

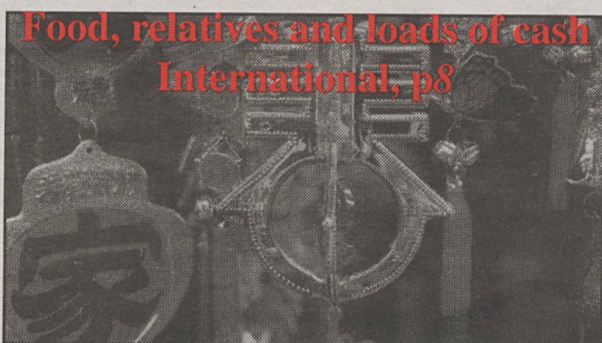
The Beaver

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

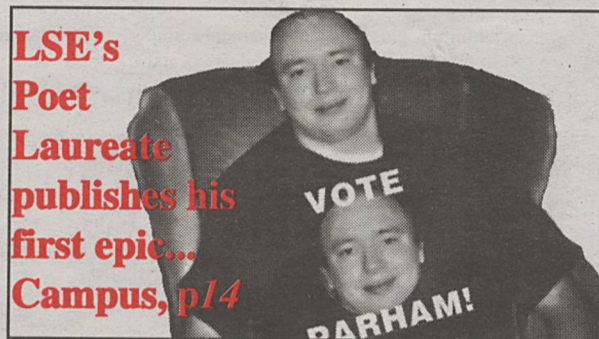
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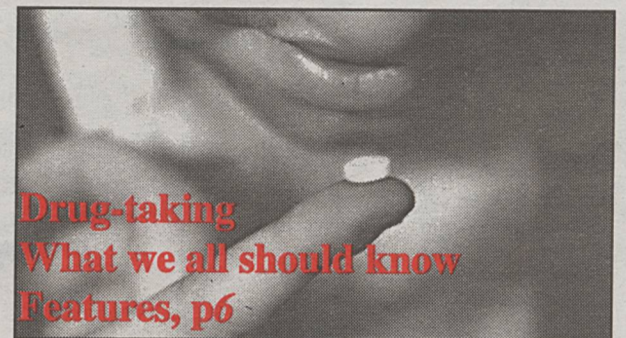
First published May 5, 1949



Food, relatives and loads of cash
International, p8



LSE's
Poet
Laureate
publishes his
first epic...
Campus, p14



Drug-taking
What we all should know
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Crisis. What Crisis?

The Beaver has incurred considerable financial difficulties in recent months. Should the LSE's much loved publication have greater financial autonomy?

Danielle Bourgeois

The debate over whether there should be a *Beaver* sabbatical has reared its head again. To raise the overall quality of the paper and ensure a larger budget, Executive Editor, Liz Chong is seeking greater financial responsibility for *The Beaver*. However *The Beaver's* request for greater financial control sparks a set of controversies.

Currently *The Beaver's* finances are controlled by Treasurer Darrell Hare. Hare negotiates the printing contract for *The Beaver* and other Student Union publications. This bulk printing contract decreases the printing costs of SU publications, but *The Beaver* suffers in the bargain. While generally satisfied with the Isle of Wight Printers, Chong and Advertising Manager Moshe Merdler point out that *The Beaver* could defray some of the costs of improving the paper through utilising a printing company situated in London. Unfortunately this option is not available for Chong and Merdler: *The Beaver* does not have the authority to negotiate its own contracts.

The most obvious way to secure more funds to improve *The Beaver* would be to ask for more money to be appropriated by the Treasurer. Presently the SU does indeed allocate an amount for *The Beaver*, but it falls short of even covering half of the paper's printing costs. Additional revenue has to be generated through advertising. Chong argues that the quality of the paper is restricted by such a tight budget. She points out that a rival student newspaper spends one-third of the annual budget of the *The Beaver* each month.

Hare explains the pragmatic difficulties in appropriating additional funds for the newspaper. If a motion is put to the Union General Meeting to grant more money, he expects it would fall on deaf ears. The Treasurer believes students would be unwilling to allocate more money to a newspaper of decent quality being published consistently and regularly. He further warns that more

funds for *The Beaver* would mean less funds for another Union-supported group.

General Secretary Dan Crowe perceives the issue of earmarking more of the SU budget for *The Beaver* as one of his priorities. Crowe emphasises, *The Beaver* is one of the most important organs of communication between students and the SU. Since it occupies a role of such prominence, Crowe believes the Student Union should at least cover *The Beaver's* printing costs.

The questions as to why the Treasurer should have the final say in *The Beaver* printing contract and whether or not the Student Union should appropriate more money for the paper spark an old debate. Should there be a sabbatical editor of *The Beaver*? From Leeds University, David Smith, editor of the *Leeds Student*, the *Guardian's* student newspaper of the year for 1996, extols the value of being a sabbatical editor. The position allows Smith to put "more organisation, more hours" and more effort into the paper. Furthermore, while Smith relies on a set budget, he has the authority to set his own financial priorities. Sabbatical editor, Alex Feakes of Imperial College's *Felix* echoes Smith's appraisal and has a similar degree of financial responsibility. Both agree that a central figure with final authority raises the quality of their respective papers.

The establishment of a separate *Beaver* sabbatical could have important ramifications on the political structure of the SU. Would a *Beaver* sabbatical truly permit increased financial responsibility? If so, the Treasurer's portfolio would have to be re-designed. Further, it is likely that students facing imminent top-up fees would not approve of paying for five, rather than four, sabbaticals. Accordingly, which of the existing positions would be abolished?

Liz Chong is against the idea of a separate *Beaver* sabbatical, a position supported by a majority of the *Beaver* Collective. She is unconvinced that the position would allow significant



Dan Crowe hard at work, earning his sabbatical wage.

Photo: Johan Almenberg

financial authority. Even if the sabbatical were a force for a tighter, more professional and even award-winning publication, Chong believes the benefits might ultimately be offset by internal *Beaver* rivalries. Ironically, *The Beaver* might become even more reliant upon the SU. Chong points to the potential for a conflict of interest. Would editorial freedoms be curtailed by a *Beaver* sabbatical paid by the SU? Without making any significant steps toward financial autonomy, would *The Beaver* also be relinquishing its political autonomy?

Perhaps the least of all evils lies in a suggestion made by Crowe and Education and Welfare Sabbatical, Sam

Parham. Crowe and Parham have suggested the possibility that the SU should cover all printing costs for *The Beaver*. Parham explains that *The Beaver* would then be responsible for raising revenue through advertisements for capital expenditures, such as updating computers and scanners. Parham agrees this plan would not permit financial autonomy, but it would allow greater financial control and an opportunity for *The Beaver* "to develop better".

The fact is that true financial autonomy is next to impossible for *The Beaver* to achieve, barring far-reaching constitutional changes and the establishment of a separate *Beaver*

sabbatical.

Since *The Beaver* itself is disinclined toward the idea of a sabbatical, the debate is temporarily moot. But one thing is clear: in asking for, and receiving more money from the SU, *The Beaver* will be increasing its dependence upon the SU. Will there be any strings attached to offers of more money? *The Beaver* should be certain to safeguard its editorial independence at any cost.

Your views in Out & About, p3

News From Nowhere

Cambridge. It's in your genes....

Caius College Cambridge, became the focus of controversial debate when the author of the 'G-Factor', Dr Christopher Brand proposed a motion stating: "This House believes there are deep seated racial differences in intellectuals". In his book, Brand contends that white people are genetically more clever than black people. He is currently suspended from his teaching post at Edinburgh University, where disciplinary action is being taken against him.

Newcastle The revelations of a dead professor

Professor Keith Runcorn, former head of Newcastle Universities Physics Department was murdered in the US back in 1995 by the champion kick boxer, Paul Cane.

However, the real truth over Professor Runcorn's death will be unravelled at Cane's trial where California's District Attorney will argue that Runcorn was killed after inviting Cane in for sex. These allegations were substantiated by Chief Prosecutor, Andrea Chrisanti's statements that, "we have established that the Professor was a homosexual". Cane was arrested after his pager was found next to the dead Professor's body, and it appears that Cane murdered the Professor with the intention of acquiring money.

It is expected that Cane will receive 25 years to a sentence of life imprisonment.

Sexual freedom, the real cause of crime?

Another Newcastle academic, Norman Davis, Religious Studies Lecturer aroused debate last week when he claimed that the rising crime rate was not due to poverty but to young men's "freedom to engage in sexual intercourse".

In his new book, "The Invention Of Permanent Poverty", Norman Davis further advocated that the development of abortion and the pill had left young men free to "fornicate" and "to reap self regarding benefits in improved sexual access to females and others."

Oxford. Poster antics

The intercollegiate Christian Union has gone wild on an all-out poster campaign to advertise their new series of talks. This has not only left some bewildered students believing that the posters were by Pro-Life, but has also led to squabbles and competition from Oxford's Exeter College, in its own efforts to advertise its forthcoming ball. Melanie Steight from Exeter College laid down a challenge to the Christian Union, by urging students to "go to both

Is the LSE soon to be swimming?

Jonathan Black

The basement of Clement House could be converted into a swimming pool and work-out room, if the Health Service Committee gets its way. The unused space at the bottom of LSE's latest building is now another possibility for the location of a fitness facility. As reported in *The Beaver* last week, the top floor of the Veggie Cafe is also another potential location. The basement is very substantial in size and includes an old, disused bar which would not be affected by the plans as it has a preservation order on it - it is thought that it may be converted into an alumni club.

Chris Kudlicki, Estates Officer,

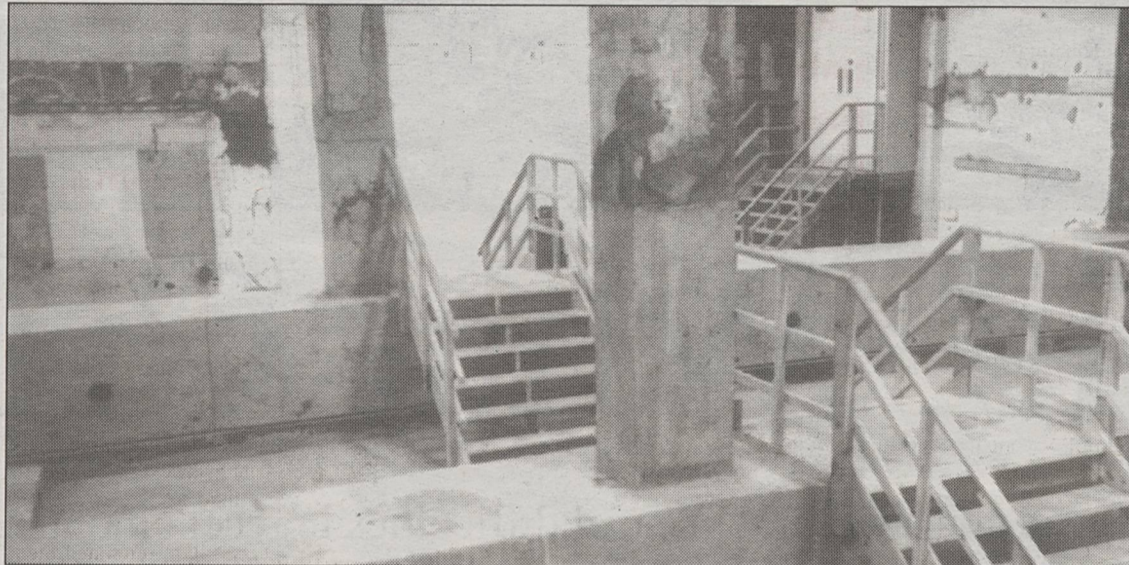
confirmed to *The Beaver* that feasibility discussions were taking place. As well as a gym facility, a pool large enough to "do a few strokes in" would hopefully be included - probably between twelve and fifteen meters long. Sam Parham, Education and Welfare sabbatical, who is also involved in the scheme was less enthusiastic however, commenting it would be "more like a large Jacuzzi than a swimming pool".

When LSE first acquired Clement House, a feasibility study was carried out into the possibility of a fitness facility and it was estimated such a project would cost in the region of £1.3 million, plus substantial annual running costs. That study was made two and a half years ago and the most recent

plans, being forwarded by the Health Service Committee, are still in their very early stages - there are no fixed proposals and no costings have been done.

The Health Committee and the Athletics' Union support the idea in principle but much work still has to be done. Dr John Carrier, Chair of the Health Committee said he would only support the plan if the pool was suitably large. A meeting of the involved parties will be held on February 10 when the plans will be discussed further.

As the photo below shows, space in the basement is very limited. The structure of the area is ill-suited to a pool and it remains unlikely that the plans will go ahead.



The basement of Clement House after the building's multi-million pound renovation

Photo: Kenneth Lo

LSE tops up the Blood Bank in London

Dhara Ranasinghe

"Because you get a free drink and biscuits". This is how Second year, Government student, Matt Wilkins described his reasons for donating blood last Monday, when interviewed by *The Beaver*.

The gym of the Old Building played host to the North London Blood Transfusion Centre.

The Blood Bank covers universities, colleges and town halls in the surrounding area. Sarah Stanley from the Blood Centre commented that the day had started of slowly, though by lunch time they were "mobbed" by eager students wishing to do their good deed.

One PhD student, Tony Lee, remarked that he had always wanted to donate blood though had never found a "convenient" place to do so and felt that it should "definitely" become a permanent feature at the LSE.

So how well did LSE students fare? On average the blood Bank receives 100-130 donors a day, and an hour before closing the number of LSE donors stood at a relatively high 89. So LSE keep up the good work.

Time to top up Giddens' mail

Jonathan Black

The Director's mailbox will be overwhelmed with letters demanding action on top-up fees over the next few weeks, as a result of letter signing campaign taking place in Houghton Street.

The idea was originally proposed by the LSE Labour Club, but has the full support of the Students' Union. The letter congratulates the new Director, Anthony Giddens, on his appointment but also urges him to "deal immediately and decisively" with the issue of tuition fees. The letter asks him to publicly oppose the introduction of tuition fees, warning that LSE's tradition of egalitarianism and academic excellence will be irretrievably damaged.

LSE Labour's Raj Jethwa, hopes to secure over 300 letters overt he

next fortnight as part of the ongoing campaign against top-up fees, which has cross-party support. When told of the letter, Anthony Giddens said that he was "exploring actively all financial options" available to the School, and stressed to *The Beaver* that "no decision has been taken" on the issue.

Students are also being asked to sign a second letter to send to their MPs requesting them to support Ken Livingstone's Early Day Motion urging LSE not to impose top-up fees. (as reported on in last week's *Beaver*). However it appears that this will face its own obstacles, in light of Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown's recent statement that a future Labour Government will sanction no further money to Higher Education. Students wishing to sign either letter can find the stall in Houghton Street from noon on weekdays.



Dev's extortion racket pays dividends.

Photo: Kenneth Lo

Lobby of the Standing Committee. Tuesday 4 February.

The Standing Committee has the power to sanction the implementation of top-up fees at the LSE. Show the strength of your support by joining the lobby.

News From The Archives.

From This Week: 11 February 1954.

Doubts were raised over a proposed trip to the USSR at the LSE on 11 February 1954. A student from the LSE was to be sent on an NUS sponsored trip to the USSR in the spring term of that year, where they would be welcomed by the Soviet Committee of Anti-fascist Youth.

There were nominations for an LSE delegate and the Union voted for the candidates on 4 February. However, the problem lay in the fact that the visit would extend at least two weeks into the term, consequently prompting the Director's Office to declare that permission would be granted on an 'individual basis' and that, 'no assurance could be given that the delegate would be excused from School until a name was submitted to the Director'.

The delegate had to have approval from a personal tutor and if absence from school for several weeks would be 'contrary' to the degree he or she was taking, then the delegate was prevented from going on the trip. The other condition laid down was that 'if it could not be construed that absence was inconsistent with conditions of any grant' then the student would be more likely to meet the Director's approval. *The Beaver* argued that under such harsh conditions, the most likely student to be nominated to this much publicised trip would be a research student.

Another issue that did not meet with student approval was the exchange plan with the Karl Marx Institute of Economics in Sofia, Bulgaria. LSE had suggested an exchange visit of one



student only from each school but the Sofia Institute and the IUS headquarters in Prague had decided to send two students to England instead. Nevertheless, the LSE was still decided on sending one student and the explanation that was offered, was that "It is possible that the Bulgarian authorities thought that a student travelling by himself might be lonely!"

Miriam Chalabi

Has the LSE gone over the top-up too soon?

The Beaver asks where other British universities stand on top-up fees

Chris Roe & Andrew Yule

An exclusive *Beaver* investigation has revealed a nationwide sense of frustration among the British student community regarding the LSE's position on top-up fees. Students' Union representatives from the six Russell Group institutions (which consists of the country's top research universities) expressed united opposition to the idea of tuition fees, although this seems to often be in contrast to the official line of the universities' respective executive bodies.

Despite cautious statements from the universities in question indicating that they had not ruled out implementing top-up fees themselves (a warning will appear in the 97-'98 Cambridge prospectus) there was a marked lack of enthusiasm from the other institutions for making any decision until the Dearing Committee on Higher Education funding reports on the issue in the summer. This again brings into question the wisdom of the LSE's Court of Governors apparently premature decision of December 12 last year. The President of Liverpool University's Guild of Students, maintains that universities should "all jump together". This sits uneasily with the LSE's ill considered and arrogant refusal to acknowledge the importance of the result of the impending general election and the findings of the Dearing Committee, which other universities will take into account before any steps are taken.

Hugh Simms, the General Secretary of the Manchester University Student's Union, said that Manchester was "nowhere near taking the plunge", and that extra fees would be the "last option". Barbary Cook, the President of the Oxford University SU confirmed that Oxford would not blindly follow

the LSE's lead, and expressed concern that tuition fees would reverse the trend of increasing numbers of undergraduates coming from state schools. Similar fears are also being expressed at the LSE, where a poll of the sixteen departments revealed that five specifically anticipated an increase in student intake from independent schools, with a alarming implications for freedom of access to the LSE. The Statistics department expected fewer students from "northern grammar schools", an even more disturbing prospect.

