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The Beaver

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Minister crudely interrupted

Harry Burdon

Protesters rallied to meet Joe Oliver, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, as he spoke on Canada's energy production in a public lecture at the LSE last Thursday.

The focus of the lecture was the controversial Canadian oil sands. Oil sands are a naturally occurring combination of sand, clay, water and bitumen (a type of petroleum). The Canadian oil sands represent one of the largest deposits of oil sands, and contain roughly the equivalent to the world's total reserves of crude oil. As oil prices have risen, oil sands have become increasingly viable.

Prior to the event, the group of ten protesters, half of which were LSE students, met at the Shakespeare's Head pub to distribute roles. In small groups they then moved to the Hong Kong theatre, where the public event was held. Outside of the entrance to Clement House protesters held a banner proclaiming "Tar Sands is Blood Oil," and handed out fliers.

Just before the lecture began, Liam Barrington-Bush, the "Tar Sands-Free" campaign manager for People & Planet, took to the stage. Assisted by two activists carrying a banner, he attempted to present Oliver with an award for "Greenwash Propagandist



Protesters at the Joe Oliver Public Event
 Photo: Wanda O'Brian

of the Year." This received a mixed response from the audience, and the chair, Dr Richard Perkins, repeatedly requested him to take a seat. After Barrington-Bush felt his point was made, he did.

Oliver began his lecture by stating that Canada's energy policy is "shaped by a commitment to develop our en-

ergy resources in an environmentally and socially responsible way."

He claimed that Canada was a "global energy superpower" and that "Global oil consumption is expected to rise from today's 87m barrels a day to 105 barrels a day by 2030." Oliver said that "you cannot just turn off the tap," and that Canada was contribut-

ing to "global energy security." He claimed that Canada is a reliable energy supplier, saying that, "80 per cent of known oil reserves around the world are either controlled by the state or managed by national oil companies. That is not the case in Canada," where the oil industry is open to the free market. Canada

>> 3

Woolf Report closed, release pending

Nicola Alexander

Lord Woolf formally closed his independent investigation, entitled "The Woolf Report", into the LSE's relationship with Libya and the Gaddafi family. Last Monday, the Beaver broke the news that a letter addressed to Peter Sutherland, Chairman of the Council and Court of Governors, was released by Lord Woolf formally announcing the close of his investigation. The letter was accompanied by a copy of Lord Woolf's report, which was also sent to Judith Rees, Interim Director of the LSE, and Adrian Hall, Secretary and Director of Administration.

The release of the report itself will be at the discretion of the LSE. According to the LSE Press Office, the report will be released at the same time as at the University of London's panel inquiry finding into the legitimacy of Saif Gaddafi's PhD.

The independent inquiry was set out to "establish the full facts of the School's links with Libya" and "establish clear guidelines for international donations to and links with the School", according to a statement from the School.

>> continued online at thebeaveronline.co.uk

Committee deems vote extension democratic

Bethany Clarke

The extension of the Union General Meeting (UGM) voting period last week was deemed to be within the Democracy Committee's constitutional mandate at a committee meeting held last Monday.

The UGM voting period for the "Unpaid Internships" motion proposed

by Alex Peters-Day, General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union, was extended by 72 hours last week after the Students' Union received complaints from several students who were unable to sign into the website to vote. Students new to the LSE as of September 2011 were unable to log in as the records had not been updated since the last academic year.

Speaking to the Beaver, Jack Tindale, Union General Meeting Chair, said "The committee all agreed that the correct decision was made," as

students "had clearly been let down by a failure within the system" and it was "unfair for people to lose out on voting through no fault of their own."

He added, "prior to reading about it in the Beaver last week, I had heard no complaints regarding the nature of Alex's alleged involvement within the vote."

Emma Clewer, Democracy Committee Chair, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness but said the committee deemed the decision to be "above board and valid."

She described the article covering the printed in last weeks copy of the Beaver as "unfounded," stated that it did not "clarify all the information. It also attacked the General Secretary with no reason to do so."

Alexander Young, a third year BSc Politics and Philosophy student who seconded the Unpaid Internships motion, described the outcome of the Democracy Committee meeting as "a victory for common sense, even in light of pressures to see the matter as controversial."

Also discussed at the meeting was the "Too Late to Apologise" motion proposed by Sherelle Davids, Anti-Racism Officer of the Students' Union, at the UGM in the second week of term. The motion failed after receiving only 82 votes, significantly less than the 250 vote minimum threshold of overall votes required to pass a motion.

A decision on this issue was made at the subsequent Democracy Committee meeting this Monday, the outcome of which was not known when this paper went to print.

Post-graduate hustings draws large audience

>> 3 The Postgraduate Officer hustings at Thursday's Union General Meeting (UGM) saw an increase in its turnout. Nine candidates delivered their speeches to canvas support at the UGM. Many questions were raised by the floor, ranging from the amount of time the candidates are able to dedicate to the role to the time horizons of their proposed campaigns. The candidates each outlined their proposals which including improving accommodation available to post-graduates.

LSE to consider adopting GPA system

>> 7 University College London (UCL) plans to abandon the current degree classification system to embrace the American style Grade Point Average (GPA) method. The "UCL White Paper 2011-2021" stated that the standard UK degree system is no longer capable of providing the information the students deserve and the employers need. Alex Peters-Day said that the Students' Union "have been watching this [potential change to GPA] with a lot of interest."

Black Panther Activist speaks to students

>> 4 Robert King, former member of the Black Panther Party and one of the Angola 3, talked about the history of the Party and the experience of its leaders. After the screening of "In the Land of the Free", King told the excruciating story of Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace, two of the Angola 3. They were charged with murder and had to serve a sentence in prison, although there was not sufficient evidence to support this charge. King's responses to questions posed receive much applause.

**MICHAELMAS TERM
 ELECTION MANIFESTOS**

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Editorial Board

Executive Editor
Nicola Alexander
editor@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Managing Editor
Duncan McKenna
managing@thebeaveronline.co.uk

News Editors
Bethany Clarke
Heather Wang
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
Kerry-Rose O'Donnell
Aameer Patel
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Photo Editor
Aisha Doherty
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 Bashō

Yawn Snore*

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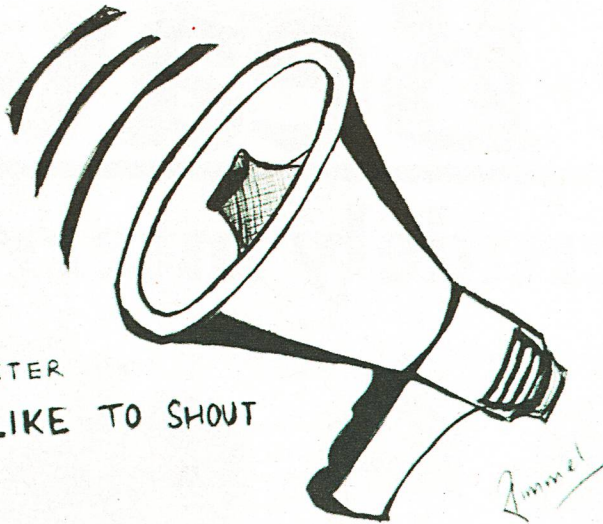
A reform promise
here's rarely anything more
than a boring speech.

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

*Unsurprisingly, he wasn't at most of the
last one.*



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I'M A PROTESTER
I LIKE TO SHOUT

The Beaver

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A call to placards

Students took to brandishing their placards once again last week to protest against Canada's environmental policies (see page 1). When it comes to campus protests, LSE students seem to fall into two distinct camps; the pro-protesters and the anti-protesters. The irony of this aside, the divide in mindset over the act of protesting itself seems to speak volumes (more than any placard or slogan might). The camp with which you align yourself, characterises how you perceive your status as a student, your purpose at university and your duty to the wider society.

The anti-protesters are of the opinion that LSE is simply a place of learning and development; this is the beginning and the end of its function. Students from all over the world choose the LSE purely because of its academic reputation and career prospects, often believing that it is not their place to engage in political activity. If you are from this school of thought then it is no wonder you shake your head at the angry campaigners and "tsk" when they make you late for lectures. You are more

likely to find anti-protesters at LSE than you are at other universities, simply because this is the culture of our student body; we see the LSE as a means to an end rather than an end in and of itself.

Pro-protesters on the other hand, see being a university student as an achievement and place of power in its own right. Those on the pro-protester side of the fence share the belief that the LSE is not just a place of learning but a political institution that, through its cultivation of future leaders, essentially steers the future of this nation and almost certainly others. If you follow this train of thought then the choices that the university makes; who it asks to speak on campus; who it allows to teach in classes; and who it chooses to educate are all valuable political decisions. The institution of the LSE is larger than the sum of its parts: students, professors, speakers. Moreover, students have their name attached to this university. In his last letter to the student body, Howard Davies acknowledged this by commenting on the fact that LSE students had to face difficult questions about the reputation and ethics of

their university following the Gaddafi scandal. Choosing to attend the LSE is a decision that you actively make and, in doing so, you buy into what it stands for.

In the past this paper has been against 'protesting for the sake of it' or people simply doing it because they feel they 'should' as students. But recent events, the Chilean student movement being the main example, have proven that students have immense power in their status as university go-ers. This is absolutely the case and we should not forget it. Immense decisions are being made on our campus, the Woolf report is in the possession of the school and its finding could tarnish or redeem the reputation of the institution as a whole. We have no control over when this will be published and yet when we graduate we will all be associated with LSE's reputation. So for all those who have seen a cause that they feel strongly about, we commend you in your attempts to try to affect change. It is so much better to be active rather than passive.

Collective

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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.

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Stay tuned

The Beaver's Editorial Board will be undertaking a social experiment this week - some may find it distasteful, but we find it useful for anthropological purposes.

Watch out next week to read about the results of our "creative inquiries"

Collective Meeting

This is where the whole paper - editors, contributors and fans - come together to celebrate all things Beaver. There will be updates from all the editors and as promised last week (and the week before), the Beaver will be holding elections for Editorial Board positions. The elections will be held on Tuesday 25th October 2011, in room 1.05 Connaught House at 7pm. The following position is available on the Editorial Board:

• News Editor (x1)

Candidates will give a one minute speech, followed by questions from attendees. Be there and make sure your voice is heard!

continued from page 1

is also not a member of OPEC, he added.

Oliver also claimed that "It's also not good business to ignore our environmental responsibilities," adding that "Since 2006, the government in Canada has invested nearly \$10bn to reduce green house gas emissions and build a more sustainable energy sector through investment in green infrastructure, energy efficiency, clean energy technologies, production of cleaner energy."

Oliver went on to speak about Shell, an investor in the North Alberta oil sands. He said that "Shell has also continued to work at limiting the environmental impact of its operation. It has partnered with the governments of Canada and Alberta and a \$1.3bn quest carbon capture project at its bitumen upgrader which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by some 40%."

Oliver also drew attention to the fact that "between 1990 and 2009, emissions per barrel from the oil sands was reduced by 29 per cent." He added that "Canada has submitted a target for the Copenhagen accord to reduce our emissions by 17 per cent from 2005 to 2020," which he said made them one of very few oil exporting nations to have made such a commitment.

He also stated that "the oil sands account for one tenth of 1 per cent... of global GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions."

Speaking to the Beaver, Barrington-Bush rebutted Oliver's carbon capture claims, saying that carbon capture is an unproven theory, that "could be thirty to forty years away from being able to produce the effects the government is claiming it will." By this time, he said, it may be too late. As to the comment on GHGs, Barrington-Bush accused the Canadian oil sands of being the "single greatest source of GHG emissions" in the world.

Oliver went on to demonstrate how current the topic is, saying "The United States is expected to decide very soon whether to approve a new pipeline the Keystone XL pipeline which would carry more oil from Canada's oil sands to refineries in southern United States." In addition to this, the European Union (EU) is considering banning oil sands imports.

Oliver expressed displeasure at the EU's Fuel Quality Directive, claiming it had "singled out" the oil sands and discriminated against them and stating

that the "EU needs to do its homework before it finalises its directive."

He said that the life cycle emissions of oil sands are similar to or lower than those of heavy crude oils imported from Russia and Nigeria, and yet the EU is not discriminating against them, a practice he described as "awful."

Speaking to the Beaver, Emily Coats, participant in the protests and Campaigns Assistant at the UK Tar Sands Network, claimed the methodology behind the Oliver's statistics was questionable.

Coates disagreed that Canadian oil sands were the subject of unfair discrimination, saying that "they're separated out as a high carbon fuel along with the other high carbon fuels."

Barrington-Bush told the Beaver "that a tiny proportion of the most efficient tar sands are comparable with the worst Nigerian" oil production.

Oliver did not ignore the protesters, saying that "Criticisms are often exaggerated to the point where they've taken on near mythological proportions." In an attempt to counter criticisms, he said the impact on land "is not permanent," and that "companies are required by law to mediate and reclaim 100 per cent of the land." He also said that "the total oil sands area would impact only 0.1per cent of the Boreal forest" and "100 per cent of it has to be reclaimed." Only 4,800 square km are affected, while a further 224,000 square km are protected by Canada's national parks.

During the question and answer session, an audience member stated that whilst 100 per cent of the tar sands area are supposed to be reclaimed, in 40 years only 0.2 per cent has been. Oliver assured that once the drilling was completed the land would be reclaimed, and that money had been set aside for this. An audience member heckled Oliver, claiming that eleven million litres of pollutants leak into the Athabasca River as a result of the Tar Sands.

The minister said that "we [Canada] also remain committed to ensuring our resources benefit all Canadians including the aboriginal people of Canada." He claimed that the government is working directly with communities to address and manage the impact of oil sands. Barrington-Bush claimed that "these are communities that traditionally hunted for a living. Because of the poison and damage to the environment, to the fish, the animals, they are not able to practise their traditional means of survival." This has forced them to take up work in the oil sands, leading some of the aboriginals to describe themselves as



Joe Oliver
Photo: Wanda O'Brien

"economic hostages."

He added that there are aboriginal communities living off the Athabasca River. Studies done on the river have shown the levels of carcinogenic chemicals to be far higher than is considered healthy. Barrington-Bush stated, "Cancer rates, which are normally lower amongst indigenous populations in Canada than they are amongst the general population, ... are sometimes 30 per cent higher than the general population."

He went on to say that "The air quality is awful." "To claim that they're [the Canadian government] supporting the Canadian indigenous people through the industry is among the most disgusting of their insults."

The Canadian government claims that the cancer link is unproven, and more studies are required.

Barrington-Bush likens the

situation to the cigarette industry's reluctance to admit to the relationship between smoking and cancer. He believes that there is already sufficient evidence to prove a causal relationship.

Barrington-Bush also criticised the event's format. He claimed that Joe Oliver should not have been given a platform to speak unopposed at an educational institute, with the audience restricted to asking questions after Oliver had finished speaking.

Erin Roberts, who completed a Masters in Development Studies last year, described the event as "pure rhetoric."

Shweta Chauhan, MSc Environmental Policy and Regulation, considered it "admirable" that Oliver was "open to the views."

News in brief

EQUALITY IN THE UK

Last Friday, the LSE launched a research programme into the impact of recession, changes in consumer spending and the government's social policies on income inequality and poverty in the UK. The work, funded by The Nuffield Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Trust for London, will be carried out by researchers at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE). Sharon Witherspoon MBE, Deputy Director of the Nuffield Foundation, said that the research will be invaluable in providing robust and independent evidence for policy-making debate in the future.

HOME SWEET HOME

A joint publication by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Higher Education Design Quality Forum included the LSE's suggestions for improvements in the public realm. Judges of "Small Budget Big Impact Design Exhibition 2011" commented that "this urban improvement scheme has revitalised the main gateways into the campus and enhanced the LSE's reputation by improving its civic presence." Julian Robinson, LSE's Director of Estates, commented: "It is gratifying that our efforts have been recognised."

IS THE NHS READY FOR ADAM SMITH?

Last Friday, the LSE launched a series of seminars. Academics at the LSE warned that more research has to be done before conclusions on the impact of competition within the NHS can be made. Professor Bevan and Matthew Skellern reviewed three recent economic studies of the New Labour market, which show seemingly causal relations between greater competition and lower hospital mortality. Bevan and Skellern said that while the reviews are "serious and rigorous," their use of hospital mortality rates (HMRs) to judge the impact of competition need to be questioned.

ACADEMICS AGREE ON PLANNING REFORM

Amid divided views on the government's proposed changes on planning regulations from commentators, academics and members of the public, the LSE hosted a round table discussion on the planning reform. Academics from various disciplines gathered together and found common ground on many issues. They acknowledged problems with the current planning policy, such as the lack of housing for low-income households, established what the government's objectives should be and how the reform should take place.

FUEL POVERTY KILLS THOUSANDS

As many as 2,700 people are killed every year in England and Wales due to fuel poverty, suggests an enquiry conducted by John Hills, Professor at the LSE and Director of Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE). Hills said that there are more people dying from inability to afford heating every year than from road accidents and since many people think dying on the road is a serious problem, fuel poverty is a even bigger issue. "There is also evidence of people having to face the heat-or-eat trade-off," Hills added.

GOT A SCOOP?

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

Hustings spark life into UGM

Naomi Russell

This week's Union General Meeting (UGM) was well attended, with students arriving for the Postgraduate Officer hustings, the only issue on the agenda at the UGM this week.

Twelve candidates initially put their names forward for the position, but two failed to submit a manifesto and a third was unable to attend the hustings, leaving nine candidates to deliver speeches at the UGM.

The hustings began with a one minute speech from each candidate, after which questions were taken from the floor.

Candidates were asked a range of questions, from the amount of time they are able to dedicate to the role to the time scales of the campaigns they would run. The first real opportunity to differentiate between candidates came when they were asked how they would focus their campaign if elected. Candidates unanimously demonstrat-

ed strong support for the Students' Union's anti-unpaid internships campaign and the continuation of the TIPS programme (third-years intermingling with postgraduate students).

Candidates outlined a wide range of campaigns, including improving the printing facilities at the LSE, and discussed the role of the Postgraduate Officer within the Students' Union's campaigns against the Coalition government's austerity measures. Some audience members felt that the range reflected a lack of consensus as to whether the Postgraduate Officer should be promoting issues particular to postgraduate students, or be playing a wider role within the Students' Union.

While policies and key areas of interest dominated the discussion, this is not necessarily what students want from their representative.

Dan Pons, an MSc Public Policy and Administration student, said the role of Postgraduate Officer is to "act as a voice for students and to provide a platform for the voicing of their concerns."

Maya Linstrum-Newman, a second year LLB Bachelor of Laws student, said, "There seems to be an unusually large emphasis on issues such as printing, which are probably not the most important."

Many of the issues discussed by the candidates have the potential to affect undergraduate students. Suggestions included establishing separate help desks to reduce the time postgraduate students spend waiting for assistance, and making more LSE accommodation available to postgraduate students.

Linstrum-Newman said, "I would also be keen to make sure that any benefits to postgraduate students, such as more accommodation being available, are not at the expense of potentially more vulnerable undergraduate students."

Voting for Postgraduate Officer will open at 10am on the 26th of October, and is open to all students, both postgraduate and undergraduate.

Manifestos can be found from pages 9-12 - please read them carefully and make sure your voice is heard. Voting commences 10am on Wednesday 26 October until 7pm Thursday 27 October

Vote online at: lesu.com/vote

LGBT plans for pride week

Shu Hang

This year's first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Assembly saw a turnout five times more than last year. The assembly, held on Tuesday 18th October, focused on organising LSE Pride Week.

Pride Week, which will be held on the ninth week this term, aims to promote the goals of the LGBT movement on campus and engage with students who are not usually part of the LGBT

community.

The attendants of the assembly exchanged ideas on how to shape this year's Pride Week. One of the decisions made was to rename the annual Queer Crush as Pride Crush. Unlike previous years, Pride Crush, a club night event aimed at the LGBT community, will be held to launch Pride Week rather than to end it. It will take place on 25th November, the Friday before Pride Week.

The group is also looking to extend Pride Week to the heterosexual community. Events planned for that week

includes a pub quiz and a debate exploring the relationship between faith and sexuality. It was also suggested that a fundraising event for charity should be organised. The charity will be voted upon on the second assembly.

As well as discussions on Pride Week, the assembly also addressed concerns about the lack of a sufficient LGBT community at the LSE. Members of the assembly agreed that coffee mornings and more frequent welfare services should be developed throughout the next term to improve the quality of experience for LGBT

students at the LSE.

Benjamin Butterworth, LGBT Students' Officer, was "really pleased" with the success of this year's first assembly. "Attendance has been significantly up this year across the board for LGBT events, and I really feel we are making progress on making the LSE a more open community," he said.

He also added that "everyone involved is very excited for this year's Pride!"

The assembly was held the day after the LSE LGBT society's first big social event of the year. The event, held

in Green Carnation in Soho, was participated in by students from the LSE as well as other universities in London. According to Butterworth, more than 250 students turned up, making it, in terms of attendance, the biggest LSE LGBT event in a long time.

Butterworth "received many messages the following day from students saying what a great time they had, with some saying it was the first time they had felt comfortable being LGBT at the LSE." He also claimed that the LGBT community has never been stronger at the LSE.

Dauids joins Black Panther on stage



Sherelle Davids and Robert King
Photo: Sherelle Davids

Sydney Saubestre

As part of Black History Month, Robert King, a former member of the Black Panther Party and one of the Angola 3, three men put in solitary confinement for several decades for activism within Louisiana prison, spoke to a full auditorium at the University of London Union (ULU) last Wednesday. The event was planned by Sherelle Davis, the LSE Students' Union Anti-Racism Officer, in conjunction with the International Coalition to Free the Angola 3, the Goldsmiths Students' Union and the NUS Black Students' Campaign.

The event began with a free screening of "In the Land of the Free," a documentary by Vadim Jean which documents the Angola 3, three former Black Panther Party members who have cumulatively served over a hundred year in solitary confinement. Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace are still being held in Angola Prison, a Louisiana State Penitentiary, where they were held in solitary confinement for over 36 years.

All three men were originally sent

to Angola Prison for robbery charges. While there, they began an internal campaign to improve the living conditions, reduce rates of violence and rape and assure basic legal rights for the inmates in Angola Prison. This led to the formation of a prison chapter of the Black Panther Party.

Woodfox and Wallace were charged with the murder of a prison guard in 1972, though no direct evidence was provided during their trial and they were convicted of the murder on no more than hearsay. King was convicted of killing a fellow inmate, and was bound and gagged during his trial, a clear violation of civil liberties.

Since his sentence was revoked in 2001, King has been campaigning on Woodfox and Wallace's behalfs to get their sentences overturned. He has received a large amount of support from Louisiana State Representative Cedric Richmond, who has called for an inquiry into their confinement, and Republican State Attorney Buddy Caldwell has made it his electoral platform to fight against their release.

The documentary chronicled the story of the Angola 3 from the beginning of the civil rights move-

ment in New Orleans to the current fight against this form of "cruel and unusual" punishment.

After the screening, King and Jean answered questions from the chair. King drew roaring applause from the crowd when he answered a question by a young student who declared that racism was worse in America than in England.

"Racism permeates the world, but I believe it's a learned reflex," he answered, "and if you learned it, you must be able to unlearn it. I believe it can be unlearned, we just have to understand how the process started."

Jasper countered by saying that "the percentage of incarcerated Black males as opposed to Caucasian ones is actually higher in England than in the United States. This is a global problem."

Overall, the audience members seemed to have had a very positive experience at the event, and, Davids said she was "pleased with the outcome."

"It was inspiring and informative" said Jonathan Sullivan, a third year Politics student, of the event, "it really opened my eyes and I feel inspired to do something."

Vaz speaks of "new age of scrutiny"

Jon Allsop

Keith Vaz, Labour MP and Chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee for Home Affairs, hailed the dawn of "a new age of scrutiny" when he addressed the LSE's Government Department last Tuesday night.

Vaz gave his views on the recent resurgence of the Select Committee and outlined his ambition to make the UK Parliament more like the US Congress in terms of its scrutiny procedures.

Vaz, who became the first MP of Asian origin for fifty years when he won the seat of Leicester East in 1987, described the past year as an "incredible twelve months" in which Parliament has "re-asserted itself" as a body capable of effective scrutiny. He attributed this in part to the greater opportunities for oversight provided by the advent of the Coalition government, whilst also claiming that the recent introduction of elections to committee posts has given committees a "greater legitimacy" to challenge the executive.

Recalling a showdown with Gordon Brown, the former Prime Minister, over visas for Gurkhas, Vaz argued that

the executive's hold over committees has diminished since their membership stopped being controlled by government whips.

Vaz devoted much of his talk to the prominent role that committees played during the recent phone-hacking scandal, and he praised the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's "Captain Kirk-like decision to go where no man had gone before" in issuing an official summons to Rebekah Brooks, Rupert Murdoch and James Murdoch.

He labelled the summons as "an amazing moment in Parliamentary history."

Vaz claimed that John Yates, the former Assistant Met Commissioner, stepped down before facing Parliament in order to avoid "being given a hard time," adding that the Committee "knows it's done its job when someone has to resign."

Vaz jokingly noted that "frightening witnesses" was something that committees enjoyed doing.

Vaz praised the high profile work of the Home Affairs Select Committee in examining the police's response to media hacking, but lamented that it couldn't attract the same media attention over its more "weighty" work.

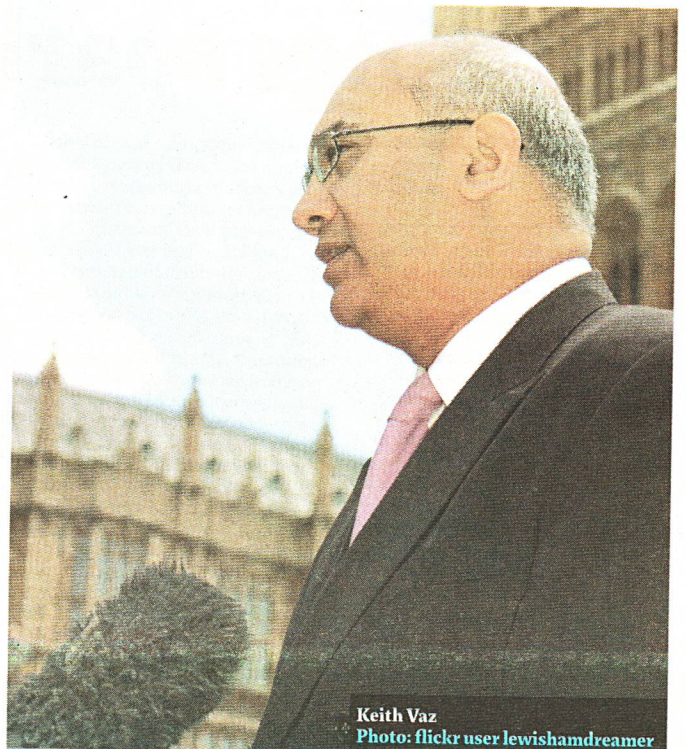
He admitted that "it takes the resignation of a Met officer to get us the coverage we deserve."

Vaz acknowledged that much remains to be done to bring the British Committee system up to the standard of its American counterpart, despite the institutions' resurgence over the past year.

The former Europe Minister, who admitted that he had originally wanted to serve on the Foreign Affairs Committee before ending up on its domestic equivalent, stated his concern that the investigation into the conduct of Liam Fox, former Secretary of State for Defence who resigned over allegations that he had given a close friend, lobbyist Adam Werritty, access to the Ministry of Defense, had been carried out by a civil servant from Fox's own department. He also conceded that it remains difficult to know whether or not a committee's recommendations have been dealt with by the government.

In response to a question posed by Professor Paul Kelly, Head of the LSE's Department of Government, Vaz outlined his vision of a British system more similar to that in place in the United States, where committees are "better able to pursue things."

Vaz added that this is "probably never going to happen," complaining that "you have to be Prime Minister to really do things in this country."



Keith Vaz
Photo: flickr user lewishamdreamer



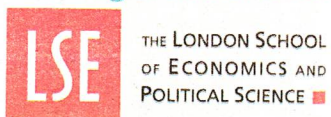
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Morgan Stanley

Student committee to vet donations

Sophie Newman

At this week's "The Only Way is Ethics" campaign meeting, students focused on designing an ethical investment policy for the School in hopes of avoiding a repeat of the scandal experienced by the LSE last year over donations accepted from the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation (GICDF).

A research team presented a paper comparing ethical investment policies in peer institutions. University College London (UCL) was held up as an example of best practise, with an Ethical Investment Review Committee providing a forum for discussion on ethical investment matters. It was agreed that this is the type of model the LSE should be seeking to implement.

Steph Gale, a second-year BSc government student, asked what the LSE's current ethical investment procedures were.

Lukas Slothuus, Community and Welfare Officer, explained that donations are currently considered by the

LSE's Finance Committee and Council, who apply the Nolan Principles (seven principles of public life) when judging donations. Slothuus described this arrangement as "very vague."

The structure of the proposed ethical investment committee was debated. It was suggested that the committee should be made up of academics working at the School, the Students' Union Ethics and Environment Officer, the General Secretary of the Students' Union and two directly elected students.

There was unanimous agreement that the committee should be as open as possible with published reports and maybe open meetings, though concerns were raised that this would make it difficult for donors to remain anonymous. It was decided that the proposed ethical investment committee will be voted on next week.

Slothuus said the proposed committee was a "great idea."

Lois Clifton, Ethics and Environment Officer, commented, "we are moving on to finalising concrete demands, which is exciting... I would encourage as many people as possible to come to the campaign meeting and have their say about the final ideas to

take to the School."

Discussion then turned to how to best campaign for the School to adopt the proposed committee. There were many arguments in favour of working with the university.

Alec Webley, a postgraduate student at the School, suggested that when the findings of the Woolf Enquiry into the LSE's links with Libya are published, the School will be under pressure to show that it is taking steps to assess donations more rigorously - something the campaign will be able to use to its advantage. There was a widespread view that the campaign should seek to build links with senior members of staff and governors at the School by appealing to their concerns surrounding the School's reputation, especially after the Woolf Enquiry is published.

It was agreed that there needed to be demonstrable support for the ethical investment committee among students, despite there having been over one thousand students having signed in support of The Only Way is Ethics campaign, and plans were made to launch a petition.

Students lend their thoughts on education

Connor Russell

A new campaign to canvass students' views on education at the LSE was launched last week by the Students' Union. The Education Manifesto will form the heart of a concerted, long-term campaign by the Students' Union that will span five years and several generations of Sabbatical Officers.

The manifesto will outline a key set of points and the Students' Union hopes to present it to the School's management. It will then become the basis of campaigns for the remainder of the five-year period, hopefully with the effect that the standard of education continues to improve at the School.

The campaign will kick off on Tuesday at the Education Officer's stall

on Houghton Street, where students will be asked what they would do if they were in charge of teaching and learning at the School. This will be followed up by a formal assembly later this term, to which all students are invited.

It is hoped that the manifesto will complement the National Students Survey (NSS) results. Amena Amer, Students' Union Education Officer, claimed, "Students are consistently unhappy with the feedback they receive and the assessment methods used within their courses," something that Amena claimed she will "no doubt ensure ... is incorporated into the manifesto."

The direction of the campaign is still to be determined based on students' views, with Amer emphasising, "I hope this to be a student-led initiative, whereby the issues of concern and the methods of improving them will be decided on by you."

Ex-LSE student kidnapped in Kenya

Heather Wang

Two Spanish doctors were kidnapped near the Kenya-Somali border on Oct. 13, one of whom recently studied at the LSE.

Blanca Thiebaut, who is 30 years old, was studying at the LSE until earlier this year and was working for the medical charity Médecins San Frontières (MSF) at the Dadaab refugee camp, 80km (50 miles) from the border of Somalia, where she was kidnapped. According to BBC News, she is trained an agricultural engineer and lived in Barcelona until recently.

Thiebaut's father refused to speak to the media, but one of her neighbours in Barcelona told El País newspaper that it was Thiebaut's second stint working in Africa for MSF. According to BBC News, her French boyfriend is also reported to be working for MSF in a different part of the continent.

Montserrat Serra was the other MSF staff member who was kidnapped, while with their Kenyan driver, Mohamed Hassan Borle, who was injured in the attack and is recovering in hospital, according to BBC News.

BBC News also reported that the Somali police are hunting for the gunman, who is believed to have come from Somalia, and is confident that they will find the abductor. Regional police chief Leo Nyongesa said: "We are following them by the road and air. We have closed the borders. We are tracking them down."

Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, commented that "the Kenyan police acted very quickly today ... They mobilised

not only the local forces but two helicopters...but unfortunately the two colleagues have not yet been found," BBC News reported.

While essential feeding operations will continue, MSF suspended some of its operations in Dadaab after the abduction of its staff members and commented that assistance to thousands of people in urgent need has been jeopardised as a result, according to reports from BBC News.

Dadaab refugee camp is the world's largest refugee camp. It hosts around 400,000 people who have fled natural disasters and conflict in the Horn of Africa, especially Somalia.

