

THE BEAVER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

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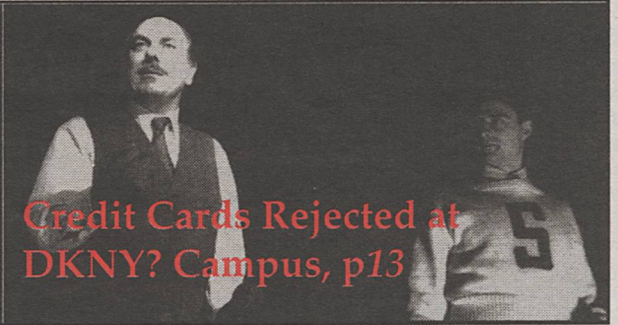
First published May 5, 1949



He hated her Valentine's Day Gift Sports p15



Syria's role in Jerusalem's fate? International, p7



Credit Cards Rejected at DKNY? Campus, p13

Law Courts Succumb To The Mercy Of Armed Woman



Suspense outside the Law Courts as the emergency services move in

Photo: Nina Duncan

By Dhara Ranasinghe

THE Royal Courts of Justice, situated minutes from the LSE came to a standstill last Thursday, after a woman pulled out a gun on three Appeal Court Judges. She then escaped into the labyrinth of the 1,800 rooms which make up the Law Courts.

According to staff at the scene, the woman was an American tourist and pulled a gun from the public gallery during the hearing of a criminal appeal. The woman was rumoured to have said something along the lines of "this has gone on long enough" before pulling out the gun.

At the same time further rumours circulated that the woman, was due to hear a case concerning her children, who had been taken away from her. It

was also said, that she frequently visited the Courts.

While rumours circulated as to whether or not the gun was real, the police were clearly prepared for any eventuality.

All roads leading from the Law Courts to Chancery Lane were blocked, while armed police and sniffer dogs searched the premises.

Court business for the rest of the day was cancelled. One disgruntled solicitor commented on the extensive costs caused as a result of keeping the Courts closed.

The police gave no indication as to when the Law Courts and surrounding roads would be reopened.

At the time *The Beaver* went to press the situation was unresolved.

Funny phones at Rosebery

Student Line currently serves an estimated 2,000 LSE students and approximately 10,000 university students across the country. In light of the recent difficulties faced by residents at Rosebery Hall, is it time to rethink the Student Line contract?
Danielle Bourgeois writes

ACCORDING to Student Line's Managing Director, Clive Petty, Rosebery's billing problem was due to a corrupted file which has since been replaced. Student Line systems were recording the time and duration of the call, but charging incorrect tariffs. Many international calls were wrongly levied with national tariffs. In an explanatory note accompanying the amended invoices,

Student Line claimed some students had been overcharged while other had been undercharged.

Rosebery resident Dean Savakis reflected a common suspicion at Rosebery as he questioned whether these billing tactics were being employed as a "hook." Because their November phone bills were reasonable, some students increased the frequency and duration of their long distance calls. Clive Petty strongly denies this accusation, adding that the reassessed students who examined their phone bills in November and December would have discovered the charges levied to be well above or below the list of rates published by Student Line. Rosebery has also experienced several problems with the voice mail repeatedly "crashing". Some students have also complained of "cross-messages." In the last days of January this problem was particularly acute.

Not only are residents frustrated by Student Line's technical problems, in addition, they are angered by some of

the service's billing policies, having to pay for "0800" calls. Students choosing to use an outside company for their long distance calls are charged twice. Student Line levies a 20/10 pence per minute tariff on the call. Of course, the student also pays their long distance company for the actual call. If the same "0800" number was dialled from the hall pay phone, students would pay only the long distance charges. Petty explains Student Line is in business to make a profit, having no choice but to at least charge the student the 20/10 pence tariff.

International students at Rosebery have been particularly hard hit. Outgoing Overseas Officer, Alan Elizondo feels the situation leaves little choice for students but to opt for outside long distance companies.

While the reassessed invoices were confined to Rosebery Hall, several other LSE residences are experiencing problems with Student Line. President of Bankside, Elena Arene, confirms that residents have also suffered technical

problems with Student Line. A representative of High Holborn claims the system's technical inconsistencies are less problematic at the hall. However, he admits that "heavy" international callers complained of expensive bills.

If Student Line is such a hardship to students, why do we continue to use it? Student Line offered to install all the necessary hardware, phone sets and cabling free of charge. The hall administrations were provided with free phones and BT business rates. Student Line also installed coin phones free of charge. Lastly, the LSE receives 3% of a cut from the charge of total calls made (before V.A.T.) which is deposited in the Inter-halls account. But the major appeal of Student Line was the fact that the system offered students individual phones, a free voice mail system and no monthly maintenance charge.

David Segal, the Assistant Secretary of LSE and the man responsible for signing the School's contract with Student Line, emphasises

that there were no other reputable offers from other phone companies. Segal believes the reassessed invoices are unfortunate but that students should have to pay the updated invoices, since they are reflecting Student Line's actual published rates.

He hopes Student Line will permit students with large reassessments to pay in installments. The Assistant Secretary further made clear his disappointment with the manner in which the reassessed invoices had been dealt with and stressed the need for Student Line to improve its "handling skills".

Like Petty, Segal believes Rosebery's voice mail woes should hopefully be rectified with some technical adjustments. During the first week of February, Rosebery residents received a voice mail from Student Line apologising for the present problems and pledging to improve the situation at Rosebery. Unfortunately the voice mail system crashed again the following day.

Continued on page two

Machiavelli

This week Machiavelli continues his in-depth look at the candidates for the forthcoming Sabbatical elections. Not that there's much depth to any of the candidates. Under the quill this time are the potential runners for the Education & Welfare post and the Entertainments post. As ever, any resemblance to any persons living or dead are purely an accidental slip of the quill.

EDUCATION & WELFARE

Dan Lam (Thank God the Pope's a Buddhist Party): Someone told him that the Pope is now a Buddhist. This time he's kissing arse. (Will kiss bullshit if necessary).

Election slogan: "I'm fucked, you're fucked, we're all fucked".
odds 15/1

Anj Soumal (Labour (Crowe Militant)): Anti-Nazi stormtrooper leads Crowe's Trades Union assault troops on the Munich Beer Halls (Watch out Doralt).

Election slogan: "Look into my eyes and tell me why you didn't vote for me".
odds 3/1 fav

Amal Sandaratne (Anonymous): Well, Sri Lanka won the cricket World Cup. Dedication to the Union is clear (in the same vein as Zeeshan Azhar and Rebecca Bunn (who the hell is she?)).

Election slogan: "I want this on my CV. A vote for me is a vote for my CV".
odds 6/1

Stewart Locke (SWSS): The intellectual front (and sideburns) of SWSS. Ben reckons he's alright, right.. All SWSS members are well acquainted with Welfare but don't know much about Education. Still, that would make him better qualified than recent incumbents.

Election slogan: "Students of the LSE unite. You have nothing to lose but your degrees".
odds...gambling enchains the proletariat

John McKendrick (Conservative): Law Society President's recent high profile seems sure to herald a bid for a Sab post.. Allegedly has some Education but not a clue about Welfare.

Election slogan: "Vote for me".
odds 8/1

ENTERTAINMENTS

Mark Chang (No Party): Most DJ's have the odd floor clearing records. Chang puts them together and calls them a set. (Is he getting confused with his tennis career?)

Election slogan: "Please come back".
odds 8/1

Jasper (you know, the bloke from Carr Saunders) (Carr Saunders Party): Famous for running the social Mecca that is Saunders bar on a Friday night. Only person who could refurbish the Tuns to make it look worse.

Election slogan: Hasn't got one
odds 5/1

Rob Reed (Labour (Campaign for Plain English)): Once applied for a job as a secretary but discovered he had to type at 200 wpm, not speak. Bought a tape on public speaking but his machine chewed it up. One man sound system (will save us paying for Chang).

Election slogan: "What I would like to say at this time in the absence of any other candidates is that I am a very nice person".
odds 1000words/1 minute

Dan Findlay (Dirty Cooper): Knows a lot about Ents. (obvious grounds for disqualification? Does more drugs than Yuan Potts. Does more work than Chris Cooper).

Election slogan "Yeaaaaahhh"
odds 6/1

Fujimori - LSE Glory?

The arrival of President Fujimori at the LSE last Tuesday was met with both jeers and applause. **Guy Burton** and **Andrew Yule** report from both sides of the great divide.

INSIDE the Old Theatre excitement was in the air, for the diminutive son of Japanese immigrants -made good, the President of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, came to the LSE.

Fujimori described his administration as one in which he played a 'general manager's' role while his ministers acted as 'area managers.'

He argued that privatisation was primarily a means to create capital for his two main concerns: the eradication of poverty and the modernisation of the state through greater investment and education.

Fujimori then sat back for questions and was immediately challenged by an irate listener. Would he care to explain the human rights abuses that narcotics traffickers had been subjected to by his shady and shadowy associate, Montecinos? With the questioner's temper beginning to fray, the security men moved to eject him. Fujimori insisted on answering. He admitted that there had been human rights violations and insisted that they had taken place against narco-traffickers.

Asked about the future of Peru's political system, Fujimori suggested that there might be a future for traditional political parties but until they begin to actively respond to the people's hopes and dreams, he said, they will remain weak. But perhaps most importantly of all, the poor were becoming increasingly conscious that democracy was more than just a cross



Photo: B.A. Ramalic

on the ballot paper.

Inevitably Fujimori was questioned about the Tupac Amaru guerrillas that are holding over seventy hostages in the Japanese ambassadors residence in Lima. He was determined to make it clear that he would not yield to them. 'What right, what law, allows them to act as they have done?' he thundered. He expressed concern for his brother who is a hostage in the crisis and said that as a Peruvian and as President he could not allow terrorism to succeed.

While many had initially felt hostility towards the man, it seemed apparent that he had at least won the respect of the few LSE students present.

Guy Burton

Outside, at least one hundred angry protesters put up with over an hour of steady, cold rain to await the arrival of President Fujimori at the LSE last Tuesday.

Fujimori came to the LSE as part of a support seeking tour of Britain, but support for him and his regime was distinctly lacking amongst the protesters on Houghton Street.

Members of at least five or six left wing fringe groups sold their respective papers to the rest of the protest group, made up of Peruvian and other Latin American nationals, LSE students and other members of the public.

Banners were in abundance, generally in condemnation of the Peruvian President calling him a "murderer" and an "assassin" as well as calling for Peru to break with the IMF and for their foreign debt to be cancelled. Three multinational oil companies were also condemned for their alleged support of what one left wing paper described as "the Blood Drenched Fujimori Regime".

Speeches made by a few individual protesters to the gathering crowd of onlookers cited the release of all political prisoners from the "appalling conditions of Peruvian jails.". One speaker numbered the deaths at the hands of Peruvian police and military as 30,000 in just four

years. The same speaker went on to condemn the British police presence at the rally, saying "here come the police, to protect Fujimori's civil liberties, the man who wouldn't know civil liberty if it ran him over."

The protest got more boisterous as time wore on, anticipating Fujimori's arrival. Chants such as "Fujimori asesino" and "no justice, no peace" rang around Houghton Street as the President arrived just after six pm. His smiling bows and waves to the aggressive crowd opposite the Old Building must either demonstrate Fujimori's underlying self confidence or a severe mis-translation of the abuse being hurled at him.

Andrew Yule

Funny Phones, continued from page one

Residents expressed they were "quite cynical" and "sceptical" despite Student Line's efforts.

Do students have any redress in the current situation? Bankside President Arene offers a potential solution. She believes it is the responsibility of the

hall committees to educate students about Student Line's benefits and pitfalls to ensure students receive optimal service. She suggests students could make the highest percentage of their calls incoming and utilise so-called "call back" companies to lower their long distance charges.

While many Rosebery students may be forced to pay their reassessed

invoices, perhaps the hall committee could take action to seek a collective discount. This much is clear; no one wants to stand in hall phone queues twelve people deep. At the same time students expect, and are demanding, a responsible and reliable phone service.

News From The Archives

From This Week: 15 February 1964

ON 15 February 1968 *The Beaver* reported that there was confusion in Carr Saunders Hall after a huge amount of political activity over the 'proposed' visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the Queen Mother. Following a house meeting to discuss the budget of the Hall, a motion that her Majesty would not be 'welcome' on March 13 was put forward "out of the blue". The event was much publicised after the news reached *The Guardian* and the motion was condemned as being "essentially frivolous" by many. Members of the Hall, however, were praised for their action after a Motion in the Union which was said to have been 'overwhelmingly defeated'. Another

meeting of the house took place in which the original motion, called for 'quite constitutionally', was nullified by a motion that the Queen Mother would be welcome instead. When asked of his opinion, the chairman of the Carr Saunders Hall, Neville Townsend, said "it is of no concern to me whether she comes or not" and he denied all reports that the meeting was 'packed' with people and continued to stress his disapproval when he said that, "my reaction at the time was that if the house wished to pass such a motion, this was fair enough, but I certainly objected to the communication with the press which could only harm the name of the hall and LSE".

Clarence House, contacted by *The*



Beaver, were allegedly unaware of these provocative events and thus had no comment to make. Nevertheless, Mr Neville explained that the motion was only passed because of a recount after a disagreement between the tellers! In the same week, Professor Andreas Papatreou, "son of the Greek ex-Premier George Papatreou" was reported to have visited the Hellenic Society in the Shaw Library at the LSE. In his interview he thanked various Professors for their efforts in regaining him his freedom, most notably Professor Allen.

By Miriam Chalabi

News In Brief

Bankside step up security for students

By Kartiki Batra

SITUATED on the South Bank of the Thames, Bankside House has had its fair share of the problems or, so it would seem. In the main, what was envisaged as a pleasant walk to and from the LSE has turned into a potential security nightmare.

Following alleged incidents of 'muggings', 'attacks' and 'mild scares' in the area between Blackfriars Bridge and Bankside House, the Hall Committee has initiated a number of preventive measures, in the interest of safety. Among the first few of these were the organisation of a talk on safety by a police officer and an appeal to the Council to improve lighting in the affected area. In a meeting of the Hall Committee last week, it was decided that the Hall would provide students with personal security alarms at a discounted price of £3. There were also suggestions to run a shuttle bus between the LSE and Bankside House.

In the meantime, the Committee would like to advise students through *The Beaver*, to exercise caution at all times and to walk in groups whenever possible.

Multiple Positions

By Dhara Ranasinghe

THE outcome of the elections at Butler's Wharf Hall of Residence last week appear to have been hampered by the circumstances surrounding the results.

Six students stood for positions on the Hall Committee and when four posts were left uncontested at the close of elections it appears that the six candidates shared out the posts between them.

The LSE's Returning Officer, Joseph Roberts, is now Secretary on the Hall Committee. While it is not against the Constitution for the Returning Officer to stand in hall elections, the question arises as to why fresh elections were not called in light of the results. Joseph Roberts refutes this, arguing that "everything was done above board" and, that a great deal of effort was made to encourage students to stand.

Butler's Wharf residents do not appear to be outraged by the actions of the Hall Committee. Nevertheless, one resident when interviewed by *The Beaver*, remarked how it was "scandalous that these people have done a cosy deal amongst themselves, and denied residents the right to elect their committee".

New Forum for overseas students takes off...

By Kartiki Batra

THE Overseas and EU students forum is to provide a congenial and informal setting where students can raise issues of common interest and expect solutions. This is seen as an alternative to the "intimidating" UGM, for Overseas students to bring up their direct concerns.

In the first of its' meetings, it discussed fees for Overseas students, which were seen as extremely high. The issue of bursaries for Overseas and EU students came up in the context of high fees and unforeseen financial difficulties. The difficulties facing overseas and EU students over accommodation were also debated.

The issue of increasing Overseas and EU students involvement with the union gained importance in the immediate context of the thin attendance at the meeting.

Beaver Doesn't Come Cheap

By Joe Yearsley

The advent of a better quality *Beaver* is imminent, but only if students pass the motion at next Thursday's Union General Meeting which aims to provide the paper with more funds from the Student Union. The new Director, Professor Anthony Giddens, praised *The Beaver* at last week's UGM. His description that it was 'chunky' did however, manage to antagonise some *Beaver* finance campaigners.

Yet this ironically supports the campaign for finance. The Director clearly meant that the paper was packed with information, and his comments could not be interpreted as a reflection of its meagre sixteen pages. *The Beaver* is condensed as much as possible, there is just not enough space at present to include all the news, views and reviews. A bigger *Beaver* would not, however, be at the expense of waffle.