The evidence shows that the LSE will be the lone pioneer of top-up fees, with inevitable consequences on academic standards, due to the obvious appeal of free education at rival institutions. This concern is reflected in the prediction that the entry requirements for courses of seven LSE departments would drop dramatically, with nine expecting a drop in numbers.

These worrying statistics bring into question whether the imposition of tuition fees for undergraduates is the

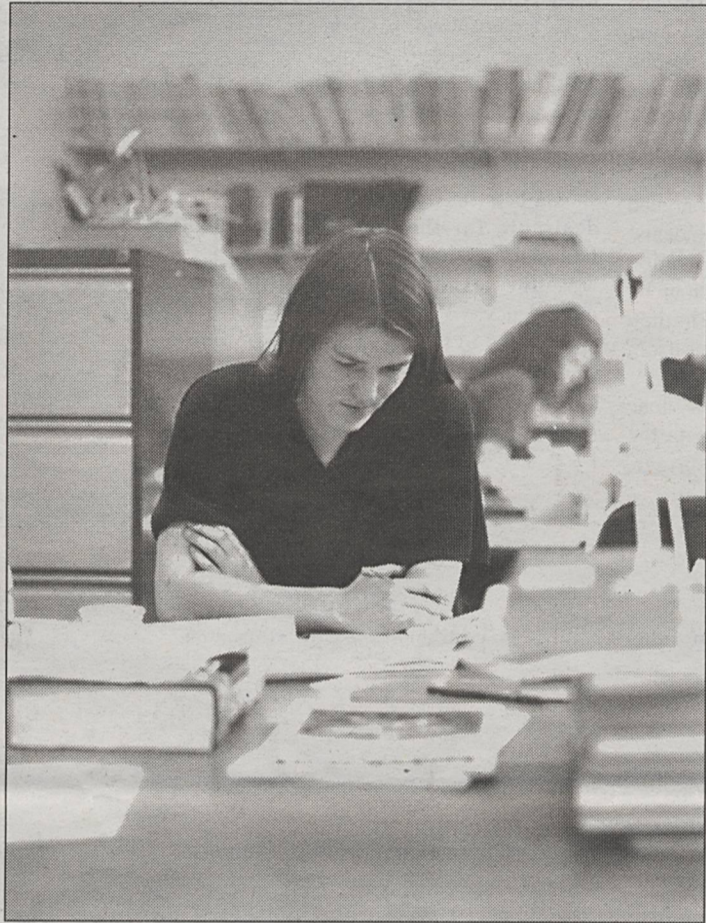
best solution for LSE's financial problems. Other options proposed by the Working Party's report include a 4% increase in the fees paid by overseas students, although this would meet with considerable and justifiable resistance from the students in question, who

home students.

Alternatives will certainly be offered by the Dearing Report. Mark Pursey, UCLSU Education and Welfare Officer speculated as to what they might be. Pursey highlighted a proposal for a "Learning Bank", a policy mentioned by both Labour and the Liberal Democrats. This would consist of an account for each student at a custom made bank with a pre-set initial balance provided by the government. All living expenses and tuition fees would be paid from this, with any extra funds paid for by the students themselves. The clear disadvantage of this scheme is in the uniformity of the sum allocated to each student, regardless of personal financial situation, as well as the dramatic variances in course costs and living expenses between institutions.

An NUS spokeswoman, Liz Llewellyn, reiterated their continued anti-tuition fees stance. However the NUS has proved to be long on rhetoric and short on action, as the lack of any further demonstrations in the foreseeable future shows. The absence of a coherent student opposition raises the possibility that the antipathy towards tuition fees evident in all the SU representatives nation-wide contacted by

The Beaver may remain unheard. The LSE seems dangerously out of touch with the climate of opinion at Britain's other premier academic centres. It remains to be seen whether its eagerness to run at the front of the pack will damage its credibility in the long run.



Is LSE worth it?

Photo: Library

Who's afraid of the big bad Woolf

Chris Roe

Lord Woolf, advocate of perhaps the most sweeping reforms to the English legal system in living memory, came up against one of his most vociferous opponents in the form of the LSE's Michael Zander in an entertaining debate at the Old Theatre on Thursday. Woolf's proposed changes would include the introduction of a 'fast track' system for many civil cases, and "a new radical approach" to the issue of judicial management. Zander remains committed to a more gentle overhaul of the existing legal arrangements, and maintained that Woolf's reforms, designed to reduce the costs and delays associated with litigation, would actually accentuate both problems and should therefore be "wholly rejected". He also claimed that litigants are "more concerned with justice than delays", and that the accelerated rate of legal proceedings would restrict the amount of time allocated for accumulating evidence, prejudicing the defendant's case.

In reply Woolf said that his recommendations would enforce "no frills litigation", which would force lawyers to "get down to the meat", an enticing prospect. Zander, by contrast, insisted that lawyers were doing their best, and that the whole reforms package was "a sledgehammer to crack a nut".

When the debate was opened to the floor the legal professionals in the capacity audience seemed to be split between the two viewpoints, although they generally expressed their opinions in the circumspect vernacular of the trade. The unreliability of the LSE public address system proved to be more of an attention grabber for many of those present, with one of the biggest claps of the evening going to the personal injuries lawyer who said "I think there's something wrong with this microphone" after struggling with its technical shortcomings for several minutes.

OUT & ABOUT

Views from Houghton Street

Q 1) Should the Education & Welfare post be abolished and the money given to *The Beaver*?
2) *The Beaver* is the independent voice of the SU but does not have its own financial autonomy, do you think it should?

Compiled By Johan Almenberg

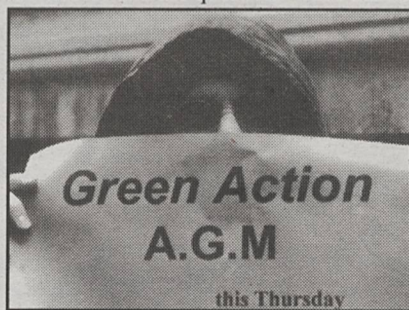
Nina, 2nd year Law



1) Yes, but not until the next sabbatical is to be appointed.
2) *The Beaver* should be more independent of the SU in general.

Because of my position I am unable to answer that question but strictly off the record:

- 1) I see little need for the E&W post since there are very capable professionals already dealing with such matters.
- 2) I don't understand the question. What the hell!



Eric, 2nd year Economics

- 1) What is the E&W anyway?
- 2) Would that really make a difference?



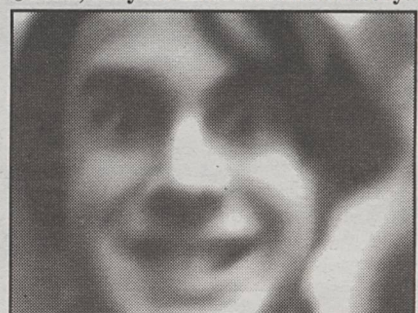
Qivind, LLM

Svein, 3rd year, International Relations



- 1) The E&W post has unlike *the Beaver*, had no effect on student life, so I am unable to answer that question.
- 2) *The Beaver* has never been the independent voice of the SU, it is really a launch pad for political careers, (spoken like a true diplomat).

Johan, 1st year International History.



- 1) Are we speaking metaphorically?
- 2) Metaphorically speaking, yes.



The Beaver

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Dhara Ranasinghe &
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EDITORIAL

This is the third time this term (i.e. three issues of *The Beaver*), that I've actually had to force a sabbatical to write his promised article for the Union page, way past his promised deadlines. Judging from recent experience, the sabs have no right to criticise *The Beaver* over its contents, when they fail so completely and utterly to fulfil their minimal duties to the paper.

Beaver finances are in their usual lamentable state. Complaints about the quality of the paper are more related to our serious lack of money. A rival student newspaper spends one-third of *The Beaver's* annual budget in one month. The total grant from the Student Union this year was a mere £5,000, despite claims to the contrary. Arguments that we are now receiving £8,000 are invalid, £3,000 comes from advertising from STA Travel and NatWest. Although it may be argued that the £3,000 is from the Students' Union, it is financial remuneration for the advertising space taken up by the ads from the abovenamed companies and has not come from Students' Union's funds.

We work with Macintoshes, none of which work properly, (with the exception of one) due to their age.

All crash frequently, wiping out whatever you are working on at the time. We are not only spectacularly underfunded in comparison to rival student newspapers, but also have a serious lack of resources to work with properly.

Without an efficient newspaper, the SU cannot hope to attract more awareness of and support for the various projects it espouses. A newspaper is paramount to the furtherment of the Students' Union's legitimacy: the turnout for last year's elections was very low. *The Beaver's* role exists here- by attracting more readers to the paper, we serve to inform more students of SU affairs, creating interest and participation. The facts exist that our poor finances have resulted in the lousy printing quality of *The Beaver* as we are unable to spend more.

Then again, our inability to negotiate our own contracts forces us to accept a contract negotiated by the SU Treasurer, who knows nothing about the way a paper should be printed or what exactly is desirable for the contract. The financial mess we were in last year was the exact result of this inefficiency.

I'd like to say goodbye to three editors who left *The Beaver's* editorial board this week: Steve, Faten and Chris, you'll be missed. LIZ CHONG

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Every Tuesday
12- 2.00 pm

For more information,
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Starting January 29th
Weekly on Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm
Members Free Non-members 50p
Beginners room E195
Intermediate room E198

Jesus Awareness Week

Tuesday February 4 At 6pm In A85
What's Love Got To Do with it?
-A multi- media presentation including music, drama, video all about the subject of Love.

Speaker: Russel Rook

Wednesday February 5 At 1pm In S75

Jesus is the only way-
Arrogance or Assurance?
Speaker: Vijay Menon

Thursday February 6 At 7pm In S50

Jesus Christ- Superstar?
Speaker: Les Isaac

Plus - a stall in the Quad all week from
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THE ARABIC SOCIETY

Needs guys and girls to model traditional clothing for the fashion show event in the forthcoming global festival

leave message in the Arabic Society pigeon hole or phone

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ITALIAN SOCIETY

Italian Lessons
by qualified teacher

1:00- 2.00 Intermediate
12:00- 1:00 Beginners
Every Tuesday
Room Y001

Crowe Spoons (Again)...

Daniel Crowe

Last Wednesday I had a chat with our new Director over a cup of tea in the Brunch Bowl. (Why does the tea-machine there fill the cup up to the brim, allowing no room to add milk?) Actually, that's not strictly true, as he had an orange juice. Anyway, as you'll probably be aware if you've attended any of his public lectures, Professor Anthony Giddens comes across as a thoroughly decent bloke. Indeed, he is a thoroughly decent bloke. He is happy with his new job at the LSE and is certainly the right man to take this august institution into the new millennium. His ideas promise to breath a new radicalism into the LSE, revitalising its standing as a centre of academic excellence and cementing its position as the most comprehensive and forward-looking University of the social, political and economic sciences. As an eminent sociologist he is in a prime position to steer the School in its pursuit of the causes of things (Rerum Cognoscere Causas, the motto of the LSE). He is in marked contrast to his predecessor who trained as a biologist. As a businessman and fundraiser of considerable acumen, he can understand the difficulties and financial uncertainties which the School faces. Giddens raised over £5 million whilst at Cambridge by targeting prestigious alumnus. (The LSE's old fundraising arm, the Foundation, has consistently and spectacularly failed to raise funds, operating largely in the red.)

Polity Press, co-founded by Giddens is one of the most successful and prestigious radical publishing houses, though he sees no market in an LSE Press. Also, as an associate of the left-leaning Institute of Public Policy Research and being on good terms with Tony Blair, the next likely Prime Minister, he is likely to help heal the strained relationships between LSE and Her Majesty's Government. All round it appears that the LSE has struck gold with its new appointment. Giddens has also agreed to speak (and answer questions) at next Thursday's Union General Meeting. (1pm in the Old Theatre).

Shortly after talking with Giddens, I bumped into the President of the National Union of Students', Douglas Trainer, (formerly vilified by myself within these pages as Douglas Traitor). He was very reasonable considering my ambitions of disaffiliation from the NUS, and we sorted out the personal differences between us.

I still vehemently disagree with his policy on Education Funding and style of leadership, but we both obviously share common ground on the issue of Top Up Fees. Over another cup of tea, we sorted out arrangements for a National Conference on Top Up Fees to be hosted by the LSE Students' Union on Tuesday 25th February. NUS will be sponsoring the event, which will be held in the Hong Kong Theatre in Clement House, and a list of speakers and participants is being drawn up. All LSE students will be warmly welcome, in the setting where the Court of Governors met last term to sanction Top Up Fees as a possible source of revenue.

So we're into the fourth week of this centenary year at LSE. The Union is one hundred years old (the age I'll feel after this year) and the centenary celebrations are scheduled for later on this term. I've got some exams to do this year, but in a last attempt to fail them in outrageous style have decided to direct a production of John Godber's "Bouncers" to coincide with the Global Festival. (Got to get an early plug in there.)

It will also mark Chris Cooper's histrionic debut. Hope he's got a dictionary. That's a joke, Chris.)

Money, Money, Money

Not ours for the asking, but in the future?

Education and Welfare Sabbatical Sam Parham explains future sources of income

This July, the Dearing Committee on higher education, the most comprehensive review for 30 years, is likely to propose the abolition of the maintenance grant system. It is likely to recommend its replacement with a maintenance income contingent loan scheme (MICL). The debate over HE Funding has become the biggest issue in student politics at the present time. The student movement has become deeply divided into two camps - those wanting change and those wanting a return to full grants. It has become a classic debate between realism and idealism. In this article I intend to explain the background to the debate and why I believe that the introduction of a loans scheme is the only way to solve the present crisis.

Grants in disarray

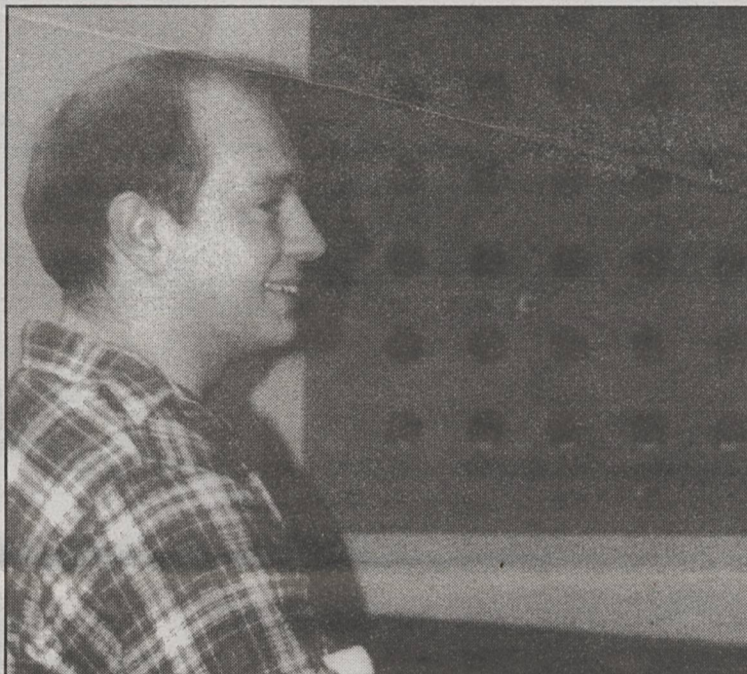
At the moment a means-tested grant is awarded to many home students. It operates on a sliding scale and roughly speaking students whose parents earn less than £40,000 qualify for a partial grant, and those who earn less than £20,000 for a full grant. However, the full grant has been cut by 30% over the last 3 years by the conservative government. even in London, a full grant is now under £2,000 a year. This can be topped up by a loan from the soon-to-be privatised Student loans company.

This still leaves many London students with less than four grand a year to live on. The dramatic grant cuts have caused unprecedented student hardship. Only a hardline Tory would not agree that the situation is untenable and that reform is desperately needed.

The solution

In the late eighties LSE academics Nick Barr and Iain Crawford developed

the MICL scheme. The scheme would mean that every student could take out a loan of up to say £6,000 a year. This would then be paid back after graduation through National Insurance contributions (NICs). as long as the individual was earning above the national average wage then they would start paying off the loan at the rate of say 2p extra NICs in the pound. if they dropped to a wage lower than the national average then the repayment would stop.



A more complimentary photo of our highly 'dedicated' sabbatical

The advantages

If MICL was introduced today, then we could end student hardship tomorrow. No more students skipping meals or dropping out of courses through poverty. No more students missing lectures or getting behind with work through having to work just to survive. MICL would ensure that all students could experience a decent standard of living throughout their university career.

The loan would be optional, and each student could choose the amount they wanted to borrow each year.

Also, the abolition of the grant scheme would free up the 1.7 billion pounds a year that it currently costs the state. This by itself could give a massive boost to the education budget, helping to solve the current funding crisis.

Finally MICL would not harm

access as the scheme is based on future earnings rather than the current schemes reliance on parental contributions. Students would be free to make their own choices and to be regarded as individuals in their own right rather than having to depend on their parents.

Partnership

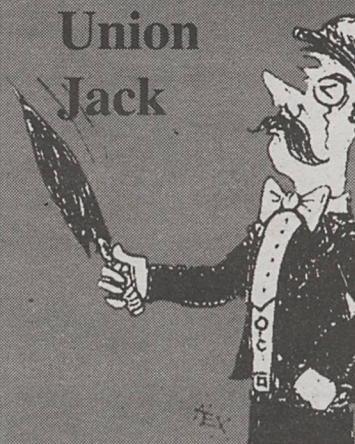
Three groups benefit from a high quality HE system. Society as a whole through increased economic competitiveness, the future employer through a better trained workforce, and the individual themselves through enhanced career prospects and through the whole student experience. I believe that HE should be funded by all of these groups. Society, through general taxation, the individual through MICL and the employers through the introduction of an Employers' Levy.

