns of government in this country. He felt the Liberal Democrats had clear values of Liberty, Constitutional government and Plurality.

Beith was asked, why if the party strategy was good, were the poll results so "pathetic"? Beith explained that the Liberal Democrats are at the mercy of the perceived contest between the Conservatives and Labour. Opinion must be changed so that a vote for them is not just a tactical one.



Alan Beith speaks out about Blair.

Photo: Hania Midura

lation will continue to surround the future of County Hall until the National Audit Office, currently undertaking an inquiry into the original sale of the building in 1992, reports later this year.

In the meantime, the School seems set to expand and make improvements to its current site. Following the announcement that *Once On This Island*, the Caribbean musical, was to shut

down at the end of January, the School have been actively considering a bid for the Royalty Theatre. Refurbishment of the St. Clements building is also set to begin this week.

The School's actions have the backing of the Students' Union which passed a motion at the UGM calling for a move to County Hall if the possibility arose, but also urging the School to acquire the Royalty Theatre.

LSE Calling



Telephone canvassing in the LSE Foundation.

Photo: Ron Voce

Helen Jamieson

The LSE Foundation is employing students to phone alumni to raise funds for its extensive plans for renovation and expansion. The Foundation has contracted an American company IDC to manage the project and aims to generate £700,000.

A comprehensive database of 100,000 alumni is being used for the first time by the LSE. 3,500 of these have been contacted during the couple of months for which the campaign has been running. A total of £160,000 has been pledged.

The alumni have been divided into salary categories for the database and are targeted accordingly. Those contacted over the telephone are earning under £50,000.

Alumni earning over this amount are receiving personal interviews from representatives of the School. The Foundation is reviewing the salary bracket at which such interviews are aimed. They are time consuming and it is uncertain if they are any more effective than a telephone call.

Through this campaign the Foundation hopes to create a de-

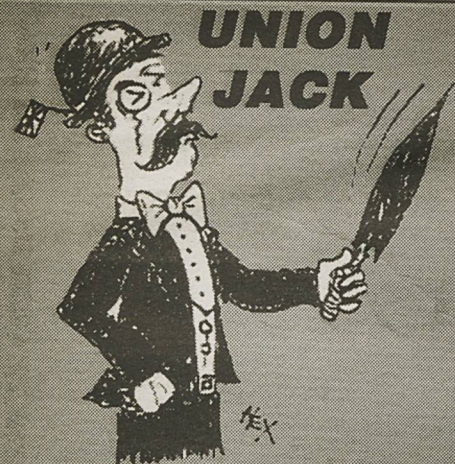
tailed record of each ex-student. Future campaigns can then be tailored to suit individuals and produce greater rewards.

Some students have reportedly found the task of persuading alumni to part with hard earned cash far from easy. However Mike Smithson, at the head of the campaign, stated that he was "pleased with stability" in staff numbers.

There has been a 30-35% response rate from those already contacted. When contrasted with the average 2-3% response rate to direct mail campaigns conducted by national charities the LSE is doing well.

Balancing a university's responsibility to its alumni with the economic basis of the LSE's campaign is a problem. Many alumni have reacted to what they perceive as 'only being contacted when LSE needs money'. Others object as a matter of conscience, claiming that the government should be footing the bill.

Whether the current pledge rate will turn into actual donations remains to be seen. The Foundation predicts that 10-15% of alumni could fail to follow through with their telephone promise to pay.



Jack went to the UGM, but was not quite sure that she had gone to the right place. Strangely, it was silent and subdued. The ill-disciplined hordes of the balcony seemed to be quiet, attentive and actually listening. What was the cause of this curious circumstance? Was it that everybody had suddenly and simultaneously clicked that Christopher Dylan Parry is thick as pigshit, and wondered why the hell they ever bothered voting for a long-haired, overweight Scottish moron? Had James Atkinson announced his solemn pledge to never eat anything in the Brunch Bowl or Pizzaburger in protest at the School's pricing policy? Perhaps it was Sorrell Osborne answering a question?

Jack's eyes wandered to the far left, and in the seats where in the good old days Mubin, Louise and the Irish bloke with big ears would have sat, was the cause of all the respectful attention. A mad-looking old bloke, this time not Nick Dearden's grandpa but John Ashworth, Director of the LSE. As part of the much-vaunted, non-political New LSESU, General Secretary Martin Lewis had decided to invite the Director to speak to the UGM and answer a few pointless, sorry pointed, sorry planted, questions. His intention was to tell the student body all about the Centenary celebrations being held in July, an inane collection of events, receptions and dinners in celebration of the past hundred years and the great former students of the LSE, the radical, intellectual forces which are, er Lloyd Grossman and Allan Shepherd. His action was to convince the tiny minority that had not already experienced Ashworth at close quarters that he appears distant, demented and worryingly dense.

Getting off to a good start, he confidently assured the assembled student population that he was "certainly intending to have some." Whether this was some kind of oblique reference to *The Beaver* front page exclusive which is prominently displayed in *The Tuns*, Jack is not sure. Suddenly remembering that in a past life he was a nominal academic, and that we are students and therefore exist to be patronised, Dr Ashworth asserted confidently that, "he has purchased it,... that means that he owns it." As he came to the end of his lazy, cliché-ridden rambling only one attempted to start a bout of deferential applause. Jack was not surprised to see that this guilty party was that other great purveyor of lazy, cliché-ridden rhetoric, Baljit Mahal. The questions, which all had a strangely Lewisian illiteracy about the way in which they were framed, gave the Director the gilt-edged opportunity to witness that there was somebody else more reviled than himself in the Old Theatre, as that man Mahal intoned "obviously I'm popular" as the paper ricocheted off his perfectly sculpted hair, before asking a question that was about as interesting as Brentford. Ashworth also proved his mathematic capabilities by affirming that there are "999 more years in a centenary."

Despite the fawning attentions of the Chair's intervention on behalf of the forces of reason, attention and J Atkinson's degree, Jack could sense that the UGM had seen through the great man, and the balcony was becoming restless. And lo! A new game was born whereby paper projectiles are thrown at Raj Jethwa at such an angle that they will then bounce onto the ears of Martin Lewis. The Director rounded off what was, in the best traditions of the UGM, a complete waste of time with that rare event: a Dr John Ashworth "true" story.

Sexual harrassment at the LSE

Victims of abuse

Despite the fact that there has never been a formal inquiry on a case of sexual harassment at LSE, it can and does occur. We may not hear about it, but it has caused distress amongst students too afraid or embarrassed to acknowledge their victimisation.

Although the records available show no inquiries into sexual harassment at the School, there have been some serious allegations made – an alleged rape in June 1990 outside the Main Building as well as alleged cases of sexual harassment reported to the Advisor to Women Students, Rose Rachman, last academic year. Once again, there are allegations of harassment and molestation but most of us remain blissfully unaware of incidents of this kind.

All of the above complaints were dealt with informally and were neither investigated by the LSE nor the police. With such serious allegations this may seem strange, but by looking at the formal procedures we can understand why.

The procedures to make an informal complaint are confidential and supporting. A victim of sexual harassment can visit the Equal Opportunity and Welfare Officer, Vini Ghatate; Rose Rachman; Warden and other staff available in the LSE Halls of Residence; Tutors; the

Nicola Hobday
and Antonio Pascual

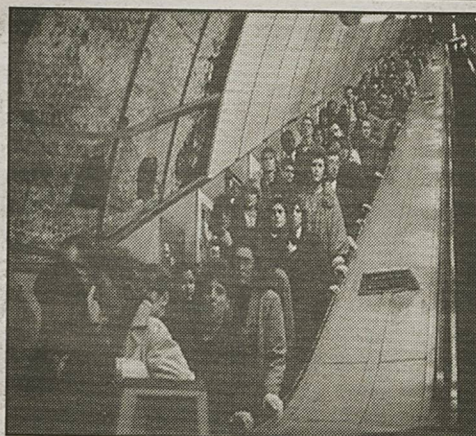


Photo: Library

Chaplain; or the counsellors at the LSE Health Centre. All these people will give advice and help. However, these channels will stop short of informing official authorities.

To lodge an official allegation the system is less welcoming. A victim would first have to present the case to the School Secretary and provide evidence of the incident. As soon as this happens the victim loses guarantees of

confidentiality. The Secretary will then take it to the Director if she deems it a worthy case. This process would include negotiations with the offending party and investigating the backgrounds of both parties. This kind of investigation could cause personal indignity, embarrassment and even more suffering for both parties. Even if the investigation results in the expulsion of the alleged offender from the school, all inquiries are internal and the police do not have to be involved. The internalisation of the procedures raises question of whether justice is being met in the eyes of the law or just in the eyes of the LSE.

It is possible for the police to be involved, however, it is unlikely as in such an investigation the LSE would be headline news just as the Austin Donnellan case at King's College was last year. Obviously, the LSE would wish to avoid publicity of this kind. Would it be unreasonable to suppose that the 'victim unfriendly' formal procedures were designed to avoid victims of sexual harassment going public?

The Committee for Undergraduate Studies will hold a meeting next month during which school procedures on sexual harassment will be clarified. Perhaps this meeting will encourage the process to become more 'victim friendly.'

Having a ball

Alexander Evans

Last Friday the LSE Malaysia club started off the centenary celebrations with a ball at the Park Lane Hotel. The club, which was only founded in November of last year has had an extremely successful first year, having managed to hold a number of high profile meetings and seminars throughout the year, both in the UK and Malaysia. It now has over two hundred members, but if they continue to organise events of the quality of last Friday's that number should continue to grow.

The pre-dinner reception began at 6.30pm and gave ample time to mingle and chat with other guests, both members and non-members, about the first year. All those who had attended events during the year had found them highly enjoyable, although several people did express regret that more non-Malaysians, and especially Europeans, had not attended. However, the reception also contained the only unwelcome surprise of the evening when I remem-

bered that most Malaysians don't drink and that I was on for a dry evening.

Dinner itself started off at 8.15pm with a speech by, amongst others, the Pro-Director Professor Leifer and a traditional Malaysian dance by three members of the club. Over dinner we were entertained by the excellent London Jazz Quartet. The meal itself was extremely good, although the hotel did manage to screw up by giving out a complimentary strawberry and vodka drink which was returned by the hundred. There followed further entertainment in the form of a guitar solo, one of the most entertaining magic shows that I've seen for some years and a selection of songs sung by members of the club.

The table which I was on was split equally

between paying guests and those who had helped to sponsor the evening all of whom were impressed by the level of organisation and number of events which had been put on to entertain us. After the end of the dinner Professor Leifer also expressed his delight at the way in which the evening had progressed, saying that he looked forward to their next event and apologising for the fact that the Director had been unable to attend due to prior engagements.

