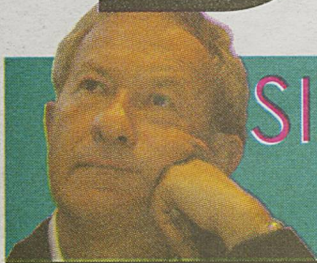


the Beaver

11/10/05

Issue **624**

The newspaper of the **LSESU**



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Climate of fear?

Sam Jones
Executive Editor

Concerns last week escalated over the threat of a government clampdown on university campuses across the UK.

An investigation by *The Beaver* has uncovered allegations of MI5 agents operating on campus as well as potential links between LSE Students' Union (SU) societies and organisations in the government's controversial 'anti-extremist' hit list.

Islamic students at the LSE are meanwhile living in what has been termed a "climate of fear", that has many worrying for their right to freedom of speech and caused some students to revoke their membership of the LSE SU Islamic Society (ISOC).

Despite an increase in membership numbers, several students asked to be taken off ISOC's mailing list after fearing that they might end up under surveillance.

Tim Murphy, a deputy director of the School, told *the Beaver* that "There is no way of knowing what could happen... anything could come out of the Home Office."

In a statement issued by Ruth Kelly, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, to Universities UK, of which LSE is a member, commented that "Freedom of speech does not mean tolerance of unacceptable behaviour. I believe that higher education institutes need to identify and confront unacceptable behaviour on their premises and within their community."

Media and government alarmism threatens to exacerbate Islamophobia amid claims of extremism on campus



Singled out - could students on Houghton Street be targeted? Image created by Sid Kamath

Murphy firmly rebuked rumors that there would be any sort of clampdown, on campus however, stressing the need for the campus to come together to defeat such alarmism. "We are not in the business of trying to monitor societies. It's so wrong to try and do that", he said, adding "Above all, we wanted to make it clear to ISOC and other societies that we don't want a panic. "Of course it is impor-

- MUSLIM STUDENTS LIVING IN 'CLIMATE OF FEAR' ON LSE CAMPUS.
- MI5 OPERATING AT LSE?
- REPORT LINKS 'EXTREMIST' GROUPS TO LSE SU SOCIETIES
- BBC CONDUCTING UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATIONS

tant to work with the government on immigration issues and terrorism, but it is essential that we [the LSE] retain our autonomy and independence and don't become an instrument of government policies which may or may not prove to be sensible."

LSE SU General Secretary Rishi Madlani commented, "Our campus has been and always will be united in opposing terror.

We will not allow unfounded allegations to divide our diverse student community."

However, MI5 agents have also reportedly been operating around the LSE campus, using the Strand Palace Hotel as a recruiting point for informants.

More worrying are reports that MI5 investigations are already connecting the suspected head of the terrorist cell responsi-

ble for the 7 July bombings, Mohammed Khan, with Haroon Rashid Aswat, a senior aide to Abu Hamza, alleged former LSE student and according to *the Sunday Times* newspaper, 'mastermind' of the July atrocities.

Hizb ut-Tahrir, an Islamist organisation singled out by the contentious Glee report, and the subject of intense scrutiny from the government, has also been alleged to have links with groups on the LSE campus, though many have been swift to discredit them.

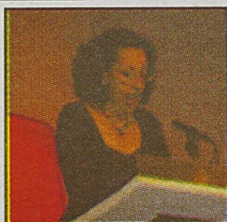
LSE SU Education and Welfare Officer, Sian Errington told *The Beaver*, "anyone who has read the Glee report knows that it is anecdotal and totally unsubstantiated, based on the prejudices of its author. It has been widely dismissed by the education sector. The Metropolitan police and London mayor have an alternative approach to fighting terror, and that is to engage with the Muslim community. The scapegoating of an entire community and the current witch hunt helps no-one."

Though non violent, Hizb ut-Tahrir is widely suspected to be outlawed by the government in the near future under new anti-terror legislation. Among its goals, the organisation calls for the reestablishment of the Kalifah under which "Muslims appoint a Khaleefah on the condition that he conveys Islam as a message to the world through da'wah and

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Orange Award

Steve Gummer puts on his glad rags and finds out which of the last ten Orange Prize winners will be crowned the 'Best of the Best' in the Beaver's exclusive coverage of the Orange awards last week.



Pages 26-27

The best dressed folk in town!



In preparation for the AU Welcome Party, the sports team offer themselves as fancy dress inspiration. Yes! Now you can cut out and play with Ed & Jen. *Unsuitable for children under the age of 18.*

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Yumnation

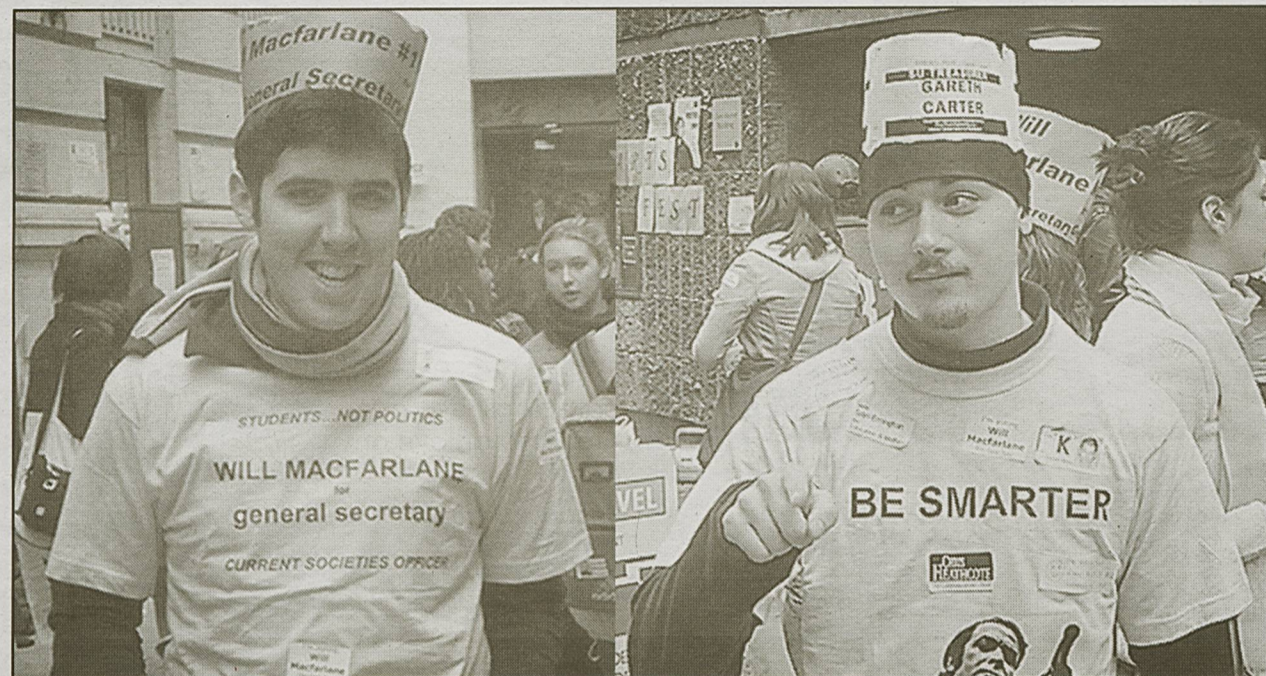


Alexa Sharples reminds us that entrepreneurship isn't all fun and games in Blink Business, taking a walk on the quiet side and looking at local entrepreneurs in action.

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News

Lie, Cheat, and Steal to Win UCAS reform



Will Macfarlane and Gareth Carter campaigning during Lent Term 2004

Paul Brandenburg
News Editor

“How are we going to win these elections? I mean you’re an active Tory on-campus and I’m a well-known homophobe who has encouraged violence against women!”

Not the words of David Davis or David Cameron, these words marked the beginning of a recently uncovered e-mail exchange purportedly between Will Macfarlane and Gareth Carter, last year’s General Secretary and Treasurer of the LSE Students’ Union (SU).

Carter, now an employee of Whetherspoons, continued the above: “I’d love to run, but this will just be a waist [sic] of time unless we can think of something plus the job doesn’t exactly pay well does it?”

The exchange reveals what appears to be an apparent coordinated effort by Carter and the would-be SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane to purposely mislead the student body about their political beliefs.

“We’re going to have to run on an apolitical platform to disguise our real characters—something like ‘fighting for LSE students, not concerning myself with

international political issues with limited effects on students as students’ but catcher obviously” said

“We’re going to have to run on an apolitical platform to disguise our real characters”

Will Macfarlane
Former LSE SU
General Secretary

Macfarlane in his reply.

At the time it was widely presumed that Khurshid

“K” Faizullaev would run for Treasurer. Carter and Macfarlane planned to “leach off him, grab the AU vote”, and.... “we’ll be laughing ALL the way to the bank mate [sic.]”

Carter also suggested to Macfarlane “can [K] increase wages if he wins Treasurer and we win as well?”, an action Carter would later take himself as Treasurer.

Alas, while the content of the e-mails hit the nail on the head for many critics of Carter and Macfarlane’s soft conservative approach to office last year, others have been all too quick to point out the likelihood of a hoax.

Patrick MacLeod
Cullen

The Higher Education Secretary, Bill Rammel, has recently proposed to reform the university admissions system.

Currently, the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), allocates university places to prospective students based on predicted grades. The two proposed alternatives are either for all applications to take place after A-level results are published – a system known as “post-qualification applications” – or for universities to make some offers before publication, and the rest afterwards.

Both alternatives were first proposed by a Secondary Heads’ Association (SHA) commission backed by UCAS, in an attempt to increase efficiency and reduce the current system’s cost. The commission’s report found that the system, as it stands, is “educationally unsound, inequitable and inefficient.”

The proposed changes have come under fire from many independent schools, which are concerned that the proposals would disadvantage their pupils, accusing Rammel of social engineering. However, speaking to *The Independent* newspaper Rammel, defended his reforms saying, “if social engineering means putting right existing unfairness within the system, then I plead guilty.”

“You have a problem with the existing system in that only 45 percent of predicted grades are accurate, and the students for whom they are most inaccurate are students from the poorest backgrounds. That is the unfairness that [we are] trying to rectify.”

Critics, however, have declared that the changes would pose serious administrative problems for the exam boards, which would have to work within a much tighter timeframe than they do already. Furthermore, universities would be faced with selecting students within weeks rather than months.

The LSE Academic Registrar, Simeon Underwood, commented, “the government has made its will completely clear on this issue [although] the various options which have been put forward have their problems, and there is a general pattern whereby they will place intense and concentrated pressure on academic selectors, administrative staff and possibly the applicants themselves. We are currently looking at how they will work out in practice for the School.”

With the backing of the government and UCAS itself change to the current method of entry into higher education looks inevitable. Any changes to the UCAS system will have to be adopted by the LSE, regardless of any reservations the LSE may have, as all applications to higher education are handled by UCAS.

Impartial advice from the NUS?

The relationship between the NUS and Endsleigh is under question as the organisation only recommends its own subsidiary for home insurance.

Matthew Sinclair

An investigation by *The Beaver* has cast doubt on whether the National Union of Students (NUS) is providing its members with the best possible financial advice.

The relationship between NUS and the insurance company Endsleigh has come into question following the revelation that Endsleigh is part owned by NUS and could therefore be construed as recommending its own product.

The NUS website states: “Endsleigh is NUS’s preferred insurance provider for students. NUS retains a stake in the company, and both the NUS President and Treasurer sit

on the board, ensuring it remains fully accountable to the student movement.”

Endsleigh was originally founded by the NUS in 1965 and is still 15 percent owned by the Union. Some feel that by recommending Endsleigh the NUS is misleading students. One LSE student told *The Beaver*: “When I was looking for insurance, Endsleigh turned out to be one of the most expensive. This surprised me as the NUS recommends them as the best.”

LSE Student’s Union General Secretary, Rishi Madlani, said: “We would hope that NUS regularly reviews their recommendation of Endsleigh as they should with recommendations for any service.”

The NUS defended the policy by arguing that

there are unique advantages to Endsleigh cover. NUS Treasurer Joe Rukin argued that benefits of Endsleigh insurance are, in part, due to the degree “of student access, representation and ethical scrutiny” that is possible thanks to having the NUS President and Treasurer sitting on the Endsleigh board.

The NUS actively encourages students to take out home insurance but does not suggest any providers for student home insurance other than Endsleigh. Consumer advisors suggest that students should “always shop around when buying financial products” such as home insurance. Doing just that would save most students over £40 each year with alternative insurance providers.

While Rukin does insist that students are “free to shop around for their insurance in exactly the same way as all other consumers,” he points out that there are differences in the cover provided by Endsleigh that makes such comparisons in price misleading.

The NUS does not advise students to check whether they are covered by their parents home insurance while living in student accommodation despite the fact that many risk policies do cover students when living away from home. This is considered by some to be a further misuse of the relationship that leads to students unnecessarily buying insurance.

LSE coordinates go green initiatives as power bills soar

Lukhimai
Linnebank

The LSE has appointed its first Sustainability Coordinator, Victoria Hands, a postgraduate student in the Department of Geography and Environment. As her first task, Hands is set to begin this term by providing recycling facilities across campus.

Hands, who has a ten year background in the field of sustainable development including involvement in the University Halls of Residence Recycling Project, has chosen waste management as her first task. In doing so she plans to expose the sheer quantity of waste created by the LSE and to enlist students and staff

alike to take action.

Hands also wants to include the provision of recycling facilities on campus, organise a “Sustainable LSE” event, and enrol volunteers to be sustainability champions in their course, department, society and halls of residence.

Hands’ appointment follows a motion at a Union General Meeting (UGM) in 2004. Joel Kenrick, SU Environment and Ethics Officer, told *The Beaver* “while some people may claim that the UGM is just a talking shop it can also at times be a highly effective one. It takes time for things to get done, but a year and a half after the UGM first passed a motion in support of the ‘Go Green’ campaign the demands of that motion have been met by the school.”

News

Allegations of extremism undermine campus unity

Continued from page 1

...bringing back the Islamic guidance for mankind and leading the Ummah [community of believers] into a struggle with the Kufir, it's systems and its thoughts so that Islam encapsulates the world." Hizb ut-Tahrir were banned earlier last year by the National Union of Students (NUS) at NUS events under a no platform policy passed by NUS conference. But despite the ban, Qasim Khawaja, a representative of the organisation was invited to speak at a debate allegedly organised by an unnamed LSE SU society, though not ISOC, last year.

Al Muhajiroun, an organisation now closely linked to the July 7 bombings, but now disbanded, has also been implicated in the past in tenuous links with the LSE. Speaking in 2000, Omar Bakri, the head of Al Muhajiroun in the UK told one national newspaper; "We use the names of societies, and so on to get in. When a college like the LSE bans us, we set up stalls outside the campus, where the students can reach us but the authorities can do nothing."

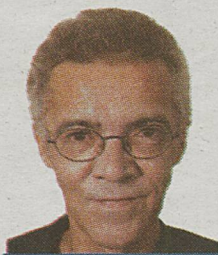
Figures across the campus from both the School and the SU have been swift in condemning the Glees report, in which such connections were made.

Speaking at a meeting of the LSE SU Executive Committee, Education and Welfare Officer Sian Errington, condemned the report's "utter lack of grounding in reality", citing policy recommendations such as increasing



"Freedom of speech does not mean tolerance of unacceptable behaviour. I believe that higher education institutes need to identify and confront unacceptable behaviour on their premises and within their community."

RUTH KELLY
Government



"We are not in the business of trying to monitor student societies... it's essential that we don't become an instrument of government policies which may or may not prove to be sensible."

TIM MURPHY
LSE



"Our campus has been and always will be united in opposing terror. We will not allow unfounded allegations to divide our diverse student community."

-Madlani

"Anyone who has read the Glees report knows that it is anecdotal and totally unsubstantiated, based on the prejudices of its author. It has been widely dismissed by the education sector."

-Errington

RISHI MADLANI & SIAN ERRINGTON
LSE STUDENTS' UNION

police presence on campuses, enforcing ethnic campus populations reflective of the UK's national demographic, and abolishing university clearing.

LSE Council, the School's most senior decision making committee, has also moved to counter the report's suggestions.

Wakkas Khan, the President of the Federation of Student Islamic Societies was also quick to assert the need for calmness; "although individuals

such as those who committed the small crimes on July 7 may be part of a very small minority in our community, the fact remains that they do exist within our community. We must therefore be vigilant."

In an interview with the head of Stop Islamophobia!, a national organisation aimed at promoting free speech and opposing recent government anti-terror legislation, *The Beaver* was told, "There isn't really a way of

controlling Jihadis or extremist elements in campus organisations. But societies shouldn't end up suffering because of labelling and generalisations.

"The hysteria that is growing on the LSE campus is Islamophobic - it's undermining the rule of law and totally contradicts the principles of civil liberty. It's threatening free speech."

A BBC reporter was also ejected from the

Glees Report

Abolish...

clearing - to tighten up who goes where

Police...

campuses regularly - to keep an eye on activities

Restrict...

Ethnic groups - to reflect national demographics

Screen...

and interview all foreign students



Union Jack

Come one, come all. Gather round. Yes - not only Dave Cole and Matt Sinclair are making predictable returns this year - your guide, your mentor, your slightly dubious uncle figure, I am back. And what a summer it's been. Jack spent the summer concealing himself in the East Building watching the Mysterious Madlani and pals prepare his land for the young, fresh, sexually innocent freshers.

By way of an introduction, Jack is the voice of the dissatisfied hacks of this union, those who are far too intelligent and/or unattractive to ever be elected. Jack knows what's really going on - and relays these pearls of wisdom, to you - the eager public - each week.

This week as I snacked on a fine meal in our own dear Tuns, reminiscing on a similarly excellent meal I enjoyed at Scratchwood motorway services catering facilities, I pondered on the future of our union. I feared new faces, outsiders, strangers... There was of course nothing to fear, all the old classics are back.

After a number of fascinating reports from our dear executive, nominations for chair were called. I scanned the room, eagerly looking for our appointed leader. Nothing. A young Mr McDermot had, shall we say, been 'pre-selected' by those in the know. Instead, clambering the stairs under a dark shadow was Mr "I didn't come here to win" himself. Panic set in. Someone must challenge him, anyone! Never did I think Jack would utter these words, but where is inKompetent and a well organised Russian contingent when you need them? So now we're all going to suffer a minimum of 9 weeks of this intolerable buffoon. I blame you all.

Meanwhile I hear the Russians have turned to other pursuits. When not being very community spirited and volunteering their time to the Student Union at highly affordable rates they appear to have been studying a bit of Labour history. So enthused were they that 40 odd of them turned up to join Labour Soc mere moments before the AGM. Jack applauds such passion for the working classes. Pity that the Mighty Madlani was on hand to quibble over minor constitutional details and prevent their expression of solidarity with the workers.

All in all this UGM was little more than a NUS kick off for Madlani and a GenSec kick off for Tam. Perhaps they should think twice, as Carter is washing pint glasses in Wetherspoons and Power reports on the Norington School Fair for GMTV. Jack sees all too clearly - win or loose, no one survives the Union.



Simon Schama believes the American Revolution was fought over the establishment of a slave-based economy.

Follies of freedom

Elaine Londesborough
News Editor

Television's favourite historian, Simon Schama, spoke in the Old Theatre last week at the Department of International History's Annual Lecture. The lecture focused on Schama's controversial new book "Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution."

Following Professor Arne Westad's enthusiastic introduction, which revealed that the book is to be made into a TV series, Schama launched into a description of how he came to be interested in the topic of his latest book. He pres-

ents a new angle on the American Revolution, and one that is likely to cause controversy in America, as it suggests the Revolution was, for those in the American South, primarily about founding a new America on the basis of a slave economy.

"The war in the South was for the perpetuation of servitude" said Schama, "God I'm going to be popular in America" he joked. He went on to describe the unusually good treatment of slaves by the British. The British had whole regiments of black soldiers, while certain American units, such as New Hampshire, excluded blacks along with "lunatics and idiots."

According to Schama

New York City was a safe haven for escaped slaves during the American Revolution. Upon arrival they were given the "General Birch Certificate," which allowed them to do as they pleased whilst behind British lines.