This would mean that all medium to large businesses should make contributions for all the graduates they employ. This scheme would save the British Higher Education system and would also be based on equity in the form of social partnership.

A New Era

Last year NUS changed their policy to MICL in a groundbreaking move at National conference. The LSESU however, are left in the dark ages, campaigning for something which is ultimately unachievable.

This sort of cloudecuckooland politics does no-one any good. It also allows the government to ignore the calls for real change and continue to do nothing to fight student hardship. I believe that LSESU should change its policy to supporting a MICL scheme. Not only would the LSESU gain in credibility but we could join a national campaign for change which means a better deal for our successors.



Jack is sad to announce that the very fabric of the Union is now under threat. Those who mistakenly believe the UGM to be the throbbing loins of student politics are sadly misguided. Those in the know, and Jack would include himself therein, realise that the immortal venue for all policy decisions in reality..... the Tuns! In a bold move to sabotage the very heart of the Union, it appears that this Mecca of hackdom is to be refurbished. Clearly, however, no-one really knows what is going on. At the UGM, various sabs traded insults about non-information, non-attendance, and facial diseases. On the issue of refurbishment, little clarity was given. Apparently, it is a choice between Beaver's retreat chic and millennial tension. Really? Why not paint the roof of the Sistine chapel in a nice white vinyl gloss, or touch up St Pauls with stone cladding. Do we really need modernisation? Of course, but it would be nice to be told what is really going on. Hopefully, the union might consent to a bit of consultative communication before the stained carpet of government is whisked from under us.

Elsewhere, the UGM saw a heated debate about minimum wages. Jon French, at his most Thatcherite, paced the arena claiming said measure would end 1 million jobs. Dev Cropper launched a stream of invective, along the lines that all Tories were uncaring fascists. No figures, no facts, just a bit of argy-bargy. Indeed, when the dulcet tones of Gonzo Doralt boomed over the air, Chairman Hampshire was completely unable to keep control of the anarchic mob. Perhaps he needs further controls: electric shock batons might be appropriate.

Alternatively, hard drugs could be used to sedate/enliven proceedings as appropriate. After Dev's rabble rousing speech, Yuan Potts decided he ought to get in a popular election speech. His was on drugs; they are good, and attempts to ban clubs selling them are bad. Free drugs for all - the treasury is yours for the taking!

Bored by the proceedings, Jack has decided to invent a sex scale for parties. Thus, sexy members as a percentage of total membership = sex rating. Thus, the lib dems (with three members and Katherine Pigott) get a rating of .33. Labour (loads of members, none sexy) get .00. Although Georgy Tory is undoubtedly "a very lovely lady", the motley nature of the rest of her party pulls their rating into negative figures. Perhaps there are others worth of inclusion? Certainly, the sabbaticals as a group have a difficult job. Hare dresses immaculately, but is roundly counter-acted by Parham. And, is Dan Crowe's obvious wearing of a Newcastle strip a sign of his admiration for the sexual prowess of David Mellor? Perhaps Dan is just flaunting his northern roots for all to see, or perhaps he is about to do a Kevin Keegan. Perish the tough, 'til next time, then.

**ATTEND THE UNION GENERAL MEETING
ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13
WHEN NEW LSE DIRECTOR
ANTHONY GIDDENS COMES TO SPEAK
AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS..
1.00 PM, OLD THEATRE**

BEAVER Anonymous...

Anita Majumdar gives valuable information on some drugs which have permeated our society

Different people are likely to react in different ways to most drugs. Women are also more likely to be affected more quickly as they have smaller bodies to men in general. The dangers of buying drugs illegally are also quite frightening as the strength of the drugs are usually not known to the buyers, and as a consequence the drugs bought are rarely pure, mixed with substances that can be potentially lethal when used in the wrong context, such as talcum powder, washing powder, chalk and cheaper drugs.

Mixing drugs lowers the dose required for each drug on its own to have an effect, and so could also be potentially lethal for those who are unaware. The injection of drugs is the quickest way to feel the effects of drugs and yet it is also the most dangerous. The main dangers are overdoses, abscesses caused by using crushed tablets, gangrene (caused by hitting the artery instead of the vein), blood-poisoning and infections caused by dirty needles and probably most worrying of all, the contraction of HIV which causes AIDS, as well as other potentially lethal diseases such as Hepatitis, by sharing needles and syringes. The drug-user may also become just as fascinated by the ritual of the injection as he/she is with the effects of the drug itself.

NERVE DRUGS (i.e. affecting the nervous systems in their users)

Tobacco/ Nicotine/ Cigarettes....

Tobacco is the dried leaf of a plant grown in many parts of the world. Most commonly, it is sold as cigarettes and in a stronger form as cigars. It is illegal to sell it to children under-16 and it is illegal to sell 'oral snuff' such as Skoal Bandits. Roughly 20 per cent of 14-15 year olds smoke at least one cigarette a week and 30 per cent of the adult population are smokers, although the rate is declining.

Cigarette smoke basically consists of tar, nicotine, carbon monoxide and other gases. How much of the nicotine is taken in through the lungs depends on the depth of inhalation. Nicotine is a stimulant and smokers cite that it is a good combatant for tiredness, boredom and stress. These effects do not last long leading to frequent use, and people who stop using it feel irritable, restless and depressed. That is why it is the most common regularly used drug. Smoking has been taken up by many who are weight conscious- nicotine acting as a strong repressant of craving for food.

Health effects include an increased likelihood in heart disease, blood clots, cancer, strokes, bronchitis, bad circulation and ulcers.

Amphetamines (speed, uppers)

This is a man-made whitish powder sold in wraps for £10-£15 a gramme. They are used for medical purposes and are Prescription Only under the Medicines Act. They can be sniffed, 'dabbed' which means taken by mouth, dissolved in water and injected.

mixture of drugs has been found in the pills.

The effects of taking the tablet start after about twenty minutes and can last for several hours. There are three distinct stages to the experience. The first phase is the coming up phase, where can be gasping for breath. MDMA raises the user's body

heroin), or sniffed through a tube and absorbed into the blood supply via the nose membranes.

Crack is a chemically treated form of cocaine that is far more easily smoked. The initial rush is very strong, which combined with its unpleasurable after effects can lead to dependency, and problems quicker than cocaine.

more doses have to be taken to get the same effect, and tasks requiring concentration such as driving should be avoided.

Magic Mushrooms

Several species of mushrooms can produce hallucinations when eaten most notably, Psilocybe semilanceata or Liberty Cap. They can be eaten fresh, cooked, brewed into tea and can be preserved by drying. However, its' main danger is that it cannot always be told apart from more poisonous classes of mushrooms. It is consistently powerful and is mainly eaten by teenagers.

Short-term effects are similar to a mild LSD. 'Trips' usually start after thirty minutes, peak after three hours and last for upto four to nine hours. In low doses happiness and distortion occur, whereas in high doses vision can be distorted and hallucinations occur. There can be feelings of sickness, vomiting and stomach pains. Trips can be bad if the user's mood is bad. Anxiety attacks and flashbacks may occur with frequent use but these fade naturally.

Long term tolerance to mushrooms develops rapidly and despite frequent dosages the experience cannot be recreated leading to eventual disuse. Mushrooms become illegal when they are dried, boiled, cooked or crushed to make a 'preparation of another product' containing psilocin or psilocybin.

Cannabis (dope, blow, grass, hash, marijuana)

Cannabis is generally used as a relaxant and mild intoxicant. There are three main types of appearance, grass which looks like dried herbs and is more common in America, hash which is a compressed, brown or black block, and cannabis oil prepared from the resin which is the strongest version. It costs £5 upwards for a deal and is normally smoked in a 'joint' or 'spliff', although it can also be eaten.

The effects start a few minutes after smoking and can last up to 1-3 hours after smoking depending on how much is inhaled. If the cannabis is eaten it can last longer but if the user starts having a bad time it can take longer to wear off. In the short term, the effects depend on the mood, location, company and expectations of the user.

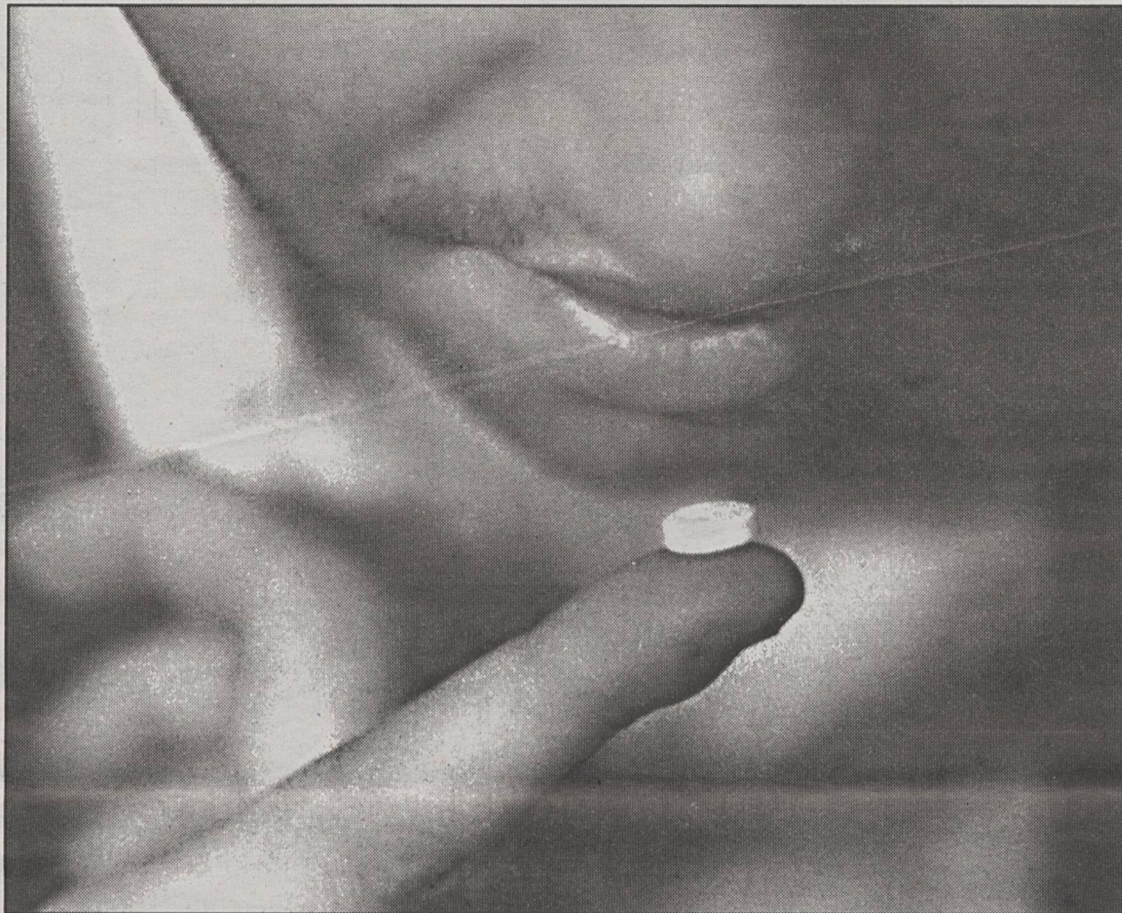
Cannabis reduces people's ability to do complicated tasks and reduces short term memory. However there can

be bad effects such as paranoia, anxiety and panic attacks. Therefore driving and operating machinery is ill-advised after taking cannabis.

With higher doses vision may become distorted.

In the longer term, cannabis like tobacco smoke probably causes bronchitis, breathing disorders and possibly lung cancer. There is no evidence of long term physical and mental effects.

The majority of people in British jails due to drug charges are there because of cannabis. Even a caution goes down on the police records.



Illegal amphetamine powder is usually sold on the street and probably the most widely used illegal drug next to cannabis.

Medically it speeds up the heart-rate and breathing, widening the pupils and lessening hunger. This makes the user feel confident, alert, energetic and happy. The effects of a single dose lasts three to four hours and as the body's energy lessens, you can feel paranoid, aggressive, anxious and edgy. High doses can bring about delirium, hallucinations and feelings of persecution.

Long-term users must take increasing doses to get the same effect, as it becomes psychological and the user develops a tolerance to

the drug. Also as the body is not given a chance to recover in regular users it could lead to psychosis. The body is liable to become weaker and have a lower resistance.

Once the user stops after long term use there are withdrawal effects, which means cramps, fever, sweating, and feelings of extreme hunger and depression, and possible high blood pressure.

Ecstasy, 'E' or MDMA

It is available in white and brown tablets or different coloured capsules. A single tablet costs generally £8 outside clubs and £10 inside. A tablet containing about 120 mg of MDMA would be considered a desirable dose of Ecstasy. In cases no drugs at all or a

temperature and increases the rate of the heart. Sometimes a tightening of the muscles is felt particularly in the jaw. The user will have difficulty focusing or making sense of what is being seen. The second stage is the plateau, where the ecstasy acts as a stimulant drug and makes the user feel as if they have boundless energy. Ecstasy also triggers the release of the chemical 'serotonin', which is produced when a person is in love. The final phase is that of coming down. This can take hours or happen very quickly. The user will feel tired and weak, and may feel depressed as the levels of serotonin have been depleted.

The most dangerous effect of ecstasy is that it can cause 'heat-stroke'. This occurs as the user's body temperature rises due to the taking of ecstasy, which if taken in a hot place like a rave, combined with the temperature rise of energetic dancing leads to the body overheating, and a loss of fluid. At some raves over six pints of water can be lost in six hours.

These fluids must be replaced, and the user would be well advised to eat salty foods at least three hours before the rave. Frequent rests from dancing would also be advisable. Drinking alcohol would only lead to more dehydration.

If the drug is taken regularly the user could experience paranoia and insomnia.

Cocaine (coke, snow, etc.)

Cocaine is a white powder made from the leaves of an Andean coca shrub. It's powerful stimulant properties are similar to those for amphetamines. Cocaine is a very expensive drug and as such is called the drug of the rich. It is can be injected (perhaps mixed with

feelings of persecution and hallucinations. The after effects include tiredness and depression.

Long-term cocaine use leads to an increase in the frequency of the doses to have the same effect. Regular users may seem nervous and suspicious, as they suffer weight loss and insomnia.

PERCEPTION-ALTERING DRUGS

LSD or Acid

Lysergic acid diethylamide is a man-made white powder. As such a small quantity is required to create a 'trip', it is generally mixed with other substances and formed into other tablets and capsules to be taken in the mouth.

The 'trip'

begins about half an hour to one hour after taking LSD and peaks after two to six hours, and fades after about twelve hours depending on the dosage taken.

The user generally passes through many stages. The effects

depend on the user's need and who they are with and how much the dose is. Reactions include heightened awareness and distortions in vision. A feeling of being outside one's body is commonly reported. Bad 'trips' include depression, dizziness, disorientation and panic and occur when the user is not happy.

Long-term effects of LSD are mainly mental. Frequent use can bring back previous trips sometimes which can leave the user feeling disorientated. Although there is no physical addiction,

In the short-term cocaine produces a feeling of excitement, mental exaggeration, well-being and indifference to pain and tiredness, and feelings of great strength and mental capacity. These positive feelings can be replaced by anxiety and panic. The effects usually peak after 15-30 minutes and then lessen, leading to the user taking the drug more frequently to get the same effects. Large doses can lead to

**For Help,
call the National
Drugs Helpline on
0800 776600,
which is free,
confidential, and
open 24 hours**

Christianity UNPLUGGED

Summing up the Saviour

The week before the holidays the LSE CU asked students what they think the meaning of Christmas is. From the results, we learned who people thought Jesus Christ was. A third of the replies presented the view that he was a philosopher, an amount that was matched by those who thought that he was God and Saviour. However, another third thought that he was not God but only the Saviour.

So why is Jesus anything special?

We believe that Jesus Christ is God and that he was born to be our Saviour

Why do we need a saviour?

In order to understand this, we have to go back to the beginning of the world. In the beginning God created everything, including human beings, and entrusted us with His creation under His Kingship. Humankind decided to reject His authority - a decision which continues to lead to disaster: The world suffers under the strain of poverty, warfare, disease, emotional stress and environmental damage. Because we have abused God's trust, gone our own way and fallen short of His perfection, each of us deserves to be punished.

How does Jesus save us?

God loves us unconditionally, so He has given us another chance in Jesus Christ who is His son and one with Him. Jesus left heaven lived amongst us as a man and suffered as we do. Finally, God sacrificed Jesus on the cross so that He could forgive us. Jesus took the punishment that was meant to be ours and then overcame death by rising again. Because of this we also have eternal life, if we choose to believe in

Him.

God has left each person with a vital, and individual, choice. We can turn against Him, go our own ways, and ultimately perish. Or we acknowledge Jesus as our King and Saviour, who gives us eternal life.

It is surprising the ambiguity and lack of certainty surrounding a historical figure. If Jesus is not God and Saviour we have to be sure of that fact. What we cannot do is make a decision against Jesus based on ignorance because this is not a real decision. Not all of the answers in the questionnaire can be true. There must be one answer, and if that answer is that Jesus is God we cannot afford to dismiss it lightly.

The aim of Jesus Awareness Week is to give you the opportunity to find out more about Jesus' claims, so that you can make an informed decision for yourself: for or against him. It is organised by the LSE Christian Union and there are talks going on during lunchtimes and this evening. We also have a stall in the quad where there are books on sale and where you can find out more about the week.

What is the Christian Union?

The Christian Union is a group for Christians or for anyone interested in finding out more about Christianity. We meet every Thursday evening at 6pm and topics this term will include the Trinity, evolution and homosexuality. The Christian Union provides an opportunity to get to know other people particularly via the annual house party and bible study groups which are run in every LSE hall. We also run "just looking"-groups for anybody who is not a Christian, but would like more information about who Jesus is and what Christianity means.