Towards the end of the evening there was also a raffle and a lucky draw. The first prize in the raffle was a return flight to Malaysia, but the lesser prizes were equally impressive, including a Sony personal organiser, and a 35mm Canon camera. In the end I was only sorry that I was unable to attend the disco at the end of the evening, and even though I failed to win anything, would advise far more non-members to attend the next ball which judging by last Friday should be an evening to remember.



Photo: LSE Malasian Club

CONFIRMATION OF EXAMINATION ENTRY FOR SESSION 1994/1995

**(which concerns all Undergraduates, General
Course, Diploma, Exchange and ERASMUS students)**

SELECTION OF PAPERS FOR NEXT SESSION

(which concerns all First and Second Year Undergraduates)

UNDERGRADUATES, GENERAL COURSE, DIPLOMA, EXCHANGE & ERASMUS STUDENTS

**You should go to the Timetables office, Room H310,
Connaught House, as soon as possible ON or AFTER**

Monday, January 30

to collect your individual form for the

CONFIRMATION OF EXAMINATION ENTRY AND SELECTION OF PAPERS FOR NEXT SESSION

**The form must be COMPLETED, signed by your tutor
and handed in to the Time-tables Office NO LATER than**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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Supplementary grant program for students from the former Yugoslavia

ATTENTION

The Supplementary Grant Program for students from the former Yugoslavia was established to assist students in foreign countries who have been displaced by the war. The aim of the program is to enable students presently studying to complete their education, as well as to assist students just beginning their academic careers.

Grants will be given to students who not only meet the academic criteria but who are willing and likely to return to their country to work for the cessation of war, for the opening of boundaries, for communication, for the pacification and economic and democratic rebirth of the region.

With the knowledge gained from their experiences abroad, the students will be acquainted with the principles of democracy as well as the political and historical perspective which is necessary to create open societies in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. By supporting the intellectual life of young people from the countries of the former Yugoslavia abroad, we are securing a brighter future for them and their countries when they are able to return home. These students must display a commitment to social activism, to their community and to their country of origin.

The program will provide supplementary grants to students in three different categories:

Tuition – students who tuition costs have been partially met,
Housing and living expenses – students who have succeeded in funding their tuition, either through scholarships or their own financial means, will be eligible for additional housing and living funds,

Other – students who have secured all necessary funds but cannot afford additional expenses such as books, materials, health insurance or diploma fees will be eligible for additional funds.

In addition to meeting the criteria listed above, the students are strongly encouraged to participate in other programmes offered. The goal of other programmes is to link students' academic experiences together and encourage communication between students from the former Yugoslavia.

Students are selected in an open competition announced once a year in the countries other than the countries of the former Yugoslavia. Announcement of the competition appears in academic departments of major universities, offices of student organisations and at Student Advisory Centres. Students apply according to guidelines. An International Board makes the final decisions on awards.

The deadline for receiving applications for the 1995-6 academic year is March 15, 1995. No late applications will be considered. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

For additional information and application materials, please contact:

**Supplementary Grant Program
for Students from the Former
Yugoslavia**
Citibox Mailing Services
Suite 588
2 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3DQ

This advert space has been provided free of charge as part of The Beaver's Welfare Promotion Programme. For information on the charity promotion programme contact Scott Wayne on 0171 388 0094.

The Islamic Society presents Islam Awareness Week 1995

Lecture Title	Speaker	Venue	Time	Date
The future of Palestine and the Palestinians	Maher Abdullah	A42	5pm	Monday 23rd January
The New World Order and Islamic movements: The dynamics of change	Azam Tamimi	A85	5pm	Thursday 26th January
Moses, Jesus and Muhammad: The same message	Suhaib Hasan Usama Ibn	A86	5pm	Friday 27th January

The Islamic book and literature sale will have a stall in the Quad from the January 23 – 27. All welcome

Jobs, jobs, jobs and more jobs

Part-time temporary positions available on campus for outgoing, enthusiastic second and third year students with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Must be able to work 2 evenings per week, Monday to Thursday, from 6-10pm contacting alumni of the LSE on behalf of the LSE.

Starting Salary will be £5/hour
For more information contact
Andrew Harvey on
071 955 6768 after 2pm

LSE Athletics Union Colours nomination

If you would like to nominate an individual for colours or wish to know more about the criteria for selection visit the AU office (E78) 12-2pm
All nominations must be handed in to the AU office by February 10

Any letters for publication should be handed into the Beaver office, room E197 by noon on Wednesday or in any of the Beaver post boxes around LSE. In the interests of space the editor reserves the right to edit all letters. Unsigned letters will not be published

The Newt deal

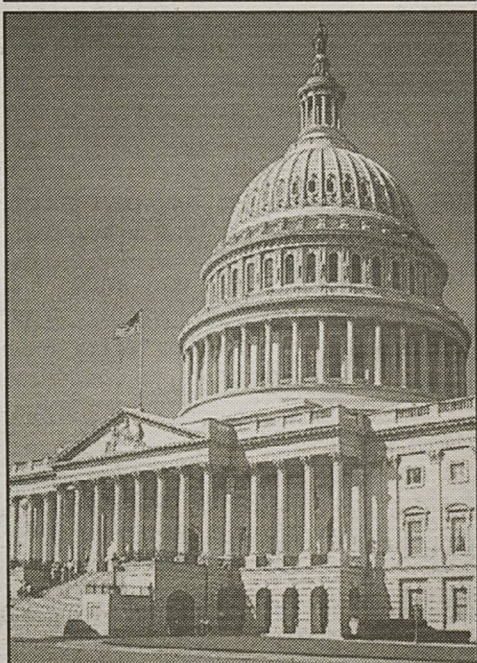
The Republican "Contract With America"

The proverbial Contract With America is supposed to be implemented within the first hundred days of Congress. Newt's contract is agreed upon with no more than one-fifth of the potential electorate. This statement is predicated on the fact that some 39% of the electorate turned out to vote and 52% of them voted for Republican candidates. However, many Republican voters had no idea what they were voting for as the Los Angeles Time's chief pollster, John Brennan, wrote in the November 20 issue of "The Nation". This October, as the Republican blowout was brewing, 61% still told the Times Poll that spending for domestic programs should be increased. One can infer that most American voters had expected domestic spending to rise and that this financial commitment is not in agreement with the new wave Republican Contract.

Nevertheless, most voters including Republicans had never heard of the now legendary Contract With America. This mixture of tax cuts, higher defence spending, and a balanced budget amendment could be described as somewhat unrealistic. This argument is justified by the fact that the House has only promised to vote on these measures. Although Gingrich and company may well keep their promise of a House vote on the balanced-budget amendment - it does not mean that the federal budget will in fact be balanced.

The elections have changed Washington in two subtle but important ways. First, the revolving door for job opportunities is stuck because Republicans now have control of Congress. The fact that Republicans will open doors for themselves spells trouble for the Democrats. As *Newsweek's* Evan Thomas indicates, "Those 5,000 Democratic staffers

Dana Johnson



Newt's new nest

Photo: Library

forced from Capitol Hill are having trouble finding jobs. They might actually have to leave Washington and go home".

The second change is that Liberalism is eradicated. With the replacement of Liberalism, Conservatives have made a promise to slash big government. This is in contrast to the Democrats who hired more staff on unneeded and unproductive Congressional committees. As Thomas has noted, "One of the healthier Gingrich reforms is to cut House staffs, grown bloated over time, by one-third".

Apparently, the Republicans are attempting to cut down all the unnecessary bureaucracy. Similarly, the same proposal was advocated by Ronald Reagan's attempt to slash big government - the result was it that only got bigger. Still, Bill Archer, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, believes in using tax breaks to boost the economy. Conversely, tax breaks could also increase the deficit which does not follow the Republican Contract With America.

Even if Congress enacts all the tax cuts promised by the contract, it will not reduce the federal deficit which should be the primary concern of the Republicans. Some have argued that an important way to curb the deficit is to attack the middle-class entitlement programs. In the Republicans attempt to curb the deficit, they have reduced taxes for the upper-income social security recipients. Still, if social security remains untouched due to tax cuts and increased defence spending, the result will be no money for federal spending such as highways, schools or subways.

However, the Republicans do not seem to be too concerned about this problem. They are, on the other hand, worried about their guaranteed votes on ten major promises in the first 100 days of Congress. Still, this tenure of office should not be full of empty promise and celebration. Even though it is the first time in half a century that the Republicans take control of Congress, they must remember to enact legislation based on the Republican Contract. It would be pointless to create the Contract but carry out only a few, token measures. However, if the Republicans do adhere to the Contract and succeed in cutting taxes and spending, they might well revive the economic boom of the 1980's.

What do men think about sexism?

Paul Hoffman

We know sexism is a bad thing. We acknowledge that it ruins millions of women's lives, that it's unfair and unjust and that something should be done about it. But we're only too willing to relinquish the responsibility to "do something" to women, since we know it's really *their* problem.

We are wrong. Sexism is not just a woman's problem, it's everyone's problem. It casts its dark shadow into everyone's life, warping the way we think, feel and act.

Most of us would take to the streets in protest if the government began determining our careers without our input. More would join if Parliament regulated our social engagements and conduct. And no one would tolerate government dictates about the clothes we wear, the habits we employ or the friends we make and keep.

We would have no intention of permitting this kind of external interference in our lives and we would be prepared to fight against it.

Yet we do nothing against sexism. It tells us which clothes are acceptable to wear, how we should behave, which values and characteristics we should cultivate. It instructs us which careers are appropriate, whether we can be friends with certain acquaintances, and how we should perceive the behaviour of others. It erodes trust between men and women, generates suspicion and resentment, and circum-

scribes our relationships. It is with us from birth to grave.

This is a call to arms, but the weapon is awareness. Men and women must no longer passively accept this manipulation. To make progress against sexism, we must act cooperatively; reforming a social system is too important to be left to one sex. Both sexes hold unique

This is a call to arms, but the weapon is awareness

positions in relations to this problem as well as its effects, and the insight of both is essential to make progress against it. Both men and women are subject to harassment and discrimination (albeit in widely disparate numbers) and to unseen manipulation by sexism. But we men find ourselves very often in the role of discriminator, harasser or assailant in sexual injustices, and that means we have a greater responsibility to act.

Perhaps you think that you have never done any of these things, that you have never perpetuated sexism. But it is men who are most

intimately acquainted with the minds of other men and best placed to influence their attitudes and behavior. For these reasons, we have much more to contribute to the eradication of sexism than sympathy, approval and distant support. It's action, involvement and commitment we must give.

