

# The Beaver

9 October 2007 Issue 666 The newspaper of the LSESU



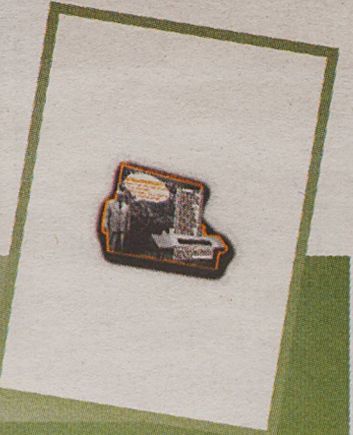
Alan Greenspan  
*Maestro speaks, we listen*

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interview

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## LSE pays out over misleading MSc

Independent adjudicator criticises marketing of programme and handling of complaint

Kevin Perry  
Executive Editor

A former LSE student who lodged a formal complaint about the misrepresentation of an MSc programme has been awarded £3,500 in compensation, four years after concerns were initially raised. The Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OiA) also found that the School had been "unreasonable" in delaying the complaint.

Lars Soraas, a Global Market Economics student in 2003-2004, has been pursuing the complaint since October 2003. Originally the complaint was made as part of his class group, but after it was rejected by the School, Soraas took his case to the OiA alone. His classmates have received no compensation.

Soraas told *The Beaver* that he decided to pursue the case "as a matter of principle" because he "did not think that the School should get away with what it had done". He stated that he is "very satisfied with the final decision from the OiA because it makes two things very clear: that the School can not get away with misleading advertisement of academic programmes, and that the way the School dealt with the complaint was wrong and unreasonable". He added, "I am of course also happy about the financial compensation, although that means very little to me at this point."

An LSE spokesperson said: "The OiA's verdict on the MSc Global Market Economics case

was finalised in June 2007, when it found the complaint partly justified. LSE settled with the student in July. The MSc in Global Market Economics was discontinued due to falling application numbers. The OiA's report noted that the complainant transferred programmes at LSE halfway through the MSc and so did not benefit from changes that were made to the programme. The complaint therefore would not necessarily apply to other students on the course."

However, *The Beaver* understands these other students are now likely to make a new approach to the School, and Soraas supports their claim to compensation. He argues that the LSE is attempting to claim that they can "compensate a poor first year with a good second year". Soraas rejects this suggestion on two counts, arguing that "students paying £14,198 per year expect a good first year and a good second year", and that "the first and the second year of the programmes were legally and fee-wise two separate programmes."

"The OiA clearly finds that the School mishandled and delayed the complaint," he said. "Had the School dealt with the complaint properly, all students would have been parties to the complaint and all students would have received compensation. I find it outrageous that the School now should benefit from its dilatory tactics. What the School should do now is to stand up straight, and say: 'we admit we made a

mistake, we are sorry, and of course all affected students will be compensated."

The initial complaint, raised in October 2003 and formally submitted to Howard Davies in January 2004, highlighted three "major grievances". Firstly, it claimed that the School had overstated the links between the programme and the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP). LSE director Howard Davies accepted, in a letter of April 2004, that the link between the course and the CEP was disappointing, stating, "I accept that this connection was not as strong as you might have expected, especially in the early part of the year."

The complaint highlighted that EC404 Current Economic Issue, a course heavily promoted in the prospectus as being a key part of the programme, became a second-year-only course at short notice before the start of the programme.

The students pointed out that due to the changes that were made to the course as advertised, students ended up studying a programme which was in essence the same as MSc Economics. At the time the students applied the MSc Economics programme cost international students under £12,000 per annum compared to £14,198 per annum for MSc in Global Market Economics. The students thus originally tried to claim a £2,000 refund on their fees.

In January 2004, students from the course told *The Beaver* that they "felt that the School

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Photograph: Anna Mikeda



Students join Saffron Revolution

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PartB: Interview



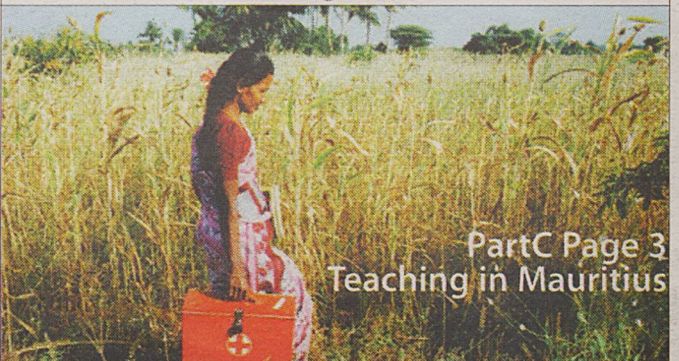
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In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

EducationGuardian

UK radiologist wins spoof Nobel prize for medicine

For the world's sword swallows, it must have been an important study: a medical analysis of the dangers and side-effects of their profession. Fortunately, doctors concluded that the most likely injury from inserting a long piece of sharp steel down your food pipe was just a humble sore throat.

As well as adding to crucial knowledge about work-related injuries, the unique study last night earned its author, radiologist Brian Witcombe at Gloucestershire Royal NHS foundation trust, this year's Ig Nobel prize for medicine.

THE NATIONAL STUDENT

Student jailed for £1m drug haul

A student who was caught with £1m worth of cocaine in his bag at an airport has been jailed for six years.

8lbs worth of the drug were found on Solomon Ukpabi, 24, by customs officers at Aberdeen Airport on April 1.

Ukpabi is said to have been paid £3,000 to smuggle the drugs in. He was jailed at the High Court in Edinburgh.

The Nigerian has also been issued with a deportation order.

Lord Menzies said Ukpabi would have been facing nine years in jail if he had not admitted the offence at the earliest opportunity.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

VARSAITY

Report finds Oxbridge still dominated by a handful of independent schools

The University is facing renewed pressure to improve access initiatives following a report by a leading education thinktank which highlights the continued dominance of Oxbridge entrance by a handful of independent schools.

According to the report, published by the Sutton Trust last week, less than three per cent of the 3,700 secondary schools in the country account for 30 per cent of Oxbridge entrants.

Picture of the week

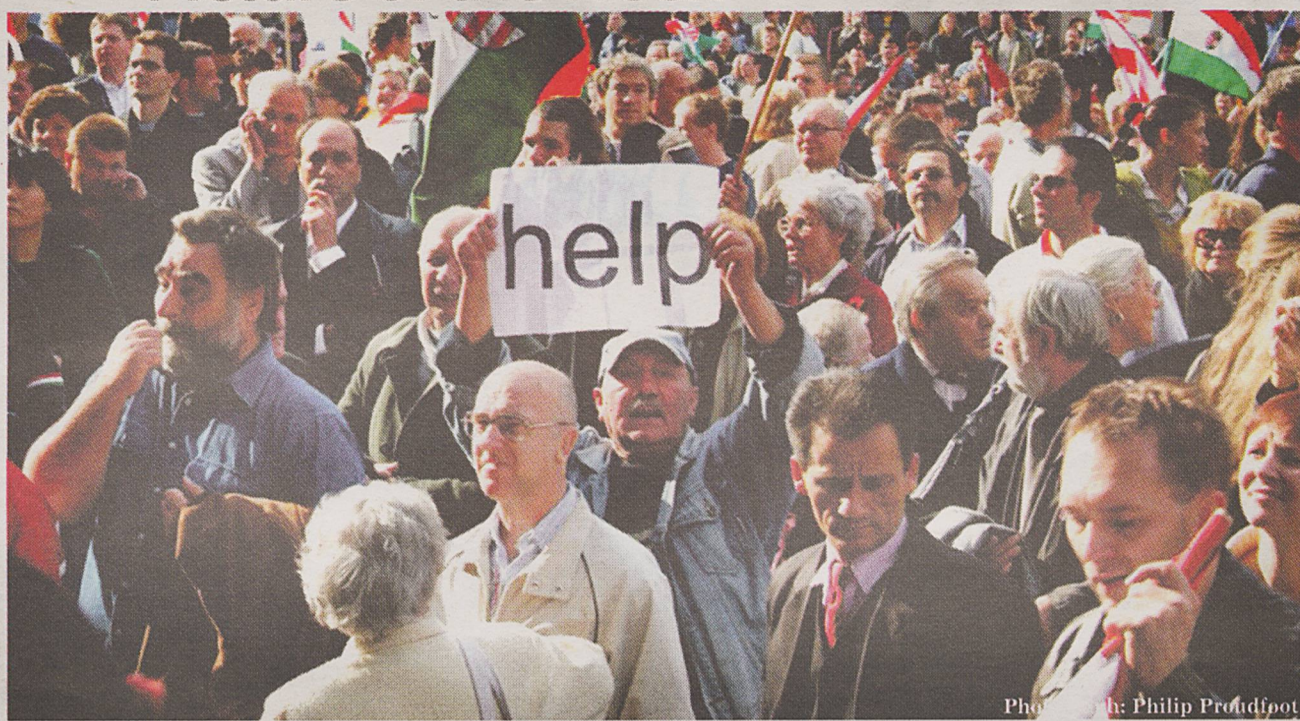


Photo by Philip Prodfoot

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bogus colleges raided by Police

Police and immigration officers raided two suspected bogus colleges in east London last week. Monteagle College and Lloyds College were operating out of the sixth floor of a business centre in Stratford. Monteagle College, which describes itself as "reputable", offers courses "in affiliation with the British [sic] Computer Society".

Though both colleges are on the official list of providers compiled by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, when police and officials arrived they found one empty classroom, no teachers and one student who had turned up to hand in a letter.

Universities spy on students via Facebook

Facebook might be the best thing since sliced bread, but Oxford University's recent admission of "using it to spy on, reprimand and fine their students engaging in so-called 'trashings'" has incurred the wrath of many students. After final exams, students were charged with "disorderly behaviour" when Facebook photos showed them indulging in activities including dousing classmates in foam, eggs and flour.

While using Facebook as a means to spy may be underhanded, The Times suggests that it is too good a resource to be passed up. Those in the know say that it's only a matter of time that University of London catches on to this trend.

Cambridge Professor's controversial data on 'Sexiest Strut'

The international press has been sensationalising news that Cambridge University mathematicians have discovered the secret of the sexiest strut. According to academics from the university, celebrity Jessica Alba has the body shape most conducive to provocative wiggling.

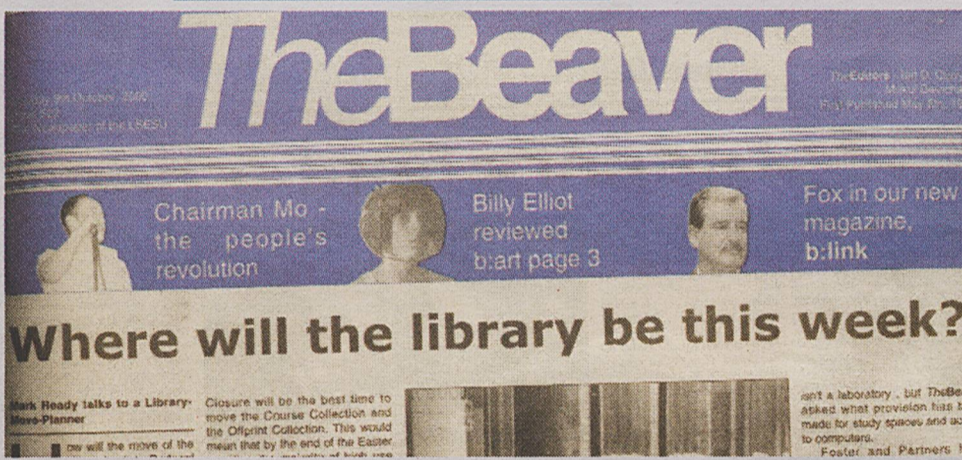
According to a press release by PR company Clarion Communications, the ratio between hip and waist circumference (WHR) is key to calculating "sexiness of walk". Jessica Alba's 0.7 WHR is reportedly the best for this.

Cambridge has lashed out that these reports are wrong and "misleading." The University reported that Clarion asked Professor Weber to analyse survey data from 800 men asked to rank ten celebrities for sexiness of walk. Weber told Clarion that there was little one could conclude from the data but, of the variables he looked at, he suggested that European men generally prefer women with a WHR close to 0.7.

Clarion chose to present these findings as new research, without the Professor's consent.

Ruchika Tulshyan

This week in 2000



How will the move back to Portugal Street affect our lives? A recent article in The Beaver reported that 'academic staff, student representatives, and library staff have agreed on a time schedule to avoid the most serious problems [envisaged]...namely the temporary unavailability of whole collections. The library's plan is to ensure that materials will only be unavailable for a maximum of three days, literally while the item is being packed up, moved and unpacked at the other end. The basic principle is to move high use materials first, well before the run-up to exams, and lesser used materials later.

Today at theLSE

It may have been the first week for some Freshers but the School was relying on the majority to stay away from the Course Collection of the Library.

The Collection, which houses most of the books on Course Reading lists, was not closed but temporarily inaccessible between the third and the eighth of October.

This comes after a disrupted summer for the Library due to the expansion of facilities. The inaccessibility has clashed with the arrival of many new students...

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Photograph: Nigel Stead

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# 'Unreasonable' delays in responding to complaint

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

had lured students onto the programme by promising a course that would be integrated with the world class research at LSE", but that this was not the case. They felt that they were being used "as a revenue source to fund the research activities of the School, without properly benefiting from the intellectual environment of that research".

Three months after receiving the complaint, Howard Davies met with Michael Waibel, the student representative for the course. He informed Waibel that "final consideration" of the complaint would be deferred until the end of the teaching year. In August of that year Waibel again contacted Davies, setting out unresolved issues. In his reply, Davies noted that the matter would be raised at a forthcoming Departmental Review. Following the Review, in July 2005, Davies informed Waibel that there students would not be compensated as he felt that "the School has delivered on what might be thought of as the core contract we have with you and your colleagues". However, he acknowledged that "some will leave here with a sense of disappointment with the programmes. This is a matter of considerable regret, both to the Department and the School".

Assuming the complaint to be closed, Waibel contacted the School to request a 'Completion of Procedures' statement. At this point he was informed that the complaint had never been treated formally and the School requested that the complaint should be resubmitted. This was done in January 2006. The School then

## 'Major Grievances': Extracts from Lars Soraas' complaint

Stated course information v. student course experience

Stated by LSE	Experience by students
■ Degree coordinated by Centre for Economic Performance	■ Degree coordinated by Department of Economics
■ Programme's curriculum is anchored in the intellectual life of the CEP	■ The one course that was as described was cancelled for the first year without adequate replacement
■ Department and research centres will offer teaching and research assistantships	■ Very limited, and not above what was offered to all post-graduates
■ Students will learn from each other on group projects	■ There were no group projects

Right: The front page of *The Beaver* in January 2004 when students first brought the complaint to the school



### TIMELINE

October 2003	April 2004	September 2005	June 2006	September 2006	June 2007
Original complaint raised	Howard Davies meets student representative	Students informed complaint had not been treated formally	Soraas decides to pursue complaint alone	Appeal rejected	OIA finds complaint "partly justified" and awards Soraas £3,500
Written complaint submitted to Howard Davies	Davies writes to him, stating that there will be no compensation	Complaint resubmitted	Complaint rejected, and subsequently appealed	Soraas takes complaint to OIA.	
January 2004	July 2005	January 2006	July 2006	October 2006	

requested that each course member had to be named for the complaint to be dealt with. Most course members - by now dispersed around the world - declined, leaving Soraas to pursue the complaint alone. His complaint was rejected in July 2006 and again on appeal in September 2006. At this point the LSE finally produced

the 'Completion of Procedures' statement and Soraas approached the OIA.

The OIA found the complaint to be partially justified. They concluded that the programme had been misrepresented, stating that "the Global Market Economics course that Mr Soraas attended was not entirely as had been marketed

by the School" and that it was "unreasonable and resulted in unfairness to Mr Soraas". They added that "after nearly two academic years Mr Soraas' complaint was still not at the stage of being considered under the Complaints procedure". However, the OIA did not find Soraas' criticism of the Review process justified, as

they judged that "the Review improved the programme". In conclusion, the OIA remarked that they were "critical of the School's advertising of the GME programme as being more embedded in the CEP than was the case" and "critical of the delays that took place in dealing with the group complaint".

# Greenspan packs out Peacock Theatre

- 200 students admitted to the 1000-capacity Peacock Theatre
- Greenspan attacks bankers and government regulators

Subash Viroomal  
Simon Wang

Alan Greenspan, former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve board, criticised the "egregious fraud" of investment bankers when speaking at the LSE on Monday 1 October.

His comments came in an event held in the Peacock Theatre, entitled "In Conversation with Alan Greenspan". The legendary economist - who once warned that "if I turn out to be particularly clear, you've probably misunderstood what I've said" - spoke at length on the credit crunch and the prospects for the world economy, but few students were lucky enough to see him in the flesh.

Only 200 tickets were made available to LSE students free of charge, despite the Peacock Theatre having a capacity of 1000. Students arriving well before the 8 am release time struggled to secure a place, with queues stretching from the Student Services Centre to the Aldwych.

One first year who arrived a full hour before tickets said, "I can't believe it...I arrived last night at 11pm, got up at 6am on my first morning, and I'm not going to get a ticket!"

Alan Revel, Events Manager for the LSE,



Alan Greenspan in conversation with Howard Davies

explained that the event had been arranged in conjunction with the Hay Festival, a Welsh festival production company linked to the *Guardian* newspaper. 200 tickets were ring-fenced for students and 250 were given to LSE staff, alumni, press and invited guests - the rest (around 450 tickets) were sold by the Hay Festival.

Revel stated that the School had decided to this allo-

cation rather than risk losing the event. A further 460 students were given tickets to a live video uplink of the event in the Old Theatre, but the presentation was marred by poor sound quality. According to one postgraduate student, the link was an "absolute disgrace... the quality of sound there was really poor and it cut out several times".

Revel conceded that sound

quality was "perhaps not as good as it could have been" and added that an external company was responsible for sound in the Old Theatre. He stated that students' comments would be passed on to them for consideration.

Though frustration was mounting outside the Peacock Theatre, the atmosphere inside was almost festive. Retirement has allowed Greenspan to

depart from the central banker's traditional monotony and his speech was interspersed with criticism, insight and humour.

Greenspan extolled the virtues of global capitalism, noting that its critics "don't like it because in the creative-destructive economy there are losers!" However, his analysis of the current crisis left some of capitalism's biggest cheerleaders squirming in their seats. He harangued investment bankers for "egregious fraud" in excessive securitisation and tore into the current system of governmental regulators, calling them "providers of false security". He also accused credit rating agencies of having irreconcilable conflicts of interest.

In the question and answer session, Greenspan laid out his vision of the future, one where consumption boomed in China and India and where income inequalities equalised to manageable scales.

The one awkward moment came with a question on Iraq. Greenspan's memoir - "Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World" - states that the 2003 invasion of Iraq was "largely about oil", and he was asked whether his editor forced him to make this claim. His answer - "Erm, my editor is here" - perhaps left something to be desired.

A video podcast and transcript of the event are available from the LSE Events web page.



## Union Jack

Two days. A mere 48 hours stand between Jack and immortality. At 1pm this coming Thursday, Jack will immerse himself into the frivolity, the controversy and the fury of the Union General Meeting. There and then, within the hallowed realms of the Old Theatre, Jack shall be reborn.

There are much parallels to be drawn between the River Styx and the golden showers of sputum and saliva that will be cast off the stage in the Old Theatre. But Jack shall not suffer like how Achilles did from Thetis' ineptitude. For Jack's mum is made of sterner stuff (see Maggie).

In the last hours that remain before the deluge of inane wisecracks and pointless sarcasm, Jack shall spend them sharpening the tools of his trade. Towards this bloody end, Fuehrer Baker-Maker and Zee Lunatic have already done Jack a huge favour over the long summer months. While a thousand of their letters packing political dynamite winged their way to unsuspecting LSE newbies, the couriers gleefully air-dropped for Jack tons of firepower in the meantime.

For every unqualified statement, every inflammatory label in that letter, supplies Jack with ammunition belts of incendiary verbosity and cartridges of explosive vindictiveness. Ah...blessed is Jack for uncovering this bottomless arsenal. Those elusive weapons of mass misinformation are lost no more.

However, Jack is painfully aware that he may no longer be the sharp tongue and razor wit that he was before. The ill-effects of the brutal summer needs to be cleansed. The kinks need to be ironed out. Perhaps Jack can test his mettle first on some other prey...

And what better quarry than Gordon's Brown Party, whose current disposition are acutely reminiscent of helpless sheep in a slaughterhouse. For brown is the colour on the seat of their pants, following the crunching blow that was Dave Camelot's shockingly left-leaning rhetoric. But Jack shall still offer begrudged kudos to Gordon for staying his own execution. If one is going to shit his pants, better to do it in Downing Street than in the Shadows.

Sadly, Jack can't quite wait the many months that will need to transpire before the next cele-party deathmatch. But Jack shall not resist the urge for a wager - 3 to 1, Menses Campbell for the Premiership.

Alas, Jack has once again slumped into the depths of the vice quagmire. And it's not just the betting. The collateral pressures inflicted by the compressive madness of Crush has brought on a sustained libido begging to be released. For some, the regrettable consequence of such unrequited lust is a weekend of unspeakable shenanigans in the darkest corners of the School. While Jack valiantly defended his dishonour, the same cannot be said of some desperate freshers.

Jack will not speak of your evils here. Not just yet. But to keep his lips sealed, he needs some favours from you...



## LSE student wins national recognition

Rajan Patel  
News Editor

Saravanan Nagappan, an LSE alumnus, came joint-second in the 2007 *Real World Graduate* of the Year competition.

Nagappan, who graduated with a First Class Honours in Economics from the LSE this July, impressed the competition judges with his academic achievements and charity work.

He told *The Beaver*: "LSE provides a great platform and access to opportunities - it's how much you make use of it that makes a difference."

"I am glad that I chose to come to LSE and enjoyed every single moment of my time here. This award is proof of that and I am glad that LSE was represented in the top five graduate winners!"

Whilst at the LSE, he helped to organise a charity play which raised £1200 for the Tsunami Indian Ocean Relief Fund and which was nominated for the LSE 'Event of the Year' award.

He also participated in a

national mentoring initiative in the UK, encouraging children from underprivileged backgrounds to continue with further education, and continued the project in his native Malaysia with children living

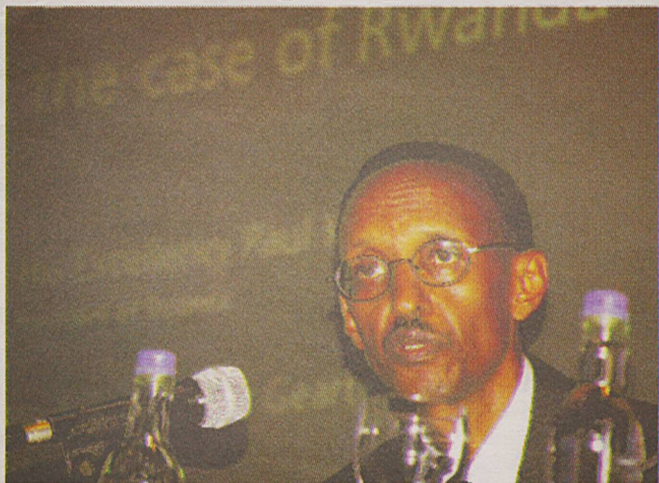
**LSE provides a great platform and access to opportunities—it's how much you make use of it that makes a difference.**

Saravanan Nagappan  
LSE Alumnus

in areas of poverty.

Nagappan continues to live the LSE dream, currently working as a first year analyst with a leading City investment bank.

## Rwandan President faces tough questions



Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, at the LSE

Erica Gornall  
Senior Reporter

Tensions ran high at the LSE this week as the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, addressed an audience riddled with antagonists. Speaking on development and environmental sustainability in Africa, he found himself confronted by fierce criticism from one particular audience member.

According to the Rwandan president, Rwanda is now a "prosperous, reconciled nation" whose people are "at peace". He highlighted the need for foreign investment in Africa that went beyond the extraction of raw materials. He argued this was necessary in order to stem the loss of such materials and to increase their value.

However, one audience member fiercely criticised Kagame's record. In his question, he said, "There will never be development in Rwanda without justice. When are you going to apologise to your people...can you sleep at night?"

The president responded to the question, saying that his country is improving and that his people were "at peace with

security and stability that has not been there for many decades". He added a cautionary comment that other countries should not assume what is right and wrong in his country.

"It is not my people that are complaining", he argued, when questioned about civil militia. He added that countries should have the respect not to impose their sometimes-unfair assumptions on others.

The president assured the audience that there was "no longer doom and gloom" in Africa and that significant progress "is being realised in our country".

**There will never be development in Rwanda without justice. When are you going to apologise to your people...can you sleep at night?**

Audience member

## Academic boycott of Israel abandoned

Legal experts conclude that a boycott "would be unlawful and cannot be implemented"

Rajan Patel  
News Editor

The University and College Union (UCU), the largest trade union for British university staff, has announced that an academic boycott of Israel "would be unlawful and cannot be implemented".

At its congress in May, UCU members demanded a year-long debate on the issue of cutting ties with Israeli universities and academics. The proposals were approved by 158 votes to 99, despite the opposition of the UCU's general secretary, Sally Hunt, and the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

A statement posted on the UCU's website on Friday 28 September explains that the UCU sought advice to determine the legality of an academic boycott. "The legal advice makes it clear that making a call to boycott Israeli institutions would run a serious risk of infringing discrimination legislation."

The statement continues, "The union has been told that while UCU is at liberty to debate the pros and cons of Israeli policies, it cannot spend members' resources on seeking to test opinion on something

which is in itself unlawful and cannot be implemented." As a consequence, the UCU has cancelled a planned series of debates around the country on the boycott.

Commenting on the issue to the BBC, Sally Hunt said, "I believe if we do this we may also, where possible, play a positive role in supporting Palestinian and Israeli educators and in promoting a just peace in the Middle East."

Marilyn Carson, spokesman for the LSE Israeli Society, said that the boycott would have encouraged "unfair discrimination solely on the basis of nationality".

"Its worst aspect," she added, "is that, having been initiated as a discriminatory action against Israeli academics, it introduced racism into academia... and had the potential to undermine the basic ideas and freedoms universities have stood for to this day."

"Gross infringements on basic human rights have been made on people in many parts of the world...to exclude nobody else on the planet but Israeli academics is proof of the sham that is the academic boycott and of the anti-Semitic forces that fuel it."

Ziyaad Lunat, Chair of the LSE Palestine Society, disagreed.

"The motion that was passed democratically in the UCU highest decision-making body called for a constructive debate on the issue. It does not call for academics to stop talking to their Israeli counterparts."

