



The Beaver

22.11.2011
Newspaper of the
LSE Students' Union
thebeaveronline.co.uk
facebook.com/beaveronline

Foreboding ahead of impending Woolf Report release

The Report's contents were the subject of a front page news article in last week's edition of The Sunday Times

Sydney Saubestre

The inquiry by Lord Woolf, the retired Lord Chief Justice, on the London School of Economics' decision to accept the £1.5 million donation by the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation has been completed and will be officially reviewed by the LSE Council in the coming week. Its public release has been delayed until the University of London's investigation into the legitimacy of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi's academic work is concluded. The release of the report is being greeted with a sense of foreboding.

National media are speculating that the outcome of the Woolf Report will yield damaging ramifications for both the LSE and prominent members of society with close ties to the Labour party.

According to an article in the 20th November edition of the Sunday Times, details of Lord Woolf's findings "emerged yesterday as [Saif] Gaddafi

was captured" by rebels during an attempt to smuggle him out of Libya.

The article made many references to the inquiry, calling it a "damning inquiry into the institution's links with Libya" which determined "multiple failings in the LSE's decision to accept the donation from Saif Gaddafi."

Many links between the LSE and Saif Gaddafi's various well-placed acquaintances were cited, namely, that the donation came at a time when Saif Gaddafi was being courted by businesses and Labour politicians who were exploring business opportunities in Libya. Various newspapers have accused the LSE of giving Saif Gaddafi an air of legitimacy by not only accepting him as a PhD student, but also by asking him to give a prestigious lecture on global governance. According to the Sunday Times "the LSE, an institution with strong links to the Labour party, played a key role in the rehabilitation of the Saif Gaddafi regime."

The article published in the Sunday Times also predicts that the LSE's ruling council, which approved the 2009 donation, may have received

Lord Woolf's inquiry formally came to a close on 25 October 2011

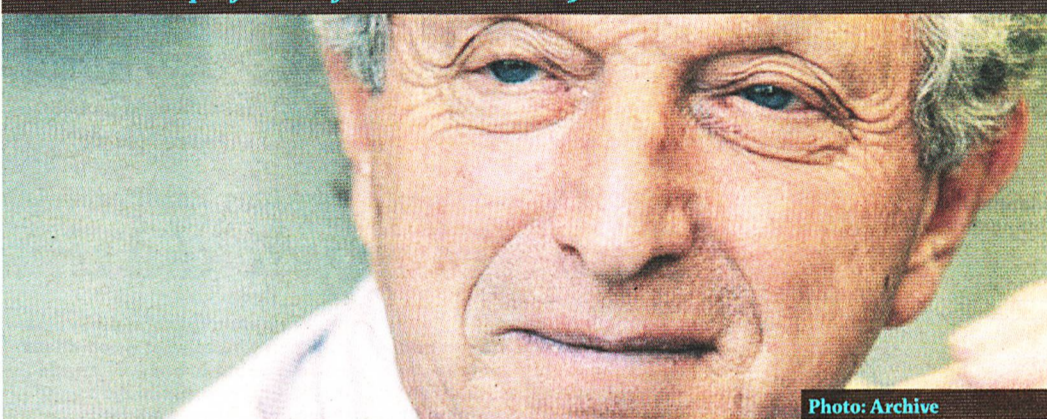


Photo: Archive

"inadequate and incomplete information. Information was obscured and dissents, from various scholars, in accepting the money was obscured."

As of yet, Woolf's inquiry is being treated with the greatest confidentiality and has not been officially released. A source within the LSE has told the

Beaver that very few people have even seen the report and that, as the document has been tightly contained, a leak is very unlikely.

"A lot of what the article said is common sense," the source said, "it is likely that these reports are little more than conjectures."

The Sunday Times article fails to mention any sort of leak nor does it quote the information directly. When asked about the alleged leak, the LSE Press Office said that it "would not comment until the Woolf Report had been released."

Significant disparity in degree pass rates at the LSE

Goreti Faria

Data published by the LSE shows that the failure rates at department level range from 0.2 per cent to 11.5 per cent, with a 5 per cent average and for the percentage of first class marks, it ranges from 7.4 per cent to 40.4 per cent and the average is set on 20.3 per cent.

According to the data, the Department of Mathematics assumes the position of the most failed degree – it has the highest percentage of fails at 11.5 per cent. MA107 Quantitative Methods, MA110 Basic Quantitative Methods and MA305 Optimisation in Function Spaces are the courses that

contribute the most for this overall result. And the percentage of students awarded with firsts was not low, either. Among all the departments, Mathematics Department is in third place when it comes to the percentage of firsts, with 31.4 per cent.

Closely following Mathematics Department in the highest failure rate is the Department of Economics with a percentage of fails of 10 per cent. EC220 Introduction to Econometrics is clearly the course that contributes the most to this statistic, with a failure rate of 19 per cent; 57 out of 300 students failed this course.

Kevin Long, a second year BSc Economics student, said, "the course is very rigorous and the professors expect you to use the material in depth, beyond what is taught. A lot of people

are not prepared for that – you cannot just memorise the material, you really have to understand it. This requires a lot of effort during the year – that is why people generally do not do well."

7 per cent of the students in the Department of Statistics did not pass their exams, which is the third highest number after Economics Department.

The Department of Finance has a relatively high failure rate, too, with 5.6 per cent of the students failing the course.

The Department of Anthropology, on the other hand, has the lowest failure rate, reigning in at only 0.2 per cent.

Fenella Cannell, Chair of Exams for the Department of Anthropology from 2007 to 2011, said: "The department is delighted with this statistic,

our department is consistently praised by our external examiners both for the high standards of our courses, and for the care with which we assess them." "Anthropology offers insights into contemporary world problems which are hard to get at in any other way, and which are not the standard answers," added Cannell.

Cannell specifically attributed the low failure rates to two factors: "one is our teaching staff. The other is our students, whose engagement with the subject, hard work, and capacity for independent thinking shows in what they achieve."

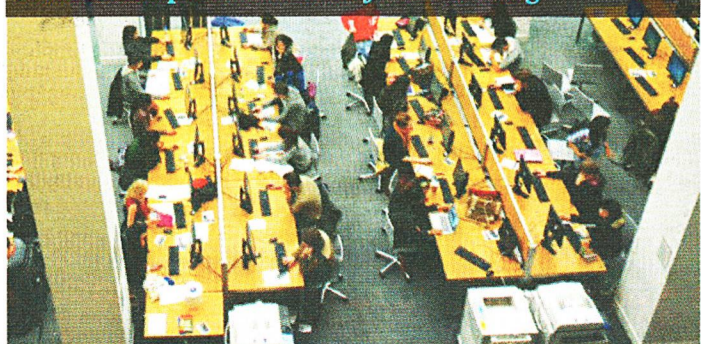
Tom Jennings, a third year BA/BSc Social Anthropology student, said: "it is hard to do well, but it is hard to do very badly as well." He added: "it is a small department, we support each

other; it is really a good community." In the Department of Geography and Environment, only 0.3 per cent of the student failed the course, which is the second lowest figure after Anthropology Department.

The Department of Sociology, which received lowest percentage of firsts – 7.4 per cent also has a low failure rate of 0.5 per cent.

The statistics of the Language Centre is remarkable. 40.4 per cent of the students studying languages obtained a first, which is the highest figure among all courses. The failure rate of language courses is low, only 0.4 per cent of the students failed the exam. The first rate of Management Science Group is very high as well, standing at 26.6 per cent.

Students complain about library overcrowding >> Page 4



LSE library packed with students using computers

Photo: Matt Worby

Students disturbed by construction noise

>> 3 Students at High Holborn Hall have complained about noise pollution caused by ongoing refurbishment, which they claim to be disruptive. The Service Manager of High Holborn said that the construction only takes place during the day on Monday to Friday. Residents at High Holborn expressed concern that construction noise has affected their sleeping pattern. The construction is expected to be completed by the end of Lent term.

Palestine Society host exchange students

>> 5 Last week, the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association arranged for eight students to travel to the United Kingdom to speak about their university experiences at Al Quds University. They participated and spoke at various events across London, including a public lecture sponsored by the LSE Students' Union Palestine Society, culminating in a photography exhibition at SOAS.

LSE proposes new PhD funding scheme

>> 5 A proposal for a reform in the funding of PhD students was passed at last Wednesday's Academic Board meeting. The new PhD Scholarship Scheme proposed by George Gaskill, Pro-Director, Planning and Resources, calls for a focus on quality rather than quantity of PhD training. It is part of an effort on the part of the School to increase the rate of PhD completion within four years, currently at a "worrying" forty percent, to around 75 per cent.

Editorial Board

Executive Editor
Nicola Alexander
editor@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Managing Editor
Duncan McKenna
managing@thebeaveronline.co.uk

News Editors
Bethany Clarke
Heather Wang
Sydney Saubestre
news@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Comment Editor
Rimmel Mohyidin
comment@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Features Editor
Alex Haigh
Gurdeep Chhina
features@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Design Editor
Ahmed Alani
design@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Social Editor
Shrina Poojara
social@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Sport Editors
Maz Fletcher
Maxim Owen
sports@thebeaveronline.co.uk

PartB Editors
Emma Beaumont
Aameer Patel
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Photo Editor
Matt Worby
photo@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Web Editor
Liam Brown
web@thebeaveronline.co.uk

General Manager
Anoli Mehta
info@thebeaveronline.co.uk

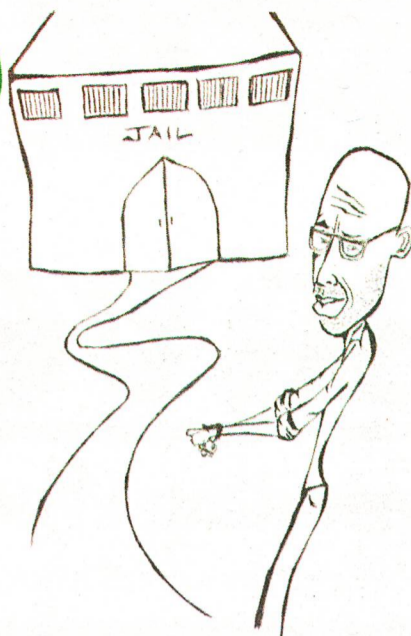
Collective Chair
Chris Rogers
collective@thebeaveronline.co.uk

*With thanks to our
Copy Editors*
Kanika Singh
Ehae Longe
Lisa Strygina

Union BashNō Too little time

It's essay week.
Enough said.
I realise this is not a haiku.
Lolz.

*Bashō is the Beaver's evasive haiku poet
and goes to the Union General Meeting
so you don't have to.*



LSE alumnus secures
unpaid internship
at criminal court

Rimmel

The Beaver

Established in 1949

Issue No. 757

Telephone: 0207 955 6705 Email: editor@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Something wicked this way comes

LSE will return to the media spotlight this week as the results of the Woolf Report become known to the public. Whilst many have speculated on the findings of the report, it is unlikely that this is based on any substantial fact. As per the front page article, a source at the LSE has told the paper that only a few of the highest decision makers at the School have even read the report and know what it contains. That being said, those at the centre of the report are keeping a remarkably low profile amidst the fevered anticipation of its release.

A poetic act of coincidence last week saw the capture of one of the LSE's more famous alumni. This has obviously been a troubling time for the university with the combination of the purportedly unethical funding, a supposedly plagiarised PhD, and Said Gaddafi's alleged crimes against the peoples of Libya, forming a potent mix. Over the past nine months, we have watch as our Director resigned and our university has been pilloried in the press.

Questions abound as to what exactly the LSE "knew" about the funding from Gaddafi's charity, and have cast a wide shadow over the reputation of what is ranked the third best university in the country, and one of the highest rated research institutions in the country.

This paper has consistently held the view whilst Davies is not without blame, for him to be the only figure to have to leave, and for the issue to apparently be magically on its way towards being resolved seems disconcerting.

The LSE is at fault, and there is no argument that we are not, but surely the LSE is not alone in this? There have been suspicions that other universities have elicited funding from questionable sources, yet the LSE has borne the brunt of the criticism because of the events in Libya. This isn't to argue we are in the right, but it seems wrong that other universities avoid the same scrutiny over their funding structures.

But this editorial is not intended to speculate on the findings of the Woolf Report. What has become extremely unfortunate for the students of this university is that we have had to continually find out what is going on with our School through many a headline. In his end of term address to the students, Davies himself recognised that students had had to answer difficult questions from friends and family over the various scandals at the LSE. At the end of the day, as students at this institution, it is just as much our reputation on the line. Amidst the controversy over the Woolf Report, the School made no effort to keep the students in the loop. Moreover, the students will once again have to find out the results of a formal investiga-

tion by reading the national media - as the report is being made public after the Council meeting. Do we not have a right to receive the verdict on a report that could taint our reputation before the scathing eyes of the world beyond Houghton Street see it? This paper implores the LSE to release the results of the Woolf Report to those who are actually effected by the ramifications - the students and staff who will have to face friends, family and employers who now consider, even in ignorance, LSE to stand for "Libyan Subsidised Economics."

This newspaper has approached the Press Office to lobby them into releasing the report to the students first, however, at such a late stage it seems that this would be logistically impossible. We have no doubt that the Press Office will make the report available as soon as possible or that the Press Office will let the students know when and how they can access the report. Regardless, this paper believes that aside from Davies himself, the School has consistently neglected the effects that their decision making, or lack thereof, has had on the students of this university. This is most evident in the fact that the students will get to find out just how much damage has been done to that 'LSE' part of their CV along with the rest of the general public, who have nothing personal invested in the outcome of the Woolf Report.

Rasha Al-Dabagh, Ahmed Alani, Nicola Alexander, Jon Armstrong, Laurence Atchison, Emma Beaumont, Liam Brown, Harry Burdon, Benjamin Butterworth, Simon Chaudhuri, Gurdeep Chhina, Bethany Clarke, Rory Creedon, Roberta Cucchiaro, Alicia Cunningham, Aisha Doherty, Eden Dwek, Maz Fletcher, Alice Leah Fyfe, Alice Gunn, Paniz Geder, Alex Haigh, Rachel Holmes, Max Jenkins, Kirsty Kenney, Aleona Krechetova, Rory Creedon, Zoe Leung, Neeraj Mashru, Duncan McKenna, Anoli Mehta, Rimmel Mohyidin, Angie Moneke, Chu Ting Ng, Kerry-Rose O'Donnell, Maxim Owen, Aameer Patel, Maatin Patel, Hannah Payne, John Peart, Alex Peters-day, Shrina Poojara, Timothy Pool, Aimee Riese, Chris Rogers, Zac Sammour, Sydney Saubestre, Lukas Slothus, Jack Tindale, Laurence Vardaxoglou, Michael Veale, Ankur Vora, Heather Wang, Sam Williams, Vincent Wong, Mathew Worby, Alexander Young, Stephanie Galem, Naomi Russell, James Yarde, Sam Langton, Bianca Nardi, Edward Larkin, Hero Austin

The Collective is The Beaver's governing body. You must have contributed three pieces of work, or contributed to the production of three issues of the paper (editorially or administratively), to qualify for membership. If you believe you are a Collective member but your name is not on the list above, please email

collective@thebeaveronline.co.uk

The Beaver would like to thank the LSE students who contributed to this issue.

The Beaver is published by the LSE Students' Union, East Building, Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE. Printed at Mortons Printing.

The Beaver uses pictures from flickr.com which have been issued under a Creative Commons license.

We welcome guest editors

The Beaver Editorial Board would like to invite anyone who is interested in editing or improving the Beaver to join us in the office on a Sunday as part of our new "guest editor" initiative. If you are interested and have constructive ideas please e-mail:

editor@thebeaveronline.co.uk

What it means to be on the collective

Dearest Beavies and budding Beavies,

The Beaver Collective is the decision making body of the Beaver. If you have materially contributed to 3 issues of the paper (signing Letters to the Editor do not count) then you are on the Beaver Collective. If you think you may be eligible then please e-mail collective@thebeaveronline.co.uk. If you have any questions feel free to contact us.

Love,
The Beaver

Halls refurbishment disturbs residents

Shu Hang
Staff Reporter

Students living in High Holborn, one of the LSE's halls of residence, have been disturbed by the noise pollution produced by the refurbishment work carried out in the hall.

A disclaimer appears on the LSE Accommodation website, "High Holborn has planned refurbishment work on the second floor which will run until the end of the lent term in 2012." The site further claims that "refurbishment work, at various stages, can involve noise mainly from drilling." No information about the construction is given on High Holborn's individual website. Last year similar construction was conducted at Rosebury, an LSE hall of residence in Islington, however, it was advertised clearly on the hall's own website when students were applying for accommodation. The Beaver reported on Rosebury's construction delays last year.

The construction at High Holborn, which is part of a twelve year development program, started two years ago. Currently the construction is focused on refurbishing all the bedrooms on the second floor, the kitchens and most of the showers and toilets.

The noise from drilling and hammering during construction time, weekly from 9am to 5pm, often disrupts students on the third, fourth, and fifth floor of the residence. Several students have complained about the construction affecting their sleep patterns.

According to Sarah Jons, Service Manager of High Holborn, "we only carry out this refurbishment during the week, and keep weekends clear. We started the work in August and the work is due to be completed by the end of the Lent term. We don't do any refurbishment work during the third term as we understand that this is the exam period for many students."

Meanwhile, students who need a quiet area can take advantage of the large study space area at the ground floor that can be used anytime of the day, she added.

Some residents on the second

floor were required to move away from their bedrooms. "The advantage [they gain] is moving from an unrefurbished room into a refurbished room without paying any extra costs," Jons claimed, "this only affects a small number of students and they are delighted to get these rooms."

Despite the careful planning of the construction, residents were overwhelmingly unhappy with the noise, which has been an ongoing problem since the beginning of the term.

Liang Huey Jean, a first year Actuarial Science student, found the drilling very disturbing. She also complained about a persistent dripping sound at night. She has since done her best to put up with the noise. "I am usually able to sleep through them because I am always so tired," she said, "living in High Holborn for so long, I have learnt to accept a lot of things."

On the other hand, Kutto Joseph, a first year Actuarial Science student, complained that the drilling is "too early and too loud" and that it greatly disrupts his daily life. "You can't sleep, you can't study, you can't even think," he said, "you can't watch the television because you have to pause it all the time. Everybody is extremely annoyed with it."

Some residents chose to vent their frustration on Facebook and Twitter. An entry on the High Holborn residences Facebook page reads: "wondering if there's any walls that they haven't drilled at 9am, or if they just use the same one each time. It's my day off." Another resident jokingly wrote that the regularity of the drilling has substituted his need for an alarm clock.

Equally, there are some students more forgiving of the situation, deeming the construction "necessary." "I am gone early in the morning and only back in the evening, when it's over. It doesn't disrupt my studying at all," said a current resident of the hall.

Responding to the issue, Professor Paul Kelly, Warden of High Holborn told the Beaver: "the constant effort to improve facilities for all our residents does occasionally cause disruption but this is always outweighed by the benefits to current and future residents. Noise is always managed carefully but

we cannot ever guarantee that some students are not disrupted for some periods."

High Holborn has signed "The Student Accommodation Code" developed by the UUK and GuildHE, which aims to "protects your rights as students to safe, good quality accommodation and makes sure you get the best out of your time living in university or

college residences."

One of codes under "planned maintenance" reads: "all maintenance works should be undertaken so as to minimise inconvenience to residents. For planned maintenance 7 days notice should normally be given to residents; endeavours should be made to avoid sensitive periods such as examinations."



Construction worker refurbishing the second floor of High Holborn Hall
Photo: Sydney Saubestre

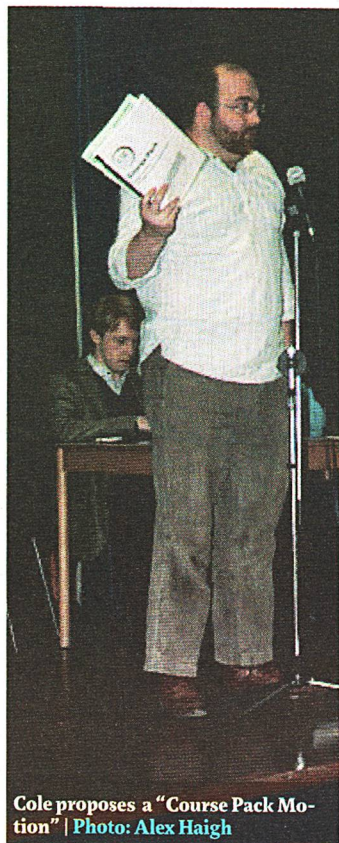
UGM motion calls for return of course packs

Julia Wackett

Students were involved in a surprisingly heated debate over course packs at last week's Union General Meeting (UGM). David Landon Cole, the proposer of the motion entitled "Course Pack Motion," wanted to see a return of course packs, which would combine all of a student's reading for a given course in a purchasable bounded notebook.

Cole, a former undergraduate at the LSE who is now pursuing a postgraduate degree at the School, reminded the UGM that the School had previously made use of course packs. Cole stated that "they (course packs) had been discontinued years ago and students have been consistently asking for them since."

Cole argued that the poor printing facilities at the LSE and the alleged disdain many students have for reading online should see the revival of course packs. The motion that was proposed stipulated that the Students' Union would support and oversee the printing of course packs, or at least, pressure the university into doing it. "It is something that the students demand and would provide a small revenue for the Union itself," Cole said, "it would also be more economi-



Cole proposes a "Course Pack Motion" | Photo: Alex Haigh

cal than printing out every reading oneself, only costing around two pence per page."

The opposition to this motion came from both the LSE Students' Union Sabbatical Officers and members of the audience. Alex Peters-Day, LSE Student's Union General Secretary, opposed the motion on the grounds that printing is a service that the university should provide not the Students' Union, which does not have the capacity for this type of printing. Peters-Day elaborated that cuts to other existing programs would have to be implemented in the budget to fund this project.

"We know printing facilities are poor at the School, and that is a shame given the high tuition fees students are paying," said Rachel Wenstone, a current Masters student who also opposed the motion. Wenstone continued "the Students' Union's job is campaigning, not providing administrative services."

The course pack motion debate ended at a standstill, with all twenty-six members of the audience unsure as to how the online vote would turn out. "I really don't know how to vote," said Daniel Frost, a first year Government and History student.

According to the Students' Union's website, the "Course Pack Motion" went to online vote on Thursday evening. The motion failed since it

did not reach the 250 votes needed to become Union policy. Of the 41 people who voted 38 students voting in favour and three against.

Other topics of note at last week's UGM included the scheduling of the LSE100 exam and providing halal and kosher food options to students living in catered residences.

The Students' Union agreed that the LSE100 exam, scheduled for 6th January, should be moved, as it conflicts with the travel plans of international students. Peters-Day stated that she had already discussed the issue with Jonathan Leape, Director of the LSE100 programme, and that he would be happy to attend UGM this term to discuss the issue with students in an open forum.

Additionally, Lukas Slothuus, the Students' Union's Community and Welfare Officer, is currently working on providing halal and kosher meal options for students living in certain catered halls. Several religious Jewish and Muslim students have reportedly been unable to live in halls of residence as the catering does not meet their dietary requirements. Slothuus explained that the logistics of providing kosher meals are substantially more complicated and that LSE residences are not equipped with the proper kitchen space, but that it would be something he will continue to explore.

News in brief

DEGRAW FIRST TO HOLD JOHN PAULSON CHAIR AT THE LSE

Professor Paul De Grauwe, an expert on European monetary union and debt, will be the first person to hold the John Paulson Chair in European Political Economy at the LSE. De Grauwe will take up the post at the School's European Institute in February. Paulson has now donated more the £2.5 million for research and teaching on the eurozone economy. The donation will fund not only the chair position, but will also support an associated five year research programme.

LSE ALUMNA LAUNCHES NEW SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE

Alexandra Chong, a technology entrepreneur who graduated from the LSE with a degree in Law has secured \$1 million in equity financing for "Luluvisé," a social and communications platform for young women. Luluvisé offers a girls-only platform, and is intended as an answer to the public nature of Facebook posts. Beta testing for the networking site began on the 14th November, and a full scale launch is expected within the next few weeks.

LSE CITIES RESEARCH RANKS ASIAN CITIES TOP

A study of 129 world metropolitan regions published by LSE Cities has seen Hong Kong, Osaka, Tokyo and Singapore come out on top. The study shows how health, wealth and education vary in 129 cities from across the world. The results of the study are particularly poignant given that "with 70 per cent of the world's population forecast to be living in urban areas by 2050, global well-being will increasingly be determined by the health of urban dwellers," said Ricky Burdett, Director of LSE Cities and Urban Age.

MARKETING THE KEY TO COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Marketing techniques that have historically been responsible for encouraging over-consumption could be used to effectively tackle climate change by persuading consumers to change their current habits, according to research conducted by Saadi Lahlou of LSE's Institute of Social Psychology. He argues that through group participation people can be incentivised to change their habits. "Those companies who will be the first to make the move will benefit most. It is now the role of those who are at the core of the system, marketers, to take the lead," Lahlou said.

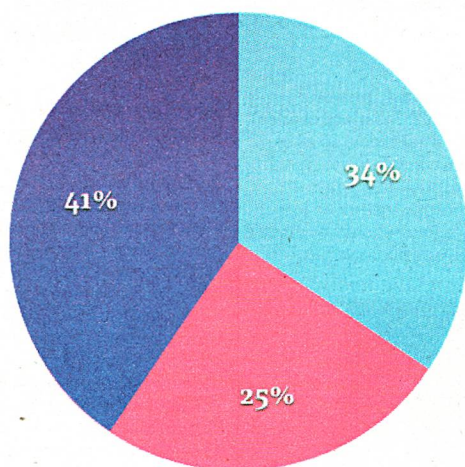
DOLAN DISCUSSES HAPPINESS AND POLICY

According to Paul Dolan, Professor in the Department of Social Policy, "Happiness is what ultimately matters to us - and it should be what ultimately matters to policymakers too." Unfortunately, Dolan argues, people are unable to predict accurately how happy or unhappy something will make them. This is particularly important for policymakers, who risk making decisions that leave people unhappier than before. Dolan calls for "more research on the connection between happiness and behaviour. Ultimately some of the best behaviour-changing policies will be the ones that improve happiness."

