



1895 - 1995

BEAVER

The Newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union

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John Ashworth: staying or going?



John Ashworth, Director of the LSE, (pictured far right) at the launch of the Centenary celebrations last week

Photo: Mark Baltovic



Hardship Fund

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The Director of the LSE, John Ashworth, angrily denied reports that he was quitting the LSE, in an exclusive interview with *The Beaver* last week.

Ashworth claimed press speculation was the result of a misunderstanding of school procedure. The *Evening Standard* was last week forced to print an apology to the Director after an erroneous article regarding his future was published.

As Ashworth is nearing the end of his six year contract, a specially elected committee will meet in February to select a list of individuals to whom the post may be offered.

Ashworth said that if the committee wish to speak to him, he remains "approachable", however he thinks it would be "somewhat undignified" to apply for his own job. He wants the selection process to be as equitable as possible.

There are many within the LSE however who believe that Ashworth has indeed given his notice. Some academics believe that even if he sought a further term as Director, he would be very unlikely to get it. The one proviso to this is if LSE are dramatically offered County Hall by the Government in a dramatic policy U-turn. Such a success for the LSE could enhance Ashworth's profile, and lead to renewed backing for his re-appointment.

The Government are now strongly rumoured to be on the verge of offering LSE County Hall, together with certain sweeteners. The offer is expected to be so sufficiently generous to assuage the many doubts within the academic community and Governors of the

Teresa Delaney

School of the viability of the move.

Government sources indicate that a major announcement about the future of County Hall will be made at the beginning of February. Possibly with this in mind, the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, has asked Ashworth to discuss the future of the former GLC building with her. It is rumoured that his position towards the Directorship might change with County Hall success.

Asked directly by *The Beaver* whether he might be more enthusiastic about continuing as Director if the LSE is given County Hall, Ashworth said only that he had been very "disappointed" that County Hall was not sold to the LSE when the GLC building first came up for sale, and that the Government had been "mistaken and foolish".

Ashworth was also questioned about the current state of LSE. He acknowledged the decline of the "student experience" despite the maintenance of academic standards, which he felt would have been addressed by the introduction of top-up fees. His plans to charge all undergraduates tuition fees were halted by staff in June 1993.

Stating that under the present financial system LSE would eventually lose its position as a world leader, Ashworth said he would make it clear to the Court of Governors that he has no intention of managing a second-rate institution, and would only considering

(More on page 3)

Student loan man quits

Pressure too much after Beaver campaign

The Chairman of the Government backed Student Loans Company (SLC), Ron Harrison, has stepped down amidst controversy over the misuse of public money and the complete breakdown of administration following revelations published in *The Beaver*.

The Company, which began operating in 1989, has been widely criticised for its inefficiency and badly organised practices. The SLC accounts in 1994 showed that out of the £751 million lent so far only £19.8 million has been repaid.

The catalogue of disasters over recent months have been catastrophic for thousands of students nationwide, with at one stage a total of 35,000 students who applied for loans still waiting to receive their cash. The new applications system that had been implemented in order to increase efficiency failed to do so in a huge administrative cock up.

Forms that had to be completed by students were often sent to their old addresses or were lost. The

Nicola Hobday

rush of students applying late was too much for the offices to cope with. Telephones were constantly engaged and letters accumulated in a huge backlog.

In addition to these problems the SLC is also under investigation from the National Audit Office due to allegations over discrepancies in spending on boardroom whisky.

It has been said that in two months in 1992 Harrison spent £350 on whisky on top of the petty cash bill of £252.

As his company has been suffering so many allegations of poor conduct it is hardly surprising that Ron Harrison has stepped down indefinitely, apparently for health reasons. It is said that he suffered a minor stroke.

Sir Eric Ash, already a director of the company, has been put in charge temporarily and it remains to be seen how well he copes with the financial disaster that is the SLC.



Gillian Shepherd, Education Secretary, who is reported to be angered by the SLC controversy
Photo: Agency

THE STORY AS WE TOLD IT.....

Steve Roy
News Editor

The Beaver first reported the problems at the Student Loans Company last term, following a series of complaints made by LSE students.

We wrote on December 5: "The SLC find themselves in a bureaucratic nightmare. The company's phonelines have had 10,000 calls per minute peak time, written responses are 6 weeks behind, and there are 500 faxes per day."

Notable LSE academics and officials have suggested new methods of loan repayment, including the idea of a graduate tax, first proposed in 1968 by Howard Glennerster, Professor of Social Administration at LSE.

The Beaver is currently pursuing new leads in the SLC case, including fresh allegations of corruption.

All news at Beaver

This week's *Beaver* marks the end of an era, with the departure of news editors Phil Gomm and Steve Roy.

Gomm and Roy have been in charge of the news section since April 1993. Under their guidance the news section has prospered, with over 15 news journalists now a regular feature of *The Beaver* collective meetings.

Asked about the major stories of the 18 months at the helm, the news editors mentioned their interview with John Patten, the problems with the Foundation, and the recent Kashmiri kidnapping.

Alan Davies and Davina Standhope

Paying tribute to the staff at *The Beaver*, Phil Gomm said: "The best thing about being News Editor has been my colleagues."

Gomm added: "I think we have shown *The Beaver's* detractors just how good student journalism can be."

Steve Roy spoke of the talent amongst the new breed of news writers with the paper. "I just hope they're not all poached by *London Student*," he said.

The Executive Editor of *The*

Beaver, Ron Voce, holding back tears, said "Steve and Phil will be sorely missed. The news pages used to be a joke, but now they are produced to the highest journalistic standards. I hope their successors, who have been trained well, will build on Steve and Phil's triumphs."

The Students' Union General Secretary, Martin Lewis, said "*The Beaver* news section has improved steadily under Phil and Steve. I hope it will continue to do so."

A spokesman for the LSE said: "It has been difficult to keep scandals quiet because of the tenacity of the departing news editors."

Audit report raises alarms

The LSE is facing criticism over its service to students following a report published by The Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC), who audited the LSE in May 1994. It examined the mechanisms for internal quality assessment.

The Students' Union (SU) believe that "students should expect a quality product of education that meets their needs." The SU have published a report in the light of the HEQC's findings. It outlines a number of potential student concerns in areas where the LSE presently does not come up to standard:

1. Students should have representatives on all Senior Academic Committees.
2. The School should ensure that part-time teaching staff are qualified and capable of teaching to the high standards expected at the LSE.
3. November resits should be introduced.
4. The BLPES should reassess its opening hours and a 24hr study facility should be made available at the LSE.
5. The policy on access to Senate House should be reviewed.
6. The School should examine the split departmental degrees so that students who choose these courses

Judith Plastow

should not be unfairly disadvantaged.

Nancy Paton, the Assistant Registrar, responsible for Teaching Quality Assurance, said the Teachers Quality Assurance Committee would be very interested to hear the Student Union's response.

The School is now considering a formal response to the full HEQC report which the School will be publishing in June. The LSE SU has been asked to partake in this, both by the School and a UGM motion.

Martin Lewis, SU General Secretary, has written both a provisional return and made further recommendations. He now wants student feedback:

"I think it's important that as many students as possible take time to find out about the quality assessments, as this is perhaps the best opportunity for students to effect an improvement in the academic structures of our institution."

If you would like a copy of the report and like to have your input in the debate please contact Martin Lewis in E205 or on 071 955 (7147) as soon as possible.



Steve Roy (left) and Phil Gomm relaxing in a Tower Hamlets Kitchen

Photo: Stewps Ltd

Malaysian college row

Nick Sutton

Plans by the University of London to become the first foreign university to open a campus in Kuala Lumpur have caused dismay amongst alumni in Malaysia.

The architects of the project - at Royal Holloway and Bedford College - hope to initially attract 5,000 Malaysian students. The new college, under discussion for some years, will enable Malaysian students to be taught in Kuala Lumpur but receive a University of London degree on completion of their studies.

Malaysian LSE alumni have expressed their concern at the scheme - believing that their degrees will be devalued as a result. Paul Temple at Royal Holloway denied this claim, stating that students will obtain a "perfectly proper University of London degree" subject to the normal University academic quality standards.

The scheme is believed to have the backing of senior figures in both the British and Malaysian governments. British universities are keen to expand into the rapidly developing southeast Asian market, whilst the Malaysian authorities wish to limit the considerable sums in foreign exchange which are lost



The headquarters of the University of London

Photo: Anastasia Shorter

by the country as a result of students studying overseas.

The college is expected to open in 1997, offering subjects such as economics, business and management studies, law, statistics, accountancy and finance. Despite the similarity in course

areas, the Director of the LSE, Dr John Ashworth, believes the opening of the college will have no effect on the recruitment prospects of the School.

