

# The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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**Blink talks to Hilary Benn about socialism.**  
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**All Tomorrow's Parties today**  
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### Election campaign

Houghton Street took on a carnival atmosphere last Wednesday and Thursday as campaigners for the various candidates in the Students' Union elections sought to woo floating voters. Not all students appreciated their efforts.

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### Election complaints

Campaigning for the LSE Students' Union election last week was marred by a series of complaints filed by various contestant against each other and *The Beaver*, which resulted in three candidates for the position of General Secretary being temporarily barred from campaigning.

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### NUS referendum

The LSE Student's Union will remain affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS), it was decided in last week's referendum, held alongside the Student's Union elections on Wednesday and Thursday. The Yes to NUS campaign celebrated a resounding victory, winning 74 percent of the votes cast.

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### Stolen Treasures

The LSE's first Tibetan student condemns a US museum for promoting the image of the Chinese occupiers as cultural guardians.

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### Haruki Murakami

"...we could be together...only for the briefest moment. In the next instant, we'd be in absolute solitude. Until we burned up and became nothing." Haruki Murakami in Literature.

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# Madlani victorious

## Key election results

**GenSec:** Rishi Madlani  
**Treasurer:** Nat Black  
**Comms:** Chris Heathcote  
**Ed&Welfare:** Siân Errington

- Jimmy Tam wins Societies Officer  
- Simon Chignell wins Residences  
- Left to dominate Union Executive, C&S and F&S

**Sam Jones**  
News Editor

After a term of quiet planning, a week of campaigning and a long Thursday night, current LSE SU Residences Officer Rishi Madlani was pronounced winner of the closely contested General Secretary election race.

Of the 1721 votes cast, Madlani polled 890 votes after redistribution, putting him just over 200 votes ahead of his nearest competitor Mark Power who came second with 670.

Speaking after the elections, Madlani told *The Beaver* how his initial reaction had been a mixture of joy and relief: "Joy because we had won in the face of adversity and relief because my team had worked hard to achieve our goal."

The General Secretary race remained too close to call



Remnants of two days of campaigning. / Photo: Sid Kamath

throughout the final week of campaigning, with the late breakthrough many were expecting from one of the two principle contenders failing to materialise.

Both Madlani and Power ran high profile street campaigns, turning out numerous supporters onto Houghton Street to distribute leaflets to crucial swing voters.

Power was earlier suspected of having a significant number of society endorsements behind his

campaign. However, a number of late society turnarounds surprised many in the Power campaign. Among them the LGBT Society, the Greens and SPICE (Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture and Ethics) all fell late in the day, either to Dave Cole or Madlani.

Unlike in previous years, however, both candidates adopted moderate political platforms, with both focusing on student-driven agendas for change. Cole,

however, earlier decried the lack of adequate policy objectives in campaigns "based on coloured pieces of paper."

Madlani's support again appears to have come principally from across LSE residences, though significant support also came from the centre-left. Madlani put residences campaigns at the centre of his election pledges.

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# University of London in doubt

**Prashant Rao**  
Executive Editor

The future of the University of London (UL) was thrown into doubt last week after the Provost of University College London (UCL) published a paper calling for the dissolution of the university and LSE Council met to discuss the subject.

Debate on the issue comes in the wake of a consultation paper put out by the Vice-Chancellor of UL, Graeme Davies, in February questioning the future of the University. In it, he explores "the values and ethos of the

University, as well as...the role and provision of centrally-provided services."

Speaking to *The Beaver*, he has said he sees the consultation moving towards a more "enhanced role for UL."

In his report to Council, the LSE's governing body, the School's Director Howard Davies said, "the reorganisation or disbanding of the University of London has not been a significant School objective," but that should UL ever break up, "the equity in its estate should be distributed among the constituent Schools."

When asked what the LSE's

share of such a distribution would be, Davies replied that, through years of subscription fees to UL, the School felt it "owned" eight percent of the University. He said that, should the University be disbanded, the LSE "would not want the actual property, just some money. It doesn't make much sense for us to have a building up by Senate House."

He also commented: "We are also not happy about the Library, among other things, being swallowed up because our students and staff use them."

A principal concern that was discussed at Council was the pos-

sibility that, should UL dissolve, UCL would want to claim the UL name. UCL President and Provost Malcolm Grant, in his paper available on UCL's website, describes a proposal that would involve combining the various Bloomsbury colleges and re-branding them as the University of London. That institution would bring together 24,000 full-time and 19,000 part-time students.

That proposal has been described by SU Environment and Ethics Officer and Council delegate Joel Kenrick as, "obviously something LSE would have

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## University of London to break up?

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to be wary of as it may adversely affect us."

When asked as to his original reaction to Grant's proposal, the UL Vice-Chancellor replied: "I advised him that I thought it added helpfully to the debate."

In the Director's presentation to Council, he also outlined the School's non-financial interests in UL, and stressed the need to safeguard them. They include: continued access to the University's library facilities; continued access to sports facilities and inter-collegiate residences; satisfactory resolution of the future of the External Programme; and the completion of the School's acquisition of degree-awarding powers and patriation of PhD administration.

Regarding further discussions on the issue, LSE SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane commented: "Whilst UL does seem very distant to LSE students, I think it is correct that we are cautious moving forward in these discussions over its future and possible dissolution.

"If we are heading towards a future of a smaller or perhaps fully-dissolved UL, the School must increase certain services it provides to students."

At the moment, the LSE pays over £800,000 to UL in the form of a federal subscriptions, Careers Service, library facilities, as well as other resources. It is unclear how much of this would be saved, however, as the School would have to invest in its own resources to replace those available through UL.

Earlier in the year, *The Beaver* reported that the LSE Careers Service was moving to disaffiliate from that offered by UL on the basis that LSE students are very different from those at other UL colleges. In addition, the LSE has been in the process of applying for its own degree-awarding powers, something that the UL Vice-Chancellor recommended all constituent colleges move towards.

With regards to the Students' Union in particular, and its relationship with the UL Union (ULU), Macfarlane said: "I have to say that I have been disappointed with the activities of ULU...ULU Council has mostly been inoperative, it has been a quiet year for ULU.

"Nevertheless, it can't be forgotten that the non-political side of ULU continues to benefit LSE students

The Director said that the School will send a formal response to the consultation process, due to end on 27 May, in the summer term, after a preliminary consultation with the Academic Board on March 9.

# LSE to remain affiliated to NUS

John Macartney and  
Tanya Rajapakse

The LSE Student's Union will remain affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS), it was decided in last week's referendum, held alongside the Student's Union elections on Wednesday and Thursday. The Yes to NUS campaign celebrated a resounding victory, winning 74 percent of the votes cast.

The debate centred around the efficacy of the national union. Those supporting disaffiliation claimed it didn't adequately represent the interests of international students, who form the majority of LSE students, and was ineffective in its campaign against top-up fees.

However, the Yes campaign questioned the logic of reforming the organization by leaving it, pointing to the creation of an NUS international officer at last year's conference, and argued that a national organization would be in a better position to lobby against fee rises and increased visa charges rather than the LSESU alone.

The Yes campaign also claimed that the NUS offers "a wide variety of exclusive student discounts", whereas others maintained that membership was not required for these discounts, but cost the SU £14,380 a year. For

many, though, the issue appeared to be simply another dispute between the left and the right.

Convenor of the Yes campaign, Dave Cole, said that he was a "100 percent" confident about the result. He also added that his camp was "delighted" considering that they ran a considerably low profile campaign compared to the opposition. On being asked whether the result was due to the LSE already being a part of the NUS rather than campaign influence, Cole stated that it might well be true and that they were basically reiterating what people already knew.

Regarding the No campaign Cole simply said that he believed they should not continue with it next year and thus save the union's money. The leader of the No campaign, Matt Sinclair, could not be contacted for comment.

The move was greeted with obvious enthusiasm by NUS National President Kat Fletcher. "In any membership organisation, there will always be a level of discontentment amongst members, not least in an organisation of our size. But the overwhelmingly positive response from this and previous referendums proves that students still value and want a strong national union", she said.

Regarding the result, LSE SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane stated, "I think it



1196 votes were cast in favour of the NUS / Photo: Mark Donahue

endorses the 'Yes' campaign's platform that it is better to stay within the organisation and attempt to change it than to leave and have no national voice. NUS is still far from perfect, but I am looking forward to National Conference and the continuing process of change in NUS."

The LSE has disaffiliated twice before, once in the 1920s and once in the '70s. However, reaffiliation followed both times. A referendum was held on the

subject two years ago, but it too was unsuccessful, with resolving to remain by a margin of 2 to 3.

The move follows similar recent decisions by other student unions. A few months ago, Edinburgh University Student's Association voted to rejoin NUS after 20 years, while only last week, Surrey University SU decided, like LSE, to stay affiliated. The results were: Yes - 1196; No - 417; Spoilt - 103.

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## GenSec candidates' campaign ban



The Power campaign on Houghton street / Photo: James Upsher

Kati Krause

Campaigning for the LSE Students' Union election last week was marred by a series of complaints filed by various contestant against each other and *The Beaver*, which resulted in three candidates for the position of General Secretary being temporarily barred from campaigning.

On Tuesday, March 2, the campaign team of General Secretary candidate Rishi Madlani accused competitor Mark Power of having received preferential treatment by *The Beaver*, as he had gained access to candidates' campaign material a whole day before *The Beaver* was printed. Madlani's campaign team alleged this constituted a breach of the Codes or Practice. However, SU Returning

Officer Anthony Gilliland did not uphold the complaint. "While the conduct of Mark Power and *The Beaver* seems to be morally dubious, I find no constitutional basis for this complaint," Gilliland justified his decision.

This statement, however, was taken up by Paul Allan, another candidate for the position of General Secretary, whose campaign team started distributing leaflets stating that Gilliland had called Power and his behaviour "morally dubious". The Returning Officer deemed this a breach of the Codes of Practice and subsequently barred Allan and his team from campaigning after 4.30pm on Thursday, March 3, the final day of elections.

Meanwhile, Simon Bottomley, president of the LSESU LGBT society, filed a complaint against

Mark Power on Wednesday, March 2, for breaching "equal opportunities policy in reference to intimidation and harassment." Bottomley alleged that Power called him before the LGBT society made their decision on which General Secretary candidate to endorse and shouted at him to the extent of making Bottomley feel "intimidated". Gilliland did not uphold the complaint for lack of evidence, saying that he could not "make an unbiased impartial decision based on accusations." Power, who is a LGBT member, told *The Beaver* he wanted the society to endorse both candidates but did not threaten or try to intimidate anyone.

The most serious incident, however, was a disagreement within the LSE SU SPICE (Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture and Ethics) committee about which General Secretary candidate to endorse.

The President, Treasurer and Secretary supported Mark Power and informed SPICE members the society was endorsing him on Tuesday night.

Shortly after, however, another SPICE committee member sent out an email refuting the endorsement of Power and putting forward Madlani instead.

The case was referred to Gilliland, who established that the SPICE committee member who had sent out the second email had acted unconstitutionally.

Arguing that Madlani was responsible for the actions of the Committee members since they were obviously acting in his sup-

port, Madlani was barred from campaigning between 12.30 and 1.30 pm on Wednesday.

After it was decided that the first SPICE email had been equally unconstitutional under society rules, Power was asked to abstain from campaigning from 9.30 to 10.30 am in Thursday. He told *The Beaver* he complied with Gilliland's request "to avoid an argument."

Rishi Madlani said the SPICE case was "unfortunate" but should have more serious consequences. "There needs to be more clarity in the rules regarding society endorsements."

A further complaint was filed by Paul Allan against *The Beaver*, alleging unfair coverage on the front page. The Returning Officer and the Constitution & Steering Committee both dismissed the claim. Sam Jones, *The Beaver's* News Editor, supported the decision: "If nothing else the decision is a vindication of the fact that *The Beaver* paid particular attention to keeping our coverage fair, unbiased and above all relevant to students - something the Paul Allan campaign was not."

Another complaint against *The Beaver* was filed by Mike Warriner on behalf of Anna Ngo, a contender for the position of Residences Officer, claiming that unfair coverage had been given to Anna's competitors and that her policies had been misrepresented. Both Gilliland and the C&S Committee dismissed the complaint.

# Counts and recounts; results declared

Continued from page 1

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Madlani described how his first objective would be to "raise the issue of budget accommodation as an absolute priority", adding that another key issue would be making sure that the Executive officers play a more active role on campus.

In the race for Treasurer, current UGM chair Natalie Black leaped ahead of rivals Angus Mulready-Jones and Olivia Mantle to secure a landslide victory of 844 votes, outstripping her nearest rival Mulready-Jones by 456 votes. Indeed Black won by simple majority and there was no need for ballots to be redistributed using the single transferable vote system (STV).

Standing on a platform of accountability and impartiality, Black's campaign drew wide support from a centrist political agenda and a broad range of society support, as well as all important endorsements from the Athletics Union (AU).

Despite close competition and an earlier decision from the Union's Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) to allow negative campaigning, most of this year's elections were spared from the complaints and aggression that have marred previous campaigns.

The Communication's Sabbatical election, a two-horse race between the runners-up in last year's race, Chris Heathcote and Matt Willgress, was, in spite of close competition throughout the week, comfortably won by Heathcote.

The race, seen by many as a continuation of last year's contest, was originally thought to be too close to call. Initial predictions favoured Willgress as the count began, with crucial endorsements from the AU and the left-wing bloc vote already having been secured. Heathcote rapidly recovered his position however, and went on to win by a secure margin of 89 votes.

Right-wing elements of the Union were said to be elated with the result, having spoken vocifer-

ously against Willgress over the past year.

The race for Education and Welfare Sabbatical came down to the wire with an extremely close contest between incumbent Siân Errington and Ellie Vyras. Indeed Errington's victory was clinched by just 17 crucial votes after the redistribution of ballots from competitors Matt Bawden and Nishat Hyder.

Following a week of successful campaigning on Houghton Street, challenger Vyras, informally backed by incumbent LSE SU Treasurer Gareth Carter, was widely expected by many to seize the post from Errington. Despite closing the gap after redistributions in the second and third rounds, however, Vyras was unable to secure the lead over Errington.

Altogether, this year's Sabbatical team has swung from last year's centre-right grouping to a centre-left position this year. Other Executive positions followed suite.

The race for Societies Officer, perceived by many as being the Union's fifth most significant position, was closely contested between Ali Dewji and Jimmy Tam, with Tam eventually claiming victory on a 711 vote mandate, just 18 votes ahead.

The Residences Officer race was even more closely fought. After a recount called on Sunday, Simon Chignell, former President of Rosebery Hall, scraped narrowly to victory with 697 votes. Anna Ngo, his closest competitor trailed by just two votes.

Most surprising of all, however, was the remarkable swing to the left which occurred on the Constitution and Steering (C&S) and Finance and Services committees. Nominally leaning to the centre-right, both have this year come to be dominated by left wing and centrist candidates. Just one candidate standing on the Conservative ticket, Simon Douglas, was elected to C&S.

Overall turnout was up by 7.7 percent on last year, with 1728 students voting, compared to 1605 last year.



Campaigners flooded Houghton Street. / Photo: Sid Kamath



Rishi Madlani celebrating victory / Photo: Mark Donahue



Jimmy Tam and Natalie Black. / Photo: Mark Donahue

## Houghton street campaigns swing votes

Douglas Oliver

Houghton Street took on a carnival atmosphere last Wednesday and Thursday as campaigners for the various candidates in the Students' Union elections sought to woo floating voters. Campaigning on the street followed a busy week of poster campaigning and the final hustings on Monday night in the Bankside and Carr-Saunders halls of residence.

Barred from campaigning in the Quad where voting took place, supporters of the different candidates advertised their cause outside on the street, despite cold, wet and occasionally snowy weather throughout the two days. Campaigners gave out stickers and fliers and wore T-shirts emblazoned with the names of their preferred candidates.

The largest and most visible street campaigns were made by those running for sabbatical positions. Supporters of General Secretary candidate Rishi

Madlani were out in force, making up for what was generally considered to be a relatively sluggish first half-week's campaigning.

Madlani, who narrowly won the General Secretary race, commented, "I had an incredibly motivated team and their support helped me a great deal". He went on, "the key to a good campaign is a combination of society block votes, core support and a street campaign which reminds supporters to vote".

His principal opponent Mark Power had fewer people campaigning on the first day, but numbers increased considerably on the Thursday. "My team, dressed in bright yellow, were highly visible. We were particularly trying to appeal to international students", said Power. Outsider General Secretary candidate Dave Cole gave out copies of his manifesto which declared that: "It is time for a change".

Treasurer Elect Natalie Black said the aim of her street cam-

paign had been "to be as visible as possible so that we could pick up all the votes we could". Runner-up Education and Welfare candidate Ellie Vyras added that, "although I had a great team, we knew that being on the street was only going to be worth 200 or 300 votes, the deciding factor was always going to be Society block votes".

Despite the zeal with which the campaign was fought there was a consensual feeling that street campaigning was a turn off to a large number of students. A passer-by echoed a common theme "the people on the street were not just a nuisance but also intimidating. I was going to vote but I was turned right off".

Wednesday's campaigning was marred by cold and wet weather as sleet and snow descended on the street. The poor conditions were widely considered to have depleted turnout. However, the weather picked up the following day and a party atmosphere took hold as candi-

dates Hanne Thornam and Simon Douglas break-danced in the street.

Novel campaigning techniques added to the jovial mood. Louis Haynes, a candidate for Societies Officer, dropped over a hundred multi-coloured fliers onto the street from the East Building. Ali Dewji who ran for the same post, impressed voters with his spoof of the Nike slogan; "just Dewji it". The Natalie Black campaign won friends by giving out Blackjack sweets. Supporters of Matt Bawden gave condoms to passers-by.

The 'No to NUS' campaign had a large presence, spearheaded by its Chair, 3rd-year student Matt Sinclair, who was giving stickers out to students with the words "14,380 reasons to leave the NUS". Nonetheless, over two thirds of students decided that the LSE SU should remain within the NUS.

Campaigning continued until the close of polls at 7pm.



## Union Jack

Election week has been and gone, but while Jack's scribe is etching into his parchment, certain election results rest unfinalised. In any case, the week was one of faux friendliness, tireless canvassing, and sucking up.

That unlikely Brit Anthony Gilliland wisely delegated his chairmanship of election hustings to someone with a clearer accent if an even clearer degree of partisanship. Nevertheless One-Term Willy couldn't quash the hisses and shushes that erupted when Scaredy-Sian answered her probers.

Sian, regardless, won reelection and will spend a further year on dubious hours of 'case work' and reports that sound like a less audible utterance of the Guardian's editorial page but worse. Her own much reduced mandate was no doubt preferable, in her eyes, to the replay of last year's electoral destruction by the Right of Comrade Willgress the Red.

What was it that begot Bearded Pixie's dramatic pounding? Was it his Hombres boogie-a shameless attempt to win AU votes? Was it his record of lefty votes, his Communist past, or alleged links to the shady groups of City Hall? In one speech he declared he had support from all political parties "except those controlled by Daniel Freedman". Apparently Freedman's ability to obliterate one-time foe Omar Srouji still shows its muscle.

Nat Black was spared her duties at an inopportune UGM and went on leave Angus the opportunity to spend more time with his family, and Olivia to seek new challenges elsewhere. Richi Madlani beat off the only other real contender for the top spot Mark Power. After so many failed exams it's good to see he could succeed at something.

The night of the election count is always tense. Jack snuck in for a look only to witness a mad Dutchman aggravate every chap in the room with a roaming microphone on behalf of the radio station with a lower number of listeners than Simon Haynes.

Election night is the only night of the year when arch rivals hold a cordial conversation. But not even then did Jack witness gentlemanly nods between a jubilant Irishman and a devastated Socialist. A late night ensued but Gilliland's munchies budget, seemingly spent poorly and stingily, could not, alas, provide enough candy and caffeine to keep Jack there till the end.

# Press under fire: LSE hosts famous journalists

Alexa Sharples

On Wednesday, the LSE hosted 'Press Under Fire', a tribute to the late Daniel Pearl and a panel discussion of the dangers of conflict-zone reporting. The organisers did not fail to mention the poignancy of holding it at the university attended by his murderer, Omar Saeed Sheik.

Chaired by Christiane Amanpour (CNN), the highly respected media panel included Kate Clark (BBC), Ibrahim Hilal (former editor-in-chief of al-Jazeera) Gideon Litchfield (The Economist), John Simpson (BBC) and Steve Stecklow (Wall Street Journal). A tribute to 'Danny' by Stecklow, a close friend of 7 years, was followed by a one-minute silence. The subsequent panel discussion was then opened to the audience for questions and comments.

One debate was over the often-deemed foolishness of jour-

nalists going into conflict-zones. Stecklow said of Pearl, 'he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time'. Litchfield described the loss of the 'magic shield' - that being a journalist alone made you untouchable. He also alluded to the competitive nature of journalism forcing correspondents to take increasingly dangerous jobs.

The effectiveness of female reporters in often women-unfriendly countries was also raised. Clark (the only international news agency correspondent based in Kabul between 1998 and 2001) described how being from the BBC was more important than being a woman and cited the advantage of getting into peoples' homes more easily than male reporters. Amanpour attributed being able to get the first pictures of the demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait in 1990 to the fact that herself and her crew 'were all chicks'. Upon answering a question on unbiased reporting

Simpson denounced Fox News as 'such trash' provoking 'you're so politically incorrect, it's great' from a somewhat sarcastic Amanpour. Hilal, whilst maintaining that Arab journalism was more objective than Western journalism, highlighted the 'ethical concerns' about the objectivity of showing abduction tapes and becoming the vehicle for what Simpson called 'vicious maniacs' in achieving their goals. In questions about reporting on such human suffering Amanpour did not deny the 'corroding effect on your soul' and Simpson highlighted the increasing recognition of post-traumatic stress suffered by journalists. He described watching 18 people burn to death by an American bomb in Iraq and demanded further investigation of such 'accidents'.

All agreed that journalists do sympathise with the victims, and that it is their job to voice the stories 'of the underdogs, who can't themselves'.



Christiane Amanpour of CNN



Journalist Daniel Pearl

## Academics' "Pay Lottery"

Paul Brandenburg

According to a press release issued on Thursday by The Association of University Teachers (AUT) there exists a "discretionary pay lottery" for academics at UK universities.

According to statistics analysed by the AUT the likelihood of receiving pay above the standard pay scale is dependent chiefly on the institution concerned rather than general trends in employment practice in higher education.

Discretionary pay (DP) is awarded on a point system independent from standard annual pay rises of 3%. "We award discretionary points to those who we believe deserve to be rewarded. These are often high calibre people who are perhaps not quite at

promotion point but may be at some stage in the future" the LSE told *The Beaver*.

However, according to AUT research, across the UK men are 50 percent more likely to receive an award than their female colleagues. At LSE the likelihood for males is 35.8 percent more than for females. However, the research fails to pay attention to the level (number of points) of DP awarded, which at the LSE varies significantly - a professor with two points earns £49,327 while one with twenty points earns £84,529. The potentially gap may be far wider at the LSE than the study indicates.

The school attributes the high retention rate of non-professional academic staff to discretionary points, the gap of which between men and women is closing it says.

"Our most recent figures show a narrowing gap between men and women on discretionary points, but we're not sure what particular conclusions can be drawn on relative percentages.

"We do have a very low resignation rate for non-professional academic staff and researchers, and this policy of rewarding staff with discretionary pay points may be a factor. Of our professorial staff, 19 percent are now women, compared to 8 percent in 1996", said one LSE spokesperson. Nonetheless, the discrepancy between male and female earnings across Britain is lower in Higher Education than in non-academic professions according to a recent study. The same study also concluded that lecturers generally earn less than the students they teach

## AUT strike threat

Nicholas Wolfe

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) is currently embroiled in a controversy regarding race representation as some members threaten to take legal action against the union.

With 48,000 members, the AUT is one of the largest unions representing university staff in the UK. Despite its size, some black and ethnic minority (BME) members claim the union does not represent their interests enough. Bill Gulam, of the AUT national executive committee and chair of its equalities committee, warned: "There are black members of the AUT who are very close to taking it to a race tribunal."

The debate over representation is being played out publicly in the pages of the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES). It began when 10 BME academics sent a letter to the AUT's leadership protesting over poor repre-

sentation of BME members. The debate subsequently spilled over into the pages of the press, particularly the THES, leading to Sally Hunt, AUT General Secretary, calling for the debate to 'take place within the union's structures...we are happy to be open about our position, but we can see little practical benefit to BME AUT members in a continued discussion via the pages of The Times Higher'

The issue may take a different turn soon. In February, the AUT and NATFHE, the largest UK academics' union, announced plans to merge. NATFHE has a record of working on race equality concerns, with a team of three working on these. The AUT has a different approach with a group of staff working on a variety of equality issues.

LSE did not comment on the current controversy with the AUT. While some LSE staff are members, they are not understood to have direct involvement in the current debate.

## ULU holds Celestino up

Jeff Berman

The band Celestino, comprised of LSE students, had their scheduled concert at ULU last Friday cancelled at the last minute by union officials. When the band arrived at the Duck and Dive Pub at ULU on Friday, they were informed that they would need to wait an hour for a technician to set up their equipment. After waiting two hours, Laurie Pegg, in charge of music at ULU, informed the band that they would not be able to play at all. Ms. Pegg claimed that she had not even been aware that Celestino were scheduled to play that evening, and because of this, ULU had failed to arrange equip-

ment, a technician, or a license for the concert.

The concert had been arranged by Laurie Page, the band's trombonist, who regularly plays with the ULU Jazz Band.

Although the band received free drinks to make up for the misunderstanding, they nevertheless had the task of explaining the mishap to their fans that had unknowingly arrived for the performance.

"It's a shame that ULU are so incompetent because I was really looking forward to the gig," griped disgruntled Celestino fan Martin Dearden.

ULU has assured Celestino that they are welcome to play there at any time.

The new PuLSE website, updated last week.