That's where the LSE Women's Group can help. In its weekly meetings - Tuesdays at 1pm in E94 - you might hear a speaker, or engage in informal discussion, concerning issues from sexual harassment to women in religion to pornography to whatever you like. Through the Women's Group we can better understand women's perspectives on sexism, their feelings and perceptions about our attitudes and behavior, and help them understand ours. In the Women's Group, we can begin to break down sexual barriers, regain trust and understanding and make a difference in the fight against sexism.

And the Women's Group doesn't need just sympathetic, "sensitive" men. It also needs men who don't agree with what's presented here, who don't find sexism so alarming, to respectfully challenge its ideas and its members. We're all affected by sexism, and we all have a duty to work against it, and the LSE Women's Group provides everyone with the opportunity to do just that.



Martin Lewis
General Secretary

Senate House Library: It was agreed at the Library Committee that the Students' Union proposal for between 150-200 full access tickets would be implemented. All students may apply regardless of course of study. If more students apply than there are available tickets, there will be a ballot. This is arbitrary, but not discriminatory.

All LSE students used to have automatic access to Senate House library, but since the changes in the structure of the University of London, the LSE now has to pay £55 per ticket. Thus if you apply please make sure you make full use of the ticket, as there are only a limited number available. In the future the number of tickets the LSE purchases will decrease as their cost will be rising and every penny spent on tickets for Senate House is a penny taken from the funding of our own library.

BLPES: I would be interested to hear Students' views on the opening hours of the Library and whether students would be willing to sacrifice the two morning hours on a Saturday for reference only access to the Library on a Sunday in the Third term. It would also be useful to know your views on the loan period for books.

Academic Affairs: The Students' Union has presented its submission on the Academic structures and reply to the HEQC audit to the School. Any Students who would like a copy please go to the Students' Union reception.

ULU Elections: Nominations for a variety of sabbatical and non sabbatical positions have opened at ULU, if you are interested in standing please see me or ring Gemma Williams, President of ULU.

Johnathon Dimpleby Tickets: Tickets for Johnathon Dimpleby's Sunday political programme are available from the Students' Union Reception each week. If you would like to know about future programmes please come and see me. This week he will be interviewing either Jeremy Hanley or David Hunt.

Reception: The Students' Union reception is undergoing a redevelopment, if you have any suggestions of functions that you think it should provide, please see me.

Southern African Scholarship: The Union General Meeting this week voted to change the Southern African scholarship into a General Refugee scholarship. It also mandated the Executive committee to raise money for students in Southern Africa. If any students have any fundraising ideas, or would like to help please come and see me.

Hardship Fund: The Students' Union Hardship fund is open for applications. The Students' Union Welfare service has forms.

That's all for this week. If you have any problems, suggestions, queries, or you just want to get involved in the Union, please see me. My Office is E205 and my phone number 071 955 7147. Please attend the Union General Meetings, every Thursday at 1pm in the Old Theatre, all students are eligible to attend.

This column is printed under section 13.5 of the LSESU constitution. *The Beaver* accepts no responsibility for its content or accuracy.

Putting on the Ritz

Hae Yin talks to Brian Mathews, Managing Director of the Ritz Hotel, once a bastion of Britishness, now owned by a Hong Kong conglomerate

The Eighties were a heady decade indeed; cantankerous Monopoly buy-outs, red braces, and hostile little red cars. All padded shoulders with not much substance, soothing the bubble buoyancy of the Thatcher suds. "There is no such thing as society", became a self-absorbed dictum for brash individualism. Who needed society, when one easily got a massive mortgage for the right postcode? If Ceasar Ritz were alive today, he would have churned at the thought of such churlish impropriety.

Rising above the humdrum of Piccadilly at the corner of Green Park is The Ritz Hotel. Founded in 1906, these gilded portals have ushered in many a splendid evening. Through the years, it has become the epitome of Edwardian gentility, with the spectacular Palm Court playing host to the cream of society. Manners were all that mattered. Noel Coward, Barbara Hutton, the Aga Khan, and even Andy Warhol, all took a sip in this sumptuous respite. Tea at the Ritz was, "a useful institution for the 'also ran' men; one could meet men, without chaperones for lunch and tea, so you had lunch with men you were keen on, and tea with the rest...we'd all been brought up as ladies and gentlemen and the Ritz was a good place to go to so as to keep up appearances; even if we could not really afford it, we had to go as it was part of our lives". Thus spoke Dame Barbara Cartland (otherwise Mrs Corquodale in those days). Today, such shady philosophising seem unlikely to fend off the Gordon Geckoesque gestalt of mergers and acquisitions.

The Ritz now comes under a new umbrella, the Hong Kong based Mandarin Oriental Group. It joins the stables of well-run, world renown hotels in the Group with the opulent Oriental in Bangkok leading the pack. At the signing of the agreement, Robert E. Riley, Managing Director of Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, said, "This agreement provides us with an ideal opportunity to expand our Group into Europe and we believe Mandarin Oriental's

reputation for excellence will complement the fine traditions of The Ritz." As far as contractual exchanges between Establishment edifice like The Ritz and a young successful chain goes, the signing was a plain parable compared to the takeover of another venerable institution, The Savoy.

Recently, The Savoy took a not too genial grilling from the Forte group. Rarely had the media such a field day; dishing up the apparent class clot between the late Tory grandee Sir Hugh Wotner, whose family still owes a majority stake, and Mr Rocco Forte, chain hotel extraordinaire. Under Mr Rocco's father, Charles Forte, the group already owned the Waldorf and Grosvenor House in London, the George V in Paris, and after the merger with Trust Houses in 1974, another 200 hotels situated along main motorways and trunk roads around the country. Savouring the Savoy was a last ditch attempt by the Forte group to cut into the Savoy's slice of Englishness, with the Connaught, Claridges, and the Berkeley as icing. Forte however, were not the first to sink their teeth into that quintessential English pie. Many hotels in London, which were once heraldic concerns, are now foreign stuffed. The wave of Canadian ownership in the seventies spawned the Four Seasons chain; the Sultan of Brunei has a controlling stake at the Dorchester; and the Al Fayed brothers are building a namesake Harrods Hotel. Will The Ritz finally kowtow to the barons of new money and old habits?

Mr Brian Williams, the new General Manager of The Ritz, feels that "there is really no difference between

running a hotel in London or Hong Kong in terms of staff management". He is speaking from a wealth of experience. Mr Williams has had 15 years of industry experience in Asia and



Photo: Anastasia Shorter

the Middle East, and whose previous appointment was the management of the 433-room Mandarin Oriental in Macau. Although pressed further, "and if there are any, there's always the cultural difference". Admittedly, "one of the thing that is very obvious in Asia is that there is an incredible work ethic amongst the Asian work force". Surely, this is not a polite comment on the age old preconceived notions of Occidental affluence and Oriental servi-

is "the staggering difference". Everybody says, "here we are in Asia; abundant cheap labour, and therefore one can employ staff at a higher ratio". Some things come to light immediately. One, we don't have abundant trained labour in Asia, and with expanding economies like Singapore and Hong Kong, the labour shortage is exacerbated by higher salaries. In London, oddly enough, salary levels of the senior management, and customer to staff ratio are

business psychology unit of London University. The results will be a yardstick for the executive committee policies on communications, management issues and human resources. Though these initial internal improvements are credible, what is more pressing is the external pressure from an ever shrinking market that is inextricable from the cyclical contracts of the American economy.

Post war economic boom and continual expanding disposal incomes across the Atlantic has always made Americans ever more accommodating in recessionary London. The strong dollar, and to a certain extent, the yen, are strong magnets for in-bound

trade. Stretching the tourist dollar, however, is severely restricted by the growing stock of hotel rooms in Europe, increasing at a fifth yearly. City analysts have suggested that

...the Ritz was, "a useful institution for the 'also ran' men; one could meet men, without chaperones for lunch and tea, so you had lunch with men you were keen on, and tea with the rest.."

tude? Mr Williams dismisses the very idea.

"I was hoping that the first few months in London, that would be quickly apparent. Frankly, I cannot say, look, this

more or less comparable." Running a successful hotel does not just mean catering to the upper crust of management. Upon arrival, Mr Williams commissioned a survey from the

hotel occupancy rates be above a regulatory 70% before hotels can hike rates up. "Almost half of our room guests are Americans," concedes Mr Williams. A strong dollar also means consumers can cast a wider net. And those hotels that slip through are the ones without a competitive rate or spectacular service. For

many hotels at the top end, the crux is how to maximise yields through the vicious rates and services cycle, without sinking to the nadir of bed and breakfast tactics.

In New York, where there is lower rate expectations but higher competition, even five star stellars like the Four Seasons offered introductory bargains for out-of-towners to beat out the recession. Similar to London, New York now faces a glut of Asian investments including the 561 room Hotel Millennium and the 1,000-room New York Palace from Singapore and Brunei consecutively. Although the

Asian property market represent less than one-percent of the total commercial value in New York, the upshot is that the annual seven-percent hotel rate increase forecast is made the more impossible with these big and prominent deals. Last year, the Mandarin Oriental

Group's half year interim posted a mere 1.56% growth in attributable profits. How then is The Ritz in London coping?

First, the 70% mark. We work very carefully on the issues of yields, and it is extremely easy to achieve that magical figure. As long as you keep bringing prices down. It's not quite so easy to say that 70% is the arbitrary mark. I think one has to take stock of what one's providing for at that particular offer," says Mr Williams. The Four Seasons (NY) recent weekend bargain, for example is what he describes as a "look see" market, a short term strategy to establish interest from a disparate range. The Ritz has managed a more careful compromise.

Earlier this month (September), The Ritz under the Manda-

rin Oriental Group's programme, is now a partner with British Airways in negotiating rates and periphery services for BA's Executive Club members. These perks include a ten-percent discount on the standard room rate; upgrades to better rooms subject to availability;

and single room rate when a double room is paid for and occupied. The offer not only strengthens a lucrative core of executive businesses, but also relinquishes the tangled jugular of cut-throat tactics.

In terms of services, The Ritz cannot be slack, having inherited a legacy of Edwardian

attention which makes a commendable staff of 240 a logistically insurmountable task. Starched Irish napkins by the bucket load is just not economically viable for the post-industrial age. Stiff competition also arises from smaller prestigious hotels like the Gore, Blakes, and even sister hotel, The Stafford.

Because these are run on a much smaller scale, impeccable service is the norm; attracting a knowing crowd of East Coast matriarchs and the West Coast's major glitterati. What the industry call their 'favourite friends', friends who will not bat an eyelid at the welcome bucket of Krug as long as complete privacy, intimate surroundings, and most importantly, round the clock attention from every staff.