The paper's attempts to gain parity with other student papers have been

stifled by Darrell Hare, the Treasurer of the SU. Yet vociferous support for more funds are voiced by both Dan Crowe, General Secretary, and Liz Chong, editor of *The Beaver*. Crowe emphasises the fact that *The Beaver* is one of the most important organs of communication between students and the Union, and Ms Chong aspires to edit a paper that has better printing quality. Both urge you to support the motion at next week's UGM. As it has also been argued, "without proper funding *The Beaver* can never be bushy, but just a neatly trimmed wedge" of information.



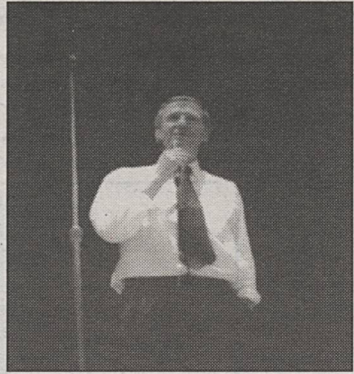
Beaver Executive Editor, Liz Chong. Photo: Nina Duncan

Giddens goes public

By Nina Soteri

LSE DIRECTOR Anthony Giddens addressed Thursday's UGM. Giddens built up quite a rapport with those present and the reception was warm with a range of questions being taken at the end regarding the future of the LSE.

He addressed the issue of top-up fees stating that the policy was clearly being considered, but that no decision had yet been taken. The importance of sustaining the university's current facilities was emphasised. Two important factors for the future were a



Giddens struts his stuff on stage at the UGM. Photo: Nicholas Robin

change of government at the next election, as well as the forthcoming Dearing Report. On the issue of Overseas students' fees the Director offered no guarantee that they would not continue to rise. Particular emphasis was placed on the School's position on a global scale.

Giddens expressed a desire to further elevate the profile of the university in the arena of social and political issues. He also spoke of a change in orientation, with inequality and ecology being a focal point, rather than the divide between right or left wing politics.

Giddens was questioned on the School's policy of welcoming the President of Peru to speak and not allowing LSE students to attend. He stressed the principle of free speech, allowing for diversity in opinions in a liberal university such as LSE. Students were thus left to wonder why attendance to Fujimori's talk had been so restricted.

Giddens expressed support for developing sports and IT facilities commended the efforts of *The Beaver* team, in particular their recent interview conducted with Will Hutton, though he did not appear greatly impressed by the title.

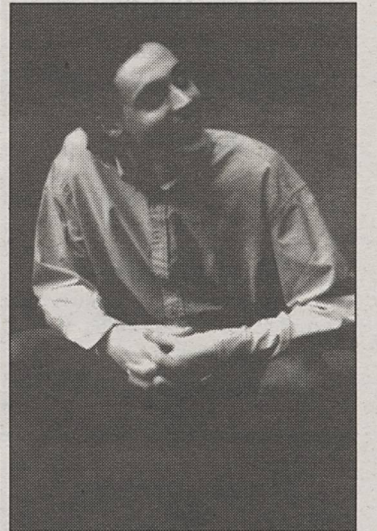
Potts Of Fame

By Dev Cropper

WHY IS PROMINENT LSE student Yuan Potts splashed across *The Big Issue* and *The Daily Telegraph* under the alias 'Gaz'? Because he has a job, a home and a life ... and he likes to party too.

Gaz is the ultimate extension of the Liberal Democrats' campaign to attract young voters to their radical, cool party. Gaz, according to the adverts the party is running alongside a picture of Potts, cares about just the sort of things political spin doctors like to think concern first-time voters.

Gaz likes raves and clubs. He wants a proper health service - in case he overdoses? Sure, he might lose his job (too hungover, perhaps), so he wants to know that benefits and retraining will be available. He wants to breathe clean air. He votes Liberal Democrat. But that begs the question the ad doesn't answer - why?



Yuan Potts - the Liberal Democrat front line man. Photo: B.A.Roualec

Late Results

By Beaver Staff

Academic and administrative incompetence seem rife in the Government Department. Students do not know whether they have passed or failed their degree five months after completing the course.

The 1995-96 MSc European Politics and Policy students finished their course in September 1996. Students flew from the USA and Europe to the presentation ceremony on December 19 1996 without knowledge of their results.

The course costs £4,740 for UK and EC students and £7,710 for overseas students. Most high-fee students will spend in excess of £17,000 during their twelve months in London.

One foreign student told *The Beaver*, "I need the degree certificate for when I apply for jobs." When challenged by students about the scandalous failure to inform them of

their results, academics mumble about a 'cock-up' and give vague hints about results.

The course was dogged by problems throughout last year. The appointed academic failed to turn up and allegedly passed teaching on to a PhD student from Birkbeck College. The chaotic history of the course meant many students have resigned themselves to a delay in knowing their results.

Christopher Hood, Convener of the Government department, in a letter to *The Beaver*, responded to these allegations, stating that a burglary in the Government department over the summer meant that "records of where dissertations were had to be laboriously reconstructed from scratch." He regretted the delay in the publication of results, insisting that the November deadline was achieved.

Dr. Hood refuted the allegation that the European Policy course in question, was taught by a PhD student.

STREET & ABOUT Views from Houghton Street

- Q 1) A recent survey has established that London is the world's sexiest city... Do you agree?
2) What do you think is the 'sexiest' thing about London?
3) What do you think is the 'sexiest' thing about the LSE?

Compiled by B.A. Ronalic and Nicholas Robin

Carl Mauer, 2nd year, BSc Econ.



1, 2 & 3) When it comes down to sex I have no answers.

- 1) No.
2) Big Ben with a condom on.
3) I would not dare calling women things.

Jason Stobbs, 1st year, Philosophy.

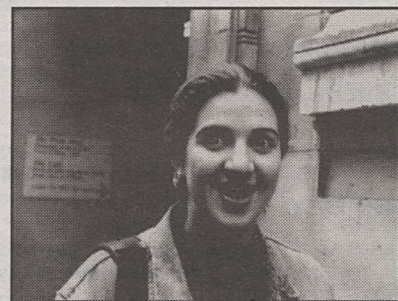


- 1) Yes... Because you are there babe.
2) The River.
3) See 1.



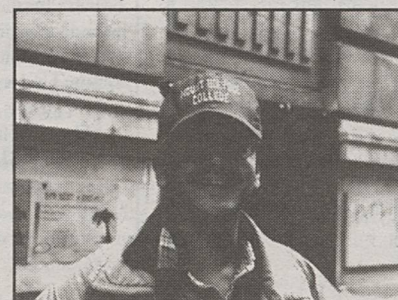
Stella Isidorou, 1st year LLB.

Zarine Ghiassi, 1st year BSc Economic History



- 1) No.
2) My bedroom.
3) Martin.

Bhisham Manraj, 2nd year LLB



- 1) No.
2) Pave Raymond Revue Bar.
3) Monique.



The Beaver

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DESPERATE PLEA FOR

HELP! (2 am Friday morning)

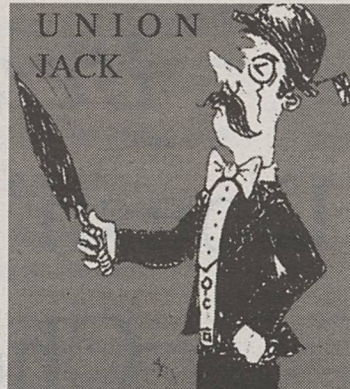
I would like to make an appeal to anyone interested in writing for *The Beaver*. Our collective has expanded over these past months and *The Beaver's* aim of improving the paper's writing quality has been partly realised. If you are slightly interested in finding out how the paper works, in getting free meals or CDs (in exchange for a review, by the way) or in getting your own NUS/NUJ (National Union of Journalists) official press card: come to our collective meetings on Mondays 6.00 pm in *The Beaver* office. I admit that our resources are severely limited thanks to our lack of funding from the Treasurer, my apologies for the resultant poor printing quality of the paper.

LIZ CHONG

ARE YOU BEAUTIFUL?

THEN I WANT YOU!
CALLING ALL BEAUTIFUL,
GORGEOUS, STUNNING, FUNKY LSE MEN
AND WOMEN (AND YES, THERE ARE
PLENTY OF YOU OUT THERE!)
I NEED LSE MODELS FOR NEW
UP AND COMING FASHION PAGES
ANYONE CAN APPLY.
I ALSO NEED FASHION WRITERS,
STYLISTS, HAIR AND MAKE-UP PEOPLE.
INTERESTED IN HELPING?
FOR IDEAS, DETAILS OR ARTICLES,
PLEASE CALL NINA ON 0171 574 4367 OR
0171 955 6705
OR DROP A NOTE IN THE BEAVER OFFICE
(BY THE UNDERGROUND).

UNION JACK



LSE is in the grip of a fever. We have a disease which makes us sweat, moan, and clap on cue. It allows us delusions of grandeur. It makes us feel important. Our only desire is to be laid up in bed with it for days. It entered the UGM this week. Its name? Giddensitus (Iconisis Soiababbleus).

Giddens is here, and we love him. Jack was privileged to watch his display of rampant populism. Our messiah, lowering himself effortlessly to the appropriately base level, walked amongst the masses in a mysterious way. Part Oprah, part Dimbleby, part best mate, Anthony (Anih, Tony, Tone, T) did everything short of feeding the 5000 on Ginsters and John Smiths. This was a man in search of - in need of - a personality cult.

The problem is, he speaks sense. Perhaps Jack has also been smitten with the fever, but here does seem to be a man who can give meaning to the loud but empty vessel which the LSE has become. Hagiography apart, his appearance presented a clash of styles. Jack's take on the Giddens situation is that of an undialogic man expressing a dialogic ideology in an undialogic environment. Much as Giddens earnestly protests (methinks he doth protest too much) that we all need to talk a little more and rant a little less, he speedily showed the ideal ought not apply to himself. He was also quickly shown that sensible dialogue is an alien concept to LSE hacks.

After doing the vision thing, he subjected himself to the 'really important' task of allowing people who want to get elected to ask him questions on the issue of the day.

His induction to the process was ably given by some extremely boring ranter, lecturing on the fact that an LSE society decided not to publicise a private speaker meeting. WHAT! Is he suggesting it might not be a good idea to invite tedious fuck-wit communists with a preponderance to throw eggs and shout abuse to see interesting speakers? Concurrently, Dave the Lion Man questioned if Giddens would give a platform to people holding irrational views which threaten the very fabric of social values. Standing up and saying "Hello Mr Kettle, I'm Mr Pot" would have made the same point. Ultimately, Jack was forced to conclude that if the LSE were to enforce a 'no platform to wankers' policy, the UGM would lose most of its sparkle.

Giddens, meanwhile, didn't really care. He was having far too much fun repelling the copious missile attacks, and exchanging banter with the gallery. He is, you see, one of us. He is (ahhhhh) our friend. Rather like the young teacher who tries to be mates with his kids, this was a man on a charm offensive. Indeed, offensive was often the right word, as he ignored people's questions in the search for blatant populism. Underneath, Jack would like to postulate that there is more to link Giddens and Dave the Lion than you might think: both are about as undialogic as you can get. In saying that, this was without doubt the most entertaining UGM in ages. We enjoyed it. He enjoyed it. Why not have him back every week for a Union Giddens Meeting?

The real issue, once again, was crystallised in the Spice Girls. Jack reckons that truly dialogic people fancy Geri - at least you could have a sensible conversation with her. Either Giddens (as suggested by Chairman Phil) would have them all, or he might settle just for Victoria. She never says anything, so in post-coital bliss Giddens could light a cigarette and listen to what he likes best: the sound of his own voice. An undialogic heaven - what more could a messiah

What's On

Bah'a'i Society
hosts:
World Religion Day at LSE
on Monday February 24, Vera Anstey Room
at 6.30pm
Presentations by Catholic, Christian, Jewish,
Hindu, Muslim & Bah'a'i Societies.

Refreshments available

Applications For Halls Of Residence
For the academic year 1997-1998 are now
open.
Forms can be collected from the
Accommodation Office, E294.
Closing date for all applications is March 31

For further information, contact the
Accommodation Office on 0171 955 7531/2

Cine- Club

Tuesday, February 18
Citizen Kane
6.15 pm in New Theatre, E171.

Thursday, February 20
The Name of the Rose
7.15 pm in New Theatre, E171.

Free for Members
Membership (£1) available at the door.

The Arabic Society
Wanted:
guys and girls needed to model traditional
clothing for the fashion show event in the
forthcoming Global Festival.

Also Wanted:
In need of Traditional Arabic & Middle Eastern
clothing for the forthcoming Global festival.
your help would be greatly appreciated.

Meeting for all those interested will be held on
Wednesday February 19 at 2pm. The Law
Common Room (3rd floor of the Old Building).

Arabic Language Classes

Weekly on Wednesday 4.30 -5.30 pm
Beginners Room E195 Members Free
Intermediates Room E198 Non- members 50p

LSE Christian Union

Speaker: John Richardson

Topic: God, Sex & Marriage

On Thursday February 20 At 6pm, A144

The Arabic Society at the LSE & The Arab Society of UCL
Present
Party At Sedona
Seona, 12 New Burlington Street
(Off Regent St - Nearest tube Oxford Circus)
On Tuesday March 18 at 10pm-3am
Tickets £10 or £15 for VIP tickets - VIP room with finger- buffet and Belly dancer.
For information & tickets call:

LSE: Joe 0958 491 603 UCL: Reem 0958 557 536
Kings: 0956 953 738 QMW: Sara 0181 853 5067
Imperial: Najla 0973 764 380 City: Maha 0956 496 747

Rag Week

Monday Drinkathon	Tuesday Blind Date	Wednesday Race Night	Thursday Club Night	Friday Techno Night
The Underground is the setting for a night of devastation and carnage. For the measly sum of £12 you receive a limited edition LSESU Centenary Rag Pint Glass, which is yours to keep and treasure for years to come. A bit of a con? Ooh no Missus, because for the whole evening all drinks will be free in that glass. Venue: Underground Bar Time: 7.30pm Cost: £12	Under the watchful eye of compere Tom "Cilla" Smith. Will Sam Parham pick Christine Wright? Will Nicola Hobday reject Darrell Hare (again)? What sex will Bernardo Duggan choose from? And can Chris Cooper use the occasion to procure a shag for himself? All these questions and many more will be answered, plus there is a chance to see how last years couples got on. This year the Drama Society are producing the show, so it might even be good! Venue: Old Theatre Time: 7.45pm Price:£2	Place your bets! It is time to take you to one of the top race courses in the world (The Tuns) for a night of quality horse racing. Win a fortune or lose your shirt on eight great races, and then risk it all in the special auction race. Choose to take the plunge on a nice filly (unlike The Tuns), or an old hag (more like it), under the commentator Tom "Peter O'Sullivan" Smith. Win or lose, a top night, and it is totally free Venue: The Tuns Time: 7.30pm Price: Free	Sugar Daddy-o, Sugar Daddy-o! Set me freeeeeeee! Villa Stefano is the stylish venue for LSE's latest venture into Club Land. Underground resident Marc Chang will be supplying the happy house beats which start at 10.30pm and don't stop till you drop (or 3am, whichever comes first). Entrance to this exclusive venue, a hang-out for many top stars, for one night only is £2. Venue: Villa Stefano (next to Holborn tube) Time: 10.30-3am Price: £2	Techno! Techno! Techno! Friday night is always party night, and this is no exception. A 1am bar extension is the perfect setting for Techno masters Poodle Chaos to fire up the best in techno, hard house and ambient sounds. Etc, etc, etc. It is £1 to get in, and there'll be a collection in The Tuns.

Vorsprung durch Paddy?

Simon Green asks, do the Liberal Democrats under Paddy Ashdown stand a chance of breaking through?

There is an old joke which goes something like this:

Q: What is the difference between a Liberal Democrat campaigner and a Skoda?

A: You can shut the door on a Liberal Democrat.

Okay, it's not exactly at the cutting edge of contemporary humour but it serves to illustrate a point. The Liberal Democrats, like the Czech car industry, suffer from a public image problem. Our third party is often seen as the Skoda of British politics: honest, dull and, although no longer prone to embarrassing break-downs, let down by a shabby exterior (normally in the form of sandals, beard and canary-yellow tie). Public perception, of course, is rarely an accurate guide to reality. Skoda now turns out streamlined, handsome cars with German engineering. In the run-up to the General Election, how do the Liberal Democrats match their popular image of the past?