## General Secretary



<b>Rishi Madlani</b>	<b>890 (163)</b>
Mark Power	670 (101)
Dave Cole	219 (transferred)
Paul Allan	86 (transferred)

## Treasurer



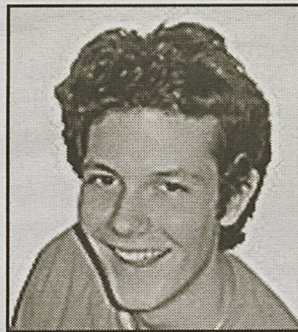
<b>Natalie Black</b>	<b>844</b>
Angus Jones	388
Olivia Mantle	341

## Education and Welfare



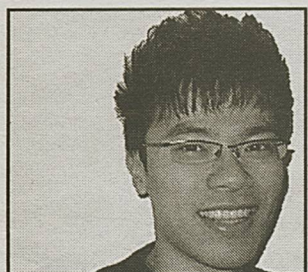
<b>Sian Errington</b>	<b>741 (183)</b>
Ellie Vyras	724 (210)
Nishat Hyder	273 (transferred)
Matt Bawden	228 (transferred)

## Communications



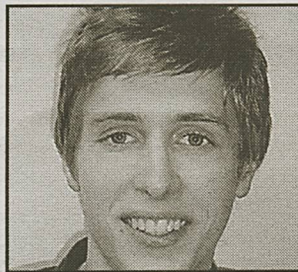
<b>Chris Heathcote</b>	<b>788 (17)</b>
Matt Willgress	699 (10)

## Societies Officer



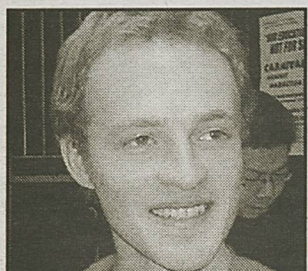
<b>Jimmy Tam</b>	<b>711 (151)</b>
Ali Dewji	693 (200)
Arthur Krebbers	301 (transferred)
Louis Haynes	182 (transferred)

## Residences Officer



<b>Simon Chignell</b>	<b>697 (130)</b>
Anna Ngo	695 (115)
Clem Bromley-Young	339 (transferred)

## Environment & Ethics Officer



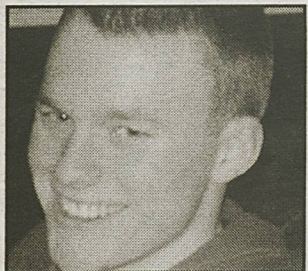
<b>Joel Kenrick</b>	<b>801</b>
Richard Holden	576

## Women's Officer



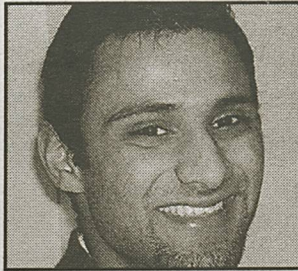
<b>Alexandra Vincenti</b>	<b>903</b>
Ruth Mary Armstrong	412

## Returning Officer



<b>Douglas Oliver</b>	<b>641 (21)</b>
William Dove	501 (32)

## International Students Officer



<b>Farhan Islam</b>	<b>763 (15)</b>
Hanne Thornam	677 (17)

## NUS Referendum



<b>Remain affiliated</b>	<b>1196</b>
Disaffiliate	417

## Anti-Racism Officer



<b>Raihan Alfaradhi</b>	<b>1167</b>
R.O.N.	260

## Finance & Services Committee

Alexander George	296 (1st prefs)
Philip Bahoshy	159 (1st prefs)
Fatima Manji	156 (1st prefs)
Shayaan Afsar	133 (1st prefs)

## Constitution & Steering Committee

Clem Bromley-Young	Simon Douglas
Sam Jones	Nazir Hussain
Ali Dewji	James Caspell
Arthur Krebbers	



Societies Officer-elect Jimmy Tam speaks to campaigners on Houghton Street during campaigning last week. / Photo: James Upsher



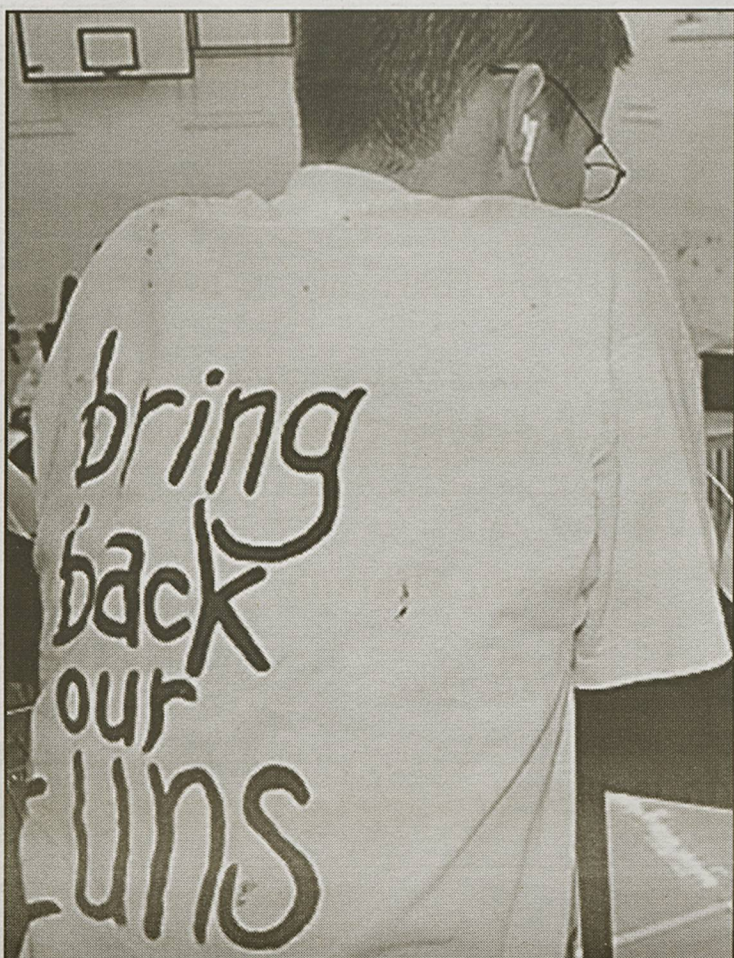
Current SU Communications Officer Khurshid Faizullaev congratulates his elected successor, Chris Heathcote, after the votes were counted. / Photo: Mark Donahue



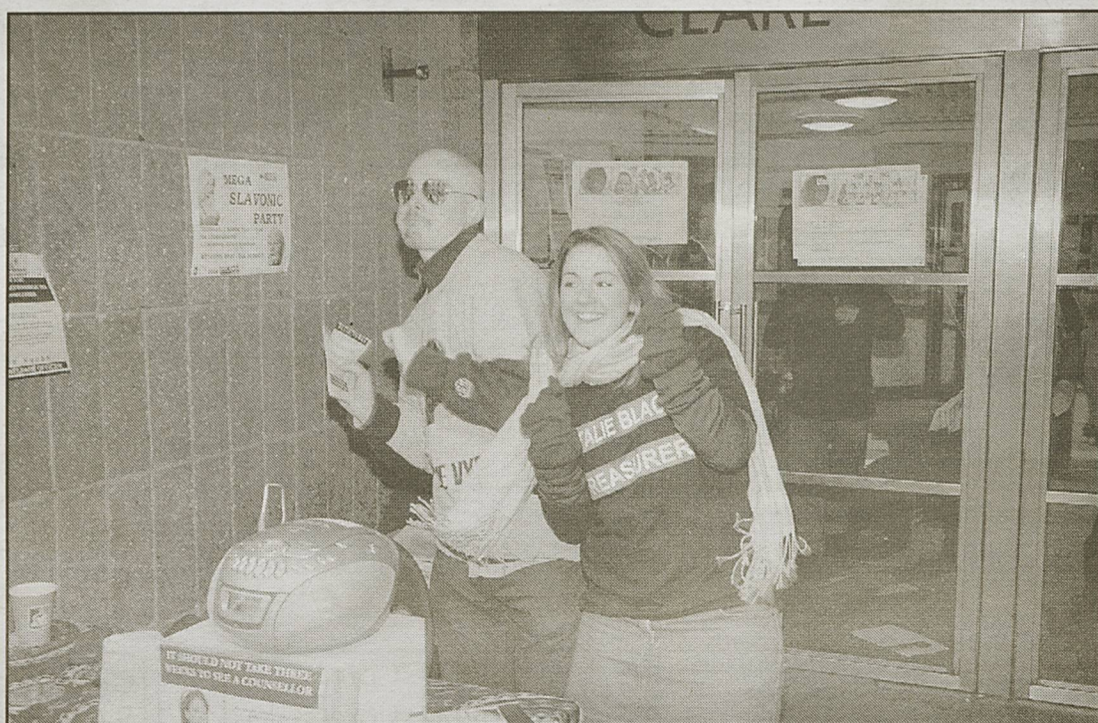
SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane with his elected successor, Rishi Madlani and two predecessors, Elliot Simmons and Narius Aga. / Photo: Mark Donahue



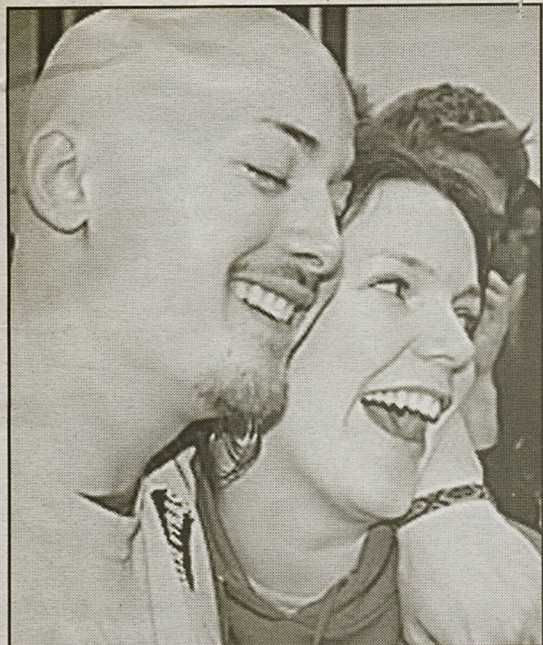
Michael Fauconnier-Bank, election agent for Residences Officer-elect Simon Chignell, stands outside the Clare Market building, canvassing voters. Photo: James Upsher



General Secretary candidate Paul Allan takes a quiet moment during the count on Thursday night. / Photo: Sid Kamath



SU Treasurer Gareth Carter and AU President-elect Claudia Whitcomb take a moment to enjoy the circus that is Houghton Street during Election Week. / Photo: Mark Donahue



SU Treasurer Gareth Carter congratulates an elated Natalie Black, his elected successor and fellow AU member. / Photo: Sid Kamath



Rishi Madlani, General Secretary-elect, and his election agent, Hester Barsham, celebrate his victory. / Photo: Mark Donahue



Ali Dewji, runner up for Societies Officer. Photo: Mark Donahue



Crowds fill Houghton Street as campaigners canvass valuable votes on Thursday. Photo: Sid Kamath



Sarah Coughtrie and Dani Ismail try to entice voters for Mark Power. Photo: James Upsher



Nishat Hyder, who finished third in the race for Education and Welfare Officer, braves the rain and cold to campaign on the Street. Photo: Mark Donahue



Tina Sloane and Basil Salman campaign for Communications Officer-elect Chris Heathcote in the freezing cold. / Photo: James Upsher

# All that's Left to say

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica analyses the SU elections from the Left perspective

A chance observer of any number of Union General Meetings of the LSE SU over the last few months could be excused for feeling just a little baffled. The UGMs could, in the same sitting, back left-wing motions condemning the US assault on Fallujah as a crime against humanity, and then cheer the outgoing General Secretary in his calls for 'students not politics' as the proper agenda for our Union. The same kind of confusion could follow any attempt at making sense of last week's LSE SU elections.

Broadly speaking, however, the results did represent a victory for an alliance of progressive and left of centre candidates. For the second year running, the alliance has swept the board in the election to the part-time exec. Out of four Sabbatical Positions, two went to members of the LSE SU Labour Society: the posts of General Secretary and the Education & Welfare Sabbatical. In the current Sabbatical team, all but one could be described as right of centre. Now, only one is. Finally, F&S and C&S look as if they will be finely divided for yet another year.

Most importantly, perhaps, the

result of the referendum indicated overwhelmingly the desire to keep LSE SU affiliated to the National Union of Students, despite a concerted campaign by right-wingers to disaffiliate. For all of the problems the NUS is going through, students clearly appear to value the organisation's potential to articulate students' collective voice in the national and political arenas.

These achievements will hopefully mean our Union and students nation-wide will be able to campaign more effectively on a number of key issues. The impact of the introduction of the market and top-up fees in higher education on most students, especially those of working-class background, will almost certainly be negative. We have to fight to reverse these changes in the long term. If there are funds for a possible US and UK attack on Iran or Syria, should these not be used to better fund education in this country?

In the short term and closer to home, moreover, tangible results can be achieved by lobbying the school to provide financial help for the worst-off, to mitigate the impact of top-up fees. Class-sizes, lack of halal and kosher food,



homophobia, sexism and racism remain examples of problems that need to be tackled. Hopefully, our Union will be ready to tackle these next year.

Success depends, however, on reversing one of the deepest contradictions of our UGMs and of last week's elections: that the left gained considerable electoral success, while often simultaneously not even raising the relevant issues. What struck one about many of the election races

was that one could not tell who the progressive candidate was. Whereas two years ago, a candidate's views about the Iraq war and freedom for Palestine seemed crucial to their chances, this time round it seemed more about how many societies one was a member of, how eloquently one spoke, how cool one's t-shirt was, or whether one was buddies with the AU. Certain candidates, much like Lionel Jospin or John Kerry, attempted to hide their politics or

placate the other side. Jospin once said: "Our programme is not socialist," much like one of the candidates in these elections. Such tactics led to failure: the races for Communications and Treasurer are apt examples.

If our Union is to involve more students, if our Union is to identify real problems and their causes, if our Union is to find solutions to the problems - it has to recognise it is time for change. It is time to fight for our principles.

# A bit of rejoicing is in order

Alykhan Velshi declares the elections a victory for all that's Right.



Insofar as Students Union elections go, last week's can be summed up in one question: How much does it cost to read an MSc in Social Policy? I will answer this question later.

The General Secretary race

was a hard-fought one, tainted I think by far too many spurious complaints to a Returning Officer who exhibited the decisiveness and maturity of judgment of Lord Derby. The final result-Rishi Madlani's victory over Mark

Power-was, on some level, a defeat for the Right. We had backed Mark Power from the outset because, in our estimation, he was the better candidate. Rishi, though, will do a fine job, both because he is not a partisan

socialist and because many on the Left betrayed him in the weeks before the election.

The Treasurer's race, to no one's surprise, was a walkover. Nat Black beat her socialist opponent, Angus Mulready-Jones by 500 votes. She will, I have no doubt, carry on the good work of current SU Treasurer Gareth Carter. Her promise not to run a deficit is both encouraging and, more importantly I think, realistic given her refusal to make outlandish promises whilst campaigning.

By far the most important moment for the Right, though, was Matt Willgress losing the Communications sabbatical race to Chris Heathcote. Willgress, in his capacity as Secretary of the LSESU Socialist Society, all but ran the Left at the LSE: a rag-tag coalition of Trotskyites, Greens, crypto-Stalinists, Labour Party hacks, Euro-weenies, Islamists, post-humanitarian NGO-types and other feckless sorts. With their erstwhile head now poised to begin a promising career as a Big Issue salesman, the Left is in a shambles.

Willgress, who most assumed to be the favourite, saw his block-vote crumble in the days before the election. He lost the People & Planet and Action Against Homelessness Society endorsements, and saw his support in the Athletics Union virtually disap-

pear once his noxious political beliefs became known.

Instead of accepting defeat gracefully, though, Willgress underwent a temper tantrum that made Bal Mahal look like Lao Tze. Debunking once and for all the myth that a male voice can never reach a High G, he shrieked, "f\*\*\*ing beat the wankers, f\*\*\*ing beat them" and told a prominent member of the Athletics Union (AU), "you should have done more to support me, to get me AU endorsements." As if anyone, let alone a George Pappas poseur, has a right to AU support: shameless, discomfiting.

The news-alas and alack-was not all good for the Right. Sian Errington, the Nexhmije to Willgress' Enver, narrowly won re-election as Education & Welfare Officer, beating Ellie Vyras by 17 votes. Nevertheless, with a reduced mandate and a sabbatical team not in hock to her nefarious ideology, Sian will be all but powerless.

At its most basic, this election, like last year's, was a rejection of political opportunists of the far-Left variety. The candidate who, having already lost the Communications sabbatical race last year, undertook a Master's degree in the hope of running again, was soundly defeated. It costs £8000 to read an MSc in Social Policy: Rejoice.



# Are we in good hands?

Justin Nolan may finally be leaving the LSE. He looks back on the tenth elections of his time.



And so, I have reached the end of my career. This was my tenth election, and I suppose I should be feeling relieved and maybe even slightly euphoric. Yet the results of this election have made me melancholy, depressed even. The Sabbatical elections supposed to elect the best people, the figureheads that are going to take this union forward. But the simple fact is these elections plainly did not do this. They showed that often the best people do not win, merely the most popular.

First of all before you all accuse me of being embittered and a sore loser, let me make this

proviso. This year's Ed and Welfare contest was the exception that proved the rule. It was fought over the issues that matter (the poor pastoral care given by this "world-class" institution in general, and the Advice Centre in particular), by people who cared. Sian may not have won by much, but you get the feeling that our welfare is in very safe hands. I wish her all the best.

Treasurer too was fought by a good selection of candidates over the right set of issues. Society funding needs urgent reform, and even Gareth may concede that maybe sabbatical pay needs to be looked at. Well, maybe not. The result may have been obscenely

one-sided, Olivia and Angus weren't that bad, but once again your money looks to be in safe hands with Nat Black.

When I placed money on an election night sweepstake I thought that unfortunately one half of the LSE SU's celebrity couple would be not be here next year. I did not bank on it being Matt Willgress. The 2004 Loser's run-off was not a very hard fought race in all honesty, something that reflects badly on the position rather than the candidates themselves. Chris Heathcote last year could seemingly could not do anything wrong, losing an election but gaining admiration for the way he energised the race. This year he seemed unable to anything right, annoying people for his perceived "anything-but-K" news reports. Its just that based on his campaign, he looked a very unlikely winner.

Finally we come to the big one, the figurehead of the union, our man to combat the school. If ever an election resembled a popularity contest it was this one. Paul Allen was funny at first; I don't care what anyone says, joke candidates liven up elections. Yet the humour died away when you realised that with his submission of complaints on behalf of other candidates and his defacing of opponents literature, Trojan hors-

es have never been so blatant. Dave Cole had some good ideas, as well as some bad ones, but enlivened the race even if spending his entire budget on a small forest of paper was misguided.

Yet you knew that this election was going to be between two people, Mark Power and Rishi Madlani. Mark has shown his ability to call the school to account with the editorship of *The Beaver*, yet if previous records have ever had less effect on the outcome of an election I've yet to see it. Rishi talked about his unblemished record as Residences officer as proof that he was the man to take on the job. Well for a start he didn't remove Aramark catering from Halls, that was Elliot Simmons. Madlani even stood up at a UGM to praise the improved quality of their food. It was also interesting to hear him talk about getting assurances on budget accommodation from the school. Well I tend to judge people by their actions not their words, and the fact that the LSE is building two new halls in Trafalgar Sq and Drury lane, as well as their continued attempts to wash their hands of Passfield, shows up the assurances for what they really are. Anyway would you trust someone who took up a place in budget halls when they were a part-time student, and working

for Barclays Bank, to campaign to keep rents low? I know I wouldn't.

No, what really won the election for Rishi was the most formidable election campaign Houghton St has ever seen. I'll give to the guy, he may know nothing about what constitutes a valuable UGM report but he sure knows how to get elected. His supporters were everywhere throughout LSE, and no society was left untouched in his desire for votes. I suppose it is childish of me to attempt to deny that to win elections you have to get your hands dirty and brownnose as many society presidents as possible. After all I've done myself on numerous occasions. It was just the sheer inevitability of his victory that was dispiriting, and the feeling that the most prestigious position in the students' union of the 11th best university in the world was won this way.

Anyway you get the elected officers you deserve I suppose. If in 12 months time I pop back to the Tuns and find out that Passfield has been properly dealt with; that the Advice Centre has more than one counselor; that we have Wednesday Afternoons are free; and that the best candidates with the best ideas have won the election, then I'll eat my words and apologise profusely. I'm just not going to hold my breath.

## Word on the street

Chris Heathcote writes on what really wins elections: campaigning on Houghton Street



People often talk about the importance of society bloc votes in our Students' Union elections and there is often a tendency for Union regulars to predict that only other regulars can win high-profile positions.

But if these elections have shown us anything, they've

proven that actually, you don't have to be a UGM-favourite or be the best-connected with societies to get elected and that actually a campaign that interests and involves ordinary students are sometimes the most successful.

What's really important is that a potential officer appears

normal, moderate, and has sound ideas on things students care about.

They also need plenty of friends who are willing to stand in the freezing cold all day spending hours talking to ordinary students.

The Houghton Street circus is

pretty unique to LSE and it's a good way to test candidates.

This year's Sabbatical results have shown us that just because you have the best name recognition, or a job where you can meet all the society presidents, or even where you are the incumbent, doesn't guarantee you a comfortable election.

The fact that our part-time Societies Officer, who last year seemed a dead cert for whatever job he wanted was wiped out by someone who only got involved last term, clearly shows the power of a lively campaign versus a reputation as an inadequate and arrogant insider.

There was no time for our re-running Education and Welfare Officer to get complacent either, once a likable and enthusiastic alternative appeared.

Bloc votes are useful and if your opponent has got them, you need them too.

But what matters more is who impresses the voters most as they walk into the Quad to make their decision.

The candidates who covered the door and thrust leaflets into the faces of passers by got their comeuppance at the count where they were surpassed by those who actually made an effort to talk to

students and persuade them that they were up to the job.

First impressions obviously last since no one was convinced by the attempts of one world-weary hack to reinvent himself as the candidate of change.

I think our elections are something we can be proud of. Our turnout is among the highest in the country and our voters probably the best informed after five Hustings, news articles and two days of canvassing.

Our week of official campaigning and the many more weeks of unofficial manoeuvring weed out the candidates who have no ideas and no support, but as this year has shown, the result can still not be predicted until the end.

As more societies and halls become involved in elections, campaign teams grow and the turnout increases, our elections are becoming more representative and more inclusive.

Perhaps the days of divisive politics and careerist candidates are finally over.

I'm looking forward to starting work, because I know that as the old faces move on, it will be time for a real change.

# Election pledges

Last week, *The Beaver* promised to get winning sabbatical candidates to sign pledges so that we could hold them to account next year. Below are the four biggest policies from each of the winning sabbs.

## Siân Errington

### Education and Welfare

1. Cap international and post-graduate fees
2. Exam feedback and resits
3. Ensure LSE develops a mental health policy
4. Guarantee more budget hall places

## Natalie Black

### Treasurer

1. Pre-budget consultation for societies
2. More recycling facilities on campus, including newspaper bins
3. More money for the Student Support fund
4. Resolve issue of food in the Tuns

## Chris Heathcote

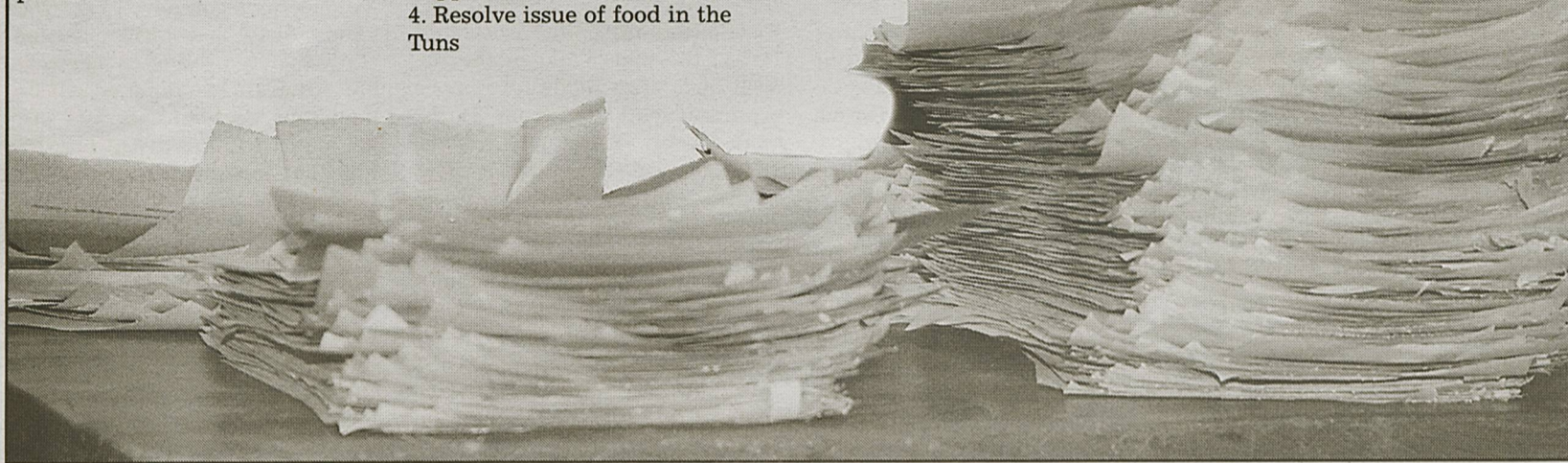
### Communications

1. Raise advertising revenue
2. Promote LSE students to the wider world
3. Reinvent the website
4. High-profile student-orientated campaigns

## Rishi Madlani

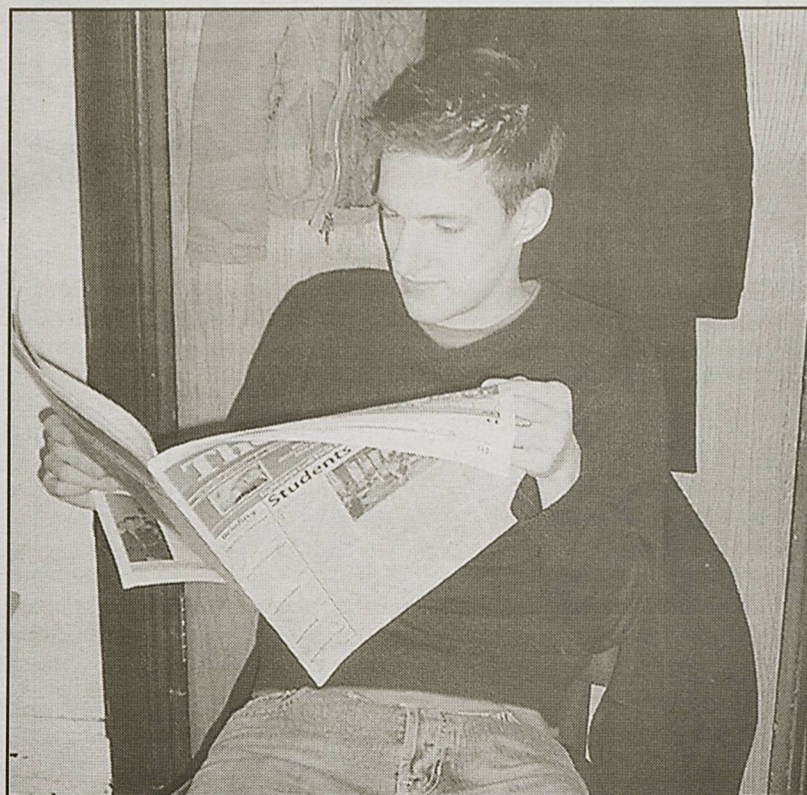
### General Secretary

1. Refresher's Fair
2. More budget accommodation
3. Halt growth in class sizes
4. Halal and Kosher foods in halls and at school



## Four words: give us our independence

News Editor *Sam Jones* reflects on *The Beaver's* 2005 Election Coverage.



As it is *The Beaver* is stuck between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand the constitution is too inflexible to allow us to effectively engage with and analyse campaigns for risk of prejudicing one candidate over another. On the other hand it would be imprudent and unfair to allow *The Beaver* to have free reign over which candidates we choose to report on and about.

We are, as our critics are fond of telling us, the only source of news on campus and as such must at all times strive to ensure all student views are represented fairly and equally. I do not dispute this point - but this does not predicate the conclusion that *The Beaver* should forgo good, accurate, well founded and critical reporting simply because it may be 'unfair' to one candidate over another. Such has been the case this year.

Two complaints were filed against *The Beaver* for our news section election coverage this year. The first, by the Paul Allan for General Secretary campaign, the second by the Anna Ngo for Residences Officer campaign.

The Paul Allan memorial Tuns campaign, devoid as much of charisma as it was of sense, was funny until it started taking itself seriously. Making a complaint to the Returning Officer that *The Beaver* contravened the constitution by not giving enough coverage to the Allan campaign on last week's front page was as annoying as it was ridiculous. As it happened, of course, we published

Allan's four-word speech ("Bring back our Tuns") in its entirety.

But a more important issue was brought up by the second complaint. Members of the Ngo campaign complained that we had misrepresented Anna's policies in our article "Key non-sabbatical positions closely contested." As C&S ruled, we had not unduly privileged other candidates above Anna in our article. However, as was conceded at the time, a mistake had been made in our reporting of the issue. We over generalised Anna's policies. This was bad journalism.

Balance is, of course, part of good journalism - and is a principle that remains fundamental to *The Beaver's* constitution. At election time *The Beaver* and the Returning Officer should indeed work closely - but not to abide by prohibitive and clumsy rules that hamstring *The Beaver* and the way we report on elections - but instead to ensure that all candidates are treated with the same journalistic principles - clear questions, equal opportunity to respond, the right to defend themselves on the record - this is what will make for good election coverage

That we should be held accountable for poor journalistic practice is laudable, that we should be held back for the sake of actively trying to portray all candidates in the same light as identical executive hopefuls before the student electorate is poor journalism.

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If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email thebeaver@lse.ac.uk and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

*The Beaver* is available in alternative formats.

# The Beaver Comment

## Union elections

The results of last week's Students' Union elections showed a shift from the current centre-right bias to what promises to be more of a centre-left agenda next year, reflected both in the sabbatical elections as well as the part-time executive.

Rishi Madlani's election to General Secretary is viewed by most as a mixed bag - while many have questioned his record as Residences Officer, Madlani brings a great deal of experience and knowledge of how the School hierarchy functions.

His centre-left politics will, this paper hopes, bring major issues of student welfare such as visa renewal charges for international students and the provision of halal and kosher food in halls and on campus to the fore.

He also brings with him a mandate, having won relatively convincingly over his principal opponent.

This paper hopes that Madlani will bring to our Union a new form of activism: one that concentrates on student issues and is visible and involves all our students.

It is the election of Chris Heathcote as Communications Officer, however, that most piques our interest.

This paper has spoken out time and again with regard to the performance of the current Communications Officer, and we have yet to see a justification for a full-time sabbatical concerned solely with 'communications'.

The responsibilities that are tied to the position are far too vague and, while they allow the individual in question to do a great deal, also allow that same individual to escape without doing much at all.

Both Heathcote and Willgress gave several ideas as to how the position could best be used, but this paper will be taking a wait and see approach as to whether Heathcote can deliver on his promises.

Speaking of promises, you will see that opposite to the editorials is a series of pledges made by the new sabbatical team.

They are by no means easy to accomplish, and by printing successful candidates' pledges, we hope to persuade candidates in upcoming elections to think about their policies carefully and to make sure that they intend to follow through on them.

