

The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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LSE Students were among around 2400 protestors who voiced their opposition to the French government's plans to introduce a ban on conspicuous religious symbols in its state schools. See Page 3 for details. Photo: El Barham

Students Speak Out at Masters Fees Rip-Off

Mark Power
Executive Editor

Extraordinary allegations have been made by a group of LSE Masters students following perceived irregularities between advertised content of their course and the reality of the programme they have been following since October.

In a formal complaint to the Director of the LSE, Sir Howard Davies, the students assert that the majority of students pursuing the MSc in Global Market Economics and the MSc in Public Finance Policy do not feel that the two programmes "live up to what was promised in the LSE Graduate Prospectus."

The complaint goes on to say that the students perceive that there is "considerable discrepancy between what was advertised and what is delivered."

Foremost among the students' concerns is the disappearance of a key 'value added' course called Current Economic Issues (EC404) from the first year syllabus of the two year programmes. The course is significant as it is one of the original justifications for the cost of the GME programme, which is priced at £14,195 per annum.

This compares with the MSc Economics programme, which at the time the students applied cost around £12,000 per annum. EC404 is the principal reason for the increased fees, since its seminars draw high-profile speakers from the business and policy-making communities.

Without EC404, the programme, in its first year, is essentially the same as an MSc Economics course. As a result, the students are claiming a £2,000 refund on their fees. The students claim they are entitled to such a refund on the basis that many were unaware of the change to the structure until either they had arrived at the LSE, or had already accepted the offer of admission and foregone other academic and employment opportunities.

The students have also cited the absence of coherence to the degree as a central principle of their grievances. The most serious of the promises they feel were not honoured by the School is the claim that the GME and PFP courses are "anchored in the intellectual life" of, and "co-ordinated by", the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP). This centre is one of the LSE's most prestigious research organisations, regularly dispensing top level advice to the government and international institutions on economic policy. The students feel they were led to believe that the course would involve a high degree of interaction between the Centre and the programme, when in reality there is very little connection at all.

In addition, the students assert that the absence of a core course - in the form of EC404 - and a focal point for research - the absence of the connection to the CEP - devalues the programme and means that it lacks "clear objectives" and makes for a "fuzzy structure." The students' complaint

accuses the Economics Department of giving "little, if any thought to the overall structure and aims of the programme."

The students had initially attempted to seek remedy to their grievances by initiating informal complaints procedures with the help of the LSE Students' Union and its Education and Welfare Officer, Rowan Harvey. After having appealed unsuccessfully to the Convenor of the Economics Department, and the Director of Finance, Andrew Farrell, the students have decided to initiate a formal complaint with the Director. The students have indicated that if they are unsatisfied with the outcome of that procedure, then they will pursue the complaint further, which could result in it being heard by a new independent arbitrator for disputes in higher education, which began its role this month.

The students' grievances are likely to add to speculation that the further marketisation of higher education leads to degree programmes structured to obtain maximum revenue from the students enrolled on the degrees. Speaking to The Beaver, a student on the programme who wished to remain anonymous said that they felt that the School had lured students onto the programme by promising a course that would be cohesive and integrated with the world class research at LSE. In reality this was not the case. The student stated that they and many others on the programme felt that they were being used as a revenue source to fund the research activities of the

school, without properly benefiting from the intellectual environment of that research.

The school has declined to comment substantively on a number of questions asked of it by The Beaver in relation to this complaint, but Professor John Sutton did issue a statement saying that the complaint "follows on from a lengthy series of discussions which the students have had both with the Department and with officers of the School over the course of the last term. I and my colleagues will be taking up the new points raised in this letter during the course of the next week."

Davies was reported to have sent word to the students that he would be looking into the story on Friday. LSE SU Education and Welfare Officer Rowan Harvey was conciliatory in her response, expressing hope that the school would seek to settle with the students. She said, "I'm pleased the school are going to look at it on the next level, the procedure is the correct one." When asked as to whether she had found the School responsive in its communications to date, Harvey said she had found members of the administration helpful, however the students remain dissatisfied with the response to date as it has failed to produce any tangible moves on the part of the school towards the resolution of the dispute.

See Editorial Page 7

Honorary Vice President Tom Hurndall: Gone But Not Forgotten



Jocelyn Hurndall mourns at her son's vigil

Dave Cole

Honorary Vice President, Tom Hurndall, died of pneumonia at last Tuesday, January 13th, in the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability in Putney.

A vigil was held outside Downing Street on the following day, which attracted two hundred people, including Labour MP Glenda Jackson and comedian Jeremy Hardy. Members of the Hurndall family were also in attendance. Many of those at the vigil carried candles, pictures of Tom and posters calling on the Prime Minister to act on human rights in Palestine.

Jocelyn Hurndall, Tom's mother, expressed her pride in her son, saying that "Tom was somebody who felt very strongly

about justice. His personal courage, his moral and physical and emotional courage are all qualities which define Tom's spirit".

She added: "What happened to Tom is a microcosm of what's happening in Palestine."

There was also a demonstration in Rafah, Gaza, by representatives of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) of which Tom was a member, the Children's Parliament and the Madison/Rafah Sister City Project from the ISM office to where Tom was shot near the site of the Towhead Mosque in Yibeah.

The Towhead Mosque was demolished on January 14th by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF), but had not been used for months due to sniper fire directed against it and a tank that was regularly parked

next to it, shooting down the street. Tom was shot in the head from an IDF tower on the wall that divides the Palestine and Sinai sides of Rafah that still overlooks the site.

An Israeli soldier has been charged with aggravated assault over Tom's shooting. The IDF have said that the man, who they have identified as an Arab member of a Bedouin unit, has also been charged with smoking cannabis on duty and that the charges against him may now be increased to manslaughter.

However, the Hurndall family have reiterated their insistence that the charge be murder as Tom was shot in the head with a sniper weapon. The soldier's lawyer has accused the IDF of hanging him out to dry while the Hurndall family have said that

they think that the IDF may be trying to pin everything on this soldier rather than addressing the culture of impunity surrounding killings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli Embassy in London expressed its 'deep regret' at Tom's death and said that charges had been brought against the soldier 'after a full and independent investigation'. At the vigil outside Downing Street, Glenda Jackson MP said that the charges were the result of work by the British government and continued: "In the light of today's tragic events, we hope the government will continue to exert that pressure to [ensure] an examination of the incident is not left exclusively to military authorities."

The Metropolitan Police will investigate the circumstances surrounding Tom's shooting after a coroner, Paul Knapman, of Horseferry Road Coroner's Court, asked them to establish the facts of the case, and will probably travel to Rafah.

Last Thursday, the Union General Meeting held a minute's silence for Tom, who was last term elected as Honorary Vice-President, and passed a motion expressing the Union's sorrow at his passing and sympathy for the Hurndall family.

LSESU Communications Officer Omar Srouji said 'Tom's passing away is a great loss to this Union. His courage and utter selflessness is a tremendous example to us all. Our thoughts are now with the family in this dark time. I hope that they can draw strength in their ongoing quest for justice from our Students' Union.'

A book of condolences is available for messages to Tom Hurndall's family from midday to 2 o'clock in the Quad every day this week.

LSE Initiates Entente Cordiale

Mark Power
Executive Editor

LSE and Fondation Nationale de Sciences Politiques in France are to formally launch their double graduate degree in International Affairs today in London and Paris to coincide with the signing of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France one hundred years ago.

Although students have already started their first year of the course at the Sciences Po campus in Paris, the programme will be officially launched at a function at both the French and British Embassies in Paris and London today.

The degree is a joint venture between the LSE's Department of International Relations and Sciences Po, France's leading higher education institution for the social sciences. The first eleven students embarked on the course, which spends the first year in Paris studying a rigorous multi-faculty programme at Sciences Po, before transferring to London for the second year.

The programme is small and highly selective with applications handled by the LSE's Graduate Admissions office. The first year's intake of eleven was selected from a pool of 157 applicants. Applicants are expected to be proficient in both English and French, and upon graduation it is expected that students will be fluent in both. Students receive an MS, from the LSE in The Practice of International Affairs, as well as the Maîtrise de Sciences

Po.

Director of the LSE, Sir Howard Davies, commenting on the future potential for the new entente between Sciences Po and LSE, said that he was "delighted to be working with Sciences Po on this programme and hope it will be the start of a wider collaboration in the field of public policy and international affairs. Our two institutions are uniquely placed to work together in these fields and to develop a strong European perspective."

Director of Sciences Po, Richard Descoings expressed hope that the joint venture would lead to more comprehensive network of alliances amongst elite European universities. He said "Sciences Po and LSE are both strongly involved in the international competition that the best universities in the world have to face. Being together will reinforce our commitment to the creation of a top European network of best ranked universities."



SCIENCES PO

Government Hails Increase in First Class Degrees

Adrian Li

The Higher Education Minister, Alan Johnson, has moved to silence critics claiming that standards in universities are being 'dumbed down'.

The criticisms came in the wake of the unveiling of new figures released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) last week which showed a continued sharp increase in the number of students being awarded First Class degrees.

According to the figures, 28,300 students were awarded Firsts last year: an increase of 2,200 since 2002, and 7,600 since 1999. The proportion of all students achieving the top classification has risen from 7.8% to 10.3% over the course of the last four years. In addition, 45% of all students graduating for the first time were awarded a 2:1 classification.

Johnson hit back at the critics, hailing the new figures.

"These figures are good news for universities, who are successfully expanding and students who are achieving better results.

"They contradict the doom-mongers."

The HESA figures also reveal that for the third year in succession, women are achieving more Firsts than men. The 15,100 Firsts awarded to women last summer amounts to 53.3% of the total figure: a rise in proportion of 0.5%.

As a consequence, the overall number of female Firsts rose by 9.4%, compared to a jump of 6.5% for men. The percentage of women graduating with a First or 2:1 is 58%, compared to 51% of men.

However, the findings will cause concern to employers who believe that a First Class degree is becoming a less reliable differentiator of students' academic performance. Critics argue that academics, who can boost the position of their universities in league tables by awarding more Firsts, are becoming less rigorous in their examination process.

As a result, employers now face more and more applicants with 'good' degrees. By consequence, most now demand a 2:1 degree as a minimum requirement for job applications.



Some First-Class women.

LSESU Joins Protest Against French Ban

El Barham
News Editor

LSE students were amongst those involved in a protest against the French government's plans to ban 'overt religious symbols' in state schools on Saturday January 17th.

The motion, which was supported by the majority of students in attendance, condemns the French government's decision to forbid pupils from wearing articles of clothing in state schools which are perceived to have a religious connotation, such as the hijab or Muslim headscarf and yamulkas or Jewish skullcaps.

Sarah Waseem, LSE student and delegate to NUS Conference, said: "The LSESU Islamic Society wanted to send the banner on the march because we believe that the substance of the legislation should compel anyone with a conscience to oppose it - not just Muslims."

The protesters fear that the proposed ban will act as a method of discrimination by making students choose between their faith and their education. Ms Waseem, said: "The headscarf is seen by many as a duty - it's not a religious symbol so much as etiquette. The legislation will say to people that they can either forgo this etiquette and come to school or go without an education."

"Education and freedom of religion are basic human rights. It is wrong to set these rights against each other."

The protest, called by the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) and the Muslim Women's Society (MWS), was held outside the French Embassy in Knightsbridge on January 17th. The manifestation was part of an international day of protest against the ban, and was supported by demonstrations held simultaneously across the world in 20 different coun-



Protesters in Kensington on Saturday

tries, including France.

According to the BBC, an estimated 2,400 people gathered outside the French Embassy in London to demonstrate their opposition to the ban. Representatives from various organisations and religious groups, such as the Federation of Islamic Students Societies and the Stop The War Coalition, spoke at the event.

The movement against the ban did not receive universal approval as a counter demonstration, staged by the Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI) revealed. The protest of about 15 people was held across the road from the much larger manifestation at an entrance to Hyde Park. WPI welcome the proposed ban as they claim it represents 'an important aspect of secularism',

which they believe to be essential for 'a free society and women's equality'.

Sarah Waseem, however, does not believe that this is an accurate way of looking at the proposed ban. She said: "This is a very perverse way of looking at it as the legislation discriminates against women who choose to wear the headscarf. The headscarf does not discriminate against women at all - it enables women to portray themselves in a neutral way so that they are not unfairly judged by the superficial criteria of society."

The French foreign ministry is not expected to respond directly to the protest as it took place over the weekend. However, further opposition to the ban looks likely.

TV trumps family in necessity poll

Alykhan Velshi

Students consider their television set to be more indispensable than family photos, according to a recent survey.

The poll, undertaken by MORI, found that 19% of students considered their television the one item they could not live without, while only 7% identified photos of Mum and Dad. The only item to feature more prominently, at 38%, was the stereo.

Items which proved less popular than television include Kettles at 8%, Teddy Bears at 4% and posters at 1%. More than half of university students have a television in their room, with 91% having access to a television set somewhere in their accommodation.

However, the popularity of television in halls of residence and student flat shares raises important legal obligations. Vanessa

Wood, a spokesman for TV Licensing urged "students to make sure [their televisions] are properly licensed in either their halls of residence or outside accommodation."

This warning follows closely on the heels of a surge in investigations of cases of TV License delinquency. Those caught using a television without a license could face fines up to £1000. Of the respondents who owned televisions, 10% claimed that neither they, nor their landlords, had valid television licenses. According to Wood, all of them are liable for the £1000 fine.

The TV license, which currently costs £116 per year, is required by law for those who own a television set, or anything else that can receive or record television program services (video recorders, PC's with broadcast cards, for instance). A lower-priced, but quaintly anachronistic, license for black-and-white televisions costs only £38.50 annually.

Unknown to most students, and rarely publicised by TV Licensing, is that financial relief is available for students who do not use their televisions for sizeable segments of the year. This is especially useful for those who do not live in university accommodation for the summer. License owners can claim for any completely unused quarters of three consecutive months.

TV Licensing recommends that students should purchase their license towards the beginning of October so that they can claim their refund once the scholastic year is over. Nevertheless, they are keen to stress that students purchase their licenses as soon as they are needed or face the fine.



Union Jack

Jack had a dream; a dream that one day the part-time exec would actually do something, that Dave Cole would shut up. Jack had a dream last week. Jack had a dream that one day the UGM, which is the home to hopeless politicking by the indoctrinated puppets of a few deluded chiefs, would one day be a place where Omar Srouji and Daniel Freedman would sit together and Matt Willgress would take his rightful place with the plebs. Jack had a dream that people would be judged by the content of their argument rather than the blindness of their politics. That Dream was shattered last Thursday. It's a New Year, new term, but new attitudes, meaningful reports, motions relevant to the student body? The first UGM of 2004 had none of it.

When is a choice not a choice? When it's in the election for this term's UGM chair. Jack had at least been looking forward to a new chair, but the thought of a return to the stage for Dave 'constitution cock-up' Cole was too much to bear and Will 'stagefright' Jordan was hardly a viable option. So the clueless arrogance of special k it had to be, which means he's still looking good for a week 6 nomination. You see being UGM chair can make you, or break you. It could set you up nicely on the path to sabbatical election glory or destroy your credibility to the level where k has to save us from another term of your insufferable conduct. And the special one is not the only one positioning himself for an election campaign. Watch out for frequent stage appearances by those hard-working Exec members who'd rather spend another year poncing about on stage than get a proper job.

Once the chair debacle was over Jack's eye turned to our beloved sabbaticals, but sadly they offered little entertainment; Elliot dazzled the crowd with a charismatic and witty report about constitutional review, Kibble's ever-dwindling bunch of groupies continue to applaud as he completes the tremendous feat of climbing the stairs to the old theatre stage, pauses (melo)dramatically, and then assures us that history will remember him as the one who took on the mighty government and stopped top-up fees with only a few postcards and a band of merry pixies, while simultaneously dodging outrageous allegations about his inability to compare numbers. Righteous Rowan told us that Depression Awareness Week will be 'great' and Jimmy was his usual er, entertaining self.

There were better moments, though. The decision not to let former UGM stage-stormer and Dave Cole evictee, loony-lefty caravan-dweller Tom Whittaker, tell us that the revolution is coming (it is you know), and the expertly thrown paper missile which struck the Beaver News Editor, and Kibble groupie-in-chief (an easy target some might say), both gave Jack immense pleasure - who says the UGM isn't worth going to?



Better than parents? - TVs beat family on priority poll

LSE Leads Debate on World Economic Reform

Nazir Hussain

The first in a series of newly launched LSE and World Economic Forum (WEF) public debates on leadership, management and governance was held in the Old Theatre Thursday January 13th.

Entitled 'Global Governance and Justice', the panel of three speakers, chaired by Professor David Held, passed their judgments on the sobering state of the world progress towards achieving the UN Millennium Declaration Goals, as highlighted in first report of the WEF's Global Governance Initiative released on the previous day.

Based on rankings by teams of specialists, seven fields of concern to the WEF, ranging from poverty to human rights were

assessed. On a scale of one to ten, with ten indicating that the world was doing enough towards achieving these goals, all the fields were ranked three, with the exception of health and poverty, which were given a score of four.

What was perhaps most comforting amidst the gloom of the report was the depth of thinking demonstrated by the panel, all of whom are clearly contributing greatly to the debate on global governance. Ann Florini, senior fellow at the Brookings Institute and author of the recent book, *The Coming Democracy: New Rules for Running a New World*, noted that the gap between rhetoric and actions continues to be huge.

She asserted that the way to solve global problems lies in new approaches that do

not depend on the rich nations which have failed to deliver on their promises. Despite her emphasis on negative aspects she spoke of three trends that can contribute to the development of political will to solve these problems. These are the spread of information technology, the growth of global civil society and the acceptance of norms of transparency, as evidenced in the rapid adoption of Freedom of Information Acts in many countries. Norms of transparency will challenge the notoriously opaque decision-making processes of institutions as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Richard Samans, managing director of the WEF offered many interesting insights into why so little effort was being put into solving these problems. He suggested that lack of imagination was a key factor. The

institutional structure of modern-day governance is highly specialised and not suited to solving such multi-dimensional issues; a platform hence needs to be created for different specialists to meet and tackle such problems.

A debate on the broadening of economic participation, as existed during the period of industrialisation many years ago, needs to be developed. What will emerge to replace the much discredited 'Washington Consensus', has yet to emerge, but Samans suggests that it needs to focus on institutional development, which the Washington Consensus had ignored in favour of sole focus on growth.

Also noted was the absence of any robust accountability mechanism is in place for the Bretton Woods institutions, and suggests that the heads of these institutions report annually to a group of countries consisting of an expanded G8.

Kevin Watkins, head of policy at Oxfam, offered a more radical perspective on the issue of global governance. He put forward the proposition that the institutional structures were designed to encourage some of the current perceived problems on global development. He gave the example of how agricultural dumping onto Third World markets by the US and Europe are technically legal under WTO rules and this is no surprise given that these very governments wrote the rules of the WTO.

Watkins also noted that democratic governance is increasingly difficult. The Ethiopian government has no control over the setting of its fiscal policy but remains accountable to its constituents. His solution is to frame the debate in terms of power imbalances, and mobilise domestic constituents that will change the fundamentally unequal power relationships between the developed and developing nations.



Richard Samans - Managing Director of the World Economic Forum

UGM Condemns Alumnus Robert Kilroy-Silk

Sal Chowdhury

A motion condemning the comments printed in *The Sunday Express* in the name of Robert Kilroy-Silk, was passed at the UGM last Thursday.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, television presenter and LSE alumnus, has apologised for the article written in which he branded Arabs 'suicide bombers, limb amputators [and] women repressors.'

The piece was originally been published in the same newspaper last April, but was recently reprinted in his column under the headline "We owe Arabs nothing" and was met with condemnation. The BBC reacted immediately by suspending *Kilroy*, the former MP's current affairs talk show, which is viewed by about one million people each day, stressing that his views did not represent those of the corporation.

This swift action, although commended by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), who have reported the matter to the police, has not found universal support. There have been claims that the suspension of the ex-Labour MP's programme amounted to a violation of his right to free speech.

Mr Kilroy-Silk, who claimed that the "erroneous" comments were intended to refer to 'Arab states' as opposed to 'Arabs' as a people, repeatedly refused to say whether he believed the BBC did impose limits to freedom of speech during an interview on 'Tonight with Trevor McDonald' broadcast on rival channel ITV.

Conservative MP and former shadow home secretary, Anne Widdecombe, who has been more vocal on the matter said:

"It's quite reasonable for him to voice his opinions on the treatment of women and practices such as the severing of limbs. I think that the BBC has crossed the line and engaged in active censorship."

In reaction to the fallout following the article which is noted to have rhetorically asked 'what the Arabs had given to the world except oil,' Perry de Havilland of the Libertarian Alliance told BBC News: "Blackening everyone in an entire civilisation is intemperate, to put it mildly ... But I certainly think he's entitled to his opinions and I don't see why he's been whipped from pillar to post for it."

A supporter of the LSE graduate came in the form of the head of the Arab free press watchdog, Ibrahim Nawar, who said he agreed with "much of what he says about Arab regimes. Mr Nawar also condemned the decision to axe his programme and called for the BBC to reinstate him.

