



1895 - 1995

The BEAVER

The Newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union

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Just a little mistake ...



Steve Roy, Returning Officer, defending himself at last week's UGM

Photo: Hania Midura

Toby Krohn

The elections of the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) for the sabbatical and non-sabbatical posts reached a dramatic climax last Wednesday.

Urgent phone calls between candidates and those responsible for the correct procedure established the facts.

The list of those who had voted on Wednesday in front of the Old Building and in some of the halls had been lost. The papers went missing in a taxi, on its way from Rosebery to Carr-Saunders.

An emergency meeting of the Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) was called on Thursday morning, to find a solution for what looked like a serious election crisis. But as Returning Officer Steve Roy made clear, "There is no sign of an election crisis, we just extended the time in which voting can take place."

In an urgent electoral notice, new elections were called. Votes cast on Wednesday were declared void, and the time for voting was extended until Tuesday 11.45am-1.15pm in front of the Old Building, thereafter in the halls. The counting will thus be held on Wednesday at 10am for the non-sabbatical posts, and at 7pm for the sabbatical posts.

This decision came after some serious issues had been discussed. Under the 1994 Education Act, the LSE is legally obliged to ensure that "fair and proper" elections are held. Therefore a formal complaints procedure was started by SU-General Secretary Martin Lewis on behalf of the SU.

This led to the involvement of a Lay Governor and the School's Assistant Secretary, thereby securing the formal support of the School. A decision was reached by 11am on Thursday morning - the elections had to be reheld.

All possible efforts were taken to inform students. An hour after the decision was made, the incumbent sabbaticals went to the Students' Halls of Residence and distributed leaflets bearing the urgent message that the elections were to be reheld. Anybody using the School's computers would also find a message from the SU saying that they had to vote again. Furthermore, staff were contacted to spread the news in their lectures and classes.

In the UGM last Thursday, Returning Officer Steve Roy had to explain this 'incident'. He said that it was solely due to his "incompetence" and that "strenuous efforts were made to recover the list, including calls on national radio". Roy offered his resignation, but it was not accepted.

The efforts to resolve the crisis appear successful. By 6.30pm on Thursday, shortly before the ballot closed, more than 1000 students had voted. Most of them did not understand how this, as Martin Lewis called it, "accident" had happened. Some felt sorry for the candidates and the Returning Officer, others thought it was outrageous.

Most of the candidates were more relaxed. They seemed glad there was a ban on the distribution of literature from Thursday to Monday and agreed that it had been an "unfortunate event". As Steve Roy put it, "The most important thing to do now is to vote!"

Thief caught strolling away with it

Helena McLeod
News Editor

On February 24 approximately 9.15pm, Charing Cross police apprehended a thief walking down Kingsway. The gentleman, who is not from the School, was caught red handed carrying a printer he had taken from the St Clements building.

The man is, according to Harry Edwards, the School Facilities Manager, is known to the police and is currently being questioned in relation to other thefts that have taken place in the School.

So far the accused has admitted to several other thefts from the School.

Asked whether thefts were a serious problem for the LSE Mr Edwards replied that "all colleges with open exits suffer alot."

This theft is the most recent in a long line. Last summer a total of four laptops, two desktop computers and a laser printer, valued in total at several thousand pounds went missing. With each new theft the schools facilities are increasingly stretched to meet the needs of students.

At present security porters are on duty until 9.30pm, when the night security take over. As George Burman, the

Head Porter pointed out, the thief could have escaped from one of many exits, not all of which are guarded.

Asked what efforts are being made to improve security Mr Edwards responded that ongoing plans, which he preferred not to comment on, were being implemented.

He appealed to all students to keep their eyes open. Everyone should be aware of security, he said and urged anyone who sees an incident to dial 666, the School's emergency number.

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All you ever wanted to know about Tarantino films

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Harry and BB and all the rest

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Labour on the media

Oliver Adelman

A panel of four leading left-wing media and political figures was convened at the School last week for a discussion of Labour and the Media.

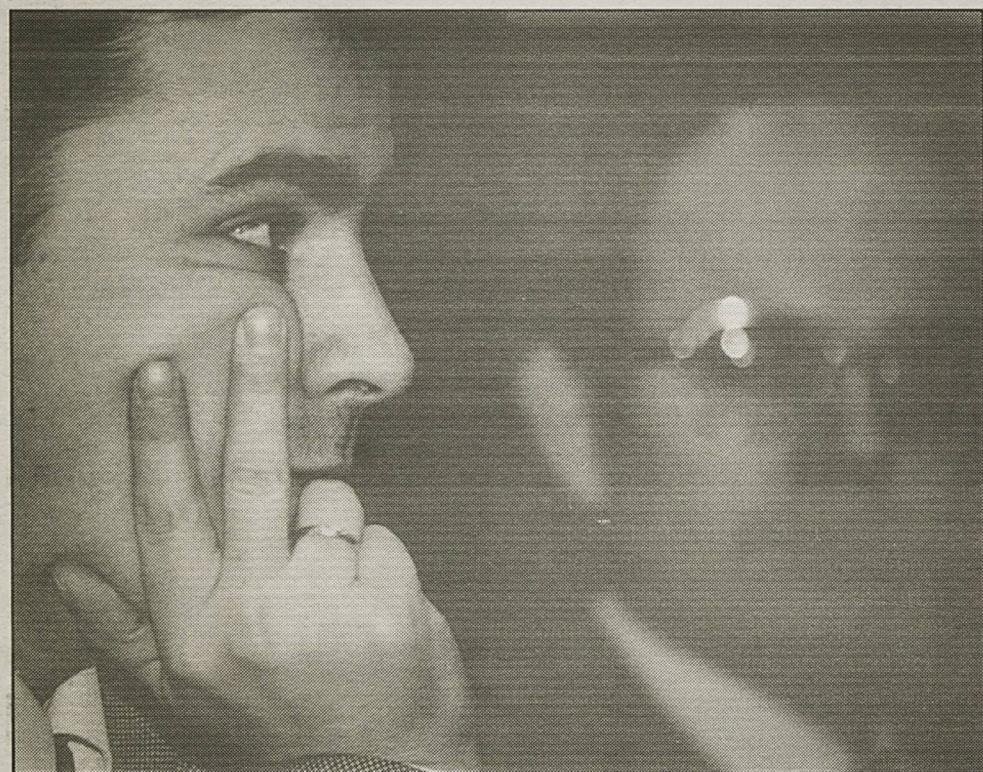
Mark Seddon, editor of the Labour Party newspaper *Tribune*, Chris Mullen, MP for Sunderland South, Michael White, political editor of *The Guardian*, and Austin Mitchell, MP for Grimsby, all participated in the hour-long discussion.

Austin Mitchell, in a multi-coloured Rolling Stones tie, noted early in the discussion that the 1990 Broadcasting Act had created a number of media monopolies and reduced the amount of regional programmes being

produced in the country. He also highlighted the fact that 36-40% of British national newspaper ownership is held by Rupert Murdoch's News International Corporation, whose titles include *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *Today*.

With regard to the recent libel action brought against *The Sunday Times* by Michael Foot, the former leader of the Labour Party, Seddon, made clear his belief that both *Tribune* and Foot had been wronged.

Finally, Michael White noted that there was "a lot more current affairs programming" than there used to be because "it is cheap to make," but that there was a "lack of quality and diversity" in this programming.



Mark Seddon, editor of *Tribune* and Chris Mullen MP at the School last week

Photo: Stephen Hau

Schapiro v Hood [1995]

Duncan McGrath

Following in the footsteps of Karl Marx, Margaret Thatcher and Christopher Columbus, Robin Hood duly made his way to the dock of the Schapiro Club on Thursday, February 23.

Hood, played by John Gillingham, a Senior Lecturer in the School's International History Department, was the latest defendant called to account by the student society of the Government Department.

Dr Rodney Barker, academic advisor to the Club, presided over what became an awkward set of proceedings. In response to the charge that he had obstructed the creation and proliferation of wealth, the outlaw refused to plea as he would not accept the court's authority.

David Willetts, the right-wing MP, acting for the prosecution, put it to Mr Hood that he was little more than a thief who had failed to make it into high culture. There was no great novel about him. As such he was a "man in limbo" and nothing more than a "teenage fantasy".

The stealing of property was theft where there existed a legal structure within which legitimate economic activity could be pursued, said Willetts. He was adamant

that were Mr Hood to have attained middle age, he would have possessed both property and children.

Tim Craddock, a trade union representative, responded to these allegations on behalf of Mr Hood by insisting that he was "feared by the bad, loved by the good". He simply took from the exploiters and gave to the exploited. Were the Sheriff compliant, he would have opened a corner shop in Nottingham.

The fundamental problem remained that there were "too many Florence Nightingales, not enough Robin Hoods" according to Craddock. All that Mr Hood did was respond to the first words of every infant, "it's not fair". As such, Robin was the greatest of all Englishmen.

Upon cross-examination, Mr Hood said his only crime was to have made a stand against bullying. He was good for small businesses as the 'borrowed' products were all sold, albeit at a cheap rate. Everyone around him could afford all the wine, beer, and clothes that they wished. He had, he said, put the 'feelgood' factor back into the local economy.

Faced with such arguments the jury sided with the outlaw who was acquitted by Dr Barker.

Jerry Hayes MP stays defensive

Beaver Staff

Kidnapped on his first attempt and misplaced on his second, the Conservatives were relieved that Jerry Hayes MP materialised at 1 pm in the correct place last Wednesday.

Eager to dismiss the idea that as a Christian and a Conservative he should give up hope for Lent, the Member for Harlow adopted a defensive posture on anything of recent value.

The framework document on Northern Ireland was seen by Mr Hayes as a point of departure and as a "balanced account of the

real issues". The people, he said, cherished the sense of peace and normality. The recent events were not vote winners as people on the mainland were more interested in the plight of calves than in finding solutions to the troubles. But a solution was an obligation that had to be fulfilled to those who wished to remain part of the UK.

The Member of Parliament insisted that a responsible government could not ignore Europe. Economic union made sense provided the foundations were present. However, the issue of a coordinated foreign policy and a combined military force presented difficulties with no obvious answer.

Similarly awkward to comprehend was where to go next with education. A retreat to the position of the 1970s would cost £7.44 billion. Asked by *The Beaver* if the Conservatives hadn't placed themselves in a dilemma by creating expectations of higher education but not providing the means to sustain them, Mr Hayes accepted that this was certainly the case. Again, there was no obvious solution, but advice would be welcomed.

Owners of Economists' Bookshop go bust

Beaver Staff

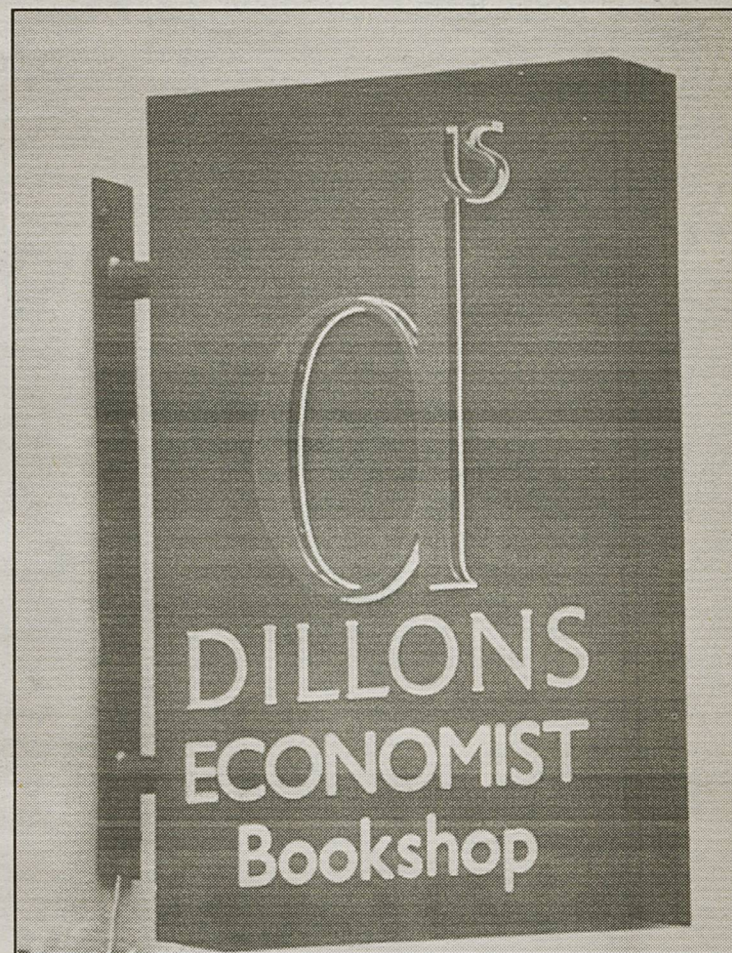
The future of the Economists' Bookshop lay in the balance last week following the collapse of its parent company Pentos.

Although the site of the bookshop is owned by the School, it is leased to the company. Pentos, the second largest bookshop in the country, has faced financial difficulties for some time, and was forced to call in the receivers KPMG after talks with its banks to secure additional funding failed.

The Dillons chain, which has stores in 24 universities including the School, was sold late last week to the music and rental giant Thorn EMI for £36 million.

Thorn, owners of the record store HMV, have assured employees of the bookshop that they will not face redun-

dancy. Sir Colin Southgate, Chairman of Thorn EMI said the company looked forward to "building this business into the preeminent specialist book retailer in the British Isles".



Economists' Bookshop in Houghton Street

Photo: Steven Hau

News in brief

LSE Students' Union will soon rent out IBM-compatible laptops.

The computers, for hire at a rate of £5.95 for a period of 24 hours, will be available from SU reception.

Initially, there will be only three laptops for hire, although if the trial phase proves successful, the SU will consider investing in a wide range of computer equipment to be rented from the SU shop.

The 1895 Group, the student support body of the LSE Foundation, will be holding a recruitment evening in the Vera Anstey Room on Thursday March 9.

Any students interested in joining the Group, which assists in fundraising for the School, should contact Emma Caseley in the Foundation Office (x7361) or attend the meeting at 6pm

Beckett blasts Tories

Oliver Adelman

Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary and former deputy leader of the Labour Party during the brief interlude following John Smith's death, spoke to a crowded New Theatre last week.

Diverting widely from the announced topic "is the Labour Party ready to govern?" Beckett spoke instead on "what is happening to Britain at the present time and what is the current Government doing about it?"

Saying that the present Conservative Government is "working toward the destruction of the welfare state as we know it," Beckett cited the example of nursing care for the elderly. In the last fifteen years during which the Conservatives have been in power, she claimed that such nursing care has gone from being largely provided by the National Health Service (NHS) to being supplied almost exclusively by private interests.

"If a health care trust wants to get funding today, it almost inevitably must apply to the private sector," Beckett said.



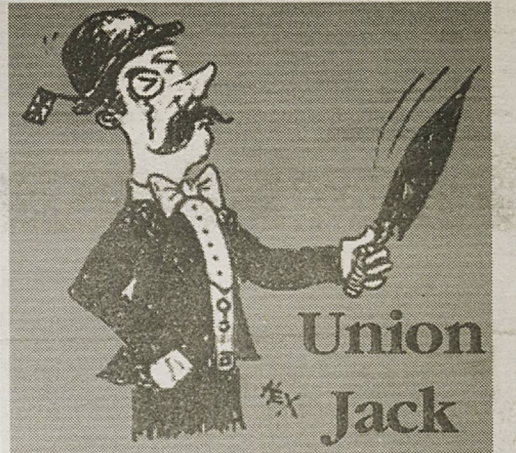
Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP

Photo: Hania Midura

Declaring that she has "never, ever known the Labour Party, and the Labour movement as a whole, so united," Beckett affirmed that the party is "definitely ready for government and power."

She described the current Tory Government's health care policies as "madness of

the highest order," and warned that "unless we remove from office the Government there now, then five or ten years down the road people will be saying: how did we get here?" - a reference to a Britain that Beckett predicted will be entirely unrecognizable to its inhabitants today.