University of London sources also suggested that there was no intention of reducing the number

of overseas students coming to Britain.

Malaysian students at LSE have mixed opinion about the plans - Yap Miow Sen said it "won't really devalue the degree because employers and other people will know the dif-

ference" between a degree obtained in Kuala Lumpur and one from overseas.

Another student argued that setting up a campus in the Malaysian capital "will devalue everyone from the University of London."

News in Brief

Saturday opening

The Brunch Bowl will be open on Saturdays for a trial period this Lent Term. The restricted service will be open from 10:30-2:30pm with hot and cold snacks, salads, sandwiches and beverages available. (Hot snacks and salads 12-2pm only).

Island show shuts down

Once On This Island, the West End musical currently showing at the renamed Royalty Theatre, will shut down at the end of January after disappointing ticket sales.

As a result the School seems likely to reopen discussions regarding the purchase of the Royalty Theatre

Committee make - up

The Rt. Honourable Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking was elected, following a postal ballot, as the fourth lay Governor member of the Selection Committee to appoint the next Director. She will join the Rt. Honourable Lord Donohue, Mr AC Gilmour and Sir John Sparrow

Director: Should he stay or should he go?

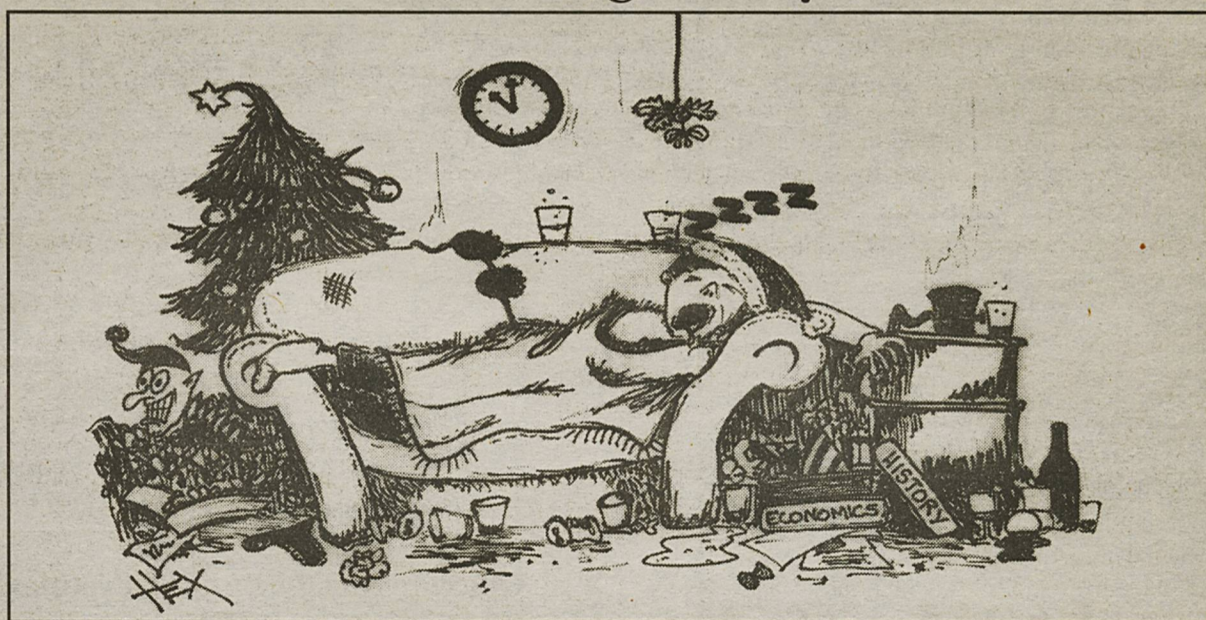
(Continued from page 1)

remaining Director if he was given "adequate resources".

Although Ashworth said that he did not measure successes and failures, he said he felt that his greatest achievements had been the purchase of St Clement House, which will provide state of the art teaching facilities, and Enterprise LSE, which is an example of making "academic knowledge socially useful." Greatest amongst what he felt needed to be done was the creation of a large lecture room, such as the Royalty Theatre.

There were unconfirmed reports of who might stand for the Directorship. Dr Peter Loizos of the Anthropology Department, a rumoured candidate, found the gossip about him "absurd", and put his name being put forward down to confusion.

"A working holiday"



New constitution proposed by Lewis

Martin Lewis, General Secretary of the Students' Union (SU), last week published a new draft Constitution for the SU. Lewis claimed the new Constitution would make the SU more accountable, open and responsive to the needs of students.

Last year's Education Act, and codification of current practice have forced some changes, whilst most are genuine reforms suggested by Lewis.

Societies will be greatly affected by the proposed new Constitution, being able to decide their budgets amongst themselves through a Societies' Council rather than the present Annual Budget Meeting - a

Graeme Pearson

change Lewis believes will "put the governance of societies into the hands of societies."

Future full-time officers (to be General Secretary, Treasurer, Ents Sab and a new post of Education and Welfare Sabbatical) together with non-sabbatical officers will have detailed job descriptions.

The "executive slate" will be abolished and replaced by officers elected for particular remits, such as Communications, Equal Opportunites, Environment and Services; new committees will be established to manage the Shop,

Café and SU services; and a Campaigns Committee will be formed to separate the administrative role of the SU from its political functions.

The proposed constitution, to be seconded by Executive Editor of *The Beaver*, Ron Voce, also attempts to increase the suffrage at SU elections by introducing advanced voting at Student Halls of Residence; recommends alteration of UGM procedures to improve debate; outlines detailed rules for SU elections; and guarantees the financial future of *The Beaver*.

Copies of the proposed Constitution can be obtained from Student Union Reception, and Martin Lewis (Room E205, extension 7147) welcomes any questions, queries or amendments.

UNION JACK

LEWIS UNVEILS VISION FOR 21st CENTURY

Michael Why
and Patrick Windup
The Guardian Political Staff

In what will come to be seen as Martin Lewis' most important act since becoming General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union, he today unveiled plans for a new constitution. In a move which was kept from the rank and file students up until the very last minute, Lewis made one of the most significant speeches at a UGM since previous General Secretary van Hulst's impressive tirade against the Ashonite militant tendency at the height of their influence. At the end of a wide-ranging address, Lewis proclaimed that "It is time for a new constitution for the LSESU, one which is relevant to the challenges of the twenty-first century. We need a wide-ranging debate on all of the issues, let us have the courage to engage in that debate. It is time to mean what we say and say what we mean. New LSESU, new Britain. New LSESU, new Britain."

The rumours have been circulating ever since the ascent of Lewis to the leadership that he was to make fundamental changes to the LSESU's ancient constitution. Key sources in the modernisers camp privately admit that this could be the final opportunity for such a change. Any later, and the risk is that Lewis would not be in office to see his project through. Tim Payton, key policy adviser and speechwriter to flamboyant moderniser Baljit Mahal, proclaimed the proposals as being of fundamental importance to the future prospects of the LSESU. "It is all about increased accountability and making clear our constitutional base for the new battles set to emerge as we approach the new century", he said.

Despite the suddenness of the announcement, the opposition is already beginning to mobilise. Traditionalists will view the move as being a modernisation too far, and fail to see the Lewis view that it is the key to making the LSESU boring enough to be respectable. Sources close to the heart of the traditional left were making plain their view that changing the constitution is not the fundamental issue the leadership should be concentrating on. One traditionalist commented, "There are very real student issues, hardship, poverty and inadequate facilities, which the LSESU should be focusing upon. That is what students at the LSE are interested in, and it remains my view that that is where the LSESU's obligations lie. How many students ever claim that the constitution is the most important single issue their union should be campaigning on?" Others have been alarmed with the new focus on image, and what they see as a fundamental lack of substance, in the proposed changes.

The key to whether Lewis' gamble will pay off seems to be the support of Gary Delaney and Vini Ghatate, it is they who hold the biggest sway over the traditionalists in the balcony. Their job will not be easy, however, when faced with the sort of scepticism which has led one principal upstairs voice to deride Lewis for "his silly grin, shiny new haircut and inability to distinguish between practice and practise."

Changes ahead in IT

At its last meeting, the Academic Studies Committee decided that, from October 1995, the course Introduction to Information Technology (IS7310) would be available only to first year students.

The courses Advanced Information Technology for the Social Scientist (IS7328) and Information Systems in Business (IS7329) are available for second and third year students.

Details of all three courses are given below. Any students who wish to discuss their options in the light of these changes should see the Departmental Tutor for Information Systems, Dr Edgar A. Whitley, Room S103, Extension 7410. His office hour is Tuesday 2.30-3.30pm.