A British woman, named Judith Tebbutt was also kidnapped in a separate event. This kidnapping occurred in September when she was in her luxury resort in Kenya, near the border with Somalia, and her husband was shot dead, said BBC News. It is believed that she was taken by al-Shabab, a terrorist group of militants fighting to overthrow the Somali government, although the group itself has denied association with these incidents.

BBC news wrote that the obvious reason for the abduction would be a ransom payment. However, such a demand has not been made yet. Every year, pirate gangs based in Somalia make millions of dollars from seizing ships and demanding ransom in return.

A 66-year-old French woman was also captured this month. She was taken by an armed gang on Kenya's northern resort island of Manda.

Kenya's foreign minister has told the BBC that following these kidnapping instances, his country has sent troops into Somalia to target al-Shabab.



Photo: LSE Students' Union

Letwin remembers Oakeshott

Abir Qazilbash

The first segment of Oliver Letwin's public lecture last Wednesday was a memorial to Michael Oakeshott, a philosopher and political theorist who famously described a state's character as being derived from the imposition of adverbial constraints on action as opposed to the adoption of social goals.

Oliver Letwin, MP for West Dorset and Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, explored the extent to which Oakeshott's is an adequate account of what the public can legitimately demand from the modern day liberal state.

Letwin remembered the time he spent at a youth at Oakeshott's cottage in Dorset, recalling Oakeshott's "astonishing charm" and "self-effacing and hesitant manner."

Letwin said that even as a 13-year old, he noticed a distinctive charm in Oakeshott's work, which he described as being rare to philosophy. He credits his initial interest in the discipline, and political philosophy in particular, to reading Oakeshott's work.

As a practicing politician, Letwin noted that political parties are often neglected in theoretical studies of practical politics, which he believes is the cause of the "disembodied air" he sees in the study of political philosophy.

He outlined his view that politi-

cal parties are the "fabric of a mature democratic society" and that "with the absence of political parties, you can't have a functioning democracy in a large state."

Letwin went on to describe the discussion of rights, duties and justice in political philosophy as "being enormously abstract."

The issue, he claimed, is self-perpetuating - the further one goes down the abstract route, the harder it is to return to the practical applications of the topic.

He argues that Oakeshott's work is an exception to this, "distancing itself away from abstractions" through its pursuit of a unconventional line of enquiry.

Letwin summarised Oakeshott's

description of the state saying, "civil associations are to be distinguished from enterprise associations. The modern state is not a group of people coming together with a substantive common aim - be it economic, social or religious - but instead has the role of establishing adverbial rules to enable a group of people to live together." The concept of this adverbial rule is that it "doesn't tell you what to aim at, but instead how to go about or not go about getting something should you decide to aim for it."

Here, Letwin disagreed with Oakeshott's conclusions. He argued that it is wrong to suggest the modern state can only survive as a civil association, and that substantive common aims and the role of multiple enterprise as-

sociations cannot be neglected as they play a crucial role in policy, economics, healthcare and education.

Letwin continued to mention that the discussion of collective substantive aims such as achieving equality without harming liberty, is an everyday discussion in modern politics and that this is different to the mere adjustment of laws to ensure security.

Letwin concluded that in political philosophy, it is often "better to be wrong in the right way" than to always be "right," adding that Oakeshott's practical approach to answering the question of the role of the modern state, and his arrival at a well thought-out conclusion, sheds an important light on contemporary understanding of politics.

The end of the class system

John Armstrong

University College London (UCL) plans to scrap the traditional degree classification system in favour of the American-style, Grade Point Average (GPA) method.

According to the "UCL White Paper 2011-2021," the standard UK model of academic classification is "no longer capable of providing the information that students deserve and employers require."

It suggests that the traditional system does not provide a measure of international comparability and fails to specify range and performance within each classification.

Professor Malcolm Grant, the Provost of UCL, said that the current classifications are "crude and undistinguished" and that the switch to GPA would ensure international recognition among employers.

The main argument in favour of

the US system is, on a basic level, to distinguish between those who score highest and lowest within the various degree classifications. Also, it will combat award inflation which, over the past three decades, has led to a two tier system.

According to the Financial Times, figures produced in 2010 show that the number of those achieving a First Class degree has almost doubled to fourteen per cent within a decade. Similarly, 47 per cent of graduates achieved a 2:1 in 2010. This is widely regarded as a minimum requirement for graduate jobs, thus a move towards the points based system may increase competitiveness among students.

Alex Peters-Day, General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union, said: "there are many advantages to the GPA system. However, there may also be a number of disadvantages and implications for students."

The American-style GPA structure uses a system of letter grades, "A, B, C, D and F". They each have a numerical multiplier which is averaged to gener-

ate a score for each student. However, in its 2011 White Paper, UCL suggests that "a UCL GPA system will be distinctive, and will be developed in such a way to enable the GPA score for each student to be generated automatically from existing percentage-based assessment scores."

Peters-Day also commented: "We have been watching this with a lot of interest. At Academic Board last Wednesday we decided to set up a working group to look into potentially adopting a GPA and there will be a Student's Union representation on this."

Josh Babarinde, a first year BSc Government student, said that he supports the Students' Union's decision to explore the possibility of adopting a GPA system for LSE degrees. "I think it could be an effective method of recognising students who achieve particular academic success and distinguishing between higher and lower achievers within classifications," Babarinde added.

Brigadiers brainstorm for year ahead

Gregory Gillette

The Global Brigades society joined its counterparts from universities in the UK, Ireland and Germany for the first annual Global Brigades Europe Leadership Conference at University College London (UCL) last Saturday.

The aim of the conference was to align the information bases and visions of the groups, while giving them a chance to share experiences and challenges. Furthermore, groups were offered the chance to communicate via Skype with the Global Brigades' co-founders and country directors in Ghana, Panama and Honduras.

Each of the campus-based groups who participated in any of the nine "Brigades" (each of seven or ten days) run by the organisation presented a summary of its activities. The LSE Stu-

dents' Union's Global Brigades Society was given the chance to follow up with the communities who benefited from its Micro-finance and Water Brigades' efforts, both run last spring.

The water programme designed by LSE students is still in use in several communities, and the local savings and micro-finance bank founded by the LSE branch of Global Brigades has grown and is funding locally initiated projects.

Vanessa Lam, President of the LSE Students' Union Global Brigades Society, described the challenges the society faced recruiting members at the LSE, noting that while students studying courses in development demonstrated significant motivation, involving other students required the society to emphasise other areas of its work.

By focusing on the fact that participants provide pro bono financial consultancy services, receive recommendations, and can even apply to

board memberships, the society has been able to attract greater interest.

Co-founder and Executive Director of Global Brigades, Steve Atamian who comes from a background in consulting, lauded the accomplishments of the Global Brigades society at the LSE, which was the first ever to participate in Global Brigades' African operations.

Atamian said, "you simply will not find more prepared students, theoretically or academically to talk about sustainable development. In terms of their work in Ghana, they really championed those programmes," of LSE students involved in the society.

After a budget presentation, participants in the conference participated in breakout sessions where they were introduced to new types of Brigades and fund-raising initiatives. The societies also coordinated between universities to plan multi-university events throughout the rest of the academic year.

Multiculturalism subject of debate

Nona Buckley-Irvine

Controversial discussion took place at the public event entitled "Is There a Future for Multiculturalism?" held last Thursday in the Old Theatre.

The lecture was hosted by the London School of Economics Forum on Religion and was sponsored by the Theos think tank, a public theology think tank providing alternative perspectives on secular culture and public opinion.

The aim of the debate was to put multiculturalism at the forefront of policy making, especially after both David Cameron, Prime Minister, and Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, stated this year that multiculturalism does not work. The debate on multiculturalism is particularly topical due to increases in immigration and the rise of far right groups in Europe, such as Austria's Freedom Party, France's National Front and Bulgaria's Ataka.

The panel of speakers included Dr Jonathan Chaplin, first director of the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, Alan Craig, leader of the Christian Peoples Alliance, Claire Fox, Director of the Institute of Ideas, Tariq Modood, Director of the Centre for Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship at the University of Bristol and Jane Little, a writer and broadcaster for BBC Radio 4.

Chaplin began by presenting his case in favour of multiculturalism based on his recent reports and put forward a strong argument for reinvigorating it into a more positive concept.

The debate also explored some of the problems multiculturalism causes. For example, local authorities can be pressurised to act in a non-secular

way, challenging British values and political correctness.

Meanwhile, Modood centred his response around the increasing presence of Islamophobia in the West.

The issue of diminishing Christian values in Britain was also discussed. Craig argued for the preservation of Christian values in British society and stated that Britain was losing these values as a result of secularism. Religion was a central theme during the debate, reflecting the strong ties between culture and religion.

The "liberal society" also came under attack during the debate. Chaplin argued that the term liberal society often refers to secular society, which he claimed can be "counter-productive" to social cohesion, by encouraging society to allow all cultures to have a voice.

Fox, a strong opponent of multiculturalism, rejected the current notion of tolerance completely, hitting out at "Political correctness gone mad," arguing that people are now "frightened of offending each other."

Members of the audience also demonstrated a wide range of opinions on the topic; Chaplin struggled to convince the attendants that there is in fact a place for multiculturalism in liberal societies.

Sarah Williams, a first year BSc Social Policy and Criminology student, said of the lecture: "It was really good and I think that there is a future for multiculturalism because it opens up people's minds, especially in the 21st century."

Another member of the audience, Jane Buckley, a Senior Social Worker in Sussex, said that "9/11 has challenged multiculturalism but we are now in a grey area and I think that further debate is needed."

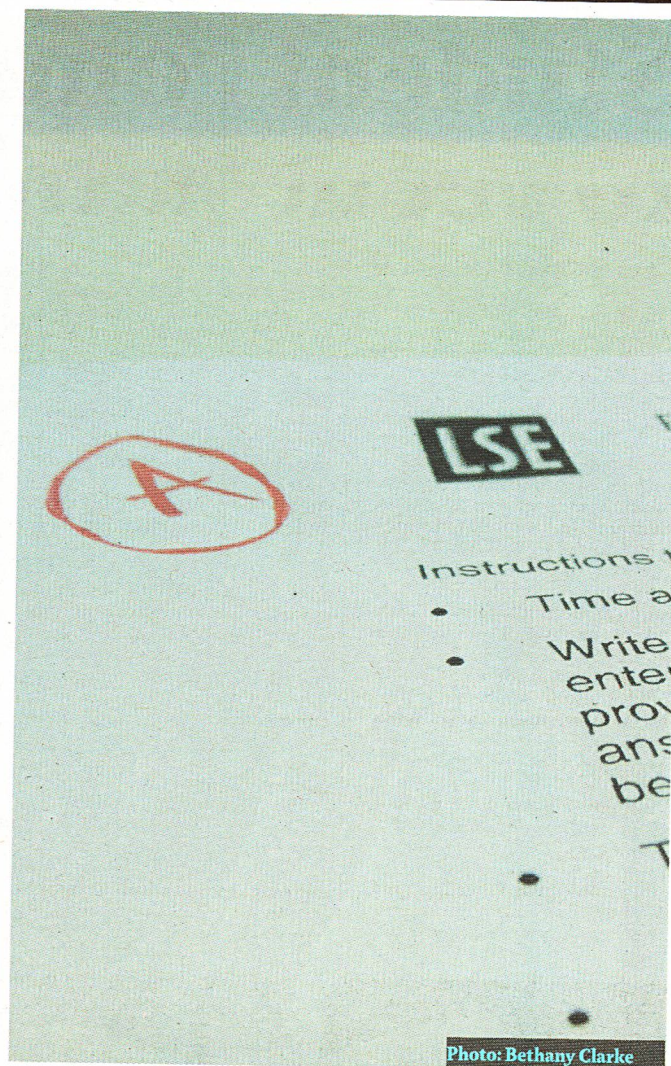


Photo: Bethany Clarke



LSE Students' Union's Global Brigades
Photo: Allen Gula





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MICHAELMAS TERM ELECTIONS

POSTGRADUATE OFFICER

Amritha Miriam Edachery

Frustrated with not getting into the capped course of your choice? Got issues with the library facilities? Is workload making you miss out on the essence of 'student life'? If this is you, then I HEAR YOU and if elected as Postgraduate Officer, I'll make sure the school hears you too. Like most of you, I'm an international student with multicultural exposure. I'm currently my course representative and I've also had considerable experience as Student Representative in the past. If elected, I will continue to refine the reforms that have already been established while pursuing a 5 point agenda: * Raise up the issue of the capped courses crisis and draw up possible solutions. * Advocate a provision for re-sits for postgraduate students. * Strategically intervene for wallet friendly solutions like campaigning for course-packs to be made available to all courses and departments * Support the "Keep Wednesday Afternoons free campaign" * Organize more events that enable alumni-postgraduate interaction I'm committed and pragmatic. So I'm making you promises that I can keep. With your support, I can be your voice and together we can set change in motion. Be heard- Amritha for Postgraduate Officer.

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

Issues facing postgrads range from career prospects to the lack of microwaves around LSE. But ask around and you will hear a resounding voice that cry out "library facilities." From the printer malfunctioning and the eternal wait to get a journal printed to the uncomfortable chairs that we spend most of our days sitting on. There is also the issue of the PC shortages which is especially severe during particular hours. Therefore the main area of concern and frustration to most postgraduates relate to the library facilities that do not reflect the capabilities of an institution of LSE's calibre and reputation.

Anuj Kandarap

Hello! I'm Anuj Kandarap and it would be an honour to represent you as Postgraduate Officer. I believe that every student is here for the "LSE experience" and interacting with a wide spectrum of students plays an important part. I've developed a model in my current programme where students from different backgrounds and countries work together and help each other beyond lectures. This helps improve grades and helps us benefit from the international environment at LSE. Some plans: * More interaction between different nationalities, undergraduates-postgraduates, alumni, recruiters * Invite recruiters specifically willing to sponsor work permits for international students * Inter-department competitions to generate bonding between students * Provide free printing (say 15 pages) per week * Airport-to-Residence Transportation for students * Uniform functioning of departments e.g. Coursepacks provided by all departments * Special recruitment consideration for students representing LSE in Sports and other societies * Increase CAP on popular courses * One department per week gets free-entry to Crush * Allocate Careers-Service slots to each student rather than first-come-first-served * Optional mock post-term-exams * Cheaper food/alcohol in bars * Liaison with Course-Reps in various departments to work with me and ensure that students are truly represented. I have held positions like Student Representative and Careers-Services Coordinator. My team and I worked hard to get relevant recruiters. 96% students had a job when they graduated. We conducted sessions about post-graduation and helped many students get admits from Stanford, Georgia Tech, LBS and LSE. I'd love it if all of you participate in delivering a wholesome experience to each student. This is representation, truly!

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

The biggest issue facing post-graduate students is that there aren't enough opportunities that compel interaction between various communities, cultures and countries. LSE's greatest asset is its international mix of students. Interacting with them in necessary for personal development, increase in knowledge about cultures and getting better equipped to handle global issues tomorrow. How often do we see students from the same country hanging out together and not

even speaking to anyone else? Most of the "LSE Experience" is outside classes, beyond grades and recruitments and above time-tables and one year is too short to salvage this. In the long run, this experience at LSE will matter most.

David Hu

I am David Hu, an international student from Beijing China now in Msc Program at LSE. Having served in student government for 6 years at my high school in England and during my undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, I am passionate about commitments, eager tackle new challenges, and dedicated to work well in a team environment. I am prepared to work hard to fight for the best interests for all post graduate students, and I am ready to serve you all with all my mind and heart.

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

As the job market continues to tighten, more and more people choose to extend their studies and gain more qualifications by enrolling in graduate studies. I think the biggest issue is to get sufficient funding to pay for our education. With high-interest student loans and limited scholarship choices, many students have a part time job to pay their rent. Half of the monthly budgets goes to accommodation, textbooks and transportation, as well as mobile phones and Internet, which are essential for group work. Therefore, we have less money left for healthy food and social activities.

Faisal Kattan

No manifesto submitted

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

Question not answered

Graeme Maitland

Many Post-Graduate Students have only one year to get all that they can out of LSE yet find a good portion of their time either having to deal with the complicated LSE bureaucracy or having to pass on opportunities because of money. This isn't right. We need our school needs met through running events during exam period to help relieve stress to keep us going, working with LSE to establish better systems to distribute information to students, and speaking to the unique needs of international and other Post-Graduate students. We also want events and services tailored to us, such as club nights, pub nights, and other socials, other events that appeal to a majority of students, and events that are funded effectively to ensure that our money is used to benefit us. There also must be a representative who will ensure our ideas and thoughts about the Union and School are presented, who will promote transparency within the LSESU and LSE as a whole, who will consult Post-Grads on issues of importance to them and ensure lines of communication are open and clear always. My name is Graeme Maitland and I represent Your Needs and Wants. I am Your Candidate.

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

The simple issue that faces all students, Undergrad and Post-Grad alike, is effective action from their representatives. The LSESU and the LSE and its various bodies both have a duty to the students of LSE to ensure they have what they need and can get what they want. However, lines of communication between students and these organizations are strained at best, with straight answers hard to find and websites that are complex and convoluted. Events are organized that can be costly, poor timed, or only targeted to specific groups of people. Any representative should work to change this at LSE.

Ian Carpenter

Hey! My name is Ian Carpenter. I am running for the Post-Graduate Officer Position in the Student Union this term and would really appreciate your support. I am new to London hailing from the great city of Philadelphia (probably best known in Europe and the UK for its Cream Cheese and the TV show "Always Sunny in Philadelphia"). In addition to those great contributions, Philadelphia also hosts my undergraduate institution, Temple University. I was an Honors student at Temple studying History

Voting will take place from 10am on Wednesday 26 October until 7pm Thursday 27 October through voting system at www.lsesu.com/vote. All students are able to vote in every election, with the exception of the election of General Course President were only General Course students are eligible to vote. On the following four pages, you will find a list of candidate running for each of the positions available.

and Political Science. Here at the LSE I will be receiving an MSC in International Political Economy as a Research Student. If you are fellow Research student, I feel your pain! I am super approachable laid back individual who, if elected, would represent your issues and concerns first and foremost. Anyway, here are some causes I am proposing to champion as your PG Officer! + More Internationally Orientated Social Events + Better University Wide Technology Services (AKA PRINTING!!) + Develop a PG Charity Cause/Event + Develop a Community Out-Reach Program + Create a Forum where P.G. Students can receive Advice from Alumni + Continue and Grow the TIPS Program + SEE YOU OCTOBER 26-27 FOR VOTING! VOTE IAN!

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

The biggest issue facing Postgraduate Students at the LSE, in my opinion, is making the adjustment to the city of London and subsequent universities processes. While some of us may have studied or visited London extensively prior to starting our PG degrees, a solid majority of Postgraduates face a multitude of uncertainties leading up to their arrival at the LSE. LSE's website can be very helpful in addressing these concerns. However, at times it can be ambiguous. To correct this issue, I am proposing a program that would connect incoming PG students with recently graduated LSE Alumni to serve as aid in their adjustment process.

Jon Wiltshire

Hi, my name's Jon. I'm 23, English and studying globalization. I aim to ensure that: 1) SOCIAL events are the highlight of the year. Myself and those that throw a good party will help postgrads meet each other beyond the usual postgrad meet and greet. I'd like to introduce postgrads to London's dynamic music scene to ensure we're to have a good time this year. 2) POSTGRAD FEES should share the limelight with undergraduate fees in the current policy and media debate around the subject. I aim to build on my successful campaign at my last university which saw teaching hours and staff numbers increased. 3) CAREERS events shouldn't be exclusively about finance or consultancy. I know that postgrads have diverse and often radical ambitions and this should be institutionally reflected by the Careers Service and throughout the School. 4) VISA PROBLEMS should be given the attention they deserve. I aim to build on last year's postgrad sabbatical's excellent work on engaging with policymakers on making it easier for foreign students to study here. 5) FLEXIBILITY is part of my portfolio: I'm prepared to act swiftly to the study and social needs and wants of the student body.

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

Awaiting answer

Robin Burrett

LSE NOT €6e. Robin BURRETT: no1 for POST GRADUATE OFFICER.
1. A FAIR DEAL FOR GRADUATE TEACHERS: LSE relies on the goodwill of 650 Graduate Teachers. The pay for graduate teachers barely covers London rent. Last year the LSE posted a surplus of £19.2million (LSE Finance Committee Jan 2011). The money is there.
I will: ** Campaign for standardised contracts and realistic overtime. ** Improved pay for marking to allow real feedback for students. ** Make LSE the national standard by which GTAs treated. Happy teachers=better teaching!
2. FOR A UNIVERSITY OF THE 99%, NOT CORPORATE POWER. Graduates face a future wracked by uncertainty and unemployment. The occupy Wall Street movement shows we are not living in 'normal' times. LSE students have a proud history of campaigning for social justice. Now more than ever post-graduate students need to be part of this.
I will: ** Include postgraduate concerns in the Unions education campaign ** Seek to build the widest possible fight on campus against austerity. ** Post Saif Qhaddif, seek to ensure that the University follows an ethical policy at all levels of governance. For a university that seeks to 'know the cause of things' not the cost just the cost of things!

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

Jobs and a secure future. From Egypt to Washington a movement has been created by youth who see a bleak future. At the fore of this are graduates who see no future in the system. I am sure other candidates will promise to get employers in to the LSE. I do not oppose this. Meaningful volunteer placements can help. This is, however, not enough. The question we need to ask is not how LSE students get a bigger slice of the cake, but why the cake is shrinking for everyone else.

Shaveta Sharma

My name is Shaveta Sharma and I am running for Postgraduate Officer. As postgraduates at LSE we are here because not only do we want a world class education, but to have a world class experience. A world class institution demands world class facilities and amenities. The vast majority of us are international and struggled with accommodation and travel issues. This year in particular the communication on behalf of the University was lacking and left many of us in the dark for months. While I have definitive ideas about what I would like to see happen, my charge is to represent and respond to your needs. As such I will always be available and be responsive to your concerns and ideas. Specific proposals to create a better learning experience is printers provided in residences, a requirement that courses offer coursebooks with the necessary readings so more time can be spent reading rather than hunting down books, wi-fi in all residence halls, and an online chat customer service option so that we can receive quicker customer service. Thank you for your time. Elect experience, expect excellence.

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

Time is our biggest issue. Many of us are here for only one year and we all want to make the most of it. We want to enrich ourselves intellectually, but also culturally and socially. To this end LSE needs to ensure that our time is spent fruitfully. By not providing us an option to purchase a coursebook with all readings we are forced to spend hours tracking down books, that oftentimes aren't available. More resources are needed to ensure we can complete our coursework efficiently, leaving time for us to enjoy and explore, to be involved in student activities and societies, to make friends, and to simply relax.

Shrey Sanger

There are two parts to my manifesto. First, NEW ISSUES: 1. Increasing the QUOTA FOR POST GRADS IN LSE ACCOMMODATION. 2. Making the SELECTION OF CAPPED COURSES MORE UNIFORM (either mail the coordinator OR write the statement or both, for EVERY course, not randomly, as it is now - which is a pain). 3. A separate POST-GRAD COUNTER AT STUDENT SERVICES. 4. Improving the LSE SU GYM LOCKER ROOMS! ***** Second, LAST YEAR'S EFFORTS and IMPROVEMENTS - 1. Continuing with TIPS - THIRD YEARS INTERMINGLING WITH POSTGRAD STUDENTS. I am already an enrolled member, will campaign for this among post-grads and third years. 2. Starting APES - ALUMNI POST-GRAD EDUTAINMENT SOCIALS where post-grads get an opportunity to network with successful LSE Alumni from their own course/working at firms of their interest. ***WE HAVE NO SENIORS*** to guide us in course selection/job application etc. as our programmes are just one year. This would be a step to alleviate that problem. The best jobs go to people with contacts and this would be a wonderful way to leverage the LSE brand for the benefit of Post-grads. **We can, and we WILL make a difference!** *****PS - SANGER IS ONE LETTER AWAY FROM ANGER! :P *****

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

I feel that the biggest issue facing postgraduate students at the LSE is their lack of communication with illustrious alumni of LSE. Owing to the one year master's programmes, post-graduate students have no "seniors" to guide them through the rough and tumble of course selection/job applica-

tions etc. I believe we should put in place systems whereby post-graduate students come into face-to-face contact with alumni from their programmes/firms of interest at least once per term and can correspond via email on a one-to-one basis. In a worsening job market this could be the differentiator that distinguishes LSE applicants from others, apart from their pedigree as LSE students. A rigorous selection process led by the post-graduate officer (hopefully me!) and a little faith can make this a huge success.

Tapinder Ghuman

No manifesto submitted

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

Question not answered

Terrine Friday

Hi there! My name is Terrine Friday and I'm a Canadian student on the Gender, Media and Culture master's programme. As an undergraduate at Montreal's Concordia University, I was on the editorial board of The Link, one of the country's largest and most reputable papers. Prior to that, I was Treasurer for the university's National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter. This means I have attended countless student union meetings and have a good understanding of how to balance student union operations with student members' needs. If you elect me, I will: lobby for the LSE to support paid internship opportunities for students; create a country-specific job listings program; provide FREE hot water and at least one microwave for use in a student space; increase networking opportunities between you and alumni; work to ensure Britain's immigration reforms will not penalise international students; maintain the TIPS initiative's success; and be very receptive to your queries, comments and suggestions. I want to represent you for the betterment of student academic life and in the interest of democracy, so I ask you to kindly elect me as your representative on the LSESU executive. Besides, who doesn't want every day to be a Friday?

What is the single most important issue facing postgraduates at LSE?

The biggest issue facing LSE Post Graduates is the ability to reconcile quality education with the realities of a stagnant economy and highly competitive job market. Although the LSE is renowned for its commitment to higher learning and the capacity to expose its students to global leaders, students ultimately want to enter the job market post-education. I believe students want to shrink that time lapse between degree completion and salaried employment, and are better equipped to do so by navigating professional leads. This is why I included in my platform the implementation of a program that compiles employment options worldwide.

MATURE & PART TIME STUDENTS' OFFICER

David Hu
I am David Hu, an international student from Beijing China now in Msc Program at LSE. Having served in student government for 6 years at my high school in England and during my undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, I am passionate about commitments, eager tackle new challenges, and dedicated to work well in a team environment. I am prepared to work hard to fight for the best interests for all mature and part-time students, and I am ready to serve you all with all my mind and heart.

What added experience would you bring to LSE Students' Union?
I have managed my own investment portfolio since 19 years old. Currently, I am working on a project of introducing

Wal-Mart supermarket to a second tier city in China, in order to take advantage of the global food retail chain to add values to the local real estate. By forming alliances with government offices, I develop sophisticated communication skills. As co-founder for UT Frontline Magazine, I built cost-effective operations responsive to students' needs, laying a solid foundation for the operational success. I believe my previous working experiences will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to our Students' Union.

Mairead Moore
Awaiting manifesto.

What added experience would you bring to LSE Students' Union?
Awaiting answer.

LSE ACADEMIC BOARD

Alec Webley
I have two objectives on the Court of Governors and Academic Board: (1) by the end of my term I will ensure that LSE is ACTUALLY ETHICALLY INVESTING and screening their donations properly. Policies are useless. Practice is what matters. I will press Board, Court, and Council to create an independent, open process with students at the helm to review every penny of LSE's money (in and out) for its bearing on the LSE's reputation. (2) Many of us postgraduates want to take language courses only to find out we can't without paying (even more) outrageous fees. There is no good reason for this bait-and-switch: language courses should be part of your degree if you want to spend the credits on them. I was formerly the GenSec of the UPenn student union, so I have the experience to get results from university bureaucrats. Vote Webley for Ethics!

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
I feel that anyone should be able to any class in the School. If a class is out of your department, it should take a simple conversation with your advisor - and not a ream of paperwork - to take that class. If a class is a language course, it shouldn't cost an additional set of fees to take. If a class is too popular, year after year, the number of sections for that class should be increased. Students should be able to carve out their own course of learning if they are so inclined: this is what academic freedom means.

Benjamin Hofmann
Originally from Berlin, Germany I just finished my undergraduate degree at St Andrews, where I served in a number of representative functions (e.g. as SRC member for widening access, class representative in International Relations and Philosophy, 'student school president'/ student-staff consultative committee convenor in Philosophy). At LSE I am studying full-time for an MSc in Political Theory and represent my programme as one of its student representatives. I understand both the British higher education system and the challenges faced by students who enter it from abroad. In the past years I have learned that even the best ideas can become all but unrecognizable after being pushed through one too many meetings, committees and votes. This is my promise to you then: that I know how to achieve and deliver at a boring meeting. Ideas gain momentum on the street, but they are put into practice indoors. Vote for experience and enthusiasm!

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
Awaiting answer

David Hu
I am David Hu, an international student from Beijing China now in Msc Program at LSE. Having served in student government for 6 years at my high school in England and during my undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, I am passionate about commitments, eager tackle new challenges, and dedicated to work well in a team environment. I am prepared to work hard to fight for the best academic interests for all LSE students, and I am ready to serve you all with all my mind and heart.

What area of teaching and learning would

you like to see improve at LSE?
I would like to see improvement in Student Participation at LSE. We need to create a learning environment in which all participants have the equal opportunity to learn and in which the class explores issues and ideas in depth from a variety of perspectives. I think our lecturers can improve student participation in the courses by devoting more time and thoughts to shaping the environment and planning each class session.

Faisal Kattan
Awaiting manifesto

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
Awaiting answer

Kazeem Afolabi
Experience... Chairman Loughborough student's basketball club... Head boy Steyning Grammar School... Treasurer Real Estate club LSE... Union Council Representative for Economics Loughborough University *LSE as an institution is known for being one of the top in the world; my aim is to make the most important part of this (US THE STUDENTS) have an amazing all around experience academically and socially my ideas include** LSE students receiving mock type exams during Lent term to ensure all students have as much help as possible. Last year's national student survey showed that overall student satisfaction was at 84%, my aim is to increase this to 90% for this year. *** LSE has an international reputation in social sciences and our career dreams are vast and wide... I will strive to bring more varied career recruiters to campus such as media cooperation's and government agencies **SO HAVE A DREAM VOTE KAZEEM

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
I would like to see feedback and assessment and personal development improve here at LSE. In order to tackle this issue of personal development, Students can set goals and objectives at the beginning of each term and have meetings with their personal tutors at the end of each term to assess these goals and act upon the recommendations. Also to address feedback and assessment, LSE students can receive mock type exams during Lent term to ensure all students have as much help as possible. Last year's national student survey showed that overall student satisfaction was at 84%, my aim is to increase this to 90% for this year.

Nihad Ahmed
Vote me to Academic Board and I will fight to get YOUR voice heard. *BETTER TEACHING QUALITY* - rigorous teacher training must be provided as quality of teaching is unsatisfactory across all departments. *INCREASED OFFICE HOURS* - greater one-to-one contact time to attend to individual queries and more group help sessions. *MORE RESOURCES* - more exam papers available for practice and solutions/guided answers to problem sets, essays, past exam papers - lecture notes/course packs must be provided across all departments. *PRIORITISE LSE STUDENTS TO LIBRARY ACCESS* - priority given to LSE students during exam period. *EXAM FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS* - examiners to provide individual feedback on marked exam papers - to be returned to students at their request. You will be voting

NOT SURE HOW MANY TO ELECT?

Well fear not, the Beaver is once again on hand to help. Below is a list of how many candidates may be elected to each position, so bear that in mind when reading manifestos!

- 1 x Postgraduate Officer
- 1 x Mature & Part Time Students' Officer
- 1 x General Course President
- 3 x LSE Academic Board Members
- 5 x LSE Court of Governors Representatives
- 2 x LSE Delegates to the National Conference

GENERAL COURSE PRESIDENT

Dan Roberts
My aim as General Course President is to make our experience the best that it can be. I will focus on planning social activities throughout the year, such as a winter social and a semi-formal towards the end of the year. Between those big events, we'll spend weekends together discovering London's diverse neighborhoods, and we'll organize day trips to the rest of the UK. I'll also create and maintain a social network for this year's GC participants; a one-stop shop where all of us can trade photos and keep in touch as we take our next steps. This program has brought the best and the brightest together from all across the world. As we begin to achieve our goals, we'll build off of the ideas and memories we helped each other create at LSE. My plan allows these memories to endure.

Why did you decide to attend LSE?
I decided to attend the LSE, because the ideas that are discussed here will fundamentally alter the course of world history for years to come. This global marketplace of ideas has produced 16 Nobel laureates, a US President, and numerous other world leaders. I came here to line up behind them with other students who wish to "know the causes of things," because they aren't afraid to take on the challenges facing our generation.

Giovanni Conte
Vote for me because I'm the only candidate with a truly international background. I would be able to put myself in the shoes of all the foreign students as well as capture

someone dedicated, approachable and experienced (staff-student liaison committee last year, active in education campaigns). TEACHING QUALITY, THE #1 PRIORITY.

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
Firstly, there needs to be an improvement in the quality of feedback on assignments. Secondly, increased time should be devoted to exam preparation with particular attention to exam technique. In many cases students perform poorly on exams not due to a lack of revision or ability but due to there being insufficient support concerning exam technique.