Jack is unable to mention the names of any of the candidates in the elections in her musings this week, because of a bizarre and unexplained mystery taxi, which may or may not have been driven by a Brummie, driving off with the ballot lists. Nothing much happened in the UGM anyway, with the exception of a foul-mouthed motion concerning swearing, which Jack thought was fucking well out of order. Jack is therefore unable to mention the Chair of the UGM, the General Secretary of the Union or the Exec's very own part-time accomodation expert. However, in accordance with the constitutional election rules which have caused so much heartache, confusion and amusement this year, Jack is able to quote to you the following (slightly censored) conversation she overheard in Houghton Street last Thursday....

What *****

***** everybody *****

***** has *****
***** to ***** (realise *****
*****) *****
***** "*****"
***** "*****"
***** is *****
***** despite *****
***** whatever *****
***** clever. ***** or *****
***** amusing *****
***** slogans *****
***** or *****
***** bizarre *****
***** illegal *****
***** garments ***** you *****
***** choose *****
***** to *****
***** use *****
***** in ***** your ***** campaign *****
***** nobody *****
***** except *****
***** Bernardo *****
***** Duggan *****
***** and ***** a *****
***** mad *****
***** Brummie *****
***** taxi ***** driver *****
***** give *****
***** a *****
***** fuck *****
***** about *****
***** the ***** elections.

Future welfare state debated



Geoff Mulgan, Director of Demos and the Labour MP Donald Dewar discuss the future of the welfare state
Photo: Stephen Hau

Imogen Shillito
Toby Childs

LSE Demos hosted a stimulating discussion on the future of the Welfare State last week.

On the panel were Andrew Dilnot, Director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, Geoff Mulgan, Director of the think-tank Demos, the LSE's Kenneth Minogue and Donald Dewar MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security.

Professor Minogue pointed out his lack of economic knowledge but argued the traditional New Right approach, singling out the disincentive to work and social problems which a welfare state 'invariably' creates.

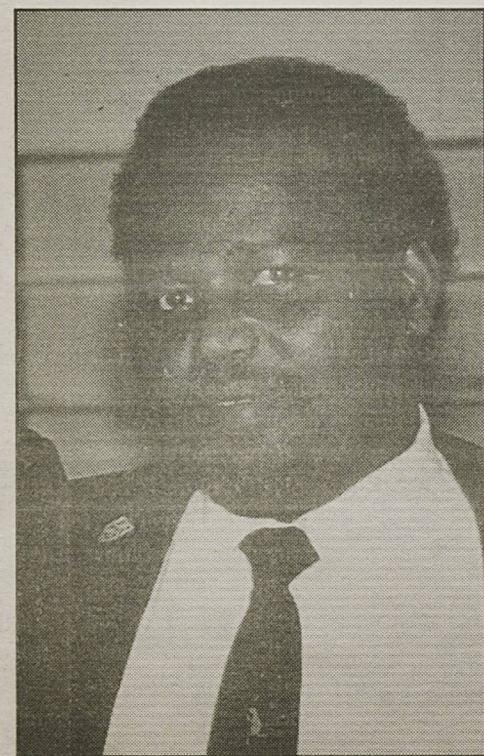
Dewar provided an opposing viewpoint - defending the notion and structure of the present system, but refusing to give any details of Labour's future plan of action. He reflected the unanimous concern of the panel - that any future government would be strait-jacketed by the state of the economy. Financial pressures would rule out radical change and until alteration were possible the welfare state would lumber on in the present form.

There was substantial agreement on the importance of maintained spending on health and education, areas in which even Minogue agreed the market was unable to fulfil in a satisfactory manner.

Answering questions on the potential for voluntary and corporate donations to a welfare state, Dewar stated that it would be unrealistic to depend on these contributions, which make up less than 1% of total welfare income.

Professor Minogue stated his belief that tax cuts would lead to an increase in voluntary contributions and the sense of community, although empirical evidence did not bear this out.

There was agreement that the welfare state would require a substantial overhaul in the future, as present welfare spending would become unsustainable. In the forthcoming years workers will be facing ever increasing tax bills to fund the care of their parents, a future "parent support agency" could be hounding earners for their incomes soon.



Marcel Harding

Helena McLeod

The School received some sad news last week with the death of Marcel Harding. He had served as a porter with the School since October 1972, and was the number one man in the School's cricket team.

Harding, who died of blood related cancer, leaves behind a brother and sister in Barbados.

Fred Gilbert, Foreman Porter at the School and colleague of Marcel for eighteen years described him as a diamond guy. Marcel was a popular character, respected throughout the School community.

The Beaver sends its condolences to his family.

Womens group survey

Is Feminism alive and well at the LSE?

The Womens group investigates

With International Women's Day on the horizon and attendance at Women's group meetings down to a hard core of enthusiasts, the Women's group decided to carry out a rough and ready survey of students opinions on women's issues and feminism. In the age of anti political correctness was anyone out there still interested? 40 students around the vicinity of Houghton Street were interviewed and the results are shown in the table.

A few of our questions allowed for a more detailed response:

Feminism:

Surprisingly feminists were not characterised in uniformly derogatory terms! (Yes, perhaps a biased sample). Gone from the lingo is the bra-burning, hairy legged Amazon, castrating, communist, marxist, separatist female/lesbian skinhead image it seems. In fact 63% of women and 31% of men were prepared to describe themselves as feminists. Levels of awareness ranged from the clueless, "tell me what feminism is and I'll tell you if I agree with it" to the penetrating "feminism goes to the very heart of where we are now." In general feminism was still associated with a strident and activist stance on women's issues and although a few did characterise feminists as man haters and separatists, the vast majority saw feminism as a struggle for equality, gender neutrality, and empowerment. Women in particular, were eager to portray the F word in non-threatening terms, "a feminist is interested in women's issues; in making sure that women get an equal chance. It is not about putting men down." Despite this feeling, many men who might have agreed with the definition seemed rather tentative about associating themselves too closely with the feminist label, one saying "it is just not possible for a man!"

Equal Opportunities:

The equal opportunities issues drew a stronger response: 95% of women and 77%

Affirmative responses to statements about women's issues:

Issue	Affirmative response	
	Women	Men
Women have problems at college	42%	52%
Experience of sexual harassment	26%	11%
Knew the complaints procedure for SH	31%	23%
Have personal safety problems	21%	11%
Have access to contraception	100%	100%
Know of the women's group	84%	88%
Interested in women's issues	84%	64%
Men and women have an equal chance in life	5%	23%
Feminist	63%	30%
International Women's Day is March 8	21%	6%

Table showing survey results

of men thought that women did not have an equal chance to participate in all walks of life. This was attributed to discrimination at work, old boy networks, stereotyping, unequal pay and male dominated culture. There was a feeling that "men have traditionally held a position of power and will do anything to hold on to it. The patriarchal system persists into the work place." But blank amazement characterised the faces of a few interviewees, as if to say: "unequal, how?" And one person said, "some would say that women do not have an equal chance but we have just had a female Prime Minister."

Women's issues:

There was a healthy level of interest in women's issues from both sexes: women 84% and men 64%. When asked exactly what women's issues they were interested in, work place problems cropped up again and again. Gone is the obsession with sexual politics evident in the 60s and 70s. It has been replaced by an obsession with work culture. Now there is a focus by both men and women on discrimination in the work place and sexual harassment. Women also

mentioned sex crime, and reproductive rights. However, when asked what issue people felt most passionately about, there was a clear gender divide: only women mentioned women's issues and unfortunately they were not high on the general agenda. Both sexes cited a wide spread of other issues - many mentioning poverty, human rights, environment, anti-racism, "whether arsenal wins the league!" (hmmn).

Women's issues at college:

When asked whether women faced particular problems at college 42% of women and 52% of men believed that they did. Problems that were cited were: sexism by both teachers and students, sexual harassment, male domination in class and the failure to take women students seriously. Rather alarmingly, despite the occurrence of sexual harassment, few knew the complaints procedure. Some men and women commented on the "maleness" of the LSE both "in the bar and in the classroom". One man said "the LSE is very male dominated. I don't have a female teacher.. it's not like in the USA or Canada where women are striv-

ing for and demanding equality."

Feminism: Alive and kicking?

Feminism is definitely alive but veering strongly away from its radical anti-man image to the point where some men are tentatively moving towards it. At the LSE, the F word stands for the struggle to achieve equality for women in a male dominated world. But although there appears to be a strong interest in women's issues particularly among women, activism is shunned.

This shying away from action is worrying. The feminist struggle is as relevant today as it ever was and is relevant to anyone, be they a man or a woman, concerned with inequality. Feminism is alive but it needs to do some kicking. How can we sit back on our laurels? In this country women are still concentrated in the lowest paid jobs and are in the minority at top levels of professions. In 1992 there were 2 female high court judges, 10 female surgeons and currently only 9% of top civil servants are women. Women are few and far between in public life and account for only 9% of MPs. Women still perform 70% of domestic chores and have massive caring responsibilities. They are subjected to domestic violence and other sexual crime.

Even college life is male dominated, both in its staff and student body. Only 42% of students are women and there is scope for change. The lack of action around sexual harassment is a case in point.

Feminism is the struggle to reverse the unequal position of women and it is a fight that is open to all. For it to be truly alive we have to be active and supportive, being passively interested is not enough. You don't have to wear a bra to participate and you don't have to burn one either. On March the 8th the Women's struggle is celebrated around the world, isn't it time you got involved?

The women's group meets at 1pm Tuesday lunchtimes in the Women's Room. It is open to both men and women.

Applications for Halls of Residence

For the academic year '95-'96 are now open. Collect your forms from the Accommodation Office, E294 (ext.7531). Deadline March 31

The Double Six Club

Underground Bar
Every Thursday
7 Till 11

Kerplunk*Operation*Buckeroo*Mousetrap*All the greats*40 games to choose from

Free Admission

Winner of Time out Club of the Year
1994

The one
and only
Time Out
K-Cider
Quiz
Thursday
March 16
in the Tuns

London
Nightline
6pm to 8am
Confidential help and
information for students
0171 436 5561

Jobs,
jobs,
jobs
and
more
jobs

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

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

NatWest invests in Student Centre

At a time when the government is cutting grants for post-graduates and freezing those of undergraduates, it is refreshing to find that there are those who believe investing in the academic community is worthwhile. This is currently the case with the NatWest who have recently announced dramatic plans for their Aldwych branch located on campus at the LSE. The NatWest branch located on the corner of the Aldwych and Houghton Street is to be renovated to incorporate a 'Student Centre' within a modernised branch. The Aldwych site is to be transformed from the "typical" banking hall we see today to a purpose-designed outlet with greatly increased customer space (as a result of removing all cheque clearance and paperwork from the branch), private interview areas, comfortable seating and more convenient internal cash machines for those in a hurry (plus an extra Self-Service machine external to the branch). This physical transformation will be matched with a change in staffing structures which will allow all eighteen staff located at the branch to be entirely "customer focused" with all administration carried out at another site.

The massive changes intended for the site, means that the Aldwych branch is to close as of 3.30pm on Friday, March 17 for renovation work to commence. The work has been timed to coincide with the Easter break to reduce disruption to a minimum.

Contingency

Whilst renovation work is being carried out, usual banking services will be available at the Bush House branch which is located five minutes walk from the LSE on Kingsway. Extra staff are to be

assigned to the branch during temporary relocation, to introduce students to the branch and smooth out any problems that customers may have. All the facilities of the Aldwych branch are available at Bush House including Self-Service machines. The machine in Houghton Street however will remain open throughout the renovation period. Monica Grehan, Student Liaison Manager at the Aldwych branch has said of the move: "Every possible step has been taken to ensure that the renovation of the Aldwych branch will cause as little inconvenience as possible. I think our customers will find an extremely good level of service at our Bush House branch, apart from having slightly

with Bush House. Whilst retaining the Aldwych name and location, the sorting code is to change. This will not affect customers greatly as all account numbers are to remain the same and electronic payments will be re-directed to the new sorting code automatically. The changes do require ALL SWITCH AND SERVICE TILL CARDS TO BE RE-ALLOCATED with the new sorting code details. MASTERCARD, ACCESS AND VISA CARDS DO NOT NEED TO BE RE-ALLOCATED. All new Switch and Service Till cards will be available for collection from Bush House from March 22. There will be a separate counter allocated specifically for the collection of new cards so the

come to the branch to collect their new cards and cheque books."

New management

As part of the changes taking place Derek Mitchem, the senior manager at Aldwych is moving on. Replacing him is Tim Carroll, a former assistant manager at the branch. Of the move Tim commented "As a former assistant manager at the Aldwych I hope that I understand the needs of students at the LSE. And I am certain that the new Student Centre will provide for all of those needs. We have



Photo: Scott Wayne

ing in the Student Centre to maintain the personal touch.

NatWest services

During the renovation period Bush House will continue to offer the services previously provided at the Aldwych site. These include the provision of Mastercard, Access and Visa cards, holiday insurance and a competitive Bureau de Change. The NatWest continues to offer undergraduates an overdraft of up to £400 interest free, by arrangement.

Graduates

For those students due to graduate this summer, Bob Crowther, the NatWest Graduate Account Manager is the man to see. Although based at the Charing Cross Business Centre, you can make an appointment to see him at Bush House. Bob is the man to talk to about NatWest graduate loans

and to help you deal with any debt accrued or to finance your final fling around the world before settling into the steady world of work. To make an appointment to see Bob Crowther or to gain anymore information simply call into the NatWest.



The face of things to come - a fresh style for the NatWest Aldwych

Photo: Scott Wayne

further to walk to reach the bank. And of course, in the longer run, once Aldwych branch has been renovated, our dedicated student service for the LSE will be second to none."

Plastic cards

As part of the changes occurring, Aldwych Branch is to merge

process should take little time for the customer. All customers who have not received new plastic cards and cheque books through the post, are asked to go along to the Bush House branch after March 22 with their old card and some form of identification (e.g. LSE ID) to collect their new cards and cheque books. Plastic cards with the old account details will only be valid for use for two months after the Aldwych branch closes.

Speaking of the reallocation, Gary May, Customer Service Manager, said: "We face the challenging task of reallocating over 4000 cheque books and plastic cards. We have allocated extra staff to help with this process, so that inconvenience to customers will be reduced to a minimum. We have also arranged for the old cards to be valid for two months after the merger rather than the usual one month to account for students being away from London over the Easter break and being unable to

an exciting new approach to banking that we believe will compliment the academic environment at the LSE. It should be pointed out though, that while structurally we are revamped, many of the familiar faces of the Aldwych branch will be work-

NatWest - Aldwych will be closed for refurbishment from:
3.30pm, March 17, 1995 - June 12, 1995
while Bush House will be available as your temporary
NatWest branch

With effect from March 20, 1995 all correspondence should be directed to:

NatWest Bank
PO Box 221
Connaught House
65 Aldwych
LONDON
WC2B 4EJ

Telephone: 0171 780 7916
Fax: 0171 780 7732



Bob Crowther, Tim Carroll, Monica Grehan, Gary May

Photo: Scott Wayne

Cards are issued subject to status and conditions. Credit is available only to persons aged 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions. Security may be required in support of loans and overdrafts. Written quotations are available on request from Customer Services, National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP or from any branch.

Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it.

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Criticism and concern over cyberporn coverage

Dear *Beaver*

I am writing in response to Helena Mcleod's article "Cyberporn discovery" in the 27 February *Beaver*. This story is riddled with misleading and outright false information, some of which could potentially be grounds for a libel suit. *The Beaver* should be ashamed for printing such a sensationalistic and poorly researched piece. Here are some of the most serious problems in order of appearance:

First, the fact that students can access written and pictorial pornography through the Internet is hardly an impressive "discovery"; as long as there has been Internet services at LSE, any user with even a limited knowledge of the net, much less an expert, could probably find pornography if they wanted it. The fact that pornography can be obtained and viewed on most of the school's computers is no more shocking than facts such as that pornography can be bought from virtually any newsagent and that e-mail can be sent and received from most of the school's computers.

Second, despite the article's claim that "[s]tudents at the LSE" have been found accessing hard core pornography on the computer network, no evidence is offered other than the picture obtained by *The Beaver*. And even if they are, so what? As long as they are not interfering with the ability of other students to perform academic work, why shouldn't the (supposedly) mature students at LSE be able to use their access to the Internet as they wish? (It is true that there have been efforts in the UK to adopt laws that would make the transmission of pornography on

the Internet a crime. However, the exact applicability of such legislation is still unknown; further, since they weren't even mentioned in the article, I can only assume that *The Beaver* is unaware of them and its concern about pornography is puritanical, not legal.)