He added, "At the LSE, we shall not give in to intimidation from the Zionist lobby. As with apartheid South Africa, the movement for justice and equality in Palestine will ultimately prevail. We will make sure the debate on the academic boycott will continue amongst students and academics."

However, contributors to the *Guardian* newspaper have criticised the UCU's decision to call off its speaking tour.

In a letter to the *Guardian* published on Tuesday 2 October, Amjad Barham, head of the council of the Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees, claimed that "debating effective means of countering Israeli colonial policies has thus been declared illegal".

He added, "We are disappointed to see that the leadership of the UCU has failed to defend the right of its members to engage in unfettered discussions...we cannot understand why the door to open consider-

**A boycott of Israeli academia would be contrary to the values of freedom of speech and freedom of academic inquiry.**

Howard Davies  
Director of the LSE

ation of controversial ideas has been so abruptly closed."

The Russell Group of leading UK universities and the Director of the LSE, Howard Davies, have opposed calls for a boycott. Speaking on 30 May, Professor Malcolm Grant, Chairman of the Russell Group, said, "We reject outright the call for an academic boycott. It is a contradiction in terms and in direct conflict with the mission of a university."

When asked to comment on the UCU's change of heart, a spokesperson for the LSE said, "It is up to the University and College Union to decide how it manages its affairs."

## Monks march in London

Subash Viroomal

An estimated 3000 people took to the streets of London on Sunday 30 September to support pro-democracy protesters in Burma. Protests in London a week later formed part of a global day of action, as people in 100 cities across 30 countries showed solidarity with the Burmese people.

According to the BBC, the first march was organised by the Burmese Democratic Movement Association following a "call to action" made on Facebook. News of "Burma: Saffron Revolution", a Facebook group started by Mike Stone - named by the BBC as the "inspiration" of the

march - spread like wildfire among London residents.

When asked what had pushed thousands of Londoners onto the streets, John Jackson, founder of Burma Campaign UK, said, "I think this was basically people who have seen the images on their television screens, have seen innocent people peacefully protesting and then being brutally attacked by the Burmese military."

Students from the LSE and from many other London universities took part in the demonstration. A second year LSE Government student at the march said, "People don't know the LSE for student activism...but as I look around I recognise many faces, it makes me so proud."

The procession departed from Trafalgar Square to the sound of drums and the chant of "Free Free Burma Burma", moving past Parliament Square's resident group of Burmese protesters who had not

been informed of the rally. Marcus, one of the resident protesters and a recent graduate of Kings College, told *The Beaver*, "I'm upset, I'm tired as hell and you guys [the marchers] will get all the publicity. I guess it's all for a good cause though."

Upon reaching the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, the crowds were met by a delegation of robed monks who expressed their anguish at the plight of their brothers in Myanmar (Burma's official name) and decried the violent regime of the military junta.

In a prepared statement, the monks expounded a message of love, preaching

against "greed, hatred and delusion" and calling on the protesters "not to fall prey to the anger that many feel." Some demonstrators had called for all those present to "fight back against autocracy", but the majority affirmed that they were there "to show the monks that we care".

Another event took place on Saturday 6 October, with monks leading protesters past Downing Street and into Trafalgar Square. More information about upcoming events around the world is posted continuously on "Support the Monks' protest in Burma", a Facebook group with over 350,000 members.





# LSE introduces Living Wage

The LSE announces new Living Wage cleaning contract after persistent student pressure

Michael Deas  
Senior Reporter

The LSE has brought into effect its commitment to pay cleaners of the Houghton Street campus a Living Wage by announcing details of a new cleaning contract.

An LSE spokesperson said: "LSE announced its commitment to a significant increase in pay for cleaners on campus last academic year. The decision to introduce the Living Wage was agreed by the School's Academic Planning & Resources Committee (APRC). The Houghton Street cleaning contract was re-tendered earlier this year and has been awarded to ISS Facilities Services Limited." All staff who worked for the previous contractor, Dynamic, have been offered jobs as part of the new contract.

The Living Wage, a sum calculated by the Mayor's Office and based on the price of household shopping and average wage levels, will be phased in over the next two years and is expected to stand at £8.00 by the time it comes into full effect at LSE in 2009.

Cleaners had previously been paid the national mini-

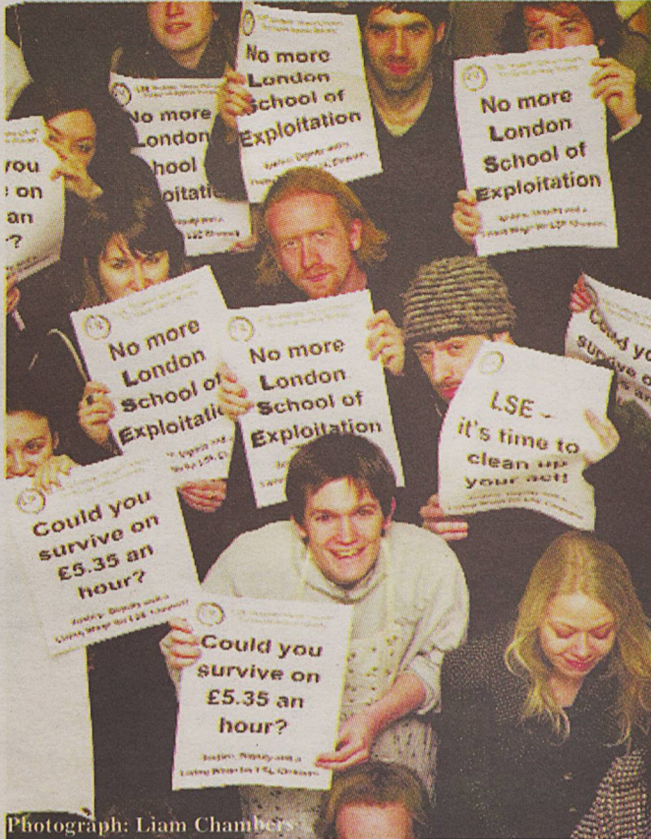
mum wage of £5.35, but student campaigners and representatives of the cleaning staff had argued that this was an insufficient sum for an acceptable standard of living, especially given the high cost of living in London.

The implementation of the Living Wage at LSE is a result of a hard fought campaign by student group LSE Citizens for Social Justice and the London Citizens' Workers Association.

Sam Causton, Chair of LSE Citizens for Social Justice, told *The Beaver*, "We are very pleased with the school, we can now be proud to be LSE students and not feel ashamed at the way our School treats its cleaning staff."

LSE students set up the Citizens for Social Justice society and presented a petition with 700 signatures calling for the Living Wage to the School in the Summer term of 2006. They also held a 150 person strong demonstration outside the Old Building to kick start the campaign.

Whilst both cleaners and students welcomed the announcement, it remains unclear whether the decision to stagger the implementation of Living Wage was a necessity. Speaking at the Student Union's Union General Meeting (UGM) last term, LSE



Photograph: Liam Chambers  
Living Wage Campaign protesters gather at the LSE last year

Director Howard Davies spoke of the need to balance increasing spending demands with the need to be 'financially respon-

sible.' It is also unclear the extent to which the implementation of Living Wage is guaranteed for

cleaners of halls of residence. Davies said in a recent open email to the School that the LSE will "do the same" when residences' cleaning contracts come up for renewal in 2009. However, Causton told *The Beaver* that "we are seeking definite clarification regarding residence cleaners".

The LSE Citizens for Social Justice group holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) today and hopes to look into residence cleaning contracts, as well as investigate the status of temporary catering staff who are also still only paid minimum wage.

Following further demonstrations and publicity campaigns and a series of meetings between the School, students and cleaners' representatives, LSE Director Howard Davies announced that the School would investigate the viability of introducing the Living Wage for campus cleaners. Davies then put the results of the investigation to the School's Academic Planning and Resource Committee (APRC), the body responsible for School expenditure decisions. At an APRC meeting in the Lent Term, the proposal to phase in the Living Wage was accepted.

## Course Collection closure

Erica Gornall  
Senior Reporter

It may have been the first week for some Freshers but the School was relying on the majority to stay away from the Course Collection of the Library.

The Collection, which houses most of the books on Course Reading lists, was not closed but temporarily inaccessible between the third and the eighth of October.

This comes after a disrupted summer for the Library due to the expansion of facilities. The inaccessibility has clashed with the arrival of many new students.

Also, many classes start this week and students found it impossible to access the course collection to start their reading. Additionally, new students could not learn how to navigate the Course Collection system as all of the books were being moved.

Chris Kudlicki, Director of Estates, confirmed that hourly pick-up services were available but admitted that "the School did not originally schedule to move the books in the first week of term".

He apologised for any inconvenience caused but said that the Course Collection would be accessible to students again on the 8th of October.

## 'Dubious motives' behind Orientation Week

Questions arise over usefulness of the new Freshers' 'Orientation Week'  
Staggered arrivals might 'pose more welfare issues in the long run.'

Erica Gornall  
Senior Reporter

The motives behind the LSE's first 'Orientation Week' have been questioned, with one prominent member of the LSE's Students' Union (SU) airing doubts over the "necessity of the week".

This year, some Freshers arrived a week earlier than usual, meaning that the usual Freshers' events did not start straight after their arrival. New students were sent on trips around the LSE and on tours around the area surrounding their halls of residence.

However, doubts have been raised as to the value of the week to residents in halls, as some hall committees and wardens were allegedly insufficiently briefed. This meant that some halls had more successful orientation events than others.

Louise Robinson, the SU Residences Officer, said that although there had been a residences meeting at the end of the summer term, initial negotiations excluded hall committees.

"The accommodation centrally co-ordinated this [the week] and then told wardens and the committees what they expected rather than involving them in those initial stages," said Robinson. "That poses a problem in a number of ways,

in terms of the feasibility of actually doing that and the willingness to do that."

On the actual success of the week, she added, "We've seen examples in Halls where it has been quite effective but others have been much less so." There have been other reports that some committee members in certain halls were not even living in their halls for the majority of that week.

The SU's Residences Officer also raised concerns this week that the breaking up of the arrival of Freshers into halls may have ruined the "buzz" of the usual Freshers' week.

"The thing about the first week is that it is your initial arrival in London," Robinson said, "and those initial events, that initial buzz that you get, cannot be recreated."

Some sources within hall committees have said that although the week was more successful than they expected, they still predicted initial problems between the Freshers that had arrived early and those that came on September 29.

The LSE's motives of adding a week to the beginning of term have also been questioned and Robinson voiced her concerns over the School's actions.

Most LSE halls work as commercial hotels in the summer, bringing in revenue from Summer School students and

commercial customers who wish to stay in London for a charge cheaper than other hotels. In the early months it is extremely popular but it suffers from a lull at the very end of September.

"The lack of concreteness," Robinson noted, "behind the value added to residents during the Orientation Week certainly raises doubts as to the necessity of it and also to speculation perhaps, from residents, wardens and indeed managers alike, that more money has been generated than the actual worth of the week to the residents in Halls."

However, Paul Trivett, LSE accommodation officer said that the week was to cater for those who arrive early anyway and that support from the feedback had been "overwhelmingly positive".

"The week is meant as an opportunity for those students to familiarise themselves with the area around their halls and to settle in before Freshers' Week," said Trivett. "It is also aimed to reduce the 'check in' bottleneck where all students turn up on a single day."

However, Robinson is concerned that reducing the bottleneck is the problem, making it harder for students to fit in, not easier.

She added, "Once you've missed that opportunity, I do think that it could potentially pose more welfare issues in the long run."

## Freshers' Fair meets demand

Peter Barton  
Senior Reporter

Freshers' Fair - held over 4-5 October - saw over 170 societies, external companies, and Athletics Union sports clubs put up stands to try and sign up new members. With thousands of new LSE students trying to find their way around the various stalls, teething problems were inevitable. However, most Freshers seem to have been able to sign up to the societies they wanted to.

This year the Students' Union (SU) grouped societies into categories and then spread them out across the LSE campus accordingly. The majority of societies were located in Clement House, but national societies had stalls in the Towers the Athletics Union stalls were in the Old Building gym.

The layout aimed to acquaint new students with the layout of the school and to provide more space for stalls. However, some students failed to discover all the different parts of the fair and a surprising number managed to end up on the Kings College campus in the Strand.

Some LSE students involved in societies have raised concerns that the ineffectual one way system and poor sign posting had prevented Freshers from exploring all the stalls. This resulted in several stalls on the top floors reporting drops in membership of up to 40% on last year, whereas most societies on the bottom floors have built on last year's membership. By pushing past the barriers and signs placed in stairways, many students missed out entire rooms



Society stalls take over the campus

in search of the quickest route through the fair.

The system of grouping was appreciated by several new students who contacted *The Beaver*, as it allowed them to go to the rooms where they wanted to sign up without having to trail past all the stands. However, some societies said it failed to give them the opportunity to get students to try something new which, according to one official, is what "Freshers' Fair is all about". The societies web page, which is still under construction, was

also not working properly in the run up to the fair, preventing students from finding out more about societies they wished to join.

SU Societies Officer, Carys Morgan, told *The Beaver*: "In general the Freshers' Fair was very successful with many societies recruiting record numbers of members. As usual there were some minor problems...however, where societies complained that they were particularly affected, the situation was rectified as far as possible."



# Overseas Students “wasted in the UK”

■ UK universities are not making the most of overseas talent, says *The Guardian*

Ruchika Tulshyan  
Senior Reporter

Overseas student talent is “wasted in the UK,” stated a report in *The Guardian* last week.

The article concluded that “universities should do more to integrate international students into British undergraduate life and stop wasting their talents.” According to Richard Brown, Chief Executive of the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE), “All students must have the opportunity to work together in multi-cultural teams, addressing real global problems in the curriculum, not solving traffic problems in Sloane Square or the M25.”

Before a two-day conference on internationalising higher education, Brown said that universities should encourage greater cooperation between students to develop greater awareness of global issues.

Citing a report to be unveiled at the conference on making UK higher education more international, Brown revealed that overseas students can bring a wide range of experiences to bear on global issues, but instead they tend to work in ‘ghettos’.

Business schools in partic-

ular were singled out for criticism, and the CIHE’s report found that the experiences and perspectives of Chinese students in particular are wasted. According to the CIHE, universities could “socially engineer” group work by giving extra marks to “multi-cultural” teams.

“Universities should really take the lead on that in that 50% of the population go through university - here’s a fantastic opportunity to make them think globally. What would be wonderful is if more of our institutions could send students on short courses overseas in places like Israel, the Arab world and Asia,” Brown added. The CIHE aims to make UK graduates more attuned to other cultures and countries so that they would be more attractive to employers.

Firoz Noordeen, the LSE Students’ Union (SU) International Officer, said that although more could be done to integrate international students into LSE, he does not believe that overseas talent is “wasted” here.

“I believe that the SU does a good job in integrating International students, through the diverse events, the many Societies as well as the international student inductions. Also, Societies take a lead and have many educational and informative events throughout the

Photograph: Marta Skundric



Dancers perform at LSE’s Global Show

year, not to mention the SU’s Global Week. The Careers Service has international placements as well as lectures,

presentations from the overseas branches of big companies. It does not go out of its way to help international stu-

dents, but still does a good job of helping them,” he added.

According to a survey by the *International Graduate*

*Insight Group*, which is also to be unveiled at the conference, a major criticism of UK higher education made by international students was the lack of links with major international employers.

“That’s still where we’re not very good and international students don’t feel they have been given a sufficient leg up the ladder of employment, which suggests universities need to do more to link with international business,” Brown said.

The CIHE wants the UK to be the preferred worldwide location for all international students. Brown feels UK universities at undergraduate level particularly have a real opportunity in this respect.

Noordeen commented that “The LSE, as far as I know, does not have any specific inductions for international students. They have many support services but those are more reactive. However, they do have many speakers coming to the campus regularly, who do give an international as well as educational perspective on issues. The SU can promote more large multi-cultural events, as well as reduce the number of date-clashes on these sort of events, both of which the SU Executive is working to do.”

## “Fuck Bush” row

COLLEGIAN  
OPINION

Friday, September 21, 2007 | Page 4

Taser this...

# FUCK BUSH

This column represents the views of the Collegian’s editorial board.

University of Colorado student newspaper headline that has ignited freedom of speech debate

Simon Wang  
Senior Reporter

David McSwane, editor of the *Rocky Mountain Collegian* - the newspaper of the University of Colorado’s Student Union - is currently under investigation by University officials for publishing a huge ‘Fuck Bush’ headline on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

According to an article in the *Guardian* newspaper from Tuesday 2 October, the headline was connected with an incident three days earlier at the University of Florida. A student, Andrew Meyer, had

refused to give up the microphone when seeking to question senator John Kerry, the former presidential candidate and police used a Taser on Meyer. Mr McSwane then followed this incident with the headline, “Taser this... Fuck Bush”.

The University of Colorado cannot censor the content of student media publications, but the Student Union’s Board of Student Communications has the power to hire and remove editors. They will decide at a hearing whether the paper’s ethics code - which states that “profane and vulgar words are not acceptable for opinion writing” - was violated

by the headline.

McSwane refused to apologise, saying that the aim was to provoke a debate about freedom of speech. There have been complaints from students, with the college Republicans calling for McSwane to resign. Sympathisers have expressed support on the basis that the US constitution’s First Amendment protects freedom of speech and expression.

McSwane has courted controversy in the past as a reporter on his school paper, posing as a drug addict and school dropout at the age of 17 to test US Army recruiting tactics.

## LSE bottoms PhD completion rates

Rajan Patel  
Senior Reporter

A study investigating the proportion of PhD students completing their degree within seven years has found the LSE to have one of the lowest qualification rates for overseas students, according to *The Times Higher Education Supplement* (THES).

The study, conducted by the *Higher Education Funding Council for England* (Hefce), stated that the LSE is far from their set benchmark of 67 percent rate of completion of PhD’s, with only 45 percent of overseas students qualifying for their postgraduate degrees within seven years.

Paul Hubbard, Hefce head of research policy, said of those universities well below benchmarks: “We expect them to investigate why they got this result and, if necessary, take corrective action.” He added that the table contained information that students “might well want to look at in deciding where to go”.

Simeon Underwood, academic registrar at the LSE, said: “The School takes data on the performance of its PhD students seriously. The figures Hefce produced this week are important. However, we think that the figure used in the THES story is unrepresentative and misleading.”

He argued that the School’s policy of registering LSE students as PhD students from the start, rather than as MPhil students for their first year, disadvantages the School. Underwood added that the paper produced by Hefce explicitly acknowledges this fact.

The School went on to cite the subject mix offered as a reason for these unfavourable results. “Social science PhD students are traditionally relatively slow completers across the sector as a whole - at 63 percent as opposed to 81 percent for medicine and 75 percent overall for the cohort. This is why Hefce has used the approach of setting benchmarks for individual universities - and although the figure for international students is below the benchmark Hefce set, the figure for Home and EU students, a much larger group, is well above it,” stated Underwood.

In addition, the figure in the THES article is for PhD students that started in 1999 and therefore only for one year’s worth of students. The LSE said, “It is dangerous to put too much weight on individual figures from one year only. When we used Hefce’s methods to project a figure for international students who started in 2000, the figure jumps up to 69 percent for international students and 77 percent for home and EU students.”

“We think that the figure used in the THES story is unrepresentative and misleading.”

Simeon Underwood  
LSE Academic Registrar

The School asserted that there have been a number of changes made to procedures and practices over the past few years, including a reduction in the maximum length of registration, and believed that the figure quoted in the THES was a one-off aberration. “The true picture is that we are performing at a level which is above the benchmark that Hefce has set us,” Mr Underwood concluded.

The THES report shows that alongside LSE, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Aston University have the lowest percentage qualifying and are furthest from their benchmarks. The LSE clarified that the 45 percent qualification rate did not equate to 55 percent of PhD students failing their degree, rather that some students may have withdrawn while others are still active and will complete their degree.



# COMMENT & ANALYSIS

## Straying from the roadmap

Daniel Jason

*Unguarded words or phrased with intent? Either way, the controversial Students' Union letter to freshers reflects a lack of sensitivity*

Many people believe that those who criticise Israel in any way can be slammed as being anti-Semitic.

There are ways, however, of defining whether words or actions are anti-Semitic or not. It is absolutely possible to criticise the State of Israel without being anti-Semitic and it would be a travesty for anyone to state otherwise. As it is, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) 'Working Definition of Anti-Semitism' is held in high regard by the international community; a full copy is available on the internet on a number of sites, if one searches for it.

However, as stated in the Working Definition, "manifestations of anti-Semitism could also target the State of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity." One has to ask what the motivation of criticism is when only the State of Israel is singled out for special condemnation, or when it is falsely accused of crimes, such as the alleged Israeli policy of denying Palestinians education

(which in reality does not exist), or when facts are purposefully skewed with an anti-Israel bias, such as the chang-



**If the author of the letter was not capable of or could not be bothered to find out about the name of the Israeli Defence Force, he clearly should not occupy the position of General Secretary**

ing of the title of Israel's armed forces from "Israeli Defence Force" to "Israeli Occupation Force."

In addition, the allusion in

the General Secretary's letter to alleged Israeli policies of "segregation, isolation and persecution" would be laughable if they were not such serious accusations. Such alleged "policies" do not exist and amount to nothing more than slander against the State of Israel and those who constitute it. If such policies existed, why are Palestinians allowed to study in Israeli universities, or make up 3 out of 7 judges on the Israeli Supreme Court? For those concerned about the anti-terror fence (concrete walls constitute a mere 3% of the fence), it is a sad necessity in the face of senseless terror wreaked against Israeli civilians - Jews, Christians and Muslims, Israeli-Arabs and Israeli-Jews alike. It should also be noted that Palestinian terrorists fire Quassam rockets onto Israeli towns. In Sderot, thousands of rockets rain down in a year, during the hours when school children travel to and from school.

There was either a wilful skewing of the facts to create a monstrous image of Israel, or gross negligence resulting in

the inclusion of these allegations. But if the author of the letter was not capable of or could not be bothered to find out about the name of the Israeli Defence Force, he clearly should not occupy the position of General Secretary.

At worst, this letter may incite anti-Semitism and can be construed as being anti-Semitic. At the very best, it is bad politics and not at all necessary to send out to the new student intake. That it contains factual errors merely indicates the inflammatory intent of the letter and as such, does not help but hinders the road to peace, not just in Israel but in our very own LSE community. As such, this letter can in no way claim to be representative of the average LSE student, who undoubtedly holds mutual peace and progress in high regard. Where then is the General Secretary candidate who said in his campaign statements that he would represent all of the LSE? So far, he is certainly not to be found in the office of the General Secretary.

In the spirit of friendship, however, I would like to publicly invite *The Beaver* and the General Secretary, as well as all LSE students, to a new talk on the ongoing Arab-Israeli

conflict, at 6pm on October 30, in room D202. The slogan is "A Shared Peace." The absence of

the General Secretary at such a talk, in the light of this letter, would be very telling indeed.



## Quelle affaire!



Chun Han Wong

*Bad news sells, and the closer it hits to home, the more column inches it occupies. Sometimes it gets more than it really deserves.*

It is probably the most successful publicity campaign ever run by private individuals for a non-profit and non-political motive.

Within days of its initiation, the compelling imagery and emotional appeal of the issue concerned allowed the campaign to gather pace and find a life of its own. Countless

web pages spawned into being, and the campaigners received innumerable appearances on television channels and newspapers worldwide.

And there is little reason to be surprised. After all, the disappearance of a four-year-old toddler in mysterious circumstances, complete with adorable photographs, is prob-

ably the dream recipe for the perfect PR broth.

Unfortunately, while the campaign has been spectacularly successful, it has failed to achieve its ultimate aim so far. What's worse, police investigations have since disintegrated into apparently politically-motivated bickering between the British and Portuguese

authorities, compounded by an array of allegations against and counter-claims by the McCanns.

Regardless of the legal vagaries surrounding the case - allegations of murder and counter-accusations of flawed detective work - there are some things to be said about a seemingly innocuous case of a missing child being brought to the attention of the entire world.

Sensationalism would be a start. A quick look through [www.missingpeople.org.uk](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk) reveals details of over 250 missing people on its database. Admittedly, in comparison to Maddy, none of the cases are nearly as gripping or tear-jerking in the public imagination. But surely the life of every single person on that list is just as valuable as that of a now world-famous, four-year-old girl? Perhaps the prospect of a defenceless tot possibly being kidnapped by child slave traders or paedophiles provides more of a human interest story than, say, a runaway youth with teenage issues. However, such differences are but superficial technicalities in the eyes of friends and family.

It is rather sad that people devote so much time and effort into the search of a particular missing person simply because she is, in the eyes of the world, an adorable, helpless young life. Hundreds of other grieving families and friends have to count on little more than mentions on websites and police missing person reports. Why? Because their child/sib-

ling/friend lack PR potential - be it the innocent-looking photographs or the heartrending background story. Maddy, by being Maddy, transformed an otherwise common family



**Maddy, by being Maddy, transformed an otherwise common family tragedy into a full-blown international media fest**

tragedy into a full-blown international media fest.

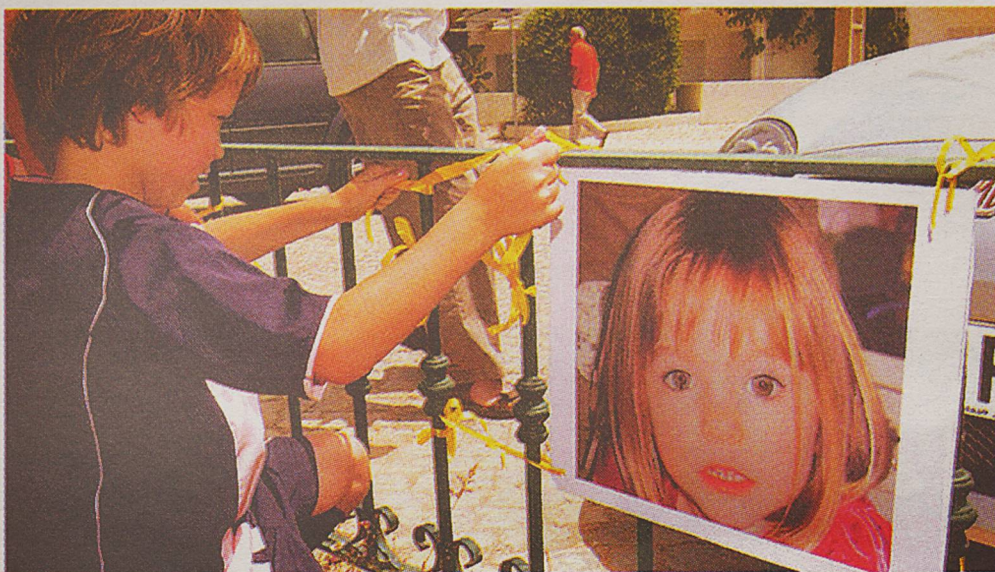
The blaze of civic action and media furore perhaps reflect how easily manipulated people are. By hitting the emotional buttons, the McCanns have struck the publicity jackpot. Not unlike viral chain mails, the Maddy story spread like wildfire because it strikes people with all the right emotional cues: a manifestation of the worst fears of new parents, hitting so close to home. What ever did happen in Sudan with those millions of refugees? Or the monks who shed blood in their quest for democracy in Burma? While the advent of the internet may have made

the world that much smaller by bridging distances in ways previously unimagined, such humanitarian disasters are sadly still 'a bridge too far'.