GOT A SCOOP?

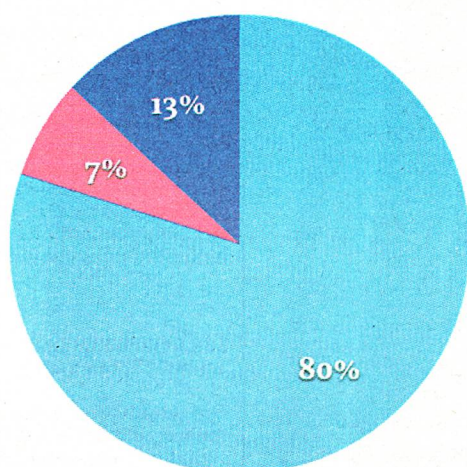
Got a story that you think we should be printing? Send us an e-mail: news@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Library Cardholders



● LSE students and staff ● LSE associated users
● Registered visitors

Library Entries



● LSE students and staff ● LSE associated users
● Registered visitors

41 per cent of library cardholders not from LSE

Stephanie Gale
Staff Reporter

Judith Rees, Interim Director of the LSE, revealed at the Union General Meeting (UGM) last week that certain government grants are given to the LSE on the condition that it has to provide access to University of London and other non-LSE students.

Currently, the library gives non-LSE students free access to its collections as part of a twenty-five year agreement between the LSE and the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding towards the 2001 redevelopment of the library. The Heritage Lottery Fund grant acknowledged the national importance of the library to the social sciences and the library was consequently designated one of the finest National Research Libraries in the UK.

Institutions that are part of the University of London also have an agreement to give each other access to their library collections.

Over the last academic year, there were 14,252 users who were LSE students or staff members, 10,434 LSE associated users and 16,815 registered users. In relative terms, eighty per cent of entries LSE students and staff. Only seven per cent of visits were done by associated users, which include Alumni and summer school students, and thirteen per cent by non-LSE user.

According to Helen Cocker, User Services Manager of the library, these figures can be explained by the fact that, "although we have a high number of external users, they [aren't necessarily regular users] as some only the

visit the library on one day, having made a special trip to use our collections."

When questioned about the possible strain on resources that may result from non-pupil usage of the library, Cocker pointed out that only LSE students can book group study rooms and study spaces in the library which are accessible through the 'LSE for You' mechanism. Cocker also commented: "As we know that the exam period is such an important time for students' use of the Library we have a range of special measures in place at that time."

The library is open twenty-four hours during "exam season", with access past midnight restricted to LSE students and staff only. This policy is being enforced this year again. The twenty-four hour period will continue from 9th January 2012 until the end of exams in June. Cocker also argued: "Although students make good use of the group study room booking facility, study space booking is generally only used over the exam period, when spaces are under particular pressure."

However, it seems that for some students it isn't the lack of study space that is their main concern. Simon Rickenbach, a 2nd year Geography with Economics student, stated: "I often have to bring my laptop into campus from home because I don't want to have to waste time looking for a computer." This sentiment resonates with many students on campus.

There are currently 483 computers available through out the entire library and 883 computers in various buildings across campus. There are approximately 44 printers, with the majority conglomerated in the library. Students can see computer availability

on a screen in St. Clements and there are certain stations designated for quick printing jobs. The library has also implemented the "i-roam service, which makes laptops available for staff and students to borrow for use in the Library."

"I deliberately bring my laptop with me to school because I know I won't be able to find a laptop," said Alex Haigh, 2nd year BSc Environmental Policy with Economics students. "I used to try and use the i-rooms, but they never actually worked. But even finding a seat to work at can be a challenge."

According to the 2009-2010 Library Annual Report, the library will be continually working to alleviate the issue of overcrowding; the lowest satisfaction ratings were "availability of study space with 55.3 per cent satisfaction and enforcement of Library rules of 23 per cent. The Library is working on initiatives for the coming year to address these such as zoning of study spaces and installation of more bean bags."

Regardless, not all students are satisfied with the measures the library has implemented to increase space and accessibility. Gurmeet Kaur, a 2nd year History and International Relations student, said: "Not only are the resources such as computers and books provided by the library disproportionate to the number of LSE students but the fact is that outside users such as other University of London students use the library on a daily basis which stretches the library resources further. LSE students do have priority over exam period but this should also be extended in term time."

Moore on rugby, law, and life

Alex Haigh

Brian Moore, former rugby player for England, gave a public lecture last Thursday at Sheikh Zayed Theatre rallying the crowd of over one hundred to both laughter and sympathy. Entitled "The Wit and Wisdom of Brian Moore," the lecture examined Moore's life so far. The stories included his runs with referees, his time as a lawyer and, most poignantly, the sexual abuse he was subject to as a child.

"The pit bull of English rugby" began his speech by explaining his early life growing up on a council estate in Illingworth, West Yorkshire. He joked that he once walked past the window of a house on the estate that bore the words "Happy 30th Birthday, Grandma," an example of the poverty and social exclusion the estate was subject to.

Moore went on to explain his education and his time in university. He applied for Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford at the request of his parents, but after a gruelling interview in which he was asked: "If God is omnipotent, could he create a rock too big for him to move?" he decided that he would study Law at Nottingham University instead.

Moore, who has represented the England and British and Ireland Lions as a rugby player, went on to speak of his training in Law and time as a solicitor, skipping details of his time as a rugby player. With very few good

things to say regarding Law as a career he said he "developed a conscience" and decided to pursue a career in writing and commentary.

Moore describes himself as an "author" and journalist upon retirement from rugby and Law. Even as he nears his 50th birthday, in just two months, he still has the typical figure of a rugby forward - a huge, imposing and broad-chested man. Yet despite this intimidating physique - an obvious fit for a rugby player, he focused on his career as a wine critic for the Sun newspaper. At the request of one reader he even revealed the best wines to accompany different flavours of crisps. He also explored his time writing for the Telegraph and his three books.

Punctuating his light-hearted and humorous speech was the story of how he developed the courage to tell people about his sexual abuse as a child. Almost coming to tears, he explained how he "sat down on a wall and sobbed," after he revealed to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre in 2008 that he was subject to sexual abuse by a teacher and family friend when he was nine. He said he "thought [he] had dealt with it" but he said, simply, "I hadn't," and this opening up had helped him in a cathartic way.

After explaining how the abuse he suffered as a child had "affected [him] in a very corrosive way," he described his time working with charities. He has been involved with several national charities that help both men and women overcome domestic and sexual abuse. He said he was extreme-

ly "pleased to be able to be a catalyst" for a woman to share her story of sex abuse that she had kept unrevealed for 67 years and will continue to help these charities for which he has an obviously strong affinity.

Moore, who revealed an envious ability to change a crowd's collective feeling on the slightest signal, continued his lecture by exploring his time commentating on sports other than rugby. He deplored FIFA's objections to technology saying the argument of "where would it ever end?" although used by many, is a ridiculous one. He also stated that FIFA needs to be made more transparent, saying that without the Sunday Times investigation FIFA would not be investigating their corruption.

He ended the lecture with his own thoughts on England's unsuccessful Rugby World Cup tour. The tour was plagued by poor behaviour and late night antics that saw the England team disgrace the country and lose to France in the quarter finals. He said that you would "only have to have serialised one of our tours to write a sensational book. There would be a lot of divorces but a good book." But he admitted that the mobile phone and the professional aspect of the modern game had meant players should be more responsible and accountable to supporters. He added that the Team's activities should not, in any way, be condoned and finished with his thoughts on how the RFU, England rugby's governing body, should be transformed into a more business-like body.



Brian Moore delivering a lecture at the LSE last Thursday | Photo: Alex Haigh

Academic Board passes new PhD scholarship scheme

Bethany Clarke

A proposal for a new LSE PhD Scholarship Scheme put forward by George Gaskill, Pro-Director, Planning and Resources, was passed at an Academic Board meeting on the 16th November.

The objective of the proposal is to "establish a flagship PhD Programme commensurate with the School's international status as a leading research and teaching institution of the social sciences."

The proposal was put forward in response to the School's recent award of the status of Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctorate Training center, and its "worrying" record of PhD completion within four years.

Currently, only forty per cent of PhDs are completed within four years. The School will aim to increase this figure to around 75 per cent.

The proposal calls for a new strategy in the training of PhD students focusing on a commitment to quality rather than quantity of PhD training.

Notably, the proposal calls for the concentration of financial resources into providing more fully funded PhD scholarships. Currently around £4m in financial resources are dedicated to PhD students.

The new LSE PhD scholarship package will cover students' fees and provide a maintenance allowance of about £18,000 per annum. In addition to this, students will have to contribute £15,000 over the course of the four years, which can be earned by teaching classes or working in other departmental roles. Gaskill's paper also proposes to give students a position "akin to junior faculty status," with access to department facilities.

The LSE PhD scholarships are to be limited to full time students, though students whose personal circumstances force them to change to part time study during the course of their scholarship will be accommodated. According to the proposal, it is assumed that a higher proportion of the LSE scholarships will be given to Overseas students. While this will raise the cost of the scheme, the required funds are within the amount available.

The proposal also calls upon the School to support different PhD pro-

gramme models, such as two two-year periods of study and M.Res or PhD programmes.

The new LSE PhD Scholarship Scheme is set to start in the 2013/2014 academic year, with the RSS and the current LSE PhD scheme being phased out over a three year period.

The total expected recruitment of students with scholarship funding is expected to be around 113. This year, 175 new PhD students enrolled at the LSE, meaning that various scholarship schemes amount to 65 per cent of the current PhD student intake.

Robin Burret, the LSE Students' Union's Post-graduate Officer, said that the potential positives of the new funding scheme could be that guaranteed funding for students with LSE scholarships could improve completion rates, as well as attract students from a wider variety of socioeconomic backgrounds to the School.

He added that he also had several concerns over the potential impact of the funding scheme, including that it might reduce access for students seeking part-time study. He also expressed concern over what he labelled "ESCR steer."

"The SU welcomes the proposal to improve the funding of PhD students, but there are a number of issues in the proposal as it stands that need to be worked through before we can give it our full endorsement," said Burret.

Alex Peters-Day said that the Students' Union is "broadly in favour of the proposal" and that she and Burret "look forward to working with the school on clarifying certain points of the proposals and coming to an agreement."

"From our discussions at Academic Board it was clear that there needs to be a lot more consultation with students, and this was reiterated by the Postgraduate Dean," she said, adding that the Students' Union will be working LSE students, UCU representatives and staff within the School to address this.

She described the proposal to give PhD students junior faculty status as "potentially particularly problematic," adding that "we would be keen to ensure they are still regarded as students and therefore members of the Students' Union in order that they might receive representation and support from our organisation."

Students from Al Quds University visit the LSE

Alice Dawson
Staff Reporter

The LSE Students' Union Palestine Society hosted several students from Abu Dhis, in the Middle East, who recently came to the United Kingdom to take part in an exchange programme organised by the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association. They arrived on Thursday 10th November and participated in a variety of events across London.

The aim of the visit was to compare the university student's diverging experiences between the Middle East and the UK. The Association's website claims that the visiting students will "work with students from London universities on a project to document student life through photography."

The students took photographs of life at Al Quds University and in the London universities they visited during the exchange. These photographs were displayed in an exhibition at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), entitled, "Look at our Lives."

One of the eight students visited the LSE on Wednesday 16th November. Yasmin Ahmed, President of the

LSE Students' Union Palestine Society, said that the student was "shown around our campus whilst they took photos, met with the Sabbatical Officers and had a discussion about the Students' Union and student activism at the LSE and in the UK."

That same evening, three of the Al Quds students gave a talk at a public event in Connaught House, hosted by the Palestine Society and King's College London Action Palestine. Approximately forty people attended the talk, which was based around the students' experience of going to Al Quds University and how, what they refer to as, the "apartheid wall" has affected their education.

The students spoke of their journeys to university through Israeli military checkpoints, where they reported being subject to humiliation or even downright refusal of entry. The students stated that this has extended a five minute journey to one which takes around two hours. They mentioned being forced to leave before dawn for important events such as examinations in case they were refused entry or subjected to delays at the checkpoint.

One student said he had regularly seen Israeli soldiers only granting entry to female students if they were subjected to degrading acts such

as taking off their clothes. Another commented that he was refused entry unless he agreed to purchase a packet of cigarettes for an Israeli soldier.

Aimee Riese, President of the LSE Students' Union Israel Society, commented; "There are powerful narratives on both sides of this conflict. As students, as humans, it is not our role to judge whose narrative is more just. Rather we should do everything we can to support peace, through the internationally accepted two state solution, so that both peoples can live in the peace and security that they deserve."

One of the audience members, Ahmed, commented that, despite the "very upsetting and angering circumstances that they and their families have faced on a daily basis," the students "ended their talk with an air of defiance." They recognise that their education is an "integral part of Palestinian resistance" and resolved never to give up "until Palestine is liberated and justice is served."

The exchange visit occurred in light of a recent announcement by the Palestine Society that LSE professors from the Departments of International Relations, History and Law will be delivering live lectures to students in Gaza as part of the society's "Right to Education" campaign.



The Palestine Society welcomes students from Al-Quds University. Photo: LSE Students' Union Palestine Society

Expert on the Middle East dissects the Arab Spring

Sarah Carr

Gilles Kepel returned to the LSE last Wednesday to present a lecture entitled "Revolution and Counter Revolution in the Arab World." Kepel held the Phillippe Roman Chair at LSE Ideas two years ago, and is considered one of the foremost academics on Arab affairs and political Islam. The well-attended public lecture concerned itself with the similarities and differences in the so-called Arab Spring revolutions.

The lecture focused on the six revolutions that occurred over the last year in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen and Syria. Their effect was broadly felt, and concerned not only

the Arab world but also the Arab immigrant population and that those of "Arab and Muslim descent are part and parcel of the change that is happening in the Arab world today."

According to Kepel, one of the contextual reasons for the Arab Spring revolutions was the dwindling of the Western world's interest and influence in the Middle East. As foreign regimes are no longer acting as bulwarks against organizations such as Al-Qaeda: "the clout of the West is receding and the centre of the world is moving east to China and other oil exporting countries."

Though Kepel mentioned some of the similarities between the different revolts, he mainly focused on their differences. Socioeconomic differences were apparent; the Tunisian revolution

was started by those from a working class background and later endorsed by the middle classes, whereas in Egypt the movement to get rid of Mubarak was led by the western-educated, pro-democratic youth and did not reach the lower class until Mubarak declared that he was to stay.

Libya's case was unique in the sheer amount of foreign military and monetary support the revolution received. Kepel declared that "without foreign intervention there would have been no toppling of the Gaddafi regime."

He also addressed the three revolutions that have not succeeded. Bahrain, which demographically has a large Shiite population ruled by a the few Sunni elite, has had internal tension for years with little regime

turnover. Opposition to the Monarchy initially used democratic channels to seek change, unlike the other groups in the region. Much of the Bahraini revolution's failure had to do with Saudi Arabia's own strategic interest in Bahrain.

In Syria the anti-Assad demonstrations do not have much popular support, for fear of who would take over. Yemen's uprising was the most similar to Tunisia and Egypt, and its outcome is not as yet fully determined.

The lecture left little time for questions, but those that were asked centered on the roles of outside forces such as Iran and Hezbollah and the future for the citizens of these Arab Spring countries that have been undergoing drastic transitions.

According to Kepel, much is still

to be determined in all these areas and more. In response to the queries about the future of minorities, he said, "it depends on the minority, some are arming themselves and putting up fierce opposition, but for others, especially Christians, it is more uncertain."

Amongst the audience were many LSE staff and students as well as listeners who were not affiliated with the school, but deeply curious about the subject.

One audience member, Simon Pollard, expressed that this was the first public lecture he had been to and that he was "pleasantly surprised at how clearly such a complicated situation was explained." He added, "I will definitely be coming to future events."

Student body celebrates International Week

Sophie Newman

Last week the LSE Students' Union sponsored International Week, a series of events celebrating the more than 7,000 international students who currently attend the LSE. The week-long festivities were spearheaded by Hannah Geiss, the International Students Officer of the Students' Union, who involved numerous Students' Union societies.

International Week kicked off on Sunday 13th November with the international world cup where nineteen country-based teams competed for the title. Competition was tough, but as an ode to the 1990 World Cup, Germany once again emerged victorious.

Monday and Tuesday's "Internation

ational Fair" provided students with the opportunity to travel the world just by walking through Houghton Street, which was filled with stalls ran by different various national and cultural societies, giving students a chance to sample different cooking from across the globe.

Tuesday also gave students the chance to find out more about Asian careers and internship opportunities with AISEC, a global organisation that develops leadership capabilities and facilitates a global exchange scheme. Sustainable Futures offered free tea and coffee with purchase of an LSE international mug.

A lively debate also took place on the role of the nation state, entitled "This House Believes That the Nation State is Dead" which was enthusiastically discussed by both sides. Other events included a lecture co-hosted by

the United Nations Society and Israel Society, where students were given an opportunity to discuss human rights in the international context after a talk by Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of UN Watch, on "From Eleanor Roosevelt to Gaddafi: The Rise and Fall of Human Rights at the UN."

The discussions continued on Thursday when the Students' Union Think Tank Society focused on the challenges posed to national identity by the need to accommodate diversity with a lecture entitled, "Different but interdependent: How can we create a greater feeling of regional and global togetherness?"

The Film Society also embraced the international theme, screening, "LAuberge Espagnole," a heart-warming comedy about people from all over Europe living together in a flat in Barcelona and getting along with each

other. Later in the week, they screened "The Gods Must Be Crazy" a film set in South Africa about a Sho tribesman's first encounter with western technology in the form of a Coca-Cola bottle.

The diverse events of international week culminated in a celebration of international cuisine during Friday's "International Food Fest." The Food

Fest drew a large and hungry crowd to Houghton Street eager to sample the culinary delights ranging from Mexican to French. All proceeds went to RAG.

"I think it is fair to say that International Week 2011 was a true success," said Geiss, "judging by all the positive feedback we got and the happy faces of students on Houghton Street."



Mexican food stand on Houghton Street | Photo: Matt Worby



LSE students enjoy international flavors. | Photo: Matt Worby

LSE Alumnus captured in Libya

Bethany Clarke

Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, an LSE alumnus and son of the ex-Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, was captured last Sunday near the town of Obari, in Libya's southern desert, by a militia force allied to the ruling National Transitional Council (NTC). According to militia commander Bashir al-Tayeieb, Saif Gaddafi was found with two aids attempting to smuggle him out of the country and into the neighbouring Niger.

Before the outbreak of the revolution, Western leaders regarded Saif Gaddafi as a liberal reformer. In 2008, he received his doctorate in global governance from the LSE. The dissertation he completed at the School called for political reform, aiming to analyse "how to create more just and democratic global governing institutions" while focusing on "civil society," according to the introduction Saif Gaddafi wrote.

Having received multiple allegations of plagiarism and ghost-writing in Saif Gaddafi's doctoral thesis, the University of London is currently conducting an inquiry into the academic legitimacy of his PhD. The results of the inquiry are expected to be published by the end of the month.

Last March, Howard Davies was forced to resign as Director of the LSE

after the School came under heavy criticism for accepting a £1.5 million donation from the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation (GICDF), of which Saif Gaddafi is the President.

Following Davies' resignation, the School commissioned an external investigation into its relations with Libya. The inquiry, which was conducted by Lord Woolf, has now been completed. The release of the report will be delayed until the University of London reaches a conclusion as to the academic legitimacy of Saif Gaddafi's doctoral thesis.

Saif Gaddafi's arrest is the result of a search lasting several months, and the date of his capture comes almost a month after his father was apprehended and killed.

Libyan TV has broadcast a photograph of Saif Gaddafi in custody. The photo shows him sitting in a bed with three bandaged fingers, wounds he says he sustained during a NATO air strike three months ago.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is currently seeking Saif Gaddafi's arrest on charges of crimes against humanity for his participation in the bombing and shooting of civilian protesters in February.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Chief Prosecutor for the ICC is to travel to Libya this week to discuss how and when Saif Gaddafi's prosecution will be handled.

Turkey's past provides insights into the EU's future

Abir Qazilbash

The Woflson Theatre was filled with discussion during a public lecture entitled "Turkish angles: Europe's nation states" which featured three distinguished academics who have extensively studied Turkish politics, law and identity. John Breuilly, Professor of Nationalism and Ethnicity in the LSE's Department of Government, Sir Francis Jacobs, Law Professor at King's College London, and Professor Umut Özkirimli from Lund University's Centre for Middle East Studies discussed the ways in which Turkish perspectives have shifted our understanding of European identity.

The chair of the event, Dr. Simon Glendinning began the discussion by quoting Kant's essay, written in the 1780s, which outlined the future emergence of a great political body. Kant rejected the rational proposition of a supra-national state. He believed that the size of such a state would render it hard to administer and sustain as a republican democracy. Glendinning argued that "we are living in a present where that great political body has risen."

In this context, the three speakers explored ideas of national Turkish unity and Turkey's political social relationship with Europe.

Jacobs focused on what he believed to be the stem of the issue; under the 1963 Association Agreement in partnership with Europe, there were contemplations of Turkish accession to the European community at the time. In 1949, Turkey had already joined the Council of Europe; Turkey held geopolitical significance at the time, and "we must not forget" that it is a "brudge between the Middle East and Europe."

Breuilly posited that "nation state formation happens in waves" that are historically associated with large-scale violence. He believes that we must see the current situation in light of a broader European geopolitical reality, as opposed to giving excessive focus to Turkish individualities as many historians have been prone to doing.

Breuilly gave an interesting comparison of the breakdown of the Habsburg and Ottoman multinational empires. Unlike many of the other revolutionary nation-states, Turkey managed to evade falling under Fascist or Communist rule.

Özkirimli affirmed Jacob's point regarding difficulties in drawing the

boundary between national unity, and multiculturalism in the EU and on a national scale. He emphasized the routine alienation of the Kurdish community. The quest for homogeneity on national level has been sustained but has not been incredibly successful.

Similarly, he suggests elements of European supra-nationalism have become more 'legitimised', being embraced not only by the far right, but "also by mainstream politicians" including Cameron and Merkel, with their comments on immigration and multiculturalism earlier this year.

Hence, Özkirimli proposes a bleak future for Turkey joining the EU and broader European acceptance— as the argument will "always center around religion and cultural differences."

Audience members raised the question that surely those asking for a stronger political body would argue that the EU should have vibrant cultural differences? Özkirimli maintained that this may be true in theory, but it is not practiced, as politicians of varying positions on the political spectrum are reluctant to embrace these dissimilarities.

They concluded that both the EU and Turkey need to look to the future and stop relying on past examples.

LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS KARATE CLUB

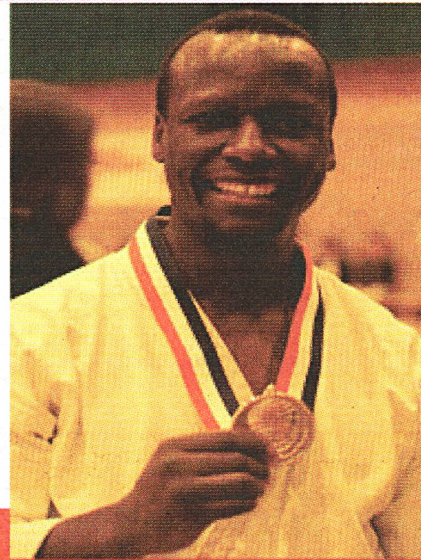


KARATE CLUB

www.lsekc.org.uk

TRAIN WITH THE CHAMPS

Learn Self Defence, increase your Speed & Agility
Win medals & enjoy the social events



松涛館

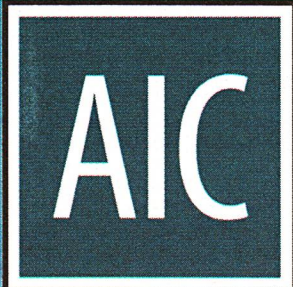


Training Times:

Tuesday 20:00 – 21:30 (Old Gym)
Wednesday 19:00 – 20:30 (Parish Hall)
Friday 18:30 – 20:30 (Old Gym)

Special offer:

Bring this advert in and get 50% off your first 3 sessions



LSE SU
ALTERNATIVE
INVESTMENTS
CONFERENCE

The world's largest student conference on
Hedge Funds & Private Equity

23-24 January 2012
Marriott London Grosvenor Square

Register by December 4 at
www.lseaic.com

Keynote Speakers



Gillian Tett
US Managing Editor
Financial Times



Glenn Hutchins
Co-Founder and
Co-CEO
Silver Lake



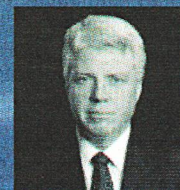
Peter Clarke
CEO
Man Group



Lord Fink
CEO
ISAM and Earth
Capital Partners



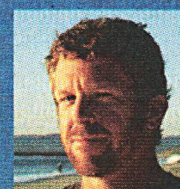
Hugh Langmuir
Managing Partner
Cinven Partners



Randall Dillard
Co-Founder and
CIO
Liongate Capital
Management



Hugh Hendry
Founder and CIO
Eclectica Asset
Management



Steven Drobny
Co-Founder
Drobny Global

Made Possible by



BAIN & COMPANY



Bain Capital



Dechert LLP

ANGERMAYER / BRUMM / LANGE
GROUP OF COMPANIES

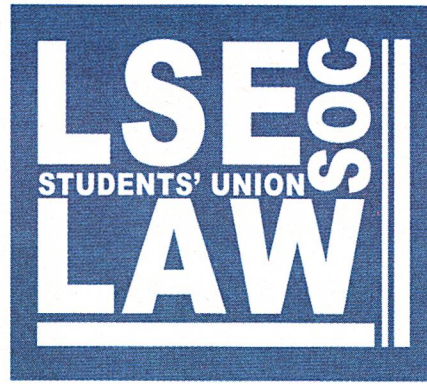
Cornell partnership

CREDIT SUISSE

iam



CPP
INVESTMENT
BOARD



Presents

The
Christmas Feast

Drinks reception
3-course meal
Mince pies
After party
Free Bar!