Third, *The Beaver* claims that an American student was last week put on trial for putting accounts of how he tortured and raped Pamela, a classmate, on the Internet. This is a grossly distorted account of events that quite likely would give Baker decent grounds for a libel case against *The Beaver*. Baker was not last week put on trial but indicted by a grand jury; he will not be on trial for posting the account but for a general pattern of harassment against his classmate; and he did not actually torture and rape her but wrote of his desire to do so.

Fourth, *The Beaver* quotes "expert on the Internet" Steve Roy as saying that "[m]ore than two million Internet addresses exist; we don't know how deep and depraved the porn gets. From a technical standpoint, no one knows for sure how many computers are on the Internet: two million would be a low guess, but any such figure obscures the fact that there are probably about 30 million users. More importantly, Roy seems to suggest that pornography is hiding in every nook and cranny of the Internet; he also seems to assume that whatever is out there must not just be depictions of sexual conduct but "deep and depraved." Even if one accepts that pornography in general is bad – which as both a civil libertarian and a feminist I do not – this is blatant and uninformed sensationalism.

Fifth, *The Beaver* quotes Roy as saying that "[an] 8 year old child or a convicted rapist could watch. There is no restriction except self restriction." This is true – but *The Beaver* conveniently fails to mention that most commercial providers of Internet access require that users be over the legal age of consent, and that at universities and businesses almost every user is likely to be so. Pornography may still find its way into the hands of minors, but usually not without help – which is no different than from what happens outside of cyberspace. Further, as far as I'm aware no law prohibits persons convicted of rape from obtaining sexually-oriented materials. Besides, although it cannot be denied that some rapists have read pornography, the correlation, much less causal link, between pornography and rape is highly disputed and hardly a given. Again, this is sensationalism, not responsible reporting.

Sixth, *The Beaver* claims that the LSE uses a "computer programme that checks data files for the storing of pornography." This is a blatant falsehood. On reading this claim, I promptly consulted David Dalby, IT Services Manager; Dalby indicated that the LSE nothing of the sort, nor does it have any intention of doing so.

Seventh, *The Beaver* recounts that "[it] has been suggested by some students that the school should be doing more, perhaps for example, by publishing its own restrictions on Internet porn." *The Beaver* fails to indicate who these students might be; nevertheless the idea is foolish and impractical. A censor would need to be set up to determine what is and is not ac-

ceptable for students to read. Then, the censor would regularly need to intercept all student correspondence to make sure that it is acceptable for our obviously delicate minds. A computer programme could perhaps be used to search for words common in pornography – but then students obtaining articles on sexual assault or perhaps excerpts of a work by James Joyce, would be in jeopardy. Further, any files sent compressed or encoded (such as pictures) would need to be run through the appropriate decompression or encryption program to be examined, further, invading student privacy and likely slowing the LSE network to a slow crawl.

I believe that Helena Mcleod and *The Beaver* owe the entire LSE community an apology for running such a fundamentally flawed article.

Sincerely
Jolyon Silversmith*Helena Mcleod replies:*

Conveying the facts is my highest priority and Beaver staff do their best that time and resources allow. I know that the student Jake Baker had only written an account of his fantasy of Pamela and apologise if the wrong impression was given. As to the school programme regulating pornography, my source was unreliable and I thank you for the correction. The school position is that computers should be used for academic work only.

Regulation of the Internet is a topical debate which it was appropriate for The Beaver to become involved in. Any comments on Beaver articles are always welcome.

No joy for Greeks at the Global Festival?

Dear *Beaver*

No one could be more proud to be Greek than myself, even though I was born and bred in North London. However, I am very upset that Hellenism (ie Greekness) at the LSE does not include that one thing that made us famous (apart from sex), and that is our ability to communicate.

I am writing this letter out of my frustration with the Hellenic Society of the LSE. I am referring in particular to the Greek evening of Friday, February 10, which was supposed to be part of the Global Festival. To tell you the truth, as I Greek, I enjoyed the evening; as a member of the 'international' student community I found it deplorable and just another example, among many, of the sheer incompetence of the Hellenic Society.

To begin with, I was sorely

disappointed at the way the Society washed its hands of the whole affair, by instead of organising something for all the students themselves, they went crying to the "mummy and daddy" (the Greek Embassy and ETHOL) to organise it for them. As a result, the night was not a night for students, it was another PR event for the Embassy, who sent along its representatives.

Secondly, there were no flyers or posters placed anywhere (at least not anywhere conspicuously) to say that the event, or what type of event, was taking place. This might have been a ploy to get only the Greek students to come. I am glad, thought, that I did see non-Greeks at the event, but I am not sure they understood anything, or even what the purpose of the event was. The whole even was con-

ducted in Greek, with a couple of poems translated into English (for those still there, or still awake, to hear them).

Thirdly, what in God's name was the Archbishop doing there and what was the relevance to the student community of 6 blokes chanting through their noses?

In short, this event, instead of bringing the international student community at LSE closer together and making others understand what it is that makes us Greeks tick, this event reinforced the "them and us" idea. I was very surprised and saddened that not even one person on that stage said anything about what it means to be Greek. What could an English student have learnt from this experience?

So we will have the image of the Greek unibrow playing cards

in the smoking section of the Brunch Bowl; except now we know that they go to church and dance a bit. I'm so impressed, I am sure there are many Greeks like me who do not come from the same Lykeion or Frontisterion as those at the "forefront" of the Hellenic Society, who do not know each other by sight, and would be glad of an opportunity to show to the rest of LSE that we are not all crude and have ugly and selfish characters, but sincerely love and enjoy life and humanity.

Unfortunately, from what I see, the "Kafenion culture" still prevails among the "Greeks from Greece" students, and all I can say is that I am glad that I am no part of it.

Sincerely
M

Inauguration ceremony revisited

Dear Beaver,

We are writing in response to Ron Hassner's (too) long letter concerning the inauguration of the Global Festival and in particular to his disenchantment with Afif Safieh's speech and subsequent answers in question time. Afif Safieh, the PLO representative to the UK and Mr Raviv, the Israeli Ambassador, were responsible for kicking off the week of festivities with two speeches on the evening of February 6. Mr Hassner obviously did not appreciate Mr. Safieh's speech, which in the context of the opening ceremony, reached out to students by charting his own journey as a student and sharing with them the ideals which both inspired and influenced him. The speech was not only refreshing but also emotionally honest. Ron, it seems, was not moved and apparently would have been more satisfied with a more impersonal, bureaucratic, "cautiously optimistic" delivery which many students have come to expect from guest speakers. Mr. Safieh was not embarking on a pointless monologue on his "DIY skills" as Ron put it, but demonstrated that he too can relate to the student spirit and to the hopes and ideals which shape us as a. Of course, it would be convenient for Palestinians (and especially for Palestinian representatives) to remain not only legally non-existent but also faceless, anonymous

entities in the eyes of the international community (as has been the Israeli desire and strategy for far too long). A Palestinian speaker with a rich and meaningful personal history? Hand over the ear-plugs.

Considering the inauguration was not meant to be a comprehensive conference on the state of the Middle East peace process, Mr Safieh did not arrive with the intention of launching a discussion on the topic, as his speech clearly suggested. Question time saw Mr Safieh revealing some of his frustrations: the peace process has been hampered by continued Israeli settlements in breach of all agreements (3000 new homes approved in January by the Israeli government around Jerusalem, in the occupied West Bank and 6500 in Arab East Jerusalem approved this February). In addition, many Palestinians are still being denied the most basic of rights. As long as a citizen of Bucharest, Romania (as was the present Israeli Ambassador to London) is given priority over a Palestinian born in the heart of Jerusalem (as was Mr Safieh), passions are bound to remain high. Ron wonders in his letter why Mr Safieh did not mention the reason he prevented from returning to his home in East Jerusalem. We are certain that it would not be difficult for Ron to imagine the great selection of convenient, if unfounded, excuses the Israeli gov-

ernment has at its disposal and regularly gets to choose from to keep dedicated Palestinian intellectuals as far away as possible.

What Ron chose to see at question time was an angry Palestinian uttering "breathless threats" and "prophetic messages of doom" and apparently spent the rest of his time formulating this charming, if misguided, letter to *The Beaver*. What others saw was a concerned Palestinian, echoing the fears and anxieties of moderates who anticipate a surge in radicalism and violence if the only fruits of the peace process continue to take form of handshakes, kisses and pretty speeches rather than meaningful progress. Violence and terrorism are certainly obstacles of peace, yet they are often quite often reactions to formalities aimed more at CNN than the average dispossessed Palestinian for whom the peace process, in many ways, is a glossy version of business as usual, and highlighted the danger of ignoring such grievances. His sincerity deserves some respect as opposed to an "assurance of having his nappies changed" as Ron rudely suggested.

Mr Safieh does not "dislike hope" as Ron insists, and is not cynical for the sake of cynicism. The mention of the peace process could easily whip one into a state of euphoria and premature celebration, so that the legitimate grievances recede into the background and any perceived negativity from

representatives such as Mr. Safieh are received with shock. Mr Safieh, and others, could create an impression of calmness and chirpy confidence, yet when confronted with news of terrorist attacks in his supposedly sound and healthy context, wouldn't the international community be twice as baffled and wouldn't the cries of horror and indignation be twice as strong? Perhaps that's the intention.

As for Ron's suggestion that Mr Safieh prefers the Palestinian people's position as "scapegoats of history" over any bright future, we sincerely doubt this, and find it interesting that Ron would not prefer to leave his prized term for the Jewish people, with whom it is traditionally associated. Upon careful reflection, Ron may wish to hold on to this useful and precious term, for hasn't the powerful evocation of the suffering of the Jewish people allowed many a door to be opened and many a dream to come true?

Ron's naive reflections on the peace negotiations and his reasons given for what is driving Israelis to "risk the existence of their country" included the "Jewish sense of guilt" and possibly the improvement of Israel's international reputation. No mention of the tremendous economic benefits Israel might derive by engaging in trade with its many "adorable, loving" neighbours. No matter how cheerful and motivated Israel's citizens

may be, without the huge external financial and military support from Western governments, little could be accomplished, and certainly, Arab enemies would not have been defeated "again, and again and again" as the repetitive Ron Hassner put it. Israel cannot be spoon fed forever, and its people are more than aware of this.

This response would be incomplete without repeating Ron's joyous vision of the future which leads us to wonder whether he has recently been employed by Disney or perhaps the Israeli tourism office, which surely hopes to spread the image of a new, improved Israel to all world travellers as quickly as possible (this ties in nicely with the earlier argument of Israel's economic stakes in the peace process): "see prosperity, and happiness, free trade and tourism...and a frightful excess of freshly recycled ploughshares." Mr Safieh is no tourism officer. He is a realist. Mr Safieh deserved respect not only for his honesty and courage, but his humanity and personal sacrifice for a cause that has come to be his life. Ron was clearly not prepared to offer the man such respect, but the audience's applause on February 6 gives us confidence that Mr. Safieh's words touched more than a few.

Yours sincerely,
The Friends of Palestine Soc

Eliminating the Queen will not do the trick!

Dear Beaver,

I read with interest the letter titled "Eliminate the Queen" published in *The Beaver* of February 13. It seemed to suggest that the panacea for the class bias and various forms of discrimination that plague English society would be to eliminate the Queen. With all due respect to Mr Sarabia I simply cannot agree with him that there is such a simple straightforward answer to such a complex problem.

True enough, with the elimination of the Monarchy, the aristocracy will pale into insignificance, but this doesn't necessarily spell an end to the class bias, discrimination and plain old snobbery that Mr. Sarabia mentions. What difference will it make to the Japanese students who face "the added discrimination of being vestiges of a war that ended years ago" or to the student confronted by the "very important business man"?

The way I see it, whatever system a society chooses to adopt, regardless of whether it is the result of bloody revolution or a bloodless coup, regardless of whether it is a system based on aristocracy or meritocracy, and regardless of whether it is capitalism, communism or any other system with a fancy label, class bias,

discrimination, snobbery and other forms of variety of evils will manifest themselves. The pyramidal structure of society where those in the upper echelons look down upon those on the bottom while those of the lower strata's (consciously or unconsciously) look up to those at the top, will be invariable whatever system is adopted. For there are always going to be the rich, the powerful and the well educated along side the poor, the weak and the less educated. Alas, I do not have to look to politicians or business men for a typical example of snobbery for it happens right here at the LSE. How many of us, after having made our circle of friends, bother to be civilised to anyone else? How many of us sit in the same class with the same people for an entire year and don't even know the names of some of them? To add to this we have Houghton Street Harry (of *The Beaver*) saying "hearing the French speak English". If we cannot be bothered to make the effort to be civilised towards each other, if we cannot be bothered to spare a smile for the people we bump into each day, is it all that surprising that those in the so called "high places" cannot be bothered to make an effort at civility towards those who

they perceive to be below them.

Today, the problem stems, I think, from the fact that most of us are besotted with reaching for the "top" (where the top ends is anyone's guess). The quid pro quo of this is that we create a society conducive to the so called rich, powerful and high class to go around with inflated ego's and for the rest of us to meander along with a chip on our shoulders for not being "up" there, while being infected by the "snobbery" of those whom we perceive to be up there. I do not suggest that having goals and achieving them is bad per se but if because we achieve something we feel that the person who hasn't is "below us", and the person who has achieved us is "above" us it does imply that somewhere along the line our idea of humanity has become warped.

The answer to such a social malaise I do not claim to know. But what I do know is this—eliminating the Queen will not do the trick for like the anti-biotics we take, it will only cure the symptoms of a social evil, but no the cause.

Yours Sincerely
Shaheeda Mohamed
LLB Law

Where were the executives?

Dear Beaver,

As one of the main organisers at the LSE of last Wednesday's protest outside the Home Office for Pancho Ndebele, I resent your suggestions that the protest was "merely a stunt by the Revolutionary Communist Party". I have no affiliation with the RCP, nor do many of the thirty-forty students who were outside the Home Office that afternoon. I was there simply to try to defend the rights of students in Britain, particularly those of foreign students, which I am.

I was also offended that although a motion was passed in the UGM mandating our executives to attend the protest, none of them did. In fact, Martin Lewis actively discouraged students from attending because the acting President of Brighton University Students' Union asked him to. Martin used the same to fax excuse himself from attending the protest that he had been mandated to attend. My main question is, "who are the executive of our Students' Union representing? The students of the LSE or outsiders"? they have shown by their non-attendance last week that they do not feel it necessary to follow mandates of our UGM.

Although I am not affiliated with the RCP—as were not several of the arguments of Wednesday's

protest, it is true that some of the organisers were. These members of the RCP proved that they were willing to help defend students' right. Simultaneously, our Students' Union proved how undemocratic, useless, and unrepresentative it really is.

Yours Sincerely
C Platt

Pornography - where?

Dear Beaver,

With regard to your article "Cyberporn Discovery": in the name of freedom of speech and information, could you publish where to find the allegedly pornographic material on the internet so that the interested reader can judge for him/herself.

Yours Sincerely
"Ann Onymous"

The opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors, not *The Beaver*.

Mass Debate

The ticket touts were out in full force this Wednesday lunchtime as the DebSoc hosted an exclusive showcase of some of the biggest names in modern public speaking, all appearing to contest the resolution *This House Believes That Madonna Is Not A Feminist*. There were a few points from the floor, the strangest of which came from a short, overweight Argentinian, heavily into drugs. He told us that he definitely wasn't a feminist and that Chris Cooper is useless at scoring.

In the absence of Andrea Dworkin to condemn any vaguely attractive female as a betrayer of her sex the larger-than-life Angela instead cast the first boulder, as she accused Madonna of perpetrating sex, sleaze, nudity and raunch and all things that make life worthwhile to the male LSE student. Lisa was quick to respond, defending the Material Girl's freedom, ambition and achievements in a male-dominated industry. As a video artist she had explored themes such as teenage pregnancy and the importance of relationships rather than wealth. We heard that the many image-changes Madonna had used to maintain her popularity were evidence of intelligence and shrewd business acumen. She applauded her use of (36C-26-34) physical assets and her highly provocative fashion sense. As lead actress in the Drama Society's *In Camera* where she wore a black lace negligée we can safely assume that she knew what she was talking about.