Advanced Information Technology for the Social Scientist (Available to second and third year students)

This course aims to teach students how to make full use of information technology during their academic and professional careers. The course introduces the key tools that support undertaking research and reporting on the results obtained.

Particular emphasis is placed on locating, obtaining, manipulating and presenting various forms of data from a variety of international data sources.

The use of software packages is complemented by an in depth exploration of the principles underlying currently available software, and a review of the directions these tools are likely to follow.

The course also addresses the issues of managing such technologies in organisations and workgroups. The issues considered here include security and the use of networking to share valuable resources as

Edgar Whitley Special Correspondent

well as wider social concerns such as health and safety and the privacy of personal data.

No previous knowledge of computers is presumed, although some basic familiarity with computers is beneficial. Assessment is by a two hour formal examination (60%) and practical projects completed over the year (40%).

Information Systems in Business (Available to second and third year students)

This course deals with managerial issues regarding the use of information technology in contemporary organisations. Organisations are faced with difficult decisions about how to exploit the potential of information technology.

What value can be gained by investing in IT systems? How can we decide what new information systems an organisation should develop? Why do information systems projects fail? How do organisations change as a result of utilising the potential of new technology? How can we avoid alienating employees when introducing new information systems?

This is not a technical, hands-on course, rather it involves the study of a body of literature on management information systems, discussion of alternative approaches to address the information systems dilemmas facing organisations, and relevant case studies.

The course is examined partly by a written examination paper and partly by essays and work in classes and seminars.

Introduction to Information Technology (Available to first year students only)

This course aims to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and techniques that underlie the use of computer based information systems for data processing tasks like data storage, retrieval, analysis, and presentation.

The course provides the students with the necessary techniques and skills that enable them to use computer based systems to assist in a variety of business, management and research roles.

To achieve its aims the course introduces students to hardware and software computing devices and techniques underlying document processing, graphics, spreadsheet modelling, databases and IT project management.

The course also introduces the latest office automation issues, technological developments and market trends. There is no written examination for this course.

The course is examined entirely on the basis of two projects which students complete during the first two terms. Each project is worth 50% of the marks.

In the first project students are asked to use the office automation tools taught in the course to design, implement and document a spreadsheet model for a database application. In the second project students are asked to write an essay on a given information technology management problem. No previous knowledge of computers is presumed.

NEWS EDITOR'S NOTE: This article has been published in response to a personal request from the LSE Information Systems Department. Edgar Whitley is a respected lecturer and departmental tutor for the IS Department.

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Contact Careers Service for Location

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Telephone: (0101) 202 467 3333 Telefax: (0101) 202 728 0546

WE'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE

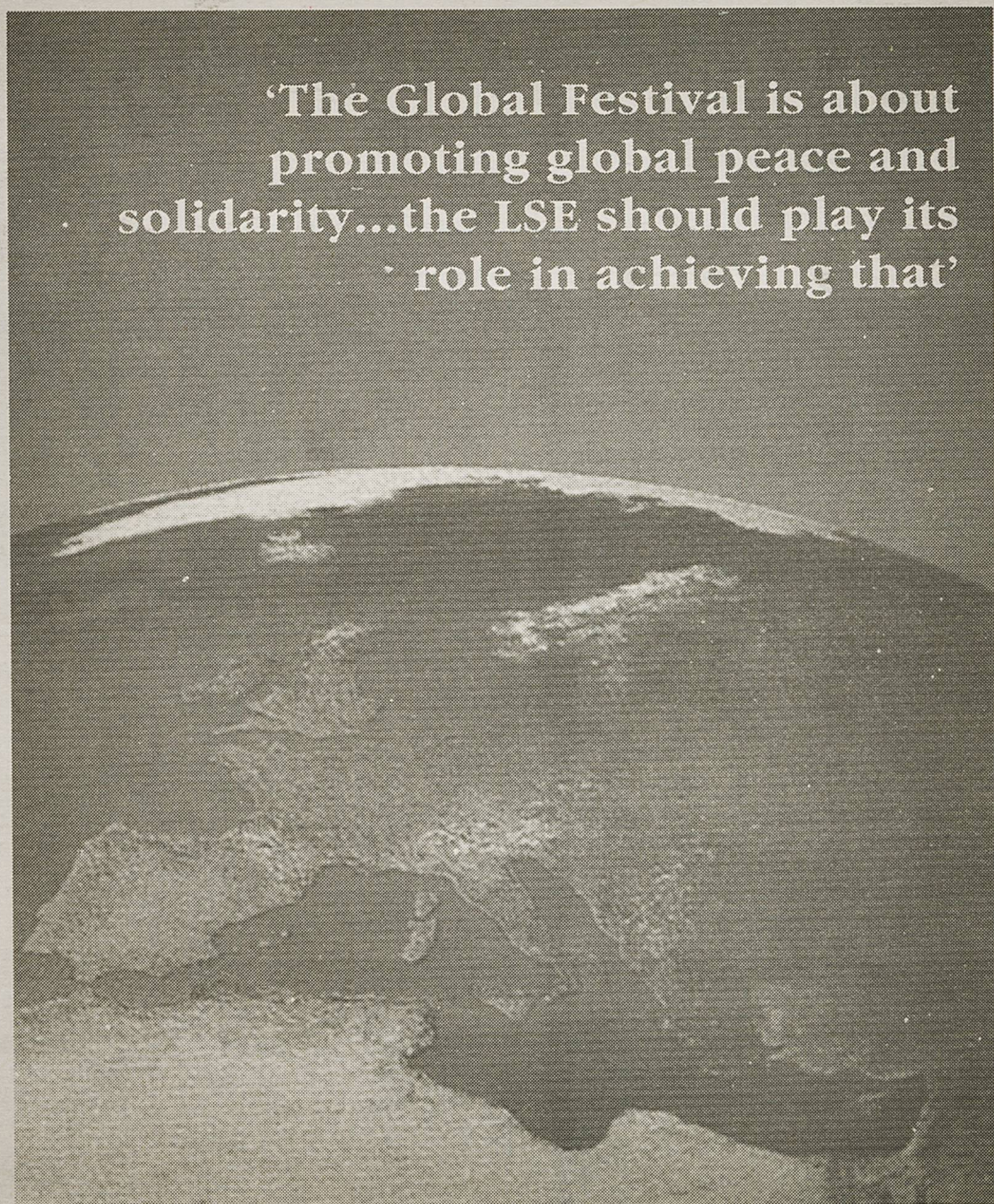
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The Global Festival

From February 6 the LSE Students' Union will host the Global Festival, a week of events celebrating the School's Centenary and its internationalism. Thomas Warde gives us a preview



'The Global Festival is about promoting global peace and solidarity...the LSE should play its role in achieving that'

To celebrate the LSE's first one hundred years, and to mark the increasingly international composition of the School the Students' Union has organized the Global Festival, a week of cultural events drawing on the traditions of different countries from around the world.

The LSE already has students from 130 different nations, more than the World Bank and only slightly fewer than the United Nations. Its status as an international centre of learning could hardly have been foreseen by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, who founded the LSE as a night school in 1895, but they would have been gratified by the contribution their college

has made to global society; it has produced 23 Presidents or Prime Ministers, over 120 ministers or ambassadors and dozens of governors of national banks.

These credentials have helped to establish the LSE as the foremost institution in its field and a breeding ground for future world leaders. But along with that reputation goes a responsibility. Students should leave the LSE with an awareness of international issues, a tolerance for other cultures and a commitment to global peace and advancement.

The Global Festival is first and foremost a celebration, but it also aims to promote what the organizers term "global solidarity." Every night between the 6th and the

11th of February there will be displays of the music and dance of countries from around the world, together with an opportunity to sample their food. These pageants, which take place in the Old Theatre, will be

The LSE is a breeding ground for future leaders. But along with this reputation goes a responsibility

followed by parties in the Quad based around the music of different cultures. All these events are free to LSE students, and tickets will be available from stands in the Quad and elsewhere before the Festival starts.

The centre-piece of the Festival is the Trial of the LSE. Prominent LSE academics including Dr David Starkey, Lord Desai and the former Director Lord Dahrendorf will debate whether the LSE has betrayed the principles upon which it was founded by the Webbs a century ago. Demand for seats at this lively and controversial debate is likely to be high, and it is advisable to pick up the free tickets as soon as possible.

On Friday the 10th the United Nations is organizing a debate on its future in a changing world.

Embassies and High Commissions representing over 20 countries have pledged their support to the Global Festival. India, Switzerland and Indonesia, amongst others, are flying in troupes of performers to take part in the Festival. More are contributing food or finance to the event.

Vini Ghatate, the Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer for the Students' Union said the event will be "a unique opportunity for LSE students."