Rather than rest on it's laurels of a frayed grandeur, The Ritz has redefined what it has always been good at -

grand style and grand manners; not just for Societe, but society at large. The best example being the rejuvenation of the splendid Louis XVI Restaurant. Under the Mandarin Group's new management, the Rococo stuffiness is gilded with a fresh majestic style from Executive

Chef David Nicholls. Traditional staples are given a light twist, not only in culinary skills but also in a price-fixed menu in the evenings. At £39.50 for four courses and coffee, it spreads across a broad spectrum of consumers, and not just the expense account diners. A management strategy perhaps encouraged by Mr Williams tenure in the Far East, where eating out at hotel restaurants is common fare for the average local. "If you're in Hong Kong, Singapore or even Bangkok, you'll always say, 'let's meet up in the bar in this hotel', or 'let's have dinner in this hotel' ". Acknowledging that "99% of my business from the Palm Court, and 80% of my businesses in the restaurants are from non-residents", local expenditure in the food and beverage department has been a tremendous spill over revenue. Mr Williams has invariably grafted a successful branch which others follow or have already done so; the Hyde Park Hotel now has Marco Pierre White's namesakes restaurant; Gore with British new-wave star chef Anthony Worral-Thompson ("Worra" to his fans at his flagship Soho brasserie) overseeing Bistro 190, and veteran Nico Landenis's, Nico at 90 at the Park Lane.

The hotel industry is the largest employer of services in the world, averaging 270 million employees worldwide. A world weary traveller is now feted by hotel accommodation catered for every whim and fancy. In an age where global markets are shrinking rapidly, rolling out the red carpet and declaring an Asian concern, or any national peculiarity for that matter, is not helpful. At an incredibly youthful 35 years, Brian Williams already holds the reins of Mandarin Oriental's first foray in Europe. Impeccably turned out, he has in-so-far through his management expertise, married the astute British tradition of compromise, with the great Eastern promise of money making (raking?) in the Group's new venture.



fastidiousness. The Ritz is not a large hotel, although it's imposing facade suggests a melange of rooms. With only 125 rooms, it is considered small by chain mail standards. It is, however, the jaded customers at the highest bracket who demand every minutiae of personal

A Bond of Englishness

Hilary Grey

Many observers appeared surprised by the enormous amount of speculation aroused last year over who would succeed Timothy Dalton as James Bond. However such interest is always to be expected. Bond has become deeply ingrained in our national psyche as the eternal English hero. The significance of this is still not well understood.

Bond is a very English film hero. He is suave and witty while the typical American hero is decent and solid. Yet Bond was not designed by his creator Ian Fleming to fill this role. His Bond was half Scots and half French Swiss. But Fleming's character was redesigned for the big screen, principally by an American writer called Richard Maibaum who was responsible for the added humour of the films and for toning down the sadism and puritanical streak of the character in the books. Bond

became a kind of ultimate hero, a man who could single-handedly save the world, talk knowledgeably about food and wine with a famous French chef and romance a beautiful girl with a smooth line of chat, all at the same time. In this respect he was well ahead of his American competitors who still had a nasty habit of bleeding when they were beaten up.

In the same way as most American boys want to grow up to be Superman most English ones want to grow up to be James Bond, a wise choice since it doesn't involve wearing your underpants on the outside. Because of this, Bond has become a myth of the perfect English man and as such has a largely unconscious impact on the way we behave that would be interesting to study in greater detail.

However Bond did not come out of nowhere. His character is a perfect blend of English heroes of the past - part Sherlock Holmes, part Bulldog Drummond and Richard Hannay with just a splash of Noel Coward thrown in for good measure. In fact the heroes of British films of the 1930s often behaved in a very similar way to Bond and one film "Q Planes" has a very similar plot to the Bond vehicle "You Only Live Twice".

This genre of British film making is loosely known as the comedy thriller and it has been largely neglected by British film makers in recent years though Hollywood copies such as "True Lies" testify to it's endurance. These films appeal to our natural paranoia about the world. Nothing is quite what it seems, for example in "Strange Boarders" (1938), Tom Walls takes rooms in a boarding house that is really for an organisation of spies. This tradition was carried on in the Bond films: the office in "Thunderball" that is the front for SPECTRE; the volcano in "You Only Live Twice" that really is a

launching site for rockets; and even the religious temple that is a cover for a drugs operation in "Licence To Kill". British films have become very stagnant in recent years. They are either inhabited by the rich or the poor.

Film makers such as Ken Loach and Mike Leigh appear to want depress us to the point of suicide. Recent examples of commercial British film making, such as "Shopping" and "Young Americans" belong to genres of film making that have never been part of the British tradition. Consequently their British settings do appear strange and incongruous.

James Bond is the only reminder left of a different conception of Englishness. He is a free spirit who sees life as an adventure. As Tom Jones once memorably sang:

*"He always runs while others walk,
He acts while other men just talk,
He looks at this world and wants it all
And he strikes
(da da da da da) like Thunderball!"*

Amateur dramatics

Dennis Lim talks to cult director Hal Hartley about love, violence and his latest film

Hal Hartley, US independent cinema's most celebrated *auteur*, is soft-spoken and disarmingly shy. We start by chatting and he says that the Q&A after *Amateur*'s UK premiere at the London Film Festival the previous night didn't go too well – "I was manhandled by the audience". (Someone kept going on about his "earlier, funnier films".) Then, suddenly, comes the question I routinely dread. "So what is *The Beaver*?" Before I get a chance to answer, he puts forward the not uncommon and certainly not unreasonable theory that it might be a pornographic magazine (tying in nicely with a prominent subject in *Amateur*). I begin my standard embarrassed explanation that we were named long before the word had any vaguely pornographic significance, but he cuts me off. "Well, if you think that's bad, my student paper was called *The Load*".

Hartley speaks of film making with a fiercely personal passion that's easy to mistake as pretension. "A lot of what creative endeavour springs from is this desire of wanting something to exist. You have an abstract idea of the film you want. Something inspires it – your life, some light, the way somebody moves. Suddenly you have this intuition of a thing that doesn't exist in the world but you know you can make it exist. I won't be happy until this exists so I can look at it. No one else is going to make it, so I'm going to have to." Few film makers could get away with saying something like that. But it makes sense if you've seen his films. Hartley has carved a niche for himself with his strikingly idiosyncratic films. When his first feature *The Unbelievable Truth* appeared in 1989, it was evident that his was an original voice. *Amateur*, his fourth full length feature tells the story of Isabelle (Isabelle Huppert), a typically paradoxical Hartley character. Ex-nun and would-be pornographer. Sexually inexperienced, but convinced she's a nymphomaniac. Certain that God has a mission for her but unable to figure out just what it is. Into her life comes Thomas (Martin Donovan), a mysterious amnesiac. The plot unravels to reveal that Isabelle's divine mission is linked to the prolific porn star Sofia (Elina Lowensohn) who seems to know who Thomas is.

The film's title refers to the characters awkwardly coping with the unfamiliar – Isabelle grappling with the secular world after the convent, Sofia determined to break away from her sordid past, Thomas trying

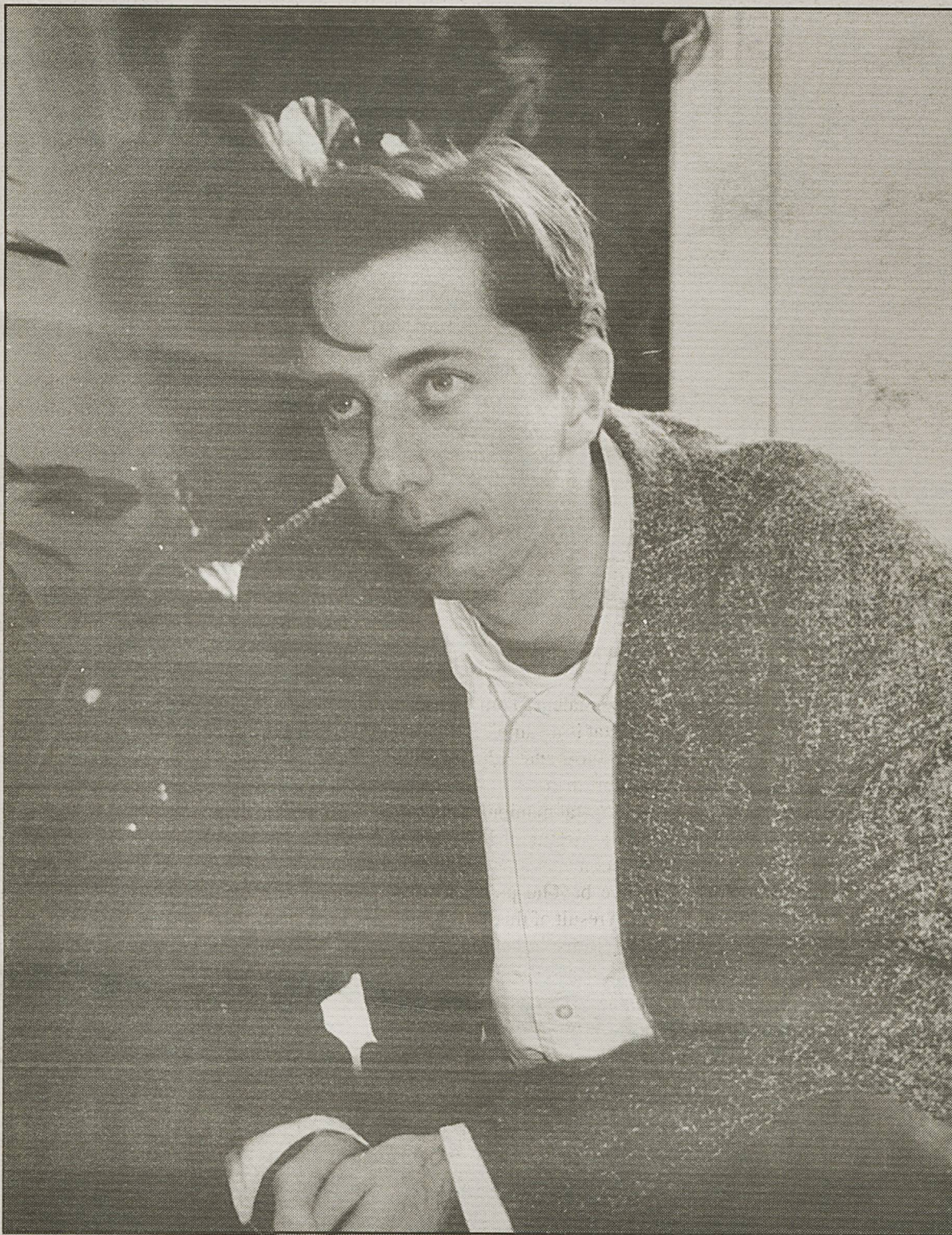


Photo: Pam Keenan

unsuccessfully to discover his – but Hartley claims that it applies on a personal level as well. "I don't want to become too professional. I don't want to make creative decisions too heavily influenced by ideas of professional standard. I don't want to have habits. In creative work, especially with a measure of success, you can get comfortable and you don't want that."