The second speaker for the proposition dismissed Madonna's influence as being negative and insignificant - Madonna was just a self-seeking singer and far from altering the perception of women in society her videos had merely alternated between confirming the extreme stereotypes of females as sluts or nuns. She pointed out that Madonna's contribution to sexuality is merely to 'strike a pose' saying "Fuck me".....if only, if only. Tony was the next to cavort in front of us, accusing the proposition of labelling any woman who enjoys sex and talks about it as a 'slut'. Lest anyone confuse him with Tony Ward (ex-Mad toyboy) he then argued that Madonna has done a lot of good for the economy of the US. He quoted album sales, royalty rates and export figures in a thoroughly exciting and stimulating manner. This was unfortunate as the audience had fallen into a stunned daze by the time he had made another important observation - Madonna was a female sex symbol whose fame was a source of strength rather than the tragic vulnerability of Garbo and Monroe. Aysha, an avid fan of the Blonde Bombshell now had to conclusively undermine her idol. Instead of rising to the challenge of a true debater she avoided the issue by refusing to limit Madonna to such a narrow category as 'feminist'. Accepting many of the arguments of the opponents she told us to remember the lyrics of *Justify My Love*....."poor is the man whose pleasures depend on the permission of another" as evidence of Madonna's inspiration to all individuals rather than just women. The opposition was wrapped up by a man assuring us that there is a lot, lot more to Madonna than sex. He then mentioned her albums *Like A Virgin* and *Erotica*, her films *Desperate For Susan*, *Dick Tracy* and *In Bed With Madonna* and then her book *Sex*. Who says Americans can't be satirical?

A poll of fans leaving the event showed that 7 were for the motion, 10 against while 3 had expected the speakers to take more clothes off.

A different view

An attempt to look at the Arab side of the Middle East conflict

The recently concluded Global Festival was inaugurated by the Israeli Ambassador, his excellency Mr Moshe Raviv and the PLO representative, Mr Afif Safieh. As was almost inevitable, both sides disagreed. What was most important however, was that they were discussing their different viewpoints. They may not necessarily be in total agreement, but they do need to understand each other's point of view in order to forge the basis of a lasting peace. In this spirit, a letter was recently published by *The Beaver* "clarifying" the Israeli point of view. The Arab view of history, however, must also be heard for a true picture of this tragic conflict to emerge.

Both the Arabs and the Jewish people claim descent from two brothers, Ismael and Isaac, sons of the prophet Abraham. Acknowledging this and many other bonds, the Muslim world seldom persecuted them, and never in any way remotely approaching what was done in the West. However, the British consent to the establishment of a Zionist state on what had been Arab land for more than a millenium, collided with Arab aspirations of re-asserting their independence. As such, the 1948 war was fought by the Zionists to "resurrect" the state of Israel and by the Arabs to preserve the land of their fore-fathers. It was fought bitterly, often savagely, by both sides. The systematic slaughter of Arab men, women and children at Deir Yassin by the Irgun gang - of which future Prime Minister Menachem Begin was a prominent activist

Beaver Staff

- is just one example. The 1956 war was the direct result of a massive Anglo-French invasion of Egypt in which Israel happily joined in. How a backward third world country such as Nasser's Egypt could have ever threatened the territorial integrity of not only Israel but also France and Britain is beyond understanding! Egyptian resistance and international pressure, however, led to the withdrawal of the invasion forces and the rise of Nasser as an Arab hero.

The Six Day war of 1967, was a complete Arab disaster, marked by the gross incompetence of Marshall Amer AlHakim and the rest of the Egyptian high command. In a series of aggressive "pre-emptive" strikes, Israel more than doubled its territory, now including the Sinai and Golan heights. In the following five years of "peace" the Israeli armed forces were ordered to stand astride the Suez Canal and, as defence minister Moshe Dayan said: "constantly buzz in Nasser's ear." In doing so they bombed and shelled the cities of Suez and Port Tewfik almost out of existence.

The 1973 war was started by a joint Egyptian-Syrian effort to recover their lost land (and stop the constant Israeli "buzzing"!). Its initial success was largely due to the arrogant over-confidence of the Israeli army, which sat behind powerful fixed defences and enjoyed almost total air domination. Within days, Israeli military superiority had re-asserted itself, ending the war in a favourable stalemate.

At no point during these conflicts did any Arab state have the necessary military strength or skill to effectively challenge, much less threaten, Israel's territorial integrity - guaranteed as it was by Western support and a powerful nuclear arsenal. The 1973 war was a shock for the Israeli armies since it did not result in the sort of total victory that they had come to expect.

The Camp David accord with Egypt, the leading Arab state, did not bring peace. Instead, the next decade was marked by the massive Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon, the slaughter of unarmed civilians at refugee camps such as Sabra and Shatilla, the suppression of the Intifada and the Hebron Mosque Massacre.

Today, peace is undoubtedly desired by both sides. Yet it is remarkably hard to forget the past and imagine prosperity and happiness, free-trade and tourism, when your twelve year old son has been shot dead for throwing stones at an Israeli patrol. The past cannot, indeed must not, be forgotten - but the wounds of the past can be healed. For this an understanding of each other's history, experiences, hopes and aspirations must be present. This will inevitably take time. The realities on the ground, therefore, must be confronted - not replaced by unjustifiable visions of a heaven on earth. The Palestinians hope for justice - not a display of "magnanimity" by the victor for the vanquished. Only a just peace can be a lasting one, and Israeli requirements for security as well as the Palestinian desire for a strong, stable state must be met.

Rover en vogue ?

On the entwined fates of the Range Rover and the LSE !!

Are't we the lucky ones, the only University in the whole of the country to have a car named after them. It just happens to be the most expensive Land Rover around. Originally launched in 1992, it looks like every single Land Rover before it. It was, however, more plush than anything that had gone before it. As any self respecting motoring journalist will tell you, the Range Rover is the best thing to go off-roading in. It has a flexible chassis, multiple adjustments for everything and can ride over anything that gets in its way. It is the master of the rough terrain. On the road, however, it is a totally different matter. No doubt they give you every conceivable luxury to try to distract from the fact that you are driving an over-powered truck, but this does not hide the fact that it is hopeless on the road. Much the same can be said of LSE graduates. They are superb at overcoming the impossible, but give them an ordinary problem and they will make the biggest hash of it that you can imagine. Only an LSE graduate could mess up a job as simple as being Minister Of

Sanjay Mazumder

Health. And yet we have produced graduates that have won Nobel Prizes, such as Lionel Robbins.

The Range Rover was indeed vogue at one stage, but as they became more and more common, no one took any notice of them. They are no longer a fashion icon. This is much like the fashion of LSE students today. People used to think (way back in the '60s) that being a hippy was coool, but now it's just plain stupid (if only Gary Delaney would realise).

Range Rover realised the problem after more than 25 years. People buy their cars for posing, much as some people come to the LSE to stand on the steps of the Old Building with their mobile phones, pissing everyone else off. We've waited a hundred years for something to be done about the LSE but I don't think that those in charge have even noticed the problem as yet. I'll tell them - you are not delivering what the customers - the students - want. Land Rover re-vamped the Range Rover and thus the Vogue LSE

was superseded, ironically in the centenary year of the real LSE. They replaced it with something more like a car. Maybe this is what we should do. Revamp the LSE and make it something more like a university. Maybe we should get rid of these bloody posers on the steps of the Old Building, and maybe we should realise that we are not all Socialists and that there are better ways of spending your time than accosting people on Houghton Street to vote for someone they don't know. Maybe, if we did replace the LSE as Land Rover have done, we would get something useful, rather than a load of old stiffs that spend their time plugging their own research work and to hell with the students! If Land Rover can get it right after 25 years, then surely we can get it right after a hundred. After all we are the ones with the degrees! Looking around at our academia, however, you may not think so!

Many thanks to Broadfields Garage Limited, for their contribution to this article.

This Week...

MONDAY, MARCH 6

AMNESTY LSE

Talk by **Eve Gough**, *Oxfam* who has just returned from Rwanda
at 5pm in A42

LSE LAWYERS GROUP

"Life and Death in the Family Division"
by **The Rt Hon Lady Justice Butler Sloss**
Chair: **The Rt Hon Sir Michael Mann**,
Honorary President, LSE Lawyers Group
at 6pm to 6:30pm
in Senoir Common Room (5th Floor, Old Building)
For further details call Fotini Liotou,
LSE Foundation on (071) 955 6875
This event is sponsored by **Clifford Chance, Solicitors**
All welcome!

LSE ROCK CLIMBING SOCIETY

Elections for next year's presidency and treasury
In C023 (ex-Au offices) at 5:30pm
ALL MEMBERS should attend
CANDIDATES should prepare small speeches (preferable current first years)

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

HISTORY SOCIETY

"Execution to Extermination: The Death Penalty in Nazi Germany" by
Professor Richard Evans, *Birkbeck College*
at 5pm in X009

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

AMNESTY LSE

To mark **International Women's Day**

Podium debate: "Should Reproductive Rights be a Part of Universal Human Rights" Chaired by **Professor Fred Halliday**
at 12pm in S075

Women & Movies

Film: "Thelma & Louise" followed by a debate on women and film
at 6.45pm in the New Theatre

INVESTMENT SOCIETY

Four traders from **Robert Flemings Securities Ltd.** will be speaking on
"Emerging Markets in South America and South East Asia"
They will be happy to meet Final year/Masters students interested in
employment with Robert Flemings.
at 7pm in the Graham Wallas Room (5th Floor, Old Building)

IRISH SOCIETY

Discussion: **"Nationalism and the Peace Process"**
with **Mr Seamus Mallon, MP (SDLP)**
and a representative of Sinn Fein next week
Venue and Time to be announced

LABOUR CLUB

"Labour and the Welfare State" by **Donald Dewar, MP**,
Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security
at 1pm in A698

LSE ROCK CLIMBING SOCIETY

Training Sessions for Spanish Trip: ROUTE CLEANING
This session is compulsory for all members coming to Spain
All members welcome!
In Mile End at 2.30pm to 3.30pm

SCHAPIRO CLUB

"Unequal Britain: Who Cares About Social Justice?" by **Prof. Piachaud**,
Social Administration Department
at 1pm in A47

YOGA SOCIETY

Classes now ONLY on Wednesdays, at 6pm sharp in X032. Beginners welcome, bring loose clothing and a towel/mat Price: donation. For further information, contact Nathalie on (071) 582 1899

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

AMNESTY LSE

Don't forget the letter writing stall every Thursday in The Quad. (All day).
This week, featuring urgent actions campaigning for women to mark
International Women's Day

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

"False Confessions" by **Dr Gisli Gudjonson**
Food and Wine will be served
at 7pm in S318

THIRD WORLD FIRST SOCIETY

"The Aga Khan Foundation and its Rural Development Scheme In India and Pakistan". by **Dr Talib Esmail**
at 6pm in A698

THE DOUBLE SIX CLUB

Games Games Games
Underground Bar
7 Till 11pm

Seminars on **"The Changing Face Of Politics"**
hosted by **DUNAMIS**

15 March

"Community Politics for a Sustainable Well-being" by **David Gee**,
Former Director, Friends of the Earth and **Dick Atkinson**, *Director,*
Phoenix Centre, Birmingham

22 March

"Rethinking Conservatism" by **Alan Howarth, MP (Conservative,**
Stratford-on-Avon) and **Perry Walker**, *New Economics Foundation*

29 March

"Principle and Persuasion in the 1990s" by **Anna Coote**, *Hamlyn Feelo*
and Director, Social Policy Programme, I.P.P.R. and **Ronald Higgins**,
Director, Dunamis and Author

TIME: 6.30pm to 8pm

PLACE: at St James's, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 9LF

ENTRANCE: St James' Rectory (RH Gallery) in Church Place.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS: 2.50 (1 unwaged). Dunamis members free.

ENQUIRIES: call (071) 437 6851 or (0981) 550 307

ALL WELCOME

Public Lectures

Monday 6 March

"The Liberal Democrat Party" by
Charles Kennedy, MP
at 1pm in X032

"Taxes and Company Dividends: a micro econometric investigation exploiting cross-section variations in taxes" by **Lucy Chennells**, *Institute for Fiscal Studies*
at 6.30pm in G400a

Tuesday 7 March

"Beyond the Government Green Paper: Who should have priority in Social Housing?" by **Chris Holmes**, *Director, Shelter*
Chair: **Dr. Anne Power**
at 5.30pm in The Old Theatre

"Anthropolgy and the Study of the Bible" by **Dr Paula McNutt**,
Canisius College, New York
at 1pm in G58

Deadline for What's On page:
Wednesday, 1pm sharp!

NANBUDO DEMONSTRATION

The Japanese martial arts expert **Yoshinao Nanbu** will demonstrate his own school of self-defence at 6pm in the Badminton Court, Old Building. An introductory training course will be given at 6.30pm with the possibility to participate.

ARE YOU BEGINNING TO LOSE ORIGINALITY?

You need a place where you can be yourself. Where? Why it's the ever lovely

CHUCKLE CLUB COMEDY CABARET SHOW

In the LSE THREE TUNS BAR every Saturday
It costs £4-00 for Students £6-00 others
Doors open 7.45pm. Tickets at the door.

Saturday March 11th we have
The ever-funny

PAUL TONKINSON

The amazing Human Joke-Machine

TIM VINE

Doubly-Funny

CHRIS & GEORGE

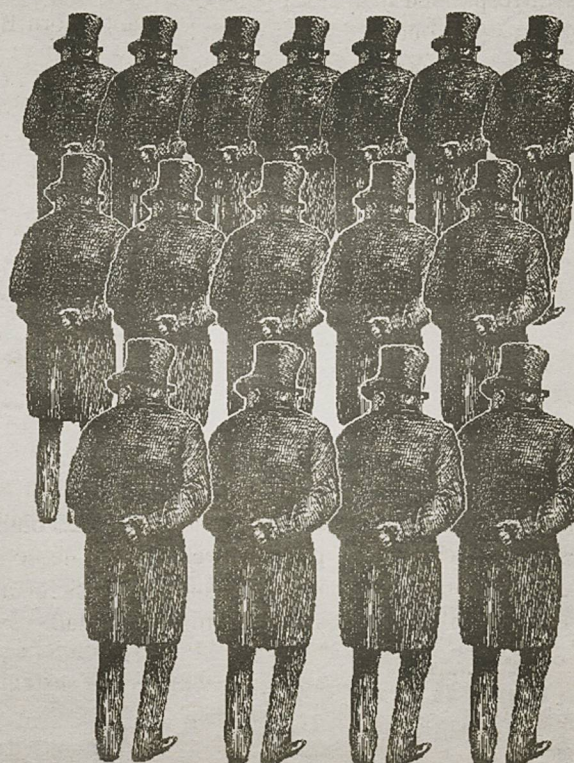
Your Fat Host

EUGENE CHEESE

Mark Rendall

Lawrence Howarth

BE EARLY TO GET A SEAT



I'm every woman

Danny Silverstone interviews the editor of a nineties feminist magazine

In the apolitical nineties one ISM is undergoing a strong resurgence, feminism. Previously, an anathema to men and admittance of rancour by women, the word has now been reclaimed and redressed by the new women's press. *Every Woman*, the only feminist magazine in England, is evidence of this and proud of its title which is deliberately emblazoned on the front cover. If the stigma of the word is dissolving, so is the dogmatic nature of the philosophy. The aggressive separatism of the eighties has been replaced by a more inclusive, and thus, more powerful approach.

This softer attitude is a reflection of the changing times. Encouragingly, as Claire Short argues: "feminism has moved from a minimum of women activists into the mainstream, so it is stronger, but less visible." More worryingly, the subdued voice of feminism is also due to the erroneous belief that all the battles have been won. What is in fact happening, is that women now believe in the existence of equal opportunity but gradually experience the reverse as they have children, marry, or head for the top. Susan Fulidi la-

belled this the "Backlash" and it is the purpose of *Every Woman* to counteract this.