The current electoral campaign looks like being one of the hardest

fought yet. Intense spin-doctoring and furious mud-slinging are the order of the day. Behind the noise and smoke of the two main parties slugging it out, the Liberal Democrats often have trouble getting their message across. Nevertheless they have managed to maintain a high-profile, thanks to the prospect of a close election and revived

talk of a pact with Labour. But if the latter's move to the centre has made this rapprochement possible, it presents a further problem for the Liberal Democrats. Many of their cherished policy concerns have been adopted by a New Labour seeking to broaden its appeal. The majority of voters, already unsure about what the Liberal Democrats stood for, have been left even more confused.

This confusion is ironic because it comes at a time when the party is experiencing considerable success. Compared to the dark days of 1988, when a difficult merger between the Liberals and the SDP reduced the once-triumphant 'Third Force' to a whimper, it has enjoyed a remarkable revival in

(Ladbroke's odds are currently at 500-1), there is a feeling that the long-awaited breakthrough has finally arrived. It is not the first time, of course, that the realignment of British politics has been announced. What happens this time round depends not only on how the Liberal Democrats do in terms of MPs - and they have a reasonable chance of raising their tally into the 30's - but more importantly on how Labour handles constitutional reform. If they win with anything less than a landslide, Labour are likely to look at ways of reforming an electoral system which has kept the Conservatives in power for two decades on a minority vote. The Liberal Democrats hope that serious reform would herald an end to the two-party system, and replace it with a more representative means of deciding who governs.

If the continued success of the Liberal Democrats depends on the General Election and its aftermath, what other policies are they offering the electorate? At a recent keynote speech in London, Paddy Ashdown sought to present his party as the defenders of decent public services.

Denouncing the reduction of politics to a "one-dimensional 'cost of everything, value of nothing' obsession with direct tax levels", he promised the taxpayer "real value-for-money". Not surprisingly, he singled out the NHS and education, two areas that the Liberal

Democrats have tried to make their own, as most urgently in need of new investment. Hospitals require more staff, more beds and shorter waiting lists. Schools require not only smaller classes, but also a radical rethink. Their under-use was a "national scandal", claimed Ashdown, proposing the creation of life-long "centres of

community learning". To pay for these measures he called for a new "Tax Contract", committing his party to a crackdown on government waste and adherence to two key principles of "no taxation without explanation" and "no promises without the bill attached". In other words, the Liberal Democrat leader was chanting what has become the party's mantra: education, health and a willingness to raise taxes.

So how do the Liberal Democrats fit their popular image? They claim to have a reputation for honesty. With regard to their policies on taxation this is probably deserved. It seems reasonable to assume that if the state spends more, then taxes will have to rise. It is also true, however, that with no prospect of gaining power on their own, they can afford to be more frank. Whatever one makes of this, by pushing policies not based solely on the need to be elected, the Liberals play an important role in fostering political debate.

If the Liberal Democrats are seen as dull, then it is partly their own fault and partly that of the electoral system. A more open style of policy-making is a strength but can appear pretty tedious to those not involved. Rational discussion about health, education or Europe is rarely as entertaining as foreigner-bashing or beggar-baiting. The monotonous regularity with which previous Liberal revivals have bitten the dust - mainly due to the impossibility of gaining fair representation in Parliament - has also been a big turn-off. The Liberal Democrats can only hope that an agreement can be reached with Labour on constitutional reform. If the high-level talks between the two parties are a guide, then the possibility of this happening is good. It is obvious that a Liberal Democrat party with 100 seats in Parliament would be in a much better position to engage - and hold - public interest.

Despite the occasional rumbling of discontent, notably over closer ties with Labour, Paddy Ashdown's leadership of the Liberal Democrats looks secure.

What then of the Liberals' legendary shabbiness? Four by-election victories since 1992, as well as two highly publicised Tory defections, have done their image no harm. With regard to dress-sense, Liberal Democrat Conferences are now shining examples of sartorial restraint - although the occasional tank-top can still be spotted beneath the Italian tailoring. For final proof of this trend one need look no further than the current issue of *Tatler*, and an article about parliamentarians of the future. The Lib-Dems featured are young, shaven and polished - and not one is wearing sandals. New Lib-Dems, New Footwear.

As this article began with a tired joke about Skodas, what better way to finish than with a tenuous metaphor about cars? For some time now, the big red juggernaut of New Labour has been hogging the middle of the road. As it rumbles along, it tastefully mirrored windows reflect a dazzling array of white teeth and spin-doctored haircuts. Only occasionally are there muffled screams from deep within the container. To its right, veering back and forth dangerously across the hard-shoulder, is the blue saloon car of Conservatism. Once the shiny pride and joy of Essex Man, it is now looking distinctly shabby. From time to time things are livened up by one of the back-seat occupants carelessly tumbling from the open boot, or by Dr Mawhinney's legendary bouts of road rage. Trailing a little behind is the sensible yellow runabout of Liberal Democracy, whose ecological engine doesn't let it cruise at quite the same speed as the others. The big question, hotly debated, is whether to sneak past the Labour lorry on the left, the right, or manoeuvring skilfully, cruise along in its slipstream. The big danger is that when the juggernaut breaks to turn down the slip-road of electoral success, it will squeeze out the little runabout. Anyone interested in genuine political debate, a reformed constitution and a more representative government should hope that it does not.



Come on Mr Major and Mr Blair - Live in the Real World!

By Simon Retallack

In the real world, politics isn't working. Our Parliament, parties and media are consistently failing to address some of the most critical challenges facing this country and the world as we enter the 21st Century. Globally and locally, environmental degradation threatens human health and ecological stability, as pollution, traffic congestion and destruction of our countryside continue to increase. Poverty and conflict in the Third World are leading to increasing international insecurity, whilst our aid budgets are cut and cut again as if we owed no duty of care to those struggling to survive. In this country, mass unemployment, poverty and rising inequality are reducing the quality of life for all and threatening social cohesion. The political system itself is in crisis, with widespread public disillusionment and disaffection.

All these problems are an inevitable consequence of current short-term strategies for economic growth. Yet within our political system these issues are rarely addressed, let alone debated.

What is needed is government that is accountable and responsive to public concerns. What we have is increasing

power concentrated at Westminster and quangos accountable to central government rather than the people they serve. Under our present electoral system, the party of government is determined by relatively few votes in a handful of marginal constituencies. New and alternative voices are pushed to the margins of political debate and the concerns of millions of ordinary people about quality of life are ignored. Huge problems persist.

Yet this could be changed. An organisation has been created which believes that poverty can be tackled; our environment can be improved; social justice can be encouraged. Real World is a new coalition of 41 of Britain's most respected voluntary, campaigning and research organisations, working to improve our environment, eradicate poverty and promote democracy and social justice in the UK and internationally.

Real World exists to challenge the mainstream political parties to face these extremely serious issues for the UK and the world which are not currently being addressed. Never before have organisations involved in such a broad range of issues come together in this way, with such a unified call for a new political agenda to improve the quality of life for all. A unified

approach makes a great deal of sense given that the problems they are each attempting to tackle are interconnected. As Jonathan Porritt, former Director of Friends of the Earth, says, "Protect the environment by protecting people's health, jobs and democratic rights - that's the Real World's agenda." Real World's founding organisations have the combined support of over 2.1 million people, and believe that by working together they can get real issues on the political agenda, provoke public debate and political action on the crucial problems facing this country and the world.

Real World has created an Action Programme for Government which sets out some of the most important policy changes which are needed if progress is to be made. The coalition is submitting its plan to all major UK political parties and intends to campaign in support of it both in the run up to and after the next election and to monitor its implementation by the next government.

There is much more to be done than the policies it outlines, but its adoption would at least prove their willingness to build a better world. It urges them to make commitments to:

- A £1 billion annual programme of public investment in local, community

and voluntary enterprises, to create work opportunities and meet social needs.

- An "ecological" restructuring of the tax system.

- A Bill of Rights, establishing in law the individual rights of citizenship.

- Establishment of a timetable for achieving the UN development aid target of 0.7 per cent of national income within 10 years.

- A housing strategy to provide at least 100,000 affordable homes in the social housing sector each year for the next 10 years.

- An integrated transport programme with the target of reducing road traffic by 10 per cent from 1990 levels by the year 2010.

- A programme for the reduction of the UK's CO₂ emissions by at least 20 per cent from 1990 levels by the year 2005, as a first step towards deeper reductions.

- Leadership at international level to promote an enforceable code of conduct on international arms transfers, incorporating a ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, export and use of anti-personnel mines.

- An integrated strategy to increase the consumption of fresh and nutritious food.

- Leadership at European and global

levels to secure effective regulation of international trade and investment to safeguard social and environmental standards.

- Binding legal protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

- Regular publication of a new measure of economic welfare, other than GNP, which includes social and environmental factors.

Real World calls on every major political party in the UK to commit itself to implementing these 12 key reforms in its first term of government.

The coalition's argument is not only that the issues to which these reforms relate must be faced if today's children are to live in a safer, better world, but that they can be tackled successfully given sufficient imagination and political will.

Real World is a positive, strictly non-party political force for change, and it offers the greatest chance for a long time to make politicians listen. It is a movement which needs and deserves everyone's support if it is to succeed.

For more information about Real World, telephone 0171 930 0375, or write to Real World, c/o TCPA, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AS

NUS and disaffiliation -the debate rages on

Why we should not disaffiliate from the NUS - Stuart Lock argues

The Beaver, 28 January 1997, gave much space to Dan Crowe's latest rants against the NUS leadership. In another attempt to "piss NUS off" (which Crowe stated as his principle reason for his support for the LSESU's affiliation to the Campaign for Free Education) he believes that we should disaffiliate from the NUS, and that this would lead to a cascade of student unions doing the same, somehow giving us more political power.

I do not stand with the NUS leadership. To hear us vilified by Douglas Trainer at the University of East Anglia (for launching "Trotskyist plots") or to see how much the leadership hated our presence at last year's NUS Conference is something that makes me proud. In many ways it is easy to see where this argument comes from, and why it may gain support from wide sections of our student body. Where Blair's "project" has met little enthusiasm amongst ordinary people or inside the Labour Party, it is amongst our union leaders that we can see the greatest enthusiasm for Blairism. With their careers to build one can see the real cadre of Blairism - the place where Blairism dominates most. At last year's NUS conference, in the tradition of the most right wing Tory, Douglas Trainer argued that students should get no extra money because the homeless were more worthy - playing off one set of the victims of Thatcherism against others. At the open SWSS meeting at NUS Conference, delegate after delegate from the Labour Party came to offer their apologies. "We're not all as bad as them" said one. We can see the position of the NUS leadership even at the LSE. Sam Parham argued right down the party line last week in *The Beaver*, by saying that we should not pay for our education before we go to college, but to pay afterwards it will be OK. However, despite this, I believe the measure of leaving the NUS defies logic, and is fundamentally counter-productive.

I believe, first of all, that it is

another example of Crowe (ironically in the tradition of the NUS leadership) ducking any kind of a fight. Crowe has failed to lead any kind of fight within the NUS ("I met Douglas Trainer last week...we both obviously share common ground..." (*The Beaver*, last week)) or around the issue of tuition fees itself. The strategy of ignoring union policy to call a quiet candlelit vigil (so quiet SWSS knows of at least two people who couldn't find it) proved to be fatal.

Crowe fails to realise that the NUS is not a unique union. Union leaders throughout history have failed to deliver for their members. Alan Johnson of the CWU was forced to call the one-day strikes for the postal workers in the summer, but because of his position in Blair's back pocket did all he could to strangle them with ballot after ballot. At one activist meeting in Westminster Central Hall a postal worker said, "I'd like to see my boss in a coffin - and let's put Tony Blair and Alan Johnson in there as well! I'm sick of seeing Tory Ian Lang telling us to get back to work, but where are the Labour Party?"

Why won't they support us!" to a standing ovation. Similarly Jimmy Knapp of the RMT has consistently failed to support rail workers, and even Bill Morris has failed to deliver promised money to the Liverpool dockers, using the excuse that "the strike is not legal." The Hillingdon Health workers, just up the road from us, have just been sold out by Unison,

with the union leaders demanding the workers accept the latest offer from Pall Mall, or the union withdraws any backing. Even Arthur Scargill failed to call on other union leaders to back his miners in 1992, leading to a horrendous defeat.

So in all these situations, does Crowe suggest that the rank and file force the leaders into action, fight themselves, or that they duck the fight and leave the union?

The reason for the failure of union leaders to deliver to their members is clear. They are removed from the rank. Their position exists only to hold back

struggle. They are not directly affected by any victory, or indeed defeat. Crowe himself, with his radical rhetoric accompanying conservative action, comes under the same banner.

So Crowe wants to set up a rival union. It is unlikely this would take off, as he expects, but even if it does he again fails to learn the lessons from other unions. The RMT and ASLEF called action on the tubes individually many times, but it was eight years before they co-operated and called united action in the summer.

There are even two faults with Crowe's logic himself. Firstly, he would fail to piss off NUS. The leadership would merely wash their hands of the LSE and the problem of tuition fees at the LSE. Look up the road at the University of North London. The management disbanded the union here. NUS simply ignored the existence of the university and said the management had a right to run the college.

At UNL it has been left to ordinary

students, with mass meetings of hundreds of people, to organise the fight to reinstate their union. Secondly, Crowe is on the left of the Labour Party (though why he remains in the Labour Party - whose leadership have drifted rightwards for far longer than NUS, and are even more effective now in strangling out discontent than the NUS, is a mystery). The agenda set out by Ken Livingstone is that come the disappointment of the first year of Blair's government, the leadership of NUS will fall into the hands of the left very easily.

Why does Crowe believe his new union would be any better. It appears that he believes that we should get left union leaders and then everything would be OK. Left leaders are useless without the base behind them. That is why SWSS do not make elections our main priority - fundamentally we do not believe elections are the way to change things. Blair week by week confirms our position - but I do not know of anybody who says they will vote Labour, only if they fail to change anything. We look to ordinary students, on the ground, to fight back. It is only action like this that can force union leaders to fight; and when involved in each struggle, drawing the links from one to the next; we learn the lessons of defeat to guide us to the next victory. By learning the lessons from each struggle, you begin to get a picture of an organisation that can really make a difference.

Dan Crowe, meanwhile, has a madcap proposal I do not believe he will be able to get through our union. If he does, ironically it will benefit only our college bosses, and the Tories. So far, the Conservative Party at the LSE are the only group I can see who support his position.

Disaffiliation from the NUS, unfortunately, is not a realistic short cut. Dan should start leading a real fight, stop the tokenistic crap which'll get him remembered only for destroying our union movement, and match his radical rhetoric with deeds and action.



Dan Crowe - not a NUS fan

Barbarism in Britain

At the time of writing 14 asylum applicants were on hunger strike, some close to death in protest to being treated like criminals. Neither Home Office secretary Michael Howard, nor Prisons Minister Anne Widdecombe were prepared to grant the applicants their freedom, or even make a decision on the validity of their applications in order to avert a possible death. This despite the fact that none of the applicants were criminals, and their only request is asylum from the repressive regimes of their 'home' country.

At the same time we are regularly told that Parliament is the mother of all democracies, and that any integration into a European Union would weaken domestic democracy. Furthermore, John Major was recently courting the 'Asian vote' and spelling out his anti racist credentials.

The reality is that Britain has a long history of barbaric immigration controls with every succeeding one increasing in its overt racism.

The first anti immigration legislation was introduced by Balfour's Tory administration in 1905. It was called the 'aliens act' and was aimed at eastern european jews fleeing pogroms and repression. Corresponding to the act was a rise in anti-semitism propagated by many Tory MP's, one even comparing Jewish Immigration to the entry of deceased cattle from Canada. The Jews were accused of taking jobs and causing unemployment.

In the run-up to World War II Jews were systematically turned back from

Britain to face almost certain death at the hands of Hitler. One source estimates that as few as 10,000 Jews found refuge in Britain during the years 1939-45. The Labour party has also played a role in immigration controls. A 1965 white paper proposed that only 5,000 immigrants were to be allowed into Britain. These 5,000 immigrants would have to be commonwealth citizens whose grandparents were born inside Britain. In other words, if you were black, you had a very slim chance of getting into Britain.

The 1993 Asylum and Immigrations Appeals act removes the right to asylum to refugees from countries which are on the government's 'white list'. These countries include Algeria and Nigeria. Labour's Jack Straw stated at the time of the Act that "you couldn't get a cigarette paper between Labour and the Tories over the question of immigration". All of this is in stark contrast to the governments of the 1950's who faced a labour shortage in the midst of the post-war boom. MPs such as Enoch Powell (who would later on make his notorious 'rivers of blood' speech) were to be seen going to the West Indies actively recruiting Labour for the British economy.