Here's to hoping the current team can accomplish that.

## London's school

The recently launched debate on the future of the University of London offers a rare opportunity for the School and us, its students, to take control of our destiny.

While *The Beaver* has been critical of ULU in the past, we will acknowledge that UL serves a purpose, however minor.

The Senate House Library is an excellent resource, and the sports facilities that ULU provides are much needed for a small university such as the LSE. It also provides support for a great many PhD students.

There is little doubt that UL is of use to some of our students, on some level.

That said, from a wider LSE perspective, UL needs to be dissolved.

While we would not save all of the £800,000 we spend every year on the University, surely any savings could be directed towards making our campus look better, providing better academic and recreational facilities for our students and, on the whole, improving student welfare.

In addition, any windfall that we would gain from the dissolution of UL would allow the School to make significant purchases, whether they be in the form of estates, residences, or something else.

Being in UL allows the LSE, in some ways, to wash its hands of its responsibility to provide sports facilities for its students.

Dissolution of the central University would mean that the School would finally take a hard look at the poor facilities our student athletes regularly deal with.

Finally, we could probably form alliances with Imperial, UCL and King's which are our principal partners and competitors in most regards.

This paper does not question the fact that London is a hub for research and academia, but there need not be such a massive overhanging structure to govern us.

The one caveat, however, to this argument is the fact that, under no circumstances, can UCL be allowed to use the UL brand-name.

If UL is to dissolve, then the UL name must go with it.

UCL has not, by any means, been as successful selling its name, especially abroad, but were it to rename itself the University of London, its task would be much easier.

The LSE as a brand-name must endeavour to remain the most attractive in London and, indeed, throughout the UK.

# Letters to the Editor

*The Beaver* offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to [thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk), and should be no longer than 250 words. Letters may be edited prior to publication. The deadline for submission is 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication.

Dear Sir,

In response to the Brief News item (Easy firsts), this referred to a study reported in the *Times Higher Educational Supplement* last November.

To correct any false impression that may have been given, last year the average mark for all BA/BSc students awarded a first at LSE was 72 percent.

A total of 18 percent of LSE students were awarded first class honours.

The lowest average mark which actually achieved a first was 65 percent.

No cases anywhere near as extreme as that proposed in the study have gone before a departmental examination sub-board or the School-wide examination board.

We believe the LSE system works well in both encouraging and also rewarding students for their achievements.

To be awarded a first at LSE is still a mark of distinction - important to mention as the exam season approaches.

Judith Higgin  
LSE Press Officer

Dear Sir,

It is with disbelief that I read Alykhan Velshi's "Out of the Kitchen, into the Courtroom" in the last edition of *The Beaver*. Firstly and unfortunately, it seems that he has yet to grasp fully the concepts of English grammar that his grade 3 English teacher had tried in vain to teach.

Undoubtedly, "woman" is a noun, but its primary purpose in "man f\*\*\*s woman" is an object. All objects are necessarily nouns, and he is simply wrong to state that certain feminists have a "misunderstanding of the basic terminology of grammar".

Ironically, it would be prudent for him to research more before making such a blatantly wrong claim.

Secondly, although it is true that modern technology has liberated women from their perceived 'traditional' roles in order to compete on a more equal basis with men, it does not follow that he should hence state flatly that "liberal feminists are wrong" in taking credit for some of the huge advances for women that they have achieved.

To do so would be categorically to deny the importance and influence of liberal feminists especially PRIOR to the 1960s, and most notably the fight for universal suffrage and the important role of women in the World Wars. Perhaps he should better understand liberal feminism prior to making such distorted, partial and simply incorrect statements.

Flawed analyses indeed Mr Velshi.

Tim Chung

Dear Sir,

I've seen adverts for a "Unite against hunger day" to be held Wednesday.

Trying to end poverty is a noble cause for sure.

What strikes me as contradictory, however, is that while trying to force others to pay to alleviate poverty, they themselves are having "refreshments, wine and nibbles."

Champaigne socialists at their worst: living the good life while trying to spend other people's money.

How about cancelling the "wine and nibbles" and sending the money to those poor they claim to care about?

Or is it only fun with other people's money?

Daniel Freedman

Dear Sir,

Now that elections are over and all results have been declared I would like to thank all candidates, agents and campaign teams for what has been a week of great campaigning.

I would also like to thank all my deputies, El Barham, Will Macfarlane and Sam Nicklin for their excellent help and support throughout the election period.

The PuLSE hustings I think went very well and I hope my successor will work with the Communications Officer to ensure this is repeated, that elections continue to be high profile and that turnout continues to increase.

I wish all the best to the new executive next year.

Anthony Gilliland  
SU Returning Officer

Dear Sir,

May I first congratulate Alex Finnegan on last week's article, it almost swayed me to voting Labour.

Then I remembered what their party symbol is, a red rose.

Too anglo-centric for a UK-wide party methinks, too Johnny Wilkinson for this Welshman.

As for the Conservatives' blue icecream cone of death, it reminds me of the fiery domain of Hades, lord of the dead and ruler of the nether world, or as he is now known, Michael Howard.

That is why I am voting for the Liberal Democrats with their party symbol, a little yellow bird.

So summery, so light-hearted, so Liberal Democrat.

I also like the way they unashamedly target students and old people. I like the way Bonnie Charlie Kennedy is ginger.

I even like the way that they have two words in their name.

I know many of you may think I am throwing away my vote on superficialities but how many of you joined me in voting for Mark

Power purely because his name is "Power"?

Trust the little yellow bird,  
Benjamin Partridge

Dear Sir,

I find it necessary to write informing Mr Li of a grave factual inaccuracy in his article, "Backing the e-bid". Many people don't like U2, myself included. The sooner they stop peddling their terminally dull brand of MOR cack, quite frankly, the better.

Matt Boys

PS: Cheers for the pic of Simon (Louis?) Haynes in the buff! One for the scrapbook...

Dear Sir,

It was with tearful eyes, sweaty brow and grazed shin-bones that last Wednesday I made my final exit from Berrylands Sports Ground.

The Sports Ground has, for four years, been the epitome of all that is right in this Union.

It has always, for me and for many others, provided a welcome sanctuary from essays, coursework, wanky student politics and library fines.

My first encounter with Berrylands some four years ago was a defining moment for me in my LSE career.

All seven football teams and the rugby team all playing at home on the verdant, luscious turf that is cared for so professionally by the groundsmen Chris and Steve.

Since that day Fortress Berrylands has seen a league and cup double, countless successful ULU cup runs, league wins and BUSA victories for every one of the clubs this Union supports.

It has seen the humbling of some of our biggest rivals; Holloway, Kings', Imperial and UCL have all been roundly mocked at Berrylands.

I would very much to thank Chris and Steve for their dedication to, and involvement with, the LSEAU and the alumni teams.

I would like to thank the School for continuing to support the ground and I would also like to register my gratitude to all those AU members who have made the Berrylands experience what it is.

Striding out onto the pitch at your home ground with your best friends and being able to forget, if only for a moment, the pressures of work and School-life.

It's these kind of things that kept me at LSE past my first year, and continues to be a comfort to countless AU members, and long may it continue.

Gareth Carter  
LSE First XI

# Election diary

Features Correspondent, *Alex George*, discusses the drama of the last week by revealing his electoral diary.

**Editors:**  
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"the Chinese People's Liberation Army, claiming that Tibet was part of China, invaded Eastern Tibet"

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"If you were to ask me about a speech that Osama Bin Laden gave, I think those should be shown."

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### Thursday 24 February

After the preceding few weeks of hushed whispers and tip-toeing around, concerning who will or won't run - everything is now revealed. First stop; Sabb Hustings at the UGM. The desire of all the candidates to appeal to everyone ensures that no controversial statements are made. To make life worse, Anthony Gilliland's decision not to take many questions from Oliver Ranson deprives us of some light wit.

Then to the candidates' meeting, here A3 posters are distributed. In my naiveté, I assume that these are for printing, so I wait for my posters to be approved. When I'm told they are for reserving space on notice boards, I find the veteran hacks Madlani, Power, Wilgress, Errington, Black and Mulready-Jones have already conquered the prime spots. Lizzie Fison, first year C&S candidate, tells me after the election that newcomers are disadvantaged because they do not realise there is limited space for putting up posters and therefore a short advice guide should be produced alongside the rules.

Lizzie is right. Though we ran for relatively small posts, F&S in my case, as first years it is vital to gain yourself sufficient publicity, especially as you are competing against more well known second years, who are running for higher posts simultaneously.

Back at Rosebery, it's 'RAG Week Auction Night'. Rishi Madlani turns up to win some votes. He's been at Rosebery in previous weeks under the auspices of Residences Officer, but says he's glad he can now officially campaign as Gen Sec candidate.

### Friday 25 February

After falling behind the experienced hacks in gaining poster space yesterday, I decide to get to school before 10 o'clock so that I'll be ready to slap posters around once we're officially allowed. However only myself and another first year, Peter John Cannon, pick up our posters from the Copy Shop. Sian Errington and Alex Vincenti are in the Quad but showing no urgency to display their posters. Rishi, however, arrives and begins putting his up so we follow suit.

Hustings in the Quad, for all Sabb and Executive positions, these prove more rum-bustious and more enjoyable than yesterday's UGM. More first years are present too, which shows this event is perhaps more effective at increasing participation. Farhan's refusal to dance, Simon 'Louis' Bottomley and asking Ed and Welfare candidates to attempt a joke are the best moments.

By evening, my F&S posters are up around the LSE and in halls. My candidacy, thankfully, is made known to most people at Rosebery. LSE is more difficult, particularly as I never knew so many obscure corridors existed before I searched for free notice boards.

### Monday 28 February

Not an especially big day for campaigning on campus. Though Hustings take place at Bankside and Carr-Saunders, but not Rosebery. If Hustings do take place at halls, they should occur everywhere so that all first years have a chance to participate in the elections. When we had Rosebery elections three weeks ago the Hustings brought out many people who don't always socialise in the bar and canteen.

### Tuesday 1 March

Last day before voting, a mad rush to get flyers produced in the Copy Shop. I, belatedly, learn another strand of campaigning is getting society endorsements. Now I signed up to about 25 societies in Freshers' Week, but am actively involved in about five. It becomes almost embarrassingly shameless to email a lot of these societies saying you're a member and will strive to do the best for them. Yet it seems an old trick in the book and the way to play the game. Some limited success here.

“

...ultimately in this election there is only one true winner which supersedes all the successful and unsuccessful candidates: student democracy.

”

At Rosebery, football supporters are thrilled, and Gunners fans jittery, at the prospect of Sheffield United potentially beating Arsenal in the FA Cup. Therefore, Natalie Black, Mark Power and Chris Heathcote, who are campaigning here, are forced to come down to the TV room to remind people to get out and vote over the next two days. Before the likes of Power, Madlani and Black seemed impersonally distant, though noticeable faces. Now we're all in the streets campaigning together.

### Wednesday 2 March

Campaigning forces you to be disciplined. I had missed my 10 o'clock French class on the previous two Wednesdays through oversleeping. Today I force myself to attend it and campaign afterwards. Thankfully, like other candidates and supporters, I had my flyers with me to avoid being loaded with a cluster of coloured

paper. I suppose if I'd have got bored, I could have arranged them together and come up with a Picasso piece. The volume of traffic along Houghton Street seems lower than usual. Let's blame it on the sleeting rain. Ollie says it will get even worse tomorrow. Need several cigs to warm myself up.

### Thursday 3 March

Ranson is wrong. It's nicer weather with a larger number of people on Houghton Street. Am surprised us candidates don't get arrested for harassment as we assault everyone who enters the Quad with flyers. It gets worse as seven approaches. Rishi has successfully recruited a Rosebery contingent, also campaigning for Simon 'Chiggers' Chignell, who show devoted commitment throughout. Rishi's 'Greens' congregate at the far end of Houghton Street, while Power's 'Yellows' set up base further down. Dave Cole seems to portray himself as the lone voice calling for a change. As the polls draw nearer to their close, Rosebery's Nicky D, decorated with 'Vote Rishi' stickers, booms out summons to vote for Madlani. Plenty of first years seem to be involved in campaigning and voting, though one, Paul Sims, later said he felt excluded from the process as it had: "little to do with me and more to do with the established union hacks."

The count starts off in a relaxed manner, but gradually becomes tense, then intense. Yet it seems to have a magnetic effect in drawing back past LSE students. Michael Blackwell, currently a trainee solicitor at Linklaters and a former Chair of the LSE Conservative Association, is there. As the night progresses, we are treated to the drama called human emotion. Joy for some, extreme disappointment for others. This plot builds up to its climax, the final scene: who will win the race to be General Secretary of the LSE student union. Mark? Rishi? Dave Cole as a dark horse? Maybe Allan? It looks increasingly like Rishi. Then the rumours turned to shouted confirmations, Rishi won. We then have the great paradox of human thought. As Rishi is the winner, Dave and Mark must be losers (Paul Allan is seen as a winner in a sense because of the humour he brought to the race). Dave gave a defiant yet dignified speech and retreated to a corner of the room, while Mark sadly seemed a shadow of the powerful, dynamic figure LSE is used to. They were lonesome while Rishi was cheered by a crowd of jubilant supporters that seemed to grow every second. Yet Mark is not a loser, neither is Dave. They may have lost an election, but they are talented, successful students with bright futures ahead of them. Although Rishi is the nominal winner, ultimately in this election there is only one true winner which supersedes all the successful and unsuccessful candidates: student democracy. To give Oliver Ranson the last word, "the Union can be proud of itself."

Got an opinion? Tell 3000 of people about it.

Blink welcomes articles from all LSE students. Articles should be around 1000 words in length. Please include your name, department and year. Email us to receive the contributors guide. Send articles and enquiries to: thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk

# Clinical decisions

## Zuhura Plummer recounts her experiences at a GUM Clinic and explains the dangers of not being tested for STIs.

Last Friday I was furtively scurrying round the maze that is Bart's hospital at 7.30am with mascara-blotched eyes, last night's clothes and a wobbly stiletto heel. "Excuse me," I whispered to the receptionist, "could you tell me where the sexual health unit is please?" "SORRY? DID YOU SAY THE SEXUAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT? FOR STI TESTING?" she boomed. She took my flinch as affirmative and gave me directions. As I approached the wing a guy was already waiting, staring at his shoes so ferociously I wondered if he hadn't come across the concept of stitching leather around feet before. I joined him and took up the same pastime, studying my purse as hard.

Then another two men joined the queue and we all stood in ashamed silence, no eye contact, no nods of hello and certainly not a hint of banter. Several thoughts were running through my mind at this point; 'Genital warts' being one of them, but lastly that this whole charade was stupid. We were being responsible getting tested, we should be proud of standing outside a GUM clinic, (Genital-Urinary Medicine, for the uninitiated) in the rain, when normal people are in bed, probably having unprotected sex. Well, ok, not proud, obviously the most responsible thing would not to have been exposed to risk at all. Despite being at the LSE I have managed to have sex, some of it highly passionate/drunken and utterly reckless, or should I say rash?

The clinic was so busy - the rises in the diagnosis of syphilis and chlamydia have been 1,062 percent and 190 percent respectively this year. The waiting room filled up - all before 9 o'clock in the morning. Once inside we filled out a contacts sheet. All the clinics treat personal information in complete confidence and ask if you would like your GP to know that you had this test. It is fine to use a false name, just remember it.

I consider myself a confident woman; comfortable talking frankly about sex. Ironically I taught adolescent sexual health in Tanzania for eight months - showing teenagers how to use condoms. Yet even I felt like I had a huge flashing bulb above my head, and a siren screaming, 'Dirrrr-ty!' Why it is that someone could have meningitis and not have any connotations about their person, but if they say they have HIV, then they are making a huge statement about their morals and ethics? The difference is in the shame factor. The difference is that regardless of how 'liberated' people might like to think they are in regards to their attitudes about sex, they still buy into very definite, religious, ideas about sex, women, shame and taboo. Ideas which were making me feel awful being there. Obviously not as self-assured as I thought I was.

That is why I decided to write this article, finding the clinic was hard enough and getting STI tested is something you know you should do, but can put off and off. So I guessed some people might never do it, even people at top universities can contract shameful diseases, you can have a

PhD and gonorrhoea simultaneously, it can happen to you. Many STIs don't have symptoms; not an itch or scratch. The scariest one is Chlamydia, it can make women infertile if untreated and you won't know you have it.

The staff were incredibly nice. A proper matronly nurse with huge breasts in an apron and a doctor, who spoke very quietly and walked very quickly. I had to answer whether my last four sexual encounters were, "Oral? Vaginal? Anal?"

It felt like a strange quiz show where the number of sexual points you scored would be transmitted to waiting room on a flashing screen, fairground music playing, and people shaking my hand, congratulating me and asking, 'Just how I managed it?'

The physical examination was done by the doctor, a nurse stays in room, it is possible to ask for a female doctor if preferred. It hurt a little, and a blood sample was taken from my arm.

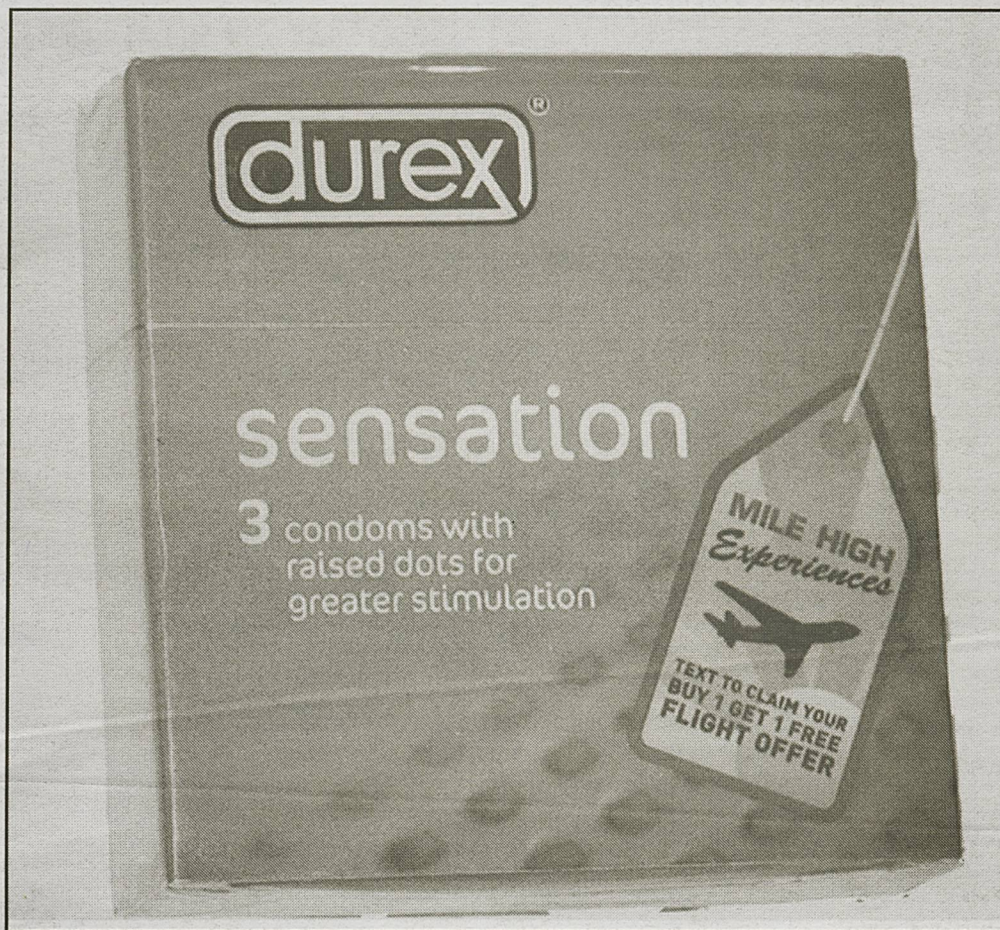
Results are given the same day for tests other than the blood test. They took about 30 minutes, then back to the whispering physician. I walked in his room and there was a mountain of medication on his desk. I nearly fainted, 'Oh-my-god-I've-got-everything' ran through my head. But no, he gave a little Dr Hibbert-style inappropriate chuckle and explained these were for the next people. Oh joy of joys, I was as clean as a whistle. Phew.



**The clinic was SO busy - the rises in the diagnosis of syphilis and chlamydia have been 1,062 percent and 190 percent respectively this year.**



Family Planning Association's helpline: 0845 310 1334 (Monday-Friday 9.00am-6.00pm). In the phone book under genitourinary medicine, STD or VD. The Sexual Health Line on 0800 567 123 (24hrs). If you call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 (24hrs) you can refer yourself to any clinic in the country. People of any age or sexual orientation can attend the clinic. If you have an infection then the staff at the clinic can give you help in working out how to tell your current and past partners. This is advised, though not compulsory. See *The Beaver* guide to sexual health clinics at right.



Always use sexual protection.

## Local Clinics

**St Bartholomew's Hospital**  
Bart's Sexual Health Centre  
Kenton and Lucas Wing  
EC1A 7BE

Clinic: 020 7601 8090  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 7601 8090  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 7601 7544

**Mortimer Market Centre**  
off Capper Street  
WC1E 6AU

Clinic: 020 7530 5080 (F) 5060 (M)  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 7530 5050  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 7530 5111

**Lydia Department**  
St Thomas's Hospital  
Lambeth Palace Road  
SE1 7EH

Clinic: 020 7188 6666  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 7188 6666  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 7928 6651

**Victoria Clinic for Sexual Health**  
South Westminster Centre  
82 Vincent Square  
SW1P 2PF

Clinic: 020 8746 8700  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 8746 8700  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 8746 8980

**Lloyd Clinic - 2nd Floor Thomas Guy House**  
Guy's Hospital  
St Thomas' Street  
SE1 9RT

Clinic: 020 7188 6666  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 7188 6666  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 7188 6666

**Marlborough Clinic**  
The Royal Free Hospital  
Pond Street  
NW3 2QG

Clinic: 020 7794 0500 ext 8003  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 7830 2047  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 7830 2847

**The Jefferiss Wing**  
St Mary's Hospital  
Praed Street  
W2 1NY  
Clinic: 020 7886 1697 / 1225

**Ambrose King Centre**  
Royal London Hospital  
E1 1BB

Clinic: 020 7377 7306  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 7377 7314  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 7377 7311

**John Hunter Clinic**  
St Stephen's Centre  
269 Fulham Road  
SW10 9NH

Clinic: 020 8846 6172  
Clinic - Appointments: 020 8846 6171/6174  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 8846 6155

**King's College Hospital**  
The Caldecot Centre  
15-22 Caldecot Road  
SE5 9RS  
Clinic: 020 7346 3453  
Telephone Advice Line: 020 7346 3759

## Eyes to the Left Politics



UN-equal Standards

James Caspell

It has been reported that the partial withdrawal of Syrian troops in Lebanon will start on Monday; UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has warned Syria it risks being, "treated as a pariah" if it fails to withdraw its forces fully from Lebanon.

For pacifists across the political spectrum this should be seen as a good thing, as Syria - albeit slowly - begins to reduce its military presence after the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution in September 2004 calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

However, Syria's reluctance to withdraw totally from Lebanon is understandable in the context of the situation in the Middle East. For Syria itself endures a hostile, rather than supervisory, occupation by Israeli troops. Damascus says it will only withdraw entirely from Lebanon in the wake of an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement and an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, which itself has been condemned by the UN.

Until then, it is totally hypocritical for the West and its puppet states to pressure Syria into obeying UN resolutions whilst ignoring the fact that since 1955, Israel has been subject to 65 UN Security Council resolutions itself, the majority of which concern its inability to withdraw troops and civilians from Lebanon, Syria and the Occupied Territories.

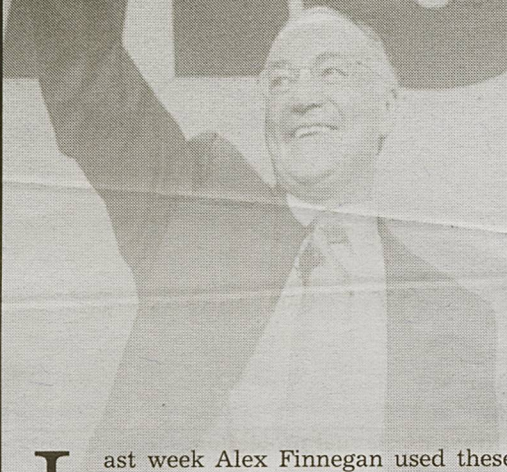
In fact one of the Syrian objectives in positioning troops in Lebanon in the first place was to limit the incursions of Israel, which invaded in 1978 and again in 1982, whilst Syrian forces were also crucial in ending the Lebanese civil war in 1990 and maintaining peace. Israel however, has annexed and settled the Golan Heights solely for their own strategic reasons and there are now more than 30 Jewish settlements across the Syrian border, with about 17,000 settlers.

On Friday Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London, wrote that: "The Israeli government continues seizures of Palestinian land for settlements, military incursions into surrounding countries and denies the right of Palestinians expelled by terror to return. Ariel Sharon, Israel's prime minister, himself is a war criminal who should be in prison, not in office. Israel's own Kahan commission found that Sharon shared responsibility for the Sabra and Shatila massacres [in Lebanon in 1982]." Respect MP, George Galloway, once called Israel: "The cancer of the Middle East".

Israel continues to maintain that the vast majority of Palestinian citizens who are peaceful civilians languish in absolute poverty whilst furthering its own military agenda under the umbrella of US foreign policy. It can increasingly be seen that Zionism, not Syria, is the real source of instability in the Middle-East.

It is time for the world to openly condemn Zionist imperialism and the unlawful actions of the Israeli state if Muslims, Christians and Jews are to ever live in peace in the Middle East.

# TIMETABLE FOR ACTION



**Thomas Hitchens argues that Labour have failed to reform education and health; the conservatives can do better.**

waiting list, such is the severity of his condition. However since the hospital's budget is based on compliance with targets, far less serious cases than my granddad's must be treated first. This goes against all human instinct, and the strain placed on my mother has been completely inexcusable. I understand that the Government introduced these targets with good intentions, but it is clear that they are not an effective way of dealing with a health service that is stretched to full capacity. Structural reforms should always have been the priority and, in that respect, Labour has made no real progress, simply abolishing and then re-establishing the Conservative reforms of the mid 1990s.

there is 'no evidence' of a link between extra spending under Labour and improvements in standards. Meanwhile, extra spending on truancy programmes has failed: the number of children playing truant has risen by a quarter. What these pupils need are better incentives to stay in school, and the belief that they have skills that can be turned into valuable qualifications. Last month, Labour missed the opportunity to suitably address the issue of 11-18 reform. The next Conservative Government will put vocational qualifications on an equal level with academic ones and will properly reform the discredited A-level system. The Tories have a good record of improving the standing of vocational qualifications; John Major's decision to grant polytechnic colleges the right to become universities, alongside Oxbridge and LSE, has broken down the divide between vocational and academic higher education institutions.

My experience from teaching and mentoring in inner-city comprehensives is that by the age of 13, many students have lost the ability to concentrate in class and do not believe that they are capable of success. The key to solving this problem is to improve the quality of our primary schools, and I believe that the Conservative policy of giving parents the right-to-choose between schools will put the upward pressure on standards that is so crucial for the next generation of children. The Conservatives are also right in allowing private providers to compete in the state sector, increasing competition and diversity in our learning system. Denying private competition on the grounds of equality is dubious at best. The next Conservative government will only fund parents who take their children to private schools where their education can be provided at £5500, the same cost as in the state sector - so no subsidies to Eton. This extension of choice is for the benefit of everyone, and it is wrong to label it as elitist; the rich will not benefit any more than the poor.

Much of what Labour claims as progress has simply been the re-implementation of Conservative policies. Even the most sophisticated political economists will struggle to see any fundamental difference between city technology colleges and city academies, or GP fundholders and foundation hospitals, or the public-private partnership and the private finance initiative. Do not expect a third-term for the Labour Party to be anything except another four years of relabelled radicalism. The first step on the path to reformed public services is a vote for the Conservative Party.

Last week Alex Finnegan used these pages to argue that Britain should continue moving 'forward not back' under the present Labour Government. His portrayal of "run-down schools and hospitals" under previous Conservative Governments was a brave assertion, considering Labour's many failures of public policy, which they have tried to disguise through spin and rhetoric. The Conservatives are currently releasing their manifesto; their policies offer the British electorate the chance to change direction, away from centralisation and towards competition and excellence in public services.

In 1997 Labour told the electorate that there were only "24 hours to save the NHS". Now, after eight years and £544million spent, average waiting times are higher than they were under the previous Conservative Government. Today, more people die each year from hospital infections than the numbers who die on our roads; cases of MRSA have doubled since 1997. Put simply, the centrepiece of the Government's health policy - a massive increase in spending - has not worked. NHS expenditure has risen by 30 percent, while the number of hospital treatments has increased by only five percent. There are 1000 fewer dentists, and, unbelievably, the Office of National Statistics has recorded a decrease in NHS productivity for every year since Labour came to power. Increased spending has failed, and so have the government's 'reforms'.