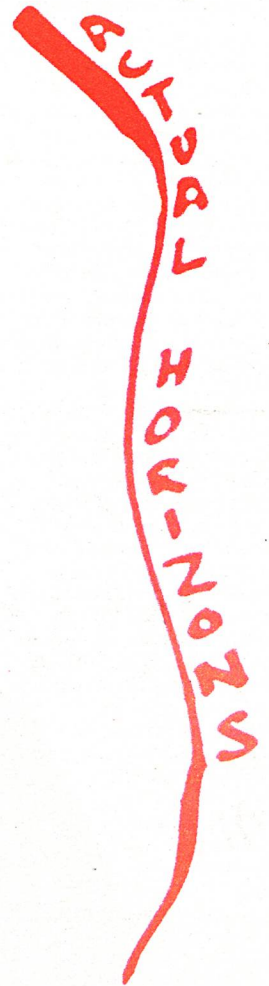
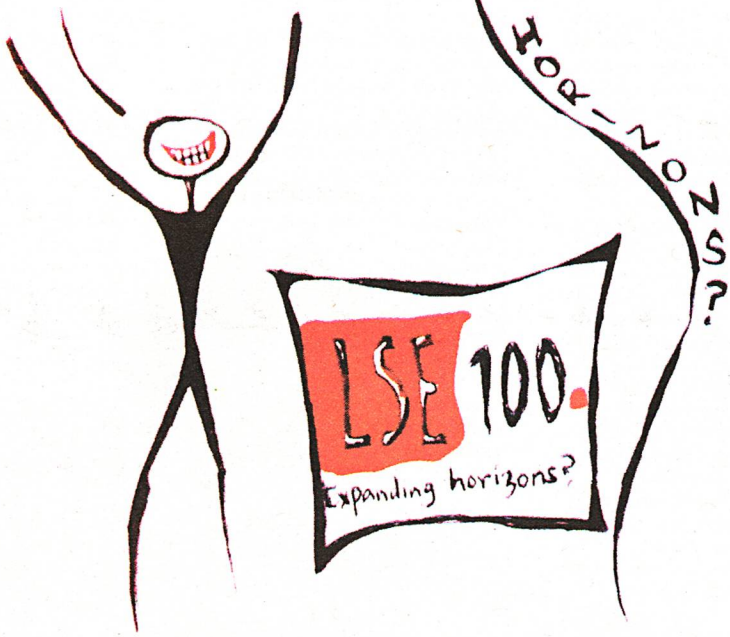
~
1st December 2011 - 7pm-1am
At the Russell Hotel



*Tickets are currently sold out, but to be place on the waiting list,
please email su.soc.law@lse.ac.uk*

Comment

Yay! I am now enlightened!
Thanks, LSE100 xx



Not wanting to know the causes of things

Make LSE100 optional or at least let us have a proper holiday

Katrina Mather



After studying LSE100, I can truthfully say that I know the cause of one thing – why anyone in his or her second undergraduate year is going to have to return to London at least four days before the beginning of Lent term. The LSE100 course has, in all its wisdom, decided to hold the compulsory course examination on the 6th January 2012 – during our winter vacation!

There are inherent issues within the course. Anyone in first and second year knows the pain, but for those for you who don't, I will fill you in. Amongst the syllabus of fine intellectual enlightenment on this course, we have learnt that people have babies for different reasons. We have learnt that people don't agree about the causes of climate change. We have been told

that no one factor caused the financial crisis. Being at LSE, we are all, by implication, relatively intelligent people and, assuming the admissions department is recruiting well-rounded individuals as they purport to do, these are all debates and conclusions that the vast majority of the student population should be familiar with. I for one, learnt the skills we have 'acquired' from LSE100 whilst studying Critical Thinking A-level when I was 14 years old. LSE does not accept Critical Thinking as a valid A-level subject (understandably!) so where has the logic come from to teach us the same skills at university?

The course was initially set up to broaden the education offered by the LSE. Apparently, graduate employers were feeding back to the school that LSE graduates are not well rounded and very insular within their degree specialism. So we have another exam.

Using my ability to 'think like a social scientist' (a skill none of us would be able to exercise were it not thanks to the LSE100 course) I find insufficient causality between the complaint and the solution. If LSE students are

not well rounded, why slam us with another exam? We now have five hours (if one were to attend the lecture, class and do the assigned reading) taken out of our week to study something that isn't contributing to our degrees and is not enriching our undergraduate experience. It is creating more stress for all of us. In the time I spend on LSE100 on a weekly basis, I could read five additional articles from my further reading lists. This is reading that the Law Department say can reasonably be expected to make the difference between a 2:1 and a 1st and I am sure it is the same in other disciplines. Aside from this, if the aim was to make us more well-rounded, and LSE suddenly found a spare five hours in our weeks where we may have been relaxing and not enhancing our CVs (!!!), is this really so bad? We all work extremely hard and I for one would rather have a spare five hours a week to take part in sports or socialising! Surely this would be more likely to expel employers concerns?

I am not trying to get the course cancelled - not because I don't want to spare the future generations of

the LSE, but because it simply won't happen. The school has invested a lot of money in the course and to U-turn now would be an utter embarrassment. The solution I see (and many of the people on the Facebook campaign page, 'Make LSE100 optional') is to make the course optional in its current form and not to publish the exam grade transcripts unless the individual requests it.

The course being made optional is the long term goal, but in the short term we, as a student body, need to lobby to change the date of the examination. I think LSE demands enough from us during term time, and to start regulating our holiday time is a step too far. For anyone travelling to London from outside the UK, this will be cutting short valuable time with family. For many people I know, the winter vacation is the only time they see their families between September and July because the Easter vacation is taken up with revision. For those whose flights have already been booked, there will be an additional cost to alter them. All of us will incur additional accommodation fees. For UK students, the student

finance allowance is worked out on the basis of how many weeks we will be at university each year and the additional week is too much of a financial burden for some to bare. The decision to have the exam in the holidays was taken in conjunction with the Students' Union and it was decided that the exam could not be held on a Wednesday because of sports matches and not on a Saturday for religious reasons. I do not understand how this is worse than cutting short our holidays, costing us more in changing flights and accommodation. I kindly request that the football team take one for the LSE student team, and miss one match so we can hold the exam on a Wednesday in term time.

If you have not already, I urge you, in solidarity with the international students at LSE and in opposition to many of us paying additional accommodation fees and us all having our holiday cut short, get involved in stopping this. Join the Facebook campaign page and write to the course office (lse100@lse.ac.uk) to express your concern. 🐿

Time to make up your mind, Britain

How Britain can't have its cake and eat the EU

Samira Lindner



Get it, Britain isn't the biggest fan of the EU. As a person from continental Europe (that is, a German) coming to Britain three years ago, this became very clear to me. But over the years I've become increasingly frustrated about Britain's counterproductive and uncooperative stance. Especially now, when the very fundamentals of the European project are being put to the test, Britain's critical and finger-pointing attitude is getting us nowhere. So frankly, we've arrived at a point where Britain needs to figure out what its doing in the EU.

The Eurocrisis has proven to be a huge obstacle for the Eurozone, an obstacle that is shaking the very core of the EU. It will require a tremendous effort by heads-of-state, banks and the European people to put aside differences and come together to find a solution that is best for Europe as a whole. It is a time when all must think long-term and accept the difficult times that lie ahead in the near future. To me, this is the very nature of the EU. It probably has a lot to do with the fact that I grew up in a very europhilic country. Whenever the topic of the EU arises in a conversation with British people, there is always that cliché moment when I find myself taking a very pro-EU stance, whereas the Brits will put forth

their very sceptical (and at times, paranoid) stance.

But you know what? We're not so different you and I. While the Anglo-German tensions in the past few weeks (which, arguably have been a little exaggerated by the media) have given the impression that Germans and Brits are fundamentally different in their economic and political positions, the reality is not that dramatic. In fact, both Germany and the UK agree on many levels. Take fiscal austerity for example: recently, Angela Merkel praised David Cameron's austerity program and he reciprocated last Friday by agreeing with the German view on Eurozone countries' commitment to fiscal discipline. This, and many other factors, has led to a view shared by many diplomatic insiders that the Anglo-German relationship is quite natural.

Perhaps it is this similarity that has led to a deliberate exaggeration of differences. One way or another, Germany and the UK do disagree on a number of issues. On a fiscal level, the recent proposal by Germany to introduce a financial tax (also known as the Tobin tax) has been

Throughout the Eurocrisis, the UK government has been nothing but negative.

with widespread criticism by the UK. Some (paranoid) Brits even see it as a Franco-German conspiracy against the City of London. Another point of disagreement is whether the European Central Bank should bail-out struggling Eurozone economies – a point on which Germany refuses to budge due to their (historically justified) fear of inflation. But perhaps the most crucial difference between these two is their opposing visions of the EU. Britain sees it as an economic union that functions as a fluid network, which enables member states to maintain their full sovereignty; anything else is just utopic. Germany, on the other hand, sees it as a supranational political, economic and social union in which sovereignty takes a backseat; anything else is just naive.

Of course, the EU as it stands right now appeals more to the German vision since it goes way beyond a mere economic union. So the UK fears the loss of its sov-

eighty. Not only that, it fears that the Eurozone will turn into an exclusive club that unilaterally decides upon the future of the EU. Basically, the UK fears that it will become obsolete.

Throughout the Eurocrisis, the UK government has been nothing but negative. It has given its critical two cents at every stage of the resolution process. But I would argue that, in a way, this is like having your cake and eating it too. The UK cannot expect to take part in the economic (and prestigious) benefits of being a EU member, and then bail on it during times of crisis and obstruct further integration processes, especially those it chose not to be a part of.

Recently, a member of Merkel's Christian-democratic party, Volker Kauder, argued that the UK is being selfish. But I would have to disagree (and not just because I'm not a big fan of his party). Instead, I think the UK is desperately trying to hold on to its own vision of the EU and hopes that, with enough persistence, it will be able to reverse the supranational path. It is an act of understandable desperation, because it realizes that it is losing its political significance in Europe. Unfortunately for the UK, its anti-supranational position is but a small minority in the EU. And

while the UK continues to complain, the European project goes on without it.

So we have arrived at a point where the UK needs to figure out its priorities, objectives, and allegiances with regards to the EU. It also needs to figure out whether the EU as it stands right now, and the EU that is still being developed, makes sense for them. If it does not see itself aligned with the rest of the EU in mind and in practice, then perhaps the UK will be better off as an EEA or EFTA member. Switzerland and Norway gain enormously from their access to the single market while being spared the "Eurocratic nonsense" in Brussels. Don't get me wrong. I think the UK is a vital member of the EU, adding to it important geopolitical weight. But perhaps it's time to figure out alternatives.

Hopefully, it will not come to that point and the UK will realize that its place is still within the EU. And within the EU, this is a time to become innovative. Both Germany and the UK will have to put aside the populist attitudes in their home countries and work on a common solution, acknowledging differences but focusing on agreements. It is in times of crisis that the true strength and unity of an organization is revealed. Europe is now faced with a unique opportunity to show the world what it's made of. Let us hope that this opportunity will not be squandered.



Finger pointing and negativity
Photo: flickr user World Economic

The heroes we deserve

One student's experience with the LSE Students' Union Media Group

Asad Rahim Khan



I've generally found those who are involved with LSE's Media Group to be fantastic. And what a work ethic. They're up against this mass of uninformed opinion, and they process and reference and archive it for our viewing pleasure. They let me vent in the Beaver, without any ideological bent whatsoever. They let me anchor a show on Pulse Radio with two co-hosts, lets call them Bob and Lisa. Individually, (as is often said unfairly of Pakistani gentlemen) we're quite nice people. But put the three of us together in a sound room, and the product is not all that coherent.

I blame my co-anchors. They went and perverted a show dedicated to world affairs and South Asian music. Bob spoke of the Internet celebrities he had romanced. Lisa rated heads of state from a scale of 1 to 10, though the scale should have instead read "Not French Enough" to "Super French."

And my part in this? I had preserved the integrity and dignity of our broadcast with sober, well-rounded sentences that made our listeners ache with happiness. I had played glori-

ous '90s pop music that elevated their entire beings and made their hearts knock at their teeth. My inbox crashed under the weight of emails detailing the lives I had changed, the souls I had touched. For the first time, people kept blood listening to Internet radio.

Still, my friends tried to ruin me. Bob's women grew tawdrier. Lisa would place a BlackBerry right in the centre of the studio and laugh as static disrupted our show, broke my voice, and fractured my spirit. Then they'd point at me. And laugh. But I carried on, because of the strength of my heart, and because the people were with me. They told me to fight them, to not give in. I didn't, because Fate was on my side. Bob fell sick after years of hard living, Lisa from the guilt of her own conscience. I found temporary replacements in a charming you lady, lets call her Rudolph and recurring guest star, lets call him Harry. Rudolph talked of hard-hitting immigration issues that made Asians everywhere palpitate, Harry told us of the most recent Chicken Cottage deals, deep-fried in Halal bliss. I was home.

The Masses loved them. But the fan mail was also tempered by calls for Bob and Lisa to return, growing louder and louder. And return they did, in great health. You've got to feed the machine with whatever it is wants to be fed on. I made my peace with them

and their choice of subject matter, and buried the half of me that died right there, later that day.

And then, a week or so ago, a show was cancelled on Pulse, and we, the people at "Borderline Heroes" (Tuesdays at 12, ker-plug, ker-plug) immediately ran to the space under our beds, sweating with fear. Cancellation threatened our professional lives as opinion-makers, whose week 3 broadcast peaked at 16 listeners. The severely threatened civilian government in Pakistan faded away for me, even as it was threatened more severely. Jurisprudence law went dull and grey (Lisa studies anthropology by the way).

Weeks later, or before, I forget which, The Beaver got embroiled in its own controversy for trivializing serious crime. The barrage came from all sides, even the Daily Mail gave us a shout out. Because of course, to those of you who live under a rock, the Daily Mail is a fountain of both knowledge and good taste.

My point, one that even I couldn't make out until now, is this: we denounce and deride (absolutely rightfully) people who cross the limit and say awful things. As we should. But we should spend at least two percent of that energy applauding the people who enrich our student experience via LSE's channels of communication.

We should applaud the raw material writers, who provide pieces for the Beaver week in and week out, the design geniuses that photoshop hideous headlines, the editors that keep the great edifice of the Media Group together (the Comment Editor that still publishes your pieces on Richard Nixon even though the general theme is Freeze the Fees), the Loose TV news people, our rivals with either generic or forgettable names on Pulse, the philosopher kings at Clare Market Review (I wanna b like you, but I don't got the English 4 it), and whatever that thing is on the Sports pages.

So let's even applaud Bob and Lisa. They tried their best to sabotage all I stood for, who tore the devotees I was devoted to away from me, wrested away my national anthems to fade in Criminal by Britney Spears (I may have let them do it). But let's applaud them. Because, not to quote a Batman movie, they're the heroes LSE deserve, but not the ones it needs right now. That hero it needs would be me. Because I can take it.

-Quick- COMMENT

Has not living on campus affected your university experience?

Yes, because I struggle to make it to classes - **Duncan McKenna**, Managing Editor, The Beaver

Don't forget, homecooking defeats toast every time.

- **Neeraj Mashru**, 2nd year, BSc Politics and Philosophy

Yes, because I get distracted by Oxford street coming into uni.

- **Shrina Poojara**, Social Editor, The Beaver

Not a great deal. It's easy enough to get into classes and lectures and hasn't hindered my social life either.

- **Konrad Hughes**, 2nd year,

BSc Government and Economics

When you spend so many hours of the day hunched up in the library, it begs the question whether you are in fact living off campus.

- **Usha Patel**, 3rd year, BA History

NEXT WEEK...

Are you bored of hearing about LSE-Gaddafi?

Go make your own sandwich

One joke makes for a mindset that Shrina Poojara doesn't appreciate

Shrina Poojara



Some people, namely close friends of mine, may be surprised to read this article coming from me. I count Black Ops as one of my favourite pastimes, I've been to Secrets (and not as "research" for The Beaver...) and I've willingly downed a potent combination of Sambuca and flames and lived to tell the tale. In short: I've indeed been called a "lad" on several occasions.

Yet, in light of recent events, I've realised that perhaps I, along with many of the woman of our generation, have adapted to being unaffected by the "banter" that comes along with hanging out with the guys, perhaps even growing to find much of it hilarious, without taking the time to consider what it really means.

What is the sort of thing I'm referring to? "Go make me a sandwich, woman" or even, "Why don't you just suck me" - when did this all become OK? And how many times have you heard one of the guys, on a night out, say something along the lines of, "I'd tap that," or, "Damn... She would get it!" Seriously? What exactly is "it?" And what makes you think she even wants it? Trust me, she doesn't. Not if you're going around saying stuff like that.

All "jokes" aside, I'm not talking about all guys, but I am sure we can all think of a few who fit the mould of the above description. Yet, I am sure right now there are guys, and even girls, reading this and thinking, "Seriously? What the hell is the big deal? Take a joke..." But that's just it. All we do is take the jokes. On websites like "Sickipedia" and "TrueLad," half of the jokes are about the domination of women. Yet what outlets do women use? A quick Google search and all I've found is "True Girl Online: Beauty, Skin Care Tips and Home Remedies." Not quite the ladette banter I was looking for.

I've grown up with the belief we are blessed to live in a nation where women have equal rights. Even at my finance internship over summer, the female interns were told on several occasions how glad the firm was to have us there, and how hard they are working to actively increase the number of female applicants to financial services and to make their female employees feel at ease. Yet, it is among my own friends, the people I am most at ease with, that I hear these casual, chauvinistic comments.

How many of you guys really find these jokes funny? Can you really say they tickle your pickle, or are they just some way to prove you were macho or cool back at high school and are now just a habit you've just found hard to break? While I listen to you make a joke about... let's just say the kind of acts that should be confined to "Urbanictionary.com," I wonder if you'd admit to finding the humour in such a

gag if confronted by your girlfriend, or even your sister or mother.

It's not like I'm the first girl to pick up on this, not by any means. Yet, how do you think your guy friends would react if you told them you thought they were taking the jokes too far? Or if you told them you wanted to fight for women's rights in any way, shape or form? I don't know about you, but I can guarantee many of the guys I know would probably laugh and write me off as a girl who can't take a joke, or maybe even a "lesbian," just proving how naïve, immature and plain wrong people can be about this issue. Even on my aforementioned internship, many of the male interns had an issue with the fact that we got invited to many women's events, claiming that if women really wanted to be treated as equals, we shouldn't emphasise the fact that we are women so much and instead just get on with the job like the guys do. This was, indeed, a view I shared until recently. However, it seems to me now that we still have a long way to go before we are truly considered as equals by everyone, whether it be by chauvinists in the workplace, or friends who think it just as "hilarious" to make a crack about women as about any other subset of the population, say Irish or LGBT people (which, for the record, is just as messed up in my opinion).

Are these jokes actually just that, misguided though they are, or do they hint at a more serious issue? How seriously do you even take women? Don't think we don't notice every time you

roll your eyes when Beyoncé's "Run The World (Girls)" comes on when we're out clubbing. We deal with (or, yes, even sing along to) Ludacris spitting at us to, "move, bitch, get out the way," and Snoop Dogg ordering, "when the pimp's in the crib ma, drop it like

the girls need to, "pipe down?" I realise, by the way, that I am linking listening to Beyoncé to a feeling of female empowerment, but one only needs to be on a night out with the girls when, "Girls, we run this mother..." blasts through the speakers to understand the impact it can have.

Now, I understand that, for those guys who do make such jokes, it is indeed a far smaller minority who do actually hold the views that you project to have, and that most of you are, in fact, far from actual self-proclaimed chauvinists. However, I will leave you with this.

A one-off joke or comment may not be much to you, but it is just another joke or comment that is added to the hundreds we as women have already heard. Words have the power to change opinions, change attitudes and change how people feel about themselves and the people they surround themselves with. It only takes enough "jokes" to make a girl feel slightly less empowered, a woman embarrassed of stopping to look at an advert about domestic violence or even a rape victim scared to come forward.

So the next time you want to make such a joke, I urge you to think twice before speaking. The next time your mate makes one of these jokes, I compel you to think twice before laughing. And for the next time you tell me to go to the kitchen? I'm staying right here. Why don't you go and make your own sandwich? And while you're at it, why not make me one too? ☛

Don't think we don't notice every time you roll your eyes when Beyoncé's "Run The World (Girls)" comes on when we're out clubbing

it's hot.' The least you can do is stay on the dancefloor when us girls get our one power-trip of the night until 50 Cent comes back on and the "balance" is restored. Are you really so arrogant to have a "let the girls have their fun" attitude whenever we feel empowered? Or are you just "joking" when you say



See? They make sandwiches just as well!
Photo: flickr user _ Wonderlane

Putting Christ back in Christmas

As we approach Advent, Chris Rogers grounds our Christmas celebrations

Chris Rogers



8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11)

Can it be true?

God made man, the messiah come to earth to save mankind from its sins? Angels in the sky? A choir of heavenly voices praising God?

Fairytales and nonsense, fiction and myth, delusion and a psychological crutch.

We no longer live in a world of Angels delivering messages to shepherds.

God does not exist, or God is dead. It is time to leave the party and enter the real world, live your life not hiding behind this kind of childish fantasy and pathetic superstition. And if God is real he is considered but one among many. There is a pantheon of greats, all teaching different paths up the same the mountain to the summit of salvation.

Christmas is now just time to visit family, exchange presents and watch TV Specials.

What if, instead of presents, we remembered, even with the Christmas sales all around us, exactly what it is we celebrate this time of year?

If you are a Christian reading this, remember you are the representative to thousands of students who have never heard the message of Christmas. If they see you running from shop to shop in a desperate bid for presents,

what will everyone think about you, and about Christmas itself?

This is the time of year to remember Jesus is not equal to the Prophets of other religions. Christ is God. His birth split BC from AD. We rejoice that God himself descended to earth to raise us up, bringing us out of sin and death. While other prophets are dead in their tombs Jesus is alive, and reigns in heaven!

What about Christmas excites you? Is it that you can get the game you have been craving, or is it the joy that comes from knowing God came to earth to save you?

Even today 2000 years later the earth lets out a chorus of Joy. The master has entered into his creation. Christ has been born, the messiah has entered history, the Son of God has come to redeem mankind!

We are entering one of the most sacred times of the Christian Calendar, Advent.



Christmas isn't actually about these
Photo: flickr user _Aaron Jacobs

These weeks, in the run up to the Christmas, are designed to prepare ourselves for the joy that is to come. We focus on the unending celebration of Christ's Birth; Christmas day itself, and the revelation that God became man, that we might be saved and reconciled to Him.

This is a season of expectation, of hope, of longing, and of joy. It is also a time to remember the One who will come again in Glory to judge the quick and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

What about Christmas excites you? Is it that you can get the game you have been craving, or is it the joy that comes from knowing God came to earth to save you?

Look at the world around you, the pain and suffering. Do you believe Christmas has anything to do with all the bad news stories you see in the paper everyday. We see the terrible state of the world, but we can take heart. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders." God will come again, to rule justly and righteously. Jesus' promise infuses hope into times of despair and is a light in a world of darkness.

We remember the arrival of our Lord, Our God. Not as a King, intent on ruling with an iron fist, but as a helpless babe, weak and defenseless, humble, laid in a manger, wielding nothing more than a message of salva-

tion. This message of joy and hope, of reconciliation, is a message open to all. His birth was not announced to kings and lords but to Shepherds watching their flocks. This is the long forgotten meaning of Christmas, this is why we celebrate: that God was born as a Babe in Bethlehem, with a message of salvation.

And I can only hope that this year we act as fitting examples and remember in our hearts what really makes this time of year special, that we put the Christ back in Christmas. ☪

Not being yourself...online at least

Why Googling ourselves may explain why we're still unemployed

Web Images Videos Maps News Shopping Mail More

Google

Search

harry is a horcrux
harry is a horcrux
harry is a girl fanfiction
harry is a cockblock
harry is a wizard

Search

Nicholas Jaroszek



My friend Richard has a new hobby – purging his Facebook account, one embarrassing piece of information at a time. It all started one afternoon in an LSE computer room when Richard was bored with his finance homework and decided to Google himself instead. The results were, he tells me, highly disturbing. Far from shining comments about how intelligent, professional and most importantly, employable he is, he found himself confronted with a small but potent collection of rather unfortunate comments he had made on Facebook groups, statuses etc. Needless to say, they're of too low

a quality to describe here, but I can confirm they're expletive-filled and of highly questionable judgement. Nothing the Goldman Sachs would find very impressive.

Alarmed, Richard began the most thorough process of cleansing since the rowing club novice captain returned from a night out the other week. Hours went by as every redundant group was gone through with a comb, and the sheer magnitude of my friend's past activities became apparent. Next, photos were ferociously attacked, and as I type this, there's a second year Economics undergraduate sitting on a computer somewhere desperately trying to figure out how to get at his old statuses, "for the love of all things holy".

All this raises a couple of rather interesting questions. Should we be worried about our online 'presence'? What are the future implications of living in the electronic spotlight?

In my opinion, the way we portray

ourselves online is something we should all give some thought to. That hilarious profile picture or risqué tweet may have seemed a brilliant idea at the time, and chances are that your actual, real life, flesh and blood friends probably thought so too. The thing is, when we make our thoughts and activities available for inspection online, there's a chance that they really will be inspected - and not necessarily by the people we'd intended. The story of the hopeful candidate who's application was rejected because their prospective employers (or professors) had the bright idea of 'Facebooking' them comes to mind. Indeed, it must be hard to be taken seriously under interview when the only thing your interviewer can think of is the profile photo of an inebriated version of the candidate in front of them. The evidence against your character can extend almost indefinitely if said candidate has failed to use the privacy controls that have recently become a hot topic.