Schama was careful, however, to point out "I don't want to replace American self-congratulation with British self-congratulation", assuring the audience that his interest lay with the novelty of these new findings, and not with reinventing history.

In spite of, or perhaps due to, Schama's controversial position his performance was widely considered to be entertaining and informative.

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News

TFL fares rise

Neerja Jain

The recently announced tube and bus fares package, which comes into effect from January 2006, will see the cost of a single tube journey in zone one leap to £3 from the present £2 – a rise of fifty percent.

A single bus journey will cost £1.50 instead of the current £1.20. The new fares package is being put forward as a way to persuade more passengers to pay as they go using an Oyster card rather than cash. It proposes frozen or lower Oyster single fares. A single tube journey in zone one using Oyster will cost £1.50 compared to the current £1.70.

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, said: "This proposed fares package focuses on halving the number of cash journeys made in 2006 to

speed up journeys and improve the efficiency of the network." He also conceded that the new single tube fare of £3 will be the "most expensive in the world".

The new fares package has certainly raised some eyebrows. Thomas Kastner, a masters student at the LSE told *The Beaver*: "It's very regrettable because prices in London are already high and transport already absorbs a large proportion of my budget; the additional increase will cause a further reduction in the amount of money I can spend on day to day activities."

Not everyone will be disadvantaged though. Another LSE student commented: "This move will make it cheaper for me to travel as I use Oyster. The people it will really affect are the tourists and those who make one off journeys."



Fares set to rise for those paying cash on these buses.

NSS reveals poor personal development at LSE

Owen Coughlan

In the same week that the LSE was ranked as the fourth best University in the UK by *The Sunday Times University Guide*, the School has been rated as the UK's worst university for students' personal development by the first ever National Student Survey (NSS).

Compiled by Ipsos UK, an independent market research company, the National Student Survey was undertaken in January 2005 by 170,000 undergraduate final year students across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The aim of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in introducing this survey was to provide prospective students with reliable information to help them decide what course to study and where to study it. The Survey rated courses in seven areas: overall satisfaction; teaching; assessment and feedback; academic support; organisation and management; learning resources; and personal development.

The School received generally negative feedback from the NSS across the board, scoring positions well outside the top 50 on all but two focus areas – 'Organisation and Management' and 'Learning Resources', where top twenty rankings were achieved. The School finished 74th overall. It was also revealed that History students are the 'most satisfied' at the LSE, whilst Politics students are the least.

In response to the Schools position at the bottom of the 'Personal Development' league table, LSE Academic Registrar Simeon Underwood told *The Beaver* "To be honest, this result puzzles us. The questions about this part of

the survey cover self-confidence, communication skills and confidence in 'tackling unfamiliar problems'. Compared to the students I have met at the other universities at which I have worked, LSE students have never seemed to me to be lacking in self-confidence and communication skills. And the data on graduate employment and starting salaries are impressive, which suggest that employers don't sense any problem here either. Perhaps because we haven't sensed this as a problem, we have not given it the attention it may deserve in our internal systems, such as the School survey."

Institutions such as the Open University, Loughborough and Leicester finished at the top of the satisfaction table overall, with many of the country's top universities struggling further down the list. Interestingly, the Students' Unions of Oxford, Cambridge and Warwick encouraged their students to boycott the survey, with Oxford stating on their website that "...the NSS is a huge waste of government money, at a time when resources in Higher Education are under pressure".

Underwood added, "We have our doubts about some aspects of the survey, not least that positions in the national league tables can be affected by very small response sizes. But we can't simply disregard this message. We will be getting access to fuller data from the survey in the next month or so, which may help us to understand this particular score more clearly. We will also be interested to see what these scores show next year."

Rishi Madlani, General Secretary of the Students Union, said: "Although the Survey was flawed, it does flag up issues that we will be taking to the School."

Scholarships for the clever

Christopher Lam

New scholarships worth up to £10,000 a year are to be offered by universities competing for the brightest students.

The payments will not be based on family income, but primarily on academic ability. The new awards are set to coincide with the annual £3,000 tuition fee regime set to start in September 2006.

Many universities are to spend the additional income from tuition fees on bursaries to students who are from lower income backgrounds. However, scholarships for 'high-flying' students are to be introduced by some

institutions, including Manchester and Liverpool John Moores, who will be offering £10,000 each.

The LSE already offers a large undergraduate scholarship portfolio including two £11,000 a year scholarships.

A spokesperson for the School told *The Beaver* that "next year, LSE is spending a third of the additional income it will receive on bursaries, based on family income." The LSE is one of seven of this year's top ten institutions who will spend new resources on bursaries based on need and not academic merit – the others are Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College, Warwick, York and Durham.

Fourth again

Shu Hao Lim

The Sunday Times newspaper published its annual university league table last week, ranking the LSE in fourth position for the second year running. Imperial college piped the LSE for third place yet again.

When contacted by *The Beaver*, the School's Deputy Director, Professor Tim Murphy made mention of the range of national and international rankings that have placed LSE favourably. That *The Sunday Times* newspaper commented that "nobody can match the LSE for social sciences" is, according to Professor Murphy, "pleasing" and an "indication of the reputation and success of the School."

Chris Heathcote, the

SU Communications Officer spoke for many students when he told *The Beaver*: "While it would have been nice to be ahead of Imperial, we are not the same kind of university." In fact, most students *The Beaver* spoke to were not at all bothered by the rankings in general. Despina Tsalavoutis summed the general opinion of the student body: "What does it say about me if I care so much about rankings?"

Whatever one makes of them, the statistics brings into the open aspects upon which the LSE can improve. Professor Murphy acknowledged room for this when he told *The Beaver*: "There are also many other benchmarks which we constantly measure and seek to improve internally."



The first queue for the ULU Freshers' Fayre

ULU Freshers' Fayre: "Better than last year"

Paul Brandenburg
News Editor

Last Friday saw the 2005 incarnation of the University of London Union's Freshers' Fayre, considered by many in attendance to be a great success. Despite allegations that less space would be available for student societies this year, a ULU spokesperson insisted that the same space was provided

as in past years.

One LSE student, who is a member of a ULU society, told *The Beaver* that he was disappointed with the organisation of the Fayre, and that the provision of half a six foot table per society was "insufficient for societies such as the Climbing Society who might wish to display equipment."

There were also concerns that a flood over the summer on ULU premises damaged society equip-

ment, causing even more grief for those organising the Fayre. Samuel Thomas, ULU Vice-President for Finance, Services and Operations, said: "A minor flood in July caused some regrettable damage to a few items. This equipment is being replaced as appropriate. There will be no negative impact on sporting activities at ULU."

Imogen Warren of the ULU Sailing Club, however, was pleased with the event: "this year's fayre is

better than last year's and can only get better in the future." As a student of the School of Pharmacy, she further commented that the event was great for smaller colleges, which have difficulty catering for student societies themselves.

Thomas was happy with the way the event went and summed up what appeared to be the consensus of the ULU sabbaticals: "it's been a brilliant day."

Comment & Analysis Union

Stopping the Backlash

Sian Errington, LSE SU Education and Welfare Officer argues the need for students to stand behind the new Religious Hatred Bill.

Events of the last few months have proved those who argued Islamophobia was a 'myth' tragically wrong.

Physical and verbal attacks against Muslims have increased, and groups that strongly condemned the terrorist bombings of July have been witch-hunted, such as the Muslim Council of Britain.

In the few weeks after the bombings there was a rise in reported race and faith hate crimes of 600 percent according to the Metropolitan Police figures, with the Muslim community experiencing the brunt of this rise in attacks.

The level of attacks against the Muslim community - which range from verbal abuse and being spat at through to people requiring intensive care - has not sub-

sided, but continued.

Further, outside of London, in Nottingham on July 13th, Kamal Raza Butt was beaten to death by a group of youths who began their attack by shouting 'Taliban' at him. The extent of this 'backlash' means that confronting Islamophobia has become an urgent priority for Student unions and all those committed to an equal and democratic society.

In the immediate aftermath of the horrific July 7 bombings there was a concerted effort by many to unite all the communities in London to prevent division being sown across the capital. This campaign has been led by the Greater London Authority and received support from sections of the media, faith and community organisations, trade unions, and the National

Union of Students.

However, elements of the press and others have sought to break that progressive consensus. There has been a

The rise in Islamophobia makes the government's legislation to outlaw incitement to religious hatred all the more important. It will not stop criticism or frank discussion But it will stop groups such as the BNP from exploiting loopholes

worrying trend to blame the Muslim community as a whole for the bombings. This is an approach which will lead to the isolation of the Muslim community, divide London, and can only

feed the rise in attacks against Muslims further.

It is therefore a crucial time for people to be involved in the initiatives which will counter divisions amongst Londoners and defend victims of discrimination.

Alongside the 'One London' campaign a new 'unity statement' initiative has been launched. The statement that 'Only United Communities will Defeat Terrorism and Protect Civil Liberties' has already received support from a broad range of signatories and organisations, arguing for an approach of dialogue and co-operation against terror and hate, rather than criminalisation or exclusion.

The rise in Islamophobia also makes the government's legislation to outlaw incitement to religious

hatred all the more important. First proposed after the September 11th attacks and the subsequent rise in discrimination that Muslims faced, the legislation aims to extend the protection currently offered to Sikhs and Jews to all other faiths. It will not stop criticism of, or frank discussion about, religion. But it will stop groups such as the far-right BNP exploiting the current 'loophole' in the law to whip-up violence and hate against Muslims.

These positive developments are examples of an approach based on dialogue, co-operation and equality that can both help in the fight against terrorism and in tackling discrimination. If it is to represent all its members, the student movement should continue to fully back such an approach.

Unity in Diversity

Clem Broumley-Young, Chair of the LSE SU's Constitution and Steering Committee argues the need for the SU to foster cooperation on campus.

It is easy to imagine that half of LSE students come from outside the UK on any meander down Houghton Street, through different languages, faces and dress, diversity leaps out. The range of perspectives make LSE; it creates a dynamic academic environment and exposes everyone to new ideas in what are formative years. At a recent Shisha night in Bankside I was able to discuss Bashar's performance with a Syrian, ask someone from Cairo about Mubarak, find out more about Erdogan and Turkish demographics from three Turks, chat to a girl from Khartoum about private education,

socialise with some non-drinkers (Muslim) and have a friend stumble into my room at five in the morning because he was too drunk to remember where he lived.

Our societies officer must find out which societies may want to hold shared events and our residences officer must encourage hall events that cater for different tastes... It is the SU that can help students make the most of variety.

LSE is not as good as it could be though. The tendency to socialise

with one's own kind is understandable - after all people with similar backgrounds are more likely to have things in common - and that is what people are beginning to do. The Turks were obviously together as were the non-drinkers, the Syrian sat next to the Egyptian (and I met them through someone from Lebanon), I had a link through family friends with the girl from Khartoum and my drunken friend had gone out with people primarily from England. Indeed, even before that night another friend had run around with glee as she found people who she could speak Welsh too and I myself had embraced someone

as soon as I found out they were Scottish. There is nothing wrong with this, but if diversity is going to influence our lives we do need to meet people from wholly different cultures. At fresher's week that is not too difficult, but once events become less frequent and more homogenised (through societies) it is a far harder task.

The SU need to do something to keep people from different backgrounds meeting each other. Yes we have our Global week and there is extra money available for societies to hold joint events, but that is not enough. More emphasis needs to be put on supporting events. It is much easier

for our new Societies Officer to find out which societies would like to hold shared events, to get them in contact with each other and even to foster a sense of co-operation amongst societies in general, than it is for the head of any individual society. Likewise, it is easier for our new Residence Officer to link societies to halls and to encourage hall events that will cater for different tastes than it is for individual societies or hall committees to do. It is the SU who can provide the organisation to keep different people meeting each other in large numbers, it is the SU that can help students make the most of variety.

the Beaver

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Published since 1949.

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If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email:

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and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

Comment & Analysis Editorial

the Beaver
Editorial

Extreme rubbish

Extremism on campus is a paper tiger.

The question of what has been labelled 'extremism' on campus is extremely delicate.

What is important to understand is that the recent Glee report, the source of much of the allegations which have been flying around has, in the words of Sian Errington "little basis in reality." It seems based more on pandering to New Labour security technocrats in the civil service than on rational thought.

Among its obtuse recommendations it suggests that all students should be screened before coming to university and the ethnic populations of campuses should reflect national demographics.

The danger of publishing such alarmist reports is that it undermines and threatens unity and harmony on campuses and amongst society at large. The consequence of such division is greater friction, clampdowns and ultimately, a loss of civility.

What with the national media and now government seizing on the bogus allegations in Glee's report there has never been a more important time for the LSE and the Students' Union to send a clear and concerted message to government.

This is not a campus where students should tolerate living with constant worry over surveillance or fear for their beliefs.

Indeed, it is totally beyond belief that there are nascent terrorist cells on the LSE campus - the real problems that must be tackled are the rumours themselves.

Unassured
insurance

NUS/Endsleigh

The NUS, is supposed to be an organisation that stands up for the interests of students. Under such a noble banner, it founded Endsleigh insurance - an insurance company tailored to the needs of students and designed to give them a fair deal.

The NUS has long since given up its controlling stake in Endsleigh, but still retains 15 percent ownership and positions on the company's board.

While it may have been all fair and good for the NUS to tout the merits of its own student insurance division back when it owned the whole of Endsleigh, and when Endsleigh was genuinely the best offer for students it isn't now.

NUS should, as financial service watchdogs recommend, be presenting students with a range of possible companies to approach for insurance. Endsleigh is not the cheapest out there but continues to be pushed to students as the best viable option on the NUS website and in their advice packs.

Such recommendations serve only the interests of Endsleigh's private investors - hardly an inspiring *cause celebre* for a Union.

Letters to the
Editor

The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to the beaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.

Rerum cognoscere
causas

Dear Sir,

In response to Mr Sinclair's libellous attempt on my column "Tough on Terror; Soft on the Causes of Terror", I must object in the strongest terms

Firstly, the idea that Muslims choose to be "socially excluded...to preserve a distinct culture" is repugnant and bordering on the racist. This sort of libertarian nonsense could also be used to argue that victims of domestic violence have 'chosen' to stay with their husbands and similarly ignores the material and social power cleavages that affect all relationships in society.

He asked for evidence of the British Government enforcing social division. There are several thousands state-funded faith schools in Britain, including Islamic ones, which, for better or worse, enforce social division. More worryingly, New Labour's anti-terror laws exemplify socially divisive policies on the backdrop of rampant Islamophobia, to answer his embarrassingly naive rhetorical question.

'Asians' are not a homogenous group - the worst performing ethnic group according to league tables is often Bangladeshi males who comprise a large part of East London's population, one of the poorest areas in Britain. A coincidence, Mr Sinclair, or do they choose to fail?

As for justifying Al Qaeda's violence - I ask him to find the evidence. I condemn political violence in all situations, whether by a state or individual - does Mr Sinclair do the same?

We should not be afraid of identifying the rationale which is driving scores of young

Muslims across the world into the arms of hate-preachers. In the words of the LSE motto, I was merely attempting to shift the focus to 'understand the causes of things'. It appears that Sinclair hasn't moved on from the days of bemoaning "exploding Muslims" (*The Beaver*, 16 November 2004).

James Caspell

Misconceived

Dear Sir,

Charles Laurence's article "More contraceptives; more sex" was extraordinary.

Obviously a right-wing columnist will always struggle to be logical - as admitted at the time, conservative principles were never intended to be compatible with universal suffrage and it relies on a rather superficial definition of liberty - but this was something else.

Charles seriously seems to think that the availability of a contraceptive injection is a significant factor in increasing teenage pregnancy rates, I doubt he has spoken to a girl from Gateshead who whilst drunk at a party was about to refuse sex but then thought 'oh, "Ms Star is cheering [me] on from the sidelines" so it's ok'.

Actually, the patronising tone of his column suggests he has never willingly spoken to anyone who's parents do not have a prestigious SW1 post code.

If we don't give people a chance in life they attach less weight to the consequences of their actions. I doubt it is a coincidence that teenage pregnancy rates rise when levels of social mobility fall; attacking an attempt to stop kids falling into a cycle of poverty is hardly going

to help the situation. Charles is a nice guy, but if he is going to write a political column he needs to look at issues in greater depth - until something is done about poverty the knock on effects will be there regardless of post-coital contraceptives.

Clem Broumley-Young

A better way...

Dear Sir,

I suppose someone should correct James Caspell on his factually inaccurate letter in last week's paper, since he refused to retract it.

Contrary to James's delusions, Barclaycard were NOT present at the Freshers Fair this year. In fact this year's sabbatical team made a conscious decision not to invite them back, for precisely some of the reasons James mentioned.

Far from "persisting to sell-out our interests to the lowest bidder" the Union Executive are well aware of the problems of unaffordable student debt.

That's why this year, Natalie Black, the SU Treasurer spent hours of her time trudging round the West End and making countless phone calls to ensure that students were offered more of a choice besides NatWest.

And with Natwest things have improved as well; from now on, Natalie will be holding regular meetings with the branch manager to raise exactly the grievances James mentions with reference to international students. We are as determined as he is to get a better deal for our students, it's just that we prefer a more constructive route than his.

Finally, I should also correct James's myth that the Union is

"endorsing" banks who put profits before students. We never endorse any banks, good or bad, and the money that we raise by charging companies at freshers fair, does not disappear into some Sabbatical Officer's back pocket, it is ploughed back into frontline student services, societies, sports clubs and campaigns.

Of course, James knows all of this, but decided to write it anyway, and even when confronted with the truth still refused to apologise for his error. I appreciate that it is not the job of *the Beaver* to sift through James's drivel, but I am fed up of reading his sanctimonious dogma - I already have to listen to it every week at the C&S meetings!

Chris Heathcote,
SU Communications
Office

Party to PuLSE

Dear Sir

The PuLSEfm Committee would like to thank those members of the SU Executive, Sabbatical Officers and all others who supported the PuLSEfm Welcome Party on Thursday night.

On a more pedantic note, we must point out that in issue 623 you incorrectly referred to Alex Hochuli, founder of the Secular Society, as a 'former News Editor at PuLSE.' Alex is, in fact, currently our Head of Programming, a post that he also held last year.

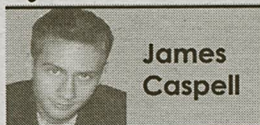
Finally, we would like to acknowledge that while we have been having some technical problems with our online broadcast, we are working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

Kind Regards,

The PuLSEfm
Committee

BlinkPolitics

Eyes to the left



James Caspell

Failing behind bars

When one considers what imprisonment is meant to achieve in the 21st century, it is often hoped that the prevailing motive would have progressed from the 'servitude and solitude' of the Victorian era. It seems however, that Britain's burgeoning prison population leaves many men, women and even children cut off from the real world in more ways than are beneficial to either individuals or society.

On Thursday, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that prisoners have the right to vote. The British Government has tried to resist this measure at every stage, highlighting the illogical and counter-productive approach that is rife throughout our penal system. Why should someone respect the laws of a society in which they are restricted from playing any part?

I would never suggest that offenders who pose a clear physical threat to society or other individuals should not be in prison. But for those who accept that prisons in the modern age should be more about reform than punishment, then it can patently be seen that Britain's prison system is in absolute crisis. It is surely counter-intuitive to expect someone to conform to society's norms and values when they reside in a labyrinth operating totally at odds with the outside world.

The right to vote is the thin end of the wedge; the Howard League for Penal Reform extols some glaring statistics: the murder rate in prison is higher than that of the community, two people a week commit suicide in prison and courts are increasingly imprisoning more mentally ill people, more elderly people, and more people who are sick and dying.

These problems affect more than simply those inside. According to Home Office statistics, over 60 per cent of all men set free after serving prison sentences in the UK are rearrested within four years of their original crimes. If the NHS failed as many patients, there would be public outcry demanding radical change. Instead the charade of failing policies continues.

Similarly, a quarter of all homeless people are ex-prisoners, highlighting how social policies fall short of preventing former criminals falling into absolute poverty upon their release, again failing both society and the individual.

The debate on penal reform must move on from the question of hanging and flogging and focus on how to stop prisoners falling into the circle of criminality and poverty upon their release. This undoubtedly involves treating criminals as part of a community outside of four concrete walls.