Individualising Christianity

Ruth

For me being a Christian is the joy and privilege of knowing a loving God personally. It is feeling a deep sense of inner security and peace which does not depend on what is happening in this

world. I know that whatever happens I have a Father in heaven who cares about every single aspect of my life and will provide for my every need. I am sure of this through faith but also by experience. When I look around and see the terrible things that are happening in the world (war, homelessness, broken homes, children in this country who don't have enough to eat) I feel so helpless, but the God I

believe in is a God of justice. He hates injustice as much as we do. I know that one day he will come back and judge the earth and to all those who believe in him he will give the right to eternal life. I look forward to the day when I can meet my creator, Lord and Saviour face to face, to the time when there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. This hope, security and certainty is why I'm a Christian and I only wish that more people could experience the knowledge of God's love as I have.

Hon Yuh Ong

It finally dawned upon me that it was time to take a final committal step towards a religion that I had read about and believed when I was young. I truly believe that Christ has brought me this far and will continue to do so for ever



more. What can be more glorious than gaining salvation and reconciliation with our Creator? And to gain eternal love, peace and joy.

Becky

Having grown up in a Christian (very committed) family, I have been a Christian all my life. I feel that my faith has been particularly strengthened in that I have seen so many positive responses to prayers made to God in faith. On a personal level, a relative of mine who was very ill with cancer has made a miraculous recovery which I believe is due to the

strong prayer support she received from fellow Christians both in England and her native Australia. My personal relationship with God has certainly been strengthened and enriched as I have learned to turn to Him and share my life with Him on a daily basis.

Amanda

When I was young I was made to go to Sunday School. I guess I believe in God but I didn't think he could have any real relevance in my life. My parents got divorced when I was ten and I moved to England with my mum. Hence, all things that I thought were secure in my life vanished. My sister started going to a Christian youth group and became committed in her faith in Christ. I on the other hand believed when it suited me and did the usual teenage rebellion thing, like getting drunk etc. I started to go to the youth group with some friends and felt such encouragement and love there. These people seemed to accept me as I was. I went on a Christian house party. The guy giving the talk really challenged me - was I just sitting on the fence about my reaction to Jesus Christ or was I going to jump off it and follow him? I felt him drawing me and realised that I could have a real relationship with him, that he loved me and that he had a 'plan and purpose' for me in Christ. I now Jesus Christ is alive, is relevant for my life and is now my security.

Letters To The Beaver

Letters to *The Beaver* must be sent to *The Beaver* office by Wednesday, 9.00 pm, or will not be printed in the following week's issue. *The Beaver* would prefer to receive typewritten letters relevant to the last two issues of the paper.

Dear *Beaver*,

It was with interest that I read Stephen Harris' criticism of my article (Being Politically Incorrect..., *Beaver* Issue 454). I appreciate the fact that he saw my article in the light that it was intended - to provoke some controversy and encourage a re-evaluation of Western pre-conceived notions. However, what concerns me is his opinion that I have ignored 'contemporary' events in East Timor in an attempt to argue my case. In actual fact what he has done is to cite evidence since 1975 in an effort to discredit me.

Stephen Harris has shown a lack of knowledge on how it is that the Indonesians invaded East Timor. In order to set the record straight here is a run down of events leading up to that invasion, from the World Political Almanac, published by Oxford's Facts on File (hardly an Indonesian propaganda machine).

In June 1975 Portugal declared an intention to hold independence elections in East Timor. In August the Timor Democratic Union (UDT) which favoured continuing links with Portugal, attempted a coup. On 20 August civil war broke out between the UDT and the Communist group FRETILIN.

The war led to an influx of refugees fleeing from East Timor into the Indonesian territory of West Timor, threatening Jakarta with left-wing extremism within its own sovereign territory - of West Timor. Consequently the Indonesian entry into East Timor was an attempt to restore order and to prevent a leftist takeover of the colony which would have been achieved by force of arms - hardly the way any self-respecting democratic regime would have gained power elsewhere in the world.

To suggest, as Stephen Harris seems to be implying, that the FRETILIN 'government' had incurred the wrath of Jakarta by declaring independence is laughable. Indeed had there been political stability within the former colony the Indonesians might well have left them alone. But more seriously it shows that no one side in the East Timor dispute can come out of this claiming to be saints.

I agree with Stephen Harris that we should not ignore events since 1975 in assessing the situation in East Timor. But what I would appreciate from him is more questioning over why certain events happen.

Yours sincerely

Guy Burton

Red Nose Day

is Coming Up!!!

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO HAVE A RED NOSE ON MARCH 14TH 1997. LOTS OF EXCITING SURPRISES ARE HIDING INSIDE AND YOU SHOULD PLAN TO WEAR A NOSE (EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO WATCH THE NIGHT OF COMIC RELIEF ON BBC1.)

THE BRAND NEW NOSE WILL BE ON SALE ACROSS THE UK FOR £1 FROM WH SMITH AND OTHER RETAILERS.

OF THIS £1, AT LEAST 70P WILL GO TO COMIC RELIEF TO FUND MUCH NEEDED CRUCIAL WORK IN THE UK AND AFRICA. A CLOTHES NOSE WILL ALSO BE ON SALE:

A PIN BADGE FOR YOUR CLOTHES.

THIS WILL ALSO BE SOLD FOR £1,

WITH 70P GOING TO COMIC RELIEF TO FUND

ITS WORK IN THE UK AND AFRICA.

Kong Hei Fatt Choy to You All

Alex Woo invites you to celebrate with the Chinese Community

If you have passed Chinatown recently you will have noticed a small difference - decorations and street banners are up and shoppers are beginning to fill up the supermarkets. OK, it's hardly Regent Street at Christmas but for many of us who have spent the last few years of our lives 7,000 miles away from home, these reminders represent somewhat of a cruel attempt to bring us into the festive mood. Yes, Chinese New Year has arrived and it will be on Friday, 7 February.

Another year has gone by and maybe now is a good time to reflect back on some of the things we've done, or haven't done in terms of work and revision during this period.

This is the year of the Ox. If you are either 24 or 36 years old, then, according to divine sources this should be a good year for you. For the rest of you, don't worry, enough revision will carry you through the finals.

Celebrations begin a few days

before the New Year. People like to spend a few hours, or in some cases, a day or two to tidy their homes and offices. This gesture, apparently, is supposed to wipe away all the misfortunes of the past year and

bring in good luck for the next one. This is usually something for parents but we do make a small contribution just to help them out.

New Year's Eve is usually the highlight. Activities will,

of course, vary from age to age but no one can escape from the family dinner during which special food will be prepared. Chinese mushrooms and dry oysters are very popular as they are supposed to bring good luck. The meal would then usually be followed by New Year's Eve festivities until early morning.

New Year's Day is often somewhat tedious. Back home shops will be closed. Karaoke clubs end early and a visit to the grandparents is unavoidable.

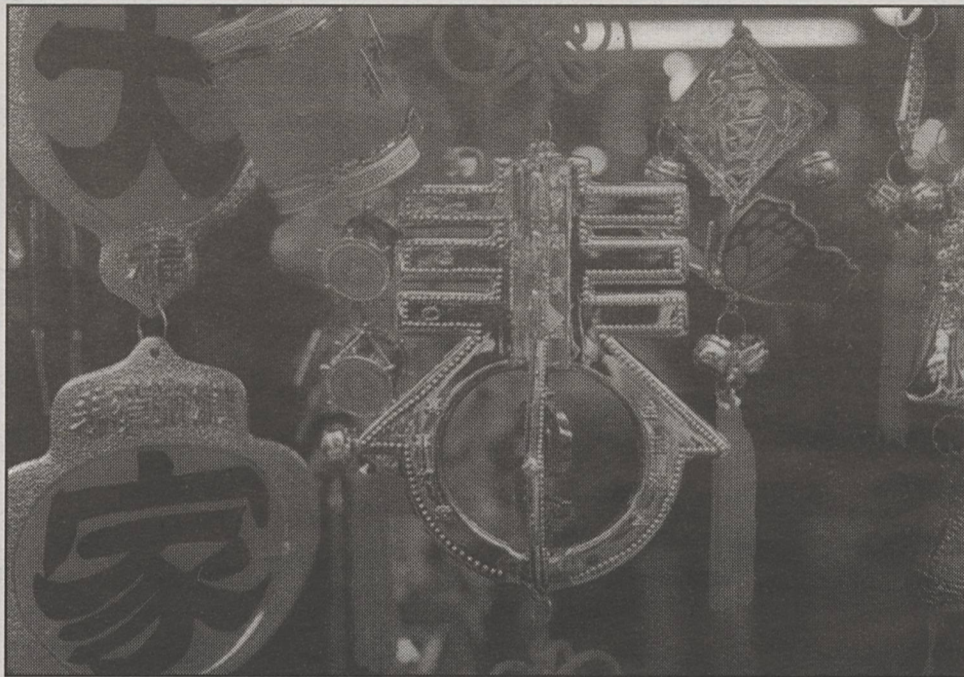
But for our troubles we may be rewarded with the so-called 'Red Packet' from the older generation. Money will be put in small red

warm thank you would be appropriate. Things usually begin to slow down with yet more visits to family and friends. Some may try to get

few days at home and see what the New Year's programme on TV has to offer. After the seventh day, my clementine plant (another symbolic gesture for good fortune) will be removed, the bank balance will be doubled and everyone will end up pleased.

The societies at the LSE will do their bit. The Malaysian and Singaporean Society and the Chinese society will be holding New Year's celebrations in Chinatown. The Chinese Society will also be running a special stall on Thursday and Friday, the 6th and 7th. Please come and see what it has to offer and make your claim for a free gift. Finally all that remains is for me to wish everyone on behalf of the Chinese Society a very Happy New Year - Kong Hei Fatt Choy!

**The Chinese Society
will be having
a stall in
Houghton Street this
Thursday and
Friday**



New Year Celebrations from the other side of the world

envelopes and of course, we do not have to give anything in return. Just a

away from it all and take a journey abroad. Others may prefer to spend a

Providing a Conscience

Jennifer Gibbs gives an insight into
Amnesty at the LSE

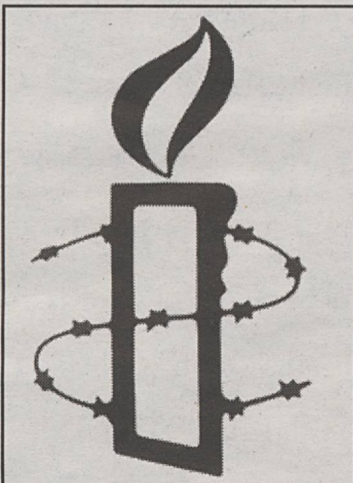
Amnesty International is a worldwide movement acting on the conviction that governments must not deny individuals their basic rights. At the LSE every Monday from 10:30 to 3:00, all students, faculty and staff are invited to stop by the Amnesty table near the SU vegetarian cafe to learn more about the organisation's mandate and our current campaigns, or to write a letter for the release of a prisoner of conscience. In seeking the most effective means of helping individuals whose rights have been violated, Amnesty has found that constant action generates effective pressure.

Amnesty International seeks the release of prisoners of conscience - anyone detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion who have neither used nor advocated violence. It advocates fair and early trials for all political prisoners and

works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment - for all prisoners without reservation. Amnesty also campaigns to end "disappearances", extrajudicial executions, opposition group hostage taking and the return of asylum seekers to countries where their lives are in danger.

These human rights abuses occur in countries of widely differing ideologies. Amnesty's concern is for the international protection of human rights; the principles of impartiality and independence have been upheld since the movement's launching in 1961.

In celebrating International Women's Day, we will be organising a campaign in early March and would appreciate ideas and participation from all. For more information e-mail Jennifer Gibbs at J.Gibbs@lse.ac.uk.



It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness

...and from the Muslims:

Happy Aid-il-Fitri!

This weekend will see much celebration from the Muslim community. Tanveer Hussain explains why

Food, parties, damn relatives...is it Christmas again so soon? No, but it's close. This weekend brings the Muslim festival of *Eid-ul-Fitri* and on it provides us 'fundamentalists' to let our hair down although without the aid of that Christmas essential - alcohol!

The festival marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting for Muslims world-wide.

Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink anything (including water!) from before sunrise to sunset and abstain from smoking and sex. After sunset though, rampant lovemaking is the order of the day - following night prayers (of course). It is compulsory for all Muslims from puberty although the old, young, sick and pregnant are exempt.

The purpose behind it all is that it's supposed to be an intense spiritual experience when Muslims make a special effort to eschew material things and remember God. Ramadan is supposed to prompt you to change your ways for the coming year by evaluating one's lifestyle and to remind us of the need for God in our lives.

Some of you may remember Ramadan coming round a bit later last year. The reason for this is the Islamic lunar calendar which is roughly eleven days shorter.

Next year it will fall around New Year's Eve and although at the moment the days are fairly short, in a few years time Ramadan will start in the middle of summer when the days become hideously long, raising the spectre of 18 hour fasts! Right now *sehri* (the

whichever comes first.

Perhaps the best thing about Ramadan and Eid is the wonderful opportunity it provides for families to get together. Around the world fasting helps bring families and communities closer together. During the month there is a festive feel in the air with many iftar parties.

Celebrations are fairly uniform with plenty of presents, food and parties. In Muslim countries the day is a national holiday and fireworks are lit the night before.

In Malaysia married couples give visiting children green packets of money which developed from a similar Chinese practice.

The festival lasts for two days - pacing yourself is an art form since the temptation is to stuff your face at the first opportunity having been deprived of breakfast and lunch for a month!

So, I hope you all know why the incidence of rumbling stomachs had shot up these past few weeks. It only remains to wish the many nationalities here at the LSE a happy Eid or better still...*Qul ahm ooh into bikhair..Salaamat hari raya idul fitri mulia...Eid Mubarak!*



Waiting for the sun to go down...

morning meal) is around 6am and *iftar* (the evening meal) around 4.45pm. In the summer this becomes roughly 3am and 9pm respectively.

The lunar calendar raises problems for the exact timing of *Eidul-Fitr* because the new moon has to be sighted or the full thirty days completed,

This is the first of an occasional series of travel features in *The Beaver*. Let us know what you think

Travel

If you want to write any articles for this section, please bring them to **Chris McAleely** or the International Editor, **Guy Burton** in *The Beaver* Office, C023

Dave Balfour gets laid out and lowdown in Amsterdam

can step in and ask about how the plants are grown and how they make painting. The Modern Art Museum has lots of

We poured out of the bus tired and disoriented. It was early, the sun was not yet awake and traffic consisted of those early morning labourers and street-cleaners. We sat on the curb and tried to wake up. Neither of us had slept on the bus, partly because of the lack of stuffing in the seats and partly because we were too excited by the prospect of arriving in Amsterdam, which had been the object of all our discussions for the last fortnight. Ever since we had gone down to the Victoria Coach Station and bought our return tickets for a mere £25.

A bread van passed us by and we realised that our

hot chocolate and transformed our encounter into a momentous epic. We had two hours before we could check in at our hostel so we decided to go to a museum. We went to the Anne Frank House, which is one of the most expansive of all the museums in Amsterdam. It is a collection of the rooms where she stayed

hash. Another must is a visit to the

confrontational pieces, and was far and away the best.

So that's pretty much the lowdown on Amsterdam. A place of culture, excitement, and mad reeferers. Go and have a blast, but remember you don't have to spend lots of money, the city itself is the main attraction.

Heineken Brewery. It costs about 50p and

after the guided tour you are allowed to drink as much as you like for an hour. If museums are more your thing then there are three which are absolute musts. The Van Gogh Museum is nice but too crowded and badly lit. No matter where I stood there was a shine on the painting. Bloody annoying. The Museum of Fine Art is very much like the Louvre, apart from the exceptional section on Dutch

during the war. It was an interesting experience but not a moving one. Nevertheless I highly recommend it.

Hostels are the most cost effective places to stay in Amsterdam and there are loads to choose from. Having stayed in several, I prefer the ones which are located in a slightly quiet area; if you get caned sleeping is much easier away from any street noise. My favourite is called the Flying Pig, in Vondel Park. It's cool and has plenty of storage space. But the reason I dig it the most is its location. Vondel Park is a lovely mixture of meadows and hollows where it's pleasant just to walk around, even more pleasant if you're high. Nothing in Amsterdam is far away, and it is not even a five minute walk to the closest hash bar.

If you want to be dead central and get your breakfast made for you, then I suggest Bob's Youth Hostel. It's hip and happening. Walk into reception and smell the reefer madness. It's a crazy place, known for its kick-ass atmosphere. This is where the hard-core stoners go. And I am sure you will love satisfying your hunger with manky tea and egg on toast that looks like a dissection of the human head for breakfast. It gets full often, so best to book in advance. Most hostels have a bar where you can meet people.

Okay now to the part you have been waiting for, Ganja. Right, if you have heard about Amsterdam you will have heard about the Bulldog and the Grasshopper. Both in my opinion are shit. Yes they sell a good selection of marijuana but they have no atmosphere. There are loads of hash bars that have a great vibe and not so overcrowded. My advice is that you stroll around past a lot of bars and coffee shops and find one that has comfortable looking chairs or benches. Remember, you may be there for some time. Further I suggest

'This is where the hard-core stoners go'

that when purchasing drugs, you do it in small amounts so as to sample as many different flavours as possible. An average bag of quality stuff will cost you 8 to 10 pounds.

When smoking up, one is often hit by the munchies. Food is slightly more expensive than here, but if you are concerned more by money than what you eat there are plenty of really good frites places, where you can gorge on chips with mayonnaise. Sadly they cover them in the stuff but it's still food.

Some of the stores where they grow the plants are worth a visit. You

first objective was to eat. We wandered in from Vondelpark, which is on the outskirts of the city, towards the central station. We had a map but since we had only a vague idea where we were to begin with, the map was of little use. We meandered through cramped alleys which led onto huge tree-lined canals. The mist and slight rain only increased our enjoyment. We walked for about an hour, roughly knowing the we were making towards the sea and that that was a good thing.