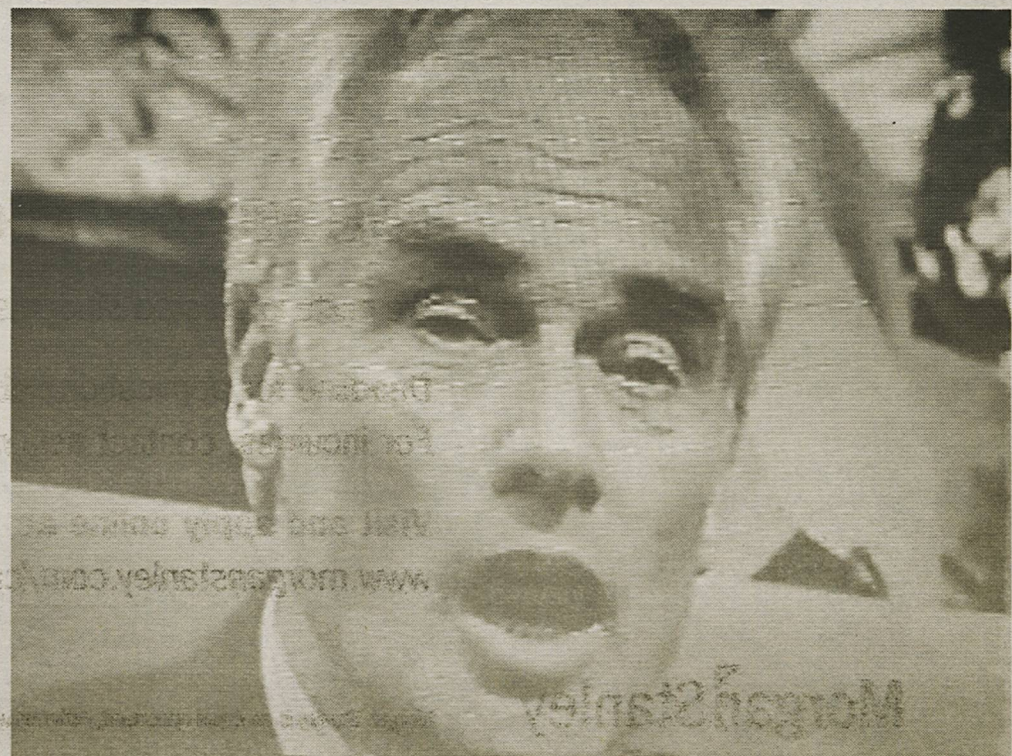
He exclaimed: "The treatment of Mr Kilroy-Silk is very worrying because it indicates that censorship is now taking place in liberal, western countries like the United Kingdom."

The BBC claim their reaction to the 'gratuitous anti-Arab rant' as described by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), was not related to issues of freedom of speech. They asserted their policy of defence and support of this human right stating that "This has never been about freedom of speech. It is about how the job of a BBC presenter carries with it responsibilities about what is written and said publicly and how this may impact on their on-air role."

It is thought that Mr Kilroy-Silk's plea on ITV's 'Tonight' show, though infuriating BBC officials, may pay-off since they may succumb to the opinion polls and phone-in programmes which have by incredible majorities found BBC's action to be 'too harsh.' At the time of *The Beaver* going to press, BBC bosses appear to stand adamantly by their impartiality rules and are likely to remain so, especially in light of 'previous xenophobic remarks' made by the daytime chat show host, which are being

amassed for a dossier to be presented to BBC Director General Greg Dyke by the MCB.

Robert Michael Kilroy-Silk graduated from the LSE with a 2:1 in BSc Economics in 1964, and has said that our fine institution is "a wonderful place because it brings together different people from across the political, social and religious spectrum," adding that it is "inevitable that some of those people will veer towards the extremes."



Former MP and TV presenter Robert Kilroy-Silk



Fourth Annual Depression Awareness Week

Katrin Krause

The fourth annual LSESU Depression Awareness Week, aimed at offering information about depression and giving advice to students and staff, starts on Monday, January 19th.

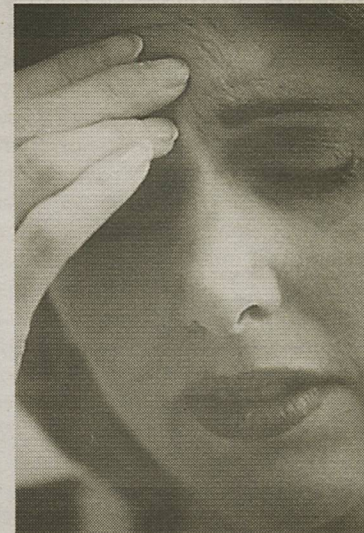
Organised by the LSESU Advice and Counselling Centre, the main purpose of the project is to reduce the stigma still surrounding depression and to explain that it is not a sign of weakness but a treatable disease.

The week starts with a stall by Nightline, a student support group, on Houghton street yesterday. It continues with a talk on depression by the Samaritans at 12 pm today in room E304. There will also be an unmanned stall in the Quad for the whole week, providing information leaflets on depression, eating and sleeping disorders, relaxation techniques and advice centres.

"The week is usually quite stressful because of the sheer numbers of people who seem to have problems and seek advice", says Rowan Harvey, SU Welfare Officer.

"We are organising it in the second week of Lent term because that is the peak time for people needing help."

The reason for this seems to be the stress of the new term and homesickness after the Christmas holidays. A recent survey has found out that about one third of




students in the UK will suffer from depression at some stage of their university career.

Students and staff looking for assistance or information can visit the websites of various support organisations, like www.nightline.org.uk or www.depression-alliance.org. The LSE SU also provides information about its Advice and Counselling Centre on its website.

A special SU Depression Awareness homepage is to be launched soon. Furthermore, there are five counsellors at the St Philips Health Centre and two counsellors at the SU Advice Centre offering confident advice.

A week of awareness - depression tackled



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The Beaver Comment and Analysis

Useless General Meeting

If the Union is to do its job properly, we need to take a look at the UGM, says

Aqeel Kadri

The most commonly cited fact about LSESU is that we have a weekly general meeting. And what an honour it is to be a part of this union; our UGM is a testament to the political awareness and activity at LSE. Where other universities have floundered and been forced to employ a council of selected members to carry on their governance, the LSESU stands tall - open democracy with the one member, one vote system.

This union seeks to represent our views (or at least it should do). The UGM makes Union policy. Yet it would be absurd to suggest that those who attend the UGM, and more importantly those who bring policy ideas before it, represent the views of the student body as a whole. It may be reasonable to argue that those who don't choose to attend the UGM can hardly complain that their opinions are not heard, but what of those who do attend? Are their opinions heard?

One hour every week of lively debate on the union's direction. Of course that includes five minutes to get started, another five for C&S to say something, then the sabbats tell us that they've been very busy, a few part-time exec members decide they should make it look like they do something, then some attempts at humour by questioners. By 1.20 it's time for motions. That's when the incisive debate on the policies that help promote our interests takes place. That's assuming you think a press release condemning Robert Kilroy-Silk's comments in a newspaper column helps to promote the needs of LSE students. And there's surely no doubt that a letter from Elliot Simmons will force a change in French governmental policy.

Even when a motion relevant to LSESU members is tabled, the UGM is hardly the forum for extensive, analytical debate. Two speeches for each side, often loaded with some kind of political or ideological baggage, then the chance for the rest of the meeting to ask questions before we all decide on the merits of the motion. So LSESU policy is decided on the merits of the arguments of a few individuals - no significant contribution from any other party is allowed. Even the Union councils of other Students' Unions at least allow proper debate over policy decisions. It is impossible to be inclusive in policy making where only six or seven students make any sort of contribution to the debate. The UGM may decide LSESU policy but it certainly does not discuss it properly. The last UGM saw a motion about Library opening hours. Admittedly, it was not the best motion ever tabled, but it seems astounding that students would rather leave the meeting than discuss the matter, which was by far the most relevant motion on the order paper. Even those who stayed to vote heard little



UGM Relevance?

information on current SU efforts to have opening hours extended, nor any alternative ideas to the proposed 24-hour occupation.

Taking the example of a random UGM order paper from last term; arguably the most LSE-relevant motion was a supposedly humorous piece on the quality of lamb sandwiches in the Brunch Bowl. Among the other issues up for discussion were French involvement in the Côte D'Ivoire, an EU directive, the comments of an American General, and a question asked to Michael Howard by Jeremy Paxman. Perhaps this demonstrates the political awareness of LSE students, or maybe it just shows that the UGM is nothing more than a forum for a select few to table motions displaying their liberal, progressive (or in some cases free-market conservative) views, or those of the political group to which they subscribe. Factions have long been part of the LSE's political landscape, but the constant efforts of these groups to dominate the Union's agenda only means less time for proper discussion on issues that might actually improve the university experience for LSE students.

There is a wealth of topics that warrant discussion by LSESU members. The union makes decisions on all of its activities; political, administrative, commercial, yet it seems the UGM has little input on most of these issues. The UGM could spend time discussing whether JTV should be allowed into our Union, but it seems LSE students would rather listen to vitriolic speeches on the evil that is Sepp Blatter's comments on female footballers, or is that coming this week...

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If you have written three or more articles for the Beaver and your name does not appear in the above list please email thebeaver@lse.ac.uk and we will add your name on for next week

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Bird's Seeds

...Little Nuggets of Wonder...



Ahoy. One down, nine to go....shit that's depressing. Just think though, we'll all be having a much less stressful week than Daddy Blair. The world's been busy again hasn't it...

So dirty Harry Shippers has topped himself. No great loss.

'The Sun's campaign (anti- Clare Short/pro- more tits out) has tickled me. It's all just plain silliness isn't it really. I can sort of see Clare's point but just give it up for God's sake. She has failed to realise that this is a nation of baboons that love dribbling over a pair of air brushed knockers every morning with their cup of tea (made by their wife). If there are enough plastic bints that want to flop them out for fat losers to cream over, to fill page 3 every day then leave them to it. No sorry, that's an awful stereotype. I think Clare should evolve her argument into one based on equality....perhaps cacky tabloids like 'the Sun' should instead be strongly encouraged to picture more foxy blokes with their kit off as well?

I was moved to giggle at the news that a chap has been arrested under suspicion of terrorism for having some bullets in his pocket. I know it might pose a threat to international security, but really, without a gun what the bollocks is he supposed to do?! I've got an image of him pointing one at someone, producing a small hammer and trying to tap it into them!!! "Bang, go on,

bang.....does it hurt yet?...have I scratched you?"....Anyway, he's from Dallas, he probably uses bullets as tooth picks!!

Our UGM has a new chair then. It was bloody comical how the entire room heaved a sigh of relief when K made his late entrance and got it by a landslide....for a moment there we thought we were going to have to choose between a walking, talking human constitution (come on it's true isn't it....yes or no?) and one of Eton's not so witty sheep. I too was relieved.

There's a chain of humans today to protest about nob-cheese (I mean, top-up fees). How can anyone accuse dirty lefties of being aggressive anarchic thugs...(my fascist Daily Mail reading Uncle Alan does) They're holding hands!!! Join in...come on it's nippy out there, it'd warm your mits up. We're talking about education....'learning' for fuck's sake....it's already a bit of a rip off. I wouldn't have come to the L S of E if I'd had to pay £3000 a year for the privilege. On the basis that I (like a few others here) don't want to be a banker so I won't be able to pay it off until I'm an incontinent old bid that smells of my own wee. Come, come aboard the love chain!

At last we're thinking of maybe possibly perchance giving the Elgin Marbles back, if only to increase our chances in our bid for the next Olympics. I really don't know what all the fuss is about, we've ruined, oh,

I mean 'cleaned' them anyway! Go on....give em back. I think we should rename the British Museum 'the home of things we've pillaged from other countries!' You've had your turn Tony and it's nice to share...



The Elgin Marbles

I've got a sneaking suspicion I'll have pissed off a few of you this week. Sorry about that. If you want to contact me...look for the signs... they're everywhere.....just don't say 'birdseed' 3 times....if you thought beetlejuice was ugly!!!! Have a splendid week!

Much Love Bird x x x

The Beaver Comment and Analysis

Editorial Comment

The Coming Market

The story of the Students featured in our front page article is both one of wrong doing on the part of the School and a sign of things to come in Universities throughout the UK.

The students, who were led to believe they would be attending a flagship course of the LSE Economics Department, whereby they would be at the very heart of the world class economic analysis this institution is famous for, have been rightly disappointed by the realities of their course. They did not come with over-inflated expectations; they were paying for the privilege. The total cost of the tuition of an MSc in Global Market Economics is slightly less than £30,000 for the two year programme. These students were buying a product, and paying a very high price for it, and it is not unreasonable for them to expect that they receive a standard treatment that respects the considerable financial commitment they are making.

This newspaper has continually stood against the insipid creep of the market into higher education. An education system in which money is the determining factor in the make up of programmes, and student decisions on whether to study them is both unfair to the many disadvantaged is destructive in terms of the change in ethos it brings to institutions like the LSE. The example of the GME students is a perfect one, because their programme was a product that had been constructed by the School as a revenue gathering exercise. The students would be charged extra for two reasons. Firstly because they were being taught economics from a level which required no previous specialisation, but also

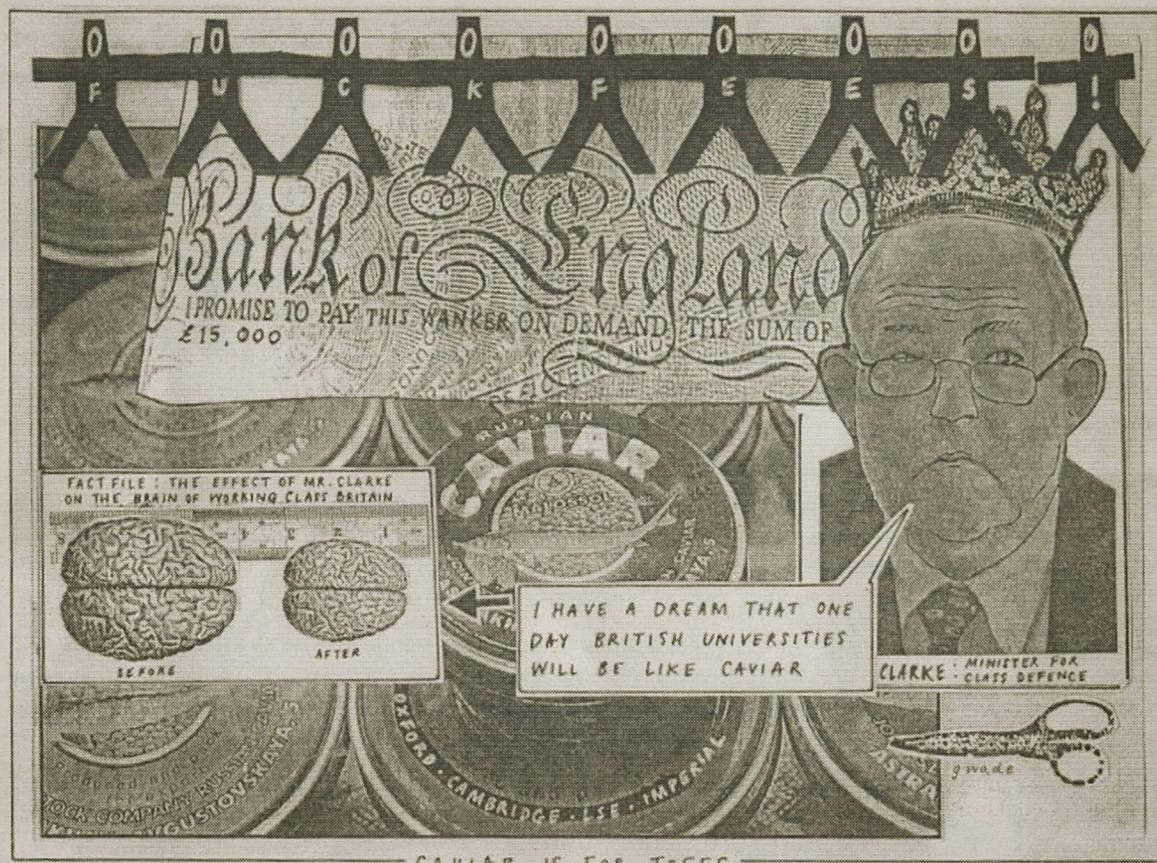
because the course is a two year programme, the main 'value added' component of the degree programme was the seminar with global business leaders, and the supposedly close connections the programme had with the Centre for Economic Performance. It should have been of little surprise to either the Economics Department, or the School, that these students reacted with dismay when the programme ended up failing to meet their expectations. However these two bodies have reacted in a way that would be typical of a University administration that was providing a public service, but not responding to a market. If we are going to change our university funding system, so that we all become consumers and chose our degrees because of their potential economic benefit, as opposed to their intellectual merit, then we have to expect that we will become different types of students. The LSE should recognise that when it is providing Masters courses like this, with such high tuition fees, it is essentially providing a product rather than an academic experience, and the delivery and administration of the degree needs to reflect this.

These students should be refunded their £2,000, and the School should apologise for treating them in such a maverick and inhospitable way. The case is relatively simple. Although the School will no doubt argue that it is raising fees for the MSc in Economics to the same level as those for GME, hence removing the discrepancy, these students have landed on the cusp and have been sold something that differs from what they thought they were paying for.

Respect, not Racism

This week The Beaver is running a great deal of reportage and comment on the French government's proposals to ban conspicuous religious symbols in schools. This is a debate that should be approached with caution. The left in this university has a habit of taking the moral high ground and denouncing proposals it deems as unprogressive with offensive labels they do not deserve. Chirac's proposals may be misguided, they may hurt more than they heal, but they are not racist, nor do they pertain to the phenomenon of Islamophobia that seems to have become a clarion call of progressive types. They are part of a genuine attempt by

the French government to reinforce a principle that is very important to the French education system, and state structure as a whole, that of secularity. It is a principle that a majority of Islamic country like Turkey, for example, holds to be important to the country and state. There may be those who find it contravenes their freedom to wear what they wish and to practice their religion, and they may be right, but they should refrain from denouncing these proposals for what they are not because that undermines their argument, and leads to a degeneration of sensible debate.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The Union General Meeting recently voted to send the LSE SU banner - and the Union's support - on a march outside the French embassy. This, in and of itself, is not a bad thing. What drew my ire, however, were the contents of the leaflets handed out on Houghton Street publicizing the protest: "Secularism - the separation of religion from political life - is the cause of wars, intolerance." Incredulously, they further tell us that "the world today faces the challenge of secularism - Muslims in Europe need to be at the forefront of confronting it." I don't know what they mean by "confronting it", but recent history suggests that it won't be pretty, or non-violent.

Take a deep breath everyone. Secularism didn't crash into the Twin Towers, nor does it repress millions of women and homosexuals in the Arab world, nor does it chop off the limbs of its citizens, nor does it glorify death by suicide. Islamic fundamentalism, the Arab regimes that fund it, and the

Arab street that sustains it, is the true cause of wars and intolerance. I'm a Muslim and I've come to realize that it's not the secular Western world that has it wrong; it's the backward Arab one. Why is this point so objectionable, and difficult to agree with? Or, as Islamic scholar Bernard Lewis put it: What went wrong?

Always,
Alykhan Velshi.

Dear Editor,

I would like to complain (bitterly and with groin-grabbingly violent frustration) about your last issue. This is, as I'm sure you're aware, a very common occurrence. I could not believe my eyes when having read with gusto your report on 'Not So Red' Ken re-joining Labour, my enjoyment was harrowingly curtailed by a big black advert for the SU Shop, the place people buy LSE shirts from if they can't get into the AU. That you could do this at all offends me to the very depths of my unequivocally perfect soul, but

that you could not even be bothered to issue an apology forthwith, and e-mail it to the global e-mail list borders on the criminal. I work my fingers to the bone reading your irrelevant rag of a paper, and put up with a lot of the blatantly rubbish and wrong opinions you all possess, and to be treated with such disdain makes me want to kick in your office door and steal all your equipment, write you detailed word documents about just how rubbish you really are, and then (depending on legal advice) sue your indescribably illiterate editors for every single last penny of their student loans. How dare you undermine the effort I put into reading The Beaver by producing such a shoddy cobbled-together effort of a paper? My apoplexy notwithstanding, I think the sports pages are great,

Yours in ire

Ema Nymton

Are you aghast or amused by anything you see in
The Beaver or on campus?
Write to the editor at:
thebeaver@lse.ac.uk

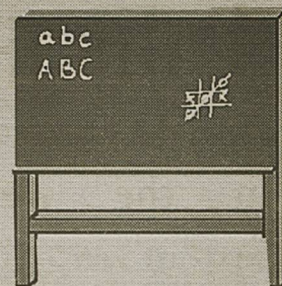
There will be a collective meeting on Monday 26th in the
Societies Room (C023) to elect a new blink Editor.
6pm
All interested candidates should email the Editor at
m.d.power@lse.ac.uk

blink

Features and Politics

French Furore

Both sides of the secularisation debate
pages 10 and 11



Edited by Ben Chapman (b.chapman@lse.ac.uk)

The Inbox Threatens

OneEyeOpen

We choose to go to the moon and do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

It's not easy to win presidential elections in the United States. It's very hard.

Particularly when things aren't going your way. George Bush knows what that's like: while US soldiers continue to die in Iraq and weapons of mass destruction continue to elude him, he'll be on the lookout for whatever can help secure him the second term that escaped his father.