Thursday's ruling is certainly a step in the right direction, reversing the Victorian legacy of 'civic death', but Britain has long way to go. For the first and only time I find myself agreeing with an old Churchillian maxim:

"One can judge a civilisation by the way it treats its prisoners."

After all, people are sent to prison to lose their liberty, not their citizenship.

Blair is now the biggest threat to free speech

Alex George questions the wisdom and hypocrisy of New Labour's definition of religious hatred.

It's the 2006 World Cup. England revels in a great bout of patriotism. However, the fun is suppressed by the police arresting people flying English flags, not for the traditional drink-fuelled violence but simply for showing pride in their country. Ok, I know such a scene might be hard-pushed to appear in even George Orwell's writing. Yet, seeds are currently being sown which could possibly germinate into something which poisons our freedom.

Last week, *The Daily Telegraph* reported that staff at Wakefield prison were told not to wear Cross of St George tiepins (apparently in support of a charity) because it could be deemed as a racist symbol.

Should this new religious hatred bill become law, inciting religious hatred will become an offence punishable by up to seven years in prison. Its supporters argue that this law merely tightens up loose areas currently exploited by Islamic hate preachers on one hand and BNP style bigots on the other. However, legislation already exists for such

offences - incitement to murder is a crime. Instead, this new bill is so sloppily drafted that it creates a pathway full of banana skins for our great traditions of free speech and debate to slip and fall down on. For a start, there is no clear definition of what comprises a religious belief. Are Michael Jackson worshippers included? Then even more bizarrely, the bill states that comments which 'insult' religious groups are pro-

'Seeds are currently being sown which could possibly germinate into something which poisons our freedom.'

hibited, while those which 'cause offence' are permitted. Now can any smart law student please inform me how the difference between an offensive remark and an insulting one is so profound that saying one means you're fine and expressing the other can land you in jail for seven years?

The simple truth is that all religions contain teachings which, when interpreted in an extreme sense, can offend other



Patron saint or overly patriotic criminal?

religious believers. If some people think the English flag can cause racial offence, then it could also cause religious offence. The red cross on a white background symbolises a martyr's blood, and this dates from the Crusades. Therefore, there could be a case for someone to argue that the flag insults Muslims because it commemorates a war between Christianity and Islam.

Although the government insists that common sense will prevail, just ask Walter Wolfgang, the heckler ejected from the Labour conference, who was prevented from re-entering the building due to anti-terror legislation. Will a bill against political hatred be drafted as well? I can't help but smell hypocrisy in the government's battle against religious hatred.

Furthermore, this law will stifle religious debate. Last December, a Birmingham theatre was forced to shut down its production of the play *Bezhti* after protests from several Sikhs who found its content offensive. The government did nothing to support freedom of expression then. Now this bill means its playwright Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti could be prosecuted should she wish to produce it again at some point. What she wrote may have been completely untrue, but she

has a right to her point of view. As a Christian, I don't like Paul Abbott's attack on Christianity, but he has every right to do this. This law will perversely strengthen the role of fanatics in each religion as the moderate will be confused for the radical all too easily.

Early Modern Europe suffered from terrible religious strife, but out of this emerged the right to question religious beliefs. We

'Instead this new bill is so sloppily drafted that it creates a pathway full of banana skins for our great traditions of free speech to slip and fall down on.'

must not start eroding this.

Last week, Bremner, Bird and Fortune did a brilliant sketch of Saddam Hussein in prison, chuckling that while we're exporting democracy to Iraq, Blair's trying to restrict freedom at home. More seriously, at a time when we're encouraging Iran to become more democratic, this law has more resemblance to Iranian theocracy than British freedom.

Political Digest

The Turkish question

05/10/05 by Yee To Wong

After a long period of diplomatic impasse, the European Union (EU) and Turkey have finally agreed on a negotiating framework that will open talks fully on Turkish membership of the EU.

The agreement has not come easy, with Austria's government insisting on offering Turkey a 'privileged partnership' rather than full membership. It was only at the last minute that Austria stepped back, Croatia too, when allowed to hold membership negotiations of its own.

An early test will come in 2006, when the EU will review

Turkey's progress in opening its ports and airways to vessels bearing the flag of Cyprus, whose government in the Greek part of the island is not recognised by Ankara.

Following the rejection of the EU's constitutional treaty by French and Dutch voters earlier this year, there will be doubts on whether the EU can cope with another member, especially if Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia are to join over the next few years.

Still, Turkey must adopt over 80,000 pages of EU law, and all 25 current members must agree that Turkey has met every condition in each chapter before getting in. French President Jacques Chirac said Turkey would need a 'cultural revolution' to achieve EU membership.

The negativity is mutual among the Europeans and the

Turks. Though Austria dropped its objection in the end, it will take over the EU's rotating presidency in January and may use its influence to revitalise the idea of 'privileged partnership.'

Nicolas Sarkozy, a popular Gaullist who is a favourite to win the 2007 French presidential election, opposes Turkish membership. Angela Merkel, who seems likely to be the next German chancellor, supports the idea of limited membership for Turkey.

Many Europeans are sceptical of the idea of welcoming a predominantly Muslim nation of 72 million people into the EU. They are also concerned about Turkish job-seekers crowding out the labour market of current EU members. According to a recent poll by *Eurobarometre*, just 35 per cent of EU citizens support Turkish membership.

Meanwhile, grievances over

past European domination still run deep in the Turkish national psyche. "History taught us that we cannot trust these Europeans," said Kemal Kerinciz, a 42-year-old Turkish lawyer. In a recent poll conducted in Turkey, 51 per cent of Turks said the current situation resembles the signing of the Treaty of Sèvres in 1920, which led to the Ottoman Empire being carved up by foreign powers.

The Turkish military is vocal about its opposition to EU membership, fearing that closer ties with Europe will reduce their power, and see a divided Turkey as an opportunity to restore their power.

Many Turks see concessions to the EU's demand as a betrayal of Turkish national interests, making the road ahead much rockier.

BlinkPolitics

Japanese apologies can cure Sino-scar

Winsy Ng explores the notion of future Sino-Japanese reconciliation.

China and Japan are alike in so many ways. They share a number of the same characters in their languages. Most westerners find it difficult to distinguish the Chinese from the Japanese. Indeed, there are those who believe that they were originally one nation. But whatever their similarities, there is no denying that the two have been like fire and water in their recent dispute. The rule 'love your neighbour' seems unheard of between the two enemies.

The many large-scale demonstrations occurring all over China were fuelled by the publishing of a Japanese textbook, which allegedly distorts the history of the Japanese occupation of China. This is coupled with the annual visits of Junichiro Koizumi to the Yasukuni Shrine to honour war criminals, an act seen as glorification of militarism.

Chinese emotions are perfectly understandable. Ever since the late 19th century, the Chinese have suffered atrocities caused by Japan's aggressive expansionist policy, initiated in the Meiji period. The Chinese hated the Japanese just as the Jews hated Nazis. If you had had your limbs severed, or had been subjected to electrocution experiments, or had your sister taken to be one of the

'comfort women,' you would feel more hatred than today's Chinese feel for the degrading treatment imposed upon their ancestors. It is a sad legacy of humiliation, indignation, and justice withheld to this present day.

Yet while sympathy is deserved, violence in the demonstration process is not justified. Japanese students were attacked, and Japanese businesses also suffered. It is important for demonstrators to realise that although they have every right to protest, they must identify the Japanese authorities (dominated by right-wing Conservatives) as the main

'The Chinese hated the Japanese just as the Jews hated the Nazis.'

perpetrators of injustice. Wildly assaulting any innocent Japanese person would be condemned as pure barbarism, thus losing the support of sympathetic parties.

The recurring mistake that Chinese nationalists make is to confuse nationalism with irrational fury. When the Chinese team lost the football match to Japan in the Asian Cup, they verbally abused the winners, linking the defeat to past Japanese aggression. In an era of rule and reason, the Chinese must endeavour to maintain their composure in dealing with the Japanese.

Since what is done cannot be undone, the only step forward is

to accept an acknowledgement of wrongdoing by Japan and rebuild Sino-Japanese relations.

Japan is currently one of the world's richest and strongest powers. No doubt this is one reason why the international community has been slow to condemn Japan as no country would want to lose such a crucial economic partner. The Meiji movement's aim to modernise Japan to bring the country on a par with its western counterparts has certainly been achieved. Is it not right for a mature, modernised, prestigious country to observe the

moral rules, acknowledge its faults, and move forward with old enemies?

We forgive, but we do not forget. It is time for old enmities to be left behind, but not ignored. In his article 'Bury a painful past - or dig it up?' published in *The Times*, October 1 2005, Ben Macintyre writes, 'the salve for historical pain is not revenge or time and still less monetary compensation but truth, and the justice that comes from knowing it has been unearthed.' Time alone is insufficient medicine to heal a festering wound.



Protesters at the shrine (right) Junichiro Koizumi visits (above)



The right approach

Charles Laurence



Power hungry

The Conservatives are hungry for power, perhaps even starving. At their Blackpool conference last week, various leadership candidates offered salivating prospects, each promising a banquet of future power for the delegates. The party should take care in making its decision. Starving people are known to act in desperate, even irrational ways, and getting it wrong this time could be disastrous.

Many candidates have strong credentials, but most would nudge the Conservatives closer to victory only to watch Labour gorge themselves for another parliament. Kenneth Clarke and David Davis are such men. Clarke performed well, but he is a known quantity, and what we know is that his speech was as good as he will get. Full of bombast but with no ideas, he reminded me of a great cavalry commander in the age of the tank - skilful but irrelevant.

Davis's speech was poorly judged and poorly executed. It betrayed the psychology of an opposition leader, not a Prime Minister. I expect his support to melt away, as it was based on threats and promises of patronage which he can no longer credibly make.

So we are left with David Cameron. As he strode onto the stage, neither well known nor properly understood, you could feel the room eyeing him up. The mass of unanswered questions could be summed up in one simple one, was he the Conservative's Tony Blair? At the end of the speech the answer was clearly no, he is better than that.

The first mistaken comparison is that Cameron is 'wet,' with his philosophy not being truly Conservative. Not true. Whereas Blair was born in the centre and dragged his party towards him, Cameron has Conservatism imprinted on his DNA. Blair has failed because he is a timid free marketer in a firmly statist party, without the support necessary to follow his beliefs. Cameron will succeed because he talks from the centre of the Tory party. He is not dragging the party left or right, he is dragging compassionate and moderate language and policies from within Conservatism.

In his speech he called for a "sharing of the proceeds of growth" between the state and the taxpayer. A simple phrase that begins the re-framing of the economic debate, with the Conservatives as the force of common-sense and moderation. More importantly, Cameron understands that you can only be trusted to reduce the role of the state if people believe you genuinely care about those who rely on it. When he said of Labour's education system, "it is heartless, it is gutless, it is wrong," he spoke with the moral authority of someone who believes Conservatism is better for all, not just the privileged few.

In the words of George Bush Senior, he has, "that vision thing." Blair had that too, but his vision was built on sophistry and has thus achieved very little. Cameron's is a truly Conservative vision, even if the party does not realise it yet. Cameron will win if given the chance. The question is, can Conservatives stomach him?

Conserving the future

Ross K. Allan wonders whether the Tories had a conference or a parade.

As Michael Howard stood down from his leadership of the Conservatives at the end of the party conference last week, he did so with the words, "the party is not, and never had been, the nasty party."

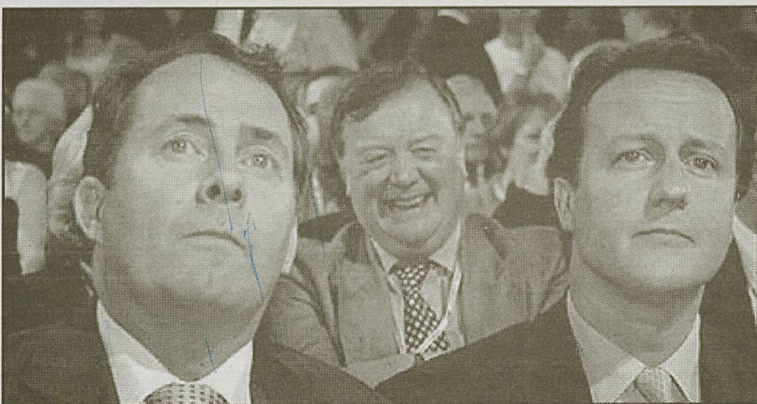
Immediately prior to this remark though, he had advised that it was now time to embrace a new generation. It was time to attract the iPodders, if you will, which many drew on as a veiled reference to his support for David Cameron in the leadership election contest. Regardless of where his loyalties lie, it is with this speech and this conference that the party has made the first steps towards once again being an electable party. On behalf of the party (given his not standing down as leader officially until Sunday) he was in all reality admitting that the Tories are the nasty party, in that they are perceived as such, at least by the great majority.

In an attempt then to move away from being this nasty party, we have heard speeches this week in Blackpool from the contenders for the new leadership. They indicate where they would like to take the party instead.

For David Cameron it's all

about modernisation, which could well be what the party goes for. Indeed, his standing is far better this week than it was last, given that the party conference was his first opportunity to show his competence, otherwise being untested. It was a convincing start for the Tory Party's young pretender.

Liam Fox and David Davis both expressed caution in their speeches, feeling the party lacked substance and questioning if the modernisation was merely an



The potential leaders

image enhancement. At this, both men received applause, flagging up the concerns of all too many of the idea of unnecessary change.

Fox is still considered too much a man of the right to com-

mand wide support though, and when Davis advocates support for such policies as capital punishment for serial offenders, it's difficult to see how the nasty edge will be taken off the party. Besides this, his speech bombed.

Kenneth Clarke came off well as somebody who could compete against Brown, but just as Fox seems too far right, to most in the party, Clarke seems too far left.

The 10 day event has been heralded by many, in both the party and the press, as the most

successful in a decade. This is no doubt because for once there was something to be talked about; and there was much politicking to be done; but most of all the conference was a success because it

Tory Party Conference 2005



wasn't really a conference at all. It was successful because it was a parade, of those who could lead the party; and conservative types, with their respect for the establishment; like their parades.

Cameron seemed the bonniest and Davis marched a little out of step. There was much cheering and clapping. Everybody who wasn't a Tory just rolled their eyes wondering what all the fuss was about.

This week in...

The Isle of Portland

The mayor cautioned the producers of the new Wallace and Gromit film, *Curse of the Were-Rabbit*, against using the word rabbit in their adverts. For years the animal has been considered unlucky in this area. Few locals say its name if possible, instead referring to it as 'underground mutton.' The rabbits in this area are notorious for burrowing which has caused a few accidents and even the death of a crane operator due to unstable ground. The film producers have accepted this superstition and have produced adverts that now refer to the 'underground mutton' as bunnies and not rabbits.

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recognising
opportunities.

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sure you don't
miss them.



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BlinkPolitics

From guerillas to gangsters; why belligerents won't bite the bullet

In light of recent developments, Blink argues that everyday violence in Northern Ireland is far from over.

Policing is undoubtedly one of the most contentious issues that face Northern Ireland. For years the former official police force, the RUC, were seen by Northern Ireland's Catholics as oppressors defending Protestant political hegemony. During the late 1960's, increasingly violent confrontation between the predominantly Protestant RUC and marching Catholic civil rights groups swelled, and that alienated the Catholic population.

Catholic enclaves began to police their own communities. Although many Catholic groups, both violent and non-violent, attempted to fill this vacuum, the Provisional IRA became the leading provider of 'community justice'. IRA sanctions are well-documented and range from placard-wearing, tarring and feathering (mainly for women who fraternised with security force members), to severe beating, kneecapping, shooting and ultimately death or exile.

The punishment for those who committed criminal or anti-social activity was often completely arbitrary and excessively brutal. The romanticised image of the IRA freedom fighter can be quickly dispelled by the fact that many more of the IRA's bullets ended up in the legs of young Catholic men suspected of low-level criminal activity than anywhere else.

The affected communities became increasingly traumatised, desensitised to violence and isolated from the formal criminal justice system. Community members could not complain to the police about vigilantism for fear of paramilitary reprisal, and when seeking recourse for justice were left with no alternative but to go to the IRA/Sinn Féin.

As with many social problems unique to Northern Ireland, a mirrored image was found in Loyalist communities where Protestant paramilitary organisations such as the UVF, UDA and LVF also undertook distorted policing duties with equally horrific results.

Why the Republican move-

ment employed such brutal measures is twofold. First, to continue their military operations it was vital that the communities that harboured them were socially cohesive, pliable and, above all, informer-free. The IRA felt that a fear-inspiring approach was necessary to solidify support. Their involvement in informal justice aided this.

Second, the Republican movement's political wing, Sinn Féin, have long recognised the electoral benefits gleaned from mobilising anti-police sentiment. It has been argued that the present structure of Sinn Féin largely grew out of their organisation of Republican vigilantism, which could be directly brokered at one of their 'incident centres', known locally as Provo Police Stations. Crimes reported were investigated by the IRA and the offenders punished accordingly.

'It is estimated that 60 percent of all organised criminal groups operating in Northern Ireland are linked to paramilitaries'

Today, Northern Ireland is going through a period of unheralded change and development. The massive steps that have taken place over the last few years have dramatically altered the political climate forever. However, as much as the police service reforms and recent IRA statement calling for an end to its activities would indicate that the alternative justice system is over, the reality on the ground is vastly different.

Whereas once the IRA needed community conformity to pursue their military operations, that same control is arguably still needed to continue their highly lucrative criminal enterprises. It is estimated that 60 percent of all organised criminal groups operating in Northern Ireland are linked to paramilitaries (either Republican or Loyalist). We are not talking about thousands of pounds, or even millions, but hundreds of millions.

The IRA's fuel smuggling alone costs the British Treasury in excess of £200 million a year. They have also been rewarded handsomely for perfecting the

Red Smirnoff recipe and counterfeiting many designer perfumes. All in all, the IRA's criminal rackets rake in profits which would even put Al Capone to shame. In context though, their Loyalist counterparts are perhaps even more immersed in criminality, especially drug dealing.

Regardless of the recent IRA statement, the money at stake will ensure that such profitable operations will, at best, not diminish and, at worst, intensify as a flourishing culture of gangsterism develops. As long as such paramilitary crime remains, there will be a strong motivation to retain the social control and violence associated with running a criminal empire.

Equally, informal justice will continue as communities subjected to it and anti-police propaganda are now hooked on its instantaneous and gratifying nature. As much as Sinn Féin realise that the presence of 15 year-old shoplifters with broken legs may hamper their efforts to come across as warm and fuzzy to the broader Nationalist electorate, to refrain from such measures adversely affects support amongst their grassroots supporters.

They have found themselves in a catch-22, where they are damned by middle ground

Nationalist voters if they do, and cursed by their Republican faithful if they don't. In an effort to bail themselves out they have attempted to limit the number of victims who end up dead or shot and have instead increasingly relied on more subtle methods of alternative justice.

New methods include the greater use of local counsellors as mediators for anti-social activity,

'For years the perpetrators of punishment beatings have escaped major political scrutiny...this must end'

the creation of restorative justice-based groups (both backed up by paramilitary 'ex-combats'), the increased use of the threat of violence, as opposed to a desert eagle special in the leg, and the increased expulsion of persistent offenders.

In short, informal justice is still a monumental problem in Northern Ireland. Although this article is centred around the rough justice of the IRA and Sinn Féin, the terror and brutality of such attacks is also found at the hands of the Loyalist paramili-

tary. For years the perpetrators of punishment beatings have escaped major political scrutiny in the need for broader peace and political inclusivity. This must end.