Shrey Sanger
There are two parts to my manifesto. First, NEW ISSUES: 1. Increasing the QUOTA FOR POST GRADS IN LSE ACCOMMODATION. 2. Making the SELECTION OF CAPPED COURSES MORE UNIFORM (either mail the coordinator OR write the statement or both, for EVERY course, not randomly, as it is now - which is a pain). 3. A separate POST-GRAD COUNTER AT STUDENT SERVICES. 4. Improving the LSE SU GYM LOCKER ROOMS! ***** Second, LAST YEAR'S EFFORTS and IMPROVEMENTS - 1. Continuing with TIPS - THIRD YEARS INTERMINGLING WITH POSTGRAD STUDENTS. I am already an enrolled member, will campaign for this among post-grads and third years. 2. Starting APES - ALUMNI

the prospective of the LSE's faculty and student body. I am an outgoing person and will be easily accessible since I am at school every day and I have friends in every residence hall. **** I have previously taken on various leadership positions; I was captain of the soccer team and have covered various roles in my fraternity. **** All of us should make the most of this year abroad, excelling academically but also having fun. I will be in contact with the General Course Dean as well with faculty members of every department to make sure there are no issues as far as studies go. But I will also make sure we arrange social events, a nice Thanksgiving dinner, football screenings, attending live rugby or football game, and hopefully a ski trip on the Alps.

Why did you decide to attend LSE?
I have always been very convinced that London School of Economics would be a perfect fit for me and for what I intend to study. The London School of Economics' faculty is one of the most renowned around the world, and one aspect of its academics that really interested me was the full-year course model. I wanted to explore in depth subjects from both Economics and International Relations, my majors at my home university. I also always wanted to live in London, a truly metropolitan and multicultural city. And what better moment to be in London than the year leading to the 2012 Olympics?

Peter Joyce
Hey folks! My name is Peter Joyce from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and I'm running for General Course President. Obvi-

ment and I believe that we should work in collaboration with each other rather than representing different groups. I aim to represent all the students. My ambition is to take the Student Union forward with zeal and dedication.

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
Awaiting answer

Tapinder Ghuman
Awaiting manifesto

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
Awaiting answer

Zainab Ranjha
Hand In Hand We Learn**Hi! I am Zainab Ranjha, student of LLM. I belong to Pakistan and running for a position in LSE Academic Board. I have worked in my previous university as an editor of magazine society, remained an active member in moot society and held the position of head girl. We study in a multicultural environ-

ously, we all came to the London School of Economics for one reason: we want to have the year of a lifetime. Being at one of the greatest schools in one of the greatest cities in the world, we inevitably will. However, as General Course President, I'd like to make it even more unforgettable. How will I do this? Organizing events will be my priority. Specifically, events that you guys have expressed interest in. In order to do this successfully, communication is key. With student government elections, it's easy to get caught up in grandiose and self-important statements. So allow me to keep it simple. If you see me as the right guy for this job, I will always listen to your concerns and work my hardest for you. Thank you.

Why did you decide to attend LSE?
When running for office, it always seems fitting to quote someone smarter than you. So I'll quote literary icon Samuel Johnson who once said, "When a man grows tired of London, he grows tired of life." That is why I came here. London is a city like no other with this institution at its heart. People from all over come here to learn and advance the world's knowledge as best they can. Thinkers from various fields came here before they shaped the world. JFK, Friedrich Hayek, Ed Milliband, Mick Jagger, they all came here before they started movements.

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
As a candidate to be elected as a member of Academic Board the Democracy Committee has asked me that which area of teaching and learning I would like to see improve in LSE. I am LLM student and would like to discuss problems regarding my own subject. What I perceive, students do not have access to recorded lectures and seminars on Moodle which cause sometimes trouble for them to revise it at home. Moreover we did not get reading materials for some of our subjects. I think by resolving these issues we can make the learning and teaching more effective.

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
Awaiting answer

What area of teaching and learning would you like to see improve at LSE?
Awaiting answer

LSE COURT OF GOVERNORS

Alec Webley

I have two objectives on the Court of Governors and Academic Board: (1) by the end of my term I will ensure that LSE is ACTUALLY ETHICALLY INVESTING and screening their donations properly. Policies are useless. Practice is what matters. I will press Board, Court, and Council to create an independent, open process with students at the helm to review every penny of LSE's money (in and out) for its bearing on the LSE's reputation. (2) Many of us postgraduates want to take language courses only to find out we can't without paying (even more) outrageous fees. There is no good reason for this bait-and-switch: language courses should be part of your degree if you want to spend the credits on them. I was formerly the GenSec of the UPenn student union, so I have the experience to get results from university bureaucrats. Vote Webley for Ethics!

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Can there be anyone other than Shami Chakrabarti? Both an astonishingly effective human rights campaigner and a former member of Council – very hopeful that she will help in our drive to implement ethical donations and investment at the School!

Alex Grohovskiy

The Court of Governors, one of LSE's main decision-making and governmental bodies, is predominately an external group. This means that the few students elected to the Court must be capable of engaging its older members and prominently representing the views of the entire student body. Having spent many years as a student government representative as an undergraduate at a university of 40,000 students, I have the communication and diplomatic skills that are necessary to represent the opinions and interests of thousands of students. Unlike some candidates that wish to focus on one or two issues, I am committed to representing whatever student opinions are put forth from any campus group or individual. As the Court primarily focuses on strategic and directional policy, I promise to place an emphasis on ethical decision making and ensure that policies are undertaken that will maintain the quality of your degree for years to come.

Which governor do you most admire and why?

When it comes to prominent politicians, many have had the advantages of wealthy upbringings and parents of high social status. That's why the governor that I admire most is The Right Honourable Lord Boateng. Baron Boateng was raised in Ghana and saw his father imprisoned during a coup in 1966. He was forced to flee to Britain at the age of 15. Despite these difficulties, Baron Boateng had a successful law career and later became a Member of Parliament. In 2002 he became Britain's first black cabinet minister. His experiences show that through hard work despite one's origins, it is possible to become prominent and successful.

Ankur Kumar Sharma

Is this the LSE that you perceived? Is this exactly what you expected? Come... Join the Debate. Hi! I am Ankur Sharma, Running for the post of Court of governors. As an International post graduate law student, I wish to work towards increasing the Overall Student Experience at LSE. My Agenda ** What we lack??? .. Is our Course Pack (printed course material)... ** Too Much Fee: Difficult to have Tea... ** Subsidized Books ?? It's a distant Dream !!! ** LSE !! Atleast don't mint... even with a print... Why me ? I feel Negotiation and reasoning skills are the two most important skills required for this position. As a lawyer, I believe I have what it takes to succeed my candidature for this post. Through years of practice I have been able to hone these skills and it would be a privilege to use them for the welfare of the student community.

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Can't imagine anyone better than A. P. J. Abdul Kalam... **The father of nuclear power in India. **He is an Aerospace engineer, professor, and chancellor of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), who served as the 11th president of India. He was popularly known as the People's President. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour in 1997.***What inspires me the most is his favourite quote****"Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work.

Asher Gilanji

Essentially, I am standing in this election because of how disillusioned our last Student Union executives made me. I was disappointed with both the achievements of the executive and the lack of accountability. I didn't really feel that the majority of students at the LSE had their views represented by the Student Union executives, which is their job, and rather they espoused an extremist viewpoint not shared by many. If you elect me I promise to be your moderate voice and fight for real improvements for our university, to make life better for everyone and not just for the few. Please vote Gilani for Court of Governors.

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Jack Tindale. Not only has he been willing to be UGM Chair for this long, he's been really good at it as well.

David Hu

I am David Hu, an international student from Beijing China now in Msc Program at LSE. Having served in student government for 6 years at my high school in England and during my undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, I am passionate about commitments, eager tackle new challenges, and dedicated to work well in a team environment. I am prepared to work hard to fight for the best interests for all LSE students, and I am ready to serve you all with all my mind and heart.

Which governor do you most admire and why?

I admire former Taiwanese president Chiang Ching-Kuo the most. He played an important role in Taiwan's democratic development, by reform, rule of law and opening up Taiwan's economic prosperity, with his inseparable from the ideological and political old society.

Jack Tindale

My name is Jack Tindale, I'm a Third Year Government and History student currently serving my latest term at Bankside House. Since coming to the LSE way back in the idealistic autumn of 2009, I've been almost continuously involved in the social life of the School. I've done this partly because I like challenging myself, but mainly because I absolutely love the LSE and making it an even better place to study and live. The Court of Governors is important because it acts as a forum for all members of the University, from undergraduates to alumni. I want to be a real voice for you there, voicing concerns over ethical investment, provision of library services and bursaries, three areas that we all are concerned about as students here. Elect me to the Court of Governors and I assure you that your trust will not be misplaced.

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Richard Shepherd: Fair enough, he may be a Tory, but for an MP, he has been a great ambassador for principles that are fundamental to the ethos desired by the School. He has always been as firm supporter for the democratic right of Parliament to hold the executive to account. He has also always spoken in defence of the civil liberties that we seem to take for granted these days, especially when they have been under attack from successive Labour and Conservative

governments.

James Maltz

As a member of the Court I will bring my honest, active and respectful approach to give all students a voice. Having already demonstrated these qualities as an elected Trustee and having been a President of a society, I will continue to implement strong, positive and strategic changes for the benefit of the entire student body. I WILL represent you in the following ways- I will work to help students facing financial difficulties, particularly with the further cuts in higher education. I will work further to fully represent international students' welfare, particularly at the higher echelons of the LSE. I will appeal for support in improving cultural and social cohesion at all levels of the school. I will also make sure that the Governors will be in touch with the interests of the student body making sure that they uphold the values that we as students stand for.

Which governor do you most admire and why?

David J Kingsley OBE- David Kingsley is a governor emeritus, having been in the court for more than 40 years. Many of you may have seen him around LSE, wandering in and out LSE events, talks and demonstrations. He was our first Gen Sec in the 1950's, former editor of the Clare Market Review and has always been a supporter of the SU. There is even a room named after him, which currently houses our wonderful Sabbs! I think he an important example of an active and interesting student who has maintained a strong belief in LSE and its students.

Kazeem Afolabi

Experience... Chairman Loughborough student's basketball club... Head boy Steyning Grammar School...Treasurer Real Estate club LSE...Union Council Representative for Economics Loughborough University *LSE as an institution is known for being one of the top in the world; my aim is to make the most important part of this (US THE STUDENTS) have an amazing all around experience academically and socially my ideas include** LSE students receiving mock type exams during Lent term to ensure all students have as much help as possible. Last year's national student survey showed that overall student satisfaction was at 84%, my aim is to increase this to 90% for this year.*** LSE has an international reputation in social sciences and our career dreams are vast and wide... I will strive to bring more varied career recruiters to campus such as media cooperation's and government agencies **SO HAVE A DREAM VOTE KAZEEM

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Wol Kolade He is the Chairman of the BVCA (British Venture Capital Association) and also chairs the Audit Committee at the university I admire him because His work with ISIS, who invests in growth companies with robust business models, has launched the firm into one of the leading competitors in its field. Being the Managing Partner of the business, His role encompasses overall responsibility for the strategic development and active involvement in investment. Furthermore, being an active trustee of Guys and St Thomas' Charity, the second largest medical charity in the UK who awards grants to facilitate improvements to healthcare services in the London makes him a valuable role model especially to afro Caribbean youths during black history month.

Lydia Pointner

Dear fellow students! I'm Lydia, a MSc student in Management, Organisations and Governance, where I am also the course representative. I would be honoured to represent you in the Court of Governors. As one of the key governing bodies at LSE it is a great platform to make STUDENT VOICES heard. I have a vision for a better future for our uni and will work to: (1) STOP

the continuous increase of tuitions, (2) IMPROVE student-to-professor-ratios/relationships and (3) INSIST on better value for our money. I'm approachable, impartial and have a strong commitment to OUR student community. I want to run for this position to dedicate my time, spirit and energy to achieve a real change and make sure WE are heard. Since the future lies in our hands – let's shape it NOW! I ask for your vote and promise to improve the lives of our Student Body!

Which governor do you most admire and why?

I admire Professor Stuart Corbridge, Pro-Director of the Court of Governors, because he constantly seeks to develop and promote the success of LSE. He has demonstrated his desire to achieve significant improvements within our community not only as head of the International Development Department, but also as a widely published researcher in the field of governance, accountability and the right to information. I firmly believe that this high calibre member of the council is capable to further shape the superior position of LSE in the world as well as playing a charismatic leading role in the school.

Mairead Moore

Awaiting manifesto

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Awaiting answer

Pallavi Bansal

"Actions – act of vision, faith, and desire slouch louder than words. I believe in doing and not just saying" I strongly feel that all the students should be heard and have an effective vehicle for raising their concerns. Having worked as a journalist, I know how to voice out people's opinion, which is my utmost priority. I would try to improve the progress of my predecessors by continuing to pursue matters such as pressing for longer library and lab opening hours, pushing for greater individual coursework feedback, and other related issues. I would help improve the representation in the Student's union by being approachable, transparent, and accountable. Being an international student myself, I want to make everyone comfortable here and prove that there can be unity despite diversities. LSE is known worldwide as a distinguished university, so I'll ensure that the reputation of LSE is not only maintained but enhanced as well. Your representative would do her and best to assist you through her role.

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Peter Sutherland – An Irish International Businessman and the Chairman of Goldman Sachs International and the London School of Economics. A simple insurance broker who became a great leader has been constantly making efforts to develop the education society. I admire his commitment to education reform where he has tried to address almost every kind of issue for the benefit of learners or humanity as a whole. I hold in high regard for the major transformation in learning and research environment. He is associated with organizations like UN, GATT, WTO, World Economic Forum, and United Nations Industrial Development Organization etc. Despite his health problems, he has never turned back from addressing the social affairs in the society. I seek to follow his footsteps, efforts, perseverance, dedication, earnestness towards achieving my goals and contribute to the development and improvement of education system and society as a whole.

Sharafath Khandoker

If elected as your Governor in Court, I will ensure students are more than satisfied with their LSE experience. My Priorities include - *Expanding the 'Shadowing Scheme'* - where Governors spend a day shadowing a student, so they better

understand the issues and problems faced by students. *Ensure Student Satisfaction* - through ensuring LSE teaching improves by expanding office hours of teachers and lecturers. *Support Student needs* - current students and especially those who have failed their year. *Increase Studying Spaces* - having a facility where empty rooms on campus can be used for studying. *Fight for LSE* - to have an environmentally conscious, ethical and just LSE, remember LSE not £££. << *Our needs - Your voice - My fight*>>

Which governor do you most admire and why?

The governor I most admire is Jane Pugh. She is taking part in the shadowing scheme and she will be shadowing me in the near future. She is a really friendly and open minded individual who is willing to take time out of her day to understand the plight of students. Other than that, she studied my subject when she was at university. Geography and Econ reppin.

Tapinder Ghuman

Awaiting manifesto

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Awaiting answer

Waqas Adenwala

The Court of Governors is the highest decision making body at LSE. If elected, I would strive to represent student voice on the Court and try to improve the general quality of the university experience at LSE. A presently disconnected student body deserves greater social integration through multicultural events and sports matches, as well as more efficient student accommodation services. My experiences as Social Secretary of Rosebery Hall and as one of the key organisers of LSE's first ever International Week will prove to be vital in this regard. I would prioritise LSE's education standards as a major issue since the massive size of lectures leaves students very disengaged from their professors and thus makes the course very unappealing. Over the years, LSE's rank amongst world universities has been nose-diving. It is time we get back to the top again, so vote for me. BE HEARD: VOTE FOR WAQAS!!!

Which governor do you most admire and why?

Mr. Leslie Dighton is one of the most respectable Governors in the Court, and has joined the ranks of the Emeritus Governors this year. As an alumnus of the school, he clearly has strong affiliations with LSE and has worked strenuously throughout his tenure to promote the school's interests. His ambitious multi-faceted involvement in the fields of economics and journalism, including the Chairman's Club he founded, as well as his friendly attitude all add towards his amicable and dynamic personality. He was also part of a program where independent governors shadowed a student for a day, promoting greater student-governor interaction.

WWW.LSESU.COM/VOTE

LSE DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Benjamin Butterworth

These are tough times for students, and next year's NUS conference has many big questions to work through. Many LSE graduates have found themselves without a job, and we need our university to better support students in finding employment. So many at the LSE find themselves in unpaid internships where they're often poorly treated and lack the dignity of a waged employee. Students deserve better. I want everyone in my classes and lectures to have the best chance of getting into the industry they're interested in, and that's the voice I can offer to NUS conference. We need a Higher Education sector which works for all LSE students, and young people who aspire to be LSE students. I'm committed to looking at new ideas. I'm dedicated, passionate and ambitious for getting the voice of the ordinary majority of LSE students heard in NUS. Vote Butterworth to spread the LSE voice!

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

Jobs. Students at the LSE work hard week in, week out to succeed in their degree, and they deserve a decent job at the end of it. Sadly this isn't happening, and it's an abundant priority that the LSE careers service works for students, and that NUS can put forward strong ideas, including overcoming the plague of unpaid internships. I'm committed to working for students, and would be privileged to attend national conference on your behalf.

David Hu

I am David Hu, an international student from Beijing China now in Msc Program at LSE. Having served in student government for 6 years at my high school in England and during my undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, I am passionate about commitments, eager tackle new challenges, and dedicated to work well in a team environment. During the NUS conference, I am prepared to have a say on issues which directly affect students, and I am ready to put together issues LSE students want raised.

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

The higher cost of university life this year is pushing more students into part-time jobs and adding burdens to their families. These flexible jobs with few hours cannot provide

a living wage for most students. Half of the monthly budgets goes to accommodation, textbooks and transportation, as well as mobile phones and Internet. Therefore, we have less money left for healthy food and social activities. I wish to advocate for lower prices of student transportation costs, more discounts for student shopping and cheaper price of food on campus, resulting in an overall lower living cost.

Eden Dwek

Hi, I'm Eden Dwek. I was your NUS delegate last year and now I'm running for re-election. LSE is a small university. We must be represented FAIRLY amongst bigger student institutions, so it's vital that we have strong representatives who ensure our needs are not ignored. My principles: **WIDENING ACCESS** 1. REDUCING THE COST OF STUDENT LIVING - BURSARIES AND GRANTS TO PUT CASH IN STUDENTS' HANDS. 2. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. **PROTECTING HIGHER EDUCATION** 1. RESEARCH GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND PREVENT A BRAIN DRAIN OF PEOPLE GOING ABROAD. 2. ENCOURAGING A CAP ON INTERNATIONAL AND POST-GRADUATE FEES. **THE VOICE OF STUDENTS** 1. PROMOTE PARTICIPATION IN THE 2012 LONDON MAYORAL ELECTIONS. 2. ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTIVE STUDENT STRATEGIES FOR PROGRESS AND CHANGE. I will be YOUR voice at conference, so vote Eden #1 for ALL HANDS ON DWEK.

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

I believe hidden course costs are the biggest issue facing students this year. Many of us, especially those in London, face rising living costs from transport and housing, and soon, increased tuition fees. Unfortunately, the financial burden of university does not end here. Many courses require you to buy textbooks - as those in the library are frequently on loan during busy times of the year - meanwhile others impose significant printing costs, and required course trips. These overheads are putting too many students off higher education; through tackling these hidden costs, we can ensure that education is available for all.

Jack Curtis

Since joining the LSE I have been involved

with the Labour society having recently been elected to the executive and written for the Beaver. I wish to take the next step in student participation by becoming a representative for the entire student body and ensure every student voice is heard. If elected I promise to listen to each and every student, not merely a vocal minority. I will champion real causes that make a real difference and shall not waste your vote chasing causes that have no prospect of realisation. It is my hope that the NUS does not become an arena for noisy protest that fails to help students. Instead, I would use your endorsement to help ensure it remains a progressive force for real student problems. This is why I wish to be your delegate. Vote Jack Curtis #1 for NUS delegate.

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

At a time of ever-increasing uncertainty in the global economy I believe the gravest area of concern for students is jobs. I think this encompasses two aspects. The first aspect is that of future career prospects for students, and the second being part-time jobs for students who need to help make ends meet in one of the most expensive cities in the world. It is these two strands of our generation's job opportunity problem that I see as the biggest issue facing students across the country, and particularly those within London.

John Peart

**** COMMON SENSE POLICY APPROACH **** We must take a common sense approach to what NUS does; picking our fights well, staying in the centre of the debate and NOT taking knee-jerk policy decisions. I WILL: (1) Oppose education cuts. Oppose a fee based system. Support calls to reinstate EMA. (2) Oppose the PREVENT agenda that will see universities spying on students. Oppose legislation telling students where they can leave. **** OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE CONFERENCE **** Conference is the best way for students to have their say; decisions shouldn't just be left to delegates to make - it should involve consultation with everyone on campus. I WILL: (1) Make sure any motions going to conference from LSESU go through an open democratic meeting so you know what is going to happen in your name. (2) Work to make sure students submit policy to conference - not just the Exec.

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

Our primary concern should be access to education; every person not choosing to study at further or higher education level is a loss to society. We cannot stand back whilst this Government rights off a generation of people. The Government's fees policy is a train wreck waiting to happen; the decimation of the EMA scheme has seen huge drops in student enrollment and it has to be challenged. We should oppose any move to worsen the student experience, but more so, oppose any move that stops a student from even applying for a course - no matter what it is.

Lois Clifton

The biggest challenge we face this year is the HE white paper - it means the end of education as a public good available to all students. The NUS must mobilize against this. - I want to make sure our NUS is campaigning on equality - has strong liberation campaigns - women, LGBT, all ethnicities and religions and understands that the cuts disproportionately effect these groups. - Support strikes and make links with our lecturers. - Students can and should have an effect internationally. I want to make sure the NUS is on the side of global justice for the oppressed. - I am an experienced, passionate campaigner who is not afraid to campaign for those who will make NUS an effective union focused on defending and standing up for students.

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

The biggest challenge is the HE white paper - marketization of education will impact every student. The idea that universities are a public good is being eroded, a push for privatization transfers funding burdens from society onto the individual reflecting conservative beliefs that education does not benefit the whole of society - implications for social mobility would be catastrophic. LSE will disproportionately suffer as the cuts hit humanities and social sciences harder affecting everything from class sizes to teaching quality. I believe the delegate that goes to NUS should be relentless in campaigning against these attacks - that is what I will do

Mohamed Harrath

I'm Mohamed and I'm a fresher running to be one of the LSESU delegates to the NUS

conference. The student movement, as it moves towards the next phase in battling austerity, needs fresh thinking. While tuition fee legislation has already been passed, the fight against the marketisation of Higher Education is far from over. We need a leadership that will allow the STUDENT VOICE to be heard! ***Reasons to vote MOHAMED HARRATH #1:*** - LSE is small. I am the loud and persistent voice that YOU deserve.*** - Post graduates make up more than half of the LSE student body. I will campaign strongly against government proposals to reduce funding for postgraduate study.*** - International students deserve a better deal! I will campaign for better quality services.*** - The right to be who you want to be - fighting racism, sexism, Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism*** Your Voice, Mo's the Choice!

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

Students this year need to find a direction. The challenge is to unite around a common cause whilst incorporating the wide range of student viewpoints that exist. The question that needs to be answered is: What do we do now that the tuition-fee-dramatic-reaction-period is over? The answer is we need to engage in dialogue with policy makers and influence the decisions that will change the education landscape in Britain. This is a crucial period for the NUS; we need now, more than ever, a leadership which will voice student opinion and that is exactly what I will work to achieve.

Tapinder Ghuman

Awaiting manifesto

What is the single biggest issue facing students this year?

Awaiting answer

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE IN THE MICHAELMAS ELECTIONS?

The candidates who succeed in these elections will be making decisions that may impact on everybody's experience here at the LSE. Even if you have a negative view of our Students' Union, and its activities, participating in elections is the perfect way to change that, whether you are my age or in the latter stages of your pHD, if you are in the Government or Economics Department. It is no co-incidence that the LSE students who do vote in elections feel that the Union represents them better than those who do not. And this year we have the broadest range of candidates ever in a Michaelmas election here at the LSE. Voting isn't even difficult; it takes less than two minutes to go onto the Students Union website (www.lsesu.com/vote). Just have a quick look through these manifestos, and I'm sure there'll be some you like! And then vote!

Josh Still (Students' Union Returning Officer)

Comment

UGM: Undergraduate Monarch

Matt Worby believes we should elect an LSE King or Queen after the most publicised UGM had the dismal attendance of 26

Matt Worby



If the plummeting turnout is anything to go by, the LSE Students' Union General Meeting is dead, dragging its decaying corpse along like an unbalanced zombie demanding votes in a rasping un-dead voice. We may be the only university in the country to have a weekly meeting, but it is becoming quickly apparent that there's a reason why no-one else is following our lead. If a motion about internships gets such underwhelming support then I have no hope for a cause far less demographically pleasing.

It's clear, as seen from the voting tactics recently employed to pass possibly the most unoffensive motion possible there could be in this place, that under this system we're roughly 2 to 5 years away from a complete collapse of any and all organised student politics through the union. Societies with a specific interest will remain, but in the chaotic lawlessness things will rapidly get out of control. I don't want to alarm the readers of this article with the dystopian future of running brawls between societies, as the university employs more and more dictatorial tactics to retain control of Houghton Street, but this is a distinct possibility. Of course the finance society would have the sleekest, most desirable barricades, replete with stylish advertising and free gift bags. All the while a hardy band of Socialist Workers would camp outside demanding justice and proclaiming the death of capitalism. Friendships would be torn apart, classes would be hostile and halls may see an even worse, altogether not a pretty picture.

With this in mind I propose a solution; we act swiftly and decisively

now, establish an absolute monarchy, using the existing societies in a feudal system. No parliamentary rubbish that is either poorly attended, or gets out of control. We decide on the head of the student body, my gut instinct is either George Bernard Shaw's main heir, Boris Johnson or perhaps Joana Lumley. Then they, and their first born, and their first born after that would rule the student body, making decisions in the best interests of all of us in a safe and reasonable way. Unlike the British Monarchy there would be no archaic first son rubbish, gender equality must be maintained. I'm sure you'll agree, this being a far more reasonable system we can all get

on board with. They would actually be chosen by the Queen, as rightful ruler of this green and pleasant land, but we'd have the chance to nominate candidates, with a minimum of 250 signatures, fifty per cent undergraduate, fifty per cent postgraduate.

A further advantage would be the elimination of the student elections, that one time of year when Houghton Street becomes a minefield of flapping candidates desperate for even the slightest hint that you'll vote for them. We'd be doing the environment a favour by cutting down on the printing of those pamphlets and the ones every week at the UGM. Perhaps the main concern is what would become

of Mr Tindale in all of this. As a member of the "Democracy Committee" (A classic victim of the theme naming trope) he would be in charge of handing the door-keys to the office to the new monarch. And making sure the decision over the monarch didn't take 2 extra days than it ought to, not that one just tells her Majesty to hurry up, this sentence is more a not-so-subtle reference to how the last vote for the UGM got extended, but the Kanazawa vote, under the same system didn't. Just saying. In a post union world I'm sure he'd make a fantastic court jester.

Each society would have to proclaim loyalty to the monarch, whose seat would be in the Underground.

That stage would be a fantastic setting for a throne. Societies would be responsible for restraining their own members, raising funds for the monarch and providing serfs to attend and protect the monarch. I imagine the Sports societies, in lieu of fully controlling their members would provide the main body of the protection retinue as recompense. They would each be given, according to size and significance, a small portion of Land around the university to make their own. The communications group retaining their patch of the East Building, The Squash team getting the squash courts, finance society being given the Union shops, we can sort out the rest at a later date. Houghton Street, much like the market towns of old would sell plots for stalls on certain days, giving societies some competition to spice things up. Moreover because decisions are made swiftly by someone who has made them before, events like the Fresher's Fayre would no longer suffer from the loss of institutional memory every year, we wouldn't have to go through the yearly growing pains, indeed it could only get better, apart from maybe the first two years, but you understand why.

A Magna Carter style document would be obtained to prevent despotism or arbitrary executions, but on the whole the monarch would be able to enact policy as they see fit, and interact with the university faculty members on behalf of the students. We'd be more efficient, happier and a sense of ceremony (or in today's parlance, swagger) could be restored to this venerable institution. I'm not going so far as to say we could even get our own currency, but it's something for future generations to look forward to, with the current rate of inflation the monarch would do well to avoid any sort of return to the bartering system.

And if this idea sounds ludicrous, turn up to the fucking UGM and vote.



Queen of LSE? Photo: flickr user their

Explaining Shariah

Clarifying the misconceptions in the much discussed and criticized teachings of Islam

Mohammed



Najmul Morley

In one word, Shariah is Islam. There has developed this rather prevalent misconception that the shariah is only a law, however, many scholars would disagree with this definition.

The Shariah encompasses everything in Islam and vice versa. They are in essence synonymous terms. Is the Shariah only concerned with penal law? No, rather quite the opposite, in that while an aspect of it deals with penal law; the vast majority is concerned with things that most of

us commonly associate with Islam. For example, the five pillars, manners and etiquette in dealing with each other, business transactions etc. are all included in Shariah. Everything you find in Islam is in the Shariah. So when the average Joe asks, 'Do you want Shariah in the UK?' simply put - we already have it. How? The building of mosques, availability of halal meat is all something that comes under following the Shariah.

Now, to what many perceive as the controversial part; the penal code in the Shariah. Many people raise eyebrows at the punishments enforced by it. However, a key fundamental aspect they tend to neglect is the role the punishment has in relation to the

Hereafter. In that, when you

consider punishment in this world as a purification of your sins, in order to avoid the greater punishment in the

Many people raise eyebrows at the punishments enforced by Shariah

Hereafter, it is a completely logical process, which encompasses justice and mercy. The Shariah enforces a punishment to avoid a punishment greater than that in the Hereafter.

Therefore, for the Muslim, it is a form of Salvation.

The problem with most discussions about Shariah is that you hardly see the discussion from an Islamic perspective; it always tends to be from another viewpoint or lens, with people bringing their own definitions and opinions, and applying them to the Shariah. In reality, when a person looks at it in its pure Islamic form, they will come to realise that it is something that fully encompasses justice and freedom, core values which are embedded in the religion of Islam.

Muslims believe the Shariah is from God - Allah, so there isn't anything comparable to it, in the same way there's nothing comparable to a deity. God is a perfectly neutral

entity, our Creator and therefore a fundamental part of Islamic belief is to accept that he knows what is best for us and to believe in the entirety of the Shariah.

Thus, in essence our belief and conviction in the Shariah stems from our belief in God. It is an obligation upon every Muslim, to believe that it is the best way of life. Therefore, isolating the concept of Shariah as one element of Islam is detrimental because as mentioned at the beginning, it is Islam and not one aspect of it, as many people believe today

If you have any further questions about the Shariah and would like to meet up and discuss it then feel free look out for the face above on campus and to stop me and ask anything.

Another one bites the dust

The ethical consequences of celebrating Gaddafi's death

Samira Linder



Last Thursday, news of the death of Libya's long-term dictator, Muammar Gaddafi, became a sensation across the world. Within a short amount of time images and videos of the unruly leader's grim last hours as well as his bloody corpse, were circulated worldwide - that and images of Libyans jubilantly celebrating his death.

Gaddafi's abrupt end is the most recent addition to a series of extra-judicial killings of brutal leaders. Coming across the images of recent days, one is immediately reminded of another villainous leader recently killed, Osama bin Laden. While we were spared the gruesome images of a dead or dying bin Laden, the media was filled with numerous accounts of celebrations around the world, most prominently in America of crowds cheering "USA! USA!" The death of another Al-Qaeda leader, the US-citizen Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed by a drone in September, was recently revealed to have been not only publicly praised by Obama but also to have been personally ordered.

Where can one place these deaths and their subsequent celebrations on an ethical scale? What are the moral consequences of celebrating the violent death and extra-judicial killings of these men? These are inevitably important questions to consider.

First of all, let's look at the somewhat hazy details surrounding Gaddafi's death. On Thursday last week around noon first reports of his

capture emerged with most agencies reporting on his injured though still live state. Several hours later, he was confirmed dead. The details of how he died still remain unclear. The BBC writes that he was either killed during the NATO air strike on his convoy or later "lynched and dragged through the streets" by the jubilant rebel forces. It was during these hours that the bloody images of an injured Gaddafi and later on of his mangled corpse emerged amongst images of jubilant crowds in Libya and of sympathizers around the world. Shortly thereafter, David Cameron, at a Diwali festival reception in 10 Downing Street even joked about

The issue of Gaddafi's unresolved death will inevitably have consequences for Libya's transitional government

"celebrating the death of a devil."

It is of course easy to argue that the death of Gaddafi (or even bin Laden for that matter) may pale in comparison to the vile acts committed by them. What is one guilty death in comparison to the over 250 innocent Lockerbie bombing deaths? Or the nearly 3000 innocent 9/11 deaths? If one looks at it in a relative sense, the killing of bin Laden or the unresolved

death of Gaddafi could be seen as minimal to the horrors these individuals wrought upon the world. Some also see it as an act of retribution - Libyans have been celebrating Gaddafi's death as payback for his oppression, as well as a cathartic moment, a moment that would hail in a new era for Libya. Keeping him alive could have perhaps distracted from Libya's path towards a democratic transition.