Perhaps news agencies too should share culpability. For journalists in need of a riveting story, the plight of the McCanns is a goldmine. From images of a cuddly, innocent face in distress, controversy over the McCanns' decision to leave their child alone to the spectacle of lawyers and investigators firing accusatory shots across each others' bows. A single missing child easily provides a mountain of material to fill tabloid pages for five months. Nevertheless, it has to be said that much of it was in fact speculation, not news. In other words, the tabloids are simply milking the cash cow until it is dead on its feet, and then some. If having Maddy on the front makes the paper fly off the stands, surely no editor would pull the story.

Fair play to the McCanns for doing such a great job with publicity. There can be no faulting the parents for doing all within their power to recover their lost child. And, without a shadow of a doubt, the hundreds of volunteers who contribute to the search effort do so with a genuine desire to help. Yet in all honesty, the sensationalised publicity accorded to the McCanns is wholly out of proportion to the magnitude or 'newsworthiness' of the story.

The whole Madeleine affair just makes people wonder: "Why Maddy?"





## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

c&amp;a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

## Fear the brave new world



Meryem Torun

Those of you who read the papers will know that it's been a fairly busy week in terms of news. There were the usual helpings of international crises, while on the national front, there were discussions aplenty about Gordon Brown's mooting of early elections. Seeing the wealth of important issues being debated in the media and general public, I felt that I had to take it upon myself to express certain views on at least one of these news stories.

But instead of going for the front page pieces, I decided to delve a little deeper and pick out something a little more interesting. I refer you to the story of a 72-year-old man who decided to father his own 'grandchild'.

If you haven't read the story, you're probably a bit confused by the logical inconsistency of the latter statement. Let me clarify. A 72-year-old man has decided to donate his sperm to his daughter-in-law, thereby allowing his son to raise his own half-brother. The IVF equivalent of your dad sleeping with your wife. Please take a minute to comprehend just how ludicrous this is.

According to several news reports, the predominant con-

*As ever, the double-edged sword that is science has presented infertile parents with radical solutions and a moral minefield to negotiate*

troversy surrounding this sperm donation lies not in its incestuous nature but the age of the donor and consequent medical repercussions. Is it just me, or is that not the main issue here?



**What are they going to think when they realise that their father is really their half-brother, or that their aunt is really their mother?**

I suppose we should have expected this sort of thing sooner or later. For years we scoffed at soap operas that constructed complicated family ties which we deemed unrealistic. We criticised the Republican families in America who covered up a teenage pregnancy by raising their daughter's child. Jack

Nicholson, for example, only found out at 37 that his mother was really his grandmother and his sister his real mother. But it appears that we are treading into a world of redefinitions where family is concerned; nothing seems strange anymore.

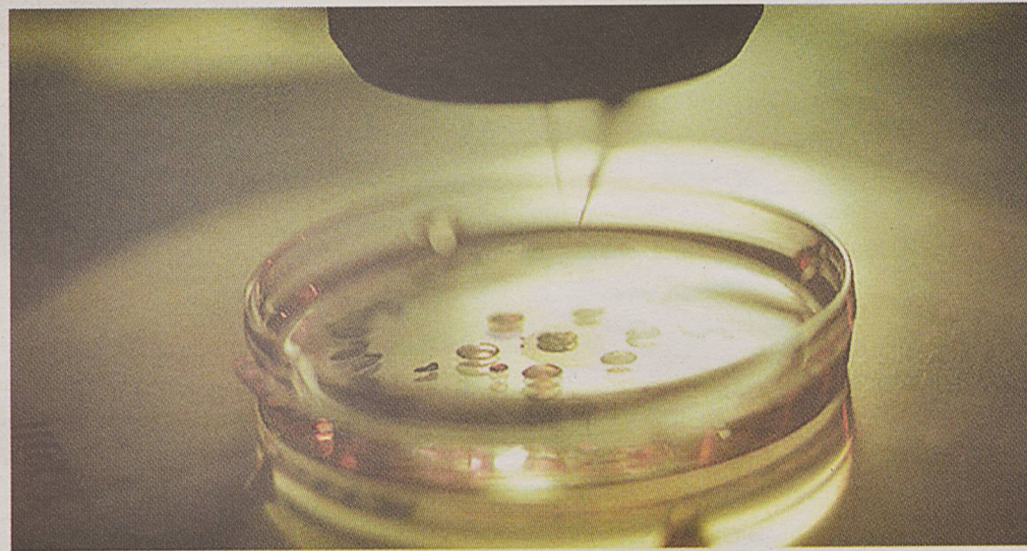
In fact, it has become very common for infertile men and women to use the sperm or eggs of their brothers and sisters to have children. This is usually considered acceptable because of the special circum-

stance of infertility. Couples who have to resort to sperm donation usually prefer to use those from someone from within the family rather than a stranger. It seems that while there is great sympathy for the infertile parents, there appears to be a lack of consideration for the child that will be born from the donation. How exactly are they going to feel when they find out (as they have the right to when they turn 18) who their donor parent is? What are they going to think when they realise that their father is really their half-brother, or that their aunt is really their mother?

I guess a lot of people

would argue that biological parentage lacks importance in comparison with real family – the family that raises you. I won't deny the importance of that family but by disregarding our biological ties entirely we are leading ourselves into a ridiculous tangle of relationships, full of bizarreness previously unseen. Already, we are living in a world where celebrities are able to buy their favourite poor kids out of Africa and families can put together their children from the sperm and eggs of their choice people.

I have to ask: has normal conception become old-fashioned?



## Become armchair heroes



Chloe Pieters

In the UK alone, there are over 7,000 people on the waiting list to receive an organ, suffering ailments ranging from diabetes to hepatitis leading to organ failure. For these people, an organ transplant represents the dividing line between life and death.

On the surface, statistics paint a rosy picture: over

*As much as inaction could kill, it can also be made to save lives. A simple change in donation policy will make us all potential lifesavers.*

14,000 people have placed their names on the NHS Organ Donor Register. Every single potential donor could make a life-saving or enhancing (through sight-saving cornea transplants, for instance) difference to several people.

However, in a country 60 million strong, organ donors constitute only 0.023% of the

population. The likelihood that every single registered donor will die in circumstances that enable harvesting (i.e. while on a ventilator in a hospital) is infinitesimal. The number of people dying in circumstances favourable for donation falls every year, usually as a result of improvements in road safety. This means that fewer patients will receive organs; one in ten patients needing a heart transplant will die while waiting for a suitable donor.

How can the donor numbers be increased? Campaigns and raising awareness are all very well, but they run smack into an almost impregnable wall of apathy. People may sympathise with the patients. Their plight and desperation tug readily on the emotional heartstrings of others. Yet somehow, picking up a donor card and registering seems to take too much time and effort for many people.

If the stumbling block that is apathy is too difficult to overcome, why not turn it into an advantage? This can be achieved by changing the current opt-in system of organ donation, where people must explicitly choose donation (by

signing a donor card and registering), to a system of presumed consent. The 'presumed consent' system assumes that people permit organ donation upon death if at all possible unless they have explicitly opted out.



**If the stumbling block that is apathy is too difficult to overcome, why not turn it into an advantage?**

Several countries have adopted the model of presumed consent, and have seen the effectiveness of the measure. Spain, for example, has the world's highest organ donation rate. In Singapore, kidney transplants have tripled since the presumed consent system was introduced. This offers countless renal patients permanent cessation of dialysis, which is time-consuming, painful, and

costly.

A presumed consent system also overcomes an important psychological barrier that make people hold back from becoming donors. Many admit that they hesitate to sign up as donors for fear that doctors would not fight to save their lives in an emergency. After all, their deaths would provide desperately needed organs for many other people. Such fears are founded upon a basic misunderstanding as to how organ harvesting takes place procedurally (the emergency care team and transplant team are independent entities), but it does discourage people from becoming donors. However, if everyone is presumed to consent to organ donation, there is no need for anyone to fear that his or her life is valued less than another person's.

Objections may be raised about presumed consent on the grounds of personal autonomy. However, it should be noted that the choice of donation is not withheld, merely turned upon its head. If people feel strongly that they do not wish to donate, the procedure to opt out is no more arduous than filling out a form and submitting it. But if people are as indifferent about opting out of donating as they are about opting in, at least their apathy may one day save lives.

the Beaver

2nd Floor, East Building  
LSE Students' Union  
London WC2A 2AE  
email: thebeaver@lse.ac.uk  
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EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
Kevin PerryMANAGING EDITOR  
Aditi NangiaSECRETARY  
Lucie GouletNEWS EDITORS  
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Josh TendeterPART C EDITOR  
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Anna MikedaCOMMISSIONING  
SUB-EDITOR  
Ben Lamy

THE COLLECTIVE:

collectivechair@the-  
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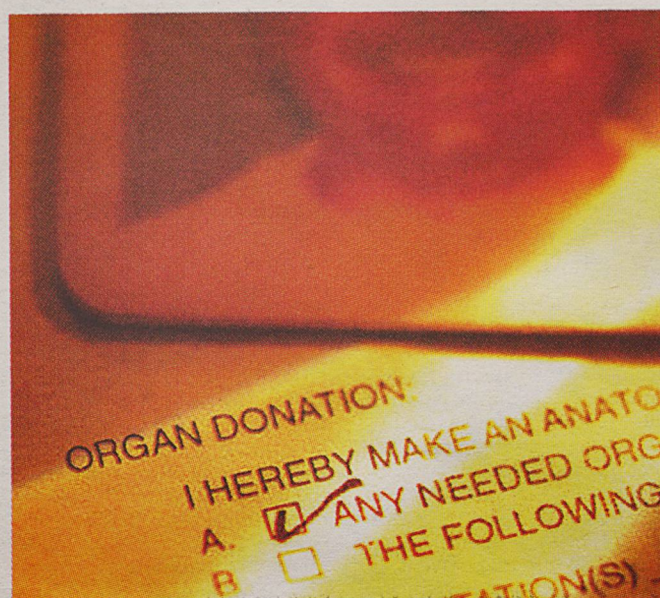
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*The Beaver* is available in alternative formats.

The views and opinions expressed in *The Beaver* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors or the LSE Students' Union.





## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

c&amp;a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

## The Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 666

## The Market has landed

...so where do we go now?

This newspaper can only applaud the fact that finally, after almost four years of delays and bureaucracy, Lars Soraas has succeeded in gaining compensation from the institution which sold him a product worth questioning under the Trades Description Act. The fact that this same institution thinks of itself as one of the leading universities in the world is a cause for concern not just for him, but for all of us. In January 2004, when we first covered the complaint, we ran an editorial entitled 'The Coming Market', in which we affirmed this newspaper's stance "against the insipid creep of the market into higher education". Unfortunately, we are feeling increasingly like King Canute.

The commodification of higher education is something we must learn to deal with, but the case of Lars Soraas and the rest of the class of MSc Global Market Economics raises a number of important points of discussion for us as a university, not least regarding the way in which education is branded and sold upon the market. In 2004 we argued that the students had every right to feel hard done by because "these students were buying a product, and paying a very high price for it".

"The LSE should recognise that when it is providing Masters courses like this, with such high tuition fees, it is essentially providing a product rather than an academic experience, and the delivery and administration of the degree needs to reflect this."

Who could argue with this? Most establishments that would be prepared to charge you £14,198 for the product or service that they provide would almost certainly have far more extensive customer service provision than the shambolic response that has so far been received.

Our conclusion then was that "these students should be refunded their £2,000, and the School should apologise for treating them in such a maverick and inhospitable way". While Lars has received the refund thanks to his persistence, the apology will be less readily given.

We may well lay claim to a place in the top 20 world universities, but if we expect this to continue then we must ensure as an institution that every programme, every course, every lecture and every class is up to the highest possible mark, and that if we ever fail to achieve these lofty standards that we apologise and compensate those who've lost out. The only thing at stake is our reputation, but in today's market, reputation is amongst our most valuable commodities.

## Fresher's Fair success...

...is a promising start to the new year

The Beaver is never slow to criticise the LSE Students' Union, indeed it is part of our role on campus to criticise and hold our Sabbatical officers to account.

However, in the spirit of even-handedness, this newspaper would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the sabbatical officers for an excellent Fresher's fair.

In organisational terms it is a massive event, involving the co-ordination of hundreds of different groups and organisations all clamouring for attention, as well as requiring the skilled herding of thousands of people, many wandering aimlessly.

But this year's Fresher's Fair went smoothly, thanks in no small part to the mammoth effort put in by the Sabbatical team. Less crushed and frantic than in past years, with increased disabled access, it was a pleasure to be a part of.

Thanks of course also to all the Freshers who expressed an interest in contributing to the paper. I look forward to reading your articles and being stunned by your photography throughout the coming year!

## 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. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.



"own sense"

Dear Sir,

Having read the controversial letter sent to new students about the LSE's twinning with An-Najah University in "Palestine", I feel obliged to respond. What a sour greeting to new students.

This letter would make the reader believe that Israeli military activity is meant to crush the hopes of Palestinians, instead of to protecting Israel from attack. There is no time in this short letter to argue the Israeli cause in full, but I believe an unapologetically one-sided and provocative essay drawing mono-causal conclusions is a poor way to introduce the LSE's motto, *rerum cognoscere causas*, to new students.

I hope students use their own sense, research and critical eye to understand that the Jewish state has, in law and practice, long struggled with finding a balance between human rights and security, and has even provided considerable funding for Palestinian universities. There is a decidedly horrible conflict, and Israel has honoured human rights in a way that many have not, even when confronting far smaller threats.

I am reminded of my first undergraduate induction event at my Israeli university. During that ceremony, a eulogy was delivered for a young student who had recently been killed in a suicide terrorist attack. Despite the pain of this loss, we did not call for an end to the Palestinian cause, attack their leaders or extol the hardship this conflict had caused us. Instead, we mourned and said a prayer for peace. Our Palestinian students recited it along with us.

Julia Mayersohn

"dastardly leading"

Dear Sir,

Email addresses mean influence.

For too long now, unscrupulous society heads have used the email addresses supplied by innocent freshers (and others) to gain bargaining power.

I'm talking about the shady world of society endorsements. There are almost no rules governing the practice of societies sending out endorsement emails at election time (almost upon us, once again), and some dastardly leading figures will undoubtedly pimp their society's membership to would-be Students' Union politicians

## 24/7 LIBRARY IS IT THAT HARD ?

in exchange for personal gain.

I think *The Beaver* should tell committee members to hold their presidents to account, and encourage someone to pass a Codes of Practice amendment in the Union General Meeting.

The current practice of Society endorsement is an unsightly mire on our otherwise quite acceptable democracy in the SU. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Simon Douglas  
Honorary Student

"some cojones"

Dear Sir,

I first began my life at the LSE five years ago. In the meantime, I had also spent one year studying in an American university. Every major American tertiary education institution has a 24-hour library available to students as a resource of last resort throughout the school year.

It took me four years to realize the dream of a 24-hour library for the LSE. People from the Students' Union fought hard and joined our campaign. We succeeded. Yet after a one-year trial, the School wants to roll back this success. I call on the Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, the General Secretary, and the rest of the Executive Committee to have some 'cojones' and continue to push for longer hours and a return to 24-hour service!

The LSE is a world class

school. It is time we demanded better.

Azan Marwah

"pocket blackberry"

Dear Sir,

Despite what my seniors told me about being a fresher at the LSE, I did not feel lost. Not in the sense that I could not find my way around, or felt lonely, or did not know what to do. I just found less variety than I thought I might find.

Instead, I felt squeezed in between wannabe revolutionaries and career-orientated, neo-liberal conservatives. Amnesty International versus Accounting. The Green Party against the German Society. People and Planet or Property Investment.

I am indeed young and less informed, so perhaps I am not able to distinguish between the political poles properly just yet. Not until I get brainwashed. Brainwashed at the LSE, the university in London, in Britain, in the world – as I've been told dozens of times. This is the first phase of brainwashing. That we are at a "better" university. Not only academically excellent, but also possessing a great history of student activism and boasting the most active students' union in the country. So I have been told.

I am curious as to what the second phase of brainwashing is going to be like.

It does not seem that we are here to learn how to

think for ourselves and challenge conventional wisdom. Not to question ourselves or the world around us, and more importantly, the 'higher authorities' – the academics and also, older, somehow more experienced, students.

Otherwise we would have been told, not simply to believe what we are told, but to question it, right off the bat. To think independently and enlighten ourselves.

Even though I do not know what the next stage of collective brainwashing will be, I feel afraid.

I am fearful of getting brainwashed. 'Green-washed'. 'Fair-washed'. I am afraid that I might end up taking on the opinions of others, just to make it easier for me to become enthusiastic about the readings, the learning, the exam preparations.

Nevertheless, I think that as a student at the LSE, I am mostly afraid of forgetting about the broader picture. Forgetting about those thousands of people who are starving to death, people displaced by war, environmental degradation or simply because they exercised their denied rights to freedom of speech. Forgetting about our over-consumption. Well, the list is endless.

I fear that I will forget about the injustice of my studying at this university without taking any effort towards making a difference. Beside making noble talk. And participating in cute little campaigns that do not affect the status quo.

Viva la Reformism, ermm, revolution, I meant social change.

Justus Rollin



## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

c&amp;a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

## Look back to the future



Rochelle Burgess

“Today is the first day of the rest of your life.”

I've heard the phrase above thrown around quite a bit while travelling along this path to the ripe old age of 25. It would be a bold-faced lie to say that I believe such a cathartic moment could happen to any of us; that one day, during a random walk to a random destination, we might find ourselves stopping dead

*Seizing the day doesn't mean forsaking your past. Being appreciative of prior trials and tribulations will give more meaning to your life today.*

in our tracks, clutching at the nameless ache deep in our chests and sighing “This is it. This is the (insert that cheesy sentiment here...I just couldn't bear to write it).”

In reality, there are worse things to be bothered by in our world. And to be truthful, this statement doesn't annoy me as much as many others. I only bring it up because this week, I turned into a hypocrite. That very moment that I had so fer-

vently believed would never, ever happen, did. While walking across Tower Bridge to meet a friend, I stopped and, embarrassingly, clutched my chest and said, “This is the beginning of the rest of my life...my real life.”

It was at the end of my first day in a new country, a week before starting my dream masters degree programme at my dream school; it was a dream that had actually come true.

But, as with most extreme emotions, its corollary swiftly followed, and my ingrained Catholic guilt began to surface. My sheer happiness to be standing on the brink of what will surely be the beginning of fulfilling my life's purpose also implies that I was happy to leave the 'life' that had brought me this far behind.

On the heels of that guilt followed a fear that slowly trickled into the tiny crevices of my mind, bringing with it a jarring sense of inadequacy and the sinking feeling that the LSE had made a HUGE mistake. My mind was instantly flooded with images of returning to my room to find everything packed up on the door step, with a note reading something along the lines of “Oops, our bad. Seems we've made a slight error. Best of luck in your future endeavors.”

Was I really ready to accept that my life up to that point was not real and merely filler? No more than a collection of random moments, musings and memories that served to bring me to a point where I could say I finally know why I am on this earth? (How awful that my moment happened while walking to a tube station). And still, a more terrifying concept: was I willing to

give up my old life's happiness (or, to be truthful, its comfortable mediocrity) simply to find out that my fear was well-warranted, and I did *not* belong here with some of the world's brightest minds?

It's a bleak way to look at



Try to remember that just because you are looking forward doesn't mean that the things behind you cease to exist

things, and considering that our world is bleak enough without the addition of an overactive psyche to the mix, I believe that I have found a much more appropriate way of managing the business of branching out and charting a path that is all one's own.

When one seeks out change, it is often because we

are working towards something, or more often than not, running away from something. We are attempting to modify our existence because something just doesn't jive; your job was boring and served no real purpose, your mother drove you so crazy that the idea of attending a university where she could continually monitor your activities was unfathomable. For whatever reason, you filled out an application form and signed up for the task of doing something new - something *really* new.

So I challenge all who happen to be reading this drivel that we should, as my old coach used to say “Man up ladies (or gentlemen)”. Tell the fear to shove it. Relish in the fact that the life behind you, filled with tears, laughter, and all the other emotions that make this existence of ours worthwhile, is exactly what brought you to a place where you are able to clutch your chest in existential moments like these.

Try to remember that just because you are looking forward doesn't mean that the things behind you cease to exist. We need to remember that in this life you don't really leave anything behind, and nothing is actually filler. Those moments are simply the ingredients to make you the person you are. As for the things yet to come, well those are the exciting stuff isn't it? So we might as well dig in our heels and hang on for dear life, after all, I'm pretty sure that the tuition fees are non-refundable.



## Sympathy for the agnostic



Anjali Raval

*For some people, the lofty pedestal upon which religious matters stand is an anomaly in an open political atmosphere.*

Halfway through Richard Dawkins' “The God Delusion”, I begin to realise how susceptible I am to brain-washing. The material might not be dangerous in itself but the ideas are definitely fundamentalist.

Thinking back, I also remember how attractive Dan Brown's “Da Vinci Code” was. Pleasantly engrossed in the story, I failed to notice the gaping holes that represent the line, however thin, between fact and fiction. However, I feel that Dawkins in particular makes a very fair point that sparks an interesting debate, namely: do we attribute undeserved respect to the notion of religion?

A quote from an impromptu speech by Douglas Adams struck me.

“Religion...has certain ideas at the heart of it which we call sacred or holy or whatever. What it means is ‘Here is an idea or a notion that you're not allowed to say anything bad about; you're just not. Why not? - because you're not!’”

Personally, I am agnostic and I love the diversity of religions and faiths around the world. I do not mean to offend, but I fail to understand why religion carries a uniquely elevated sensitivity and why we should be forced to tread with

extra care when discussing it.

Why is there, as Dawkins says, “a widespread assumption...that religious faith is especially vulnerable to offence and should be protected by an abnormally thick wall of respect, in a different class from the respect that any human being should pay to any other”? If we are free to argue about world issues such as politics, economics and current affairs without causing too much aggravation, why can't we do the same over the topic of religion? In rational terms, there is no reason whatsoever.

In September 2005, the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* published twelve cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. Five months later, the hurt and offence caused came to an explosive head when demonstrators in Pakistan and Indonesia burned Danish flags and made hysterical demands to the Danish government to apologise. Norwegian, German, French and even American newspapers reprinted the cartoons in gestures of solidarity, but this instead generated a devastating backlash. Embassies and consulates were attacked, churches set aflame and Westerners, especially Danish citizens, physi-

cally threatened. Furthermore, a bounty of \$1 million was placed on the head of ‘the Danish cartoonist’ by a Pakistani imam.



I fail to understand why religion carries a uniquely elevated sensitivity and why we should be forced to tread with extra care when discussing it

As much as I want to feel sympathetic for those offended by the cartoons, I can't help but feel that their reaction was disproportionate beyond belief. As unfunny and insensitive as those cartoons were, we must not forget the art of satire. Satirical pieces almost inevitably cause personal offence, but rarely have satirical works resulted in such profound and destructive outbursts. Where does the concept

of freedom of speech lie in relation to this? Is it not a fundamental right that we all possess, not only in theory but in practice, so long as it does not violate or impinge on the freedom of others?

On a lighter note, it does provide some relief, as well as restore my faith in mankind, so to speak, that novels like Brown's “The Da Vinci Code” and Philip Pullman's “His Dark Materials” are such best

sellers questioning some fundamental aspects of one of the largest and most influential religions in the world. Perhaps this is due to the innate curiosity in people, or the fact that the novels happen to be very well-written. Nevertheless, they do provide a medium through which we can question the unique deference we give to religion, and open up healthy channels of discussion and debate.

Don't get me wrong. Although I am blissfully agnostic and perhaps somewhat apathetically neutral on the idea of religion in general, I do respect entirely the religious beliefs of others. But I ask only that my right and the right of others to question those beliefs be respected, for religious fundamentalism is the irrational and potentially violent smear on an otherwise altogether rational species.





This week in **FEATURES**

Palestinian Health Care **12-13**



**15** Interview:  
From LSE to MP

Radical Left



Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

**W**ill UN envoy to Burma Ibrahim Gambari broker historic talks between the Junta leader General Than Shwe and arrested democracy activist Aung San Suu Ky? Will a deal be struck between former Pakistan PM Benazir Bhutto and the country's president General Pervez Musharraf? Is Cameron the comeback kid or is Brown the more substantial alternative in the general election? Elites, elites, elites! The enormous condescension of the mainstream media towards ordinary people makes it sound like there is no point in our getting involved. But when the subaltern classes are in dramatic struggles on their own behalf, and sacrifice, courage and misfortune are not uncommon, we are met by a stern and deliberate silence.

Such is the moving story of an illegal movement that has for the last three years been challenging a reliable friend of the US and Israel: the regime of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. Just in the last few weeks, 27,000 textile workers occupied their massive plant in Ghazl al-Mahalla, north of Cairo. This comes on the back of apparent high growth rates in Egypt – growth rates accompanied by endemic corruption, galloping inflation and stagnant salaries. Egyptian society is typical of the model devised to understand Russian development at the start of the twentieth century: 'the law of combined and uneven development'. Put simply, this means that when periphery countries enter the world economy, the application of the most advanced technologies creates islands of highly developed productive complexes in the midst of socio-economic stagnation. Needless to say, this is a highly explosive combination that has been accompanied by conflict in countries as diverse as South Africa, Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, Mexico and Nepal. A small but relatively sophisticated and powerful working class links up with indigenous movements of the dispossessed to challenge for state power.

This has been the pattern in Egypt. According to academic Joel Beinin and journalist Hossam el-Hamalawy, privatisation started when Egypt began to lag behind its competitors. By 2000, 58 percent was privately run as opposed to 8 percent of the industry in 1992. Workers in the private sector work 12-hour instead of 8-hour shifts and earn less for comparable work. The supply of guaranteed health insurance and other social benefits is honoured more in the breach than the observance. Strikes are technically legal but only if supported by the leadership of the pliant General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions. Seeing as workers' struggles are usually wild-cat actions, they have been deemed illegal and ruthlessly repressed. Still, this has failed to stop an escalation of strike action from 2005 to 2007.