Perhaps that's why last week he reinvigorated America's fascination with space, by announcing that the US will be investing an extra \$1 billion in its space agency, NASA, with the aim of putting human beings back on the moon by 2020. The long-term goal is to use Earth's low-gravity natural satellite as a launch-pad for manned missions to Mars.

Now I'm a bit of a romantic when it comes to manned space flight. I wasn't taken in by Bush's rather obvious election-year attempts to whip up some extra support through an abundantly populist policy. Yet my fetish for all things space would probably mean that if I were an American voter, I'd go for it.

I'd go to the moon myself given half the chance. Stuff reading and writing all my life: I want to bounce around and play football in 16% gravity.

So chances are, the move to boldly reach out to voters like none have ventured before, will probably work. It may at least deflect attention back to the White House temporarily, removing the spotlight from the Democratic race just starting to hot up.

The problem with Bush's new master plan for space exploration is two-fold. First, many have pointed to the cost of the plan, referring to the current US budget deficit. We shouldn't worry about that: it's an election year, so big expensive ideas should coincide nicely with guarantees of big expensive tax cuts.

The second is a more technical concern. Here is George Bush pledging to send astronauts to the moon, to Mars, and beyond, and yet we're still struggling manfully to get an unmanned probe to land on the surface of the Red Planet and work. Britain's brave little effort to explore the surface of Mars ended in disaster when Beagle 2 failed to respond on landing.

Images of sabotage by little green men spring to mind. I put my imagination back in its box and assume simply that batteries weren't included.

It seems incredible that we can't get something which cost £35 million to work today, when we could fly men to the moon thirty years ago and get them back safely with a computer boasting less memory than a Nokia 3310.

Perhaps we need real vision: one that is not grounded in electioneering. The quotation at the start of this article is from John F Kennedy, who followed through with his pledge. I wonder what will become of Bush's latest big idea.

'We choose to go to the moon and make these promises not because they are hard but because they are easy.'

To infinity and beyond.

Ever returned from your holidays to a blistering array of adverts for products you never knew you needed?

You're not the only one.

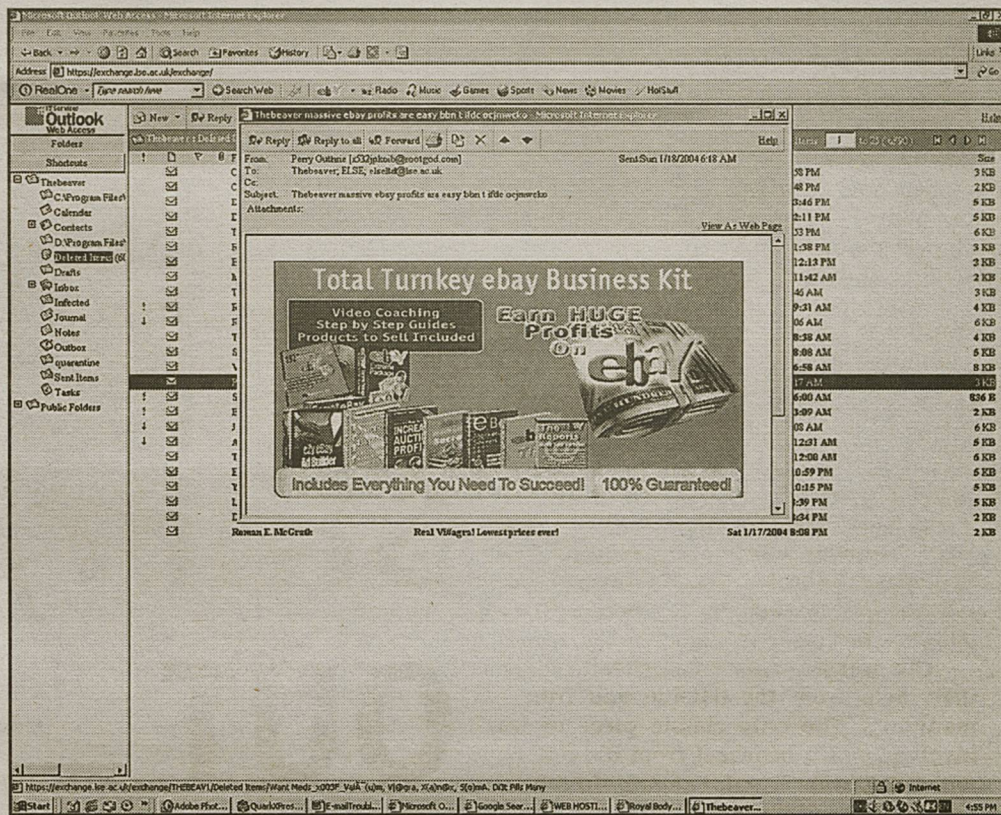
Daniel Freedman

Hundreds of e-mails to sort through is the punishment for taking a holiday. Paradoxically, the longer the holiday, the fuller the inbox, the greater the need for another escape.

A well-written article or a friend's travel exploits always produce a welcoming smile. Replying, however, doesn't necessarily invoke the same enthusiasm. By the eighth e-mail of listing sights seen, weather experienced, and jokes made (which by the eighth time aren't so funny), the merits of cutting and pasting from the previous e-mail are appreciated. Justifying to myself that my friends will just be happy to hear from me, and none are boring enough to actually compare e-mails.

Forwarded e-mails that I receive provoke mixed reactions. A scowl when from people who clearly have no appreciation of my opinions and send me an update from an anti-war group--trying to convince me the capture of Saddam was bad--or from an animal rights group, listing the amount of tuna a person is killing with each sandwich bite. I cheer myself by reasoning the e-mails are a good sign--by e-mailing me it shows how desperate they have become. Others--such as the speech of a lesbian Muslim feminist from Canada who quotes the Koran in support of Israel, or news from Cuba that someone doctored a picture in the official newspaper making Castro look like Hitler--are always welcome.

Unwanted e-mails first started harassing my inbox six years ago. Together with the usual bout of spam--ranging from messages from lovely lindaandfriends, to a promised date with Nicole Kidman--I received e-mails from Bill Gates and CEOs of companies such as GAP, Nike and Nokia. E-mails from such luminaries of the capitalist world might normally be welcomed, but not in the form of a "forward" from a friend, forwarded from their friend. An e-mail from "your friend, Bill Gates" told me as part of an effort to boost brand recognition, I would receive money by simply forwarding the e-mail to at least five friends. Microsoft, or whichever company it was, would use a tracking system to see if I forwarded the e-mail. With a heavy heart I decided not to do my bit to help increase the size of the Gates Foundation. Aside from the fact that no such tracking system exists, simple mathematics showed



"I received e-mails from Bill Gates and CEOs of companies such as GAP, Nike and Nokia. E-mails from such luminaries of the capitalist world might normally be welcomed."

that if Mr. Gates gave \$1,000 out as promised, he would not be able to afford a foundation for much longer.

Normally rational people are persuaded to forward these e-mails by the convincing blurb at the start of the message. Reading along the lines of "I'm not sure if this works, but I don't lose anything by trying," or "My friend Karen tried this and the five days later she received the money," encourages people to reason: nothing lost by trying. Not true, it wastes time, and after five of the same forwarded e-mails it results in an angry Daniel. After one day of 40 unwanted messages, I realised it was time to leave hotmail and limit the people who knew my address.

Con-artists appeal to a person's desire to make a quick buck. And the more sophisticated type have been hounding my inbox recently. Either that, or I've suddenly become one of the most trusted men on the planet, or in Africa at least. No less than once a week e-mails arrive from someone whose title suggests they rank among the who's-who of the African sub-continent. Princes, prime ministers, business leaders, rogue civil servants, all offer me a share of their millions if I supply them with my bank details to help them transfer their fortune out of Africa. Naturally I would have to give them a few thousand dollars first as their money is tied up, but it's a minor sacrifice for the

millions it will bring me.

It's always entertaining to read how they "discovered" me. "Praying," "instinct" and "dreams," are often used to decide on my suitability. Others speculating that I may not believe in the supernatural try appealing to my ego. One prince told me I am well known as "a person of transparency, honesty and high caliber," and then proceeded to address me as "Sir/Madam." Aside from the misspelling of at least every ninth word, and the naming of banks and institutions that have never existed, it was the mathematics that really put me off. Entering into a million dollar business deal with someone who thinks 18% and 85% equals 100% doesn't look promising. They all asked for complete confidentiality--which I've just been violated. Oh well, no more trusting e-mails then. Unless of course they become very inventive and start preaching the power of repentance, and then ask if I'm ready for a second chance. Now that would bring a smile.

Perhaps I'm not the only person who has received such e-mails, and if you have any great examples, good for you, have a chuckle, but please don't forward it to me. I still have a lot of e-mails to sort through before I take my next holiday.

Daniel Freedman is a 2nd year Government and History student.

If you're interested in writing for blink or have an article that you would like to get published, simply email b.chapman@lse.ac.uk

All opinions expressed in blink, including those of its editor, are the writers' own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beaver or LSESU

blink Features

In the week when Britain's worst ever serial killer hanged himself in his cell, supporters of the death penalty found their arguments seriously undermined.

Ben Chapman
blink Editor

Dr Harold Shipman, the worst serial killer the UK has ever witnessed, went free from Wakefield Prison last Tuesday. Sentenced to life imprisonment in January 2000 for the murder of 15 patients in his care, Shipman left jail after serving just 4 years of his sentence, and this after the Home Secretary had told him that he would serve the rest of his natural life behind bars.

In this, at least, David Blunkett was right. Shipman left jail in the quietest of fashions - in the same silent, discreet, calculated way in which he did away with his helpless victims.

This was a prison break bereft of ladders, help from the outside and frantic manhunts. The only classic piece of kit involved was a bedsheet from his cell, by which he was found hanging from the window bars of his cell.

Despite Blunkett's widely-criticised initial reaction of wanting to "open a bottle" when he heard of Shipman's death, victims' families have, by and large, reacted with anger and disappointment to the news of the death of the killer GP. This was a man who for twenty years had played upon the helplessness of his patients, and abused his position of trust to dole out lethal doses of morphine, before systematically covering his tracks by manipulating health procedures.

Those closest to the patients Shipman killed, who aged between 41 and 93 and lived mostly in Hyde, Greater Manchester, had hoped that his lengthy jail term would induce him to explain the reasons why he chose to kill those in his care. From his conviction right up until his death, Shipman continuously denied all of the murders. Those denials is now all the families will ever get.

"This seems like an easy way out for him. He never showed any remorse or any guilt and that door is now closed to us."

"There are more questions raised than answers."

"Many families of Harold Shipman's victims were devastated to learn of his suicide - now they will never know why he killed their mum or granny or brother or sister."

These were just some of the reactions to news of Shipman's death last week.

An ongoing independent inquiry conducted by Dame Janet Smith, which continues despite Shipman's death, has already suggested that the doctor may have killed upwards of 200 people in his time as a doctor. Convicted of fifteen, Shipman remains the most prolific serial killer in British history. He was sentenced to life imprisonment as the mandatory punishment for murder.

There were some who welcomed the doctor's death last week, proclaiming it to be a blessing for the British taxpayer, who no longer has to pay to keep him in prison, and generally regarding it as about as



SHIPPING OUT

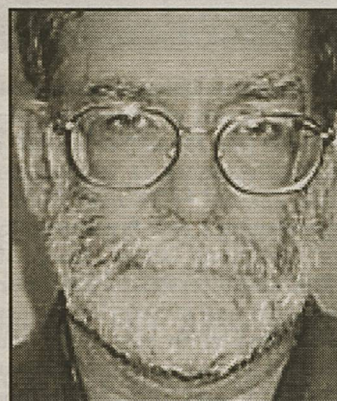
good as Shipman deserved. The Sun was one such body of opinion which made its feelings clear with the Wednesday morning headline, "Ship ship hooray".

There will no doubt also be those who will regard Shipman's death as justice done - those who would like to see capital punishment reintroduced in this country for convicted murderers, and would thus put to death many other killers currently occupying Britain's jails. To them, Shipman has simply saved the state the bother of ending his existence - punishment worthy of the crime committed: the old 'eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth'.

Yet in many ways, Shipman's death last week has done more harm to the cause of proponents of the re-introduction of the death penalty in this country than any other event since hanging was abolished in 1969. More than any number of proven miscarriages of justice, more than any argument based on cruelty and inhumanity, more than any claim that the death penalty would be feared by potential criminals to a greater degree than imprisonment, Shipman's hanging himself shows clearly why, even to those who believe that we should punish criminals ahead of rehabilitating them, the death penalty simply does not work.

By characterising Shipman's death as an escape from prison, we can begin to understand that to many criminals serving life terms in Britain's jails, death itself is desired, not feared. As many of Shipman's victims' families have pointed out this week, while their grief continues, and will do so for the rest of their lives, the man who killed their loved ones no longer has to face the reality of his actions.

He will never have to confront the consequences of his crimes and there is no chance that in ten or fifteen years time he will come to regret what he did after a long time inside having nothing else to think about. Death, for Harold Shipman, was the easy way out.



The same is equally true of a growing number of Britain's prison inmates. A total of 94 prisoners killed themselves in prison over the course of last year, a quarter of which was represented by those serving life sentences.

There are of course other high-profile examples of killers taking their own lives in prison - Fred West hanged himself during his trial in 1995, while Moors murderer Ian Brady remains determined to starve himself to death whilst continuing his life sentence.

What is obvious about all these cases is that these prisoners want to die. They do not want to see out their days in captivity. Their punishment in spending the rest of their lives behind bars is far more severe than capital punishment would be, hence the desire to commit suicide.

Most of those in favour of capital punishment cite its unrivalled harshness as one of the principal reasons behind their support for it. But though the punishment should fit the crime, murderers should pay for their victims with their lives, not their deaths.

Ben Chapman is a 2nd year Government and History student... occasionally he studies.

Musings

Lesser Parties

Matthew Sinclair
blink Columnist

Max Clifford, publicist for OJ Simpson and the man who put Martin Bashir in touch with the killers of Stephen Lawrence, has started work for the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), the country's fourth largest, announcing "complete agreement that the British people should be the masters of their own destiny through our parliament at Westminster".

By comparison Michael Howard has demonstrated that for all their recent troubles the Conservatives are still a major movement; Maurice Saatchi is to Max Clifford what Warren Buffett is to Del Trotter. Finally the Independence Party have realized that they are just about as important as Christine Hamilton.

Tony Martin's speech to the UKIP was a thing of wonder. After receiving applause, shooting dead teenagers apparently a cause for UKIP celebration, the farmer described how he would quite like to stop politicians "arguing with each other all the time" and restore "decency" which he thought "more important than democracy".

Martin later admitted to not knowing UKIP's policies and that he would only vote for a "true leader". If the UKIP are already relying on speakers with no attachment to their cause, or democracy, and little other value beyond sordid celebrity, Mr. Clifford may find that his work is done.

My own particular experience of the Independence Party's special brand of lunacy came while participating in one of London's older free speech societies. Having announced myself as a Tory I was informed that as a supporter of a party that had behaved treasonably the law clearly compelled that I be executed. The UKIP member speaking let me know, however, that, as a moderate he would be more forgiving, exile was enough.

In America right-wingers who aren't quite able to subsume their more extremist instincts to become electable either join one of the many nutty Christian groups or find their way to the Libertarians and gradually turn blue (try a web search for "blue Libertarian"). The left wing in America is generally far less vociferous than in Europe but its extremes can abdicate to the Green Party if they can't stomach compromising with the Democrats. In the United Kingdom the left have a huge wealth of extremist groups from the "don't let the trains run too fast", Greens to the mass of capitalized socialists.



Welcome to hell...

The Conservative party will always revert to a search for power and let down any who want to make it a refuge for those overly worried by threats to national security or government foot and mouth "cover-ups".

UKIP... care in the community.

blink

The Secularisation Debate

Two blink authors examine Jacques Chirac's proposed ban

Secularised Oppression?

The hijab is not a symbol of oppression; any attempt to remove it, and other religious icons, from French schools would be a grave insult to those who do not choose the secular world-view.



Fatemah Alkatib

An apparently very concerned stranger approached me once and very fervently told me that I should not let my father oppress me. As I stared at his outstretched hand, I could see that the poor thing thought he was saving me. However, that the hijab, or veil, 'symbolises oppressed womanhood', was not something I was totally oblivious to...since apparently Islam had succeeded in transforming the Muslim woman into a submissive and marginal creature who buries herself at home and only goes out into the world timidly, enveloped in masses of black...Islam does this because the Muslim man is insecure and needs such a "mutilated companion"...thus veiling is a sign of masculine domination and religious tyranny and it terrorizes women into submission.

These sentiments and beliefs are not always expressed in words or gestures of stomach-churning pity. More often than not they translate themselves into acts of hostile resentment and intolerance, as experienced by the many women who have had their hijabs viciously pulled off on the streets; and this not only by your average thug, but by an increasing number of European governments as well.

In Germany, on the 9th December 2003, the government of Bavaria unveiled a draft law banning the hijab in state schools, since, according to the Bavarian Minister for Education Monika Hohlmeier, the government is seeking to "defend[...] pupils against a potential fundamentalist influence". Baden Württemberg was the first state in Germany to draft such a bill, and according to its regional Culture Minister Annette Schavan, the Hijab is "seen as a symbol of cultural division and part of a history of oppression of women."

In France, on December 6 2003, French

president Jacques Chirac declared that the hijab was "a sort of aggression that is difficult for us [the French] to accept" and on Thursday December 11, a government commission chaired by Bernard Stasi recommended issuing a new law to ban "conspicuous" religious signs from state schools. Chirac addressed the nation on 17 December 2003 and stated that "conspicuous signs, that is to say those which, when they are worn, lead to people immediately noticing and recognizing somebody's religious affiliation, would not be allowed. These - the Islamic headscarf, whatever name it may be given, the skullcap or a cross of manifestly excessive dimensions - are out of place in state schools. State schools will remain secular."

Secularism, however, is one world-view among many, and by preventing people from expressing their religion freely, secular extremists are imposing their own world-view on others. For me, the hijab is about far more than a piece of cloth on a person's head. It is a core manifestation of belief. It is everything to do with my concept of the truth, and my understanding and interpretation of the world and of reality.

I witness that there is no God but Allah, and that Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is His messenger. I believe that Allah is the Almighty Creator and Sustainer of the universe, Who is similar to nothing, and nothing is comparable to Him. I know He exists as a result of seeing His signs and evidences, His creation and His influence in my day-to-day life. Thus I wear the hijab not because my father or any other man tells me to, but because Allah has commanded it, and I have willingly accepted.

I strive to worship and obey Him not because this is of any use to Him, but because I know that this is good for no

one else but me. Thus contrary to popular belief, I find the hijab nothing but completely liberating. Because I seek to please Allah and no other being, when I go outside I dress as He has commanded and not as the fashion industry propagates. This has freed me completely from other people's judgments and opinions about what I should wear and how I should look, and so I can put my mind on what I believe are more important issues. In today's society members of my sex are constantly degraded and dishonoured by having their bodies, their bodies, so horribly exploited and used to sell every product imaginable. They are constantly told that if they want to be accepted in society, they should look a certain way and be a certain size. Wearing the hijab is thus my outright assertion that judgement of the way I look will not play any role whatsoever in social interaction. With it, I make the statement that my worth is not proportional to my attractiveness or physical appearance since I will not use these to get recognition or acceptance in society.

Wearing the hijab does not in any way prevent me from playing any role I choose to play in society. It does not make me invisible. I still can, and do, take an active role in society, but with the aid of my protective shield. Thus it does not make me feel inferior, and far from humiliating me, it actually grants me an aura of respect and fills me with dignity and self-esteem, so that when I leave the house I am not degraded and demeaned by ugly stares and uglier remarks.

By being covered I am no longer vulnerable to those who cannot control their tongue, gaze or desires. I become invisible to them and this pleases me fine, since I am no longer subjected to any of that atrocious harassment which I see other women being subjected to.

Under Islam I enjoy equal rights with men (and I am not saying this simply to

make my self feel better). According to the Quran, both men and women share mutual rights and obligations in all aspects of life, and the same high standards of moral conduct apply to both. Modesty, chastity, and piety are demanded from both, be it in actions, morals or speech. The basic requirements of the Muslim woman's dress apply to the Muslim man, with the main difference being in degree, in similar proportion to the way in which in today's society one sex is more exposed and sexually exploited than the other.

You may or may not agree with me but this is my world-view and I have a right to it as much as Jacques Chirac has a right to his. By insisting that there is no place for the hijab in state schools, which must remain secular, the French government is forcibly imposing its secular beliefs on others. Furthermore, students are being asked to choose between their faith and their education and a person's right to practice their faith and their right to education cannot be set against each other.

These are blatant violations of internationally recognized human rights and to ban people from acting upon the teachings of their religion is as repulsive as to enforce upon them a certain dress or a particular act and both deeds are denounced and rejected in Islam. Please, therefore, support the LSE Islamic Society Hijab Campaign, by signing our petition. This is not about whether or not you agree with my worldview - but about the respect that we all must show each other regarding our views about life and society.

Fatemah Alkatib is a 3rd year Sociology student and a LSESU Islamic Society member.

blink The Secularisation Debate

on 'obvious' religious symbols within French state schools...

Bare-faced Discrimination?

Secularism is an attempt by the French state to create a level playing field and break down barriers between groups. It should be applauded.