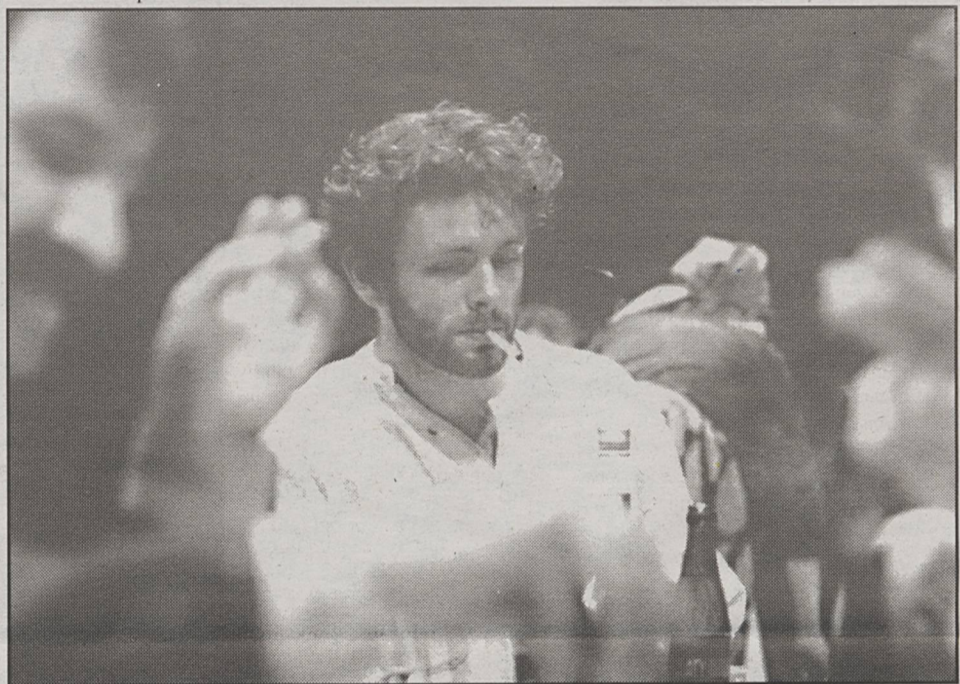
As much as a pleasure as it is to walk around Amsterdam in the quiet of the morning, it can also be a dangerous time. Three times we were accosted by vagrants, who spoke perfect English. They offered us all sorts of wonders; crack, smack, wiz and even a hooved

'The mist and slight rain only increased our enjoyment'

animal. The thing to remember at all times is that street dealers are a scam. There are enough drugs and sex available in legitimate places to merit walking away from such street peddlers. Also keeping clear of them is important because there is a serious threat of violence.

On a fourth occasion my friend and I came very close to being cut up by a gang of thugs. One of them walked into us and dropped what looked like a piece of chalk. He claimed that it was crack and that we had made him drop it. When he demanded money we told him to shove his chalk and to fuck off while he was at it. Not unexpectedly he was not pleased with our attitude. At this point a bunch of big men that were chatting at the end of the road turned around and walked towards us. The guy who confronted us pulled out a knife. Now I use the word knife in its most loose meaning. What he pulled on us was more like a butter spreader. My friend, who is slightly more ballsy than me, laughed at him. This was clearly not smart. To cut a long story short, we took off running down a number of alleys and they followed for a while but not for as long as we ran. The moral to my tale is that don't be stupid, run.

Later we stuffed our faces with a variety of local pies and many cups of



Dave Balfour and friends taking a break from their studies Photo:Ivan Kyncl

Edinburgh

Chris McAleely spent a snowy New Year in the city's friendly but frenetic atmosphere

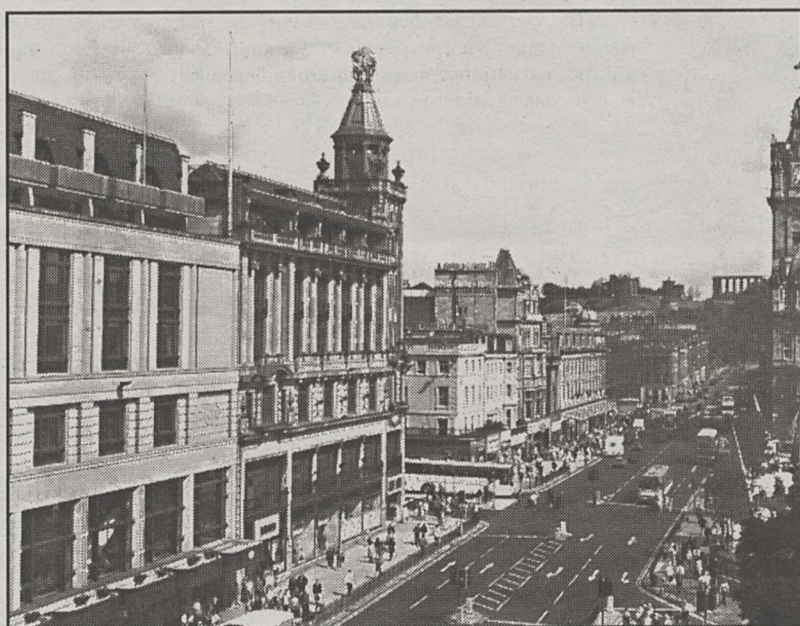
Edinburgh is THE place to be to see in the New Year, or Hogmanay, as the Scots call it. And with train fares from London Kings Cross starting at £29 return the city is an easily affordable destination, well worth a visit.

Each year on December 31 the Scottish capital city's population nearly doubles for the biggest party of the year. Hotels and hostels fill up early, while many of us remember half forgotten friends and relatives in order to cadge a place to stay. Some get so carried away by the moment (or the alcohol) that they arrive without any place to stay and end up sleeping rough. Not that anyone is early to bed as the New Year dawns.

Princes Street is squashed with merry revellers, all nicely prepared for

the magic midnight moment by a loud and lively evening in one of the city's hundreds of pubs and bars. Just before twelve myself and a few friends found

incredibly good natured. The stroke of midnight is the cue for the start of a glorious fireworks display over the castle and the start of a happy huffest.



Princes Street on a quieter day Photo:Library

ourselves split off from the main group we were with. The crush of people was simply too great for us to fight our way back. At times we were carried along by a seething tide of drunken humanity. Despite this the crowd remained

The Royal Mile becomes a snogging canyon as everyone races round in a festive friendliness, which sadly wears off within the hangover the next day. It doesn't matter that half of those who grab you are ugly enough to put hump back whales to shame, everyone just gets carried along by the spirit...and the spirits... of the occasion.

Besides, you'll remember none of it the next day. But you will want to go back and spend more time in this beautiful city. See you there next Hogmanay!

Single Minded

You too can dance to the Discotheque

Artist: Jai -
Single: Don't give me away

Inspired by a TV program about adoption, 'don't give me away' is Jai's debut single. This is hardly ground-breaking stuff and can sound a bit plodding at times but is saved by the guys' good voice. Hypnotic and slow it reminds you of Massive Attack and Portishead on an off day, although the singing's better. The single features remixes by The Psychonauts of Mo Wax fame and their liberal application of strings, breakbeats and scratches produce a spookier, better sounding cut than the original. The B-side 'let me in' provides the best track though: a smoochy love song with a distinctly jazz-trio feel. **Jonathan Cooper**

Artist: Apollo Four Forty
Single: Ain't Talking 'bout Dub

This is superb - a sublime fusion of jazz, rock, techno/ jungle beats, and God knows what else. You have to hear this to appreciate its beauty. I cannot, alas, convey in words the brilliance of this music. Nor, alas, can I dare to classify this as 'techno' or 'jungle' or whatever. I figure it's in a 'new-direction-in-dance' kind of category. It's finger lickin' good though. I haven't been this excited about something for at least five years, or maybe five-and-a-half. Needless to say I'll be buying the album as soon as my student loan comes through. Trust me and do the same. When I think about all the bullshit singles I've reviewed (surely you mean quality top tunes, surely? - Music Ed). Just this one track erases all that disillusionment and doubt. I have seen the light. **Sabnum Hasan**

Artist: Jocasta
Single: Go

Over the last few years Sony's music label Epic has developed into one of the best major new artist labels, signing contracts with talents like Pearl Jam, Rage Against the Machine, Korn or German newcomers Selig. So Jocasta having signed to Epic is quite promising. Yet even more so is their new release entitled Go, which is out this week. It is still a Britpop thing, sounding a bit like a mixture of Oasis and the Manic Street Preachers, but then, doesn't everything? Shouldn't we be thankful for anything that's at least a bit different, has this touch of originality? Yes, we should, and Jocasta make a good start. Nice voice and melody, nice straightforward guitar, nice verse and lyrics, nice to be turned up loud and annoy your flatmates. Now I know that being nice usually isn't a sign of outstanding quality (see for example Reef or, much worse, Whitetown). Jocasta, however, make an exception. They fortunately seem to have a grip on what it means to copy and to still have your own ideas that's what today's business is all about anyway, isn't it? Jocasta, congratulations, very nice indeed. Go will definitely go to the top. There you go. **Malte Gerhold**

Artist: Slingbacks
Single: The Boy Who Wanted...

Good stuff, basically. The boy thinks he wants a girl when really he thinks he'd be better off with drugs. Another girl wants this boy but he wants drugs or a different girl anyway. Confusing? No, just an average collision of chemistry, romance and passion say the Slingbacks. Sounds a bit dull and depressing but you'll be pleasantly surprised because all this complicated romance and love shit is deftly tucked into a tune full of fun, light-heartedness and a cool chorus. Trashy guitars and a laid-back style combine to produce three top songs. It's simple, who needs love when you've got the Slingbacks and drugs? Slingbacks headline at Splash! on the 25th February. **Jonathan**

Artist: U2
Single: Discotheque

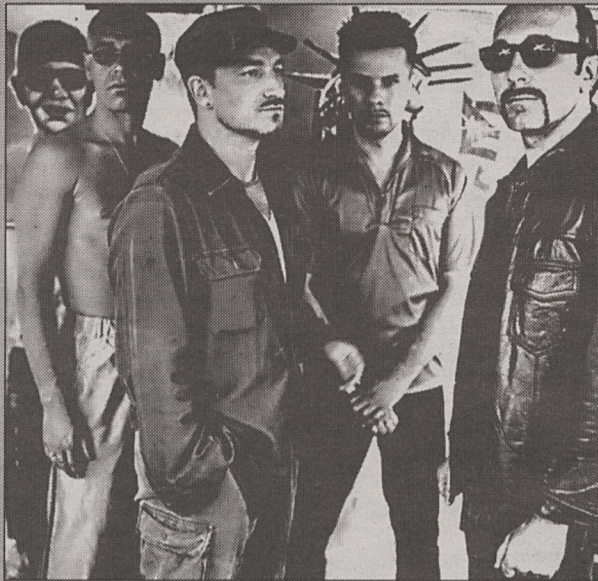
Ladies and Gentlemen! It is not only a great honour but also a great pleasure for me to present to you the first U2 single in three years! From their forthcoming eleventh album entitled Pop Is Discotheque!

Finally, this is what we desperately waited for. All those painful and boring days of Zooropa and The Passengers that made us lose all hope of better times to come have ended. U2 rectum to what they always have been and always will be, even though there were days when they pretended not to be one - a rock band. A successful rock band. A creative rock band. And a damn good rock band as well.

After Rattle and Hum it took the Irish national heroes three years until they released the incredible Achtung Baby and launched their even more incredible ZooTV-Tour. Then all this went a bit too far and Bono dressed as Mephisto and regularly phoned George Bush from the stage. Zooropa only made it worse. Now, it took them another three years and again the result is stunning: Away from sad synthesiser

spheres and low level pop Discotheque plunges right into the heart of brilliant rock 'n' roll. It steps back to The Edge's heavy guitar blasts of the Fly while

since Achtung Baby. In other words, a 100% chartbreaker that will easily kick Blur from their current number one spot (even though they're still better than Oasis).



Bono's lyrics are picking through the world of trash culture ('You know you're chewing bubble gum/ You know what that is but you still want some/ You just can't get enough of that stuff, ah well...') and Larry's drums together with Adam's bass lines take up toady's beat trends, sounding a bit like The Charlatans. It's fresh, it's catchy and it tops everything U2 have ever done

rumours, U2 will tour Britain around June. Well, and finally don't forget to check out the Discotheque video where U2 appear as the Village People (YMCA). The Edge in a fancy 'shag-me' leather dress is just too sexy. If not the single then at least this will bring the Irish quartet back to the heights of rock 'n' roll stardom.

Malte Gerhold

Artist: Daft Punk
Single: Da Funk

Funny lot the French. Take Daft Punk. They have the zeitgeist hopping (but attention denying), press denouncing (but media whoring), Chemical Brother self proclaimed distancing (but Heavenly Social carbon copying) up to the minute, state-of-the-art Britishness. And they're French.

But do not let that put you off, because most of all, above everything else, Daft Punk have da funk. In bucket-loads.

This is possibly the first acid house anthem you might hear your postman whistling. Which is no bad thing. There's this easy loud fat house beat going on, with some fucked up funky organ refrain that refuses to leave your head. Then some mad amy! -soaked ever building, pitch heightening, dancefloor frenzy inducing 303 squelchy noise blasts out, triumphantly proclaiming "Yes! The French can rock!"

Altogether it sounds a bit like one of those made-up "futuristic" bands in a scene from Buck Rogers or something. But with bigger beats. And industrial strength drugs. Allegedly.

It rocks like the proverbial bastard. Better than "Higher States of Consciousness". Will be enormous.

Iain Haxton

Artist: Grass-Show
Single: 1962

Grass-Show come bouncing back this week with their second single. Their debut: *Out of The Void* was as bouncy and lovely as you could possibly imagine. This single continues in the bouncy happy vein which is so catchy that it's very difficult to understand why they're not very successful already. Nothing too deep and meaningful here, Grass-Show create bouncy happy songs for bouncy happy people. Bounce and be happy! **ts**

Getting the Urge for a good, hard, blow on a horn!

Artist: The Urge
Album: Receiving The Gift Of Flavor

The Urge are not your everyday run-of-the-mill American heavy metal band. They have something different. They have... trombone and saxophones (and trumpets don't forget trumpets - Music Ed)! I know it's hard to imagine, but The Urge blend them in so well you start wondering why trombone haven't been used in heavy metal music before. It gives their music a reggae, jazz funk or ska feel, but hard rock still provides the backbone for all their songs. Because of the wide range of styles used in their songs it's hard to compare them to anyone. They reminded me of Fishbone, with the attitude of The Beastie Boys, added to the bouncy horns of Madness. It's very energetic, aggressive, "in-your-face" stuff, driven by distorted guitars and fuelled by pure adrenaline.

Steve Ewing's lyrics are typically about outrage and hatred - both of himself and life in general. The first song, Brainless, sums up his views about himself. "My mind it draws a blank/ Try to collect my thoughts/ An open hole of nothingness and loss." He has very low self-esteem, but is not justified in this, as his music proves he has a talent for giving a message. His confrontational style of singing might be written off by some people as just shouting, but when you start to listen to the lyrics you begin to realise what makes him tick. He criticises corrupt policemen in Violent Opposition, and

racism in Where Do You Go. He also gives us a humorous insight into being on the road in Open All Night, screaming out, "Quench the thirst/ Go inside and get my pickle/ We're going to the liquor store!" And he tells us of his mad girlfriend in the aptly named Frying Pan.

Maybe I'm just too naive, and reading too much into The Urge's songs, but I like to look for the good-in someone rather than just write them off as evil or bad. Steve Ewing, to some people, might seem like a vulgar alcoholic, but to me he is an intelligent man of principles. He'd probably deny that straight away, and say his lyrics were all nonsense, but I would have to disagree. For example, I Remember sounds like just another heavy rock song, but listen to the lyrics and you hear the touching story of how Ewing lost his friend to drugs, "I watched your personality steer wrong off from reality/ Can't get high enough/ Destroy all possibility."

Although The Urge mix a wide variety of music styles, all thirteen songs on their album sound very similar, and consequently no individual track stands out. Listening to the album you would be forgiven for thinking it's just one long song... a good one, but a long one. The Urge also need more memorable tunes, otherwise they will not be able to get a hit single out. Living Colour proved it was possible. The Urge hopefully will develop this ability. I look forward to hearing more from them.

Sunil Sodha

The future fancy fabric of pop, talks!

...in an exclusive *Beaver* interview

Tom Stone talks to Mike Appleby of Velvet Jones

Velvet Jones are one of those bands who are 'hotly tipped' by the people who are in the know. Both of their debut single and their new release: *Twisted* have been play-listed on Radio One, and they played a number of dates on the Radio One road show over the summer.

Mike Appleby is the lead singer from the band and a very nice bloke to chat to. I kicked off by asking him about where he saw himself in ten years time: "Well you know, I'm going to leave the band, I've got plans for a huge solo career... I'm going to be the first person to sell a billion albums". At this point I did detect a slight hint of sarcasm! It became clear that Mike has absolutely no intention of leaving the band, in fact he has very high hopes, and gets on well with all the other members.

"Gigs are the thing" according to Mike. He enjoys performing (ooer!) more than anything else. "It was weird at the Radio One gigs, because we were

alongside all of these boy bands, and they all seemed to have these incredibly loud sound systems which were about twice as loud as us, I don't know how they did it." So what was the reaction like from all those boy band fans?

"Well, I was pretty pleased... We got one piece of fan mail from a girl which started "I am a slut", which are the first lines from our first single, I really liked that!"

I carried on chatting to Mike about this and that, and I have to say that he was a very nice genuine bloke with a really sound sense of humour. Favourite drinks? "Lemonade with Angusteer bitters, Guinness and tea, I'd like to see tea making a come back in rock 'n' roll. Not Earl Grey, no but pyramid tea bags they're good!" Velvet Jones are poised on the brink of stardom, but despite the cliché Mike was

adamant that "it is the music that is important to us rather than the fame, I wouldn't really like to be recognised all the time. I wouldn't mind being rich though!" well who would?



Do You feel Lucky?