Reaching to a highly educated audience, *Every Woman* covers issues from both a traditionally polemical stance as well as a more sentient one. On any given topic such as pornography, there will be the standard political article as well as a more subjective response. This exclusively female approach is something editor Louisa Saunders values highly. Not only does she view it as typical of women's thinking, but also representative of women's approach to institutions. Her time at Greenham Common convinced her of the value of the female perspective, and the supportive all-female office of *Every Woman*, confirmed her belief. However, this acceptance of subjectivity is not a replacement for reasoned arguments which is upheld as the primary criteria for entry of any article in the magazine.

As long as the article is rational and feminist it will be printed. This accounts for the breadth of the magazine and is evidence for Louisa's claim that feminism is of interest to every political doctrine. She is herself a socialist, and though

Every Woman has close links to the Labour party, it is keen to keep its editorial independence.

Every Woman is staffed by women and is a financially independent co-operative. It is thus a pragmatic example of what it preaches. Its contributors are paid virtually nothing and the budget is severely constrained. However, each issue always looks exciting and often includes articles by leading feminist academics or journalists.

...the subdued voice of feminism is due to the erroneous belief that all battles have been won.

In the increasingly desperate modern world, *Every Woman* accepts the proviso that perhaps, it only speaks for a certain class of women. Yet, feminist issues have a more general significance. It is to



Louisa Saunders

this end that an uphill struggle is being fought. Louisa Saunders argues that though many hearts and minds have been won, in reality, little has changed. Though most of the media would not support her, statistics do. As the search for flexible labour continues, and the government persistently fails to provide legislative protection, it looks like women are increasingly be-

coming the part-time slave labour of the future. *Every Woman* is a practical example of a more inspiring alternative. Accessible, challenging, and extremely pragmatic, it is definitely making feminism a resurgent force.

A twelve month subscription to *Every Woman* costs £24. More information is available on 0171-359 5496.

WOMEN'S WEEK 6TH-10TH MARCH

In the final stages of preparation for Women's Week I realised that to some extent I had lost sight of what this week was about. The reason Women's Week happens in 9th week, when everyone is tired after the elections, and has a million essays to do is

because International Women's Day is the 8th March. Women all over the world celebrate this day, with events, parties, conferences, and campaigns. Why do they do this?

I think women celebrate because they believe that all women still have

things in common that they are fighting for. They celebrate the struggles all over the world that are specific to women, the successes and the failures. They celebrate the vital solidarity of women, that is focus to achieving equality.

The question I get asked at least once a day is "why is there not a Men's Officer, Men's Room or an International Men's Day?". My answer is always "If you want them, and you think they are necessary go and fight for them, or stop complaining". To end

on a controversial note, I think that perhaps they are necessary and worth fighting for just as Women's Week is necessary, and worth attending, the Women's Room is worth keeping and Women's Officer is still a vital position in our union.

Monday 6th March

• Amnesty International •

Stall on women prisoners of conscience.

All Day In The Quad

• National Peace Council •

Lib Peck is the co-ordinator of the NPC's campaign on Women and Militarism. She will speak about this and more generally women's role in the peace process.

1pm Women's Room

• Lesbian Avengers •

(Event to be confirmed)
The Lesbian Avengers are an active campaigning group on Lesbian rights.

5pm Women's Room

UN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

United Nations Association

The co-ordinator of the UK NGO delegation speaks about the NGO involvement at Beijing.

Dept. of Employment

The co-ordinator for British policy being taken to Beijing speaks about the submission.

6pm Women's Room

Tuesday 7th March

• Film Reels •

New York Production company, Fat T, has produced two films about women which challenge traditional ideas in a new and innovative way. They are only 18 and 5 mins long so take some time out to watch them.

All Day Women's Room

• Women & Eating Disorders •

(Event to be confirmed)
What is an eating disorder? Is it just women who get them, and if so why?

12 noon Women's Room

• NUS Liberation Campaigns •

Alison Brown is a member of NUS National Executive Committee, is a convenor of the LGB campaign and a Women's campaign co-ordinator. She is speaking about what NUS is doing towards liberation.

1pm Women's Room

Women Only Bar

Carr-Saunders 7-9pm

Rosebery 7-9pm

Passfield 7.30-9pm

Wednesday 8th March

• Green Student Network •

Talk about how students are involved and can become involved in environmental issues and a discussion of some issues currently being campaigned on.

12 noon Women's Room

• Self Defense & Awareness •

The Crime Prevention Officer from Charing Cross Police Station will give a talk, video and demonstration on safety and awareness issues for women. Places may be limited so please put your name down at SU reception. WOMEN ONLY.

1.30 pm Women's Room

• WEN •

(Women's Environmental Network)
Jane Lanigan talks about the work that WEN does; do women have an implicit involvement in environmental concerns? Also she will discuss the issues that WEN are taking to the UN conference, focusing on women and sustainable development.

3pm Women's Room

Thursday 9th March

• WIN •

(Women's Independent Network)
A former LSE student talks about WIN and also about her personal success. This will be an inspiring presentation, guaranteed to cheer you up should you be panicking about exams.

12 noon Women's Room

• Union General Meeting •

Our agenda for change for equal rights and liberation is presented. It mandates union representatives to campaign for change both inside and outside the LSE environment. Please come along and support this.

1pm Old Theatre

• The 300 Group •

Talk on women in politics and in parliament. Fiona Driscoll, chair of the group, expands on this. This will be a well attended event, as the statistics show that many more people from LSE choose politics as a career than any other university.

2pm Women's Room

Friday 10th March

• Terrence Higgins Trust •

Brings their roadshow to LSE, and focus' their information towards women and AIDS. You will be able to pick up information, and of course condoms and femidoms.

All Day In The Quad

• National Abortion Campaign •

Emma Gibson talks about abortion issues in England and Ireland. The NAC is internationally recognised as one of the most successful pressure groups fighting for proper legislation on abortion and on other related issues.

1pm Women's Room

• Women & Cancer •

The Women's Nationwide Cancer Control Campaign is an organisation fighting to raise women's awareness on cancer and today's speaker talks and shows videos on breast and cervical cancer, and about the regular testing that all women should have.

2pm Women's Room

SEE YOU THERE !!

The politics of poverty

Pam Keenan examines the present state of charities in Calcutta



A patient with leprosy at Chitpur clinic

Pam Keenan

Calcutta, eighteen million people crammed into an area half the size of London. Streets teeming with cows, chickens, begging children, lepers, man-powered carriages and sellers with carts piled high with a thousand types of goods. The dirt is oppressive. There is a stench of rotting in the air. The smell is like nothing I have sensed before. I try not to think what it is, or rather I pretend that the smell is the decaying rubbish crammed into the sides of the roads.

This is the city of Mother Theresa and her missionaries of charity. Every morning she attends mass at the Mother House welcoming the hordes of volunteer workers from the affluent North. There are Japanese visitors with packed lunches from Calcutta's most expensive hotels. This is the new type of volunteer here for two weeks, the "holiday helper". For many, this influx is just another hassle in an already hectic life. There is not enough time to give short term volunteers any basic training and they need constant supervision which can ironically lead to a drain in manpower. Sister Marion Jones is originally from Wales but has been working in Calcutta for the past three years. Her view of the transitory volunteers is typical. "Every day a person is willing to give us a gift. This is a charity first and foremost and we appreciate gifts regardless of size".

Despite such good will, it is easy to be cynical of "holiday helpers" with their plastic name tags and designer clothes. Nevertheless, they too have made sacrifices to be in Calcutta. The Japanese have only 3 weeks holiday every year on average. To pay a substantial sum to work among the handicapped, the malnourished and the dying for

two thirds of your total vacation is admirable – many simply head for the beach or the golf course. It is always too easy to be disparaging, to call for monetary contributions and discourage in-expert help. This is, after all, the line encouraged by Dominique Lapierre in his famous book, *The City of Joy*. But it is too easy just to write a cheque. You don't even have to do that anymore – a direct debit to your favourite charity will do nicely. To make the trip to Calcutta takes more guts.

Calcutta also has a small group-

It is easy to be cynical of holiday helpers with their plastic name tags and designer clothes

of permanent volunteers like Sister Marion. They run the various homes and are skilled in caring for the dying and destitute as well as negotiating with the infuriating bureaucracy over issues that have already been decided upon time and time before. Some are medically trained and others skilled on a need to know basis specific to the West Bengal region. Most are working illegally. The Indian government rarely grants working visas without the obligatory mountain of paperwork and months of waiting. So volunteers work on tourist visas and fly to Bangkok to renew them annually. The government knows these tricks and every few months will clamp down. The popular low-budget hostels are forbidden to accept guests and the volunteers move on to more up-

market establishments for a few days until the pressure is off.

There is no need for such a circus. Foreign volunteers are just that – unpaid. They are not taking jobs away from the local struggling economy, rather their very presence causes a stimulus to the economy that is desperately needed. Furthermore, if the permanent volunteers were made to leave, the aid brought by the charities would disappear. "If we go there is no-one to replace us," says Sister Marion. "The Indian middle class women are not interested in working with the handicapped and disadvantaged. We have tried to encourage their involvement but apart from fund-raising they have shown little enthusiasm." The disadvantaged in Calcutta have become dependent on charity. Any unnatural reliance is bound to cause difficulties but the alternatives are far from clear and while the ponderous Indian bureaucracy comes up with another plan people are

dying on the streets.

Amid the hordes of volunteers who troop to the Mother House every morning at 5am are a smaller group who most sensibly enjoy a lie in. In the Khalsa cafe at 7am a group of trained doctors and nurses meet. These are Dr Jack's volunteers, officially known as the Calcutta Rescue Fund but nick-named after its founder. Dr Jack's began life as a street clinic programme where the only criteria for treatment was that you knew your name. The small project fills the gap that the work of the Sisters of Charity necessarily leaves. Mother Theresa's organisation is now so vast and institutional that it fails to address the needs of those who need specialist walk-in medical care.

Dr Jack's now consists of a school and work training programme, a leprosy clinic and a vast street clinic. The Cossipore clinic is the main area of the Rescue's work and is a large tarpaulin covered open air plot the size of a basketball court. Patients travel from as far away as Bangladesh to receive treatment. The only additional rule here is that those who want to be treated must arrive by 8am to be seen that day. The system of attention is simple and smooth and by 2 or 3pm more than 400 people can have been seen.

Indian doctors see and prescribe medication which is then compiled by Western volunteers. Packages, which may also include food, clothing, soap and a few pence for bus fares are then handed to an interpreter who explains the pictorial dosage charts in Bengali or Hindi to the patient. In another corner dressings are renewed, Vitamin A medication is dispensed and an Australian nurse holds a mother and baby class.

This organisation suffers from the politics of poverty. In a city

famed for the work of Mother Theresa, finance is hard to find. International corporate donations are unlikely to find their way to Cossipore when there is such a well known bandwagon to jump on to.

The accounts of Dr Jack's projects are meticulously kept by Davide, an unpaid French accountant. Every expense is recorded, even down to the last few rupees spent on elastic bands, and administrative costs are very low. The office itself is in a dingy three storey building over an open air butchers shop in the Muslim quarter of the city. This is encouraging at a time when concern over the misuse of donations, even among

The disadvantaged in Calcutta have become dependent on charity.

large established charities is rife. The main source of finance comes from private supporters in the UK and Switzerland. Calcutta Rescue is an amazing example of small contributions being well translated to medication on the street in one of the world's poorest areas.

At Dr Jack's leprosy clinic the results of some skin tests arrived. An elderly woman called Asha rose in expectation. She had been a regular patient for over twenty months. She was actually only thirty-two years old. The Indian doctor called her over and smiled. The results show that Asha's leprosy had been halted by the drugs prescribed at the clinic. Emma, the nurse-in-charge leant over to me and whispered: "This is why we are all here."



Children at Dr Jack's school

Pam Keenan

Blood lust

Do you feel inadequate when every conversation starts with the word Tarantino, or just desperate to impress your trendy friends? Either way, Danny Silverstone tells you everything you never wanted to know about him

Background

The product of LA, he left school a kid wanting to be an actor. He watched movies obsessively from an early age, enjoying the inattention of a liberal mother. Perhaps significantly, he always had access to 18-rated movies. At the age of eleven he had seen *Carnal Knowledge*, and listed horror movies as his favourite genre. He got the now famous job in a video store because of his encyclopaedic knowledge of film. Then he spent a number of years with friend Roger Avary trying to get the money to film, *True Romance*, *Natural Born Killers*, *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, in that order.

Why he's good

Firstly, his films are very funny – he's equally adept at the one-liners as the sustained gag. He's been called post-post modern and his takes on modern culture are as sharp as they are hilarious. The master of juxtaposition, he effortlessly mixes Big Macs and murders. He fulfilled his promise as a storyteller using the most unoriginal plots (the heist, the boxer bribe) and metamorphosing them through a superior command of narrative structure. He's able to simultaneously make fun of, and deftly portray male machismo, while always adding offbeat touches. Early on he worked out that the bad guys have to look cool so that everyone wants to copy them. Always included are his hand-picked soundtrack to blast you over any difficult moments. His films offer a reflection rather than a rant on low-brow culture. The undisputed master of the cameo, the Wolf, Bruce's watch and the Sicilians soliloquy, fall straight into cinema history.



Uma Thurman in Pulp Fiction

Photo: Buena Vista

Resume

Reservoir Dogs: fast, brutal heist gone wrong flick. Full of vicious but funny white guys in cheap black suits shooting the hell out of each other. Most gruesome scene: THE EAR.

Pulp Fiction: a film containing lurid subject matter and a circular narrative. Longer, less disciplined but much more stylish than *Dogs*. Includes some great dancing as well as the killing. Most gruesome scene: THE NEEDLE.

True Romance: his first script, directed by Tony Scott. A wild road movie with two exceptionally moronic but very lovable heroes. Slightly less violence than normal, though Gary Newman does his best, and much more sentimental than later films. Most gruesome moment; Patricia Arquette fights for her life.

Natural Born Killers: his second script, directed by Oliver Stone. A wild road movie with two exceptionally moronic but very lovable heroes. Even more violence than normal but mutated beyond all recognition by Stone. Most gruesome moment: nearly all of the film.



The man himself, left, appearing with Samuel L. Jackson in Pulp Fiction

Photo: Buena Vista

Tarantino on Tarantino

"I am a pretty good writer but I always think of myself as a director." He sees every film as a genre film and insists all his films have a meaning but understands that "a million different people see a million different films." He prides himself on his ability to "tell an entertaining story that is fun." The emphasis is on entertainment but wants to be demanding enough to grab attention. He believes in all of his quirky asides on foot massages, Europe, the gay sub-text in *Top Gun* and is prepared to defend them to the death.

The public on Tarantino

He's the geek turned God. The little man made big. The proof that watching TV all day is not all bad for you.

Pretenders

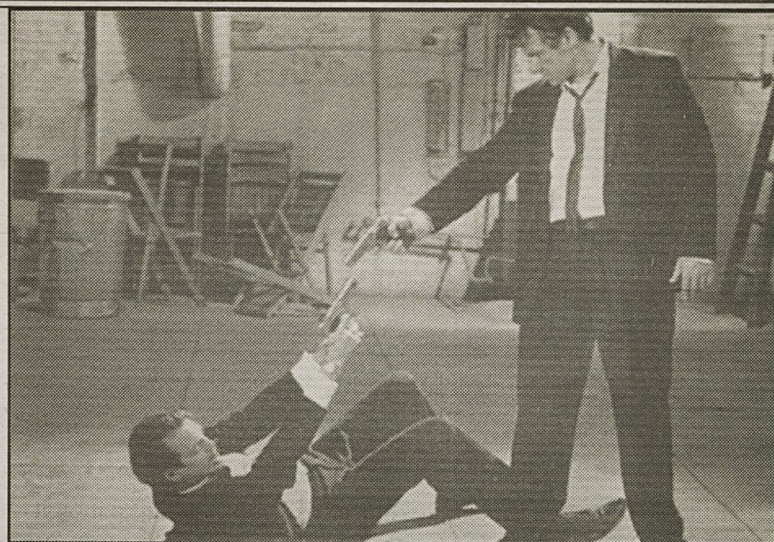
Roger Avary, responsible for the dire boxing story in *Pulp Fiction*. Also guilty of the unoriginal *Killing Zoe* which Tarantino did nothing more than help raise the money for.

Mysteries

Is there a homosexual subtext to *Reservoir Dogs*?
What's in Jules' and Vincent's bag?
How does everyone die at the end of *Reservoir Dogs*?