Workers at the state-owned Ghazl al-Mahalla textile plant demanded the government pay a promised bonus amounting to 150 days' pay. The Egyptian regime quickly arrested five militant workers from the factory. Unfortunately for Mubarak and his cronies, it was not the case that a few agitators had manipulated an amorphous and unconscious mass. Within a week, the prisoners had been released, a bonus worth 130 days' pay was delivered, improved transport to work was promised and the strike had given renewed impetus to the wider movement. A strike and occupation in Kafr al-Dawwar near Alexandria, involving 12,000 textile workers, heralded a new strike wave that united postal and transport workers and lecturers across the country. Calls are intensifying for economic issues to be inseparable from political ones, which is only natural under an exploitative and repressive dictatorship.

Egyptian workers are pointing to increasing profits and production while they suffer. Egyptian workers with relatively good conditions are leading workers under more precarious and harsh conditions – not vice versa. Finally, Egyptian workers are not waiting for Western deliverance or the support of 'B-52 liberals' like Christopher Hitchens who extol George Bush for his harsh tone towards Belarus, Syria, Iran, North Korea, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Cuba, and call for boycotts of China's Olympics. Egyptian workers know their rulers are in bed with imperialism. Neither are they turning to populist leaders or civil society elites for leadership in these times of conflict with capital and the state. They are showing they are their own liberators.

thebeaver.features@lse.ac.uk

Notes on Nothing

**W**e may have set a record this year. *The Beaver* has only just managed to squeeze out one issue from between the bloody thighs of E204, and we've been accused of bias already. I won't bore you with the details; as they frankly bore even me, but the bigger issue is important. As Editors we routinely commission articles, discard submitted content, and fiddle around with people's words. Surely, not only must we subconsciously favour one side or another, but also connive and calculate to make sure that the oppressed cannot have their say?

Well, let me give you an insider's view of the paper production process. We race from week to week in a hurricane of emails, losing important bits of paper, missing lectures and eating vast amounts of junk food. I barely remember my political opinions, as I spend all week reading other people's. I find myself convinced to switch allegiance with every article that comes in. The Rupert Murdoch of the world can employ enough staff, with working computers, and intact desks to concoct Machiavellian plans to sway the British voters one way or another. Me, I'm picking hummus out my hair and trying to remember which bus I left my sex life on.

But in the media, in general, bias can be more insidious and contrived than *The Beaver's* occasional slip-ups. Coverage of strikes, for example, nearly always involves 'Chaos for Commuters' suggesting that the plight of the workers is almost unmentionable. The poor commuter is affected by every kind of strike; from postal workers to sewage engineers. A visitor to this country would assume the London Tube runs on a combination of used stamps and shit. Which may be true. This fetishising of 'the commuter' is also a peculiarly London-centric approach. Strange as it may seem, in the UK, it is only in London that people choose to live on rafts bobbing round the flood barriers, or make the move to an outer ring of Saturn (because they'd like a garden now) and then complain about their commute. Here's a head's up to new Londoners – if you move four hours away from university/work, it'll take you four hours to get in. Get over it.

And, on the housing shortage, 1,800 acres of Essex farmland is going to be deliberately flooded by scientists (flood scientists?) to provide a habitat for spoonbills and black-winged stilts. What a plan – it's going to bring in some birds, push up land prices in Essex even further, and has already introduced us to the world of flood science. Amazing.

Apology and correction

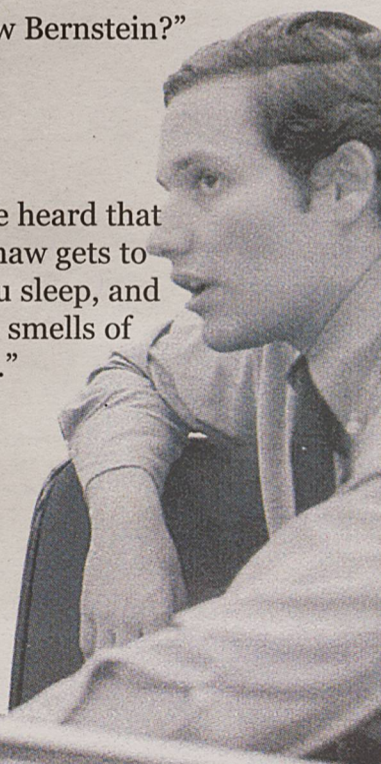
Last week's article, *The United States of Aggression*, should have been credited to Chris Myall.

"Well, Woodward, I've heard *The Beaver* Features team are hiring..."



"What now Bernstein?"

"Nah, I've heard that Auntie Shaw gets to watch you sleep, and the office smells of pumpkin."



Right Reaction

Annette Pacey



**E**mbarking on a course of study at LSE can be a daunting experience. Besides the academic challenges, those of us new to the school quickly discover there is no simple or direct way to get where you want to go. Somehow wandering lost through corridors, or searching for a bridge out of the Old Building which doesn't seem to exist seems an appropriate start to an academic year in which there will be endless possibilities, but no easy solutions.

And so it is on the political scene, both domestically and internationally. If left wing arguments are falling out of fashion it is because they tend to cast issues in black and white and imply they could be easily solved if only the evil capitalists and greed-driven politicians could be prevented from executing their diabolical plans. Reality though, is frustratingly complex.

Take the Iraq war, a catastrophic failure by the international system and an appalling tragedy for millions of Iraqis. What is the Leftist answer to this dire situation? Troops out now: problem solved. If only it were so simple, but sadly it is not. The brutal truth is that the most likely result of an immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iraq would be a bloody and protracted civil war which, as difficult as it may be to imagine, would be even worse for Iraqis than the current mess. That's not to argue the troops should have been there in the first place, or that they should stay forever. But giving in, as the radical left does, to the tempting but flawed idea that there is a simple solution to such a complex problem is just woolly thinking. When all the options on the table are unpalatable, the best you can do is choose the one that works. Hardly ideal, but that's reality.

Here in Britain there is such a small difference between the two main parties' approach to traditionally divisive issues, such as the provision of public services, that the distinction between right and left no longer seems relevant. After ten years in government the marginalised left in the Labour party still don't seem to have understood that dropping their outdated agenda is what made Labour electable. Gordon Brown would be mad to go back on the public sector reforms started under Tony Blair and he is well aware that he would be unlikely to win an election if he did. His decision to not call an election demonstrates that Labour are running scared from a newly-strengthened Tory Party, under the most charismatic leader since Thatcher.

What the left don't understand is that if public services like the NHS cannot be made affordable then they are unlikely to survive in the long term. The choice we face is make them work or lose them altogether. Nurses do a difficult job and they deserve to be well paid, but so do millions of ordinary workers in the private sector whose employers would laugh at the suggestion of an annual pay rise linked to inflation, let alone a pension plan. Not everyone in the private sector is a stockbroker with a six-figure salary. The suggestion that public sector workers are being made to suffer in order to finance foreign wars is ludicrous. The reality is that ordinary workers in the private sector are being held to ransom by postal workers and tube drivers who go out on strike for pay and conditions which the majority can only dream of. Is it any wonder that recent industrial action has been so deeply unpopular with the general public?

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that the radical left has been reduced to fringe parties and single issue campaigns. What ordinary people want now is prosperity, and what is wrong with that? What is so immoral about having some aspirations and wanting to do well in life? Globalisation is a double edged sword: The unprecedented wealth that an open economy has brought to Britain has come at the price of a much more flexible labour market – which translates into less job security for workers. The majority have realised that it is a price worth paying. That is why Labour got elected the moment they ditched the loony left, and why Gordon Brown won't be fooled into reversing the progress of the last ten years.

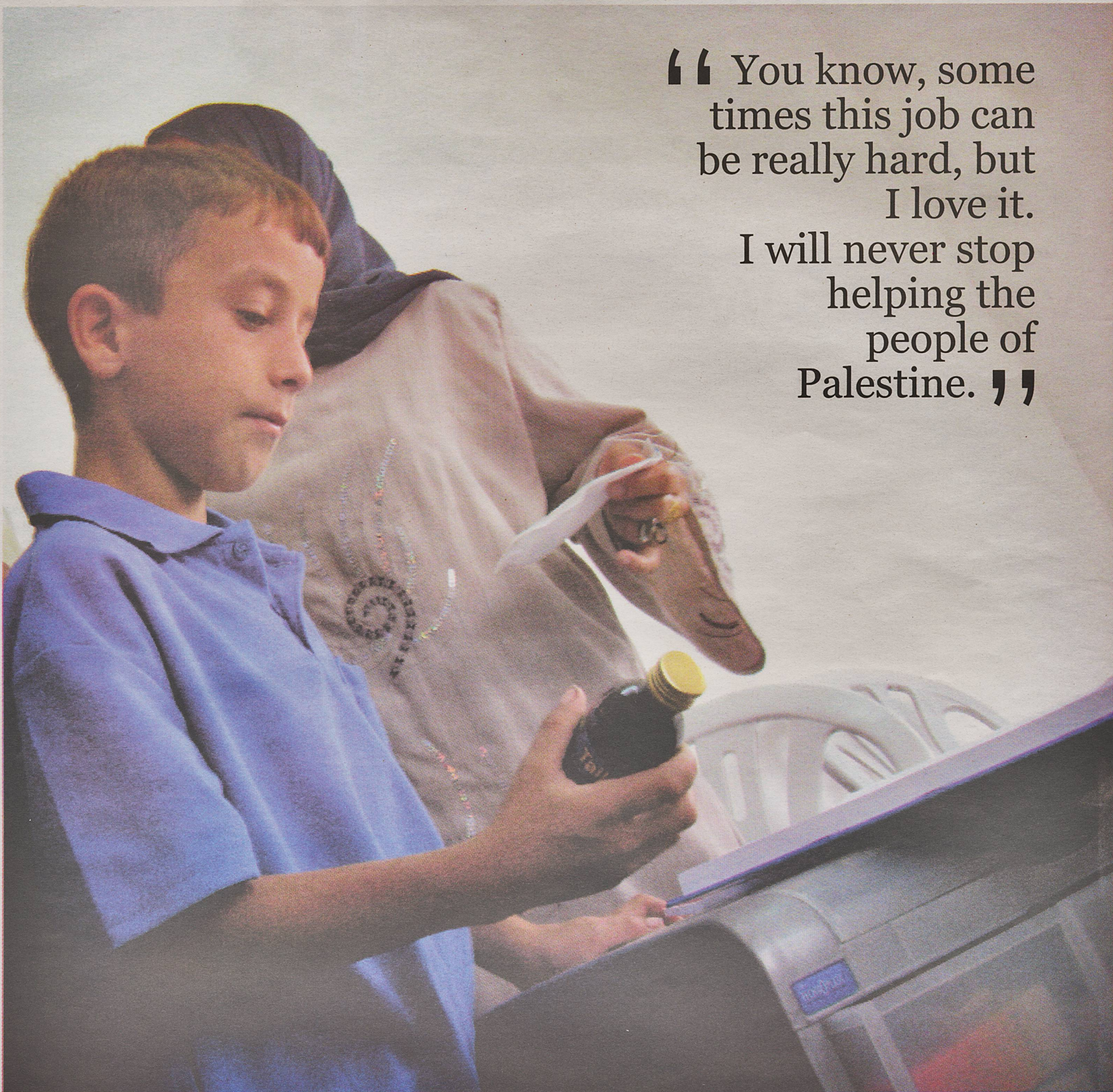
We are all at LSE to challenge our old certainties and embrace new ideas. The political challenges of our age, domestic and international, certainly demand radical thinking. But the tired old arguments of the radical left are just no longer up to the job.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Politics Sub-Editor
- Society Sub-Editor
- Business & Law Sub-Editor
- Political Correspondents
- Features' Editor

We are also always looking for new regular writers, just send an email to thebeaver.features@lse.ac.uk to sign up to our mailing list.





“ You know, some times this job can be really hard, but I love it. I will never stop helping the people of Palestine. ”

Photographs: [Ramsey Ben-Achour](#)

After packing the ambulance with medical equipment and bags full of prescription medicine, Dr. Jaweel, Dr. Rami and their nurse, Maysa Youseff, of the Palestine Medical Relief Society (PMRS) prepare themselves for the long day ahead.

If today is business as usual, it will be full of organised chaos. Screaming children will hide behind their mothers' legs, old men will stubbornly complain that they do not like the taste of their medicine, and a poor village will be provided with desperately needed medical relief.

Palestine is a place that is teeming with contradictions. In Israel, literally right next door, Israeli citizens have access to some of the most sophisticated medical care in the world.

The Israeli Ministry of Health runs over 480 medical centres, and there is approximately one doctor for every 200 people. This is one of the highest rates in the world. It is also mandatory that every Israeli citizen has access to a "sick fund", which covers their costs of medical treatment no matter how poor they are.

But for hundreds of thousands of poor Palestinian vil-

lagers, life is a struggle.

According to the United Na-

tinian refugees, 46% of all Palestinians do not have enough food

*While in 2006 the Palestinian Authority received a little over 1 billion dollars in foreign aid, the money has not reached the average Palestinian.*

tions Relief Works Agency (UNRWA), a specialised branch of the United Nations (UN) established specifically for Pales-

to meet their basic needs, let alone the ability to afford medical care.

"The biggest problem the vil-

lages face today is poverty. "The people have illnesses that are curable, but they just need access to medical care," Dr. Rami stated as he drove the ambulance packed full of its precious cargo down a small, winding gravel road.

There are only six major hospitals in the entire West Bank, and three are located in East Jerusalem. Because the Israeli wall, deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2004, severs East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, Palestinians in need of specialized medical treatment are at the mercy of the Israeli military.

According to a report published by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, between 2000 and 2005, over 129 Palestinians died in ambulances waiting at checkpoints, while 67 women gave birth and 36 newborn babies died, all while waiting at checkpoints. Moreover, 1,905 ambulances were not allowed through at all.

The international community and Palestinian government have all but ignored this rising trend. While in 2006 the Palestinian Authority (PA) received a little over \$1 billion dollars in foreign aid, the money has not reached the average Palestinian.









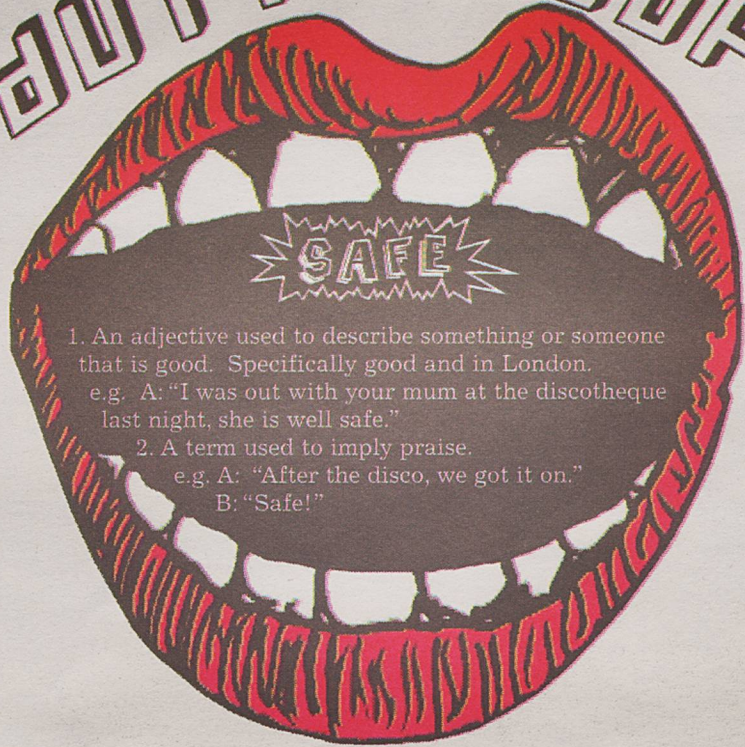


I WONT BE IN YOUR CLASS TODAY AS I HAVE TO GO TO MY WORK I AM BEHIND ON THE PAYMENTS FOR MY CAR. I HAD TO BUY A CAR TO GET TO MY WORK, SO I COULD GET SOME MONEY TO PAY FOR MY CAR. OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T DRIVE SO I NEEDED A DRIVER ALSO. THIS LED ME INTO ARMED ROBBERY AND RENT BOYING. SO IF I DON'T GET THAT COURSEWORK IN I'M PROBABLY IN PRISON OR DEAD KTHNXBYE.

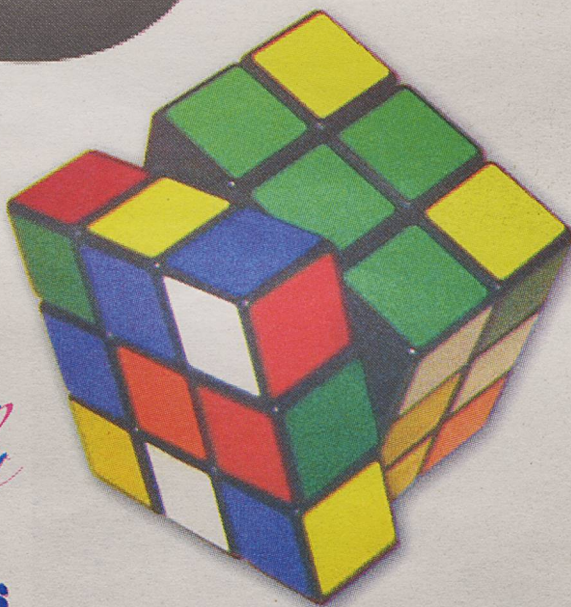
Excuse Us:

PARV

DUTTY MOUTH



1. An adjective used to describe something or someone that is good. Specifically good and in London.  
e.g. A: "I was out with your mum at the discotheque last night, she is well safe."
2. A term used to imply praise.  
e.g. A: "After the disco, we got it on."  
B: "Safe!"



STUDY'S LITTLE HELPER

Whilst apocryphal tales abound of speed-use and its unintended effects in exams (the candidate writing their name a thousand times, or drawing a smudged fish and believing it to be a blazingly profound answer to some enduring question) taking speed to aid study is a time-honoured tradition and one that deserves scrutiny. It certainly deserves some credit. Speed aids concentration to a monumental degree. On speed you never think of wandering. Blink and you'll realise you've been studying a single text for the best part of a year, your course is over, but at least you are the world expert in Basic Stats 101: a Beginner's Guide. It also aids the retention of information, things are all sparkly and memorable. The down-side is total disappearance of appetite, general horrible ill-health, and a crash disproportionate to the benefit. If the ride is equivalent to a bike ride, the crash is equivalent to a head-on brick wall mashing incident involving a Ferrari with jet-boosters.

3.9



Ms. Rubella Valve reviews pörn

Holy prostitute, pale internet courtesan, millionaire heiress, slack-jawed socialite, Paris Hilton is many things, none of which can't be said to boil down to money, sex or both. After making herself famous with the (allegedly intentional) video release of a series of magnificently unerotic set-pieces filmed in her father's hotel rooms, she returned a little later with the Paris Exposed set, a less explicit, more human view of Paris. As the website would have us believe, these clips were left in a camera that Paris had in storage. When she failed to pay the rent on the facility her property was legally appropriated, and lo and behold, some sex clips worth potential millions were in the hands of some rent-a-cupboard company and duly released onto the internet. This sounds horribly unlikely, but really, who cares. Who cares about Paris Hilton either, the most unerotic clothes horse since the remains of Shergar were dug up, stuffed, and dressed in latex nazi uniform for an equine death-fetish night. The stupidest creature in existence since Dobbin the coat hanger, my only friend in primary school, was melted down for the war effort. The most vacuous exhibitionist since David Blaine decided to hang his own entrails from the Eiffel tower and died saying 'look at me' through his attention-seeking blood stained lips. Well these clips may give you cause to think again. The Paris presented to us is not the slack-jawed, sloppy-eyed idiot we have come to know and despise. This Paris displays a beguiling modesty, her propriety is neither coquettish nor sluttish, it is playful and intelligent. Her eyes are physically level and betray a level intelligence. I have used the word intelligent twice in a column about Paris Hilton, I never thought I would, but I have, and I feel just in doing so. Whilst we get the Paris who has negotiated a ravenous and hostile press, launched her own ventures and managed her own image, we don't get much sexy action. Her boyfriend sort of lolls all over her and tries to pull off her knickers a lot but to no avail. He is handsome, well-built and idiotic, reminding me too much of Shaggy from Scooby doo to be erotic. She is lively, pretty and intelligent. That's three times. Roll on Paris the intellectual years; exposed.

### MR. WLEFT'S TOP RECIPE

Whaddup y'all, Mr Wleft from the campus food-slot here. Hope you crazy kids have made it through the drunken debauchery that is freshers week. I've never been a big fan of vodka redbulls, I much prefer szladsik which we drink in my home country. It is a full-bodied, acidic liquer that has been fermented in a goat's bladder. It's delish! Since it's banned here in the UK (and practically every other country) I've had to be inventive and make my own substitute, which I now share with you! First you need ten parts vodka to one part Domestos to nine parts Mentoes. Simmer the mixture over low heat and add ten spoons of sugar when it has reduced by a third. Then, add a box of red wine. I recommend a cheap chianti! Pour the concoction into an old boot, and leave it in a dark room. Check on it every seven days - if there's a thick of mould on the surface, you're doing fine! Four months of fermentation should do the trick. Pour yourself a mug and have 999 on standby. Cheers, you crazy f\*\*ckers!





# OAKENFOLD

"I never said that. That's the last thing I'd want to do. Fuckin' Ell!"

Paul Oakenfold reacted with amusement and seemingly genuine shock when I mentioned a rumour that I'd read online about him planning to sing on his new tracks.

"I don't even sing in the shower that's how bad I am. That's the last thing I'd want to do. Fuckin' Ell!" Well, I suppose that's what you get for using Wikipedia for research. Let this be a lesson to us all.

We were sat in the Ascott Hotel, an exclusive Mayfair hotel just off Hyde Park. It is not one of the grander, showier affairs on the park itself, but its discreet entrance indicates an understated elegance. We were in the basement, in a conference room where Oakenfold had spent the day answering questions, apparently mostly about the Big Brother theme - the only cultural context within which Middle England understands him. His assistant left us alone, and despite the size of the room we squeezed ourselves into two chairs close together at one end of the mahogany conference table.

He asked me whether I wanted a cup of coffee, and indicated a pot on the far side of the room. Without thinking I said 'yes', and a moment of awkwardness followed. I wanted a drink, but I couldn't get to the coffee without squeezing uncomfortably past him. Either I asked a man who's sold over five million albums, without including his countless remix sales, to go and get me a drink, or I stick my ass in his face. Noticing my hesitation, Oakenfold rose to get me my coffee, apparently without thinking anything of it. Thank fuck for that, I thought, but then realised I'd have to say something to break the silence being waited on became too weird. "Sorry to come at the end of a day of interviews - I'll try and think of something original to talk about." He flashed a wide grin back at me from across the room. "Good Luck!" he chuckled, with the air of a man who has been dealing with the attention of journalists for twenty years.

In that time he's gone from playing tiny provincial clubs to selling out the Hollywood Bowl. But now, strangely enough, he's going back. "I'm really looking forward to the tour. I left the UK five years ago, so it's been a long time. I'm excited to be going to the likes of Swansea or Hull, and playing small venues in Manchester."

It was in Manchester, of course, in which Oakenfold first made his name producing the Happy Monday's seminal 'Pills 'n' Thrills and Bellyaches.' I ask him whether this tour feels like a homecoming. "It doesn't at the moment, but it will. I've got bunches of friends all over the country, so I'll be meeting up with them, going to dinner - I just spoke to a friend from Liverpool who tells me they're tearing up the city at the moment - road works and that. You always notice the differences. I haven't played in some of these places for 10 years."

By his own admission, Oakenfold is not the sort of person to spend time looking back. He describes his biography, on which he collaborated with Richard Norris, as a "long process." "I've always thought the past's the past and you can't change it so let's move on.

I've never kept a diary. But people are interested. The question I get asked most is 'How do you do it?' So the book tries to answer that. I went back and spoke to people, and I think we've built up a pretty good timeline of how it all happened. Maybe it's not the specific day when I did this or that, but its close enough."

Even without his music, Oakenfold has a presence which fills the room. His tattooed forearms are in perpetual motion, and he has an expansive grin, especially when he's talking about having a point to prove on the forthcoming tour. "I love it. I'm playing to a whole new generation of kids who've never seen me DJ. They maybe know the name, but they've never heard me play so it's like 'Who the fuck are you?' I enjoy that challenge."

You get the impression that it is also an opportunity for Oakenfold to prove to himself that he's still got what it takes. More than anything he hates the idea that living in LA, where he moved when he scored *Swordfish*, might have taken his edge off. "DJing isn't my main job any more. I'm living in Hollywood - which is the last place I thought I'd be. I never thought I'd move to the States. But I was offered the chance to score a film and I thought, 'A door's opened here, and if I don't take this opportunity I'll regret it for my whole life."

*"You don't have to take drugs to listen to dance music and you don't have to listen to dance music to take drugs."*

As well as the DJing, the film scores and the remixing, Oakenfold has produced two of his own studio albums. His most recent album, last year's 'A Lively Mind' featured vocals from the likes of Brittany Murphy and Pharrel Williams, but his debut, 2002's 'Bunkka', featured an even more eclectic mix of guest vocalists, ranging from Perry Farrell to Ice Cube. *Crazy Town's Shifty Shellshock* featured on the single 'Starry Eyed Surprise', which was omnipresent upon its release, but surely the strangest collaboration was on the track 'Nixon's Spirit', featuring the excess-scarred growl of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson. How on earth did that come about? "Well, I was a big fan of Hunter's work, so I approached him and said 'Look, I know you've never done anything like this before, but I can introduce you to a whole different demographic to the people who read your books.' I got the idea from the fact that three or four different clubs were using his quotes on flyers at the time. He agreed to it and so we got together for a couple of nights, two sessions of six hours. We became friends, we drank a few beers

and partied. But I learnt a lot. I learnt a lot about American History. And the idea for 'Nixon's Spirit' came from talking about growing up. The younger you are the stronger your dreams are. And that's where that twisted lyric came from. The fact that we had both grown up with these dreams and that we were both living them. And with Hunter you were never going to get a straight message from him, a 'Believe in yourself and you can achieve your dreams', but we wanted to do something that would connect with young people, because it was dance music, and that would say that if you wanted to be a fireman or whatever then you could be. And that's where Nixon's Spirit came from."

At this point I asked Oakenfold about the connection between drugs and dance music. Moving from Hunter Thompson to recreational drugs seemed to me like a natural segue, but Oakenfold curled up defensively in his chair, sliding a foot underneath his thigh, and that illuminating smile switched off. I feel I have stepped onto a subject that he is bored of discussing. "Drugs are society's problem, not dance music's. You don't have to take drugs to listen to dance music and you don't have to listen to dance music to take drugs. I think it's a shame if you associate the two, and its plain naïve to blame drugs on dance music."