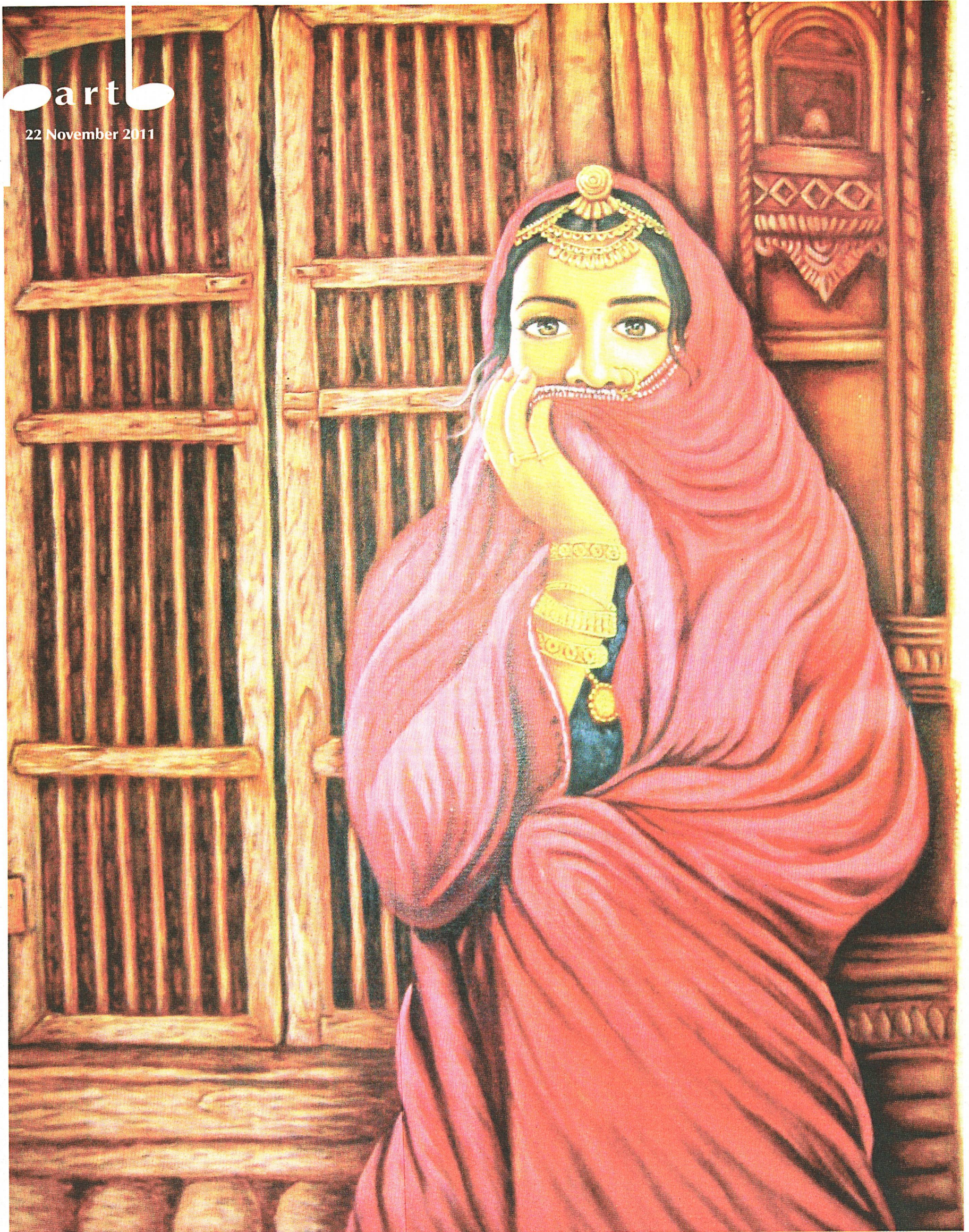
That said, it seems unlikely that we're all going to clean up our online profiles completely – if such a thing is even possible. It's certainly a long, tedious process, as Richard can attest. If this is correct, and if our lives become even more exposed to online scrutiny, which seems plausible, then what are the ramifications? An obvious one seems to be the huge potential for the embarrassment of future politicians, and indeed, business leaders by the leaking of stories and photos from days gone by which said people may prefer to forget - just the kind of stories and photos which today's social networks are full of. Mere rumour is sometimes enough to end careers – if evidence was freely available, the turnover rate of people in the public eye could increase markedly.

How are people and politics likely to develop if the above does turn out to be true? Will we see a new era of free and easy public opinion – a toleration of exciting but fundamentally decent

prior lives, even if the odd terrible photo or comment does emerge? Will there be a kind of 'survival of the most discrete', whereby only the most careful will make it into the public sphere? Will future leaders regulate away the potential for career-ending gaffes to crop up every other day?

If Richard is to be believed, we should all start cleaning up our online selves up before we find out. An easier and probably equally as efficient method is to control carefully who has access to what, and to minimise the chances of 'leaks' – especially if you see yourself as one day being in the public spotlight. It's a simple matter to make sure that the people in your social network are the people you feel comfortable sharing your data with. It's also simple to neglect this matter. Regardless - I suppose I'll see you online, unless of course you'd rather I didn't. ☪

Would you employ a horcrux?
Photo: screenshot



art

22 November 2011

Burlesque | **The Unjust** | **Postmodernism** | **A Walk On Part** |
Rating Music | **Twilight: Breaking Dawn** | **LSEx** | **Private B**

Contact

PartB Editors

Aameer Patel
Emma Beaumont
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

* * *

Fashion Editor

Emma Beaumont
partb-fashion@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Film Editor

Venessa Chan
partb-film@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Food Editor

Max Jenkins
partb-food@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Literature Editor

Rachel Holmes
partb-literature@thebeaveronline.co.uk

LSEx Editor

Callie Nordenfelt
partb-lsex@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Music Editor

Ankur Vora
partb-music@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Private B Editor

Jack Tindale
partb-privateb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Theatre Editors

Rory Creedon
Hannah Payne
partb-theatre@thebeaveronline.co.uk

TV Editor

Rasha Al-Dabagh
partb-tv@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Video Games Editor

Hassan Dar
partb-videogames@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Visual Arts Editor

Roberta Cucchiaro
partb-visualarts@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Web Editor

Angie Moneke
partb-web@thebeaveronline.co.uk

* * *

Cover

The Rajasthani Girl, 2011
by Nitin Saluja of the
LSESU Visual Arts Society

PartB uses pictures from
Flickr which have been issued under
a Creative Commons license.

Bedtime story

Fashion has favoured the exhibitionist of late. Inexplicably in last year's bitter winter, a new trend was conceived: underwear as outerwear. The cries of ecstasy were heard across deepest, darkest Essex. Suddenly it was acceptable to wear pants as shorts and bras as tops. The always devious dictator Topshop was clever in weaning us on to this trend that meanders between flirtatious and Soho on a Saturday night. Bras were disguised as "Bralets" (to legitimise the garment), and knickers were given the suffix shorts, just to remind those who may have found themselves dazed and confused by the concept of lingerie situated next to the denim section.



Pigiama Barocco by Dolce & Gabbana, Spring 2009

Initially the trend was strictly reserved for the low lights of late night clubs, probably due to its suggestive tendencies – potentially, a girl already in her bra and knickers cuts out some formalities. Yet, reserving the style for after dark is an error, as "going out" dressing has been known to dilute and bastardise promising trends, with less focus on creativity and more on looking sufficiently sexy. Indeed this is exemplified by the irrepressible rise of the blasted bandeau skirt, which is Terminator-like in its refusal to go quietly. Luckily, in the light of day, dressing can regain some personality. Undoubtedly the graduation of the "lingerie look" from night-out standard to daytime favourite has overcome a few teething problems. Now we are gifted with sheer maxi skirts where said "knicker-shorts" can peep through rather than being the main event. The same is true of oversized shirts that can tastefully expose the precious "bralet."

So fashion is nothing but evolutionary, insistent on us breaking taboos and subverting convention. In this spirit it was inevitable that wearing undergarments outside was soon deemed not eccentric enough. Essentially, if Pixie Lott does it, the edge is rather lost. No, the style has gone further and to be on trend in Autumn/Winter 2011 one has to look as if they have rolled out of bed. Now I'm not talking about the perma-cool look of smudgy black eyeliner and contrived "messy" hair. Rather the style gods among us are now tramping round Zone 1 in pyjamas.

At this stage it is important to note that the look is elegant bed wear, as opposed to what you actually wear to sleep in. Indeed my greatest hits for bedtime include a T-shirt with "I like boys" marked aggressively across the front (don't ask) as well as three (count them) sets of Hello Kitty nightclothes, established around 2002. All of these beauties are then encased in my dreamy, powder blue, fleece Primark onesie (heating is a privilege too far in my dungeon flat).

YAYER CLOTHING



Lacy Days Peach Bralet at Yayer

My point is that the emphasis is on exquisitely patterned "pyjama pants" that few would actually retire to bed in. Nonetheless, this is not to suggest that the trend does not tackle all areas of bed wear. In fact dressing gowns are making a huge resurgence, letting pretty young things resemble something out of an F. Scott Fitzgerald novel – cascading, fluid, floor length, silk creating an air of opulence that still manages to look relaxed. Furthermore, rounded, velvet slipper shoes have worked their way into stores such as Urban Outfitters, when previously they were associated with

slightly perverted, crusty old men.

To conclude, go forth and wear nightclothes in the day. Embrace this topsy-turvy trend. It is a chance to be dissident in a casual way. It is quirky but not deranged. In an age where organic originality seems an impossible feat (unless you wear a decaying animal carcass), perhaps not trying too hard is the way forward. In a city that never sleeps, there is a certain irony in looking as though you are about to head off to dreamland. And burn your bandeau skirt.

Emma Beaumont

Movember: a style triumph?

According to an English proverb "a man without a moustache is like a cup of tea without sugar." Take from this what you will – whether you're inclined to have a spoonful or two of the sweet stuff in your brew, the subject of the moustache and its appeal is a fiercely debated one.

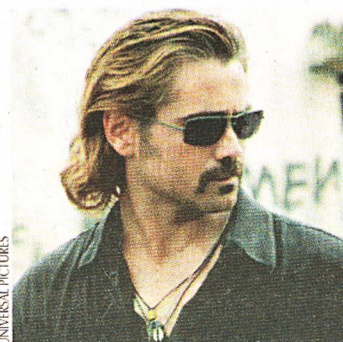
Take a look around you this month and you'll be sure to see many men in all stages of the moustache growing process as they participate in Movember, an international charity drive born in Australia to raise money for men's health causes. "Mo Bros" are born from clean shaven men, who sign up to dedicate a month of effort into cultivating a moustache, while raising funds for prostate and other male cancer charities. More than 1.1 million participants join the movement annually, which now takes place in nine countries. £11.7m was raised in the UK alone last year, and it looks set to be beaten even more this year. Needless to say it is a worthy cause, but the significance of the moustache goes beyond the month of year with which it is affiliated.

It was thanks to the invention of the first flint razor in the stone ages some 32,000 thousand years ago that the creation of the moustache became possible. Men could finally begin the process of self-priming. After all, there's no practical origin to the moustache. It seems our ancestors shaved and trimmed as a point of vanity, and to stand out from the crowds of beards that have so often been linked to connotations of uncleanness or "letting oneself go." The moustache is a self-crafted line of hair – it doesn't collect (much) food and it doesn't disguise the face beyond recognition.

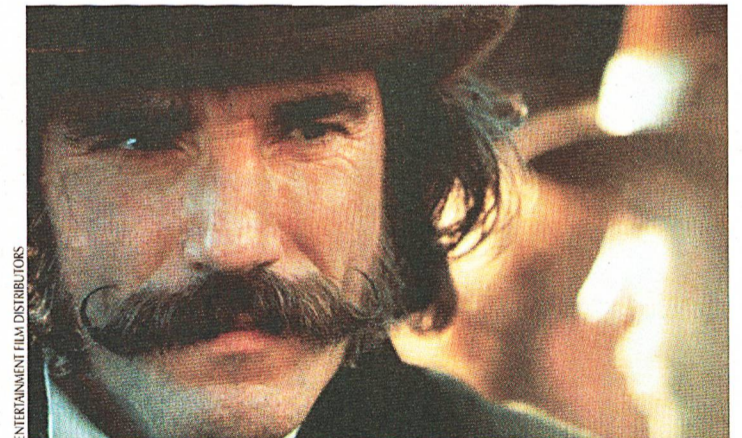
It does however show a man's status, role, refinement and moreover his own view of himself. The "tashed" chap takes care of his appearance. It shows that he's now a man and not merely a boy. In the words of a "Mo Bro" on the campus, "It's cool, I feel distinguished. Look at Tom Selleck and Burt Reynolds."

Take Hitler and Stalin. Yes, two of the most notorious dictators in history, but also two of the most famous and recognisable faces of the last century. I have no reservations in saying that their moustaches, carefully crafted and preened in their propaganda offices, created an image apt for their leaderships. The moustache can say more about a man than his clothes, shoes or clique. It shouts "I'm here, I'm a man."

Throughout history, the "tash" or one of its variants such as the Natural, the Mexican, the Dali, the English, the Imperial, the Handlebar, etc. have made the mere man a fashion state-



Colin Farrell sporting a Handlebar in *Miami Vice* (2006)



Daniel Day-Lewis sporting an Imperial in *Gangs of New York* (2002)

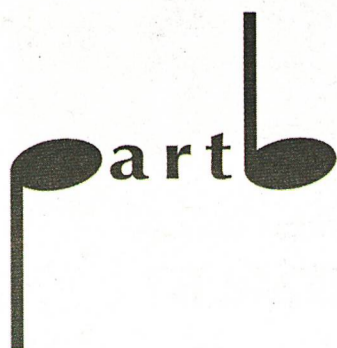
ment. It epitomises eras of style and is instantly recognisable as belonging to a time and place, to a movement and a following. For Groucho Marx and Charlie Chaplin the need for a thick and bushy moustache was so important to their performance that they wore artificial facial hair for most of their lives.

The moustache is not just a facial accessory, but a force of style. It's the simple yet effective way in which many a distinguished gentleman has expressed himself. I'd recommend you type some of these names into Google: Teddy Roosevelt (turn of the twentieth century icon), Tom Selleck (1980s totty), General Ambrose Burnside (American Civil War "cool" and responsible for the term "sideburns"), Mark Twain (literary chic), Walter Frazier (NBA casual), Robert Winston (intellectual elegance). I could go on.

When asked whether his moustache was "a fashion thing," a notably styled student remarked "Absolutely, it's definitely a fashion thing, although I'm not sure why... it's just 1950s, you know?" His thin upper lip plumage certainly complemented his blue knit, leather satchel and battered up vintage brogues. Another Movember-er was overheard complaining of the "tickle" as it reached day 17 of growth. You know what they say: you have to suffer to be beautiful.

So this month, when you look upon a "Mo Bro," appreciate his stylish significance and go to uk.movember.com. Peter Griffin of Family Guy, an occasionally moustached gentleman himself, sums it up perfectly: "With a great moustache, comes great responsibility."

Rosie Hamer



An exhibition on postmodernism

Postmodernism is notoriously difficult to define and understand. Whereas the modernism movement in architecture was a single monolithic ideal that strove for simplicity and purity in design, postmodernism sought to subvert modernism by being deliberately fragmented and diverse.

Postmodernist art was both extravagantly colourful and apocalyptically bleak. It was radically new, yet fond of historical quotations. It embraced "ad hocism" and collage, but also gave birth to some carefully-built, minutely-planned works of art. At its core was the plurality of ideas and styles. The movement spanned across different media, ranging from architecture and music to fashion and film. Postmodernism always revelled in being difficult to pin down.

The curators of *Postmodernism: Style and Subversion 1970-1990* at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) deserve much praise for demonstrating just what this complex movement was, explaining its rise and fall, and providing examples of postmodernist artefacts from diverse media. On display are images, sculptures, music videos, costumes, furniture, dishware, record albums, magazines and even a coffin, as well as a partial recreation of the front porch of an architect's house.

The V&A seems to expect visitors to be most interested in the section of the exhibition devoted to performance artists. The poster for the exhibition features Grace Jones and the main webpage is dominated by the music video for New Order's "Bizarre Love Triangle."

Sure enough, the performance section, though constituting only a small part of the entire exhibition, does not disappoint. At its centre is a space called The Club, in which three screens play in rotation excerpts from the music videos for Grace Jones's "Demolition Man," Klaus Nomi's "Lightning Strikes" and from *Stop Making Sense*, Talking Heads's concert film. Metal cage-like structures frame the screens looming over costumes worn by the performers, including David Byrne's famous "big suit" and Klaus Nomi's rubber tuxedo. Meanwhile adjacent rooms feature more music videos, as well as record sleeves and posters promoting musicians.

Architecture is the focus of the first part of the exhibition. In fairness, conveying architecture in a museum space is not easy. The curators use photographs, drawings and models of buildings. However, the models are not always optimally displayed and it was often difficult to make



Wet: The Magazine of Gourmet Bathing No.20, design by April Greiman in collaboration with Jayme Odgers

out all of the details. Perhaps the models should have been displayed in a way that would allow them to be examined from all angles, rather than just one. Similarly, photographs were in many cases inexplicably small, making it difficult to see the interest-

ing aspects of the buildings.

One thing that the first part of the exhibition had but was missing from the second was the ability to convey a sense of unease. Postmodernism began as a subversion of modernism, offering a form of utopia.

It is therefore appropriate that dystopian elements should be part of postmodernism. The dystopian aspects of postmodernism are best represented as objects such as a necklace made of crystal beads by Bernhard Schobinger, television

parts, pieces from a broken Coke bottle, and *Delirious New York*, a book and short animated film by Rem Koolhaas and Madelon Vriesendorp that shows New York landmarks such as the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building cavorting in bed, and ends with the Statue of Liberty disrobed and setting fire to herself.

The first part of the exhibition is also where postmodernism's experiments with historicity are most evident. In a piece by Giulio Paolini entitled "The Other Figure," two identical classical busts look down at the smashed pieces of a third bust. In architect Arata Isozaki's design for the Tsukuba Center in the town of Ibaraki there are many allusions to Michelangelo, but in contrast to Renaissance designs, Isozaki's structure is sinking into the ground. Plans for the building are accompanied by a painting the architect made of his new structure in ruins. Historicism, it seems, was a way for postmodernist artists to grapple with the past, in conflict with our inability to return to it and with the inevitability of everything we build eventually turning into ruins.

The dark side of postmodernism comes to the surface as the exhibition progresses. In the second section it is slightly more pronounced, while the third is devoted to postmodernism's downfall through its own success. From its beginnings, postmodernism merged high and low culture, as well as fine and commercial art, but in the 1980s it got caught up and with the decade's fascination with wealth and power. Postmodernism's success caused what had once been a subversive movement to become mainstream. "Design editing" firms such as Alessi and Swid Powell commissioned postmodernist designers like Michael Graves and Alessandro Mendini to create luxury goods to be sold to yuppies.

This change is very well reflected by the design of the exhibition rooms. Gone are the metal cages. Instead, the walls of this section are covered in shiny black plastic made to look like granite. Combined with the display cases, the effect is of a very upscale jewellery store.

Postmodernism died by its own hand when it commoditised itself by selling out to the mainstream. And so, for once, exiting through the gift shop, with all its nifty postmodernism products, feels entirely appropriate.

Yining Su

Postmodernism is at the V&A until 15 January 2012

From the streets to a gallery?

An exhibition of Mr. Brainwash's street art has recently come to an end at Opera Gallery. Mr. Brainwash is the pseudonym for Thierry Guetta, a street artist and



Mr. Brainwash street art: Surreal

filmmaker who was born in Paris and now lives in Los Angeles. His fame peaked after he was featured in Banksy's Oscar-nominated 2010 documentary *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. He spent the beginning of his career making films documenting other famous street artists, including Banksy, and has said that this is what inspired him to create his own art.

Mr. Brainwash's style is familiar to many of us. He uses famous, often copyrighted images and changes them through controversial additions, such as portraits of royalty with spray cans and anarchy signs. One of his most recognised works is his cover of Madonna's *Celebration*. Even though there is no denying that he is a renowned figure on the international street art scene, this exhibition is not very convincing.

I later learnt that Mr. Brainwash does not create his own work on most occasions, but has assistants or graphic designers to carry out his visions, mainly through scanning and photo manipulation. While it is true that this technique is also used in

fashion and designers never create garments themselves, I still felt that I had been cheated by Mr. Brainwash's art - his technique is not impressive and his ideas are not all that original anymore.

What was most disconcerting was that his art was hanging on the wall of a pristine gallery and was being sold for tens of thousands of pounds, rather than being painted on a grimy backstreet wall where it would be more at home. Reading that one of his artworks featuring Albert Einstein was sold for \$120,000 makes it seem that the moneyed have lost their sense of knowing when too much is too much.

While there was only a small selection in exhibition at Opera Gallery, his fame promises that more exciting works are out there. More than anything else, visiting this exhibition leaves you pondering on the striking contrast between the glamorous gallery and the streets in which this art was born.

Sanni Nissilä



Mr. Brainwash street art: Albert Einstein

Burlesque, Jermyn Street Theatre

Director: Adam Meggido

Playwrights: Adam Meggido and Roy Smiles

Key cast: Linal Haft, Buster Skeggs, Jon-Paul Hevey, Chris Holland, Alicia Davies, Victoria Serra, Sinead Mathias, Jeremiah Harris-Ward, Alex Bartram

At Jermyn Street Theatre until 18 December 2011

This is a master class on how to put on a musical on a stage the size of a postage stamp. However, what the stage lacks in substance is more than made up for in the text of this new musical by Adam Meggido (more at home with full scale musical improvisations) and Roy Smiles. The hugely intimate setting of the Jermyn Street Theatre definitely works with this musical in that singing voices that are rough around the edges do not jar but rather add to what is a visceral experience.

The setting is The Palace, a 1950s burlesque theatre whose sun is setting and is in financial dire straits. After *Crazy For You* (struggling theatre) and *Moulin Rouge* (burlesque writ large) one might legitimately wonder what more could possibly be said about crumbling theatres and strippers. And in many ways this is very familiar musical territory – there is the weary, lascivious impresario Freddie Le Roy (Linal Haft, who is actually credited with appearing in *Moulin Rouge*), the comforting mama/madame of the house Lula (Buster Skeggs), and a trio



Victoria Serra, Alicia Davies and Sinead Mathias as Amy Delamero, Honey Hogan and Georgia Mitchell

of sexy strippers. What sets this story apart is the backdrop of McCarthy-era communist witch-hunts that see a comedy duo fall from the high cabaret scene to the low wit of The Palace due to one half of the act, Johnny Reno (Jon-Paul Hevey) being outed as a

communist sympathiser. In turn his permanently drunk Irish stage partner Rags Ryan (Chris Holland), who is secretly in love with Johnny, becomes tainted with the same brush. Johnny must choose between fingering his friend in order to clear his own name

or taking a stand against The Man. Thus themes of fear, neglect, homosexuality and the nature of friendship make this much more than a knee slapping romp through theatre land.

Musically, the show is a bit hit and miss. The opening number is promis-

ing in its Gershwin-esque instrumentation, but this thought is not carried through to others. The musical style of numbers like "One of These Days" slips into something we might simply call "Wicked." The big numbers are good fun however, and the comedic songs like "Ladies Like a Novelist" and "Love's the Same All Over the World" with their Flanders and Swan like lyrics are highly entertaining. What makes the show particularly appealing is that there is a great sense that this is not forced fun, rather that the cast are genuinely having a ball.

There was so much to like in the performances that it is difficult to mention them all here. I adored Lula's Marianne Faithful-like low growl, and Saul's (Jeremiah Harris-Ward) velvety tenor. The big success of the night, however, was the central duo of Rags and Johnny. Their closing numbers are very powerful indeed, and the chemistry between them is both touching and highly comedic. In truth though, this is an ensemble piece, it is carried wonderfully by the whole cast and backed by an innovative and creative use of a teeny weeny space. This is a new musical and it could definitely do with some polish, but there is certainly something to be said for catching it now while it is still raw and gutsy.

↳ Rory Creedon

A Walk On Part, Soho Theatre

Director: Max Roberts

Playwright: Michael Chaplin

Key Cast: John Hodgkinson, Hywel Morgan

At Soho Theatre until 10 December

A Walk On Part is based on the diaries of Chris Mullin, the former Labour MP for Sunderland South. Despite never reaching high political office, Mullin, who retired from Westminster at the last general election, has been assured of a political legacy eluding all but the most prominent cabinet ministers. The diaries, brought to the stage by Max Roberts, are representative of the most candid political memoirs since those of Tony Benn and Alan Clark.

Diaries are by nature very personal and as such it was important for Michael Chaplin, the writer, to recreate this intimacy on stage. The play is essentially a fast paced ramble of stories, and the action is held together by a monologue from Mullin (John Hodgkinson) that had the audience in raptures throughout. This kept true to the form of a diary and allowed Mullin

to express himself in the same way he did in his diaries – with honesty and sincerity. The around table cabaret venue at the Soho Theatre, described as "20s Berlin meets 50s New York" suited a production that required a close rapport between Mullin and the audience if it was to be effective.

This intimacy set the tone for the rest of the evening, as Mullin talked through the intricacies of Whitehall, flitting between bursts of excitement and dreary tales of despair. Hodgkinson makes Mullin likeable – no mean feat given current feelings towards our elected representatives. The insight into the political circus is one of bemusement at the eccentricities of his peers as he bumbles through the apparently informal corridors of power. One story typical of Mullin's experience was his insistence not to carry a pager, only for him to miss out on a cabinet job following a reshuffle because he did not get back to Tony (Blair) quickly enough.

Hodgkinson is complemented by an ensemble of four others who listen intently to Mullin's stories before

jumping in when another character is needed. Jim Kitson and Hywel Morgan created brilliant caricatures ranging from Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and the pugnacious J.P. (John Prescott), to the rank-and-file of junior ministers, diary secretaries and the lowest form of Parliamentary pond-life, the backbench MP. Incidents ranging from internal anguish over the Iraq War to banning speedboats from Windermere are given equal weight within the production. The overall impression is of a man swimming against the tide of the absurdity of political life as he tries to make a difference, however small.

After over twenty years in office Mullin feels too disenchanted to carry on – his only regret is that his eldest daughter will be unable to vote for her father in the 2010 general election. *A Walk On Part* is brilliantly done and startlingly funny – I was not sure I knew my politics well enough to fully appreciate it but it was more than accessible, and was both informative and enjoyable.

↳ Laurence Vardaxoglou



John Hodgkinson as Chris Mullin and Hywel Morgan as Tony Blair

you are invited to a PLAY with
imaginary friends

Bridges and Balloons
When six students move into one house, they soon learn that politics begins at home.

