



The BEAVER

The Newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union

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Library to open on Sunday

James Brown

The British Library of Political and Economic Science (BLPES) could soon become the latest institution to open on Sundays. In addition to being able to shop, drink in the morning and bet at racecourses, students will be able to borrow books.

The proposal to open the BLPES on Sundays in the Summer term was the brainchild of Students' Union (SU) General Secretary Martin Lewis.

It was discussed last week at a joint meeting of the Student Governors and the Standing Committee of the Court of Governors. Although the committee accepted the proposal, the final go-ahead will have to be given by the Academic Planning and Resources Committee after consideration of the cost implications.

Lewis sought this one-off measure in response to complaints made to him by students. He argued: "The delay in refurbishing Clement House, the reduced access to the Senate House Library and the increase in the numbers of MSc students have put pressure on resources."

In order to keep the costs to a minimum, he suggested that the course collection only should be available for borrowing, with the main collection available for reference, in the first six Sundays of the Summer term.

The meeting also discussed proposals to review the 'Special Circumstances' procedures concerning examination performance, the question of October



Summer term stress spent in library

Photo: Beaver staff

resits for all students and the new Athletics Union and SU constitutions.

All of the issues were accepted by the

Committee and have been recommended to relevant School committees for further discussion.

Postgraduate fees to treble?

Helena McLeod
News Editor

At a special Academic Board meeting last Wednesday plans were confirmed to increase the number of Home and EU MSc students paying 'experimental fees'.

In the 1995-96 session, there will be up to 22 MSc programmes charging full or intermediate fees to home/EU students. These fees set at £7340 and £4515 respectively will between double and treble the current charges.

Iain Crawford, the School's Press Officer, when asked what would happen to those students unable to afford the new fees replied, "they don't get in", but he

continued that "free education has never applied at postgraduate level which is why we have so many part time students."

These moves were agreed, at the same Academic Board meeting in 1993, that rejected 'top-up' fees for undergraduates. The increased MSc fees have been described as 'top-up fees through the backdoor', however, they are a necessary reaction to financial diaspora, that is facing higher education in general.

Evidently, the meagre £750 the School receives annually per home/EU undergraduate, compared with the full fee of £7500, shows that home/EU students are being financed at a huge loss. Quality is being maintained through massive cross-subsidization from full fees students.

However, for many institutions that don't have the international reputation to attract such high fee paying students, the result has been that capital outlay for building maintenance has been delayed but this cannot be put off indefinitely, the 'crunch will come.'

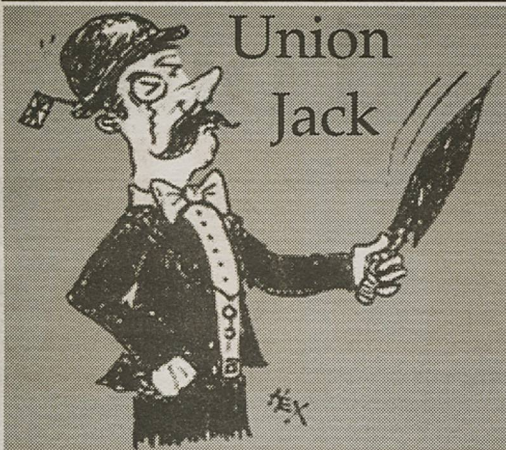
There is no danger that the School will replace low-fee paying students, as a national quota is set annually, which no university can deviate from by a single student. Even so, if quality is to be maintained, radical change is needed.

If, when the Higher Education Funding Council for England meets this year to decide the formula for awarding funds, there is not a bias towards rewards for high standard departments, the top re-
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Next week
Election
Special!



Union General Meeting with a full order book of motions, plenty of questions to Officers, speeches both for and against, a plethora of points of information. As Jack settled down into her comfortable seat in the balcony, her initial ponderings were answered by a curious-looking man in an Ireland shirt opening nominations for the forthcoming elections. The Returning Officer also asserted his agreement with Jack on the subject of Chris Parry. Mind you, he is not the only one, for Jack hears that the inmates at Rosebery have been none too impressed by President Parry, and his favoured successor was rewarded with less than thirty votes in the recent Hall Society poll.