"I don't think a university has ever held an event like this before. We'll have professional performers from around the world; it will be fun, but there's a serious side to it. I hope we can broaden the horizons of all who attend."

The Global Festival. Events and venues

Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9	Friday 10
17:30 The Old Theatre Inauguration of the Global Festival	18:30 The Old Theatre The Caribbean	18:00 The Old Theatre The Trial of the LSE	17:30 The Old Theatre Pakistan	17:30 Old Theatre United Nations Debate
18:30 Indonesia	19:00 Chinese	20:00 India	18:00 New Zealand	19:30 Greece
19:00 Italy	19:30 Sudan	21:00 The Quad	18:30 Israel	20:00 Cyprus
19:30 Arabian Nights	20:00 Fashion Show	Hip -Hop	19:30 Switzerland	20:30 Brazil
20:30 Britain	21:00 The Quad	22:00 Bhangra	20:00 Africa	21:00 The Quad
21:00 The Quad Modern Arabic culture	Jazz 22:00 Reggae		20:30 Turkey	Brazilian Carnival
			21:00 The Quad Music from all the above....	22:00 Global

Everybody wants to rule the world



It's the School's centenary year and is planned to be celebrated with a series of high profile events throughout the year. An institution humbly begun by the Webbs in 1895, the LSE is now on the forefront of the Social Sciences teaching and research in the whole world. Time has now come to evaluate its achievements over the past hundred years and indeed plan ahead for the coming century.

Five former staff or students have won the Nobel Prize in Economics (Sir John Hicks, Sir Arthur Lewis, Prof F A von Hayek, Prof JE Meade, Prof Ronald Coase) and some of the most influential academics this century have taught at the LSE: Lord Lionel Robbins, Harold Laski, Sir Karl Popper, Michael Oakeshott, RH Tawney, Morris Ginsberg, Richard Titmuss, Raymond Firth, to name a few.

It is however a matter of immense pride for the student community that the School has been able to produce literally hundreds of distinguished alumni in countries spanning five continents. Below, I have tried to mention the very top ones who have held the positions of President or Prime Minister over the past few decades.

NORTH AMERICA

John F Kennedy, the former US President, came to study at the LSE in 1935. After a couple of months, he fell ill and had to return to America. He later joined Harvard and became their most famous alumni. It was however Joe Kennedy Jr who came to the School before JFK and it was here that he vowed to become the first Catholic President of the United States. His premature death during the War meant that the dream had to be passed on to his ambitious brother, JFK. It is well known that his candidness won him a lot of friends at the School including Harold Laski, the famous LSE Professor who even agreed to be accompanied by him on a trip to the Soviet Union.

Even after nearly sixty years since the Kennedys left the LSE, the School remains popular with the Americans and has ever since produced many famous alumni: Paul Volcker, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, Senator D.P. Moynihan from New York and formerly Professor at Harvard, Senator Robert Kennedy and David Rockefeller are only a few. Both Volcker and Moynihan are to visit the School next year and give a lecture each.

The Canadian Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister during the seventies, has said in his autobiography that his time at the LSE was one of the most important periods in his life. He had come here after spending a few years at Harvard. Kim Campbell, a more recent

Swarnim Wagle

Candian Prime Minister was a PhD student at the School and the present Premier of Quebec, Dr Jacques Parizeau obtained his doctorate at LSE.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The following LSE alumni of the region are either holding or once held the positions mentioned in the brackets. Peru: Don Pedro Gerrardo Beltron (President) Dominica: Eugena Charles (Prime Minister) Columbia: Pumarejo Alfonso Loper (President) St Lucia: John Compton (Prime Minister) Barbados: Errol Walton Barrow (Prime Minister) Jamaica: Michael Manley (Prime Minister) and P J Patterson (Prime Minister).

AFRICA

The first President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah was an LSE alumnus as was the first President of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta. Former Governor General of Mauritius, Sir Veeraswamy Ringadoo is both an alumnus and an honorary fellow of the School and the President of the Seychelles, Frances Rene also registered at the School in 1955.

EUROPE

Queen Margarethe II of Denmark took her Post Graduate studies here as did HRH Prince Peter of Greece, who obtained a doctorate. No Head of State or Government yet in France has yet been an alumnus. However, the two most important portfolios in recent cabinets have been held by Roland Dumas (Foreign Affairs) and Pierre Daniel Joxe (Interior), both LSE gentlemen. Dr Halward Manthey Lange served as the Prime Minister of Norway.

In Britain, it appears that Prime Ministers either go to Oxbridge or don't go to University at all! So it remains to be seen when or if the tradition is broken and an LSE alumnus resides at Number 10. There are however 30 MP's in the House of Commons and over 50 Peers in the Lords with LSE affiliations. The present Secretary of State for Health, Virginia Bottomley is an LSE alumna too.

Many British alumni have gone on to excel in a variety of fields and the LSE's influence in the City is as strong as in Westminster. Many alumni have been Chairmen and Executives of a variety of prestigious companies, too numerous to list.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

The present Vice President of India, K.R Narayanan graduated from the School in 1948 and India remains a country where the influence of the LSE is as strong as in the West. Students from the Sub-Continent have attended the School since the beginning of the Century and over the years have produced scores of famous people. Dr Ambedkar, who served in Nehru's Cabinet was an architect of the post independence constitution. Krishna Menon is an LSE alumnus along with Mr F Gandhi, husband of Mrs Indira Gandhi. Taiwan: Yo Kuo Hwa is the country's former Prime Minister. Fiji: Sir Kamisesse Mara has already served as the Prime Minister and is now the President.

OTHERS

Former Secretary General of NATO, Dr Joseph Luns studied at the School and there are well over 100 LSE alumni from 36 countries currently working at the World Bank including Pakistan's Syed Shahid Hussain, the current Vice President. In an article that an LSE Professor Nick Stern contributed for the World Bank's forthcoming book on its history, he notes that 13 LSE people work at the very highest level, a figure hardly matched by Oxbridge or the Ivy League. Let us, however, not forget the most famous of our alumni, the legendary Mick Jagger, who attended the School in the 60's and has recently been elected the Honorary President of the Student's Union. It is hoped that he will visit the School next year.

The list goes on and needless to say, there are thousands of other distinguished LSE alumni all over the world, many of whom will visit the School next year and be featured in either Sir Ralph Dahrendorf's voluminous "History of the LSE" or the "Fun and Trivia" book, all to be published next year. Anyway, it's quite clear where the rulers of the world come from, isn't it?

Special thanks to Ms Emma Casely of the LSE Foundation

Martin Lewis General Secretary

Welcome back. I hope you all had a good vacation and I wish you the best of luck for the term ahead. There are lots of issues bubbling in the Students' Union at the moment, so why not take some time and get involved.

Johnathon Dimpleby will be hosting a regular live weekly programme on LWT. Each week he will be interviewing major politicians in front of an audience. I have arranged that 10 tickets each week will be sent to us, so that you may form part of the audience, if you are interested in a ticket, please come and see me or look at the Students' Union reception for details.

Telephones: The Students' Union have had two more coin phones installed, one is in the basement near the Gym, and the other is outside The Tuns, near Dr Bikes surgery.

Student Loans: With the resignation of the head of the Student Loans Company and a promise to urgently deplete the backlog, all students who have applied for loans should be receiving them shortly. If you have not and you need help, please come and see me.

Constitution: The proposed draft new Constitution and Codes Of Practice, is now available from the Students' Union reception. If you have any amendments, please bring them to me so that we may discuss them. If you do not want to do this, then hand them into the Constitution and Steering Committee pigeon hole. I will print a supplementary list of those amendments which I have accepted into the main text and those which will be debated, each week. This will also be available from the Students' Union reception.

Academic Affairs: The draft report on Academic Affairs including the reply to the HEQC, is available from my Office. I will be officially submitting it to the School at the end of next week. Thus if you want to read or amend it, before it is submitted please get in touch with me.

Smoking: I have received a reply from the School, following my letter complaining about the Academic Board making decisions about smoking policy. I have been invited to discuss Student Representation on the Academic Board on 1st February. The working party on smoking is to have five members, one of which will be from the Students' Union.

Office Moves: Alice Kington (Central Services Supervisor) has moved to the Students' Union reception and Liz Petyt (Sports Administrator) has moved to the top floor of the Café.

That's all for this week, please remember to come to the Union General Meetings every Thursday at 1pm in the Old Theatre. If you have any problems, suggestions, queries, or you just want to know how to get involved, please come and see me. I'll either help you or send you to someone who can. My Office number is E205 and my phone number is 071 955 (7147).