In terms of "Realpolitik" one could argue that Gaddafi's death was a necessary step. Shortly after bin Laden's death, it was surmised that his killing had prevented the major judicial dilemma of deciding where and under whose laws to try him. Further, there would have been concerns about his becoming a martyr or perhaps "mysteriously" dying during the trial (à la Milosevic). Similar arguments are made in Gaddafi's case, most likely in order to retroactively justify his death or even his killing. In addition, one could argue that if Gaddafi had been put on trial in a local court, chances are that he would have faced a death penalty - making his death inevitable.

Gaddafi's death raises sensitive questions on war and ethics, an age-old question dealt with by philosophers and law theorists alike. Michael Walzer, a well-known academic on the topic, argues that during times of "supreme emergency" there are virtually no limits to how far politics (say, Libya's National Transitional Council) can go to protect themselves. If Gaddafi was seen as a direct harm to his people, Walzer's argument would justify the circumvention of rule of law and the rules of war. But this position is very dangerous and leads to an extremely risky slippery rope. Who is to define these supreme emergencies? And who will determine which reaction is just and which goes beyond the means to protect?

Our whole Western system of justice and law is based upon keeping the "eye for an eye" mentality in check and preventing the individual or vigilante groups from taking justice into their own hands. While a death penalty may have been likely, as was the case for Saddam Hussein, the point is that he would have had to account for his crimes in a court of law and faced proper justice by his own people. In fact, holding a fair trial would have been an important statement for the transitional regime and a vital step towards a democratic system. Instead, the new era of Libya's transition is ushered in with bloodshed and a macabre celebration of the death of a human being.

The haziness surrounding Gaddafi's death has also led to Libya's authorities to come under increased pressure. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, has called for a full investigation on his death. Prominent human rights groups have also spoken out about his death: Amnesty International has rightly pointed out that Gaddafi's death does not mean that there should not be an investigation of the crimes he and his administration committed. Just because he has been killed does not mean that Libya's past can be completely sealed off.

The issue of Gaddafi's unresolved death will inevitably have consequences for Libya's transitional government and its future development. One can only hope that an investigation of his death will shed light on the matter. The question on the ethics of war and vigilante justice is of course a more profound one that will not be resolved any time soon.

-Quick-Comment

Should Quick Comment die since no one COMMENTS?!

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!
-Duncan McKenna, Managing Editor, The Beaver

What is Quick Comment?

-Anastasia Yang, 2nd year, BSc Actuarial Science

What alternative outlet would we have to berate Gaurav Mehta?

-Ahmed Alani, Design Editor, The Beaver

Yes. It exists only to embarrass me.

-Gaurav Mehta, 3rd year, BSc Economics

No, the occasional humour is worth annoying people on Sunday night for a comment

-Chris Rogers, 2nd year, BSc Politics and Philosophy

No one comments. Kill it.

-Jenni Black, 2nd year, BSc Government

A little of something is better than nothing at all.

-Usha Patel, 3rd year, BA History

NEXT WEEK...

We'll see if it makes it...

House of Lords, not God, thanks

The LSE Students' Union Atheist and Humanist Society sees no place for priests in politics

David Landon Cole



As anyone who has spent even a fleeting moment looking at the politics of this sceptered isle will know, the constitution of Britain changes at but a glacial pace. The need to constitute the Lords on a popular and democratic basis was recognised a while ago - 1911.

Although the Commons is massively more powerful than the Lords, the upper house still has power and influence. By delaying bills, they can wreck a government's legislative timetable; beyond that, they have the power of influence and attention. It may be anachronistic, but powerless it is not.

We now have one of the worst-received Bills ever in the shape of the House of Lords Reform Draft Bill. It's pretty much been accepted that heredity is a silly way of choosing legislators and there are only ninety-two such peers left in the Lords, who will doubtless be dealt with by the next set of changes to the Lords.

Less noticed, but still entirely at odds with any notion of democracy or liberalism, is the presence of the Lords Spiritual. The archbishops of Canterbury and York, the bishops of London, Durham and Winchester, and the next twenty-one most senior Church of England bishops sit in the

House of Lords, and can speak, vote and influence the politics of the land, as of right. No other Anglican church, such as the Church in Wales, retains that privilegelet alone another sect of Christianity

This highlights two problems; the entrenchment of the Church of England and the privileging of religion.

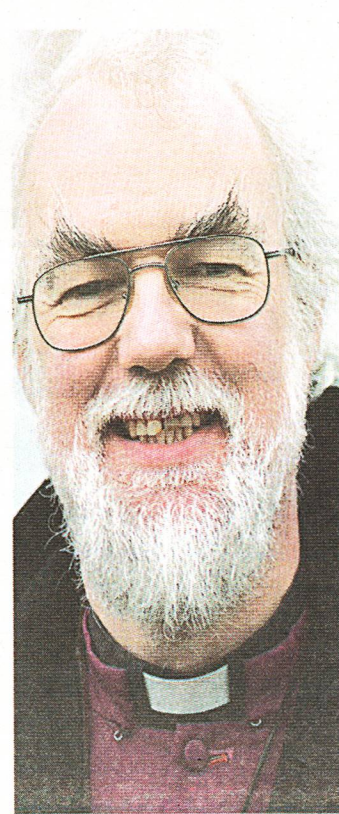
It is wrong that someone should be able to vote on a law simply because they are a senior member of a religion. The Archbishop of York has voted against gay rights and for European integration; the Bishop of Liverpool against euthanasia and for hobbling the Climate Change Bill.

The point is not so much the way they voted on a particular issue, but that they are able to vote at all. Life peers are vetted by the House of Lords Appointment Commission. Even new hereditary peers are at least elected by other hereditaries when one of their number dies, saving us from the odious spectacle of Christopher Monckton entering the House of Peers. When it comes to bishops, we have no means at all to vet a group who will be ruling over us.

Quite apart from that, the bishops are there representing the established Church of England. No other body, no other sect has that privilege. It should remove at once the idea of the charming notion of the establishment of the Church being little more than the village parson and his bicycle clips; it is giving that faith a position because it is a faith that historically has been important.

Indeed, many people who describe

themselves as Christian do so only



because it is 'the done thing'; they lack any particular belief but go with

the flow and attend church for births, deaths and marriages, and perhaps half-drunk on Christmas Eve. It is that mentality that sees so many Church of England schools, funded by your tax pounds, around the country. While I object to any religious school receiving so much as a groat of my money, I find it particularly invidious that the presence of so many Church of England schools - by far the majority of religious schools - is justified, along with the rest of its special place in society, by the notion that cultural habit makes someone, in any meaningful way, religious.

Unsurprisingly, the privileging of the Church of England in the Lords, doesn't find much favour with other religious groups; other Christian groups and other religions have at times objected to the privileging of one particular grouping. The solution that is occasionally proposed, not least by the Blair government circa 1997, is for all religious groups, or at least those of any size, to be similarly represented in the Lords.

Quite apart from this being unfair to those of no faith, and daft to the many religious secularists in the country, it sets up religion as special. Why should religion have seats in the Lords as of right and not (say) the Premier League? The latter has more impact on most people's lives, I would warrant, than religion. Maybe we should automatically appoint the general secretaries of trades unions to the Lords, too. Moreover, there is the problem of selection; it is easy enough to see that the Roman Catholic church is repre-

sented by a particular hierarchy, but who will choose the representatives for - say - Islam? The Muslim Council of Britain is controversial, but is also, like its equivalents for other religions, self-selecting and not representative of all the many variations of the Islamic faith.

I have no doubt that Dr Rowan Williams is a sensible and thoughtful person and I agree with him on many issues (not least that "atheism is cool") but I profoundly disagree with Dr John Sentamu in actions such as refusing to sign the Cambridge Accord (which included such inflammatory language as "all acts of violence, oppression, and degradation against homosexual persons are wrong and cannot be sanctioned by an appeal to the Christian faith"). If the reverend prelates, or any other minister of any other religion, wish to take part in the discussions in Parliament, they should do so on the same basis as any other person; for preference, by submitting themselves to public scrutiny in an election. Anything else is not merely anachronistic but damaging to a country of many faiths and none.

Your faithless friends,

The Atheist, Secularist and Humanist Society

Haters gonna hate

Why Kunal Gupta can't wait to be an investment b(w)anker

Kunal Gupta



Another week, another edition of the Beaver, and yet another article about investment banking. How very "LSE," you might say.

In my defence, with internship fever gripping Houghton Street once more (one must wonder if there is ever any respite from this highly contagious syndrome), this is hardly off-topic. As I type this on a Saturday night, I can't help but feel that for every fresher currently experiencing the delights of Mayfair's finest, there will be another staring bleary-eyed at a half written cover letter outlining his profound passion for the Goldman Sachs.

Now, such a scenario normally provokes much indignant shaking of the head coupled with rueful grins all round as we ponder the fate of another amongst us who has succumbed to "the LSE problem." I must admit, I have always wondered why. And I do feel I should warn you at this point that I did do an internship at an investment bank this summer and I loved it, so this article is as likely to be as shamelessly pro-banking as it gets (which makes a nice change).

Having never really taken part in the sport of "investment banking bashing," I initially struggled to establish a starting point for my argument. The only sensible course of action was to message a friend studying International Relations, who by now is a seasoned pro at hating the field. The reply I received was (as expected) long and thorough, though it can be sum-

marised as follows:

"It's soulless, responsible for all our problems, overpaid, immoral and without ethics."

Stoakes, writer of the book 'All You Need to Know About the City', deems the investment banker the devil incarnate. This statement did force me to take a step back and look at the "bigger picture."

That gave me plenty to work with. The underlying problem here is an inherent failure to fully understand the role and responsibilities of a junior level investment banker, the significance of which is only being exacerbated by the cloud hanging over the financial industry at present.

Experiencing the work-

ing environment first hand over the summer, it really is striking to see how

little influence analysts and associates



(between them covering the first six years of a typical career in banking)

tend to have on the decision-making process in any division. Instructions come through from the top brass, and although input from junior bankers is valued, normally their job description is limited to carrying these out with minimal fuss. For an investment banker just starting out, it is extremely difficult to question these commands purely because of a lack of experience, so most of the time he is in a relative state of blissful ignorance.

Of course, it's impossible to ignore the headlines surrounding the financial crisis at present, and one has to acknowledge the significant role that the banking industry has played in generating this period of turmoil. It is true that regulation of the financial sector was non-existent and the culture of risk-taking was excessive and unsustainable.

Yes, very poor decisions were made by a select few in positions of responsibility. These people deserve every curse they get.

However, it still irks me that all investment bankers are credited with titles such as "the devil incarnate" purely on the basis of the tattered reputation of the industry that

they represent. Malpractice is a common occurrence in any walk of life. Junior doctors often witness consultants breaking procedure, while the NHS is hardly an example of a shining beacon of an organisation, yet is medicine ever shown the same vilification that banking is as a career?

Joe Bloggs, who graduated from LSE in 2008, secured his dream job at Goldman Sachs and worked his socks off until the early hours every morning does not deserve to be written off as "underworked and overpaid," or branded another result of "the LSE problem." A lot of people forget that when it comes to wages per hour, the earnings of an investment banking intern are almost comparable to someone working at McDonalds. Still lovin' it?

I approached my internship with reservations for exactly the reasons described above. As I was subjected to more and more negativity, doubts couldn't help but creep in. Fortunately, I'm only too happy to report that my internship was one of the most challenging yet stimulating and enjoyable things that I've had the opportunity to experience since I came to LSE, and I'm genuinely looking forward to getting back into the banking environment next year. Yes, it is possible to enjoy banking for what the job actually involves.

If you are in doubt about whether to apply for an internship, I would highly recommend at least giving it a try. Ten weeks is not a huge commitment, you'll have more money in your bank account by the end of it than you've ever had and, who knows, maybe a career to boot.

You don't have to be loud to be heard

What's wrong with being extremely moderate?

Chloe Kiliari



If you are not the big talker, please take the microphone and speak up. If you are the thinker rather than the over-excited extremist who likes the sound of his/her own voice, use your quiet power to make your ideas heard. Above all, don't let them fool you. You do not only have the right, but also the responsibility to express the views of all the 'average' people on this planet. You should know that your views are much more respected and definitely shared by many more people than you could ever imagine.

Why are 'extremists' more likely to express their views and how do they manage to misguide us? Whatever the answers to these questions are, there is one thing that we know for sure; 'extremists' do have the upper hand in many cases. And when I use the word 'extremists' I do not just refer to people who proudly wave flags and provocative symbols, arguing that either their country or religion is superior to that of others. I define extremists in three ways. Firstly, they are people who generally despise their fellow human beings, be it in terms of their nationality, social or educational background. Secondly, extremists are those who believe their views on how society or the market functions to be flawless and unchallengeable and do not truly allow

for consideration of other proposals. Lastly, the definition extends not only to blind followers of beliefs but also to the originators of these beliefs and their representatives.

And I ask again. Why should it be the case that protests are a tool for those who strongly oppose or strongly benefit from certain policies? For those who serve a specific set of interests on either extreme side of the ideological scale, whether we are talking about economic issues or social values?

More importantly, why do people with moderate views keep quiet, even if they would ideally strive for positive change? Of course, freedom of speech is granted to everyone without exception under the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And of course, the definition of 'extremism' is extremely subjective. However, I would like to point out that I do believe it is unfortunate that people with moderate views have been convinced that they have no reason to actively contribute to crucial debates. Having moderate views does not mean having no views at all. Moreover, I feel that the intensity of an opinion should not be measured by how 'extreme' it is. If you are passionate about your moderate views, go on and let us know about it.

I am sure you have often wondered: 'Why are extremists so loud?' There could be many reasons for this, some more obvious than others. To start with, it is true that extremists often hide behind the cause they are serving. It seems to me that fanatics make noise to actually conceal their inability (or laziness) to reason and

act logically. When you do not wish to go through the pain of choosing for yourself and forming your own stance on society and the issues life raises, then the easy way out is convincing - or should I say deceiving - yourself that you have something to fight for. Campaigning for an empty cause could give someone less time to worry about understanding and weighing the strengths and weaknesses of different

Why do people with moderate views keep quiet?

arguments.

There is possibly another important reason as to why extremists speak so openly about their views. Researchers from Ohio State University have suggested a possible explanation for why extreme liberal and conservative views dominate discussions in the US. Studies focusing on attitudes toward alcohol among students have shown that extremely 'pro-alcohol' students are more likely to express their views and this leads to a mistaken assessment on what the median view actually is. Simultaneously, those with moderate views are persuaded that they are less 'pro-alcohol' than the

median, while extremists' beliefs that they are in majority are reinforced. As such, a cycle occurs; those with extreme views become more and more convinced that they are representing the rest of us and therefore speak more loudly. It seems to me that not only do extremists misguide us as to the extent to which our views are shared by other members of society, but they convince us we actually have nothing special to share. They convince us that what we believe is 'average', in other words uninteresting.

I am sure that in your everyday life you have all experienced the phenomena I have been describing. For example, with regards to spirituality and the existence of God, how often do you hear people saying that one ought to discover the truth for themselves? It is highly likely that an extreme atheist, who claims that they can understand science even in ways that scientists themselves can't, will openly speak about their views. It is also highly likely that an extremely religious person will preach about religious doctrines, promising that we will all go to heaven if we love and respect (and sometimes judge) each other. It is almost certain that both extreme atheists and extremely religious people despise others either for not being intelligent enough to comprehend scientific concepts and think logically or for not being intelligent enough to 'see the light'. On the other side now, it is highly unlikely that an agnostic will express themselves passionately and with conviction. Yes, science provides a lot of answers and logic can definitely disprove a lot

of unsound myths. No, science has not yet explained everything and the human brain is not developed enough to fully understand where it all begins. How many of us have these views? Many. How many of us share these views publicly? Not a lot.

I come from Nicosia, the last divided capital of Europe. I used to go to a mixed school of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, where the two 'opposing' communities came together and discussed every day. I can assure you that Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot teenagers have many things in common and they can be friends with each other. But the sad truth remains. Those who are actually poisoned by deep hatred and have some very biased, illogical and racist views are always more likely to speak about their views and provide a distorted version of reality that the media exploits happily. At the same time, those who actually feel the two communities can co-exist, despite the deeply rooted disagreements between Cypriot and Turkish governments, just silently go on with their lives thinking that their view is fairly average and uninteresting.

I think this is a perfect opportunity to speak on behalf of all 'average' people in my country and in any other country. Our views make a difference; what sounds 'unique' may just be extreme and what sounds 'average' may be what we need to advance. In a world which is running out of ideas on how to solve global issues, I believe it is time for those 'average' people to shine.

Handicapable London?

Getting around the big bad city is not so easy on crutches

James Yarde



Whether you're a fresher or a seasoned student, there can be no doubt that London is one of the world's most sought after places to live. Yet, for all its seething life and vibrancy, London's archaic structure serves no favours to those with disabilities. Whichever story you believe, whether it was the shark attack, the motorbike accident, or the foiling of a notorious criminal, I came to London this year unable to walk; completely reliant upon my crutches to move around. And as such, I now have first-hand experience of what it is like to be a disabled person in London. Its virtues, horrors, disappointments and unexpected surprises have all become apparent as I inhabit my new reality. I can now reveal the good, the bad and the ugly truths which the disabled Londoner, and for that matter, the disabled LSE student, are forced to face day in, day out.

To the uncritical eye, the architecture of the LSE campus seems to fit in with the surrounding area of Holborn and Temple. Wide corridors and the impressive array of lifts ensure that the majority of campus remains easily accessible. This does not, however, ensure that getting around is without its frustrations. The lifts in particular, are subject to high demand, with few people understanding that disabled students should get priority. Inevitably as I started to run progressively later for lectures and classes, trying to maximise my sleep before any given one of my 5.9 am starts (thanks, LSE), not being able to dash up the stairs is certainly frustrating.

Of course, some areas of campus are better than others; the Library, the New Academic Building and the Peacock Theatre have all stood out from the crowd so far. Yet, as always, doors are a contentious point. Being able to independently open a door seems like such a minor ability, yet this is a tricky feat when you are on crutches. Whilst the majority of people are kind enough to hold the door for you, it is also reassuring to know that there are a few automated doors strategically scattered around campus. And, much to my friends' disappointment, these mean that I don't have to tangle and contort my crutches in such a way that

I can manoeuvre myself through any doors which get in my way.

The Library has thus far been superb for disabled access, which is hardly surprising given its revamp in 2000. It still concerned me when I approached campus on the first day of term, having never fully observed what disabled access to the building was like. It is not something which really crosses your mind as you stroll in, is it? Yet so far, access to the Library has posed no problem. Most impressive is the attentive security team who are always quick to open the gate to the side of the turnstiles. I am sure you will all be delighted to hear that the library architects had the crutch reliant in mind when designing that infamous spiral staircase, the steps are spaced in such a way that it is possible to get some impressive momentum going on my crutches. How ironic.

Unfortunately, it seems that disabled access has a strange tendency of being out of order. For instance, the disabled access to the course collection in the Library is currently not working (at the time that this newspaper went to print). Furthermore it seems there is little prospect of this being fixed unless someone makes a fuss. I certainly do not think it is beneficial to have to wrestle with the turnstiles to gain access to such a fundamental LSE facility. More frustrating, still, was the fact that the lift in the Peacock Theatre has not been working on two of the three days that I have had lectures so far. Whilst I am fit enough to still use my crutches to make it up and down the two flights of stairs to the stalls, it is unacceptable that a student, say using a wheelchair, would have not been able to attend lectures there in person.

But, whilst the university campus may have pleasantly surprised me in terms of accessibility, the same cannot be said for the rest of London. The obsession that London maintenance staff have with keeping flooring as shiny and slippery as possible, such as that at the new Westfields shopping centre in Stratford, makes life all the more hazardous. The Sainsbury's Local in Kilburn is certainly not in my good books after staff failed to put up a sign warning that some of the flooring there had just been mopped. Somehow I managed to stay on two feet (one if you are being persnickety).

In a city which relies so much on its transport infrastructure to move vast swarms of people from point A to point B, one would expect that disabled access to public transport would have to be top notch. Credit where it is due, all the main stations,

despite being decades old, tend to have passable disabled access. This said, the coverage of such access is by no means astounding. Yet even those stations which are theoretically accessible seem still to make a concerted effort to hide any signing which suggests what direction one should go to find the lifts, London Waterloo being an example of particularly poor signage. And it is not as if this or other problematic facets of the tube network are hard to solve. The TFL website journey planner could be improved if estimates of how far you will be required to walk between tube changes were provided. It is unfair that I should be put off from travelling to a particular station merely because I am unfamiliar with it. It is not as if the TFL are without this information at hand.

Even after figuring out how to access public transport, there is still no guarantee that my journey will be either a comfortable or a safe one. It is not always easy to get a seat, especially on the buses, which have an unparalleled lack of easily accessible seating. On more than one occasion I have been caught off-guard by an overly aggressive bus driver quickly accelerating off as I am trying to get to a seat, sending me flying. When someone does offer me their seat, it is very much a heart-warming affair. And at the risk of sounding over adulating, it does make my day when this happens.

Broadly speaking, the slim chance of a benevolent stranger giving up their seat for me on the bus or tube seems to reflect not only the ethos of Londoners, but also the nature of contemporary society itself. London is the city for the self-interested, the self-motivated and the self-made. Every single person busies themselves with their own business. We consume ourselves with the end-game. As can be expected in any sample of citizens you get the inconsiderate; the unmindful; the accidental hinderers. But these are more than matched by those at the other end of the spectrum: the caring, the thoughtful, and the helpful.

At first I feared how I would cope as a disabled person in London. It seemed a blatant dichotomy: I would either cope adequately enough so as to not be inhibited in either my lifestyle or my work; or I would face an intolerable struggle. Fortunately, I have only flourished in what I continue to view as a wonderful city. A city in which you are able to succeed and find happiness in, irrespective of the struggles you might face.

Reviving the Lib Dems

Why some still believe that the much criticised party have it right

Sam Barnett



I've been here for three weeks now and I reckon the LSE is missing something significant. No, not a permanent Director, or somewhere to sit that isn't the Library, but a functioning Liberal Democrat society. Plenty of people on campus find that somehow satisfying, or possibly hilarious, mostly because they have a firm idea that the Liberal Democrats reneged on their promise to not cut tuition fees. But we'll be better off with one, which is why we're setting one up. And you should join, because those reasons to hate on us are all deeply flawed. Now I'm going to challenge some pretty entrenched ideas about the Lib Dems, as a party and in government, because I want to make something clear. Whatever the complaints, we've delivered. No, seriously, we have.

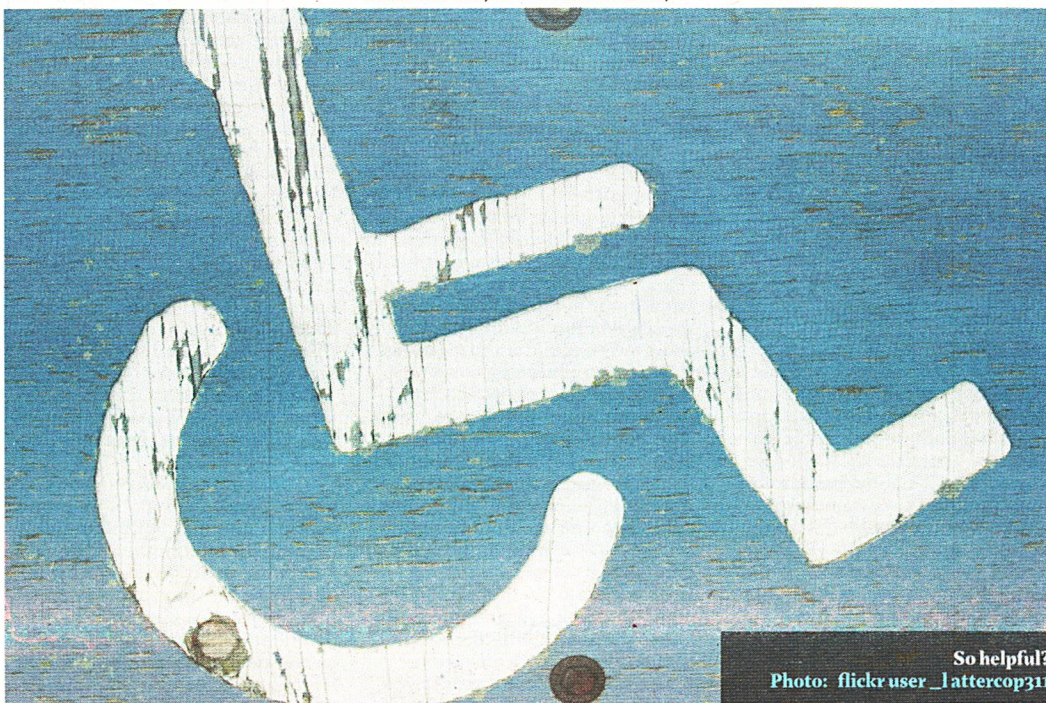
Let's look at the tuition fees debate first, because this what is on most people's minds when the topic of the Liberal Democrats comes up on campus. This has been the source of much humour for student protesters; What's the definition of a Lib Dem boomerang? It only promises to come back. Why did Nick Clegg cross the road? Because he said he wouldn't. Right, that's got that out of the way. We broke our promise. Get over it. I was plunged into a 6 month depression by how that all played out, and thought about tearing up my party card, but look at what actually happened. Labour brought in tuition fees in the first place, in 1998. Then put them up in 2004. Then put the Browne review in place, you know, the one that recommended uncapped fees for everyone. The Conservatives, naturally, would have stuck with that appalling document, but Vince Cable, the current Business Secretary, fought for it to be made more progressive, and now we have a system in place that is honestly better than what we would have had under a Conservative majority government (or, I reckon, a Gordon Brown one). As for Miliband, current leader of the opposition, first a graduate tax that would have amounted to a much bigger lifetime payoff, then some opportunistic crap about a six grand cap that he took back after a day. Yes, this system is flawed, and I'm not especially happy about it, but the university funding system is broken and we can't afford to run it like we do. Hopefully a better solution will come through the pipeline soon. Here and now, though, the Lib Dems gave us the best possible deal from a bad situation.

Not to mention the poorest are better off too.

But what about the evil Conservative cuts? The Lib Dems as enablers of a Thatcherite apocalypse is something I hear on a near-daily basis. When the cuts bite, we'll all be living like Viggo Mortensen in *The Road*. I'm not even going to bother having that debate, I'll say this instead: look at Labour's manifesto. These cuts are there, in all their dubious glory. The two-edged monster may talk about slower and safer action now, but that's only because they're in opposition and don't have to act on it. This country is stony broke and the public won't have tax hikes, so cuts are what we were always going to get. Don't hate the medicine, hate the disease, and the disease on our economy went untreated from Thatcher to Brown, because restructuring the economy is too much like hard work when there is money to be made and illegal foreign wars to be fought. Incidentally, Lib Dem pressure is the reason why the Vickers report committed that smirking sexual deviant George Osborne to breaking up the banks and dealing with the bankers who stole all our money. You're welcome.

Never mind the defensive, then. What about the fact that the Lib Dems haven't done anything since they got into power. They haven't implemented 75% of their manifesto, that's for sure. They haven't set on course an ambitious environmental plan and Green Deal, or created a Green Investment Bank. They haven't guaranteed a £430-per pupil premium for kids on free school meals, coming to £2.5 billion in extra education spending. And they certainly haven't taken nearly a million of Britain's poorest people out of tax altogether by raising the income tax threshold to £8000, with millions more to come when it's moved up to £10,000 by the end of this parliament. Not to mention scrapping ID cards and, recently securing the future of marriage as an institution open to all. Oh, right. Maybe, when you strike out the two big trendy complaints, you might notice that in a year and a half as junior member of a coalition, the Lib Dems have arguably been the best party in government for the last 40-odd years, because we deliver. Also, the conference adopted something about legalising weed a few weeks ago, so there's that too.

So maybe a Lib Dem society could be worth a look, then. We'll have an AGM sometime this term, and hopefully a launch event with some political rock star like Simon Hughes or Brian Paddick (honestly, I'd expect Lembit Opik). We're nice people, we don't bite, and you'll always be welcome if you bring your own sandals. See you there.

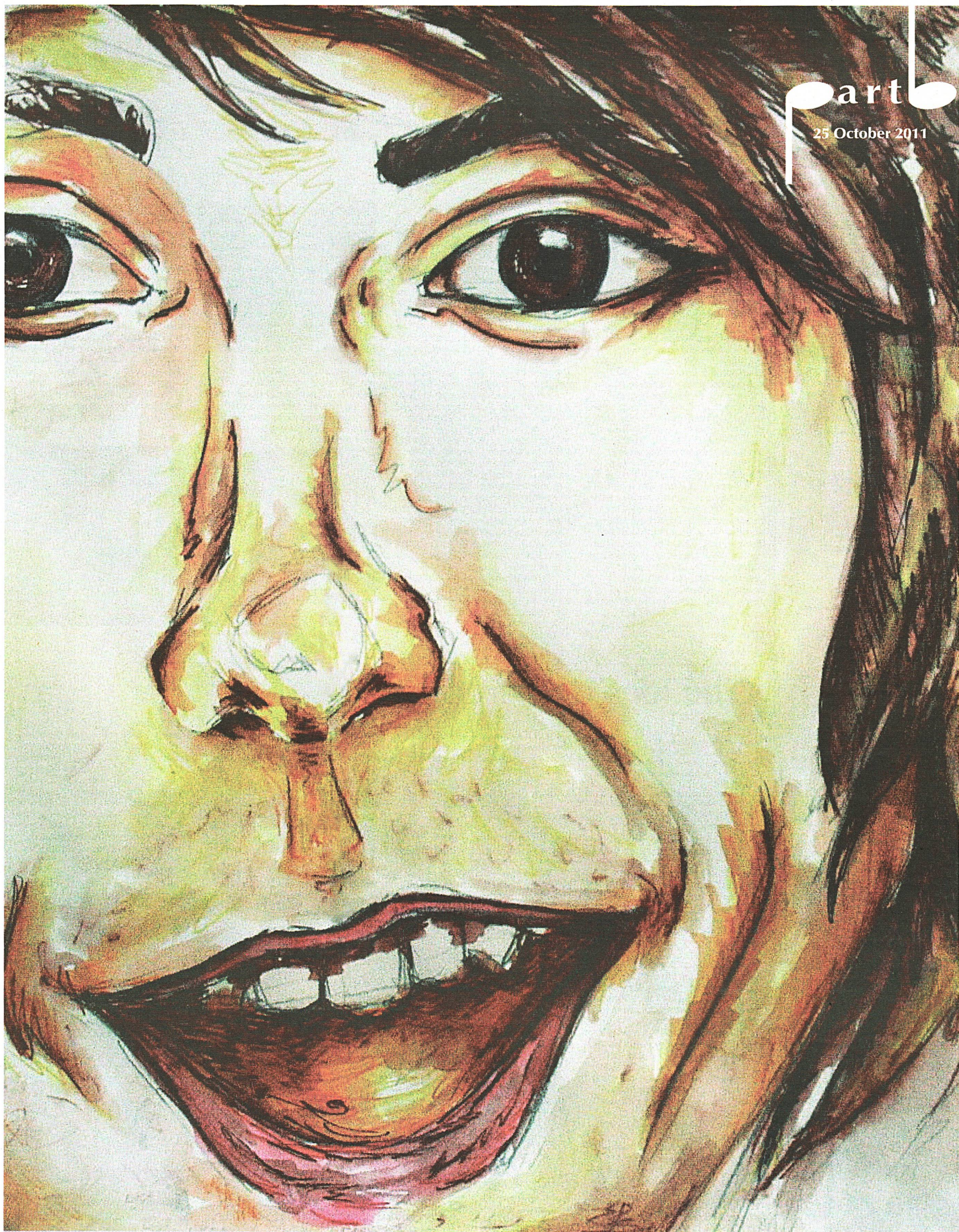


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art

25 October 2011

LFF 2011 | **Gerhard Richter** | **The Queen of Spades** | **Go sushi** |
The Ides of March | **Charles Bukowski** | **James Blake** | **Private B**

Contact

Part B Editors

Aameer Patel
Kerry-Rose O'Donnell
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Fashion

Emma Beaumont
partb-fashion@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Film

Aameer Patel
partb-film@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Food

Max Jenkins
partb-food@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Literature

Rachel Holmes
partb-literature@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Music

Ankur Vora
partb-music@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Private B

Jack Tindale
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Theatre

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

TV

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

Video Games

Hassan Dar
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Visual Arts

Roberta Cucchiario
partb-visualarts@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Web

Angie Jude Moneke
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

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Cover

Alex Gaskarth, 2011,
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BFI 55th LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Shame

Director: Steve McQueen
Screenplay: Abi Morgan, Steve McQueen
Key Cast: Michael Fassbender, Carey Mulligan, James Badge Dale
Year: 2011
Runtime: 99 minutes
Festival Screening; in cinemas 13 January 2012

Steve McQueen's striking debut, *Hunger* (2008), saw a performance from Michael Fassbender with intensity and commitment befitting a hunger striker. The Turner Prize winning director's second film and collaboration with Fassbender explores a very different though similarly important subject, but he is similarly masterful and fearless, with the latter again surrendering himself unequivocally to the film. McQueen has spoken about trusting his lead actor and it is certainly rewarded, moreover it is evidently reciprocal.