Ben Selwyn on the Asylum Bill

Britain benefited greatly from this immigration. Not only did the new immigrant help build the National Health service and the national infrastructure - but they were also free - the government had had to pay absolutely nothing for their upbringing and education. Furthermore the new immigrants provided an injection of culture to the society recovering from the devastation of World War.

What determines levels of immigration in the shape of the economy and the popularity of the ruling political party. In a situation of economic expansion immigration is a quick solution to the problems of Labour shortage. By way of contrast, ensuring economic stagnation and lack of support for the ruling party, immigration controls are used as a method of deflecting anger away from the government and instead towards 'economic' migrants who are supposedly taking our jobs'.

The most recent anti-immigrant legislation has had the effect of creating Britain's first refugee camp near

Holloway prison in London. The refugees have been withheld any benefits while their claims are being processed. Furthermore employers now have the right not to employ, or even sack workers whom they suspect as being illegal immigrants. This legislation has the effect of creating more racism. Two years ago a building unionised by UNISON was raided by a London council and a list of names taken - the justification was that the council was looking for 'African sounding names'. The response from the Union was strike action which forced the council to back off.

The issue of immigration controls is often presented by MP's and political pundits as being about protecting British jobs and preventing scrounging off the Welfare state. In reality low pay and lack of job prospects mean that most young people want to leave Britain. Furthermore the economic situation ensures a net outflow rather than inflow of migrants. Since capital is free to move around the globe looking for the most projectable investment opportunity, the same policy should be applied to refugees and any other immigrants looking to come to visit or live in Britain.

Accounting and Finance-LSE Style

Helen Waldron

Do you know what a poison pill is? Or a red herring? Or even a junk bond? Curious to find out more? Then you really should have taken a degree in Accountancy and Finance, the most interesting course at the LSE! Yes, I know what the subject brings in mind, boring, middle-aged men in grey suits. But it is not like that at all...

Admittedly, the course is rigidly structured, four courses in each of the three years with one outside option permitted each year. However, the good grounding that the LSE students receive consequently looks impressive to the City firms, where most of the Accountancy and Finance students find themselves after graduation. The compulsory courses are generally rigorous and have a tendency to be highly theoretical.

"The department itself is large and impersonal. Few social events are organised in comparison with other departments"

However, the outside option allows there to be scope for broader study. This year I am taking a course in British literature which has proved to be a much needed diversion from the capital asset pricing model! I feel the most interesting courses in the department are those dealing with corporate finance and financial matters. They offer a mixture of economic theory, mathematics and management to prevent them from being too narrow.

Most people perceive the discipline to be highly numerical, but this is not true in general. Some of the courses, particularly those related to the management side of the course, have a fairly theoretical base, which involves much more than the stereotypical 'balance-sheet' type analysis.

The department itself is large and impersonal. Very few social events are organised, especially in relation to other departments. I also feel that lecturers and teachers have little interest in their students' welfare and progress. This however, is countered by the fact that the lecturers are not only at the top of their respective fields, but they also have the ability to convey complex material in a way that is clear, logical and even often amusing.

Classes offer little scope for discussion or debate. Most of them revolve around numerical exercises for which there is a definite 'right' or 'wrong' answer. This for me is a definite drawback, but it is unfortunately the inherent nature of the subject.

On balance I would certainly recommend taking a course from the department if you possibly can. Just do not admit it to any of your friends or else it will seriously damage your reputation.

The Advance of Communism?

With Hong Kong returning to Chinese rule later this year, **Sabrina Law** suggests that there will be little upheaval.

Indeed there seems little to fear from the Chinese...

The press has taken much interest in reporting recent events on Hong Kong. You may think what this has to do with you, but given that the global economic centre may very likely move to the Asia-Pacific Rim in the next century with China the largest fast-growing economy, and you heading towards business, it is in your interest to know a bit. If you are politically conscious, I ask you to witness this unique change of sovereignty: a capitalistic city which thrives on its free-market economy and its rule of law will now exercise a 'high degree of

"...it is in China's interest to work hand in hand with the people of Hong Kong to ensure a smooth transition"

autonomy' under a communist regime from midnight June 30.

Last December the Chief Executive was elected by a committee of 400 which was itself selected by the Chinese Government to replace Chris Patten, the last British colonial governor. The same committee also elected the Provisional Legislature (PL) which would replace the existing democratically elected Legislative Council after the handover. This was done in retaliation against the political reforms put forward by Chris Patten in 1992. However, the establishment of the PL was not provided for in the Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini-constitution in the future.

Proposals to abolish some of the most important laws on civil liberties

have been put forward by the Preparatory Committee since the beginning of the year. One proposal suggests that future mass rallies and public demonstrations can only be held after police permits have been sought. In the light of these recent events, the extent to which the Chinese Government is willing to honour international agreements is not without question.

The future now seems most uncertain. The impression the western press gives is that Hong Kong's democracy and freedom are to be crushed with people as helpless as ever.

Yet historically, Hong Kong has always been at the mercy of its sovereign powers. The public has had no say in government decision making for 140 years under the British. The negotiations between China and Britain on Hong Kong's future were held with no representatives from Hong Kong. Not until the Sino-British negotiations in the early 1980s was the first public election held. The general mood in favour of Legislative Council elections in 1988 as charted by a comprehensive opinion poll was totally ignored. The political reform package put forward by Chris Patten in 1992, which set about bringing significant democratic improvement was announced and carried out with no prior consultation, with the public nor the Chinese Government. Even then, the centre of power - the Executive Council - was left untouched. All its members remained appointed, its membership failing to reflect the popular support of the Democrats who won the majority of seats in most elections during the 1990s.

On the other hand, it is in China's interest to work hand in hand with the people of Hong Kong to ensure a smooth transition. When Deng

Xiaoping first put forward the concept of 'one country, two systems' he probably had Taiwan in mind, reunification always being one of the top priorities. If Hong Kong survives and continues to thrive as a free economy under the Basic Law, not only will its citizens benefit, but tensions in relations with Taiwan, other Asian countries and indeed the Western world, may improve.

The future is unknown. After all, one cannot put much hope in international scrutiny. China has a reputation of refusing to conform to foreign pressure, and with its economy growing at over 10 per cent a year, who doesn't want a share? Besides, China is Hong Kong's rightful owner and people there must one day embrace of the motherland. People there just have to take up the new

challenges and adapt to the changes, and if necessary, fight for their way of

life. Pessimists would say that people there have been traditionally politically apathetic and would not bother as long as they can go on with their money making. Optimists would say that with the democratic reforms of the last two decades, changes have been taking place in people's attitudes. The democratic tide of history can only go forward with no turning back. Let us watch and wait.



Keep left - will there be no right turn after June?

Photo: Library

1997 Forum, a newly established society at the LSE, will be holding a series of seminars on the economic (February 21), legal (February 26) and political (February 28) aspects of the handover. Speakers will include academics, business elites and officials from both the Chinese and British administrations. There will be exhibition outside the Old Theatre from 26-28 February. For details please look for posters around the School or visit our homepage at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/clubs/forum>

All are welcome.

Syria: an (Im)Possible Mission

With Syrian and Israeli agreement over regional security at a deadlock, **Moshe Merdler** explains what is at stake

In a document of principles signed in May 1995 between Israel and Syria, Syria was prepared to withdraw its demand for total equality in the security settlements with Israel. The document did not mention anything about an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Further steps were prevented by the murder of the late Prime Minister Rabin and the election of a right wing government which demanded renewed negotiations without prior commitments, namely excluding the principle of land for peace.

Today, following the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron and the American presidential elections, there are talks about renewing negotiations. In a recent interview the



Will there be dancing in the streets of Jerusalem some time soon? Photo: Library

were previously stopped.

Although it seems that the 'cosmetic' obstacles of the Israeli withdrawal and the American elections have been solved, there are still substantial difficulties which prevent any negotiations from taking place.

These can be divided into two main areas. First, the shape of the future agreement and second, the substantial gap between the Israeli and Syrian positions concerning the basis of negotiations.

This is especially difficult for the

Netanyahu government, which opposes prior commitments. The international media reflects the attempt to bridge this gap. Both sides try to put forward their point of view whilst trying to signal that "there is something to talk about". One of the more controversial disclosures was the publication of a letter, written by the former American secretary of state, Warren Christopher, to Mr. Netanyahu. He pointed out that the mentioned principles was a "no paper", a term used in international law and politics to describe a

non binding agreement. This document was achieved after five months of Israeli-American-Syrian negotiations, from January till May 1995. It took place after Mr Assad demanded a construction of security arrangements which would serve as a basis for future

negotiations.

The problem lies within the issue of the security settlement. Syria regards (and still does) the Israeli demands as an exaggeration. Assad emphasizes that there is no need for defense or security as peace is the best security available, claiming that in these demands there is an offensive element to "Syrian dignity and honour". Assad especially likes the precedent laid down in the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt - namely land for peace. However, he tends to disregard the compromises the Egyptians made concerning defense.

Although criticism was heard from both sides when the document was signed, it reflected the best result both sides could reach at the time.

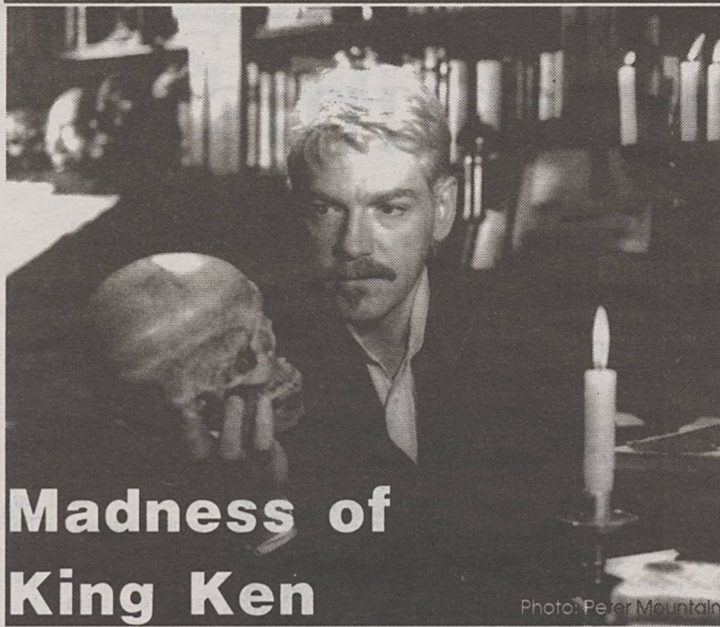
Various commentators have already expressed the danger of disregarding this document. This is especially apparent as its content only generally reflects 'good will'. The main problem lies within the Syrian statements that 'Israel has already agreed to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights' and their demand to renew the negotiation from the point it stopped - without any prior

agreement. This, according to the norm held in the prior negotiation of "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" seems quite illogical.

However promising Assad's statements might be, it does not seem that Syria is in a rush to do anything. This was quite apparent when they missed the opportunity to sign a treaty with the more lenient Peres - Rabin government. Apart from regretting the missed opportunity, nothing could be done in order to bring back the past. The Syrians can certainly demand to stick to the previously agreed and signed principles but it cannot put it forward as an absolute condition.

The publication of the American letter, and the previous military tension between Israel and Syria in late 1996, do nothing to contribute to the situation. However, there is an urgent need to reach a solution, one which will not be achieved by the conventionally rhetorical use of the media. Although a renewal of negotiations will reveal the enormous gap between the sides, it is necessary in order to eliminate any military conflict or threat and to bring a future solution to both Israel and Syria as well as Lebanon.

"Although criticism was heard from both sides when the document was signed, it reflected the best result both sides could reach at the time"



Madness of King Ken

Photo: Peter Mountain

It is said that, for the serious thespian, *Hamlet* is William Shakespeare's most tragic role. By the time a gentleman is sufficiently mature to understand his motivations, he is too old to play the part. Yet, it appears that Kenneth Branagh has finally come of age. Those who witnessed his rather unobvious handling of *Henry V* may have concluded that his directing was only mildly inferior to his unconvincing acting. For the doubters, *Hamlet* will prove a stunning rebuke.

So, you know the drill: Denmark, dead dad, mixed up son-madness, villainy, intrigue, revenge, ghosts, and a little bit of hey "nonne nonne" to spice it all together. The first thing to note is that Branagh is aiming for the ultimate Hamlet experience: replete with interval the production weighs in at a staggering 4hrs 20mins. A case of more matter with more art, there is no corner cut, no nuance

unexplored, and no opportunity for dramatic exposition shelved. There are undoubted dangers in this, not least that cinema audiences used to feasting on palatable 120 minute slabs of *wham-bham-thankyoumam!* will find the prospect overwhelming. Thankfully, although there is an understandable amount of ponderous scene setting, *Hamlet* becomes riveting long before it may have threatened to be tedious. Brevity, it seems, is not the soul of wit.

Even those least enamored with the bard can play an interesting game of spot-the-star. Branagh has assembled the most jaw-droppingly ideal cast of mixed Hollywood and British luvvies. The serious parts tend to go to earnest Englishmen. Richard Briers (Polonius), Derek Jacobi (Claudius), Nicholas Farrel (Horatio) and Julie Christie (Gertrude) all excel in their roles. Branagh, resplendent in his blond die-job and black suit, gives a life time

performance. Suffice to say that *Hamlet* is sufficiently certain of its quality to waste the talents of John Gielgud, Judie Dench, Richard Attenborough, and Gerard Depardieu in the smallest of cameos. Perhaps the true casting genius is in getting slightly less able, but more famous, Hollywood names to take minor parts. Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, Charlton Heston and Jack Lemmon all produce fine work in smaller, comedic roles: Crystal being particularly enjoyable as the truculent grave-digger. Oh, and don't forget Tim Spall, Rufus Sewell, Kate Winslet, Brian Blessed, Ken Dodd (!)... I could go on. However, a word to the wise. *Hamlet* is a difficult beast. An iron law of cinema is that a good script doth a good performance make: witness the majesty of De Niro in films penned by Scorsesse. Nevertheless, it is a greater crime to make a masterwork average than to stick to initial mediocrity. It is in this light - a light of achievement - that Branagh's direction and casting should be viewed.

As the play itself is beyond criticism, the production becomes vital. This *Hamlet* replaces the traditional dank dungeons for the splendour of a 19th Century palace. Not only is this a historically viable period, but it also makes for fantastically visual scenery. The choice of a beautiful stately interior replete with numerous secret passages proves an ideally metaphoric setting for those unable to grasp the subtle appearance/reality distinctions. That apart, shooting the environment in glorious 70mm screams EPIC from every scene. But, is it really? Certainly, epic is the correct adjective. However, walking out of the cinema, one couldn't help feeling that *Hamlet* is a film in which the majesty of parts ought to have constructed an unapproachable whole. Do not misunderstand this comment: with the notable inclusion of

MacClellan's *Richard III*, *Hamlet* is the best Shakespearean movie for a generation. But - remembering this is the *greatest* theatre written thus far in the English language - ought it not have been better still?

One of the surest signs of success is winning one of those little golden statuettes. Unfortunately there seems to be no justice in the world. This *Hamlet* has been virtually passed over by the Academy. Remember that *Hamlet* seems to become a possession. You have "Olivier's *Hamlet*" and "Jacobi's *Hamlet*". So the nausically perfect Tom Cruise strides up for the Best Actor statuette our Ken will clap, safe in the knowledge that "Branagh's *Hamlet*" is now a benchmark for the next generation. A hit, a very palpable hit.

James Crabtree

Catch this modern classic in all its 70mm glory at the Curzon Mayfair.



Bewitching: Branagh's beguiling stare

Photo: Peter Mountain

Stretched out across a seemingly endless network of intertwining suburban streets and convenience stores, *Trees Lounge* follows its characters from no place to no where. Centering on that American urban sprawl, this film is all talk in the best sense of the words. Similar to *Smoke* or *Blue In The Face*, in the fact that nothing much in the way of plot happens but there sure is a lot of talking, its focus is resolutely on the unspectacular aspects life of town of Valley Stream.