Olivia Mantle

In 1937 the headmaster of a French State school became the first to ban the wearing of ostentatious religious signs in his establishment, by sending home two Muslim girls who were totally veiled, apart from their eyes. This spawned a nation-wide trend to enforce the secular beliefs of the French State.

For over three generations, all French State schools have been secular and require their students to observe the secular traditions. This norm has been backed up by legislation at times, most importantly since 1994 when ministers ruled that banning religious signs was not illegal and suggested that the decision on how to enforce the rule was left to the individual teachers and headteachers.

This recommendation led to immense pressure being placed on each individual teacher to set a standard, and also gave parents the option to send their children to a different school if the rules at the closest school to them were too strict for their liking. Headmasters in particular were facing criticism and abuse from parents who could not comprehend why their children were being prevented from wearing a headscarf or skullcap to school.

The legislation that Chirac is proposing is therefore necessary to enforce the standard which has been set previously, and to ensure that the norm is the same across the country. The project is to have a formalized code of conduct for all State schools by the beginning of the 2004 school year, in a bid to prevent any more differences in interpretation of the tradition.

The law that is being proposed, and will be debated in the French Parliament this Spring, would outlaw the wearing of any ostentatious religious symbols in all State schools. The law would apply to all religions, and would ban clothes as well as

items of jewelry such as a Star of David or a crucifix.

The law is being seen by many immigrant communities in France as persecution and discrimination. The Muslim community in particular has protested that the law applies in practice only to its religion, even if this is not the case in theory. The wearing, or prevention of wearing, the Muslim headscarf, is certainly the most obvious manifestation of religion that schools seek to avoid.

Many of the Muslim immigrants whose children are now in school were often themselves in secular French schools, the generations of immigrants being firmly established in France for forty or so years now. In many cases, the children's first language is French, they have French nationality, and plan to remain in France.

The observation has been that many children continue wearing the headscarves or skullcaps as a sign of adherence to a certain group, in this case the group of second- or third- generation immigrants.

Indeed, in a few cases, girls of fourteen in Lille in North East France were refused admittance to school because they refused to remove their headscarves. When questioned, it became apparent they wore it as a cultural identity rather than for strict religious beliefs or values. They were not aware of what the Ramadan entailed or when it was.

The argument made deploring the French government's stance whilst arguing religious intolerance does not stand in cases such as this: the headscarf here is no more religious than a shaved head and tattoos are for punks, who themselves would be hard-pressed to find an establishment that accepted their physical appearance without criticism.

The objective in mind for the French government is to place all its students on a level platform, and to lessen the differ-

'The objective in mind for the French government is to place all its students on a level platform, and to lessen the differences in culture and religion that may exist.'

ences in culture and religion that may exist. Far from ignoring or discriminating against certain categories of the population, the move seeks to include all sections in the same education, regardless of the teaching they receive in their home lives. Much like UK schools encourage or demand a uniform to lessen the differences between its students, French schools seek to show that religion is not part of the academic teaching they offer, and has no place within its establishments. French schools do not have uniforms at all, and so leave the pupils (and their parents) with a lot of scope as to how to dress.

The law is very specific in ensuring that pupils are not penalised for missing classes due to religious holidays, and the French government has assured all students that exams or important ceremonies will avoid all religious holidays. Far from oppressing those who choose to follow a religion, whatever it may be, the law would ensure that all are free and able to

practice their faith in peace and with the understanding and support of their schools and peers.

The law would be backed up by placing a greater emphasis on diversity when teaching religion in schools. As it is, the student learns about the three major religions and maybe others, but this depends on the choice of the teacher. From September 2004, there would be an obligation to explore as many faiths as possible, and encourage understanding of the other types of culture that are associated with the religion. The plan is to invite the members of the class to participate and share their own experiences with the rest of the class.

The French tradition of secularisation is apparent in its policies with regards immigrants, as many of the Muslim community in France would testify. Those who now have French citizenship and nationality would have had to prove their competence in the language and also demonstrate a certain knowledge of French culture. In many cases, this would not be possible without attending a French school where there existed a certain norm of teaching and expectations of the behaviour of the students.

The restriction on religious manifestations is designed to break down the barriers between the groups that exist in the community at large, and provide a location where all are seemingly equal, regardless of their faith. It is hoped that this measure will lead to a better understanding of others' cultures and prevent the stark groupings and separations that are apparent in schools today all over France.

Olivia Mantle is a 2nd year International Relations student.

Why International Students Should Care About Top-Up Fees



Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

I am an international student and have heard from many of my fellow international students the usual complaint: why should we care about variable top-up fees? Are they not just for home students? Without mincing my words, the answer to these questions boils down to a simple fact. Top-up fees and modernisation (read: privatisation and the introduction of the market into education) should concern international students because top-up fees are an international phenomenon that will impact on us here and elsewhere for generations. Stopping their implementation is a task uniquely presented to our generation. If we do not do it, future generations will be faced with a struggle not just against their unelected directors, their governments and the world market – they will have to battle their own ignorance.

Firstly, although top-up fees are being presented as the solution to all the problems of funding tertiary education, even university heads argue that they are not enough. In fact, according to a December report by the reputable Institute of Fiscal Studies, most of the projected amount raised from top-up fees will be lost on bursaries and subsidies, reducing the net revenue to something like £500 million per year. I will put this in context later. Suffice it to say that the potential gains for universities (which spend around £9 billion per year) cannot be proportional to the extent to which they will put poorer students off studying: if debts now are £15,000 on average, according to Secretary for Education Charles Clarke, they will now be £21,000.

All the same, why does that concern international students, you may ask? Well, if top-up fees for home students are not

enough, universities may feel obliged (and perhaps encouraged?) to raise fees for international students. If you think that is unlikely, I must remind you that Tony Giddens, LSE Director until stepping down last year, expressly admitted to the Union General Meeting last year that the only way LSE keeps afloat is through charging £10,000 pounds for international students. Current Director, Sir Howard Davies (who spoke out in favour of top-up fees in his capacity as LSE Director despite promises to the Students' Union he would not), a more business-oriented director, will certainly not balk at increasing fees for international students to fill the gap in university funding. Given that some post-grad fees are set to increase by 30% over the next few years, both those starting out, and those finishing and contemplating a masters' degree should take note!

There is a clear implication that education is an industry competing on the world market. To quote Viviane Reding, Member of the European Commission, responsible for Education and Culture, in her speech entitled Making the EU a prominent figure in the World Education Market, argues that, to make European universities 'globally competitive', closer links must be forged between the private sector and the public sector: this is code for the introduction of the market and privatisation into university education. Privatisation means cutting costs, laying off staff, and gearing courses towards the interests of big business. Exeunt social anthropology, classical languages and feudal history. Enter business, business, business.

Variable top-up fees will impact on EU students, too, whether studying here or in the EU. In other words, education will once again be at the service of big

'To slash the military budget alone could raise enough money. Moreover, merely reversing Blair's tax breaks for the rich and returning to the rates of income tax for the rich under Thatcher's government would raise £22 billion.'

business, everywhere, because the processes dictating it are those of the world market, or, to put the right label to it, globalising capitalism. Regardless of whether 'social-democratic' or neo-liberal parties are in power.

If top-up fees are going to both impact on us as international students and are driven by international problems, resistance must surely take on international and internationalist proportions? In fact, it already has. Forty thousand students marched against the introduction of top-up fees and against the closure of faculties in Berlin in late November 2003. Twenty-nine of the eighty universities in metropolitan France went on strike in December 2003. At Rennes II university, after five weeks of being on strike, 5000 students and staff voted at a mass meeting to continue strike action. International students in the UK are a minority, but are as much a target of top-up fees and privatisation as are the home students in the UK, France, Germany...if international students move only when we are directly affected, we will fail. Only by standing in solidarity with UK students and staff will we be acting in the only way possible to smash top-up fees: with the majority. International students must take a stand because of the nature of the issue.

Since it is easy to criticise, and more

International students pay ten thousand pounds a year for their education. Why should they care if home students have their fees raised to a meagre three?

difficult to propose alternatives, alternatives must be laid out and the £500 million top-up fees will reap be put into context.

My first obvious comment must be that Labour and most parties across the EU have got their priorities wrong. Blair is only too happy to remind all opposition in the UK that the UK economy has grown this year, unlike most other major economies in the world. Yet, miraculously, we also keep being reminded that there is simply not enough money to go into public services. Students themselves will have to contribute, effectively, some £500 million. Why, though, can £5.5 billion be set aside for the occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq over just three years? Some parliamentarians say these costs will double by 2006. Funding criminal wars every other year should not deprive working-class students of their education.

What are the implications for democracy, furthermore, if Labour promise in their election manifesto that they will not bring in variable top-up fees during the life of this parliament, and then duly do so, with the excuse they will only become effective next year? If you are a person who does care about democracy, this is an issue, an overtly political issue, for you.

Government tries to justify top-up fees with the old argument that those who do not benefit from university education should not subsidise those who do benefit and should pay. This certainly appeals to people's sentiments that the education system is already elitist and unfair. As shown, top-up fees will merely exacerbate unfairness. The answer is not to restrict university access to only those who can pay, under the guise of rescuing those who cannot, but to make university education a priority for all. Is this utopia? I should think not. To slash the military budget alone could raise enough money. Moreover, merely reversing Blair's tax breaks for the rich and returning to the rates of income tax for the rich under Thatcher's government would raise £22 billion, more than tripling university income. This would be just the start, and not in the direction of Margaret Thatcher. Think, further, of the possibilities if universities came to be more democratically managed: we would not need ex-businessmen to lead them, but could cut their huge salaries to improve salaries for our staff and lecturers, and improve campus.

Our main demands, then, can and must run counter to the logic of top-up fees and privatisation. These are the democratisation of campus, demonstrations and strikes, a consistent internationalist anti-fees, anti-war and anti-big-business policy. If Viviane Reding can call for 'education for all', why shouldn't we?

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica is a 2nd year Law student.

Would Pareto Smoke?

A ban on smoking in public places would cut deaths from second-hand smoke and be a solution that welfare economics would find superior to the current system.

Dean Frankle

If asked about the role of the state, as a conservative, I would always argue strongly that the functions of government should be kept to a minimum. In public economics one learns about the justification for governmental intervention on the grounds of equity and efficiency whilst also adhering to the political constraints involved, notably the protection of key political concepts such as liberty, freedom and individual choice.

In examining the issue of "smoking in public places", however, I feel that the government could and should do more than the present status quo. Whilst I do not propose the banning of smoking in total, I do believe that individuals, whilst in public residences should be prohibited from smoking.

We all know the feeling. You come back from a very enjoyable night out, to a club, bar, restaurant and as you enter your dwellings the smell begins to hit you. You haven't been smoking but all parts of your attire, from your hair to your clothes, smell of cigarette smoke. I am not a scientist (well maybe a social scientist!) but

'Second-hand smoke is responsible for approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths each year.'

the continual exposure to passive tobacco smoke can hardly benefit an individual.

In fact research by The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concludes that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) -- commonly known as second-hand smoke -- is responsible for approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths each year in non-smoking adults and impairs the respiratory health of hundreds of thousands of children. The banning of smoking in public places is the only possible solution to solving this problem. An outright ban restricts an individual's liberty, yet a public-smoking ban, preserves this right, whilst also providing clear ancillary benefits.

Is the above solution Pareto efficient? Will it make one person better off without

making somebody else worse off? The issue is contentious, but banning the use of cigarettes in public places alone still grants the individual freedom to consume if he/she so chooses. Thus I would argue that such a proposal is economically efficient, especially if one discounts the utility functions of future generations.

But is this the end of the argument? Clearly one must equate the marginal social cost to the marginal social benefit, which shows that no pollution is inefficient, yet I believe that by failing to discount the effects on future generations the government is allowing for the over-consumption of such a product and, hence, is permitting an unnecessary inefficiency to exist. So long as information problems exist, there will always be efficiency arguments. It is the government's duty to act on such a measure.

So, what have I proposed? A policy which on the face of it could save thousands of innocent lives at a cost of partially restricting the rights of individuals to consume a product in a given area at a given time. I do not think that I am being dictatorial or totalitarian. If anything, my proposal is similar to the congestion charge that has the same effect but instead places a £5 cost on your consumption. I do not want a Nobel Prize for such a proposal (nor do I believe I will get one), but if I know that I helped save the lives of 3000 people each year I will sleep easier. Even if I do have a barrage of tobacco lobbyists outside my home.

Dean Frankle is a 3rd year Government and Economics student.



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edited by Jazmin Burgess and Neil Garrett

THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN

Having endured various line up changes, become legendary for their verging-on-obscene onstage antics and released an EP with the godlike Mike Patton on vocals, The Dillinger Escape Plan are one of the few who constantly bring something new to their sound and performance. What's more, they're one of the few hardcore bands who are badass enough to admit they love Justin Timberlake. And on top of all that their new album (released after a four year break) is set to hit the stores in March, and it'll probably make your ears bleed. You have been warned. **JAZMIN BURGESS** caught up with lead singer Greg Puciato to get the low-down on The 'Plan.

So, it's been over a year since you were last in the UK, what have the band been up to since then?

Well we've spent most of 2003 writing our new album, and then we did a few tours. So, we mostly spent last year holed up in a basement, writing songs (laughs) after we finish this tour we're going home to finish off the album and it should be out in March...

Cool! So, what's the new material like? Is it pretty much similar to that on 'Calculating Infinity' or has it taken a new route?

Um, well there's definitely stuff on there that if you're a fan of our old stuff you'll like it, because it's that kinda vein taken to a new level. But we also have so many new influences and we're all really creative people and it's been five years since our last record! And over those five years we've learned so much more so it's slightly different to that extent. We're one of those bands that only put out records every four years (laughs) so when we release one we make sure it's good and that we'll enjoy playing it. There's definitely stuff on their for everyone, but whether people like it or not it's their problem (laughs) we're all really happy with it!

So what's the plan for Dillinger in 2004?

Well we get back to the US and then for all of January through to March we're out touring with The Locust, which is pretty exciting cos they're such an awesome band! And then our record should be out in April and after that we're making our way back over here in May, and then it's the Warped Tour in the summer in the US. (laughing) It's going to be a busy year I think..

After you released the 'Irony Is A Dead Scene' EP with Mike Patton, did you find that you gained a new different fanbase at all?

Yeah, for sure. I mean we'd already aroused that fanbase's interest a little, because we toured with Mr Bungle in 1999 but definitely. I mean we knew that EP was going to be a big deal when it was released, but we had no idea that it was going to do what it did. We knew it was going to help us out a lot but it really brought a lot of new people to the band, and perhaps more importantly it showed people who were already into us, that they didn't really know what to expect from us that we couldn't be pegged down as another hardcore or metalcore or screamo band. (laughs) Not that I have anything against that scene, but it just proved that we're capable of so much more than we're always labeled with...

Well, that leads conveniently into my next question, you've been labeled everything from hardcore to leftfield to screamo, so is there any label that you're actually comfortable with?

hmm, not really! I think when you do that to yourself you limit yourself and your fanbase. Not that I have anything against bands like Converge or Slayer who kinda lead their own genres, but there are other bands who constantly change and adapt their sound such as Tool or Faith No More which have equal respect for, and to be honest, we'd rather be one of those bands. Just because it's nice not to do the same thing over and over again and creatively we like to mix things up all the time- I mean if we released a classical album or a hip hop album (laughs) we'd still call it Dillinger Escape Plan because we don't want to be limited by any genre boundaries or anything..

When I interviewed Cave In, Stephen Brodsky said that it's hard because they wanted to do something different with the last album, but in doing so, they felt really pressured by the scene..

Yeah! Exactly! It's really hard! I mean the funny thing is, is that the hardcore scene's meant to be really 'open minded' but at the same time it's really a clique. And kids don't want to lose you or share you with anyone else, which is sorta a silly attitude to have. I mean Cave In have produced two really good albums, but just because they've adapted their sound and taken a new route they've lost some of these 'scenesters' as fans. Which sucks, I mean I'm sure they're happy with it but it's stupid that people are so closed minded that they don't appreciate something different..

Do you think there's any one band that has specifically influenced you and that shows up in your music?

Um not really. I mean we listen to so much different stuff, and to be honest not that much heavy

stuff. I mean a lot of emo or hip hop or pop-(laughs) I mean I've probably listened to the Justin Timberlake album just as much as any other album. So, it's hard to tell where everything we produce comes from! (laughs) But I guess everything we listen to influences us somewhere. It's kinda cool that it comes out so naturally or unconsciously though..

So, cliched question time... what are your records of 2003?

oh, the new Outkast record, The Mars Volta. (laughs) I'm gonna miss something out I can see! I've been listening

to a lot of old stuff this year actually-like old Soundgarden. I mean the Outkast record totally blew me away. But there were loads of records that were released that also really disappointed me. (laughs) I'm gonna say Justin Timberlake, even though it was last year because it was still my record of the year! (laughing) I'm sorry! That was a crap answer! I suck!

What's the best thing you've learned from another band and who was it?

When you meet people, the ones who seem to be the happiest are the ones who are the happiest, and the ones who seem to be doing what they want to. So I guess that's a good lesson to learn- if you're passionate and do what you want to do then people pick up on that and appreciate you more for it

The hardcore scene's really exploded recently- have you found this a help or a hindrance?

Oh I mean I think it's been a help. And all those kids who were into Nu Metal are now into hardcore which is pretty cool. I'm not sure how I feel about MTV trying to exploit it, obviously MTV and record labels are trying to look for the next 'Nu Metal' and they seem to think that emo and hardcore is it so they're trying to make it really big and shoving hardcore down everyone's throats. But I guess it's all good because it increases awareness and I mean in an ideal world I'd like to get everyone to at least be able to hear us and then decide if they love or hate us, instead of never knowing it was there (laughs). And this generation got cheated- I got Slayer and Anthrax when I was growing up and this generation got Limp Bizkit and Papa Roach! (laughs) what's all that about?! So the fact that this signals more attention for real, good music is great, so in that way it is definitely a really positive thing..

What up and coming US bands would you recommend to a UK audience?

The Bronx and Everytime I Die. I mean the hardcore scene in the US is really exploding, so there's loads of really good bands out there...

Okay, and finally.. What's the most rock and roll thing that The Dillinger Escape plan have ever done?

(Laughs) We're boring really! I mean we don't really do loads of drink or drugs (laughs) There is a story with one of our roadies which is pretty gross (laughs).. ah man.. Don't believe everything you read about us! we're pretty boring really! (laughing) We just get other people to do crazy stuff instead and get it on film and laugh at it later..



JAZMIN BURGESS

Scout Niblett

Bonnie Johnson checks out one of the finest solo artists in the UK alternative scene at her recent headline gig at The Water Rats...



Nottingham native Scout Niblett played Water Rat's in King's Cross on December 4, shortly before winter break. Her opening acts were solo performer Vinny Miller and Swearing At Motorists, a spinoff from Ohio cult phenomenon Guided by Voices.

Miller played a solid guitar-and-voice set to start the gig. His

sound came off fine, but he was obviously out of his comfort zone and feeling quite shy. Swearing At Motorists' frontman was the perfect foil to that subdued behavior, joking and jumping and generally cheerleading throughout the band's set, backed by two sunglassed drummers named Don. By the time they hit their first chorus I had become completely stoked on them and simultaneously realized how sickly desperate I had been for a good fix of American rock 'n' roll.

Of course, Scout Niblett herself was the real jewel. Triumphant on both guitar and drums and absolutely charming in between, I think she stole the collective heart of the small audience; I know she stole mine. She played a lot of material from her stellar new LP, *I Am*, including highlights "Drummer Boy," "I'll Be a Prince (shhh)," "Your

Beat Kicks Back like Death," and "It's All for You" (speaking of cheerleading - "GIMME A 'T!"). She also revisited material from both of her previous releases, and finished her set with crowd favorite "Miss My Lion."

Intent and occasionally blissful, pieces of blonde wig hiding her face during the guitar parts, Niblett could imaginably have been playing in a room by herself as she poured out her guileless soul in lo-fi. The sonic and emotional nakedness of her music is well suited to such intimate venues, and all of the great sensations that come through on her recordings come through twice as well live: the vibes of hot places, magical transformations, and peril of death to a vulnerable heart.



Forthcoming Stuff

The Cd's that litter B:music's desk are all rubbish at the moment and we're only getting offered interviews for bands which have stupid song titles like "The Smell". This led us to ponder if anything good is actually going to happen this year; what exactly does the future hold? Along these lines, here's a gander at some of the years hotly awaited albums. Worth a look me thinks...

Oasis
Label: Big Brother
Expected release: September

Apparently the band have just sacked drummer Alan White. Could this mark a new direction for the Gallagher's? Can you imagine! Liam messing around with drum samples and beat machines? "I'm really loving that new warped drum and bass shit that's going off in the clubs at the moment. Did you know it's Oasis? Who'd have thought it eh..."

Realistically though, it could also end up being another attempt to re-create the passion and bite of first album *Definitely Maybe* and having the band find themselves stuck in the eternal paradox of successful rock and roll stars in the process; having set themselves up as working class kids singing about getting lashed and "living for the moment", this is hard to do when times have changed and you've got six extravagant cars parked on the drive of your country estate and don't even have a driving license. Still, you never know.