1st - 18th December
The Rag Factory
Heneage Street
Brick Lane, London

For your invitation to the house party of the year visit
www.imaginary-friends-productions.com
or call 0845 680 1926
Tickets £8 - Students 3 for 2!

The Lion in Winter, Theatre Royal Haymarket

Director: Trevor Nunn

Playwright: James Goldman

Key cast: Joanna Lumley, Robert Lindsay

At Theatre Royal Haymarket until 28 January 2012

"Every family has its ups and downs," quips Joanna Lumley's character in James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter*, and this fact is more or less the main theme of the play. Throw in a family trapped indoors at Christmas, three covetous sons, a mistress, a sexy gay French toy boy and healthy dose of intrigue, and you have pretty much got the gist of this Albee-Ayckbourn type hybrid. The added spice is that the year is 1183, the family is that of the Royal House of England, and the three sons, Richard, Geoffrey and John, are coveting no less than the Kingdom of their father Henry II and the Aquitaine lands of their mother Eleanor.

The script is one big anachronism, the setting of "a Christmas Court" a fabrication, and given the lack of records, naturally the action is imputed from the little that we do know. This then is fiction. As such, it was a nice touch that director Trevor Nunn opened with a roll-up title sequence reminiscent of golden age cinema historical epics. This simple device, which allows us to accept the prolepsis of an on-stage Christmas tree,

prompted the audience to be mindful that this is not a pure history play but rather a play that uses history. Since it is unlikely to offer us deep historical insight, such a drama surely lives or dies by what the characters of an imagined yesterday can teach us about our lives today. It is here that the play, rather than the production, became unstuck. The play, first performed in 1966, seems to be struggling for relevance.

What was left is a rather hollow vehicle for some excellent performances, and Robert Lindsay and Joanna Lumley as Henry and Eleanor, do not disappoint. She a fading beauty had lost none of her vivaciousness or taste for scandal and treason; he an ageing king in full and disillusioned belief that he is in the prime of life and so struts and pontificates accordingly. The timing of course was impeccable between these two veterans, and this brought out many of the very funny moments in the text. A strong supporting cast, slick staging and great design help things along nicely, but sadly the positive elements are not sufficient to carry an engaged interest through to the final curtain.

↳ Rory Creedon

A limited number of top-price tickets are available for £15 on the day of the performance.

Why We Rate Music

Abu Sharmuta discusses why we can, and should engage in music criticism

Tell people that you enjoy reviewing music, and the most frequent response will go along the lines of 'what gives you the right to tell people what's good?' I deliberately use the term 'right' here, because it captures an important ethical element to the question. The suggestion is that by rating and qualifying music, the critic violates a basic right of people; to indulge their personal preferences without judgment. The implicit assumption is that in describing music as good or bad, the critic makes a moral statement, which is more like saying 'lying is wrong' rather than 'brussels sprouts are disgusting.' Music taste is subjective, and thus any attempt to objectify it seems to give it an undesired moral dimension.

Now, I'm in no way arguing that everyone sees music in this way, least of all most music critics. But one only needs to see the response to something like Rebecca Black's 'Friday' to understand that people genuinely care about these things, with a passion that is more often reserved for moral judgments. Imagine the reaction for example, if Paul McCartney were to, tomorrow, reveal that Limp Bizkit was his favourite artist of all time - it would be incendiary. The point is that unlike when we state our favourite colour or ice cream flavour, most of us intuitively believe that we have a degree of justification for our music tastes (or, for that matter, any of the arts).

The difficulty then is in reconciling this sense of justification while allowing for the plurality of opinions that obviously exist. Some may ask whether music needs to be rated at all. Why not merely let people arrive at

their own conclusions, which can then be justified by referring to criteria of their choice? Personally, I believe this ignores one of the key roles that criticism has to play. With the advent of the .mp3, there's such an abundance of material instantly available to listen to that it's almost impossible to know where to start. Thus, music journalism can provide us with information shortcuts, allowing us to discover music that we believe is at least worth trying because it's been recommended by people who we've learned have similar tastes to us. For example, after trying for several months to follow *PopJustice's* (www.popjustice.com) song of the day, I realised that I didn't particularly care for anything it had suggested. On the other hand, I've found *Pitchfork's* Playlist to be much more in line with my own tastes, and a reliable source for discovering bands who I've then grown to love. I've found that music criticism is much more productive and enjoyable if you spend the time searching for a website or magazine which, in general, caters to the underlying general themes which inform your specific tastes.

This is not to say that criticism should thus be viewed as distinct bubbles correlating to individual critical outlets, and that if, say, one site gives an album 2 out of 10, and another site gives it 9 out of 10, that both are right. For another function of criticism should perhaps be to enable debate and comparison, and to do this, criteria need to be selected that can be universally assessed across time and genre. We should be able to compare the merits of an album made in Africa in the 1980's to one made in France in 2011. Some of these criteria are

relatively obvious. When rating music, critics often take about whether an artist is original and ground-breaking, or at least summarising the essence of a genre which has already been well-explored. They talk about whether the music transcends time and place, and whether or not they believe it will inspire new movements or reinvigorate old ones. The beauty of this system is that once criteria are agreed upon, there is still scope for individuals to disagree on whether an album or song succeeds in those selected areas.

Finally, music criticism is important because it can strive to tell people about the alternatives that are available to them. To understand this point, it is first important to distinguish between liking something and respecting it. Personally, I'm not a massive fan of heavy metal music. Yet, according to some of the criteria mentioned above, I can still appreciate why music from the genre might be good, but just not to my listening (as opposed to critical) tastes. I respect a band like *Mastodon*, and am relatively aware of both their significance and their quality, and yet I rarely have a desire to listen to them. However, there are also occasions when, upon hearing more of a genre, I've realised that a band whom I previously liked I no longer have any respect for. To illustrate, imagine someone from the 16th century visiting today: no matter what they heard, good or bad, they would think it was mind-blowingly original, because rating music inevitably depends on the context and time in which the music was created. Anything from the rock genre would sound original, and thus perhaps good, to somebody who until then had exclusively heard only clas-

sical music. Yet if the first piece that they heard was a Herman's Hermits B-Side, all but the most strident of fans would agree that there are probably better examples to be heard within that genre. Once someone identifies their tastes, music criticism has the ability to refine those tastes so that our time is maximised in listening to the things which will offer us the most long-term reward.

Unfortunately, for all the merits of rating music, it is unfortunate to see that in recent years a false sense of objectivity has been imposed in some circles. One of my favourite websites, *Pitchfork*, deems their reviews to be so precise that they can rate albums out of 10 to one decimal place. Yet what is the difference between an album that receives an 8.3 and an 8.5? Certainly if you were to examine their end-of-year lists you would find little correlation between score and list position as long as the album scored higher than an 8. It mistakenly promotes the notion that a score is a fact, and that anyone who disagrees is wrong. A review should be a justification of a song or album's merits according to certain criteria, but it should also recognise the limits to that justification. Reviews will never convince someone to listen to music which fundamentally the listener is unable to connect with. Instead, criticism has to build upon and supplement the intuitions and foundations of taste which we all already have. In this way, it can enable debate and discovery while also allowing for people to be individuals.

Abu Sharmuta



CHRISTIAN MARCIAY



This week's live highlights

22 Nov: **Okkervil River** - KOKO

23 Nov: **Gang Gang Dance** - Uni of London Union

24 Nov: **Yuck** - Electric Ballroom

25 Nov: **Friendly Fires** - O2 Academy Brixton

14 Nov: **Floating Point/Jamie xx** - Plastic People

PartBeat

The office playlist this week...

Coast to Coast

Twerps: *Twerps* (2011)

A Cruel Angel's Thesis

Yoko Takahashi: *Neon Genesis Evangelion* (1995)

Sweet Dreams Are Made of This

The Soul Rebels: *Unlock Your Mind* (2011)

Angel in the Snow

Elliott Smith: *New Moon* (2007)

Truss Me

Lower Dens: *Twin-Hand Movement* (2010)

Heather

Billy Cobham: *Crosswinds* (1974)

C.R.E.A.M.

Wu-Tang Clan: *Enter the Wu-Tang* (1993)

Won't Get Too Far

The Wrens: *Secaucus* (1996)

Born Under Punches (The Heat Goes On)

Talking Heads: *Remain In Light* (1980)



Follow us: @partbmusic

London Korean Film Festival: The Unjust

Director: Ryu Seung-Wan
Screenplay: Park Hoon-Jung
Cast: Hwang Jung-Min, Ryu Seung-Beom, Yu Hae-Jin
Year: 2011
Runtime: 119 minutes
Festival screening

Fear grips Seoul by the throat after a spree of schoolgirl murders. While pressure mounts on the police to catch the killer, the prime suspect is accidentally killed during a chase. Desperate to avoid blame and to close the case, the higher-ups in the police induce Captain Choi (Hwang Jung-Min) to find an "actor" to perform the role of the killer, promising him a special promotion. Choi, ambitious, but without connections will not otherwise be promoted. He assigns the task to Jang (Yoo Hae-Jin), who bribes an ex-convict who is told to "be the guilty." The innocent actor is paraded in front of merciless cameras as a national scapegoat and the police in turn are praised for their meticulous investigation. Everything seems to go smoothly until the case falls into the hands of Joo Yang (Ryu Seung-Beom), a public prosecutor who is sponsored by a business tycoon involved in a bit-

ter feud with Jang. As their interests become intertwined they are trapped in a game of cat and mouse, not knowing which one is the cat.

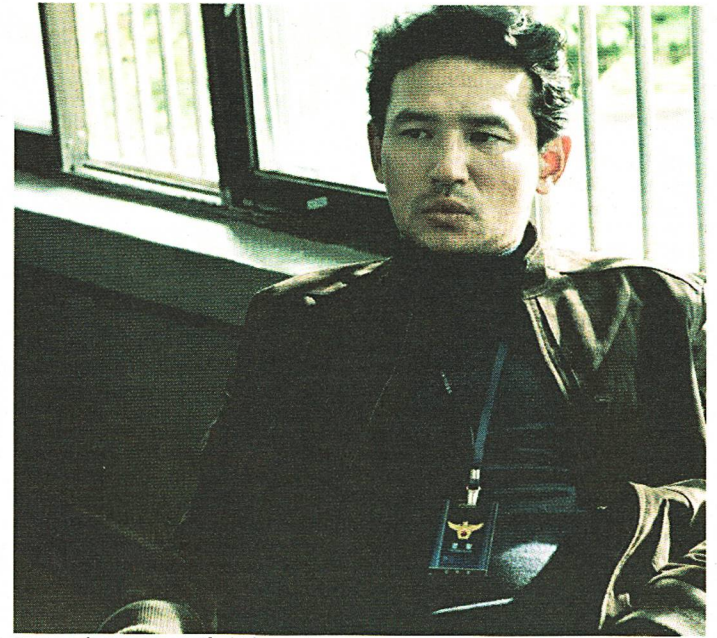
The main theme of the film – unjust dealings between the media, the police and politics – is not new. We have been exposed to their existence for long enough now, both in films and in real life, for this to come as shocking or interesting. What is striking, however, is the sheer proximity of the situation presented on the screen to our daily lives. Drawing on several contemporary issues of Korean society, such as the drug scandal in the entertainment industry and the growing bond between the powerful and the rich through political marriages, the film hints at what goes on beneath the quiet and tidy surface. Indeed, there is a rumour that the reason why *The Unjust* was taken off South Korean cinema screens so quickly despite its commercial success was the government's strong dislike of the film. The film portrays a naked world of the survival of the fittest, where fitness is measured by one's ability to make an expedient deal with the right party at the right time. One wrong step can

lead to complete and utter destruction.

The less obvious and a rather unexpected theme running through the film is the ambivalence of human morality. While the sharp contrast between the initial hesitations felt by the protagonist and the subsequent amorality of his actions shows his psychological dilemmas, it does not characterise him in moral terms. After all, why should his anger or desire be subject to moral judgement? The "actor" is forced by the impatient and eager society to be guilty for the sake of the unjust dealings of the powerful. He trades his freedom and dignity for money. Is his decision to be held unjust or immoral? Is the prosecutor, who seems to walk free from the onus of his unjust actions, really free?

What distinguishes *The Unjust* from other films in the genre of social denunciation is that it avoids easy justice. Through ruthless yet intricate fragments of tangible reality it depicts the entangled web of the unjust.

↳ Jisoo Yoo



Jeong-min Hwang as Choi Cheol-gi

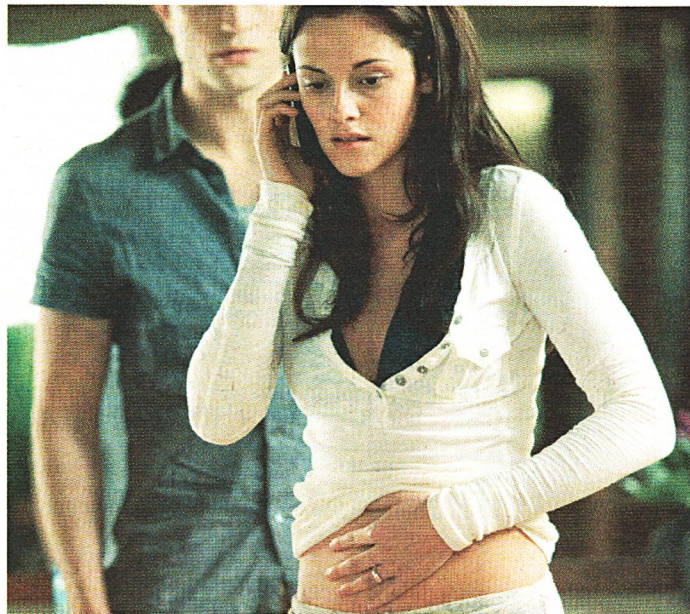
The Twilight Saga: The story so far and Breaking Dawn – Part 1

Director: Bill Condon
Screenplay: Melissa Rosenberg, Stephenie Meyer
Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Year: 2011
Runtime: 117 minutes
In cinemas now

First of all, a disclaimer: I know *Twilight* is bad. I realise the books are badly written and the films make most people cringe. This, however, did not stop me from going to BFI IMAX's Twiathlon or whatever it was called. Despite the *Twilight* Saga's awfulness I sort of love it. And if I must, I would call myself Team Edward. More importantly, though, I am Team *Twilight* for the first film of the saga.

Before I explain, here is a quick run-down of the plot. In *Twilight*, the first film, Bella (Kristen Stewart) meets Edward (Robert Pattinson), a vampire. In *New Moon*, Edward leaves Bella. I fell asleep during *Eclipse*, but I think it involves Edward and Bella making out and then there is a werewolf with a six-pack. In *Breaking Dawn – Part 1*, Bella and Edward get married, go on their honeymoon, and Bella is impregnated with vampire-spawn. Such flimsy and ridiculous premises translated into one good film, two mediocre films and one laughably bad one.

I genuinely think the first film is quite good. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke, it is moody, bleak and weird, full of little quirks and mistakes that make it extremely likeable. It is low-budget and dream-like, and deserves cult status in my eyes. I'm Team Edward because he is pale, interesting, and brooding – just like the first film. I personally find the gross, greyish treasure-trail on R-Patt's stomach endlessly more attractive than the rippling six-pack on Lautner, who is strangely hairless for someone supposed to be a werewolf. The films hurtled downhill when Lautner took



Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan

his shirt off. Stewart and Pattinson – neither of them bad actors – just look increasingly uncomfortable, the sparkling chemistry in the first film killed after they began a relationship off-screen. Any of the little oddities and quirks were ironed out by the studios for *New Moon*, which is a lot slicker and strangely soulless.

But what of the Twiathlon itself and, more importantly, the newest film? BFI plugged perfectly into the hysteria *Twilight* incites in the hearts of most girls by running this all-night movie marathon, starting at 23:00 and finishing ridiculously late in the morning. It was quite the emotional rollercoaster: I laughed manically in *Twilight* for absolutely no reason, slept during *New Moon*, cried through *Eclipse*, and hid under my coat during

Breaking Dawn. I don't know what to say about *Breaking Dawn*, really, except that it was unbelievably embarrassing. It began with an utterly cringe-inducing wedding and ended in a rather forced manner midway through the book. The birthing scene was disturbingly graphic, whereas the sex scene disappointingly not so. As an avid fan I nonetheless enjoyed it, but there was something strangely schizophrenic about its drastic changes in tone, which jumped from funny to horrific to sad to a nosebleed-inducing speed. Seeing it back-to-back with the other films merely emphasised its shortcomings. It could not have been further from the first film. Also, the main reason I didn't like it was because R-Patt was looking a bit rough.

So, if I am anything, I am Team Edward. I am Team Hardwicke. I am Team *Twilight*. Or maybe I'm just Team Lame.

↳ Mina Longshanks

* * *

I feel like this really needs to be the official correction and commentary on the preceding article. When the two of us decided to embark on the incredible emotional journey that is a Twiathlon (oh yes, there is an official term for these 8 straight hours of vampire fun), we didn't know what we were signing up for. From 14 year-olds in onesies to lone middle-aged twihards sporting *Twilight* memorabilia, the screening was packed.

Regardless of what haters say, *Twilight* itself was actually quite enjoyable. As any teen rom-com, it was full of embarrassing, goose bump inducing jokes and very intense eye-gazing scenes – some almost too intense to handle. Nevertheless, the story is pretty dark and exciting.

And now to defend Team Jacob. First of all, there is no denying that his acting is pretty bad. Jacob has a special ability to always be topless, regardless of situation or weather. Such perseverance really is to be commended. His toplessness, combined with one-liners that don't require much thespian ability – "We were talking... Bella broke her hand... against my face" – is what kept me awake through the entire first film, and a good half of *New Moon*. I'm not going to pretend that I judged this film on qualities other than superficial ones. Anyone going into a screening of a film marketed with a topless main character is going in for the same reason.

When *Breaking Dawn* finally arrived on the oh-so-big IMAX screen, I was nearly crying with fatigue

(about halfway through *New Moon*, I actually did cry – in madness). The entire film was very fantastical. There is a scene where the CGI wolf pack actually talks. At first, I thought it was a satirical take on the Narnia films, then my imagination, then both. To be completely honest, my favourite part of *Breaking Dawn* was when the credits started rolling. The film is completed with an excruciating ten-minute long birthing scene (which I am convinced is not suitable for a PG/12A rating), after which Bella dies, and is then reborn as... a vampire. Go figure.

So, to sum up, things we have discovered during our 8 hour experience:

1. The films go from enjoyable to unbearable.
2. The music in all four films is amazing. I genuinely want to get the soundtracks once my student loan comes in.
3. Jacob gets progressively better-looking, but gets less screen time (after *New Moon*, where he is king of all things male and topless).
4. Giving birth is even more disgusting when the future child is an evil blood-sucking CGI "miracle."
5. Edward and Bella make a boring couple. Without Jacob and the wolves, the film would consist of suicidal montages and depressing narrative.
6. After numerous close-ups, we realised that Edward has a two-sided face: a good-looking side and an uglier confused side. We have chosen to interpret this as a personality trait. Jacob, unconventionally, has a butter face.
7. When going to an all-night marathon this is what will happen to you: you will laugh, eat, sleep, cry, laugh, and want to lie on the floor. Be prepared to fight these urges or risk losing your sanity and friends.

↳ Anna Hyde

The Devil's Dinner Party

Sky Atlantic, 20:00, Wednesdays

New Series. Psychological game show in which six strangers attend a dinner party hosted by a mysterious figure known only as the Broker. As the night progresses they must reveal secrets about themselves and make snap judgements about each other to remain at the table, with the last person left winning a cash prize.

The Killing II

BBC 4, 21:00, Saturdays

New series. Former detective Sarah Lund is recalled from her low-key job in the countryside by her former boss at Copenhagen police HQ after a lawyer is found murdered in macabre and puzzling circumstances. Meanwhile, newly appointed Minister for Justice Buch oversees intricate negotiations between parliamentary parties.

Chris Moyles' Quiz Night

Channel 4, 22:00, Wednesday

New series. The Radio 1 DJ returns with new rounds and challenges, and is joined by celebrity panellists Jeremy Clarkson, Katherine Jenkins and Jason Manford, with appearances from Britney Spears and Robbie Williams.

Shameless USA

Channel 4, 02:25, Fridays

New series. Chicago father-of-six Frank Gallagher spends more time partying than raising his children, so his eldest daughter provides adult supervision for the younger ones. American version of Paul Abbott's drama about a dysfunctional family, starring William H. Macy and Emmy Rossum.

TV Tips for the week

Features

A slice of African pie

Susan Sebatindira examines the flurry of foreign investment in Africa

While reading an article by Jason Hicks, an LSE Anthropology professor on the renewed economic interests of the USA in Africa, I was struck by the term he used, the "new scramble for Africa." This was not the first time I've heard of it; it seems to be the new catchphrase labelling the new growing economic relationship between China and Africa and its effect on American and European trade in the area.

Whenever anyone raises China and Africa in the same sentence, it's usually "China's invading Africa." There is some truth to that, especially when looking at the increased economic investments China has established in the region. In 2008, foreign direct investment from China into Africa reached \$5.4bn, as stated by a special report by the African Development Bank. I, myself, am able to see the effects of this new relationship. The long stretch of highway leading out of the Kenyan airport in Nairobi, once a relatively bumpy ride and newly nicknamed "China Road," is now smooth, a gentle reminder of where China's money is going. Or in the local *École Française*, in the bustling city centre of Tunis, Tunisia, I routinely bumped into Chinese men and women on their way to their own French classes.

China has without a doubt settled itself quite well into the African continent. It is easy to see why; Africa has vast reserves of oil and minerals that China seems to hunger for. What has made it even easier for China to put down its roots in Africa is the fact that it is not a Western power.

For the most part, Chinese economic investments are not conditional. With the West, it has usually been good governance comes first, aid second. China seems to be a breath of fresh air, a pragmatic business partner who feels no need to intervene in the domestic political affairs of the African countries they choose to invest in. However, China's neutrality is not universal across the continent. China's trade is imbalanced, focusing on a select few, resource rich countries such as Angola, South Africa, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. China has also faced difficulties culturally maintaining economic relationships, for example, recent accusations of labour abuses against Zambian workers by the Chinese have arisen. Cheap Chinese imports will also hurt budding African entrepreneurs as they struggle to compete.

America and the EU are currently the largest trade and investment partners for many African economies. Nevertheless they are quick to condemn China's interest in Africa, calling it "neo-colonialism," a hindrance to these African countries' rights of economic self-governance. Their claims though are faint attempts to mask their growing anxiety of China's growth, especially in an area that is too close to home for former European colonial powers. As Hicks points out, it seems the US feels it is getting left out and needs to join in. However, he also states that America isn't following the route China is tak-

ing with Africa. The African Growth and Opportunity Act signed in 2000 is meant to assist and improve economic relations between the US and Africa. However, the stringent conditions surrounding the economic assistance given, namely no tariffs on certain American goods, could do more harm than good as countries who refuse to meet these conditions are not eligible for economic aid within the Act.

Africa is rising in relevance but this could be more to do with China and the spotlight shed on its meteoric rise to economic strength. There is also the question of whether this scramble

is doing acting more as a hindrance than a help for the African continent. Africa is not making news about its own economic growth independent of foreign aid and investments, instead current news articles focus on the embittered struggle between the West and China over the fertile ground of Africa. Has the continent been reduced to a pawn in international power politics, a position it was in pre-World War One? That may not be the case with hope for stand-out countries such as South Africa and Nigeria to collectively raise the status of the African continent as a worthy international

power. South Africa is duly recognized as a powerhouse within the African continent. Having successfully hosted the 2010 World Cup and with eminent public figures such as Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu becoming household names, South Africa has proven that it can step up to the plate. Nigeria looks set to do the same as by 2020; it has been predicted that its economy will be one of the twenty largest economies in the world. Currently it is the largest economy in Western sub-Saharan Africa and boasts immense oil reserves. As Jim O'Neill, of the Financial Times, argues,

with countries such as South Africa, Nigeria and Egypt at its helm, the continent as a whole could reach BRIC status.

Africa will always be attractive for potential investors due to its diverse and vast range of resources, many of which cannot be found to the same levels elsewhere. Trade with China, America and the EU should be beneficial if the money generated is being utilised for the infrastructure of African countries. Still, competition between these investing countries will always remain if there are resources to be found on the African continent. ☐



The black market brain

Edward Larkin explores the hype, reality, and future of neuroenhancers

In the 2011 movie *Limitless*, Bradley Cooper plays the part of a struggling writer who turns into a brilliant millionaire after taking "NZT", a fictional pill that drastically improves brain performance. While the movie itself was perhaps the ultimate exaggeration of modern science, "neuroenhancers" – drugs that improve brain function – have recently evolved from a niche preoccupation of bioethicists to an increasingly mainstream debate.

Discussions of neuroenhancers typically begin with university campuses, where use is imagined to be most prevalent and the benefits of increased cognitive performance the most clear. Since such drugs are illegal in most countries without a prescription, they've been given a sordid public image – substances surreptitiously used by cutthroat students to get an edge. Some alarmists have gone so far as to suggest mandatory urine testing before examinations, spurred on by reports that suggest that usage rates among students at certain universities at 25 to 30 per cent.

Margaret Talbot wrote a compelling article on the phenomenon of off-label use of neuroenhancers in 2009 in the *New Yorker*, detailing her interactions with an interesting cast of brain-improving characters – a software programmer turned poker player, a recent Harvard graduate, and a Cambridge professor. While Talbot did dutifully include some of the science, most of the article detailed private recollections of people very much convinced of the benefits of neuroenhancers. Yet perhaps we should look at the more basic issues surrounding neuroenhancing drugs: what do they do, how well do they do it, and how common are they in reality?

Most drugs that currently fall under the loose label of neuroenhancers are stimulants used to treat attention

Brain boosting drugs provide some benefits, but they come at a cost.

deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy. Traditionally, the most common have been a salt amphetamine mixture known as Adderall, and methylphenidate, or Ritalin. Recently, a substance called modafinil (marketed as Provigil) has emerged as the darling of the cognitive enhancement movement. The precise mechanisms of are difficult to pinpoint, but in general terms, drugs like Adderall increase the abundance of neurotransmitters – substances which allow neurons to communicate with each other – in the synapse. Typically, the brain's equivalent of a clean-up crew clears neurotransmitters from synapses after a very short time. Adderall (and, for example, cocaine) slow this clean-up process. As a result, neurotransmitters (especially dopamine) stay in the synapse longer, causing more neural activity.