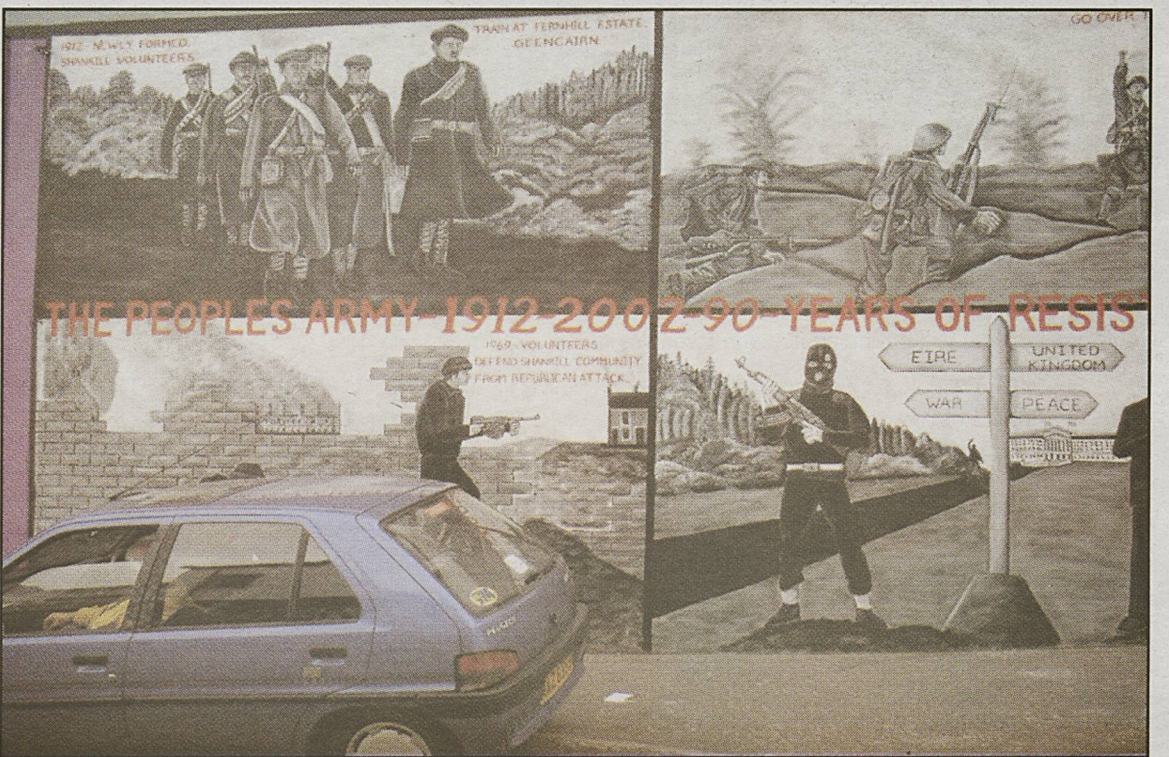
Although the recent IRA statement largely resulted from increased pressure from the US in reaction to the murder of Robert McCartney and the IRA's need to distance itself from 'terrorism' in light of September 11, they must be held to their recent statement. Their call on members to 'not engage in any other activities whatsoever' must include involvement in criminal activity and informal justice.

The political concessions enjoyed by Sinn Féin must also stop. It is essential they encourage Catholics to join the new police service and refrain from their involvement in activities that undermine the formal criminal justice system, even if they lose voters.

Regardless of which side of the political spectrum you come from in Northern Ireland, a commitment has to be made by all to end the harrowing practise of punishment beatings and shootings, and to display those guilty of such acts, usually against the young and vulnerable, as what they truly are - vicious and malicious thugs.



A similar situation of violence was found in communities under Protestant paramilitary control



A permanent reminder

BlinkLaw

No longer barred from democracy

Tara Moore explores the recent decision in the ECHR that prisoners should be allowed to take part in the process.

The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that banning all prisoners from voting is a breach of human rights. The Strasbourg court ruled that the UK law banning ex-prisoner John Hirst from voting violated the right to free elections.

In 1980, Mr Hirst pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. John Hirst was released from prison on licence on 25 May 2004, and began campaigning for prisoners' voting rights. The crucial question is whether the 60,000 plus convicted criminals in the UK could and should be given the right to vote in jail.

The decision of the Court was based upon a number of general principles. Most importantly, they argued that the right to vote is vital to establish and maintain effective democracy. Any limitations on the right to vote should be imposed for a legitimate aim and purpose. Considering that the limitation on universal suffrage risks undermining the validity of democracy, it was argued that this rule actually countered the purpose of the electoral system. Mr Hirst's lawyers also argued that not giving prisoners the right to vote counters the rehabilitative aims of prison, and in no way prevents crime.

In the court's reasoning, with the exception of the right to liberty, prisoners continue to enjoy all other rights guaranteed in the Human Rights Convention and this includes political rights. Juliet Lyon, director of the Prison Reform Trust that campaigns for prisoners' right to vote, said that the court's decision showed that "people are sent to prison to lose their liberty, not their identity or their citizenship."

Joe Levenson, author of a report on voting for the Prison Reform Trust, has suggested that 'giving prisoners the vote would help reconnect prisoners with society and encourage them to take responsibilities as citizens. It would also encourage politicians to become better informed about prisons and penal policy.'

Mr Hirst complained of the difficulty in separating crime and the right to take part in democracy. He has since said, "the Human Rights Court has agreed with me that the government's position is

wrong. It doesn't matter how heinous the crime, everyone is entitled to have the basic human right to vote."

The Tories certainly don't agree with this theory. The Shadow Attorney General, Dominic Grieve, speaking for the Tories, was concerned that giving the right to vote to convicted murderers would 'bring the law into disrepute and many people will see it as making a mockery of justice.'

The five dissenting judges were concerned about the Court taking over legislative functions, arguing that nation states should be able to restrict voting according to age or nationality. After all, doesn't this decision leave open the argument that those under the age of 18 who are not allowed to vote are being denied one of their basic human rights?

Perhaps it is irrelevant, but it

'In the court's reasoning, with the exception of the right to liberty, prisoners continue to enjoy all other rights guaranteed in the Human Rights Convention and this includes political rights.'

is surely a thought that will cross the minds of many of the public. Mr Hirst was convicted of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility having killed his landlady with an axe. To use this, the defendant must suffer from 'such abnormality of mind (arising from a condition of arrested or retarded development from mind or any inherent causes, or induced by disease or injury) so as to substantially impair his mental responsibility of those acts.'

Considering the recent failures of the mental health system, there will be those who will question whether they are capable of determining whether prisoners, such as Mr Hirst, who have suffered from an 'abnormality of mind' should ever be trusted with voting. Furthermore, there are those who will argue that to commit such a crime you must suffer from an abnormality of mind, as most people do not commit serious crimes.

To become a prisoner, it could be argued, you must opt out of being part of society, thereby opt

'Do they choose to opt out of the rules of society or are they failed by the system?'

out of following its laws and regulation. If they don't want to exist within our society, why should they have any right to influence the way in which we are ruled? Of course, many of these arguments only exist in theory. Nothing is ever as clear in reality.

Motives are something that lawyers are not supposed to look at too closely, but if you argue that prisoners have opted out of society, then how do we reconcile people who have been convicted of crimes but who did not voluntarily choose to commit the crime? For example, we may recall the cases in which homeowners have been convicted of crimes after defending their property against burglars. Do they choose to opt out of the rules of society or are they failed by the system?

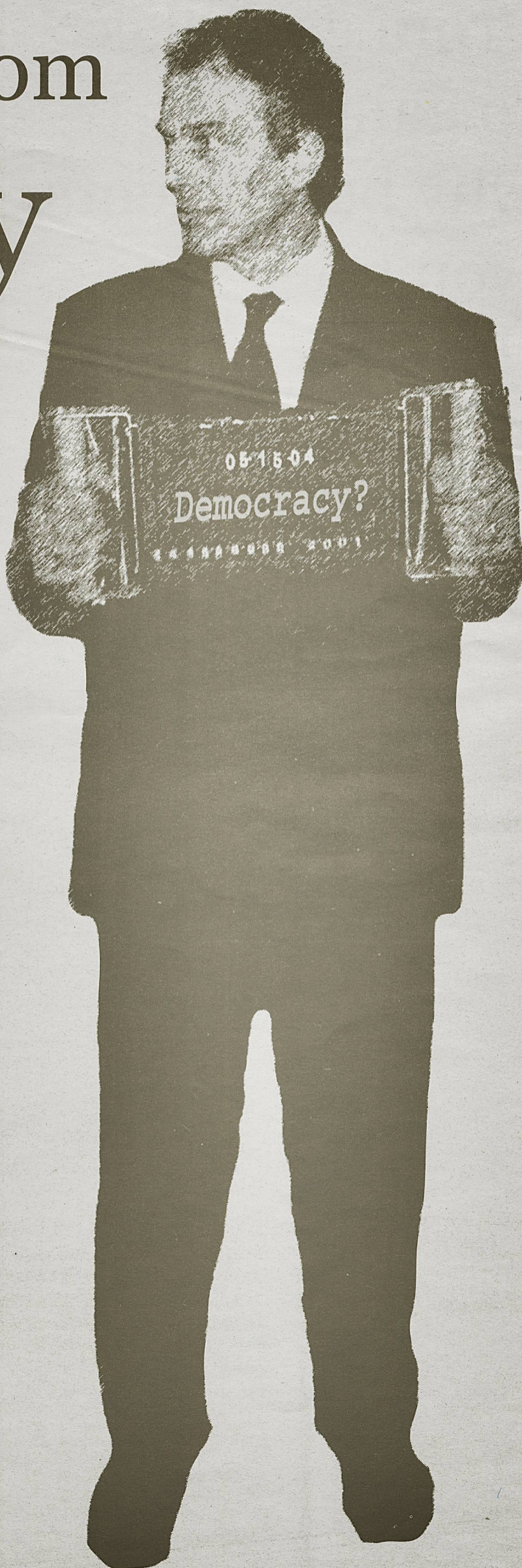
The ban on prisoners voting is a key political issue. According to the Prison Reform Trust the ban may determine election results in a number of constituencies. Perhaps this is why, despite this ruling, Lord Falconer told the BBC that there was no question of all inmates being given the right to vote.

He suggested instead that the review might look at the categorisation of prisoners, so that prisoners convicted of less serious crimes might be given the right to vote, but prisoners convicted of the most serious offences would not.

However, this leads to problems in categorising offences and whether other factors should be taken into account. And if the European Court of Human Rights has decided that a prisoner convicted of manslaughter should be allowed to vote, then surely this will open the doors for more prisoners convicted of serious offences to rely on this decision.

Despite all of this, perhaps we are making a big assumption. The current percentage of the public voting might suggest that even if many prisoners are given the right to vote they might not use this right.

This decision is only the beginning of a much larger scheme of reform, which we must hope in the coming weeks, months and years, will rely upon the law and the facts, rather than political allegiances.



BlinkLaw

Pension problem hardly the end of the world

Stephen Gummer discusses the latest controversy over judicial pay and pensions

In a rather scandalous and somewhat inconspicuous announcement this week, it seems that judicial salaries are due to rise by up to 20 percent. This over-inflationary rise follows a statement by the Lord Chancellor that he will probably be unable to protect judicial pensions from a new government tax bill.

According to *The Times*, this new legislation imposes a £1.5 million threshold on pension earnings with tax relief. Following this a substantial amount of taxation will be placed on the remainder of the earnings (25 percent). Having seen these statistics, many of the senior judiciary have threatened to resign - after all, £1.5 million isn't what it was.

Is it my imagination or does it seem outrageous to claim that someone who has made up to £175,671 (Court of Appeal salary) per annum should require a special tax break? This is not to mention the ridiculous amounts of money that many of the senior

judiciary have made in the private sector.

However, in relation to this debate, it is not even the judiciary's audacity in appealing this decision so much as some of the arguments that have been mooted to support their cause.

Lord Woolf spoke of a need to offer decent salaries in order to,

Do we really want to recruit the type of used car salesman who would surrender the honour of working in some of Britain's highest courts in exchange for one more zero on the end of an already huge six figure personal fortune?

"attract the calibre of person [they] would want to the bar". This argument has been tossed around for years and undisputedly sounds more ridiculous every time I hear it. These guys aren't getting paid in peanuts. Can anyone seriously suggest that £175,000 per year is not enough

to get by on (regardless of what pension deal you receive)? Whilst one must concede that many judges do take substantial pay decreases when they take up the job, they are undisputedly loaded before they give up the private sector.

It is also worth noting that many join the judiciary not for the money, but in order to shape the jurisprudence of our nation. This is exactly the type of judge that we should be looking for; someone who is far more interested in justice and working themselves into the annals of history, rather than spending time moaning about a slight cut in pensions that won't make a small bit of difference. Do we really want to recruit the type of used car salesman who would surrender the honour of working in some of Britain's highest courts in exchange for one more zero on the end of an already huge six figure personal fortune?

Lord Woolf also spoke of the disadvantage of the judiciary in that they cannot go back to working in the private sector if funds run low. He stated that he was simply trying to put judges in the same position as everyone else.

If Lord Woolf had started working at the age of 30 making an average salary of a high court

judge (probably an underestimate as he was likely to have made more money in the private sector, and would certainly have made more in the years as Master of the Rolls and Lord Chief Justice), then he would have had 42 years earning about £120,000 (allowing for inflation). This would have made him just over £5 million. This son of a builder should appreciate that the judiciary are probably slightly too even.

However, it is worth adding a note of caution to this diatribe by stating that judges do deserve relatively high salaries. This is not in question. If one looks back through the law journals and sees some of the remarkable judgements of Lord Denning, Diplock and Reid, it is clear that these were some of the most intelligent and creative minds of their generation. Indeed, today's breed of senior judiciary are no exception. Just look at the rulings in the

Protecting their pensions (right)

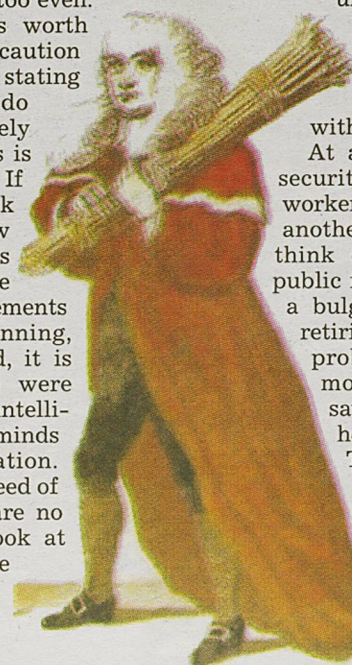
Belmarsh case.

Whilst you do get the odd judge who has never heard of David Beckham, or the singular Law Lord who forgets the mandate of the International Court of Justice, it is hard to deny that these keepers of the peace are deserving of the high pay lavished upon them.

Whilst there are no cries for the scissors of privilege to cut unjust salaries of the

bourgeois elite, it would be nice to see them receive their pay packets with a little more grace.

At a time when social security for the average worker is unlikely to last another 10 years, I can think of better uses for public funds than assuring a bulging wallet for the retiring judge, who has probably got more money in personal savings accounts than he could ever spend. The fact that Lord Woolf's retirement yacht may not be his ideal choice of colour should take a slightly lower place on the public agenda.



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BlinkInterview

Revolutionaries revisionists & recklessness

Simon Schama interviewed

Executive Editor Sam Jones talks to Britain's best-known historian about his latest project.

History sure ain't what it used to be, and apparently historians aren't either. Simon Schama is a multi-millionaire. And also, by profession, a historian. Few others lay claim to the same venn.

Perhaps it's superficial to lead with such an obtuse observation - but Schama has never resented his popularity, and if anything, relishes it far more than his critics would want. "History was born outside the university," he tells me, speaking affably and with typical Schama-esque panache. It isn't an unreasonable assertion to say that Schama has become something of a celebrity - frequently appearing on televised debates and invariably referred to as a touchstone of suave academic sentiment in *medja* circles.

But Schama is far from being a typical academic. Charismatic, awkward and compelling in equal measure, Schama too was born outside the university. "Get a life" he tells the critics who derided *A History of Britain* as populist.

His history, in fact all history, he tells me, is personal; "Originally I had wanted to give *A History of Britain* the subtitle 'a personal journey' - though maybe that would have been a little too cheesy for the BBC." Note, dear reader, 'A' history of Britain - the definitive is absent.

Schama recounts huge opposition to *A History of Britain* from within the BBC when it was conceived. Many regarded it as an anachronistic project in an age of fly-on-the-wall documentary making. TV history was fast being relegated to abstruse digital airwaves watched only by A-level teachers and military obscurantists.

"There was a huge hunger for *A History of Britain*. History should be for the people," he says. This seems to be a running theme of Schama's and it's not just meant as a didactic rebuttal of his critics. For Schama, good history communicates with people. Quoting Forster verbatim he tells me, "The historian must have some conception of how men who are not historians behave. Otherwise he will move in a world of the dead." Narrative history - well written, nuanced and above all, stylistically engaging is Schama's metier. As he is keen to

point out to his critics, he's not in bad company either - "Herodotus wasn't mindless," he jokes.

The importance of Schama's narrative is in making the past speak to the present. "Writing narrative history isn't easy either. Academics seem to be under the impression 'narrative history is just writing a story' - Ok buster, just you try it."

Wearing his trademark Costello glasses and with a rather

'Schama is far from being a typical academic - charismatic, awkward and compelling in equal measure, Schama too, was born outside the university. "Get a life" he tells the critics who derided *A History of Britain* as populist.'

frenetic inability to stand still ("Sit still Schama," he recalls his French teacher regularly yelling at him in school) Schama certainly commands a disarming presence off screen as much as on. What Schama lacks in the acerbic bitterness of Starkey (a former LSE lecturer and perhaps, if we were trading historical Shakespearean trump cards, a bitter Richard III to Schama's Henry VII) he makes up in his dynamism and affability.

Schama's latest book, *Rough Crossings* is his latest controversial revision of historical mythology. Its contention - timed perhaps, as he hopes, to "deeply wound the self-congratulatory streak in contemporary American politics" - is that the American Revolution of 1776 had little to do with freedom or liberty. "The rhetoric of freedom versus slavery never had anything to do with blacks - it only referred to whites. That's why I find the idea of Liebeskind's 'Freedom Tower,' standing at 1776 feet high (designed to commemorate the Revolution) so nauseous.

"Hell could not have vomited forth a more diabolical scheme" quotes Schama, this time from the memoirs

of a Southern Statesman, and referring to the Revolution itself, rather than the Freedom Tower. The Revolution, contends Schama, was conceived for the protection and perpetration of servitude than the emancipation of the civic soul. "Freedom and liberty aren't exactly free for all in modern America either. Look at New Orleans, where the poor and the black have been left behind to drown."

Schama has a somewhat bipolar relationship with America, his adopted home. He is a professor of History at Columbia University in New York and a former art critic for *The New Yorker*. But there is a definite animosity between Schama and contemporary American culture. Schama likes to cause a stir.

Citizens, his volume on the French Revolution was received with applause and disgust in equal measure by the academic

world. "My left wing friends were a little horrified at my 'betrayal' of 1789," he tells me. "I didn't mean to be a party pooper though. I was just trying to do

"I didn't mean to be a party pooper though, I was just trying to do something original and fresh. If I'd wanted to do something uncontroversial I would have written about Queen Victoria."