The script is wonderfully droll and spiky with some great one-liner. It follows Tommy Basilio, a working-class dreamer who finds himself stuck in his dead-end suburban hometown. Tommy's life intersects with a random collection of locales, that detail the boredom and mediocrity of most suburban existence. Tommy spends and incredible amount of time in the bar called Trees Lounge and has a myriad of pleasant and unpleasant exchanges. It is the nicotine stained lung atmosphere of the "Trees" that sets the tone of the movie. Tommy is unhappy and struggles to survive after he lost his job and his eight year girl-friend left him. To

Lounge Lizards



get back on track, he begrudgingly agrees to run an ice cream van of a recently deceased uncle. Large parts of the film is drawn from Buscemi's own home town and the people he knew there. It does not take details, but common experiences that most people have had. Most everyone knows what its like to have a shitty summer job, or feel an attraction towards someone you shouldn't. The movie is extremely perceptive containing incitements into the quiet sadness and occasional feeling of desperation.

This is very much a Steve Buscemi project, he wrote, directed and starred as Tommy. He has also roped in actors who always wanted to work with (Chloe Sevigny), his friends (Samuel L. Jackson) and his own family (his brother playing his brother). The movie works because Buscemi has a lot of respect for his actors and the parts they play. He has allowed them to be do what they do and develop the characters he wrote into real people. Buscemi's respect for the characters he writes about. Like the films of John Cassavettes, Buscemi does not judge his characters. He loves them, and like with all love you take the good and the bad.

David Balfour



Art of the Ill

Jen Prittie sees the sick in a new light at the Hayward

The struggle for recognition of the mentally ill as something more than lunatics, madmen or objects of scientific study has existed since the founding of psychiatry, but it's a debate which has progressed only at a slow crawl. If society has made any gains this century in understanding mental illness, they have probably been hopelessly obscured over the last few

years, as depression and its quick chemical remedies have attained massive popularity. For anyone versed in the shallow culture of depression, an encounter with the actual workings of the truly diseased mind can't help but be deeply unsettling. Beyond Reason, a selection of 'psychotic art' from the Prinzhorn Collection now on display at the Hayward Gallery, provides such a stark reminder of the reality of mental illness. The exhibit includes a diverse range of works made early this century by the inmates of German mental hospitals, but it's not intended as a freak show, nor does it preach a need to cure psychosis. Instead, it attempts to show the value inherent in both the art and the minds of the mentally ill.

Hans Prinzhorn was a psychiatrist who combined his medical training with a background in art history and aesthetics. While working at the Heidelberg University Psychiatric Clinic in the 1920s, Prinzhorn expanded the clinic's 'teaching collection' of psychotic art, and founded a new way of looking at such work. Prior to his study, the

art of the insane was regarded only as an example of degeneracy, and used only in diagnosis and treatment. But Prinzhorn appreciated the art for its creative merit, and pioneered new methods of understanding 'mad' mark-making.

Although there were certainly some visually talented artists among the patients Prinzhorn collected from, most of them were not. But still isn't hard to see why painters such as Paul Klee, Emile Nolde and other artists and writers were so struck by their art. The *Artistry of the Mentally Insane*, a book which Prinzhorn published in 1922, in fact became an important influence for the Surrealist movement, and the Collection continued to be celebrated among Parisian intellectuals into the 1950s.

The works are powerful not simply because they are strange and disturbing, but because they give real insight into the minds of the artists. There's no overt intention to depict objects in a certain visual language or style; this art comes straight from the mind, and is obviously born simply of an undeniable need for the patients to express themselves. Although the works are diverse, certain themes and types of expression surface again and again, such as copying, repetition, detail, and order. A large section of the works are not even pictorial at all, but are composed of tightly-packed, detailed writing, which is often arranged in patterns. This is perhaps one of the most incomprehensible aspects of the

exhibit; it's at least not so hard to understand why patients would want to express themselves through pictures, but the compulsive need to write and write is not easy to relate to. One woman even embroidered her institutional-gray shirt over and over again with the same type of measured script.

Other items in the exhibit include detailed floorplans of institutions, descriptions of various oddball inventions, a 'parody' of the German flag, and works painted and drawn on an type of available material, including calendar pages. Also shown are photographs of cells decorated with strips of cloth, a dummy made by a mad dressmaker, and the overflowing diaries of various inmates.

From its heyday of influence in Paris, the Prinzhorn Collection fell into the hands of the Nazis, who of course regarded the mentally ill once again as simply degenerates. Some of these artists even perished through the 'cleansing processes' of the regime, and their works lay unseen for thirty years afterwards. Interest in the collection has been revived in the last several decades, and it has been touring since the 1980s. In an era when mental illness seems to be regarded as more fashionable than anything else, the Prinzhorn Collection provides a unique opportunity not just to really understand what it must be like to be psychotic, but to appreciate mentally ill individuals as they are. *Beyond Reason* closes at the Hayward on Feb. 23

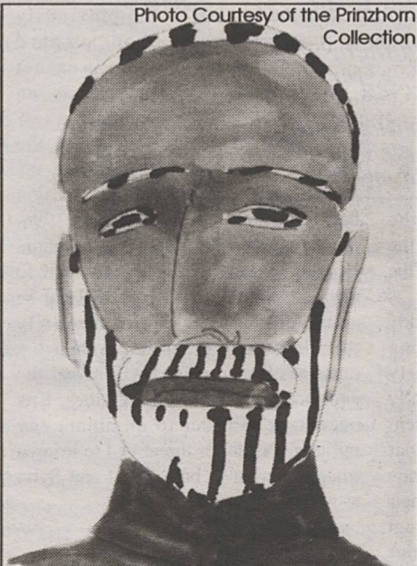


Photo Courtesy of the Prinzhorn Collection

A Night of Passion: FLAMENCO

Keith Postler

At the Peacock Theatre you may now witness the dawn of post-modernism in Flamenco. No hard black shiny finish costumes for the male dancers. They first appear in black jeans and white dress shirts; they wear suede shoe-boots. The men are, tradition true, minimalist in dress, but now with an updated, user friendly appearance. No traditional wide-brim hats either; a sitting guitarist wears the only hat—a black soft Humphrey Bogart fedora. This is flamenco approached with a relaxed attitude.

Flamenco risks boring and tiring an audience with dancers stomping ever faster and louder, especially for those who have never seen it before. The Paco Pena Company does not fall into this trap; they maintain the pace of their show through variety. The program builds interest by introducing its members in progressively larger groupings. The show starts with solos and duos working up to a small ensemble by the interval. The company takes over in full force after the interval. Towards the end smaller groups perform against the backdrop of the company to end with a smashing number with the entire company.

Combining different performers also heightens interest. For instance master guitarist Paco Pena appears with two different solo singers, and a third time with only a spell-binding solo castenett player. Four guitarists appear with a solo dancer, then the same guitarists with another solo dancer and singer. A male female pair dance confining their space to each other on an imaginary straight line under arches at the back of the stage...

A sympathetic side of the show is that many of the performers take on different artistic roles. The lead male dancer when sitting out numbers perches on one of the loud speakers side stage, back with the musicians, and beats counter rhythm on the side of the speaker as if it were a bongo drum. One of the three male criers silently dances solo.

Angel Munoz, the lead male dancer, is a dancer and musician who would put his stamp on any genre of dance. His footwork is more than dance; it literally drums, rivaling the rhythmic complexity of African drumming. His passion shows in his dancing too: he is Mr Hot Hips. Charo Espino, the female lead dancer, produces extraordinary footwork and fluid movement in her solo number. She knows how to swivel her hips and could do so more often to advantage. The show bills itself as Art and Passion. The show lacks neither and succeeds in uniting the two in an entertaining evening that comes highly recommended: Good spectacle, much movement, excitement and fun it runs till the March 1. At a student concession price of £5 now, get yourself a charge of flamenco into your system. You will then prepare yourself for the arrival of the Sex Maestro of Flamenco-Naomi Campbell's new lover, Joaquin Cortes—at the Royal Albert Hall, Sunday Feb 13 until Wednesday Feb 16.

Malaysian Club present

the classic tale Hang Tuah

February 21 at 7:30pm in the Old Theatre Contact Rusinda Amni on 0171-402 8079

A Captivating Evening

Diana Rochford cuts loose on the Fringe

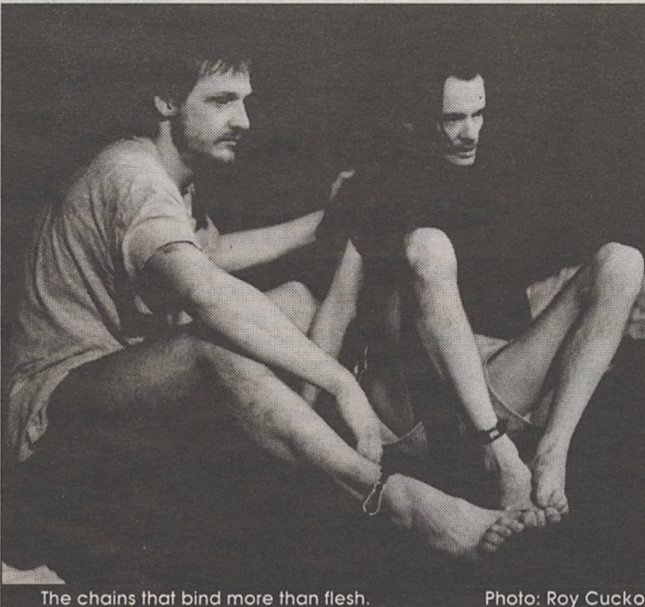
My fringe theatre experience has not been extensive, however, there is no doubt that it is underrated. Not being familiar with the play *Someone who'll watch over me* or Frank McGuinness's work for that matter, I found myself entering a small cell at the back of The Ox and Arms, otherwise known as the EtCetera Theatre. I thoroughly enjoyed this production by the Escape Artists. I walked out disturbed and captivated and ready for more depression.

Credit is due, the play was difficult, a single scenario (pretty unattractive at that), where most of the action consisted of dialogue in close contact with the audience. We were literally sitting within a few feet, which generally had the effect of involving us in the action in the cell. Cell, because the plot concerns three men that have been taken hostage in Lebanon and find themselves shackled to the wall in a small room.

We are immersed in the relationship between the stereotypical puritanical American, rowdy Irishman and proper Englishman. Their fight against the psychological torture of being excluded from the outside world,

in giving moral support or being outright unbearable to each other,

the American accent is a bit too English, however it doesn't deter us from the characters. Edward, the Irishman is brilliantly annoying and Michael, aka Brit, plays the sensitive public school, mother's boy that we all feel sorry for.



The chains that bind more than flesh.

Photo: Roy Cucko

So who are the Escape Artists? Formed by a group of ex-prisoners and non-prisoners with experience of working in prison theatre. In its favour it has Harold Pinter as one of its patrons. It aims to promote theatre within prison walls, providing inmates with an intellectual stimulus

and further provide former inmates with the opportunity to continue their artistic skills once they have left the prison walls, consequently breaking down the social prejudices that inmates encounter when leaving prison.

Their inaugural production at the EtCetera Theatre last year with Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*, received excellent reviews. It is set to go on tour this Spring. Well worth keeping in mind.

Overseas, EU & Excluded

Narius Aga, Overseas & EU officer, reports on the forum

The Overseas and EU Students' Forum was held on Thursday February 6. The aim of this forum being to debate and discuss issues pertaining to Overseas and EU students in LSE. The four items on the agenda were as follows:

- i) Overseas Students' fees
- ii) Prioritisation of LSE hall places
- iii) Scholarships/ bursaries and hardship funds
- iv) Reasons for lack of involvement of Overseas and EU students within the Students' Union

The general trend of debate on this topic was how the LSE Students' Union had ignored this issue over the years, in stark contrast to the years of campaigning against Home students' fees and grants issues in general and the campaign against top-up fees over the last two years in particular.

It was noted that the rise in Overseas students' fees has been at an astronomical rate, compared to rises in Home students' fees. For example, in 1989, fees for overseas students rose by 8.7 per cent, compared to 3.9 per cent for Home Students and in 1992, by a record 11.9 per cent, as against 5.9 per cent for Home Students. There was considerable agitation against the fact that the Students' Union had ignored this issue throughout and that many of the Overseas students present felt it necessary to start a campaign in this regard. The general consensus remained for the campaign to be one based on negotiation and direct communication, rather than protests or demonstrations.

ii) Prioritisation of LSE halls of residence places:

The situation of hall accommodation availability, although

having drastically improved in the past couple of years due to the acquisition of two new halls, is still not adequate to cope with the demand.

A suggestion was made from the floor that quotas for Overseas and EU students should be made. Numerous complaints were also noted. One of which being that students domiciled in London were being given places in LSE halls, the example of High Holborn being cited. Another was that students were not informed of the reply to their application for hall places until July, by which time they had already left for home and as a result had to return several weeks before the start before the start of the next academic year in order to search for accommodation in the private sector.

In reply to the first point, the Accommodation Officer of the school pointed out that no regulations existed to prevent students domiciled in London from taking up hall places and the second point was refuted altogether. In view of the above, I feel it is imperative that the school seriously and urgently consider the acquisition of another hall of residence. This venture would prove cost-effective in the long run as the demand for places is guaranteed and in my view would always exceed the supply.

iii) Scholarships, bursaries and hardship funds:

It was noted that the provision of scholarships for Overseas students did not adequately satisfy the demand, particularly in light of the huge funds generated by the LSE through its Overseas alumni. Numerous complaints were voiced about the high-handed attitude of the Scholarships Office in its dealings with student inquiries.

It was also noted that at present, the

hardship fund administered by the School caters only to the needs of home students and no source of funding exists for Overseas and EU students. Strong protests were voiced at this situation prevalent and the need for a hardship fund for Overseas students was felt to be imperative.

iv) Lack of involvement of Overseas and EU students within the SU

A vast number of Overseas and EU students felt that the UGMs have become a farce. Personally, I feel that it is a good blend of serious issues and a bit of a laugh thrown in. However, there is no doubt that speaking in them is extremely intimidating, particularly for students whose command of the English language is imperfect. Another point raised was that a lot of Overseas and EU students are simply not aware of the motions due to take place, if aware of the existence of the UGMs due at all. Communication with the students leaves room for improvement.

In conclusion, I feel that the protests of the Overseas and EU students that the Union has not adequately campaigned on issues pertaining to them in the past are genuine. Moreover, the fact that none of the SU Sabbatical Officers bothered to turn up to this meeting led to fuel being added to the fire. The same goes for the student representatives on the Court of Governors and the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and SWSS associations/clubs, who did not feel it necessary to send even token representation. A stark change in attitude is necessary for all concerned if this Union can validate its claim to represent the needs and interest of all students.

He's Not as Good as you Think!

Andrew Hardy is not impressed by Paul Auster's "Leviathan"

Paul Auster is described by many (American) literary critics as one of the best contemporary writers. *The Sunday Times* reviewed this book with the comment: "Leviathan is first and foremost a thriller, and moves along at a terrific pace...". This is a claim that he cannot live up to.

Leviathan is the story of Benjamin Sachs, who is a gifted writer and has a perfect marriage. However, the twist in the plot is that Sachs has an accident, which then changes Sachs' whole outlook on life and he appears to become stark-raving mad. An intriguing plot, which Auster is not able to see through to make it interesting.

Auster's imagination to think up such a complex story is to be praised. The intertwining of the characters is astounding. At times he manages to describe his characters in quite a realistic way.

The aggravating part of Auster's writing is the way in which he hangs on every last detail. For example, in "Leviathan" Auster, through his lead character Sachs, makes a very tenuous connection between a sex advertisement

on a box of matches and a letter signed XXXX - kisses to you and me, but an apparent come on for Sachs. If you like this sort of pathetic and tedious coincidental writing out that Auster uses, then this book is for you.

Auster could have made this far more interesting than he does. Great idea, poor execution. The problem is that he moves the story along at such a slow speed. J. D. Salinger could make a scene last a hundred pages and still retain your interest, unfortunately, Auster is not in this class. I admit that Auster's use and mastery of the English language is quite astounding at times, but he does not use this gift to any great effect and this is the greatest disappointment of all.

If you count yourself as an half-intelligent reader, who finds this style of writing pathetic and tedious, then steer clear of this book. Better to reach for a contemporary novel such as the excellent "Secret History" by Donna Tart.

Published by Faber and Faber, priced at £14.99.

ELECTION!

No, John Major hasn't decided to go to the country yet, but this is the next best thing...

LSE student union's annual celebration of democracy is coming...soon. Nominations open this week. So if you think you'd make a great sabbatical, or do a decent job on one of our Union Committees- or even if you want to take over from me, now's your chance.

SABBATICALS

- *General Secretary
- *Treasurer

Education and Welfare Sabbatical

PART-TIME EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- *Womens' Officer
- *Mature Students' Officer
- *Overseas and European Union Students' Officer
- *Five exec officers elected on a 'slate' who share out the following portfolios between themselves: Environment, Communications, Societies, Services and Equal Opportunities (general).