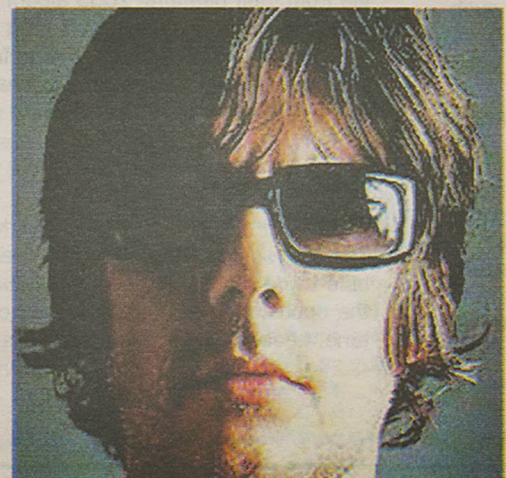
Adem

Label: Domino
Expected release: March

Fridge bassist, Adem Ilhan releases his solo album. If the 7' released towards the end of last year is anything to go by, this is going to be brilliant stuff. Melodic, experimental, sparkly and lovely. Nice.

John Squire
Label: North Country
Expected release: February

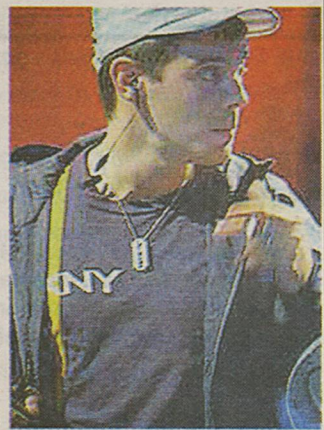
When John Squire finally released his solo album in 2002 - "Time Changes Everything" - it surprised a lot of people. It wasn't over layered with dense guitar parts, harking after vintage Jimmy Page. It was actually quite sparse in places. However, this didn't make it good. Surprising yes. But not good. Some people confused the two. I personally found that it confirmed what everyone feared; he can't sing. At all. And on a solo



album on which you sing, a lot, this matters. The release of a second album is good for one thing though; a new string of live dates scheduled. And unlike, Ian Brown, he is more than happy to indulge in Roses tunes. Good Roses tunes as well (he opened some of his sets with Waterfall!). It is a bit sad to see him purely for this. However, if (like myself) you got into the Roses just after their demise, it's still a tempting thought.

The Streets
Label: Locked On
Expected release: March

Ahh, the second album. A tricky little thing to attend to. Especially when you're first one was as successful and well received as *Original Pirate Material*. A clever and accessible fusion of garage, reggae, hip hop and dub, people lapped it up by the bucket load. There's a lot of places this next album could go; where it ends up will be interesting to see.

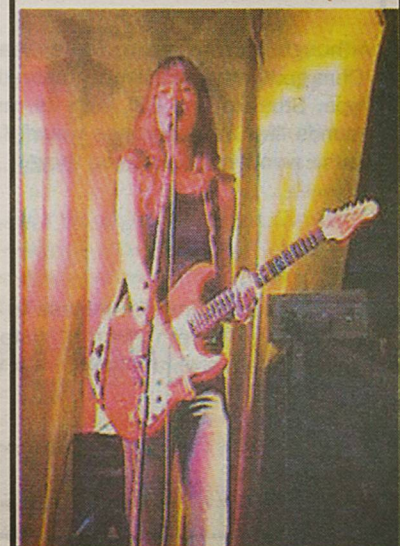


NEIL GARRETT

Soho Dolls!

The Quad, Wednesday
21 January

The Soho Dolls, ex-LSE folk who play a brooding mix of electroclash punk-rock, are starting to stir up trouble in the London neighbourhood. Having headlined Cargo just a few weeks ago, they are returning to their roots and gracing LSE's shiny Quad this Wednesday. Come down and see what all the fuss is about and show your support for a band which promises to be something special. Check out www.thesohodolls.com for more details.



Album Reviews



THE TWILIGHT SINGERS
BLACKBERRY BELLE

Former Afghan Whigs front man Greg Dulli, whom we can only hope deliberately changed his name to tactically lower expectations, wrote, sings, and plays most of the instruments on this album. Despite its 24 musical contributors this is really The Greg Dulli Orchestra plays Melodramatic Blues. And blue it is. The first line, for example: 'black out the windows/it's party time'. Even the artwork comprises anonymous, out of focus photos reproduced in black and white, in an attempt to make them moody and disguise the photographer's lack of skill, presumably.

Funnily enough for an album inspired by your band splitting up and close friend dying, a lot of this is, well, sex music. It's also very good, for want of more eloquent praise. Several of the tracks are instantly catchy radio friendly indie rock, others are carried along on a funky beat and Dulli's voice, which is a bit Grant from Feeder, if you like that kind of thing. Others still are groovy, sleepy numbers at home in coffee bars. He's trying out a lot of different ideas here, and while none are blindingly original, all are at the least darkly listenable. The depressing lyrics are the problem; it just isn't cool. (8)

SARAH TAYLOR



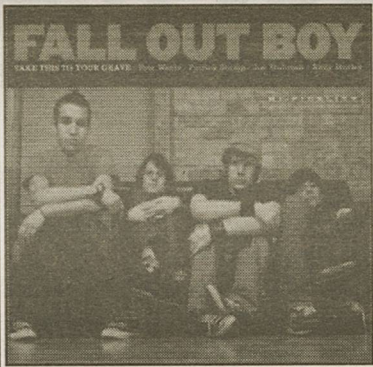
THE NEW AMSTERDAMS
WORSE FOR THE WEAR

When it comes to side projects of The Get Up Kids, James Dewees' Reggie and The Full Effect always kicked way more ass than Matthew Pryor's New Amsterdams.

But, that's all changed as with their third release 'Worse For The Wear' Matthew Pryor has produced a seriously beautiful record. If you liked the last Get Up Kids record 'On A Wire', then you will love 'Worse For The Wear'. Although, way more upbeat than the two previous New Amsterdams albums, 'Worse For The Wear's strength mostly lies in its combination of Matthew Pryor's unique vocals with suitably laid back pianos and acoustic guitars. Easily the stand out track is 'Hover Near Fame', which is so catchy and gloriously cheerful that you'd have a heart of stone if you're weren't singing along by the second time you'd heard it.

Although he may sing that he's just 'a little drunk celebrity' on one of the tracks, with the release of 'Worse for The Wear, Matthew Pryor has proved that he's undoubtedly one of the most accomplished songwriters out there at the moment. And with the new Get Up Kids album 'Guilt Show' released in March, 'Worse For The Wear' there couldn't be a more perfect way to remind yourself (in case you'd criminally forgotten) about just how talented and diverse a band The Get Up Kids are.(9)

JAZMIN BURGESS



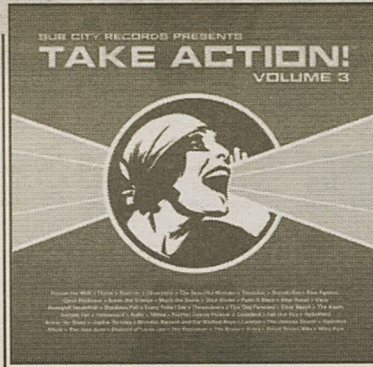
FALL OUT BOY
TAKE THIS TO YOUR GRAVE

At long last Fall Out Boy's magnificent debut 'Take This To Your Grave' is getting a release in the UK. Which is nothing but a good thing, because its twelve tracks are easily some of the best pop punk songs to have seen the light of day in recent years. And if that's not enough, Fall Out Boy are (according to the various arms of the music press) the pop punk band its supposedly 'okay' to like.

'Take This To Your Grave' is not only unbelievably hyperactive and energy filled but Fall Out Boy also have the best song titles this side of Reggie and the Full Effect. In fact, any band that has songs entitled 'Chicago is So Two Years Ago' or 'Sending Postcards From A Plane Crash' is bound to have enough creativity to make a brilliant record. Although the album tends to peak with tracks 3 and 4, 'Saturday' and 'Homesick at Space Camp', for a pop punk record, its one of the view that's listenable all the way through and an achievement that shouldn't really be underestimated.

Truly, what's so great about Fall Out Boy's 'Take This To Your Grave' is that it shares a lot with Saves The Day's 'Through Being Cool'-it has the same mix of emo and punk and seriously upbeat melodies that make it Almost disturbingly infectious. So, provided Fall Out Boy don't go as haywire as Saves The Day have recently, then 'Take This To Your Grave' seems to prove that they're well on their way to becoming a truly brilliant band.(8)

JAZMIN BURGESS



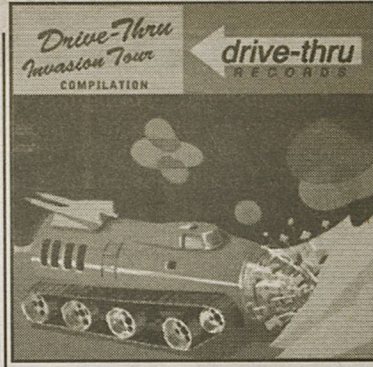
VARIOUS ARTISTS
TAKE ACTION! VOLUME 3

As compilations go, you're really not going to get any of better quality than Sub City's two cd Take Action Compilations. And if that's not enough, all the proceeds made from the CD are split between charities that help teenagers with depression and anti-war/'plea for peace' campaigns. Ah, if only all cds could have that much credibility...

Overall, Volume 3 is by far the best of all the compilations, with a total of 45 tracks split between two cds, with the first cd (as has become the norm) consisting purely of (totally brilliant) hardcore and melodic hardcore tracks by such greats as Thursday, Shai Hulud and The Beautiful Mistake and the second cd hitting the more emo and punk side of scene with Senses Fail, The Jealous Sound and Cursive. Although its Small Brown Bike's 'Safe In Sound' which steals the whole of the second cd and Thursday's 'For The Workforce, Drowning', which steals the first, ultimately there are only very few songs on here that aren't of the highest calibre.

If you're even remotely into punk/emo/hardcore, then there's absolutely no way you won't love this. In fact, with Take Action's two cds it's as if someone's saved you the effort and made you the perfect mix tape-twice. So, go out and buy this cd because it'll either open you up to a whole new range of bands, or remind you why you love the bands that are featured on it already. And with all the proceeds going to charity, you can get a bit morally pure at the same time. (8)

JAZMIN BURGESS



VARIOUS ARTISTS
DRIVE THRU INVASION TOUR

If you haven't come in contact with California's Drive Thru records, then you've probably got the art of avoidance pinned down perfectly. Because, quite frankly the bands on this label's roster seem to get everywhere. Not that that's a bad thing really, actually seeing as they're the ones that brought us New Found Glory, Finch and The Movielife, amongst others, it's something that should probably be encouraged. In fact, last week saw the 'Drive Thru UK Invasion Tour' hit our shores (with the last date on Wednesday at the Astoria) a co-headlining tour of four of Drive Thru's finest artists-Homegrown, Allister, the wonderful Early November and soon to be huge Hidden In Plain View.

And so to celebrate this onslaught, Drive Thru have released this very limited edition split EP (on vinyl only) consisting of one track from each band. Despite the fact, The Early November's 'Something That Produces Results' easily steals the show (it being the stand out track from their recent debut 'The Room's Too Cold'), Hidden In Plain View's 'Shamans, Witches, Magic' is also a perfect slice of melodic hardcore. Although the punk-pop tracks of Homegrown and Allister somewhat prove that they are by no means the best of its genre, alongside the other two tracks they give a perfect insight into the increasing diversity of Drive Thru's roster.

This vinyl may prove to be a bit difficult to get hold of but if you do, succeed its most definitely deserved of a listen. (7)

JAZMIN BURGESS

Singles

RAZORLIGHT
STUMBLE AND FALL

Although surely soon to appear on the cover of the NME under the headline 'Ohmygodtheselotarelilikethegreatestbandever!!!', on this evidence Razorlight will deserve such hype. Stumble and Fall, with its raspy shouting, scrappy guitars and ridiculous catchy-ness sounds like The Libertines would if they ever bothered to tune their guitars. Which, in case you're wondering, is a good thing.

DANIEL GROTE

RYAN ADAMS
SO ALIVE

With his most prominent release to date, Mr. Adams give us all something to truly cherish this New Year. A superb piece of guitar driven pop that upholds his already glowing reputation. Expect to hear it as the soundtrack to a football montage in the very near future.

LAURENCE KAVANAGH

BRAND NEW
SIC TRANSIT GLORIA (GLORY FADES)

If you're a fan of The Dismemberment Plan, you're going to love Brand New's second single from their beautiful 2003 album 'Deja Entendu'. With a parallel guitar and drum beat and a brilliant hardcore meets emo chorus, it's likely that this is going to be one of the best singles you'll hear in 2004. In fact, if Brand New's star doesn't go stellar in the next year, there's no justice in music whatsoever.

JAZMIN BURGESS

THE RAPTURE
LOVE IS ALL

The first song on this is a daft, feeble attempt to try and show that The Rapture are able to do more than the "rock-house with attitude" they're known for. The second is the opposite, The Rapture at their conformist best, a catchy throbbing dance infested tune. Leave diversity to other bands and stick with this effective formula please.

NEIL GARRETT

B:creative

edited by Dalia King

LETTERS FROM BUENOS AIRES

Author: Noam Schimmel

Date: Mon, 18 Aug 2003 23:53:49 +0000 (GMT)
From: "Noam" | This is Spam | Add to Address Book
Subject: The Sun Circles Death

Just came back from shooting pictures at the cemetery, Recoleta, where Evita is buried. Recoleta is one of Buenos Aires' most famous sights, because of the grandeur of the mausoleums - reflecting Argentines' obsession with death. I was in search of a beautiful winged angel that I had spotted a few years before. I was wandering and finally I found him, crouched on the corner of a tombstone, the sun shining on one of his wings, his face a little bit dark, his smile as serene as ever.

I was thinking about death, and then the sun interjected. I kept losing the sun, and I didn't bring flash because I am lazy about that and always prefer natural light and at about 5 pm I thought, oh no, the sun is gone, she is setting... the whole atmosphere changes and the cemetery basically pushes you out, not so much because the gates are closing or because you are spooked out that it will get dark soon, but because the loss of the sun indicates that something is over. The day. And with that, your day.

But as I walked in the cemetery I noticed that the sun was still there, it's just that the way it was lowering itself in the sky had the effect in the cemetery of making it seem like it already set, because the cemetery has huge pillars and statues that block the sun. The sun was actually circling the cemetery, life was circling death, and I found comfort in that. It felt beautifully dizzying, as if I could feel the earth and the sun's movement, understood for the first time the power of that movement, felt the tilt of it, was a part of the dance.

So I found my step and followed the sun, found it in some of the cemetery's alley ways and in one sad tomb that was left unkempt, a whole family of coffins...

Recoleta is a disconcerting cemetery in that way, because death sits there before you. It is not underground, buried. There are no flowers and no grass growing over it. It is on your level, you can see it, albeit encased in caskets. It reminded me of the only time in my life that I actually looked into a casket - this past summer in Mozambique Island. Not really a casket, but a tiny little coffin with the bones of a Portugese colonizer from 300 years ago. It was pretty intense. So that is what I and we will become. Bones.

Date: Sun, 24 Aug 2003 20:52:09 +0000 (GMT)
From: "Noam" | This is Spam | Add to Address Book
Subject: Hanging Gourds

I talked to my mom the other day for a really long time. She had gone to the Western Wall the day before the bombing with my cousin, and debated taking the bus line that later blew up... she didn't quite tell me if she rode the bus in the end or not. I think that it is more traumatizing for her being in Israel, because the burials and the anguish is a continual experience, the effects of the bombing are felt far beyond the day of the blast and there are many wounded to treat, orphans that are created, and the impending sense of another attack.

The nice thing was that Friday I went to services at Argentina's oldest synagogue - a really beautiful European style one and the music was so moving and I was just singing and singing. I think I needed that. Needed the comfort of a warm and safe space on a Friday night where I could feel the joy of being Jewish. I kept looking up at the word God written in Hebrew and thinking how it means that he was, is, and will be - the idea that divinity is a synthesis and transcendence of time. Very compelling. Not that I could ever really fathom it, besides instinctively knowing that I totally relate to that conception of divinity, totality.

Today as I was walking through Buenos Aires I passed underneath a tree and was in quite a spirited mood, sky all blue and the weather cool but not cold and very sunny.

I looked up and the tree was filled with weird gourd like fruit things and it seemed like the perfect metaphor for the feeling, when you are walking through the city and seeing everything and everyone about you alive and moving, curtains opening and closing, cars passing, people walking - that everything is filled to bursting. It is all hanging there delicately, beautifully on this tree, and you are walking below it and at any moment the fruits of life may fall straight down on you, give you a nice klop on the head or pop straight into your mouth and you too will be drawn into the movement and energy... you already are of course, as you are, just walking in the street.

B:literature is still calling all original fiction writers...

The B:Lit section is interested in any works of literary art the students of LSE have to offer, be it poetry, short stories...long stories...whatever. As long as it's yours, you're proud, and you've been thinking about getting it in print, email Dalia at beaverlit@yahoo.co.uk.

B:film

edited by Dani Ismail and Simon Cliff

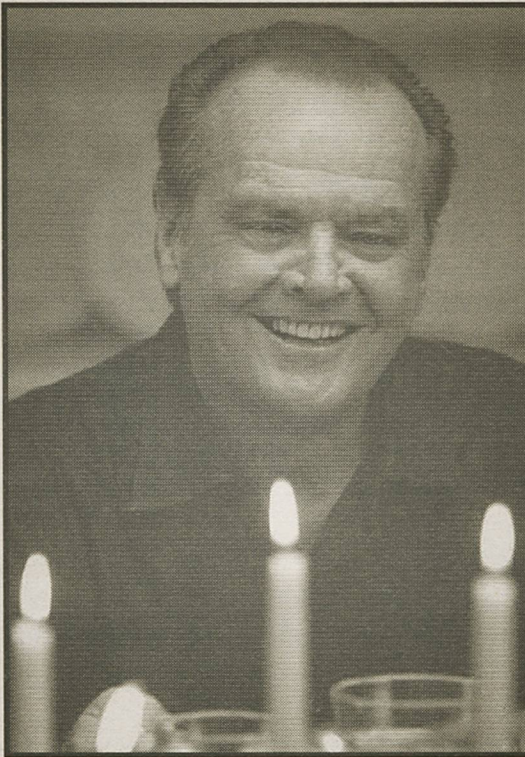
Exclusive Preview...

Something's Gotta Give

RUKSANAZAMAN gives her verdict on Jack Nicholson's latest, released next month...

As the opening credits rolled so did my eyes... at all the gorgeous women! I thought to myself: A chick-flick that appeals to men too? Wonder of wonders, it can happen and this film was great. Truthfully guys, it was slushy but wasn't too wet either!

Starring Jack Nicholson as Harry Sanborn, he plays the ultimate bachelor dating women only under the age of 30. On what was to have been a romantic weekend with his latest infatuation, Marin (Amanda 'so sexy in the Whole Nine Yards' Peet), at her mother's Hamptons New York beach house, Harry develops chest pains. Marin's mother Erica Barry, played by Diane 'I'll never be too old to act' Keaton, a successful divorced playwright, reluctantly agrees to help nurse him back to health. Once they are alone together... well in this day and age how can two people of the opposite sex in a movie not 'rediscover love' or be drawn to each other? A classic love triangle involving the older man having a Viagra induced pop at both mother and daughter, I hear you wonder? Nope, because there's more in the form of Keanu Reeves playing the worst doctor I have ever seen onscreen. Seriously, if I'd just had a heart attack, I think I'd rather die than have him diagnose me. Medical skills aside, he does grow on you and plays the role of a sweet 36-year-old who's a big fan of Erica, and not just her plays either!



I feel compelled to warn you that there are scenes involving nudity and sexual intercourse that may offend. This is because I'm not afraid to admit my political incorrectness; seeing old people snogging, Jack Nicholson's wrinkly ass and Diane Keaton's saggy boobs can be a little shocking.

This film is seriously funny with memorable scenes such as when Keaton takes Nicholson's blood pressure just before they have sex because to not do would just be 'irresponsible'. There are sterling performances from the whole cast; who else other than Jack Nicholson can get away with being a stud even at 63, and not only being with the daughter first, but actually have her 'giving' him to the mother? How understanding is that? I know I'd be pissed off if I came home to see my boyfriend making pancakes with my mother in pyjamas! Overall, the script is witty and refreshingly unpredictable, full of Oscar-hugging style and panache.

A feel-good movie that will have you falling in love with the characters and laughing every five minutes. Highly recommended.

☆☆☆☆☆

the editor's cut by Simon Cliff



An easy-to-read and equally easy-to-write Top Ten that's sure to set an alarming trend in this highly prestigious column...

Since I've been doing this column, many a film-fan has asked me for my Top Ten films, as though writing for this rag somehow gives my humble opinion more gravitas than your average Joe. I'll begin by pointing out that I harbour a particularly nasty dislike of lists regarding films especially; Channel Four's relentless pursuit of the 'Top 100 Everything and Anything Remotely Entertaining' is over-simplistic and patronising in the extreme; as if we give a shit what Tara-Palmer Tomkinson thinks about the 74th

Greatest Ever Musical anyway. But, I guess it's what you moronic public want, so I'll just sell my soul to the Devil now and give you my Top Ten Greatest....let's think....Film Villains! Here goes:

10. Warden Norton, *The Shawshank Redemption*.
9. Keyser Soze, *The Usual Suspects*.
8. The Wicked Witch of the West, *The Wizard of Oz*.
7. Nurse Ratchett, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*.
6. The Shark, *Jaws*.
5. Darth Vader, *Star Wars*.
4. Emperor Commodus, *Gladiator*.
3. Norman Bates, *Psycho*.
2. Hannibal Lector, *The Silence of the Lambs*.
1. The Joker, *Batman*.