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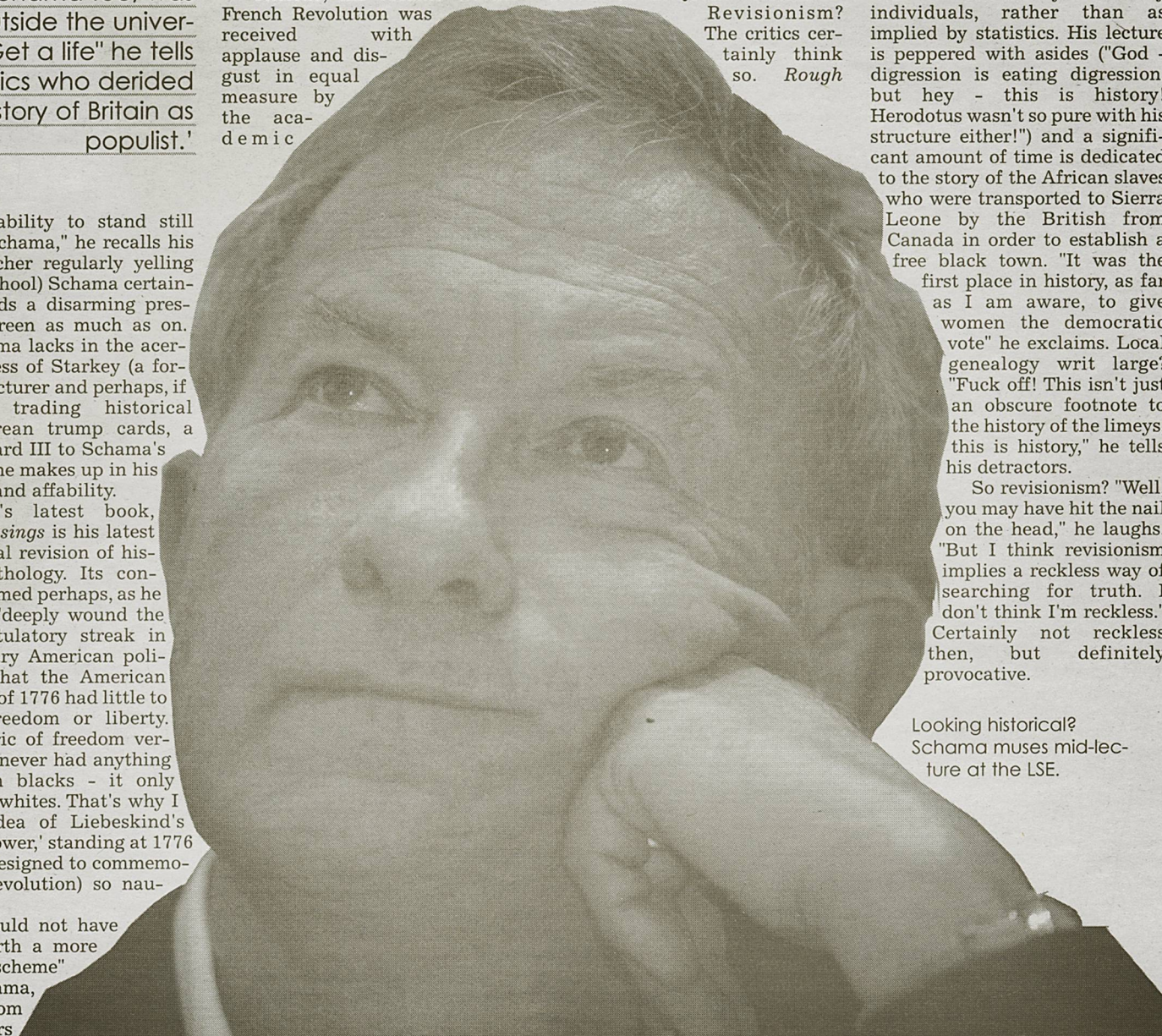
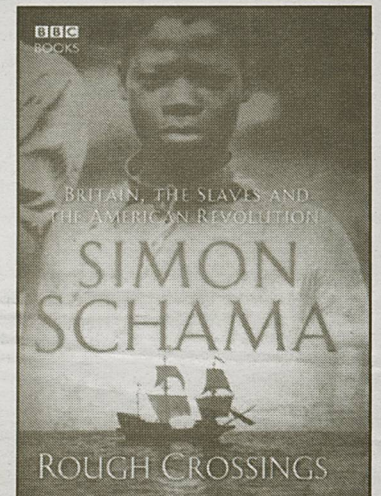
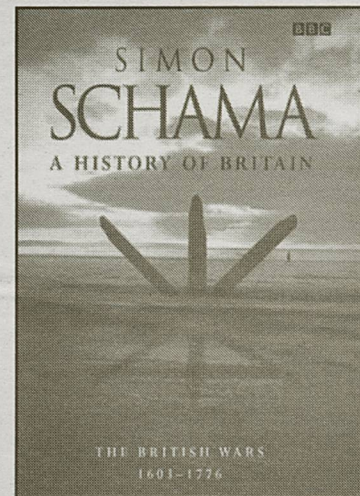
Revisionism? The critics certainly think so. *Rough*

Crossings is set to stir up quite a storm with its release in America later this month. Republican moralists will certainly be easily tripped up by the book's deliberate challenge to their current hegemony in American academic life. *Citizens* certainly irritated people. Both were highly original approaches which challenged the political and historical orthodoxy. Schama does seem to bait his critics - perhaps because he knows full well that their obtuse questions will be born more out of reactionary prejudice than academic rigor. Narrative is indeed a game.

Schama is no apologist though and is quick to condemn the British in equal measure. The story of *Rough Crossings* is not a nationalistic one at all. Rather, it is anecdotal - history as lived by individuals, rather than as implied by statistics. His lecture is peppered with asides ("God - digression is eating digression, but hey - this is history! Herodotus wasn't so pure with his structure either!") and a significant amount of time is dedicated to the story of the African slaves who were transported to Sierra Leone by the British from Canada in order to establish a free black town. "It was the first place in history, as far as I am aware, to give women the democratic vote" he exclaims. Local genealogy writ large? "Fuck off! This isn't just an obscure footnote to the history of the limeys, this is history," he tells his detractors.

So revisionism? "Well, you may have hit the nail on the head," he laughs. "But I think revisionism implies a reckless way of searching for truth. I don't think I'm reckless." Certainly not reckless then, but definitely provocative.

Looking historical? Schama muses mid-lecture at the LSE.



BlinkBusiness

The road to Yumnation

Blink Editor Alexa Sharples scratches beneath the glossy veneer of entrepreneurialism

On his way to school one day, Vivek Kakkar passed by the opening of a new Pizza Hut. Vivek was inspired. Nearly three years ago, Vivek was still working his nine-to-five job as a software developer. Life was comfortable, but the idea of an Asian fast food store had been with him since the day he took that shortcut to school.

Meet the creator and founder of Yumnation, an Indian inspired and health conscious sandwich bar that opened this summer up the road from the LSE.

"It's a huge risk leaving your job, leaving everything behind. I was on the verge of buying a house, was thinking of settling down, and didn't know if I could risk that." However, time was running out. "It was just a matter of biting the bullet. I guess it was that which prompted me to leave everything and go do it."

A third of Britons think about setting up their own com-

'Being new to catering, this former IT professional at one of the world's largest banks spent three months behind the sandwich counter with the 16 year olds at Pret A Manger'

pany, but four in 10 never make it past the daydreams. Earlier this year, the annual European Cities Monitor named London the best European city in which to run a business. But actually starting up a business is another matter. The Small Business Council found that London has the worst three-year business survival rate in the country.

Taking the plunge entails the biggest risks one might ever take, and the journey is a long and arduous one. "I left my job in mid-2003 and I thought that after three or four months I would be up and trading. I was rather naïve because it does take a lot longer than that...and everything was very, very difficult."

First, there was the issue of experience. Being new to catering, this former IT professional at one of the world's largest banks spent three months behind the sandwich counter with 16 year-olds at Pret A Manger.

"They were quite surprised as to why I insisted I wanted to be a sandwich maker," he says.

"But after about three months I'd learnt the ropes, the health and safety aspects, hygiene, and everything to do with suppliers."

Next came the issue of finance and red tape, long thought to be one of the greatest bridles on British entrepreneurship. Vivek very much agreed.

"Small businesses are not actively supported in the UK. Banks are not interested in supporting entrepreneurs and start-ups," he claims. "They have start-up campaigns and I was even offering to put in 50 percent of the required amount, but they're not interested if they sense any risk whatsoever."

"I tried various banks, and produced a brilliant business plan. In the end, I was hugely frustrated because they said, 'the business plan is great, the idea is brilliant but we don't feel you have enough experience. I said entrepreneurs don't tend to have much experience. I found it to be a bit of a farce...It was very, very difficult to try and find money. In the end, it has to come from private resources, which is a shame."

Arguably though, beyond all the practical barriers, the most challenging was the struggle to see Yumnation try to survive its first few weeks. "The most difficult part was opening up on the first day, after many, many months, only to make £6.95. Since then, I've lost about one and a half stone and four inches off my waist because of the stress. I'd consider that one of the lowest points. Even a couple weeks after that it was very hard, simply because it wasn't making any money and I hadn't had a proper paycheque for ages."

However, in the aftermath of low points, the highs are gradually rolling in with the greatest one being that in the past couple of weeks Yumnation has started breaking even. "We're not making a living by any means, but we're not having to put anything in." Other crowning moments have included, "when customers say how good our food is, or how it's a great idea, and then they bring their friends. Anything positive is a definite high point."

Things have started looking so much more positive that, "within a year we'd like to be rolling out franchises of Yumnation on a small scale in London...We hope that a lot of

'The most difficult part was opening up on the first day after many, many months, only to make £6.75. Since then I've lost about one and a half stone and four inches off my waist because of the stress'



Vivek Kumar outside his shop on Sicilian Avenue

Photograph: Sid Kamath

people will know about it through effective marketing, which so far has yet to happen, and by employing a few more people."

Vivek describes the tumultuous journey as a learning process, entrepreneurial world aside. "It's very easy for people to say it's a terrible idea, and you have to stay away from people like that. If you believe in an idea, you have to carry it forward, have faith, and work very hard at it," he pauses before continuing, "very, very hard."

Vivek also warns that, "business plans are great in theory, and useless in reality. In practice, they make absolutely no sense. They make you think about what's involved, but it's impossible for people to predict the future."

"If you ask a person for his honest opinion, people are very subjective. We all come from different walks of life. If you ask 50 people, most of them probably tell you how great your idea is after they give it a try," he says. "Come D-Day though, there was

no one at our gates."

Vivek's final words of advice, to budding entrepreneurs or not, are that, "if you really want to do something, go do it. Since I've decided to do this, I haven't regretted any of it. At the end of the day, if you really want to do something, you'll do it well, and people will appreciate that."

"Not everyone can be the prettiest, the richest or the strongest. We aspire to be those things, and that's good. As long as we aspire, the world will be a better place."

Microfilm



&

Risk

Bart Editor Nastaran Tavakoli-Far rejoices as even more art arrives at the LSE

Living with Risk is the latest photo-exhibition to be shown in the Atrium of the Old Building. The exhibition focuses on the key areas of risk which we are facing in today's world: migration, HIV/AIDS, terrorism, climate change, losing one's home and international institutions.

B:Literature editor Rothna Begum is joined by Blink editor

Steve Gummer at the Orange Award. Not only did they both attend the award but B:Literature contains reviews of the short listed books.

Elsewhere, film editor Natalie Vassilouthis relives her childhood by seeing Tim Burton's newest little treat, *The Corpse Bride*. Turn to B:Film to see why the Land of the Dead doesn't need to compete with Halloweentown.

See B:Music to have all your



Australian bush fires are set to be more frequent with the advent of global warming

questions on Neo-folk answered. Do you know what Joanna Newsome has a fondness for? Can you tell your Devendra

Banhart from your Sufjan Stevens? Can you define neo-folk from traditional folk? If not, turn to B:Music now.

The Editor's Week



Garbage's Shirley Manson plays at Hammersmith Apollo

Tuesday 11 October

Robert Fisk

The Independent's famous Middle East correspondent will be talking about his book *The Great War for Civilisation*. As a man who has met Osama Bin Laden three times, has lived in the Middle East for nearly thirty years and is the holder of the largest number of awards for British and International journalism, Fisk is the man to listen to when it comes to the Middle East and it's future.

At: 12.45pm, Bookmarks Bookshop, Bloomsbury Street
Price: £3 with NUS
Tube: Tottenham Court Road

Madhur Jaffrey

Climbing the Mango Trees is the latest book fusing cuisine and memories from India's mother of cuisine and actress. She will be talking about her new book and answering questions.

At: 6.30pm, Foyles Bookshop, Charing Cross Road
Price: £4 with NUS
Tube: Tottenham Court Road

Wednesday 12 October

Eels (with strings)

One of the most interesting bands of our generation as much for there ever-changing music as the often bleak circumstances their songs were born from. Billed as the 'Eels with strings' and held at the most gorgeous of classical venues, expect this to be a very special night indeed.

At: Royal Albert Hall
Tube: South Kensington

Friday 14 October

Nitin Sawhney

Mercury Music Prize winner and Asian musician Nitin Sawhney is back with his original brand of dance crossed with traditional Indian Music. This is a rare chance to see the man, especially at such an intimate venue. Get your tickets now!

At: Koko (formerly Camden palace)
Tube: Mornington Crescent

Omid Djalili

Also known as the fat Iranian funny man who starred in *The Mummy* and that Britney Spears video (the one with her entourage where she almost drowns...). Djalili is one of the most exciting comedians in the UK right now and well worth seeing. He will also be playing at the same venue on the 15th and 16th October.

At: UCL Bloomsbury Theatre
Price: from £15
Tube: Euston / Russell Square

Saturday 15 October

The Priscillas

These ladies play super fun 1950s/60s style pop n' roll about zombies and are the secret love children of the Ramones and the Shangri-Las. They are also the reason to why I wear silly sunglasses, calf length boots and want a bee-hive hair-do. Go see them, dance, enjoy, and be con-

verted.

At: Rough Trade Covent Garden, Neal's Yard
Price: Free
Tube: Covent Garden
Monday 17 October

Garbage

Shirley Manson is the first being I ever fell in love with. With a voice spilling sex and death in equal measure over the darkest music courtesy of three of our generation's most important of rock producers, Garbage make very special music indeed.

At: Hammersmith Apollo
Tube: Hammersmith

Last Chance

The Philanthropist

Simon Russell Beale starts as the man who is either way too nice, or just scared of people. A critically acclaimed staging of the original by Christopher Hampton.

Ends Saturday 15 October

At: Donmar Warehouse
Price: from £12
Tube: Covent Garden

Book Now

Brad Mehldau Trio

Jazz piano at it's most sophisticated and brilliant. *The Beaver's* former Managing Editor, Blink Editor, and all round jazz fan Matthew Sinclair says:

"As one of the finer jazz pianists going he manages to seamlessly combine Nick Drake, Radiohead and the Gershwins into sets that remind us that jazz was always about subverting whatever was popular".

At: February 13 2006
The Barbican
Price: from £15
Tube: Barbican

Bart

Neo-Folk defined in B:Music page 18 » *Corpse Bride* and Rushmore reviewed in B:Film page 20 » B:Theatre runs off with the circus page 21 » Gareth Rees has a drink on deck in B>About page 25 and Orange Award special in B:Literature pages 27 & 27

50/01/11 - 50/01/11

Neo-Folk defined

Genre Busting

The place where obscure and confusing genres have the lid lifted on their pot of secrets. This week... Neo-folk.

So its just a load of old men with beards and sandals then?

Well undoubtedly both beards and sandals have tendencies to crop up, but it would be an undue stereotype. There's even some women involved...

Women eh?

Ummm yes. Joanna Newsome would probably be the pick of the bunch. She possesses a truly unique voice. Unique but divisive, as it can occasionally veer on the side of warbling. She also has a fondness for a massive...

Ahem?

Harp. A massive harp! Actually, speaking of massive harps, there's the twin sisters of Coco Rosie who sound like miniature Ella Fitzgeralds complete with human beatboxes.

Quite a mixed bunch then, these neo-folkers?

They certainly are Bob. Sufjan Stevens is a particularly interesting case. Michigan born and raised, he has started a (sizeable) mission to release an album for every U.S. state, the natively titled 50 States project.

Got far has he?

Well two down so far. Michigan, and the recently released Illinois; both resplendent with whispered vocals, banjo and sparse but beautiful guitar. Oh and God as well. Because that's important.

What about that Devendra bloke?

Ahh yes, bless you Devendra Banhart, featured in last weeks Beaver no-less. Devendra is a man of many parts, for he is indeed the head honcho in his 'Family of troubadours', encompassing almost all of the contemporary folk movement.

Thanks. So can you just explain again, what is the difference between neo-folk and the old traditional folk?

Largely a change in mentality. Neo-folk embodies the traditional ethos of folk, minus the slightly embarrassing shameful connotations (see sleigh bells and incest). A new band of minstrels proclaiming their message of free-love, or at least a bit of a bargain offer.

So anyone else to look out for?

The silver-tongued Josephine Foster, Vetiver, Espers, Vashti Bunyan, Dianne Cluck, Andy Cabic, and the Green Man Festival line up.

The Review Section

The Boards of Canada: The Campfire Headphase



Listening to Boards of Canada is kind of like being in love. So many wonderful things going on at once, yet somehow they all fit together so well. Unlike the unfortunate fate of love though, 'Boards of Canada' somehow seem to keep getting better. No one would have ever thought that the addition of a guitar, the most ubiquitous of modern instruments, could revolutionise a sound. Somehow the Scottish duo have achieved this on their new album, *The Campfire Headphase*.

Hearing the guitar break on 'Dayvan Cowboy' feels like your first exhilarating contact with the six strings. From the ethereal lullaby 'Peacock Tail' to the mellowed complexity of 'Satellite Anthem Icarus', the 'Boards' cut and paste new horizons into every album (they edit all their tapes by hand). It's impossible to call *The Campfire Headphase* a typical 'Boards' album, if there ever was such a thing. Adaptable to any situation, it can be as uplifting on a sunny day as it can be moody on a grey afternoon. However like most things worthy of appreciation, it gives its best when enjoyed with careful attention; it's hard not to be drawn into this complex world. Essential to both the 'Boards' virgin and the seasoned veteran, *The Campfire Headphase* can be the love affair of the year.

natalievassilouthis

FabricLive 24: Diplo



Firstly, I want to know who out there has heard of this guy 'Diplo'? If you have, then fair play, you are now just that little bit cooler... if you haven't, no worries... come join me for a little musical journey. 'Diplo', a.k.a Wes Pentz, was sent to us from Mississippi surprisingly... but from here on in, and to rope in some extra drama, he will be known to us as the 'Renaissance DJ'. This twenty-six track album is not just good, it is shit hot with a cherry-on-top.

His music has been described as '80s nostalgia with mainstream hip-hop, dancehall and crunk'-whatever the hell that is. Whilst it certainly has an 80's element-Yazoo 'Don't Go' for example - I feel slightly irritated by the 'hip-hop' tag. Yes there is Ludacris, Outkast and DJ Nasty on the album but cut this 'God' some bloody slack... even these tracks would be hard pressed to send this album down mainstream alley. With Brazilian flavours from Gaiola Das Popozudas; electro from the likes of Aphex Twin, Cybotron; and slow groove beats from Plantlife feat.

Nina Sky, is our hero, 'Diplo' purposefully trying to confuse our set-in-stone musical tastes? A sly one indeed.

Whilst one may declare 'ah choon' at regular intervals, I doubt you will be doing much 'let's go dance' talk if listened to this record in a 'party environment'. The album has got that slight gay-club, 'robot-bop' feel to it, but I can't see any problem there.

hannacork

Tracy and the Plastics: Culture and Pigeon



Lesbian feminist artist? Check. Electronic music? Check. Pretentious liner notes and press information sheet? Check. Three members, two of which aren't "real"? Check. Performances which challenge visual norms? Check. Comparisons to Devo, Numbers and Bikini Kill? Check.

This is sounding like it could be my favourite record ever. Before I could find out whether or not it was my favourite record ever I was met with one compact disc which had TWO SIDES when I opened the case. One side was a DVD, one side a CD. Honestly, the things they can do nowadays amaze me.

The music? It's sparse without being the kind of sparse that is boring and too challenging. At times (like in the song 'Henrietta') it's like what would happen if Le Tigre took themselves seriously and were suffering from depression. Other times it's early PJ Harvey with keyboards instead of guitars (like in the song 'Oh Birds'). At all times it's inventive and fabulously put together.

You can't fail to like this record if you are into the same things as me. And if you're not? If all this sounds a bit weird? Then why not take a risk and do something different? This record could act as a nice, safe introduction to even stranger, better things.

laurakirsop

Lesbian feminist artist?