What he is happy to associate with music is his love of travel. From the journeys to India which produced the 'Goa Mix', his 1994 set which was massively influential in the rise of trance, to his more recent sojourns in Ibiza, Oakenfold has always been adept at selecting the best of what the world's music scenes have to offer.

"If there's anything good, then share it. The whole idea is to share. That's what DJing is all about. But not just DJing; the internet, travel. I mean, I'm dyslexic, so I suffered at school. Everything I've learnt I've learnt by experience. It's about giving something back, smiling at people, opening doors for people and giving two pounds a month to charity. The society you're in is the whole world and you're a fool if you don't think you are. I used to believe, wrongly, that one person couldn't change the world. But I saw this television programme about a National Geographic photographer. He was off taking photos in Bumfuck somewhere, I dunno where he was, somewhere in Africa. But the government was oppressing it's people. This one guy took photos of what was happening, and they put these pictures on the cover of National Geographic. It brought all this awareness to the situation, and so the UN put pressure on the government and they stopped fucking with their people. One guy did that. One guy changed the world. So hopefully I can do my little bit. It's just laziness otherwise."

People used to think things weren't their problem, but times have changed. It is your problem."

Paul Oakenfold talked to Kevin Perry. *Paul Oakenfold: The Authorised Biography* is available now. *Paul Oakenfold: Greatest Hits and Remixes* will be released on October 22nd

Paul Oakenfold plays the London leg of his UK tour this Friday at Turnmills. **PartB has three pairs of tickets to give away.** To win, simply email [thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk) with the name of the club night that he will be playing at.



tuesday the ninth of october, two thousand and seven

five





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# CV BUILDER

**TIP:** If you have any academic awards and scholarships to impress your employer, state what they are and why you are a recipient.

Pick out the relevant modules and explain them

**Lillian Fisher**

23 Boswell St, London WC1 2BG  
Telephone: 020 786 3233 Email: l.fisher@lse.ac.uk

## EDUCATION

**BSc Economics, London School of Economics, Expected degree: 2.1**  
Modules include Macro, Micro, Principles of Finance, Econometrics.

**Greenham College**

A level: Mathematics - A, French - A, Economics - A, English Language - A

2005-2008

2003-2005

June - Aug 2006

You do not have to list every qualification but include those that are relevant. State your expected result if you have yet to graduate.

## Things that employers look for...

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Results orientated
- Self-starter
- Communication
- Leadership
- Commercial awareness

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Summer Analyst, Goldman Sachs**

- 10 week placement on the on sales and trading floors.

- It helped me improve my communication, presentation and teamwork skills.

- Produced a report that helped improve profit by 25%.

Use positive language and try and quantify your achievements. Mention your skills and how they may have improved.

You can also add any voluntary placements you had if you think they are relevant.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

**Organised Raising and Giving Week:**  
Successfully raised £5000 for RAG Week.

Responsible for sales, tickets and fundraising activities.

**Student Mentor:**

Took part in weekly mentoring sessions to help underprivileged GCSE students.

**President of the Money Society**

2007

2006-2007

2006-2007

2005-2006

Use this section to show the employer what you many have done outside your studies. Try and show the skills you have developed as a result.

## Your CV should include:

- Personal details
- Education
- Employment history
- Awards and prizes
- Key Skills
- Extra Curricular Activities
- References

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

French: fluent; Spanish: conversational

This section will be important depending on the position you are applying for.

References available on request

## THE GOLDEN RULES

1. Persuade by giving evidence
2. Space denotes importance
3. Develop a format that meets your needs
4. Avoid gaps
5. A general purpose CV is heading for the bin
6. Details convince!
7. Make it look good
8. Length matters!

**TIP:** You can make appointments to have your CV checked at the LSE Careers Service.

## CAREERS SEMINAR: How to write a winning CV

Learn how to write the perfect CV and covering letter in this hour long seminar hosted by a careers adviser. Find out what employers in all sectors look for in a CV and put your questions to an adviser.  
Date: 16 October  
Location: D602  
Booking: Opens 9th October at 17.00

The Careers Service has created a new service that allows you to build your own CV according to key criteria. When complete, we will post it online for selected employers to search. You will need to complete an online form to get started and remember to update your CV regularly. For more information go to [https://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/careersService/internal/Inside/CVs/CV\\_Builder.htm](https://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/careersService/internal/Inside/CVs/CV_Builder.htm).

## USEFUL RESOURCES

- Check out the following websites:
- **BBC Onelife** (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/onelife/>)
  - **Careers Group, University of London** (<http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk/output/Page67.asp>)
  - **Guardian CV Surgery** (<http://jobsadvice.guardian.co.uk/cv-surgery/0,,1176964,00.html>)
  - **Monster.co.uk**
  - **Prospects** (<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/>)
  - **CV Index Directory** (<http://www.cvindex.com/>)
  - **Bradley CVs** (<http://www.bradleycvs.demon.co.uk/>)

## Graduate Deadlines

Barclays Global Investors	Banking/Finance	14 Oct 2007
Goldman Sachs	Banking/Finance	19 Oct 2007
Fortis Investments	Banking/Finance	30 Oct 2007
Deutsche Bank	Banking/Finance	1 Nov 2007
UBS	Banking/Finance	4 Nov 2007

## Internship Deadlines

Banking/Finance	1 Nov 2007
Banking/Finance	16 Nov 2007
Banking/Finance	28 Dec 2007
Banking/Finance	30 Dec 2007
Banking/Finance	31 Dec 2007

Lehman	14 Oct 2007
Lazard	19 Oct 2007
Goldman Sachs	30 Oct 2007
Credit Suisse	1 Nov 2007
Merrill Lynch	4 Nov 2007



# Sun, sand and students

Sayuri Ganesarajah learnt a lot as a volunteer teacher with Learning Enterprises

This summer I taught in Bambous, Mauritius with the help of Learning Enterprises. This is a non-profit organisation run for and by students. Volunteers apply from all over the world and are selected to teach English abroad. The programme takes place every summer for between four to six weeks, during which each volunteer lives with a designated host family. The programme now extends to: China; Croatia; Egypt; Honduras; Hungary; Indonesia; Lithuania; Mauritius; Mexico; Panama; Poland; Romania; Siberia and Slovakia. It has attracted students from all over the world, including those from top universities like Harvard, Brown, Oxford and the LSE. In the summer of 2006, Learning Enterprises sent a record of nearly 100 volunteers to 13 countries in four continents.

My first day as a teacher was a daunting yet stimulating experience. Children between six and ten years old arrived in large numbers, all of them eager to learn English and have fun. They were excited to use materials they had never used before, read books they had never seen before and learn from two students who had travelled from places they had never been.

Throughout the five weeks we played games and organised interactive sessions. It was a great opportunity to be creative and use our knowledge to teach English in an effective and exciting way. As the news spread through the village, the classes in Bambous became more popular and we began teaching teenagers in the afternoons as well. Mauritius has a pass rate of only 30% in English Language at the GCSE-level equivalent. Although a full language cannot be taught perfectly in a small number of weeks, simple games can be played with the children, giv-

ing them the confidence and motivation to continue to learn English at school and work hard.

The sense of community in these villages is undeniable. The

and me the opportunity to practise my French on a daily basis.

What is remarkable about Learning Enterprises is that it has expanded so much in such a

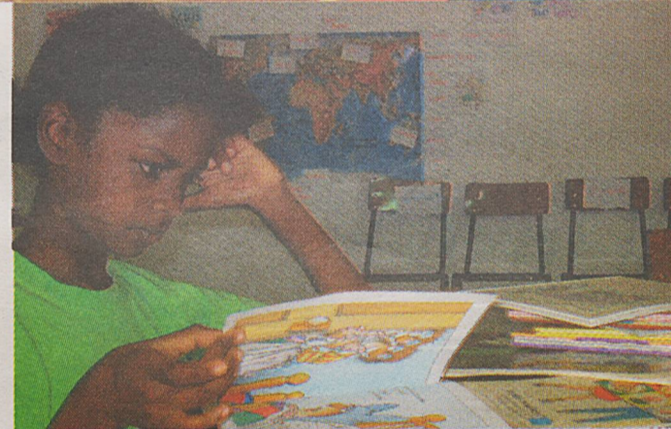
working in Hungary. Adam was born in Romania and emigrated to the United States when he was ten. The fall of the Iron Curtain allowed him to return to

20 years old, had become mayors of villages in Hungary. They began to discuss the idea of doing something to bring English language instruction to the newly opened Eastern Bloc. Adam returned to the United States with the idea of starting an exchange programme. This idea has developed into Learning Enterprises.



communities were extremely humble and were grateful for our time, the preparations we made every night for the following day's lessons, and our sense of adventure.

I lived with the Labeche family for five weeks. They were a hardworking, kind and welcoming family who were members of the Saint Savior Church. I had never lived with a host family before, but it was a very comfortable and insightful experience. While staying with them I travelled around the island and visited most tourist attractions. I also attended mass with them every week at the local church. It was an excellent way to truly experience the culture and traditions of Mauritius. Living with a host family gave them the opportunity to practise their English



short time. The idea for the organisation came in 1990 when Adam Tolnay (chairman and founder of Learning Enterprises) spent a term of his sophomore year at Harvard University

Eastern Europe and live in Hungary. During his semester abroad, Adam worked with Viktor Orban (later the Prime Minister of Hungary). He reunited with childhood friends who, at

“ Learning Enterprises is extremely unique as volunteers are required only to pay for their flight to the designated country ”

If your application to volunteer is successful and you complete the programme, you can apply for staff positions and be a part of its growth. Learning Enterprises is extremely unique as all volunteers are required only to pay for their flight to the designated country; there is no fee to teach. Many people benefit from Learning Enterprises: the staff, the volunteers, the host families and, of course, the children we teach and inspire. This year I am the LSE Campus Director for Learning Enterprises and I encourage you to apply. [www.learningenterprises.org](http://www.learningenterprises.org).

## news

### Graduates set to become workaholics

Graduates in or about to start work are set to become one in four of the British employees who never take a break.

A study of nearly 1,000 full time workers by Legal & General revealed there is a large number of people not giving themselves enough time away from their desks.

Together with 25% not taking breaks, seven percent do not even take a holiday and one in five claim to work too many hours. (Source: Milkround)

### Careers advice 'confusing'

Nearly half of young people think school careers advice is confusing and unhelpful, a poll suggests.

Around two thirds have not decided on a career by the time they leave school, says the YouGov poll for recruitment consultancy Harvey Nash. (Source BBC News)

## jobs

### The Guardian Student Media Manager

We need someone to visit shops within the university and make sure titles like The Guardian, Newsweek, The Economist, and Dazed & Confused are in place; manage promotional pushes; and advertise our titles to other students monthly. The position is part time, with flexible and varied hours. You will need to be enthusiastic and reliable, with access to a digital camera or camera phone.

Closing Date: 12 October  
Reference Number: 9978

### MTM London Business Analyst

We're looking to recruit Business Analysts with 0-2 years of industry, marketing and/or consulting experience. Applicants must have (or be expecting) a 2:1 or first class degree from a top university.

Closing Date: 7 November  
Reference Number: 9989

Visit the LSE Careers website for further details and other opportunities.

## events

### Management Consulting Careers Forum

Speakers from Deloitte, McKinsey, OC&C Strategy Consultants and PA Consulting will speak about their careers to date, give an overview of the variety of work in the sector, and share tips for successful job search.

Date: 16 October  
Booking: Not needed

### Applying to an Investment Bank Skills Session

The session will cover the skills and competencies that Morgan Stanley look for in their applicants.

Date: 24 October  
Booking: Opens 17 Oct 5pm

### LSE International Organisations' Day

Representatives from many of the leading multilateral institutions will be on campus.

Date: 27 October  
Booking: Opens 19 Oct 11am

## Are you looking to volunteer abroad?

Check out these helpful organisations:

**BUNAC** - offers a range of working holidays including a summer camp counselling programme in the USA and Canada, flexible work and travel programmes to Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Britain and South Africa and volunteering/teaching placements.

**Inter-Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE)** - Placements in over thirty countries. Projects range from HIV education and awareness in Kenya, to orphanages in India and arts projects in Ecuador.

**International Voluntary Service (IVS)** - IVS GB is a peace organisation working for the sustainable development of local and global communities throughout the world.

**Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)** - Voted top international development charity in the International Aid and Development category at the Charity Awards 2004.

## Want to work in the development sector?

Working in the development sector you are likely to perform activities such as:

- researching and writing project proposals and reports
- liaising with other non-governmental organisations
- developing relationships with partner organisations in the field
- lobbying for the needs of poor communities
- preparing and managing budgets

If you are thinking of working at a British NGO, it is a good idea to have a look at the BOND database (British Overseas NGOs for Development) on <http://www.bond.org.uk/database/activities/default.asp>. For a more global database try <http://www.devdir.org/>.

It is also useful to network by attending international development events. You can find event listings on OneWorld.net or on BOND.



## Volunteering at LSE

If you're thinking of volunteering locally, either during term-time or as a short placement, you can go to the LSE Volunteer Centre (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/volunteerCentre>) for an extensive list of opportunities. As well as getting great volunteering experience, you will also receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificate based on the number of hours you take part.

Here are some of the volunteer placements that are currently available:

### Music club leaders and assistants

The Baytree Centre is looking for 2 volunteers to design and plan a six week project for girls aged 8 to 11 on a theme of their choice within the subject of Music. Volunteers must have knowledge of music and ability to plan activities around this subject.

### Health Literature Researcher

Sue Ryder International is looking for a volunteer to undertake comprehensive literature searches and collection of published and unpublished sources in order to analyse statistical data to find out where the future healthcare need exists in neurological and palliative care in the target countries and relate research findings to the work of Sue Ryder International.

### Parliamentary Officer

Working from the PBI UK office for one or two days per week, the volunteer press and communication officer will help implement PBI UK's press and communication strategy. PBI is looking for someone who is able to commit at least six months to PBI. In return, they will provide expenses for travel, support and; training where possible.



# The beacon in multi-million dollar investment decisions

**Bain Capital** is one of the world's leading private equity funds, managing more than \$50 billion of leveraged buyout, public equity and credit funds. **Sankaty Advisors** is the debt focused hedge fund of Bain Capital and is one of the leading private managers of high yield debt obligations. With approximately \$22 billion in committed capital, Sankaty is a world-class team of over 70 investment professionals with extensive experience analysing and managing high yield investments.

Representatives from Sankaty Advisors will be available to speak with students about internships and full-time positions that will put your education to work on global, multi-million dollar investment decisions.

Please look for us in the coming months to learn more about the great opportunities we offer in London and Boston.

**Presentation & Drinks Reception:** Tuesday, 16th October, 6.30pm  
D702, Clement House, London, WC2A

**CV Deadline:** Friday, 26th October

**First Round Interviews:** Tuesday, 6th November

For more information, visit us at [www.sankaty.com](http://www.sankaty.com).



**Sankaty Advisors**  
a member of the BainCapital group

## Great minds don't always think alike.

At Goldman Sachs, we welcome people from more than 100 different countries, each with talents as unique as their goals. Here individuality is an asset. You can be, too.



Goldman Sachs is a leading global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of services worldwide to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments, non-profit organisations and high net worth individuals.

To find out more about our graduate and internship programmes, and to sign up for our presentation for LSE students taking place on 15 October, please visit [www.gs.com/careers](http://www.gs.com/careers).

### Application deadlines

Full Time: 19 October 2007  
Summer Internship: 28 December 2007  
Spring Programme: 31 January 2008

**Goldman Sachs**

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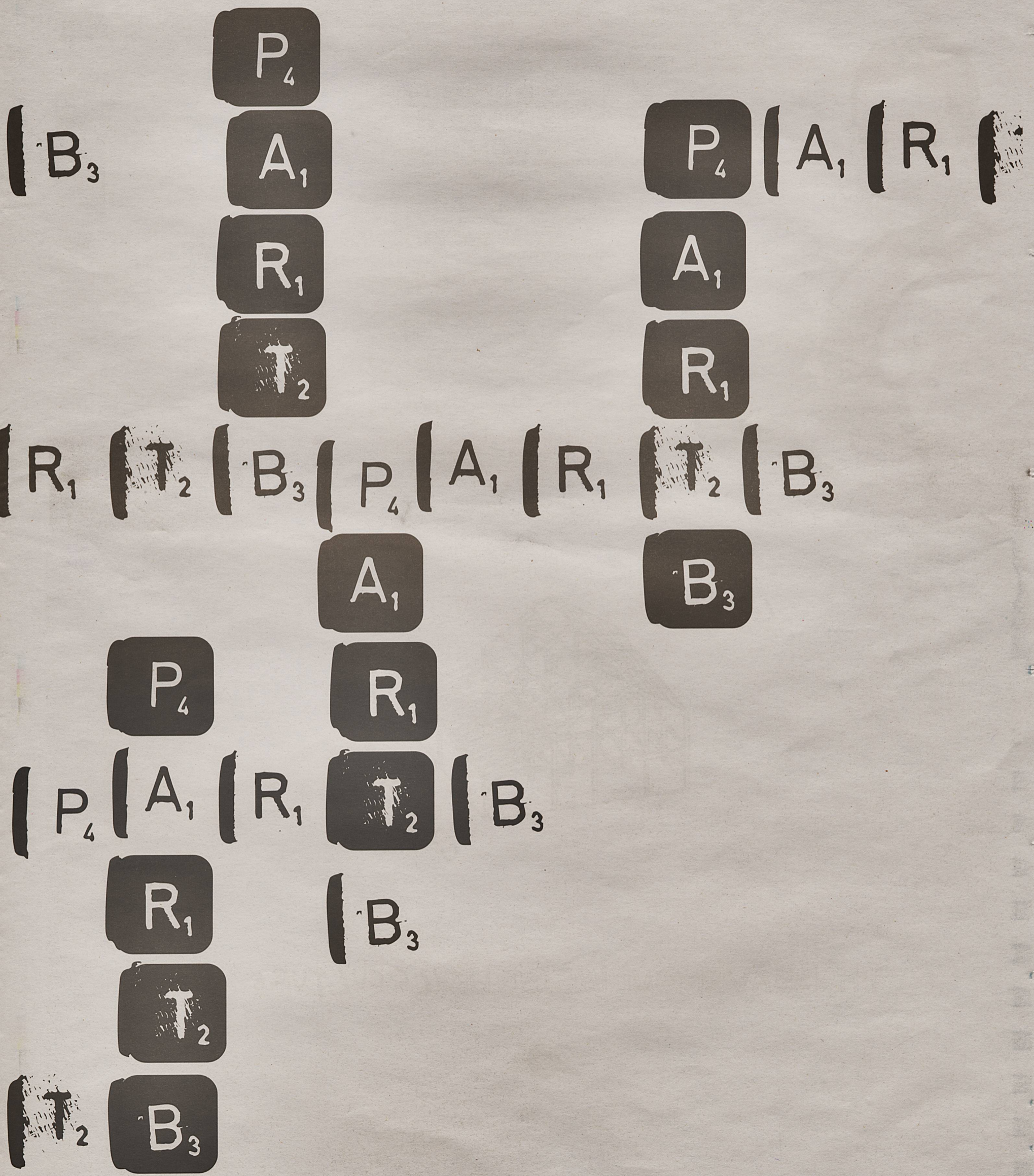
**NHS**

You could go to work,  
or you could come to life

Some careers are just about work. In the NHS, it's rather more important than that. The chances are that we're the very first organisation you ever used. For many, we'll also be the last. In between, we're here to help all of us, in sickness and in health. As you're reading this we're changing lives, keeping families together, giving people hope. In the past 7 days we have helped 1.4 million people at home, delivered 10,000 babies, treated 150,000 pairs of feet and mended 3,000 broken hearts. Other employers offer you attractive benefits packages, excellent starting salaries and exceptional training and development. We do too. But we also give you something that is totally unique at work. And that's life. Apply online at [www.come2life.nhs.uk/graduate](http://www.come2life.nhs.uk/graduate)

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# SOLDIER / NOVELIST FOR HIRE



It's raining outside, We're trying to call Chris Ryan, former SAS maniac and storm trooper to the stars, but he's not picking up. His answering machine message is a deadpan growl, unsmiling. This is the man who attacked two Armoured Personnel Carriers unaided, this is the man who walked 200 miles to escape Iraq in the first Gulf War. Certainly his mythology is built around being an Action Man. Yet this is also the man who writes decidedly anti-heroic books, who actively seeks to explode the myth of soldier as action-man, who offers a reflexive and considered alternative to the mainstream blockbuster type of his genre. He talks quickly and gruffly, no elaboration.

'As a young person my goal was always to join the military, and join the SAS. But once you've been to war and had to do what soldiers are called upon to do, that

is, kill people, things tend to

change. In my 30s I began doubting my commitment. I spent my last

two years selecting people to make it through to the division and of the eight I chose, five are already dead.

'Usually the regiment (SAS) is only called in to result in violence - we are not negotiators. We're brought in when dialogue stops, as a last resort.'

'Doubt never enters the mind. When I was there, I did my duty. But after the Gulf, and doing some service in Africa and Asia, I felt the time was right to leave, and once I felt that, I left immediately.'

So now you have translated your experiences into a non-fiction book and numerous novels, do you feel as though you have gained insight by writing?

'I always rely on the experiences I had in the military, some moments in the book are very emotional for me because they are situations I've been in. But I had no intention to do many novels. I left to start a bodyguard service but was approached after my first book by my editor, and so I did novels.'

In his latest book, there is a tension between officers established along class lines, how true is this?

'There is still a class system in the military. I would like to see more politicians sons in the military but they still get bumped up to officer. It is the case that those with a better education are commissioned to be officers. Those with poorer backgrounds who find themselves in the army - usually working class - still benefit. Whoever you are you make the best friends you'll ever have.'

Is it as much fighting for your friends as it is fighting for yourself?

'Yes, definitely. We're also very competitive in our groups and ranks. We will do whatever it takes to save one another, we'll literally take bullets for one another,

but once we're back in Hereford, we'll go to lengths to stitch one another up, to gain promotion over each other. It's a strange change in people, one I can't explain.'

If you were stranded in the desert with only a blanket, bottle of water and a packet of skittles, how would you survive?

'What season is it? What desert? There are many factors involved. I spent the night next to a man who froze to death in the desert. I experienced snow in a desert in Iraq.'

You're an extraordinary human being who has survived unimaginable situations. When you're at a low point - low on supplies, malfunctioning radio - what gets you through?

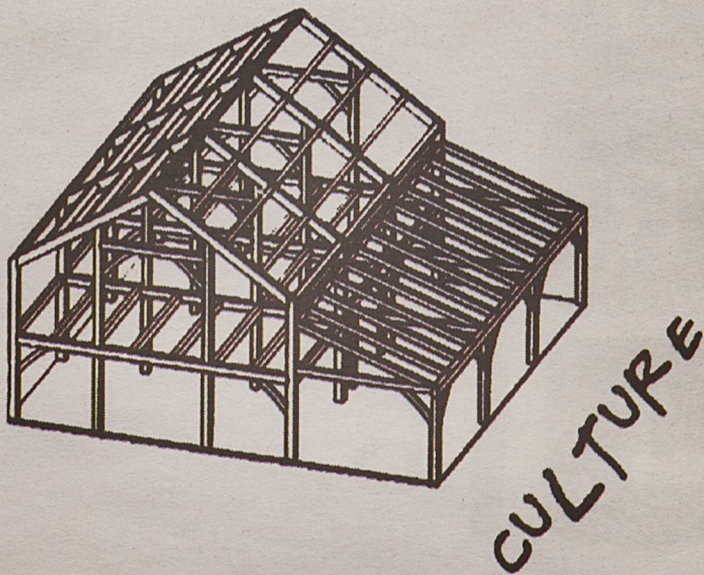
'SAS training. We go through rigorous SAS training and are chosen as individuals. Then we follow guideline operational procedures. And then there's fear. Fear in a situation will make you do one thing or another - fight or flight, and I didn't want to die. Every day I broke down, whether crying or... then the fear kicks in again and gets you through. Also my daughter was two years old and I wanted to go back to her.'

Is it true that in SAS training you make the soldiers raise a rabbit from birth, then kill it?

'Haha. No. We give them either a rabbit or a hen. They keep it for the day and are told to look after it, and taught sterilisation and how to despatch it humanely. Then they do so at the end of the day. So it's just a day.'

Chris Ryan's book 'Strike Back' is out now in paperback.

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# A THING ABOUT THE THING

Daniel Yates broke his alarm clock

I broke my alarm clock today. I probably shouldn't have. It was going off in its typically urgent but oh-so-dreary fashion, rudely intervening in a blissful dream wherein I was having disembodied oral sex with a unicorn, and I just picked the thing up and threw it against the wall where it smashed into myriad pieces. Then I turned over and went to sleep for the rest of the day.

Now this isn't what we call normal behaviour. Whilst we all have the urge to do what I did, we all seem to sense that smashing the thing is quite a serious reaction to a ringing clock. As if there's a line that's crossed between our normal grumbling delaying of duty, maybe involving a few boshes of the snooze button, and a full-on temporal dissent signalled by the crushing of the wretched thing. Certainly, actually doing it felt like it might be the first step towards dropping out of school, quitting my job, and becoming the mad guy who mimes smashing clocks on the pavement for the next forty years, whilst people occasionally gave me change. However, despite this scenario I'm not worried about my future in the slightest, and I think I can trace the reasons why not, to a particular relationship I had with someone when I was a young boy.