The premise of the film is quite simple and not particularly important. Brendan (Michael Fassbender) is a reasonably affluent thirty-something sex addict in a bleak Manhattan whose discreet, seedy world becomes much smaller when his younger sister, Sissy (Carey Mulligan), arrives unannounced to stay. His cold, modern apartment is home to much of his shame, but shame is usually instigated by an external force – Sissy in this case, and she is not without problems of her own.

Brandon's world – his life, his relationships and his emotions – is cold too, with the film shot in suitably chill tones. Though he does venture occasionally into its underbelly, most of his world is on the shiny surface of Manhattan. Such details as time matter little, and the film begins at an arbitrary point in his life, a life typified by one thing. His sex addiction is serious, but like many such problems, the physical damage is difficult to discern – it is a habit that could seemingly be maintained indefinitely, unless, as in the later stages of the film, its sufferer becomes deliberately self-destructive.

Sex maintains but can never liberate him. It is mechanical, unemotional and merely keeps him ticking over – McQueen certainly intends for it to be understood as clockwork – in a life where ecstasy has plateaued. It is a debauchery that barely tingles, despite danger – whether masturbating in a bathroom, romping with more than one person in a parlour, or up against a prominent window. It soon ends and must be reignited, but with different firewood and tinder. The one occasion on which he is driven by emotion and desire is the one occasion where he fails to ignite.

Brandon's shame is only exceptional in its depth. Very deliberately, he has no emotional ties or dependants, unlike his boss (James Badge Dale), a more respectable but perhaps worse creature. A family man, he

simply happens to fail more often in executing his carnal compulsions, although he succeeds to painful effect with Sissy; Brandon asks whether she ever saw the fingers on his left hand.

Not only can Mulligan act – she plays the fragile, emotionally needy younger sister to perfection – she can sing. Her haunting rendition of "New York, New York" is driven by way of her voice directly from her heart and painful memories to those of her brother, who is, for once, touched. Her uninhibited physical closeness with him and their general physical familiarity seems unusual but not necessarily troubling, although this cannot be said of their discordant emotional union, where she expects and he cannot provide. There is an important backstory between them,

but McQueen is confident enough not to elaborate upon it.

Shame is more a film about a man and his place in society than one about sex addiction. Unlike comparable outsider films with equally magnificent performances, such as *Taxi Driver* (1976) and *Midnight Cowboy* (1969), Brandon's place in respectable society, with his well-cut clothes and handsomely sculpted face, is never under threat. Without Sissy's arrival and subsequent events he may well have continued exactly the same existence. In fact, it is far from certain, despite the mental and consequent physical turmoil he undergoes, that he has been sufficiently shamed to exact changes without relapsing.

— Aameer Patel



Carey Mulligan as Sissy and Michael Fassbender as Brandon

The Ides of March

Director: George Clooney
Screenplay: George Clooney, Grant Heslov, Beau Willimon
Key Cast: Ryan Gosling, George Clooney, Philip Seymour Hoffman
Year: 2011
Runtime: 101 minutes
Festival Screening; in cinemas 28 October 2011

While telling the story of a Democratic primary, George Clooney's adaptation of Beau Willimon's play, *Farragut North*, shows us the cruel reality of a political race. With the only criticism being the predictability of the script, *The Ides of March* paints a beautiful picture of an idealistic campaign manager's (Ryan Gosling) discovery of the harshness of real life.

Although watching Steven Meyers (Gosling) working for Governor Mike Morris (George Clooney) does not expose any revelatory truths of the political process, it acts as a reminder that politics always has, always is, and always will be a difficult and not at all justifiable choice of profession. Meyers learns it the hard way that behind the scenes, with all moral values and integrity pushed aside, one is left cleaning up someone else's mess in the corrupt dogfight of an electoral campaign.

Not dissimilar to the award-winning show "The West Wing", this political drama is adorned with snappy, sharp dialogue, while smoothly dropping hints of controversial issues for the benefit of the audience; in this case the notion of mandatory conscription to the army. Had the issue been developed further, the film might have exuded a more interesting out-

come, but all complaints are instantly forgotten when Paul Zara (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and Tom Duffy (Paul Giamatti) begin their tug of war act to win over the talented young staffer for their individual campaigns. Meyers's principal love interest, Molly Stearns (Evan Rachel Wood), plays a young, naïve intern who watches the drama unfold around her from the sidelines, until she too is sucked into the campaign's vortex of crap.

When asked whether he would choose to pursue a career in politics

after directing and starring in the film, Clooney responds truthfully with a chuckle and a blunt, "Heck no. I'm a Hollywood actor – I'm already going to hell as it is." What Gosling's character learns the hard way, Clooney reiterates: "Deals are made all the time in politics and scandals are not uncommon. It [the film] reflects things that are pretty timeless, things that refer not only to politics but to real life as well."

The Ides of March shows a world stripped of heroes and heroines,

where each is left to fight their own battles, even if it means stepping on heads in the process. Or as the title of the film indicates, even if it means the same as in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* – stabbing someone in the back twenty-three times. As enjoyable as it is worrying, this smooth and ice cold drama contains what is undoubtedly one of Gosling's finest performances and rings out clearly the same message as Shakespeare's play: "beware the Ides of March".

— Aleona Krechetova



Philip Seymour Hoffman as Paula Zara and George Clooney as Governor Mike Morris

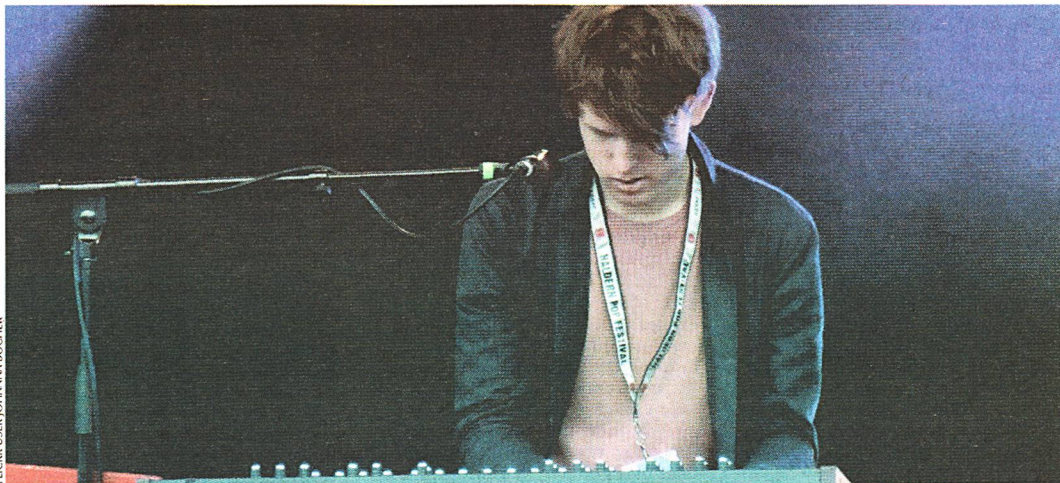
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New EP: Enough Thunder – James Blake

Thursday marked the release of James Blake's latest EP: his fourth in less than two years, although his prolificacy has not diminished the fervour with which his new music is anticipated. Expectations are understandably high: Blake is one of the UK's brightest stars. Thus there should be audible sighs of relief when he does not disappoint on the follow up to the Mercury Prize nominated eponymous debut LP with more of a unique sound that has come to be known as "blue whale dub-step".

The Goldsmith alumnus's latest effort comprises a Joni Mitchell cover, a collaboration with fellow Mercury

Prize nominee Justin Vernon (of Bon Iver), as well as four original compositions. It finds him moving somewhat out of his electronic dubstep comfort zone and towards a more free-flowing, lyrically engaging no man's land - he has previously been accused of not being fully developed in his lyrics, due mostly to the repetitive nature of some of his earlier works, which can become droning and quickly lose all novelty. Blake has talked recently about his personal interpretation of dubstep, one which has "an intense focus on feeling", as removed from dance music, and perhaps a strong sense of isolation. In view of this, "A Case of You" offers up a stripped back, almost ethereal musical experience that is surprising in its intimacy, the listener feels as though they are intruding upon a deeply personal moment. Although the lyrics are not his own, Blake's emotional delivery of the song blows away that of the original songstress. The other notable song is the collaboration with Justin Vernon, "Fall Creek Boys Choir". The strangeness of the title extends to the actual song: the bassline admonished with an offbeat snare and deep and digitally



James Blake at Wilco Pop Festival, August 2011

distorted dog barks has an intensity that takes some time to register. Blake is an old hand at the over-synthesised and over-exposed electronic genre, making his mark with "Wilhelm Scream", where he seamlessly layers auto-tuned echoes into the melody, to

the point that his vocals become just another instrument to be manipulated. The coupling of what critics call Justin Vernon's "soul-baring falsetto" with Blake's minimalist styling makes this song one of the best he has ever produced.

Even those who are familiar with James Blake will be amazed at the strides he has taken from his first full album less than a year ago, and those yet to discover him have much to look forward to.

↳ Maryan Osman



New Band: WU LYF

Their name is an acronym for World Unite Lucifer Youth Foundation, they've ignored a cold call from Michel Gondry, and they've told the UK press to fuck off, all of which has merely served to stoke the hype surrounding these mysterious Mancunians. Yet behind their carefully designed anonymity lies a band who manages to sound both raw and crafted, evoking memories of the Stone Roses or D.C. hardcore whilst simultaneously sounding fresh and exciting. The lyrics are hard to decipher, courtesy of lead vocalist Ellery Roberts; who often sounds like he's yelping rather than singing; and yet they sincerely convey a sense of disillusionment. Their debut LP often sounds like a call-to-arms, as the video for lead single 'Dirt' demonstrates, depicting rapidly cut footage of recent riots whilst inciting viewers to rebellion. It might seem juvenile, but it is evidence of an artistic volatility which is as arresting as it is naive. There are flaws aplenty, but they're precisely what make WU LYF so engaging.

↳ Ankur Vora



PartBeat

The office playlist this week...

Sacrifice

Björk: *Biophilia* (2011)

Ophelia

Tori Amos: *Abnormally Attracted to Sin* (2009)

Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt

Pharoah Sanders: *Tauhid* (1967)

Genetic

Emeralds: *Does it Look Like I'm Here?* (2010)

Lamb

Lamb: *Lamb* (1996)

Baptism

Crystal Castles: *Crystal Castles II* (2010)

This week's live highlights

25 Oct: **Florence & the Machine** – Hackney Empire

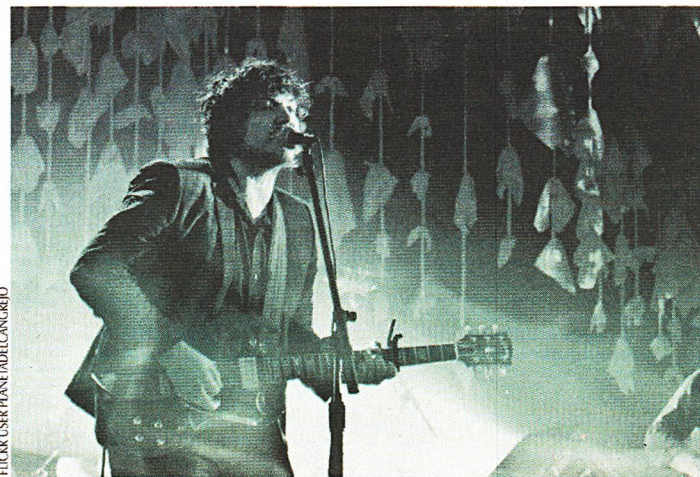
26 Oct: **WU LYF** – O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire

27 Oct: **Cut Copy** – Roundhouse

28, 29 Oct: **Wilco** – Roundhouse

29, 30 Oct: **Arctic Monkeys** – The O2 Arena

30, 31 Oct: **PJ Harvey** – Royal Albert Hall



Wilco at Central Park, September 2011



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Gerhard Richter: Panorama

One of the most powerful and probably most talked about exhibitions in London this autumn is *Gerhard Richter: Panorama* at Tate Modern.

While the exhibition title by definition means to give an unbroken view of an entire surrounding area, the exhibition curator, Tate director, Nicholas Serota, seems to completely destroy this concept. The wide scope of Richter's long standing title as one of the most diverse painters living today is clearly shown, but as we are taken through his history as an artist, our visual senses are constantly confronted with Richter's contrast of styles, scales and modes of language.

The exhibition starts with prominent black and white photo-paintings created in the 1960s. Richter's exploration of the photo-painting technique consists mainly in painting an image as it is represented in photographs, either shot by him or taken from newspapers and magazines. One example is 'Ferrari', where he painted the car as was seen in a picture and then blurred it by using a dry brush across wet paint to create the arcane effect. This work is profound in its historical reference to the consumerist and capitalist culture of West Germany as perceived by Richter. It was during this time, in fact, that he moved away from the Communist East. Richter's series of monochrome paintings demonstrate his desire to both explore the process of putting paint onto a canvas as well as to evoke movement.

When the viewer moves into Room 3, there is a dramatic shift from the controlled environment of Richter's monochromes's sequences to a literal art history time bomb. Although the space has opened up, the viewer feels claustrophobic.

Hanging in the same room such a variety of works portraying different art movements makes it difficult to pin-point what kind of painter Richter really is. The curator's decision to hang a beautiful figurative painting of Richter's first wife Ema descending

down a staircase next to an installation of four panes of glass aims to demonstrate how we are never meant to typecast Richter as belonging to a specific art movement.

The undeniable struggle to stick to one style is portrayed in Richter's series of large, vibrant abstracts painted in the 1980s. The one which attracts the most attention is *Juno, 1983*. The sheer grandness of this canvas and the juxtaposition between the soft background and the paint slashed across parts of the canvas with a squeegee evokes a different language of painting, something not seen in his earlier monochromes. Here, Richter distances himself from his photo-paintings and follows no system.

Abstraction is a tool with which Richter can break free from the confines of his photo-paintings. He once said that "art is the highest form of hope." It is as though he has experienced a release, a release from photo-realism and a release from the order of communist East Germany from which he moved away in the 1960s.

However, all of the momentum built up in his abstraction is lost when a small photo-realistic painting from the 70s is displayed next to one of his abstract works. This is an example of how during this exhibition at your eye can never wholly reflect on a series of works, but is in competition almost with the painting next to it - each piece vying for your attention.

The one painting, however, that is able to stand uninterrupted by other works is *Betty*, which Richter painted in 1988. What previously disturbed the flow of Richter's work - the contrast between photo-realism and abstraction - successfully co-exists in this piece. It is a photo-realistic painting of his daughter gazing at a large grey abstract that serves as this painting's background. As the viewer cannot read the subject's facial expression with her back turned away from us, the use of grey in this piece seems almost to signify the absence of a meaning.

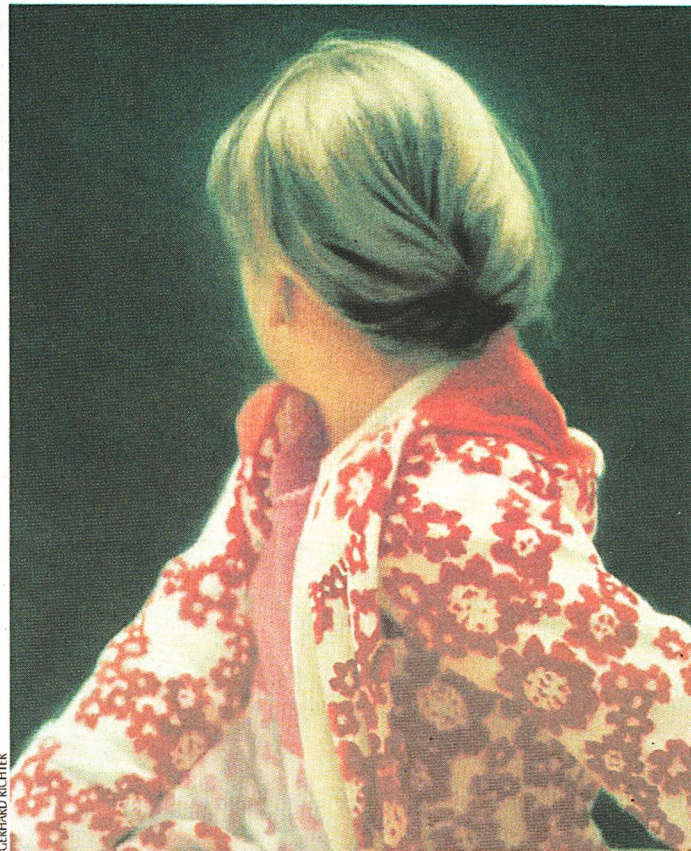
True meaning can be obtained only when one becomes familiar with Richter's work. The curator has deliberately created conceptual barriers and the structure of this chaotic retrospective almost intensifies the viewer's inability to connect to a specific work and see the painter's emotional attachment to his works.

Although in hanging 50 years of paintings in such an erratic way this retrospective does not reveal

a beginning, middle and end to the artist's long career, in the end though, the meaning of Richter's art is both lost and found somehow by battling against the different styles which never truly define him.

Gerhard Richter: Panorama is at Tate Modern until 8 January 2012.

↳ Emma Firth



Gerhard Richter, *Betty*, 1988. Saint Louis Art Museum

Wilhelm Sasnal: From Poland to England

In this recently opened exhibition at Whitechapel Gallery, Polish artist Wilhelm Sasnal's artworks challenge our notion of mass media and globalised information. With the sprout of new technologies speeding up the transfer of information from one news agency to another, people, listeners and viewers are often left to float in a state of almost confusion.

Agathe Kanziga Habyarimana's portrait is one of the Sasnal paintings which pre-eminently allows the viewer to ponder on what truth can be assuaged from an image without context. While at first this painting simply portrays a beautiful woman, her expressions relaxed, after reading the caption we suddenly step back and realise we are looking into the eyes of one of someone involved in the

genocide in Rwanda. All of a sudden our perception of this once beautiful woman changes and the viewer can come to realise how misleading an image or a story can be if it is not put into context.

There is often an element of struggle in Sasnal's works, a struggle to capture the true nature of an image printed too many times on the same mass media. As the artist himself said, "painting is not just a game, not something you do just for fun; it comes with a responsibility that I take very seriously", the political awareness of his paintings demonstrate his responsibility towards the art.

The most fascinating feature of his work is the presence of a 'hidden story', an element or even just a sensation within the artwork which invokes

memories, feelings and warmth. As the viewer is not always told where in the painting this 'hidden story' lies and the reasoning behind it, this exhibition leaves ample space for the imagination - for us to find our own 'hidden stories' within each of Sasnal's paintings.

Once of his most beautiful paintings is *Kacper*. Beautiful not because of a very well-defined painting technique, but because of the 'hidden story' within it. Gazing into the sun and the warmth of midday, the smell of sea breeze and the light touch of the wind, the softness of the grass under our feet and the beauty of life. All of these feelings are evoked into us when gazing at this painting.

What *Kacper* seems to be telling us is that art is really not the painting technique itself, rather it is what an artist can make the viewer feel through his painting. Its most intriguing feature is in fact Sasnal's ability to capture 'the moment' as if he just shot a photograph of that fraction of a second, capturing the sunlight at that precise angle.

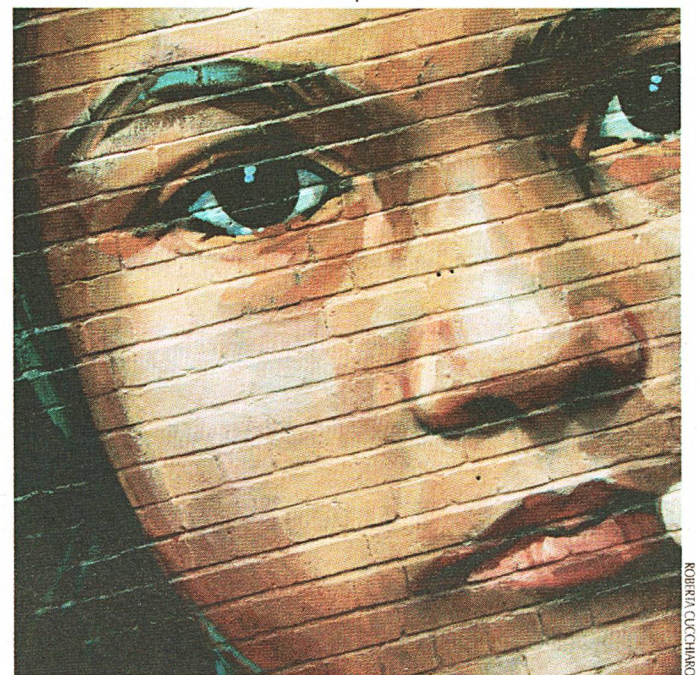
Even though Sasnal, born in 1972, is still very young, his artistic mastery has already defined him as one of the most interesting artists living today. His different painting styles often blend together, trying to express different feelings. Within his work there is a hint of Romanticism fusing with Realism and Pop with Abstraction; his skilful painting techniques not only demonstrate knowledge of the arts, but also assist him in using different mediums to explore different themes.

While his most recent works concentrate on painting photographic images or images presented by the mass media, the exhibition also shows

the pop-inspired works characterising much of his early career and several works focusing on the use of film and photography in his painting, often reflecting the troubled past and sufferings of Poland.

Wilhelm Sasnal is at the Whitechapel Gallery until 1 January 2012

↳ Roberta Cucchiaro



Street art in the East End



Wilhelm Sasnal, *Kacper*, 2009

Coming up...

If Gerhard Richter's art really fascinates you, but you want to have a clearer picture of what the German artist really meant by swinging about so many different art styles, then this Curator's Talk is for you.

During the first week of December, one of the curators of *Gerhard Richter: Panorama* will be able to guide you through the exhibition. This opportunity gives you a unique chance to really grasp and explore the views on Richter's abstractions and motives.

Curator's Talk: Gerhard Richter. Monday 5 December 2011, 18:30-20:30 at Tate Modern.

* * *

For those passionate about Lomography, or those who just wonder how it is possible to take those retro-style, really cool pictures, every Thursday in October at 13:00 the Lomography Gallery organizes fun and interactive workshops to master your Lomo skills.

The Gallery will lend you a Lomo camera and help you in shooting the most creative photographs, using the brightest colours, the craziest effects and giving you a unique experience to photograph Brick Lane through a different angle.

The Lomography workshops will take place at 1pm on the 27th October at Lomography Gallery, 117 Commercial Street.

* * *

Street art in London is cool. That is indisputable! And the street art walking tours are even cooler! If you want to experience the London East End street art first-hand, then these fun tours are what you are looking for. Street Art London organises two different tours every week.

There are two-hour tours which focus on the street art around Shoreditch and Brick Lane, and four-hour tours venturing farther into Hackney. There are many amazing graffiti - pure works of art - which are hard to find without a proper tour like this. If you have some spare time, it's certainly a nice break from studying.

The two-hour tours take place on Tuesday at 10:00 and on Thursday at 06:00. The four-hour tours take place on Saturday at 11:00. Both depart from Old Street Underground Station (outside Exit Two). Book online: streetartlondon.co.uk

The Queen of Spades, Arcola Theatre

Director: Max Hoehn
Playwright: Raymond Blankenhorn
Key Cast: Benjamin Way, Norma Cohen, Jen Holt
At Arcola Theatre until 12 November 2011

Fusebox Productions' 'The Queen of Spades' is the first major UK theatrical adaptation of Pushkin's classic novella, outside the opera house. The production is surreal, dark and deeply comedic; suggesting that 22 year old Max Huene, (the director), is at the beginning of what is surely to be a brilliant career. The story is brought to life by three actors who transform the minimalist studio set into a fantastically vivid and detailed world. 'The Queen of Spades' is a fresh, exciting and thoroughly enjoyable production.

The production begins with Hermann (Benjamin Way) appearing on stage from behind a backdrop of swathes of white sheets. The prologue (delivered by Hermann) informs the audience that, having become obsessed with extracting a secret card trick to fortune, he is now in an asylum. The prologue felt slightly too long and Way seemed initially uncomfortable with the rhythm of the rhyming prose, making it difficult to follow. The rhyming couplets of Blackenmore's script are, however, generally brilliant, particularly in creating pace and comedy, and so while they seem somewhat forced in the Prologue, this is soon forgotten.

Despite the slightly stilted start, over the next 80 minutes the three actors lead the audience through the tale, creating various locations, atmospheres and moods with a seemingly unrelenting energy. In order to gain access to the elderly Countess, (who has the secret card trick), Hermann begins sending love letters to her lonely, naïve young maid, Liza, (Jen Holt). The courtship sequence is both hysterical and sweet; the actors don't speak, but rather communicate through exaggerated romantic gestures reminiscent of a silent film, perhaps referencing the pre-revolutionary Russian cinematic masterpiece of the same name by Yakov Protazanov. The

sequence is fast paced and innovative; a particularly brilliant moment shows Hermann picking a wire flower from under an audience member's seat, it being rejected by Liza, and Hermann slowly turning it into what looks like a noose, but instead then placing it under his chin and pretending to play a sad violin. Way and Holt work very well together, creating an easy co-

medic rapport which has the audience in stitches.

The pace of the play increases and takes a dark turn as Hermann finally gains access to the house through Liza and accosts the elderly and eccentric Countess (Norma Cohen), demanding the three card trick. On her refusal to comply, he produces a gun and she dies of fright. The play then takes on a

hallucinatory quality, the white sheet backdrop is lit colourfully and Cohen dramatically waltzes around the stage; the jeering ghost of the Countess taunting a frantic Hermann. The lighting and sound designs are excellent, catapulting the production into the fantastical world.

Huene's version of 'The Queen of Spades' is not as dark as Pushkin's

original, nor is it so much a tale exploring the dangers of greed. The production is, however, a hugely impressive spectacle. The actors, director, set and lighting designers created a high level of fantasy out of simplicity, no easy feat.

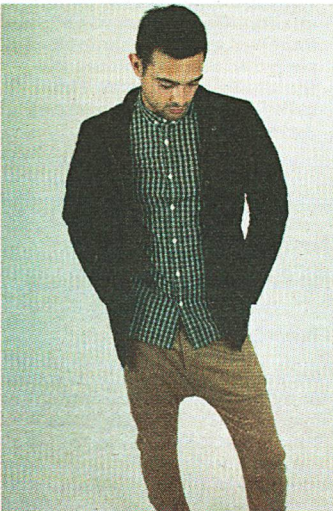
↳ Jessica Austin



Benjamin Way and Jen Holt as Herman and Liza

Resisting the 'rah' revolution

Fashion trends are notoriously tricky due to their impossibly short sell-by dates. For example, there was summer 2007, when boho reigned supreme. Inspired in part by actress Sienna Miller, we all flocked to buy gypsy skirts and overly chunky belts. As a rather awkward 14-year-old, I plumped for a coin-embazoned beauty from New Look (the height of sophistication, I assure you). Needless to say, by the time I got to parade it around the fashion haven that is North Yorkshire, I was cruelly informed that it was rather passé. Kids are cruel.



Barbour Chelsea Sportsquilt Jacket

Clearly fashion is fickle and with such rapid production rates those new 'jeggings' you bought with that generous ten per cent discount from Topshop lose their glamour pretty quickly. However, wandering round the environs of Houghton Street has revealed an altogether more stubborn trend. Quite simply, 2011 is the year of the 'rah'. Championed by mega brand Mulberry, as well as others, this Sloaney style has now filtered down to the high street. The look is old British heritage, consisting of Barbour jackets, jodhpurs, gilets, polo shirts and pearls, as well as Hunter Boot wellingtons. We now see Londoners looking as though they should be residing on a farm in Devon, rather than getting off the Piccadilly line. Generally accompanied by impossibly large hair, the look is becoming ubiquitous.

Perhaps controversially, I propose that we resist this trend for a variety of reasons. Primarily, dressing like a 'rah' is a statement of intent. It is socially aspirational, because it subscribes to a certain lifestyle; a lifestyle available only to the very wealthy. As a firm believer that clothes should be an extension of the self (admittedly a rather pretentious charge in itself) it is incredibly disheartening to see that people are dressing to emit a sense of monetary superiority. Indeed one of the main culprits of bringing 'rah culture' to the masses, self-proclaimed "outfitters to the gentry" Jack Wills directs itself squarely towards public school goers. In fact, as a fledgling company they posted their mono-

grammed hoodies to every head girl and boy of Britain's top private schools as part of a PR scheme. Cannily, the company positioned themselves as the dressers of the elite, a club that people wanted to be part of. This is perhaps the most troubling facet of 'rah fashion', the fact that your social background can be made so abundantly clear due to what you are wearing. I would even go so far as to say that it ingrains class divisions that should be progressively eroding over

time. Perhaps attempting to fuse politics and fashion is taking it a tad too far, but sadly I believe the days where excited adolescents would almost compete over what great bargains they had acquired is over. Even fast fashion giant Primark has seen a decrease in profits this year.

My concern is the way this culture is permeating society, to the point that geographical locations can be branded as 'rah'. The television programme 'Made in Chelsea', which profiles the

lives of rich, Sloaney twentysomethings has now achieved cult status, but are we laughing at their lavish lifestyles or trying to emulate them ourselves? As much as youth culture still derides the deliriously posh through such phenomena as the 'gap yah' video (the bane of my life, as I elected to take a 'spiritual' year out before university), it seems we are not reflecting this in our clothing choices.

It is not that the individual items are so offensive, indeed there is certainly nothing wrong with a well cut blazer or a luxurious scarf. Nor are you a bad person if you possess a Barbour jacket (although if you have a pile of Jack Wills clothes stashed in your cupboard I suggest you take a long, hard look at your life). Indeed it would be disingenuous to claim that I own no items in my sprawl of a wardrobe that could be declared to be 'rah'. In fact I am the proud owner of a red quilted jacket which may scream hypocrisy to some, but I maintain that there is a difference between having one item that nods to a trend, and wholeheartedly embracing it as a way of life.

My conclusion is that fashion is fun. Trends are exciting and incredibly important for up and coming designers and the fashion industry as a whole. However dressing in a homogenous manner, which this trend demands, is tedious. And as our society continues to fragment, it is strange that fashion aspires to follow an elite that most of us claim to despise.

↳ Emma Beaumont



From the controversial Jack Wills Spring/Summer 2011 catalogue

Coffee with Aleona Krechetova, President of LSESU Literature Society

Name three good books.

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev and *The Trial* by Franz Kafka.

What makes a book good?

A reader has to be able to identify with it, on some level at least. Oh, and if there's already Spark Notes or a film made of it - that would be good too.

Are LSE students reading literature?

I really hope so! In my experience students can be really passionate about literature and come to all our events etc. but then on the other side of the spectrum are students who join LitSoc but we never hear from. LSE is easy to get lost in, but literature is such a prominent medium of self-expression and learning; it helps you grow as a person. It's important to maintain that.

How big is the Literature Society this year?

So far we have approximately 100 members. Judging from Facebook groups and emails at least 50% are active members.

What have you got planned for the year?

The traditional Book Club, Writers' Group, Poem of the Week. Continued collaboration with other creative so-

cities and new charity events - we've got talks coming up with the director of the National Literacy Trust and co-founder of Words 2 Inspire.

Our committee will also be part of an initiative to host an alternative careers conference, with key speakers from creative industries such as publishing, producing and journalism. We are working hard on collaborating with other societies this year, such as encouraging submissions for the new issues of Clare Market Review.

Upcoming Events:

November 1 is "Beats Open Mic Night", held in conjunction with the Music Society. We are currently looking for original or unoriginal submissions, and speakers.

November 7 sees the first Book Club meeting (meeting monthly). Please refer to our Facebook group 'LSE SU Literature Society 2011-12' to vote for the first review book.

Finally, what have you read most recently?

Caitlin Moran's *How to Be a Woman*.

To get involved in any of the Literature Society's events, email a.krechetova@lse.ac.uk

— Rachel Holmes



Caitlin Moran, author of *How to Be a Woman*

Don't Try

"So who was your first woman?" asks the off-screen interviewer, her voice tinged with curiosity. There were probably many women who had wanted to ask this man that question. There were probably many bartenders who wanted to ask, "So where was your first drink?" and many writers who wanted to know, "So what were your

first words?"

He scratches his chin, "Well, that was the 300 pound whore."

"Jesus Christ."

Henry 'Charles' Bukowski calmly describes in his near-whisper, a profoundly ugly encounter between two exceptionally ugly people. His acne-scarred face contorts into a grin as he delves further into the tale, and the

details become more lurid.

At 60, Bukowski was just two years removed from the publication of his third novel, *Women*, chronicling his myriad affairs. By then, he was arguably one of the most famous writers in the world.