Furore over anthem causes debate at Queens

Sinéad Logue

The Senate at the Queen's University of Belfast is at the centre of a heated debate surrounding its decision to discontinue the playing of the British National Anthem at its graduation ceremony after a recommendation by the University's Neutral Environment Working Group that it do so. This Advisory Group was set up in response to allegations that the University was not conforming to equal opportunity regulations in its recruitment policies despite the changing demography of its body of home students (1991 was the first majority Catholic year).

The Senate has attempted to justify its decision to remove the British National Anthem and replace it with the European anthem (Beethoven's Ode to Joy) by claiming that some students found it offensive and refused to stand while it was played creating a tense atmosphere at the ceremony. As one student put it at QUB, all home students consider themselves Northern Irish, all consider themselves European, some consider themselves British and some consider themselves Irish (Northern Irish citizens are entitled to carry a British passport, an Irish passport or both). It therefore seems straightforward that a graduation ceremony for all students should not provoke the sensibilities of anyone present. It's not as if they

are replacing it with the Irish national anthem is it?

However many Unionists politicians are calling for the Senate to reverse its decision claiming that QUB students will now be perceived as "caring little for the benevolence of the British Exchequer." Ulster Unionist MP Jim Molyneux showed the extent of his opposition to the change by refusing to accept an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University, a move that was supported by many in the Unionist community who went as far as to hand back degrees that they had been awarded. In response to this very public opposition, the Senate has now agreed to collect the views of a sample of students both past and present before commenting any further.

It is particularly significant that such a debate be centred on the University where the great majority of the student population have never known peace and have refused to conform with the prejudiced views of those around them. The QUBSU as with any Students' Union aims to provide a safe atmosphere for all students regardless of race, sex, religion, sexuality, physical disability or political opinion and to this end it has been very successful.

In fact, a sign written in Gaelic has been removed from the Union building because some Unionist students found it offensive despite the fact that it is the view of the Union that the Irish language can be embraced by both communities. The decision of the Senate is about nothing more than recognizing that at a University where 44 nationalities are represented at graduation ceremonies, some thought needs to be given to this diversity. The British National Anthem is not played at the LSE graduation ceremony.

Many students see the response of the Unionist politicians as a predictable one in line with their continual failure to compromise at a time when attempts are being made to forge a pathway to peace. They appear to have hijacked an uncontroversial decision and turned it into a heated political debate which many view as nothing short of ridiculous. It is particularly telling that the Democratic Unionist Party concerns extend to those who actually plays the anthem preferring the Unionist RUC band to the culturally mixed South Eastern Education and Library Board band. As Paul McMennamin, President of the QUBSU and one of two SU representatives on the Senate, the community of students at QUB "don't want to be used as pawns in somebody's twisted game of division."

Mass Debate

These words were going to come (poor joke-ed) under the highly original title "Comments on the L.S.E Debating Society." Due to a shortage of column inches however it seemed that the prospects of getting a large column into The Beaver were minimal.

The shorter and even more original title says it all about regular debaters. Sad, lonely and socially maladjusted students who love themselves intensely. At weekly meetings they engage in orgies of mutual backslapping and verbal ejaculation with much hand gesturing and bobbing of heads. You can spot them in Houghton Street by their incredibly trendy ties and briefcases and an ability to make Terry Wogan sound brief, intelligent and in touch.

Last term the imposing and macho (if you doubt me ask ex-government whip Michael Brown) Adam Morris (wanker) became President in the society's much-publicised and very democratic elections. At this week's widely anticipated meeting he opened proceedings with a vain attempt at imitating the bantering manner of H.I.G.N.F.Y.'s Angus Deayton. This might have been a little more convincing had someone not told him of Angus's penchant for fungal-green baseball caps. After subtly reminding the assembled masses of his status as (allegedly) a World-class debater he called the House to order. The motion for debate was "This House would take from the rich to give to the poor" - as a struggling Third-Year this struck me as being way too bloody obvious to be debated. I was wrong. Certain silly people contrived to waste a whole hour of my lunch-time.

The first speaker in favour of the motion, a First-Year called Ben, combined the facial aerodynamics of Concorde with the dress-sense of that streak of piss from East 17. His arguments revolved around his GCSE English Literature, and come to think of it he also reminded me of Roland Rat's partner, Kevin the Gerbil. A Mr Sprott stood up to oppose him. He turned to History for his analysis and his impressive understanding of the ideology, rise and collapse of Communism demonstrated exactly why he is better off sticking to his Law degree in future. Its so reassuring to know that the great L.S.E. tradition of sad Tory voters is alive and kicking.

Lisa, a charming American (a paradox, surely? - ed) furthered the proposition's arguments, or at least she explained how the fact that Kevin Costner looked cute in "Robin Hood; Prince Of Thieves" meant we should help the needy. For some strange reason I was at this stage more worried about the motion of my partly digested lunch than that of the debate. Logically enough Aysha then concluded the case for the opposition with a gripping discussion about World Trade. What this had to do with domestic unemployment, greedy Company Chairmen and hypocritical M.P.s never became apparent. Perhaps Global Economics is a particular pastime of hers. After speeches from the audience, most of them abusive it seemed, a vote was taken by the House. The results were; 7 For, 9 Against, 20 abstaining and about 50 asleep. As I left the magnificent architecture and evocative surroundings of A85 for The Tuns I decided that it could have been a lot worse - as Chairman of the meeting the President was not allowed to make his own speech from the floor.

Society stalls suspended

Dear Beaver

This is my reply to the accusatory letter concerning society stalls in Houghton Street.

The LSE SU Executive Officers are legally responsible for all SU societies. Unfortunately, the law requires permits to sell goods on Houghton Street (a public highway).

Last year, the police removed Hizb-ut-Tahrir, an Islamic Fundamentalist organisation some of whose members have spouted virulently anti-Semitic, racist, homophobic and sexist views, for trading without a licence. They then informed us that as a complaint had been made they would now have to enforce the law in Houghton street. Thus no more society stalls.

I have received regular complaints from students intimidated by the presence of this group and unless I am forced by a mandate, I will do my utmost to prevent any student at this institution from being threatened or intimidated by any organisation.

Recently I approached Hizb-ut-Tahrir members in Houghton Street and upon politely introducing myself was informed that they knew who I was, what I was, and where they could find me. As a known Jewish man, I found that extremely threatening. They are not LSE students, their presence at LSE should be discouraged.



Our leader Lewis Photo:Library

Would you want the SU to stand by while the British National Party set up a stall in Houghton Street.

Even with stalls only being permitted in the Clare Market foyer, I have still received complaints from Academics and Students in the Law department about disruption to study. Disruption of study must be avoided at any University.

The letter states, that the Students Union is preventing you from even trying to legalise stalls in Houghton street. **Ridiculous!** If you want a lobby to change the law, then please do so. If you would like the Students' Union to lobby to change the law then it only takes a passed UGM motion much like the one that was submitted on this issue, but then withdrawn without discussion

You said you are saddled with a Students' Union intent on policing societies. **Untrue!** We are here to help! As the stall space in Houghton Street is no longer accessible, I have arranged for stalls to be allowed in front of the Old Theatre, a venue which the societies who have used it/ think even better than Houghton street

I have tried to make myself accountable as General Secretary. I write a column in the Beaver each week to inform Students of current events in the SU. I always finish that by saying if you have a problem, complaint, suggestion or want information come and see me and I will do my best to help. Only one person who signed that letter ever spoke to me about this issue. So I invite you all to come and discuss this. My Office number is E205, my phone number 071 955 7147.

This Students' Union is lucky enough to have quorate weekly UGM's. If that still doesn't satisfy you and you want to change policy, then take a motion there and you can do it. There was a motion in by one of the letter's writers, but he withdrew it before discussion, yet you still complain even though you opted not to take it through the usual channels. If you believe that this is what students' want then take the issue there and I will be happy to discuss it with you at that forum.

Martin Lewis
Gen. Sec. LSESU

Toggle tells all

Dear Beaver,

Surely it must be clear to the very meanest intelligence that *The Beaver* newspaper is nothing but an insubstantial, sub-standard rag that exists merely for the personal satisfaction of the staff and the beatification of the testosterone charged thugs who populate the rugby and soccer sides. Do people really care who the Captain of the LSE 1st XI is currently on intimate terms with, and how much the rugby side can drink on a Wednesday evening?

Good Luck to the self-obsessed parasites who produce this abject rubbish, I am sure you are all guaranteed jobs with the Sunday Sport. Couldn't you try reporting on debating or the impending re-organisation of the Law library - the latter being an issue that will affect all existing Law students.