I was ten years old, living in the South East of England and he was called The Thing. I think I liked him initially because he was so strong, relatively undemanding and a comic book character. As a boy who endured a physical childhood I always preferred characters that possessed the attribute of brute strength above all others. Judging fictional characters on their likely prowess in a street brawl naturally led me away from the classics, as generally great as Austen's Emma was, she blatantly couldn't have handled herself in a playground dust-down, the romantics looked like they would give up their lunch money on the strength of a mean look, and as for Wilde, well, bon mots or no bon mots, he was going to get his face pounded outside of the sweetshop if he didn't stop banging on about wallpaper and kissing boys. So in my brutal and heroic child-

hood world it was the comic book superhero every time. And thus I began my relationship with the Thing, a monstrous squat object of a superhero, made out of bricks, with the brain power of grouting and the emotional subtlety of a breeze block. This was a guy you didn't want to bully, unless you wanted the humanoid equivalent of a detached house coming at you in anger. This was the sort of guy I thought it would be good to have on my side at school. Sure Travis Perkins was two years older than me, and had the shallow frieze of pubescent six-pack developing on his all-too-often displayed chest, but the Thing was a literal brick shit-house and didn't give his

dinner money to no-fucker. Okay, so he didn't have any pockets, and I'm not sure he had any parents to give him dinner money in the first place, and no, he certainly wouldn't be let into any school I'd ever known about, but he was strong and devoted to protecting the weak, and those were the qualities I needed in my ten year old world. Monumental physical strength aside, there was something about The Thing that endeared him to me specifically. Just being uncomplicated with a habit of smashing things to pieces in the name of justice was not a character-set in short supply within the superhero world. You walk round any corner in Gotham, or Metropolis, and you were likely to find some manic costumed do-

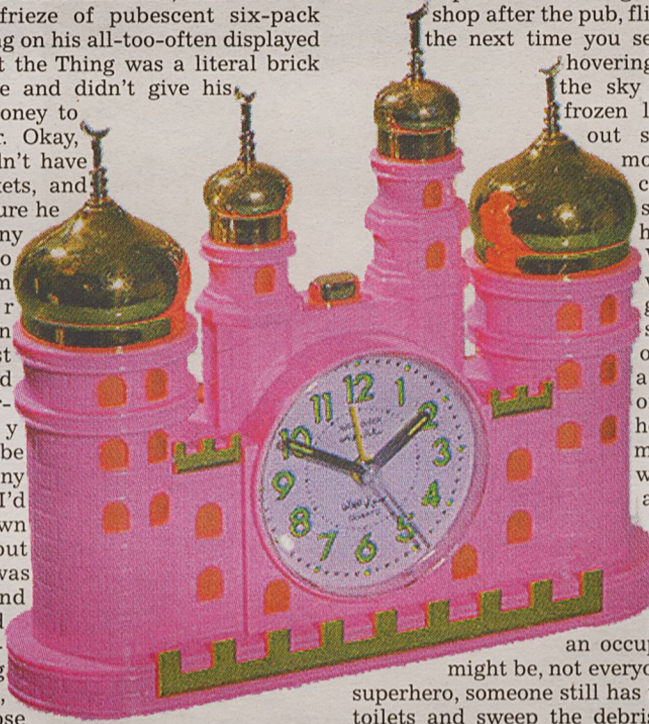
gooder bouncing off a building, clutching a jeopardized granny or somesuch, and engaged in zapping some garishly-robed evil counterpart, all in the name of Justice. The only thing that seemed to happen in these cities were Manichean struggles rendered in ink and onomatopoeic captions. Everyone appeared to be a superhero of some sort. Everyone you knew was a superhero, their friends were superheroes, bar a few crowd-scene extras everyone you ever saw was a superhero. Meet a girl at the chip shop after the pub, flirt a bit, and the next time you see her she's

floating 400 feet in the sky carrying a frozen lake to put out some enormous chemical fire, thus saving humankind. Whilst this was all great from a social point of view, this abundance of superheroes really made me wonder about the state of the labour market. As rewarding an occupation as it

might be, not everyone can be a superhero, someone still has to clean the toilets and sweep the debris of cosmic battles off the sidewalk. Comic books never actually gave focus to the job queues of unemployed superheroes, but I always suspected they were there, a grim line of weathered heroes in fraying spandex, taking long pulls from brown paper bags and filling out nonsensical forms. *'Former employment:* superhero. *Skills:* superhuman strength, unaided flight, can breathe underwater, highly developed sense of good and evil. *Areas for*

*Potential Improvements:* Sartorial appropriateness. Resilience to made-up metals e.g. Kryptonite. Moral subtlety. Spelling. *Name an obstacle you encountered but overcame using your own initiative:* Was bitten by a radioactive sandwich in '98. Didn't mope, instead used resulting powers for good and American way'. Maybe that was why Superheroes were always so bloody busy, it was a competitive field.

Well The Thing was a superhero, yet he didn't buy all this work ethic stuff, and beyond his physical enormity I think this is what endeared him to me most of all. The fact was that he was incredibly lazy. As part of the Fantastic Four he was working in a team of very dedicated and efficient individuals, literally fantastic at their jobs, and in light of this could afford to slack off a bit. I'm not even sure he was one of the Four, if memory serves he was on a series of short-term contracts and really without any hope of a shot at partner, so there wasn't much incentive for The Thing. But that was fine by him, he was a part-time kind of guy and liked his sleep. And that is why I am reminded of him today. It was this one particular cartoon strip, only about four frames long, featuring Thing asleep in bed. In frame one he's snoring like a train, sort of cute, a little bit rank. Frame two and his alarm's gone off, but he's sleeping through it, oops, silly Thing. Frame three Thing has removed his gigantic brick fist from under the covers and smashed his alarm clock into smithereens. Frame four sees Thing standing in the corner of his bedroom beside a shelf brimming with brand new alarm clocks, all still in their packets, sheepishly replacing the one he's obliterated. This brief cartoon made a distinct impression on my ten year old self. It showed me you can be strong and lazy, and that if you live in the US you can break things and replace them on a whim. Most of all it showed me how laziness could be raised to the sublime within an artform, and as long as you had a decent supply, you can afford to smash a couple of alarm clocks and things should still turn out okay.



# malorie blackman

Eunice Ng talks to the programmer-cum-author

Malorie Blackman is an impressive woman. After initially going into computing and working nine years as a manager at Reuters, she turned back to creative writing. Her first book, *Not So Stupid!* was published in 1990. Since then, she has written fifty books, including *Hackers*, *Pig-heart Boy* and the critically acclaimed *Noughts and Crosses* trilogy. In November, *Noughts and Crosses* (the first book in the trilogy) will debut on the stage in an RSC production directed and adapted by Dominic Cooke. She's also one of Britain's best loved children's authors. When Blackman called me for a phone interview, she greeted me with a cheery voice that was immediately welcoming. We fell into an easy chat and I got a chance to ask her why she chose to write for young adults over her other lucrative career options.

'Basically,' Blackman replies, 'I write for the teenager in me.'

Today's young adults have a lot more choice when it came to literature, she concedes. But in her teenage years, she recalls, there weren't many books being written for young adults, and as a result, she finds herself writing what she would have liked to read at that age. Mostly she didn't want to read about

'happily ever after'; she wanted something more entertaining. Luckily, she confided, there's just as much scope in writing for young adults as there is for mature audiences.

Of course, writing for the young adult audience is not without its challenges, particularly when it comes to keeping the technology and science in her books relevant. 'After *Hackers*,' says Blackman. 'I realized I had to be very careful with the science.' She doesn't reference any specific software, keeping instead to generic terms. When she's writing fantasy, however, she's free to invent the technology.

Her new book, *The Stuff of Nightmares*, won't have that problem. It's a series of thirteen stories centered around Kyle, a boy who is being stalked by death. To escape death, Kyle has no choice but to jump into the nightmares of the people around him. In doing so, he realizes that everybody has nightmares and fears, which lets him, ultimately, face his own nightmares and death itself. Much of the material is drawn from nightmares that Blackman herself had over the years.

I also had a chance to ask her about keeping up with her fans. Blackman is one of the few authors who has a very active website and Myspace page,

places where she interacts virtually with fans, sending birthday greetings and answering letters. Part of it has to do with the fact that she loves technology (she did first fall into computing, after all.) But it's also important just to talk to fans, according to Blackman, because she's very lucky to have fans who take time to write to her and they deserve an answer back. For some reason, she admits humorously, she finds the whole process of letter writing incredibly tedious. Emails have an immediacy that appeal to her and sites like Myspace allow her to have dialogues with all kinds of different people. Obviously she can't answer all her emails, but she does try and, more importantly, she does read them all.

Finally, I asked her about how she feels about reading. Malorie is involved in outreach programs such as Booktrust and various other government initiatives that promote reading in secondary schools. 'Reading is very, very important. It's about understanding the world around you and learning to empathize and sympathize with people from other cultures in a way that nonfiction can't. Fiction can get you into people's lives. It's realizing that we all have shared emotions. You learn an awful lot from reading books.'



# JOANNA NEWSOM

loisjeary reviews a night of musick magick curated by an elf

When a distinctly un-commercial artist sells out at the Royal Albert Hall in a matter of a heartbeat, it can only be assumed that something special is on the cards. Appropriately, Joanna Newsom's concert was one of those nights that change the way you think about music forever. To open, British folk musician Roy Harper provided the audience devoted fan Joanna, to a complete performance of his 1971 album *Stormcock*. Harper's songwriting is powerful and he introduced each song in passionate detail, still moved to speak out about the issues that inspired him to write – from the Vietnam War to his step-mother's religion. Harper left the stage with a tribute to Newsom, who he rightfully labelled as a rare, truly unique talent. She later returned the favour by gushing about her appreciation and devotion for Harper, labelling the performance as one of the greatest musical moments of her life. If Harper's performance was so special for Newsom, then there can be no doubt that her mesmerising two-hour set had a comparable effect on her enraptured audience, who applauded every song as though happiness were bursting out of their fingers.

Newsom is from Nevada City, a mountain town in Northern California with a tiny population and disproportionate number of musical souls – it is a town where there is definitely something strange flowing in the water. Although she has played with fellow psych-folk acts Vetiver and Vashti Bunyan, Newsom's music is far too complex to be pigeonholed in the latest hot genre. Trained in classical harp, Newsom combines grand orchestral layers with sparse melodies, simple lyrics with rambling tales and ethereal warbling with clipped, precise notes – often all in the same song. Accompanied by a simple three-piece band, the orchestral arrangements composed by Van Dyke Parks which characterised Newsom's second album *Ys* had to be reigned in to allow the songs to mesh with the different musical style. This change allowed the songs, and Newsom herself, more room to breathe and express themselves without being distracting. The style even allowed for some songs to be completely deconstructed, such as 'Peach, Plum, Pear' where the usual harpsichord was abandoned in favour of an a capella introduction which exploded into a driving percussive beat.

Newsom's recorded voice has been unfairly accused of being annoyingly childlike. When released

live, it soars majestically from her petite frame. Talking to the audience in a broad Californian drawl, her singing voice seems so odd that it must be entirely genuine. She effortlessly moulds her voice to the style of the songs she plays, be it a country-twang on 'Inflammatory Writ' or a tender lilt on the tradi-



tional Scottish ballad 'Ca' The Yowes to the Knowes', on which she was accompanied by the silken harmonies of Californian-duo The Moore Brothers. Somehow, she manages to control her voice through long meandering songs, which in the wrong hands could become alienating for an audience but under Newsom's experienced watch are effortlessly intricate.

Folk singers have long told stories through their songs – murder ballads, traditional tales and protest songs feature characters, plots and morals. Often

these stories are delivered in hardened voices that reflect the eventful lives of the characters. Just as Roy Harper's gruff voice conveys his still-fervent anti-war protest in 'One Man Rock & Roll Band', Newsom's lyrics are a perfect reflection of her otherworldly voice. Newsom's stories are childlike and fantastical, suggesting an unbridled imagination and curiosity. *Ys* is composed of grand, sweeping tales that take the listener on adventures through Newsom's conscience, whilst her debut album, *The Milk Eyed Mender*, features charming, simpler songs – if *Ys* is the album of the fairytale, then *The Milk-Eyed Mender* is full of nursery rhymes. However, to belittle her lyrics in this simplistic way is unfair – so the tale of 'Monkey and Bear' may on the surface be about an escape from a circus from the point of view of a loved-up ape, but hidden amongst the imagery are acute observations about change and man's place in the natural world. At least that's one theory – it could be completely wrong, which is to assume there is a right, and that's what makes her songwriting so sophisticated and intriguing. The sheer quirkiness of her lyrics, charming as they may be, may seem hard to swallow, especially when delivered in her unique vocal style, but hidden under tales of sparrows and peonies is a perception and awareness that should be demanded from any respected songwriter. The fact is, Newsom is one-of-a-kind – her voice, lyrics and instrumentation would not work if they were separated from each other or from her but together they are a transcendental combination.

Not everyone will like Joanna Newsom. In fact, many will not be able to stand her, but it is what makes her challenging that makes her beautiful. With her gold dress and Rapunzel-esque hair, Newsom blended in with the tall golden harp that she cradled in her arms. As she moved with the instrument it was as if they were one and the same, the harp acting as a natural extension of her self. Despite being restrained by it, she still managed to use movement to punctuate the words she was singing: rising jerkily out of her seat and shaking her head as if bothered by an annoying fly. This visual delight, lit by the soft glow of the lights, just served to reinforce the sense of magic that the whole evening had created and ensured that everyone left safe in the knowledge that Joanna Newsom is a rare sight and sound to behold.



by loisjeary & co.

**Radiohead In Rainbows**  
Released: 10th October

Unless you have been living under a rock for the past week you have heard about Radiohead's new album and the bed-wetting excitement that surrounds it. Kept hush-hush until an online code revealed the secret to obsessed fans, the album will be download only, with a discbox released later, crammed with artwork, vinyls and all manner of tempting treats. But that's not the best bit – the download has no fixed price, so the buyer decides what they want to pay. However, as your economics teacher has told you time and time again, there is no such thing as a free lunch. This is no exception. The consciences of Radiohead fans across the globe have gone in to overdrive, trying to calculate the monetary and moral value of the album. Unfortunately, what they want to pay and what they know they should pay rarely adds up.

**LCD Soundsystem Someone Great**  
Released: 22nd October

As you are dancing to James Murphy's irresistible trance beats and synths I doubt that you'll be paying much attention to the words. This is a shame, as this single stands out as much for the poignant lyrics as the typically compelling dance track that sits behind them. A stark and honest tale of lost love, Murphy captures the difficulty of moving on and the impact it has on the little things in life – 'The worst is all the lovely weather, I'm sad, it's not raining.' – before descending into a melancholy lament, 'There shouldn't be this ring of silence but what, are the options? When someone great is gone'. Heartbreaking stuff which is oh so hip!

**The Thrills The Midnight Choir**  
Released: 15th October

Recorded in a dingy warehouse in Canada, The Thrills have proven themselves incapable of departing from their faux-retro West Coast roots, which isn't a fundamentally bad thing, except for the fact it started to get old a good few years ago. Whilst this single could have come from any of their practically identical three albums, the strong mandolin line and simple harmonies create a lighter version of Arcade Fire's boisterous and up-lifting sound, with Connor Deasy's strangled voice unfortunately providing no comparison to Win Butler's commanding bellow.

**Hundred Reasons No Way Back**  
Released: 16th October

In this crazy new music industry of download charts and CD prices dictated by the buyer, Hundred Reasons have jumped on the anti-corporate band-

wagon with this track which will be available as 'Single of the Week' from iTunes for the grand sum of zero pence. Which begs the question, are Hundred Reasons so shite that they have to give their music away? Well, no. When you move past the unnecessary but inevitable shouting, this isn't a bad track at all and whilst most alternative rock bands would make even Mr. Happy turn to the valium, Hundred Reasons remain strangely optimistic and upbeat.

**ABBA the Album Deluxe Edition/+DVD: 15th October**

A band whose back catalogue is so well known, I need only mention the words, "Waterloo", "Dancing Queen" or "Mamma Mia" for you to know who I'm talking about. These Scandinavian musical geniuses have provided to the soundtrack to numerous weddings, school discos, and drunken nights at cheesy clubs. Why miss out on pieces of disco-dancin' history? If you don't already own these timeless jams, now is the time.

**Mark Ronson Valerie**  
Released: 15th October

A cover is rarely successful. The update will always be compared to the original, which is usually better. When a cover is successful, it is usually because the newer artist has approached the song as a simply a mould from which to make their own hit of. This track is an example of that, with the Zutons popular hit transformed into a funky jazz ballad with our favourite rehab escapee bellowing beautifully, much to our ears' delight.





# GILI GULU

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

by Daniel BYates

Coming to London from the English shires, with a simple and rustic notion of what constitutes food, it was the abundance of sushi gracing the counters and shelves of this nation's capital that first caught my culinary attention. Where I had come from in Sussex, the locals held the fact that they could actually use fire to cook their food as a proud symbol of technological advancement. Along with the shout-pigeon (or telephone) and neo-fangled partial-covering for our sewers, the ability to cook our catches was something we relied on as an indicator of our development. So it was strange to find myself here, in the electrically-lit, digitalised, futuropolis, coming face to face with fish that not only hadn't been cooked, but that looked like something invented by Tolkein during his LSD years. Squid like a choirboy's ruff, puffa fish, coelacanth, squidgy things that ought be terrifying sailors somewhere in the middle ages, were all being served up to me on a plate, with the expectation that I consume them with small talk and a new world merlot.

Since those tentative and apprehensive beginnings I've genuinely lost control of my sushi consumption. I eat it constantly, like a stoned Inuit. I cruise city-supermarkets looking for reductions. To my eternal shame I have even made a small habit of stealing it from the more corporate establishments. I once found myself

eyeing up the greyish soup of the Thames, half-thinking that I might just dip in, open-mouthed for a fix.

That's why Gili Gulu is the perfect place for a ravenous junky like me, providing as it does thoroughly decent and very reasonably-priced sushi, of all types, colours and hues.



In the style of the all the best fixer-räume, Gili Gulu is a pure white haven of overlit austerity. High ceilings host numerous powerful lights that seem to compete over wall-space for creating an inverse-umbra of brilliance. Shafts of uni-directional glare enfilade the diner, creating blinding sheen on the formica, the chrome stools look white hot. This overabundance of white light, coupled with the geometric planes of the room, give an overall effect not dissimilar to

a cubist igloo or being inside a new piece by Rachel Whiteread. The expanses of wall are bare, bar two flat screen televisions which carve the idiotic whirling patina of MTV into the plaster. These distracting boxes aside there is plenty of negative sterile space, which duly abdicates all focus, favouring your inward contemplation of the delicate flavours.

We opted for the 7 course buffet style deal, which came in under a tenner and absolutely reeks of value. The sashimi was sparkingly fresh, the rice pleasingly tacky, the salmon futomaki was meaty, whilst the parcel of shredded duck, an odd addition in itself, was strangely fishy. The standard batter was perhaps a little sweet and on the flaccid side, but bar a couple of misses the menu was a palpable hit. The Californian rolls stood out as miniature parcels of delight, and the miso soup, which came as a constituent of the set menu, was utterly delicious, tangy and piquant with a luscious undertow of oil, like a sumptuous slick.

Unfortunately I still have problems with chopsticks; my initial impulse - to stick one in each fist and start a mock-kung fu fight - has still not totally left me, but with all the dexterity I can muster I do my best to pass as a diner with international savvy, rather than the yokel I undoubtedly am, and there are certainly worse places in which to practice than Gili Gulu.

FOOD AND DRINKING

Despite the fact that London's ticket prices are among the most expensive in the world, the cosmopolitan nature of the city applies equally to the choice of films to watch. True, this is not New York, Los Angeles or Paris, the powerhouses of cinema - you're here for the degree after all - but the cinemas in London conveniently account for all tastes, from the latest Hollywood blockbuster to a restoration of a silent classic to a Romanian New Wave masterpiece. So be experimental. Read the newspaper reviews and try something new. And please, tolerate the subtitles.

### KEY VENUES IN CENTRAL LONDON

**BFI Southbank (Waterloo)**- Just a 10 minute walk from LSE, it's a must-go for any serious cinephile. Retrospectives, world cinema seasons, Q&As and screentalks- real film education on the big screen.

**Curzon Soho (Chinatown) and Renoir (Russell Square)**- Premier arthouse cinemas with occasional events and mini-festivals.

**Odeon Covent Garden**- Close to High Holborn hall, with a good mix of mainstream and foreign films.

**Cineworld Shaftesbury Avenue (Leicester Square's Trocadero)**- Fair prices for mainstream hits.

**Prince Charles Cinema**- Famous cinema showing second-run mainstream flicks for cheap tickets. Excellent for students.

AVOID the West End cinemas- VUE, Empire, Odeon Leicester Square- £10 for a STUDENT ticket?! Go elsewhere for your Hollywood needs.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS TERM (AND A LOT OF QUESTIONS)

**October 17th-November 1st**  
The London Film Festival ([www.lff.org.uk](http://www.lff.org.uk))- With 184 films in the programme spanning the globe, it'll be hard not to find something you'll enjoy.  
**Ratatouille**- Pixar does French cuisine. (Avoiding the obvious French phrase here...)

**October 19th**  
**Once**- A love story about an Irish busker and a Czech flower seller. Critical hit in Sundance, and some great

songs too, performed by the real-life musicians and couple in true indie fashion.

**Eastern Promises**- Cult alt-horror master David Cronenberg (*A History of Violence*, *Videodrome*) goes deceptively conventional with a thriller about the Russian mob in London starring Naomi Watts and an all-tattooed Viggo Mortensen.

**October 26th**  
**Saw IV**- The first one was genuinely twisted to the heights of *Se7en*, but



it is now another money-grabbing franchise sinking to the depths of *Rocky*. Will this new one make a difference?

**Sicko**- Everybody's favourite fat documentary filmmaker/fat egomaniac Michael Moore attacks the American health care system. Not as partisan as *Fahrenheit 9/11*, but him praising the NHS? You got to be kidding.

**November 2nd**  
**Elizabeth: The Golden Age**- Oscar-bait or fitting sequel to glorious historical drama? Nonetheless, Cate Blanchett's performance will be the highlight.

**November 9th**  
**Lions for Lambs**- Robert Redford directs and stars in this ensemble drama with Tom Cruise and Meryl Streep about the 'War on Terror'. Interlinking story threads with a liberal conscience- another sweeping shallow statement a la *Crash*? Or a strong centrist indictment? Come to think of it, do we really need a

film to tell us what's wrong with Bush & Co.?

**November 16th**  
**American Gangster**- Russell Crowe and Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*) reunite in this period piece about the rise and fall of a drug lord played by Denzel Washington.  
**The Wayward Cloud**- Taiwan experiences a drought, sales of watermelons skyrocket and a porno shooting suffers. Misogynist or anti-porn? A great (albeit shocking) introduction to the little-known master Tsai Ming-Liang.

**November 23rd**  
**Darjeeling Limited**- Wes Anderson (*Rushmore*, *The Life Aquatic*) returns with his trademark quirky style in this road movie about three brothers (Owen Wilson, Jason Schwartzman, Adrien Brody) in India.

**November 30th**  
**The Assassination of Jesse James**- Another worthy addition to the recent renaissance of Westerns, with Brad Pitt, who won Best Actor in this year's Venice Film Festival, playing the legendary train robber. Contemplative and haunting in the style of Terence Malick, Peckinpah and Altman.

**December 7th**  
**Southland Tales**- Trashed in Cannes last year as moronic indulgence, Richard Kelly (*Donnie Darko*) has re-cut this pop musical/Orwellian terror/post-apocalyptic nightmare set in future Los Angeles, with Sarah Michelle Gellar as a porn-star/political pundit and The Rock as an amnesiac action star. Bizarre surely, but will it work?

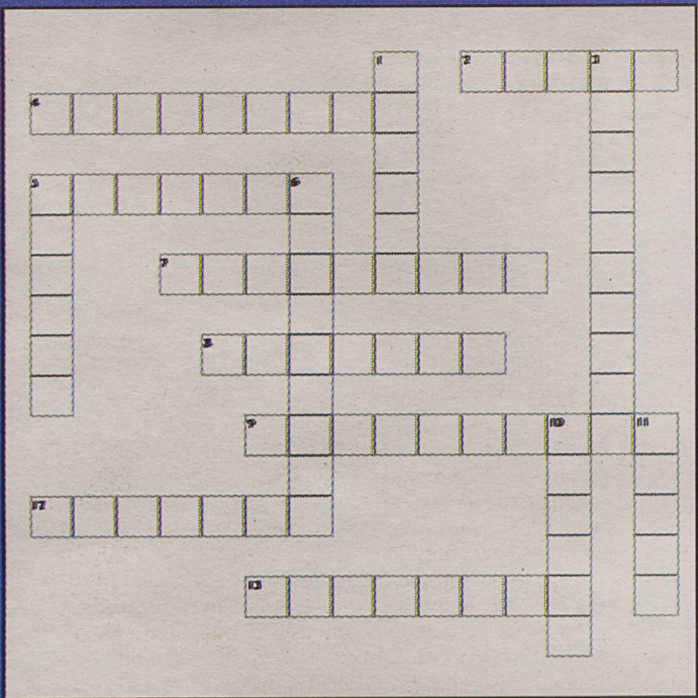
**December 14th**  
**Bee Movie**- Dreamworks animation written by and starring Jerry Seinfeld as a bee who discovers that humans eat honey. Family-friendly fun, but will there be any acerbic wit from Seinfeld himself?  
**Youth Without Youth**- Francis Ford Coppola (*Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*) returns after a 10 year hiatus to film in High-Definition. Little is known about this 'personal' film, but it's great that he's back.

FILM

AngusTse welcomes you to a filmic city...



Crossword



Last issue:  
Email thebeaver.parth@lse.ac.uk for a personalised list of solutions.

across

down

- 2. Shallow washing receptacle (5)
- 4. Fruit that comes with its own personal armour (9)
- 5. Because Americans sound funny saying rubbish (7)
- 7. Adjective pertaining to villainous bastards (9)
- 8. Moby's weapon of choice (7)
- 9. The woman of the house. Kidding. (10)
- 12. Orange vegetable of an autumnal description (7)
- 13. Absurdly funny (8)
- 1. Mr Pibbs cooler older brother, before MD (6)
- 3. As an iron rod (9)
- 5. Cakey (6)
- 6. Precedes sleeping with the fishes (9)
- 10. Rhymes with turtle but a lot faster (6)
- 11. Like rapid, but scarier (5)

# LSE in

Email thebeaver.parth@lse.ac.uk

# LOVE

**Me**  
met when you caught me trying to scan my genitals in the library. You probably have a lot of scanners at home. I like scanners. Too much.

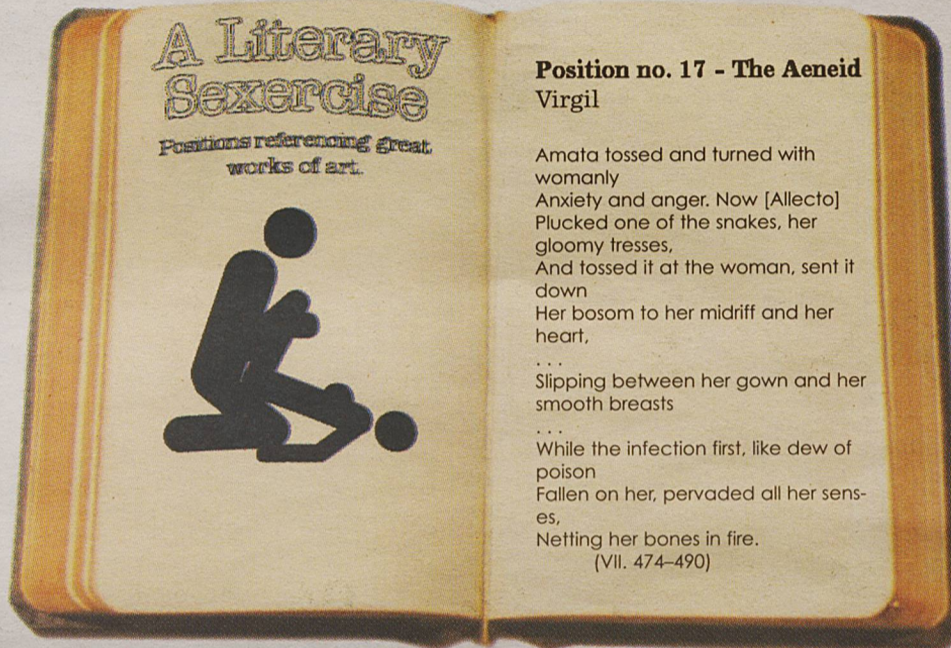
**You**  
got me drunk at Crush on a concoction of cheap shots and Snakebites. I don't remember the rest of the night but I think I had fun. Please reply to my texts. You still have my bra.