Singles

Single of the week

Lady Sovereign: Hoodie



London grime star Lady Sovereign's Basement Jaxx produced single ain't about robbing shops at Bluewater. It's about stopping your brethren sporting terrible clothes ("Black shoes, white socks - No-o-oh! / Polka dots - No-o-oh!") and - most importantly - having fun. 'Hoodie' is witty, charming, and could mark the beginning of a more mainstream success for The S-O-V. If you're not dancing by the end of this record then I don't want to be your friend.

laurakirsop

Rogers Sisters: Emotion Control

Rogers Sisters are two sisters proper, and one honorary "sister" (who is a guy, but that's cool) from some hip NYC borough. 'Emotion Control' is a tight new-wave number, and could be their big dance floor hit. Jennifer's vocals come off all Debbie Harry (in a good way) and the wailing guitars are perfect for throwing yourself around to. 'The Conversation' comes off like a band who've been sniffing around Andy Gill's leftover chops, but then that's pretty much a pre-requisite for any band putting out a single these days, right? At least they threw in a bit of sax freak-out at the end.

mattboys

Mando Diao: Down in the Past

If Pete Doherty was Swedish and sober, this is what the Libertines may have sounded like. After two years of touring, the boys are back in town with their second album. Thankfully their first single *Down in the Past* is one of the more energised tracks from the album. This track has a quirky, indie-pop about it but does fall into the trap of sounding routine. It's not quite The Hives but garners a pop simplicity that's refreshing.

ismatabidi

Prodigy - Out Of Space/Voodoo People Remixes

I'm always suspect about remixes of classic tracks - but I urge anyone - nay, everyone - who's ever liked the Prodigy to buy this single immediately. The Pendulum remix of 'Voodoo People' is even better than the classic original - harder, faster, nuttier. Admittedly, 'Audio Bully's' 'Out Of Space' remix doesn't compare to the original, but will entertain the house-raver types out there. Vinyl listeners also get the rather excellent Sub Focus remix of 'Smack My Bitch Up'. Worth it, I swear.

owensmith

See it

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Achieving more together



The
Corpse
Bride

The Corpse Bride

natalievassilouthis sits amongst the living to watch a tale about the dead



A lot of people have a special place reserved in their hearts for **Tim Burton**. Inner children, desperate for a bed-time story, adore his fairytale endings. Angry teenagers obsessed with darkness idolise the gothic atmosphere and macabre tone of his films. A modern-day brother Grimm, Burton's projects are followed closely by a devoted fan-base.

The Corpse Bride was especially noted for a number of reasons. It plays on the nostalgia for the classic *Nightmare Before Christmas*, the start-stop animation featuring the much-loved Jack Skellington. Marking his fifth collaboration with self-confessed Burtonite and Hollywood megastar **Johnny Depp**, *The Corpse Bride* had little need of further credibility. Add **Helena Bonham Carter**, **Joanna Lumley**, **Emma Watson**, **Tracy Ullman**, **Paul Whitehouse**, **Richard E. Grant**, **Christopher Lee** and **Albert Finney** and the whole star-

studded affair was bound to catch the public eye.

So far so good and on the eve of its release expectations were high. This, however, was a double-edged knife, having set the film up on a vertiginous pedestal. Could *The Land of the Dead* ever compete with *Halloweentown*? The answer turned out to be irrelevant.

Set in Victorian England, *The Corpse Bride* is loosely based on a Russian folk-tale involving the matrimonial entrapment of a young man to a dead bride. Such is the predicament of Victor Van Dort (voiced by Depp), whose insufferable nouveau riche parents have promised him to Victoria Everglot (voiced by Watson), daughter of the stuffy Lord and Lady of the town. Confusion and scandal occur when Victor accidentally proposes to the deceased Emily (voiced by Bonham Carter), who holds onto him for dear life (cough).

The aesthetics are classically Burtonesque, meticulously crafted 'claymation' characters and set

interacting in the darkness, the plot never spilling into the safer light of daytime. The attention to detail is extreme, the heavy silence of the night punctuated by the clip of Victorian heels on cobblestone. Still, as well as he knows how to paint his picture with a deathly pallor, Burton doesn't fail to warm the heart, the ridiculous characters of the Land of the Dead frequently bursting into song and dance. The plot is padded satisfyingly with a selection of quirky supporting characters, ranging from the cynical maggot inhabiting Emily's cranium to the Everglots' toffee-nosed butler, Emil.

Burton has not outdone himself by any means. *The Corpse Bride* is everything you wished for; it hits the spot like pumpkin pie on Halloween. Although few will remember Victor Van Dort on the scale that they revere Jack Skellington, many will sing along to the wedding song, their pristine Emily dolls smiling bemusedly from the mantelpiece.

Rushmore

serenafang rushes for more Rushmore

Max Fischer isn't your average 15 year-old. He writes and directs ambitious school plays complete with machine guns, explosives and model trains rattling onstage. He serves as president of nearly every club and team at school. But he doesn't fit the mold of your stereotypical nerd. Max Fischer, played by **Jason Schwartzman** in **Wes Anderson's Rushmore**, happens to be the worst student at the prestigious Rushmore Academy.

Things change when Max



befriends industrial tycoon Herman Blume, played by **Bill Murray**, who seems strangely drawn to Max's enthusiasm for Rushmore. The two develop a father-son relationship, which crumbles when both fall for lovely first grade teacher Miss Cross. However, there's a bigger coming-of-age story behind the love triangle. Max and Herman learn to accept failure, the former

expelled from Rushmore and the latter dumped by his wife and then Miss Cross.

The acting ensemble is superb. **Bill Murray** delivers what many critics consider to be his best work. The performance is layered and heartfelt; as Blume watches his spoiled jock sons tearing away at presents, Murray's silent expression conveys disappointment with realisation of how sad

and pathetic his life is. **Jason Schwartzman** disappears inside Max, perfectly playing a gifted kid oblivious to all his flaws.

The cast is also helped by an intelligent and unconventionally funny script, co-written by **Wes Anderson** and **Owen Wilson**. The script seems lean and mean, as though the subject of obsessive passion could only be expressed with restraint.

No matter how full of himself Max can be, or how big a loser Herman is, it's always possible to recognise our own flaws and vanities in them and share their disillusion. Haven't we all, at one time or another, wanted the opportunity to lead an extraordinary life only to find that extraordinary lives and reality don't go together hand-in-hand?

Quirky comedy, goofy romance, offbeat drama. Call it what you want, but *Rushmore* is that near-perfect film rarely seen from Hollywood.

Heads
Up!

Last week, deranged Scientology martyr **Tom Cruise** revealed news of the pregnancy of girlfriend **Katie Holmes**. Their child, likely to be more disturbed than his father and/or killer doll Chucky, will eventually grow up, develop an addiction to anti-depressants and ponder the cinematic legacy of his parents. Here's our advice to him as he decides whether to give them two thumbs up:

Kid, if you're anything like us, you should try and forget about the nude statues of **L. Ron Hubbard** in daddy's room or his infamous **Brooke Shields** feud. Do your best to like *Mission: Impossible II*, not because your father hooked up with **Thandie Newton** but because **John Woo** directed it. And *Mission: Impossible III* should be alright if *Lost In Translation's* **Scarlett Johansson** finds a way to walk around hotel rooms half-naked again. And please, whatever you do, never watch *Top Gun*.

Mummy doesn't fare so well either, since the zombies in *Disturbing Behavior* will remind you of her strange new church friends. However, 1999 drug flick *Go* will make you feel cool whenever you pop pills and rely on chemicals for happiness. After all, the film seems considerably more edgy than that overrated disaster called *Trainspotting*.

Even if you don't get along with your new parents, we will always love you. As **Humphrey Bogart** once said: here's looking at you, kid.

B:Film

James Thiérrée's

La Veillée des Abysses

La Veillée
des
Abysses

tamarahale urges you to run away and join the circus

Where: Peacock Theatre,
(Nearest tube: Holborn
Temple)
When: 8pm
Runs Until: Saturday
15 October 2005
Prices: £15 - £32
(Students £8!!)
Director: James Thiérrée

After the success of last year's short run at the South Bank, Thiérrée returns to London with *La Veillée des Abysses* to astound audiences at the Peacock Theatre with this multifaceted circus.

If, like myself, you are put off by the mention of a 'circus', think again. This blend of acrobatics, theatre and invention combines only the best of the genre: it is absurd but not awkward, funny not comical, playful but far from superficial.

When the silence of amazement had not befallen the audience, the show was accompanied by whole-hearted laughter, making this performance hilarious, but also profoundly emotional. Circus animals are replaced by a brilliant set which is integrated (to a mind-boggling and truly ingenious extent) into the choreography of this show and its meanings, taking place in what seems an enchanted house of multilayered and juxtaposed spaces that bring out the fine skills of these artists.

Similarly, costumes here are



Photo: Richard Haughton

not impressionistic decoration but integral to each jewel of a performance. Coming from a tradition of music hall, variety and circus, Thiérrée manages to draw on the unique talent of each versatile and irreplaceable performer; he is joined by opera singer Uma Ysamet, contortionist Raphaëlle Boitel, dancer Niklas Ek and capoeira dancer Thiago Martins. The piece has the sequentiality of a circus, converted here into series of word-like

La Veillée is extremely well thought through: it is clever without showing off

phrases that are beautiful to look at and satisfying to feel; the humanity of each figure and performance, however, draw one in, unlike a traditional circus. 'La Veillée' is extremely well thought through: it is clever without showing off. Timing and rhythm, which are central to the humour and trickery of this piece, employ the imagination and leave the audience surprised and delighted.

In this production, everyday

moments and activities that could always, in a parallel reality, unfold into ridiculous and fantastic extremes, make us laugh and invoke compassion: there is the language and ritual of human greeting; obsessive behaviour of the eccentric yet common individual; the problems involved in reading a newspaper; impossibly slippery furniture and a person-consuming sofa. This piece is a must-see; captivating and poetic.

Aristocrats

jessbrammar is less than impressed with the National Theatre's Irish tale

This study of an aristocratic family set in seventies Donegal plays out like an Irish *Festen*. The dispersed siblings, brought back together by the marriage of the youngest sister, struggle to keep up the domestic façade for the benefit of a visiting American professor who is studying the family history. The spectre of their dying father, an autocratic former judge, is present throughout, uttering incoherent delusions through the baby-monitor linked up to his bedroom.

The staging is vast and spacious, emphasising the psychological space between the family members, and the decaying manor house a decadent symbol, like the constant accompaniment of Chopin, of a more glamorous past.

Brian Friel's script is seeped in a sense of Chekhovian unease. However, where Chekhov's strength lies in his subtlety, his

ability to allude to wasted lives and frustrations, Friel seems to overstate his case. He presents us with the professor's thesis on the decay of the Catholic aristocracy in Ireland: the alcoholic sister who has fallen on hard times, played by a nauseatingly unsteady Dervla Kirwan; the unhinged brother, living out his delusions with a make-believe wife and children; the quietly dignified older sister, politically radical in her youth, now left to nurse her father and maintain the family home; and the repressed and precociously talented Claire, a concert pianist who was denied the chance to fulfil her talent and is now prone to bouts of depression. The script itself spells out for us what we may have missed, as when Claire, driven to teaching piano to local children, wistfully declares, "maybe one of them will become a concert pianist." Audiences are rarely as stupid as playwrights believe, and I could-

The script is wasted on a cast who seem unable to gel together on stage

n't help feeling that the strength of Brian Friel's script should have been not in what was spoken, but the things left unsaid.

At its best, this kind of intensely character-based theatre can be affecting and beautiful, but it is heavily reliant on the cast's sense of timing and ability to interact with each other, and that is what is missing in Tom Cairns' production. It is simply hard to believe that Gina McKee's Judith once accepted a drunken marriage proposal from her sister's rebellious husband - there is no sense of the repressed sexual chemistry between them that the lines seem to suggest.

The denouement, when it finally arrives, is almost overlooked - an offhand delivery that one imagines may have looked subtly poignant in the script but is wasted on a cast who seem unable to gel together on stage. Indeed, the awkwardness that underlies this production comes

Where: Lyttelton Theatre at the National (Nearest tube: Waterloo)
When: 7.30pm (Wednesday 2.15pm)
Runs Until: Thursday 13 October 2005
Prices: £10 - £36
Director: Tom Cairns
Playwright: Brian Friel

not from Friel's sense of domestic tension, but from the feeling that the actors themselves are not comfortable. Andrew Scott, as the deranged brother, has moments of unsettling brilliance, but many of his lines seemed to be ill-timed and melodramatic, leaving the audience to laugh nervously at what should have been the play's most affecting moments. For a production that is three months into its run, I was left feeling that I was watching a cast that have yet to settle into their roles.

B: Theatre



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EXCEPTIONAL WITHOUT EXCEPTION

Scratching away the

bingho sees Edvard Munch at his most vulnerable

The tortuous figures and dark brooding colours in Edvard Munch's paintings reflect the painter's own tumultuous life of personal tragedies, a dramatic love life, alcoholism, illness and a ceaseless drive to understand the meaning of being human. Best known for his influential expressionist paintings, Munch is less well known as a portrait artist. However, throughout his life Munch recorded his inner landscape on canvas, in woodcuts and in sketches as he faced mental breakdown, recovery, love, living, disease and finally, death.

Edvard Munch By Himself is a massive exhibition of 150 works from the painter, a visual autobiography charting his life as he sinks ever deeper into depression and alcoholism. It also brings to light a very different side of Munch as he recovers from his depression, with brighter colours and less dramatic yet equally powerful imagery. All these works are displayed on the walls of two galleries at the Royal Academy, with each room of the galleries hosting work from a particular phase of his life or on a particular subject.

Starting with a self portrait Munch painted as a student studying at the Kristiania School of Drawing, the tone of the exhibition is soon set as Munch abandons the naturalist, representational approach to painting. Instead, he aims to explore and create his own visual vocabulary for expressing his own inner life. Munch begins to literally scratch away the skin in an attempt to reveal the mindscape that haunts him, and there are many demons that dwell in those landscapes. Shadows follow Munch from painting to painting, and he often looks out at the viewer in fear. Well aware of the public scrutiny and criticism his work was under, Munch sometimes appears naked in his paintings, stripped of civilising clothing and of its protection, vulnerable to sharp, merciless eyes. Whether lying on an operating table in front of medical students or burning in hell, Munch's neurosis is reflected by his tortuous auras and fearful eyes.

Illness and death, as well as his turbulent relationship with women are shown again and again. Munch's mother passed away when he was 5, killed by tuberculosis. His sister died when he was 14, also from tuberculosis. A close friend, Dagney Przybyszewska, was murdered by her young husband while they were on holiday in Switzerland. Munch shot himself in his left hand in an argument with his lover. The paintings with women



Edvard Munch with a burning cigarette

are violent, emotionally volatile, and manic, swinging from suffocating intimacy to cold isolation. The man is almost invisible, overwhelmed by the nude female body in *In the male brain*, while Munch is shown embracing his predator in *Vampire*, cocooned by her blood red hair as she drains away his life. Yet this intimacy is betrayed in other works. Munch found it impossible to reconcile the different aspects of women into the one physical body. *Woman, Sphinx* presents the riddle of the woman, pure and fair, prim and dark, and sensuously threatening. Munch observes these aspects from a murky forest, where he almost dissolves into the rich blackness.

Munch was also conscious of his own status as a thinker rather than as an artist. Munch in *Self portrait with cigarette* presents himself as darkly sophisticated with an occult intelligence, an understanding of the power of visual language to represent our inner selves. Yet his intelligence could not stop his slide into despair and eventual mental collapse. His portraits during his recovery period from 1902-1908 focus even more intensely on himself, and there is a noticeable shift

Munch's neurosis is reflected by his tortuous auras and fearful eyes

in style away from dark, obsessive brooding on pain and separation. Shadows lighten to form auras in *Self portrait* with broad rimmed hat, and become almost like halos in *Towards the light*. This new phase of Munch's life is shown by Munch's depiction of *Ingeborg Kaurin*, a young model working with Munch. No longer is the woman shown as threatening and suffocating. Instead Munch explores the relationship between man and woman, using space and form in the series of *The artist and his model* to show intimacy, jealousy and possessiveness.

Munch spent his final years in Ekely, near Oslo. Conscious of his mortality, Munch places himself between a handless clock and an empty bed, where one is born and where one dies. Blinded a few years earlier by a burst blood vessel, Munch is eyeless and expressionless. Wanting to die consciously, Munch is perhaps aware that these eyes will not be needed to see his way back home.

Edvard Munch by Himself
At: Royal Academy of Arts
Price: £6 with NUS
Tube: Green Park / Piccadilly

Living with Risk

The LSE's latest photo-exhibition reviewed by nastarantavakoli-far

The atrium in the Old Building (next to student services) is currently home to an exhibition of photographs exploring the theme: Living with risk.

The exhibition focuses on a few main themes with the first being migration. Nancy Durrell-McKenna has a photograph of a mine worker in Latin America. The miner's steel like body is lost amongst the most brittle of crumbling coal pieces.

Elsewhere there are strong reminders of the highly personal suffering of those with HIV/AIDS. Project Lazarus in New Orleans is (or rather was) Louisiana's only free service for poor HIV/AIDS sufferers. Alvaro Leira captures a solitary man looking to the floor. Parishioners in Laos are shown by Jacob Silberberg. The ladies are holding banners with their details and the slogan 'God is the healer'. One lady looks very bold and dignified, the other not so.

Living With Risk could not be complete without a section on terrorism. An Iraqi father and son are caught between the crossfire between the US Army and Mogtaq al-Sadr's Mehdi Army. The landscape, taken by Kael Alford, is bleak. Francesco Cito's photograph is moving. We see a Palestinian family posed in front of their home with one member holding a portrait of the mother. She looks harmless. The caption informs us that she blew herself up and killed six Israelis only five days later. And you thought you could spot a terrorist?

Climate change is also affecting lives in more powerful ways than we perhaps suspect. Dieter Tilmans shows us Bangladeshis, they appear at ease in the waters but will this ease last for long with the threat of more severe flooding? Elsewhere Dean Sevell takes a snap of two Sydney residents fleeing from a recent bushfire, their silhouettes solid against the thick smog of smoke.

The loss of homes is another theme explored. Jez Coulson takes a snap of a sign erected by a survivor of Hurricane Katrina: 'You loot, I shoot'. This is cleverly contrasted with Chris Stowers' photograph of Indians working together to rebuild their communities after December 2004's tsunami. One of the most powerful images of the exhibition is by Sven Torfinn showing the nothingness left of a village in Darfur after the arrival of the militias.

Perhaps the final photograph sums up the exhibit better than any other. Paul Lowe shows Rwandans protesting at the international community's failure to act during 1994's genocide. One man holds a placard reading: 'the world which ignored the genocide is now blaming the victims'. A stark warning that we must take responsibility towards the fate of our planet and ourselves before pointing fingers.

At: Atrium, Old Building, LSE
Price: Free

Edvard Munch by Himself

B: Visual Arts

Brutal
Modernism

Streets in the sky

James Upsher takes another look at some of London's fascinatingly ugly buildings

London is home to some of the world's most beautiful buildings. From the elegant spires of Christopher Wren's churches to the majesty of the Victorian neo-classicism and neo-gothic remnants of empire. But London's architects have never all been on the same page.

Few have tried to unite this incomprehensible but inexplicably functional mess into something more meaningful. Christopher Wren (who built St Paul's) tried. Even as the embers of Stewart London were still smoking he was drafting plans for a great metropolis on the north bank. Sadly as he sat in his offices drafting the architectural-ly ignorant London proles selfishly rebuilt there former homes and his sweeping avenues and grand public spaces remained unrealised.

The Germans, who again had little regard for London's architectural future, once more set the capital ablaze. The nightmare of the Blitz killed thousands and levelled acres, but from it arose a new chance and a new future. Streets would be raised aloft and with them the poor would be

elevated out of their suffering as our men returned to 'homes fit for heroes'.

This was Modernism's finest hour. The work of Le Corbusier and his contemporaries envisioned a new and bright future for living. Buildings would serve rather than confine us. Every family would live in cleanliness, light and space.

Modernism was far from the mainstream in Britain before the war, and repugnant to many in our political tradition. It's leading institution the Congress International d'Architecture Moderne (CIAM) held some provocatively leftwing views, making such claims as: "the chaotic division of land, resulting from sales, speculations, inheritances, must be abolished by a collective and methodical land policy." Sounds like communism to me.

Consider the elegant functionality of Denys Lasdun's Keeling House in Bethnal Green to the plywood boxes that Baretts, Mowlems and others are throwing up across the capital. Modernism may have desired to rewrite our social rules, but it did so with a deep consideration of those who would be housed.

Lasdun spent a great deal of time in Bethnal Green

before he started work on the building, he studied the terraced streets that remained from the Luftwaffe's slum clearance work and tried to create a building that would preserve this community while lifting it above the squalor. Functional terraced houses would be stacked into vertical streets around a common service area where wives would gather to dry laundry and share gossip.

He failed, like most from the modernist movement, but ultimately he is a better man than those who have followed him. Lasdun's architecture was daring and attempted to address the society that built it with a critical eye, in comparison Foster's pathetic swirled staircases and Rodger's exposed air conditioning units make no more comment than a vapid appeal for attention.