Tom Stone Gets Lucky at the National

Guys and Dolls' has for some years been a play which is very close to my heart. Ever since I took the role of Sky Masterson in a production of the play in my Sixth Form. We were incredible, needless to say. So it was with an air of one who knows how the play should be done that I approached the National Theatre, lurking like a huge sixties concrete alien skating park, on the opposite side of the river from the LSE. The stage for this production is certainly impressive. Broadway is recreated, complete with flashing neon and skyscrapers. Throughout the play the set is slickly changed to recreate the various scenes, the interior of the 'Save a Soul Mission', Havana, and the sewer which is the scene of the gambling 'guys' final crap game. The musical tells the story of Nathan Detroit who runs "The oldest established, permanent floating crap

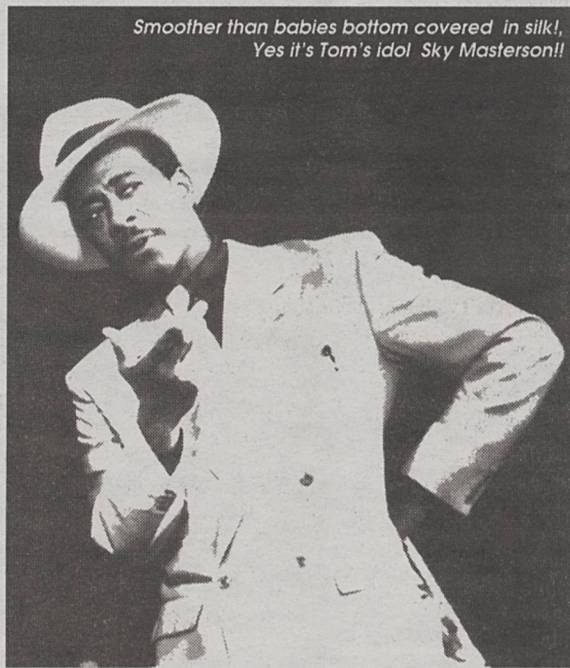


What type of crap is this?

game in New York" (One of the opening numbers) and Sky Masterson (called Sky cause that's how high he goes, wehah!). These two guys (Sky being the best looking and most talented of the two!) have their girl problems like any other blokes, they also have their cash flow problems. Basically this is the story of how they both manage to solve both of their problems through gambling and getting married (not necessarily in that order). The Olivier Theatre in the National was packed out for the performance, despite the fact that this was a Monday night. It was clear right from the start that this production was going to be something special. All of the casting was accurately done, which, when combined with the excellent Dick Tracy-esque costumes served to create characters that were so much larger than life that, on stage, they were simply

magnetic. When I refer to Dick Tracy I'm thinking of all those gangsters dressed in bright primary colours, which was certainly the order of the day here. One of the things that did amaze me about the play was how similarly staged many of the scenes were in this production compared to the amateur school production which I was involved in. A comment in the programme seemed to sum up why this was so: "Guys and Dolls' is such a strong script that not even a director can mess it up!" The quality of the acting and singing in this production was second to none, the big show stopper "Sit Down Your Rocking The Boat" was brilliantly executed, and the audience demanded no less than four encores. The last two of which added some Jazz Scat to the original score, contributing wonderfully to the climactic effect of the song as a whole. I always feel sorry for Sky (me) during this song though, as while the rest of the cast is on stage receiving the climax of the audience's adulation, he for some reason is "...required to leave for points west tonight" and therefore has to sulk backstage. Poor old Sky eh? Rewrite the script, that's what I say. Sky's big song "Luck be a Lady" (once covered by the big nosed man himself Barry Manilow) was sung very well,

however, and this is the only thing I can find wrong with the play, the choreography was a little static at points. This was noticeable at other points in the play as well, although extra dancing in the instrumental breaks did make up for this. Particularly the extended tap dancing routine at the end of the play. The Audience comprised mainly of the over 40's, but there was a significant number of the younger generation there too. This seemed slightly mystifying as 'Guys and Dolls' does not exactly seem like a play for the nineties, despite being widely viewed as the second best American play ever written after 'Death Of A Salesman' (which also happens to be playing at the National at the moment). Perhaps though, there is some



Smoother than babies bottom covered in silk! Yes it's Tom's idol Sky Masterson!!

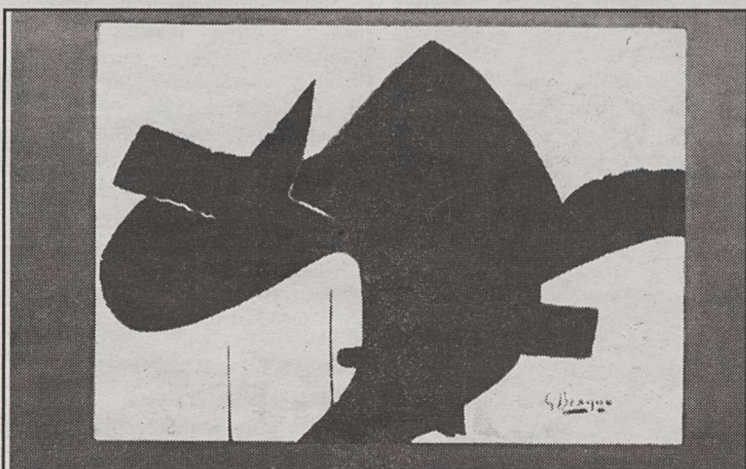
played Sky, well it was a nice effort, but next time just drop me a line and I might be able to give you a few pointers! 'Guys And Dolls' is on at the National in Rep until March. Book in advance!! Photos by John Haynes.

Brown, Boring Braque at the Royal Academy

The Last Twenty Years of the Father of Cubism by Hattie Sellick

During the early years of this century before the first World War, Braque was a contemporary of Picasso. Together they changed the course of art: they created cubism. Separated by the trauma of war, they never renewed their friendship and both went their different ways in their painting. Braque remained faithful to the ideas and esthetics of cubism throughout his career. Why is it then that everybody can name Picasso, and many have never heard of Braque? Well, if the paintings currently showing at the Royal Academy are anything to go by, it becomes all too clear. Picasso moved on and developed the principles of cubism to explore other themes, whereas Braque remained firmly in the style of his pre-WWI years. There is an overriding feeling of nostalgia in this exhibition, a sense of yellowing papers, dusty paintings and sadness. These impressions are enhanced by the sombre colours, the dark greens and earthy

tones of his paintings. This collection dates from the period post-World War 11, the last twenty years of his life, when Braque had been traumatised by the war. This is reflected in his paintings with a sense of austerity and concern with the fundamentals of living: a Washstand, a Coal Bucket, the Kitchen Table with Grill. His series of paintings of the Billiard Table are a little easier to digest and the play of lines and angles is intriguing. His studio paintings move even further from the gloom of his immediately post-WWI canvasses, and some even venture as far as splashes of vibrant yellow and red. However, this is not an easily approachable exhibition. It needs real effort and work to really get the most out of it, and most importantly, a great deal of time to stand in front of the paintings to work out all the complicated lines and planes. Less refracted than some of Picasso's paintings though. Good Luck!



Snowshow One Street North of Houghton Street

Malte Gerhold is snowblinded by Slava's Snowshow

Remember far back in your childhood-days when you daddy took you to a circus for the first time? Excited staring at the manege, wide shoes far too big, a yellow balloon-like costume, white face and a red nose? Well, that is exactly what it felt like as Slava cautiously and with wobbly legs entered the stage of the sold out Peacock Theatre last week. Having been the sell-out hit of last year's Edinburgh Festival Russian clowning genius Slava Polunin has been hailed by critics and audiences alike. Now this January he has come down to London to give only seventeen performances of his multi-award winning Snow show at the Sadler's Wells at our dear Peacock Theatre. And indeed, it is a unique theatrical experience, a series of surreal scenes, bittersweet and emotional, backed by startling audio-visual tricks and effects. The stage decor is simple but that is by far enough for Slava to turn it into his own little world of everyday life's absurdities. Together with his partner in mime Angla de Castro, the sad and lonely tramp with a much too large slouch-hat, he plays with the insecurity of human relationships or desperately fights with dust and cobwebs until the whole audience is covered in it, becoming part of Slava's world. Hit by arrows to the music of sad Russia ballad he dances with and staggers through the audience before he finally lies down to

touched peculiar emotions. Further highlights include a brief interlude with a tiny earth hanging from the ceiling. However, the unbeatable climax of the show is its furious finale grande, the Snow show: Slava's heart stopping struggle with a real snowstorm. It literally blows the audience away. It was incredible, fascinating, wonderful. The standing ovations for Slava, author, creator, and actor of the show, received from the crowd at the end are more the well deserved. He is not an ordinary clown who makes you laugh. He is one of those old fashioned that manages to be funny and serious at the same time, balancing somewhere on the edge between life's oddness and sadness. One of these clowns that turn sensible adults into awe-struck children, with wide eyes and open mouths. And as if Slava knew all this he expresses his thanks by dropping three giant cloth balloons on audience, waving good-bye to the laughter of adults playing with these balloons, knowing that for at least two hours he was able to give them the happiness, delight and lightheartedness they all once used to have. Slava has unfortunately finished its run at the Peacock Theatre. However there is some good upcoming things at the LSE's own West End venue.



"Just clowning around" in the Peacock.

sleep with a peaceful smile on his face. But there is still more to Slava's visions and dreams, somehow reminding me of the eighties famous French clown 'Pic' of the circus Roncalli. He laughs at human technology and communication by stimulating a phone call with oversized telephones or plays a beautiful and touching good-bye scene with his coat. The result is that the audience leaves,

Hollywood Held To Ransom!

Film: Ransom

Adult? Yes, but it isn't clever and it isn't funny.

Ransom' is supposed to herald a new age of intelligent thrillers, for the caring/sharing 90s. Who better than Mad Mel 'Braveheart' Gibson to reap in the box-office for a film full of both class and action? Obviously he is the perfect choice: sadly the film doesn't work.

Gibson plays Tom Mullen, a tough but likeable self-made millionaire whose life of luxury is rudely shattered when his ten year old son is kidnapped in the park. At first, Mullen does everything the kidnappers ask. However, suspicious that no amount of reward will help him regain his son, he takes matters into his own hands. Instead of paying up, Mullen threatens to place a \$2 million bounty on the

heads of the kidnappers if his son is not returned. The kidnappers, not expecting this, get a tad panicky and take some drastic action of their own. Someone is going to pay.

'Ransom' presents a nice twist on the traditional hostage movie. Yet, although there are some decent snaps of action this is a thriller dangerously low on juice. Sadly what the director sees as meaningful introspection and character interaction could well be more widely interpreted as plodding tedium. Ponderous where it should be rivetting, 'Ransom' is (at 120 minutes) 60 minutes worth of movie which feels like three hours.

Gibson's performance is honest, subtle, but ultimately workmanlike. Meanwhile his wife (Rene Russo) slides

Film Information

Title: Ransom
Starring: Mel Gibson, Rene Russo, Steve Sinse
Released: 31/1/97
Director: Ron Howard
Info: cert. 15., much too long.

unconvincingly between wild emotions and relaxed support. The villains, lead by mad cop Jimmy Shakers (Sinse) seem to change their opinions from minute to minute. Herein lies the film's greatest weakness. Because

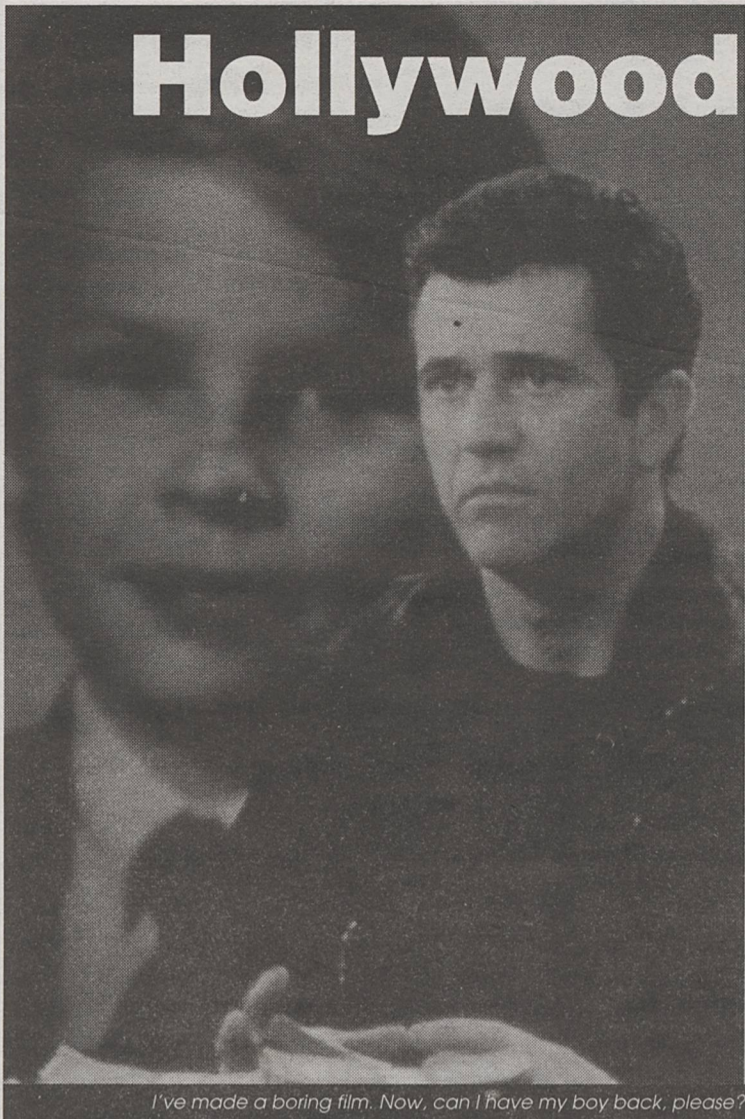
it is low on thrills, 'Ransom' must really on its characters to carry it through. Sadly, the audience never

discovers anything but superficial character motivations. Even the reasoning behind the actual kidnapping itself is never properly explained, leaving the feeling that 'Ransom' is a badly thought-out venture.

Even more strangely, the film seems to end twice. About half an hour from the eventual conclusion, with the family reunited, the end credits seem destined to role. Had they done so, the ending would have been far more interesting than what actually transpires. Yet Director Ron Howard decides that his first climax was neither sufficiently exciting nor happy, and tacks on another half hour of equally dull fair. Perhaps this is supposed to make the film more 'meaningful': really it just makes it more boring.

Thus, the audience is given a thriller which aims its sights high, and misses. Perhaps this is a good thing: at least Gibson avoids trotting out the same tedious trite ideas seen so many times before. The by-line exclaims that 'someone is going to pay'. If this bombs at the box-office, that 'someone' could be Mel himself. Sadly, this has \$200 million movie written all over. It is the public who seem to be being held to ransom by underachieving A-list stars. Must try harder.

James Crabtree **2**



I've made a boring film. Now, can I have my boy back, please?

Here's looking at Hugh, Kid

Film: Extreme Measures

At last, a good film means Hugh has no further need of divine intervention.

As career changes go, the resurrection of Hugh Grant as an Action hero must rank amongst the most surprising of recent times. Obviously tiring of his normal role as a drippy, embarrassed, English toff, Hugh has decided to reinvent himself. Those expecting an revelation will be disappointed. Those expecting a drippy, embarrassed, English toff who finds himself embroiled in a deadly conspiracy will be quite satisfied.

Despite its lead actor's lack of flexibility 'Extreme Measures' is a cracking thriller. Grant plays a British doctor whose suspicions are aroused by the mysterious disappearance of various bodies in his New York hospital. Never one to ignore a mystery, our hero gradually uncovers a sinister web of medical conspiracy

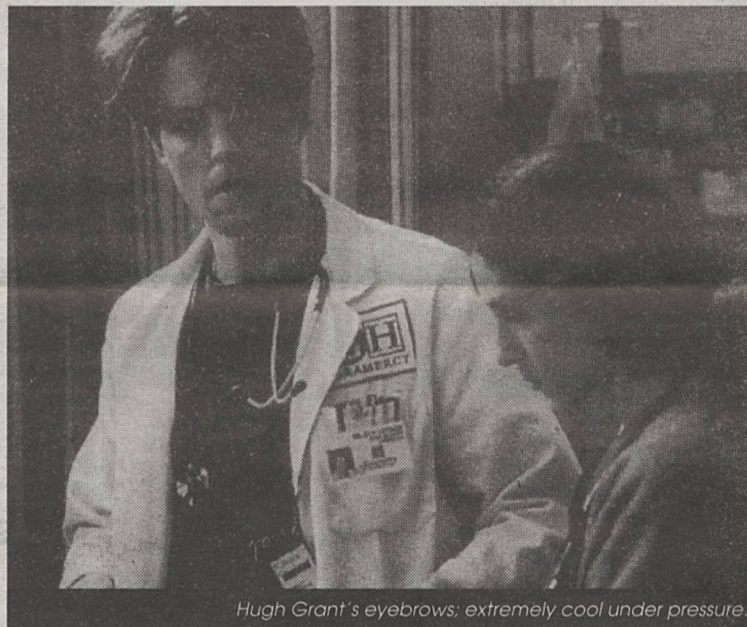
hiding a shocking programme of scientific research on human subjects. At the center, he finds

Gene Hackman plays the good Doctor who is surreptitiously kidnapping homeless tramps for medical tests. The twist is that Hackman is actually a rather decent fellow, only doing these dastardly deeds and is only doing his dastardly deeds for the general good of humanity. Luckily, these dubious morals do not stop him from trying to have Grant killed in a number of tense and well made set pieces.

Altogether, although slow to start, the action is exciting and well handled. Here, Grant's deadpan under pressure style reasserts his position as the Roger Moore of his generation. In a manner similar to venerable Bond, he also possesses the rare talent of conveying emotion solely through the involvement of his amazing acting eyebrows. Watch 'Extreme Measures' very closely and

you will note that the star's facial expression never changes. Even when being smashed in the face by an evil fist, Grant seems to maintain his Teflon-cool exterior. Charming, even without his normal mannerisms, his performance does

partly allay the deep routed suspicion that he cannot act. However this uncertainty is not helped when he has to compete with a considerably talented supporting actor. Here, Hackman's convincing portrayal of the well meaning but misguided scientist conveys a realism and sentiment which



Hugh Grant's eyebrows; extremely cool under pressure.