Labour were quick to abolish the NHS's internal market, sensibly implemented by the Conservatives, which reduced centralisation and created competition within the system. The unnecessary creation of primary care trusts took the power to make surgery appointments away from GP's and introduced another layer of bureaucracy. Worst of all, waiting lists have prevented hospitals from prioritising patients. As I write this, my granddad lies in Crediton hospital waiting for an operation. His doctors have told us that he would, ideally, be put at the top of the

**"**  
**In 1997 Labour told the electorate that there were only "24 hours to save the NHS." Now, after eight years and £544million spent, average waiting times are higher...**  
**"**

We are told that foundation hospitals are the solution to some of the NHS's problems, but then why not offer foundation status to all hospitals, as the next Conservative government would? Never mind that they are merely a return to the system that existed in 1997. The government claims to promote choice, but only between 'four or five hospitals' chosen by Whitehall bureaucrats, and then refuses to support the taxpayers who decide to use the private sector instead. The Conservatives will allow patients to choose any hospital that they wish; creating competition and accountability in the NHS, the rewards of which are unquestionable and felt by all. The next Conservative government will combine better reforms with higher health spending than Labour - the choice is clear.

The Labour Government's extra spending on education is to be welcomed, as is the Conservative's commitment to maintain that increase. However, the current Government has failed to introduce effective reforms, or to put that money to valuable use. The House of Commons Education Select committee has found that

Politics

# Open the borders



**Rune Dahl Fitjar argues that we should pull down the restrictions that prevent freedom of movement.**

Immigration looks increasingly like the most salient issue in the upcoming election, with both main parties out-bidding each other for the most restrictive immigration policy. There seems to be general consensus that this is a wise decision politically. Whilst that may well be true, it is certainly a bad decision both morally and economically.

Morally, we all recognise the usual arguments that we should help those who are fleeing persecution and natural disasters. Fortunately, this is an idea that most reasonable people subscribe to, and which is also covered by international law. Therefore, the parties are careful in specifying that current efforts at curbing immigration are only directed towards those would-be migrants who are lying and who do not actually need our help. This has greater resonance among the general public, even though the most recent proposals are actually quite indiscriminately aimed at reducing the number of asylum seekers, legitimate or not.

However leaving this issue to one side, there is also a strong case to be made for an open immigration policy on a general scale. For most people today, the accident of their birthplace restricts them to remain in the same location for the rest of their lives. This is morally indefensible, as it severely limits their freedom to pursue happiness and prosperity. The act of moving in itself does little harm to anyone or anything, other than woolly and morally questionable concepts like ethnic homogeneity. Of course, the destination may be subject to overcrowding, but do nationals really have more of a right to that space than anyone else who can legitimately pay for a property? Besides, if overcrowding becomes a problem, property prices will rise and make the area less attractive to newcomers. Another argument is that we need to protect ourselves against the threat of terrorism. Yet, this is spurious, as immigrants are not usually terrorists, and terrorists are not usually immigrants. It would also be unproblematic to have identity checks on the borders and arrest suspected terrorists, while allowing innocent people to enter the country.

As Western Europeans, we recognise our freedom to move if we would rather live elsewhere, both through the stipulations for free movement of labour in the Maastricht treaty, and because we are usually welcome wherever we want to go.

**“ Within Europe, borders are increasingly taken for what they are: Artificial creations that serve little purpose besides restricting freedom of movement... ”**

Within Europe, borders are increasingly taken for what they are: Artificial creations that serve little purpose besides restricting freedom of movement and reinforcing the dominance of nation-states. Yet, the borders around the EU are more closed than ever, except for a few skilled individuals deemed desirable by governments, which are apparently running a command economy in this policy area. What gives us the right to keep others out of our precious little peninsula on the Eurasian continent?

The basis for the increasingly restrictive immigration regime is a political cartel of workers in Western European countries. Of course, people who already live in a desirable location have an interest in restricting the number of other people around them. This is particularly obvious in the labour market, where it is easier to get a job and increase your salary if there are few other job seekers around.

Therefore, the costs of labour in Europe have skyrocketed, as a cartel of national workers have been successful in restricting the inflow of foreigners who could have done the same jobs more cheaply. This obviously has a negative effect on European economies, with decreasing production and prohibitive labour costs resulting in the flight of capital to poorer countries. That is obviously good for the poor countries concerned, but it goes to show that restrictions on immigration, like any other protectionist policies, are a mixed blessing for the countries that apply them. Paradoxically, it has also led to unemployment for the very workers who wanted these restrictions in the first place, and who are now insensible enough to blame those damned immigrants for stealing their jobs.

This all suggests that political opinion makes it unrealistic to expect any major political parties to go for an open border policy. Foreigners do not have the right to vote in national elections, whilst many Europeans appear increasingly worried about their jobs and hostile to anybody with a dark skin colour. Whilst many would still appreciate the opportunity to move abroad, this situation poses a collective action problem of the prisoner's dilemma type. Even though most people might prefer a world where all borders are open and they can go and live wherever they want, they seem to think it even better if they could live in a world where all borders were open, except for those of their own country.

Still, we are allowed to hope for principled political elites who realise that the current policies are immoral. We are even allowed to hope that they can find a way to cooperate, so that countries will no longer be free to keep out foreigners as they see fit. We have already seen that it is possible to establish international regimes that secure free trade in goods and services, even when influential national producer groups struggle to protect their immoral cartels. It should be possible to do the same when it comes to people's freedom to move across borders as well.

## The Right Approach



Whose Islam?

Daniel Freedman

Since the murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh by a radical Islamist, Europeans have been debating how to combat fundamentalist Islam. The two main solutions touted are either restricting Muslim immigration, or forced assimilation. Both based on the assumption that Islam and the "Western way of life" are incompatible. Either no Muslims or no Islam. This is a mistake.

They are right that radical Islam is a serious threat. It is a totalitarian ideology that will destroy us unless we destroy it first. And Europe's politicians are guilty of having run for too long from addressing this problem.

Running from problems never provides solutions. It simply allows the problem to grow worse. Subsequent attacks in Holland on Mosques, and then on churches and schools, has demonstrated the danger of inaction. To boot, mainstream politicians ignoring problems only serves to increase the appeal of far-right groups - they appear to the electorate as the only ones offering a solution.

Of course while the far-right targets Muslims by demanding immigration quotas, many on the Left try to secularise Muslims with forced assimilation - another form of discrimination. The headscarf ban in French schools is an example of this, disgracefully preventing some Muslim girls from observing their religion as they see fit.

Europe can have Muslims and Islam. The problem is radical Islam, not Islam. The solution is moderate Islam, not no Islam. That there is a choice within Islam between radical and moderate Islam can be seen by looking around the world.

Contrast the moderate version of Shiite Islam in Iraq of Grand Ayatollah Sistani to the extremist version of al-Sadr. Compare the Islamic governing party in Turkey to the mullahs in Iran. Or look at the difference between Ismailism and Wahabism. Very different versions of the same religion: One peaceful, the other violent and deadly.

Thankfully - in the US at least - the Muslim community is beginning to act. The Arab News reported in October that over 2,500 Muslim intellectuals, from 23 countries, signed an online petition to the UN demanding an international treaty banning the use of religion to incite terrorism. They denounce "the sheikhs of death" who manipulate Islam for this purpose.

Interestingly the list includes Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, accusing him of "providing a religious cover for terrorism". Qaradawi remember is a friend of London's Mayor Ken Livingstone, and was defended as a "moderate" by the LSESU Islamic Society. Note also that the following week in *The Beaver*, my friend Alykhan Velshi, also a Muslim, criticised the Islamic Society for defending Qaradawi. See there is hope.

Western politicians can of course help as well. They can start by expelling radical clerics. They can also make it clear to Muslim leaders that they must denounce, and distance themselves from, extremists. Ultimately it's up to Muslims themselves, let's hope they succeed, there is much at stake.

# Benn, not Bennite

Socialist critic of New Labour, *James Caspell*, talks to New Labour Socialist Minister, Hilary Benn, and poses a few hypotheticals.

I entered a traditional Westminster establishment full of modern fixtures and fittings that very much suggested style over substance - analogous, I thought, to the New Labour project itself. As I cast a cynical eye over the new Clause IV that had been etched onto a pane of frosted glass hanging in reception, I suspected that the Cabinet Minister I was about to interview would not reveal anything beyond an equally superficial level. I was right. Hilary Benn, the Secretary of State for International Development, describes himself as a "Benn but not a Bennite" and is clearly "on message". As an ardent moderniser who nevertheless describes himself as a 'socialist', it is perhaps inevitable that Benn has a big future in Labour government. For now however, he has the huge task of making sure Britain fulfils its criteria to meet the UN Millennium Goals.

**James Caspell (JC):** You spoke at the LSE early last year and highlighted that the targets for the UN Millennium Goals had not been met. Why is this and what needs to be done?

**Hilary Benn (HB):** It is for different reasons in different countries. In some it's because of war and conflict - it's very difficult to get your children into primary school or improve healthcare when there's fighting going on. In a place like Darfur, in Western Sudan, we could change the trade rules, give debt relief and increase aid significantly and it would not help development happen there.

Secondly because countries have got the commitment and the organisation but lack the resources and therefore more aid and more predictable aid, which we are increasingly giving, is desperately important to help them to make progress. That's also the advantage of giving debt relief because one of the great merits of debt relief is that it provides predictability.

Thirdly, developing countries need to be able to earn and trade their way out of

poverty and that's why changing the world trade rules to make them fairer is so important.

**JC:** On the subject of world trade, do you not think that the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) might exacerbate the problem of not meeting particular Millennium goals? For example in Tanzania, considerable amounts of money have been spent by the West to effectively coerce Tanzania into privatising its water industry, in compliance with GATS. Do developing countries not have the right to

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One more - obviously hypothetical - question. If your father stood as a successor to Tony Blair would you vote for him?  
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decide for themselves if they wish to hold public ownership over such industries?

**HB:** Yes they do and yes they should. GATS doesn't force or require any country to take a decision that it doesn't want to. GATS is a bottom up process - you opt into GATS, or you don't. I believe that developing



Benn meeting with the President and First Lady of Yemen.

countries are perfectly capable of deciding whether or not it is in their interests to do that. In the case of Tanzania, the government there has decided that it wants to privatise a number of formerly publicly owned companies. One of the reasons developing countries chose to privatise is that if they have a lot of publicly owned industries, then that is using up money that the government could use for other purposes, such as spending more resources on the fight against AIDS, or employing more teachers and paying for school fees so that more children can go to school. It is their choice and I think it's particularly important that on issues such as trade liberalisation, developing countries have the time and the space to take their own decisions and shouldn't be forced to do so by others. It is for this reason that we have just completed a report on the aid conditionality policy of the UK which we will be publishing in the near future.

**JC:** But certain countries, such as the USA and the WTO itself, impose requirements whereby state monopolies must be dismantled for them to receive aid. One case is in Moldova - Europe's poorest country - where for it to obtain USAID, it was forced to privatise its highly profitable wine and tobacco industries. If aid is so extremely politicised, do you not think this undermines the democratic processes within any particular state?

**HB:** Well, I have responsibility for the aid policy of the United Kingdom and not for the policy of other countries. I think it is important for developing countries to have the time and the space to make its own decisions. Clearly, no matter how rich or poor a country is, it has a choice to make about how it uses the resources that it has available - if it spends them on one thing it can't spend them on another. I think that a proper aid relationship should not consist of donors trying to control individual policy decisions but we should see what the effects and outcomes of the decisions of developing countries are. In the context of our aid relationship, we should

see what is happening to poverty levels, access to clean water, health education etc. It's quite right and proper in those circumstances to acknowledge that we are giving aid for a purpose and that purpose is not so that aid can be spent on defence. I have to be able to demonstrate to the people in this country that the aid, and the increasing aid that we are giving, is going to the causes for which it was intended. I think if we have the debate and the conversation around the outcomes and the impact on poor people and improving their lives, then that's a place where all of us ought to feel very comfortable and we should not be demanding particular policy decisions in the first instance.

**JC:** Yourself and Gordon Brown have taken a lead and earlier this month the G7 finance ministers have announced a 100 percent debt relief deal for some of the world's poorest countries. How does the international economic system need to change to prevent such indebtedness occurring in the future?

**HB:** The issue with debt is sustainability. The economic system functions on the basis that countries borrow finance that they are able to pay back. Even if all debt were wiped out tomorrow, the question would remain "should developing countries borrow?" I would think they should. So it's not about debt per se, but the sustainability of debt.

**JC:** But we saw in the 1980s, as a result of interest rate hikes, that certain countries end up having no choice but to default on their loans. The idea that "sovereign borrowers never go bust" has been proved wrong in the past, why not in the future?

**HB:** This is why sustainability is so important. HIPC - the Highly Indebted Poor Countries scheme - has delivered to date \$70bn dollars of debt relief for 27 of the world's poorest countries. That is, by any measure, tangible progress that means there is more money available for those countries. They are no longer spending so



Blair's right-hand man? Depends on your perspective...



Politics



Socialist meets socialist: Hilary Ben and Blink columnist James Caspell face off.

much of their resources on servicing debt instead of spending it on health and education and so on. The UK wants to go further on multi-lateral debt relief and that's why we have launched our new initiative paying 10 percent of the debt service owed to the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

**JC:** In terms of the Department for International Development's (DFID) mission statement and the role of protectionism in the context of the EU and NAFTA. Do you think DFID will be able to meet its mission statement as long as the EU continues to protect key markets such as agriculture?

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**We have a rapidly rising aid budget in Britain, compared to 18 years in which it was cut. That's socialist politics at work, that's Labour politics at work, that's New Labour politics at work.**

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**HB:** We are clear, and the EU is now very clear, that there needs to be an end date for export subsidies, which have actually declined by 70 per cent in the last 10 years. Last summer it was decided to set an end date because if we don't we are denying developing countries the single most important means that they have to improve their lives and their systems - the chance of economic development. Look at China, India, Viet Nam and other countries that

are making real progress at tackling poverty through economic development.

**JC:** Should poorer countries themselves be allowed to protect their industries?

**HB:** A more open and fairer trading system is in everybody's interests in the long term. Not all countries can proceed at the same pace, even if they are all heading in the same direction. That's why we have argued very strongly for differential treatment, which acknowledges that not all countries can develop at the same pace. This is why we have argued for the ability of developing countries to protect its own markets such as agriculture, where they are heavily dependent. These are the big questions that will have to be negotiated as part of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December.

**JC:** Is Britain not hypocritical to preach about development when we have been part of an invasion which has killed up to 100,000 civilians and destroyed Iraq's infrastructure? Your predecessor [Clare Short] obviously thought so.

**HB:** No we aren't hypocritical. They are two separate issues. Actually, from a development point of view, look at what has happened to Iraq over the last 35 years. Iraq used to have a GDP the same as [fascist] Portugal. It is a country that has been impoverished, brutalised and traumatised by the experience of Saddam's terrible regime. What the Iraqi people now have - regardless of what people thought about the military action - is the ability to make their own decisions, which is why the elections were so important and why we have to stand with the Iraqi people and help them to make those decisions.

**JC:** But there are many countries that are impoverished and ruled undemocratically. Would you argue that such unilateral moral interventionism is justified in these cases as well?

**HB:** No. There were specific reasons why military action was taken against Iraq. I

was merely pointing out that there was a lack of development as consequence of the brutalisation of Saddam's dictatorship.

**JC:** On a more light-hearted note, you have famously described yourself as a "Benn but not a Bennite". Would you describe yourself as a socialist and if so, how does that fit in with New Labour's ideology?

**HB:** Oh god...

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**Tony Blair is going to carry on being the leader of the Labour Party and I hope very much that he will lead us to victory in the next election...**

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**JC:** Are you a socialist?

**HB:** Yes I am. I look at what the Government has achieved and what we are doing on development as demonstrating the power of socialist politics. We have a rapidly rising aid budget in Britain, compared to 18 years in which it was cut. That's socialist politics at work, that's Labour politics at work, that's New Labour politics at work - whatever description you give to it. The Minimum Wage, the working families tax credit, the legal right to union recognition, the right

to be accompanied by a union rep. in grievance and disciplinary procedures - those are things that we can be rally proud of.

**JC:** Would you prefer to see Gordon Brown or Alan Milburn succeed Tony Blair?

**HB:** [Laughs] Tony Blair is going to carry on being the leader of the Labour Party and I hope very much that he will lead us to victory in the next election, whenever it comes.

**JC:** What cabinet position do you think you will get after the next election?

**HB:** I learnt a long time ago that you should get on with the job you've got and let the future take care of itself. Politics is a very unpredictable business and we have to win the election first!

**JC:** With the rise of the Lib Dems and possible ousting of New Labour MPs by RESPECT and the Green Party, what will Labour have to do to reconnect with its disenfranchised working class voters?

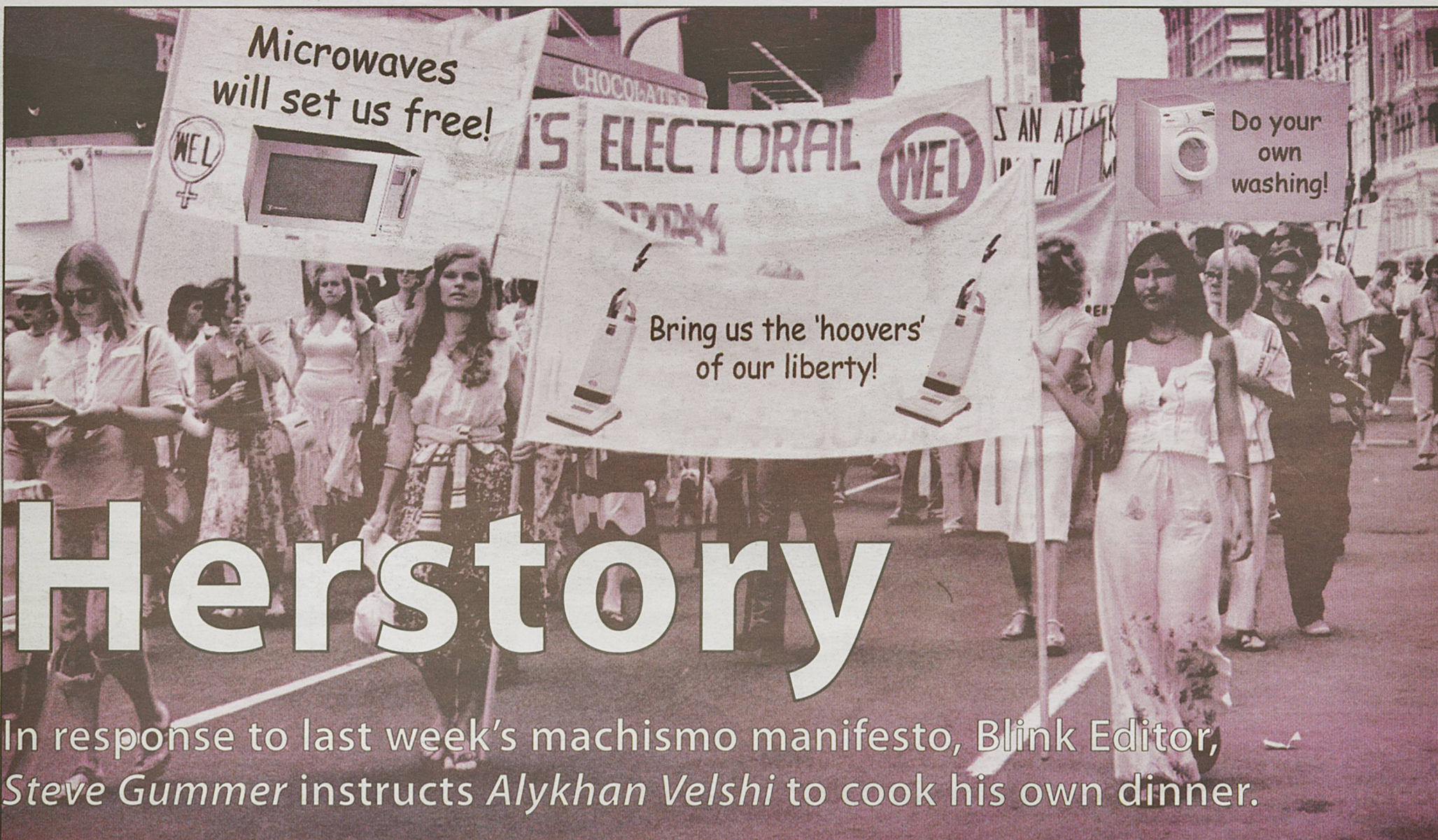
**HB:** If you look at what people are concerned about - economic stability - think back 20 years when there was the march for jobs and three million unemployed. We have achieved two million more people in work since 1997 and record low unemployment for over thirty years. This achievement did not just fall out of the sky, people have worked hard to make it happen. Now, you have a different kind of politics which is fair enough, we live in a democracy, but this nonsense that Labour got in 1997 and have done absolutely nothing is complete and utter nonsense.

**JC:** One more - obviously hypothetical - question. If your father stood as a successor to Tony Blair would you vote for him?

**HB:** That's a very good hypothetical question [Laughs and turns tape recorder off]

**JC:** I'll take that as a no comment!

## Politics



# Herstory

In response to last week's machismo manifesto, Blink Editor, Steve Gummer instructs *Alykhan Velshi* to cook his own dinner.

Having read Alykhan Velshi's 'Capitalist Cure-all' last week, I was not so much appalled by his use of a grammatical error to explain away a topic as vital as female jurisprudence, as I was outraged by his definition of feminist history - that didn't seem to include any women. Perhaps he should be reminded that the opinions of antiquated dinosaurs are normally studied and not expressed in the annals of history. His testosterone-fuelled description of liberal scholars as 'whinging hirsute feminists' was more reminiscent of a Lord Flasheart scene in 'Blackadder' than any genuine account of the past:

'Lord Flasheart (On the subject of women protesting): Hey, any woman who wants to chain herself to my railings and suffer-a-jet movement is fine by me.'

Flash later goes on to comment that he 'wasn't born yesterday you know', to which Blackadder retorts: 'Pity, we could have started your personal-ity from scratch.'

Sadly Velshi's reactionary rhetoric had me feeling very much the same way.

Let me make it clear that I do not consider myself do be a pinko-commi in writing this article. I have no problem with people criticising the work of the Suffragettes as being 'patronising' or 'middle class elitism'. I utterly agree that throwing yourself under a horse or getting yourself locked up is not the best technique to use when trying to convince people you are intelligent and capable enough to be allowed to vote. Furthermore I am more than eager, as by the way, are a majority of women, to dismiss the views of radicals who make a parallel between consensual sex and rape.

My problem with his article was his express neglect to mention any of the great female protagonists of the last century - who worked peacefully and effectively for the cause. Instead his work was inevitably

market-based. To claim that women only escaped second-class citizenship through capitalist innovation is not only mythical fabrication but it also pessimistically denies the existence of any kind of human intervention. Personally I'd like to think that women would be equal citizens today with or without the invention of the microwave oven. His irrational conjecture is analogous to the absurd proposition that we would still have cotton, tea and sugar plantations run by slaves if we hadn't discovered that these products could be made more cheaply.

So, who are the unsung heroes to whom women's journey toward liberation is owed? Let's start with the Suffragists in the early twentieth century. Whilst Pankhurst was burning her bra; this group lobbied and worked with the Government to assure equal opportunity acts, and suffrage bills were on the agenda. The Organisation was established in 1897 by Millicent Fawcett. They backed pro-suffrage Labour and Liberal candidates for MP, had a huge membership, founding their own newspaper entitled the 'Suffragist'. Sir Robert Ensor, an eminent historian, spoke of their influence as "beyond question."

One may equally attribute credit to individual activists such as Nancy Astor. This woman was the first female MP, she campaigned hard for suffrage, child care and equal rights. Furthermore she set an example to all who worked for enfranchisement of women and highlighted that even in a masculine dominated world it was possible for women to succeed.

Perhaps the most piercing part of last week's article however was the tiny amount of credit given to the 1960s. Apparently everyone was embarking upon a drug crazed mass rape that seems more comparable to a war crime than any attempt at social reform. What was missed by our ex-law correspondent's economic gaze back through history, a point that is frequently missed by the Right even today, was the genuine need to win hearts and

minds, of both men and women, to achieve any real social reform. His writing over-looked academics such as Betty Freidan, who in 1963 published 'The Feminine Mystique', which urged women to find their own identities and not succumb to masculine pressures. Furthermore, one should consider popular icons such as Marilyn Monroe. She may not have set the world aflame with intellectual theories but to ordinary women she proved a symbol of possibility and accomplishment.

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Personally I'd like to think that women would be equal citizens today with or without the invention of the microwave oven

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Yet in between its sporadically horrifying interpretations of history; it is nice to see that last week's article made room for some comedy too. We learned that:

"As a result of [President Bush's] policies in Afghanistan and Iraq, millions of women can now vote, run for office, go to school and take up employment."

Our anti-choice President of the US may have incidentally happened to go to war with a nation that horrifically abuses

women but he did it for nothing as grand as their liberation. Anyone who believes this assertion to be true was probably naive enough to believe we went to war to prevent the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction. No, sadly neither of these possibilities reflect reality. It is much more likely that this new Gulf War was triggered by one of the few words that Bush Junior can spell: 'oil'.

Yet I have drifted somewhat off topic. The Capitalist ethos has doubtlessly contributed to the fight for equality. Inspiring innovation and encouraging advancement was pivotal to the progression of women in society. However, throughout the past century it was the progressive work of activists more than their financial investments, that aided women.

Furthermore, it is easy to see that the goal of gender equality has yet to be reached. Current female pay differentials are still undeniably vast and the continual existence of glass ceilings in prominent city jobs still fails to be fixed by the monetary market. Last week's article is all the proof you'll need to see that in the minds of many in society women are not considered equals, either in status or in terms of a historical heritage. Society is still beset by masculine dominated stereotypes. Perhaps this was an interpretation of the term 'men fuck women' that was overlooked by last week's article. With female protagonists of the past having made such a great contribution to the world in which we live there is no doubt that there is a need for both female jurisprudence and female history (Herstory). With equality not fully achieved at homes and with the fight for freedom by potentially great protagonists beginning in nations like Saudi Arabia the prevalence of female activist history cannot be overstated. So to Alykhan's scepticism of the capacity of the individual I offer the words of Margaret Meade:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has!"

Politics



# The price of morals

**Charles Laurence condemns those who would not turn arms against Saddam Hussein, but are only too happy to sell them to China or Iran.**

President Bush recently completed a grand tour of Europe, having high level meetings with all of the most senior European leaders, except Mr. Blair, who before the election could suddenly only spare five minutes for his old friend. The tour was touted as a great success, the press releases, no doubt written before Bush had set foot on the continent, talked of “open” and “constructive” dialogues between leaders. Iraq was a thing of the past and as a sign of cooperation the Europeans have agreed to send teams to train the new Iraqi judiciary. The magnanimity of the Europeans was somewhat diminished by the fact that Mr. Bush has been nearly totally vindicated for his approach to Iraq, but apart from that the situation seemed rosy. Of course there were disagreements, not least European arms sales to China, but in this new environment of post-Iraq cooperation, there were no lingering hard feelings to prevent consensus from being reached.

Rubbish, all of it, the Atlantic Alliance is under greater strain than ever. The enormous shadow of Iraq is much darker and more menacing than the Franco-European temper tantrums that immediately greeted the war. The E.U. wishes to lift its arms embargo on China that was imposed in 1989 following the Tiananmen square outrage. We are told that the China of today is a different country to the brutal regime that rolled tanks over protesters asking for basic rights. I am not sure that any of the 2000 prisoners still languishing in Chinese prisons following the protest would agree. We are also told the embargo is an anachronism, the Chinese will be able to develop these weapons soon any way so why not sell them ours?

This is patently untrue, the Chinese have been trying for 25 years to build a competent fighter bomber, in the end having repeatedly failed to copy Rolls Royce's fighter engine designs they eventually managed to circumvent the treaty and bought the British engines, the new plane

is now operational. Apparently selling arms to China will impede China's military by not incentivising them to develop their own. By this logic, one commentator observed, the most effective method of disarming North Korea would be to send them an arsenal of ICBMs. China is in the middle of the biggest army modernisation in its history, its goal to create a coordinated strike capability. Already using European ‘civil’ space technology, China has the capacity to shoot down satellites and with further European help they will have the ability to fight sophisticated modern wars against any power in the world.