Taken as an ongoing examination of the established trinity of Hartley themes – faith, trust and love – *Amateur* is arguably the least oblique and certainly the most involving of his films. It's been called his most accessible work, but he disagrees. "It's a film that consciously doesn't provide easy access. Superficially, maybe it does. But I found it more difficult – that audience aspect of myself. It keeps you in the dark. It doesn't

provide you too much to establish empathy with the characters – which is as I thought it should be."

Amateur is Hartley's most poignant film. For the first time, he looks at human emotion relatively unhindered by attendant philosophical quips. The uncharacteristic departure works especially in the final scene. The

I'm interested particularly in me and women." Like the young unhappy kindred souls in *Trust*, or the ex-convict and the mechanic's daughter in *The Unbelievable Truth*, Isabelle and Thomas forge an uneasy, tenuous relationship. His protagonists spend more time philosophising about love than allowing themselves to be in

love. Hartley maintains that in a sense, there is an essential simplicity to his films. "They're just love stories. People tell me, if you

want to make a love story, then really make a love story, but we all know what that's like. People kissing and being wonderful and going for picnics. That happens, but there's all this other stuff too. Resentment, jealousy, fear of commitment. What most people think are love stories are stories about what everybody would like love to be. I think in

that sense, I'm just being realistic."

Amateur is a thriller. More precisely it's a thriller as you would expect Hartley to interpret if stripped down to basics and then reassembled in characteristic off-kilter fashion. "It's not so much a genre film as a film about genre films. I made a list of things you see in thrillers – car chases, people shooting at each other, people torturing each other." *Amateur* has all that, but all hopelessly, wonderfully displaced from familiar contexts.

It's part of the sense of absurdity that has come to be a Hartley hallmark. Realism just doesn't seem relevant in his films. "I want things to be suitably unrealistic. I have a deep distrust for easy empathy, for verisimilitude, because that's the first step towards too heavy a reliance on sentiment." His distinctive dialogue – quickfire, deadpan exchanges, quaintly formal phrasing – contributes to the non-naturalistic feel. Hartley's actors respond to his requirements accordingly. "The way I work with actors is very unsatisfying for them at the moment of the work because I don't let them emote. They're happy with the end result, but I guess it's not as fun as making movies that are more naturalistic."

Hartley's films incorporate ridiculously misplaced instances of physical violence. *Amateur* is his most overtly violent film. There's a scene in which a deranged accountant runs up and down a hill, in and out of the frame while pumping a round of bullets into someone. "I haven't seen such stylised and frankly unrealistic violence in movies in quite a while. And it's interesting that we are affected by that shoot-out on the hill. We gave very little energy to trying to make that look real. Nevertheless, it's effective. Representing violence is a kind of violence. We have the willingness to suspend disbelief. The reason it's there is because I'm uncomfortable with it. I wanted to address that somehow – to look at it. That's my job – to look at things."

His next project is *Flirt* – three shorts, shot in New York, Berlin and Tokyo. Each employs a different cast, but uses the same script with "lines shifted around". In the hands of a lesser and less individualistic talent, *Flirt* could so easily be pretentious hogwash, but Hartley's flawless record demands that we give him the benefit of the doubt. Hartley is that rare commodity – a film maker with a vision. That his vision should be so unique and intriguing makes him all the more special.

"I'm interested in men and women. I'm interested particularly in me and women."

last line was originally filmed as the ending for *Simple Men* but subsequently cut "I know a good line when I see it so I saved it. I think it works well here." He's right – it's his most moving moment yet.

As ever, Hartley works within the framework of a tentative love affair "I'm interested in men and women.

Sonia Kalsi watches a gothic tale, and below, Danny Silverstone on a re-release



Tom Cruise and Indra Ove

Photo: Warner Bros

Unholy alliances

Interview with the Vampire

Director: Neil Jordan

Warner West End, MGM Tottenham Court Road, Screen on the Green

Interview with the Vampire, based on the first novel of Anne Rice's acclaimed "Vampire Chronicles", is basically a film that cannot decide what it

wants to be. Horror? Fantasy? Comedy even? Well, Tom Cruise is in it so anything's possible.

The film, however, does have an interesting plot as it moves away from the usual vampire love story à la Francis Coppola's *Dracula*. Louis de Pointe du Lac (Brad Pitt) is a man suffering the loss of both a wife and daughter. As he wanders in despair he encounters Lestat, played by I-have-beautiful-teeth-and-a-cheeky-smile (but

no acting talent) Tom Cruise.

Lestat is a vampire, full of devious charm and a thirst for both blood and those who will succumb to his mental manipulation. Louis makes a bargain with Lestat - he will become a vampire so that he can live beyond pain and death. Yet the result of this Faustian bargaining is that he ends up paying a very high price - the loss of his humanity. This is the story that is reported to Malloy (Christian

Slater), thus forming *Interview with the Vampire*.

The acting is of a reasonable standard. Brad Pitt showed his character's suffering and torment in a fairly realistic manner, though only so much realism can be brought to such a story which is implausible in its very essence. Yet we do see the conflict experienced by Louis, first in becoming a vampire, then in having to succumb to drinking human blood, and finally to the realisation of all that he has lost.

Tom Cruise gives a dark and sinister portrayal of Lestat, much better than I had expected. For once, that too perfect grin was not to be seen. His character does, however, ultimately fall rather flat due to the rather weak ending of the film. The words anti-climax, clichéd and cop-out do spring to mind. After all the horror (yes, lots of blood) you can't help wondering, is that it?

In fact, the whole *Interview with the Vampire* concept is rather insubstantial because it seems almost an after-thought. The point of it is clearly that Louis wants people to learn from the mistakes he made, to realise that eternal life and youth is worth nothing without mortal thinking and passion. To be a true vampire is to feel nothing and therefore to be nothing. Yet the interview scenario seems to have no relevance to the film at all. It is as if it has been tacked on at the beginning and at the end of the main story, almost as an afterthought. The interviewer himself is rather redundant, his

only real role being to represent the modern world.

Despite all these flaws, *Interview with the Vampire* was actually a fairly enjoyable film. The story is both unsettling and elegant. It is disturbing in that it is told from the point of view of what we can only call in human terms "monsters", and that the audience does feel a certain degree of sympathy for them (or at least for Louis). The extensive use of blood is also rather unpleasant (the biting off of a rats head is a particularly memorable scene) but most probably necessary if we are to appreciate the true horror of the story.

Credit must go to the director, Neil Jordan, particularly as the filming took place in numerous cities - Paris and New Orleans to name but two. All the scenes are not only evocative of the places in which they are set but also of the several periods of history they represent, since Louis' story spans over 200 years. Oscars for best actor should not go to Brad Pitt or Tom Cruise. However, Kirsten Dunst tackled the challenge of portraying a child vampire growing up and thus developing into a woman in a child's body, with admirable ability.

In short, this film is definitely one to see if you like darkness, death and horror (?!). It's also quite amusing as the jokes, although possibly misplaced, are quite funny. Besides you have to watch it if anything but to see Tom Cruise wearing make-up. Not a pretty sight.

The long and the short of it

THE TIN DRUM

Director: Volker Schlöndorff

National Film Theatre, Everyman Cinema

The Tin Drum is an epic two hour version of the book of the same name by Gunter Grass. Unlike most adaptations, this film not only stands on its own as a cinematic masterpiece, but also contains a depth and level of complication one would normally only associate with the novel. *The Tin Drum* is a montage of realist observations, surreal imagery and magic. This approach imbibes an already complex narrative structure with several layers of meanings and significance which ultimately defies any single interpretation.

Superficially, the plot documents three generations of a Kashubian family's life in Danzig from 1899 to the end of the Second World War. Within this grand framework a melodrama works itself out incorporating every vicissitude of contemporary life. What ignites this dreary structure is the

emphatic high pitched narration by Oscar, a boy who deliberately stopped growing at age three. This idiosyncrasy is bolstered by his obsession with a tin drum also received at age three and an ability to smash glass with his high pitched scream.

Oscar, who finds genuine camaraderie with the circus midgets, is the source of most of the film's inspiration. The director admits that it "was the character of the boy, far more than the historical background that interested him." Volker Schlöndorff sees Oscar as a prophetic image of post 1968 youth, full of protest but unable to provide any potential for change. This interpretation seemed a bit obtuse to me, but David Bennet's unblemished face certainly creates a profound character out of this irascible, selfish boy who is a constant witness to the world's hypocrisy. Oscar is used throughout the film as a vehicle of subversion. As he imitates adulthood, having sex, and playing the father, the adults aspire to our expectations of dynamic people. Meanwhile everything is exposed as misguided; Oscar looks ridiculous doting on a boy his own size, while

his family's attempts at politics and Christian living are revealed to be as vain as they are futile.

The whole film is very reminiscent of Kieslowski's *Decalogue*. It is shot in the same grainy way and incorporates the

same vivid colouring. This complements the narrative well. Though *The Tin Drum* is a supremely evocative film, at times, cruel, repulsive and erotic, these potent emotions are never divorced from their mundane origin. This is

of great significance within Gunter Grass's overall argument. That the disasters of Nazism were not the product of a few demonic minds but rather created from the banality of middle class life aspiring to become something else.



David Bennet

Photo: BFI

SS I N G L E S

Criminals

Code

Stone Immaculate

I must admit I did like **Cities**, Codes' last single. As techno music goes it's one of the more listenable ones when you're not on hard drugs. This time round they've decided to include a voice with a slight element of success. I do believe I heard a guitar somewhere as well. Shame really, if they'd stuck to basics they might have achieved a better result.

Delicious

Shampoo

Parlophone

There isn't much to say about Shampoo that hasn't been said a thousand times except that I liked it even though I tried hard not to.

Inbetweener

Sleeper

Indolent

The music press are currently going apeshit over **Sleeper** and for once deservedly so. They're good, they're going to be big and fancy the lead singer very much even though she did look like a hog in last weeks **Melody Maker**.

Hello

State Of Grace

Stone Immaculate

I really don't know what to say about this, it's not that bad but it isn't very good. I think somewhere along the line they tried to portray the sound of lying back in a field basking in the hot summer sun. Sadly they also included the smell of cowshit you've just rested your head on and a big fuck off wasp in your beer.