The brain is a truly remarkable organ, honed to razor-sharp efficiency and organization by millions of years of evolution. It is a breathtaking concert of coordination – 100 billion neurons electrically connected through 100 trillion synapses, which can themselves grow and retract, strengthen and weaken. So can a simple molecule, like modafinil, really provide significant improvement to brain function?

Surprisingly, the answer is yes.



Flickr user: Pranjali Mahna

Unfortunately, not a resounding yes – they provide some benefits, but also come at a cost. The academic consensus is that neuroenhancing drugs do increase performance on low sleep, allow for more focus, and seem to improve working memory (the amount of things you can keep in your head for a short period of time to accomplish the task at hand). While this might seem especially compelling in the modern world, given the dizzying amount of distraction available, it does not come without costs. Most importantly, intense focus may inhibit creativity, and as some have pointed out, focus is good insofar as it is applied properly – in Talbot's

Many assume that neuroenhancer use is wrong, but the ethical implications are far from clear.

article, the Harvard student recounted times on Adderall that he organized his entire music library rather than writing a paper. Other drugs that have been shown to improve memory, such as ampakines or Aricept (a drug once hoped to battle Alzheimer's disease) may also have unintended consequences for healthy subjects – studies show that people who have unusually good memories have difficulty generalizing across situations – a key function of the brain.

While these benefits sound impressive, the effects aren't large, statistically speaking. We've all heard the urban legends from Adderall-fueled friends about having fun writing a paper for 12 straight hours. Yet the actual improvements are quite moderate, even before taking into account the aforementioned costs. Also, they appear to be most effective in those at low baseline levels of attention and memory, with the effect attenuating in high performance individuals. Thus, while randomized experiments in the

scientific literature do show gains, but the placebo effect is almost certainly a major driver of the traditional lore around Adderall and its fellows.

Neuroenhancers are also not as common as some statistics might suggest. While certain campuses may have had 30 per cent of students try neuroenhancers at least once, these are outliers. Deeper digging reveals less reason to believe the idea of a vast network of brain boosters among us – the average rate of the university students is about three per cent, with only about one per cent having used neuroenhancers more than ten times.

Thus, neuroenhancement is not an immediately looming issue – current drugs provide modest benefits mostly for those who are on the lower end of the bell curve, and their prevalence is not large. But what about the ethics of cognitive boosters?

Many reflexively assume that using neuroenhancers is somehow wrong, but the ethical implications are far from clear. Is it wrong to desire to better oneself? Obviously not. Is it wrong to desire to better oneself through unnatural or chemical means? Most people don't object to multivitamins, weight loss supplements, statins for lowering blood pressure, makeup, contacts, caffeine, botox injections, shaving, processed food, or clothing. Is the brain somehow different than other organs – is it wrong to try to unnaturally change it? Well, what exactly is "normal" brain function? Each person has different wiring, different capacities to adapt, learn, memorize, and respond. Education or reading could compellingly be labeled as unnatural brain enhancement.

The real problem lies not in the inherent immortality of cognitive enhancement, but rather, the current perceived use case – illegally gaining an edge against other students or workers without anyone knowing. This, however, is more a matter of fairness than inherent right and wrong. For example,

people could access it in secret to advance their own interests, it might face the same problems. This problem can be solved not by criminalization or heavy regulation, but bringing neuroenhancers into the world through a combination of the private market and perhaps government subsidies.

People are averse to change, and reflexively disconcerted by the prospect of boosting brainpower and enhancing normal function, arguing that we lose some inherently human aspect of our personality. But what does inherently human mean? If the patriars of ancient Rome or King Henry VIII visited the modern world, they would be shocked at level of human enhancement. Life expectancy in the modern developed world is more than triple what it was in ancient Rome. Diseases that plagued the ancient world are unheard of today. Modern chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes were rare – diabetes was an acute condition that caused death, and few people lived long enough to get cancer. There is no such thing as "natural" for humans. Evolution has produced a constant upward slope.

We've had a historical affinity for ratcheting up our brainpower at every opportunity.

To the extent that purely "natural" exists, we shouldn't conceptualize it as a 1950s style idyll. Indeed, a truly natural human might most accurately mean an upright hominid roaming around the savannah without clothing, living to the next day by ruthlessly hunting animals and eating roots, eventually dying unceremoniously amidst the bleak vastness. Since then, we've had a historical affinity for ratcheting up our

power at every available opportunity – language, writing, the printing press, the Internet, Google, and Wikipedia being only a few prominent examples. Indeed, biology is even providing an extra boost – the rate of evolution of the human brain has been remarkably fast. "Natural" is a moving target.

Regardless of the arguments for and against "cosmetic neurology", there is probably no going back. Progress in neuroscience and brain-computer interface technology suggests that at some point, we may gain insight into how the brain works, and perhaps how to better it. The neuroenhancers of tomorrow – whether biological or technological – will likely be more effective. Some countries may ban them, but if future neuroenhancers truly do increase productivity significantly, many others will not. As with all new, empowering technologies, there are important questions that society must assess. Should low IQ people preferentially receive neuroenhancers? Should everyone have a right to free neuroenhancers through government-sponsored health care? These considerations are obviously important, especially given the current class rift exposed by the "Occupy" movement.

Margaret Talbot concludes her article by saying that while productivity might increase with widespread neuroenhancer use, the world which would result – and its distinctly pharmacological anxieties – might not be the one in which she wants to live. Maybe she's right. But maybe she has it backwards. Maybe neuroenhancement is a rebellion against the 24/7 culture rather than an embrace of it. Maybe the ultimate goal of increasing productivity is to ultimately have more time to enjoy the finer, more subtle pleasures in life – precisely those that are choked out amidst 17 hour work days and the relentless drive to memorize test material. That's a world that doesn't sound quite so bad. ☘

Shifting the goalposts

Emily Delahaye ponders the proposed changes to constituency boundaries

In February this year, the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act was presented by the government to the Queen - this set forth the referendum we had earlier this year to decide on the Alternative Vote voting system, as well as announcing big changes to the boundaries of constituencies. At the moment Boundary Commissions in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are reviewing proposals made for reducing the number of constituencies in the UK. The government wants to reduce the current number of constituencies, 650, to a substantially lower 600. In Northern Ireland this will only result in two less constituencies while in England the number will go down from 533 to just 500. In this process some smaller constituencies will be merged together, some may be reduced in size and others will disappear completely.

One of the main reasons for the change is to ensure that all constituencies have a similar number of voters. This way every MP will represent the same number of people, evening out the workload for all MPs. At the moment some MPs have very large constituencies, or else densely populated constituencies, and struggle to serve all their voters. This legislation will change this.

However the reforms have created criticism from politicians and voters alike. Many MPs and potentially even Ministers face losing their seat or having to compete with colleagues in merged seats. George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will have the boundaries of his constituency, Tatton, moved, potentially making it less of a safe Conservative seat. Ken Clarke, the Secretary of State for Justice, will lose rural areas and gain inner city Nottingham wards to his

Rushcliffe constituency which would make it a marginal seat. On the Labour side, it seems likely that Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Ed Balls will have his Morley and Outwood seat abolished, with Outwood being added to Hillary Benn's Leeds Central Seat. Former Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy and the current Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander, may have to compete against each other as three Lib Dem seats are condensed to two in the Highlands. The Prime Minister's seat in Witney is essentially unchanged and there is debate over who these reforms favour - Labour have claimed that the Conservatives will benefit from the changes in the next election. Rob Heyward, a Conservative psephologist, has predicted that the Conservatives will indeed do the best out of the changes - only losing 15 seats while Labour loses 25. Analyst Lewis Baston predicted in June that Labour would only lose 18 seats while the Lib Dems would lose 14. So at the moment it is unclear just how the boundary changes will alter party politics.

The main problems from the perspective of the voter is that with less MPs, there will be less chance for representation. Each MP will have to have to reflect the views of more people, in many cases representing a wider spectrum of the population at the same time. Nick Cohen, from The Observer and The Spectator, has seen this as part of a wider problem of "democratic deficit" in England, where compared to the rest of the UK, the English, without a devolved parliament, look to suffer the most from less representation from MPs. Michael White, one of the assistant Editors of The Guardian, in a podcast with Tom Clarke, also made the point that the talent pool for Ministers will be reduced with less MPs for

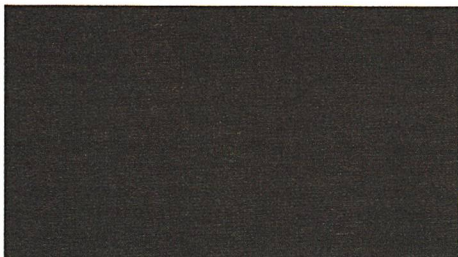
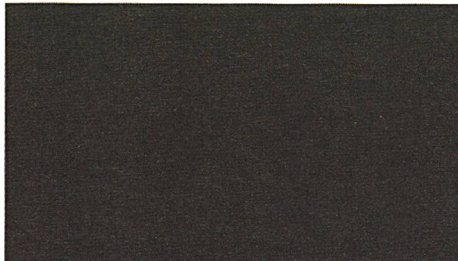
the Prime Minister to pick from. As in the case of Cornwall, many voters feel a strong connection with their local area which seems to be threatened by the new plans to abolish or move the boundaries of seats.

In Cornwall, a county with a strong regional identity already, there is a lot of controversy over the proposed boundary changes. The current seat Devon West and Torridge is set to become Bude and Bideford, merging with the Cornish constituency of Bude, creating - in the eyes of the Cornish - an unwanted "Devonwall." It had been

proposed that the Cornish area of Saltash would be merged with Plymouth as well. LSE student Iain Ramsay, who lives in Saltash, said that this merge would be wrong and was very unpopular, as the constituents of the two areas have "different needs and interests" which would make life difficult for a future MP there. So people fear the breaking up of communities through boundary change.

While all the reports need to be submitted by October 2013, the public can have still have their say on the boundary changes on the websites

of the respective Boundary Commissions. The English Commission is conducting consultation until 5 December, while in Northern Ireland consultation ends on the 2 December. In Scotland public hearings are currently underway to gauge popular opinion. It will be interesting to see how public opinion shapes the proposals, and if they will change at all. Whether or not condensing 650 seats to 600 seats can succeed without treading on anyone's toes seems unlikely.



China's unofficial no-child policy

Lilian Lin Yigu questions environmental hypocrisy

As people begin to bore of DINK - the belief that one should follow the idiom Double-Income-No-Kids - here comes another trendy term of its kind: GINK, Green Inclination, No Kids! A philosophy promoted by the middle-class from developed countries. They blame themselves for damaging the world environment and have consequently dedicated themselves to, what they believe is the best way to protect the environment - that is having no children at all.

It is quite a cliché to accuse supposedly overcrowded developing countries, like China and India where effective birth control is not present, of increasing the burden on the world. In terms of the consumption of resources and the creation of pollution the developing world is trailing behind - in some ways a benefit in disguise. Are the citizens of the developing world, many of whom are struggling in poverty, able to consume as much as their rich buddies elsewhere who take luxurious indulgence for granted?

A Beijing resident was quite shocked by what he came across during his trip around the United States. "In the supermarkets, people have to wear thick coat[s] when they [go] shopping because the air conditioner is so strong so it makes the place freezing cold. You...feel like you are in winter but actually outside is a scorching summer. I cannot understand why they don't turn [down] the air conditioner a little to make people feel comfortable and save...energy. Also, if you check their household cars, you will find those cars are larger and less efficient cars than...in China. I think Americans are quite casual with the way they consume energy[y] and most of them take it for granted. If Chinese

people...indulged in [a] lifestyle like that, we [would] definitely need more than one earth to provide enough resources."

According to World Watch Institute, the average American consumes five times more energy than the average global citizen, 10 times more than the average Chinese, and nearly 20 times more than the average Indian. It is reasonable to argue that people in developed countries, the US in particular, are used to an intensive-consumption lifestyle and deplete far greater amounts of natural resources than do people in developing countries.

Moreover, the gloomy environmental picture in countries like China is, unfortunately, largely due to the fact that they take many of the heavily-polluting jobs that satisfy the demands of the middle and upper classes in wealthier countries. Take "rare earth elements" for example; they are essential elements that are employed ubiquitously in the production of every car, gadget and household product and are crucial for Western technology. China used to be the biggest exporter of rare earth elements in the world, controlling 97 per cent of the global market. When Western countries condemn China for the sharp decrease in the export of rare earth elements, little attention is paid to the fact that excavation is hugely damaging to the local environment. When Western leaders are presented with the dilemma of balancing environmental issues with domestic demands, they almost always choose the latter. Even though these kinds of demands are not necessarily that important compared to the primitive need for food, clothing and shelter.

But will every environmentalist be willing to follow the GINK philosophy

and give up parenthood? The personal difficulty presented by foregoing a long-time habit of devouring meat for the environment, can be mitigated by the thought that it is also good for one's health as becoming vegetarian can help prevent many health problems. Comparatively though, being "child-free" does not have many alternative benefits than those for the environment. So if the environmental factor is not appealing enough, it can be very tough for the wealthy to force themselves to renounce their right to be parents, often regarded as a lifetime goal and path to a legacy. The environmental consideration can seem much less compelling than experiencing the miracle of childbirth and the satisfaction of raising a child.

A 2009 study by statisticians at Oregon State University found that the climate impact of having one fewer child in America is almost 20 times greater than the impact of adopting a series of eco-friendly practices for your entire lifetime: things like driving a highly efficient car, recycling, and using efficient appliances and fluorescent lights (CFLs). In America, having just one child increases the family's carbon footprint by a factor of six.

The global population is climbing above seven billion. It is time to highlight the population issue and the close connection it has with environmental problems. Developed countries should stop pointing the finger at their impoverished counterparts for population-invoked environmental problems. Instead, they should either start to look introspectively. They should refrain from the energy-consuming spree they currently enjoy and adopt a more environmentally friendly path. The GINK philosophy is a drastic measure to counter a terrible reality. We are

beginning to see the negative effects of the boom we have enjoyed from pillaging our environment. Not all can be expected to forgo their chance to have

children but actions must be taken by all, particularly those in the developed world.



Flickr user: aswerger

Living in an In

The Revd Dr James Walters Chaplain and Interfaith Advisor

Through much of the twentieth century it seemed to many that religion was on the way out. Liberal democracy, consumer capitalism and scientific discovery appeared to be the principle narratives of late modernity that would eventually sweep away the superstitions and dogmas that had held together the civilisations of the past. If religion was good for anything it seemed to articulate some helpful values and morals. So the agenda of interfaith dialogue in these years was primarily one of distilling shared principles in order to jettison the excess

"mumbo-jumbo."

Today things look very different. Contrary to the "secularisation thesis" there is a lot of religion around and the 4 to 5 billion people who are actively engaged in the main world religions do not seem to be going away. As the editor of the Economist wrote recently, "God is back." In addition, the new enlightened world order that led Francis Fukuyama to declare that history was over is in crisis all around us.

So when the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke at a recent gathering of world faith leaders in Assisi, he proposed a new basis for interfaith dialogue that moves beyond the lowest common denominator approach: "we are here not to affirm a minimum common ground of belief, but to speak out of the depth of our traditions in all their distinctiveness, so that the

human family will be more fully aware of how much wisdom there is to draw upon in the struggle against the foolishness of a world still obsessed with fear and suspicion, still in love with the idea of a security based on defensive hostility, and still capable of tolerating or ignoring massive loss of life among the poorest through war and disease."

Perhaps it is time to consider that the world religions are not out-dated legacies of a superstitious age but rich resources to address the intractable problems of today. Could it be that Islamic banking practice has something to teach us in our economic crisis? Could it be that the Hindu reverence for the earth can renew our respect for the environment? Could the communitarianism of Judaism be a corrective to postmodern individualism? Could Christianity's teaching that

human beings are justified by grace rather than their achievements be a powerful antidote our societies competitive acquisitiveness?

Interfaith Week provides an opportunity to explore some of those questions at LSE and in the local primary schools where many representatives of faith societies will be speaking this week. There is certainly a lot of bad, destructive religion in the world today. But in our diverse university we have

the opportunity to engage with the rich traditions of faith constructively and collaboratively. They may have far more to offer than the prophets of secularism believed.

Tasif Zaman Islam

Western Muslims frequently find their faith at the centre of contemporary debates around political and social issues. Whilst these discussions are relevant, they often overlook the essential: the spiritual dimension of Islam.

This brief article attempts to outline one of the core aspects of the religion which is firmly rooted in its beliefs and practices: love.

In the Islamic Spiritual tradition the ultimate objective and essence of the worship of the One God is to love Him and achieve closeness to Him. The theologian and poet, Rumi, wrote that "achieving the proximity to the Beloved comes at a price: your life. What a bargain!"

Love for the One God has no resemblance to the physical love one may have towards material or worldly aspirations. It is a love rooted in emotion, sincerity and wholehearted self-giving. Muslims are therefore encouraged to strive to act morally with the purest intention: the intention of acting out of Love for their Lord whilst destroying or undermining any selfish or worldly incentives.

The title of the Prophet Muhammad is Habib Allah, the Beloved of God. Prophet Muhammad is venerated by Muslims as the best role model, displaying the highest form of character and conduct. His life provides timeless inspiration, light and guidance for the lives of his followers.

The Prophet taught his followers that none "has faith until he loves for his brother [in humanity] what he loves for himself." When we reflect on this

statement in the context of our multicultural societies, we clearly see that the prophetic pedagogy emphasises the need for mutual respect and understanding which goes beyond "tolerance."

We welcome interfaith week as an opportunity to increase in this mutual love between us, love for people of other religions and people of no religion, love for humanity.

Jeremy Chan Catholicism

Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world
Black and yellow, red and white - they are all precious in His sight..."

The universality of my faith proclaims a message of love that goes beyond ethnic divide and extends into religious pluralism. Similarly, Our Lord Jesus came down to save us all, regardless of our individual background or faiths. Thus, in the midst of the diversity, I feel called not merely to tolerate the other faiths but to embrace

their truths on cardinal virtues such as faith, hope and charity as well. Personally (at the risk of over-simplification), I have been blessed by how my Muslim

**At the end of
the day, there is
only one race -
the human race.**

friends strive for peace in their relationships; or how the Jewish affirmation of community has inspired me to value the people in my life more.

The national interfaith week is a great time for us to take stock and to set aside our differences, without the dilution of our faith. It is not about which faith group has got it 'figured out' or whose notion of God is more 'real'. In fact, there is no real competition. At the end of the day, there is only one race - the human race.

Gurmaher Kooner Sikhism

To live as a Sikh in a multifaith society is a very easy thing to do, as the cornerstone of the Sikh religion is the "oneness" of humanity. Sikhism does not actively seek to convert but encourages followers of other religions to be good followers of their religion. The paths may be slightly different but the end result is the same i.e. "To live a truthful life and to have respect for all." This concept is in the Sikh symbol Ek Onkar which symbolizes the "One Supreme Reality" or "One God." This fundamental teaching of Sikhism, that there is only one Essence or one

reality that sustains all, is paramount to the understanding of Sikh beliefs. "...the Light of God is in all hearts." (SGGS 282) The Guru Granth Sahib, the eternal Guru of the Sikhs, also contains the writings of Muslim and Hindu holymen.

Sikhism was founded in northern India during the 15th century by Guru Nanak Dev, the first Guru of the Sikhs. It came into existence in a multifaith society at a time where the Muslim and Hindu populations were jostling for control over the Indian subcontinent. The Sikh religion, although small in number of followers, formed a separate identity which professed love for the whole of humanity.

Langar (free kitchen) was started by the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev

Ji. It upholds the principle of equality between all people regardless of their

**The cornerstone of
the Sikh religion
is the "oneness" of
humanity.**

background. In addition to the ideals of equality, the tradition of Langar expresses the ethics of sharing, community and inclusiveness. The food

served is specifically vegetarian so that all, regardless of their specific dietary requirements, may consume it. The practise of Langar continues to thrive in Gurudwaras in Britain. Recently students from the LSESU Sikh society and other London University Sikh societies took it upon themselves to feed the homeless across London.

The Sikh concept of being defenders of the weak, very much lives on through to this day. During the recent riots in the UK, Sikhs came out in their hundreds to help protect Mandirs, Mosques, Gurudwaras and other

places of worship as well as their local communities.

The emergence of Sikhs in sports such as cricket, with Monty Panesar, as well as distinguished individuals such as Sir Mota Singh QC - the first Sikh to be knighted for his services to the administration of justice - will serve as inspirations for young Sikhs in this multifaith society.



Flickr user: SPazza

Interfaith World

Sheena Sodha
Hinduism

Many people don't make the distinction between a Hindu and an Indian. Hinduism refers to the religion, whilst being Indian means you are a citizen of the country. How-

Hinduism refers to the religion, whilst being Indian means you are a citizen of the country.

Hindu.

The cliché definition that is always given by any Hindu Student when asked about Hinduism - especially members of the numerous university Hindu Societies around the country - is that it is a 'way of life'. This embodies both religion; numerous reincarnations of the one God at different points in history, to eliminate the world of the rising evil and restore peace, the sacred old texts like the Vedas, the Bhagvat Gita, and the Upanishads, and, culture; saris, vegetarianism, family values, language, food, festivals and holidays.

At the LSE, it seems that the practice of Hinduism, whilst definitely kept rife, is done more quietly, with students keeping a small photo of their deity in a corner of their room, perhaps chanting a small mantra before they go

Interfaith week is a great way to show case the great "way of life."

Interfaith week is a great way to show case the great "way of life." It is also a great way to publicly engage Hindus to practice their culture as well as raise awareness of it and take part in the learning of other faiths. The values of Hinduism are no different to any other faith in the world. The only difference is a unique way of conveying and practicing these values with song, dance, colour, food and celebration.

The LSESU Hindu Society aims this year to bring out more of this celebration and make them a part of university life.

to bed every night. Most festivals will be celebrated back at home and some international students will miss out because of this.

ever, traditionally, one has to be born into an Indian family to be truly considered

David Peterson
Christianity

Being a Christian in a multi-faith society isn't a concept reserved for the 21st century. Christianity originally stems from the Jewish faith. The huge number of prophecies in Jewish writings, written over hundreds of years by different people, were fulfilled hundreds of years later through the arrival of Jesus, regarded as the Christ, and it is from this that we derive our name (for a secular account of Jesus, google 'Josephus'). Whether it was before or after Jesus' arrival though, the issue of other faiths in society has always been prominent for those who trust in the Biblical God. It just looks slightly different as time progresses.

I do not, however, find my faith identity threatened by a multi-faith society. I do not find it enriched, for anything pointing to something different from that which is Biblical points to something that cannot be regarded as Truth by Christians. The Church, however, as well as the individual Christian, knows to what it must look to stay strong in its identity, and that is the Bible. Take China as an example; while the issue may not have been a multi-faith society, maintaining the identity was still as difficult, if not harder. Since 1949 when the Peoples' Republic of China was

established, various efforts have been made to purge the country of religious expression. Christianity was forced underground, with believers persecuted, and in some cases tortured, for their faith. Outside observers had even thought that the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76 had completely eradicated Christianity from China. But in 2007 independent estimates of the number of Christians in China numbered between 40 and 130 million. The

Being a Christian in a multi-faith society isn't a concept reserved for the 21st century.

other religions claim God to be fundamentally different in nature from Christian beliefs, reject Jesus as being the Christ, or simply hold to polytheism, these are in direct opposition to the Christian Gospel. To look upon them as something to learn from is to not understand the Bible. Frankly, no matter the religion, being able to learn from another faith must surely devalue the validity of your faith.

This week is Interfaith Week. The Christian Union will hold a stall alongside many of the other faith societies on Tuesday and, personally, this was a difficult decision, one in which I reluctantly accepted with much apprehension. In my opinion people of different faiths should collaborate on conflict resolution but to have relations further than that would be to undermine our individual beliefs. I believe that to accept the Bible as Truth is to accept that anything else, by definition, is false, and misleading. If our presence at Interfaith Week gives off any other impression, I apologise profusely both to those who we've misled, and Christians who we've misrepresented.

I do not write this with the intention of being arrogant, although no doubt many will see it that way. Christians are called to be humble. We are, of course, human, so frequently we fail in this. We fail in many things, but to be a Christian isn't to rely on your good works. I write this as humbly as I can to explain my views as a Christian on Interfaith matters. Perhaps my writing comes across a little strong, but it is because of the strength of my belief and the thankfulness I have towards God for his forgiveness that I cannot and will not compromise on my faith.

numbers speak for themselves, in that, no matter the threat, the faith will keep going. Christians trust in God and the Bible through the good times and the bad, resolutely putting their identity in a Bible that no one can overcome.

With regards to the issues of a multi-faith society, and whether a Christian could learn anything from another faith about God, I believe the answer, firmly, is no. The Bible teaches on the characteristics of God and to look elsewhere, to literature not inspired by God, would be wrong ["All Scripture is God-breathed" - 2 Timothy 3.16]. Furthermore, since



tion is purely personal. Judaism is - for the most part - an

Personally speaking, I believe my own faith identity thrives in a pluralistic society.

plaguing consensus for all those but the orthodox communities.

Personally speaking, I believe my own faith identity thrives in a pluralistic society. The key pillars of 'Tsedaka', charity, and 'Tikkun Olam', healing the world, can be actualized to a far greater extent than if we were to remain in our tight-knit communities. That said, community is central to my Judaism. It becomes unquestionably harder to maintain 'Halacha', the laws - such as keeping the laws of Shabbat - in a society where my dependence lays with the material.

As much as I believe in the importance of peaceful coexistence - being appreciative and respectful of others' customs and practices - I believe

Judaism is pretty codified in its own adherences. This is what Jews will often focus on achieving. There is a

I believe the parallels between the monotheistic faiths mean that subconsciously, we have many similarities anyway.