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**For the French, a nation with a stagnant economy, a puny army and enormous sense of its own self-importance, the experience of Iraq was intensely humiliating.**

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“Why not?” the EU asks, “we are not at war with China; surely they should have the right to defend themselves?” The problem stems from the Chinese view of ‘itself’, it includes Taiwan. America may be the world's overwhelming super power, but over Taiwan, a small democratic island off

the coast of mainland China, the balance of power is extremely fine. China is currently proposing an “anti secession law” just to make it clear what Taiwan faces if it tries to make a final break from the repressive, undemocratic and brutal regime of Beijing. The de facto situation is that if Taiwan declares independence China will clobber it, and if China clobbers Taiwan, China in turn will get clobbered by the United States. China may have the largest army in the world but today it is America's overwhelming technological sophistication that gives it its power. It is this power that the Chinese crave and to which the Europeans have the key.

So what is the EU playing at? Greed is given as a reason, and it is true that in the highly competitive arms market China represents a great opportunity, but this does not get to the core of the European mentality. France, Germany and even the UK are weaseling their way around the current embargo, the latest Submarines and Stealth Frigates of the Chinese Navy come with German and French diesel engines, and making good money out of it: what the Europeans are doing is flexing their collective muscle. For the French, a nation with a stagnant economy, a puny army and enormous sense of its own self-importance, the experience of Iraq was intensely humiliating. They felt robbed of their UN power to block the United States. Bemused at the fact a Corsican midget who died over 150 years ago did not still give them a say in world affairs. Schroeder, whilst feting Bush's arrival, refused to withdraw his statement that European decision making on security should be centered in the EU not at NATO. That should help us all sleep better, knowing we are being guarded by a “Rapid Reaction Force”, with the equivalent strength of Paraguay, all speaking different languages. The arrogance and stupidity would be amusing were it not so serious, but that is something I will return to later.

It was not just our opportunistic cousins in Berlin and Paris who were hurt by Iraq. Russia, another nation the world once feared, also found the Iraq experience humiliating. And is responding in an even more dangerous way; by selling nuclear fuel to Iran. No one seriously believes that Iran has a solely peaceful nuclear project, a country with one of the largest proven oil

reserves in the world and none of the infrastructure to make Nuclear power economic. Again Russia has an economic incentive, the deal is worth \$800 million. This seems tiny in comparison to the cost of the wrath of the United States which may in fact be their goal. The Russians claim they would have signed the deal earlier but have had problems, getting promises from the Iranians that they will return the spent nuclear fuel. Again this smacks of an absurdist comedy. Spent nuclear fuel has two properties; making shoddy plutonium based bombs and giving cancer to babies. That is why no country in the world wants it, except Iran. No wonder the Americans are so exasperated.

All observers of international relations can enjoy the cut and thrust, ups and downs. They can paint their own caricatures. The oafish giant America, the craven poodle Britain or the sneaky ambitious France. But this is too serious. Whatever one thinks of American foreign policy, the anti-war lobby deserve their current position, cast down from the seats of power in London and Washington. Until the appeasing loonies accept the new world political dynamic and that security threats are fundamentally different from those of the 20th century, no one who has joined the enlightened camp can take them seriously. The world is dividing, not along the lines of left and right but of freedom and oppression. I know ‘freedom’ has become hackneyed, but it is important. Why Europe should be supporting the expansionist aims of China or appeasing the Nuclear ambition of Iran, who by the way is the only member of the UN with a stated aim to destroy another member; Israel. Europe is digging its own grave, whether it is the authoritarians in the Labour party undermining the most fundamental British freedoms, the Russians arming their two most dangerous neighbors, Syria and Iran in a blatant attempt to create a sphere of influence or the Germans undermining NATO. when the Atlantic Alliance is more necessary than ever. Europe is allowing its pride and hatred of Bush to separate itself from its most dearly held Liberal Democratic ideals. The word ‘freedom’ has become hackneyed, but it is the most important ideal that unites western society. The message is clear, ‘Stop now Europe, before it's too late.’

## International

International Correspondents: Stefanie Khaw and Kristin Solberg

# Stolen treasures from the roof of the world

*Tenzin Metok Sithar* challenges the tacit acceptance of the occupation of Tibet by the USA.



To the Western imagination, Tibet has been depicted as 'Shangri-La', the Utopian Himalayan paradise. The Dalai Lama's popularity as "the chic Buddhist monk" has helped the Tibetan movement gain fans such as Richard Gere, Steven Seagal, and the Beastie Boys. The media is full of images of traditional and religious Tibetans that deserve to be in the *National Geographic* and on wall calendars. But is the reality of today's Tibet being presented and perceived correctly? An exhibition titled *Tibet: Treasures from the Roof of the World* that opened February 19 at the Rubin Museum in New York aims to, "reflect the vitality, complexity and historical significance of Himalayan art." In fact, by holding the exhibition and refusing to acknowledge Tibet's history and the current situation in Tibet, the exhibition is doing precisely the opposite.

*Tibet: Treasures from the Roof of the World* is part of an agreement signed by the Bower's Museum in California, Tibetan and Chinese officials of the Cultural Administration of Tibet. In the introduction to the history and culture of Tibet on the Rubin Museum's website, there is no mention of the current situation in Tibet. The brief introduction only states to acknowledge the "rich history and tradition of the mysterious land of Tibet."

In September 1949, the Chinese People's Liberation Army, claiming that Tibet was part of China, invaded Eastern Tibet and captured Chamdo, the headquarters of the Governor of Eastern Tibet. In November 1950, the Government of Tibet appealed to the United Nations for help but the Steering Committee of the United Nations postponed the issue. On May 3 1951, a Tibetan delegation on a negotiation visit to Peking, was forced to sign a "17 point agreement on the measures of Peaceful Liberation of Tibetans". The seventeen clauses of the "Agreement" authorized entry into Tibet of Chinese forces and empowered the Chinese

Government to handle Tibet's external affairs. The agreement guaranteed that China would not alter the existing political system in Tibet and not interfere with the established status, function, and powers of the Dalai Lama or the Panchen Lama. The Tibetan people were to have regional autonomy, and their religious beliefs and customs were to be respected. In reality, the Chinese government went on to violate all the terms of this agreement. Monasteries were destroyed, and thousands of Tibetans murdered. Tibetan religious statues, scroll paintings and metal artefacts were either shipped to China to be sold in the international antique markets or melted down.

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...is the reality of today's Tibet being presented and perceived correctly?

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Photo exhibitions organized by the Chinese government usually portray a picture of well-fed, healthy Tibetans in their traditional garments looking happy and content.

However, human rights conditions in Tibet prove otherwise. According to Tibet's

exile Government, since the Chinese invasion of 1949, around a million Tibetans, out of a six million population, have been killed, 6,000 monasteries have been destroyed, and thousands of Tibetans are arrested, imprisoned and denied their basic human rights. Tibetans are jailed in Tibet for possessing a picture of the Dalai Lama, or a Tibetan national flag. Chinese policies in Tibet further marginalize Tibetans in their own country in all socio-economic fields.

The Government of China launched the Western Development Project in June 1999 to reduce regional disparities and poverty. Some have seen this as a means to further consolidate control over Tibet, a way of framing Beijing's political motives within a program of modernisation and reform. The Chinese Government claims that it has played a development and welfare role in Tibet, bringing about the transition of a backward region into the modern global economy through enormous economic strategies and benefits. It claims that in the first quarter of 2004, the Tibet Autonomous Region's GDP growth was 12.6 percent. There is change, it cannot be denied. However critics indicate that it is common for Chinese officials to present favourable statistics to advance their careers or to present continuity and comparability. Also these GDP figures are solely based on investments in large-scale infrastructure and fixed assets.

On the other hand, the human development index of Tibet remains the lowest among China's 31 provinces. Investments in human capital in sectors such as education and human services are neglected. The UN Special Rapporteur on Education

recently reported an illiteracy rate of almost 40 percent in Tibet. Contrary to the Chinese Government's claim that compulsory education is free of charge, even primary education in Tibet costs up to 6,000 Yuan a year. This is a huge economic barrier considering that the average yearly income for Tibetans is 784 Yuan. In addition, Tibetans must undertake their entrance exams to secondary levels in Chinese. Poor education background decreases access to urban and skilled employment. Tibetans tend to be disproportionately represented among the poor and affected by increases in poverty and inequality. This has led to the alienation of the Tibetan people and a resurgence of Tibetan refugee flows since 1990.

Whichever way one views these changes, there is no doubt as to who the ultimate benefactors of such 'developmental' policies are: The Chinese Government and the Han Chinese settlers in Tibet.

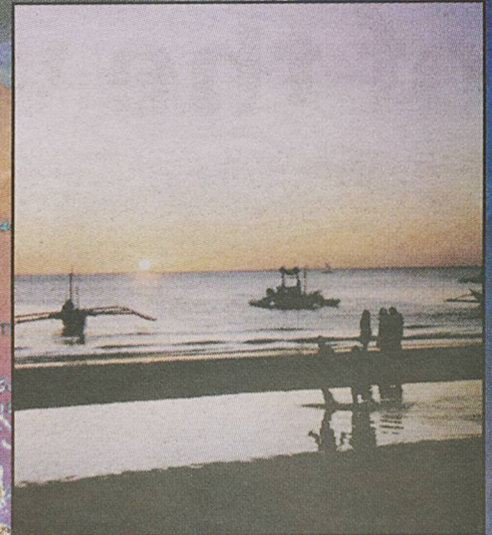
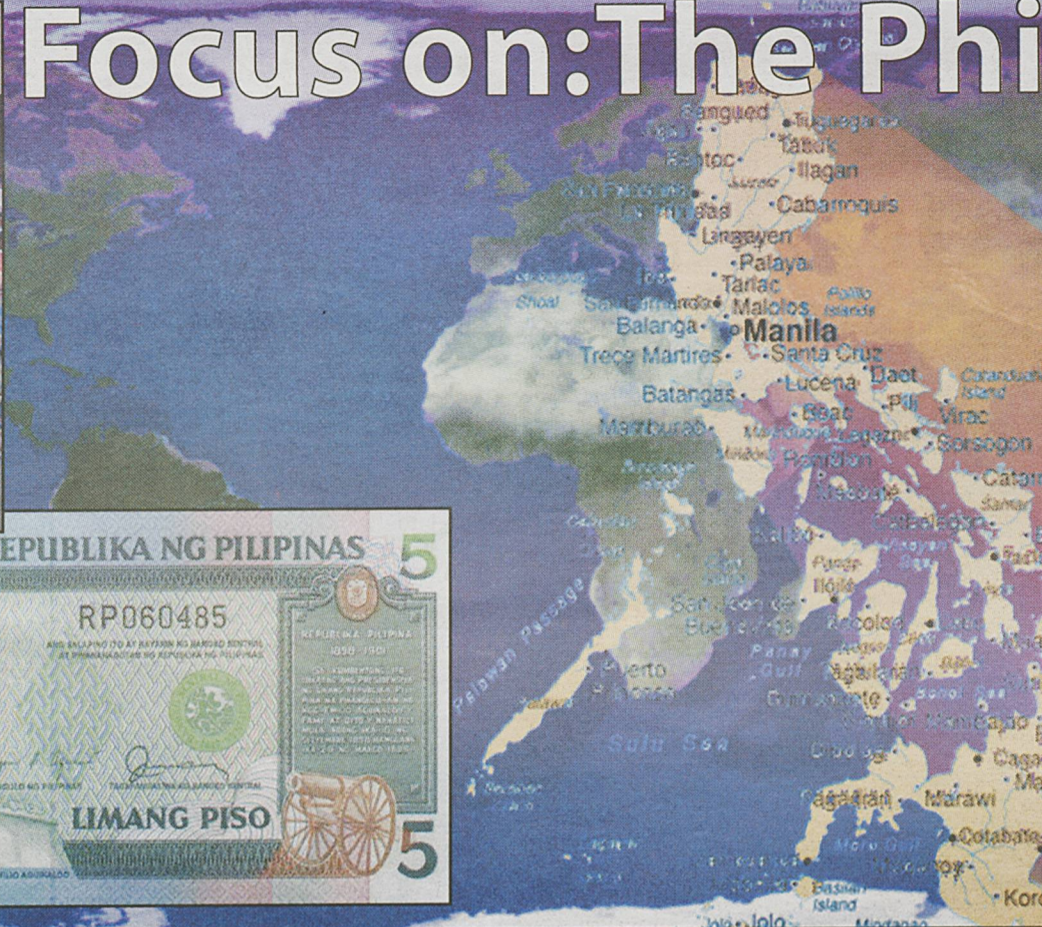
The exhibition at the Rubin Museum serves to legitimise the Chinese Government's propaganda that they are protectors of Tibetan culture, when in fact they have been destroying it for the past 40 years. Thus, the exhibit only presents a wrong sense of reality and reduces the culture of Tibet to mere museum exhibits. The Rubin Museum should seek to present the reality of Tibet: the invasion of the country and the gross inequality that have resulted under the occupation. There needs to be recognition that these artefacts have been stolen from their rightful owners - the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Government and the Tibetan people. The possession of these artefacts has been made possible through the illegal occupation of Tibet.



International

International Correspondents: Stefanie Khaw and Kristin Solberg

# Focus on: The Philippines



**BSc Government & History student Regina Lejano (19) educates Hattie Lamb (20) Bsc History on The Philippines.**

**Where is the Philippines and what are its neighbouring countries?**

**Hattie:** Don't know.

**Hattie:** It doesn't have any neighbouring countries since it's a bunch of islands. It's near Indonesia, East Timor, Australia and Vietnam.

**Regina:** We're very rich in natural resources. Our main imports will probably be lots of American consumer goods. There's a Starbucks on every corner.

**Exports?**

**Hattie:** All the natural resources.

**Regina:** The Philippines is part of South East Asia. The Pacific Ocean is on the East and the South China Sea is on the West. It's only one and a half hours to Hong Kong by plane and we can see Taiwan on a really clear day. Australia is eight hours away, though.

**Regina:** Bananas, pineapples, rice and sugar. Also human capital: teachers, housekeepers and nannies. The industry generates billions of dollars a year.

**What's the capital?**

**What's its national sport?**

**Hattie:** Manila.

**Hattie:** Football?

**Regina:** That's right.

**How do people dress in the Philippines?**

**Regina:** It's not popular at all. Basketball is popular. But it's probably something traditional like SIPA (where you kick a small ball around) or cockfighting. They cut both the cocks and make them smell each other's blood to provoke them. There are families that are well-known for cockbreeding. Just like horse-breeding in Britain.

**Hattie:** It's hot and predominantly Roman Catholic - so they probably wear loose fitting clothes due to the heat.

**What do people eat in the Philippines?**

**Regina:** The country has been pretty Westernised since it was colonised by Spain and then the US. Compared to other Asian countries like Thailand, we don't really wear much of our traditional clothing except if you're going to a wedding or if you live among the endogenous tribes. Women wear the Filipina, you see our Prime Minister wearing that quite often and for men it's the Barong Tagalog - a long sleeved top made from pineapple fibre.

**Hattie:** Rice.

**Regina:** Unlike other Asian countries, food isn't really that spicy. We have street food like aborted chicks, intestines, sisig (left-over bits of pigs like the ears etc.) and dinugu (pigs' blood stew). And yes, we eat rice three times a day - even for breakfast.

**What's the average age to lose your virginity?**

**What's its form of governance?**

**Hattie:** It's a Catholic country, so probably when you get married. 20, maybe?

**Hattie:** There's a prime minister and it's a democracy.

**Regina:** We're a very, very Catholic country. Sex is still very taboo. Abortion and divorce is illegal.

**Regina:** We were Asia's first democracy. It's a presidential system. Women have played a big role in politics. We've had two women presidents. The current one, Gloria Macapagal was classmates with Bill Clinton at Georgetown University.

**What are its main imports?**

## The Starting Point:

**Our two subjects share some of their initial knowledge of The Philippines**

### Regina's Facts:

There are islands where you can go to swim with dolphins.

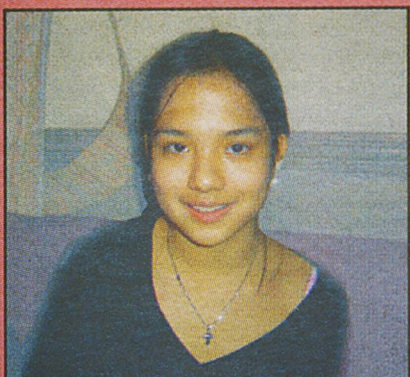
Imelda Marcos was the first lady for 20 years. When the Marcos regime was overthrown, opposition forces found 500 pairs of shoes in the palace belonging to her.

You can buy your own island. Richard Branson owns one. Some islands are no bigger than the Beaver's Retreat Bar.

We hold the world record for having a session with the largest number of people kissing, despite being a Catholic country.

We have the biggest shoe in the world.

There's a building called the Coconut Palace. Every part of it is made from coconut.



### Hattie's Facts:

They've got frogs. My friend was in the Philippines and they couldn't sleep all night because the frogs were making so much noise.

Cigarettes cost 5p a packet there.

Lots of nasty creatures like scorpions and snakes there. In Britain the worse that could happen is that you'll get stung by a bee.

The guy who played Punjab in the movie Annie. He was in a 7-up commercial. "Crisp and clean with no caffeine."

# The war of words

Executive Editor, *Prashant Rao*, reverses roles to interview journalist Steve Stecklow.

Steve Stecklow worked with Daniel Pearl on a story about Sony Corporation that ran on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) in January 2001. It was Pearl's last front page before he was abducted and assassinated by Omar Saeed Sheikh, a former student of the London School of Economics. Stecklow was at the LSE on Wednesday for a public lecture titled 'Press Under Fire' about the threats journalists face today in war-zones. I caught up with him afterwards to talk about some of the topics that were touched on at the discussion, and a few more.

**PR:** Have you ever been interviewed? How does it feel to be on the other side of an interview?

**SS:** Yeah, many times. Usually on stories I've done. It's good practice.

**PR:** Before the minute's silence at the LSE, you talked about Daniel Pearl. How long were you working with him?

**SS:** I worked with him intensively for seven months, right almost until the time he disappeared. I first met him in London in July 1998. He was based here, but moved to Paris within a very short period of time, so we did have lunch once. I didn't know him very well, but when he moved to India in 2001, I had done several stories out of India with his predecessor and I wanted to continue doing that. I contacted Danny and we talked about doing some stories together and it took a while for it to gel but, by the summer of 2001, we were in agreement on a story and I went to India on it, and we did it. It ran in August. Not long after, he called me up with another idea. This was after 9/11 and after the invasion [of Afghanistan]. I jumped on it, although we weren't physically in the same place. He was in Pakistan and I was in Dubai.

**PR:** After what happened, Daniel Pearl has been romanticised a lot. He's become a legend of sorts. What kind of reporter was he?

**SS:** He was not a superstar. He was very good and he was very versatile. One of the things you can do at the *Journal* is you can alternate between serious, business-type reporting and investigative-reporting and off-beat feature reporting and somewhat humorous stories that we often run on our front page. He could do them all, and did them all. He did a large variety of stories. When he was in India, not only did we do a story on Indian pharmacists, but he also covered an earthquake there, and a number of other things. He covered the Middle East before he moved to India.

**PR:** Since what's happened to Daniel Pearl, have you noticed anything like journalists tempering themselves, displaying more caution? Has anything changed at all?

**SS:** I think a lot has changed. For example, at this newspaper, reporters who go to dangerous places on a regular basis undergo specialised training. They take a course. It's not only because of Danny Pearl but also because of what's going on in Iraq, now. Most major news organisations have armoured cars, hire security guards and all of that. I think because of what happened

to Danny, people think twice before necessarily volunteering to go to a dangerous place. I have a wife and child. I haven't volunteered to go to Pakistan since the Danny Pearl thing. And yet, the WSJ has had reporters in Pakistan. So it's not like we're no longer covering the news or we're holding back on certain types of stories. We're not. I think people are more on their guard than they were beforehand.

**PR:** *The Journal* has a very conservative editorial page. How does *The Journal*, and other papers, keep distance between the news and editorial team?

**SS:** It's fairly typical of American newspapers – what we call the separation of church and state. I, literally, had never met anyone from the editorial page of the WSJ for the first few years I worked there. Not until I moved here when there was someone in our office who worked on it. But she had her own separate office and we had no idea what she was working on and she had no idea what we were working on. We might see her socially or whatever, but I competed against this person on a story last year when we were both chasing the same thing. It's not impossible to do and it's commonly done at most major American newspapers where there's very little interaction, if any, between the editorial page which is totally separate, separate offices, separate staff, and the news section, and they never see anything that I do beforehand and vice versa.

**PR:** Is that true of papers in this country?

**SS:** I don't really know about newspapers in this country. What I can say is that it's clear that certain newspapers are almost acknowledged to have a political bent. People commonly say that *The Guardian* is more liberal and *The Telegraph* is more conservative and *The Independent* is more neutral. I think that pervades the whole paper as opposed to our paper where, often, we do stories on the front page which completely contradict editorials that may run the same day. I don't think you see that as often as you would in the United States.

**PR:** When, for example, during the Presidential race, when the newspaper was deciding which candidate to support, was the news team involved in that decision?

**SS:** No, just the editorial team. We had no input at all in that decision.

**PR:** The story about Sony in Afghanistan your last story together. Can you talk about that? How did you balance the work?

**SS:** Yes. It ran in January 2002, about three weeks before he disappeared. The first story we did together, the two of us were together for almost every interview. The Sony story, for logistical reasons, didn't make sense to do it that way. So, he had come up with the story while being in Pakistan, having visited some black markets along the border. Once we agreed that Sony corporation would remain the subject, we quickly learned that their operations in the region in Dubai. I said I would take on Sony Corporation in Dubai, and he could take on where the TVs were sold in



Daniel Pearl - Pioneering journalist, incredible colleague and a tragic victim.

Pakistan.

**PR:** You talked about investigative reporting. It's almost become the sort of thing people want to do out of college. They want to be an 'investigative reporter'. Surely you don't start out as an 'investigative

that. It's true – my first job at a big newspaper, I would cover the police beat and sometimes write obituaries, but I quickly began doing investigative things within the first year, I think. Certainly within the second year, and the same thing at this newspaper. My experience is that if you can show what you can do, and do it well, newspapers are more than happy to take it. Many papers welcome that.

**PR:** One final question. The former News Director of Al-Jazeera was at the discussion at the LSE with you. Would you have aired the Daniel Pearl video?

**SS:** No, I don't think I would have, and to this day, I've never watched it. That's not to say that I don't think the release of that tape is newsworthy. But, I think you can report on it, just as our newspaper did without actually showing it. I'm not sure what value it adds to actually show it. Some people feel differently, and I'm against censorship of virtually any kind, but there's also a taste factor and an exploitation factor that needs to be considered, just like how our newspaper doesn't run obscenities. I don't think that tape needed to be run. Again, it's not because he was a friend of mine, and a colleague, and all of that. I think that's true of a lot of these beheading videos. If you were to ask me about a speech that Osama Bin Laden gave, I think those should be shown. Just like, if you were covering World War II and you were back there then, and Hitler gave a speech. You wouldn't ignore that. You would report it as news, because it is news and people should be aware of what your enemies, in this particular case, are saying or thinking. So, I think that these could be difficult decisions, but from a news organisation's point of view, you need to look at what's news. When a guy has claimed responsibility for killing thousands of people puts out a statement, I think that's news.

“

I have a wife and child. I haven't volunteered to go to Pakistan since the Danny Pearl thing.

”

reporter”?

**SS:** Actually, I started out as an investigative reporter in college. I would disagree with that. I would argue, as a very well-known editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* when I was there between 1981 and 1993, Gene Roberts, he would not allow us to call ourselves investigative reporters. He felt that all reporting should be investigative reporting and the same tools and techniques used in what you would call an investigative story should be used in almost any kind of story, mainly asking as many questions as possible, interviewing as many people as possible. I agree with

# B:art

edited by Wejdan Ismail  
thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk



## Visual Arts

Politics, sex and death  
page 27



## Film

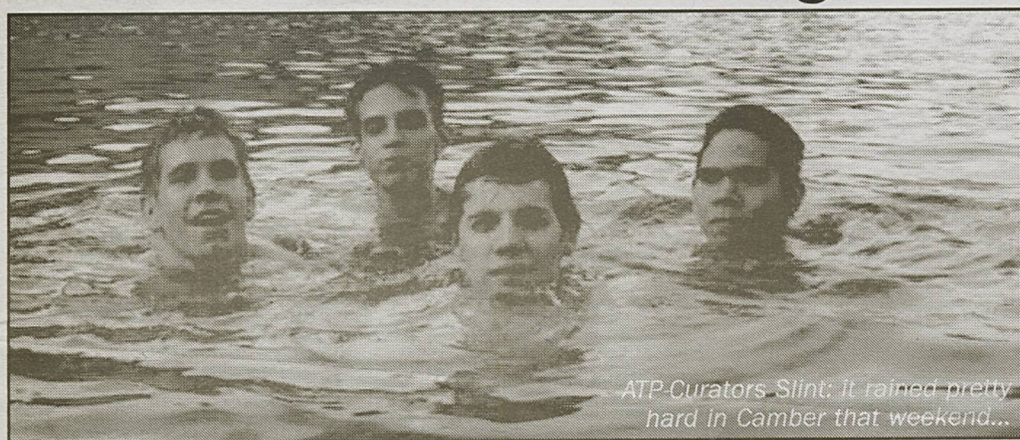
Jude Law in his futuristic sky-caper  
page 30

# music

edited by Ben Howarth and Neshwa Boukhari

## “And What Costume Will The Poor Girl Wear To All Tomorrows Parties...”

The legendary Slint reform and curate the festival that shows off the American underground in the glamorous Camber frost



ATP-Curators Slint: It rained pretty hard in Camber that weekend...

It's Friday. We arrive in Pontins, Camber Sands alongside tons of other obscurist indie kids to wait for the festivities of the Slint-curated All Tomorrow's Parties festival to begin. I thought I'd start things off by getting drunk. I get drunk. Really drunk. I go to see **Deerhoof** and they sound just like they did at this festival last April; this is a good thing. Seriously loud, percussive guitars, a jazzy drummer and a sweet-sounding Japanese frontlady who sings songs about the milk industry. Nice. I pass out and miss the rest of the bands. I wake up annoyed at myself, especially for having missed The Melvins. I'm going to take things more seriously today. **Brightblack** kick things off and they sound amazing. Kind of Royal Trux type heartpounding drums and beautiful Americana scuzziness. It's packed and I can't see a thing, so leave content to head upstairs for **Mogwai**. Mogwai are their usual epic selves. They are on top form and even stuff from their weakest album (Rock Action) sounds great this afternoon. Aidan Moffat of Arab Strap joins them for a song; it's lush volume betrays the dour sentiment. I go back downstairs for **The Naysayer**, who is a folky female songwriter with witty, pert songs about "love-sticks" and stuff. It's pretty good but I kinda think that there are better, similar artists out there (Nina Nastasia, Laura Veirs). These stairs are getting tiring but I tackle them again to see **Need New Body**, an ironic rock / hip-hop / pop crossover band. I can definitely live without this nonsense. Sometimes nonsense can be fun though. Next up is **Faun Fables**; two sisters from California playing wonderful, theatrical songs of whimsy and love. Later on I will be very drunk again and will bother them for 20

minutes complaining that I've never heard of their band but I should have and they should sack their UK agent. They were awfully nice and polite though. **Spoon** make good pop songs, all bratty delivery and mature content. They should be winning NME Awards. Later into the night and expectation is high for **Slint**. From what I can remember, they sounded great; really accomplished, just like the records. But seeing as I was having difficulty standing up by that time, I might not be the best person to ask. I stay up until dawn with some fantastic new friends from Northern Ireland. This place is so friendly. And cold. Normally Sundays at ATP are letdowns. Dizzee saved the one last April and the Violent Femmes likewise lifted the day in December. Not so this time. It's a great day; starting off with the brilliantly disgusting stand-up comedian **Neil Hamburger**. Lots of people find his jokes about Courtney Love, God and KFC offensive. Some people leave. Hamburger says, "Good, you fucking assholes, the stench of human shit is bad for a professional comedian's timing anyways." Made me laugh. The highlight of my weekend is **Mighty Flashlight** (yup, two 'i's), who is Mike Fellows playing his classy blues with Malkmus-esque delivery. The whole thing is wonderfully under-organised, with a drunk guitarist going all prog, a poet coming on and then not wanting to leave and legend Matt Sweeney drunkenly rambling on. Things wind down delicately with Icelanders **Múm**. Incredibly melancholy but instantly joyous also. Fantastic. A final night of debauchery ensues in a chalet of San Franciscan weirdos dancing like maniacs to Le Tigre on repeat. This is the third ATP for me in less than 10 months. And it's worth every fucking penny.

(jamiestevens)



## Múm

Gracing the stage with their elfin breaks and Icelandic charm, Múm delivered a stunning set replete with their hallmark brand of ambient splendour. It seems that beyond the safe climes of the studio, their eclectic mix of chamber meets minimalist electronica does actually work live. A visual extravaganza complete with quirky home-made instruments.