**I**  
was the one on the floor, blowing chunks into the air like a fountain. You held my hair and stole my handbag. Can I have my handbag? I have reported you to the police.

**I**  
saw you walking out of the Old Building late at night. You were wearing a ski mask and clutching a TV. Take me for a ride in your white van sometime?

**I**  
met you at Freshers Fair when you were manning a stall. You were so friendly and nice, I really hope we become more than Facebook friends...  
Poke!

**I**  
**HAVE STALKED YOU FOR OVER 4 YEARS ONLINE.**



## A Literary Sexercise

Positions referencing great works of art.



### Position no. 17 - The Aeneid

Virgil

Amata tossed and turned with womanly Anxiety and anger. Now [Allecto] Plucked one of the snakes, her gloomy tresses, And tossed it at the woman, sent it down Her bosom to her midriff and her heart, ... Slipping between her gown and her smooth breasts ... While the infection first, like dew of poison Fallen on her, pervaded all her senses, Netting her bones in fire. (VII. 474-490)

# Ask Auntie Shaw REMIX



**C**hild, what is troubling you? Is it my cassock? Well you should smell what's under it. You see I'm in a church, why? Because my sociological research has brought me to the clergy, and my! What a randy collection of heavenly buggers they have turned out to be. No sooner was I frocked than I was defrocked and chased around the vestry by tens of horny men-of-god anxious for my juicy manna. I got almost as much attention as Roger the choirboy! So, let us begin, tell me, how long has it been since your last confession...

Dear Auntie,  
me fuckni drunk, but i lveo you and i loved u since 4eva basically.

Anon

Bless you my child. No you haven't sneezed, you've done something much worse, you've sinned like a Bishop in Billy's strip & blow bar. I think this comes under coveting thy neighbour's oxen, I'm not sure exactly, but I think there's a heading for 'dirty boy' and you've come under it.  
Nine Hail Mary's and a footspa.

Dear Auntie,

Crush failed to provide me with any release for my libido, so I used a bottle instead. I got stuck and lube has failed me. I need to be released before my first class. Any ideas?

1st year, Anthropology

Ah my child, this is a common theme throughout the priesthood. Imagine never getting a release because the body is an inappropriate vessel for it. And when I say never, I mean never, not ever in your life. And when I say never, I mean sometimes, but only in ten year old boys and golden chalices. Try praying for rain.

Remember, JC rocks in socks.

Dear Auntie,

I just met my personal tutor yesterday and she gives me a hard on. Anonymous post-its and discreet emails don't quite seem to cut it. How can I get myself some teacher-lovin' care?

Tilf

God made it so the tutors were given dominion over the students and this is the divine order. I'm looking through this manual we've been given and i'm not sure if you can 'fuck upwards' if you get my drift. I know that a man can conjoin with his horse, but I'm not sure about the reverse. I'll get back to you when I've actually read this thing, but my dear, it's totally eff-ed up.

Yours in liturgical confusion.

Rev. Auntie

Dear Auntie,  
I want to be a good Christian, I really, really do. But it just seems like everything that's fun is also banned in the Bible - sex, drugs, rock-'n'roll!?! What's a troubled teen to do?

Sex Pistol, Economics

Dominae doobie  
Dominae doobie  
Sexus erectum cum ondafaece  
Cum ondafaece sexmae up  
Sexmae Up  
Sexmae Up  
Pious pillhed oh Raeve with us now.  
Raeve with us now and forever.

Auntie,  
There's this guy I am madly in love with and I don't know what to do. We're friends now, but I want to be more. But I'm not sure he does and I don't want to lose him as a friend by pouring my heart out and then

making it awkward. But I can't stop thinking about him, and how much I want to tell him. It's driving me nuts. Please advise!

There's only one place for troubled girls like you - the nunnery! Once you make JC the only man in your life, you will never be pestered by such trivial dilemmas.

Dear Auntie,  
I'm new to LSE and hence new to the Beaver, PartB and all that jazz. But I love your column! I want to know, who are you? Please tell me! Pretty please! I will write to you every week if you do.

Cheers!  
Eager fresher

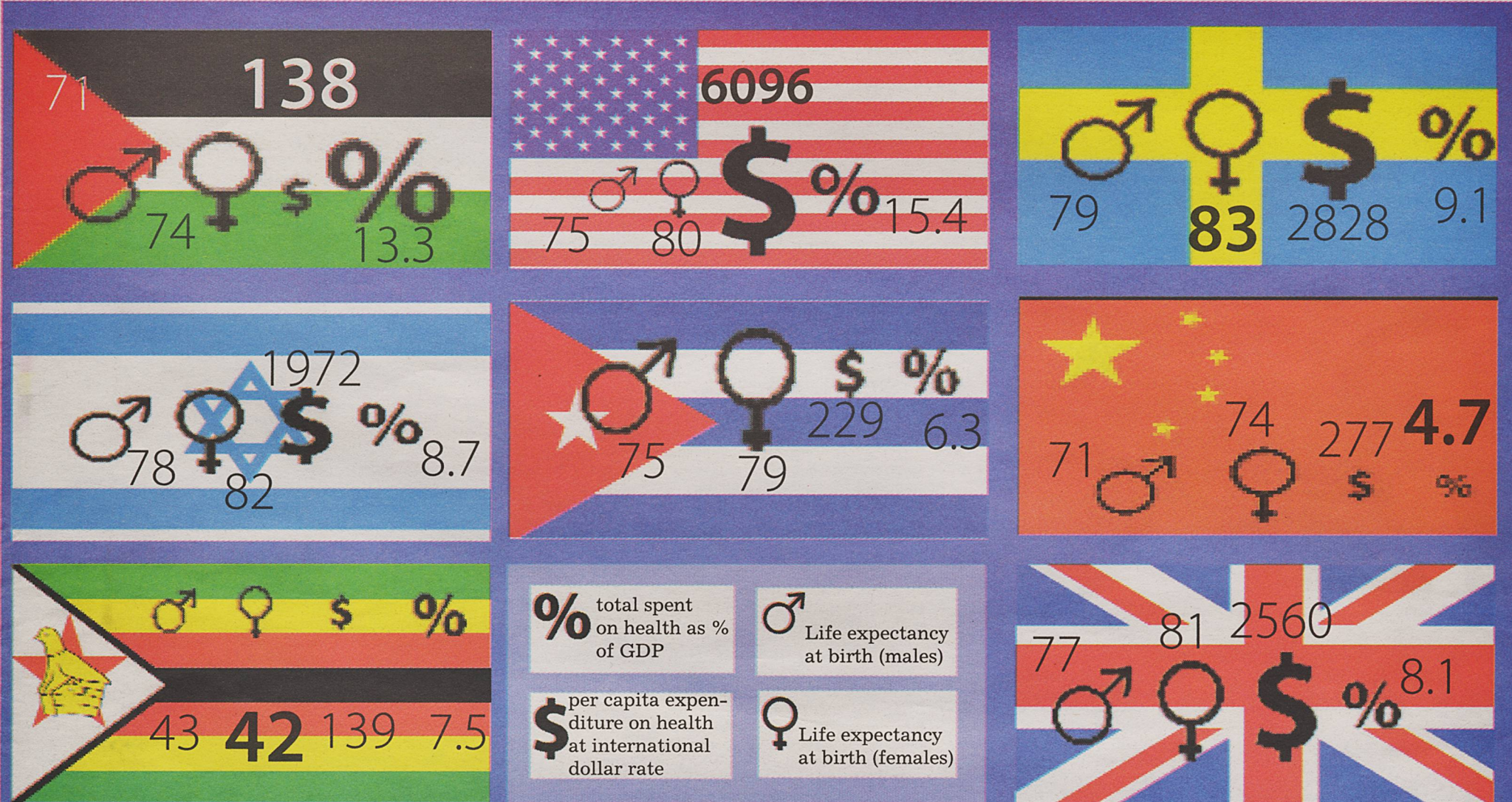
A man came to Auntie Shaw in the night with troubles on his mind. "What is the matter, my friend?" Auntie asked of the man. He turned to Auntie with a face full of shame and cried, "Forgive me, Auntie, for I have not been a faithful man!" Auntie rested his head on her bountiful bosom and responded eagerly, "Let me be the judge of your faith, strange man. Be not quick to judge thyself." With the speed of a sparrow's wingflap, the man recounted the plight of his recent days. "I have done things, Auntie, things which no man should do. On the ninth day, I did a certain thing of which I fear to tell to a woman of your standing and nature." Auntie saw the man was weary, and brought him to her larder. Onto the larder top she placed a heavily wrapped box. The mystery of the parcel intrigued the traveller. "Take this box," Auntie cried, "but n'er open it. For its enjoyment lie in its mystery."

Well, time for me to shed this robe. Send your lovely emails to the [thebeaver.parth@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.parth@lse.ac.uk) or befriend me on Facebook and remember, the more outrageous you are the better for all, and the wetter I get. Until next time dahhhllings!



# Sicko? Palestinian Health

Ramsey Ben-Achour visits Palestine, and spends a day with the people trying to provide healthcare to some of the poorest people in the world.



Sources:  
World Health Organisation  
United Nations Development Programme

Additional research by Lucie Marie Goulet

But grassroots organisations such as PMRS have sprung up across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, there are 265 NGO-run medical centres in the Palestinian Territories.

Privately funded and independently operated, PMRS aims to provide both affordable or free medical care to all Palestinians.

"Starting today, one day every week PMRS will come to our village to help our people. They know that we have nothing here. We have no doctors, we have no medicine. So we love them for this," Khalil Alshabba, former village council leader of Jamala, told *The Beaver*.

Jamala is a small and impoverished village. It was only a 15-minute drive from Ramallah until the Israeli military closed the main road to Palestinians six years ago. The road is now used exclusively by Jewish settlers. If any one of its 1,600 inhabitants needs medical care, they must travel for over an hour on a small and highly damaged gravel road.

"It only took 15 minutes, but now it takes more than an hour. If the Israelis put up a flying check point it can take four hours, or we might not get through at all," Alshabba said.

This has made accessing medical treatment much more difficult for the villagers.

Compounding the situation

is the fact that most of the inhabitants are unemployed. The vast majority of them used to work in Israel, but over the past few years Israel has denied working permits to all but a few. Now most cannot even afford to have a doctor see them.

Doctors Rami and Jameel, along with their dedicated nurse Maysa, are working to change all of this. Employed and funded by PMRS, they travel to a new village every day, setting up temporary mobile clinics. Today they brought their clinic to Jamala.

As the team of three hurriedly unpacked and prepared their clinic in the two-room building of the local village council, loudspeakers from the top of the village mosque announced their arrival. It was not long before a queue of worried mothers, along with their sick children, began to arrive.

Their first patient of the day was a young boy with a swollen eye. His mother, visibly anxious, entered the makeshift clinic in a hurry. Her son soon followed. He entered quietly with a sheepish, yet inquisitive, grin on his face. As Maysa flashed him a calming smile, the boy smiled in return and went in to see the doctor.

"He [the young boy] had conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye. If he had not been treated he would have gone blind," Dr. Jameel explained.

Maysa scrounged through the table of jumbled prescriptions looking for exactly the right one. When she found it, she gave it to the boy's appreciative mother in exchange for a very small sum of money.

The mobile clinics made possible by PMRS provide free doctors' visits to the villages of Palestine, while only charging three shekels (£0.37) for medicine. For those who can not afford the drugs, the doctors give it to them for free.

"You see, some of these people can't even afford three shekels, so we give it to them for free. After all, we are doctors not accountants," stated Dr. Rami.

As the trickle of patients soon became a flood, groups of children began to surround the ambulance parked outside. It was quite clear they had not seen many ambulances before. Thanks to PMRS, however, it will now be a weekly sight.

While the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories continues unabated, the reality remains that the people of Palestine can only depend on themselves for help—and that is exactly what they are doing.

"You know, some times this job can be really hard, but I love it. I will never stop helping the people of Palestine." Maysa said.

This summer, Michael Moore drew the world's attention to the shocking state of American healthcare, even for those with health insurance. He risked jail-time travelling to Cuba to highlight how efficient and just healthcare can be on a small budget. As can be seen from the figures above, the US stands head-and-shoulders above other western nations in terms of money spent per capita on healthcare. But, still life expectancy doesn't 'live up' to Swedish standards. One of the lessons of *Sicko* was that well-planned, universal health care doesn't have to cost the earth to reap huge benefits.

In Palestine, though, financing is not the only issue doctors are grappling with on a day-to-day basis. UN statistics show that nearly half the Palestinian population is unable to access health services, mainly because of restrictions in movement imposed by Israel. Chronic malnutrition has risen by 50% in children in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Universal, free, and easy to access to healthcare is an important part of modern life, and for individuals living with conflict as part of their daily lives; it is essential.

By Christine Whyte

Nearly half the Palestinian population is unable to access health services.





# From LSE to MP

Kevin Perry talks to Karen Buck, MP, about being at LSE, hanging around the Tuns, the disaster in Iraq and the potential perils of a Liberal Democrat government.

**K**aren Buck, the Labour MP for Regent's Park and Kensington North, was a student here at the LSE in the late seventies. However, despite her career path, you would have been more likely to find her in the Tuns than in the UGM. "I used to be involved more in the Ents side of things when I was there, DJing and putting on gigs and that sort of thing. I wasn't really involved in SU politics.

ing at local issues. People won't trust you to sort out international problems if they can't even get their rubbish collected."

The ideological landscape has of course undergone massive upheavals since Buck was a student. "When I was at LSE there was a thriving hard left, from the Trotskyists to the International Socialists. We were witnessing the collapse of traditional communism and the rise of euro-com-

erally, they're voting for my ticket," and so I ask her whether she has a strong sense of loyalty to the Party. "Very much so. I've been a member since 1978, so that's a part of it. I mean, of course we did things wrong in the 1970s, and in the 80s as well, and there is certainly a powerful critique that can be made of New Labour. I've broken party whip on a number of occasions, but I won't do it all the time."

Despite acknowledging valid criticisms, she is predictably certain that Cameron et al do not offer valid alternatives. "Party politics is a continuum of sorts, but Labour's centre of gravity is what I identify with. Of course there are some Conservative politicians who are closer to the left and Labour politicians to the right, but the centres of gravity are very different. As for the Lib Dems, I see them as 'opting out'. If they ever got into power the party would tear itself down. A Lib Dem government would fracture into a million pieces from their own internal contradictions."

Having now enjoyed a decade as an MP, I ask how the job has changed. "One of the main changes I've seen has been the caseload. It's doubled in the past ten years, which I think is mainly down to the internet. It's much easier for constituents to get in touch with me than it has been in the past – which is great. An MP's job is first and foremost to reflect the wishes of their constituents."

"The best part of the job is still being out on the ground, though – helping people to solve problems with bureaucracy. The biggest misunderstanding is that things can't be done with a pen stroke. I think people – all of us – often struggle with understanding where power lies. The reason for that is that the truth is that power is very diffuse. You've got to negotiate all the time."

I ask what the hardest time of the last decade has been, and the reply is instantaneous. "Iraq." After a pause, she continues, "Without a shadow of a doubt. An incredibly difficult time for all of us. Partly because of making the decision as what to do, and then having to live with that decision. I mean I voted against

the Iraq war, but it was an incredibly difficult decision, particularly as the tragedy would have happened whether we'd been there or not."

"Looking back, the late 80s and early 90s were an incredibly luxurious time to be an MP. Of course there was misery then, but there weren't the same threats. We're now facing a difficult time globally, and I think that the temptation is for the Western World to retreat from it."

"There has been an economic element to it as well, which has been driven by climate change."

While the has been occasion for soul searching, there are achievements of which she is proud to have played her part.

The positive part is collectively being able to change things – which we have done, far more than we are given credit for."

"The pleasure lies in walking around here and seeing what investment changes. Yesterday was the opening day for three new schools in this area. That's 70 million pounds worth of investment, which is serving very deprived communities, and saying, you have now got what you deserve. We've also seen increases in International Aid. This is good stuff that wouldn't have happened anyway."

She says that she's "not bored" of politics, and the challenges go on, often just around the corner. "In this constituency there are 3 or 4 of the wealthiest areas in London, and 4 of the most deprived areas in the country as well. There is a nine year difference between the life expectancies in the richer and poorest areas. That's a pretty incredible inequality, especially when you can walk between those two areas in twenty minutes."

Her advice to LSE students is simple. "My first requirement is that people get involved in politics. Even people who are hoping for a comfortable life are not free from the consequences of bad politics – its lapping at our feet, quite literally in the case of climate change."

"You can't engage people about what's going on in the West Bank by shouting at them through a megaphone, without engaging them first about their local community. Or vice versa."



*I voted against the Iraq war, but it was an incredibly difficult decision, particularly as the tragedy would have happened whether we'd been there or not.*

There were some people who I admired who worked a lot on it, but it all seemed a bit unreal to me."

Now deeply immersed in the very real world of national politics, Buck sees many positives in student movements. "Student politics is about two things, it's about student issues, and it's about the big international issues – that was certainly the case when I was at LSE. We were concerned about things like the CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) and apartheid. Also human rights, things like Amnesty International and what was going on in post-Pinochet Chile."

She points out that when it comes to general elections, they are often fought on more workaday fronts. "The things that people are concerned about are things like safety, schools and streets. Perhaps more so than the global issues like poverty," but she praises the high aims of student activists. "If you can't be passionate about changing the world at 21 when can you be? I strongly believe in localising government, but at the same time you can't stay just looking at the pavement. Having said that, throughout the 1980s we [the Labour party] were shockingly bad at look-

munism."

"I've always been very much of the left. If you see the role of the state as I do, the state as a provider and an enabler. I see the state as a force for good – which is not to play down the role of the voluntary sector, which is crucial. But the state is important and worth fighting for, it's not going to go on regardless."

This essential motivation is what helped her make the short but arduous journey from Houghton Street to the House of Commons. Well, that and "a lot of hard graft." She began working for a charity specialising in employment opportunities for disabled people, before moving to the London Borough of Hackney where she continued to work in the same area. Working directly for the Labour Party followed, and then in 1997 she was elected in Tony Blair's first landslide victory. She acknowledges that "people aren't voting for me

gen-

## WHO'S WHO?

The MPs who made the short journey from Houghton Street, down the road to Westminster Village.

Research by Chloe Pieters

### Conservatives

**Richard Bacon** - South Norfolk (NB: executive editor of The Beaver)  
**Mark Hoban** - Fareham (BSc Economics)  
**Maria Miller** - Basingstoke - (BSc Economics)  
**Andrew Selous** - South West Bedfordshire - (BSc Industry and Trade)

### Labour

**Karen Buck** - Regent's Park and Kensington North (BSc and MSc Economics)  
**Yvette Cooper** - Pontefract and Castleford (MSc Economics)  
**Jim Cousins** - Newcastle-upon-Tyne central (MSc)  
**Andrew Dismore** - Hendon (London) (MSc Law)  
**Frank Dobson** - Holborn and St Pancras  
**Barbara Follett** - Stevenage  
**Margaret Hodge** - Barking  
**Brian Jenkins** - Tamworth (Staffordshire)  
**Ruth Kelly** - Bolton West (Secretary of State for Transport) (MSc Economics)  
**Michael Meacher** - Oldham West and Royton (Diploma in Social Administration)  
**Andrew Miller** - Ellesmere Port and Neston (Diploma in Industrial Relations)  
**Ed Miliband** - Doncaster North (Economics)  
**Steve Pound** - Ealing North (mature student)  
**Barry Sheerman** (NB - Labour and Co-operative Party MP) - Huddersfield - BSc Economics  
**Rudi Vis** - Finchley and Golders Green -  
**Malcolm Wicks** - Croydon North - Minister of State for Energy -  
**David Winnick** - Walsall North - Diploma in Social Administration  
**Anthony Wright** - Great Yarmouth

### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

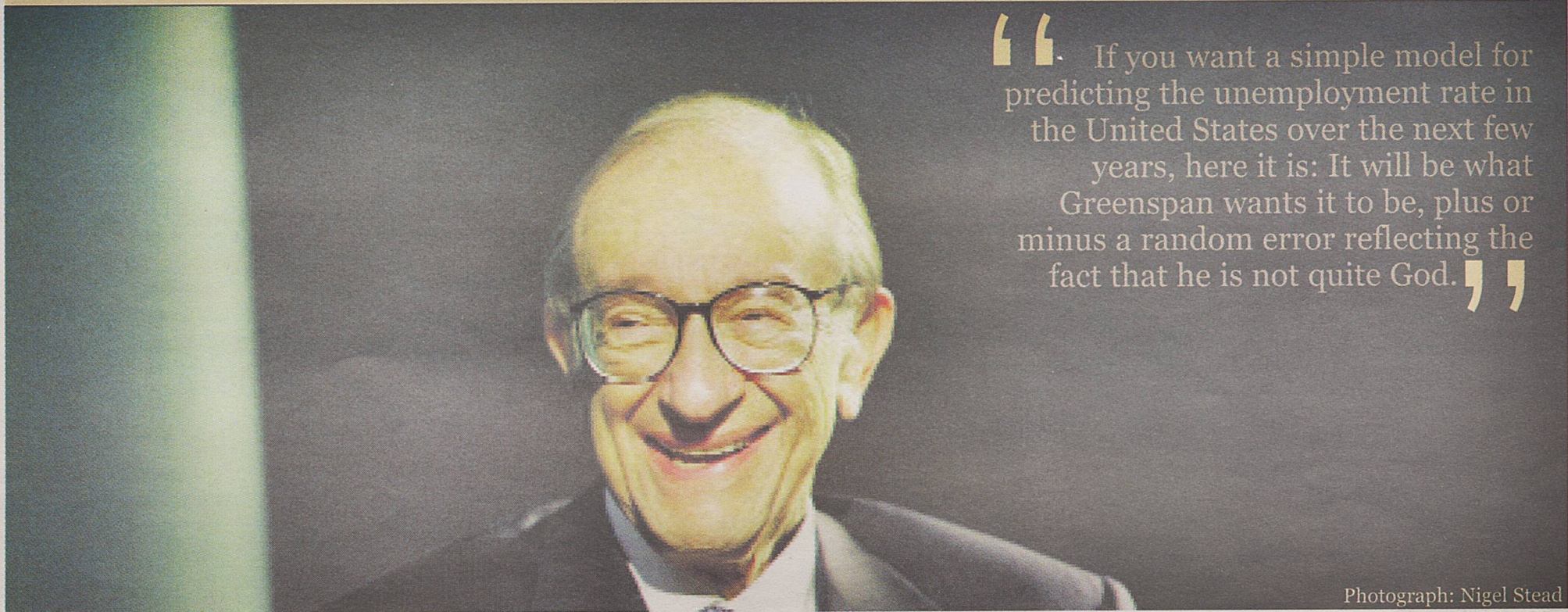
**Annette Brooke** - Mid Dorset and North Poole (Economics)  
**Jo Swinson** (NB: female / youngest MP in the HoC) - East Dunbartonshire (Management)  
**Jenny Willott** - Cardiff Central - (MSc Development Studies)



**Virginia Bottomley** (former Conservative MP)  
**Baron John Moore** (former Conservative MP, Croydon Central)  
**Baroness Joyce Quin** (former Labour MP, Gateshead East)  
**Baroness Patricia Rawling** (former Conservative MEP, Postgraduate diploma in International relations)







Photograph: Nigel Stead

“If you want a simple model for predicting the unemployment rate in the United States over the next few years, here it is: It will be what Greenspan wants it to be, plus or minus a random error reflecting the fact that he is not quite God.”

# Taking stock of Greenspan

Alex Teytelboym looks at the life of a hero to LSE students, Alan Greenspan

Archimedes discovered one of the most important laws of hydrostatics, whilst taking a bath. Alan Greenspan admits to making many of his important decisions, as well as writing his memoir, “Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World”, in his daily soaking. Unlike Archimedes, Greenspan has a place to stand to move the earth.

Little was not known about Greenspan professional career before his book. He was born to a Romanian-Hungarian Jewish family and grew up in the Washington Heights district of New York, attending George Washington High School (the alma mater of Henry Kissinger and John Kemeny). Greenspan says that after graduating in 1943 that he had “no interest in college” and was “distracted” about failing the medical test for the draft. He devoted himself entirely to playing several instruments in a jazz band and was “known as the band’s intellectual”. Eventually he enrolled at NYU.

The excellent reputation of his consultancy, which he co-founded with Bill Townsend in 1955, got him noticed in the circles of professional economics. Townsend-Greenspan generally consulted steel firms, which were in desperate need of independent invento-

ry and market demand estimation, since the information gap between consumers and suppliers was huge. Greenspan was invited to boards of several large corporations and finally turned to politics in 1968 to consult on Nixon’s presidential campaign. Although he served as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Gerald Ford from 1974-1977, Jimmy Carter had “no use” for him. After he helped on Reagan’s campaign and he duly deserved to be nominated for probably the most influential position in the financial world as Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Greenspan’s time at the Fed has widely been acclaimed as one of the most successful tenures of an American central banker. He was revered for pulling the American economy out of several recessions, surviving three stock market crashes and always paying incredible attention to detail. Praise came from both academic and political circles. In 1997 Paul Krugman, an economist, commented, “If you want a simple model for predicting the unemployment rate in the United States over the next few years, here it is: It will be what Greenspan wants it to be, plus or minus a random error reflecting the fact that he is not quite God.” In May 2000, during trade talks with China, Bill Clinton stated the obvious, “We all know when Chairman Greenspan

talks, the world listens.” As Ben Bernanke, Greenspan’s successor at the Fed, found out early in his tenure, the world listens to Greenspan even when he is out of office.