Jews will contribute and partake in the society surrounding them. However, I'm not sure this would extend to sharing theistic traditions. I believe the parallels between the monotheistic faiths mean that subconsciously, we have many similarities anyway.

Thankfully, the numbers of theocracies in the world are steadily declining, meaning the gradual de-politicization of religion. This allows for the elevation of core values and the removal of harmful stereotypes that have prevented real accessibility to the good things that religion has to offer. The global nature of the Jewish community means hopefully we will be among the first to benefit from this.

sentiment in Judaism that you should abide by the law of the land you are living in, and therefore it is likely that

Jay Stoll
Judaism

It is worth saying, before I discuss what it means to be a Jew in a multi-faith society, that my response to the ques-

tion is increasingly cultural religion, with a complex body of theistic approaches

Finnish the debate

Sanni Nissila interviews the Finnish Foreign minister, **Dr Erkki Tuomioja**

Dr. Erkki Tuomioja is the current Foreign Minister of Finland and a former journalist. Despite visiting LSE to deliver a public lecture on increasing security through co-operation, the Beaver interviewed him on the relationship between media and politicians. As the Leveson Inquiry - a UK judicial inquiry to investigate illegal methods of investigation by the press - gets under, way the views of a present politician and former journalist could shed much-needed light on the issue.

The media has been criticized in recent years for being too intrusive into politicians lives, have your personal experiences reflected this?

It's also a matter of your own choice. I try to keep my personal life, familial life, completely out of the media and that is respected by most media. If you give them your little finger, they will take your whole life

Do you think the public right to know ever overrides a politicians right to privacy?

I think there should be clear cut legislation on that. The public does

not have the right to know about the private life of a politician unless it directly reflects on his work. I mean his finances, and things like that have to be open and transparent. As for personal life, that is irrelevant unless there is a financial, security or political aspect involved.

What about reputation? For example if they have represented themselves as a family man, should we be able to reveal this hypocrisy?

Well that's just lying in public, if you are presenting yourself as a family man and you actually keep three wives... (I suppose that's an "extended family" man).

Has your background as a journalist changed the way you see and deal with the media?

No not really. I mean I haven't been a mainstream journalist. I have been more of a writer and columnist and editor-in-chief of Ydin which is not exactly a daily newspaper.

["Ydin" is a Finnish politically neutral quarterly paper that describes itself as "bringing out topics and views that the mainstream media does not write about.]

So you don't have any prejudice having seen it from behind the lines?

Politicians and journalists are so intertwined and I do know a fair amount of people in the media. My wife has been a professional journalist.

Do you think it is necessary to regulate media neutrality?

Neutrality? No. But there should be regulation on libel and things like that obviously, but not neutrality. That would be interfering with the freedom of speech.

But what about situations where a newspaper is heavily influenced by a political party?

We've had that in Finland, I mean Finnish press started as a party press mostly and now it's mostly purely commercial. That has been the general trend everywhere. Regulation in the case that someone has a powerful monopoly, or close to monopoly, let's take the example of Berlusconi in Italy, then yes, that would call for legislation. One could also argue the Murdoch press is too omnipresent and influential, but that has to do also with the functioning of the market.

Returning to the Finnish media... Do you think it has become too Euro-centric and would benefit from a more international perspective?

The official line of most papers is that they are pro-Europe and pro-euro etc., but as for reporting on Europe, that has not really been sufficient, except for now, with the Euro-crisis, that has become more dominant so that has changed. But over the years I would say our members of the European Parliament would always complain that nothing was written about their work, and no one cared about the European Parliament.

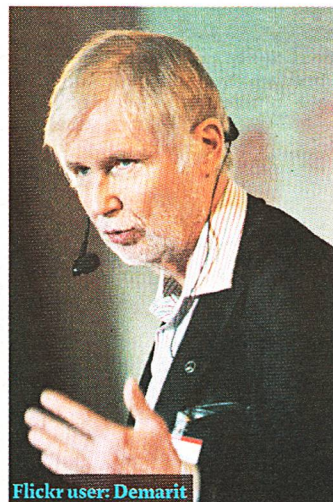
Do you think current cross-border measures are suitable to deal with threats arising from cyber-crime?

That has a very high priority in our negotiations today. In the general and international co-operation, for example among the Nordic countries, cyber security is very much of an issue as is fighting against cyber-attacks and so on. Defending yourself from cyber-crime is very high on the agenda. There is a race that can be compared to doping and sport as you try to develop more efficient cryptology and technology to decipher the also developed

cyber-crime. It's a never ending race.

What newspapers do you read in the morning?

Helsingin Sanomat and Financial Times. I look at half a dozen more but these are the two daily newspapers I read. ☘



Flickr user: Demarit

Measured musings | To hate or not to hate

Controversy for its own sake? You would be forgiven for thinking that as you no doubt clocked one of the thousands of controversial United Colors of Benetton advertisements that are currently plastered all over the Internet. The campaign featuring images of the pope kissing Ahmed el Tayyeb, a leading figure amongst Sunni Muslims, and Barack Obama similarly locking lips with the Chinese leader Hu Jintao, has been dubbed "Unhate." The clothing brand claims the campaign was designed in opposition to a common culture of bitter resentment. It sounds noble

enough, but considering the polemic used, one can't help but question its sentiments.

The brand itself is no stranger to controversy. In the past its advertising campaigns have featured giant billboards depicting the death of a prominent AIDS activist David Kirby. Past campaigns have also used images of a new born baby, bloodied, with the umbilical cord still attached. Though we've become accustomed to the bizarre and controversial adverts that are produced by the United Colors of Benetton, this recent batch have caused the Vatican to threaten legal action. A spokesman from the Vatican

vocalised the perceived misuse of images. "This shows a grave lack of respect for the pope, an offence to the feelings of believers, a clear demonstration of how publicity can violate the basic rules of respect for people by attracting attention with provocation."

The Vatican aren't the only ones who have taken this as nothing but a cheap publicity stunt, designed to boost sales in a difficult economic climate. It's not really all that useful for a campaign designed to lessen hatred and spread a culture of tolerance. So what is the point of "Unhate"? Benetton claims it is a genuine campaign,

"not a cosmetic exercise, but a contribution that will have a real impact on the international community." Well it did have a real impact, but not in the way that it apparently intended.

The image itself is based on popular graffiti from the Berlin Wall depicting Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev kissing his East German colleague Erich Honecker. The original image was steeped in satire and mockery of the countries regime, so why did the fashion retailer expect these images to help in spreading a message of "Unhate?"

As Jonathan Jones, of the Guardian, points out, Benetton clearly failed

to see the apparent sanctity of the Pope's image in the Vatican's eyes. These are not the only objections though. The Al-Hazar mosque in Egypt issued a statement calling the depiction of the imam "irresponsible and absurd." In a similar fashion, the White house has voiced its opposition to what it sees as the use of the President's image for commercial purposes.

So is there a genuine case for classifying the campaign as a simple publicity stunt? It is certainly true that the brand is not as successful or popular as it once was. It appears to have lost some of its, once colourful, individuality. Despite its products being simplistic knitwear, the brand's marketing ensured it had something of an iconic status. This has long since faded though; cynics are saying that this is precisely why it indulges in the use of such provocative imagery - a desperate bid to re-capture the hype that once surrounded its name.

In response to the surrounding scandal Benetton has attempted to reaffirm its position as an advocate of social reform. In its own words it has tried to go "through the vehicle of communication, which can reach social players in different areas." You can't help but notice the language on the brand's website is strikingly vague. But perhaps we are overlooking the use of advertisement as the ultimate protest. Perhaps, but I doubt it.

As a commercial campaign, it has been hugely successful. It has been widely talked about and its controversial images have been splashed across the media. But as a wider campaign, a social cause, as the brand makes out, it has not been so fruitful. I don't have a problem with the images or the controversy, but attempts to brand it as a meaningful campaign against hate are somewhat questionable. If we examine the issues it highlights; tensions between the USA and China and the Middle East conflict, these are deep set issues - how much will this billboard campaign affect the politicians in charge, or their voters? Unfortunately though, it looks as if "Unhate" has in fact caused more hate.

Gurdeep Chhina
Features Editor



Social

Bringing Home The Bacon

Shrina Poojara on how Richard Bacon halted her rise to television fame



Flickr user: Mike_fleming

There's something about the promise of bright studio lights in the big city that really gets the adrenaline going. My last television experience was back when I was 15 years old at the "Celebrity Big Brother" finale, cheering on Shilpa Shetty as she emerged victorious and suddenly having a camera thrust in front of my face by the BBC News crew asking me for my thoughts, at which point my friends and I were far too excited to provide any coherent message (it seems to be a trend within my family to get ridiculously excited every time any Indian person appears on national television).

Sadly, the whole ordeal ended horrendously as my aunt, whose care I was in for the night, saw me on television, following me promising her I was off to my best friends' house for a quiet night in. Hard to deny that I had lied through my teeth having appeared hours later smiling on the 10 o'clock news.

So, when I was recently invited by BBC3 to appear in the studio audience on "Up For Hire Live," a week-long series set to expose the state of youth unemployment in Britain, I jumped at the chance, eager to have a far more successful television appearance this time around.

The episode I was invited to was all about nepotism in the workplace, a topic I personally had very little experience of but was, of course, willing to comment on. Along with around 19 other studio audience "plants" (a term which I use loosely, as our role was to contribute if no members of the public in the audience was willing to jump into the studio debate), we were briefed and ran through all of our

views with a pleasant BBC employee before entering the studio.

Not my first time in a television studio, I was not surprised or excited by much of my surroundings... that was, of course, until television and radio presenter, Richard Bacon - the host for the evening - strolled in. There's something about seeing a celebrity, no matter who they are or how meagre their contribution to your life has been up until that point, that makes you instantly sit up and want their attention. This case was no different. Having gotten acquainted with the two girls next to me, we all gave each other "the look" as "The Baconator" walked in, all pearly-white smiles and too-perfect hair. I'm also pretty sure he was wearing more foundation on his face than any of my friends have ever attempted on a night out in Camden, but that's a different story.

As, I presume, is the norm before a live show with audience interaction, we had a "run-through" before the show started, which was essentially an opportunity for the show's producers to establish who within the audience had valid points to make and who would seize any opportunity to have their face on camera and take up valuable air-time with a moronic shout-out to the "keg dudes down the hall."

Following the producers' long discussion with Claudia, a woman who had lost her job when her boss decided instead to hire her own niece, it wasn't before long that I found myself face to face with Richard Bacon, overhead mic in sight, discussing the difficulties faced by the students at our "fairly prestigious university" when applying for jobs. The producers nodded in agreement, but "The Bacon" wasn't done. "Fairly prestigious university?"

he enquired. "The London School of Economics," was my response, followed by a chorus of "oooh's" from the audience. But Bacon still wasn't done. "LSE..." he probed, finger on earpiece (damn the producer who fed him that line). "Wasn't that where Gaddafi's son bought his degree?" While I have since come up with a number of potential reputation-redeeming responses that I could have followed with, sadly his comment was met with my silence. The damage was done; Richard Bacon had, in a matter of seconds, gone from a TV god to my nemesis for the evening.

However, nothing, not even "The Bacon," could stop me: I was well and truly on my way to my five seconds of TV fame. I was all set; the producers had even prompted him to "go to Shrina" when the debate began on how far one should be willing to travel for work, much to the delight of the girl next to me who was all too ready to sit and look pretty in the shot.

Lights, camera, action... and the live show had begun. Much of it whizzed past, aside from the ten minutes Richard spent chatting to Claudia, who had soon become his firm favourite audience member. I'm not quite sure why: while she was definitely eloquent and had herself had an horrendous experience of nepotism, I didn't quite understand Richard's fascination with her on a show about youth unemployment when she definitely didn't fit the "youth" criteria (not that I'm bitter or anything).

I sat patiently throughout the show, applauding when signalled to, whooping along with the best of them when cued to. In sum, I am sure I am fair in believing that I was, pretty much, any producer's dream audi-

ence member. All the while, I awaited my cue, nervously running my lines through my head, adjusting my hair and seating position far too often. I sat thinking what my parents would say when they saw their own daughter on national television; the best



Flickr user: Steve Punter

sure, to happen to them since Shilpa Shetty appeared on their screens all those years before.

Except it never happened. I don't remember the details - my brain soon did its best to make me forget the whole ordeal - perhaps the work/travel debate never began.

Perhaps the audience members suddenly decided they had an opinion on the matter and thrust themselves in front of the microphone, cutting into my air-time. Or, perhaps

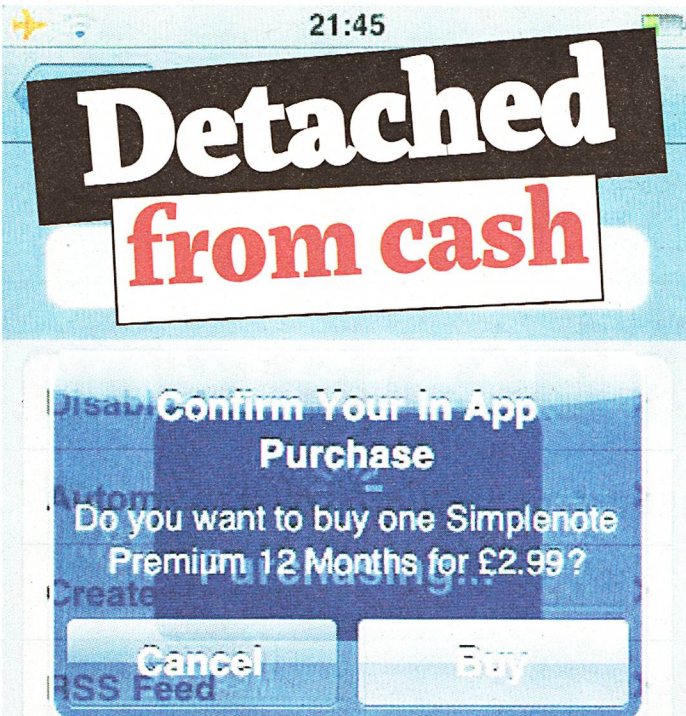
most likely, my nemesis for the night had decided to defy the producers and deny me of my moment of fame. Yet, of one thing I am sure, Richard Bacon never came to me for comment.

I never watched the show back on iPlayer - it would have been far too humiliating. Strike two. Perhaps my TV career is just never meant to take off, and this

is a sign that I should just stop trying

to get in front of the camera as no good can come of it.

Unless, of course, anyone wants to send me Top Gear studio audience tickets. In which case I just hope I'll be third time lucky.



Nehal Poojara on the evils of debit cards, Asos and the App Store

Flickr User: Neil Boyd

We all at the LSE, I imagine, have either experienced life as a "Fresher" in London or know someone who has. It thus should be no secret to anyone on campus that we tend to run out of money fast. It seems (and, in fact, I'm pretty sure it is) impossible to be able to live the crazy student life that

we grew up longing to have (and that our friends are getting to have for half the price in Nottingham, Birmingham and Cardiff) without splashing out a fair amount. It seems that's just part of the price one has to pay for being able to study in one of the most diverse and exciting cities in the world.

Freshers everywhere, I am sure, fall victim to the "debit card" fairly

early on. There's something about finally having a card of your own, and no parents to check what it's being used for, that seems to make us feverish. It's how girls end up spending £150 at "Kurt Geiger" without batting an eyelid; it's how the guys wander around "Penthouse," holding up bottles of champagne and overpriced vodka as their trophies, without realising they've just drained £200 from their accounts (definitely the most painful part of "the morning after"). Somehow, handing over that shiny piece of plastic to the person at the till just seems far cooler, and less stupid, than a wad of twenties. I am convinced that if I had had no debit card, just cash, I would be far happier with my current financial situation.

Yet, it seems to me that we are being sucked in by a group of entrepreneurial geniuses who have further managed to detach the concept of spending with that of "cash in hand," causing our accounts to drain faster and faster, leading to that all-embarassing phone-call home in Week 7 with a desperate plea for some extra money.

As a resident at LSE halls, I can tell you that not a day goes by when there isn't an ASOS or Topshop parcel amongst the postman's deliveries. I myself have made 9 separate online shopping orders to halls this term to date. What is the reason? It's not as though back home I felt the need to go shopping several times in a week. So why do we do it? Simple: we've had it ingrained into our brains that through the click of a mouse, we can have a new outfit delivered on time before Zoo Bar tomorrow. Those sneaky online stores have made it a point to save our debit card numbers and delivery addresses so that we have but a few seconds to consider the repercussions of our orders between choosing to "Add to Bag" and confirming our details. Definitely not enough time to talk myself out of buying four new dresses or £30 worth of shower gel from "Lush."

It's not even just clothes: from

e-Bay and Amazon to "Just-Eat" and "The Booze-Up," it seems anything and everything can be bought online these days, and usually in a way that is so super easy and convenient that we don't seem take the time to think about the fact that we are in fact spending real money which has to come from somewhere.

Apple seem to be the masters at this game. With an App Store account, the sky is the limit when it comes to what your iPhone is able to do... and how much they can charge for it. A Blackberry user myself, the recent gift of an iPad (for educational purposes, of course) meant I was unfamiliar with the App Store and it's elusive charm. Yet, 2 weeks and 14 apps later, I found I had already spent £43.86 on apps that turned out to be either entertaining for only a couple of hours ("Angry Birds" and "Feed Me Oil" are far less fun when you have them yourself than when you have to bug your mate for her iPhone when you just can't concentrate in a lecture) or completely useless (I spent a good £7 on random apps in an attempt to run Flash videos on my iPad with no success).

How are the evil geniuses at Apple able to get so much

though, we don't see the cash being slowly drained from our accounts; we never have to look at the notes or coins slipping from our fingers each time we buy another unnecessary app. We are detached from cash, unable to see the direct repercussions of our actions until we are well into our overdrafts and unable to afford dinner without a call to the parents for more cash, let alone "Doodle Jump."

So, there you have it folks. Yes, we do live in one of the most expensive cities in the world but it seems some of us (myself included) need to take a step back and think about what we're really spending our cash on. Freshers often haven't experienced a "no consequences" world of limitless spending and no consequences before coming to university, but trust me: that student loan will eventually run out and there will be consequences. I can't say I know exactly how I'm going to curb my spending habits but I'm going to begin with baby steps and close my Just-Eat account first. There's no reason why I can't cook for myself tonight... or at least call Domino's directly.



Flickr User: BeauGiles

We've Got The Tunes Like Jagger (again)

Adam Wright on the LSE's latest musical sensation



Photo: Adam Wright

(or counter-culture revolution for all you chino loving hipsters out there) in my head. Their smooth mix of jazz, hard core metal rock and gangster rap was so angelic, it left me astounded and a little turned on. That night I Googled, Yahoo'ed and Bing'ed this incredible new band with no matches or results. Even Jeeves himself could not provide me with the video I so desperately wanted to watch. It was at this low point that I almost gave up my quest for my musical enlightenment, and found myself tempted and distracted by the evils of the Internet. But, alas, it was Facebook who came to save the day, and I found myself melodically satisfied after entering "The Teesside Specials" into the search bar and hastily clicking "Like", a Like I can assure you that will never become an "Unlike". I repeatedly played one song in particular: "Daisy Miller". These 2 minutes and 38 seconds worth of pure brilliance were more satisfying than my discovery of Wikipedia in 2006, just in time for my GCSEs. It was not long before the Facebook page told me that The Teesside Specials were playing again at another LSE open mic.

I had to wait a whole eleven days until my ears were reunited with the soft melodies of The Teesside Specials, but the wait was worth it. The night had come, and I don't think this article can do justice to that 20 minute set. I'll start with Joshua Bernstein. This lyrical genius is behind many tunes, amongst which Daisy Miller stands far and above the rest. I was astonished

to find out that English was his third language and that this young Brazilian penned these ground breaking masterpieces on his own. His voice was more soothing than a baby's laughter or a unicorn's neigh. It was, to put it simply, just magical. Then, there was Liam "The Bassist" Yardley. He had a distinct aura about him as he strolled onto the stage, brushing his long blond dreadlocks out of his eyes and yet, despite his remarkably small hands, his ability as a bassist was second to none; I would describe him as the 'unsung hero' of the band. And finally, there was Ian Ramsey, the drummer. Yes, I would go as far as to say that this young boy from Devon can really hit those drums hard. Very hard indeed. Together, their chemistry is the stuff of rock and roll dreams, and the onstage kisses they shared with each other at the end of their set sent the crowd into mediocre hysteria. I resisted the urge to rip my own shirt off and throw it onto the stage.

If the prospective author of my best man speech or eulogy is reading this, I want it to be known that The Teesside Specials are proving to be one of the keystones of my university life. I would greatly advise whoever is reading this to give them a listen. Facebook them, like I did, or look out for their next open mic. Do whatever you can to hear to them, and perhaps like me, you'll be a changed man, for the better.

In the pencil and paper industry, they say write about what you know. Yet, I'm going to delve into what is, for me, the relatively unknown

musical stuff. Or more specifically: the music of the LSE student body.

It was a few weeks ago at an LSE open mic night that my ears first experienced the musical sensation that was

"The Teesside Specials," comprised of Joshua Bernstein, Liam Yardley and Ian Ramsey. I didn't know it at the time, but this trio of talented young men had created a cultural revolution

Thinking of Hibernating this Winter?

Think again! Here are our top picks for social-ising in London this season

- * Nothing defines winter cheer like **ice-skating**. Our favourite rinks include Somerset House, with its beautiful Tiffany Christmas tree, and the "Eye-Skate" ice rink underneath The London Eye.
- * London's ultimate Christmas destination, **Hyde Park's "Winter Wonderland"** returns with "Zippos Circus" and a spectacular giant observation wheel.
- * Music, theatre, carolling...There are plenty of **Christmas festivals** in London. Not to be missed is Christmas at the Southbank Centre, particularly the Chocolate Festival from December 9th.
- * Brave the cold and stroll through the romantic **Enchanted Woodland**, a chance to enjoy nature lit up by Christmas lights in the winter dark.
- * Spent all of your cash on gifts? Check out the **Christmas lights** in Covent Garden, try the free-admission **Christmas Past exhibition at the Geffrye Museum** or see **London's biggest Christmas tree** lit up on December 1st at Trafalgar Square.
- * Ice not your thing? Strap on your skates and head on over to the **Roller Disco** at Renaissance Rooms, a unique twist on the traditional nightclub.
- * Check out London's **"Christmas gone bad"** from December 10th at Satan's Grotto at the London Dungeon, a chance for London's "Scrooges" to get away from all of Santa's Christmas cheer.
- * Tomorrow until Saturday sees the **onedotzero Festival** at the BFI Southbank for Adventures in Motion- not to be missed by film fans who want see some amazing films and take part in unique workshops.
- * Enjoy a season of pop up film screenings as part of the **Nomad Cinema at Whiteleys** with the roaming cinema at the Bayswater shopping centre, with screenings including "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and "Bridesmaids".

OVERHEARD AT THE LSE

We're always listening...

Company Law Lecturer: Capital maintenance is the maintenance of capital.

EC210 e-mail regarding homework: "What happens if I don't hand it in?" You will be roasted on a rotating spit over an open fire in the basement of St Clement's building.

Guy 1: I'm filling in my application for Goldman Sachs, what should I put down as my degree type?

Guy 2: BSc

Guy 1: What does that stand for? Bachelors of Commerce?

Guy in the library: If you don't understand financial valuation, you will not be able to get any job.

A Mountain Melody on City Streets

Holly Brentnall explores the current day life and history of Nepal's famous capital

Middy in central Kathmandu and the thrum of enterprise is at its peak. A rickshaw nips between two cars, prompting an outraged chorus of horns. Before a stone bull smeared with a scarlet "Tikka," matted-haired children squabble, their shouts breaking through two clashing tunes that blare from the cassette-players of neighbouring shops. One optimistic jeweller raises his voice above the cacophony in determined banter with an oncoming group of European tourists, and nearby a girl is energetically brushing away dust with a grass broom in harsh, scraping sweeps. Above this fusion of life, the mellifluous sound of the "Sarangi," a wooden string instrument, trickles, aloof, with the sweet notes of "Resham Firiri" (my heart is fluttering like silk on a breeze).

Eventually, this warren of activity opens onto Durbar Square, the "place of palaces." Once, it was the heart of one of four ancient kingdoms of Nepal, each represented by a towering pagoda. Their dark wooden eaves span in tiers like the under-frills of an antiquated toadstool, their beams etched with intricate carvings. Each structure nestles upon its own multi-story podium of stone steps, occupied by parading pigeons and couples sharing food. Behind the pagodas is the "Kasthamandap" temple, purportedly built from a tree that sprouted there as though by magic, and at its foot perches a blissed-out "Saadhu," sun-bleached robes hanging from his gaunt limbs. His life is his own; like a child, he has nothing to tie him down. Several unobtrusive SLR-wielding tourists create bizarre freeze-frames

as they bend and crouch at all angles to photograph him from the most original perspective.

More discreet than the other monuments, set back in their shadows as if in retreat, is the "Kumari Ghar" temple, emanating mystery that surrounds its sole occupant, the living Goddess, Kumari Devi. She is known to appear only very rarely in public and only for a payment made to her bodyguards. But the aura of ages gone-by is shattered by three obtrusive anachronisms: young men, their slicked back hair, leather jackets and sunglasses giving them the appearance of gangsters from a cheesy Bollywood film (Bollywood being the Bollywood of Kathmandu). They are freelance tour guides, patrolling the square in search of willing ears. They offer to tell the story of the city's ancient history, but the truth is that their own stories are just as intriguing.

One of the tour guides is named Dilip. He first arrived in Kathmandu at the age of ten, having run away from his home in the mountains. Just like many who migrate to the city, he held the illusion that the city-life would proffer golden opportunities and eventual wealth. But instead he was quickly caught up in the daily toil and desperate scavenge for small rewards. He tailed after dismissive tourists with outstretched palms and wide eyes, then every evening hauled rubbish bags twice his size from the city-centre to the river, where the banks are so deeply buried under urban waste that the air around makes passersby gag to breathe it in.