## Faun Fables

Dawn 'The Faun' McCarthy is wearing a gypsy dress and blowing out candles in between an abstract folk song about Led Zeppelin. Her sister Sheila stands next to her, giving odd percussion to the songs by tapping suitcases and vases with drumsticks. Dawn holds her guitar like a flamenco musician would; at a 45 degree angle, with her head tilted to the sky as she delivers songs with my new favourite voice. It is a voice not unlike the playground wonder-tones of Joanna Newsome but it is somehow more fulfilled or accomplished. She glides across octaves with ease and always with a smile that either portrays a self-consciousness of her talent or disguises the darkness of the songs. She finishes and the audience leave a gap before clapping. We don't want to lose the beauty of this.

(jamiestevens)

## Deerhoof

Angular, playground-themed experimental pop with smatterings of childhood and E-numbered craziness. The talents of the guitarists are accented through their burly axe-jousting in time with their jagged avant-garde rhythms and 'freeform noise abstraction'. Singer, Satomi Matsuzaki, is miniature with an immense stage presence; dancing around and striking poses with parrot coloured feathers adorning her fingers. This is the perfect show.

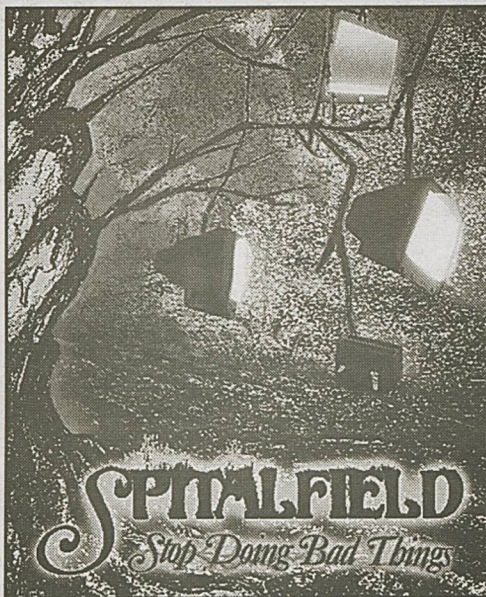
(neshyboukhari)



# Album Reviews

## Spitalfield: Stop Doing Bad Things

I had reasonably high hopes for this album: the band go on and on about Foo Fighters being a major influence on the press release...but then I heard it. Turns out that they're influenced by the Foos about as much as Coldplay are influenced by the Beatles - sort of, but...not really. This album sounds distinctly average: bland, formulaic pop-punk, with more than a forgivable share of post-hardcore/emo attitude, throwing in a bit of Fisher-price art-rock 'complexity'. They're trying to be all melodic, jerky, catchy and sing-a-long à la Foo Fighters, but ultimately they make me want to rip my ears out and feed them to a rabid dog out of sheer boredom. There's a very good reason why this four-piece from Chicago are still unheard of after three years and as many albums.



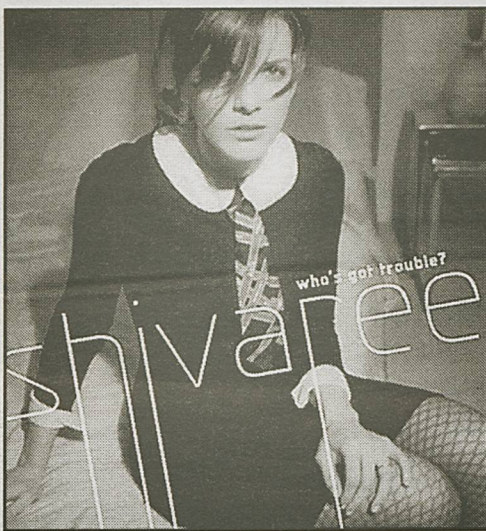
The fact is that they're really emo kids trying to cunningly disguise themselves as poppy punk, and they might have pulled it off if it weren't for the whiny oh-my-girlfriend-dumped-me lyrics. Shoot the vocalist, and I'd consider listening to them again. There are a few good songs - *What Were You Thinking* and *Building A Better City By Design* are bearable. Frankly, this album is only going to appeal to the solid emo/post-hardcore kiddies, but only the ones who: a) have a high pain threshold, and b) are reeeeeeeally bored of their "Get Up Thrice On The Dashboard Confessional At A Funeral For A Friend's Bright Eyes On Thursday" albums. Be warned. Never, ever see this band or buy this album.

(owensmith)

## Shivaree: Who's Got Trouble?

"Romantic musical anarchists prevail against all odds", claims the press release which also states that, "the next 50 minutes are raked by excess, deceit, escape and wrenching loss." Hmm, ok.

This album is perfect for fans of 'suave-pop', otherwise known in Nastaran-speak as 'interior-design-programme-background-music'. **Shivaree** try to create pop for the older, more sophisticated listener. Over weak, barely there melodies wails the annoying voice of Ambrosia Parsley who sounds like the unbearable Gwen Stefani minus the weirdness. (Trust me, sane Stefani is much more painful than insane Stefani). So annoying is her



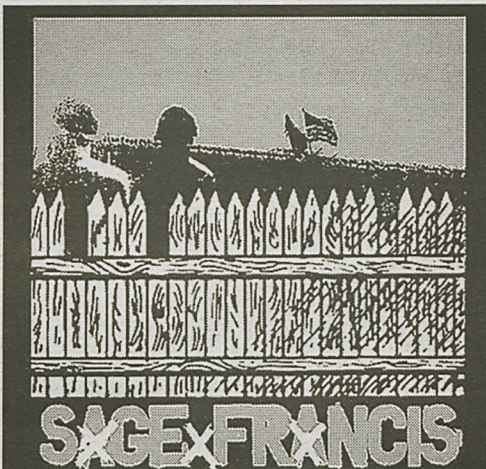
attempt at a sexy husk that the only piece I can tolerate on this record is the intro to *Little Black Mess*. Sounding like a desperate but still awesome rip-off of Erik Satie's *Gymnopedies*, the haunting piano is undeniably beautiful. Just as I was being won over, Shivaree's signature mellow guitar and boring drums (or rather, drum) ruined everything. That's even before *Ambrosia* begins...

Barely do I review a record by listening to the first 20 seconds of the first six songs. Take this as a warning. You really don't need this.

(nastarantavakoli-far)

## Sage Francis: A Healthy Distrust

It always amazes me how easily we ignore the homophobia and misogyny so prevalent in mainstream hip-hop. How did an art form that started out as a defiant cry of the oppressed turn to the oppression of others? I doubt **Sage Francis** knows but he most definitely cares; this album brims with enough righteous moral anger to put us all to shame. The album opens with *The Buzz Kill*, a song who's beat (courtesy of Reanimator) is so explosive it almost manages to drown out Sage as he intones "Radio's suckers never play this/Scared shitless of dismissing clear channel play lists." Next up is the remarkable Will Oldham collaboration *Sea Lion*. Criminally underrated producer Alias provides melodic guitar lines and a complex



percussive clatter that neatly underpins Will Oldham's melancholic chorus, as Sage slows it down on the verse.

The Dangermouse produced *Gunz Yo* takes on the issue of gun culture in hip-hop, with Sage loudly proclaiming, "It might remind you of a mic the way I hold it to the grill of a homophobic rapper/Unaware of the graphic nature of phallic symbols/Tragically ironic, sucking off each others gats and pistols." Overall *A Healthy Distrust* is a definite step forward for Sage, with his flow noticeably improved (check out the lightening fast raps on *Escape Artist*), his lyrics as hard hitting as ever and solid production. This album is a must have for anybody who likes their hip-hop with passion and much-needed social conscience.

(samashon)

## Recommended Gig: Shorty performing LIVE in The Quad at Crush, Friday 11 March

Shorty are the kind of Hip Hop act that keep Pharrell Williams awake at night. They make their own music... and they aren't half bad at it. But the second coming of the Roots this probably isn't. Their gravelly funk grind guitar is reminiscent of

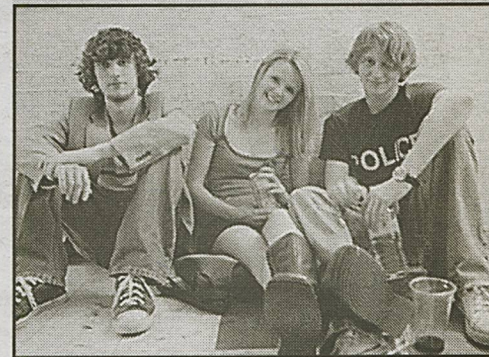
Led Zeppelin which, coupled with a good flow from the mics, gives Shorty a pretty hot crossover sound. Definitely more West Coast USA (FLC, 311) than distinctive UK sound, these guys could sell a lot of records and wear the rubber down on a

lot of dance floor footwear. Shorty aren't going to change the world, but my guess is that if they are getting the crowd jumping (and they WILL get the crowd jumping), then that's just fine by them.

(timpower)

# Singles

## Single of the week



### The Subways: Oh Yeah

Not an Ash cover, but The Subways exhibit the same teenage get-wasted attitude and searing, incendiary energy that could power the national grid. Instantly infectious lyrics and a guitar hook you won't be able to get out of your head mean that the hype about this trio is entirely justified. Simply put? Totally. Fucking. Awesome.

(nathancapone)

### Emilliana Torrini: Sunny Road

Gorgeous slab of melodic summer pop, taken from new album *Fisherman's Woman*, reminiscent of old country lanes and Sangria in the sun. Emilliana's voice is as smooth as silk and honey, gliding down through my ears into my head. Additional point; like a less-annoying Regina Spektor - a good thing for one and all.

(benhowarth)

### The Dead 60s: The Last Resort

One of the most exciting new bands of the last few years, they represent everything that was ever good about British Punk and Ska, updated for the new century - they're good, they're enjoyable and above all they're genuine. This latest offering is a bit more alt-rocky, and more brooding, than their previous singles - unfortunately, that also means it's not quite as good as, say, *Riot On The Radio*. But BUY IT - this band are the future of the British underground.

(owensmith)

### Do Me Bad Things: What's Hideous

Straight outta Croydon, nine-piece DMBT are currently doing the toilet tours of the UK. With their sleazy camp power pop, they'll probably be lapping it up. Sometime in the late 80s, someone was watching 'Rocky Horror...' and the idea of DMBT was born. Hear the sax solo and feel the forbidden love.

(lawrencekavanagh)

### The Black Velvets - 3345

The Black Velvets are young and ever so trendily angst, or at least that's what their new track 3345 (not to be confused with Steps classic 5,6,7,8) is shouting at you. It's a pleasant enough pop-punk ditty, with plenty of nods to ye olde and respectable punk bands, and some probably not deliberate nods to Blink 182 and co. The singer has obviously been working on his 60-Malboroughs-a-day voice, and it's coming along nicely. Give it a whirl, it's better than Busted.

(lucygreen)



# theatre

edited by Joanna Clarke

## Days of Wine and Roses

This moral tale is wasted on maxsoule...

**Location** The Donmar Warehouse  
**Runs Until** 2 April 2005  
**Prices** See below  
**Director** Peter Gill

This is a good play to see if you like more personal theatre. The place is small (hand dryers were not to be used during performances as they could 'be heard in the auditorium') and the semi-famous cast of two give solid, in places inspired, performances.

I was not overly optimistic about 'wine' or 'roses', but the play should really have been called 'Alcoholics Anonymous'. The title alludes to the pair's eight year drinking binge from the moment they meet to the eventual destruction of their relationship. It starts with a setting and situation that will not be foreign to many LSE students: the bright pair of young things are both arriving in London for the first time to start a new life, fresh-faced and apprehensive, daring and alone. They are enraptured by London, and like some LSE students (so I've heard) find making friendship circles impossible without the medium of drink. Hopefully though, no one here has resorted to the same intravenous alcohol intake these two adopt - although I think a few AU members may stake a claim.



Duff and McDonald

Mona (*Anne-Marie Duff*) has never had a drink in her life, but once she meets Donal (*Peter McDonald*), a charming bookie-cum-gambler, she's soon knocking a few back. Mona can't hold her drink, makes a spontaneous pass and soon the couple get hitched on Waterloo Bridge and the binge begins.

The play manages quite adequately to hold attention with a good interspersing of all the aspects of alcoholism it explores: the exhilaration, the incapacitation, the violence and the misery. It manages the devastating effects of alcohol abuse on family life particularly well: the swift rise and gradual demise of their relationship is spot on and the allusions to their child heartrending.

Although the storyline became somewhat predictable and the writing was patchy in quality (with some annoying, supposedly

metaphorical, continual reference to a race-horse called Arkle), it was saved by the obvious talent which the two actors simply oozed. Sexual chemistry was lacking, but they still managed to pull off convincing performances without a glitch in one and a half hours of pure dialogue, with some very moving monologues and consistent attention to the most minute of detail.

Interesting scene changing and extremely effective action/violence scenes also combined to break up what I otherwise feared would become monotonous dialogue. It was an enjoyable experience to have a chair smashed up and a glass violently chucked the width of the stage two or three metres away.

Production wise it was fairly limited, but had points of interest when we got to watch the actors change dress between scenes to 60s music (still not sure if that worked), and some introspective monologues were enhanced with some very quiet, very effective sound effects and mood music.

It could have done with an interval to break it up. The actors were glugging apple juice in whisky bottles non-stop and I don't know how they coped: I had too much coffee beforehand and marvelled

as they necked it for 90 minutes straight. A decent play, better acting, ultimately quite moving in the utter devastation of alcoholism it paints. I walked out satisfied and went for a drink.



### Have you heard..?

As he reaches his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, Harold Pinter has restated his claim that he will not write any more plays. Since the production of his first work in 1957, *The Birthday Party*, Pinter has written 29 plays, and now wants to concentrate on other forms.



David Schwimmer is to star in Neil LaBute's *Some Girls* at the Gielgud Theatre in May. The four actresses to join the *ex-Friend* have not yet been confirmed, but sources say they are all to be British. Any LSE girls up for it?



The original super-nanny is to grace the current award-winning production of *Mary Poppins* with her presence on 17 March. Living legend, Julie Andrews, is making a special visit to the Prince Edward Theatre for a charity gala performance. Insiders predict the evening will be practically perfect in every way.

**martindearden** takes a trip to Covent Garden for a quick look at...

## The Donmar Warehouse

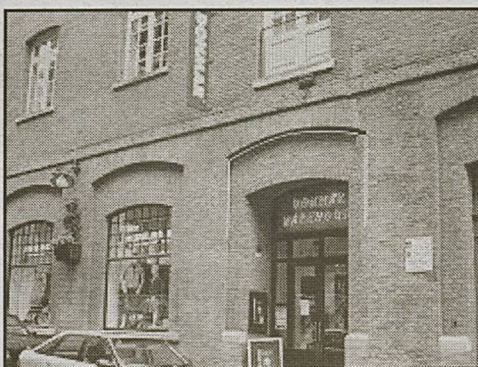
**LOCATION:**  
41 Earlham Street, Seven Dials, London, WC2H 9LX  
**Tube** Covent Garden, Leicester Square  
**Bus** Destination Leicester Square 14, 19, 24, 29, 38, 176

**CURRENTLY SHOWING:**  
Days of Wine and Roses

**FORTHCOMING:**  
The Cosmonaut's Last Message

**PRICES:**  
£15 - £22

**ANY STUDENT DISCOUNTS?**  
Students can get £12 tickets for all performances from the Box Office 30 minutes before the show starts, subject to availability.



### SOME INTERESTING FACTS...

The Donmar Warehouse has a colourful history. The building served originally as vat room and hop warehouse for the local brewery in Covent Garden. In the 1920s it was used as a film studio and then the Covent Garden Market banana-ripening depot.

In 1961 Theatre impresario Donald Albery bought the warehouse and converted it into a private rehearsal studio for the London Festival Ballet, a company he formed with his friend, the great ballerina Margot Fonteyn. The name of the theatre is derived from the combination of their Christian names.

From 1977 to 1981 the Royal Shakespeare Company made the Donmar its London home to compliment its Stratford venue, and in the 1980s it became the West End home for Britain's most innovative touring companies.

The theatre was redesigned in the early 90s, retaining the distinctive characteristics of the former warehouse, and the unique thrust stage whilst adding a large foyer and backstage improvements. Two new bars have given the Donmar a more student friendly feel.

# literature

edited by Ion Martea

## Move over Kafka, Murakami's in Town

irinajanakievskaja inspired by Murakami's Music of Words

"We were wonderful travelling companions, but in the end no more than lonely lumps of metal on their own separate orbits...they look like beautiful shooting stars, but in reality they're nothing more than prisons, where each of us is locked up alone, going nowhere. When the orbits of these two satellites of ours happened to cross paths, we could be together...only for the briefest moment. In the next instant, we'd be in absolute solitude. Until we burned up and became nothing." The moment I read these lines of Haruki Murakami's *Sputnik Sweetheart*, I was hooked into an orbit around his magical world of metaphysical fiction.

Haruki Murakami was born in Kyoto in 1949. Since publishing his first novel *Hear the Wind Sing* in Japan (1979), he has written more than 30 works of fiction and non-fiction, translated more than 30 titles from English into Japanese, including most recently J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. His own work has been translated into 16 languages; 10 of his works are now available in English, the latest of those being *Kafka on the Shore*.

A brief qualification before I start if I may. I found it surprisingly hard to write about someone whom I have boundless respect and admiration for. How can I possibly follow Murakami's sublime music of words? How could I capture the essence of Murakami, when he himself has described that universal essence that unites the human spirit? It would be like trying to play a Miles Davis solo on the recorder. Nevertheless, I'll try. Cover your eyes.

What has always drawn me to Murakami's fiction is his astounding ability to convert psychological metaphors into uncanny narrative. His fiction lays bare the raw human emotion of longing, pitting it against the alienation of the self. His creations are utterly bizarre yet dazzling, addictive and powerful. The simplicity and clarity of his expression conveys an utterly un-self-conscious sincerity, of someone trying to convey his love for the individual. He listens to the stories of our hearts, and expresses them for us on behalf of the deeply hidden person within. Murakami composes the simple words of our lives with exquisite detail. You are physically lifted and placed into someone else's shoes, and end up discovering they are, in fact, your shoes. Seeing the world through the eyes of his characters is a process of realisation that you have been looking without seeing. Nothing changes, yet everything looks different.

There is a darker side to this naiveté. Murakami is fascinated by the darkness of the subconscious. Evil is the worm inside our souls; there is no outer thing, just what we know within. He does not



A thoughtful Haruki Murakami

seek to analyse the significance of dreams à la Jung, but accepts the subconscious as terra incognita. In *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, the Orpheus-like character of Toru Okada descends into the darkness, entering the world of death at his own risk. Entering that darkness with him, you know it, feel it, smell it. Writing straightforward simple stories, in other words - reality, Murakami's music becomes even more disjointed, weird. To think that Toru Okada's descent into the underworld was inspired by a simple image: a 30-year-old man, cooking spaghetti when suddenly the telephone

rings. The simplicity of that image translates into a journey of Odysseic proportions.

Murakami similarly manages to explore fact through fiction. With *Wind-Up Bird*, Murakami also opens the drawer labelled Japanese collective memory consciousness of the impacts of the Second World War, particularly focusing on events in Manchuria and Mongolia. "In a way we were lost, the Japanese. We have been working so hard since just after the war. We were getting rich. We reached a certain stage, but after reaching it, we asked

ourselves: Where are we going? What are we doing?" The threat for Murakami in our contemporary world is nationalism and revisionism, or the remaking of history. He is committed to not avoiding the truth, but engaging with it.

Perhaps this explains Murakami's list of characters. They are largely idealistic outsiders that don't belong to any particular system, don't trust companies and pre-packaged consumerist living styles. They are forced into a system of elitism, tied up and bound, striving to win back their liberty or freedom. Perhaps this reflects our evolving need to strive for something more precious, more valuable. Murakami explores this conflict between the closed systems and open systems in society. The real danger perceived by him is the strengthening of the closed systems in society. The most recent addition to the list is *Kafka*, the Salingeresque adolescent, complete with spiritual damage and an Oedipus prophecy, from *Kafka on the Shore*.

Connected to *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*, the novel's structure uses the formula of two parallel stories ultimately converging. They are both stories of two different worlds, consciousness and unconsciousness. Most people live in both worlds, with a foot in one or the other, but always near the borderline - the shore, that indistinct edge between land, sea and sea foam, the living and the dead. *Kafka* has to walk through a deep forest, the darkness of the undergrowth, getting closer to the landscape of the that world. Getting closer to the centre, the core.

Unlike Franz Kafka's metaphysical dead-ends, Murakami offers his characters a way out of the darkness, the ease with which we cross over the shore and wade our feet in the sea of dreams, while our head is proudly perched in the land of the waking. The writing is as powerful as ever. Severe, tender, horrifying, comic yet real, pitted against the surreal hails of mackerel and leeches and elegant talking cats. If Sophocles was a pop-artist, this would be his Nobel-clinching masterpiece. Murakami's work is as much about a real Japan, as it is about the real urban dilemma of being alone with everybody, where everybody includes your darkest metaphysical demons, made bearable only through Murakami's humour and vision sweetening the most despairing of moments.

What is it like - on this other side described by Murakami? It is a journey best taken alone. After all, we are all Sputniks, orbiting endlessly along the sea shore.

# visual arts

edited by Nastaran Tavakoli-Far

## Politics, Sex and Death

Pauline Sculli and Jan Daniel Dormann discuss the three favourite topics of the typical LSE student...

### William Orpen: Politics, Sex and Death

**Venue:** Imperial War Museum  
Lambeth Road

**Nearest Tube:** Waterloo

**Opening Times:** Mon - Sun, 10am - 6pm

**Admission:** £4 with NUS

**Until 5th May 2005**

On a wintry afternoon at the Imperial War Museum in South London, Jan Daniel and Pauline deconstruct the thematic collection of Sir William Orpen, Britain's official war artist during the First World War.

**Jan Daniel:** Politics, Sex & Death - a rather catchy title for an exhibition. So this William Orpen was an Irish guy?



**Pauline:** He trained with the crème de la crème at the Dublin Metropolitan and at the London Slade. He's painted more than 600 renowned political and military figures in his career. He was a war artist in World War I and later a Major in the British Army.

**Jan Daniel:** The signature piece of the gallery is his self portrait where Orpen is

wearing a white jacket, bow tie, and a skull cap.

**Pauline:** His has a slightly pompous mad scientist look though. *Self Portrait with Sowing New Seed* - apparently he saw himself as the art trend-setter of the time.

**Jan Daniel:** I really like the portrait of Augustus John. He was a good friend of Orpen from art school apparently. But he looks quite pensive. Where do you think the light in the painting is coming from?

**Pauline:** It should be from above his head, but there are light patches on the armchair too. It's also filtering in from the side. The lighting is quite ambiguous. Actually, Augustus is fully dressed in the chair, holding his hat. He looks like he's about to get up and leave.

**Jan Daniel:** You're right. It's doesn't seem like a natural pose.

**Jan Daniel:** On second thought, I like the shoes best. Painted at the turn of the last century, but they are quite trendy by modern standards.

**Pauline:** Uhm, yeah...

**Jan Daniel:** You know, apparently he had some scandalous polygamous relationships with his female posers, even though he was married. His nudes are quite a mix of sexual tension and classical poses.

**Pauline:** I like the sense of detachment and insanity in his women's eyes. But like many of his paintings, we're instantly distracted by background clutter - blinds, bed sheets, etcetera.

**Jan Daniel:** But generally, I think his work lacks depth. His technical skills and



colours are indisputable, but I feel like I haven't learnt anything about the characters that he depicts.

**Pauline:** Well, what do you think of his war themed work? *The Unknown British Soldier in France* is supposed to have quite a lucrative history right?

**Jan Daniel:** Yes. Orpen was commissioned to paint the delegates at the Versailles Peace Conference, but painted this instead as he felt soldiers were victimised by politicians at the time. This shows his first hand experiences of the horrors of war and the disillusionment with power politics.

**Pauline:** So he had to repaint it to satisfy the public?

**Jan Daniel:** Well, x-rays of the painting show that there was originally a draped coffin guarded by a pair of ghostly figures. That's pretty unfortunate and it shows the difficulties artists face when they are critical or non-conformist.

**Pauline:** I guess as a commissioned artist, you can't really be too radical or deviant with your ideas.

**Jan Daniel:** His war scenery is also quite elusive. He often paints his soldiers in pure green. It's trying to isolate them in the barren landscape, but somehow it doesn't work that well.

**Pauline:** Actually the monotone colour technique definitely isn't unique to Orpen. I'm pretty sure Picasso and his blue period came several years before, around the turn of the century.

**Jan Daniel:** And what's also strange is that sometimes soldiers in this painting aren't even looking at the people they are saving. It seems like they are focused on the viewer of the painting instead.

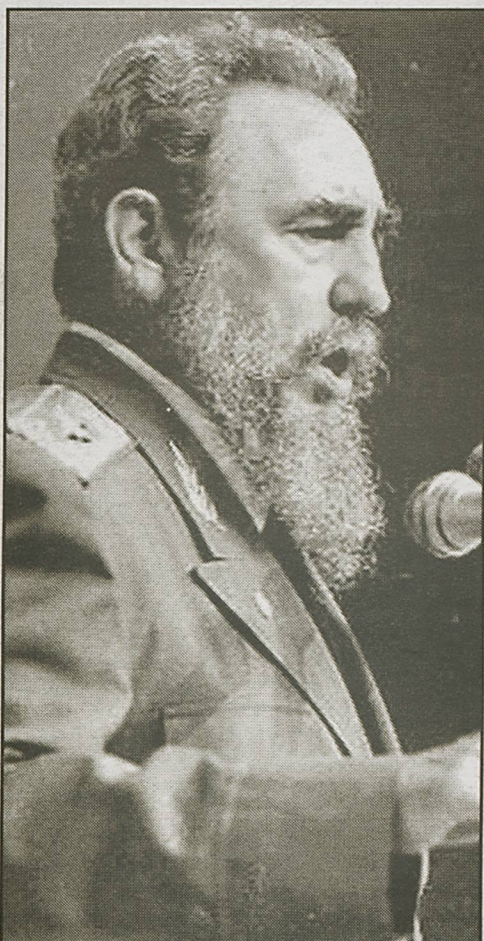
**Jan Daniel:** On the whole, I think the exhibition is an interesting account of history, in line with the museum theme, but isn't particularly outstanding as an art exhibition on its own.



# about

edited by Gareth Rees

## Meza - a little taste of Cuban cuisine



Struggling with an extreme bout of flu/cold (get well cards can be dropped in *The Beaver* Office) I still managed to drag myself out for my regular Wednesday lunch with the lads.

Thank goodness I made the effort! 'Meza' is a Cuban/Spanish restaurant located about halfway up Wardour Street, with a good looking club and restaurant downstairs called 'Floridita', which I believe also offers similar food to Meza, albeit pricier and slightly more intriguing: roast suckling pig; meatballs stuffed with quail eggs and the such. However, from my impression I'd imagine that Meza is better suited to a light lunch.

Once again the well known restaurateur Terence Conran has managed to create an excellent dining establishment: excellent food; tasteful modern decor and a superb range of drinks available.

On this occasion we partook of steaks (cooked exactly as requested) served with a fresh green salad and fries and a paella of sorts including seafood, spicy chorizo sausage and rabbit. Well, I say rabbit - that's what the menu alleged! However, the meat in question was as absent from the dish as me from my 'regular' gym slot. Having drawn the staff's attention to it they swiftly apologised and offered one of the courses on the house, so whilst they seem to make the occasional mistake they are more than happy to make up for it.

Service was varied - the maitre 'd was charming, helpful and eloquent whilst

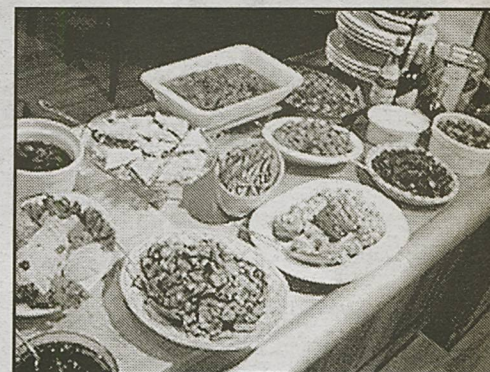
another waitress seemed struck by perpetual confusion, but was nonetheless nice enough.

We also accompanied our meal with a mixture of sides and tapas: patatas bravas (a sound favourite of the group - potatoes with tomatoes and paprika - which was absolutely sublime); pork belly wrapped in Serrano ham (we ended up ordering another two portions of this immediately after having tasted it!) black olives and chorizo as well as a fine selection of country and unleavened bread.