Grant can rarely hope to equal. Indeed, it is Hackman who maintains the film's momentum. His performance encapsulate the most enduring aspect: the complexity of its ethical issues. Unusually for a Hollywood thriller, we are actually given a fairly even handed perspective on a difficult and genuinely challenging issue. Perhaps we do get ethical overkill, but better than no-brainer normality.

Thus, even when Hugh's fringe is long gone, there is sufficient strength in depth to keep the audience interested throughout. 'Extreme Measures' is not only engrossing, but certainly Grant's

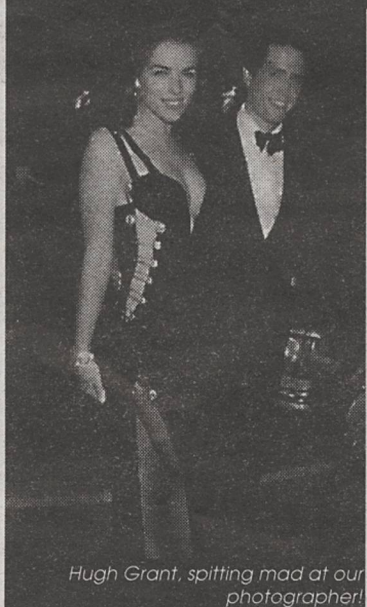
best since 'Four Weddings'. Recommended.

James Crabtree **4**

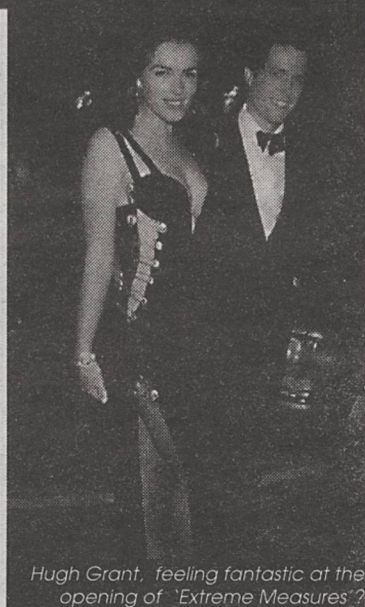
Time for a little personal indulgence. I'm heading off for pastures new (music), and leaving cinema to more capable hands. Thanks to all those who have endured previews for me. Hope you like the pages, and remember we always want new writers. Beaver office, 6pm, Monday. Be there. This film really is good, by the way.

-JC

What a lovely pair!



Hugh Grant, spitting mad at our photographer!



Hugh Grant, feeling fantastic at the opening of 'Extreme Measures'?

Pass Notes No. 5: Shakespeare

Appearance: Old, probably.
Occupation: hottest screen writer in Hollywood.
Really? You bet. People just can't get enough 'hey nonni nonni' nowadays.
People like whom? Everyone loves the bard. Why, even today, Hollywood ac-tor Mr Al Pacino has paid homage to the king of rhyming couplets.
And how, pray tell? By making a sort of documentary about how good William really was, and how he is much mis-understood.
A case of outrageous fortune in the winter of our discontent, you might say. Others would argue that he is in no need of help.
Surely people prefer more 'modern' writers? Like
Merchant Ivory, or Paul Verhoven. No. I count three bard epics for 97, and there were at least four last year.
Hamlet? Of course. It is rumoured that Branagh's four hour epic is being cut down to two hours for the US.
Do the yanks have problems with it? Unkind critics have suggested that the new version may simply be christened 'Ham'.
There better not be any changes to the script! Rumours that the most famous line is now rewritten "to be nobler in the mind by opposing them" are unconfirmed at time of going to press.
Ken, you traitor. Lets not be libellous, now.
Too much hype! Exactly.
A Flash in the pan? Without doubt. Shakespeare is the future of cinema.
And what about his next project? I am led to believe he is about to star along side Emma Thompson in a production of Stoppard's Rosencrantz and Guildenstern....
Really? No. Not really. He is dead, you know.
Most likely to say: Shall I compare thee to a noble knave, sirra?
Least likely to say: shall we cast Stallone in my next effort?
Not to be confused with: Bacon, Johnston, Pacino, Brannagh, Gielgud.

The bard has written new scripts for Hamlet and Romeo & Juliet for release in '97. Check out our review of 'Looking For Richard' opposite.

The Land of Mod



Must have been pretty trippy, back in the 60s. Is that really Sting???

Film: Quadrophenia

Jon Biggs gets into the best of Parkerlife

Driven by the pursuit of sex and drugs and fuelled by the music of an era, the Mods of Quadrophenia seek to establish their place in the world. A film brought to the screen by way of a WHO concept album recorded in 1973, in itself a potentially alarming idea, Quadrophenia is a British screen classic given a welcome re-release in 1997.

The film is set in London, 1964 and follows the life of Jimmy, a young Mod

QUADROPHENIA

(scooters, sharp suits and what the press release terms "hard driving music of the day"), charting his concurrent downfall and his rise to self awareness. Jimmy and his Mod gang spend their lives taking "blues" and cruising on their Lambrettas looking to pick fights with the Rockers, guys who like leather, big motorbikes and old style rock n roll.

Jimmy, portrayed excellently by Phil Daniels, works in an office post-room, lives with his parents and spends his whole life being a Mod. The centrepiece of this life, and the film, is the weekend trip to Brighton, a chance to express himself and escape the drudgery of his existence.

In parallel with the McJob weekend e-takers of the 1990s who still come to

the Brighton club scene, Jimmy wrestles with his teen-angst and his character lends a humane aspect to the rousing proceedings. The fight with the

Rockers on Brighton beach is exciting and brutal. Its immediacy is exceptionally well captured.

The film isn't overly sympathetic to the Mods, exposing their ignorance with moments of comedy. Ultimately, it says something about growing up and finding a place, about being different and about being the same as everyone else. Its real triumph, for me, is not betraying Jimmy's final disillusionment and disenfranchisement with a superficial ending. Instead there is a fantastic conclusion. I say

Film Information

Title: Quadrophenia
Starring: Phil Daniels, Leslie Ash, Sting, Damon ... nah, not really
Released: 31/1/68?
Director: Franc Roddam
Info: cert. 15.. 1hr 26minutes

good job!

And you can always go and laugh at Sting and Toyah Wilcox.

Jon-boy Biggs

4

Hank & Frank

HANK & FRANK

LSE's resident critics chew over the hot topics of the day. This week: 'Retro Cinema: mod, or shod?' Take it away.....

Frank: Are you aware of the phenomenon that is the 'mod'?

Hank: Unfortunately, I am. It disgusts me!

Frank: But ... why? Surely you cannot deny that to be retro is to personify the very essence of cinematic cool. You are certainly no hip cool cat, daddy-oh!

Hank: I can, and I will deny the fact that retro cinema is cool. The subservience of you and you ilk to previous glories hinders and inhibits the process of innovation and originality. Thus, it weakens our current moral fibre.

Frank: You are a slave to dubious and tasteless fashions of modernity, whereas you cannot see that they only exist in their relation to the past.

Giddens: did you say modernity?

All: SHUT UP!

Frank: Let me say again. Films such as 'Quadrophenia' and 'Saturday Night Fever' are shining examples of past eras.

Hank: No No Sir! It is you that is the slave to the fashions of past eras. Have you no vision? You that cannot see the benefits and excellence of the now!

Frank: All well and good, but to deny the past is to deny the very routes of excellence. Why! I bid you regard the resurgence on one William Shakespeare to the head of modern sensibilities. Shakespeare was the first mod!

Hank: Utter rubbish. Shakespeare, is still relevant. Yes, of course he is. His relevance is due to his continual adaptability. Mods have no relevance to current. Roots are important, like your Mods, are only relevant as a base from which the now is constructed. If ones lives totally within the reality of the past one is dead to the now, and being dead to the now denies the particulars of the post-Thatcher age.

Frank: I feel we may be dabbling a warm toe in the icy waters of pretentiousness.

Hank: You plebeian twit. You wanna fight about this then? But I expect you to oil up first.

Frank: I do believe that would be a much more equitable way to solve this debacle.

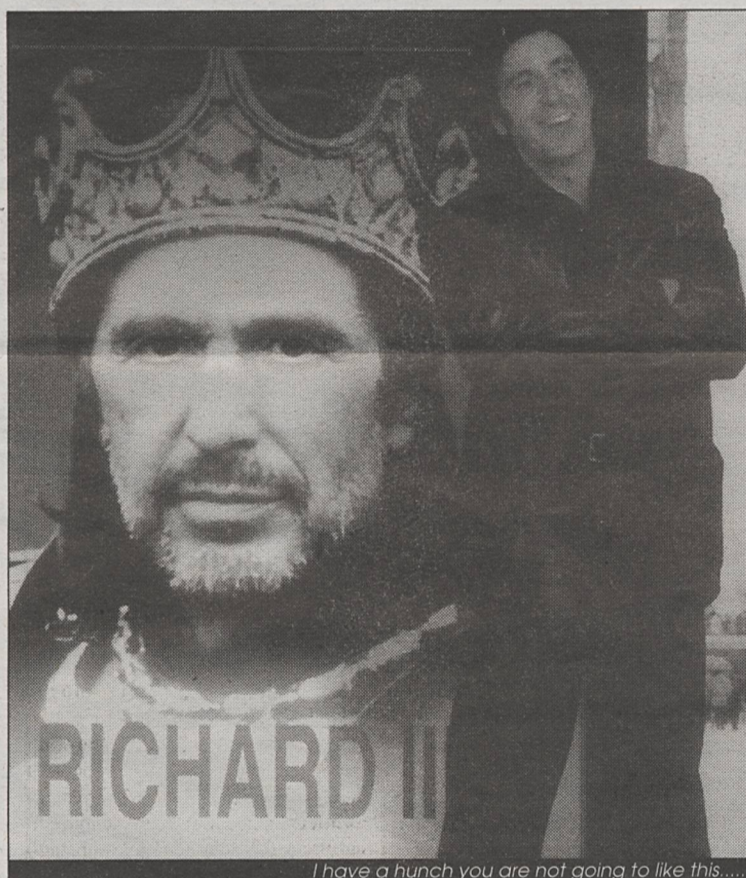
An enormous fight breaks out. Hank and his Rockers battle Frank and his Mods on the sunlit brilliance of Brighton Beach.

200-1", and there is much more bloodshed - but who lives? Who dies? Who loses their hands or other bodily parts? How many more films can they borrow from before the final credits roll? Who knows?

Vincent Regan is convincing enough as Tony, but the character itself is rather two dimensional, the old 'hoodlum with a heart' adage running rather thin, despite his beautifully tong-curved eyelashes and his bearing more than a passing resemblance to Christopher Walken. Having seen Lee Ross as the sappy Kenny in children's ITV's 'Press Gang' for years it was difficult to see him as this drugged out, highly strung nutter looking like a band member of 'Madness', but the acting in the film overall is sound, just the script lacks novelty. If this movie was made as a pastiche of a genre, then all the blatant references to other, generally better films can be considered as a fitting tribute to those films, but if it was made to stand in its own right, it fails.

Although entirely unoriginal, "Hard Men" is amusing viewing and definitely a film for fans of dappy dialogue and mindless violence.

Yasmine Chinwalla



I have a hunch you are not going to like this.....

Film: Looking 4 Richard

Americans doing culture? Dan Todman leads the fight back...

- Pacino looks off like an Italian Popeye: "Iamb what iambic, Olive". Thankfully, the Olive of the piece (Winona Rider) is easily the most agreeable aspect of the duration. Although she is equally unable to do justice to great literature, she certainly does her sex-symbol reputation no great harm.

The only moment in the movie with any force occurs when the actors play a scene in their own words. What this shows is that these talented professionals are crippled, either by a fear of, or an inability to speak, Shakespeare's lines. Pacino murders them.. because his linguistic heritage is neither compatible nor appropriate.

Sadly, the audience is left with the ultimate impression of a blind man fumbling in a darkened room, trying to describe his vision. The grating sound clearly audible throughout must be the tortured Sir Lawrence Olivier turning in his grave.

Good King Daniel III

Looking for Richard' is a movie with laudable intentions and high pretensions. Yet it fails hopelessly because it can't make up its mind what it is. Unable to decide between populist exposition and interpretation, the movie oscillates between Pseud's Corner and Sesame Street. An exposition of Richard III's plot forms the basis of the film, mixed in with performances and discussions of the play. Pacino's stated aim is to make Shakespeare accessible to the masses.

One problem is that asking actors for their opinions on Shakespeare provides little insight, except that they have no real understanding of the plot or the script. Vanessa Redgrave lavishes abundant proof on this point. And once a discussion of the play is begun, the film merely displays its intellectual deficiencies.

It would have been as well not to have mentioned linguistic technicalities

London Kray-vings

Blind Date stunner Yasmine Chinwalla enjoys a pick and mix Tarrantino set in lovely London

Hard Men" is basically an Eastend gangster version to add to the glut of Tarantinoesque mobster movies that have been made over recent years. The twist: this is London, and the British have a very sense of black humour.

The opening sequence, with clapping, heavy guitars, and three men in black and white striding down the street, is straight out of "Reservoir Dogs". The twist: they carry brief cases and wear buttoned up anoraks rather than suits.

The story is about Tony and his two partners in crime, Bear and Speed, and their last night together. An old flame of Tony's has reappeared in his life, with his baby in tow, forcing Tony to reassess his future and present career as a heavy for local racketeer Pops Den (played by 'Mad' Frankie -Fraser who was in fact part of gangland London in the 60's and has a scarred face and very broken nose to prove it).

The three start off by going to collect money from one of Pop's debtors but Speed gets trigger happy when they count the cash (twenty pounds short!) and starts shooting. Back at headquarters, Pops is not best pleased that the boys have so ruthlessly dispatched such a valued client and refuses to pay them, but Tony tells him that he has a lady and a baby to support and wants to retire. Pops lets him off with it, which seems a bit soft for a man of such bad repute.

The lads hit the town and so begins a night of reckless behaviour and bloodshed round the familiar streets of Soho. They sit in the car discussing Abba just like in "Pulp Fiction": discussing trivia like it is the most ultimately serious issue. They hold up a club, then pick up a couple of prostitutes only to find out that they are

transvestites so further brawling ensues.

They drive on, stopping at a 7/11, manned stereotypically by an Indian listening to very loud bhangra music, so that Tone can phone his girlfriend and sing a lullaby to the baby - why a man with such a finely honed killer instinct should turn over a completely new leaf after finding lurve is rather hard to swallow...

Pops sends two of his sidekicks to meet the three hard men in a shady kebab house, and while Tone is in the toilet, they tell Bear and Speed that Pops wants Tony dead because "he's grown soft, he's a fuckin' liability" - and he wants proof: Tony's hand on his desk at 9am. "Just sort it out. I know you three stick together like three sperms on a block of spunk".

When Tony returns, Bear and Speed go to the loo and discuss their dilemma at length, rousing Tony's suspicion. Speed takes a meat cleaver from the cafe and of course shoots the owner, just like 'Things to do in Denver when you're Dead'. If their tempers are this volatile, how on earth have they managed not to kill each other before now?

The three of them go on to another bar to knock back tequila slammers, when two wonderful caricatures walk in, one with a huge fur collar and goatee and another with a totally improbable platinum blonde pompadour. Goatee man is rude about Tony's baby so inevitably a fight breaks out.

They then go on to see Tony's ex girlfriend, a French brothel madam. Speed shoots a hole in the ceiling after losing at cards so Tony takes their guns, and Chantal brings down a couple of prostitutes for Bear and Speed from whom Bear finds out that his tattoo in chinese characters actually means "big man little dick".

Tony leaves before them, but Bear and Speed catch him and they sit in another greasy spoon cafe. Tony looks at Speed over his shoulder with a fag hanging on his lip a la Clint Eastwood in "Fistful of Dollars" and they proceed to the banks of the Thames for the final showdown.

Bear and Speed pull their guns on Tone, and he smiles, telling them he knew all along - "Do you know what the chances are that two straight men take a piss together? I don't know, about

Film Information

Title: Hard Men
Starring: Vincent Regan, Lee Ross, Some Mad Gangster
Released: 7/2/97
Director: Ronnie Kray
Info: cert. 18.. 1hr 15 minutes

Beaver's Bar Bonanza

Andrea Woolcock's definitive guide to pubs and pubbing around London

The Moon on the Green: Shepherd's Bush Green

The Moon on the Green Pub has less panache than a KP peanut. Having said that it does manage to maintain a basic standard of beer, food, loos, etc. reminiscent of most of the Moon pubs in and around London. For a fiver you can get a well-portioned meal (veggie burger and chips, scampi and chips, fisherman's pie and chips), with an alcoholic drink (ooh er!). This can prove to be a major advance on your flatmate's latest concoction or the alternative - a short, sharp dose of Brunchbowl Stomach.

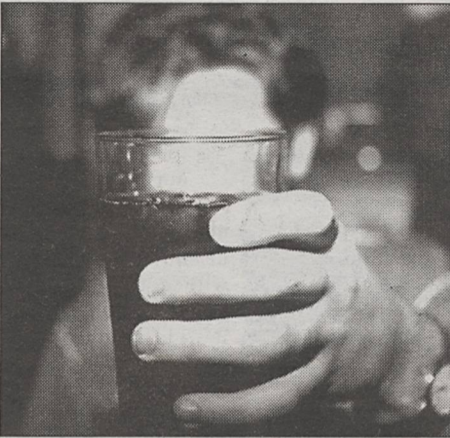
Oddly enough, for an area in which walking across the Green can offer more pitfalls than sleeping with your best friend's boyfriend, the Pub itself is reasonably calm: you're unlikely to end-up in a mud wrestling match with your neighbour, or to be forced to spend your grant cheque on facial re-construction. The downside is that most of the "men" are:

- over 60
- under 60 and too pissed to know it, or
- of indeterminate age and don't know if they're pissed or sober

You're more likely to find one of the library porters desirable. You do? Well then, the Moon on the Green is undoubtedly the place for you.