Violence

"To me violence is a totally aesthetic subject. I don't take violence very seriously. I find violence really funny." Most of Tarantino's violence is cartoon-like, and should be taken as such. However, there are several moments of sadism (Hopper's sliced hand, the ear, Arquette's fight) which are gratuitous. The problem is that the cumulative effects leave you feeling bloodshed is the legitimate response to any problem and a solution without any real consequences. Tarantino does not focus on the victim but on the power of being in control. Ultimately his nastier scenes detract from his films' lasting appeal rather than add to it.



Steve Buscemi and Harvey Keitel in Reservoir Dogs

Photo: Library

Influences

The movies – in particular Brian De Palma. Tarantino collected all of his interviews, reviews, and press releases into scrapbooks. In anticipatory excitement, he had already imagined his own version of *Scarface* long before it came out. Other favourites include Jean Luc Godard, pioneer of the French new wave and director of *Breathless*. His other favourite director is Howard Hawks who he admires for his story telling and humour. He was also a big reader of comics and predictably pulp fiction, especially Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur.

Over-rated?

Well, he's extremely unoriginal. Most of his work includes large chunks of earlier films – most noticeably *True Romance*, which incorporates the same music and dopey female voice-over as Terence Malick's *Badlands*. Beyond the post-modern wisecracks he has nothing of any significance to say. He is unable to create realistic characters, especially women with complex emotions. He tries to disguise this inadequacy by continually distracting the audience with violence and humour. When given some time to do what he wants is guilty of vacuous self-indulgence, as demonstrated by the second half of *Pulp Fiction*.

Future

The Four Rooms. A comedy starring Tim Roth as an inexperienced bellboy left in charge of a hotel on New Year's Eve. Each room he enters is a set-piece directed by someone different. The other directors are Alexander Rockwell, Allison Anders and Robert Rodriguez. The challenge will come when Tarantino moves out of the gangster genre. Can he produce a good movie without violence, which is what he does best? Before he can be given a place alongside his old movie heroes he needs a film with enough content to rival his elaborate style.

Judgement day

The cult TV comedy *The Day Today* is being released on video. James Brown reviews

There has been near universal praise for the *The Day Today*. When it was first broadcast on BBC2, plaudits rained down: "The freshest and funniest comedy since Monty Python" (*The Independent*); "rumours

of the death of British satire have proved to be exaggerated" (*Daily Telegraph*).

As ever, the *Telegraph* was more accurate. In fact, *The Independent* got it wrong on two counts; *TDT* is not a comedy, and

even if it were it is nowhere near good enough to stand comparison to *Python*. What it does is push the art of satire to the threshold of perfection.

This is both *TDT*'s greatest strength and its greatest weakness. Satire is the art of ridiculing vices or follies in this instance those in the world of news reporting. But familiarity with the institution being ridiculed is essential if the satire is to be appreciated. This is especially so here, as every expense has been taken to make the production as lifelike and witty as possible, which is completely wasted if you're not an avid news junkie.

It would appear that BBC2's own *Newsnight* comes in for the most severe mocking, its format being very similar to *TDT*'s. In particular, Christopher Morris does a brilliant Jeremy Paxman. The face, the voice, the mannerisms are all

spookily accurate, and the script naughtily expands on his renowned rudeness and arrogance.

Naughtiness rules too in a RokTV segment, rather similar to MTV. Here we are told by airhead Sukie Bapswent that Nirvana have recorded the music to an advert for a new range of female "sanitary products". The video's hilarious lyrics "Once a month you become a slave/to a tidal wave (yeah)/body's little clock/could mess up your frock etc..." may sound tasteless and unfunny. But they make a refreshing change from the usual soft-focus lady coyly harping about the freedom factor, and by the end of the clip you wish that all such

adverts were this blatant.

So, there are rich pickings for news fans and those of an sarcastic disposition (possibly one reason why the Americans didn't buy it). But others will be disappointed. *TDT* manages to be far funnier than *KYTV*, its nearest rival, and infinitely better than the new series from those doyens of wordy satire, Fry and Laurie (sorry Stephen - come back all is forgiven). Not to mention (it's barely worth it) the indescribably sad *Drop the Dead Donkey*. However, compare it to *Roseanne* and you realise what brilliant satire lacks: humour. Which, after all, is what made *Monty Python* so funny.



The *Beaver* has three sets of the BBC videos of *The Day Today*, normally priced £10.99 each, to give away to anyone who can name the name of the actor on the left and the character he plays.

Answers, name and telephone numbers to the *Beaver* office (E197) by Wednesday, March 8.

Bohemian rhapsody

Ina Woyseth on an opera oddly close to home

La Boheme

Royal Opera House

I sense some hints of disbelief, but let me assure you that at the opera, everything is possible, as long as it's romantic or tragic in one way or another.

For those of you who have never been to the opera, here's a golden opportunity: you live in London and the LSE is situated only 5 minutes walking distance from one of the world's most famous opera houses. And believe me—the Royal

Opera House in Covent Garden is an experience!

The ideal opera for "beginners" is Puccini's romantic masterpiece, *La Boheme*. The opera is set in fin-de-siecle Paris, where a group of poverty stricken, yet high-spirited students search for fame, fortune and true love. The brilliant production at Covent Garden immediately transports you to the romantic atmosphere of an artist's loft in the Bohemian quarter of Paris. What does this have to do with the *Beaver*? One of the main characters, Rodolfo, a poet, decides to remain behind in the loft one evening while his friends go out to finish an article he is writing for

his newspaper, incidentally also called *The Beaver*. As he is overcome by a spasm of creativity and writes away, someone unexpectedly knocks on his door. He goes to answer it, unaware that this is the beginning of one of the world's most romantic, yet tragic love stories. I won't give the plot away, but just say that this Bohemian musical feast is further spiced up by the characters of the temperamental Marcello and the flamboyant, coquettish Musetta (who is the men's favourite) and their volatile relationship. Puccini pours a powerful mix of emotions into some of his most romantic, sublime music. The cast is well chosen, and Romanian Angelina Gheorghiu is as lovely to behold as she is to listen to.

If you are one of those people who has always wanted to go to the opera but never has, this is your chance—*La Boheme* is the ideal debut. Take the plunge and don't miss this production!



Anglea Gheorghiu and John Botha

Photo: Alastair Muir

Greek gods bearing gifts

Pete Woodcock on a classic tragedy with a happy ending

Orpheus and Eurydice

English Touring Opera

Sadler's Wells Theatre

Gluck wrote *Orpheus and Eurydice* in 1762, and its performance here helps to explain why it has survived for so long as one of the best loved operas. It is based around the Greek myth of Orfeo and Euridice, except it is given a happy ending as its first performance was on the birthday of an emperor—Gluck thought that it would be inappropriate to give his opera a tragic ending.

It starts at the funeral of Orpheus's wife Eurydice. Orpheus is full of grief at his wife's death, and sings of his love for Eurydice. Amour (the God of love, who in this production wears a glittering purple body suit that Linford Christie would be proud of) hears this song, and takes pity on Orpheus telling him that he can go down to Hades and if he finds her, she will be returned to him. However, one condition is attached, whilst he is in Hades he is not allowed to look at Eurydice or explain why he cannot. If this condition is not carried out, Amour explains, Eurydice will die (again) and will be lost to him forever.

Orpheus reaches Hades, after bewitching the gate keepers of Hades with his song, and finds Eurydice amongst charming company in heaven and they embark upon their journey. However, Eurydice is heartbroken at Orpheus's refusal to look at her and embrace her, whereupon she declares that death would be better than life without her husband's love. With this Orpheus's resolve fails and they embrace, and sure enough Eurydice dies. With this Orpheus sings perhaps the most memorable song of the whole opera "what is life to me without thee Eurydice" and decides to kill himself. However, he is stopped by Amour, who is so moved by this show of affection that he brings Eurydice back to life (whereas in the Greek myth Orpheus is torn to pieces by Thracian women) whereupon they can go back home.

The demanding role of Orpheus was expertly sung in this production by Stephen Wallace, whose counter-tenor voice, mixed with some sublime music by Gluck results in a stunning musical effect. The English Touring Opera also make good use of their scant resources and the tiny stage at Sadler's Wells, to produce a thoroughly enjoyable performance of this Opera. All in all it was well worth the fiver I splashed out on a student standby ticket.

In sickness and in health

Asim Shivji reviews a play which searches for the truth

Broken Glass

Duke of York's Theatre

A man who persecutes himself, a woman who wishes she was someone else and a doctor who is an idealist are the ingredients of Arthur Miller's latest cocktail, *Broken Glass*.

It is set in Brooklyn 1938. Sylvia Gellburg is stricken by a mysterious paralysis in her legs for which the doctor can find no cause. On the other side of the Atlantic the Jewish community is in turmoil, persecuted by the German government - 'They are making old men crawl around and clean the sidewalks with toothbrushes'.

Is it possible that her obsession with the events in Europe has caused her paralysis? Her adoring husband Phillip has the key but it is buried deep in a hazy past and can he find it without destroying himself?

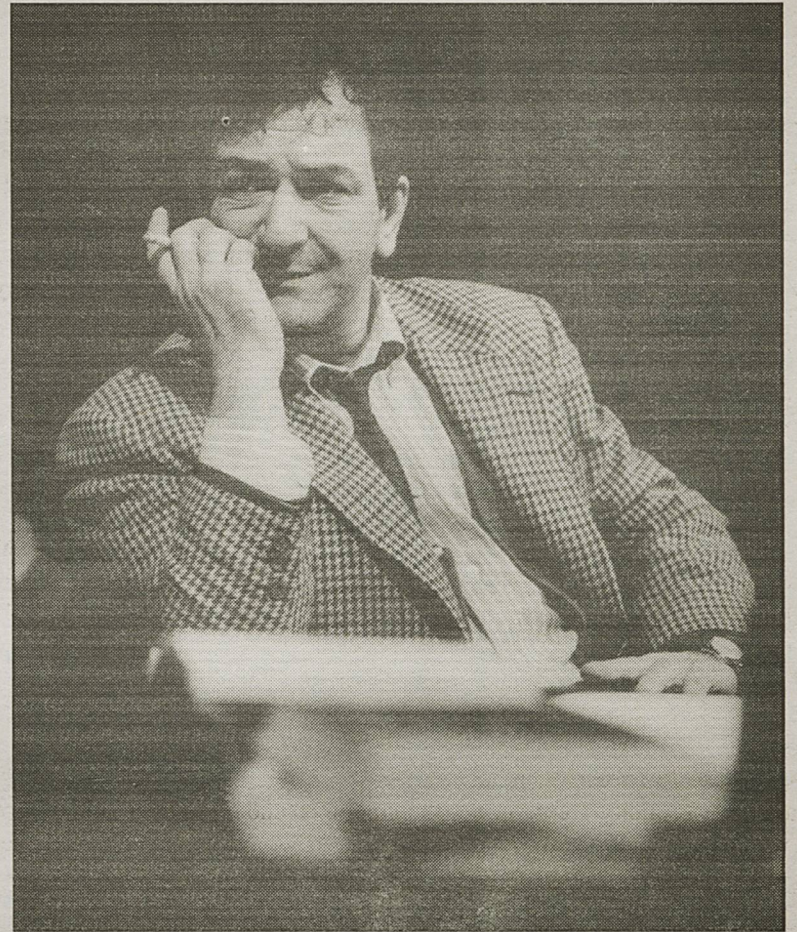
Broken Glass searches deep within each one of us, challenging our own perceptions of the world, what we mean to each other and finally asking what people understand about themselves.

Miller's robust verse is a long way from the days of *The Crucible* achieving a humorous but fiercely compassionate edge. Henry Goodman played an angry Phillip although he took some time to settle into his role. However, the star of the show was Ken Stott as the idealistic doctor. When asked, "You believe in God?" he

replies "I'm a socialist". He was funny but disturbingly convincing as the doctor with style and a long line of women in his wake.

David Thacker directs superbly using the script to its full and adding his own little slant on the story. The sets are excellent and work with the play rather than hinder it. Sadly the standard is brought down by the acting of Margot Leicester who fails to convince us as Sylvia. The emotional element of her part is not adequately dealt with, which tarnishes this otherwise brilliant production.

To many, Arthur Miller is just a writer of English GCSE texts but *Broken Glass* shows that the ageing playwright still has more than something left in him.



Ken Scott



Stephen Fry

Pam Keenan on a not too slick production with Stephen Fry

Cell Mates

Albery

Stephen Fry is one of Britain's finest alternative comics. He has even been compared to

Peter Sellers. Although he certainly has some of Sellers' comic genius, he also has some of his temperament. For instance, he took an unusual route to Cambridge university - via prison! Fry committed credit card fraud along Britain's south coast be-

fore being caught. From there he somehow ended up on the stage of the infamous Cambridge Footlights society! Now he is being hunted down once more.

On February 20, Fry failed to show for his lead role in Simon Gray's play *Cell Mates*. It was only the fourth night. The following day the theatre announced that Fry had disappeared because of self-doubts about his acting ability. Marlene Dietrich had nothing on this act. No one knew where the actor was but there were plenty of people bent on finding out. The press gang were off. By Thursday 23, headlines screamed off news stand hoardings "FRY SPOTTED ON FERRY" and "FEARS GROW FOR ACTOR, FRY".

Fry obviously just wanted to be alone and yet his fans wanted to know where and how he was. He seemed to have lost his right to privacy in the name of news. However, admirers do not have the right to such information. It is a regretful flaw in our society that public figures can have no privacy even for matters of such a personal nature. We should not confuse information with gossip. The professional conduct of the news media should be to convey news not trivia.

This does not mean that public figures should not be exposed if their actions prove to be hypocritical or unlawful in any way. But when a person chooses to remove themselves from the public gaze this should be honoured. Stephen Fry is a man who makes us laugh

and yet we demand to know all the details of his private life. His disappearance is news but his location is immaterial. Surely everyone deserves a little peace once in a while.

But what about the play he walked out on. I never saw Fry but I did see too much of *Cell Mates* to be kind. The script was weak. It was weak to the point of being structurally unsound. It should have been condemned before Gray ever thought about booking a theatre! By the interval the urge to leave was becoming quite irresistible. We stayed, but only because the golden cherubs on the ceiling of the Albery Theatre were quite lovely. Besides it was raining outside and a bit cold at that.

Mark Anderson stepped into the breach left by Fry. We wanted him to be great. We wanted to be able to write a storming review along the lines of "a star is born". Anderson was a real disappointment. He played the role of a KGB spy escaping to Moscow but was so unconvincing that it became painful to watch. First night nerves perhaps, but an actor of his maturity should have worked out a way for curing those by now. This may seem harsh but it is ultimately very fair.

OK and now for the verdict on Rik Mayall who played the engineer of the escape. Well the jury is still out on this one. He can act rather well - his current TV series proves that point. He can also be hilariously funny. However, the two don't mix. One minute he was

an Irishman with a very dodgy accent and the next - schwing - Rik had turned into Flasheart from the *Blackadder* series. It didn't really work, though the audience did seem to wake up a bit.

The rest of the cast were fine but they did not have the potential to steal the show. Their parts were small and generally walk-on in style. This was in reality an elaborate dialogue and the words weren't really worth speaking. *Cell Mates* is probably the biggest miss this year - but then it is only February.

The fiasco that is *Cell Mates* seems to have shaken Fry to his foundations and yet this is a man who can act. He can act very well, as Peter in Kenneth Branagh's film *Peter's Friends*, as Humphrey Taylor in *The Common Pursuit*, and as Jeeves in the series based on the PG Wodehouse novels. All these roles were brilliant successes and received rave reviews. Moreover, his novels are brilliant best sellers and his comic series highly sought after.

The first of the new series of *A Bit of Fry and Laurie* was screened a few weeks ago. Strange that the opening episode included a sketch on the wonders of a world without the media of Rupert Murdoch and his company, News International. At the end Murdoch was pushed off a bridge by his guardian angel for being a menace to good society. Now the same media Fry made pointed comments at is on his trail. I don't rate his chances of remaining hidden for long.

Heat and dust

Leila Butt on fragile human relationships

Indian Ink

Aldwych Theatre

Indian Ink directed by Peter Wood is the latest of Tom Stoppard's plays to be produced in the West End. Surprisingly enough it has many parallels to another of his plays – *Arcadia*. Both of them are about poets and their biographers who patiently unravel their public and private lives.