He was 24 when he lost his virginity and finally published his first short story *Aftermath of a Lengthy Rejection*

Slip. As the title suggests, Bukowski had not found much acceptance and success for his writing yet. It was no meteoric rise to fame.

Thankless jobs and booze-soaked evenings were his world. He lived the life of 'The Dirty Old Man', as he is known to some. The howls of Skid Row vagabonds floated through his bedroom windows while inside, symphonies echoed from the radio. And in its midst sat Charles Bukowski, 20 beers too far.

Hunched over a typewriter, he wrote what he thought would never be published. But, as he has testified over and over again, the writing and the alcohol were the only things that sustained him.

Eventually, he returned to the post office. And what seemed like only another move in the cycle of bad luck-bad living suddenly became his moment of salvation. A publisher named John Martin read Bukowski's work and loved it so much, he offered the writer a living stipend to quit his job and simply write. As the legend goes, 19 days later the novel was finished.

The opening line reads, "It began as a mistake." The final lines state, "In the morning it was morning and I was still alive. Maybe I'll write a novel, I thought. And then I did." The title of that book was *Post Office* (1971).

* * *

So, what does a man like Bukowski say about success?

ignore all possible concepts and possibilities ---
ignore Beethoven, the spider, the Damnation of Faust ---
just make it, babe, make it:
a house a car a belly full of beans

pay your taxes
fuck
and if you can't fuck
copulate.
make money but don't work too hard --- make somebody else pay to make it --- and
don't smoke too much but drink enough to
relax, and
stay off the streets
wipe your ass real good
use a lot of toilet paper
it's bad manners to let people know you shit or
could smell like it
if you weren't careful.

"Making It", from *Mockingbird Wish Me Luck* (1972)

... And if you ever find yourself in Los Angeles County, make your way to Green Hills Memorial Park. There, you will find a simple headstone marked with the etching of a boxer and the words:

Don't
Try

Henry 'Charles' Bukowski (born Heinrich Karl Bukowski, 1920-1994) was an American poet, short story writer and novelist. His usually autobiographical writing documents the living quality of lower class Americans. Repeated themes include alcohol, sex, relationship violence and the workplace. In 1986, *Time* called Bukowski a "laureate of American lowlife".

— Mazi Kazemi



Henry 'Charles' Bukowski

Threesome

Comedy Central, 21:30, Mondays

A comedy about three inseparable friends on the verge of 30. Alice (Amy Huberman) lives with her boyfriend Mitch (Stephen Wight) and their gay best friend Richie (Emun Elliot). They live it up on a particular night and end up falling pregnant. As a threesome they decide to keep the baby.

The Worst Thing That Ever Happened to me

Discovery Real Time, 21:00, Sundays

New series. People who have survived horrific events share their stories, beginning with a woman who was kidnapped and a student who was paralysed after a night out.

Two and a Half Men

Comedy Central, 21:00, Mondays

It's all change in the ninth season of *Two and a Half Men*. Charlie Harper is dead after falling under a train on the Paris Metro...or so Rose says...and Internet billionaire Walden Schmidt (Ashton Kutcher) has stepped in to save Alan and Jake from being turfed out of the beach house they've called home for the last eight years.

Inside SBTV: From Bedroom to Boardroom

Channel 4, 10:50, Saturdays

New series. Cameras follow 12 young people working for online music company SBTV. The team meets Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street and attends the Mobo awards, and CEO Jamal talks to Tinchy Strider

TV Tips for
the week

Go sushi

Sushi for me has always been an object of mystery. It is easy to overlook the complexity behind sushi because of its simple presentation. Yet within sushi lies an essential character of Japanese culture: minimalistic, yet extremely complex, sushi is both food and art. In order to be called a sushi master, a chef has to go through ten years of training with two of those being spent on perfecting the art of making rice alone. These sushi itamae are modern day samurais, wielding blades that were forged in the same manner as the katanas of the Edo period. They are master chefs in the handling of food, artists in their presentation, and performers in their preparation of food before the customer. This is what many sushi eaters have forgotten. Hopefully, through understanding, we can rediscover this art.

Before understanding what sushi is today, we have to understand where it came from. Though the origin is debated, some sources believe sushi

originates from the fourth century South East Asia. At its genesis, fish was packed with rice so that the natural fermentation would preserve it. This method of preservation spread throughout Asia until it finally reached Japan. Here, it configured to Japanese tastes to form sushi as we now know it (nigiri) in the late Edo period in Tokyo. Sushi was then used as a form of fast-food, where people could buy it from convent stalls. Over time sushi developed into the various forms that we enjoy today.

So what is sushi? Quite simply, sushi has become an umbrella term relating to any combination of fish and rice. Despite popular belief, sushi does not refer to the raw fish, but rather the short grain rice, which has been prepared in a specific way with salt, sugar and rice wine vinegar. If it is just raw fish then it is sashimi, not actual sushi. For health reasons, it can only be made with the only the best fish, graded as sushi quality, which is one of the reasons it is expensive.

As anyone who has ever been to a sushi restaurant will know, there is more than one type of sushi. The two main types that are served in this country are makizushi, which is when the sushi is rolled and then cut into round pieces, and nigrizushi, which is hand-formed with the rice on top. The most important thing to remember is that there are many different kinds of sushi, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. Other forms that should be sampled, include chirashizushi, where the raw fish is served on top of a bowl of rice, and oshizushi, where the raw fish is pressed into a block shape and then cut into bite-sized pieces.

Etiquette is extremely important in Japanese culture. While reducing all of Japanese dining etiquette to a few lines as impossible, for the culturally sensitive who wish to follow sushi, I have provided ten of the easiest customs to follow. For those who want the ultimate sushi experience, there is only one phrase that you will need

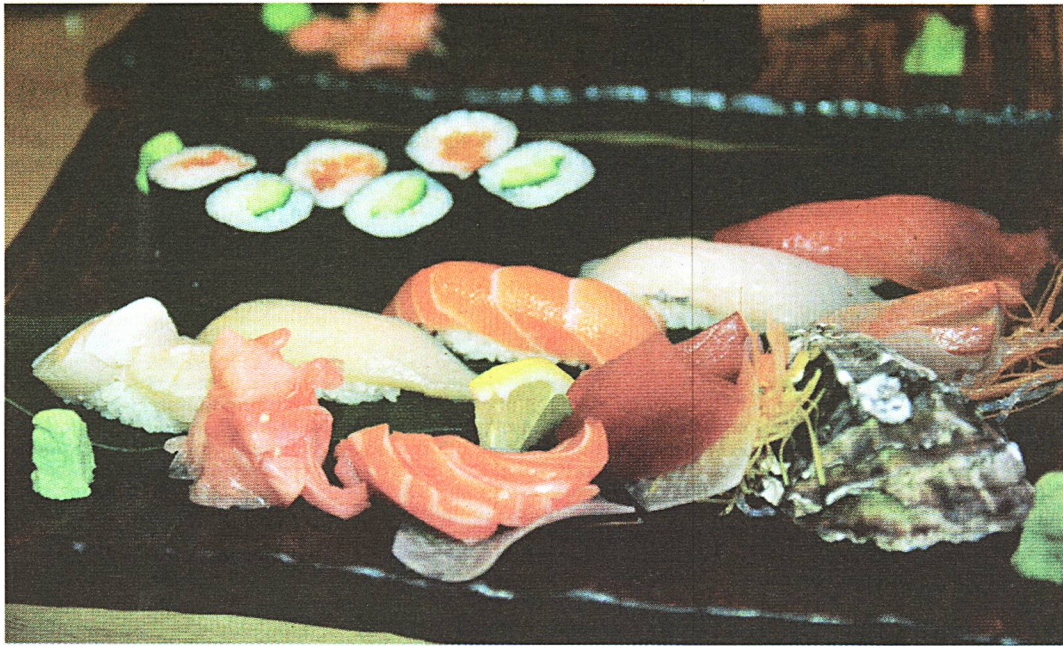
to know. "Omakase onegai shimasu", which is you telling the chef that "you are in their hands". In exchange you will receive his finest stock. While this will probably only work in more traditional places, it is a sure way to get the most out of your sushi experience. Just don't expect it to be cheap.

Before we gorge ourselves on the different types of sushi, we need to take into account the environmental impact eating sushi is having on the world. Put simply, we are exhausting fish stocks, and a large part of that has to do with the rising demand for sushi. Does that mean we should stop eating it all together? No - what we need to do is ensure that we are eating less sushi and that what we do eat is of the highest quality. Sushi is a luxury food item and we should treat it this way. If we are going to ask some poor fish to make the ultimate sacrifice, we may as well do it justice by making sure that it tastes as good as possible. And please don't ever eat supermarket sushi again.

Armed with your newfound knowledge of sushi and sushi culture, you doubtlessly want to go out and try your skills. My personal recommendation is Zuma in Knightsbridge. This is not a student restaurant. It is one of the best restaurants in London with a wine list and a cocktail bar to match. You will pay a premium price for sushi. What you get in return is the best sushi in London, and luckily you don't even need to make a reservation, as Zuma doesn't take bookings for the sushi bar. So you can walk in today and eat this delicious sushi for a price no greater than taxi ride back to halls on a night out.

Once upon a time, sushi had mystery. There was a time when it was not made by industrial machines but handcrafted by highly skilled chefs who did nothing else. What we as consumers must do, is make sure that what we are buying is a proper representation of the enigma that is sushi.

Max Jenkins



Sashimi, nigiri sushi and maki sushi

Essential Sushi Etiquette

1. Don't drench your sushi in soy sauce.
2. Don't stick your chopsticks straight into the food.
3. Sushi can be eaten with fingers.
4. Never touch someone else's chopsticks.
5. When taking food from a communal plate, use the back end.
6. Don't overfill your soy sauce container.
7. Don't rub your chopsticks together.
8. Start with the white fish and work your way up to the fatty fish.
9. Never leave food on your plate.
10. Ginger is a palate cleanser, not a topping.

The Lord Moon of the Mall

Wetherspoons. The mere mention of that word is enough for me to nervously glance around and wonder if anyone in the near vicinity knows of my dark secret. As a pretentious snob it's my one weakness: I enjoy a frequent trip to Spoons. My one saving grace is that I will only partake of two individual establishments owned by JD, The Knights Templar, round the back of campus, and Lord Moon of the Mall, both of which I quietly believe destroy most opposition in a straight competition.

The Lord Moon has large double doors, the type that if you're feeling particularly like Aragorn, you can sweep open and feel like the true heir of Gondor. Beyond is a sizable seating area and the only bar of the establishment, but it's wide enough that even at peak times service is relatively easy to come by.

The walls further into the pub are either covered with old prints of the surrounding area, or stacked with books on many interesting and varied topics. Fancy a pint and a read of *The Secrets of Zion*? This is the pub for you. There is also a large painting of a portly gentleman who is rumoured to be one of the first governors of the Bank of England, back when it was situated over the road from this fine alehouse. There is a selection of both high and low seating, accommodating everyone, and no reason why you have to stand awkwardly in no-man's land trying to find a place to perch your beverage. Unfortunately, however, the toilets are down a flight of stairs,

absolutely lethal when inebriated, but the clientele offer to lend a hand, and the staff have seen that kind of thing all before.

It is vexing how there are signs explaining how a pub works on the pillars, but they are a necessary evil, in that they prevent the unenlightened tourist from clogging up tables and clicking fingers at anyone wearing a black T-shirt. Children are well catered for too, with their own menu.

As a Wetherspoons, the selection of guest ales is one of the finest in London, constantly rotating. It's hard to find a time when they don't have at least one good ale on tap, apart from the great drought of March 2011, but that was a once in a lifetime convergence of factors. The selection of spirits is good, and I'm told the wine is serviceable, so everyone is happy. The bar staff are unbelievably friendly and helpful, and just generally fantastic human beings.

I'm afraid we now come to the one criterion that this pub fails horribly on: the clientele. I respect every person's right to use any establishment to quench their thirst, but that doesn't mean I have to enjoy it when they enter my pub of choice. In the middle of a perfectly enjoyable evening, sitting at one of the nicer tables, two pints into proceedings, the evening took a turn for the worse when a group of punters were being obnoxiously loud in the corner, and then moved on to partial nudity. I really don't need that when I'm after a nice evening in the pub. It then got worse, as one inebriated fellow lost his wallet (it was

later discovered under the chair next to him). He had the right to demand the manager, but felt he could do so using more expletives than the entire Beverly Hills Cop trilogy in one go. This has happened more than once, where one or two people ruin the at-

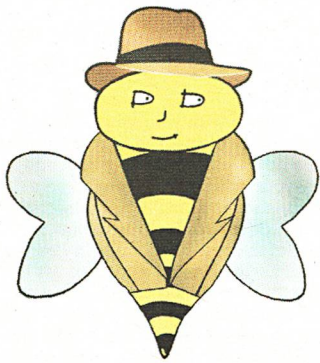
mosphere for everyone. It's not a reason to avoid this fantastic pub, it's just a note of caution - not everyone will be in the same place in their lives as you, i.e. they're more likely to punch you than congratulate you if you get an internship at Goldman Sachs.

If I did ratings, this pub would be in the highest category. Just be aware that this is a great pub with great staff and usually a good atmosphere, but you should take a little care.

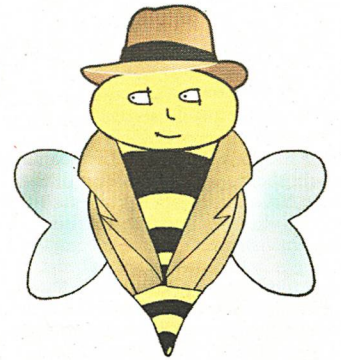
Matthew Worby



The Coach and Horses, Whitefriars Street



PRIVATE B



Alumnus faces Sirtean Death

Postgraduate-Mortem

The LSE Students' Union expressed 'shock' on Thursday with the news that, with six exceptions, every postgraduate student has announced their intention to run for Sabbatical Officer. Citing an unnamed member of the International Relations Department, the B can reveal that the current situation represents the most wide-ranging political schism since the break-up of the former Yugoslavia.

By early Sunday, the Returning Officer had stated his intention to simplify the current electoral system towards a three-candidate ranking maximum, as used in Papua New Guinea. This proposal resulted in an immediate challenge of being extrajudicial, resulting in the threatened secession of an independent SU focused around the New Academic Building. This was spearheaded by a number of typically loony left-wing candidates. This attempt was cancelled once it was revealed that an obscure clause within the NAB contract would have obligated the breakaway union to have been named in honour of the Crown Prince of Bahrain.

Despite withdrawing the proposals for electoral reform, it is now apparent that the voting period will also be extended in order to cope with the ordeal of having to load a three-



Flickr User AMMAR AND RUBBO

hundred page ballot paper. It is believed that the Democracy Committee has prepared 'Plan B' in the event of a 4020-person tie that would see the jointly elected candidates serve concurrent terms of office of approximately ninety minutes until the end of the academic year, splitting the £11,000

salary equally, earning £2.73 over the course of the year.

With over four thousand candidates for a single position, attention has swung around to the unannounced members of the postgraduate community for votes. As five are MSc Econometrics students, lobbying has

therefore focused on an unnamed member of the Economic History Department, who has already declared her intention to vote in favour of RON as mandated by the LSESU Articles of Governance and Bye-Laws. This announcement caused consternation amongst 67 per cent of the candidates,

The syllable savant continues to dominate this organ's illustrious poetry corner. However, we are starting to think that he may have done a Lord Archer...

Union Rubbishô

There was a Postgrad from Nantucket
When campaigning exclaimed
"Now then, f*** it!"
His "Noblesse oblige"
Was...

I've bugged up again haven't I?

most of whom seemed unaware of the existence of such documents.

"I can't believe that we actually have well-defined, logical duties" Chuck Hanra-Hanrahan, a New Hampshire native and Social Policy M.Phil. candidate was quoted as saying, "it really makes a mockery of the sort of thing that the LSESU should be doing, namely, helping me avoid getting a proper job, and I will be sure to take up the issue with whoever I'm supposed to."

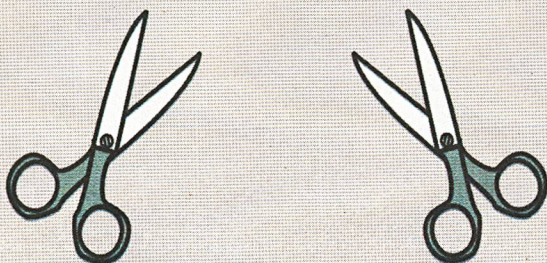
Some other positions are being elected as well.

↳ Tanned Ale

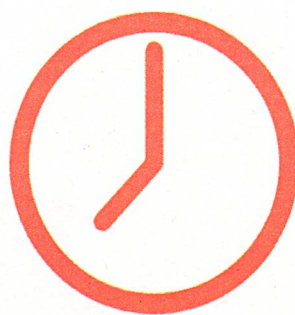
PRIVATE B'S

Cut-out-and-Keep Guide to Making Your Own Satire

1. Hear on the grapevine that a former member of the school has been indicted for war crimes
2. Note that one could flip around the persons involved to humorous effect
3. Write a hilarious column in which a former director of the school is insinuated to have been captured after holding out in the New Academic Building for three weeks with some die-hard loyalists
4. Remember the libel check
5. Reel off some last-minute cack about made-up election statistics

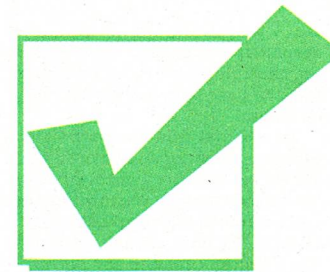


Those election statistics in full



6 minutes

Average time taken to get fed up with campaigning on Houghton Street



2%

Percentage of Goldman Sachs interns voting



4 in 5

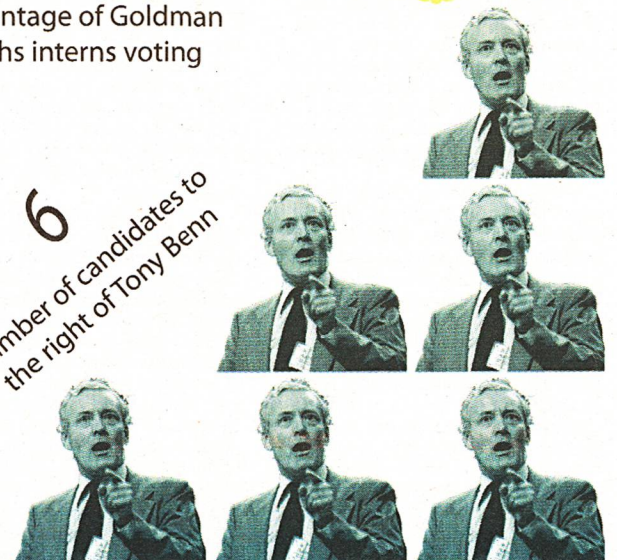
Candidates wake up thinking about themselves

'Fair'

35

Number of candidates using the above word within their manifestos, the rest opted for 'holistic.'

6
Number of candidates to the right of Tony Benn



Features

Nkosi Sikele' iAfrica

Başak Arslan ponders the scramble for African democracy

Africa's long-neglected democracy movement is now under great media attention at home and abroad. This recent awakening is partly influenced by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the "Iron Lady" of Liberia who became the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate along with Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work". Indeed, as the continent's first elected female head of state, Sirleaf represents the hopes of democratisation in Africa. But is this

Political corruption still remains the biggest obstacle.

western dream of Africa as a democratic continent possible to achieve?

Sinking the roots of democratic development in the continent is not an easy task. Only 15 of the 54 countries present at the continent are above the 2010 Democracy Index—an index compiled by the Economic Intelligence—average of the world. The meagerness of democratization is often claimed to be lying in the continent's economic background as the oldest but poorest inhabited continent of the world. However, recent data from the World Bank shows that some parts of the continent are now experiencing a rapid economic growth above the global average rate despite the global economic recession. The fastest nations of 2010 are Congo with a growth at 9.1 per cent and Zimbabwe at 9 per cent. However, the question is whether this economic growth will boost democratization or not?

Political corruption still remains the biggest obstacle between the interactions of the economic growth and democratisation in the continent. An African Union study estimated that corruption costs the continent roughly 150 billion dollars each year whereas the Western aid to the country is approximately 25 billion dollars per year. According to Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz, "Industrialized countries have been enabling corruption in Africa by providing crooked officials with a haven for their money". The 2008 survey of Transparency International, world's leading governmental anti-corruption organization, showed that domestic companies in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia and the United States are the top bribers of the African governments. Interestingly, UK law exempts British companies abroad from prosecution back home, thus throwing the burden to the government of the country in which the bribe took place. Since

most of the bribed African countries are weak and corrupt to the bone, the bribing companies are far from getting prosecuted. The UN Convention Against Corruption, on the other hand, is only signed by three of the African countries. The political corruption of the continent is also related to the high rates of criminal enterprise such as drug smuggling, human trafficking and money laundering in the continent.

South Africa, the strongest country of the continent, exemplifies this African epidemic of corruption. The Democracy Index has given 7.79 points to the country, making it the 30th most democratic country in the world, mainly because of the independent institutions and separation of powers. However, the gigantic problem of corruption in the country remains unsolved, thus undermining the economic and political stability. The South African portmanteau word of "tenderpreneur" (a combination of the words tendering and entrepre-

In the case of Africa, it is important to remember that democracy is far more than the elections.

neur) summarizes the situation in the country: "A tenderpreneur is a government official or politician who uses their powers and influence to secure government tenders and contracts." The high number of "tenderpreneurs" in the country lends favour to the view that South Africa is more of a kleptocracy than a democracy.

Nonetheless, the examples of what can happen under the right leadership still give hope. The example of Botswana is a very promising one. The Democracy Index 2010 of Economic Intelligence Unit's gave the country 7.63 points out of 10, just putting it 0.14 points behind France, the cradle of democracy. The country has always topped the polls as Africa's best-run country for three consecutive years mostly because of its surprisingly low level of corruption. The adoption of multi-party democracy combined with the recent economic development—the average income of the country has tripled in the past two decades—makes

Botswana an "African paradise". The catchword in this example is "diversification". Ghana, another example of the evolution of African democracy, is unique in letting power change hands following the elections in 2009 since it is very rare to observe an opposition party taking the lead in the continent.

In the case of Africa, it is important to remember that democracy is far more than the elections. A proper democracy requires separation of powers, independent courts, maintenance of property equality, a war against corruption, and above all, the rule of law and compliance to human rights. There is a long way to go before the rest of the continent follows the example of Botswana. However, nowadays most of Africa's inhabitants build up their hopes for a better future with the guidance of strong democratic leaderships as in the case of Liberia and Sirleaf.



To sleep, perchance to discover

Edward Larkin considers the neurological research behind dreamland

Understanding consciousness looms large in neuroscience as the holy grail. And indeed, comprehending how we are aware that we are aware has a certain audible allure to it. Francis Crick, who along with James Watson proposed the double helix structure of DNA, devoted most of his late life to neuroscience, seduced by its mystery and potential. Consciousness is deeply intertwined with both learning and memory, and together these topics form the trinity of popular inquiry in neuroscience. Yet for all the labour put into the endeavor, it's often overlooked that we spend more than a third of our lives unconscious – that is, sleeping.

Despite the modern emphasis on consciousness, fascination with sleep has long cultural roots that extend through ancient Greece, more than 2,700 years ago. The Greeks, including Homer, fashioned sleep as deeply tied to death. The god of sleep (Hypnos) was known in mythology as a brother to Death and a son of the goddess Night. Socrates drew upon this relationship in claiming not to be afraid when the Athenians condemned him to death, saying that in the worst-case scenario, it would only be a deep, restful sleep. Another theme in ancient thought was to view sleep as a divine time, where gods and human beings intermingled in the form of dreams. Robert Kennedy was fond of quoting the Greek tragedian Aeschylus in saying, "even in our sleep, pain that cannot forget falls drip by drip upon the soul, until...by the awful grace of God, comes wisdom."

While sleep may seem odd in the abstract, it becomes downright bizarre when viewed through an evolutionary lens. How does sleeping possibly aid us in the eternal goal of avoiding predators and passing on our genes? It would seem to almost accomplish the exact opposite: a state of great vulnerability and no chance to reproduce. Yet sleep is widespread in the natural world – even fruit flies sleep. Despite

this, researchers still haven't figured out the purpose of this peculiar state that quantitatively dominates life more than any other activity. That the basic function of sleep remains a mystery is surprising given the colossal achievements of modern science – we have created a plausible theory about the origins of the universe, traced life back to its most primordial days on earth, synthesized the genome of a living organism, and with the advent of the Large Hadron Collider, are now smashing particles into each other at 99.999999 per cent of the speed of light.

Yet despite its relative lack of glamour when compared with subatomic slug fests in Switzerland, sleep is science's girl next door: easy to overlook at first, but more and more interesting over time. It has resisted easy answers – each theory proposed only begs more questions, both scientific and philosophical.

Established research has found that sleep is deeply tied to the body's defense mechanisms, the immune system. Sleep patterns change during infection in order to help promote fevers. While fevers may feel bad, they are actually indicative of the body marshalling its forces to defeat invaders by preventing them from replicating easily (imagine trying to reproduce in a pot of boiling water and you'll understand). This has led some to propose that immune function is the core necessity of sleep. Other research has found that sleep helps organize experiences and memories obtained while awake. In this way, sleep can be seen as a sort of biological housekeeping – we gluttonously eat up data about the world around us during the day, and only during sleep can we take a moment to cut out the unimportant and efficiently package things.

However, these experimentally valid results don't answer the most basic question: Why do these processes need to occur during sleep? Sleep would seem to be a state of high vulnerability, so why didn't the immune

system and neural clean-up mechanisms evolve to accomplish their functions while we were conscious?

Another novel view is that sleep doesn't actually really occur only on the level of the entire organism – you and I don't sleep, parts of our brain do. For years, scientists thought that sleep was governed by certain brain structures that, like a totalitarian regime, forced the entire brain into sleep. But recent evidence makes sleep seem like more of a free market. Specific brain structures can sleep independently, and they produce the entire state we call sleep as a byproduct, or an "emergent property." This puts sleep in a similar category to consciousness, which most neuroscientists think results somehow from billions of brain cells communicating with each other. According to this line of reasoning, after a particular set of cells is overworked, it tends to enter a sleep-like state. Doing this can slightly nudge other groups close to it to enter a sleep-like state as well.

One major question that emerges from this research is the identity of the actual sleeping unit. A couple of years ago, researchers thought the answer was the cortical column, or large stretches of thousands of neurons in the cortex (the mysterious part of the brain that is likely responsible for human cognition). Recent evidence, however, shows that even individual neurons might sleep. As fascinating as this recent evidence is, it still raises the question of why sleep at the entire organism occurs at all, and why it evolved.

Perhaps the most provocative view is that propounded by Jerome Siegel of UCLA, which relies on concepts best known to basic economics: cost and benefit. Siegel changes some fundamental assumptions, "seeing the glass as half full rather than half empty," as he told me in an e-mail. Instead of emphasizing the lack of consciousness during sleep, Siegel highlights how much more quickly response times occur during sleep as compared to

hibernation. He also challenges the view that sleep is a vulnerable state – perhaps, Siegel says, since scavenging for food is dangerous, sleep prevents us from doing this when the costs outweigh the benefits. The underlying thesis of Siegel's theory, "adaptive inactivity," is that sleep prevents inefficient behavior – when the costs of mating and finding food are higher than the benefits, sleep is a way to conserve energy and prevent needless action. While innovative, this theory is questioned by some in the scientific community, who, in Siegel's words, "have been brought up on the idea of sleep as a mystery concept."

Despite the difficulty of these queries, sleep research has a bright future, driven principally by NeuroVigil, a California-based company founded by Philip Low during graduate school at the Salk Institute in La Jolla (where he had been invited by Francis Crick himself). Dr. Low, a mathematician-turned-neuroscientist, has a penchant for shattering previously accepted wisdom. In 2007, he published a paper that found human-like sleep rhythms in birds – significant given that researchers had previously thought the complexity of mammalian sleep was due to the neocortex, which is absent in birds. With NeuroVigil, Low upped the ante even further – this time in the realm of brain monitoring, which is crucial to future breakthroughs in both sleep research and neuroscience in general. Traditional studies of sleep take place in a hospital, where patients have to spend the night hooked up to a cumbersome cap with many wired electrodes resembling a high-tech Medusa. Low's revolutionary SPEARS algorithm made it possible to immediately analyze brain waves from just one electrode, earning him a one page PhD thesis. The algorithm made it possible for Low and his team to create the "iBrain," a non-invasive wireless device that fits inside a tic-tac box and analyzes brain waves much more effectively and quickly than state-of-the-art devices that are much bulkier. In

fact, the data obtained by the iBrain/SPEARS duo is so good that researchers previously thought this sort of high-resolution data was only possible using electrodes that physically sat on the brain surface – meaning they had to be under the skull.

I interviewed Low, who was excited about the potential of his device to unearth the treasure trove of brain activity during sleep to make fundamental breakthroughs in neuroscience. Presymptomatic detection of diseases like Alzheimer's, depression, epilepsy, Parkinson's and Schizophrenia (among others), have all been shown to produce different patterns during sleep than the normal brain. Low has titanic ambitions for the company, and many seem persuaded: he holds dual appointments at Stanford and MIT, and the company has won awards from the likes of the Washington Post and Fast Company, in addition to garnering a seed valuation more than double that of Facebook and Google combined.

Thus, the fascinating scientific queries on sleep may be primed for breakthroughs in the near future. Yet the philosophy of sleep poses queries that may resist easy answers. Why does one regain consciousness after a night of sleep, and why are they the same person when they wake up? Are they the same person? Is there even one "consciousness" that can be said to have continuity in the first place?

Researchers are working around the clock to dust off the cobwebs of our evolutionary past and unearth why this bizarre yet overwhelmingly common practice came to be. In the mean time, we'll continue our daily lives, acting in each of our individual dramas, dealing with the strange realities of 21st century life. And every night we'll retire, with only a vague trust that when it's over – when the requisite mental machinations are finished, whatever they may be – we'll wake up on the other side. ☞



A bloody end

Gurdeep Chhina examines the fall of the “maddog” of the Middle-East

Not long after news broke of Gaddafi's death, the media, both online and televised, became saturated with images of Gaddafi's wounded, dead body. Obviously the images were supposed to evoke shock in order to put forward the significance of the event they depicted. What is more telling though, is if these images are laid side by side with images of Gaddafi embracing Tony Blair and shaking hands with Gordon Brown. Only a couple of years old, the

share intelligence. The CIA would help the Libyan authorities track down dissidents who opposed the regime in exchange for Libya's use for their 'extraordinary renditions'. This is the transfer of suspects from the USA to different countries where treatment of them can fall outside of American human rights laws.

So what changed this year to make Gaddafi condemnable and for it to be acceptable to parade pictures of his dead body with the headline 'This one's for Lockerbie'? I mean, there is

no way that Gaddafi is a defensible figure; that is not the question. It's why he was tolerated for so long. Yes, living standards under his rule were better than in other North African countries, but this doesn't really justify his regime.

It is unfortunate that it took the impetus of the Arab revolutions for Gaddafi to be finally rejected by the international community. Was it the force of toppling autocratic regimes that pushed the UN to instigate a 'no fly zone' over Libya and send aid to

concerns that if Gaddafi was killed whilst not in combat then killing him would have been a war crime.

What does the death of such a wanted man entail for Libya's future though? There are still many unresolved issues. Clashes between secularists and Islamists may follow and there are also fears of tension between inhabitants in different cities within Libya. There is great pressure on the Interim government to get things right now.

The remarks of the interim Prime

coming interim government that the economic rule should be the rule. It's very dangerous to have contracts based on politics." His words can be read as a warning to those Western countries that stepped in to see the downfall of Gaddafi. Jibril wanted to make it clear that none would be receiving favours as far as oil contracts were concerned. More sceptical commentators have claimed that this was a big reason for intervention in the first place.

The thing that is most striking about Gaddafi's death is the nature of



Flickr user: vectorportal

latter images make you think; what happened? Why are we bombarded by so many images of his corpse when he was seen cheering on stage with none other than Nelson Mandela only three years ago?

It is certainly not the case that all of Gaddafi's crimes took place within the last two years, which is what one might assume given his sudden fall from grace. Gaddafi went from being internationally well established to being wanted for crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. But his ethnic cleansing and denial of freedom of expression dates back to the beginning of his rule; he was tolerated by much of the international community. In fact it was more than tolerance.

The Libyan intelligence services had links with the CIA and both would

Isn't there something almost primitive in the way people are rejoicing at the sight of his corpse?

rebel troops? Perhaps it was the series of revolutions which made it justifiable to intervene in Libya, and not in, say, Zimbabwe.

There is also something cold about the way images of Gaddafi's corpse have become so forcibly well recognised. Isn't there something almost primitive in the way people are rejoicing at the sight of his corpse? Perhaps it's just my naivety and it's a mark of how oppressive his regime was that Libyans were seen celebrating in the meat market where his body was being stored.