Toggle the Cat
Third Year Law

For all those who share Toggles' opinion, may I suggest that you attend the Beaver weekly Collective meeting on Mondays at 6pm in S78. The Beaver is the Newspaper of the SU and is here for you to write about what you think others want to know. So Toggle, scribble a few words about the Law library re-organisation and it will be published. That's not a guarantee that anybody will read it however - R)

Jobs, jobs, jobs and more jobs

Part-time temporary positions available on campus for outgoing, enthusiastic second and third year students with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Must be able to work 2 evenings per week, Monday to Thursday, from 6-10pm contacting alumni of the LSE on behalf of the LSE.

Starting Salary will be £5/hour

For more information contact Andrew Harvey on 071 955 6768 after 2pm

All opinions and views expressed in these pages are those of the named authors and not necessarily of this newspaper. The letters editor Rachel Cuthbert reserves the right to edit all material received.

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SOCIETIES REVIEW

LSE DEBATING SOCIETY

"This house would take from the rich and give to the poor"

Wednesday, January 11, 1pm in A85
All Welcome!

Please prepare a case if you would like to speak.

LSE EUROPEAN SOCIETY

"Representing London in Europe"

by Sally Powell, Committee of Regions Member

Tuesday, January 17, at 1pm in the Graham Wallace Room (A550)

JEWISH SOCIETY

The Bishvat Party!
(New Year for the Trees)

Monday, January 16, at 6pm in the Vera Anstey Room

£1 entrance (includes donation to JNE).

Fruit and drinks plus two top speakers. All welcome.

LSE LAW SOCIETY

The annual solicitors evening

Monday, January 23, 6-9pm in the Snior Common Room, 5th floor of the Old Building.

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

"The Truth and False Autobiographical Memory"

by Professor Martin Conway

Thursday, January 16, at 7pm in S318

Food and wine will be served

RAG SOCIETY

Rag society meeting

Thursday, January 16, at 5pm in E195

LSE ROCK CLIMBING SOCIETY

Very important meeting!!!

Agenda will consist of:

1. Trip to take place in early January
2. Easter trip to Spain
3. Meeting with ex-LSE Mountaineering club members

Monday, January 16, at 5pm in the ex-A.U. office.

If you cannot attend the meeting, contact Henri (Captain) after 9pm on (0181) 340 6034 first floor.

N.B. for members and would be members only!

Any societies wishing to advertise in *The Beaver* should leave a note in the What's On tray in *The Beaver* Office (E197) addressed to Valerie Handel or Priyanka Senadhira by Wednesday 1pm for the following week

ARAB - JEWISH FORUM IN LSE

For a university as multi-ethnic and culturally diversified as the L.S.E., dialogue between the Jewish and Arab students has been a long time coming. Yet finally the initiative has been grasped and in the past term a new society, the Arab-Jewish forum has been launched in order to create a social and cultural atmosphere between the two groups, free from any political or racial tension.

The organisation Jewish Arab Dialogue in Europe (JADE) which is committed to the ideal of peace through dialogue wel-

comes this important step in L.S.E. Saida Nusseibeh, the founder of JADE talked recently to a group of Jewish and Arab students from SOAS about the importance of creative listening and prejudice reduction; "Both groups have been demonising the other for over fifty years - dialogue is the best medium to overcome this." Anybody interested in participating in future Arab-Jewish Forum events can contact the group through their pigeon hole in the East Building. A massive cultural evening is anticipated early in February.

AEROBICS AEROBICS AERFOBICS

Monday: 6-7pm; with instructor KARL

Tuesday: 5-6pm; with instructor ELKE

Wednesday: 5-6pm; with instructor LINDA

Thursday: 5-6pm; with instructor LUCY

Price: £1.50 per class
Venue: Badminton Court

Public Lectures

Tuesday, January 17
Thursday, January 17
Monday, January 23

"The Development of International Peacekeeping" (In Three Lectures)
by Dr. Cedric Thornberry, Honorary Fellow of the School, Former Assistant Secretary-general of the United Nations

5:30pm in the Old Theatre

Thursday, January 26

"What is the Philosophy of Mathematics? What did Frege Contribute?"
by Michael Dummett, Emertus Professor of Logic, University of Oxford

5:30 in the Old Theatre

Chair: Professor Nancy Cartwright

Thursday, February 16

"Vietnam and the Disillusioned Strategists"
by Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies, King's College London

5:30pm in the Old Theatre

Chair: Professor Macgregor Knox

LSE LAW SOCIETY

Presents

The Annual Solicitors Evening

Comprising of many of the top city law firms, firms with

In house law departments

government departments

representatives from the
Legal Aid Practitioners Group

Crown Prosecution Service

Advice on Graduate Loans &
Professional Qualification Loans

& much more

Everyone Welcome to Attend. Refreshments will be served

Do you need a break from lectures?

Why not come along to the friendliest place in the universe? If you are not already aware, it is the

CHUCKLE CLUB

comedy cabaret show on every saturday at the LSE in the Underground Bar at 7:45pm. Students (with ID) £4, all others £6.

featuring, on Saturday, January 21

Mark Thomas

Rhona Cameron

Eugene Cheese

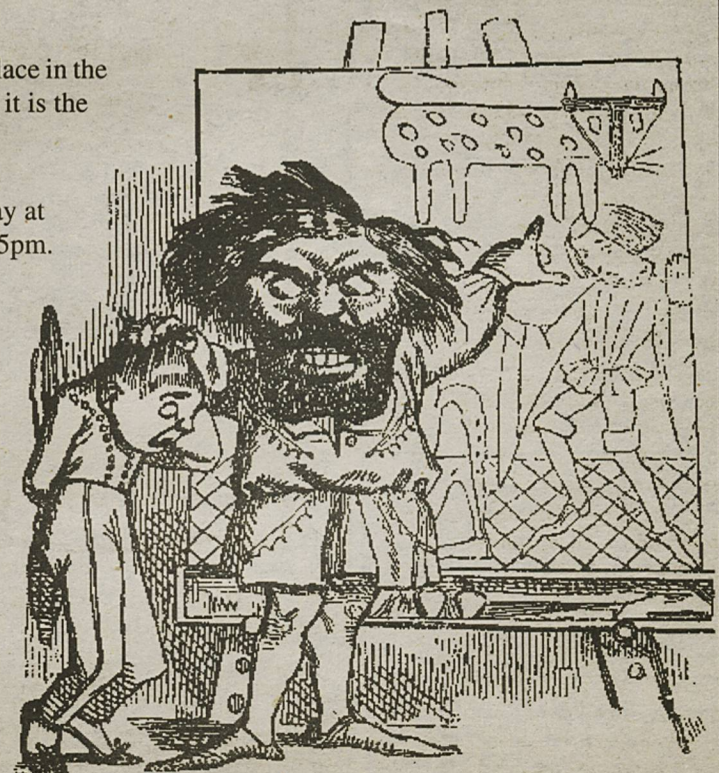
Sheree Vicars

Jack Cutting

Sean Connery Brotherhood
and

Raymond & Mr Timkins

Review



Food for thought

Dennis Lim samples a Taiwanese gourmet film

Eat Drink Man Woman

Director: Ang Lee

Curzon West End, Renoir, Chelsea
Cinema, Screen on the Hill

The *Wedding Banquet* was a witty film about a gay Taiwanese US citizen who succumbs to mounting parental pressure and enters into a mutually beneficial arrangement (marriage, to put it another way) with a Taiwanese woman threatened with deportation. It was one of 1993's biggest critical and commercial success. Its director Ang Lee has made a follow-up, *Eat Drink Man Woman*, a film that has Ang's distinguishing bittersweet trademark all over it.

Mr Chu (Sihung Lung) is an ageing, widowed master chef. He



Too many cooks

Photo: Buena Vista

has three single daughters – the eldest Jia-Jen (Kuei Mei Yang), a schoolteacher, a devout Christian

and an old spinster in the making. Jia-Ning (Yu Wan Wang) is the carefree teenager who works in a

fast-food outlet. In between is Jia-Chien (Chien Lien Wu), the most fully developed character. She's

ambitious, successful and, of the three, clearly has the fewest hang-ups.

Food preparation is the focal point of the film. Elaborate meals allow the uncommunicative father to express his love, but his daughters are unmoved, even unappreciative. They see the weekly Sunday family get-togethers as annoying intrusions in their individual and vastly different lives. In fact, each daughters' character seems defined by her ability to provide a nice contrast to the others, but the performances are so perfectly judged, you are only too willing to overlook the slight contrivance.

The courageous insights of *The Wedding Banquet* are hardly in evidence, but neither are its rough edges. *Eat Drink Man Woman* is slick, accessible entertainment for its full two hours. The completely unpredictable twist makes an ironic yet satisfying conclusion. The food metaphor is a little one-dimensional, but it's petty to complain as it allows for some of the most dazzling culinary sequences you're ever likely to see. A somewhat light meal perhaps, but tasty none the less.