Drinks available are varied and interesting. There seems to be a distinct focus on Sherry (with sub-headings stating which tapas and main courses the various Sherries were best suited to) and Sherry-oriented cocktails (e.g. 'Seville Martini' - Sherry in an absinthe soaked glass with orange peel). They also had an excellent range of other cocktails, including both modern innovations from their bar staff and old classics.

One of the highlights of their list though is their fabulous twist on Sangria - it contains wine and fruit but they also had added Sherry and various other ingredients which have slipped my mind...

After your meal you would be well advised to pop next door to 'Casa del Habano',



their separate bar and cigar purveyor. They have a selection of cigars of all shapes, sizes and prices available to smoke on the premise or to take home with you. They also offer great sandwiches (suckling pig, ham, mustard and dill pickle) as well as amazing coffee (try the Espresso Especial). The music they play is fantastic - a funky yet relaxing blend of Cuban hip-hop, jazz and easy listening. There is no better place to go to relax, when the rain is beating down, and to think of being in Cuba.

### Tip of the week

Did you know that 'Subway' do the option of having 'Double Meat'? For those of you who want a really substantial sandwich, pop in and order a foot long double chicken pizzola (or the much loved double meatball) and I can guarantee you won't have to eat for a week!

## Win tickets to the 'Milk'n'2 Sugar' 10 year anniversary!

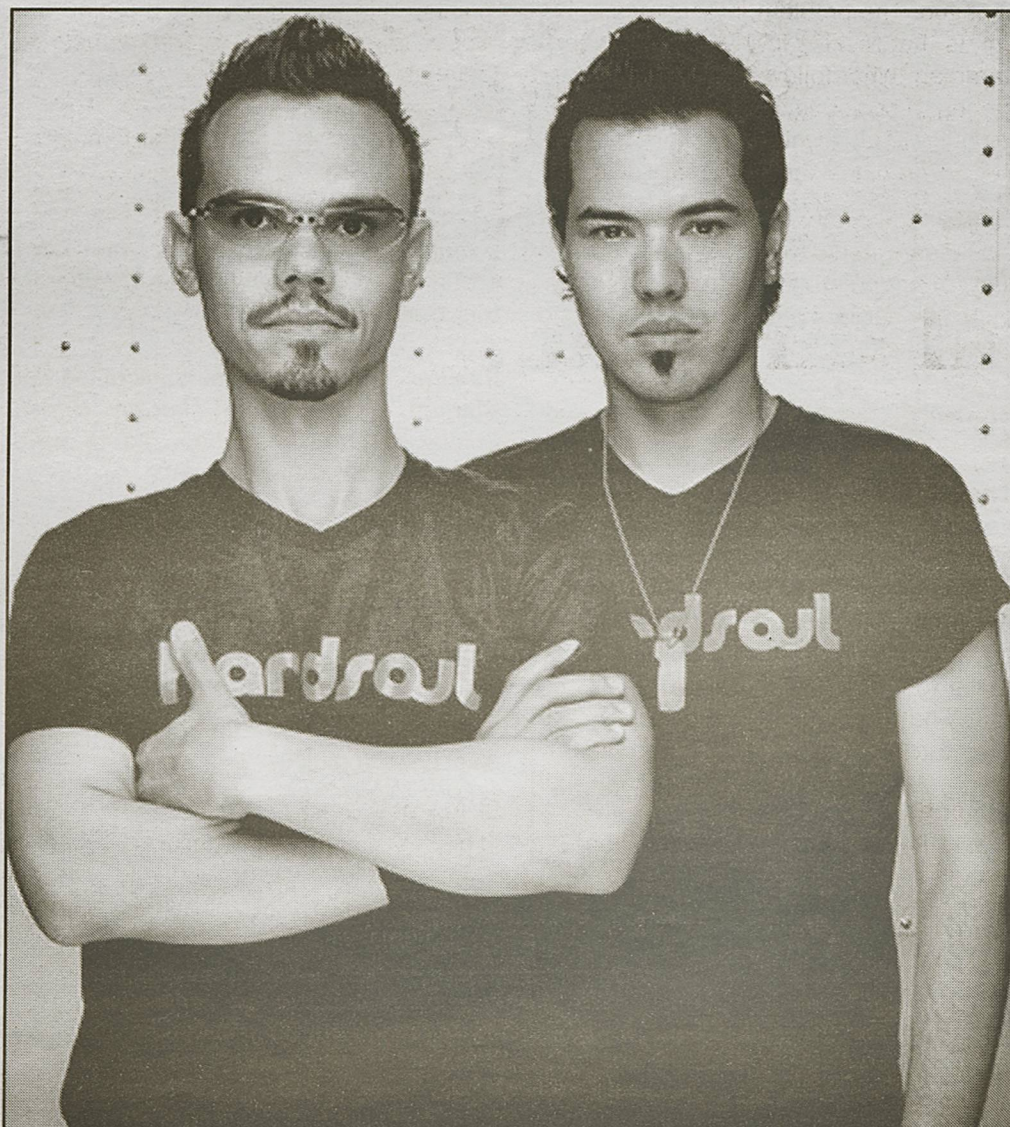
If you ask the guys behind Milk'n'2 Sugars (MN2S) - Sharron Elkabas, Dave Elkabas and Tim Burnett - about the last 10 years, they'll probably tell you it's all gone by so fast that it's a bit of a blur.

In just 10 years MN2S have put on some of the best house events in London featuring a who's who of the scene's finest DJs.

New York legend and the man behind the seminal 'It's Yours', Jon Cutler has been chosen to reflect the more soulful, US-based side of the MN2S sound with tracks and remixes by Kerri Chandler, Karizma, Masters At Work, Blaze and many more. Jon is a firm favourite with the MN2S faithful.

Dutch duo Hardsoul represent the tougher, more pumpin' side of MN2S with plenty of bite to keep the dancefloor moving well into the night. You can expect a new single from them in 2005.

'Ten Years Of Our House' is a testament to the longevity and power of house music, and one of its favourite sons. Not only is it a celebration of an illustrious past, but it is also a signpost to a bright and exciting future. House music and Milk'n'2 Sugars - a match made in heaven!



To win tickets to this great event (as well as albums for the runners-up) just answer this simple question:-

**What is the name of the young Dutch duo who have mixed half of the MN2S' 10th Anniversary album?**

1. Hardcheese
2. Hardsoul
3. Hardluck

Answers to [thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk)!

For those of you unlucky enough not to win I'll give you some details about it in case you want to go anyway!

**Club:** The End - Official 10th Anniversary Album Launch Party

**Location:** The End  
West Central St London

**DJs:** The legendary Tony Humphries, Jon Cutler, & Young guns Hardsoul, more tbc

**Hours:** 10pm - 6am

**Cost:** £8 - £12

# film

edited by Sarah Coughtrie and Dani Ismail

## New Town Original

alexsimuyandi discovering local talent first

**Director:** Jason Ford  
**Starring:** Steve Gibbs, Elliott Jordan  
**Certificate:** tbc  
**Running Time:** 91 min  
**Release Date:** April 15



It's always interesting watching a film by new talent. There's a chance that you'll uncover a gem, and once the talent becomes mainstream (like **Kevin Smith**) you'll be able to look smugly into the middle-distance and say, "I preferred his earlier work. He's gone downhill since *Clerks*." And as you say these words an unbridled superiority will run through your veins.

However, you won't be saying that about *New Town Original*. That's not to say this film is absolute junk. It is, however, a little rough around the edges. The film is the first outing of a writing/producing/directing triumvirate. Using an unknown cast, and self-financed, the film follows the trials and tribulations of living in one of the

England's 'New Towns' - in this case Basildon.

The lead character, 20-something Mick, (**Elliott Jordan**) is caught in a mundane existence. Feeling claustrophobic at work and suffering from panic attacks, his doctor hastily prescribes him Prozac. His luck, however, may be about to change when he meets Nicki (**Katherine Peachy**) during a night out with his mates. One thing leads to another, and that's when we realise that his luck really hasn't changed. The problem, it becomes apparent, is that Nicki is involved with the local hardman. What follows is a look at what it means to be young, directionless and facing a life of uncertainty. It's worth going to see, to support the effort of a group of

British filmmakers; any 'Brit-flick' that neither succumbs to clichés nor glamorises violence is a welcome change. For those of you out there who haven't escaped metropolitan London, it may be worth watching to get a slice of life in a suburban England.

However, the character development is stunted and it's difficult to feel sympathetic with the main characters' plights. Apart from Peachy, who plays her role with great aplomb, the acting is sketchy at points. This isn't helped by the dialogue, which is often clumsy, and sometimes painfully so.

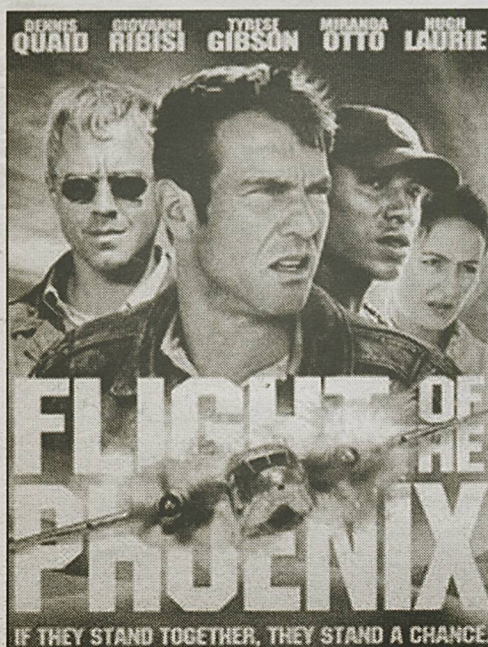
A pretty good script saves the film. There are enough plot developments to push

the film to its conclusion, which bodes well for the future; if the filmmakers secure some funding for future, the problem of bad acting will be mitigated. Overall, some of the dialogue and acting prevented me from empathising with the characters, but there was enough in the plot to make it bearable.

Go and see it to support local talent, and if they become famous, you can always say: "It's interesting to see how they've developed their skills since *New Town Original*." And you'll feel so superior saying it.



## In Your Local Cinema...



### The Flight of the Phoenix

Oh good lord this sounds crap. Dennis Quaid was once cute, but he is no longer. We should all be aware of this and refuse to watch anymore of his films. Aside from that, this film shows a bunch of survivors trying to build a plane. When we all know that what one should do in such a situation is to eat the dead. Move on. Ignore.

### 9 Songs

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, The Von Bondies, Elbow, Primal Scream, The Dandy Warhols, Super Furry Animals, Franz Ferdinand, Michael Nyman. These are the concerts that two young lovebirds go to together, in between scenes of shagging and cocaine. This looks good and is probably the only film since *Sideways* that we seem to like.

### Hitch

Eva Mendes's physique will not save this film from being absolutely terrible. (*Ed note: who makes a career out of being non-threatening? You're a loser, Will*). If you don't know, Will Smith is a match-making wild child in this miserable attempt at a rom-com. Watch if only other choice is *Flight of the Lame*.

### Hide and Seek

Looking suspiciously similar to Robert de Niro's last crap film - *Godsend* - we can easily assume that this won't be much better. While we should clarify that we haven't actually seen any of these four films, we are sure that we are doing them justice. Furthermore, the excuse of "Charlie made me do it" is getting old.



# In Your Local Blockbuster Special Edition...

## Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

in which jamesupsher becomes the first critic to praise this fim. ever.

**Director:** Kenny Conran  
**Starring:** Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Giovanni Ribisi  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Running Time:** 106 min



Sometimes – be it art, music, literature or a sandwich – you come across a moment where the world connects with you. This film is one 90 minute window into the imagination of a mentally 12-year-old geek boy who probably didn't get out enough during those crucial stages of pre-pubescent development. This is the film I made a thousand times over in my head sitting in class at junior school; it's the film I doodled all over my GCSE English Poetry anthology, it's *my* film; but I invite you to share it.

*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* is fairly weak on character development, plot, acting etc. What it has in spades is immature fantasy and sexy, seductive atmosphere. This homage to the movies of the 30s exists in some curious alternate reality without the Depression or World War Two, a glorious never ending art deco boom.

Something of a revolution, everything is filmed on blue screen. The beauty of the composition lies in its artificiality: the

whole film possesses something of that delicious early morning feeling where the world does not quite fit together.

It begins simply enough as the Airship Hindenburg docks with the Empire State Building to deliver another German scientist who is then curiously abducted, but not before being able to alert Lois Lane-type reporter Polly Perkins (**Paltrow**). There is a brief and entirely futile attempt at character development before the arrival of an army of 200-foot tall robots

who try to steal New York's power stations. Here our hero, the oddly unsettling **Jude Law**, turns up in his curiously indestructible plane and the real film begins. The next 70 minutes are a fusion of nostalgia, tribute, action, humour and CGI effects that takes you around the world through a 'metropolis' style New York, a 'Captain Scarlet' cloud base into the mountains of Nepal before climaxing as we launch into the stratosphere on Flash Gordon's space ship.

For a debut director this is a masterpiece. It will never have the critical acclaim it deserves, as it is a children's film and it is exceptionally silly. That misses the point: this is a tribute to films that were made to be enjoyed, not appreciated.

This movie, like much of my own work here at the LSE, pushes the line between tribute and plagiarism – but why rephrase the correct? Here, for a mere two pounds, is assembled the best parts of a generation of science fiction. For everyone else that doodles rockets on their lecture handouts, find yourself a large screen TV with some kick-ass base. This is a film that you should see – if not own and worship regularly.

## Dr Strangelove

mattsinclair on how he learned to stop worrying and love the bomb

**Director:** Stanley Kubrick  
**Starring:** Peter Sellers, George C Scott, Sterling Hayden  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Running Time:** 93 min

1962: The Cuban missile crisis leaves the entire western world, as well as those from the Soviet bloc in the know, in mortal fear of nuclear annihilation. Ducking and covering cannot quite console the poor populace faced with their safety being handled by a lunatic like Curtis LeMay.

1964: *Dr. Strangelove* is released. A nuclear holocaust comedy (or a hot-line suspense comedy as the tagline goes). Featuring an imitation of LeMay by George C. Scott, a man who enthusiastically tells his President "I'm not saying we wouldn't get our hair mussed [...] 20 million dead, tops, depending on the breaks".

*Dr. Strangelove* tells the tale of a mad commander of a US Strategic Air Command wing ordering his planes to attack Russia at the height of the Cold War. This single act of insanity becomes a threat to the existence of all life, "human and animal", on Earth. Few films can have been as hair-raisingly close to the bone as *Dr. Strangelove*. Few, also can have been so well made. When Sterling Hayden's Jack D. Ripper begins his insane rants he does so with utter focus while the title character, a German scien-

tist who has had some trouble adjusting to life after the Third Reich, is one of Peter Sellers' three roles, describes his scarily rational plans with an utterly lunatic intensity.

As President Merkin Muffley Peter Sellers plays the film's only straight role and provides a sane point of reference amid all the madness of the rest of the film; he answers some of the "what would I do" questions that such situations create. Slim Pickens plays the bomber captain who leads us through the films action sequences with a fine texan drawl that amplifies a sense of misguided heroism beautifully.

In the end, however, it is the sense of reality that makes *Dr. Strangelove* so effective. On becoming President Ronald Reagan asked to see the war room. He was informed that such a room did not exist, "but I saw it in that film, *Dr. Strangelove*".

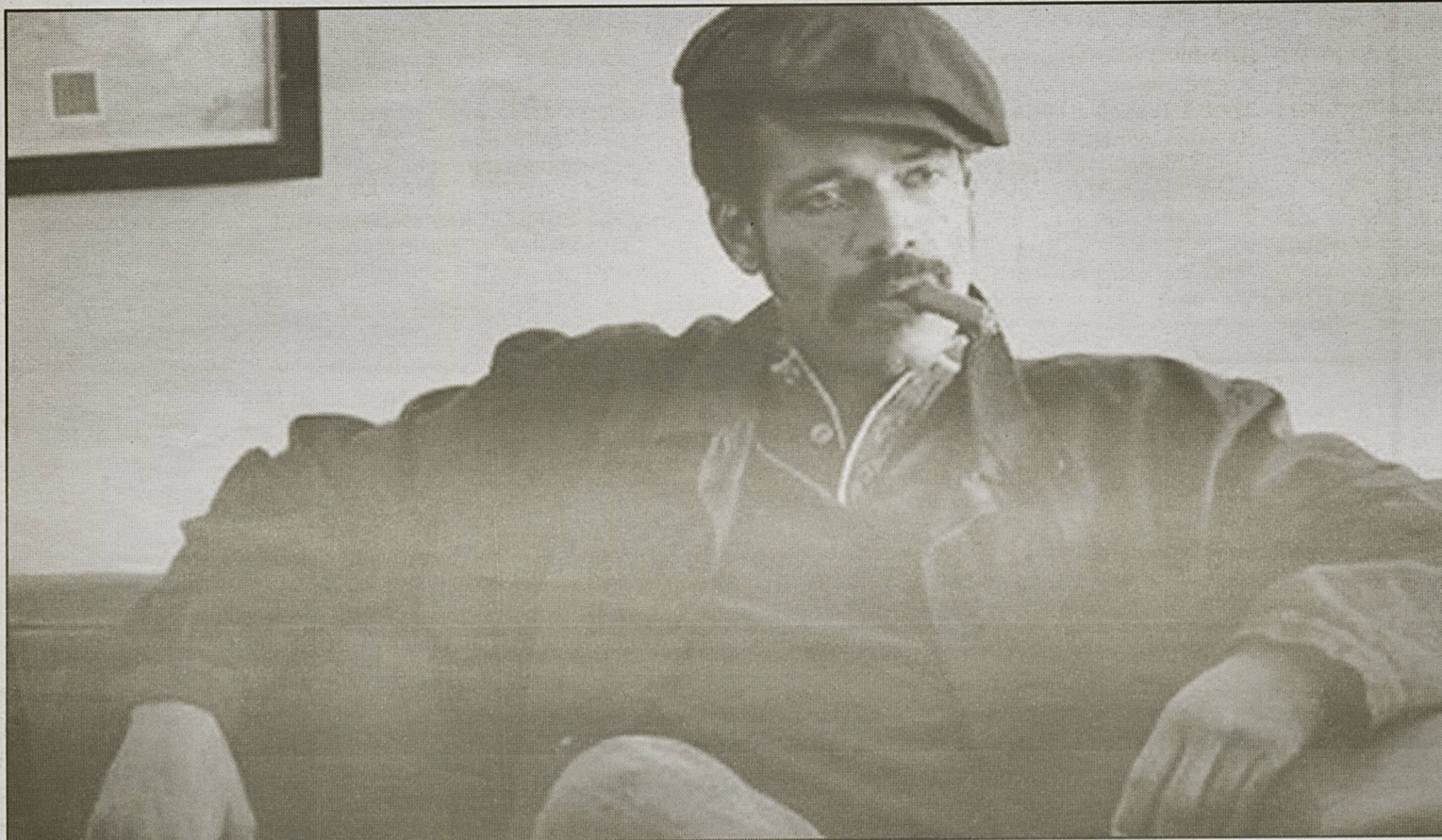
*Dr. Strangelove* is a film that makes a desperately important point in the funniest of ways and is always worth watching - if only for the sight of a man riding a nuclear warhead.



# Badasssssss

adamoliveri on the film based on a film

**Director:** Mario van Peebles  
**Starring:** Mario van Peebles, Joy Bryant  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Running Time:** 108 min



the stunning Jessica Alba in *Honey*, a film so bad their looks combined couldn't save it). Melvyn was played by his son **Mario van Peebles**, so it did feel like a vanity project at times; he also directed and wrote the film in the same way as his father wrote and directed *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* (oh dear).

The main reason why this film only partly worked is because it is too much of a glorification of the production of the 1971 film and because one never wanted to empathise with the hero of the film (**Melvyn**) who was aggressive for most of the film, shouting to everyone including himself and physically abusing random people like the editor. Sex was a big part of the film (hence the review intro. Although I really hoped that it would be ironic): he always had a posse of chicks at hand, he forces his 13-year-old son to act in the film as a boy who loses his virginity to an older woman, he had to pretend that he was shooting a black beaver picture to get past the SAG (at the time the guild would bar non-union members especially if they were black) and the crew were all from the porno industry—but it is set in the hippy 70s, I suppose. The film does provide interesting insights into countercultures such as the hippies and the panthers, but it doesn't help at all that the film on which this was based was actually rather bad, even though it was a historic and box-office success.

Assignment: review *Baadasssss* formerly called *How to get the Man's Foot Outta Your Ass*. Location: Young's screening rooms situated in the nether regions of Soho. I was then more than astonished to find out that the Young's screening rooms building was completely blue with large frosted windows. The lady at the door asked us who we were representing and

in a very hushed voice I replied, *The Beaver*.

Joking aside, this film needs to be taken seriously. It tells the moving story of how **Melvin van Peebles** struggled to make the 1971 film *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*, now considered the first blaxploitation film. But this film was

just as much about the difficulties faced in independent filmmaking and it was portrayed a lot better than say Tom DiCillo's *Living in Oblivion*.

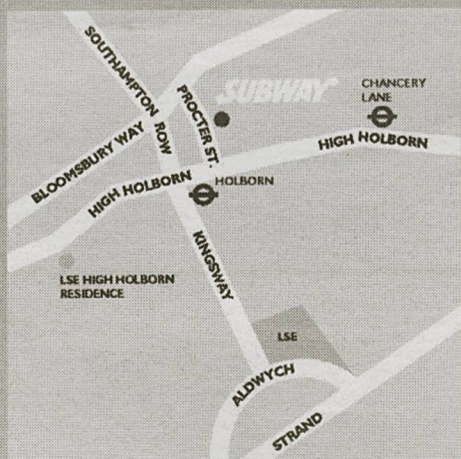
The cast was comprised of total unknowns apart from a brief appearance by **Vincent Schiavelli** (legend) and the stunning **Joy Bryant** (she co-starred with



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## Your Guide to What's On This Week

## POLITICAL

**Fairtrade Reception**

11:30-12:00 Garrick (downstairs)  
Malcolm Clark from the Day Chocolate Company and two Ghanaian cocoa farmers will be visiting the LSE as part of Fairtrade Fortnight. This will be an occasion for LSE to celebrate our official Fairtrade status and to taste some lovely Fairtrade tea, coffee, juice and chocolate! Please r.s.v.p to: su.environment@lse.ac.uk.

**FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT:**

18:45 pm in the New Theatre  
The Tactics & Strategies of Effective Development Advocacy. Come hear from practitioners of development advocacy about their experiences and lessons from NGO campaigns to change government development policies.

Find out what you can do to get involved.  
**FEATURED SPEAKER: ADRIAN LOVETT**, Campaigns Director for Oxfam Great Britain

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Alternative Entertainments Society**

Are you an entertainer or just up for lots of fun? Then you should definitely come to our practises down in the Old Gym on Tuesdays 14:00-15:00pm j.zolotarevskaia@lse.ac.uk or society secretary (Yasha) at su.soc.altents@lse.ac.uk

**JOIN the Salsa Society!**

We have classes weekly ranging from beginners, improvers, intermediate to advance! These stages are

conducted every week throughout the year and even during the holidays. SOUND, Leicester Sq 7.30-9.30pm

**LAST EVER! OPEN MIC**

19:00- 23:00 Underground Bar (below The Three Tuns)  
Members free. Non-members: £1  
John from Alternative Music Soc will be mixing up the latest in rock, alternative and indie, in between sets! Open Mic is an event where anyone who is interested in performing live music is welcome to do so; providing you e mail me at: Su.Soc.Livemusic@lse.ac.uk

**The LSESU Chess Society** will be having an Exchange Chess Tournament this Tuesday, start 19:30 in H208, £1 entry fee, CASH AND BOOK PRIZES!

## POLITICAL

**Schapiro Government Club**

Wednesday 9 March: Lord Armstrong - former Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service under Margaret Thatcher will be continuing with our hugely successful series of Cabinet Secretaries. 3:00-4:00 pm D702.

LSE Oikos Society, UNICEF Society, People & Planet Society, Grimshaw International Relations Club and the UWC Alumni network present:  
**LSE United Against Hunger Day**

11:00-12:30 Hunger Crisis  
Athar Hussain- Acting Director of the Centre for Asian Economy, Politics and Society, LSE  
Micheal O'Donnell - Save the Children UK

Dr. Tajudeen Abdul Raheem - Director, Justice Africa  
13.00-14.30 AIDS - the new challenge to food security?  
Robin Jackson - Chief, HIV/AIDS Service, UN World Food Programme  
Rebecca Brown - Action Against Hunger  
Paul Harvey - Overseas Development Institute  
Chair: Professor Timothy Dyson - LSE.

16.00-17.30 How can corporate social responsibility help in fighting world hunger? (Hong Kong Theatre)  
Luke Disney - TPG/TNT (Dutch Postal Service, Partner of WFP)  
Jodie Thorpe - Sustainability  
Dominic Eagleton - ActionAid  
Chair: Professor Jeffrey Umerman - Kings College

18.00-19.30 "Living with hunger" - An eye opening doc-

umentary from Ethiopia  
Followed by the opportunity to ask questions to the Producer Sorious Samura

19.30-20.30 Reception

## ENTERTAINMENT

**The Event of the year 2005 is approaching!** This is the party organized by the "Union of Greeks Students in London"\*, on Wednesday 9th March at 10pm till late, in the famous membership-only club "No.5."

Tickets will be sold on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in JCR at 12.00 till 13.00. Ticket prices are £12 pounds in advance and £15 at the door. Call 07884284175 (THANOS) or email to su.soc.hellenic@lse.ac.uk

## ENTERTAINMENT

**The Law Society Law Ball at the Renaissance Chancery Court Hotel**

19:00-2:30  
Champagne Reception  
Jazz Band, DJ  
Strictly Black Tie  
£27 Members/ £30 Non-Members  
Tickets available in the Law Common Room:  
Tuesday 10:00 - 14:00  
Wednesday 12 - 14:00  
Thursday 11 - 14:00  
Friday 12 - 14:00  
Tickets can be reserved by e-mailing s.r.tresman@lse.ac.uk

BUT must be collected within three ordering

**Alternative Entertainments Society**

See above. Thursday 13:00-14:00

**LSESU Visual Arts Society Presents: Art Restoration: Recovering or Obscuring the Past?**

14:00-16:00 Room D502  
Our guests will give a selection of talks introducing the topic of art restoration, their experiences within the field and the hotly debated issues surrounding the work of restorers.

19:00 Room G108  
A panel discussion with a chance for the audience to ask

our guests questions.

Guest speakers:  
Michel Favre-Felix Association Internationale pour le Respect de l'Integrite du Patrimoine Artistique  
Michael Daley ArtWatch UK  
Marie Louise Sauerberg Hamilton Kerr Institute  
Clare Richardson Courtauld Institute of Art  
Graeme Barraclough Courtauld Institute of Art

For further information please email Caroline Bray at: C.A.Bray@lse.ac.uk

**LSE SU Spanish Society and Film Society present: Film: Motorcycle Diaries** Date: Thursday, 10 March Location: E171 New Theatre Time: 19:00 For those aware that life is not at all dolce for most people:

## ENTERTAINMENT

**The Drama Society is proud to present "Tape"**

Performance details:  
Friday 11 March at 18:30  
Saturday 12 March at 19:30  
Monday 14 March at 19:30  
All in the Old Theatre  
Tickets on Sale in Houghton Street.

Madrid bombings is going to discuss the relationship between democracy and terror.  
Friday, 11 March 18:00 in the New Theatre

Panellists:  
Richard Norton-Taylor, Security Affairs correspondent at the Guardian for the last 10 years, award winning journalist and playwright

Marcus Gerhardt, expert on civil society in the Middle East. Vice Chairman of Civility Alejandro Colás, marxist International Relations scholar at Birbeck College and graduate of the LSE.

Dominic Hilton, satirist and columnist for openDemocracy.

Chair: Caspar Melville, Commissioning Editor for openDemocracy.net's "Democracy and Terror" debate

Open to all, with no ticket required. First come first served.

## POLITICAL

**Democracy and Terror - presented by The Grimshaw Club and OpenDemocracy.net**  
This panel discussion on the first anniversary of the

Steve Crawshaw, London Director of Human Rights Watch and former foreign affairs correspondent for the Independent,

## ENTERTAINMENT

**LSESU Southern African Society - Wine Tasting**

Date and Time: Wednesday, 16 March @ 19:00, D702  
Price: £2 members and £3 non-members

How would you like to sample excellent wines originating from South Africa? As much wine as you like, with loads of varieties on offer! Don't miss out! Purchase your tickets at our stall on Houghton Street from Tuesday (8 March) between 12:0 and 14:00.