Erno Goldfinger was another who pushed the boundaries, and had a far more personal connection with his work. The famous and trendy Trelick tower in Ladbroke Grove is the younger brother of the far less urbane Balfron tower in Poplar.

Goldfinger moved into this tower for two months after its construction, throwing elegant champagne receptions for the bemused cockney dockworkers. From his time in Balfron he learned many lessons on how his theory worked in practice and made significant improvements to the Trelick Tower's design.

Balfron, Trelick and Keeling all failed in the intention to lift the poor out

of squalor, the old sufferings of overcrowding and poor sanitation were replaced by isolation and crime. But with hindsight many would vindicate the architecture and turn there blame on the councils who managed them.

Politically motivated councils decided that concierges were too paternalistic, leaving residents exposed to crime. Councils failed to maintain the structures and services, and housed problem tenants who had no desire to be there in the buildings.

By the 1980s the buildings had fallen into disrepair and neglect. Keeling lay derelict by the 90s and Balfron and Trelick were infamous as the 'towers of terror' in the tabloids.

Keeling is now a private development and one of the top flats is on the market for £375,000.

Thanks to a very active residents association and an enlightened council the Trelick tower has benefited from the Notting Hill boom and is now one of the trendiest places to live in west London, best of all, this has been accomplished while still being over 80% Local Authority tenants.

Balfron remains a challenge, located as it is in unfashionable and impoverished Poplar. What has been shown is that with proper care highrise living can succeed, but it is no cheap solution to our housing needs.

These buildings may not be attractive in the traditional sense, but they are monuments to a time of greater optimism, and they are fascinating - if flawed - explorations of how we interact with the places we live.

"London would be rebuilt: but this time by a new and optimistic Labour government as a modern city."

B:About

The Trelick Tower
Architect: Erno Goldfinger
Built: 1978
Tube: Ladbroke Grove
How to find it:
Its 32 stories high, you can't miss it. Open for Open House Weekend.

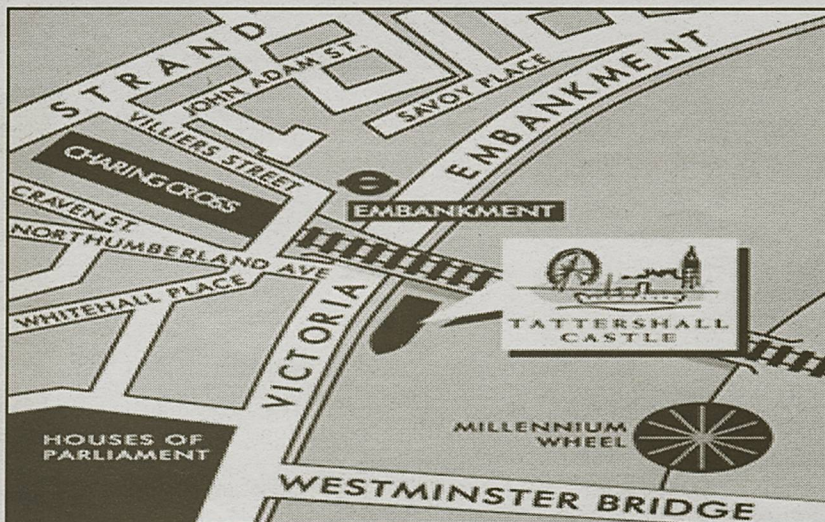
Keeling House
Architect: Denys Lasdun
Built: 1957
Tube: Bethnal Green
How to find it:
North up Cambridge Heath Rd. Turn Left onto Hackney Road.



Three sheets to the wind

See what I did there? I'm writing about a boat bar and used a popular sailor's expression for being pissed ... It's official - Gareth Rees is not just a sex God, he's also a master of semantics!

Three sheets to the wind



To be honest, in all my 20 years of living in London I had never been on any of the moored up boats on the Thames (except the HMS Belfast). You know the ones, you're walking along Waterloo or Jubilee Bridge (the one next to Hungerford/Charing Cross train bridge) and see an old steam-driven river barge moored up along the embankment. Well I'm kicking myself now, because they're bars - and half decent ones at that, which I discovered after rigorous research on your behalf.

Okay, so admittedly the weather is not fabulous at the moment for drinking outside on the deck of a Thames boat - but there's a distant chance that there may be a few bouts of sunshine before we descend into the true 'British Winter' so read this article and as soon as El Sol sticks his head out from behind the hordes of imposing clouds get down to the Thames and have a pint!

The first of these floating havens of alcoholism I discovered thanks to a friend of mine who suggested going to the Tattershall Castle. Needless to say I was perplexed - I'd never heard of popping down to the depths of Lincolnshire for a 'swift half' between lectures. My bewilderment was soon dispelled upon walking down to the river and seeing exactly what he was talking about, and I'd recommend you did the same.

The Tattershall Castle is an old paddle-steamer which was used on the Humber estuary. It

was newly refurbished at the cost of £4.75 million just over a year ago in June 2004. Whilst it's certainly a nice venue I wouldn't say the renovation would have cost something just shy of five million, but then when they redid the 3 Tuns last year that was £800,000 or so (irate corrections to be sent to the usual address please).

Incidentally, it's now owned by Spirit Group - I can personally guarantee you that you've been in one of their branches: by pure happenstance I had an uninterrupted series of 12 different pubs that I went to (all on different days!), all of which run by them. If you need to check you're in one of their pubs just look for a Kashmiri Chicken Curry on the menu! The ubiquity of their pubs, however, is no bad thing - they always have a reasonable range of drinks and produce good-value tasty food.

The food they serve does break from being identical to all of the other "Spirit Group" pubs, but is still fairly standard english fayre, although with a few more continental popular favourites included. Offerings include - Ham, Egg & Chips, Chicken Caesar Salad, Baked Camembert and Rocket Penne Pasta.

Booze-wise it's all fairly standard - stock offerings of affordable/half-decent wines, bottled and draught beers and soft drinks. I wouldn't go out of your way to come here for the bar itself - but couple an unremarkable drink with a remarkable view and fabulous weather and the drink is no longer relevant.

There is also a night club and comedy club to be enjoyed.

Bar Food: International
 Admission: Nightclub every Friday & Saturday from 9:00pm-3:00am
 £5 before 10:00pm
 £7 after
 Times:
 Mon-Fri: 11:00am-11:00pm
 Sat: 12:00am-11:00pm
 Sun: 12:00am-10:30pm
 Tattershall Castle Bar & Club
 King's Reach
 Victoria Embankment
 Tel: 020 7839 6548
 www.tattershallcastle.co.uk
 Nearest Tubes:
 Embankment
 Circle/District/Bakerloo/Northern Lines
 Westminster
 Circle/District/Jubilee

There are another 3 that I know of along the same stretch of the river - all of them have something different to offer (some are more expensive etc):

1) Queen Mary (TS) Pub & Club

Waterloo Pier
 Tel: 020 7240 9404
 www.queenmary.co.uk

A former Clyde pleasure steamer (complete with wood-panelled and brass-polished interior) which serves traditional pub fayre from 12:00-21:00

"I'd never heard of popping down to the depths of Lincolnshire for a 'swift half'..."

They also have a nightclub called Hornblowers which is open until 2am on Fridays and Saturdays playing a mixture of chart, funk, cheese and house.

2) El Barco Latino Bar & Restaurant

Temple Pier
 Tel: 020 7379 5496
 www.elbarcolatino.co.uk

My how far this latin boast has come from it's days as "Wilfred" - a london sailing barge. El Barco Latino is open everyday but Monday - serving authentic Latin American and international food together with a reasonable selection of Spanish and South American wines. Needless to say the music they play is predominantly Latino so go and practice your Salsa!

3) Hispaniola Bar & Restaurant

Victoria Embankment
 The Hispaniola is the top-end of the selection: fully air-conditioned; high-quality restaurant (serving tapas & modern European cuisine with a twist of the Mediterranean); and a cocktail bar.

The restaurant is located on the main deck and boasts the finest wine cellar of the four boats.

Tapas is also available from 11:00-23:00.

If you enjoy the Tattershall Castle and you'd like to find another boat bar then you're in luck!



B:About

Orange
Award
'Best of
the Best'

The Orange Award

stevegummer sat alongside the crowd of literature's elite at the orange 'best of the best' awards.

The Orange Awards: amongst a rather intimate crowd of literature's elite it was an honour to pretentiously nod in approval as Andrea Levy lifted Orange's Best of the Best literature award. Hosted by the sleek and delightful Kate Mosse, the evening was far more than a testimony to the incredible author of *Small Island*. It emerged as a sublime discussion of feminine accomplishment over the last 10 years.

Patronisingly referred to as the 'lemon award' when founded, the Orange prize set out with the aim to restore women writer's rightful place amongst literature's major prize winners. Having seen the event I was left in little doubt that this award had done as it set out to do and proved to be an illuminous 'up-yours' to the prize's original critics. The five-woman panel provided a delightful prequel to the presentation of the award.

They pithily discussed the past of the award itself, as well as the core statistics regarding women and literature. One of the panelists cited Ian McEwan and his empirical study of handing out books in a park for free - All the women accepted them whilst, rather disappointingly, all the men were convinced they were being scammed and refused to take a free copy. Hardly required female intuition did it?

Yet this award ceremony made clear that women are writers of books and not just the predominant readers. Despite this, the levels of feminist banter sometimes reaching an overly

excited climax. At one stage one of the panellists expressed surprise that there were 500 men capable of reading a book - hardly anyone who attended could be left in any doubt that ten years of Orange Awards signifies a great achievement.

And now onto the main event... the winner herself. Levy's victory was relatively unsurprising after having been victorious in the Radio Four phone-in between the ten books earlier in the day. However she received a rapturous ovation that was undoubtedly deserved.

The British born Jamaican declared in her speech that she hadn't really read a book until the age of twenty-three. Claiming she was more of a soap opera fan, it was devastating to think that this award's most gracious winner scraped only one grade E in English A-levels. So much for the national curriculum.

Following her celebratory speech and with the night rapidly coming to an end there was still time for Levy to delight the audience by reading an extract from her award winning work. It is hard to do justice to her performance and indeed doing so may well only be possible for someone with her own linguistic ability. The only thing that could adequately close the night was a trip to the bar. Looking at the barman quizzically when he asked me if I wanted anything in my drink I replied with the only response truly appropriate:

'I'll have a slice of orange but hold the lemon.'

3 October 2005



The Ten Orange Award Winners

stevegummer reviews...

We need to talk about Kevin by Lionel Shriver. (2005 winner)

Lionel Shriver was the 2005 winner of the Orange award and is a powerful argument never to have children. Eva, the protagonist writes letters to her estranged husband in order to try and explain the behaviour of their murderous son Kevin.

Cold and oppressive, this book takes a twisted look at one of life's worst outcomes. Shriver exploits beautifully Eva's biased narrative and inner self-doubt. Any reader should be able to sense the protagonist's isolation and feel the paths mount to one of the most devastating climaxes I have ever experienced. Yet worry not, there is light at the end of the tunnel, not much but just enough to see by.



Property by Valerie Martin. (2003 winner)

This is not a story of heroics and grand actions; it is the story of one woman who feels isolated in her life as the wife of a plantation owner in the American South. Manon Gaudet is entirely indifferent to the plight of the slaves around her, especially towards Sarah, the slave girl with which her husband fathers two children. The story is narrated by Manon, and we grow to realise that much of her bitterness is born of years of hatred towards her husband. The book, horrific in parts, is an important account of the realities of this dark chapter of recent history and is an absorbing read.

elainelondesborough



Bel Canto by Ann Pratchett (2002 Winner)

The book chronicles what happens when a gang of terrorists take over a birthday party held at the home of the vice president of an unidentified South American country. Though it is obvious that there's no possible way this can end well.

Pratchett's characters - hostages and terrorists alike - are all so believably human that she still manages to create suspense. Unlike many of the other winners of this prestigious award, Pratchett combines a twist and turn story line with a creative and delightful use of language.



The Idea of Perfection by Kate Grenville (2001 winner)

Kate Grenville's literary award winner revolves around the powerful attraction of two unlikely lovers. Douglas Cheeseman and Harley Savage are both divorcees and unlikely lovers. However in this quirky



and bizarre romance the two are soon put on an inevitable pathway towards one another.

This novel is a testament to feeling inwardly uncomfortable and to the very meaning of the term 'Carpé Diem'. Grenville encourages her readers to see the beauty in everyday life, in things normally considered mundane. Equally our author utilises incredible language that brings to life some of her amazing landscapes. Not quite as harrowing as a lot of the other contenders.

When I lived in Modern Times by Linda Grant (2000 winner)

Evelyn Sert is an unsuspecting spy in Tel Aviv for an underground army. Linda Grant explores with a remarkably balanced perspective the Arab/Israeli conflict.



Furthermore our author presents us with an incredible sense of place. She describes in vivid detail the smells, the colours of the sky, the overwhelming heat, nature and of course the sea. It

B: Literature

The 'Best of the Best' won by Andrea Levy's novel 'Small Island'

it's worth more than its weight in awards claims rothnabegum.

Orange Award 'Best of the Best'



Small Island is certainly the 'Best of the Best' exploring England's time of recovery from war where four characters are plunged into a war of their own. Levy ingeniously captures all four characters by writing from all their perspectives. The story is portrayed from two Jamaican characters who migrate to Mother England and the two white characters who provide lodging to them. Gilbert Joseph yearned to live in England having spent his time as part of the RAF fighting against Hitler. His wife Hortense, who came to England for a better life finds her world crumbling around her when she is confronted by a shabby, decrepit London. Queenie Bligh takes in her Jamaican lodgers when her husband does not come back from the war. However, her neighbours do not approve and nor would her husband if he knew she was doing so.



Levy plunges the reader into their pasts to allow you to taste the touch of Jamaica or the countryside of England only to sweep you back to their present where you are left to witness the chaos they happen to be in. She handles such substantial themes of prejudice, empire, love, war with the most earnest touch and good humour. When I picked up this book the last thing I expected it to be was light-hearted and funny. So imagine my surprise when I was presented with a novel that can handle big themes with suspense of a soap opera yet exceptionally beautifully well-written. Doing all this with the warmth of jokes and great characters. I could not put this book down, more to the point I did not want to put it down. Levy's creation 'Small Island' is worth more than its weight in awards.

path of Ben, it is the consistency of the themes that provides a true sense of unity. Michaels deals with the damage that can be done by the past and the inability of humans to recover from horrific events. Her characters are irreparably damaged but admirable in their frailty. The author daringly defies a linear notion of time and portrays her characters as broken: 'Born into absence... a hiding place, rotted out by grief.'

A Spell of winter by Helen Dunmore (1996 winner)

This 1996 winner spins a complex web of incest and desolation. Dunmore's poetic language creates a painful sense of solitude. Equally, the author's protagonists are alarmingly nightmarish. As too is her portrayal of turn of the century England. From the moment you experience the first line to the final breath of the last this novel will overwhelm you with its sense of darkness. The tone set by Dunmore's opening is persistently intense: 'I saw an arm fall off a man once,' said Kate.



Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels (1997 winner)

The magical language of this book and its poetic intensity leaves you unsurprised that it took the writer 10 years to produce. Originally following the narrative of Jakob and subsequently the life



powerfully evokes the feelings of a budding Israel and is a must for anyone who wishes to understand the depth of this conflict in a more detailed way.

A Crime in the Neighbourhood by Suzanne Berne (1999 winner)

Suzanne Berne explores crime and its social effects in a profound and disturbing way. Whilst the reader may feel pointed to the one most heinous crime, sexual abuse, this book deals with a whole array of crime. At times this book is disturbingly dark and it is easy for a reader to become overly involved in it. The language is at stages incredible and moves beyond the sublime. As well as being a superb work of fiction this novel is a profound exploration of American life and many of the problems that suburban areas suffer from.



Larry's Party by Carol Shields (1998 winner)

To be honest this is the only one of our winner's that I found



Larry's Party by Carol Shields (1998 winner)

Originally following the narrative of Jakob and subsequently the life

Creative Writing The Wanderer

By Teresa Queiros

'Tell me, it is such a surprise to see you here, Marcus. I was afraid I would never meet you,' said the gentleman. 'Your father never mentioned your interest in the family business. But, if you have anything like your father's gift, then I am only sorry you did not come before.'

Marcus smiled uneasily, and waved at a distance, pretending to have seen someone. The gentleman smiled kindly, and let him lose himself in the crowd that was already present at that hour.

'It wasn't so hard to lie after all' Marcus thought to himself. But he feared that it would not be so easy in the future.

As Marcus wandered around the fair, he could not help but be struck by the enormous variety of beautiful things that surrounded him. There were rare Famille Verte porcelain pieces, Galle furniture and numerous Persian rugs, and Marcus was almost overwhelmed by the colours and styles present in this one room.

He walked to the centre of the room and saw the biggest banner of them all, hanging from the ceiling. It read 'Auction of the Zaldo's family collection tomorrow at 6pm', and he was comforted by the fact that he was in the right place after all.

Marcus quickly scanned the room, to see if he could recognize anyone, and in one of the corners at the end of the room was Emily Zaldo, his childhood friend and last surviving member of the Zaldos. Emily had not changed much in the last 10 years. She was still the tall, slightly awkward red haired girl. She was leaning against a wall, trying to make herself invisible to the world, in her loose black trousers and top.

Marcus had thought that it was likely that he would see Emily at the fair, but he had hoped that it would not happen. The last time they had seen each other, he had sworn never to approach her again. But now that he saw her, looking so sad, so soon after her father's death, he felt the urge to both run away and not go through with the plan, and at the same time to hug her.

If you wish to continue this story please submit it to r.begum@lse.ac.uk

B: Literature

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Your Guide to What's On This Week

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Y**12:30 SIKH-PUNJAB Society**Event: 2nd Annual Bhangra Run
Venue: Outside the library

Info: In October 2004, we made our own little piece of history when we did the first Bhangra Run. It was created as a celebration of our wonderful culture, our legacy to everyone at LSE. Some were shocked, some joined in, but everyone remembered; and now the time comes when we do it all again.

17:00 CANADIAN SocietyEvent: Annual General Meeting
Venue: D106

Info: Canadian? Friends with Canadians? Just like Canada or see it as a soft touch for future immigration? Come on down to our annual general meeting to get

elected or just get in touch.

17:00 FRIENDS OF PALESTINE SocietyEvent: Annual General Meeting
Venue: S300

Info: The AGM for the Friends of Palestine, meeting others interested in the cause and take part in elections.

17:00 KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS SocietyEvent: Introduction to Krishna
Venue: A379

Info: An introduction to our society for all newcomers and everyone who is interested.

19:00 SWING DANCE SocietyEvent: First class and AGM
Venue: G1

Cost: £2 for members; £3 for non-members (usually £4 for non-members)

Info: Please wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move freely, and flat shoes, the smoother the better.

19:00 London University Swimming Team (LUST)Event: Introductory Session
Venue: ULU, Malet Street

Info: Come along to the team's first session of the year, weather interested in competitive swimming or just keeping fit and making friends.

20:00 The Three Tuns Quiz

Event: The all new Quiz with great prizes and amazing sound effects.

Venue: The Three Tuns

Info: Arrive early to form teams and get seats.

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Y**13:00 BANGLADESH Society**Event: Annual General Meeting
Venue: D306

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

13:00 MAURITIAN Society AGM,Event: Annual General Meeting
Venue: G1

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

13:00 CHINESE Society AGM,Event: Annual General Meeting
Venue: S75

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

14:00 LITERATURE Society AGM,Event: Annual General Meeting
Venue: D111

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

14:00 UN Society AGM,Event:
Venue: D209

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

13:00 SINGAPORE Society AGM,Event: Annual General Meeting
Venue: D502

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

16:00 BRIDGE SocietyEvent: first meeting
Venue: S421

Info: the first meeting of the Bridge Society.