The story is set in two time periods – the action shifts from one period to the next, always overlapping to form a cohesive whole. Flora Crewe (Felicity Kendal), a poet with a past, has gone to India

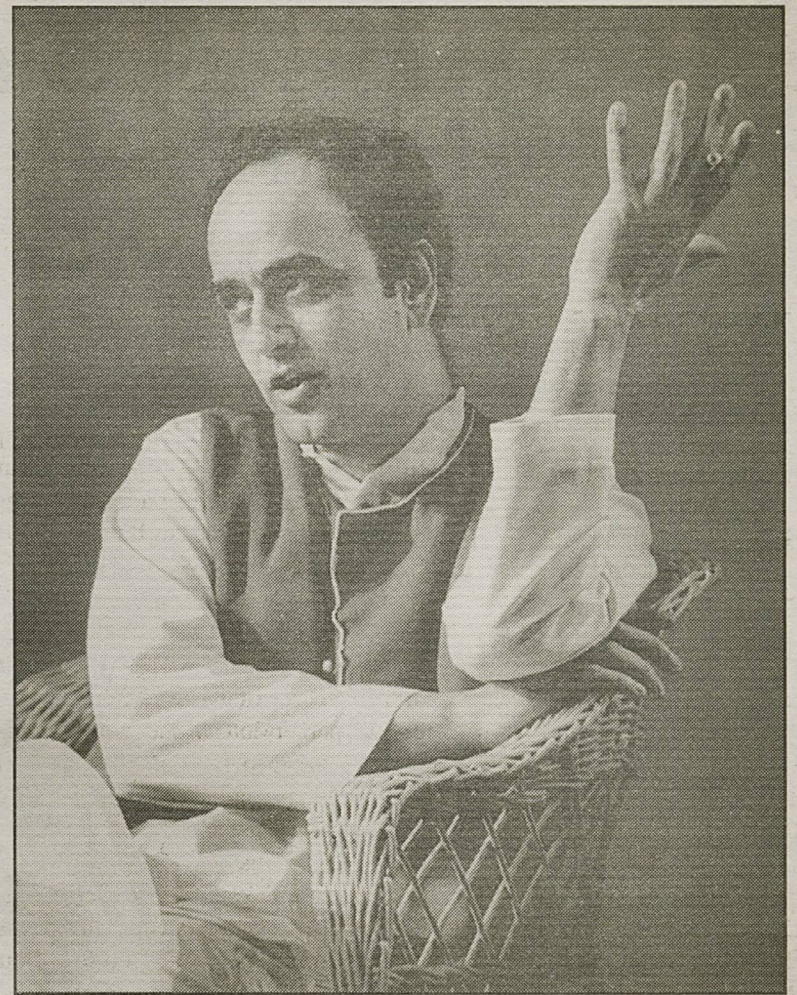
on account of her ill health. The year is 1930 and Indian nationalism is on the rise with Gandhi's Salt March forming the historical backbone Stoppard is so fond of. Whilst in India, Crewe meets an artist, Nirad Das (Art Malik), who offers to paint her. It is through Crewe's letters which her biographer unearths more than half a century later, as well as numerous flashbacks, that we learn about these two central characters.

Stoppard's dialogue is brilliant, especially the way he picks up typically Indian mannerisms where speech, character and behaviour are concerned. The play is less about Crewe than about nationalism and the fragile, unstable relationship between the colonizers and the colonized shown most poignantly through the interactions of

Crewe and Das. The contradictions which the people of an occupied country face are brought out as well – is it possible to be a patriot and love English literature, why does India carry on with British traditions even today?

Kendal and Mailk complement one another in their respective roles though Mailk does tend to overshadow Kendal at times. The supporting cast is mainly Indian and they manage to help keep the momentum going till the end. Colin Stinton as the abrasive American biographer is good in a, dare I say it, very American way.

Whether you like Stoppard or not, this play is unmissable for its sensitivity and insight into human relationships and its frank, honest appraisal of the interactions between East and West.



Art Malik



Nicholas Day, Tom Georgeson and David Bark-Jones

Game of chance

Papiya Chatterjee on gambling scams and the like

Dealers Choice

National Theatre

As you can probably guess from the name, this is a play which is basically about a poker game so it is hard to imagine how it can be so good with such a small cast (six men) and relatively few scenery changes. But the reason it excels is because from the moment it starts it has the audience in stitches. There is a very diverse range of characters displayed among the protagonists, from Mugsy who as his name suggests

is a complete mug, to a suave businessman, to a professional gambler.

Although the play is jam packed with witty one-liners, there are some serious moments and in some parts it gets very crude – so don't take your granny along!

The main plot is quite straightforward but the sub-plots are altogether more complicated and are intricately woven into the main scheme of things. The main theme being the interaction between a son and his father – the father is a well-off restaurateur and the son is what would be commonly defined as a "waster" who's always sponging off his Dad. But he uses

the money to gamble and as a result has built up huge debts. To pay off his main debt he invites the debtor to come and play poker with him and his father so that the money can be won back directly. But his father doesn't know that the new addition to the set is a professional poker player. So does the pro win his money back off him? This question of who wins and what happens as a result of it does not remain unanswered but the ending could have been much better. However, this is probably my only criticism of the play and overall it was well produced and brilliantly acted. Definitely well worth watching.

Singing over Broadway

Prini Patel on a comic farce to lighten the spirits

Top of the Town

EtceteraTheatre

Top of the Town is a hilarious comedy musical. The play follows a pleasant comic and romantic story-line which is centred around the production of a musical on Broadway. Harry Stein, who is played by Roy Smiles (who incidentally also wrote and directed the play) is desperately trying to put together a show. He is faced with many problems as his cast is generally angry at not being paid, his arrogant ex-wife is being difficult and the shows backer is an unsuccessful gangster!

The musical incorporates some of the famous songs written by Rogers and Hart and are sure to please a true musical junkie like myself. The actors are accompanied beautifully by a single piano and the great music coupled with the talented singing voices really polish the performances.

Top of the Town is not, how-

ever, a typical musical. It does not portray the typical image of the squeaky clean family viewing material. In fact much of the humour is certainly of the adult variety but is very entertaining. Roy Smiles is excellent in the lead role. He certainly steals the show with his immaculate New York accent and his cocky manner which turns him into a loveable rogue.

The lighthearted comedy and subtle romance blended with extremely funny gags and farcical scenes all made this show a definite hit. The acting was superb which made it thoroughly enjoyable to watch. Each character has his or her own comic personality – from the unbelievably stupid bouncer to the sycophantic stage manager. This mixture of a good story supported by lively acting leads me to agree with the suggestion that this show deserves to be shown in the West End. The production would benefit enormously from the extra funding and a larger theatre. In fact, it's far more entertaining than many of the musicals currently showing in the West End

Next Week

Review of *Hamlet* with Ralph Fiennes

SINGLES

WormHole

Lay It On
(Roadrunner)

When I hear songs like this it nearly makes me weep. It makes me realise that I too could have success and with it money. All I need is a really shit beard, some very ugly counterparts and then jump up and down on my instruments and pretend it's clever. Don't buy it, ever. It's not a song, it's just noise.

Terrorvision

Some People Say
(Wild)

Well it's about time they did something half decent, although that's all it is – half decent. Having said that it's still a vast improvement on their previous shite, maybe they're growing up, maybe they've learnt their instruments, maybe it's an outrageous fluke, I don't know. What I do know is that it's one hell of an irony that Terrorvision were one of only three bands to achieve five top 40 singles last year.

Tindersticks

No more affairs
(Automatic)

The Tindersticks are like an old dog in front of the fire. You love it despite the fact that it doesn't do a thing except smell a bit and eat craneflies. Even though you love puppies as well at least the old dog doesn't shit behind the telly and chew your Viz annual. Hang on a second, I'm talking a load of shit, sorry. The new single by the Tindersticks is exactly the same as the rest of them, you can't help but think "get on with it you bastards" as they play five minutes of intro. and then stop. I might like it more when I'm old and sick. I might also enjoy eating craneflies.

Luscious Jackson

Deep Shag
(Bad Moon)

Ever heard of Luscious Jackson? Probably. Do you know why? I doubt it. Do they think that title is funny? I hope not. Does she sound like Dolly Parton? Too much so. Is this song any good? Not really, no.

Gravediggaz

6 feet deep E.P.
(Wild)

Why do certain young hipsters have to do things like misspell the end of their name? It's not clever to be called Gravediggaz or Plastikman, the Beatles didn't get to where they did by being called the Beetalz. The songs not that bad mind you, which just goes to show you can't judge a book by its cover, otherwise the song would be bollox.

Boo Radleys

Wake Up Boo
(Creation)

There's been a hell of a lot of hype about this song. The NME called it the best song of the year and the ultimate pop song. If you've heard any of their last album Giant Steps you may well have high expectations

for this song. This is a shame because Wake Up Boo is one of the worst songs I've ever heard in my life. Everything that made the Boo Radleys good has been tossed out of the window for this one and the result is horrible. There's nothing wrong with wanting to appeal to a larger audience but this is just shite. They've tried to create a happy summery pop song but it isn't summer. It's February and it's pissing it down. The last thing I want to hear is this. It's overly happy, over hyped and it's shite.

Republica

Bloke
(BMG)

I'm afraid Michael (aka. Captain Caveman) has run away with all the literature on this so I can't tell you who Republica are. Doesn't matter though, I don't suppose you care. Anyway, this song has the potential to be a blistering dance hit. As it stands I don't think it will be, due to some woman (whose name I don't know) singing over the top. Don't get me wrong it's quite a nice voice and on another song it might have worked but this song doesn't need it or want it.

Catatonia

Bleed/This Boy Can't Swim/Painful
(Excess)

I hate it when I get bloody ordinary stuff to review, there's only a limited number of words to describe mediocrity. Catatonia is one.

Angel Cage

Boxtrimmer E.P.
(ORG)

Within two seconds of playing this I thought: "I'm going to hate this." As it turned out I didn't but to describe it as good or at least "above average" is probably a bit too much of a compliment. Not really a song to trim your box to.

Mr Rogers

The Sway

Going Blind

The style of the A-side "Going Blind" is certainly nothing to get too excited about.

It is fairly standard rock and although it is not a particularly bad song it has been overproduced to the extent that it sounds too much like so much else that we've all heard before.

It starts with an interesting little guitar riff but soon settles down into a dreary style of rock that would have certainly have been more at home in the eighties. A point which is emphasised by the second track "No-one comes (Close to you)" which is reminiscent of some of the Waterboys' early material, in style only and not quality. The third track "The Death Of Venus" sounds like U2 on a bad day. The Sway aren't likely to offend, but equally they're not going to get your juices flowing either.

Tom Stone

Some serious drugs

We gave Susan Mills the new Leftfield CD, £15 and directions to SOAS – she gave us this...

We all very pissed it starts off veery mellow which makes your head move – the voice shouldn't be there but then it goes good again – good beat goes in and again – I'm going to Mega Dog (Super King) next Saturday - The voice was there again - it pisses me of – lets go to 2-2, I want the beat to come in the fucking voice is there again – the beat has just come in – I min 35 the 2 track its shit, 2 min 20, its still shit then it gets good, I'm going to leave it, 3 – gentle, soothing, above all pleasant, that was nice its going to get to a rush, its lovely but it hasn't come in soon enough maybe its never going to get there i'm bored 4 lets go – mellow bored again, something is going to happen the ambience is in the smooth ITS COME IN AND ITS GOOD, fucking hell it got good then that was lovely lets go to 5 – this is brilliant I've heard it before in, Oh its so good now lovely bit there I want to dance now, I LOVE IT SO MUCH, SO VERY MUCH that girl's voice works. (Whistley?) 6 – starts kicking its going to rush very, it rushed

then, HOUSEY (He-<Man, I have the POWER:) 7 – the calm before the storm anticipation 7 that was fucking good I completely love this I've heard this at something, john miChelle what a rush thjis would be so good I'm going to Mega Dog – This is a rushing as john yeltsin, – LOVELY it came in again like the clap and it won't go7 aaaahhhhh. HOUSEYYYY. 8 – aahhh7 voice is quite good this tie the beat is coming7 reggae7 the Bull and Bush in the Bot swan, I pulled the most amazing shag, its sounds like Dr Alban a bit too much. (RUB) 9-housey this time7 I like that7 radar (Mrs McClusky will attack at dawn)7 a bit too much like JUNGLE7 nice ambient shit now, clappy bit, as happy happy as Mr Happy (Tree) this is a good one on to 10 – Busby loves this one7 and Gary Willjmot too, and Beei-naan likes it quite a bit, scratches – so do I actually7 me and Busby heard it in the whirligig7 cumbye ah my lordy. Wazzar has heard this one a lot, it makes him throb. 11 – dreamy and wishy, oh fucking stupid cunt's voice is washy, (Poltergeist just came into

Kourgetta's Room), the voice is still there return of the Jedi; its going to go but all I can think of is Bergerac, it is so sad but the song sounds very good, i'm bored 12 – there is not 12, no, I will leave you but there should be about 45 tracks more, P.S It's been a few moments since I listened to it and on reflection, I think I would just have to go out and not groove not dance but take a Pill and Jedi for 12 hours and then buy it. I'm going to the Mega Dog and may the FOORCE BEEWITHH YOOOOOOOOOOOOOO. I love every single one of you by the way you cunts..I had the most wonderful phone from Fingers – good Tims – TONight. He's my drugs Buddie, and he made me feel nice, I did not get any fucking, Valentines fiucking cards except off F'Tang who is a CUNT. I am going to the shop now for some fags and CHERRY (I sees the breeze, who sneeze cheese) COKE .Mmmm~. I love you.

The number for drugs helpline is 0171 603 8654. Just in case.

P.W.E.I

The Poppies release the same album twice...or do they?

Have you ever wondered who first thought of squeezing a cows' tits and drinking the stuff that came out? Have you ever wondered who first thought of mixing hops, barley, sugar and the white shit you get on grapes, then leaving it for a couple of years before drinking it? Smoking's another one. Who the fuck thought of inhaling fire?

The person responsible for these discoveries is still alive and has just produced **Two Fingers My Friends**. All the ingredients for this album are wrong. You do not think of PWEI, Jah Wobble and Fun Da Mental as compatible in any way but it appears to have worked.

Two Fingers My Friends is a double remix album of their biggest album to date. Originally **Dos Dedos Mis Amigos**, it has now become an English translation and that can only be a good thing in my book.

I have to be honest with you though, I haven't actually heard the original so for all you poppy fans wondering if it's worth buy-

ing on top of **Dos Dedos Mis Amigos**, buy the Melody Maker or something because I don't know. What I do know is that this sounds bugger all like PWEI and as a consequence actually sounds quite good in places.

There isn't much in the way of lyrics although they're still present, and the entire genre that is PWEI has been replaced by a far more synthetic sound. What this has achieved is that now all the crap, annoying album fillers have had the edge taken off them which makes for a far more listenable album. The drawbacks of such a scheme is that any prospective hits have also had all it's edges rounded, but seeing as they've already released all their hits from this album I don't suppose they give a toss.

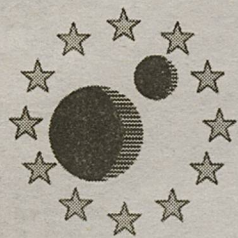
Dos Dedos Mis Amigos managed to reach the dizzy heights of #11 in the national charts which suggests that there is probably a strong enough fan-base to ensure that this album sells as well as it deserves.. And why not? **WR**

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STA TRAVEL

Seconds knock out dentists teeth

Popov gets well battered

After last Wednesday's crucial double-header victory over KCH, the mighty Seconds faced table-topping UMDS, knowing that another win would quell any relegation fears and propel them far up the table. The omens once again did not look to good with only nine on show at Waterloo, some sporting their brand-new training-tops. Hopefully the pattern of the Firsts will not be followed and the lads will not let the said items rule their lives and never change their clothes again.