But, gradually, the effect of constant contact with tourists of various nationalities meant Dilip accumu-

lated a wide vocabulary in English, Spanish and German. At school in his village, he had learnt to read, but now in the city, he took it upon himself to accumulate a deep knowledge of Nepalese history. With this, he could make his own career as a tour-guide. Applying for jobs is not an option in Kathmandu - you either have to know somebody of influence or be rich enough to pay your way. Bribing is the norm. Nepali politicians, particularly of the ruling Nepali Congress party, are notorious for charges of corruption. There are over a hundred in the Everest Uncensored list who propitiated the country up until elections, after which it became increasingly evident that their only concern was to gain power. At present, few feel cause for any optimism as the deadline for the promised 'New Constitution' is postponed yet again.

In a café overlooking the terrain of his livelihood, Dilip points out another building in the complex: the extensive pavilion of the old Royal Palace. In the mid-20th century, the King had been held imprisoned there by the "Ranas," who held hereditary leadership in government. Whilst walking in his garden one day, the King met his apothecary who announced, "My Lord, we are your subjects and you

are our King. But instead of you, the Ranas have become the King. Development has accomplished much in other countries, while there is no sign of it here. Some people have formed an anti-Rana organization here, and I have agreed to work for them." These simple words of hope were a message from the revolutionary, Tanka Prasad Acharya. He took great pains during the bleak oppression of the Rana

he had read about the French revolution, Acharya wanted to direct Nepal's already Western-influenced system of government to-

wards a more democratic order.

However, since Acharya's historic triumph, progress has been in a backward direction, and inequalities, particu-

larly between urban and rural dwellers, are ever-emergent. As Dilip's story shows, it will be a long time before Nepal sees tangible change or development. For now, it seems the only option for ordinary people is to continue diligently with what little work is offered, and, like the Sarangi's inspired tune of mountain origin, to rise above the raucous, fluctuating world of Kathmandu's street-life in the hope of eventually reaching more receptive ears.

throw, and eventually replace, it with democracy. Influenced by what



Photos: Holly Brentnall

re-gime to over-

Match Report

The Magnificent 7's

LSEFC 7th XI storms to victory against RVC

Oviie Faruq

Final score: LSE 7s 3 - 0 RVC 2s

The London School of Economics and Political Science Football Club 7th XI, otherwise known as the "Champagne 7s", endured a mixed start to the new season. Despite a convincing 5-2 win against St. George's Nurses (courtesy of a Joshun Sandhu hat-trick), the

team remained on just 4 points from 4 games, having conceded no less than 4 penalties to date. Consequently, last Wednesday's match against the Vets was a "massive game".

The squad experienced a few changes prior to the match, with DMC-wannabe-centre-back Lorijent "Genti" Lamce ruled out in order to babysit his sister, and Ali Kafil-Hussain away to engage in some extra reading for Macroeconomic Principles.

With PMDs (pre-match dumps) out of the way, and an invigorating team talk from skipper Liam Singh, the game kicked off with the 7s piling on the pressure straight away. It became evident, only 10 minutes in, that the Vets were gash. In as many minutes, "ringer" Neil Patel was given the opportunity to score his first goal of the season, approximately 0.000003 yards out with around 99 minutes of time. His carefully placed shot embraced only the crossbar, before being cleared. However, Patel was soon forgiven after a fantastic solo effort from Laxman Regala, which saw his bullet-like shot hit the top corner from 20 yards out; a true contender for goal of the season. His effort was followed up with a beautiful header from Singh, after yet another graceful Sandhu corner. Finally, Steve Bee opened his FC account by scoring a screamer from 6 yards out, making it 3-0 at half time.

The Vets came back strong in the second half, but tiger-like defending from Matthew "Two-Pen" Toms and Sudev Joshi kept the carcass-loving boys at bay. With a second win under their belts, and Justin Hart's new-found ability to nutmeg the same player 7 times in 5 minutes, things are looking to spice up for the Champagne 7s.



Women's basketball: we do play harder than you

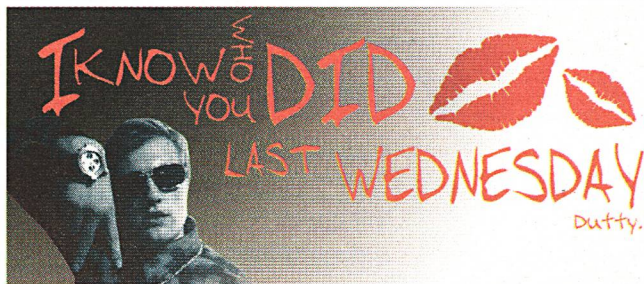
Joanna Hirst
Michele Li

For anybody who doubts our slogan 'we play harder', take note: we had to fight two battles in three days, first against UCL 2nds, and then Queen Mary, having already an array of injuries on the team, from sprained wrists to jammed fingers. But through the pain, we battled, and came out with more bruises, more jams, and a very unfortunate and painful torn Achilles tendon. But it was not in vain. We managed a record thrashing of UCL (let's pretend it was their 1sts) 75-14, followed by a very convincing 48-22 win over Queen Mary.

In true LSE Women's Basketball style, Monday's match against UCL started slow, with us conceding 3 baskets—too many by a team such as them. However, one time-out and a pep talk by Team Spirit Coordinator Jade later, we were back on track, thanks to her idea of Bench Spirit. The rest of the AU, take note: Bench Spirit is effective, and is proof that you can be a team player on and off the court. Shout anything and everything when on the sideline (when acceptable, of course—tennis, don't even try), even if it's mindless garble like 'I love bacon and eggs', and the opponent is thrown. And indeed were UCL, who, from then on, only scored 2 points per quarter—that's 1 basket every 10 minutes, for those who are not familiar with the true beautiful game. Top scorer Ade Fairbanks alone scored 22 points, thanks to her high-arching shots and quick post-moves, while speedmeisters Kelly and

Nabila opened the floodgates to easy fastbreak points. Everybody got on the scoresheet, even 'cripple' Maggie managed with a sprained wrist. In the end, we won 75-14; not even our superstar men's counterparts had achieved such a scoreline this season!

But there was no rest for the wicked, as on rolled Wednesday, and our match against Queen Mary. They rolled in to our sunny home courts in Dalston, with what seemed a very skilful team. In the changing rooms, we thought, OH SHIT. But luck was on our side, and looks are deceptive. The first beginning quarter saw us neck-in-neck with the other side, but by the end of it we pulled up. By half time we were on top, having scored 12 points as opposed to their measly 1. The third quarter went swimmingly, as did the fourth, until two minutes before the end of the game one of our posts, Caroline, was knocked over. Now this wasn't just any knocking over, this was one of epic proportions, where players and referees alike pull a grimace. Not only did she fall—someone either stepped or kicked on her Achilles' heel, leaving Caroline in great pain. She had to be carried off the court and rushed to A&E, where she was told the news every athlete fears: she had torn her Achilles tendon. Luckily no surgery is needed, but we are now a (wo)man down for the rest of the season. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Caroline for her amazing playing this year, and we wish her the speediest recovery! If you see a beautiful brunette hobbling on crutches on campus, give her a hug; she seriously took one for the team.



I was almost breaking out in a sweat with Wednesday at the lack of presence in Zoo Bar. Drunkenness and/or laziness was the name of the game with many of you sods choosing not to turn up. Kudos to Women's Football though, for choosing to have their team dinners and then representing the ladies of the AU.

Moving on from the distinct lack of "gash" at Zoo, it seems that Mothership got too close for comfort with the few netball girls that were in attendance (no wonder most were a no-show). Keep your hands to yourself, ET. It seems though, that one sly 8th-team netballer was indeed charmed by such forward, if not somewhat assertive, actions as the mousy-haired fittie stole a kiss from the "lad."

It seems, though, that not all the social 8ths were up for being sociable that evening. The little blonde vixen that leads this group of socialites was being vehemently chased by one determined pervert all night long. Good thing she keeps a close circle of friends around her who are all too willing to grind on her to keep that man at bay.

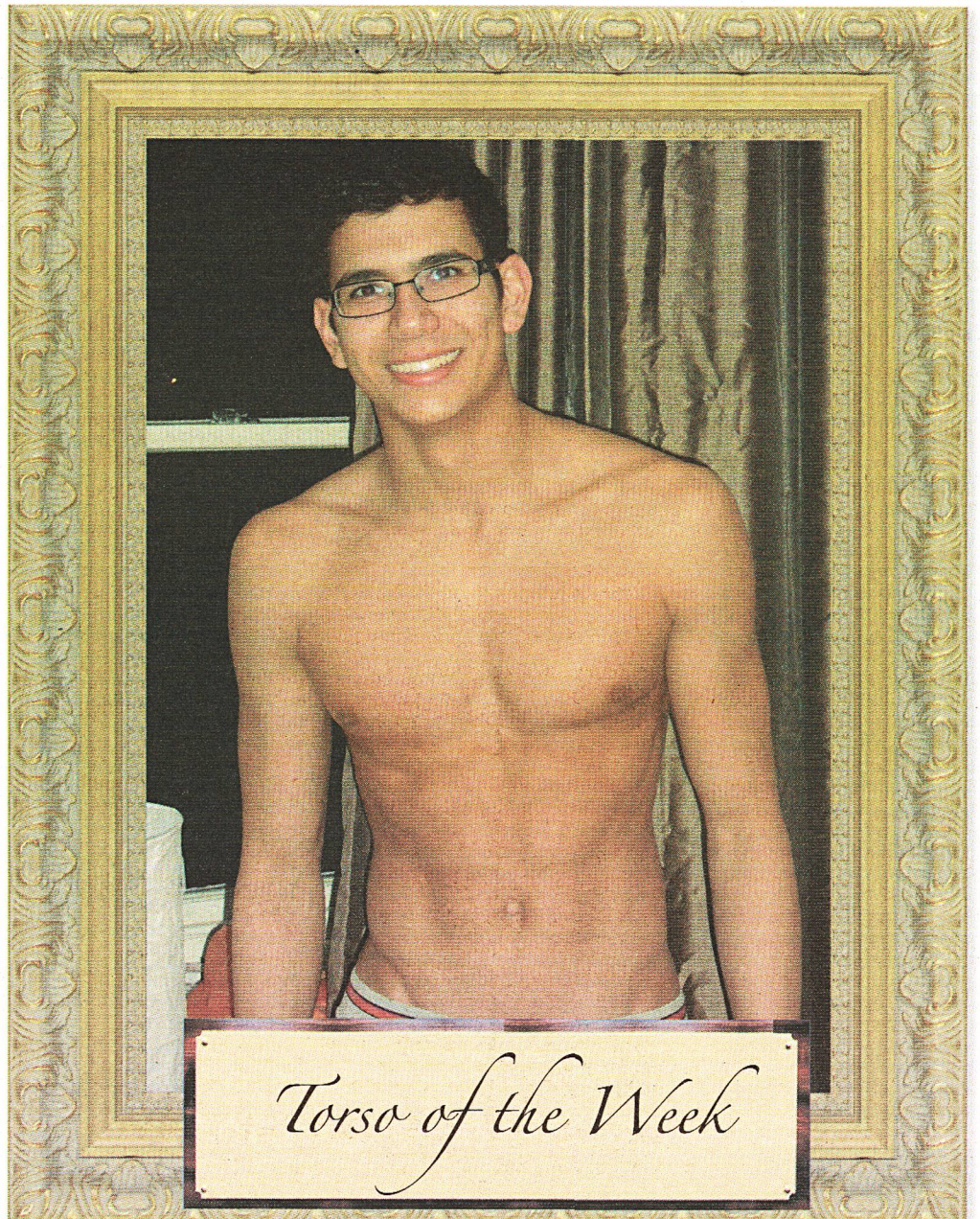
Fuschia was indeed making her rounds once again, clearly not happy with just one guest-appearance in this column. She felt the need to up her rep by not only locking lips with the third team rugby captain (you sly dog, you), but then engaging in a two-hour long humping marathon with an unidentified male. Although most didn't catch a glimpse of his face, with her hair more than covering the poor lad, we all saw you. Nice.

Rugby's very own Homer Stimpson

felt the need to brandish his muscles and assert his position as the future AU President against a fellow rival, Sex-Raggle Tool. Ms Mateer, however, is not one to back down lightly, and what started off as some friendly banter and amicable competition rapidly descended into a full-on scuffle. Poor Homer, though, had no chance. The lad was seen being hurled across Zoo Bar into a crowd of unsuspecting revellers by the Tower Mateer. Awkward.

One would have hoped that that would be the only sign of violence on the night, but spectators were treated to a round between Ginger Chris and your AU President. Another story of David and Goliath stemmed from everyone's BFF, alcohol, but the levels of drunkenness on display meant that no one emerged victorious; instead, the feeble pair ended up on the Zoo Bar sofas in a crumpled heap together. Lord knows what the Boxing Team would have had to say about the skills on display.

One last heads up kids: it's Carol on 2nd December (that's week 9, for those who are Calendar-challenged). Hope your costumes are all shaping up nicely, because a shit costume really is humiliating. I'd start getting in the practice for the all-day marathon now, and lining your stomach in anticipation. For those Freshers who are unaware, the weak drop like flies throughout the day, so make sure you're not one of them. It's like Darwinism at it's finest - only the true legends make it to Crush. Will you be one of them?



Soul-searching with Steven Gerrard's future for club and country could look bleak

Amit Singh

With Steven Gerrard's latest injury and recent problems surrounding his fitness it raises the question what does the Liverpool captain's future hold?

Talk of the end for Gerrard may well be premature but both Liverpool and England are moving on seemingly without him. With his aforementioned injury as well as the acquisition of several midfielders and attacking players over the summer it could be argued that he is no longer as central to Liverpool's plans as he once was.

Is it feasible for Suarez, Carroll, Gerrard and Adam to all start at the same time? Suarez and Gerrard do look to take up similar positions coming deep to pick up the ball. Liverpool are yet to line up with Carroll, Suarez and Gerrard in the same side. Gerrard has arguably lacked the tactical discipline to operate in a two man centre-midfield as he almost now operates as a second striker, thus he is arguably competing with Suarez for a first team berth. He was however starting in the same team as him playing from the right and in the middle but as stated that was without Carroll, and he has only made 5 appearances so far this season. Were he to start as a centre-mid alongside Adam or even Lucas it is likely that there would be a considerable space in behind that could be exploited by top teams. He has only started 8 games since January under Dalglish and thus is it realistic for Liverpool to build around a player who at the moment is having some serious fitness issues?

Similar questions can be asked with regards to England. Much debate has circulated with regards to Lampard's England future, a player



Flickr user: Ben Sutherland

who is playing regularly and well for his club, but it is Gerrard's future that could be in doubt. With only 8 starts since January he has not featured for England since November of last year against France. Arguably he would need to have a serious second half of the season renaissance to justify inclusion in the 2012 squad, let alone a starting spot. His form over the last 18 months when fit has been patchy, odd moments of brilliance but wholly inconsistent.

A real comparison with his rivals arguably doesn't read particularly well for Gerrard. He has scored 14 goals in his last 59 league games over the last three seasons, in which time Lampard has played 70 games and scored 38 goals arguably playing from a more

central midfield role. With regards to his creativity his rivals boast better stats in terms of their ball playing abilities. In the 10/11 season he had a 77% pass competition rate, Lampard who completed more passes had a superior 80% pass rate, Wilshire too had better stats with 85% accuracy.

With regards to goals scored Lampard has outscored Gerrard in all competitions over the last 6 seasons, but what is more striking is that in terms of chances created between 06-11 Lampard created more chances than any other player in the top 5 leagues other than Fabregas and Xavi with 452, Gerrard created 396, in which period both players played a very similar number of games. Neither Gerrard or Lampard played

many games last season but Wilshire created 60 chances putting him third in for that season. If then Gerrard is creating less chances than Wilshire and Lampard, as well as scoring less than the latter where does his midfield place lie?

If the formation is 4-3-3 without injuries one would assume that Parker is a certain starter in the holding role. Wilshire has fitness doubts at the moment so it but he is highly rated by Capello and with his creative ability is almost certainly going to be included if fit. Capello also appears to have an unwavering loyalty to Barry who is a player who whilst efficient lacks any stand out qualities. If Lampard continues to play well for Chelsea on merit he'd undoubtedly deserve

a place on the plane, if not in the starting team alongside Parker and Wilshire.

Would Gerrard offer much in this 4-3-3? Possibly. Preferably Capello should use three centre-mids and if using Gerrard operate him as one of three forwards. However he certainly lacks the movement of Young or Walcott, and is too similar to Rooney in the positions he'd like to take up even when Rooney is playing as a solo striker.

So what's next for Gerrard? At 31 Gerrard's days as an all action attacking midfielder appear to be numbered somewhat. A player renowned for his surging runs from midfield and powerful style of play is always going to struggle to replicate his youthful ventures forward later on in his career. Much has been said about Lampard and whether he can adapt but he is a player far less reliant on power and pace than Gerrard is, who whilst being less efficient than Lampard is more dynamic. If that dynamism goes out of his game, which with age it inevitably will, Gerrard will urgently have to reassess his role for both England and Liverpool.

He still has quality and many would say lots to offer for both England and Liverpool. However he will need to get fit and re-establish himself as a regular for Liverpool before anything else. The dropping of Lampard as well as the continued exclusions of Rio Ferdinand show that Capello is not afraid to drop the most senior England players if their form dips or if they cannot gain regular football for their clubs.

Read more of Amit's work at thinkfootball.co.uk

Match Report

The comeback Queens

LSEAU Women's Football bounce back from two narrow losses to their first (striking) win!

Aria Georghiou
Dalia Adib

with the goalkeeper, our activity in the transfer market proved to be successful as we imported a quality player from

Texas; Justine "The Dream" O'Neill-Hedlund. Cooperating brilliantly with defense, the Beavers were able to build

a damn strong dam against the Imperial frontline.

With impressive pace, fluidity and

power over the ball, LSE WFC was unstoppable. Goals were flying into the back of the net from everywhere; left, right, centre, front, back, an Imperial player (Sorry, mate) and even bended in like Bonnie from a corner kick. I guess it's a good sign when all players lost track of the score and our coach, Ray could take a minute (or 45...) to sit back and enjoy the storm, check up on Premier League games and chill to some tunes.

Two matches, two losses. Our first game of the season started off well with LSE leading 2-0 until the drama unfolded, having a player sent off for a clean tackle in the beginning of the second half, fueling everyone's emotions and having a player rushed to the hospital. Subless, with 20-minutes left in the game, LSE battled through up until the last minute with nine players, almost securing a draw but the RUMS students doctored a 3-4 win. Our motivation for the second game did not falter, yet the RVC slithered in a 2-0 win. Although the home crowd consisted of llamas and cattle, after horsing around the RVC campus, the post-match hospitality we received consisted of us pigging out to a home-cooked meal.

Heading to the third match of the season, the freshers weren't so fresh and the veterans were aching for better days as they got one game closer to ending their careers on a high. The weather seemed ominous and little did the Imperialists know that there was a storm coming that the weatherman couldn't predict. LSE WFC was unstoppable on the pitch. Starting



Photo: Chloe Hashemi

The highlight of the match was not the stunning goals we managed to produce, but Bonnie's ability to entertain us with her comedic skills. Following her 4-goal feat, her energy did not falter. B's trip over a blade of grass was definitely moment of the match and earned her the title of "Moose" (which comes with a price to pay; a forfeit... so watch out at the next LSE rugby team's match.) The vote for MVP was cast and the prize given to new kid on the block, "The Dream", our superstar goal keeper.

Score: Imperial Vs LSE: 1-12
Hopefully, this is the start of a great new chapter in LSE WFC's book... So look out for us in the Beaver soon!

Sport

Inside

- Soul Searching with Steven Gerrard
- I Know Who You Did Last Wednesday
- Match Reports

Le Cirque de Zurich - why Blatter must go

Alasdair Pennycook

When arguing for the dismissal of a leading figure in an international organization, it can be hard to provide concrete reasons as to why for the average reviewer, when looking in from the outside of a complex global company. However, with Sepp Blatter, the main difficulty for those outlining the reasons why he should, at the very least, be made to resign, is deciding where to start. Perhaps that this article will largely ignore many of his gaffes and even the corruption scandal, and hopefully still give a strong argument for his removal is as good a place as any.

The suggestion that there should be shorter shorts worn in women's football, to increase its popularity? That homosexual football fans should not be dissuaded from going to the World Cup in Qatar, where homosexuality is illegal, as long as they 'refrain from homosexual activity' while there? Or his most recent statement, that, despite millions spent by UEFA and national football associations on stamping racism out of the game, that he does not see it as a problem; that anything said on the pitch can be resolved 'by a handshake'? Three comments which make him seem more like the elderly grandparent we all had who would openly wonder why the news was being read by a woman, to the shock of the rest present, as opposed to the President of FIFA, representing an industry whose agents are

idolized by young and old worldwide.

It might be said that there are three types of discrimination that, in most of the developed world, are being fought by the establishment; sexism, homophobia and racism. If any CEO were to make a comment which were to put them on the wrong side of any of these efforts in a speech, if any public figure were to express such an opinion, they would be out on their ear amid much pomp and circumstance about their employers not tolerate such outdated and misguided thoughts. Think of Andy Gray and Richard Keys; think Ron Atkinson.

Blatter happens to be both the President of a worldwide organization and the public figurehead of the governance of a sport with a massive global following. He seems, however, to have emerged unscathed, bullishly stating on Friday that, while sorry, that he would not be resigning, and that he saw no reason to do so.

Blatter's latest comments come following a number of weeks in English football where racism has been a sinister undertone to coverage of the sport, firstly with regards to the allegation that Liverpool's Luis Suarez used 'a certain word' to antagonize Manchester United's Patrice Evra during a North West derby. More disturbingly, however, the England Captain has become embroiled in a similar row; John Terry stands accused of racially abusing Anton Ferdinand during an otherwise fantastic game of football a few weeks ago at QPR. That a complaint was made by a spectator worsens his position



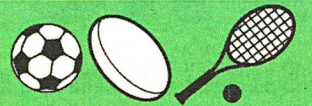
Flickr user: A3KFootball

(having personally sat near enough to a football pitch to hear what choice language Terry uses to serenade the officials, this is not a huge surprise), and a subsequent police inquiry puts Blatter's comments into an even sharper perspective.

The point has been made that, when all said and done, footballers are employees; a football pitch is a workplace, though admittedly the one of dreams for the majority of us, who make do with a replica shirt and assertions that we happened to be a pretty good goalkeeper/striker/defender/striker/midfielder/striker (everybody was a striker as their backup position) back in the day. In the workplace, discrimination based on sex, race or sexual inclination is not tolerated in any way; those caught engaging in such activity are swiftly fired for fear of unwanted press and can quite often face criminal action. Why then, are footballers any different? Bringing it back to the FIFA President, why does Sepp Blatter feel the industry he is responsible for is subject to different standards than the rest of us?

Blatter proves himself over and over again to be at best outdated and at worst bigoted; much like the aforementioned inappropriate grandparent. However, the latter largely confine their outbursts to a comfortable armchair in front of a fire at Christmas; perhaps Blatter should now as well.

LET'S TALK TACTICS



England on the up: two wins for the Whites

Timothy Poole

England 1-0 Spain

In a cold February evening in Manchester in 2007, a zombie-like England side reminiscent of the cast of the Michael Jackson 'Thriller' video succumbed to a 1-0 defeat to a then underachieving Spain. Spain subsequently went on to win Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup. This November, Spain's trip to England saw the result reversed, as Fabio Capello provided a tactical masterstroke that not many had foreseen; one can only hope that it sparks a similar run of success for an underachieving England.

In a match where Spain had 21 shots compared to just 3 for England, it was clear from the offset that England's tactical approach would determine the score line. General predictions assumed a comfortable Spanish win; instead, the Three Lions provided a fantastic result, performance and tactical display. The defending was

of the highest calibre, just what the Premier League has been missing of late. The Spanish team were closed down thoroughly through the middle, a particular tactical success on the day.

It would appear that it was worthwhile for Capello to miss his son's wedding as positive after positive became apparent. Ashley Cole and Phil Jones impressed, among many, whilst Frank Lampard continues to prove that he is not 'past it', scoring England's winner. England's greatest strength, all of a sudden, appears to be its youth, as several of Stuart Pearce's U21 squad shone on the big stage, displaying a 'no fear' mentality. Though, experience proved to be the order of the day as veteran, Scott Parker, produced a man of the match display.

Overall, this was a game Spain looked as though they'd never win. Closed down whenever they were on the move, they were not allowed to breakthrough at any point during the 90 minutes. England's record of never losing with goalkeeper, Joe Hart, in the team remains in tact as they defeated a team ranked world no.1 for the first

time in their history. And what's more- this was done in the absence of

England's greatest strength... appears to be its youth

Rooney, Wilshere, Gerrard and Young, demonstrating a newfound depth in the England squad.

England 1-0 Sweden

Next up for the Three Lions was a stern test against a Sweden side led by Zlatan Ibrahimovic only three days later. England hadn't beaten Sweden in 43 years, but duly delivered with a

controlled and measured performance. Fabio Capello made eight changes to the team that beat Spain, starting John Terry as captain, as promised.

Immediately, the depth of England's pool of talent was clear for all to see; Capello was able to rotate his squad, demonstrating its immense variety. In short, England did just what they needed to; Barry's first-half headed goal was enough to see off a quiet Swedish team who rarely threatened. At a time when headed goals are becoming a rarity on the international scene, it was good to see two headed winners in as many matches for England.

One negative to mention is that Zamora does not look likely to make the Euros on merit. His performance provided nothing of value, whilst the decision to include his name on the team sheet in the first place was a questionable one. Kyle Walker, in contrast, produced a solid display for such a young debutant, being awarded the Man of the Match award, whilst Phil Jones was the man who impressed the most over the course of the two

games- especially doing so well in a position not natural to him. England's wingers also performed well, providing great width and crosses, particularly Stewart Downing, who got the assist for the winner.

Thus, two England games brought two good results- for the first time one can remember in a long while. Though this is nothing to get carried away by, England showed signs of the quality that has been so desperately missing in recent years. Of course, it can be argued that Spain did not exert themselves with effort- Fabregas failing to convert two late chances, whilst Spain only drew with lowly Costa Rica three days later. Yet, the fact is England beat the World Champions and subsequently, when consistency was required, beat Sweden for the first time in 43 years. Questions will undoubtedly be raised about whether England can do this when it matters, but at least, for now, the nation can live in hope.