Disagree? Do something about it! Email your list to the address below. The best will be printed next week and given my personal scrutiny. Behave yourselves...

Comments, ideas and other SPAM: s.e.cliff@lse.ac.uk

B:film Classic Review...

Leon (1994)

MICHAELWOOD on Besson's masterpiece...

Leon is a very hard film to pin down. It plays with genre and style constantly, is at times mercilessly violent, and at others poignant and touching. The film's slightly self-contradictory nature is what makes this a true classic.

The story of a young girl called Matilda (Portman) whose father ends up getting most of his family killed after attempting to double-cross the viciously unprincipled DEA officer Norman Stansfield (Oldman). Fortunately, she is rescued by the assassin-next-door, Leon (Reno), and from there the film charts the ways that these two characters radically change each other's lives.

To say that the film is stylised is a huge understatement. Each of the characters in the film represents a radical caricature, yet somehow Besson manages to keep clichés to a minimum. Leon starts the film as more of a force than a man, seemingly invulnerable and able to appear just where his victims least expect, but at the same time unable to deal with human contact of any kind (his best friend is his pot plant). When the over-confident Matilda enters his life you could be forgiven for expecting an odd-couple formula to creep into the film; fortunately it remains much more complex than that. Besson avoids the obvious irony of Matilda becoming the adult, Leon the child, and instead shows Leon becoming gradually more human in Matilda's presence. As a result Leon becomes more vulnerable, building up to one of the greatest endings to a film you'll ever see. Matilda seems to give Leon meaning in life, but in doing so causes his downfall.

There are great set-piece shoot-out scenes, which deliver a high body count whilst ignoring morality issues pretty much entirely. An incredibly tight script offers up effective character development when it's needed but also contains a deadpan humour style you wouldn't normally expect from such a contrived film. And of course, there's Gary Oldman hamming it up horrendously as Stansfield. The film may basically be about Matilda and Leon, but Oldman still has all the best lines and turns in a performance hilarious and terrifying in equal measure ("I haven't got time for this Mickey Mouse bullshit!" he remarks to other policemen conducting an inquiry into the deaths of Matilda's family). The decision to play Stansfield in this fashion isn't a mistake in my view, as Oldman is merely recognising the script's strength. The beauty of this film comes not from its realism but from its excess, with which Oldman plays superbly.



Director: Luc Besson

Starring: Jean Reno, Natalie Portman, Gary Oldman

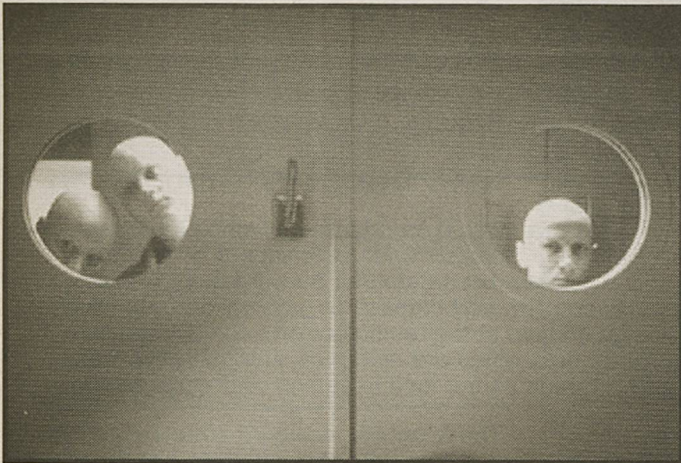
Running Time: 136 minutes

Certificate: 15

Foreign Film Focus...

The Family Jewels

PHILIPPNIELSEN reviews a new German break-away hit...



The Family Jewels is possibly the best German offering a decent comedy in years; being German I take the liberty to say so. *Good Bye Lenin* was a good movie, though overtly narrow in its German setting whereas Robert Schwentke's movie should be easier to relate to for an international audience.

The plot is actually very simple: Martin, a student in his twenties, is diagnosed with testicular cancer. After the initial surgery he for the first time in his life rebels against his mother's wishes and refuses to undergo follow-up surgery, which one might add has the potential of leaving him impotent, and opts for chemo therapy. This is where the real story begins. He has to adjust to the routine of the hospital, the therapy, a three-bed-room and the reaction of his family to his circumstances.

One to Rent...

Solaris

ROBSEEVERS revisits a contemporary sci-fi gem...

When the initial waves of media hype claimed that the next Hollywood blockbuster was on the way, one could be forgiven for treating said film with a degree of caution and suspicion. Dubbing it a 'psychological thriller concerning love, redemption, second chances and a space mission gone horribly wrong' did little to inspire my confidence in this Hollywood Sci-fi venture: it would no doubt feature some devilishly handsome Hollywood heartthrob to help sell it to the masses. And surprise, surprise, it does!

However, make that heartthrob George Clooney - an actor with a very impressive back catalogue - and reunite him with the ever sharp and innovative Steven Soderbergh - the director who brought us *Ocean's Eleven* and the Academy award winning *Traffic* - and all of a sudden things seem more promising! Throw the inspirational James Cameron (*Aliens* and *Terminator 2*) into the melting pot and even the most hardened cynic would have to concede that this might be one to watch.

Based upon the masterpiece of Polish author Stanislaw Lem and a remake of Andrei Tarkovsky's 1972 film of the same name, *Solaris* tells the story of bereaved psychologist, Chris Kelvin (Clooney). Kelvin is sent to a space station orbiting the mysterious planet of Solaris in a final attempt to salvage its ill-fated mission. Upon his arrival, Kelvin finds a depleted crew seemingly haunted by hallucinations of figures from their respective pasts, and is himself visited by a woman identical to his dead wife (McElhone). An intriguing tale ensues where Kelvin is forced to confront the disturbing reality laid before him: can he undo past mistakes and love again?

Movie Matters by Dani Ismail

Kill Bill: Vol. 2 Delayed...



already sky high frustration and wonder as to how this god of a film buff will deliver. It'll be out in America mid April, but expect it more locally around the end of May.

Less controversially, this may appeal to those who love both film and London, especially when London finds a way to make film even more exciting. The 1950's classic *Sunset Boulevard* is being shown at The Astoria in Finsbury Park (I wonder if anyone will know that it's now a church?). Well, for one night only this ex-cinema that seats

I'm sure most of you will have heard the rumours; that Tarantino's second instalment of his most violent, most giddy and most bloody film has been delayed in the coming out. Well yes; like a young, impressionable kid stuck in the closet, so there will remain *Kill Bill: Volume 2*, adding to our

Schwanke manages to keep it incredibly funny while not leaving out the disturbing and gruesome facts of cancer and life a cancer ward. One cannot help but laugh when, for example, on his first day of chemotherapy the nurse gives him a glove to put over his hand and arm to cover the area of an injection. On his remark that it could not be that dangerous, since she is going to pump it into him, she only answers that it would burn his skin away in seconds but that he does not have to worry, since "inside you don't have any skin" whilst smiling all friendly-looking and innocent.

Before critics get angry and argue that one should not shoot a movie about such a topic, *The Family Jewels*, is actually largely autobiographical. Schwentke was diagnosed with testicular cancer himself, and according to him "the things you'd least believed, they really happened." When he talked about the movie and his experience at a recent press conference you instantly believed his honesty and human demure.

All-in-all a great movie (the narrative of the second half being, by the way, Martin trying to make good on a bet to recover his lost testicle), this is definitely worth seeing should it be screened in the UK.

★★★★★

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Starring: George Clooney, Natascha McElhone

Running Time: 99 minutes

Certificate: 12A

Release Date: 23rd February 2003 (Out Now to Buy/Rent)

A film adorned with such a glittering array of renowned artists that attempts to adapt one of the sci-fi literature classics of our times has a lot to live up to. *Solaris* does not disappoint, offering a delicious cinematic feast the like of which the science fiction genre has not seen for many a decade. Soderbergh provides us with a delightfully deceptive piece that mystifies and entertains throughout.

Soderbergh succeeds where other screen adaptations of fictional literature have failed; he manages to encapsulate and enhance the elementary themes that made the book so intriguing, whilst skilfully adapting them to the screen. The cinematography is simply astounding and worth the rental fee alone and the few computer effects called upon serve to embellish the film with jaw-dropping visuals reminiscent of Kubrick's masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Clooney shines in what is arguably his most demanding, yet impressive role to date and is supported by a cast of immense depth - McElhone (*The Truman Show*) is immaculate while Jeremy Davies (*Saving Private Ryan*) emerges as the real gem of the piece offering a career-best performance. The film does move at a slow, albeit well-measured and entirely appropriate pace, but at a running time of 90 minutes even those with the shortest of attention spans should be able to cope.

Solaris is refreshingly brilliant: science fiction as it should be.

2,800 will open up to the masses and in they will flock to watch Gloria Swanson play the faded starlet in the quintessential "This is Hollywood" flick of the last century. Tickets are 11 quid, and it's playing on 28th February.

Scary Movie 3, which is apparently the best of the set (which of course means very little), is also littering our cinemas but we should be running a (hopefully very unimpressed) review of that next week so I won't spoil the fun. That's all for now...

WRONG TURN COMPETITION!

Out to buy and rent on DVD and VHS on February 2nd is last Summer's best horror flick *Wrong Turn*. Want a copy? Yes? Good news - the kind folks at Pathe Distribution Ltd. have given us a DVD copy to give away. Email the correct answer to beaver-film@yahoo.com with 'Wrong Turn Comp' in the subject line to be in with a chance of winning. Good luck!

Which notorious 70's horror classic received a remake last year?



B:about

edited by Sarah Warwick

B:cool as a cantaloupe

When is a bar like a pair of shoes?
Sarah headed to Hoxton to find out!

It may seem a little shallow to choose one's venues by the shoes that people wear there. Of course it is incredibly judgemental to like (or dislike) a place based on the leather wrapped around the feet of its affiliates. Still I can't help but feel I always know a little more about the nature of a place if I have checked out the footwear of its customers first. For example I always feel nervous in the presence of a pair of Jimmy Choos - I'm pretty sure I won't even be able to afford to buy a drink. My shoes aren't stylish enough to hang with those of Mr Choo or Mr Blahnik. More than one pair of brown loafers and I'm pretty sure I'm in for a bit of a boring night, and if I see lots of court shoes I make a mental note to return with my mother! How relieving it is to find a place which is wall to wall with a rainbow of trainers and ballet-style pumps for this surely is a not only a place where comfort is not compromised by style but where lack of dress code doesn't mean lack of effort. Cantaloupe is just like that: as comforting as an old pair of purple converse all star and as up-to-the minute as Umas flash footwear from Kill Bill. The clientele are want-to-be-seen-with but not don't-want-to-be-seen-with-you types and the atmosphere is boisterous but well behaved.

The quieter sister of Cargo and The Social Cantaloupe is a thoroughly enjoyable bar/restaurant. Nestled down a quiet Hoxtonian alley it feels, despite its relative fame, like a well kept secret. Inside it's warm and dimly lit and smells of spices and limes. The red walls, glossy creepers and antiqued wood furniture give it an air of old Spanish villa which mixes strangely well with the buildings obvious ex-factory usage. The ceiling is covered in pipes and the two bars separated with an old garage door. Little touches build up a patchy décor of urban and rural influences: dried chillies and old glass spice jars next to shiny chrome and glass bars and old road barriers. Its ambiguous nature: part industrial fabrication, half created rustication, gives it variety which is mirrored in the drinks available - from obscure south american beer Dos Equis to that marker of European liquid sophistication, Newcastle brown ale! For draft beers you can choose between Budvar, Old speckled Hen and Guinness but there are also about 15 bottled beers too. The cocktails (£5.50) are fruity and enticing, poured over ice by the rough and ready latino barmen, and can be deceptively strong. We voted the strawberry mule as our first choice but also loved the lemony champagne tang of the 'Big Freeze Punch.' The raspberry mojito with its aged bacardi and raspberry puree was also very drinkable. The wine list is impressive and

not bank breaking either. Prices start at £10.50 for a bottle of French Table wine of either colour and end at £22 for a Spanish Crianza Pasquera or a French Chablis. I recommend the mid-priced Moroccan Cabernet Sauvignon (£16) which apparently has overtones of stewed plum and damson (it says so on their very informative wine board!) If you go and eat at the restaurant on a Sunday you can save yourself a few pennies as all their wines are half price, just don't expect a traditional Sunday roast to go with them as the food is as non-conformist as the rest of the experience.

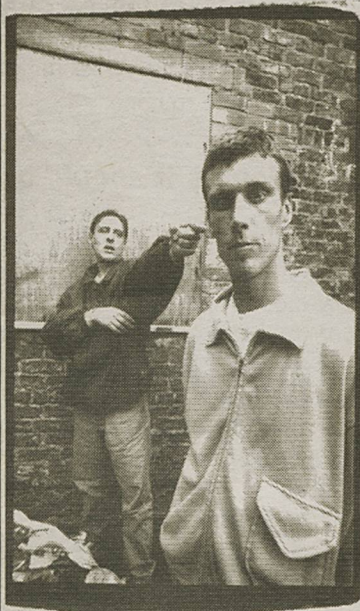
Although we didn't visit the restaurant we did sample the excellent bar food. They serve tapas, snacks and sandwiches with a Spanish feel reputedly inspired by the street food of Spain Portugal and South America. Presented in terracotta bowls with huge amounts of tahine, soured cream and salsa dip the tapas were inventive and filling. We chose the creamy puri-puri fish croquettes with potato and lemon; the charred chicken skewers which were deliciously moist; the light and fluffy pumpkin and spinach puff pastry empanaditas and the beef and coriander empanaditas which were like the smallest tastiest Cornish pasties ever made! The only problem with the excellent food was the fact that each dish comes with 3 pieces and two seems less like company when you are fighting over the last morsel of chicken: we were tempted to get a ruler to measure the exact mid-point on each tapa! Luckily we also had some polenta fries (£2.50) on the advice of our waitress and smothering these in sour cream and cracked black pepper consoled us against our loss! After this we were very full- two plates of tapas per person are definitely enough for dinner and one would make a satisfying light lunch. The veg tapas are £3 and meat/fish are £4. Dinner with a bottle of house wine between two will only set you back about £15.

Whatever your shoe size Cantaloupe provides a fresh take on the tapas experience and as much understated latino fun as you can shake a lime at.

Cantaloupe, 35-42 Charlotte Rd, Shoreditch, EC2 open 11am - midnight Mon -Fri, noon-midnight Sat, noon-10.30pm Sun

B:clubbing

A NEW STUDENT NIGHT IS BEING LAUNCHED AT TURNMILLS. B:ABOUT OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO WIN EXCLUSIVE VIP TICKETS TO THE LAUNCH NIGHT.



Get Loaded is a brand new monthly event launching at Turnmills on Thursday 5th February 2004. Spawned from the massively successful Grooveharder nights which toured the UK over the last few years, the night encompasses everything from Indie, Rock, Funk, Breaks and Northern Soul and features famous guest spinners from some of the World's leading bands.

A NEW STUDENT PARTY FOR LONDON!!!

The legendary Shaun Ryder will be teaming up with Bez to DJ at this very special reunion. Both Shaun and Bez have solo singles coming out early this year and Get Loaded will be treated to a special preview of what we can expect to hear from these Indie giants... "We're bringing Shaun Ryder and Bez to the decks" says promoter Kav, "to give all the 24 hour party people a chance to party with the masters of Madchester - it'll be great to bring them both to London!"

Joining Shaun and Bez behind the decks on the night will be AKAwave band members Kav, Cutz and Poss. It's an 'anything goes' formula on the dancefloor as they cut up everything from The Chemical Brothers and Dirty Vegas to the Rolling Stones and Oasis!!! This student friendly event also offers 2-4-1 on drinks at the bar all night.... so make sure you get down early for this one to sink a few jars with the boys.

The Band Agency (TBA) will be co-promoting the night and bringing some of their artists to play live sets on the nights. TBA is an innovative new organisation helping to develop new musicians and bridge the gap between the industry and unsigned artists. The organization works with some of the top new UK talent and is aimed at developing and raising the profile of new artists.

TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN TWO PAIRS OF VIP TICKETS TO THIS FANTASTIC LAUNCH NIGHT COURTESY OF TURNMILLS JUST ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

BEZ AND SHAUN RYDER WERE IN TWO WELL KNOWN BANDS TOGETHER BEFORE EMBARKING ON SOLO CAREERS. NAME THESE BANDS.

SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO s.l.warwick@lse.ac.uk AND THE LUCKY WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK

walk:about



Being sale time at the moment I thought I'd kill two birds with one stone and headed to High Street Ken to check out the area and to see if I could pick up a few bargains at the same time. I was interested to see how shopping here would compare with my normal squeeze through the harassed and sweaty masses of Oxford Street. I was pleasantly surprised in more ways than one. Kensington is a lovely place to shop with less tourists, better shops with better stock and more interesting places to stop for lunch. Plus, the music in the shops seems to lean more to the alternative than to the cookie-cutter cr*p that is blasted out of every shop in WC1. There is also the added bonus that Kensington has so much more to offer than shops. No less than 4 quality museums, an 8 screen cinema, a huge concert hall, 2 parks, famous houses, great bars and restaurants and more artificial blondes than you

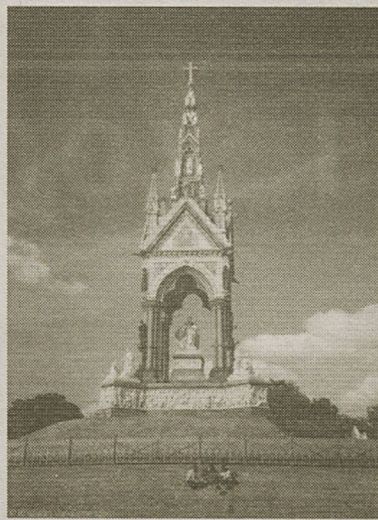
can find anywhere else! Even if you can't afford to do what everybody else does in Kensington, namely live very expensively, the parks, museums and people watching are still free. Try and count how many ash-blondes you can see, or bored boyfriends laden with shopping bags; faux fur coats or daddy's little princesses let loose with the credit card.

Start at High Street Ken and turn left. Walk up via shops and cafés to where you see a sentinel of flags on the right hand side of the road. This is the **Commonwealth Institute**, a museum hailing the wonders of Britain's imperialist past and the joys of various Commonwealth countries. Built in the 1950s in up-to-the-minute décor it looks a bit sad now inside and out and could do with a makeover. Still, occasional exhibitions of international artwork are often worth a look. Opposite it is the **Odeon** which has 8 screens but unfortunately charges inner London prices (about £9 even with student card.) Behind the Commonwealth Institute is the romantic **Holland Park**, perfect for a stroll with your beloved. If your beloved is rich you might even want to point them in the direction of Belvedere, the stylish restaurant perfect for a Saturday lunch after a cold stroll through the Kyoto Japanese gardens (or an illegal swing in the children's playground!). If not rich then it's probably best to move on before you freeze with your nose stuck to the window! In the summer Holland Park is a great place to sit, and there's an open air theatre which shows everything from Shakespeare to rock concerts.

Walk back down to High Street Ken station and hit the shops. In the 4 main blocks in this area you'll find most of the upper-middle-end of the high street market with **Miss Sixty**, **Diesel** and **Urban Outfitters** adding gravitas to the usual **Topshop**, **Hennes**, **Oasis** trilogy. At the moment you'll get the last reductions of the sales and the bargains of the year. Getting anything for your flat won't be a problem either with both Habitat and Urban Outfitters offering half price on much of their furniture and fittings. The people of Kensington have no excuse to smell bad either with one of the largest Boots in London (inside the station) Crabtree and Evelyn, Space NK Apothecary and Lush all crammed into a small space. **Lush** are offering one of the best sales of the season on all of their 2003 stock. If you spend over £15 they allow you to chose any product (except the gift sets) for free as long as it was made in 2003 - this even includes the £20 moisturisers. For more shopping and girly pampering turn past **St Mary Abbott's Church** (which incidentally has the tallest spire in London) onto Kensington Church street. (For those not so eager for all things girly I recommend slipping discretely into the supremely cosy **Prince of Wales** pub on the opposite corner and settling in with a pint or two of ale and superlative Bangers and Mash for £5.45) On the right hand side



of the road you'll find Lancet Square, a shopping centre showcasing Toni and Guy hair-dressing and Mac cosmetics. On the other side you'll find Scarlett, a beauty parlour offering lots of plucking, waxing and dying treatments and, at the moment a deluxe manicure and pedicure (lasting an hour and a half) for £40. Further up the road is **Designer Bargains** which has been hailed by Time Out for extensive value and choice. I can vouch for the immense stock of designer clothes and shoes, on the first rack I spotted 33 pairs of Jimmy Choos but at £250 they weren't bargain enough for me so I legged it across the road to the **Notting Hill Housing Trust** charity shop (one of 3 in the area) to pick up some real bargains and help the local community at the same time.