Even if you were to feel some sort of satisfaction or catharsis at the sight of his dead body, surely the controversy surrounding the ex-Libyan Leader's death may take away the feeling that it was a 'clean cut' victory for justice? Amnesty International have raised

Minister Mahmoud Jibril were determined to show that Libya was heading

One day Gaddafi's crimes were tolerated, the next they weren't.

in the right direction. "I can advise the

his fall. The speed with which he was declared wanted for crime against humanity, when only a few years before he was so accepted and was seen casually brushing shoulders with world leaders. It took a whole region of the world to reject their leaders in order to render Gaddafi no longer tolerable. The unfortunate thing is that none of this was about justice or human rights; the world was forced to react to the people's demands. On the international stage, what is acceptable and what isn't changes quickly. One day Gaddafi's crimes were tolerated, the next they weren't. ☛

You've got the power

John Peart contemplates students as consumers and the challenges of student engagement

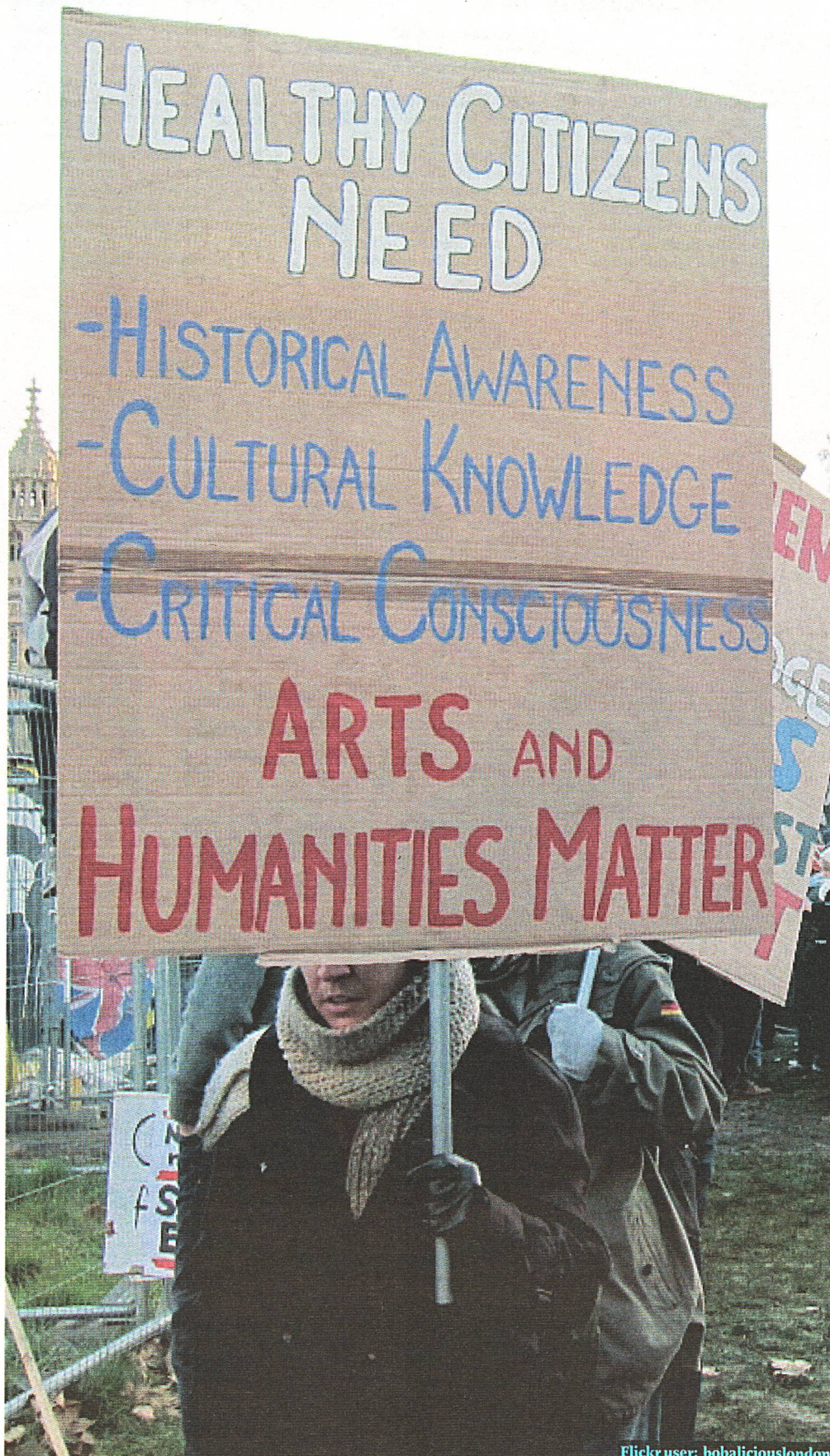
Over the last decade, universities have changed dramatically. Only 50 years ago, the average student would have been English, white, upper-middle-class, male, aged 18-25 and on an undergraduate degree programme. Today, there are record numbers of students entering higher education, ever increasing numbers of postgraduates and mature students, and international students flocking to the UK as a centre of excellence in the sector. Back then, students were on full grants, faced no upfront fees and left university without a single penny of debt to their name. Now, students are facing eye-watering levels of debt and are becoming more demanding of their institutions in the wake of a review of funding that has shaken the sector to the core. The higher education landscape is totally different from that of the 1960s.

And yet with all this change, one area remains the same; the sector still doesn't know how to talk to students. Sure, we have the National Student Survey (NSS) and other lacklustre surveys that try and gauge the temperature of student opinion, but when it actually comes to meaningfully engaging with students in their widest sense, institutions – both universities and students' unions – are still broadly failing to engage on the critical issues that students care about. Simple but vital areas like assessment and feedback, organisation of courses, resourcing and management, to name a few. And more than this, they are still failing to engage the sections of the student body that have always been unheard, like part-time students, distance learners and others who don't fit into the traditional vocal minority.

The problem at the core of this issue is diversity. The mechanisms we use to engage students were designed for our parents and grandparents – a homogenous system designed for a homogenous group of students. If there's one thing the student body isn't in 2011, it's homogenous. There is massive diversity – a "hyper-diversity" – among the student body that these rigid structures fail to encompass. We know this is a problem; and we can see it in our own university.

There is a "hyper-diversity" among the student body that these rigid structures fail to encompass

There is growing discontent within the student body about issues not being effectively raised or solved around course quality, growing disbelief around how poor the turnout is in the Students' Union's democratic processes like the Union General Meeting, and growing dissatisfaction in other areas too. And a lot of these issues are



Flickr user: bobaliciouslondon

hidden by large quantitative surveys like the NSS because they can't be rated on a '1-10' scale or simply because the question isn't there. The debate however is about how to reform these mechanisms so that they are fit for their purposes or even if the mechanisms are the problem at all; is it the questions we are asking that are the real problem? I put it to you that if the questions are wrong, then the mechanisms are to blame, and that the way to fix them is not by piecemeal

consultations or knee-jerk reactions. There isn't a quick and sure-fire answer to this problem.

The hyper-diversity of the student body isn't going away – nor would we want it to – but this makes the challenge of listening to students all the more problematic with each passing year. One thing you used to be able to rely on at LSE was engagement; at least with the Students' Union. Our Students' Union has been at the forefront of the student movement

for decades and our campus has seen the creation of some of the most revolutionary forces in our society. So why is it we're still using a weekly meeting and portraying this as the only way we can engage students with issues? Moreover, why does the school still use "liaison committees" with dozens of students on them as the main way to get feedback on the quality of courses, many of whom are unelected and unrepresentative, filled with people that nobody knows how to

contact and mostly don't work? We've created structures at this university that engage the few, that ostracise the silent majority and ultimately give the university answers they look for rather than the answers they need.

The challenge for universities like LSE, and students' unions like our own, is to ensure they don't just cater to the "bread-and-butter" easy-to-engage students, but actively seek involvement from the silent majority. And it's important to do this because it's what students want. Research into the divergence between how involved students feel they are in shaping their course, and how involved they would like to be, shows a complete contrast. In a sample of 2400 undergraduate students conducted by NUS and HSBC, 21 per cent felt that they were not at all involved in shaping their course, and only five per cent felt very involved. When asked how involved they would like to be, those numbers reversed, with five per cent wanting less involvement or none at all and 21 per cent wanting to be actively involved.

The trend of opinion in the sector – at least among vice-chancellors and Government ministers – is that students are consumers of their education; they are paying customers with needs and demands. If that's true then surely this should be a top priority with benefits for all parties concerned?

Today's students are expecting

Students' unions should not just cater to "bread-and-butter" easy-to-engage students

more. They are expecting systems that shape around them, not that they have to fit in to. And while it's nice holding a focus group or an open meeting, it doesn't give people the flexibility to engage in the system in the way they want or deserve. Today's students have more demands on their time than ever before, between working on their course, working part-time, parental commitments and so much more, that these traditional ways of engaging students just don't cut it anymore and they make antiquated systems of engagement like LSE's look even more redundant.

And so herein lies the challenge; representation of the student voice is hard to achieve, so how do you do it? I'm not going to give any answers here, because I don't have them, but I do know that there must be a better way to engage students with shaping their learning experience and shaping their university. Institutions must challenge themselves to step up, to find more ways to engage those students who still don't get a voice and to make themselves as open and transparent as possible. It's time to step into the 21st century. ☘

Just a few projects from across the School that have been supported by the LSE Annual Fund

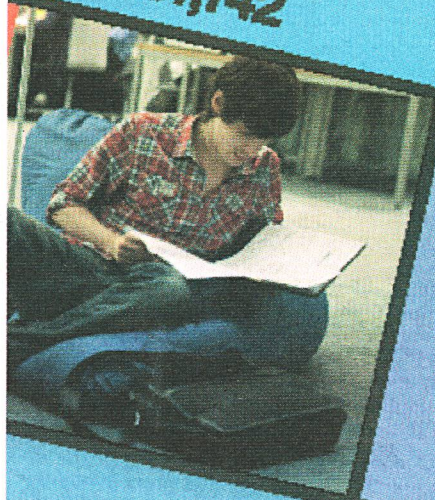


PHOTO PRIZE EXHIBITION
£6,272

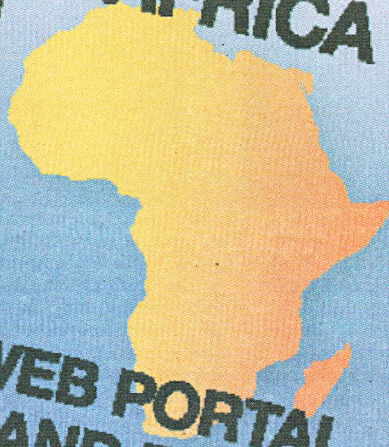
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£25,000



LIBRARY BEAN BAGS
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AFRICA



WEB PORTAL AND BLOG
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LSE

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Deadline 18 November
Email: annualfund@lse.ac.uk

Taxation without Representation

Alex Haigh takes a look at the oldest colony in the world, Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has legally been a constituent part of the USA for over a century, yet few people off the island really know of its political status. The third most populous island in the Caribbean, with almost 4 million inhabitants, is known as a country for some, a territory for others and the oldest colony in the World to the rest.

Originally named San Juan Bautista, Puerto Rico was established as a Spanish Colony in 1493 after Columbus' second voyage to the West Indies, and the Spanish had set about causing the systematic destruction of the original indigenous Taino population of 50,000 through war, forced labour and disease. So extreme was the destruction of the population that King Carlos I emancipated the remaining population in 1520, fewer than 30 years after colonisation.

Puerto Rico, "Rich Port" in English, was one of Spain's most important and strategic colonies for four centuries. It was not until the Treaty of Paris in 1898, the culmination of the Spanish-American War, that the Spanish lost the colony. The four-month-long war was a result of US intervention, supposedly in support of the Cuban independence movement. However, the US desired land in the Caribbean to serve as outposts for its burgeoning Navy so the treaty, while relinquishing Spanish claims to the Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Guam, did not provide immediate self-determination to any of the colonial possessions.

The war that erupted in the Philippines against US occupation resulted in the deaths of up to around 1.5 million Filipinos - the vast majority civilians. The USA would not deliver independence to the Philippines until 1946. In Cuba, occupation was brief and independence was delivered in 1902 but the country remained under a US sphere of influence, which included a law enshrined in Cuba's new constitution that America had a right to intervene when US citizens' interests were in danger in Cuba. Guam, along with Puerto Rico, is still under the ultimate control of the US government.

Until 1947, Puerto Ricans were given the right to elect their own

House of Representatives but the Governor of the island was chosen by the US. Any public dissent against US rule was crushed, including a Puerto Rican Nationalist march in 1937, where unarmed protesters were shot dead by US backed troops. Law 53 (also known as the "Gag Law") was passed in 1948, which made it illegal for anyone on the island to fly a Puerto Rican flag, talk about independence or sing songs about independence.

The 'Gag Law' made it illegal to talk or sing about independence

Although hopes of independence have been suppressed, Puerto Ricans are allowed some benefits of its partial union with the USA. For instance, under the Jones Act of 1917, Puerto Ricans born after 1899 are given US citizenship. In 1947, the US allowed Puerto Ricans to elect their own governor from 1947 onwards; Puerto Rico has been a Commonwealth and an "unincorporated territory" of the US but still holds no power in the federal government. Puerto Rico has seen significant economic growth due to its free trade with the US and tourism from America, and it now boasts one of the highest GDP per capita in the Caribbean.

Puerto Rico is "a territory appurtenant and belonging to the United States, but not a part of the United States." Much like its description, its political status appears, at least partly, colonial. Puerto Rico only has a non-



Flickr user: Alex Barth

voting resident commissioner in the federal House of Representatives and no representative in the Senate. While Puerto Ricans pay federal taxes, import and export taxes, Social Security and Medicare, they receive only 15 per cent of the Medicaid funding they would receive if Puerto Rico were a state, and they do not receive Supplementary Security Income - extra pensions for the particularly needy - as part of their Social Security repayments. Also, all federal laws that are not inapplicable

in Puerto Rico automatically become law on the island without having to be ratified by the local government.

Despite this federal taxation without federal representation, the independence movement has been waning in recent decades. The Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño (PIP), which campaigns for independence from the US, controlled one fifth of the electorate's vote in 1952 but by 2008 this had plummeted to 2 per cent. Even statehood, a move supported by the

Partido Nueva Progresista (PNP), does not seem to be supported by a majority of Puerto Ricans. The status quo has been protected by plebiscite for the last four decades. However, these plebiscites have been criticised for bias by the pro-statehood and pro-independence movement, both of which boycotted the first plebiscite.

Puerto Rico is "a territory appurtenant and belonging to the United States, but not a part of the United States."

In June 2011, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization passed a move, put forward by Cuba's delegate to the UN, to hold a referendum on the issue to "allow Puerto Ricans to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence." Declared on the 4th October by Puerto Rico's Governor Luis Fortuño a two-step plebiscite will be held in August of next year. By this time next year, we could see an extra star on the Stars and Stripes. ☛



Flickr user: Oquendo

You can click but you can't hide

Sanni Nissilä is baffled by the missing link between technology and the law

For those of you hoping that I have an answer to how to live with less technology, I don't. By no means am I a technological wonder child of any sort, but the more technology I get my hands on, the less I want to let it go. So my simple advice is think very carefully before selling yourself to any item of technology that does anything remotely useful. Because, once you use it, there is no turning back.

Some would say I am very much a latecomer to Internet on mobile phones, but I know people without this still exist out there, possibly even at the LSE. It has almost driven me to insanity. I don't have a clue about the settings it changes on my phone, what my usage is or what on earth all of the 10 possible Internet access points are (or WAP, who can tell the difference?). However, after first being able to set up e-mail on it, I now refuse to let go, to the point of chasing down Nokia repairs in Finland, my Internet provider and multiple workers at multiple Carphone Warehouses when it stops

working. My only point in all this is to prove how easily we become addicted

My only point in all this is to prove how easily we become addicted to any extra technology

to any extra technology we manage to get our hands on.

Where will this end? I suppose as new things come in, old ones fade out - in the last few months the only Walkman player I have seen was in a 10-year old film. But I feel that new technology is coming in faster than we are giving it time to fade. Is it possible that one day there will be so much technology that it will be impossible to coordinate what we use? I am currently finding it difficult enough to remember who to WhatsApp and who to text.

My issue with new technology is not that it is overwhelming me personally, and many may argue that as technology advances it also converges, until one device will do everything and co-ordinate by itself, but this convergence doesn't come without its own problems. As all devices become able to do everything, this means content will also be shared between them. This means we may hold the same music file on our phone, mp3 player, computer, etc. Even if the file was originally legally purchased, it does not mean we have a right to copy it, even for personal use, and by sharing

it between your devices, it means you have now breached copyright. Also the side-loading of content, meaning

Even if the file was originally legally purchased, it does not mean we have a right to copy it

using the file for something different than its original purpose (such as

music used as a ringtone), means the industry will only gain a fraction of the royalties it should.

The law has not yet caught up with the world, as it has not found an adequate way of dealing with digital information. The main issues are that digital information is non-rivalrous and infinitely scalable. This means that it can be in multiple places at the same time, and taken or copied an infinite number of times without depriving the original owner of their information. Current law on theft is framed around physical goods, framed around an idea of depriving the victim when taking their property from them, but how does this apply to situations where something is indeed taken, but in no way affects the original copy? Currently the most valuable asset in our society is data and information, but there is no balance on how to protect it without completely restricting personal property rights. ☘



Flickr user: Yutaka Tsutano

Measured musings | Apologies, your highness

The Australian Prime Minister caused a stir this week as she failed to curtsy to the Queen while the latter was on a state visit to Australia. The world was shocked and horrified at this gross negligence of "royal etiquette" (yes, there is such a thing). I mean this can't be looked at as a simple oversight, or an attempt to simply act naturally; her actions have been deemed a political statement. Really?

Much of the media has frowned upon the actions of the Australian Prime Minister this week. The Evening Standard especially was disgusted at Julian Gillard as they pointed out that not only did Gillard fail to

curtsey, but also didn't even bother to wear a hat. It is hard to believe, but she actually did have the nerve to show her bare head to the Queen. I think the Daily Mail makes a fair point when they point out that if a 6ft 8in female basketball player could find it within her to curtsy, then Gillard really had no excuse. I don't actually know her exact height to make a direct comparison, but she is definitely shorter.

To consult expert advice here, we can look to June Dally-Watkins, who is apparently an Australian "royal etiquette expert." Yes, that is an actual position; you can't make this stuff up. According to Dally-Watkins (and of course how can you not agree?), Gillard's whole career will be over-

shadowed in sight of this error. There is also an Australian Monarchists league, whose chair was also dismayed at this painful display of disrespect.

The Australian Prime Minister is a member of a party that has republican beliefs, so why kick up a fuss? Because she didn't do the lady-like thing. Is it fair to scrutinise her behaviour? Surely her fundamental beliefs must be respected?

Etiquette that surrounds the royal family can seem baffling at times. There is royal protocol against touching the queen. Now, I'm not advocating it but surely it's going a bit far labelling Paul Keating, a former Australian Prime Minister, the "lizard of Oz", for placing his arm around

the Queen as he introduced her to fellow politicians. A similar spate of controversy was caused when First Lady Michelle Obama actually hugged the Queen.

I'm sure, though, that the many pictures of the Queen and the Australian Prime Minister in their coordinated clothing, laughing and smiling together, will quell fears that the relationship between the monarch and Australia has been ruined.

It's not the royal family's existence that I'm against; it's the presence of this attitude that condemns slight deviation from royal protocol. To quote Dally-Watkins again, "Women should know better. That is a real no-no. You always have to curtsy

to the Queen. Sometimes, obviously for a man, you get to do a little bob of acknowledgement." Wouldn't most people agree that this is an outdated view? Yes, we have the monarchy, and certain traditions and protocols should be respected, but the Queen is still human after all, so we should just let some things go.

Gurdeep Chhina
Features Editor



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

HOUR
BY HOUR

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11:00	Delivery	Gender Agenda	Soapbox	Foreign News Hour	Al-ja-Pulse
12:00	Quarter-Life Crisis	Borderline Heroes	Judith & Dan	London Calling	Yesterday Today
13:00	Emmio & Bellio	Roll Sound...Action	Blazin' Quad	Menaga A Trois	Sammy Sultan Show
14:00	Late Lunch with Elliot & Pippa	Desi Hour	BabbaG And The Wasabi Pea	Rachel + Anne = Ranne	Get The Blues Out Of Your Soul
15:00	Club 511	Kate & Katie	Better Than Going To The Gym	The Dog House	Mike & Xtina Show
16:00	Can You Live With Josh?	If You're Feeling Sinister	Some Girls Don't Know Dey Alphabets, Some Girls Do	Hard On	Hillary Donnell
17:00	Catherine's Horse	Hugh With Ricketts	Asian Pop	Guilty Pleasures FM	Kwame Army
18:00	The Smell of Napalm	Season Affective Disorder	Mega Bytes	Modern Electric	
19:00	Ziko Thompson	Piratefunk	Oo-er, Zutter	Cutler's Choice	

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Social

London's Fro-Yo No-No's

All-American girl, **Chloe Cotoulas**, on her lack-lustre experience at London's favourite, Snog

Flickr user: Harry Vale

Recently, I was walking down the street in London when I spotted a place on the other side of the road called "Snog." The name seemed only vaguely familiar (and no, not in the context of snogging as referred to in Harry Potter) but I had, for some reason, heard of the place before. I would later realise that someone had told me to go there. So, I crossed the street and just from the sight of the cup-like bowls I knew what it was; the most divine creation one can ingest (when created correctly that is): frozen yogurt.

I stood in front of Snog in a state of euphoria. The surrounding noises waned to a faint murmur and each cup of yogurt seemed to have a milky corona around it. They were beautiful, topped with decadent crumbings, each fro-yo cup perfectly brimming with sweet swirls... but then it hit me. Each cup was too perfect. They lacked the blemishes of fro-yo constructed by someone erratically trying to decide which to take more of-

Chocolate Mint Cookie or Devil's Food Cupcake Batter- and then having a last minute change of heart, filling the bowl until fro-yo spills over the side. No, these frozen yogurts were devoid of emotion, feeling, desire. In other words, they were constructed by people behind the counter. Despicable.

Amid my internal apocalypse, I heard a voice. Was it the Fro-yo Fairy coming to show these aimless souls the way? No, it was a woman standing outside the store handing out cards and repeating, "Get your card for a free sample!" She nudged me with one of her demonic cards. I thought to myself, "Nah, they are not giving cards out and trying to lure people into the store with a free sample size cup of fro-yo, as in the kind that is supposed to be." So, I queued up and when I got to the register I asked, "What do one of these cards get me?", hoping that they would offer something more than a paltry sample cup. The (incredibly stylish and edgy) man disappeared into the back and emerged with.... dum....dum... dumm....a sample

cup of tart yoghurt! I could not decide which was more egregious: the fact that they advertise free sample size cups of yogurt as something that you need a coupon for or that this man had gotten me tart flavored fro-yo. Right after I stormed out of the

Chloe's two schools of fro-yo fro-losophy:

The School of Snog

- Provides usually three (or four if you're lucky) very basic flavours
- Most of the time, these flavours are tart (plain yogurt), chocolate, and some flavor trying desperately to assert its healthiness (e.g. Green Tea, Passion Fruit, etc.)
- All construction of the fro-yo is done behind the counter by employees
- Can sample flavours, but only if you are willing to endure the judgmental glare of the employee you must ask to get you the sample
- Pay fixed price according to how many topping you choose to have added on

The School of Yogurtland

- Provides at least ten flavours at all times, usually a split between tart and sweet flavors
- Flavours rotate and change seasonally, but have been known to include, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake, Red Velvet Cupcake Batter, Blood Orange Tart, Guava Pineapple Tart, Oatmeal Cookie etc.
- All construction of the fro-yo - both dispensing of the yogurt and adding of the toppings - is done by the customer
- Sample cups are readily available by the dispensers for customers and taking samples is encouraged
- The cup is weighed at the register to assess the final price of the product (typically, stores charge per ounce)

shop, I poked my tongue into the overly-airy-too-gritty-insipid frozen yogurt (if you can call it that) and it quickly recoiled back in to my mouth. I was sure to accompany such a hideous reaction with an equally repellent face and a sound that was translatable to every language. Then, I made a show of holding the (mostly full) cup of tart yogurt in front of me as if it were radioactive as I searched the streets for a garbage bin.

This story does end on a sweet note: while looking for a garbage can (there are a lot less than you would

think), I came across a McDonald's, and we all know (or should know) what that means: ice cream! The 59 pence cone was absolutely delicious (if you are not already aware of McD's greatest offering, consider yourself enlightened).

So in sum, Yogurtland is still the preeminent fro-yo outlet, Snog is just a cheap imitation and McDonald's ice cream can mend all problems.



Flickr user: Magnus D



Laura Aumeer on the LSE's career fairs

Photo: LSE Student Union

The queues snake along Houghton Street and everyone is dressed up, eagerly waiting. There are tense moments: did they just push in? Do they realise how long you've been there waiting? Could you even sneak in? No, it's not the opening of a new Primark, the American Apparel sale or the arrival of an X-factor contestant; it's the start of an LSE careers fair.

For many an LSE student, the start of the academic year brings an ominous deadline: 'apps' (and no, not in the 'download from the Apple App Store' sense). To help those feeling fearful, stressed or just plain ambitious, there are the careers fairs and networking events. Yet, as I started working at one last week, I realised the madness they throw up as well.

Maybe it is meant to indicate how

hard it is to get a job, but the fairs are also ridiculously hard to physically get into. It's necessary to book a time slot the week before, in a rush that resembles the scramble for Glastonbury tickets. With fairs hot, crowded and often fully booked, it's understandable that you have to enter in the time-slot you booked for. Or so you would think. For there will always be those who try and get in before the fair even opens, without having booked a slot, and even those who trek down desperately from other universities - Imperial and suchlike - only to be turned away. And those who can't seem to accept the fact they have to wait, and bypass accidentally (or sometimes rather less so) the queue only to be sent to the back of the line. Students have even tried sneaking in through the back entrance. Breaking into a careers fair: not quite the edgy crime you would brag about.

After the tears and tantrums of the queues, there is then the dress code to worry about. With staff having to act like bouncers at Chinawhite, if you look like you're going to the gym and not a board meeting, you may get turned away.

So you've got your confirmation, navigated the queues, dressed to impress, and had your LSE ID swiped to get in. Hard part over? Hardly. This is it, your one chance to meet the employers at Goldman Sachs: to find out what they are really looking for. Amongst the heat and crowds that resemble Boxing Day sales, you're standing there, CV in hand, mere feet away from your dream job. There's the elbow pushing, the fear that everyone else seems so much more clued up and waiting (again). Eyes narrowed, you look at who else is talking to the company you're interested in - the enemy.

They may be perfectly nice people, but those that seem confident...well, you sort of will them to suddenly lose their voice...permanently.

Finally you get to the front - you've made it at last. But what do you say, what can you ask and what, at the end of the day, can you get out of this very brief encounter, apart from some free chocolates and pens? Well, you can find out more about the scheme, employment process or recruitment events coming up. But think of the queues, the stress, the people being turned away...what makes people go to such lengths to meet someone from HR or who has only just started the graduate programme themselves? Your conversation will be brief, and in an environment which is crowded and hardly private. You're not going to be told that magic formula to help you get the job after a secret wink and

handshake.

Maybe it is the kind of person the fair attracts that creates this high-tension atmosphere. The fairs are focused around competitive industries - such as banking or consultancy - and I doubt I need to go into the stereotypes for LSE students interested in those jobs. In some ways, when looking at other people at the careers fairs, you see the "typical" LSE student: serious, competitive, business-like and quite likely to be a post-graduate or international student. LSE's stereotypes clearly aren't the same as Leeds Met's stereotypical students. And also maybe it says something about the jobs on show - to be perfectly honest, when a company is giving out free energy drinks, it makes me wonder what exactly they're saying about the working life there.

HOUGHTON ST HEADACHES

This week, our Agony Aunt answers your questions on tight dresses, library nightmares and other hairy situations...

Q My boobs are too big for my nethall dress, but I'm too embarrassed to ask for a larger one. Breathing is extremely difficult. Help!

A Have you not seen Mean Girls? Get a pair of scissors and cut holes in the front of your dress. Not only will you be channelling the great Regina George, but you'll have a lot more room to exhale. Most importantly, you make a fashion statement that says, "I'm tragic and lack the ability to request a bigger size dress."

Q Recently, I have noticed that it is becoming increasingly difficult to locate a free computer in the library. What is the correct etiquette when running for one?

A Running? No. Please no. I have strong sentiments on this - especially after a rather messy encounter I experienced yesterday. As I was sauntering down the stairs, nonchalantly scanning the room in my perma-search for good-looking post grads / potential husbands, I was practically thrown to the ground as I was overtaken by a particularly keen

first year. I mean, I didn't actually end up face down on the ground, as I was trampled by this overly-enthusiastic, and downright rude person as he sprinted to the closest free computer. But, I might as well have been.

Honestly, if you think running for a computer is acceptable, you need to chill right out. You need to hire someone to wait in the library and sit at a computer which, if at any time you decide you need to do some casual Facebook stalking in between lectures, you can use. I'm surprised that seeing as you are so concerned about missing out on a computer, you haven't already thought of this.

Q Is it socially acceptable to wear fur? It's getting rather chilly now, but I don't want people to think I'm a blood-thirsty animal hater. Should I just ditch it?

A What is wrong with you? Fur is glorious. I often wear my floor-length mink coat around campus. It makes me feel like I'm the Ice Queen. Not to mention it stops complaining about the temperature. For those who criticise it as being barbaric, I simply ask them how having yet another cold-induced chest infection is going.

Got a question that can't be answered by Alwyn Young or Judith Shapiro?

E-mail our team at social@thebeaveronline.co.uk, and address it to our **AGONY AUNT** or **AGONY UNCLES** for free, anonymous advice.

October's not so special

As Black History Month draws to a close, **Sakina Badamasui** considers its significance

This isn't the article I wanted to write. You see, I started off penning a piece about Chinese people in ancient Africa, narrating the stories of Du Huan and Zheng He, who were brave soldiers that made fascinating journeys to the continent almost 1500 and 600 years ago, respectively. You're supposed to be reading a tale of battles and intrigue as the different cultures clashed in unlikely circumstances yet eventually formed alliances whose reverberations are still felt today.

But I couldn't write that. At least not until I was able to justify using the narrative to mark an occasion, the effectiveness of which I doubt. I mean, the celebration of Black History Month moves what I see as a necessary part of British culture further away from mainstream acceptance. When we convince ourselves that Black History (a term which is open to many interpretations) is a narrative worth celebrating during only one month of the year, we are consenting to the fact that there is a certain ghetto-isation of African, Caribbean and even Asian history in today's society. This thinking needs to be reversed, and urgently too. Many people will counter by saying that there are a lot of things to be learned about the history of "black" people and any opportunity available to do this must be embraced. Yet even from this viewpoint, it's hard to see any substantial encouragement towards embracing such an important fabric of British society, either through civic recognition or by broadening the national school curriculum.

Black History Month has never been given any official nationwide status, or any centralized government financial support. Is it then a surprise that the event is continuously struggling for survival? Mayor of London, Boris Johnson (or "The Bor", as I fondly call him), clearly demonstrated his priorities early last year by almost completely slashing the funding for black history events from £132,000 to just £10,000. He eradicated the budget for Africa Day altogether and invested the money in a new "USA Day" and a boost to St George's Day instead.

But wait, there's more. As if his street cred wasn't already reaching stratospheric heights, this year (just before the Mayoral elections), he has launched a Black History Month competition with the London Metro asking us lucky Londoners to vote for our most "Inspirational Black Person" from a mixed list of a media, political and sports stars. Don't get me wrong people, I think "Bleeding Love" was an alright song for Leona Lewis, but if placing her in the same list as great minds like Wole Soyinka and Nelson Mandela isn't derisory, I don't know what is.

Boris Johnson's scheme is just one of the numerous ways that politicians have tried to jump on the "multiculturalism" bandwagon while still enacting contradictory policies. Even from the start, the political origins of the Black History Month were quite obvious. It emerged out of the London Strategic Policy Unit, which established the event as part of the African Jubilee Year in 1987. It was in line with a

wider commitment to "counter racist strategies, to eliminate the practice of racism in every branch of local government activity and its commitment to the cause of human rights and justice." Such a broad reference to racism supports the fact that the founders of the Month intended it to include more than just people of African and Caribbean origin.

We therefore need to ask, if it is an event that is supposed to include the Irish, Asians, Chinese, Vietnamese and others, why is it still called "black?" Even if it goes back to its aims of raising self-esteem among teenagers in minority groups then, surely, to describe people's cultural identity not in terms of their race but what values their various cultures espouse would be a more logical first step? Defining black experience in terms of race generalizes it and allows for negative stereotypes.

But does this mean that we should stop learning about history beyond the borders of Britain altogether? Certainly not. The importance of understanding history in general is not in dispute. The knowledge of one's own ancestral roots as well as those of others helps us shape our own identities and critically engage with the past in order to understand our future. Thus, placing African Caribbean and other non-European figures firmly in the British historical narrative isn't doing a minority group a favour - it is simply telling the truth. And the truth should be spoken every single day, not just in October.