Planet hopping

Ancient Egypt meets science fiction in the latest Hollywood blockbuster.

Rachel Cuthbert casts a glance



Janes Spader and Mili Avital

Photo: Guild

is a man who has serious hang-ups about children playing with guns, but when it comes to destroying an entire planet, he's the man who can. Russell is plastic throughout – his moulded toilet brush hairstyle doesn't shift whether coolly preaching the evils of smoking or being attacked by a metallic Sphinx.

The plot is carefully hidden in a script that defies the laws of any language, never mind the Ancient Egyptian that Dr. Jackson (Spader) manages to pick up in just one evening spent with lovely newcomer Mili Avital. Ms. Avital plays the starry-eyed lover/mercenary who aids Spader and Russell in the quest to banish the evil Ra (Jaye Davidson) from their planet forever. Having been married to Dr. Jackson early on in the film, a fact that completely escapes our Egyptologist, she manages to get in on all the action.

The special effects may be secondhand, the plot cellophane, the script wildly cliched but I loved this film. It embodies all that is Hollywood at its best. Extravagant sets, rich scenery, weird and wonderful special effects, romance, excitement, popcorn and coke. If you are searching for a pure, unadulterated action epic with a twist of romance, then look no further.

removed from his earlier Palme D'Or winning performance. Playing a cross between Luke Skywalker and Indiana Jones, Spader stumbles his way through two hours of special effects taken from just about every science fiction film you can name.

Kurt Russell takes on the challenging role of mission leader. He

Total recoil

Daniel Silverstone on teenage confusions

Totally f***ed up

Director: Gregg Araki

ICA

The title is not the only fucked-up thing about this film. One should also include the six fucked-up teenage characters and the fucked-up city they live in (Los Angeles). This extremely low budget imitation documentary is a sincere attempt to capture the rhythm of life for today's young queers. Initially everything works well. Greg Araki is very keen for the adolescent preoccupations of drugs, masturbation and Saturday night to be voiced with appropriate teenage imagination and humour. This makes for entertaining viewing, with the young cast giving vivacious authenticity to the numerous scenes of aimlessness.

The problems arise with Araki's ambitions – everything has to be incorporated. He prefers superficial treatment to exclusion, which jeopardises the film's originality. In a forlorn effort to be

coherent he sacrifices much of the film's rebelliousness. So you get to see fagbashing and suicide, but you also get an extremely trite ending. The freshness is also compromised by his homage to Goddard, but where Goddard was profound, Araki is parochial, and his narrative inventiveness is of no significance outside of art school.

What is most irksome though, is the vacuity of the characters and the world they live in. If this was satire you could laugh, if it was a documentary you could cry but as a film you are left feeling bemused. It is difficult to sympathise with people who sound like Wayne and Garth and who incessantly make puerile jokes about masturbation. The dialogue is like fast food – it has absolutely no nutritional content. When Andy, the only engaging character (played by the brilliant and currently unknown James Duval) takes the easy way out, suicide – you feel it is for the best. Like masturbation, *Totally f***ed up's* initial thrill soon becomes repetitive and boring.

STARGATE

Director: Roland Emmerlich

Odeon Leicester Square, Marble Arch,
MGM Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys

This \$55 million Egyptian epic starring James "Sex, Lies and Videotape" Spader is far

NEXT WEEK

Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt in Neil Jordan's *Interview with the Vampire*, plus we talk to American cult film director Hal Hartley

Royal blood

Sex, violence and politics are stirred together in a French historical drama. Asim Shivji reviews

La Reine Margot

Director: Patrice Chéreau

Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington and Swiss Cottage

La Reine Margot is a film about religion, hypocrisy, violence and as the title suggests, Queen Margot. It is set in the political turmoil of the 16th Century when two sides of the same family – one Catholic, one Protestant – ruled France. All

over Europe the Wars of Religion are raging and France is not excluded from bloodshed. Catherine de Medici, a Catholic and mother of the King of France attempts to reconcile the bitter warring rivalry of the Catholics and the Protestants by marriage. She forces her Catholic daughter Marguerite de Valois, known as Margot, to marry the Protestant leader Henri of Navarre.

The gathering of Protestants in a predominantly Catholic Paris for



Jean-Hugues Anglade and Daniel Auteuil

Photo: Guild



Vincent Perez and Isabelle Adjani

Photo: Guild

the wedding and the death of an important peace-maker leads to unrest. The King is forced to order the execution of the Protestant leaders to protect his throne but his order escalates into the brutal murder of thousands of Protestants and the capture of Henri. One Protestant, La Môle, is badly wounded during the massacre and finds refuge in Margot's house. As she nurses him, she – surprise, surprise – falls in love. Margot no longer wishes to belong to her dominating family, her sympathies now firmly with her lover and husband.

The stunning Isabelle Adjani plays a confused Margot with an over-healthy appetite for sex. Daniel Auteuil is more convincing as Henri, hated by the Catholics, but

a well meaning leader. Vincent Perez is the raw and aggressive La Môle.

Jean-Hugues Anglade is Charles IX; a weak king dominated by his mother and advisors, and unaware of the uncontrollable bloodshed around him. Anglade perfectly plays an insecure king worried by those trying to poison him and caring only for his dog. Virna Lisi chillingly portrays Charles IX's mother, Catherine de Medici, for which she won Best Actress at Cannes. Medici is a calculating, wicked woman who cares only for her other son Anjou.

Patrice Chéreau's screenplay, which he also directs, is based on the Alexandre Dumas novel. He tells the story with a splash, more like a bucketful of artistic license

and tends to interpret history as he sees fit. The film, although long, keeps the momentum going with sex, violence, political revolt, and yet more sex and violence. It is convincingly acted and realistically set. The complex mix of characters introduced at the start seems confusing, but so many are run through with swords or have their throats slit, that the end is altogether more comprehensible. The violent images of the St Bartholomew's day massacre with the murder of 6,000 Protestants help set the film firmly in the 16th century without seeming gratuitous. However later scenes of scooping brains out of a dead body and the decapitation of soldiers do tend to border on excess. Interesting but not for the squeamish!

Killing time again?

Incompetent robbers, a failed heist and violent, bloody deaths. Sound familiar? No, its not Reservoir Dogs, just a pale and tedious imitation, says Michel Lerner



Jean-Hugues Anglade, Eric Stoltz and Gary Kemp

Photo: Rank

KILLING ZOE

Director: Roger Avary

Odeon Haymarket, Warner West End, MGM Tottenham Court Road

Roger Avary's first effort as director confirms that the Tarantino 'lotsa blood and violence' genre, initiated with *Reservoir Dogs*, is definitely dead and has nothing new to offer. After co-writing the impressive *Pulp Fiction*, Avary decided to go solo with *Killing Zoe*. Unfortunately, it didn't do him any good. After an amazing opening scene where the camera speeds through the streets of Paris all the way to Roissy airport to the beat of drums and the sound of saturated guitars, *Killing Zoe* is all downhill from there. Zed (played by Eric Stoltz) is an American safecracker who comes to Paris to meet his old buddy Eric (Jean-Hugues Anglade who after starring in *Betty Blue*, *La Reine Margot* and *Nocturne Indien*, proves that he is capable of playing any kind of character). Before meeting Eric, Zed manages to spend an hour of passion with Zoe (Julie Delpy), an art student who is moonlighting as a prostitute in order to pay for college - unconvincingly, considering that Julie Delpy looks like she comes from an upper-class neighbourhood. Next thing he

knows, Zed – suffering from a severe case of jet-lag (this is the only explanation for his behaviour) is unwillingly dragged into shooting up heroin with Eric and his international gang. And even after it is obvious that Eric is a heroin addict psychopath, Zed, obviously still jet-lagged, agrees to help his friend pull off a robbery of the French Central Bank (yeah, right, why not the Federal Reserve while they're at it). When they actually attack the bank, Zoe happens to be there, working as a clerk (how the hell does she manage to fit art classes, part-time work, and prostitution into her schedule??). From then on, *Killing Zoe* is a casual display of blood and violence where the influence of Quentin Tarantino only takes on the worst form – senseless gore and random killing to which the audience is very quickly numbed. Amidst the bloodfest, one comic scene of an American tourist getting shot and the stunning performance of Jean-Hugues Anglade make the movie bearable, but they aren't enough to extricate Avary's film from mediocrity. If you're bloodthirsty and eager for violence, go see a Tarantino movie or Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*. *Killing Zoe* was a flop in the US and in France and I really don't see any reason why it would be any different here.