OTHER POSITIONS

- *Finance Committee (three directly elected members)
- *Academic Affairs Committee (three directly elected members)
- *Constitutional and Steering Committee (seven)
- *NUS Conference Delegates (6+1 observer)
- *NUS Women's Conference (one full delegate plus one observer)
- *Returning Officer (is also member of the C&S committee)

ATHLETICS UNION elections are running concurrently with SU elections this time round. If you wish to stand, see the Sports Administrator, Liz Petyt, in her office (E78).

ELECTION TIMETABLE

Thursday February 20: Nominations open immediately after the UGM (nomination papers available from SU reception).

Wednesday February 26: Nominations close 5 pm

Thursday February 27: 1-2pm - Hustings at the UGM for sabbatical candidates

2-3pm - Agents' meeting at top floor of the Cafe
3pm - Campaign officially begins

Monday March 3: Hustings at High Holborn (provisional)

Tuesday March 4: Hustings at Bankside (provisional)

Wednesday March 5: 11.45am- 1.15 pm - Voting outside Old Theatre
5pm- 10.15pm - Voting in Halls. Exact times for each hall to be determined

Thursday March 6: 9.30am- 7.30pm - Voting outside the Old Theatre
8pm onwards - Counting of votes for sab positions and non-slate exec positions in the Quad

Friday March 7: Morning - computerised count for the slate and Union committees. Venue to be decided

Good Luck!

Joe Roberts, Returning Officer

SINGLES

Symposium

'Farewell To Twilight'

Say hello to Symposium because you are going to hear loads more from them if this excellent single is anything to go by. 'Farewell To Twilight' is their second single and is all about the ending of a relationship. Driven along at speed by noisy guitar, the song erupts into a fantastic chorus, 'no lipstick, no makeup, no kissing, no break-up, 'cause everything is over now'. Believe me, this whole song really does stick in your mind, mainly because of the great lyrics and powerful delivery. Even the b-sides are good, especially 'Xanthein' which features another cool, catchy chorus. Earns extra brownie-points for featuring a bloke kissing a camel on the cover.

Jon Cooper

The Fun Lovin' Criminals

'King of New York'

After the huge success of the Fun Lovin' Criminals 'Scooby Snacks' and their promising tour, the New York trio gave up music due to having to much fun committing crimes. Their second single, The Fun Lovin' Criminal, was soon to be forgotten. Unfortunately, the third release of their 1996 self-entitled album, King of New York, will face the same fate.

Again it's groovy, even funky, with horns in the background throwing in a mysterious riff until after two minutes of the same pattern the song suddenly literally explodes into a guitar-blasted noise. Again it's Quentin Tarentino style, inevitably reminding us of Reservoir Dogs or Pulp Fiction. Again the lyrics are completely worthless ('ladi-dadi... ladi') but obviously the Criminals never claimed to make serious songs - they're just having fun. This might be sufficient for amazing gigs (because such they are) or even an outstanding record (because such it is). But for a single it's just too boring. Nothing new, the old stuff over and over again. The Criminal Fun Lovers could have done better with a somewhat more exciting track from their album, there's plenty of choice. This, however, isn't funny at all.

INXS

'Elegantly Wasted'

1997 seems to be the year of eagerly awaited album releases. Blur, Oasis, Aerosmith, U2, Depeche Mode, The Charlatans - they all come up with their new material, hoping to be a major part of this year's hype. Something Blur already succeeded in and Oasis or U2 surely will as well. For INXS, however, it isn't that certain at all.

At least, judging from Elegantly Wasted, their first release since 1993 'Full Moon, Dirty Hearts' (apart from their desperate 'Best of' - Compilation), the Australian national heroes shouldn't be too confident about that. It definitely isn't of the class of the brilliant Welcome to wherever you are. It rather follows the more or less unexciting last years. It even seems as if INXS didn't even try to change their style: A funky guitar and drum pattern, Michael Hutchinson's (admittedly) sexy and passionate vocals. A few verses, an all-together-now chorus. That is it. No creativity, no nothing. Personally, I was expecting much more from INXS, hoping for a first class come-back after that long a break. Maybe they stayed in the Australian sun for too long. Maybe they ran out of ideas. But this song is just disappointing, not even promising for the forthcoming album. In other words, this is simply elegantly wasted.

MG

Death In Vegas

'Rekit'

Death In Vegas rock the house, and I thoroughly recommend you go and listen to them. No, really. The life of a sovereign individual is incomplete without them. 'Rekit' lavishes abundant proof on this point: beginning with a kicked-up seuzed up beat, it progresses through torturous turns of electronic wizardry. DIV are about fusion - sorry, phuzion - of styles, keeping with the current, yet building in a thumping bass to end with a monstrous PIL inspired cacophony. Love it.

Playing at a club near you soon - if not, change your club.

Us3 @ Jazz Cafe, Camden

6/2/97

A fat, greasy man waddles awkwardly down the stairs and distributes a few beers and towels around the packed stage. The Jazz Cafe hums with expectation and finally, after a long wait Us3 coolly stroll down onto the stage, rappers KCB and Shabaam already in full flow. The rest of the group are quickly into place and soon the floor is moving to 'SoulBrother', complete with tenor sax and trumpet solos.

While the dancefloor warms up, I'll attempt to explain the musical jungle that is Us3. Basically, they're a live modern jazz band with brass, guitar, keyboards and percussion with a few important additions. The rappers who rhyme over the rest of the band and the DJ and programmer who collect samples from old Blue Note jazz albums and loop or scratch these samples into Us3's music. Sounds strange? No, sounds amazing. Us3 have been around since the early 1990's when they released their first album 'Hand on the torch' which sold well following the use of their first single 'Cantaloup(Flip Fantasia)' in a KFC advert. Now it's 1997 and a much altered Us3 are due to release their second album 'Broadway & 52nd' on March 3rd and this gig was part of a

small UK tour to launch it. Frankly, this album should sell very well because Us3 were fantastic. The new tunes like 'SoulBrother' and 'Snakes' were powerful and funky and their old stuff like 'I got it goin' on' sounded fresh with such a changed line-up. Only Dennis Rollins on trombone and Tony Remy on guitar remain from the original band although the DJ and programmer remain unchanged. All the musicians played jazz with conviction while the NYC based rappers sounded cool and confident and added a fresh twist to the older tunes. The crowd grooved away as Us3 laid down funky, soulful rhythms with powerful instrumental breaks and solos over the top. They were great to see because their laid-back, friendly attitude just wills you to love the music and the chilled crowd provided a great atmosphere. I could go on for ever about this incredible gig and this incredible band but I won't. Their new single 'Come On Everybody(Get Down)' is released on the 17th February and sounds real good y'all. Go out and buy it 'cause Us3 deserve to be heard and their mix of styles will just force you to love them. Nuff said.

Jonathan Cooper

Bowie Wowie

David Bowie

'Earthling'

Bowie returns with what has been called a 'drum and bass' album. This is not strictly true, certainly Bowie has been influenced by the drum and bass scene of today, but this isn't exactly an album that would please your average hard-core clubber. This is, when all said and done, a David Bowie album, as such the people that it is most likely to please are David Bowie fans: they won't be disappointed, as the strongest point of 'Earthling' is indeed Bowie's voice. I suppose that's the thing that you can never take away from this guy, he has got a fantastic voice. Although, when he starts to sing songs which are supposedly made up of words generated randomly by computer, one can't help but wonder whether Bowie is really using his considerable talent to the full.

Bowie boasts that he "wrote the whole album in about nine days". This has always been the way which Bowie likes to work, but maybe a little more time on the lyrics wouldn't have gone amiss. Lyrics, however, weren't the point of the exercise, according to Bowie the inspiration for the first single form the album 'Little Wonder' came from listening to Fats Domino when he was a child and not being able to understand what he was singing about! "I



just picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, and used each dwarves name, and that name had to be contained in each line!"... spontaneity seems to be the order of the day. The album does have a definite immediacy about it; managing to use a wide range of instrumentation - from the latest keyboard wizardry to good old distorted guitar - without being overproduced, clearly Bowie has a talent for making things sound decent in a very short space of time.

Some tracks on this album are good, one or two are amusing and wonderful, for example the quirky 'I'm Afraid of Americans', which is lyrically the strongest on the album. Nothing on the album is exactly bad, but then there's nothing that really jumps out and grabs you by the throat like Bowie used to in times of old. But then it is all too easy to put Bowie down for not being as great as he used to

be, seeing as he was such an influence on virtually the entire music scene in the 70's and well into the 80's, it seems unlikely that he will ever reach those heights again. But he is 50! So what do we conclude? Not bad for an old-timer? Well no, this is better than what a lot of artists in their 20's are churning out today, Bowie has still got what it takes, you just have to be prepared to accept him for what he is now, rather than comparing him to what he used to be. This is the only realistic way to look at things. If Bowie wanted us all to be retrospective and look back on his past greatness the whole time he would have stopped recording years ago. Bowie wants to move forward, and refused to do MTV unplugged on the grounds that they just wanted him to play all of his old tunes: "...I want to see what you can do as a rock artist at 50... I really don't want to go back and start doing the touring jukebox kind of thing... I feel that if I had to fall back on what I've done before, I'd much prefer to stop." Well, you have to admire his attitude, and as far as this album is concerned you can't help but have admiration for his musical talent too.

Tom Stone

SilkScreen

'Relief'

Unfortunately, I cannot introduce you to SilkScreen properly since I didn't receive any background information on them. 'Relief' is their album, no doubt released in 1997, produced and mixed by Simon Vinestock. The first thing that hit me upon listening to this album was the singer's voice - it is clear, distinct and promising. their music could be anything by The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Oasis or Jamiroquai. This quite diverse palette of influences is reflected in their mood which ranges from merry and jolly, to nostalgic and melancholic, to sensual and capricious to funky and groovy. On the whole, however, the album leaves you with merry, funky tunes conveyed in mild tones with a few crescendos achieved with drum sounds. There is even one song "Emotion", whereby one can detect some country influences - it surely reminded me of the opening tune of "Northern



Exposure", primarily due to the harmonica contribution. the whole of the album is rhythmic - one can see a pattern attached to each song - there's no twist to any song which is a major setback as the potential of the band is indisputable - it robs the songs of that spontaneity, that spark, that uniqueness that would make them stand out. Possibly, this is the reason for a slight taste of "samey" you're left with after listening to the album - this as well as the repetition of techniques and the use of vocals which places all the songs in one place with hardly any individuality. Nevertheless, SilkScreen have managed to achieve a certain style of their own so that one can recognise a SilkScreen song even though one might find a hard time naming it. There is potential - they just need to work on it! (Watch this space - you never know)

Anonymous (we lost her name)

Tarnation

'Your Thoughts and Mine'

Tarnation herald from the 4AD label, and hence are destined for utter obscurity. Herein lies the rub: they, like most of their stablemates, provide slow acoustic music of outstanding quality. The justice in their lack of success is that this is music for an elite, an elite who rather enjoy beautifully moving and meaningful American lo-fi. 'Your Thoughts and Mine' epitomises the ethos: mellow melody with just a hint of a stoned PJ Harvey. Perhaps the vocalist lacks the perfectly smooth delivery we have come to expect, but this could equally be interpreted as much needed rough edge. Any coarseness is amply off-set by the stunning orchestrations.

Expect to never hear of Tarnation again - or join the elite. You'll love it, and we'd like to have you along.

JC

If your name's not down.....

Time for a little blatant promotion. A new magazine is making a mark on the streets. Aimed at all you hedonistic clubbers, 'The Guest List' is a small, smart, functional and inexpensive guide to the best and rest of the club scene. Priced at £1, it is handily pocket sized and contains news, reviews, features, interviews, and an extensive guide to the happening beats of SE England. That means London, really.

The List has been going for over a year, but has now built on an underground base to aim at a nationwide distribution. And, quite frankly, we think it's rather fab.

Competition

In honour of the rise and rise of club guides, *The Beaver* is proud to offer you the chance to win a years subscription to the guest list. Just answer the following two questions.

1. Is Jeremy Healy

- a) a genius
- b) a Talented fuckwit.



2. Top Club Night 'Free Radicals' is held at which London venue?

Drop answers down to *The Beaver* office, and we'll make a random draw to decide the winners. Normal rules apply - there are none. Best of luck.

Fancy A Job?

All of you whining malcontents Amooaning about never having enough dosh, LISTEN UP. We have an ingenious way to make money, and still stay in the Tuns of a Friday night.

The 'Guest List' are also looking for students to sell the magazine on Campus. Every issue sold will result in 35p to the vendor, and 5p to charity. It could be, as Dell-boy would say, a nice little earner. Any of you unable to win, but who fancy selling 'The Guest List, should write to

The Guest List.
Level 4
205 Wardour Street
London
W1V 3FA

Go on, get on your bike, and support your dance habit.

Blur's Greatest Escape

FEATURE

THE BLUR REVIVAL

Blur... they're coming home. Having just released their fifth album, Blur talk about their music, their personalities, a trip to Iceland and, of course, Britpop. **Malte Gerhold** listens to what they have to say...

This record is kind of 'fuck you all, we know what we're doing and don't give a shit what you think' says no other than Damon Albarn himself about their new album with the intriguing back-to-zero title 'Blur'. And indeed, after 'The Great Escape' Blur have taken their music a big step backwards, to where they belong. Those who know their 1991 'Leisure' and 1993 'Modern Life Is Rubbish' (and who does?) will love this regression to rougher and less polished sound. Those who think 'Parklife' is their first album will be quite surprised or even hold their hands up in horror. It's an angry and fractured record, dark and dirty - but that is, thinks guitarist Graham Coxon, "what we should sound like, the distilled spirit of Blur. I hope we can frighten people with it."

So how come the band made a record that is such a rejection of the last thing they did? "We seem to need these antagonisms. I mean, we were so silly in the end, grown up men behaving like Boyzone" describes Damon, commenting on the band's situation after the big success of 'Parklife' and

'The Great Escape'. And bass guitarist Alex James adds: "I think after all our touring through the world we just had enough of being so English. And maybe this is our end of Britpop - we feel much more cosmopolitan now" With Britpop laid to rest, Blur were far less limited, says Graham, "I think I'm in pop-mid-life-crisis, it makes me very sick. I mainly listen to American hardcore music now." Thus Blur's replot from comedy records to proper emotions and anger seems like a natural consequence of their past work: "With 'Great Escape' we've gone as far as we could in that direction," explains drummer David Rountree, "now we just needed a break - it's the first time we've been apart from each other for longer than three weeks in seven years!" For Damon the band would not have even lasted without such a big jump forward, or wherever, but Dave brings it all down to "we're now making the music we wanted to make, but got distracted from." Being in a real art punk again for him "feels like coming home!"

A back-to-the roots record then. A primitive, simple record. So far, so good. But then, what has really changed? Obviously Graham Coxon's minimalist guitar playing is more prominent than ever. Songs like 'Chinese Bombs', 'You're so great' or the fantastic 'Song 2' are heavy, more Iggy Pop, more American than British. No brass, no strings - simply down to the basic sound. "I'm more attracted to extremes now," agrees Graham, "the music has to be straight off, exciting." Only 'Look Inside America', maybe, is typical Blur, a last link to the music they now got so bored of. "The atmosphere was much more relaxed this time" Dave points out, "last time everything we did was in the glare of



The boys from Essex - Liam and Noel are but a blur in the rear-view

spotlights, journalists, photographers. We had our heads more sorted now, focused on our work." But there is still more to it: "Touring was maybe the main impetus of the record" he adds. "While in the past we treated concert and studio

thought he finishes: "It feels like a celebration of our personalities, like becoming rebellious and starting out again - it made us all feel a bit younger again." Does he then think that the recording process changed as well? "Oh yeah, we finished most of the demos by just playing

from Q Magazine puts it - will silence their fans rather than their critics. One that - at least until Oasis release their next single in spring - will give them back their well-deserved place at the top of British music (not Britpop, of course). And one that will give Oasis a lot to think about. This album is difficult if not impossible to challenge. However, it is still one that will polarise people's feelings: Some won't like it, others will think it's the best thing Blur have ever done. Is that really what they want? "I'm uneasy in that middle ground where everyone likes you," Damon sighs, "it's too confusing. This desperate 'backs against the wall', I rather much like that sometimes." Thank God. Blur are coming home.

Malte Gerhold

"fuck you all, we know what we're doing and don't give a shit what you think" - Damon Albarn

separately, we now combine the two."