16:00 HONG KONG PUBLIC AFFAIRS (HKPASS) Society AGM,Event:
Venue: G1

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

17:00 OUTHERN AFRICAN Society AGM,Event:
Venue: S75

Info:

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Y**12:00 ARABIC Society AGM,**

Venue: D111

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

14:00 MODERN DANCE Society AGM,

Venue: D302

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

15:00 INDONESIAN & BRUNEIAN Society AGM,

Venue: G209

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

17:00 FRIENDS OF AFGHANISTAN Society AGM,

Venue: D206

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

17:30 EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS Society AGM,

Venue: H716

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

18:00 FILIPINO Society AGM,

Venue: D311

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

18:00 SLOVENIAN Society AGM,

Venue: G1

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

18:00 Societies' budget meeting

Venue: G1

Info: A meeting for all society treasurers explaining the budget application process.

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Y**13:00 MALAYSIA CLUB Society AGM,**

Venue: D302

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

13:00 OIKOS Society AGM,

Venue: H201

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

15:30 KAZAKHSTAN Society AGM,

Venue: E168

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

16:00 PERUVIAN Society AGM,

Venue: H101

Info: Come along to the Annual General Meeting to join, meet our membership or stand for election.

20:00 CRUSH

Venue: The Three Tuns

Event: The LSESU's acclaimed party.

To include your society event here, email your Societies Officer Jimmy Tam at su.societies@lse.ac.uk by Friday.For the most up-to-date listings, check out the What's On page on the LSE SU website: www.lsesu.com/main/societies/whatson.the
Beaver

You can still get involved in The Beaver.

We are looking for contributors for News, Features (Blink), Music, Film, About, Literature, Arts, Theatre and Sports. We also are looking for designers, photographers, advertising sales staff, editorial assistants and general help.

Contact the following email addresses to get involved:

thebeaver.news@lse.ac.uk - thebeaver.arts@lse.ac.uk - thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk - thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk - thebeaver@lse.ac.uk

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For our employees the varied assets of the Monitor Group and the global network of 28 offices offer a wide variety of learning and career development experiences and exciting travel opportunities.

We are recruiting for Group positions in the London Office. If offered a position, there will be opportunities to work with some of the Group companies represented in London, including corporate and marketing strategy, private equity and innovations strategy.



NOT the way
we treat our clients

COMPANY PRESENTATION

Friday, 21st October 2005
12.30-2.30pm
LSE, Vera Anstey Room, Holborn

Workshop:
Saturday, 5th November
London

Applications are by C.V. and covering
letter e-mailed to:

Amanda Martin
Recruitment_London@monitor.com

Finalists are welcome to attend a short
information session on strategy consult-
ing hosted by Monitor Group consultants
followed by drinks and buffet.

Michelin House Tel: 020 7838 6500
81 Fulham Road Fax: 020 7838 6860
London SW3 6RD

First round interviews will be held on:
Tuesday, 6th December 2005

Deadline for applications:
Friday, 11th November 2005

www.monitor.com

The best dressed folk in town!



Cut out and play with our sports editors!

Howdy partners, roll up one and all to Wild Wild West in the Union, the Athletics Union's welcome party 2005. Y'all can expect a good old-fashioned hoedown, with line dancing, tequila girls and even a lassoing competition, not to mention LSE's very own bucking broncos, Men's Rugby, in attendance. Of course, y'all gotta look the part if you don't wanna be chased out of town by hoards of gun-toting cowboys. So to give y'all a lil' bit of inspiration, we've gathered together some of the hottest new fashions from the Ol' West, all of them currently making waves down in Cheyenne. Just cut out the clothes and the pics of your favourite editors, and go wild, western style! And don't forget that there's a prize for the best-dressed guy and gal. See y'all tomorrow...

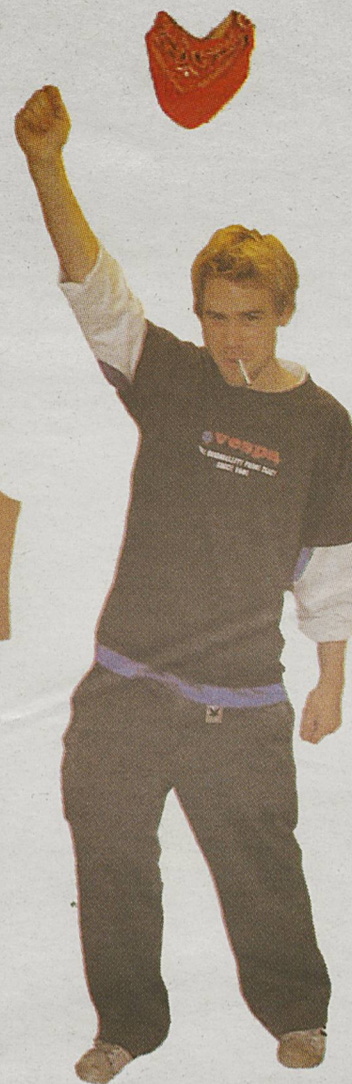


Fig. 1 homo calowus

Costumes we'd like to see

Billy the Kid:
Real name Henry McCarty. He is reputed to have killed 21 men, one for each year of his life (one fewer than Murderer, as the Crush bouncers were quick to learn). McCarty had blue eyes, smooth cheeks, and was disturbingly friendly (could he be seeking refuge in the Gen Sec's office?!)

The Milky Bar Kid:
The lovable character of many a chocolate advert. Two of the actors, now aged thirty, are found to be aged drug addicts with sadness in their eyes. How does it feel to glimpse your future, Farquaad?

Pocahontas:
Her name was actually a childhood nickname referring to her frolicsome nature (her name means "little wanton" or "playful frolicsome girl" in Powhatan. An apt reflection for the archetypal AU girl. However, unlike in the Disney film, Pocahontas was horrendously dugly (dog ugly) in

the sports column

john mcdermott



boys excelled themselves. Playing for hours upon end as if they were raising money for spastics, these new FC heroes earned their place in this most fantastic of clubs.

By the time Wednesday rolled around the new blood was ready to rock. The Tuns came to resemble a more merry Heysel as the FC drunk and sang their way to alcoholic nirvana. Rugby were mocked, life-long friends were made and new ways to school ourselves were devised.

Formations and tactics were forgotten since, for us, it is always the passion and sheer obsession with the beautiful game that take precedence.

Only by being in the FC can one truly understand football in its highest Platonic Form. The rest of you can mutter on about your trials for Colchester United, your glory days on Championship Manager, and that 'career destroying injury' which prevented you from making it big.

We, the FC know better. We are the Dylan to your Donovan.

The Kylie to your Danni.

And the five-times nightly to your evenings spent crying and wanking yourself to sleep.

Long live the Football Club, forever and ever. Amen.

A fortnight ago in these hallowed pages there was an article crammed with soporific drivel on the supposed merits of 4-4-2 over 4-5-1. The issue is dull and irrelevant; like when nailing a netball player one Wednesday and a women's rugby player the next, one has to adapt to the peculiarities of each given challenge.

Fortunately for the ubiquitous Mr Gummer salvation is at close quarter in the form of the most salubrious and sexually prolific LSE institution: the Football Club.

Over the past week, I've had the pleasure to usher in the new season for the illustrious FC, one which promises to be more trophy-laden and popular with female general course students than ever before. (Providing I can curb the dreaded brewer's droop and stop waking up covered in my own piss as I did this Wednesday).

Yet as Brummie would say *plus ca change plus la meme chose*. What will,

from season to season remain constant is the passion with which my teammates have for their club and their reliance on it as a haven for all those that use the library only for 'recreational' purposes during the Barrel.

Passion, commitment and the embracing of the lash have been the themes of the past week. Trials, as per usual, resembled Paris in '68 - anarchic and awe-inspiring.

There was the obligatory player that started out in the firsts and two hours later found himself tear-sodden and alone on the train home from Fortress Berrylands. Then there was Andy Logan who, when entrusted with the most simple of tasks, failed to notify freshers of the details of day two.

This created a scene reminiscent of the Village of the Damned as a hundred lost freshers found themselves stranded in deepest Surrey first thing on a Sunday morning. Despite our best efforts to fuck things up, the new



Fig. 2 homo bushus



The real fight club? The dark side of the LSE...

mike
fauconnier
-bank



Walking into the Old Gym, the stench of forty people sweating more profusely than Ian Huntley in a pre-school playground hit me harder than a left hook from Mike Tyson himself.

But even Tyson would have his work cut out fighting Floyd Brown, the LSE's Muay Thai instructor and a former World Heavyweight champion in Freestyle Fighting. Ricardo Da Silva, a Gracie champion from Brazil who teaches Brazilian Jiu Jitsu at the School, would be no walkover either.

Completing the trio of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) instructors is our Boxing trainer Karim, assistant coach to John McDermot who will be challenging Matt Skelton for the Heavyweight title later this year.

MMA. Ultimate fighting. Cage fighting. Freestyle fighting.

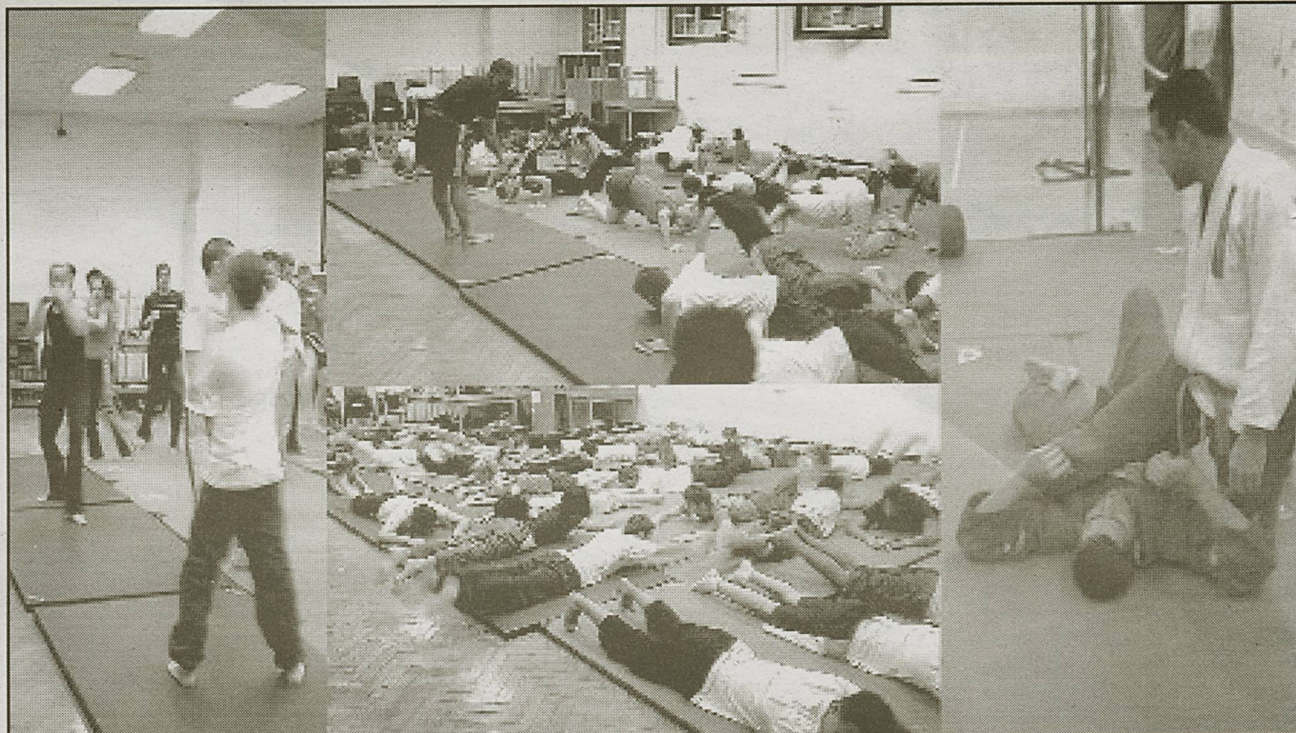
Call it what you will, this stuff is the real deal. Everyone over the age of 12

knows that WWF wrestling is as fake as Jordan's left tit (or her right one for that matter), but MMA is as genuine as it gets. Forget big padded boxing gloves.

Try taking a full-contact punch to the face from a trained fighter wearing only a pair of thin 4oz mitts on his oversized fists. And don't think that the fight will stop if you fall to the ground crying - in fact, you will probably be rewarded with a soccer kick to the head.

You see, in MMA the fight is only over if you give up, get knocked out or are deemed unable to continue by your corner or by the referee. You can expect to take punches and kicks to all areas of the body with the exception of the groin, neck and back of the head, as well as being on the receiving end of knees and elbow strikes, takedowns, throws, slams and submissions.

Don't get me wrong, though - there are rules. In fact, MMA has a far better



safety record than boxing. Practitioners are highly trained and, almost exclusively, hold their opponents in the highest regard. This is best illustrated by the regular shows of sportsmanship which take place after the fighters have finished smashing seven shades of shit out of one another.

This is probably one of the reasons that the sport is rapidly growing in popularity, with regular sell-out events being held around the country.

The largest UK promotion, Cage Rage, is held in Wembley Conference Centre and is televised on Sky Sports.

Despite this, the LSE is the only university in London with an active MMA club. We are graced with three great instructors and a packed class time-table which allows club members to train up to six times a week. While the option to spar is there, there is no pressure to step into the ring. Many staff and students come along

solely for the fitness aspect of the training.

Somewhat surprisingly, the club is by no means male dominated. We signed up almost as many girls as guys this year and those who have already made it down to training seem to be enjoying themselves.

While I enjoy the sporting aspect of the club most of all, we also train in self defence. Both Floyd and Ricardo have worked as nightclub doormen in the past, and so are used to the realities of street combat.

Floyd is also qualified to train doormen in conflict resolution.

MMA remains the most realistic, yet safe, simulation of a real fight. Having confidence in your ability to defend yourself will also shine through as you go about your business day to day.

Our class timetables can be found on the Student Union website. You can also email me directly if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you at training, soon!

Fifth impressions

Will the new 5th XI reach the sexually deviant heights of last years team?

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the fifth team LSE SU.

This is the team which brought LSE such phrases as "consensual sex is over-rated" and "hard sex is not a crime", such barrel costumes as "crispy ducks" and "homosexual Prince Charles", various incidents of public disturbance, and the most censored article in BeaverSports history.

The fifth team is a team oozing with tradition, brimming with talent, and has consistently been the loudest and most prominent group in the Tuns on a Wednesday night.

It is therefore necessary, mandatory in fact, to give the Beaversports readership an insight into everyone's second-favourite team.

Despite being the fifth team, it is little known that the 5s are the oldest team in LSE's history. Unknown to many, George Bernard Shaw was in fact a keen footballer, enjoying a regular kickabout at Lincoln's Inn with his other Fabian friends whilst serving as a

local government councillor in St. Pancras. A man who liked a drink, plus some alleged dalliance into the 'local ladies' of London, he was keen to form a team who would combine both on and off field talents to a level not seen before in university sport.

A combination of dislike of elitism and his satire and verbal artistry led him to the creation of the fifth team. It is pure coincidence that the fifth team has fallen down the ranks of the ULU divisions to actually become the fifth best team in the LSE.

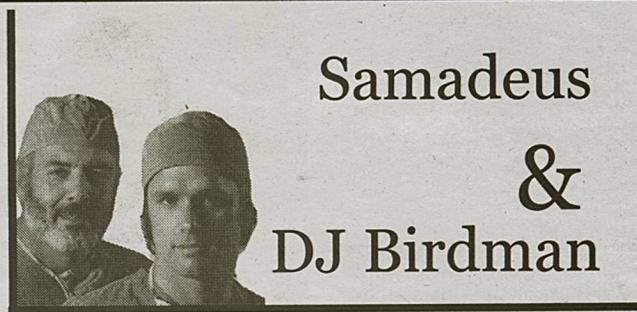
But enough of our staggering and barely credible history. After events this summer, the fifth team was left considerably depleted, with many having completed their degrees and going out with a bang.

Our new captain, Aarish "the rash" Pandaya, had to prey on a number of freshers last weekend at trials and lure them over to the fifth team. An undisclosed number of sexual favours later, Aarish (whose name the spell-checker wants to change to garish - which says a lot about the man himself) had managed to

tempt a band of eighteen freshers who were clearly up for it.

In goal of course was fifth team stalwart Dom Doran, though some think him to be the chink in our armour.

The defence began to take shape though, with new boys Ben and Josh growing in stature in the centre as the match progressed, and the two Petes (Fresher Pete and Post-Grad Pete - we'll have to work on the nicknames) competing strongly for the full-back positions with Luke and Ed.



Samadeus
&
DJ Birdman

Another fresher defender who Aarish picked up was Gareth, who quickly joined the injury list with 1st year Jay. Whilst some injuries are unavoidable with two straight days of trials, the team physios will be carefully following their recovery progress and future physical fitness. The fifth team is not for the weak.

The midfield initially comprised of senior members of the team including two qualified physiotherapists, Samadeus and Birdman, a retired jockey, Charlie Hodges, a top flight DJ, Birdman again and the aforementioned Captain Rash.

New boys in the midfield were Dave, Ed, Will and John (if I'm missing someone out, you obviously didn't make a good enough impression). With the loss of one of the biggest pricks at LSE, Adam Stocker, loved by none and hated by all, it was paramount to

pick up a new substandard striker.

Old timer Mohsin, 21, stupid, from Osterley, and new boy Chris, 18, worst taps player to not be rejected by LSE and enrol at one of the many London poly's, from Bournemouth, along with Irfan made up in some shape or form our new front line.

After playing a friendly against the sixths, this strike force looked like it couldn't score in a brothel, but a couple of clumsy goals against the sevenths showed a very tiny bit of promise for the new season.

Look forward to reading the reports on our victories in the coming weeks, especially in our derby matches against the fourth team. We'll also probably just miss out on the league title and promotion and lose in a ULU cup final for the 3rd year in a row.

All in all, its gonna be another great year for the fifts...



the Beaver Sports

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The 3rd team: positive role-models?

Their new captain looks back on a title-winning season and argues that his players make worthy superstars



Andy
'Evan Blair'
Logan

In what has become known as the Abi-Titmus-Syndrome, the terms 'hero' and 'legend' have started to lose a certain something; society's faith in their role-models has faded as the line between 'distinctly average' and 'front page' has blurred like a night in Turisme. So, what better way to start the season than with a back page exclusive on what it means to be a superstar?

Last season, the third team returned to the glory days. After a season epitomized by the sorry sight of Rog unconscious in his own drool, the thirds awoke in the summer of 2004 under the new leadership of Fabs Joseph.

Leading from the front, Fabs netted a hat trick to silence GKT 2's in the opening fixture of the season but the real impact was made in transfer window as we brought in the finest freshers around: Jim 'too-good-for-a-nickname' McGurn sealed his spot in the team by crippling a couple of trialists on-demand; Mason's intoxicated appearance assured us of his attributes; we put down the money for Andy 'sex-slave' Ong before Jay's mum had offered it (and him) to us for free; Adam was a dead ringer for Gilberto; Chris 'Brusier' McLean is Scottish and Dan was the finest American Fabs had set eyes



The LSE 3rd Team, 18-21, seek girl, 15-19, lacking self-esteem and the ability to hold her alcohol, for a night to remind them of Calella

upon (since legendary AU slag Joy).

Using a technique George Burley would eventually emulate at Tynecastle, we molded the fresh meat around the backbone of internationalists: Wilson, Hultum, Dhani, Logan, Joseph. Needless to say, Heart's success has not been a sur-

prise to anyone who followed the third team's early progress. Confidence grew as we dismissed team after team and soon we were living the high-life: each week more third team players would make the homage to the karaoke set than any other sports team and with every perfect note came more sex (well, in

Calella).

Regardless of how many were in the bed on Friday night, on the pitch, the band-wagon rolled on. In the game of the season, we ruined Holloway 2-0 at Fortress Berrylands by playing at a pace that most thought impossible. Cleverly introducing new flair players as well as old

heads (incredibly, Gypsy earns that title of respect on the pitch) we managed to string together a run of clean sheets (9) only bettered by the number of wins in a row (11).

It's fair to say that no-one - from the prison cells of Holloway to the wee Welsh world of Taffy - saw it coming. We started the

season as nothing and rose through the mud, sleet, rain and goose-shit to our place in the Tuns. This season, they're waiting for us. But we're ready; equipped with a new band of freshers the third team brushed off the fourths by five goals on Wednesday. Last season it was the league; this season it is all about the double.

“ Write us some bloody articles please ”

Ed & Jen