Time for a break after all that shopping. Next to Designer Bargains is a superlative patisserie/café where you can get a bun and a coffee, or **Café Rouge** will provide a savoury snack and a large glass of wine while you watch the world go by their huge windows. If you need something a little more substantial head for **Giraffe**, an international theme café which plays global music and offers some of the best smoothies to be found. I'd recommend the meze plate with naan bread or a Sunday brunch for £6. They also do an early bird dinner offer from 5-7 with a starter and main for £7 (or £10 between 7 and 10pm) Though beware if you head in here with a hangover...these people are seriously smiley and may piss you off! **Cuba** next door is great on Thursday nights when Fahitas are half price (only £5.50) and where you can do a salsa class (at 7.30 for beginners) and then have dinner and drinks till 2. For those seriously rich among you the **Kensington Roof Gardens** are a London highlight but after a dinner at £50 a head, club entry at £10 and drinks on top you're

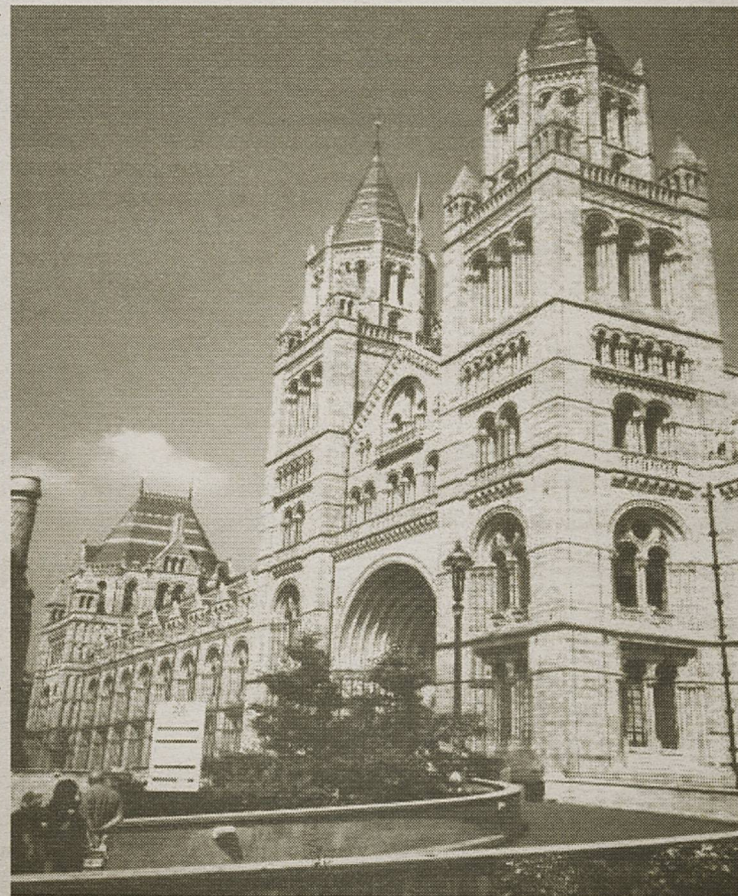
looking at one steep night. Still the views are fantastic and a summer night there is reputedly a must-do. Another option for dancing the night away around here is **Dune** on Kensington Church Street, a Moroccan club with theme nights aplenty. It's small, strict and £10 to get in but its got a lively atmosphere and is a lot of fun.

Culture time now and it's in no short supply in Kensington. The road carries on toward South Ken and the museums past **Kensington Gardens** where you can find both the **Serpentine Gallery**, a picturesque red brick gallery in the middle of the park, and **Kensington Palace**, birthplace of Queen Victoria and former home of arguably Britain's most famous blonde. The palace is open everyday from 10-3.30 for tours of the state rooms. The park itself is another great place to people watch. See the Sloane Ranger in its natural habitat: dog walkers exhibiting one of the great English obsessions as they strut around in their Barbour's and wellies calling out to their Shitzus and Hounds in the dulcet tones of the queens English. Also tourists glued to the railings of Kensington Palace gazing as if waiting for a glimpse of the old princesses' ghost. The park closes at dusk so if you come later then walk down the high street instead past the faux roman edifice of the **Royal Albert Hall**. On a cold night this area characterised by so many redbrick Victorian monstrosities can seem to take you back to the time of the pea souper and the hansom cab so don't freak yourself out imagining the ghosts of old London.



Turn right onto **Exhibition Road** and its 3 main museums: the Natural History, Science and V and A. All free (apart from temporary exhibitions) for the last few years they house enormous collections and would be impossible to cover in one afternoon. Highlights include the **Natural History Museum's** creepy crawly exhibition which leaves you itching with phantom beasts for the rest of the day, and the informative dinosaur exhibit. The building itself should be seen: purpose built it has a beautiful elaborate façade carved with animals and birds. The new Darwin centre allows closer examination of many of the exhibits. The **Science Museum** has recently done some much needed modernisation and now seems less of a science history museum in that it has turned away from merely exhibiting relics of the industrial era and has gained an Imax cinema and some more modern exhibits in the wellcome wing.

At the moment it is showing a Lord of the Rings exhibition (mon-fri £9.95, £6.95 (conc) sat-sun £11.95, £8.95 (conc)) **The Victoria and Albert museum** has large collection of Victorian and Edwardian dollhouses which are incredible. After the museums close at 6 you can still take a look at the acclaimed 'Earth from the Air' exhibition which features pictures taken from the air from all over the world and provides an interesting insight into the effect of humanity on geography and resources. Its very cold outside at the moment and if you risk a look at the exhibition it will probably rain so to finish off your day and dry off reward yourself with a pint at the nearest pub. I know I did!



B:theatre

edited by Keith Postler

The Madness of George Dubya: Get cultured-up

What can a theatre critic write about a play devoid of merit? Nothing at all in the hope that it will quickly go away (Les Liaisons Dangereuses lasted only three weeks thank god). The Madness of George Dubya is different. It has proven to be popular despite sub-par acting, a mediocre script, and a worn-out premise. Everyone from Guardian theatre critic Michael Billington to Cool Abdul, my local kebab-shop owner, is raving about Madness. Justin Butcher, the playwright, lifted much of his premise from Dr. Strangelove; though, I hasten to add that Butcher is a playwright only insofar as the definition of playwright is expanded to include those who can spell. I only hope this review will shatter The Madness of George Dubya's sales, force it to close down prematurely, and free the fringe Theatro Technis theatre for more deserving plays like the LSE Drama Society's enchanting rendition of the Little Prince.

Jamie Stevens would undoubtedly like this play. For those unfamiliar with Ms. Stevens, she wrote a letter to the editor complaining that my reviews were "elitist" and "pompous." Touché madame, so what's your point? The Madness of George Dubya appeals to the lowest common denominator: the perfect theatrical homage to a generation whose idea of profundity is screaming "Bush is a fascist" to bewildered tourists in Trafalgar Square.

Criticizing America in the theatre has become de rigueur these days. Justifying War, a play dramatizing the Hutton Inquiry, and Americans, an ahistorist look back at the origins of American imperialism, were immensely popular because of their counter-culture appeal, though for little else. The nadir was reached with the staging of Henry V at the National last year, where even Shakespeare's blessed play was contorted into an anti-war tribute.

As I entered the playhouse with my date, I thought I'd try and get us better seats by

telling the usher I was writing a review for an "uppity local paper." We were escorted right to the front and told that we could now "experience the true flavour of the production." They weren't kidding. Richard Leaf, playing the role of a crazy General, couldn't help showering us with sputters of spit, a globule of which landed on my recently whiskeyed tongue.



The Madness of George Dubya is no typical play, and so too its audience is no typical crowd, even for fringe theatre. The rank smell of sweat, undoubtedly aromatic to most of the theatregoers, was noxious to those of us who don't eschew showers as bourgeois luxuries. A rather sickly looking man sitting next to me, whose face was inexplicably hued orange, whistled at one point during the performance. If this type of boorishness appeals to you then I recommend this play without hesitation.

The plot, so far as it can be called one, depicted a war in Iraq gone horribly wrong (so much for art imitating life) when a renegade General orders nuclear missiles launched at Iraqi targets. With lines like, "America the brave, what's that about?" drawing inexplicable fits of audience laughter, and actors who have promising futures as Big Issue salesman (or salespersons to those wishing that career on the fairer sex), The Madness of George Dubya is perhaps the most disappointing performance since Mr. Kibble's defence of his boondoggle budget.

The over-arching message - the dangers posed by the United States of America - was conveyed with the subtlety of a cat in a coop. A woman from the audience, speaking to her husband after the performance, remarked that "going to see this play was a great opportunity to get cultured-up." Cultured-up indeed.

The Madness of George Dubya is playing at the Theatro Technis until February 8, after which it moves to the Arts Theatre until May 17.

ALYKHAN VELSHI



Dinner

Curtain Time: 19:45, no interval.

Venue: Wyndham's Theatre

Running Time: 1' 30"

Playwright: Moira Buffini

Booking to: April 3, 2004

Having already received rave reviews from the likes of 'The Times' and 'The Independent', this humble theatregoer is reluctant to pass judgment. Frankly, if you have made it to Wyndham's then you've made

it in the theatre world. Critically speaking, Moira Buffini has combined an impeccable, all-star cast with a rather beautifully written script. Headed by two times Sony award winner Harriet Walter and Adrian Lukis (of 'Pride and Prejudice' fame) this is a play that is already being touted as a future award winner.

'The Dinner' takes one evening out of the lives of a long-married dysfunctional couple and their equally troubled guests. With no scene changes and no interval, Buffini quite cleverly allows the viewer to watch her dinner party play out in real time. Allegorically speaking, each guest represents part of the world of an educated and social elite. It all starts rather hilariously as one by one an artist, philosopher, journalist, doctor and socialite are taken apart for our amusement. The nonsensical techno-babble of the academic and the shallowness of the wealthy elite are beautifully sent up here. But the play soon becomes more than simply funny; at the heart of this comic

satire are savage and depressing truths. Beneath the trappings of success, these are damaged people.

Led by their strange and bloodthirsty hostess almost every theme is dealt with here - love, depression, divorce and finally death. All in all, despite its moments of humour, there is a bitterness and savagery at the heart of this play. This is not an after-dinner entertainment for the faint-hearted, but a rather thought-provoking and at times disheartening piece of theatre. Be warned.

STEPHANIE SMITH



B:v

Reality TV has gone too far

And so we begin LSE's first ever dedicated television column. And what could be easier to write? After all, most of us watch TV, some of us watch quite a lot, and there are loads of great programmes to recommend and discuss, all with that touch of wit and canny observation which is set to become our trademark. It is therefore with a heavy dose of irony that I begin the first ever B:Media with a rant about the appalling state of British television at the moment.

Starting of course with dear auntie, **BBC1**, and the approach it has taken over the past couple of years under its current controller Lorraine Hegessey. In a nutshell, BBC1 bosses saw the success of Big Brother, Pop Idol etc and henceforth decided that all its output must now have an interactive element. For example on Question Time we can now email the panellists (the show's not live for goodness sake. What is the point?) Or even All New Top of the Pops (same old rubbish; just a new presenter who spends the entire show looking

euphoric - possibly because with the show going out at seven o'clock, he has been allowed to stay up beyond his bedtime,) where we are now allowed, in a move hailed as progression, to choose which video to play at the end of the show. This is ludicrous - what are producers and directors paid for by the Beeb if not to

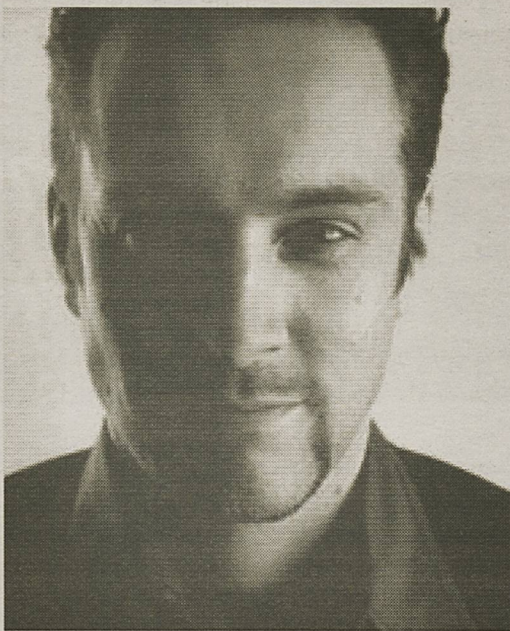


make decisions like this? Don't ask us; it's you boys who have the media degrees. A bus driver wouldn't expect his passengers to take turns driving his bus around so why do we have to do the executive producer of TOTP's work for him. And of course, it is us who are paying this chap's wages in the first place via the license fee. So he gets paid by us to make decisions...which we then make. Nice work if you can get it.

Not only this, but the BBC has also fallen into the trap of being obsessed with celebrities. There are now so many Weakest Link celebrity specials that it has got to the point where an ordinary episode of the show should be called 'Weakest Link: Common Scum special.' Anne Robinson can mock these boring folk for their greed in lusting after the pathetic sum of just two grand and wait for it...not even giving it to charity like all those wonderful, nice celebrities.

Onto **ITV** and its own constant stream of reality television. It's now got to the point where you can pluck three words out of the dictionary at random and you have a format for ITV primetime e.g. Kids Painting Black (new show where young children, preferably of celebrities of course, take turns to paint Cilla Black) or Celebrity Fat Swap (where via incredible twenty first century medical technology, celebrities swap bodies.) Yes these shows are cheap, and yes millions watch them, but they're also all rubbish.

To **Channel Four**. Yes, the mighty Channel Four, the womb of groundbreaking television in the past such as The Word and Big Brother. Four's latest attempt at headline grabbing was the much publicised 'Shattered' (or Shat for short as most of us were calling



it by the end of the run). The premise was a good idea - see how ordinary people can survive without sleep. Indeed, it is this dangerous element which makes reality television watchable. However, once the human rights lawyers got hold of this, Channel Four (for fear of being sued) allowed the contestants up to four hours of sleep a day. So we were basically watching people trying to stay awake, yet allowed to sleep when they really needed to. This of course meant that the central phenomenon of the show had been removed and as such the programme was both dull and pointless. And the problem of Shattered reflects a paradigm in all of Channel Four's output at the moment; potentially good ideas ruined by fear of being sued. For example, Derren Brown playing live Russian roulette is great television unless he's doing it with the sort of gun typically sold at Toys R us. If Channel Four wish to continue to shock, which they seemingly do, they themselves must be as brave as those they require to appear in shows such as Shattered.

As for **Five**, it can best be summed up by a conversation I had with a friend the other day. "What's the channel five reception like in your area?" "No idea mate - never pressed the five button on my remote."

And so to everyone's favourite LSE graduate, Robert **Kilroy-Silk**. Any self-respecting media column in the country has had their take and in our case, as Kilroy's alma mater, it would be rude not to. For all of you who have been either on another planet or in a drunken stupor over the past week or so, I thought I would provide a brief summary of the Kilroy furor - copyright every single newspaper.

Kilroy...limb amputations...seven year gaol term...Sunday Express...tanned housewives' favourite...disgusting racism...BBC bigwigs...Cherie Blair...Hutton inquiry...Trevor Phillips...political correctness gone mad...Muslim Association of Great Britain...Arab culture... ..Robert Kilroy-Silk...great advances in medicine...freedom of speech...woman repressors...Kilroy-Silk...commission of racial equality...Iqbal Sacranie...Tom Paulin...suicide bombers...Muslim Council of Great Britain...Shari'a law...what about the ancient Egyptians...incitement to racial hatred ...secretary blunder...Abu Hamza...CBS...popular mid-morning current affairs show...the BNP...Arab states...the number zero...peasants, pygmies and priests...double standards.

That just about wraps it up I think.

Personally I haven't seen an edition of Kilroy for five years and I thought it should have been taken off the air there and then.

But some key questions remain despite the huge amount of column inches already dedicated to this issue.

- 1) Why if he is Mr Kilroy-Silk is his show called merely Kilroy?
- 2) Do we really want Vanessa Feltz back on our screens in the event of Kilroy getting sacked?
- 3) And finally, if as Trevor Phillips suggests, Kilroy makes amends by donating some money to charity, would it be a case of making a row clear out of a Silk's purse?

Chris Moyles's Radio One Breakfast Show has now been running over two weeks since he took over the reins from Sara Cox at the start of the year.

Reaction has been mixed with many seeing it as merely Cox with balls on the airwaves. In my own opinion, I think Moyles could mature into a great morning DJ, but must stop acting like a kid who has

just had all his dreams come true. It is well known Moyles's dream job was always the Radio One breakfast show, but now he's there he must start acting like he belongs there, and not keep telling the listeners how excited he is and how it has always been his destiny to be the saviour of Radio One.



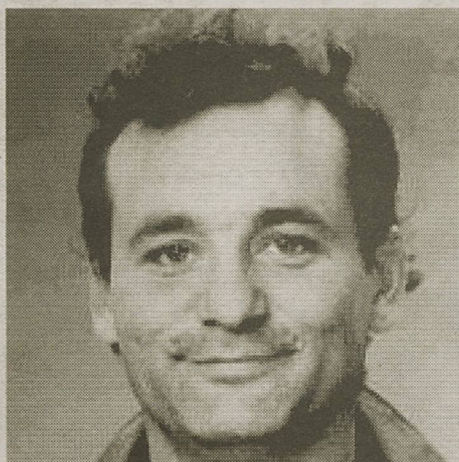
B:v recommends...

Television: Virtual Horse Racing on Channel 431 for those blessed with Sky Digital. Yes, television is that bad at the moment that the best thing to watch are computer animated horses with entirely fictional form guides and odds galloping around a non-existent track. But be warned - it's totally addictive.

Radio: Danny Baker's breakfast show on BBC London 94.9FM. For those who like discussion and chat when they wake up, the former 5Live host is the only option.

Printed media: Ally Ross's brilliant TV column every Thursday in the Sun. Some say it's even better than this page. But then he does get paid so he should make the effort.

B:mail



Subject: Film twists

I want to deplore the use of twist-endings in films nowadays. I hear this column's for useless titbits of opinion so by god, I'm gonna make use of it. Take Sixth Sense, Matrix Reloaded or a Beautiful Mind (yup I do economics). They all have the cheap sinewation to the end of a good film. Why, the bastards, what are they trying to do to us? So you're sitting there in bed, letting your brain run loose as the picture rolls by. And then, some sadist so-called 'director' rips you back into the real world and forces thinking on you. Look, he was dead all along, ooh aaah! I think it should stop, if Hollywood feels it needs to make thought-requiring films they should come with a caution. There was also that one about a skitzo where all his personalities had a big old rumble in a deserted motel. And don't start on Memento. Fucking shiznich.

Dave

Subject: Murray

Is anyone else of the view that Bill Murray should be given some kind of God-like status. A global knighting or something?

Dominic

Subject: Serotonin

There's a band I saw in Leeds over the holiday called Serotonin (good name incidentally). I know everyone bangs on about how they've seen the next big thing but I really think I have. I just wanted to have this in print so I can prove to people when all the music cliques are talking about them that I knew they had something going.

Neil

Subject: Trauma

I would just like to whinge about moving serious films people get you for Christmas. I was given a copy of Midnight Express (if you haven't seen it, it's about a guy who gets caught smuggling drugs in Turkey and gets put in jail there and suffers many an ordeal in there). I realize that it is a sterling film with many a good performance in it, however I never want to watch it again. It's just not a relaxing or pleasant thing to watch, 3 hours of depression and trauma. As a present it's useless.

Joe

Subject: The Coral

I read yesterday that The Coral are releasing another album. How prolific are they! Most bands take at least a year to release one album but they've churned out three in that time. I think it's really refreshing to see a band that just loves creating music and aren't afraid to let people hear it.

Liz

Spread the Love...

Got anything to tell us? Disagree with any of this? Send your b:mails this way - conveniently labeled B:mail - and we'll print them here. Anything and everything arts related welcome: Beavermails@yahoo.co.uk or N.Garrett@lse.ac.uk

Nice one

GIORGIA DEMARCHI

STEVE BOND

RUTH AUSTIN

OUR FATHER OUR KING
WE HAVE NO KING BUT YOU

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Jewish Society

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THE WORLD RENOWNED DJ ON HIS RETURN TO LSE
TALKS ABOUT BREAKING INTO THE MUSIC INDUSTRY
AND THE SECRETS OF HIS SUCCESS

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2004 @ 5PM

G108

(OPPOSITE PEACOCK THEATRE)

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Disposable Camara Found

A disposable camera was found after the AU Barrel in the Michaelmas Term. The photographs contained on the camera are of a wedding.

If you are missing a camera of this description, please contact The Beaver on 020 7955 6705

Thankyou.

Text Books for Sale

Econ B Course Text Books available. Good condition.

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Room Available for Rent 8 minutes walk to LSE

I have a double room in a four bedroom flat about 8 minutes walk from LSE. It has a phone line, double bed and all the furnishings. It is on the top floor of a Georgian townhouse (lived in by Disraeli) overlooks a nice park which should be great in summer, is close to two supermarkets, the tube and has a bus stop outside. The flat has a huge bathroom, nice kitchen and a roof terrace. The flat is with three guys who are all really good guys and I'll miss. The rent is only £100 a week and there is no transport costs, I really don't think you'll find a cheaper more central flat. So if you want a change of scenery give me a call or email me.