Young Offenders Mum

Carter U.S.M

Bad Moon

Around about 200 years ago Carter were new and anarchaic, now it is 1995 and sounding shit is no longer anarchaic it is just bad manners. I didn't want to listen to their new stuff because I knew it would just frustrate me. Sometimes they come really close to a nice song then that bloody lead singer goes and opens his mouth and completely fucks the entire song. The rest of the time they had a shit song to start with, like this one. The D-side isn't that bad though, until, obviously, he starts singing. Their version of Shampoos' **Trouble** is also far better than the A-side. As is customary these days there is a tribute to Kurt called **Suicide Isn't Painless**. Sadly, neither was that song. Good intentions, but shite.

Something To Miss

Senseless Things

Epic

Senseless Things are one those bands like **These Animal Men** which you hear plenty about but you couldn't actually name one of their songs. Well now you can, and as the title suggests it isn't very memorable. Once again this week the B side outshone the main event.

New Generation

Suede

Nude

Whatever happened to good old **Suede**? In the old days you could depend on them to churn out really irritating records that only sounded good for 25 seconds. Now they've gone and produced a half decent album. I didn't think I could ever like **Suede**, actually I still don't, they're all c**ts and this single as well as the album must be a fluke. I mean, even his voice has stopped sounding like a donkey having a hand-shandy. The other A side and the C side **Together** and **Bentswood Boys** were written and recorded inside a day and although they're not good they still both sound a hell of a lot better than anything on their last album. Such a shame the "Talented" one left.

Conscious EP

Asian Dub Foundation

Nation Records

Wow! These guys have managed to get just about everything on this single that I loath about a lot of the music on the scene recently. It's all here - annoying crap drum programmes, someone rapping in a cockney accent, loads of processing of sounds and it's all going at about a million miles an hour. It stops and starts to give it dynamism and make you feel like it took longer to write than it does to play the CD, and of course to give you value for money because the next track is differrent in that the stops are in different places. In the words of the singer, "challengeder sistim and doze in command, express yer sewf" and if this is challenging and self expression at it's peak then I do believe wiping my arse has just become a major personal statement.

Never Again

Prophets Of Da City

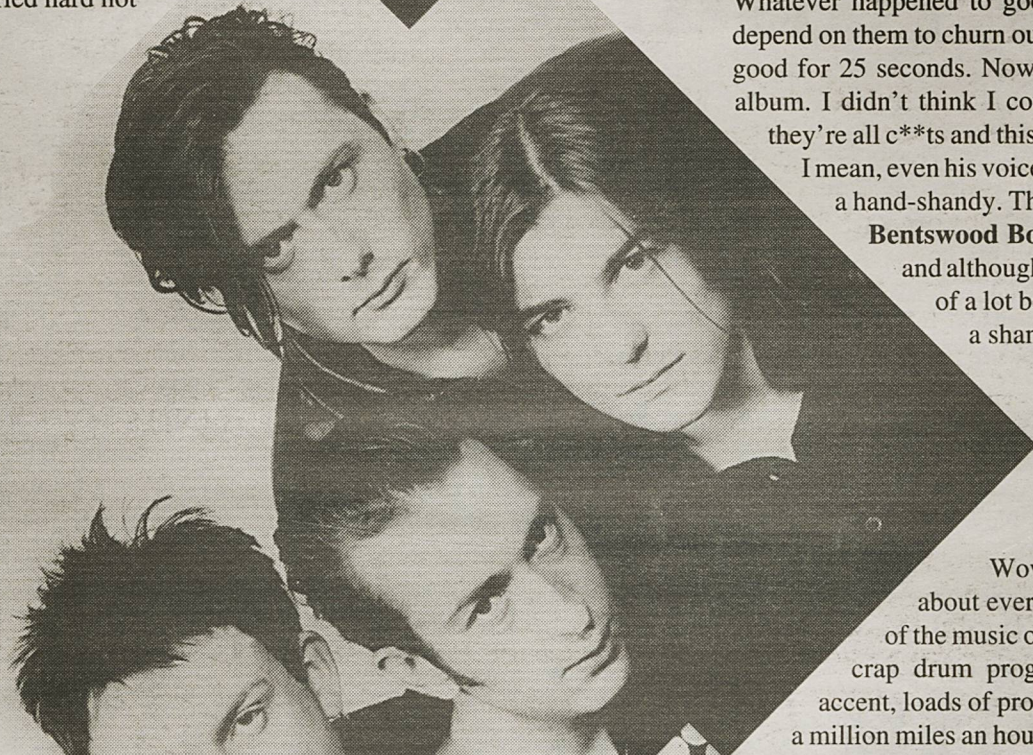
Nation Records

The most off-putting bit of this single is the cover, which is a kind of comic book scene depicting an alien type creature shooting himself, his blood and brains splurging freely over the top of a shot taken just after the famous one of the guy who set himself on fire - in this one he's being put out.

So what kind of music is it? Thrash?

Satanisthard rock? No, it's a mish mash of world (read Paul Simon-exploited African musicians) music, **Arrested Development** and **Ice Cube** samples that I really don't feel like listening to despite the fact that I don't actually dislike it and can't put my finger on why. As one second year law student commented, "I don't know."

A bit of a non-review for a bit of a non-single, really.



Societies Review

LSE CATHOLIC SOCIETY

Liberation Theology and Fr. Aristide
by **Ian Linden**,
Catholic Institute for International Relations

Wednesday, January 25 at 1pm
in the Chaplaincy (K51)

CAFOD Refugee Campaign
by **Patrick Creedon**, *CAFOD*

Wednesday, February 1 at 1pm
in the Chaplaincy (K51)

AIIESEC LSE

General meeting
on Monday, January 30 at 5pm in A144

Sign yourself onto an up-coming conference called
"Careers Express" which will be held on Saturday,
February 4

GLOBAL FESTIVAL

Important meeting!
Monday, January 23 at 3pm

To all societies involved: please come along with
definite plan for the week. To all volunteers: Come
and assign yourself a day and time of your choice.
Our success is in your hands

LSE JEWISH SOCIETY

Meetings every Tuesday at 1pm in H216

Speakers, music, food and lots of fun!
All welcome!

The war for peace

A talk by **Ehud Ya'ari**,
Israeli Middle East TV Correspondent and Associate
Editor of the "Jerusalem Report"

Wednesday, February 1 at 2pm
in the Graham Wallace Room
All welcome

LSE LAW SOCIETY

The annual solicitors evening

Monday, January 23, 6-9pm
in the Senior Common Room, Old Building

Tuesday, January 24, 1.30-2.30pm in A305
Principal Lecturer at the Inns School of Law,
Mr Telling, speaking about the
vocational aspect of the bar

LESBIAN AND GAY SOCIETY

Lesbian & Gay Parenting
Talk from *Parents Together*
Monday, January 23 at 6pm
in the Womens Room

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

**The Truth and False
Autobiographical Memory**
by **Professor Martin Conway**
Thursday, January 26 at 7pm in S318
Food and wine will be served

RAG SOCIETY

Meetings every Thursday at 5pm in E195

MAMBO JUMBO PARTY

Big bar subsidy
Latin American Dance competition - Great
prizes. Dress to pull.
Thursday, January 26 at 7pm in The Underground

Any society wanting to advertise in *The Beaver* should leave a
note in the 'What's On' tray in *The Beaver* Office (E197) addressed
to Valerie Handal or Priyanka Senadhira by 1pm on Wednesday
for the following week.

Public Lectures

Monday, January 23

**The Development
of International
Peacekeeping**
(in three lectures)
by **Dr Cedric Thornberry**,
Honorary Fellow of the
School, Former Assistant
Secretary-General
of the United Nations

5.30pm in the Old Theatre

Thursday, January 26

**What is the Philosophy of
Mathematics? What did
Frege Contribute?**
by **Michael Dummett**,
Emeritus Professor of
Logic, University of Oxford

5.30pm in the Old Theatre

Chair: Professor Nancy
Cartwright

AEROBICS

Monday: 6-7pm with KARL

Tuesday: 5-6pm with ELKE

Wednesday: 5-6pm with LINDA

Thursay: 5-6 pm with LUCY

Price: £1.50 per class

Venue: Badminton Court

ARE TERRIBLE PUNS MORE THAN YOU CAN BEAR?



WHAT YOU NEED IS THE CHUCKLE CLUB COMEDY CABARET SHOW

Which is in the LSE UNDERGROUND BAR every Saturday at 7.45pm

Admission is only £4 for Students or £6 for Others. Tickets on the door
Saturday January 28th

This years TIME OUT COMEDY AWARD WINNER **OWEN O'NEILL**

COMICAL ACCAPPELA FROM **DRAYLON UNDERGROUND**

BRILLIANT STAND-UP COMIC **STEWART LEE**

YOUR HOST **EUGENE CHEESE**

NAOMI ROSE DECLAN HILL

MASS DEBATE

Before making my weekly comments and observations I must take the liberty of answering the accusations that have been made against me in the light of my debut column. I am not "Toggle the Cat", I am not related to him in any way and as a Third-year Economics student I have no interest in the restructuring of the Law Library. In any case most Law students I know seem to prefer doing their "work" in the clearly more academic and intellectually-stimulating ambience of the Tuns.

Today's proceedings were groundbreaking in the extreme. After the cliquy and incestuous debates of previous meetings it was refreshing to see at least two new speakers grasping the er... nettle, for want of a better expression. Respect is due to all who continue this trend. The motion before us was "This House Believes That A Woman's Place Is In The Home". After just happening to see Elle "The Body" Macpherson autographing copies of her very serious and ungratuitous exercise video in HMV this seemed a little extreme. Much to my chagrin the proposition did not define "the home" as being a haven of supermodel salubrioness. Instead the speaker talked about the ideal low-profile and "mothering" role that should be the woman's "place" in society. In a triumph of style over substance the rest of his speech contained examples of what happens when women ignore their pre-ordained niche. Historical references to Boudicca and the Iron Lady could not, however hide a sexist philosophy against which that of HSH is positively liberal. The point about Margaret Thatcher was particularly unrealistic - having had the misfortune to see exclusive photos of the former PM minus wig and make-up I know of at least two men who would disagree with the assertion that she should have stayed at home... Denis?... Mark?

To my disappointment the speaker in opposition, a homely-looking kind of girl, did not launch into an anti-men tirade. Avoiding a battle of the sexes she instead brought reason into the discussion. Methodically and slowly she exposed her opponent, or rather his arguments. She rebutted his easy assumption of man's genetic superiority and reminded us that the male ability to chase after and catch antelope in primeval times is now irrelevant in a modern age of business, equal opportunity (and slow and friendly sheep? - Ed).