OVERHEARD AT THE LSE

we're always listening...

Person 1: Grant Thornton has a pizza presentation. How cool!

Person 2: They're not even one of the Big Four.

Person 1: I thought they were a chocolate company?

Pakistan Society Elections: Excuse me, who is RON?

Person on Houghton Street: Trading is the be all and end all of life.

First year at Carr Saunders: Are they called Wankside because they're lonely?

Person 1: Do you think they spike this food with like drugs or anything?

Person 2: What? Why would they do that?

Person 1: You know, so they can convert us to Hare Krishna-ism...

Person 2: No man, they're just being generous and giving us free food.

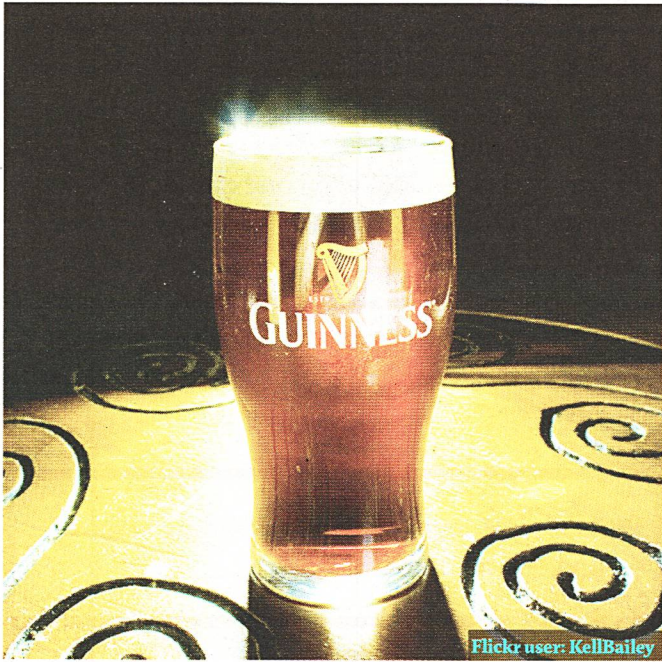
Person 1: This is the LSE, man...there's no such thing as a free lunch.



Flickr user: Abode of Chaos

Society Social Blues

Hira Amin on the over-emphasis on drinking amongst the LSE's societies



Flickr user: KellBailey

After recovering from the heat of the Freshers' Fayre and the phlegm of freshers' flu, the real social life begins at the LSE. As a new postgraduate student, I was determined to sign up to a few new societies. Eagerly awaiting the new e-mails about initial socials, I was shocked to see the dearth in the variety of events each society had on offer. While each one was unique for their

Why not be creative and think outside the box?

cause, they all involved one common factor: meet in the pub for the social.

Since I do not drink and am not comfortable in that environment, I could not attend the socials. Now, here, some may say I am being a prude, but I expect the majority of students to have the maturity, and enough experience of the world, to know that there are people and cultures that do not associate themselves with alcohol. I support the fact that if a society chooses to hold its social in the pub, then that is their choice. However, since the LSE attracts students from around the globe, I expected a range of activities to match.

With such an eclectic crowd, why must all societies conform to socials which are centred around the local pub? Why not be creative and think outside the box? Have a social in one of the many coffee shops scattered around Holborn, get together for pizza and ice-cream or, if you want to be authentically British, fish and chips!? Alternatively, in the spirit of defeating obesity, rather than having the social revolve around food and drink, why not have it based on an activity such as a Wii tournament or paint balling?

I am not asserting that these types

of activities should be organised weekly, but the emphasis on alcohol with every event should be changed. There must be different ways to get to know each other, work together for a cause - and have fun without intoxicants - every week. It seems that the majority of societies blindly follow each other and hold the assumption that people will only be interested if they see the word "alcohol". However, this is simply not true. Speaking to a number of random students while waiting for lectures - in the library and on my course - I found that many shared the same view: there is too much emphasis on alcohol at socials.

So, calling all society leaders (or other members secretly vying for their position next year!): get creative. If you, as a society, advertise more variety in your socials, the crowds will come to you. It doesn't need to be skydiving every week but something simple and unique will attract and maintain more members. Students have come to the LSE for an excellent education and to experience the buzz of London life. It would be a shame indeed if experiences of the buzz of alcohol were all they left with.

Memories from Mexico

Hinal Shah on relaxation, history and adventure in the Yucatán Peninsula

Whether you are a beach fan, a culture enthusiast or an adrenaline-fuelled adventurer, Cancún is the place to go to. The Mexican states of Quintana Roo, Yucatán and Campeche that form part of the Yucatán Peninsula are guaranteed to take your breath away with their vast areas of jungle, ancient Mayan civilisations and miles upon miles of beautiful beaches. After an intense summer internship in the midst of the crises in Europe and the US, I was looking forward to a week of lying on the beach and doing nothing - the perfect start to my final year at the LSE. But, as it was a holiday with my cousins, this didn't quite happen. With just the beach on my mind, I had not bothered reading up about the area surrounding Cancún. This all changed on the ten-hour flight there, when we picked up a guide on the Peninsula and discovered the many things one could do there.

All four of us fell in love with the place as soon as we left the air-conditioned airport lounge and the humid tropical breeze hit us. The view on the drive to our hotel left us totally spellbound. To our right stretched an endless coastline with the most attractive beaches I had seen in a long time. Cancún is infamous for American spring break revellers and I began to see why. The 20-mile stretch of land was dotted with hotels and included all the big global hotel chains you could think of. What really stood out, though, was the architectural magnificence of the hotels. One can tell a lot of money has been spent by the government on infrastructure and security. Just days before we left for Mexico, we read about another discovery of mutilated bodies dumped in a country that has been badly ravaged by the drug wars, but all fears were dispelled as soon as we saw heavily armed marines on the highway, wielding an array of automatic weapons. Despite the region being far away from the troubles in the north, no chances were being taken

and roads leading to the tourist areas were well protected.

We were greeted at the hotel with funky tropical cocktails and the message, "Welcome to the Mexican Caribbean... Just relax and drink tequila!" which is exactly what we ended up doing on the beach. It was nearly evening, so we explored the nearby area briefly and strolled along the beach before heading back to the hotel for some Mexican cuisine. As it was a Sunday, the local people were out with their families on the beach and everyone seemed really relaxed and happy. We spent the next day by the beach, in the ocean and by the poolside soaking in the sun, sipping cocktails, unwinding and planning what to do in the coming days. I was surprised by how easy it was to access the nearby area. It is known as the Riviera Maya, and all the hotels are along one long stretch of road that is served by a 24-hour bus service. A trip to the 'party spot' in the evening, where the clubs and malls are, led us to a tour operator with whom we negotiated some good deals on excursions.

On Tuesday, we set off to Chichen Itza, the largest Mayan city in the area. On the way there, we stopped at a natural sinkhole called a 'cenote,' which is an underground pool of water supplied by the many subterranean rivers flowing in the limestone landscape. Swimming in it was an experience of a lifetime. We were mesmerised by the limestone cave and the cool fresh water. To think that the Mayans used this water a thousand years ago really made it surreal. Chichen Itza has recently been named as one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, and it was obvious why as soon as we caught the first glimpse of the majestic temple that was at the centre of the Mayan civilisation a thousand years ago. The Mayans had a very rich history and possessed amazing architectural skills. Our tour guide told us the story of the city around the temple and why, exactly, the site has been recognised. The temple was built such that during the spring and autumn equinox, in the

late afternoon, one side of the pyramid casts a series of triangular shadows that gives the appearance of a serpent wriggling down the staircase. This represents the feathered-serpent god of the Mayan people called Kukulkan. Nearby was the largest ball court discovered to date, where the royals played the famous ball game, with the winning team being sacrificed to the gods. We picked up some souvenirs at a bargain price and, on the way back, we briefly stopped at Valladolid, one of the first sites where Spanish explorers settled, and the site of the oldest church in Mexico.

We also went scuba diving and witnessed the breathtaking reefs near Isla Mujeres, or the Island of the Women, named after an old local folk tale. As I had never been diving before, I was totally enchanted by this whole new world below the water.

Xel Ha, which is the world's largest natural aquarium, has got to be the best park I have visited due to its beauty. We went up to the start of a river and snorkeled all the way to where the fresh water merges with the seawater. You can actually feel the change in temperature of the water from cool to warm, and see where the waters meet while the many different species of fish and manta rays swim along beneath you. I loved how they had left the park as natural as possible, and only built where absolutely necessary. There were lots of walking trails through the jungle-like backdrop and a beach at the mouth of the river with hammocks where you could siesta in the afternoon sun. You could swim with the dolphins, manta rays and manatees; go for a walk underwater if you pleased; eat all you wanted at the many restaurants; and sip ice-cold Mexican beers while lying on the beach beds facing the water. Truth be told, words cannot describe the aura of this place. Pictures don't do justice either. One has to visit it to really appreciate it and a whole day isn't enough to take in everything.

Playa del Carmen has the best beaches in the region. We spent the

afternoon on the beach and regretted not having stayed here, as it was just so peaceful and perfect.

A stroll along the streets led us to the commercial fifth avenue, which had some of the best shops around. Being a tourist area it was priced quite high, but if you are any good at bargaining, you could walk away with some brilliant goods as memories of your trip.

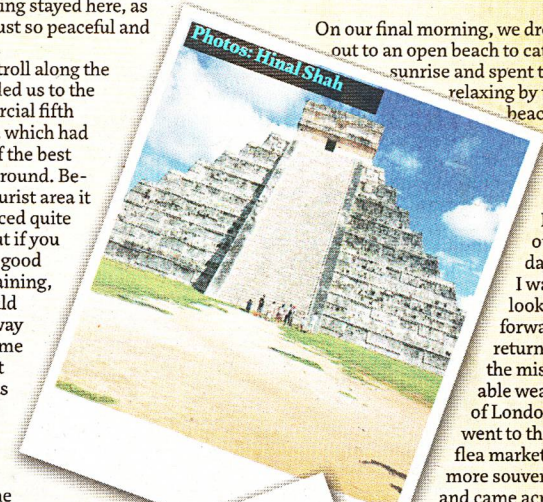
We came across a lovely cigar shop where they made thou-

sands of cigars by hand.

After striking up a conversation and posing for pictures with the gorgeous sales girl, who generously offered me a fine cigar at half price (which I have got to say was amazing), we returned to the beach to stare in silence at the golden sunset in

the horizon.

On our final morning, we drove out to an open beach to catch the sunrise and spent the day relaxing by the beach once



Photos: Hinal Shah

again. It was our last day and I was not looking forward to returning to the miserable weather of London. We went to the local flea market for more souvenirs and came across some amazing crafts as well as the cheap 'original Cuban' cigars we had been warned about the day before. Another round of successful bargaining and we walked back to the hotel with some more memories of the amazing week we had.

We spent the evening enjoying the breeze from the ocean and chatting away. Victor and Armando, our favourite hotel staff, who were always bringing us drinks and telling us to eat more of the delicious food, brought us some local Tequila shots as we sat back and reflected upon our week in paradise.

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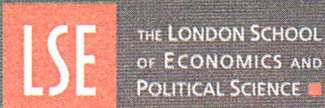
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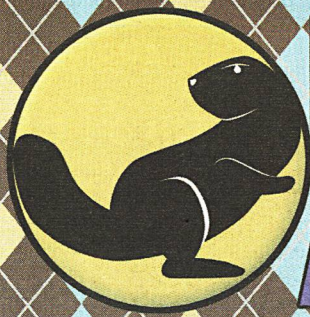
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LSE
AU
ATHLETICS
UNION

PUB GOLF 2011

Ladies and gents, boys, girls and inbetweeners,

This week sees the return of the infamous AU Pub Golf - 9 holes with a myriad of drinks that you would never sensibly decide to consume in one outing. For those who survive, congratulations in advance and for those who don't - there's always next year. Make sure you partner up and keep up to date with the information as to what your team's doing. We'll be teeing off at 8pm, Wednesday 26th October at the Tuns.

Be there.

Match Report

The First Fight: LSE Boxing Club

Akinyemi Apampa

In the underground maze of brick tunnels and unused lockers that is the Old Building basement you will find many things: abandoned trainers saturated with sweat and beginning to mold; overworked academicians, pale-faced from lack of sunlight and want of social interaction; by some accounts there is an old crazy man living there who sports a head of frizzy hair, carries with him a conspicuous green book and refers to himself as 'the colonel' - he sleeps, they say, on the hastily shredded accounts of the defunct Global Governance department. But every now and again you will come upon a treasure. More specifically every Tuesday and Friday at 6pm. That is the LSE Boxing Club.

On Friday night the club had their first fight of the year at The Coronet Theatre. Coached by Ian Streetley and captained by Tomek Bulinski the LSE boxers fought alongside big names such as former British Heavyweight Boxing Champion Julius Francis. First up should have been captain Bulinski unfortunately his opponent took one look at the Polish puncher and wisely

backed out. Disappointing as this was everybody's real sympathy lies with the unfortunate athlete who will have to face him in even better shape in November. LSE Boxing veteran Chris Baugh had no fewer than two fighters pull out on him. I almost can't blame them - they wouldn't have been in the ring for long anyway.

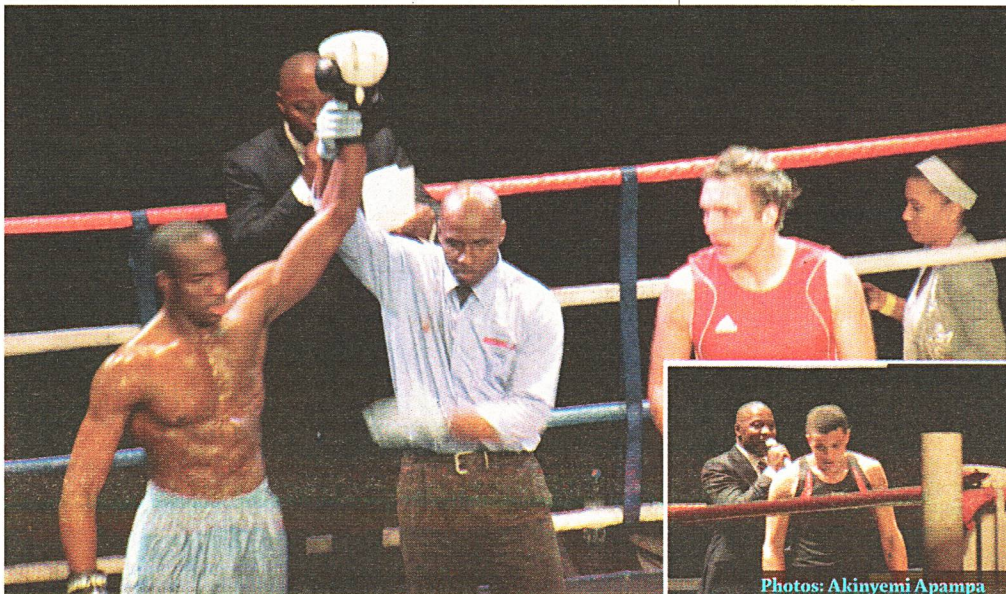
Next was Vishal Gudhka. Vishal was sharp and mean throwing flurries to head and body. He caught his opponent with a number of big clean rights and to be frank had it not been for the ridiculous full facial head guard his opponent was donning I think things would undoubtedly have gone the other way. As it was Vishal had a great first fight, worked relentlessly until the final bell, but came up short on points. Then ex-LSE, city boy Chuma Bruno Unwoka gave the crowd and his opponent a classic lesson in the art of boxing. Winning his second bout unanimously on points Chuma could be found skipping in the changing room post-fight ready to take on another.

Jen Rajakariyar came out oozing confidence bobbing and weaving and coming up with hooks that shook. I don't think anyone realized this was his first fight and his more experienced

opponent didn't look half as good. Jen went at it for three fast paced rounds and lost on points but more importantly both he and Vishal looked sick and had two of the best match-ups of the night.

In the final fight of the night, Yemi Apampa, who had been waiting for over five hours to get in the ring made his debut sometime after midnight. Spurred on largely by having made his friends come at 7.30pm and also by the prospect of fried chicken and beer after weeks of a fruit, nut and protein shake based diet and a month of sobriety Yemi ended his fight in the second round with his opponent's corner being forced to throw in the towel as their fighter sloped over the ropes and the referee began a standing count.

Thanks go out to the priceless assistance of LSE Boxing vets, Chris Baugh, Sami "the southpaw sniper" Sinokki, "infamous" Joe Resnick, Amar "golden boy" Gulati, and brother Zippy and to everyone who came to support the boxers. Thanks also go out to all those who train at LSE Boxing on Tuesdays and Fridays and make it what it is. All are welcome to come along, but few will have the spirit to stick it out as those who fought on Friday did.



Photos: Akinyemi Apampa

Match Report

Sixth Team Strike Back! Sixth team prove theres skills outside of the drinking competitions

Sophie Boyle
Tara Lee

As 6th team headed off to face Imperial 4th's in our first match of the year, the mood was sober. Unaware to our innocent freshers, our last encounter with this team had ended in a miserable defeat which almost resulted in a walkout. Our most motivated player Fletch had already given up as we boarded the train to Berrylands, and even new team Captain Boyle was struggling to stay optimistic.

Yet almost as soon as we began playing, we realised we had little to fear. In the absence of key goal attack Oddity, Netball fresher Nishka stepped in, lacking in trainers, but making up for it in unprecedented ability. (HANDS OFF FIRST TEAM!) scoring a total of 19 goals, leaving Imperial quaking in their inferior boots. Inspired by her success, Lee, not normally known for her sporting ability, went on to score a further 7 goals as Goal Shooter, leaving Captain Boyle astounded but proud.

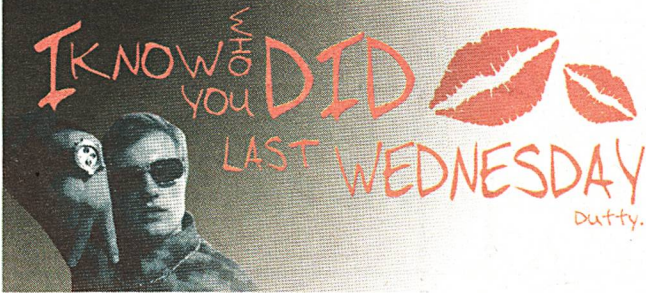
Imperial attempted to fight back, with a feisty 5ft Centre jumping to heights normally reserved for the NBA, yet she was no challenge for

speedy Fletcher who easily towered over her. Netball newbie Sonia took it upon herself to extinguish Imperial's fight by tackling their goal attack, which led to their limping off court. However, with 10 minutes still on the clock, and no spare players, this left Imperial in an awkward situation, forcing them to beg the saintly Boyle to play against her own squad. Known for her compassion and kind-heartedness, Boyle conceded, and made the sacrifice - donning an Imperial bib and stifling her cheers for her teammates.

By this stage the result was clear, but this didn't hold goal defence Ellie back, pulling moves we suspect were Glee inspired, keeping the ball well out of Imperial's grasps. Enjoying our first match and success, seasoned players Lawson and Claude continued to shine, whilst new player Hattie fitted seamlessly into the team, and other new team member Mish, dipped her toes tentatively into the Netball pool, acting as vigilant time and score keeper. By the end of the match, a jubilant 6th team skipped off to catch the train with a 28-11 win under their belts, and new player Nishka basked in her Man of the Match status.



Photo: Katie Reith



Well, well, well people. That was an eventful and unexpected evening. It all started with a packed out Tuns that witnessed Women's Rugby initiations and the unrelenting backwards and forwarding of the FC/Rugby. The excitement of the karaoke - once again set alight by the Tuns resident American baritone Ballsac and finished off with the FC's tear-jerking tribute to Oasis - proved too much for one rugby fresher by the name of Eton 2 who saw it fit to chunder into a jug. Down it fresher.

With the karakoes sang, the rugby ladies' initiated and the rest of the tuns appropriately smashed, it was time to head out. Destination? Sway Bar. Or not. Upon arrival, AU Cards & LSE IDs in hand, the dozens of drunken AU-ers were thrown into a very congested (and freezing cold) queue by two very burley, frowning bouncers. As you would expect, push turned to shove but the bouncers were having none of it, and insisted on making people wait - which was, well, frankly, very annoying.

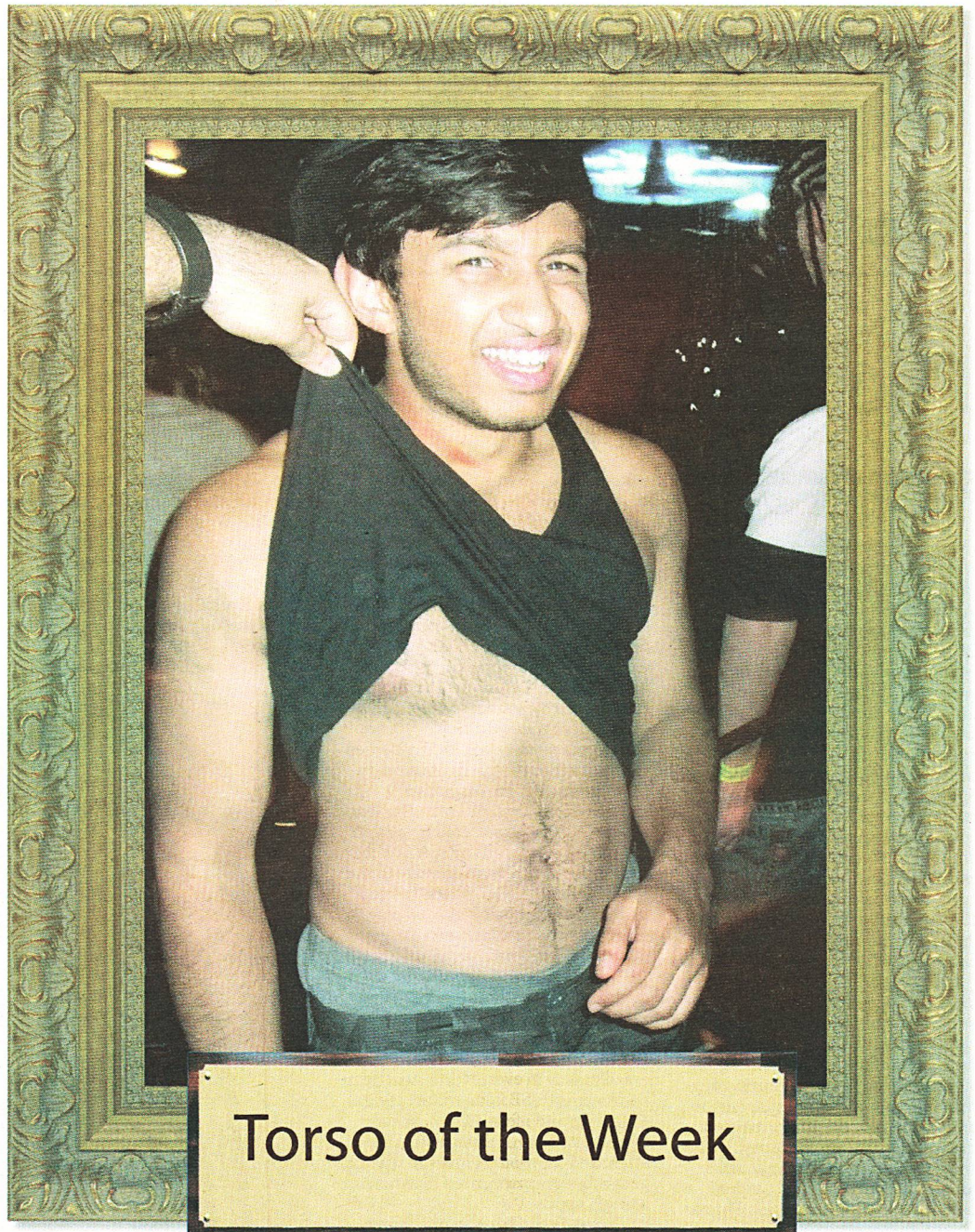
The AU being made to queue for an establishment far less accommodating than Zoo Bar? I don't think so. The first chants of 'Let's all go to Zoo bar', admirably led off by the ex-rugby captain soon turned into a indomitable chorus, and the march further into the West End continued and was only ever going to finish in one place - you guessed it, fucking Zoo Bar!

You see people, the thing about Zoo Bar is that it has the ability to make people do things that were born to be in this column. And that is why

we, or at least I, love it so. After such a troublesome episode at Sway, you people were more than keen to release all that tension on each other, no one more so than your very own Features Editor who was seen canoodling a dame about 3 times smaller than himself on those notoriously filthy couches. He was by no means the only one, as the netball moaner tool kept herself pretty busy early on with a burly blond thing. The two were largely inseparable for the remainder of the night. Prowling certainly seemed to be the order of the night as a well known grad came back with a very insistent American and the two decided to work their way through every girl in Zoo Bar. Any luck boys?

I was sad to see that the blond 1st team rugby boy of surname Johnson was unable to rekindle the fire with his previous week's conquest, the netball social secretary. Might have had something to do with his having reached the 'ive-drunk-so-much-that-i-cant-utter-anymore-words' stage. In any case, she appeared to be busy fending off the attention of numerous other suitors. His teammate with a shoulder sling seemed to have slightly more success as he was seen leaving the building with The Statue herself. A fresher with a pink cast on his arm met similar success as he took home your very own SU Gen Sec. Shocker. To top it all off Ody made the Welsh Rugby Captain's night by bringing him home. Why go to Vegas when all you ever need can be found at Zoo?

For those of you that survive the trials, tribulations and cauldron-full of drinks after Pub Golf, I'll be seeing you back at home - Zoo. Until next week...



Torso of the Week

Match Report

3 babies, 2 wins and a newly formed team

Women's Basketball recap their first two weeks in the season

Joanna Hirst

We've been a team for one week and we already have 2 wins under our belts. Our very first game was on Monday, where we gave SOAS the 52 point thrashing they deserved. Many thanks to the 9,408,201 fast breaks Miss Speedy Gonzalez Charlery and GC kid Jade, mother of three (triplets), managed to achieve. The other girls were big in numbers—but practically a midget army. Not so good for a sport where freakishly tallness is valued. Newbie Pavlina was forced to try out during the game, which, were the situations more dire, would never have been an option. Though with the lack of skill on our opponent's side and her own impressive skill, she managed to wow us and is now a fully-fledged member of the team!

With our new team-member in tow, on the Wednesday we trekked to

the unknown lands of Chatham (or Gillingham), aka Chavham to play Universities at Medway. None of us had ventured to this friendly neck of Kent before, and let's just say we don't

The other girls were big in numbers—but practically a midget army. Not so good for a sport where freakishly tallness is valued.

plan on going back. We came, we saw, we conquered, and will never return. To describe this game in one word, we

would have to say, "scrappy".

The first half of the game we were on top—then in the third quarter we started to panic. There was plenty of drama: Kelly fell on her ankle, Ade and Maggie (arguably our two tallest girls) managed to be toppled at the exact same time, Kate decided she was the mother of the team, and there was a fair bit of fighting over the ball. Jade, mother of three (triplets), had a lengthy debacle with the French referee, and finally decided that "the game wasn't pretty, but the victory was pretty sweet". A win is a win, and despite the tumbles and the scrappy gameplay, we had a good time... which was made even better by the giggles provided by a Medway girl's interesting facial expressions. Two wins to start the season- and with a bit of luck we'll keep up our winning streak!



Photo: Ann Makus

Sport

Inside

- Match Reports
- I Know Who You Did Last Wednesday
- LSE Boxing Team's First Fight

The Future of Fighting in Professional Hockey

Benjamin Schneider

Over the past ten months, the National Hockey League (NHL) in the United States and Canada has taken admirable steps toward a more open disciplinary system that focuses on keeping its players healthy. Since the league's best player, Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby, suffered a concussion in the middle of the 2010-11 season, the NHL has ramped up its efforts to cut down on hits to the head with harsher penalties for offenders. Vancouver Canucks defenceman Aaron Rome was suspended for four games of the Stanley Cup Final after sending Boston Bruins right wing Nathan Horton to the hospital, nine players received suspensions for hits to the head during the pre-season, and several others have been banned for multiple games in the opening two weeks of competitive play.

Not only has the NHL cracked down on the one of the most dangerous aspects of ice hockey, it has done so in a way that is nearly unimaginable in most sports: every suspension handed down by the Vice President of Player Safety, former Detroit Red Wings forward Brendan Shanahan, has been accompanied by a video, posted on NHL.com, wherein Shanahan explains exactly what is illegal about the hit in question. Shanahan has even produced videos to explain why certain hits were not worthy of

suspensions, as well as compilations of legal, shoulder-to-shoulder checks and proper physical play around the boards and in the corners. The NHL's stance and approach to the issue of concussions resulting from dangerous hits is surprising and commendable.

However, there is an inescapable contradiction for hockey: how can a sport that is cracking down on hits to the head continue to allow fighting during games? While fighting is technically illegal and players are sent to the penalty box for it, referees rarely attempt to stop fights already in progress, and the disciplinary repercussions for fighters are far less severe than those suffered by players who make dangerous hits. A punch to the head will surely do damage to the brain, and if the NHL wants to keep its players safe during normal play, it seems bizarre to allow such dangerous activity to continue.

Most former players cannot accept the game without fighting, and many fans probably feel similarly. Every team has a fighter or two or three; hard-working, dedicated players who play in what North American sports fans call a "blue collar" style. They take and dish out punches to opponents who go after their team's stars, and drop their gloves in order to get their teammates fired up when in a tough spot.

There is a gritty glamour about the fighter: he embodies the hard-working ethic that fans love, he protects his teammates, and he's always up for an honest scrap. Less talented

than his fleet-footed teammates, who may excel with vision for a clever pass or a snap wristshot, the fighter has gotten to the NHL by working hard and laying a few guys on the deck. Like the archetypal English centre-half in football, he is a hard man who works through sweat and pain to help his team.

At the same time, one aspect so

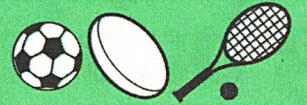
far, we don't know if or how improvements in helmet safety have affected players, or whether fighters in ice hockey suffer more. Logic would suggest that the high speeds and hard surfaces of ice hockey could produce brain damage in many players, and that the addition of fighting can only increase a player's chances of concussions and other brain trauma. With

this in mind, the NHL must consider the future of fighting in professional ice hockey, or be rightly accused of hypocrisy for merely trying to protect its stars while letting other players beat each other – sometimes literally – senseless.



Flickr user: ArtBrom

LET'S TALK TACTICS



Luis Suarez- The Good, The Bad, The Ugly?



Flickr user: LightScripture

Timothy Poole

As PFA chief executive, Gordon Taylor, announces he is ready to mediate the Suarez/Evra racism row, Premier League fans across the globe are left bemused. The Uruguayan forward, Luis Suarez, is a football sensation, but, like many of the sport's stars, is dogged by controversy. Sadly, much of it is of his own making. Though Patrice Evra's allegations of racism remain unproved, the claims add further intrigue to an illustrious yet chaotic career... just what is it with Luis Suarez?

Looking back to the 2006 World Cup Final, Zinedine Zidane showed the world (through infamously head butting Marco Materazzi) that every genius comes with a touch of madness. We can use this example to relate to Suarez. Clearly a world-class footballer, able to terrorize any defence, Suarez has contributed greatly to the Premier League's wealth of talent.

Since the moment he first ran out for Liverpool, his performances have been relentless; he never surrenders, never gives less than 100% and always has a deadly eye for creating or converting chances. On top of this, he was named the Player of the Tournament when Uruguay stunned favourites Argentina and Brazil to win the Copa America, displaying his excellence on the world stage.

Yet, these latest claims overshadow Suarez's immense ability and remind us that he's not exactly one of football's angels. Known for on the pitch aggression and frequent bookings, Suarez has a distinctive mean streak about him. Last season, he hit an opposition player on the shoulder, consequently being banned for 7 league games. Then, there's Ghana. In Ghana, every single citizen despises Suarez- even the mention of his name there would not be advisable. The reason: that handball. The 2010 World Cup showed millions a side to Suarez that is best forgotten. It made him a national hero... but a global enemy. Not only did his last-minute handball

on the line defy a country the legitimate right to progress to the World Cup Semi-finals for the first time in its history, but his subsequent celebrations demonstrated the greatest lack of sportsmanship ever broadcast.

And now... racism? Whether there's concrete evidence or not, the finger has been pointed and, unfortunately, it's no surprise to see that this new scandal involves Suarez once again. Before completing his £23 million move to Liverpool this January, Suarez scored 111 goals in 159 games for Ajax, many as captain. This exquisite record and the good terms with which he parted the club enhance what is predominately good about him. But his misdemeanours remain unforgettable and difficult to cast aside. Suarez is an enigma. Like the leading figures of any industry, he comes with his baggage, and he is more than willing to bring it onto the pitch. Thus, whatever is to unfold in the weeks ahead, Suarez will always remain a phenomenal player, but a player who brings with him the good, the bad and the ugly.