# Darts: ejaculating frogs toward the 1865 Paraguay War

Don't worry, there are only two paragraphs in this article that are actually about darts

Jonathan  
"Belfast"  
Bartley



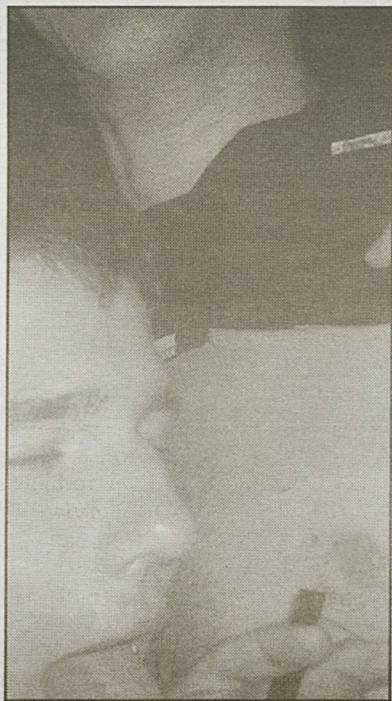
Once again the fearless adventurers of the LSE Darts team waded into action last Tuesday against the dirty pig-molesting run-off that comprise the Warwick darts team, a fixture charged with as much excitement as Michael Jackson after being hired at Mothercare. If you'll recall, our first ever game against another university was against Warwick, and ended with a brave (in the same way the Italian Army was brave gassing the Ethiopians in 1936) 6-4 defeat. Our side was weakened with the absence of Snooks (undefeated in singles, as he'd no doubt tell you) but confidence was high.

They ended up killing us. Stone dead. Deader than Freddy Mercury, Mother Theresa and Robert Maxwell combined. Deader than Paraguay after the 1865 War of the Triple Alliance (look it up. Paraguay lost 2/3 of it's male population. A real forgotten war.). Our figurative corpses had been buried under Saddleworth Moor. We didn't play too bad, they were just better. The two legs that we won were won by the team of Emily/Paul and "That



Prick" Peters, unfortunately this was out of 22. One good thing came out of the defeat, however - I don't have to talk about the match and can move on to some real *BeaverSport* journalism and talk about what happened after the match.

First of all, we tried to go to Cubanans. Worryingly, it was shut. That's a bit like Lisa Riley refusing to eat food - you just can't think of a reason why. Unperturbed, we headed for the £1 a Carlsberg goodness of the



Sports Café. On the way, myself and Rich were told off for having a piss in a public place. On the "things that annoy me" list, police having a go at me for no good reason ranks at number three, behind attacks on my personal hygiene and that advert for the Vauxhall Meriva/Zephira with the two kids in it that I don't look anything like. "Still Finding Crumbs..." I hope they die some sort of painful death, ideally being run over by a Vauxhall people carrier. Anyway, I noticed that



the cop went over to check where we'd pissed, presumably because she wanted to lick it or something. We escaped down into Waterloo tube station, away from that 'lady' of a peeler, and arrived at the Sports Café.

More fun was to be had in the queue. There were a couple of characters who could only be described as 'scraggly', being as they were dressed in shit leather jackets, smoking rollies and wearing nu-metal T-shirts. They tried to barge ahead of us in the

queue. We stopped them, and they proceeded to unleash a barrage of piercing insults, each of which moved Stephen Fry one step away from his position as "Britain's wittiest man". I provide these so the reader can note them down and use them in the future, not to laugh at these two. Apparently they could tell we were students because of our "acne and lack of girlfriends", and then proceeded to call Ed "Gaylord Gay", as well as giving the sound advice of "If you stop being gay, you won't be gay." Indeed. I'm not entirely sure what all that means, but needless to say, we moved aside and let them ahead of us (not really).

Inside, I saw someone trip over. It was funnier than watching a [censored]. In the alternative, it was funnier than me getting all that into one sentence, as challenged. There was an audible splat - I'm only disappointed that there was a lack of blood. Maybe I have a vicious streak, but many great men (such as Stalin) did as well. Also, she probably deserved it. Even better, on the dance floor we found people who encouraged us to take our shirts off (we complied). In all, a productive day for the darts team as people, but not as athletes. We discovered new things about ourselves. And isn't that what life is about?

# An early exit from the Cup for LSE Tennis

Sumit tells it like it is, but unfortunately it doesn't make pleasant reading for the tennis team

Sumit 'tells it  
like it is'  
Buttoo



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London Metropolitan	

After their crushing of UCL last week, LSE were dreaming of the final, but they were brought back down to Earth with a Meteoric bump! The court arrangement was not perfect from a reporter's point of view: the fact that the matches were not on adjacent courts as normal meant that I had to have a bird's eye view. The indoor facilities were quality enough to make up for that though.

I arrived quite late for the doubles matches, and only saw the dying embers of them. Alex and Andrew were unlucky and had their chances to take it but they just succumbed 8-6. The disappointment was clear on the faces of our two main stars who certainly aren't used to losing, but it was only a taste of things to come. As for Pete and Habeeb, the match was just as close, with

Pete's serve a real highlight as they levelled it with a 9-7win.

Alex's singles opponent could not have been more annoying if he had tried. He was clearly proud to be from London Met, and his dress is known as 'rude boy style' I believe! His unnecessary grunts/squeals/growls were a real pain in the arse for Alex. He struggled to match his opponent early in the match and was quickly 3-0 down. His rallies were rushed as he became impatient with his rival's 'style'. At 1-4 in the first set Alex's racket was thrown to the floor in disgust. But then, three double faults and a missed easy volley let Alex get back to 4-5, and he was somehow serving to stay in the set. But the great comeback was wasted as Alex conceded the set in the next game.

The second set was one-sided as his opponent wrapped up a 7-5 6-1 win. LSE now 3-1 down..

Andrew's opponent, like the rest of the team, looked too good for the 2nd team, but LSE couldn't complain, as their set-up is much the same! Andrew played a poor first set, and although he improved in the second, he lost 6-2 6-4. Rarely this season has Andrew been played off the court, but he more or less was here. 5-1 to Met and the pressure was all on the other two players.

Pete began his match, knowing both he and Habeeb had to win to take the tie to a tiebreak. A

tall order, but not impossible as they had beaten their rivals in the doubles. Pete's opposite number was so highly strung; he would not even allow me to take a photograph! Weirdest service action in tennis too? Pete exhibited shouts of frustration, along with occasional flashes of brilliance on serve. But he was eventually worn down 6-4 6-2. Game, set and match for Met as they now had an unassailable 7-1 lead, and goodbye to the Cup for LSE.

Habeeb probably fared the best for LSE, as he followed dou-

bles victory with a fairly impressive singles display. His opponent's timing was out on almost every shot early on, but Habeeb failed to take advantage. There were OTT cries of anguish, and a ball swatted against the ceiling from his rival.

There were some good rallies, unfortunately Habeeb losing many of them, and that told as he was eventually beaten 6-3 4-6 6-4.

So LSE went down 9-1 overall, and there were few complaints afterwards, with the

admittance that a better team beat them. There was a show of resolve as they promised they would make up for this in the promotion play-off.

### Player Ratings

Habeeb: 8/10  
Alex: 7/10  
Andrew: 7/10  
Pete: 6/10



# Karate party kick ass again, and clean up in Wolverhampton

Medals galore for LSEK's men and women in the BUSA Championships

K. Kiyimba



This was the culmination of weeks of arduous labour, constant practice and self-discipline. On the international scene, karate is about to win the bid to become an Olympic sport. The BUSA event is run on the rules of the World Karate Federation (WKF). For the karatekas, that means switching more to the mode of competition, ever increasing standards and rapidly changing, if at times capricious rules. Our squad rose to the occasion. We fielded a male kata team, a male and a female fighting team, as well as individuals competing in their respective levels and weights. The goal was set, as singular as it was lofty: Gold.

A visit to a training session of the Karate Club on any Tuesday or Friday evening would demonstrate the purpose with which we set about set goals. Forget the mustiness of the Old Gym in the basement of the Old Building. The atmosphere is electric. The white khaki outfits are soaked in sweat. Orders are shouted out and executed to a Japanese count. Kata is meticulously corrected. New fighting strategies are developed and tried out with opponents of all sizes and talents. We benefit fully from our instructors, Sensei Dario Ghazi, 3rd Dan and his assistant.

Walsall got a taste of this on Saturday. Paul Barnes opened the medal flood gates with a bronze of the intermediate level individual men's kata: an astounding



performance for a man nursing an injured ankle. Dario Ghazi followed with a bronze in the black-belt individual kata event. Our performance continued to impress on all levels of kata, with most of our competitors reaching the latter stages of the tournament. Sarah Wilcox and Kazuyo Enomoto presented beautiful kata in their highly competitive intermediate and black belt women's categories. Their performances were matched by our athletes at the lower level individual kata.

Kata was followed by team kumite (fighting). After dashing the hopes of a couple of poly teams, the London squad kicked its way into a repechage to decide the winner of the bronze medal. Our select five were up against

the Cambridge's five most seasoned in a battle reaching wider than just the sport: so much was at stake. All present were on trial: fighters; referees; supporters; spectators; even the sport itself. The fighting mat had to be regularly dried of sweat from floored opponents (mainly Cambridge).

With five seconds to go, Dario delivered a clinical reverse punch and withdrew before the opponent could realize what had hit him, let alone counter. And soon the final whistle blew to give London her well earned bronze medal for the team kumite event.

Sunday saw individual moments of glory in the individual fights in all categories. London took centre stage, with Jasmine Bhatia and Emily Clarke

meeting in the finals of the light-weight division. Jasmine took the gold and Emily gave us our second silver. On another mat, Alice Grimaud enhanced her reputation as the femme souriante mais tout de meme cassante in her middle-weight category when she fetched London yet another bronze.

Chris Yeoh, Syzmon Ordys, Olivier Hensby and Kizito Kiyimba also put on high quality fights. With them the catalogue of scoring techniques in currency seemed to expand as they kept surprising their opponents with uraken attacks, double punches and destabilizing leg sweeps. The latter suffered a surprising decision in the quarter finals having until then made the 75-kilos pool a roost with he the only cock that

crowed. En sportif, he accepted the decision made. Some victories are only known between the fighters.

Graeme O'Connor saved us from the jinx of bronzes, clinching a silver medal in a memorable final against a seasoned fighter. He was surprised at his own talent. David McCormack, last year's team kumite gold medalist, could not participate due to a last-minute injury, but spurred the fighters from the stands, both as coach and as supporter.

The women's camp was no less victorious. Raveena Ravikumar, Naomi Hussey and Anna Hyyrylainen fought splendidly, spreading panic all around. In a spectacular fight, Raveena turned the tables on her opponent, when she recovered from behind to win a straight win of three quick and consecutive points of her lethal reverse punch. Keep your distance or stay in line.

Yunis Abasov was true to character, when he swept low and kicked high taking the bronze of the under 80 kilos. Yunis was last year's novice heavy weight champion. His brown belt this year launched him into the seniors, fresh and pink-cheeked. Twice his newbie stasis played against him when his older opponents lost control (quite understandably) and hit him too hard. Lying on the mat at one point, he waxed lyrical, reciting some Azerbaijani poetry. But in the end, he took the bronze of his category, and so London left the Wolverhampton Walsall Campus with a gold, two silvers, ten bronzes, and a happy and fulfilled team.

## The ONLY official LSE men's basketball season review - don't accept imitations

Men's basketball are the most successful team in the history of LSE sports: not because our uni is stuffed with Americans or anything

Wissam Charbel



The dearth of basketball articles in *The Beaver* does not accurately reflect the state of affairs of our prized club. The fact is the LSE basketball team is the most successful team in the history of LSE sports, having been the only team to consistently play in the BUSA Premier League and win the championship outright. The team has been able to compete at the highest level by drawing on the school's diverse student population. Phalanxes of eager General Course and Postgraduate students from the States, Europe and beyond have brought in a lot of experience and talent on a yearly basis and we have been able to thrive as a result.

After a slow start to the season, the team was quickly turned around by our new coach Will "do you wanna play basketball or do you wanna go home?" Mbiakop. Will was able to draw on his wide-ranging knowledge of continental basketball to good use,

morphing a set of talented individuals into a winning basketball team. Intensity is the buzzword that was stressed from the offset, and our gruelling training sessions did a great job in improving our mental and physical fitness. In the latter part of the season, our reliance on a run-and-gun fast break strategy saw us go on a 9-0 winning run that came to an end in the final of the cup, against UCL, partly/mostly/pretty much completely because of biased refereeing.

This year saw a record (highest) number for English participation through the efforts of Jez Davison, co-captain and sole representative of Her Majesty on the team. By simple logic, Jez can claim to be the best British basketball player at the LSE. Our other co-captain Hakon Saalen, coming straight out of Norway, follows in the long line of Nordic representation on the LSE team. When away from his environmental studies, Hakon brings his sharpshooting skills and intensity into the fray, intimidating opponents with his no-nonsense approach.

Our Norwegian connection continues with Henrik Jorem, a

brand new undergraduate recruit at power forward. Henrik's elbows-out hustling approach has proven invaluable in many instances this season and he stands to be an offensive threat the team will rely on over the coming years. Henrik can be seen gallAvanting lasciviously around the Tuns from time to time, taking a break from his proselytical Christian Union events. Our other rookie this year, Andi Jaegle, brought German efficiency to the team, as well as a sentimental side that helped the team bond during trying times. In all seriousness Andi's performances and composure grew immensely during the season and will be relied on for creativity and leadership for the next two years. Andi shared the point guard slot with Jason Salminen, whose threat from beyond the ark and finishing capabilities on the fast break made him a threat very few teams could handle. The same applies to Will Pucillo, who punished opponents' lax defence with unstoppable drives down the lane and who carried the team down the stretch.

Our remaining two guards, Alex and Maher, have provided

much street credibility to the team, bringing their gangsterous DC streetball skills to bear on unsuspecting university teams. Maher's (nom de guerre 'Abu Thawra') sharpshooting skills were relied upon throughout the season, and his seven treys in our local derby against King's College was a highlight many will cherish. His ball hogging shooting happy talents earned him Most Valued Player (MVP) honours in the championship game against UCL, although he was severely disappointed when he found out MVP did not stand for Most Versatile Pimp. Alex, known for his polite demeanour with referees, meanwhile endeavoured to snap ankles with killer crossovers and establish himself as a dominant offensive rebounder, albeit by shoving a few players in the back. One highlight of the season was when he distracted a defender by spitting in his face, and then driving to the basket.

Mehdi 'The Boston whirlwind' Alhassani was a dominant presence down low, destroying opposing centers with his delicate mix of power and dexterity. His non-ending devotion for the Boston Celtics however, is a different

matter and I am beginning to suspect his decision to do a year abroad at the LSE stems from a restraining order by Paul Pierce against "an overzealous fan".

Domination down low was further strengthened by Kevin 'The Iceman' Shers. Game after game, Kevin carried the team with stellar performances that involved deadly shooting, penetrating, dunking and rebounding. His highlight of the season was dunking the ball on a fast break and then screaming "This is my F\*\*\*ing House! Now who's your daddy!"

The remaining member of the team, at power forward, is yours truly, the three-year veteran of LSE basketball who proudly spurs the team on by chanting "Let's go Beavers", to the dismay of many opponents and teammates. There have been many good teams during my time at the LSE, but this year has been exceptional in terms of team spirit and capabilities. I am quite confident that with the help of Will's coaching and the core of players staying on, the LSE team can build on this year's success and get back into championship-winning form worthy of its legacy.

# Fishlock Hat-trick Sweetens the End of a Footballing Era

The Mighty 1sts make fools of RUMS jokers, but Rooshtmania still not exactly sweeping the country...

Mr. Gareth  
'Adieu to  
Berrylands'  
Carter BSc  
(Hons)



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Fortress Berrylands	

There are times in life when you feel that the entirety of the world is crushing down on your shoulders. When you feel as though the bitter demons of defeat are dragging you down and weighing heavily upon your self-esteem - when uncertainty gnaws at every inch of your pride. Without a win since Christmas, the Mighty Mighty five-times-nightly First XI appeared tethered to mediocrity, destined to never fulfil the aching potential that is the preserve of only the greatest of teams. For all the e-mail banter, for all the impassioned speeches in the dressing rooms, and for all the wildly desirous commitment in each player's mind, the First XI were missing one valuable link in the chain of victory. It is at times like this that you need to do one thing: Man The F\*\*k Up.

In a quagmire of trampled turf, and bitter snow, the LSEFC First XI unabashedly ridiculed the indecisive ne'er-a-do-wells from RUMS. A fine hat-trick from Gaz 'Beckton F-50' Fishlock added to a twenty yard strike from Angry Stelios that trickled past the hapless inbred that had the misfortune to be playing in goals for the Medics, and a four-yard tap-in from the Roosht.

Having not started until 3:30pm due to the inclement weather meaning that the Firsts had to wait until the official FC fluffers (the Fifth Team) had finished pleasuring Pitch 5 at Berrylands, the need for manning up was obvious to all and sundry, and not even Shiva's rampant homoerotic antics could dull the sense of steely determination within the squad.

Matt Joy made a welcome come-back to the team-sheet and took Dom's place on the bench meaning that he had to be drafted in to left-wing - an unorthodox and risky manoeuvre - with celebrity couple Brumaldo and Freddy joining him on the sidelines.

The first-half was where the game was won, with LSEFC playing into a fearsome wind. With some incredibly slick passing on a pitch that was dirtier than a Rishi Madlani election campaign the Firsts sped the ball down the wings and created a number of chances; Jimmy Little shooting just inches wide after good work from Fishlock down the right flank.

When the ball did hold up in the midfield, Gaz Carter got low down and dirty, crunching into the tackles and setting the ball up for Stelios, who made his opposite number look like an uncoordinated, leaden-footed half-wit with his nimble, dextrous footwork.

Half-time turn around and the referee (who was, at a conservative estimate, about 100 years old) donned the Only Dortmund Jacket In The FC to keep warm and proceeded not to pay much attention to the thrashing the First XI began to dish out to the quivering talentless mass of humiliated muppetry that was the RUMS football team.

Midfield domination meant



that our distribution was, unlike an Ed and Welfare election ballot count, impeccable. The first came quickly from the restart with an angled pass down into the left-hand channel, with Fishy turning inside his marker and rifling a sweetly-struck volley past the keeper from an improbable angle. The first of his hat-trick for the day, Fishy had a marvellous 90 minutes, dogging the RUMS back-line like Stan Collymore in an NCCP Car Park.

His second came after Van Roosht had tucked one away at the back-stick after a cross from Little Paolo, muscling his opposite number off the ball with a determined turn and shot across the increasingly embarrassing goalkeeper. 3-0 and it was party time.

Johnny McD pulled off his one flicked ball of the year, under absolutely no pressure and with half of the First Team not really

paying attention any more. The BFG had his annual forward run, before being tripped by a RUMS player upset at this apparent show-boating. Stelios looked weary, and decided to nutmegs only two players before running past another three and passing the ball quietly back to the RUMS keeper, but a fickle change of heart preceded him turning past a defender and smacking the ball past the woeful keeper, who's inadequacies were beginning to make even Roy 'Teflon gloves' Carroll look safe. In sexual terms, this boy was a premature-ejaculator and a flaccidly impotent moron, but in footballing terms he was, quite simply, a waste of time and effort.

4-0 and Fishy completed his hat-trick with a delightfully placed header from a Van Roosht cross. Cue the big moment.

With Gaz Carter, Greggy Reed and Shiva playing their last ever

games at Berrylands for the FC and Greg being inept and Shiva being a [woman's special area], Gaz Carter was let off his leash and allowed to roam free up front in search of his one goal for the season.

His one chance came and, needless to say, he opted for the safe option from six yards out and cleared it to touch after falling over.

Five goals to the good and with three games to play for the ULU League Championship. Like footballing puberty, Wednesday was when the First XI finally regained their manlihood and, with the exception of Shiva, strode tall and proud back to the Tuns, keen and earnest young men, with the world at their feet. Next up, the drug-addled, heroin addicts of SOAS. The Mighty Mighty Firsts rock on...

# Netball 4ths show their nasty side

Artic conditions can't stop our girls from recording a memorable victory against the Strand Poly

Laura  
Cowell



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As we gathered at Lincoln's Inn in the blizzarding snow we noticed our distinct disadvantage. There was a huge pack of strand poly players and we had no subs. Still we stepped up to the challenge and with total disregard for the shocking weather conditions we played our best match of the season.

The first quarter was tight with both sides playing well but few goals going in. We were slightly concerned by Catherine, suffering from a cold, having to blow her nose while running and Briony was looking worried about having to shoot when she is normally a defender. While we had several shots on goal we made some schoolboy errors giving the ball away at crucial moments and leaving the score 2-3 to Kings at the end of the quarter.

A quick team talk had us spring in to the second quarter with style. Briony got in to her stride as GA and was catching some fantastic balls and Philippa was amazing in the circle getting every ball that came her way. Cat made getting every centre pass look easy and Catherine as ever was a star at centre. We played a fantastic quarter but we were still a goal down at half time.

However we had the feeling that this match was ours and reached deep down to find our inner aggression the way Ems has been begging us to all season.

No longer our former submissive selves we threw ourselves into the last half careless of the snow.

Ems was leading by example chucking herself around the court and making some fantastic interceptions despite being marked rugby style by the poly opposition (they clearly hadn't been told it was a non contact sport).

Jordina as GK made the poor shooter look helpless as she lifted the ball from out of her reach and snatched the rebounds.

I found my bitchy side (difficult as normally I apologise when they contact me) and exchanged a few heated words on court with the opposition. Several moments later she seemed to have lost her balance (oh dear!).

Confusion over the end of the quarter meant they gained a semi-illegal goal leaving the score even-stevens and giving us everything to play for. We were messy and all over the court but Kings were losing it and we were creeping ahead. Philippa, our player of the match, was scoring like a netball girl at Walkabout, making it look like she had been intentionally giving them an easy time ear-

lier to make the match more thrilling. We were playing so furiously we barley realised when it was over and the final score was 9-12, a definitive victory for the fourths.

Finally I have to thank members of the 1sts rugby team for their inspirational support, their cheering and coaching was integral to our win!



## Greatness is thrust upon the footy 5ths

As Drew's Army reach the final of the cup, BeaverSports presents their HEAVILY CENSORED record of the events of the 2nd March

LSE The Deviant 5ths

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Holloway Scum Fifths

Royal Holloway  
University of London

'Samadeus' Lehmann



Adam 'Dirt' Stocker



Pink Lady Soffler



After easily disposing of both St. Tart's and [God that's offensive] in the round of 16 and quarterfinals respectively, only one team stood between the Pink Lady fifths and the finely manicured pitches of Motspur Park: Royal Holloway. They had proved that they are capable of scoring in more places than the post-match shower room by decisively shelling Strand Poly 4s 9-1 in their quarterfinal, so we knew this match would be far from a walk in the park.

Though extraneous sources of motivation were hardly necessary given the magnitude of the match, there were some factors that sweetened the prospects of victory. Though LSE footy firsts, thirds, and sevenths are poised to bring home silverware in their leagues, a combination of ringers, dodgy refereeing decisions, and wank polytechnics meant that the football club's hopes for cup glory rested solely in the hands of Pinks' Army. Secondly, to be both honest and direct, Holloway are [censored, my favourite name for that part of a women's body]. Whether they're attempting to kickoff with our supporters, whinging to referees, or lamenting their inability to take public transport, they always strive to prove why they're one of the worst 'universities' ULU has to offer.

Despite our eagerness, there was trouble in the fifth team camp. Big Ben, our uber-reliable centre back, had an interview re-scheduled for the day of the semi and was forced to pull out of the squad. In unsurprising fashion, centre midfielder and general all-around twat Gus threw the next spanner in the works. After watching his beloved Man Yoo ready themselves for another early Champions' League exit, Gus, who models himself on Roy Keane, drowned his sorrows in 2/3 of a bottle of vodka. Having clearing the Tuns of all foul-mouthed 16-year-olds, he decided it would be a good idea to scale a Mercedes parked outside Houghton Street. Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on how well you know him), he fell off, striking his head on concrete and doing moderate damage to his neck. Though he played, he was well, well below full fitness. This, coupled with the absences of both Beaven and Rob, left us with

one substitute for the most important game of the season so far.

The playing conditions were no better. With the surface as slippery as [censored] and the ref as eager to blow as [censored] the game would have to be played not with skill and tact, but with blood, sweat and tears; things the fifth team, largely thanks to Adam 'Dirt' Stocker QC, have an abundance of. Nonetheless, we were ready to kick-off. With the ever-dependable Dom between the sticks and a make-shift defense of Commie, 'Stinky' Saif Ullah, the Lady, and Gus, the back line was ready to absorb the Holloway scum. Burton and Hodges provided the width and the ramshackle midfield pairing of Samadeus and Lil' Irt happily filled the hole in the centre of the park. To complete the side, in form striker Irt was accompanied up front by the golden boot-seeking Stocker.

As the game kicked off, Holloway were quick to flaunt their pikey proclivities, spending the first half an hour of the match gradually removing a variety of Argos-quality jewelry from their ears, necks, and genitalia. The first 10 minutes were played backs to the walls but the fifths demonstrated their sexual preferences by being too tight for the prisoners' penetrations. Showing that we had some spunk of our own, the fifths then flowed into action. Samadeus and Lil' Irt dominated the middle, Charlie and Birdman worked the flanks, whilst Irt and Dirt looked pretty. After a hard-worked 45 minutes we went into the break level.

With the wind blowing harder than [censored], the conditions began deteriorating further; but the fifth team stepped up a gear. Spurred on by a ragbag of LSEFC legends, including 'Biggie' and Two Headers, the fifth team rose to the occasion, barraging the Holloway goal with more shots than you'd get at a Beslan sleepover. Stinky's silky skills further demoralized the prison scum, as he casually skipped through half their team with ease. The game was clearly ours to win. After squandering corner after corner, Charlie's delivery stick finally found the head of our champagne socialist, Al Vyras, and the subsequent melee in the box saw the prolific Irt bundle in another goal. The crowd (well those still able to bear the cold) went wild.

Celebrations, however, had to be short-lived; Holloway weren't ready to go down as easy as Camilla Parker Bowles on Prince Charles' royal love sceptre (an enduring image). The back four,



though containing the Holloway onslaught, could do little about a looping shot from their chromosome-challenged ginger waste of DNA. Despite attempting to exploit a chink in our armour, Dom proved equal to it; he's never one to leak in easy goals. Then, at full-stretch, Hong Kong Dom produced perhaps the save of the season, flicking the ball over the bar for a corner kick.

During the final 10 minutes, things looked to be turning sour.

Whilst attempting one of his trademark slide-tackles, Commie got kned in the head by one of the prisoners. After blacking out and losing the ability to see, he was forced to come off. Ironically, this resulted in Nima's introduction up front and a Dirt/Gus central defense pairing. The dying minutes were nothing more than absolute chaos. Everyone managed to hold their nerve and the final whistle sounded soon thereafter. The fifths were heading to

the ULU cup final! After receiving good wishes from our opposition, it was off to the Tuns to celebrate the glory of a second cup final appearance in three years for the LSE 5ths.

On 12 March, however, the fifths head back to Motspur looking to avenge the injustices of the past. Please, come one, come all, and join us in bringing cup glory to the LSE football club.

## Champagne 7ths get election fury!

Raihan Alfaradhi



This week LSE students exercised their right to elect their Union officers for the coming year. It was of particular relevance to the Sevenths, the most under-rated team in the FC, as they put forward candidates for both the SU and AU elections. Captain Paul McAleavey, who had considered a Gen Sec campaign, proudly led out his team, but they were underdogs.

For the position of Anti-Racism Officer, Young Player of the Year Nick Green had fancied RON's chances. "I could have sworn RON was winning by a mile. The result just doesn't seem right." Allegations of underhand tactics are yet to be substantiated, although (Returning Officer)

Anthony Gilliland's agent was found with two tickets to the Bahamas on his person.

Mr Alfaradhi, fresh from his landslide victory by a thousand votes, laughed off the allegations. He also said the loyal support of the 7ths was "much appreciated". Asked about his thoughts on the team, he said, "If they made champagne, it would probably be the best champagne in the world."

Meanwhile, the ever elusive RON was spotted on the corner of Houghton Street, mumbling to himself, "Win or lose, I'm on the booze."

Elsewhere, Nick Quin narrowly missed in the election for AU Liaisons. Although he couldn't pinpoint exactly what the job would have entailed, he was adamant that he would have done a good job. Declining all interview requests, he spent the

rest of the evening autographing for his fans, who had turned out en masse to Houghton Street.

Todd Buchanann, a victim of C&S 'queerocrats' in the past, eagerly awaited the announcement of the new personnel. He confronted all seven of the new committee in a mass brawl on the street. A broken nose, two broken arms, and some fractured ribs later, Todd announced that he didn't expect any funny business from C&S in the future.

Ed Calow was surprisingly aloof throughout the elections. He was known to be working on a masterpiece for his BeaverSports column. But, in a moment that sums up Mr Calow's long career, his dog devoured the piece. It is thought the BeaverSports will have to settle with running the local Tiddlywinks championships as lead story this week.