The second speaker for the proposition spoke earnestly about the obligation of commitment by women to their husbands, children and society as a whole. Unfortunately his powers of persuasion floundered a bit, as those of all first-timers do, on the subject of breasts, attempting to demonstrate I think, that women should keep them at home for fear of having them stolen by jealous and avid readers of Penthouse. It then fell to Tariq "Wonderful" Lewis to finalise the case for the opposition which he did in a manner that can only be described as seductive. In comparison to the way in which he won over the "laydeez" of the floor, Boyz II Men look just plain insincere. The debate was then opened to the House. The contribution of a mature student who is financially supported by his wife reiterated the view that the traditional role of breadwinner is no longer an exclusively male domain. The individual who I had felt it necessary to berate on matters sartorial last week (wanker Adam Morris) then stood up to give a series of "week" jokes which he nevertheless carried off rather better than his candy-striped shirt. The afore-mentioned garment worn, I believe, in a misguided effort to prove that he does have impeccable dress-sense really.

An on-the-whole entertaining session was closed by the news that the opposition had narrowly won by two votes.

Machiavelli

It's early days yet, but the rumours have started and the debates over succession to Sabbatical posts have begun. Welcome to the world of paranoia. I'm here to ensure everyone doesn't take all the election crap too seriously, after all there's only 50 grand of salaries riding on it. To do this I want to enlighten you as to those sad individuals who want to be Student Union sabbaticals.

General Secretary

A simple post, so a simple list:

Tom Smith

(Extremely new and totally different, nothing at all like the Tories, Labour party) 5 -1

Chris Parry

(Rosebery President and fully Independent, not a Tory honest!) 6 -1

Ron "4th. time lucky" Voce

(Independent shaggy from Scooby Doo) 8 -1

Phil Tod

(extremely exciting Liberal Democratic party) 15 -1

Baljit Mahal

(Peoples Popular Party) 30 -1.

Among the outsiders are:

Sean Gologolly

(Old man Goatee's club) 50 -1

Rumours also abound that Gary Delaney (If I can't find a better job why not do another sabbatical) at 30-1 could be the man, and finally

Angus Kinnear (The Serious candidates club) is at 100-1.

Finance & Services Officer

More complicated this one, with a history of outsiders winning. So first the present finance and services committees motley crew!

Claire Lawrie

(Scottish Blond Rainbow clothes Alliance) 5-1,

Paul Bates

(Labour Club mascot) 7-1

Nick Kirby

(x-DSG, x-Labour Club long haired demi-semi-socialist) 15-1.

Then the best of the rest, can anyone deny **Omar Sumro** (The nothing at all to do with Vini Ghatate party) 4-1, has a fair shot at the title.

However with the progression of this post over the last couple of years from **Lola** to **Ola**, it looks like **Three Tuns Nola** may be in with a shout at 20-1.

The bar also has a few other notables, **Marie Darvillian** (with it, up to date and on the ball people's party, allegedly) 10-1, and **Shamminey leather** (I care about the Union because I've been so active in it over my stay at LSE, honest!) 20-1.

Lest anyone forget old **Balj Mahal** may throw his hat in here with favourable odds of 300-1.

Equal Opps and Welfare

I quite like the idea of this post myself, so

with my mediterranean blood and political acumen I should easily make a great Equal Opportunities officer at 2-1.

Kate Hampton

(Care, care and care again collective) 6-1

Sorrel Osborne

(Conservative Misogynist womens' officers alliance) 10-1

Claire Jenning

(Short haired people's front of Judea) 12-1

Omar "The Union is my life, honest" Sumro 7-1.

Also perhaps this is the one for **Mr Mahal** at the generous odds of 1000-1.

Entertainments & Societies

The Chuckle Club's cast this year, includes: **Nick Fletcher** (Independently silly hair) 5-1, whose 4 years in Hall should ensure he knows enough people.

Darryl (I'm Rag Chair, but I'll be screwed if rag is crap) at 6-1. **Little Nav** and **Big Nav** are both mooted for this one so we'll give 'em joint odds of 10-1.

Rumours abound that **Martin Lewis** (I want to be here as long as Ron Voce) may fancy the job swap with Delaney at 12-1.

And of course last but without any question not least, don't rule out Mr. Communication **Baljit Mahal** at 100000-30.

That's all from me, remember if any of these people accost you, its probably only for a vote, and just like this years lot, once they're elected they'll all break those manifestos. See you in a few weeks time. And remember vote Machiavelli

Watch this space

As part from being good-looking, suave, and charming like myself, the only other way to successfully pull the birds is fame. No chance of that you may think, but Channel Four are creating a new programme called "Watch this space," which they hope will be like the "Word," but not shit. They are starting a nation-wide recruitment programme on Jan 23rd, and those wishing to have a go must send in a five minute promotional video of themselves. successful applicants must look horny, be cool, and have the ability to get on with people, which creates a bit of a problem as it rules out just about everybody who goes to the LSE. Also, Channel Four does not have a library with three million books in it, so it may not be the best lifestyle option for some of you out there. Even if you love yourself, you probably won't stand a chance, so Martin Lewis need not apply. Just in case you are deluded enough to think you fit the criteria though, further information can be obtained from Tanya Lake or Maxine Clarke at Red Rooster PR on 071 494 1383.



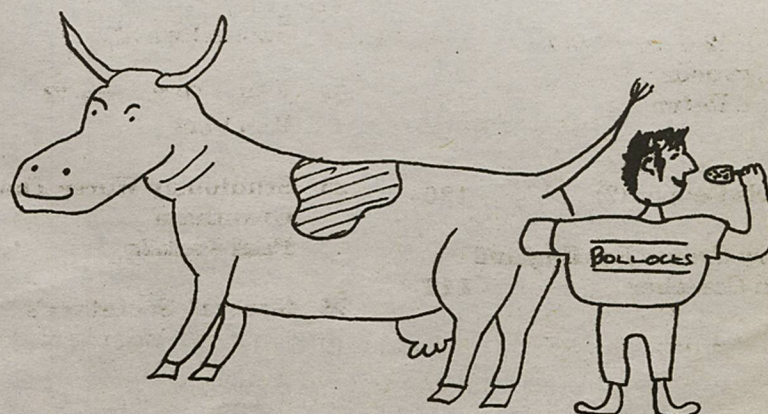
Position of the week:

The Walls Feast/ hand up a cows arse meal combination

Difficulty rating: I always find it best to inflate the wrapper first, as it can be tricky to remove during passion.

Remember: safe sex is the only sex - always check the cows orifice for sharp teeth or related objects, and don't forget: always use the Green Cross Code, 'coz I won't be there when you cross the road.

MG.



Squashing the Opposition

Ziyad badly beaten by bird

Ranjeev Bhatia

The LSE squash team have had a reasonably good season. The first team with Khahil, Ranjeev, Daryl and Ziyad were second in their division. The B.U.S.A match against Essex was close. Khahil, Ranjeev and Jay saved the day by winning their matches. The highlight was Ziyad's shameful humiliation at the hands of probably the only lady player on the whole of the circuit (What beaten by a bird -Eds). Ziyad must surely retire from the game now after this, especially as none of us like him and he smells. Daryl lived up to his reputation of pre-match confidence rather than on-court performance and had a truly horrific season. If he played Ziyad it would probably be a 0-0 draw, they're both that bad.

LSE will play Imperial on February 8 to move into the nations last sixteen. With the addition of Paolo who represented Brazil (Brazilian international my arse) in the World Championships, they hope to do well. Paolo won't be driving the minibus though,



Runners up in the Phil Tod look-a-like competition take defeat less than graciously Photo: Library

as he might go into a wall at 170mph.

The V's also excelled by topping their division and gained promotion. Saul, Klaus, Feiruz and Javier leading the side to the championship. The IIIs and the IVs both moved down a division, primarily due to lack of co-ordination and mobility rather

than lack of ability, although some of them are really piss-poor.

The Lent term provides the lower teams an opportunity to salvage their destroyed reputations and the others a chance to prove themselves yet again. Lets hope we make the most of the chance and KICK ASS!

Busy Beaver

Bonus Annus Novus pueros puellasque. Caecilius leonem gladio necit. It might be a New Year, but Busy Beaver has only just sobered up from the events of last term, and the memories are flooding back....

The AU barrel consisted of the usual drunken antics, although this time with the addition of two unemployable strippograms. The first to get his kit off was the big rugby boy Tim Surfer, although it seemed less of a tidal wave and more of a small pond ripple to the disappointed crowd. Continuing along this line, the next to be exposed was the Adonis-like (or should that be A Doner like?) Pissed Pooper, who brought back memories to the onlooking oriental students with his Sumo-like figure. The police arrived later to arrest the pair for indecent exposure, but instead were confronted with a crusty looking man in a hat, revealing himself to be Nathan Spock, whom they remembered from many years ago, when he began his degree with a fresh face and great hopes.

The Beaver Christmas party was completely ruined by the early appearance of a scruffy vagrant in an unwashed suit, who put off the punters by leering in the corner all night, gnarling the words "I'm the Editor" and "I love Sinéad".

The following night saw Peroxide Clare's 21st birthday party in The Underground. Those who scored later in Ronnie Scotts included the Sleaze, who for once managed to pull someone with more culture and class than him (although that's not too hard). Their next date was due to be a trip to the theatre, but she was stood up on the grounds of being half decent. Trees realised the error of his ways, and said afterwards "That's a bummer". We all know what he means! The birthday girl herself had her beer goggles in full effect, as she returned to Rosebery with her "honey bunny". This bunny doesn't eat lettuce, though, he eats pies.

Thursday night brought the Race Night and various other parties, and along with them some unlikely couples. Among those in the winners enclosure were Gary Delaney, who found it going hard to soft with Kate; and Muttley, who joined the feminist 'movement' with a chestnut filly. Later on, those lucky enough to find themselves back at Fat Elton's were betting on themselves with a feature length porno video. Coming first past the post was Gollogly, who shot out of the stalls and bolted the ten furlongs back to Rosebery.

The last Friday of term saw little action, particularly for Gen Sex, who in the words of Flares Lorry as she bobbed up from our intrepid reporter is now "just a very good friend". Together by the end of the week, we expect.

When term ended, the fires of love were burning strong for Nick Shandy and the lovely Molly. The Passfield video shop had rented out its copy of the "Lovers Guide" for the night, and according to the great man himself, he "did everything". This may sound sordid to everyone else, but for a man of Shandy's experience this could merely have meant a kiss on the lips (her mouth, of course).