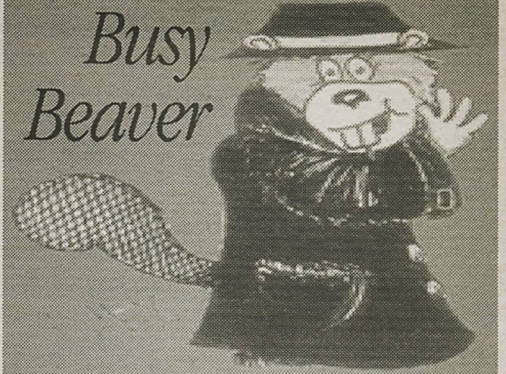
Fortunately the Fourths and Fifths had their games cancelled due to quality control and so Thomas "Amazing" Grace and Nigel "Name Your" Price came in to make the numbers up.

The opening exchanges were not too impressive. Their referee was wearing a

cricket jumper (wanker), Menno was in a coma and Andreja Popov was being exposed as the donkey that he surely is. Yet the game was turned with a nasty head injury to Popov that necessitated his exit to get a band-aid put on it. At first their team of dentists diagnosed two separate cuts but they soon found out that one had been caused the previous week when he got battered at Ronnie Scott's by Arnold out of Different Strokes™. With Popov off the pitch, the side seemed to gel together better. Grace ran the midfield with a performance that belied his Fourth team status, while Price jinked down the right wing all day, and right at the end of the half Stevie Quick's inch-perfect pass was met by Tim Ludford-Thomas who calmly slotted home for the lead. As "Giggsy" Popov made his return on the left-wing, LSE began to take control

as their superior passing game overpowered UMDS's dentistry talents. The second break-through came when Ludford's cross from the right was headed against the bar by Steve Quick and the goal-hanging Popov bravely followed up to head home from close range. Their keeper made good saves from Ludford and Popov but two goals were enough as the defence stood rock-solid once again.

The two-nil victory was most satisfactory and the day got better on the discovery of a nice, hot team bath just for us. There was also a lovely selection of meals afterwards (not just pies) and so everyone went home very happy indeed. This win takes the Seconds up to fourth place, well clear of danger and clearly focussing on their impending semi-final. Football lovers everywhere wish them the best of luck.



Bonjour mes tetes de merde. c'est Busy Beaver encore. My oh my, you have been a quiet bunch this week haven't you? There's not been much happening in the love-tunnel that is Houghton Street this week. Not much, but enough.

Last Thursday saw Rag Blind Date, and some blossoming new relationships developing under the watchful eye of Cilla Sked. Love could finally be in the air for Jim Buggerlots, who was selected by Shamminey Leather. Dinner for two was the prize, which is nothing new for Big Jim, but did he get dessert? I doubt it. Another lucky lady was Knickerless Nobday, who has the chance to equal Hairy Durrivill's record with the Rugby team on her theatre date with Femi (BB won't say anything nasty about him because he's really big). There was only one loser on that night, Renata DirtyTaff, who couldn't handle the sexual magnetism that is Pissed Pooper, and instead chose grubby Brummie Raj Fattyshandy. In the street outside there was an impromptu game of Blind Ruck which saw Ginger Matthews and Scouse Uphill-Gardiner win a trip to the cinema, to see the end of a Spielberg film where Jaws gets absolutely battered. The arse-pinching duo went on to Stringfellows, or should it be Mingfellows judging by the two slappers they ended up with. Once again Scouse couldn't get it up etc. etc. Scouse was still in the action on Friday night when boozy floozy Susie Beggs-for-it brought a couple of mates down. One of them also brought a couple of very large "friends" down with her, yet no one was able to see them. Not much. Scouse got the massage, after finally getting the message from all nice women everywhere.

It's not been such a good week for Toss Hendry, who lost his hot Scot girlfriend to Fifth team cassanova Ginger Bell-end, who had already broken the heart of Tiny Lall who in turn has stolen the heart of Mark Darcy, who had been going out with Valli. Bizarrely, Valli is now going out with Hendry. It all happens at Rosebery, you know.

Now cross-dressing is something which BB does not approve off, but I suppose it's not that bad when a loving couple wears each other clothes. Such a twosome are Blobby Lowen and Karen Lay, who has been seen wearing the Fat Man's training top. I'm not quite sure how Lowen can wear her clothes though, because he's fat as fuck, although sometimes he has to borrow her knickers when he runs out of shitty pants.

Now the time has come for the ex-writers of this column and their sordid sex lives to be exposed. Mr Monkey Whippy and Hairy Durrivill may have been partners on the campus pages, but Whippy has always wanted it to be more. While his constant slavering and puppy-dog following has embarrassed his few friends, he has soldiered on unabated until now, for Durrivill has confessed her affections for Chopper Smith, leaving Whippe to divert his attention to other obsessions such as Nobday, Rogue and Barnesy. Poor man.

Scouse's Quote of the week:
If Claire Laurie dumped me, I wouldn't cry like Martin Lewis does."

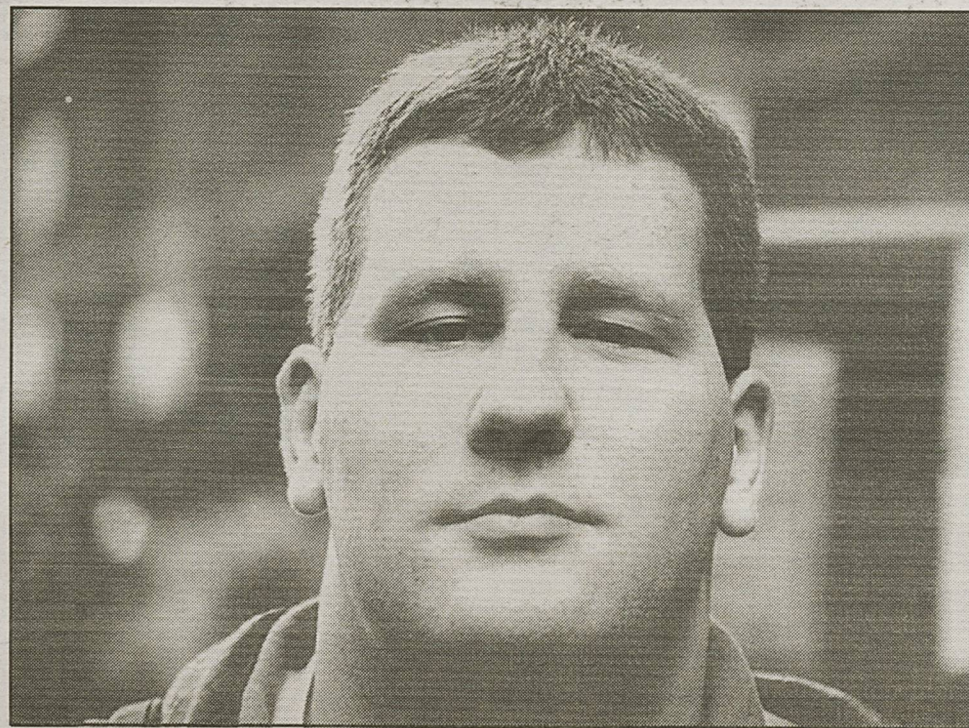
LSE LEGENDS

No.1 in a series of 1

It came as no surprise to the spectators at Endurance on Friday night that the winner was Jim "Bungalow" Cherundolo. The 21 year old from Indianapolis has carved out a place in the LSE hall of fame with his shorts, cheeky smile, eating ability and cube-head. His skills on the Rugby field, as well as his heroic performance in Endurance where he saw off the rest of the Rugby team and a spotty Conservative looney Scotsman, have endeared himself to the rest of the college.

All the blokes want to be his buddy, and all the girls want to have his babies. He truly is an LSE Legend.

Jim Cherundolo is available for hen nights, childrens parties and any other events that require 100% American Beefcake prepared to do anything for a fast buck or a good square meal (catfood will suffice). Contact him in The Three Tuns or at his home, which is situated above Pizza Hut.



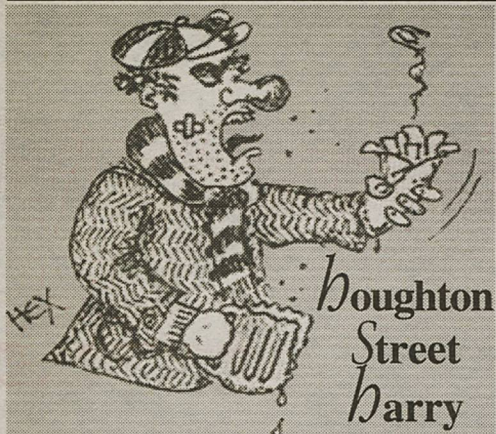
Jim Cherundolo - What A Guy

Photo: Stephen Hau

LSE RACING SOCIETY

The LSE Racing Society is holding a Race Night in The Underground on Wednesday March 8, starting at 7.30pm. There will be a massive bar subsidy and eight televised race. Come early to avoid disappointment

Members £1 Non-Members £2



It's a well-known fact that Britain, as a country, is generally shit at most sports. We have our fair share of World Champions it's true, but most of these come in pub games such as snooker and darts, which is hardly the envy of the rest of the sporting world that prefers to excel in other fields apart from wearing waistcoats or being fat. Britain is now very much a second-class citizen in many of the sports that were actually invented here. The reason for this is very simple. While other countries send their gifted children to top coaches or specialist schools, our kids have to wear pants if they forget their kit and then run around in sacks or holding an egg. Real Gold Medal stuff! The option of improving facilities and having schools of excellence is not really viable, so instead of changing our schools to suit sport, I propose introducing new sports just for us.

The first of these would be the ancient martial-art of Mercy. No other country in the world could match us at this. The inherent skill of this sport is to make yourself taller than your opponent so that you could bend your hand over theirs. A swift cry of "Mercy" would soon ensue. I used to be magic at this but my mate Tim Hills was the best. If he was losing he would give his opponent a dead leg into the bargain. Underhand I admit, but all's fair in love and war.

In addition to this I propose that the Olympic Games should incorporate Slaps into its agenda. This is the ultimate test of nerve, as flinching away from a slap means taking a free slap as a penalty. Some kids have perfected this game over the years to the extent that they could keep it up all day until their opponent gave up, saying "It's not fair", or until the bell went for next lesson. Slaps was indeed a painful game, but nothing could compare to the agony and trauma caused by a game of Raps. The story was so familiar. Oliver Barlow would cut a four. My hopes would be high, but no, a two. I'd cut again, the nine of hearts. Shit. This meant nine raps of my knuckles, and hard ones at that because it was a red card. It would be especially worse because Oliver Barlow was a right bastard who used to slip a coin into the deck while no-one was looking. I had the last laugh on him though because I stole his PE kit once and he had to do gym in his Superman Y-fronts and everyone was laughing because they could see he only had one bollock.

Finally as a replacement for the arty, girly stuff such as gymnastics and ice-dancing, the new sport of finger-games could be introduced. There would be an overall title, as well as the separate individual disciplines. The first of these would be the "finger through the hand" event. Holding both hands together, palms facing, the middle fingers would overlap and one hand would rotate until the impression is given that the participant has one long finger. Points will be awarded for style, presentation and how many people are impressed by the feat. A pairs event is for each person to spread their hands out with palms facing and join together with one vertical) one horizontal. When the horizontal contestant opens his hands and looks inside, he will see the impression of a vagina. Clever that.

Delea strikes Golds

Trees blunders once again

LSE's golden boys resoundingly trounced Golds 6-1 at the weekend showing the type of form which will have Royal Holloway quaking in their second class boots at the prospect of having to face Shandy's army in the ULU cup semi-final. Grant Delea predictably led the rout displaying the sort of form that has interested the likes of Canvey Island F.C. Delea bagged two beauties, racing away from a flat-footed defence on both occasions to further press his claim for this year's player of the season. Blunden, Hansenesque at the back, lapped up all that Golds' pathetic strikeforce could throw at him. Even Thode looked uncharacteristically assured in defence, carressing the ball majestically

across the back four. Trees was back on form after recovering in Romford General Hospital from the kicking he received outside Hollywoods. He even managed for the first time in his wretched LSE career to score in open play. Delea was felled in the area and for some perverse reason Trees is still being allowed to take the spot kicks. The keeper, suprised at the sheer lack of pace and accuracy of his spooned effort, could only parry the ball back to the grateful Trees who made no mistake with his second shot. Kinnear on the other hand had an absolute mare, despite scoring yet another contender for Goal of the Decade he contrived to miss a string of golden opportunities that even scoper Cooper might have

capitalised upon. Even a lowly fourth teamer grabbed a piece of the action, the lad Vetta forcing home a simple chance minutes after replacing the valiant Charalambos. The firsts' linesman, Big Dierk, completed the massacre casting aside his flag scoring another tap in and celebrating with a bockwurst and a plate of kartoppelkopf.

After such a comprehensive performance the scene is set for a titanic struggle between the class of LSE and the long ball scum of Holloway. Captain Shandy will be praying that Kinnear has a quick return to the form which has seen single-handedly destroy the best that London football can offer. If Kinnear turns out the same abysmal shite again the Firsts season is over.

Nanbudo demonstration

Ove H. Gusevik

On Wednesday March 8, the LSE student community will for the first time be introduced to Nanbudo. The founder himself, Master Yoshinao Nanbu from Japan, will hold a demonstration at LSE with the support of the Moroccan Champion Aberdahan Alliane as well as the Norwegian LSE graduate student Ove H. Gusevik. Nanbudo is one of the fastest growing martial arts worldwide, and Mr. Nanbu himself is one of the leading Martial Arts experts in the world today. A former Japanese and European Champion in Karate, he founded in 1980 his new school of Martial Art. Additionally to traditional self-defence, Nanbudo applies breathing techniques and emphasizes positive, creative and energetic training. Nanbudo has also been called "The Art for the Creation of Energy." The demonstration will take place in the Badminton Court, Old Building, starting at 6pm. All welcome.



Mr. Nanbu - he's rock he is Photo: Library

Hockey girls lose again

Another fine turn-out for the women's hockey team saw yet another defeat, plunging us deeper into the relegation mire. Unfortunately, the scoreline does not reflect a superb performance by the LSE team but it was just the same old story of only having eight players against eleven. Chances to score were thwarted by RLH's defence strategy of playing all their team at back, whilst our defenders were the victims of one or two dubious umpire's decisions. Des, as always, was playing like a demon, growling her way down the pitch, and she was well supported

by Caroline, displaying fantastic skills and control. Thanks must also go to Damiana, in her debut game for LSE, who continued to play despite a nasty injury to her hand. All in all, the LSE players should feel proud to have played so well under such bad circumstances, continually pushing forward and playing positively. I'm not going to bother getting angry at the usual lack of commitment this week, but as Brian said, "You'd think that with 2000 women at the LSE, you'd be able to get 11 to play hockey. And don't scuff my six-yard box." Couldn't agree more with you there, Brian.

UCL slamdunked by LSE greasers

LSE Sports fans will be delighted to learn of the hidden force in the AU. The Basketball 2nds. A squad committed to teamwork, with the result being a unity that would put fear into an All Black XV. The team has put together a misleading record of 3-3, but the victories have been ones that count. With a last second triumph over Imperial (69-68) and total domination of UCL (76-57) the 2nds have put themselves in a good position to qualify for any post-season which might occur. In a league composed of the various Hellenic Societies from their respective schools, the competition is tough and the games rowdy. "It is not uncommon to see both team benches clear screaming, yelling and pushing," said the team's high scorer (with an average 17 points a game) Avi "American Express" Kumin.

Although the matches tend to get aggressive and opponents often use the "Vinnie Jones Bible of Fair Play" the 2nds

choose to do most otheir talking in the form of outstanding play. The team's second highest scorer, Chris "Magic" Anayiotos (16.7) consistently fills the hoop with long-range three-pointers and creative lay-ups. In addition, Yiannos "Plastic Man" Ioannou (10.8) is there every game with his astounding vertical leap and unconventional, yet very successful techniques. Rounding out the line-up is the coach/player Russ "Mugsy" Wodiska (6.2) who makes his "biggest" contribution through skilled ball-handling and well-placed passes.

"Outstanding commitment and skills by the other role players is what makes this team so dangerous," said avid fan Jennifer Cochran. The other "role" players, vital to the team's success, are Rick Yoneoka, Martin Ortleib, Pandelis Goros, Lambros Ntasios and Siew Han. Ortleib sums up the loud and heated battles best by saying, "They're all Greek to me!"