All Bar One: Chiswick High Street

All Bar One is a more glamorous affair altogether; for those of you who enjoy the subtle surroundings of The Tuns on a Friday night this is definitely the place for you (not). The



air is filled with the chatter of would-be professionals and Bryan the local is unlikely to feel comfortable with his late 80's haircut and indeterminate dress sense (unless of course he drives a Maserati and then who gives a damn even if he still wears patterned y-fronts). If you're on the pull, here's the place where a man is likely to be able to

offer you more than soggy fish and chips and a duvet with a cover that hasn't seen a washing machine for two terms (you know who you are). All Bar One definitely has that underlying energy, that "je ne sais quoi" that makes a place "happening", but don't expect a cozy chat with your new beau. It's usually crowded and smokey and noisy. The bar staff are friendly, however, and there's a great selection of bottled beers for all you would-be connoisseurs. Getting a table may involve elbowing some vain, make-up plastered bozo in the eye, but what the hell! Oh, and the loos are a joke if you're the worse for wear, unless you make regular sorties to the Brunch Bowl. Even then coming down may require you to borrow your sporty cousin's abseiling equipment. (Definitely not a pretty sight if you have piano legs, and are wearing a skirt that your boyfriend once used as a bandana!). If you're out to impress, drag on your glad rags (the fewer the better) and go for it!

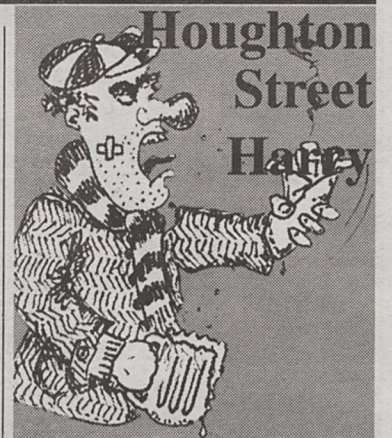
Beach Blanket Babylon: Holland Park

As the name suggests, this ain't the place to go if you're with Marvin the Meanie. Wait 'til your rich auntie

decides to pay another visit. (At least if you're forced to sleep on your flatmate's rotting futon, you'll get something out of it). It's worth a single visit for a birthday celebration, Christmas, or just kissing goodbye to your ex's sweaty socks. (Don't take them with you though, they wouldn't fit in). This place is an amazing eclectic mix of Renaissance, neo-gothic splendour, and Habitat's latest garden range. The entrance comprises of two of those huge French doors (yes, I know, its obvious I've never studied architecture or I'd know their correct name - but hell, you get the idea). It's always crowded and sometimes you have to queue outside (definitely not recommended).

The people are generally fairly exotic (and boy don't they know it!). However, there is always the odd Bryan who's managed to abscond from All Bar One, but in this place chances are he'll own that Maserati. A beer in this place will cost you more than a few file dividers in the Student Union Shop. Definitely worth a visit, but don't expect to make it your local, unless of course you feel that the interest on a student loan is worth it!

Andrea Woolcock is currently to plastered from her research to write anymore.



As Harry returns from a well earned and long overdue sabbatical, he hopes that his petit souffles have missed him with all the ardour of a Korak in a brothel. After lengthy contract discussions, I've sorted out my differences with Campus Ed Vicky Seabrooke, who's agreed to give me Fridays off so that I can pursue other projects...fry ups in Wrights Bar, Piss ups in Tuns etc etc. Changes are afoot within our beloved shrine to social science: like a discredited Chinese takeaway, the LSE is under new leadership following the abdication of King John. The King is dead, long live the King...King Anthony that is, or 'Tone as he's affectionately known by his mates in Packham. I've got serious doubts about blokes called Tony. It conjures up strange images of East London teenagers running off with their birds' brothers...most peculiar. Lads, if you had a choice between Tiffany and Simon, who would you take? I rest my case. Now if the choice was between Simon and Bianca, it would be a different story altogether. It says it all about Ricky, that Bianca is the brains of their outfit.

Also, my mate Tony Ingram once ate his own turd, (and I'm not lying) in exchange for a sticker of former Chelsea and Birmingham legend Trevor Aylott, because he had to complete his Panini '88 sticker book. Now I would willingly eat a turd for a picture of Steve Claridge, but Trevor Aylott? Have you ever seen him play? He made Geoff Thomas look like Pele. Juventus? He wasn't good enough for Fray Bentos.

This Giddens chap is a sociologist, which basically involves talking about sex in the name of academia- nice work if you can get it. Essentially then, that makes him Gary Bushell with letters after his name, so expect lectures on the interpretation of modernity to turn into lectures on bums, boobs and the beauty of Bernard Manning and Bob Monkhouse.

As for the Royals themselves, they're teetering on the brink of self destruction. They're already in the ref's book, the crowd are baying for blood, they've lunged in from behind and the man in black is reaching for his top pocket. These monarchic bastards don't realise how lucky they are. The Queen mum is allowed to live a life of luxury despite stinking of piss and jibbering crap all the time when there are plenty of women in my home town, local pub and immediate family that do that for free.

And Fergie, who we accepted despite her being a ginger, has thrown it all away as if it didn't matter. Stupid slag. From now on, exterminate all gingers, that's what I say. And all Villa fans. And ugly women. Especially Esther Rantzen. And Anthea Turner. Aaah, Anthea Turner, she's a mighty strange one. How that Ewok ever got on TV I'll never know. Mutton dressed up as lamb? More like shite dressed up as cack. Fair play to her, though, she did have to endure a lot of stick while she was presenting the lottery. You need really thick skin to do a job like that and so I think I've found a man that's perfect for the job. A man that is used to any insult, who no longer fears any form of humiliation or degradation. Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the one, the only, Mr P.K. Bose.

Welcome back Harry!, I see some things never change...

Valentine's Day

Roses are red, violets are blue, I have a page in the Beaver to be filled by you.

Send your Valentine's Day dedications to the Beaver office by 2pm tomorrow (Wednesday February 5)

Writers - the Campus page needs you!

If you would like to write for the *Beaver*, then come along to *TheBeaver* collective meetings at 6pm every Monday. The campus page for the next couple of weeks has the opportunity for writers to review restaurants for free! Come along next Monday and find out more.

Poet's Corner

This article is obviously a load of CACK.

Sam's sexy secret.

As I waddle up to E295, I wonder if I can survive without seeing your 'almond shaped eyes', Almonds remind me of food, I fancy some pies.

*

Is she right? Do I have the right? It's 11 am, I'll go to Wrights! 'LSE top five', she's the bee's knees, One large tea and a mixed grill please.

*

In the Tuns on the football machine, I'm a football-shaped sex machine, Pint of Becks, chicken tikka slice, I'd share it with her, that'd be nice.

*

To get together, I must plan it, But will she want to shag a planet? I yearn to converse, but I get cold feet, Maybe I'll just be obese in Houghton Street.

*

She's ever so beautiful, definitely not a hag, Darrell, could I ponce a fag? That chap Richard Hearnden's already had her and truly that makes me sadder.

*

She writes for campus and I camp in Wright's, Oh my lovely, will you shag us, Take off my jumper, take off your tights.

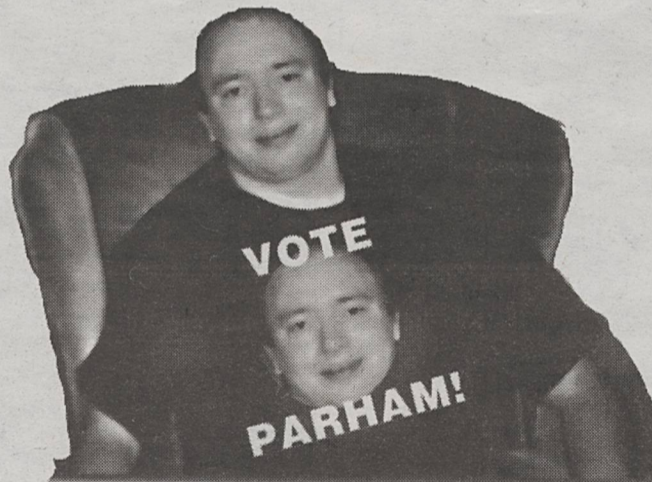
*

*I do f*** all and get 12 grand a year, Everyone reckons I'm strange But darling, I assure you, I'm all man, And your number one fan.*

*

Fat, bald, scruffy, tight, smelly, lazy, I bet that I just drive you crazy, Sam Parham, sabb for Ed & Welfare, I want to unload my mess all over your hair.

*



Top ten reasons why Sam Parham is Homer Simpson:

1. Fat
2. Bald
3. Yellow (nicotine stained from too much smoking)
4. Bum cleavage
5. Crap job - does nothing all day
6. Is happiest propping up the bar
7. Stuffs his face all day
8. Always wears the same clothes
9. Looks like he spends a lot of time eating marge
10. Doh...

Hockey: So near and yet so far...

Wonder Welsh Winging Wizard Hywel misses penalty but wins contract to replace Gareth Southgate in new Pizza Hut Adverts.

LSE 1st XI 0 - 1 UCH 1st XI

Hockey Kev™ & Kingo QC

In a season of mixed emotions, a roller coaster of a ride through magnimionious defeat and thrilling victory, this narrow loss could well be an important turning point in the Hockey teams season. The success of their expensive but necessary advertising campaign seemed to bare fruit as LSE took thirteen players down to Battersea Park. This was the first time this had happened since Sam could remember. In fact he said he'd forgotten what it felt like to take more than a few people down - allegedly. In a tight first half LSE had few chances to score but those which came their way, the newly established forward line proceeded to squander. With their keeper seemingly inspired, UCH took the lead after a jammy, skanky, flukey, wanky not-to-mention lucky cross shot-cum pass back to their goalkeeper dribbled across the goal line. With another heavy defeat seemingly looming Hockey Kev acted swiftly to stave off the on rushing wave of UCH attackers. With an inspirational substitution he took himself off and brought on new recruit Raveen for his LSE debut. Some would call it a stroke of genius, others who were there say he was just knackered. Anyway whatever the reasons, it appeared to have the desired effect as LSE rallied, reaching half-time only the single goal behind.

Rejuvenated, the LSE's weary warriors returned to the pitch and immediately responded to their fearless

captain Pistol Pete's call to arms. They started to play the kind of free flowing samba-styled passing game bordering on the arrogant, that a true relegation dog fight warrants. Despite Hockey Kev's best efforts to take on the whole of the UCH team dribbling like the Women's hockey team after half a shandy in the Tuns. LSE managed to fashion enough chances to draw level with the help of a "very, very nice man". Under this intense pressure the inevitable happened as the wayward UCH defenders buckled and gave away a penalty flick. LSE's elation turned into torment as quickly as Jesus turned water into wine. Hywel, the sheep-shagging Welsh man, about to be prosecuted by Kingo QC, stepped up and in line with his previous scoring records proceeded to miss the target. Devastated as he was, the bitter blow was nothing when compared to what his less than sympathetic team mates were planning. A bit like John Wayne Bobbit, Hywel could be experiencing the chop before the next match.

After the shock of a missed p-flick, the LSE players raised their game once again. However as with John Major's tenancy at no.10, time was not on their side and the game ended in defeat.

Win a free pair of Eurotunnel tickets (life insurance and asbestos suits included) to Paris in time for St. Valentines Day.

To enter prize draw turn up at Houghton Street 1:30pm Wednesday afternoon with a hockey stick or e-mail competition hotline for free on: K.Lui@lse.ac.uk

Public Apology from Pickering

In last week's *Beaver Sport* you may have read about the 'friendly' between the Fourths and the Sevens.

Unfortunately, near the end of the game Simon Tait was seriously injured in a challenge with myself, Danny Pickering, Fourth team captain and stand-in goalkeeper.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise unreservedly for what happened and I feel I should make it clear that there was no malice at all in the challenge. It was not my intention to hurt Simon. I can only apologise to Simon Tait and his Seventh team colleagues, and wish him a speedy and full recovery.

Yours Sincerely
Danny Pickering.
4th XI Captain

FOOTBALL APPRECIATION SOCIETY PRESENTS LIVE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ENGLAND v ITALY

VENUE: TERRY NEIL'S SPORTS BAR. MEET AT 6PM OUTSIDE THE PEACOCK THEATRE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

LSE Women's Football

See proper football being played in the last 32 of the BUSA cup. LSE entertain Cambridge at Berrylands sports ground. Wednesday February 5, 2pm kickoff. Meet on Houghton Street at 12.30pm. Come and support your team.

BUSA Update

The following teams are in action on Wednesday February 5:

Football: First XI v Luton
Third XI v Kent
Women v Cambridge
(All football at Berrylands)

Squash v East Anglia

Badminton v Kent (Shield)

Netball v Greenwich (Shield)
Tennis v Hertfordshire
(Netball and Tennis at Lincolns Inn)

Basketball v Cambridge
(6th Feb 9pm at



Continued from the back page... pass which landed on a six-pence at the feet of Kevin Sharpe.

Order restored, the midfield began to dominate once more and LSE looked to press home their advantage further - the principle aims being to improve our goal difference and secure the first goal of the season for Filippo Venini.

As full-time approached, Crump and Chang combined down the right to break through the defence once more. Crump carried the ball goal-bound, and with Venini unmarked on the back post with an open goal to aim at, he unselfishly miss-hit his own shit effort into the keepers chest and watched it loop into the net for our fourth - and worst - goal of the match. Kings' heads fell and Venini slashed his wrists.

Another rampant result tucked firmly into our socks it was time to celebrate our ever-improving league record: played 7; won 4; drawn 2; lost 1; scored 29; and conceded 10.

The chosen venue was 'Planet Earth' at Limelight and after some pre-match preparation at the Tuns an assortment of LSE footballing legends and footballing legends-in-the-making meandered their way to Shaftesbury Ave.

Andy Goodman was looking to continue his eye-catching form while Rafael Italiano was hoping to add to the five he 'slotted home' for Tom Smith's sixths earlier that afternoon.

Curtis, Theepan and Smith were on hand in their captaincy roles to ensure that the best was brought out from each player. First team performers were Fielding, Sharpe, Venini and Goodman, all of whom were hoping to turn on the style and continue their excellent run of results. Unfortunately for Goodman he managed only to embarrass himself by dancing like a boy-band member with attitude and itchy balls, finally resorting to the under-hand tactics of snogging Jess. This action earned the fresher two yellow cards, and a subsequent sending off, resulting in a club fine and a worldwide ban on pulling attempts to take effect from now until the end-of-season Football Dinner.

Rafael didn't manage to extend his afternoon's performance, hardly even managing to get in the oppositions box, let alone test their defences. Fielding, Sharpe and Curtis were pissing themselves at the sight of a rampant Goodman, while Venini came close to poaching a Howard Wilkinson effort. Let's hope he scores soon.

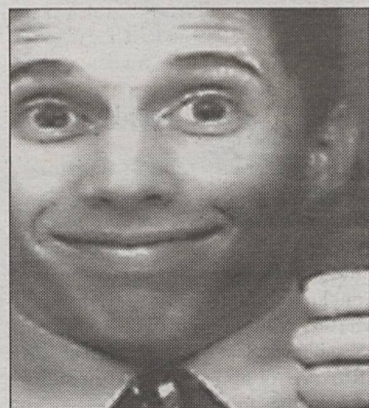
Curtis: "I quit!"

Danny Fielding pays his own glowing tribute to *Beaver Sport's* dedicated, much loved, blue-eyed sports editor, Steve 'The Gaffer' Curtis, tragically forced out by dissertation and rumours of Geography department sleaze.

The stress and strain of coping with the demands of quality journalism has finally taken its toll on the last half of the Perrier award winning Fielding and Curtis sports editor partnership. Following the departure a fortnight ago of Danny Fielding, Steve Curtis is set to follow, but only after personally making safe this years' *Student Sports Journalist of the Year* award, a truly remarkable achievement.

It now seems certain that Curtis will concentrate exclusively on his mission to complete the double treble; three exams, and more importantly the quest for the London League, London Cup and BUSA National Cup, all three of which the Curtis led/inspired LSE 1st XI football team have every chance of winning. This will come as a disappointment to the many quality publications who were keen to snap up this auspiciously talented young journalist, including *Four Four Two* and Curtis' favourite read, *Euroboy*.

Ultimately the responsibility of being Sports Editor proved too much for the erstwhile Curtis, with tensions



Curtis: Elated to be leaving, pissed off about his stupid dissertation

boiling over into his personal life. In an allegedly unrelated incident, Curtis flipped out under the pressure his most difficult geography assignment to date, snapping his coloured pencils in frustration, leaving him unable to complete his colouring-in of a map of Africa and only getting a 2.2 for it from his teacher.

As news of the enigmatic Curtis' departure spread, tributes flooded in;

"It was a pleasure to have Steve under me" - former *Beaver Executive Editor*, Nicola Hobday

"His dedication, diligence and enthusiasm have been an example to all the *Beaver* staff. If all the Editors were half as good as Steve my job would be a whole lot easier" - Liz Chong, *Beaver Executive Editor*

"The most difficult opponent I have ever faced" - Pele

"I want you back, I want you back for good" - Gary Barlow

"The work Steve has done on his dissertation to date has been a pile of w*nk. If he doesn't give up that *Beaver* rubbish, his degree's going to be well f*ck*d" - Steve's tutor

It is hoped that the standard of the Sports pages in *The Beaver* will not drop as significantly as anticipated with the influential, yet controversial, Curtis leaving. One thing is for certain, *The Beaver* will never be the same without the unique brand of zany humour and shoot-from-the-hip, devil-may-care antics that have made Curtis the much loved and decorated *Sports Editor* that he will be forever remembered as.

For more information on Athletics Union Activities please see Liz Petyt (room E78) or consult notice boards in the AU Common Room, situated directly above the *Veggie Café*.™