The end of term celebrations however were overshadowed by the revelations that the Blobby Albino Lowen has finally graduated into the world of men, leaving Mr Whippy as the last of the Passfield virgins. Confidence is rife in the man, and he has obviously been taking notes from the Sleaze who, in less fortunate nights at Long Island attempted to pull Peroxide Clare in full view of the Pieman. It's a good job that she loves pies more than lies, or else Pooper might have had to resort to his old habits of redecorating the library toilets with his jiz in one of his infamous "Study breaks".

Speaking of breaks though, it's time for BB to leave you as the Tuns is beckoning. As we all know, that's where it's happening, so make sure you behave or you might live to regret it.



Fantasy Beaver Ball™



1 The Balkan Snipers Andreja Popov 177	15= Andre's Old Washing Steve Roy 114	28 Howard's Biftas Howard Wilkinson 83
2 Simon Gardiner Gets Off With Ugly Birds At Kings But Can't Get It Up Chris Cooper 167	15= I'm A Home-wrecking Bastard Dave Whippe 114	29 Hotter Than Satan's Bollocks Steve Quick 78
3 I Only Picked Cooper Because He Forced Me Clare Wilson 149	15= Assorted Football Players And Farmyard Animals Alun Howard 114	30 Los Teamos Carsten Thode 75
4 Sean's Sweaty Headband FC Sean Gollogly 147	18 Julia's Jazzy Jizm Jamboree Julia Mather 111	31= Jozza Johannes Hertz 65
5 Massage Minger Marie's Men Marie Darvill 142	19 Messrs Kinne are & Cooper - Wankers James Trees 110	31= Kettering Town FC Chris Tattersal 65
6= Macca's Magic Alex Mcleish 136	20 Warwickshire's Treble Warmongers Fat Elton James 108	33 Eat Them All Andreas Leoccis 61
6= Shandy's Chunders Nick Charalambous 136	21 Jimmy Trees Is A Tight Yorkshireman-Pay Up To Victorious Saunders Tim Payton 107	34 Greece Max Richter 54
8 Windmill Rashers Rashad Manna 135	22= Cooper Loves Slappers XI Alex Lowen 98	35 Beaver's Best Frederic Lam Cham Kee 53
9 Cooper Shags Birds With Teeth Missing Simon Gardiner 123	22= The 2:2's Justin Deaville 98	36 Burnley Belvedere (B) Mike Tattersal 32
10 I Pull 12 Year Olds At Hollywoods Grant Delea 121	24 A Sort Of Beaver XI Ron Voce 92	37 Josh's Wycombe Wanderers Josh Charlesworth 20
11 It's Goals Cooper Chris Cooper (2) 120	25 Studiously Worse Than Grantham Paul Jacklin 89	
12= Perry Groves For England Dan Coulcher 117	26 General Secretary's Assorted Rosebery And Cheap Players Martin Lewis 88	
12= The Winning Champions Takis 117	27 VFL Alfter Dirk Pagenstert 87	
14 Things Can Only Get Better Rovers Rikos Leong-Son 115		

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It's coming around to that time of year again when Harry begins to realise the purpose of being here and starts to take notice of mummy and daddy to get some work done. My 2.2 is slipping over the horizon and it should be time I pulled my finger out to claw it back. This means going to the library (that's the big brown thing behind the building with the computers in it for all you first years). The BLPES is reckoned to be the best of its kind in the world, and it's supposed to be the place where LSE's most beautiful women go (what, not the Tuns!), but that doesn't make it anymore interesting to be in. Studying is very, very boring but there are ways in which boredom can be alleviated. Jumping out of a third floor window is one option, although it has the disadvantage that death quite often ensues, but Harry knows plenty of other methods of making working just that little bit easier to stomach.

The first is one for all the early birds out there. Go in at about 9.30am for a couple of days and make a note of where everyone is sitting on the third floor. Choose the least likeable of the 'regulars' (normally the one with the laptop), and then on the next day get into the library at 9 on the dot and beat him to his seat, watching the tears well up when he realises that he is unable to occupy the seat which has moulded to the shape of his arse.

Along similar lines, take a stroll on the ground floor and stand behind someone using the LIBERTAS computers. Make a note of all the offprint numbers they have written down and get a team together. As they reach the queue, get in front of them and take out every copy of every offprint and wave them provocatively in front of the victim, before handing them back (late, of course).

The most popular of library games, however, has to be starting on people. It's a common fact that whenever anyone walks past, you will look up and see if it is someone you know who you can chat to instead of working. Therefore, when you walk past them, they will in all probability stare at you to see if they know you. Turn round to them, look them square in the eye and say, "What are you looking at?" Hopefully they won't outsmart you by saying "Don't know, it hasn't got a label on it" but instead will shit themselves and hide in their patterned jumper, knitted for them by granny. And it is often these very jumpers that cause the most offence. I know it is cold in winter, but that does not give anyone the excuse to wear clothes that look like Christmas trees or my telly when it's on the blink. This is University, not A Question Of Sport.

Whenever it all gets too much, you'd think there is always the option of having a little break sitting on the toilet, reading a paper or doing whatever springs to mind. Even then though, the LSE disease still shines through. Where I come from, toilet graffiti is something along the lines of "Man U are shit" and "I take it up the Gary-phone" but no, LSE has to be all political, doesn't it? Whilst the sentiments may be right, I hardly feel that "Give Cyprus back to Turkey" can be regarded as amusing toilet humour. There is a place for everything, and everything in its place, but I hardly feel the place for Politics is near me while I strain to shit out my Goat curry of the night before. Let's have a little less about SWSS and some more along the lines of "Joe Parfitt sucks cock-it's true, ask Chris Parry" as it brightens up everyone's day.

Quicky's on his way to Motspur Raj is on his way out

The Seconds defence of the London Cup finally got underway on Saturday at the third attempt, after the stalling tactics of those footballing titans, Royal Free 2nds, had finally been exhausted and the penalty of their unlucky draw was exacted with interest. A game of this magnitude required a full squad of level-headed players, but that would be too much to ask for after the previous night's escapades at The Tuns, LA2 and Plastic People. Graham Walker missed out on his comeback match after a night of failed chat-up lines, failed brawling and failed singing left him stranded in the room of two strange men with less than honourable intentions. Tim Ludford-Thomas also failed to show after being required as a last minute stand-in for Gary Wilmot in the production of Copacabana. Therefore we were only eleven in number, and this included potent striker Mburu Kierini and the skilful yet crap Raj Paranandi.

However, the romance of the cup brings out the best in the mighty Seconds, and from the whistle the powerful RFH side were overwhelmed by a bombardment from all angles. Within the first five minutes Raf's elusive run was ended by a crude challenge out on the left wing, fully 35 yards from goal. Surely no danger could come from that position, even with dead-ball specialist Cooper in the side? Guess again. A fearsome shell exploded from his left foot, reminiscent of Hagi against Columbia, and it nestled in the top corner, leaving the keeper powerless. Such was the fear instilled in their defence that when Cooper swung over a corner moments later with a swerve of Brazilian proportions, blind panic forced a defender to slice into his own net.

This opened the floodgates. Mburu almost scored, honest, and then another Cooper corner was flicked on by Dave Keane for Nick



"My ball" shouts the Keeper as no one else gets anywhere close to it

Photo: Library

Blunden to head home. Just before half-time Steve Curtis' cross was met by Steve Quick who turned and rifled home into the bottom corner. 4-0 at half-time, our guest from the University of Sainsburys was itching for a spell out of goal and the captain took over the yellow Fred Perry to grant him his wish. Menno made little impression, but the full-length save that Cooper pulled off instantly ranked him as LSE's number one goalkeeper (although that isn't really that hard, up against the competition of beards, fashion victims, jackanory fat men, no-teeth fat perm-heads and Dan Coulcher). There really is no end to his talents.

Meanwhile, the goals were still flowing. Blunden's corner was headed home by Keane, his first header of the season after a catalogue of near (open goal) misses. Blunden's assist capped a fine performance, and surely it is only lack of pace that prevents a regular first team place. Quicky completed the scoring with a fine finish from Raf's through ball. 6-0 at the final whistle was ample revenge for those cancellations and as the lads sat in the bath listening to Mburu putting his foot in it, thoughts turned to a cup final appearance at Motspur Park. UCL 3rds in the quarter-finals should be a straight-forward tie and from there a repeat of last year's triumph is looming on the horizon. Watch this space.

UCL feel the warmth of Rob's Bush But they only smell defeat

Wednesday saw the Fifths take on UCL 6ths in a top of the table clash which many reckoned would decide the destiny of the championship. After losing 4-2 to them earlier in the season, Graham Bell knew that team strengthening was the order of the day and brought in new blood to improve his chances. In came Nigel Price into the midfield to show a bit of 3rd team magic from the good old days before it was taken over by men who lie about pulling, while the cancellation of Berrylands matches meant that the Fifths were blessed with the skills of Goals Cooper down the left flank. A big pitch and a strong wind meant for a wide-open game and that's exactly what it was.

The first half was dominated by LSE's sumptuous midfield, with Price, Jamie Moses, Paul Jacklin and Jillur Rahman passing and moving with the style and grace of the Seconds, but

despite this dominance they only had a one goal lead, courtesy of a cool finish by Rob Bush after latching on to Nigel Price's chip forward.

Graham Bell inspired the side with a rousing team talk but was obviously not listening himself as he flicked on with consummate skill for their striker to equalize. Blunders from the skipper apart, the defence remained very solid. Chris Tattersall kept their big black striker in his pocket all game, while Elton James had a very impressive game raiding down the flank at right-back, with one goal-saving tackle in particular belying his lack of pace and obesity.

At one a-piece and facing a strong wind, it didn't look good for the Fifths, and it took a moment of magic to turn the match on its head. Chris Cooper picked the ball up deep inside his own half and went on a mazy run, taking him past four players, before freeing Moses down

the left. Continuing his run a la Stuart Pearce, he burst into the box, taking Moses' return ball into his stride, and blasted home first time into the bottom corner. This display of excellence killed off the plucky opposition and opened the way for more goals. Soon afterwards, Paul Jacklin's corner was volleyed home by Price, and then Rob Bush stole the ball from the last man, rounded the keeper and slotted home. Bush completed a deserved hat-trick when he ran on to Cooper's pass and beat the keeper at the second attempt.

5-1 at the end, Bell was delighted with the result which could well set them on the way to promotion. They may not be better than the Fourths, as was proved by the 2-0 cup defeat, but they would beat the Thirds judging by this showing. Mind you, the Joey Deacon X1 would probably beat the Thirds because they're shit.

LSE Cricket Club

Winter nets will take place every Tuesday from 8-9 pm
at Lords (nearest tube station St John's Wood - Zone 2)

Whites must be worn and AU cricket club membership is required.

All welcome and Chris Cooper is the best
batsman/wicket-keeper on this planet