Houghton Street Harry

At this stage of the year, the BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) Championships have reached the last 32 but already nearly all of LSE's gladiators have been sent packing. It was difficult not to notice the tremors that shook the sporting world when both Rugby XV's were knocked out in the group stages, while those bastions of sporting excellence-womens hockey and netball-fared little better. Having made it to the second round, the plucky powers-that-be in Men's hockey chose elimination rather than traverse the great expanse of water that is the Thames and make the long journey to Greenwich. Because only six sides remain in the hat, the football 1sts and 4ths, mens squash, womens basketball and both table-tennis sides (that's no big shock when I look around my lectures).

So what can be done to improve LSE's sporting performance? Apart from stopping Raj Paranandi playing football, the answer quite simply is nothing. The trouble is that a college of this size and make-up (ie lots of swotty boffins and postgrad. twats) cannot compete on a national scale. The ability is just not there and so sport is taken humorously rather than seriously, which is why these pages are always full of Carsten Thode and Alex Mcleish.

However, moves are being made by the AU to place LSE at the forefront for BUSA honours by proposing a new range of sports in which we will have few peers in. The first of these is the little-known Martial Art of Bar-fighting, whereby the team travels to another Union bar, gets beered up, and take on the other college with a selection of weapons, such as pint glasses, K bottles, pool cues and sandwich cabinets. The sooner this tournament gets underway the better as far as our boys are concerned as the LSE brawling club are getting bored of practicing with each other every Friday night.

Another strong event would be the action that some have elevated from a sport to an art form - that of pulling mingers. Credit will be awarded according to size, the number of people that see it happen and the number of times you go back for more. Denial can result in disqualification, as can falling in love with her and putting your mates of their pints by describing in vivid detail how you did everything from "The Lovers Guide" (you know who you are). The side should still be very strong, despite the graduation of Andy Graveson, but there is a stumbling block over when the side will play. It can't be Saturdays because it would clash with 1st team football.

Along similar lines, few would bet against the Man-eating team. Trials would be held at two venues, the Time Tunnel disco and Tutu's, but this team virtually picks itself due to the worldwide reputations of some of the players, including the Devonshire county captain and a Welsh international, who have made their names in the fields of spotting paralytic chaps from a mile off and molesting them, and getting off with as many blokes as possible in the same night (you know who you are).

Finally, LSE could use its European and American links to put out a formidable side in the always popular sport of Old Building loitering. Success is inevitable as surely no other university can boast such a talented bunch of polo shirted and cravat wearing idiots in the world. Bastards.

Trees Fells North London Kinnear's Tears A Small Price To Pay

Wednesday the 7th saw the first round proper of the BUSA championships, and the firsts faced a tricky home tie against those giants of the Polytechnic world, North London. Suits were the order of the day, which was convenient for Jimmy Trees as he had come straight from yet another failed job interview, this time with British Sugar (Be honest though, would you employ him?)

Shandy's team talk summed up the importance of the game. He wanted to 'do everything'

this year, meaning the treble I hope, rather than his naive and limited exploits. The crowd was out in force, including Dimitri's American friends. They came to cheer the team on, but the sight of self-appointed sex symbol, Trees in shorts was too much for one of them, who would later that evening fall for the infamous charm that has snared so many lovelies previously.

The game itself was a tedious affair. Chances were few and far between and the only excitement came when an Air Ambulance came on a false

alarm, when what appeared to be a hideous man writhing in agony and paralysed was just Carsten Thode in full flight. However, the game sprung into life in the final minutes when Henrik's delightfully floated through ball was latched onto by Grant Delea. As he burst into the box he flung himself desperately to the floor with no-one within five yards. Referee Booth however, forty yards behind the play for a change, could not

face the prospect of extra-time in the rain and so pointed to the spot. Their players took it less than graciously and angrily surrounded him.

Luckily for him, the World's newest superhero, Lager top man, was at hand to save the day. Rippling muscles burst out from his puny body as he bravely jumped into the melee of strapping seven-footers to calm the situation with no concern for his own personal safety. He got battered.

While Kinnear staggered about as if he had sniffed the fumes of a weak shandy, LSE's own heavyweights, Thode and Blunden, strode colossus-like to join the fracas. Unfortunately, their lack of pace meant that by the time they reached the half-way line, everyone else was waiting on the platform for the train home.

Kinnear wanted to take the penalty as he wiped tears from his bloody, mashed-up, ugly face, but Brian's fed up of mending the nets and so up stepped Jimmy Trees. They tried to put him off, but he was too intent on impressing Jodie that he did not notice, and his toe-punt wriggled through the keeper's one hand (and a Jeremy Beadle hand at that). Trees was euphoric afterwards, saying "it felt so good." I think he means scoring the winner.

So the Firsts are into the last 32 and face Royal Holloway or West Sussex away in the next round. They are hoping not to have to go to penalties though, especially after a soul-destroying defeat at the hands of the Thirds and Fourths in a shoot-out, when they failed to put the ball past Lowen, who justified his tag as penalty king with saves from Steve Curtis and, you guessed it, Thode.



Nick Blunden and Carsten Thode celebrate victory as only they know how

Can Yi Believe It?

Super Lowen Saves The Bacon Against Pig-Farmers

For most, the day after the AU barrel is a time of recovery and regret, but for eleven hardy souls it was a tale of guts and glory as the courageous Thirds shrugged off their "joke team" tag to come away with a point from the Hertfordshire fortress that is the Royal Veterinary College. The result was all the more remarkable considering they are a First team, and not some Joey Deacon Seventh team that the Fourth's spawn victories against every week with their mish-mash of geriatrics, gypsies, weirdos, pinheads and Mr Thick-as-pigshit.

This game also marked the farewell appearance of one of the all-time greats of LSE football and minger-pulling - Andy Graveson. He would have ended aptly as a substitute but for the non-arrival of disgraced Club Captain and ex-goalscorer Bungo Timothy Ki-ora, who turned up late due to his late-night excursions as a Finsbury Park night-bus weirdo.

As the team yomped through fields to the ground, one could smell the tension in the air. Or was it horseshit? Neither in fact! It was the unwashed, wet kit, left that way by Captain Lowen as a concession to Brendon McGraw. LSE started strongly, with Yi Guan and Goals Cooper raiding down the left flank. Cooper's roving left back role left a chink in the back-four (but he coped very well). Disaster almost struck though, when McGraw blatantly pushed their striker over in the box. His fierce urging-on and encouragement is often appreciated, but not when everybody else is playing well and only he fucks up. However, Lowen saved McGraw's blushes with a stupendous save, plucking the rocket shot from the top corner while their side were already celebrating. No-one could believe it, least of all Mburu, having just turned up to witness this magical piece of football history, the stuff dreams are made of.

Goalless at the half, Lowen's inspirational

team-talk had the desired effect as RVC scored twice straight after the interval, the second being a long-range effort that left Lowen with little chance to stop it. He would perhaps have increased his chances had he chosen to dive rather than stand there looking fat. Fortunately Mburu had taken over the black jersey, rather than the shit green ones and cricket jumpers he normally wears, and made his most telling contribution of a pitiful season when he gave a penalty after George Georgiou was pulled down by the hair on the middle of his back. Despite having LSE dead-ball specialist Cooper in the side, Ben Griffiths selfishly stepped up and watched his mis-hit toe-punt dribble feebly into the middle of the goal - 2-1.

Despite constant LSE pressure, the clock had ticked round to injury time when Griffiths picked up the ball on the left. His deflected toe-punted cross fooled everyone except Mike Tattersall who blasted home from close range to equal Mburu's career tally with his first LSE goal. He still won't pull Nicola Hobday though, and nor will Dave Whippe (though Whippe will never pull anyone because he's a ponce). Unfortunately, we had to share the showers with some girls, which pleased everyone, especially Lowen (after it was explained to him what they were).

Then it was time to sample the delights of their Students' Union aka church hall. Pies were not on the menu, but instead we were given a roll, a piece of ham and a piece of cheese, lovingly prepared by the vets' hands, which had been nowhere other than up cows arses every day. After a hearty

meal, the Thirds began the long trek back to civilisation while the in-bred vets celebrated their point with a barn dance before jetting off in their combine harvesters.

The Thirds look clear of relegation worries now, but are looking into the transfer market to bolster their title charge. This could mean the end for Mburu and Whippe, whose disappointing terms have shown what we all knew anyway - that they're both fat and shit.

LSE BOXING CLUB

"Join the LSE boxing club and you too can be as hard and mean looking as me" - Mark 'Porno' Ellis, LSE boxing club captain



LSE Cricket Club

Winter nets will take place every Tuesday from 8-9pm at Lords (nearest tube station St John's Wood - Zone 2). Whites must be worn and AU cricket club membership is required. All welcome and Chris Cooper is the best batsman/wicket-keeper on this planet.