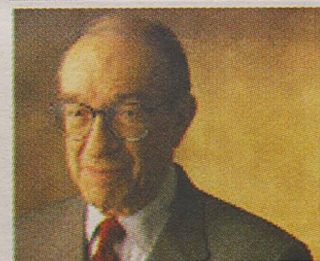
The media treated Greenspan’s speeches with an unprecedented level

audience guessed that that very phrase would make the news. In fact, it seems that the media, desperate to get anything out of him, was looking for a clue to a rate change (which didn’t happen). CNBC, an American business television channel, even

American philosopher (although he admits a previous fondness of Wittgenstein). In his book he talks admiringly of Milton Friedman, a free-market economist, as well Margaret Thatcher and Andrei Illarionov, both free-market politicians. Although it would be easy to criticise Greenspan for his views, particularly for supporting the IMF in its role in the liberalisation of East Asian markets, many of his arguments are powerful and convincing. His optimistic outlook of the economy, based largely on economic history, belittle informed fear of many economic journalists.

Greenspan’s visit to LSE was, probably without an exaggeration, the event of the term. The attention, given to him in the form of a full Peacock Theatre and a live video-conference to Old Theatre during a holiday, is conventional for Nobel Prize laureates or heads of state. The conversation with Howard Davies, whom Greenspan undeservedly mocked from the start, was surprisingly boring. Some of the journalists, who were sitting next to me, stopped paying attention to their Bloomberg terminals and dozed off. Greenspan defended his views on sub-prime markets, expressed prophetically in the book (which went to print in July), and answered several questions on the role of central banks, monetary policy in the EU and household saving strategies.

Although Greenspan and Andrea Mitchell (a “ravishing” CNBC anchor) were mobbed at the stage door for autographs, all but one question from the audience must have come from those, who haven’t read the book. The last question touched upon a phrase in the penultimate chapter: “I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq is largely about oil”. I also saw this phrase, as an implication that the Bush administration went to war in Iraq in order to capture oil and Greenspan has inside knowledge of the conspiracy. But the “maestro”, as Bob Woodward dubbed him in his biography, rejected this interpretation. He only meant to say that the most profound consequence of the Iraq war could be a potential disruption in the supply of oil. I remembered an early Greenspan speech in 1988, when he said: “I guess I should warn you, if I turn out to be particularly clear, you’ve probably misunderstood what I said.”



Alan Greenspan  
THE AGE OF TURBULENCE

*Greenspan offers honest opinions on American presidents, reveals the workings of the Fed and describes the intrigues between them.*

of scrutiny. His famous phrase, “irrational exuberance”, made him possibly the most quoted name in media’s analysis of globalisation. Greenspan devoted an entire chapter of the book to the phrase, admitting that like Archimedes’s eureka moment, this one also came in a bath (he took them initially to ease ache in his back). The phrase was hidden in a technical speech on the American economy and stock market and no one in the

invented a “briefcase indicator” which suggested that the thicker Greenspan’s briefcase is, the more likely is the rate increase (since he was thought to worry about the economy).

“Age of Turbulence” is divided into two parts. The first is a brief, fluent summary of Greenspan’s life and the second is his vision of the world in the next thirty or so years. The first part is fast-paced and entertaining; Greenspan is honest in offering his opinions on American presidents, describing relationships with his two wives (who had a surname in common) and revealing the workings and intrigues of the Fed, Treasury. The second part is extremely analytical and offers view regional perspectives on China, India, Russia and Latin America; tackles global economic issues of energy, trade, regulation and growth and gives views on domestic policy in corporate governance, education and retirement.

Greenspan markedly avoided an extensive discussion of the subject of development in the poorest countries. He confines his views to promoting liberalisation of financial markets and extension of property rights in developing economies. Greenspan’s philosophical conviction can be easily traced to a twenty-year friendship with Ayn Rand, a libertarian

### Curriculum Vitae

**Name:** Alan Greenspan  
**Date of Birth:** 6th March 1926  
**Honours:** OBE; Knight of the British Empire; Legion of Honour (France); Presidential Medal of Freedom

**Education:**

- Studied clarinet at The Julliard School (1943 - 1944)
- Bachelor of Science in Economics from New York University (1948)
- Master’s in Economics from New York University (1950)
- PhD in Economics from New York University (awarded 1977 without dissertation)

**Career:**

- Toured with Henry Jerome’s renowned swing ensemble
- 1948 - 1953: Economic analyst at The Conference Board, a business and industry think tank

**Member of:**

- The American Philosophical Society
- Group of Thirty
- The Alfalfa Club
- Hoover Institution
- National Association of Business Economists

**1955-1987 (with interruptions):** Chairman and President of Townsend, Greenspan and Company, a business and consulting firm founded by Greenspan and William Townsend

**1968:** Director of policy research for Richard Nixon’s presidential campaign

**1974 - 1977:** Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors under Gerald Ford

**1987 - 2007:** Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve

**2007:** Senior Advisor to Deutsche Bank; author of *The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World*



# Listings

## GET IN BETWEEN THE

### Public lectures this week

9 OCTOBER 2007

**'The Resource Curse'**

Speakers: Joseph C Bell, Professor Terry Lynn Karl, George Soros, Karen Lissakers  
Chair: Professor Mary Kaldor  
5.30 pm, Old Theatre

**'The Decline and Fall of the Napoleonic Empire'**

Speaker: Professor Tim Blanning  
Chair: Dr Antony Best  
6.30 pm, Hong Kong Theatre

**'The Hubris Syndrome: The intoxication of power'**

Speakers: Lord David Owen  
Chair: Professor Rodney Barker  
6.45 pm, New Theatre

10 OCTOBER 2007

**'Communicative Power and Democracy'**

Speakers: Professor Nick Couldry, Professor Mary Kaldor, Abdul-Rehman Malik, James Deane  
6.30 pm, Old Theatre

**'A Life in Law'**

Speakers: Rt Hon Lord Bingham and Professor Ross Cranston  
6.30 pm, Hong Kong Theatre

11 OCTOBER 2007

**'Nigeria - Lifting the Resource Curse'**

Speaker: Dr Shamsuddeen Usman  
1.00 pm, Hong Kong Theatre

**Anna Polonsky (Piano)**

1.05 pm, Shaw Library

**'Reforming the United Nations - Mission Impossible?'**

Speaker: Professor Paul Kennedy  
Chair: Howard Davies  
6.30 pm, Old Theatre

**'Litigating Human Rights in the Context of International Terrorism'**

Speaker: Dr Helen Duffy  
Chair: Professor Gerry Simpson  
6.30 pm, New Theatre

12 OCTOBER 2007

**'The Future of EMU'**

Speaker: Dr Leila Simona Talani  
9.30 am, J116

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Presentation & case study workshop

Monday, 15th October 2007

7:00pm at One Great George Street, SW1P 3AA

To attend, please register via the LSE page on [www.joinbainlondon.com](http://www.joinbainlondon.com)

Application deadline 19 November 2007



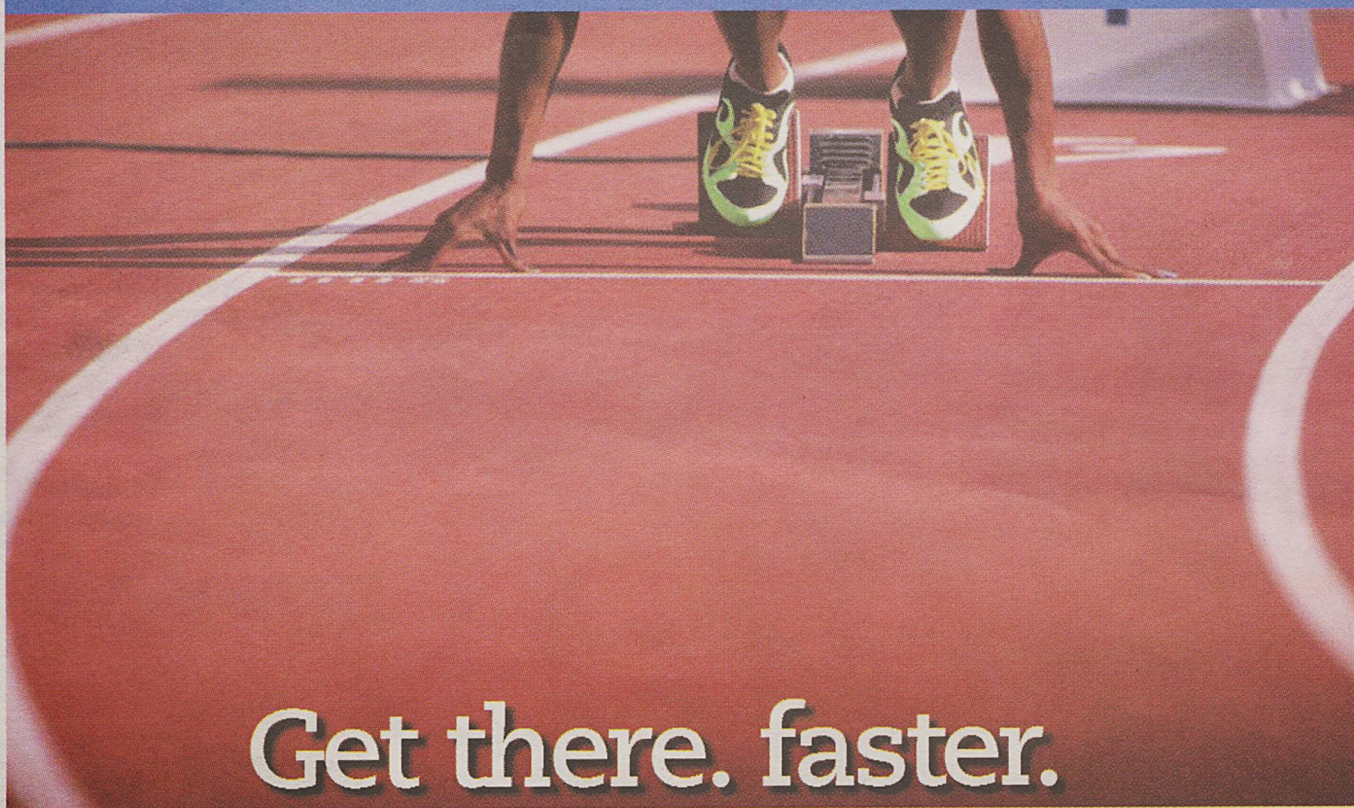
foam party  
**CRUSH**  
Friday, 12 October  
9pm-3am



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12:00 - 14:00 in E171 (New Lecture Theatre)

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13:00 - 15:00. Please register via Careers Services.

**18 October 2007** - Management Consultancy Fair  
18:00 - 21:30. Please register via Careers Services.

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the **Beaver**  
THE NEWSPAPER  
OF THE LSESU

EMAIL  
THEBEAVER@LSE.AC.UK

## Society AGMs

### TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER

Opera Society  
12-1 pm, D311

Japan Society  
1-3 pm, D306

Bright Futures  
1-2 pm, H102

Property Investment  
Society  
2-3 pm, H101

Oikos  
5-6.30 pm, S53

### WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER

Peruvian Society  
3pm-onwards, U103

### THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER

Hungarian Society  
4-5 pm, D002

## Freshers' Fortnight

**TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER**  
Chuckle Club  
The Quad

Pub Quiz  
The Three Tuns

Acoustic Night  
Underground

**WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER**  
Fiesta Latina  
Underground

PuLSE Party  
The Quad

Karaoke  
The Three Tuns

**THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER**  
Ad Hoc  
Underground

P.G.W.P.  
The Quad

**FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER**  
Crush! Foam Party

## SU Executive office hours

General Secretary, Fadhil Bakeer Markar

Treasurer, Libby Meyer

Communications Officer, Kayt Berry

Education and Welfare Officer, Ruhana Ali

Thursday 2.30pm - 3.30pm, QUAD

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## Application deadlines

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Summer Internship: 28 December 2007

Spring Programme: 31 January 2008

**Goldman  
Sachs**



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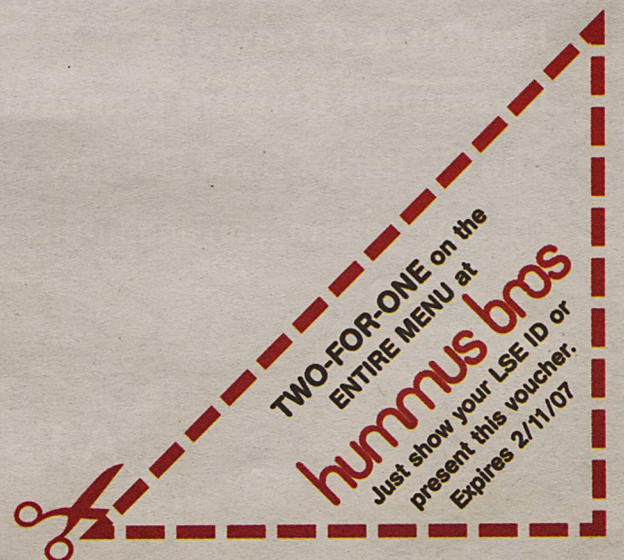
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**Investment Banking Demystified Seminar: April 2007, Deutsche Bank London Office.**

The Deutsche Bank Bursary: Visit [www.db.ukbursary.co.uk](http://www.db.ukbursary.co.uk) to find out more.

For more information and further events taking place on the LSE campus visit [www.db.com/careers](http://www.db.com/careers)

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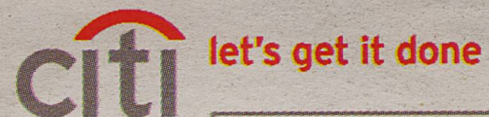
**Date:** Wednesday 17th October 2007

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Venue:** Citigroup Centre, Canary Wharf,  
London E14 5LB

**Sign-up:** To sign-up for this event please  
email [campus.queries@citi.com](mailto:campus.queries@citi.com)  
stating LSE Presentation in  
the subject box.

We look forward to meeting you!





LSE Football, Rugby Union & Basketball BUSA League 2007-2008 Fixtures

# Football



13/10/07  
17/10/07  
20/10/07  
24/10/07  
27/10/07  
31/10/07  
03/11/07  
07/11/07  
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28/11/07  
01/12/07  
05/12/07  
08/12/07  
12/12/07  
12/01/08  
19/01/08  
26/01/08  
30/01/08  
02/02/08  
16/02/08  
01/03/08

**Men's Firsts**  
LSE 2s  
South Bank 1s  
Royal Holloway 2s  
Imperial 1s  
LSE 3s  
Reading 2s  
UCL 2s  
St Mary's 2s  
Westminster 1s  
South Bank 1s  
SOAS 1s  
Imperial 1s  
RF&UCMS 1s  
Reading 2s  
King's 1s  
St Mary's 2s  
Royal Holloway 1s  
St Barts 1s  
Royal Holloway 1s  
Westminster 1s  
UCL 1s  
Imperial 1s  
Imperial 2s

**Men's Seconds**  
LSE 1s  
SOAS 1s  
UCL 1s  
Canterbury 3s  
Imperial 1s  
St Barts 1s  
Imperial 2s  
Uni. of Arts 1s  
South Bank 2s  
SOAS 1s  
St Barts 1s  
Canterbury 3s  
Royal Holloway 2s  
St Barts 1s  
LSE 3s  
Uni. of Arts 1s  
UCL 2s  
SOAS 1s  
King's 1s  
Sussex 2s  
RF&UCMS 1s  
King's 1s  
Royal Holloway 1s

**Men's Thirds**  
King's 1s  
Royal Holloway 3s  
Royal Holloway 1s  
Kingston 4s  
LSE 1s  
King's 2s  
UCL 1s  
Thames Valley 2s  
South Bank 2s  
Royal Holloway 3s  
Imperial 1s  
Kingston 4s  
Imperial 2s  
King's 2s  
LSE 2s  
Thames Valley 2s  
Royal Holloway 2s  
St Barts 1s  
UCL 2s  
South Bank 2s  
UCL 2s  
SOAS 1s  
RF&UCMS 1s

# Rugby Union



10/10/07  
17/10/07  
24/10/07  
31/10/07  
07/11/07  
14/11/07  
21/11/07  
28/11/07  
05/12/07  
12/12/07  
30/01/08  
06/02/08  
13/02/08  
20/02/08

**Men's Firsts**  
UCL 2s  
Greenwich 1s  
Bedfordshire 1s  
Kent 2s  
Goldsmiths 1s  
Queen Mary 1s  
Essex 1s  
UCL 2s  
Greenwich 1s  
Bedfordshire 1s  
Kent 2s  
Goldsmiths 1s  
Queen Mary 1s  
Essex 1s

**Men's Seconds**  
UCL 3s  
Royal Free 2s  
London Met 1s  
Hertfordshire 2s  
  
Buckinghamshire 2s  
Westminster 1s  
UCL 3s  
Royal Free 2s  
London Met 1s  
Hertfordshire 2s  
  
Buckinghamshire 2s  
Westminster 1s

**Men's Thirds**  
  
King's Medical 2s  
Imperial Medicals 3s  
Imperial 3s  
King's 2s  
Essex 3s  
Essex 2s  
  
King's Medical 2s  
Imperial Medicals 3s  
Imperial 3s  
King's 2s  
Essex 3s  
Essex 2s

**Women's Firsts**  
  
King's 1s  
Sussex 1s  
  
Reading 1s  
King's Medical 1s  
  
Royal Holloway 1s  
King's 1s  
  
Sussex 1s  
Reading 1s  
King's Medical 1s  
Royal Holloway 1s

# Basketball



17/10/07  
24/10/07  
31/10/07  
07/11/07  
14/11/07  
21/11/07  
28/11/07  
05/12/07  
12/12/07  
30/01/08

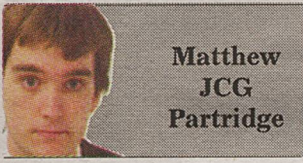
**Men's Firsts**  
Sussex 1s  
Brighton 1s  
Brunel 2s  
Surrey 1s  
Kingston 1s  
Sussex 1s  
Brighton 1s  
Brunel 2s  
Kingston 1s  
Surrey 1s

**Women's Firsts**  
South Bank 1s  
  
Royal Holloway 1s  
UCL 1s  
Canterbury 1s  
Goldsmiths 1s  
  
Bedfordshire 1s



## Punter

# Ignore the spin - bet on a 2008 election



Matthew  
JCG  
Partridge

I hate Gordon Brown. Having gone out on a limb and made some definite predictions about the time and result of the election, he only has to go out and call the whole thing off, making me looking like a right muppet. On a more serious note, the conventional wisdom is that Brown's actions over the last fortnight have been a huge, possibly terminal, blunder. It is difficult to dispute that Brown has undercut his attempts to gain support from disaffected conservatives, united the Tories around David Cameron and damaged Labour's standing in

the polls. However, much of the damage is overstated. Most people are not particularly concerned with the 'inside football' of political strategy and although they will vaguely remember this for a few months it will be old news by the spring, if not before. It is also important to point out that Brown has not completely closed the door on a 2008 election, only said that it is 'extremely unlikely'. Indeed, I fully expect him to go to the country in June 2008, probably in conjunction with a referendum on Europe, although he will not make the error of giving the opposition a large amount of advance notice.

Ultimately, I still think Labour has a very good chance to win the next election, even when you factor that you may have to tie your money for up

to eighteen months. The spread on the Labour contract is wide (43-60) but the last traded price (at the time this article was written) was 55.7, so you should be able to get a better price. I would also suggest placing money on a Jan-Jun 2008 election at 16.00 and a Jul-Dec 2008 election at 17.00. Indeed, I like these prices so much that I've got skin in the game on both of these bets.

In terms of finance I recently added Taylor Wimpey and 3i to my spread betting portfolio so I would advise you to do the same. Although, I am very bearish about the housing sector, I like the fact that shares in homebuilder Taylor Wimpey are selling at a huge discount to their land portfolio and that they have the margins to withstand a substantial decline in house prices. The

Venture Capital sector is always profitable and I believe that the fall in interest in debt markets and leveraged finance means that attention will start to shift back to the technology and high-growth sectors, the type of firms that 3i invests in. Finally, I still believe that December Gold is set for a fall given that a low put/call ratio signifies that the sentiment that caused it to rise rapidly has become unsustainable and is due for a reverse.

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



## Men's Football

## Meet the 'vodka fifths'



Ronald  
Reagan

There is already much debate as to how successful the LSEFC 5th team can be this year, with fans of the club suggesting that things can only get better following the disastrous reign of previous skipper Luke Thompson. However, some sections of the media are already writing off new captain Peter Greenall's chances of success. Reports from sources close to Greenall even suggest that he may have already lost the dressing room as players' fear what are bound to be Stalinist methods on and off the field. Former 5th team lynchpin Remisa Bennett commented "Pete Greenall is an extremist.

He will not rest until every faction of inadequacy is removed. No one will be immune from his purges". With Luke Thompson and several 'Thompsonites' still involved within the set-up, it is probable that they could fall victim to this first wave of purges. Further problems will undoubtedly arise with the loss of key players such as Andy 'the hardest man in the FC' Burton and John 'luxury' Bussetil who were instrumental in saving the side from relegation last season. A midfield without this duo could really struggle and with Andy 'Mr Tickle' Rogers defecting to the 4th team it remains to be seen whether or not the team will be fatally undermined.

Despite these rumours, Greenall remains upbeat. We caught up with him as he was formulating his 'five year plan' for the team. Ascribing doubts about his leadership to "that

decadent agent of imperialism, Josh Tendeter", he has vowed to "undermine the system by debauching the currency - or at least some of the fitter girls from Strand Poly". However, his controversial policies may possibly lead to some defections, especially to the 'champagne' sevenths. Indeed, AU President Dan Holness has urged the other football teams to "win one for the Gipper" and to "bring down Greenall's evil empire". Asked to clarify these rumours, he said, "we've agreed with Howard Davies to abolish the fifths, so we'll begin bombing Berrylands in five minutes". Will the spectre of the fifths haunt Walkabout? Do the Sevenths contain the seeds of their own destruction? Do we even care? Only time, and The Beaver, will tell. In the meantime students are advised to beware of poisoned umbrellas and exploding cigars.



## AU Elections

# WANTED

AU EVENTS OFFICER

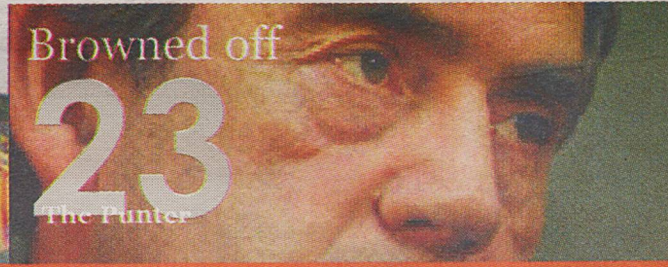
will be responsible for the organisation of

- the AU Carol
- the brand new Veteran's night
- the AU Ball

and other small events throught the year.

If you believe you are guilty, please confess to the authorities, namely Sports Officer Jarlath O'Hara (j.o'hara@lse.ac.uk) or Daniel Holness (su.aupresident@lse.ac.uk) by **Thursday 11th October**

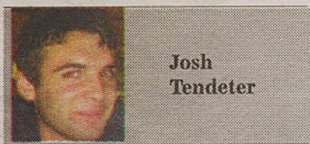




9.10.07 thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

# Beaver sports

## MacInnes in like Flynn



Josh Tendeter

Alex MacInnes-Ostrouch, a third year IR student, represented the LSE and the UK at the 24th edition of the World University Games (Universiade), which were held in Bangkok this August. The Universiade is the most prestigious international sporting event for student athletes, and is staged every two years in a different city. Second in size only to the Olympic Games, this year's Universiade saw over 12,000 athletes from over 200 countries competing in 20 different sports.

Alex, to our knowledge the first LSE student ever to take part in the Universiade, competed in the men's individual and team foil events in Bangkok. Individually, he lost to teammate Laurence Halsted in the direct elimination round (who went on to win bronze), after some excellent victories in the prior round (including beating top Croatian fencer Bojan Jovanovic 5-0). The British team lost to gold medalists Russia after an incredibly hard fought quarterfinal match. Alex had a very solid performance against this juggernaut of the fencing world, beating both Renal Ganeev (a semi-finalist of the 2004 Athens Olympics) and Alexey Khovansky (a quarter-finalist of the 2007 World Championships in Belek, Turkey). Unfortunately, after some tough referee calls and unlucky hits, the Russians were able to clench victory in the end.



Fencing is one of the four sports which have featured at every modern Olympic Games. There are three types of weapon used in Olympic fencing: the foil (a light thrusting weapon), epee (a heavier thrusting weapon), and sabre (a light cutting and thrusting weapon). Fencing is quite similar to boxing in the sense that it relies heavily on footwork and lightning quick reactions.

Also, like any other fighting sport, mental toughness is an absolute necessity in fencing. It has been described as "chess on your feet", however Alex told us that this is misleading – "while the analogy accurately describes the constant strategic maneuvering in anticipation of your opponents future moves, it fails to capture the fast, brutal, and often subjective nature of modern world

class fencing; in my opinion, fencing is no longer the elegant, gentleman's sport that it used to be, but an intense physical and psychological battle in which, sadly, the referee can often determine the course of a bout".

As a junior, Alex represented Poland on the international circuit, and competed in numerous fencing world cups in addition to winning nation-

al championships both individually and as part of his old club team – the Academy of Physical Fitness in Warsaw. However, in anticipation of his move to the UK for university, he took advantage of his dual nationality (he was born in Scotland), and switched to the British team. He is now a member of the senior UK national team, and is on the "Olympic Talent Scheme" in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics; he has competed this season in World Cups in St. Petersburg, Venice, and Havana.

Alex commented on his experiences in Thailand: "Competing in the Universiade was a truly incredible experience. The opening ceremony was phenomenal. All the country delegations marched into this massive stadium in Bangkok, packed to the brim with onlookers. I must say, there is nothing quite like having tens of thousands of people cheering for you. Breathtaking stuff! The atmosphere at multi-discipline events is unique, and all the months of preparation really do pay off. It is pretty tough sometimes to

manage full-time training with writing international political theory essays, but with events like the Universiade I really have no regrets. The competitions were organized superbly, and the support we received in the athlete's village was phenomenal. We ate in this enormous hall, where friendly Thai women served us masses of great food. I think I put on like four kilograms over those two weeks! I developed a love-hate relationship though with our physio team...they had me take ice-baths after training to prevent muscle swelling. Basically, as the name suggests, you sit in a big bath of ice for ten minutes... extremely painful and probably ranks in my top five of most unpleasant things I've ever done! In any case, the Universiade was great. It leaves you hungry for more, and I have my sights set now on the Universiade in 2009 in Belgrade and on an Olympic spot in 2012."

Well done to Alex and good luck in the future!



"I developed a love-hate relationship though with our physio team...they had me take ice-baths after training"