Is this album more honest and personal then? A good-bye to Dan Abnormal and Arnold Same? "Damon very much wanted to make a record from his heart rather than about other people," thinks Alex. Unsurprisingly, Damon basically agrees: "It's from third to first person: All these twisted ideas I had before are now about myself. It's really very much me." And after some

together. Look at 'Beetlebum', for example. What on earth does that mean? I wanted to change it but then just left it." For some of the recording Blur went to Iceland. Is that another major influence on the record? Damon explains: "I maybe found something inside there, I don't really know. It's so peaceful there."

Blur have recorded a remarkable album. One that - as Andrew Collins

Blur
'Blur'



Blur bite back with this, their fifth album. Blur have rediscovered guitars and managed to change their style in a bold step away from their previous two albums. There is no reason to be surprised, Blur have always been masters of style change, and that's probably what makes them such a good band. Look back to their first album, 'Leisure' and you'll find a Blur who were contemporaries of The Happy Mondays and The Stone Roses. How many of those bands are still around today? Their next album, 'Modern Life Is Rubbish' pleased the critics more than the public, but was the first clear indication that Blur are a band who will go their own way rather than compromise. 'Parklife' was THE album of Britpop, an album to rival the new boys, Oasis, in the wake of which British music exploded, blowing apart the stagnation of the early nineties. With 'The Great Escape' it was Blur's turn to try a bit of stagnation: a second-rate 'Parklife' with no new ideas and even fewer decent songs. Which brings us to 'Blur' - an album as accomplished as any band could wish for.

Blur are a band sufficiently self aware to realise that despite the high sales of 'The Great Escape', another album like that and their careers would effectively be over. 'The Great Escape' had pandered to commercialism in a way which just was not Blur. They've even been brave enough to put a song



about it on the new album. The song 'MOR' contains the lyrics "Fall into fashion/ Fall out again", and Damon says of the song: "...It's about us, it's about everyone... about the music industry. It's an optimistic song, 'cos we're always at our best when we're out of fashion, coming back and knowing we're doing something very good indeed."

The album as a whole with all of its distorted guitars and raw production definitely owes something to the grunge scene of Sonic Youth and even Nirvana. This is not to say that this is in any way a grunge album, as the grunge elements are mashed together with influences of their contemporaries. On 'Essex Dogs' Damon's poetic drawl was surely patented by Jarvis Cocker? But overall, and the thing that makes this a great album rather than just a good one, is the fact that there is something about the songs that could only be Blur. Despite the multitude of influences (The

Beatles and Bowie as well, by the way) this is still a Blur album through and through.

This album also sees the debut of Graham as song writer and vocalist on the track 'You're So Great', a sweet mellow ballad which proves that Blur are far more than just Damon Albarn. Other stand-out tracks include 'Country Sad Ballad Man', which is somehow reminiscent of 'Parklife' but all scuzzed up rather than all over-produced. On 'Look Inside America' Damon has finally overcome his hang-ups about the USA, and all at once Blur making a grunge album is okay! 'Strange News From Another Star' is possibly the best song of the entire album, it's Blur's 'Space Oddity' and it's simply damn fine. A curious thing about this album is that one of the tracks; 'Death Of A Party' is simply brilliant, but it also it turns out that it started life as an out-take from 'Modern Life Is Rubbish'.

So, when people say to you: "Have you heard, Blur are good again?" and then start wittering on about "New Blur". You can turn around and tell them with the utmost confidence that they are wrong. The fact is that Blur have always been good, they just lost the plot for a while back there.

Tom Stone

Blur @ The London Astoria
10/2/97

Rumours spread through the city for days. Even from continental Europe people were asking only one question: would Blur play a secret gig in London? Local concert venues denied anything, Blur's record company Food/Parlaphone remained suspiciously silent. But then, on Tuesday 4, BBC Radio One officially announced what everyone knew anyway - Blur would play a gig at the London Astoria on Monday March 10, the day Blur's fifth album Blur was to be released. Tickets would go on sale at the box office on Saturday at 12 PM, only two tickets per person. The 'secret gig' wasn't secret anymore, the fight for tickets could begin.

And it began indeed, on Saturday morning at 4 AM, when the first hard-core Blur fans started to queue in front of the Astoria - tickets were sold out within an hour. But even all those unfortunate souls who weren't able to get hold of tickets could heave a sigh of relief: Radio One would broadcast the whole gig, live and uncut.

Admittedly, no one at *The Beaver* bothered to queue for hours in the cold to see Blur. But, thank God, we have radios. So for all of you who completely missed this fantastic Blur gig, here is a short summary of last Monday's night:

After a nerve wrecking intro tape (the Swan Lake) Damon, Alex, Dave and Graham finally enter the stage and with a shy 'Good evening' plunge into Beetlebum, also first song on the album. A

brilliant piece of LowFi boredom art. But, 'Song 2' (surprisingly the album's & night's second song) makes clear what to expect from a Blur gig in 1997: Straightforward art punk rock, a confident and loud show at a good pace. After the first ten minutes Girls and Boys is over, Blur don't need it as an encore anymore - all the pop songs are gone. 'The Universal' and 'Stereotypes' are the only appearances of The Great Escape. Of course they play a lot more material from the new album: The typical 'MOR', the punk piece 'Chinese Bombs' and the spooky 'Death of a party'. The atmosphere is intimate and hot, more than once Damon makes his way down to the audience, leaving behind a completely ripped shirt. Blur re-discovered what it means to play a rock concert. A hymn-like 'This is a low' ends the first part of a fast and breathless set.

On your own kicks off the encore before the long awaited and thrilling 'Park Life'. It is followed by 'The Universal', which unfortunately doesn't really fit the set at this point. The classic 'There's no other way' would have been a better choice. The last song, finally, is 'Sing' from the 1991 Leisure: sad and raw, sending shivers down your spine with a strange and uncomfortable intensity. There couldn't have been a more appropriate song to close these amazing ninety minutes.

Next time I'll queue for tickets. From 1 AM if necessary.

Malte Gerhold

LSE STUDENTS' UNION AND NUS

PRESENT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST TOP-UP FEES

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25
10 AM TO 5 PM
HONG KONG THEATRE
CLEMENT HOUSE
LSE
ADMISSION FREE!

PLACES LIMITED:
TO RESERVE A TICKET OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT DAN CROWE
LSESU GENERAL SECRETARY
TEL- 0171 955 7147
E-MAIL - su-gen-sec@lse.gac.uk

OR

CUT OUT TICKET AND HAND IN TO SU RECEPTION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

YEAR: _____

MORNING SESSION AFTERNOON SESSION BOTH
(Please circle appropriate time).

Beaver's Bar Bonanza

Valerie Tesler's definitive guide to pubs and pubbing around London

BLUES CAFE: 25A OXENDON STREET

MEZZO'S: SOHO

This cosy little musical place has a relaxed atmosphere, where you can indulge yourself in cocktails and take in a little music at the same time. The added attraction here is a live blues band five nights a week. The music is swinging and gets you in the mood to sing along whenever the tune sounds vaguely familiar, and even when it doesn't. Saturday nights are crowded, so it's a case of standing by on the lookout, ready to pounce and stake claim to any seat the instant it is vacated. A definite winning feature are the deliciously frothy pina colodas which will swiftly get you in the mood - for whatever takes your fancy.

On Saturday nights it appears to be a favourite haunt for lovebirds, so bear this in mind... Otherwise, it's as good a venue as any to try your luck!

If you're out to impress your friends with your generosity in the drink - buying stakes, then the best time to frequent this little place would be on a Tuesday or Thursday night when cocktails are two for the price of one - what greater incentive could there possibly be to visit if not this?

Expectations rise as you join the back of the rather long queue to get in, and the surly looking bouncers outside add to the impression that this must be one classy little joint.

Various ploys to get to the front in record time (such as pretending you are best friends with the people at the top of the queue, when really they are acquaintances of a friend's friend who you last saw two summer's ago) are unlikely to work, so you must resort to waiting your turn like everyone else.

When you do get inside, it's all very modern and spacious, brightly lit and rather posh looking. Additional 'bouncer-types' attempt to make your life rather difficult by preventing you from wandering around as freely as you otherwise might like, by barring your access downstairs to the vast array of tables, or from sitting down at one of the tables upstairs, insisting that you may do so only if you wish to eat. So, after perusing the interesting display of photographs along the wall (whilst one's friend has succeeded in convincing the bouncer guy they need to go to the loo, in order to take a peek

downstairs), you just have to be content to try and elbow your way to the front of the bar to get the barman's attention. It is another instance of trying to simultaneously keep a firm grip on your coat, bag and drink with dignity.

It's quite a little social scene, and most of the female clientele look like they've dressed to impress, with their ultra-fashionable little handbags in tow.



If you're out to catch the attentions of some member of the opposite sex, try wandering up and down the bar a couple of times, after which your efforts are sure to be rewarded.

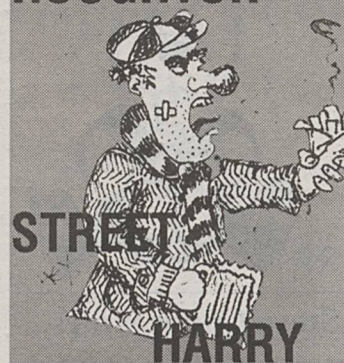
BULL & BUSH: GOLDERS GREEN ROAD

Located in north-west London opposite Golders Hill Park, this is a cosy and homely pub in

which to while away the hours. The staff are friendly and the atmosphere your usual smoky pub demeanour. It's uniqueness lies in its slightly unusual decor. This is due to the cluster of tables in a room with a collection of bookshelves, which will always prove useful in the event that you require an alternative pastime to talking, should the company you're with become unexpectedly boring. With a choice of locations in any one of numerous tucked away nooks and crannies this is a pleasant place in which to get to grips with the task of drinking away to your hearts content. The pub is generally buzzing with life on most nights of the week, although Sunday nights appear to be an especially popular night with the regulars, which includes an eclectic mix of students and other worthy members of society. For the myriad of clear, moonlit evenings (especially at this time of year), there is always the option of sitting at one of the tables outside and watching the ever exciting flow of traffic.

Valerie Tesler is also currently too plastered from her research to write anymore.

HOUGHTON



Today Harry has discovered the major problem facing LSE students in the coming years. There is something that is taking place within the LSE, which is so disgusting it makes me want to piss off to (gulp) Kings. Yes, this bastion of LSE hackery, of love for the Tuns, constant skiver of classes, has finally decided that things have gone too far. Strand Poly will receive my transfer request first thing in the morning.

What has made Harry contemplate such treason? I hear you ask. Well, it's not, yawn... Top-up fees, neither the continued threat of Cooper insisting that every slapper must share his public lice. The real reason why I must leave this overcrowded shit pit, is the horrifying news that the public school educated student numbers are set to rise.

Public schools are the reason why this formerly great nation was never great. The reason for England being so crap at cricket, why there are so many rapes, why there are so many repressed homosexuals and heterosexuals and why there aren't enough decent people at the LSE.

The worst feature about public schools is that all former students, one day, look back on their old schools and realise they're crap. However, students who come straight from public school to the LSE are full of all the snobbery and wankiness that is force fed into their stupid heads at such an early age.

I know Mummy and Daddy are very proud of you. After all, they paid for you to become a complete git, but you must realise that the rest of the country, plus the rest of the world, hates you! You don't have to kill yourselves yet, Harry is a helpful soul, here are a few small hints about how you can hide your embarrassing past:

- 1) Don't play rugby, unless you're Welsh. When I'll deal with you later.
- 2) Don't join the debating society. Everyone knows it's the public school boys' favourite pastime aside from buggery or masturbation.
- 3) Don't talk. Obvious give away.
- 4) Leave (please) the LSE.

This is not meant to be taken as a piece of political invective. Most of the Labour Club and the stupid Socialist Wankers went to posh schools, let alone the pricks in the Tories. You can't hide, you can't run, we know who you are.

Harry is currently on a sabbatical in Barbados, having flown there on this evening's Concorde.
(YAH)

Rantings of the Rich

Graham Stevenson explains why LSE students aren't economically challenged

The words 'student' and 'hardship' should never be tandemised unless one is stating the obvious; "there is no such thing as student hardship in Britain today." Similarly, there should be no concept of student poverty. Every undergraduate at the LSE is enjoying the luxury of full-time education, a pleasure afforded by the expectations of this country's society. The student has possession of more money than he has ever possessed and more places to spend it. By no standards then, are we impoverished.

Contrast the lot of the student with the experiences of school children. The best days of our lives are surely not those when we answer to the authority of Mr Highton the



Parental despair: the untold story of student debt

Photo: Royal National Theatre

geography teacher and if overseas students know a system quite different, then be thankful that you didn't have to go through the 'British experience'.

Beyond education lie still more

"The concept of loans is psychologically uplifting."

ghastly horrors than petty disciplinarian hierarchies, founded in the shadow of an equally Orwellian money-god. The fault is not with the government, however, if present subscribers to the student loans system dig themselves into debt.

In fact, the concept of loans is psychologically uplifting, far from being unfair. It gives us money with which to invest. It allows us ample opportunity to exploit this sum and engineer our own profit. Once one's happy time as a student has passed, the

loan may be paid back and the profit pocketed. Such a system precludes us from feeling guilt for we are not sponging from the state, as was the case with grants. Rather, it gives us

confidence, having asserted our superiority over the profit-making loans company and also the hapless contributors - those students who wasted their loans on valueless fripperies.

It is these grand voluptuaries, preoccupied with gorgeous Appetite and Desire who suppress frugality as though it were something shameful. Typically, such students spend money foolishly on transient experiences and clothes, both just as quickly spoilt by smoke and changing fashion. Not surprisingly, debt is the consequence of this over-indulgence yet logically enough it is also the product of our general affluence. Students can afford to drink regularly and escape into drug-related worlds of unreality without it mattering too much, something the junior employee cannot. Buy your own alcohol though (unless you're a girl and don't have to).

Exempted from tax, the subject of innumerable discounts at banks, restaurants and other partially-generous foundations in addition to having

control over sufficient sums of money as to sustain one better than uncomfortably, the university-goer has no legitimate claim to hardship. Exploit the exploiters who generally

underestimate the student's capacity for taking advantage of such pseudo-philanthropy. If residential halls raise your rent then put up with it (excepting exorbitant inflation) for how else would it be possible to live in central London?

Ill treatment by private landlords should also be combated as anyone else might but students have greater recourse to legal information, time and probably more funds stashed away at home however begrudgingly they might admit that such a place exists. Sadly, these advantages clearly indicate the plight of permanent lodgers and it seems more than disrespectful to them when implausible nonsense are repeatedly fabricated to imply student exploitation. Our lives are not like Mr Bleaney's.

Sometimes, through indignation, excitement or boredom nonetheless, inaccuracies are believed and untruths perpetuated. Being in London however, LSE students' complaints of poverty cannot be attributed to the last of these motives. Eligible for greater grants or loans and yet conveniently blessed with more free entertainments than anywhere

else, we should be some of the most culturally, intellectually, financially and hierarchically enriched students in the country. Advertise this fact to the population, do not obscure it behind tedious ranting about the cost of living. The greater demand for the LSE that can be generated amongst future students, the greater worth our degrees will possess in years to come.

Poisonous complainants sit down. You have never had it so good.

Graham Stevenson can currently be found scanning the pages of the FT checking on his investments - made with the student loan he didn't need...

Blind Date Contest

Get lucky this year

BLIND DATE
Tuesday February, 25
7.30pm Old Theatre
£2 admission
[profits to Rag Week]

Simon and Laura have come up with the perfect antidote to post Valentine's day depression. A Blind Date Contest!

OK, so February, 14 proved to be the usual disaster. You did get two cards, one you secretly posted yourself, and one which turned out to be from...your gran. Sound familiar? Don't worry, after all, you are at the LSE, not exactly a hotbed of passionate talent. But this year, we have the answer to some of LSE's romantic problems.

We propose to play Cupid to a host of unsuspecting couples and invite you to watch the carnage. Come along to witness rare displays of wit and bravado and to laugh (or cry).

Serious bit: This event is part of LSE SU's Rag Week and we want to raise loads of money for charity. So please support our effort (and your mates) and once you've stopped laughing you'll feel a whole lot better. After all there is always next year...

LSE Fourth's in yet another Strand Poly dicking

Fourths finally find a team worse than themselves as Clegg double ensures a dramatic victory over Strand Polypathetic.