My email is: s.bottomley@lse.ac.uk and my phone number is 07743876511. Help me out!

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Alison Blease Tells It Like It Is!

LSE Netball 1sts.....3

Gimperial Beaver Snatchers.....2

Lincoln's Inn, Holborn

Alison Blease



On Wednesday the netball 2nds turned up to do their first spot of exercise in well over a month after eating far too many chocolate oranges and courses of cheese and biscuits than can be good for you. I speak from personal experience anyway. For this reason alone the match was always going to be a challenge but to then find out that Aine, a crucial member of our defence, had gone snowboarding in the holidays and very selfishly broken her collarbone meant that she will be out of action for at least another three weeks. To top this off our goalkeeper Laura was also unable to play so

short arse me somehow ended up as goalkeeper.

Mostly due to the fact that I was stuck at the far end of the court stood under the post apparently marking their goals shooter who actually didn't really move very much means that I wasn't really paying attention to the match at all and am quite honestly struggling for shit to write about in this report. Needless to say the rest of the team

put in considerably more effort and must have played amazingly for us to win despite having an inattentive, day dreaming dwarf at GK. I do seem to remember lots of running (by everyone else) and some excellent shooting by Krystal and Louisa. Marie did well in defence to make up for me, and Captain Fiona and the two Rachels were magnificent in the centre third as always. Lets face it, you all know that we are superstars and will never ever lose to the Gimps - or at least admit to it in print. We play them again in two weeks time and I am fully confident of another astounding victory.

Just as an interesting piece of trivia I feel obliged to tell you all that a certain housemate of Marie's who shall remain nameless (mainly because I don't know their name) is apparently very good friends with a member of Imperial's 2nd netball team whom we

whipped within an inch of their lives last term. This certain person, a fellow student of the LSE no less, decided to show them the BeaverSports match report that was written about them and furthermore, allowed them to keep it to show the rest of their team. Obviously with it being Gimperial the article was hardly complimentary and they were very shocked. Unsurprisingly really when you think about it their student newspaper is devoid of all fun whatsoever and they describe how well the opposition played and how unlucky they are to lose (which they must do every week as they are a pile of wank). They did not appreciate being described as 'facially challenged', 'deformed and twisted' and the implication that their fat old man coach gets cheap thrills watching girls in little skirts. Apparently they hate us, with all the passion that their cold, science luvvin' hearts can muster. Which will make next week's match against them, very interesting indeed.

I might say many things in these match reports. I admit I bullshit, frequently use expletives and unashamedly say how brilliant we are. HOWEVER I do not ever lie - we are, in fact, that brilliant but more to the point it was an entirely accurate description. Anyone who comes to watch next week's match can see for themselves. So they hate us, so fucking

what. They were bound to wake up to the fact that as LSE students we are by definition superior to them in every way. This breeds jealousy which inevitably leads to hatred. I simply hastened the process or, to put it in scientific terminology on the off chance that oops this somehow ends up in the hands of the Gimps and they find it difficult to follow my complex and subtle manipulation of the English language, I was a catalyst. Get it? You would resent us all for just being as brilliant as we are very soon anyway. Also, I couldn't really give a flying monkey gobshite how you feel anyway. This is simply a slightly interesting way to fill up a match report cos I have missed seeing my name in print over the holidays and need the ego boost that it provides. Anyway, I always thought that the Beaver self destructed and blew up or something the moment it sensed soiled non-LSE hands on it. I think I have been expecting too much from the paper after all, if it was that clever it would have a BeaverSports section covering at least half the paper.

Katen Who? Hockey Don't Miss Him...

LSE Mens Hockey.....5

Gimperial 4ths.....1

Brookeman's Park, Derby

Sach and Nosh



Before we talk about this week's match there is some unfinished business to attend to from last term. We had a convincing victory in our final game of the term, but no match report ever materialised. We won 5-1 against Gimperial 4ths with two notable performances. Pete 'Bagpuss' Emms scored a memorable hat trick, except it was so long ago we can't remember any of the goals. Oh well, never mind. The other decent performance (that's stretching it a bit, much like Rishi's shorts) surprisingly came from our very own 'boy' Scout. From one of many short corners, Scout took it upon himself to have a shot on goal since nobody else managed to get a shot on target. Much to our disbelief he buried a low drive in the far corner of the goal. There was a brief moment of silence while everybody recovered from the miraculous bombshell that was Rishi scoring, other than with a 12 year-old boy. Those among you who can count may have realised we've only mentioned 4 goals so far. The fifth goal came from someone who will remain nameless coz he's a tight northern bastard who hasn't paid his fines yet. A quick mention goes to Nathan who

LSE Mens Hockey.....6

SBLH 3s.....0

Little Heath, Hertfordshire

was trying to compete with JJ for the 'Ruud van Nistelrooy' most theatrical injury/dive of the season, going down like David Blunkett on a flight of stairs (that was Nosh - inconsiderate bastard).

The other piece of unfinished business regards the Hockey Christmas Dinner. Where should we start? Well Septic got absolutely fucked and left his girlfriend, who had come all the way from the US of A to see him, in the library until midnight. Rishi almost puked at the dinner table making noises like a pig that was being porked. Qasim (or Qazim) proved his ethnic minority roots by eating four chillies and only crying once. And lastly, we have a new nickname for Anthony 'Nobike' Teale who lost his motorbike. For those of you who can't work it out his nickname is 'Nobike'.

On to this week's match. Guess who we were playing? Yes, you guessed it, the team we seem to play every week - SBLH 3rds. We knew it wouldn't be hard, and it wasn't. In fact it was so easy I wish I hadn't bothered, much like the tight northern monkey (sorry, bastard) we mentioned earlier. With our No. 1 striker missing, we turned to man of the moment, Bagpussy. Playing alone up front, since the aforementioned northern twat didn't turn up and left us a man short, didn't take long to make his mark and 'bag' his first goal from Giles' pinpoint cross. After that he had an excellent game, scoring four more but we

can't be arsed to describe all of them. Pick of the bunch was his hat-trick strike before half-time, picking up a loose

ball in the D and slipping it under the prostrate 'keeper after good support play from Boy.

It was a good overall performance for the first match of the new term, albeit against shite opposition. In particular Boy, inspired by his new stick (its bent and sticky according to Rishi), had another impressive game, illustrated by his link up play with Bagpuss. Unfortunately at the climax of the best move of the game, involving half the team and covering the length of the pitch, he fell over. I suppose some things never change.

Then it happened. The most amazing thing I've ever seen (and I've been to the moon!), Giles scored a goal. And what a goal. Receiving the ball on the edge of the D after a short corner, Giles picked his spot, smashing the ball across the keeper leaving the ball



nestling in the corner. Eye of the tiger indeed. We thought we might miss Katen and his goal-scoring prowess. But we didn't. With Bagpuss in this form and Giles finding his magic stick, hopefully we'll be set for the rest of the season. So where is Katen? He has defected to that 'sport' of layabouts and homosexuals (allegedly) to just train but not actually play any matches. From what we heard he's shit at cricket as well.

Also a quick mention to JJ for refereeing for us in the cold and wet depths of East London. Although that's probably due to his lack of a social life.

Final score 6-0.

Prospective BeaverSports Co-Editor! Meet The Candidates!



Paul McAleavy



Hestor Barsham



Louise 'Pretty Tasty' Hastie



Claudia Munchkin



Fabs Joseph

Meet The Sevenths! The Met Police Want To...

Paul McAleavey



Manni Pattar - LSE's most famous goalkeeper. Once spent sixty quid on a round of sambuccas for the team. Often treats himself to a post match spliff. Some of the goals he lets in would suggest he smokes pre-match spliffs as well. Claims to be an anarchist. Quote - "Anyone want an eighth?"

Ally Jones - Like Denis Irwin in that he is the oldest player in the team and plays left back, but unlike Denis Irwin has a Cambridge degree. Picked up a nice facial scar from a game against SOAS. Made many of the Polyphonic Spree outfits worn at the Barrel. Quote - "That Louis Saha, what a cunt".

Chris Walsh - Tall German centre back, a resident of the Champagne heartland that is Brockley in South London along with Nick, Graeme, Nathan and little Dave. Regularly goes (quite rightly) mental at the inadequacies of his fellow defenders. Sebastian Diesler fan. Quote - "Defence what the fuck are you doing that was fuckingshit!"

Paul McAleavey - Irish centre back, pisshead. Started drinking at 6am on the day of the Barrel. Chucked out of halls in first year and banned from every other LSE hall of residence. Can thoroughly recommend the disabled toilets on the first floor of St. Clement's Building. Quote - "She's got legs like a young racehorse".

Little Dave - Left back. Very similar to Ryan Giggs in that he plays on the left and is Welsh. Other than that not very similar to Ryan Giggs. Morris dances in his own penalty area. Quote - "Alright le dickhead".

Little Mike - right back. Played two games at the start of the season

then spent the rest of term shagging his girlfriend. Bizarrely, had no reservations in letting the rest of the team know what his bird's arse was like. Quote - "It's pert like Nathan's only not as hairy".

Steve Kelly - Brummie centre back, claims to be Irish. Has been injured all season. Chose to travel to Switzerland to watch the Republic of Ireland lose rather than play take on the night of SOAS. Quote - "Livin in Dudlo's just like growin up in Dublin".

Nathan Dobson (Captain) - Combative midfielder, has played in defence as well. Denies looking like Mick Hucknall. Captain Dobbo memorably capped the end of last term by embarking on a three week bender. Quote - "I wanna fall from the stars, straight into your arms".

Ed Calow - midfielder. The centre of most of the Champagne moments created by the team. Works his magic with fellow shaggy haired midfielder Graeme. Takes free kicks, penalties and throws up on Houghton Street with alarming regularity. Claims to have tried every drug known to man. His favourite Irish county is Kerry. Quote - "Heroin's great, but you don't want to try it more than once".

Graeme Holloway - Second member of the Sevenths shaggy haired creative midfield combination, between them boasting more hair than the



Kings of Leon put together. Arsenal and Gomez fan. Owns the world's biggest mobile phone. Never scores tap ins, only thirty yard screamers. Another member of the Brockley mafia. Quote - "Antiques Roadshow told me my Motorola's worth two grand".

Rob Green - Attacking midfielder, this Isle of Man resident doesn't drink, doesn't do drugs, and yet inexplicably is redder in the face than Frank Butcher after five minutes' running. Can often be seen spinning the discs in the underground bar at Crush under the name DJ Infra-Red. Owns several Happy Hardcore tapes. Quote - "Bosh!"

Nick Vivyan - Centre forward. Notts County fan and star striker. The Champagne Sevenths' scorer. Very, very good player. Quote - "Was it five or six I scored against Queen Mary's?"

Ross Lucas - Duncan Ferguson style centre forward, but without the criminal record. Isle of Wight resident, lives in a penthouse in Red Lion Square. Second highest goal scorer. Quote - "Have you seen my yacht anywhere?"

Raihan Alfaradhi - Smallest member

of the squad, this first year managed to score an absolute screamer against Imperial despite being in the middle of Ramadan. Attacking midfielder who can also play upfront, he boasts an impressive beard.

Tony Murphy - Mancunian Tony boasted a 100% attendance record at Limeabout last term. Drank half a litre of straight vodka at the team Christmas dinner. Is unfortunate enough to live with Geoffrey and Crazy Michael in a bedsit in North London. Big Robbie Williams fan (seriously). Quote - "Anyone for absinthe?"

Simon Taylor - affectionately known as 'vandal' to his friends, and 'that South London cunt' to the cleaning staff of Carr Saunders, how Simon managed to get into LSE is anyone's guess. Currently repeating first year and running a cigarette smuggling business in his spare time. Was on TV once for hitting the linesman with a Mars bar at a Millwall v. Wigan game. Quote - "He was caught on camera throwing a brick at a police horse, but he's a diamond geezer really, my dad".



The Pirate's Piece

Right, only a week or so to go and I'm quitting this one-horse town of a paper, leaving you in the hopefully capable hands of Ellie and some-other-person-to-be-decided-by-free-and-fair-democratic-vote, and not chosen on the basis of looks, or the quality of their racist jokes. The editor insisted I make that clear. I kind of want to go out on a high, so the giving away of The Lovers Guide 2 should ensure my tenure ends with a (gang) bang. Well, for some lucky reader.

Fucking hell, I'm sat in the Beaver office trying to write this piece, on a fucking Sunday when everyone else is recovering from last night or doing real work or something and the twatting editor keeps playing these camp classics on his laptop at full volume. I realise it's his right as a knob-head to have a truly appalling taste in music, but does that mean I have to suffer hours of the Sugbabes, ABBA's Dancing Queen or fucking Diana Ross? Utterly embarrassingly shite music at any hour of the day is soul-destroying, but on a Sunday morning..? I just want to glue my ears shut with Pritt-stick. It's kind of like Crush, but without the nauseating feeling that you're not having a good time, and that the floor is stickier than any floor has a right to be.

What also isn't like Crush is that I haven't got second-team players falling asleep on my shoulder, people imploring me to 'get it down you bastard', or worryingly-fit girls seemingly making a point of ignoring me. Fuck it.

Had a strange encounter the other day. Travelling to Albany Park (where? Exactly...) to ring for the fourths the other day, the entire team got clocked by four (fucking FOUR!! They hunt in packs, like the ravenous flea-bitten monsters they are) ticket inspectors. Clearly, being scumbag students, we hadn't bought tickets, preferring to keep our money for post-match alcoholic refreshments, so we were all ready for a ticket-related sodomising. It's happened before on Berrylands trains. 'So Sir, you were too busy to buy a ticket, is that right? Or is it that the ticket machine was 'broken'? Well Sir, if you'll just give me your name and address...' Now, that seems okay, but it's the look in the guy's eyes when he does it. He might be mouthing this reasonable (if somewhat condescending) stuff, but his eyes... well, his eyes are saying: 'You fucking maggot. If this train didn't have CCTV, I'd tear you limb from limb you dirty schoolboy. People like you make me want to burn the legs off spiders'. and that kind of look is quite noticeable. Well, I was kind of girding myself for another one of these, but for some reason, it never materialised. 'You didn't have time to buy tickets? That's fine, just get yourself one at Albany Park when you get off. That's fine lads, have a good day' and then he giggled a bit with his mates. Fuck me. Either Connex or SouthEastern trains have started employing nice people or he was stoned. Either way, I had an extra £10 to get myself fucked watching the mighty Tottenham slip the nuts into Liverpool. Come on. Perhaps the school could follow in their footsteps. 'What? You haven't done your essay? That's fine Gareth, don't worry about it. I'll do it for you, if you like'. Hmmm... can't really see that one catching on. In which case I'll just have to get used to the 'you daft bastard of a student, I'm going to cut you' look. And with a million-and-three essays hanging-over from last year, I'm steeling myself for a couple of mental dive-bys from my teachers.

Bye.

The New Co-Editor: Who, And Why?

Hestor	Paul McAleavey	Munchkin	Fabs	Tasty
I have decided to run for the position of Beaver Sports Co-editor because it seems an interesting job, that is related to my favourite -and lets face it the most important- group of people at the LSE, the AU. During my time at the LSE, Beaver sports has provided the AU with a chance to inform the rest of the LSE exactly why we are so great, even if we don't always win we show the universal team spirit that is the AU. I would continue this good tradition. While no one can ever fill the Pirates shoes, I would endeavour to try.	I reckon I'm the best person for the job. I was sports editor of my school magazine, BBC Northern Ireland Young Sports Journalist of the Year 1999, have written numerous footie reports for the Beaver, run the infamous Champagne Sevenths webpage and it was me that set up the recent petition against the over-censorship of BeaverSports. Everyone in LSE knows the sports pages are read more than any other part of the Beaver, and I want to keep it that way. I promise loads more photos of all you supreme athletes in action, whether it be on the Berrylands pitches or the floor at Walkabout, more jokes, more competitions and the rest of the stuff that makes Sports the best part of the Beaver. If you still aren't sure why you should vote for me, here's the final reason why you should - I am banned from every LSE hall of residence after trashing the third floor in Carr-Saunders in my first year. Rock and roll.....	Guys guys guys, what can I say? You know I already appear in The Beaver a little toooooo often! I'd really like a shot at editing it, so there's less of me and more of something interesting! As my Barrel fine proves, I have allegiances to many teams, thus ensuring a fair handed approach, and my on the spot reporting skills would be second to none....am I ever anywhere but the tuns? So....Munchkin for Sports Editor!	I is wishing to be sports co-editor as i is having a wonderful writing ability i have wish to have shared with LSE. Also I love the Beaver and everything about Beaver, especially, well only, the sports bit. I hope i'd bring the ability to get an input of articles from all sports, as I know people from most areas of the au the ability to do this even if they have realised I'm a cunt. ability to insult myself worse than anyone else and control my language, so there shouldn't be too many frowning faces. i'd bring women driver jokes, ha...just a sign of my humorous nature for you there as i will obviously be upholding fair censorship and have no wish to upset or alienate any members of the Lse student body. I am seriously into upholding the good form and spirit of the beaver sports pages that make them so much fun to read for all LSE students, especially AU members and affectionates.	I figure that, with Gareth and his Pirate's Piece sadly missing from the Beaver office, Ellie's gonna be lost and lonely, sad and alone up there on her lonesome, hence, a little bit of Women's Rugby lovin' would be just what was needed to kick-start a new era of BeaverSports publishing. I personally have gained so much from the AU and the sporting side of LSE in general that I feel I would love to give somethign back. I have written numerous articles for the Sports section (clearly the greatest work of literary genius since Tolstoy) and I feel I am in a great position to maintain the high-standard of BeaverSports, whilst also adding a touch of creativity and flair to it. Please vote for me, I'd love to make your guys' week by helping create the best thing you'll ever read, every seven days! Love, Louise xx

We've found a Disposable Camera, with wedding photos on it. It belongs to one of you guys. Get in touch, and we'll get it back to you. No thieves.



"Female football players are pretty, they should wear tighter shorts"

-Sepp Blatter, FIFA President

BeaverSports: Male footy players are ugly, they should wear burkhas. Idiot.

Gazelles Bare All And Who's The Random Kisser?

LSE Women's Hockey3

LSE Women's Hockey4

Useless College London 3rds.....2

QMWank.....0

Somewhere, Sometime

Dontknow, Dontmind

**Chrissy Totty,
Munchkin and
Tara**



Although certain people were getting some practice in at the barrel... and you thought that was just soap residue on the floor of the disabled East Building toilet! Now for the LSE Women's Hockey review 2003.

Out wit the old, in with the new, oh no our mistake, we were playing QMWank yet again. Beating this group of lacklustre amateurs is getting a little tedious to say the least. The weather proved more of a challenge than their mis-timed tackles and pedestrian passes. Despite the sleet and gale forced winds, the LSE bared their gazelle like limbs to the elements and played with ruthless professionalism, 4-0, thank you

very much!

Ok, we sound a touch arrogant now, but this is intended as a morale boosting exercise in the build up to Sunday's crunch cup draw, Manchester United vs. Accrington Stanley, with us taking the Accrington role and UCL 1sts donning the red shirts. Let's just

say we've got as much chance of winning as Michelle from Pop Idol has of not shoving pies down her black hole of a gob. Forgive us for gloating over past glories since the immediate future looks bleak.

So lets concentrate on what we're good at, please see exhibit A, Chloe Strong, 1st year law student, would like to know who this man is, and is he really that short?!?!?

Answers to:

shitwhowasisnogging@hotmail.com

Exhibit A



The Women's Hockey Year in Review

- 10 - Zahra's inspirational team talks!
- 9 - Meenal, we finally found someone who can score!
- 8 - Munchkin Surfing
- 7 - Chloe the NEVER-ending story!
- 6 - That crraaazzzyyy game when we decided to wear no knickers! Just checking you're still paying attention!
- 5 - Club Sandwich Action
- 4 - Virginian Nat on returning compliments: if in a bath tub, in perhaps Monaco, and your soft skin happens to be commented on, the only response should be "yes, I do drink a lot of water!", and she claims she isn't the mythological sexual bumbler!
- 3 - The 'oh darling I'm pregnant joke'!!
- 2 - Violent outrages at the Barrel, Nicole's chair wielding (samurai style), and Totty being brutally attacked, what can we say those Principals of Finance students are a little touchy over their notes!
- And finally.....
- 1. Lesbian action at the Barrel, man you LSE boys get excited easily!

Remember, It's Depression Awareness Week

www.depressionawareness.co.uk



More info in the Quad

The Lovers' Guide - Sexplay

The follow-up to the most erotic competition prize ever given out by BeaverSports is being released in February, and seeing as we were the ones who started the hype, we've been giving a few copies to give away. The competition last year, Guess The Breasts, was greeted with such moral outrage that a return to the decrepit puritanism of the past seemed inevitable. Petitions were signed, the Sports editors pilloried, but in the end, common sense and a healthy dose of sexual frustration won the day, as Mr Ollie Ranson walked off with the most wrist-straining present ever. Next week, ladies and gentlemen, one lucky reader will get the chance to pick up a pre-release (premature release?) of the sequel.

How will we do the competition? Guess the testes? E-mail us ideas at the usual addresses. The best idea will get it done. And might win something too.