KCL 3rd XI 2 -3 LSE 4th XI

Peter Clegg

It was a much weakened 4th team which took the field against Strand Poly for this intense local derby, played in a pressure-cooker atmosphere. The 4ths' were missing inspirational players such as Rob 'Hard as fuck' Rowlands, who, following his crucial penalty miss the previous Wednesday in BUSA, was still receiving counselling as well as receiving death threats from the shocked British public who rioted in Trafalgar Square following the penalty defeat at the hands of the foreign enemy, Staffordshire University. Also missing was regular right-back Gideon Mclean, still nursing injuries from the previous week's 'encounter' with first-teamer Matt 'Van Damme' Miller. A further absentee was star striker Damian Jackson-Bergkamp. However, JP's non appearance was not a surprise. For the last seven weeks he's either been going to weddings or painting his house, although his latest excuse of claiming to be camping with Dan Pickering's bab was a little far fetched.

The 4th's however, did have 3rd team striker Gavin 'Combat 18' Freeman to offset this loss of players. But Freeman was a pale shadow of his usual self. This could be largely due to the fact that Gav had spent the previous night patrolling the streets of

South East London wearing little more than a pair of white Y-fronts after a boozy night out. Despite this, Freeman was instrumental in the first goal, he swung a corner in which was cleared to the feet of left-back Pete 'Top quality' Clegg, who was standing 30 yds from



Waddle - "I understand Clegg worships me but I wouldn't wipe my arse with his shirt".

goal. Clegg returned the ball first-time, planting it perfectly over the keeper and into the roof of the net, this being the first goal for two years for the Chris Waddle worshipping full-back. LSE celebrated, Clegg was shocked, yet better was to come from the Geordie genius.

First however, a second goal was scored by the LSE, again Gavin 'I'm not racist - honest' Freeman swung a corner in and the ball was forced home from 1 yard by the right wing debutante who played so well his name has been forgotten. The two goals were as different as chalk and cheese, but as they say, they all count. King's then applied some pressure to the LSE goal but 'Super-keeper' Leigh Porter showed a safe pair of hands and despite having ginger hair didn't let in a goal by half time. Porter was ably assisted by the ever-dependable Enda Hannon and by defensive stand in Ijal who had a sound game at the back. Thus at half time it was LSE 2 King's 0, with the 4th's apparently on course for a very, very rare victory.

However manager/cripple Dan Pickering has clearly not heard of the phrase 'never change a winning team'. In his 'wisdom' Pickering introduced blonde-bombshell Ian Vollbracht, as well as replacing the injured 2nd teamer Kung Young with Chris 'scouse' Williamson. These moves had an instant effect; lowering the confidence of the LSE team whilst offering King's a lifeline which was not previously present.

Soon King's had pulled a goal back, and 15 minutes later Williamson came into his own. Despite their left-winger being clearly 5 yards outside, Williamson stopped, claimed offside

and then proceeded to watch the same player neatly finish to make it 2-2. This was a further downturn in Williamson's fortunes - he has made a rapid descent from 4th team captain to 4th team substitute to 4th team player with no knowledge of the offside trap. King's were now elated, LSE despondent. Fortunately for the fourth's, Steve Seget and John Parkin put in their usual impressive midfield performances, having helped repel the King's onslaught, and therefore with 5 minutes left the score was still 2-2, with the LSE looking like having to settle for a point.

However 'Top quality' Clegg then picked up the ball 40 yds from goal. This sublimely skilled left back beat three men before unleashing a rocket into the top corner from fully 25 yds out. The Geordie genius had won the game for the LSE, scoring two goals and gaining some much needed BeaverBall™ points to take his total to an amazing +3.

Whilst his team-mates got pissed, Clegg's celebrations followed the unique celebrations mastered by 3rd team star 'Poppers' Mulligan, involving the consumption of vast quantities of illegal substances before collapsing in a physical wreck on Sunday Afternoon. Therefore a good day and night was had by all on the 4th team for whom relegation is now a long forgotten fear (possibly).

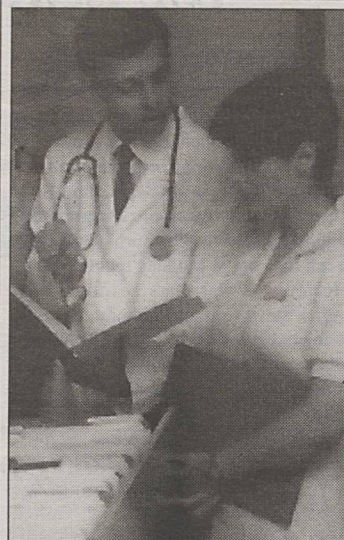
Appreciation Corner

For possibly the last time in the current series from the Mt Pleasant Girl:

Ode to Hockey Kev™

It stands erect in all its glory, magnificent and impossible to measure. In masterful hands a flick of your wrists arouses much orgasmic pleasure. You can keep it going for hours, despite the crock at the end. Come down on me in a corner, Hockey Kev™ and your long friend.

Player Profile



"I'm sorry Mr. Dirty Cooper™ it's definitely filthy Herpes."

Name: Christopher Herbert Cooper
Nickname: Dirty Cooper™, Goals Cooper™, Herpes Cooper™

Age: 22
Born: 01/09/74
Height: 5'9"
Weight: High. Fluctuates depending on whether he has had a shit that day.
Team: 1st XI Football
Favourite Position: By the pool table.
Favourite team: Spurs.
Favourite Food: Mixed grills, or Greek fish with ketchup.
Favourite Drink: Hofmeister/Hooch shandy (with lime).

Favourite Watering Hole: The Tuns, and the Griffen pub (between 3 and 5 on weekdays, or other times when Christine is performing).

Favourite TV Programmes: Only Fools and Horses, and University Challenge (when I'm on it).

Favourite Films: Anything I'm in, especially "Dirty Coops™ Greek Adventure" filmed by Howard in Coopers mirrored wardrobe (the film is currently number two in the Dutch charts).

Favourite Magazine: Anything with me (or Christine) in it.

Favourite Chat Up Line: You'd better bring your passport love, coz I'm going to take you to a place you never knew existed.

Favourite Joke: How many Sabbaticals does it take to change a lightbulb? Four. Darrell, to buy a new one, Coops to change the bulb, Dan to make a play about it, and Sam to have broken it in the first place. Doh.

Next Week: AU Presidential candidate, and womens' Hockey captain Joy Ferneyhough (no relation to Tom Jeans - yet).

Athletics Union Executive Committee.

Nominations to be received by:
Monday February 24 by 5pm.

Elections will be held on:
Wednesday 5 and Thursday March 6.

All Athletics Union Club Members are eligible for the following positions

The President:

The President shall be responsible for the overall co-ordination of AU affairs, liaison with the school administration and the LSE SU administration, and external affairs. The President is also responsible for the co-ordination of the Annual AU Open Day.

The General Secretary:

The General Secretary shall chair AU General Meetings and Clubs Councils and shall be responsible for publicising meetings and agendas. Also he/she shall be in charge of the New Students Fare and social events for AU members. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the internal administration of Union Affairs.

The Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall have overall responsibility for all aspects of AU finance, ensuring the effective operation of clubs and the efficient use of resources.

The Vice President:

The Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the President and will act as the President in the President's absence.

The Assistant General Secretary:

The Assistant General Secretary shall be responsible for assisting the General Secretary and acting as General Secretary in the General Secretary's absence. The Assistant General Secretary shall be Vice Chair of AU General Meetings and the Clubs Council and shall be responsible for taking minutes.

The Assistant Treasurer:

The Assistant Treasurer shall be responsible for assisting the Treasurer and will act as Treasurer in the Treasurer's absence.

For more details see Liz Petyt (AU Administrator) in room E78.



Classified Halifax BUSA Results: Last Sixteen

Badminton: Mens 1sts 5
Marjons 4 (shield)

Football: No results - they all lost

Rugby: Mens 1sts 26
University of East Anglia 23 (plate)

Squash: 2nds 3 Portsmouth 2 (cup)

Table-Tennis 1sts 2 Liverpool
University 15 (fifteen) (cup)

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

BeaverSport BeaverSport BeaverSport

Halifax BUSA Special Halifax BUSA Special Halifax BUSA Special

Luton louts lamp London legends

BUSA heartache leaves 1st XI football free to concentrate on London League and Cup double and modelling careers

LSE 1st XI 0 - 2 Luton University 1st XI

Danny Fielding

With a game of such magnitude approaching, preparation is everything, especially after a surprise loss in the League to a significantly inferior Kings side. Following that match, Curtis demanded a full turn-out at Monday night practise. However, it was tears at training for gaffer Steve Curtis as only three people managed to make it. "I'm wasting my time here", he raged (not the first time a student doing geography at LSE has made this statement).

Yet worse was to come as the First XI adonis's assembled at Berrylands. With a 2pm kick-off looming, the usually reliable, faithful, non-violent Matt Miller had still not materialised, and Curtis, in his infinite wisdom had decided to give him the kit. So this gave the plucky LSE heroes the opportunity to size up the quality of their opposition, a Luton side which had finished runners-up in Britain last season. It soon became obvious that Luton meant business as they used both feet in the warm-up and did plenty of running, while the LSE lads recreated goals from the seventies and fell over the ball.

Finally Matt arrived, having missed the first train by only thirty seconds, but then the second train by a minute, a truly remarkable achievement, the match eventually kicking off ten minutes late.

Despite the clown-like antics of the LSE before kick-off, even the intellectually challenged Luton Polytechnic boys realised this was

going to be a close one. LSE started brighter, Stewart Fry testing their keeper early doors with a swerving free kick which could only be parried across the open net, and Andreas Goodman finishing an excellent, flowing move with a duffed shot which only troubled the pavilion. The turning point should have been a sending off. After a typically robust Ben Levine challenge, the Luton centre-half landed a left hook on the unsuspecting LSE stud, who was only playing because his masters seminar was cancelled after the lad giving the presentation mysteriously phoned in sick. Much to the amazement of all the law abiding citizens present and Miller, the Luton player wasn't even booked. Indeed the same player should have been sent off again for a professional foul on Levine when he was clean through on goal.

These travesties of justice were compounded as it was the same player, who shouldn't even have been on the pitch, who opened the scoring. Memories of England v Holland and Ronald Koeman in 1993 came flooding back as he netted from a corner, leaving the eternally injured Mandrekar on the sideline saying "Do I not like that", or words starting with 'f' to that effect.

Still LSE managed to match Luton in every department, Venini going close and Fry troubling their midfield with some mazy running. Meanwhile at the back Fielding, Miller and Curtis were exceptional, soaking up the pressure with consummate ease, Dirty Cooper™ kept their winger and his facial fungus under control before running off to phone Dirty Alex™ to offer her 'comfort' and keeper Svein was back to

his best form.

Down the left flank Kevin Sharpe put in his usual solid performance. Derek Crump persevered down the right, but got little assistance from Miller, who seemed more intent on putting on a show for him in the same way as he did in the toilets of the Tuns that evening.

It was only in the last fifteen minutes that Luton's superior fitness told and they doubled their lead with five minutes to go from another set piece. However, the match was destined to end in controversy. In the last minute of the match a Venini thunderbolt was too hot for the Luton keeper to hold. As the ball squirmed through his legs it appeared to everyone, except the honest Luton boys, that it had crossed the line. As the written confession which the referee demanded from their keeper was not forthcoming, the goal was ruled out, the only consolation being that Venini still hadn't scored.

As the LSE heroes trudged off the field of dreams they realised that national glory would have to wait for another year. It was disappointment for the hundreds who had come to Berrylands to see Models Inc™ perform. Avid fan 'Liz' was full of praise: "LSE were truly marvellous out there. Danny Fielding was outstanding, the man of the match. His over-head kick in the second half was an exceptional piece of world class skill" she enthused. Luton were indeed happy to have got through this difficult encounter, especially since football is all they have in a university career which will surely end in employment at McDonalds™.

Basketball Robbery

Valiant fall of the Black and Purple warriors

LSE 1st VI 70 - 71 Cambridge

Yianni Hadoulis

Referees are in many ways similar to cart-horses; both should be killed when they reach a certain age. Never was this dictum more true than on Thursday night, when the LSE Firsts took on Cambridge, and the issue was decided by a World War I veteran in a tracksuit, but more about this later on. Initially, the omens were good, for LSE was to play this match on home territory. Furthermore, the boys were wearing their new and aerodynamic See-Through Mesh kit for the first time. Even more astonishingly, the game was to be attended by a host of loyal fans, thanks to a clever campaign carried out in *The Beaver* and over the Internet. Everything seemed set for a fiesta; it was not to be.

Aching to prove that they really deserve their higher research funding, Cambridge, not overawed by LSE's home court advantage, soon took the lead. Later it became clear that they were not overawed by the home court advantage because there simply was no home court advantage. The scorekeepers, for one thing, were far too honest. You can expect Yianni to try and cheat whenever he got the chance, but he was ultimately swayed into playing it fair by his Austrian colleague, Matthias, earning them both several venomous looks from LSE's Coach Andy Staab. Andy was also angry because the duo were late in calling for his time-outs and substitutions, but that was only because Matthias refused to use the germ-infested whistle kindly donated by the Court's Sports Staff for this purpose.

Even without any help from the officials' table, LSE still managed to

claw back from ten-point deficits twice to stay in the game. This was as far as they got, though, for the Men in Grey had different ideas. Forgetting that they ought to support the side which was paying their day's earnings, the referees proceeded to make a rich variety of blunders, and Coach Staab responded by giving his own little demonstration of traditional German folk dancing from the sidelines. But the match's special mention goes to the aptly-named Mr. Payne, the Crimean War veteran who during most of the match looked as if he had turned up on the court by mistake. He probably had, too, while getting lost on his way to the pub. This man can get no employment from any team in the general London area, and he goes around crashing other peoples' matches. It just so happened that our proper referee was ill, and we were stuck with him.

Anyway, to cut a long Payneful story short, Cambridge could not have expected a more favourable treatment even at their home court. The crowd tried their best to rally the players, but it was not enough (by the way, does anyone know who the guy yelling abuse to the Cambridge players about their mothers was? If you are this guy, please come to our games more often!) In the emotional final minutes, points from Blake, Javier and Aaron, and impassioned efforts by Jeff and Jose, almost turned the tide against Cambridge, but the final whistle found the visitors thanking their good fortune, before returning home to their usual routine of 20,000-word essays.

Unfortunately this game brings an end to LSE's basketball season.

Rugby Heroes through to last Eight of BUSA (plate)

Jean's takes time out from punishing GCSE revision programme as his cosmopolitan army plough through pathetic East Anglian pig farmers

LSE 1st XV 26 - 23 UEA XV

Tommy Czarnota

The day was cold and unforgiving, much to the disgust of the Nigerian contingent within the squad who threatened to forfeit his place in the team, and remain in the clubhouse. But the thought of spending the next 80 minutes alone with Brian the groundsman spurred him into action. This was despite the pair having much in common, such as their appearance, hair and a shared passion for turf management. The rest of the cosmopolitan squad remained oblivious

to the conditions, and kept their minds on the task in hand. "It was a true United Nations effort", said Mike Pearl (American), as he left the pitch with a broken nose, to be replaced on the wing by the flying Frenchman Nick Germain. East Anglia boasted a strong squad, and last year they lost in the BUSA final against Loughborough. Despite this the game's first try, scored by Englishman Tim "Brummy" Bradshaw, gave LSE the lead for good. Mike "Ginger" Lee said it best from the sidelines (where he stayed all afternoon) when he commented "These lads gave it every

bit to win!"

LSE's sponge like qualities in the midfield allowed them to soak up the pressure on their own guideline, with Dave "Minister of Defence" Neequaye preventing any Norfolk immigrants from entering their "no try zone" with a succession of large "boshing" munches. The forwards were spectacular, especially in the scrum, battling their Samoan counter-parts who out weighed them by more than twenty-five stone. When the game seemed to be slipping away Andy Howard and Tommy Czarnota (a Canadian import) exchanged vicious blows with their props, one of whom was an ex-prison

guard, to win back LSE spirit and Momentum.

The second try was scored by the French connection of Alex Duchot and Nick Germain, with Alex diving over the try line.

The Afrikaner Alex Molloy was dead on in kicking throughout the match, despite the gale force winds. Stars of the game were Tom Jeans, Tom Twat, Paul Murrell Tommy Czarnota and as always Flanj!

The next round promises to be a difficult one, against Cup holders Loughborough, but all are hopeful that a trophy could be on its way to Houghton Street this season.



East Anglian prop regrets annoying Andy Houghton with Mama - slut jibe

Halifax BUSA Special Halifax BUSA Special Halifax BUSA Special