For the hackocracy who can think of nothing better to do with their lives than standing for election, it was their final unofficial chance to benefit from the oxygen-tank of publicity that the UGM has become. Hence all from potential Womens' Officer Tom Scott to aspiring Sabbatical and occasional Rag Chair Darryl were anxious to get their voices heard. All, that is except the aforementioned Chris Parry, who is obviously taking the safe decision of saying nothing lest his public second-guess him and conclude that he is a stupid, long-haired git who "just likes wearing chunky jumpers". First up, aspiring Exec and sometime socialist Nick Dearden. Buoyant, despite the untimely absence of his grandfather, he proposed a motion calling for a lobby and vigil at the House of Commons in aid of an equal age of consent. Jack, in her mischievous way, wonders how Nick can reconcile his political convictions with his ideological mentor Leon Trotsky who described homosexuality as a "bourgeois perversion". Perhaps a question for the hustings, should Nick decide to go all the way into the Sabbatical fray.

Ola Budzinska was busy imagining scenarios on the subject of the hardship fund whilst introducing the perfect opportunity for all and sundry to weigh in with their ill-considered platitudes. Nick Kirby, Claire Lawrie and Martin "Nicola Machiavelli" Lewis all rose to the occasion. Adam Morris, set out his General Secretary manifesto with an admission that, as some may have suspected for a good deal of time, he is... "judgemental". Baljit Mahal, never one to miss a chance for some shameless self-promotion (which reminds me, my good friend Baljit asked me to remind you all to return your Accommodation questionnaires to him, that is **BALJIT MAHAL**), made some scurrilous allegations about a "famous" and "quite recent" student's plundering of a Hardship Fund. Alexander Ellis, -who had until moments previously been engaged in a paper projectile battle with Nick Kirby, using by far the most sophisticated missile yet witnessed by Jack at a UGM- meanwhile looked less than comfortable.

To keep the more intelligent members of the audience happy, the Norsemen song was resurrected. This infamous chant is, apparently, part of LSE folklore dating from times that only Ron Voce, Bernardo Duggan and James Brown can recall. It is something to do with cans that only cost 39p a can, getting drunk on piss-weak lager and being an exhibitionist at the UGM. Needless to say, Martin Lewis was one of those singing loudest. Eric Steeves, the one-track mind Canadian Tory, tried to amend the motion to endorsing the inebriative qualities of Molson lager. Dismissed pithily by James Atkinson as the amendment fell: "There you go, Eric, now fuck off with your Canadian bottled piss."

Students surveyed on housing

Beaver Staff

Proposals are being considered by the LSE Students' Union which could dramatically improve the accommodation service that it offers to students.

The University of London Accommodation Office has made plans for a centralised accommodation system which would increase the range of choice (as all college lists would be merged), and provide detailed information about each house or flat updated on a daily basis.

These lists will be computerized, enabling students to have access from any computers in St. Clements, the library or even Halls of Residence. A system for the use of college offices should be ready in March 1995, whilst computer access will take longer.

The Students' Union has decided to carry out a survey to find out about students' problems and views. A questionnaire has been distributed and it is hoped that responses from this will lead to two positive steps being taken:

The first is to seek funding from the School for modernising the private accommodation system, whilst the second is to investigate to what extent professional advice is needed by first year students in halls who will be seeking private accommodation in their second year.

Earlier on this year many students found themselves in the unfortunate situation of having to sleep in the Gym in the basement of the Old Building, whilst for the rest there was the arduous task of finding private accommodation.

Each year 6,000 LSE students must seek accommodation in London. For a minority this search is straightforward, but for the ma-

majority, however, this is not the case. The total number of places in LSE Halls next year will be 1,680, but this still lags behind the 3,000 applications made in the previous year for hall accommodation.

There are also places available in University of London halls, of which there are 11 but places at these are also over-applied for, and supply falls far short of demand.

For the majority of LSE students, the answer is private accommodation and involves a search throughout London, via the LSE Housing Service (E298), Senate House Accommodation Office, private agencies, newspapers or simply word of mouth, for a place to live.

Genuine progress in the provision of accommodation at the LSE requires students' participation in decisions at all levels ranging from Hall Committees and the SU to the Accommodation Office.

Lilley: threat to sue

Steve Roy
Electronic Beaver Editor

The threat by Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, to sue a Leeds University student for comments made about him on the Internet has raised questions about potentially libellous e-mail messages, and how secure private conversations on the net actually are.

In the Leeds case, the student's conversation was being 'monitored' by an external source, not from within the university. LSE students could be subject to similar observance, although apparently not from the School authorities.

A spokesman for the IT department told *The Beaver*: "No monitoring of e-mail is carried out at LSE. I doubt we have the technical facilities to do so, even if we wanted to."

However, given the risk of outsiders reading your e-mail messages, students should take precautions to ensure their individual messages' security, including regularly changing their passwords. As Bill Gates, Chairman and Founder of Microsoft, has said: "Don't say anything personal or confidential on e-mail. Communication on the Internet is not private. People can snoop electronically."

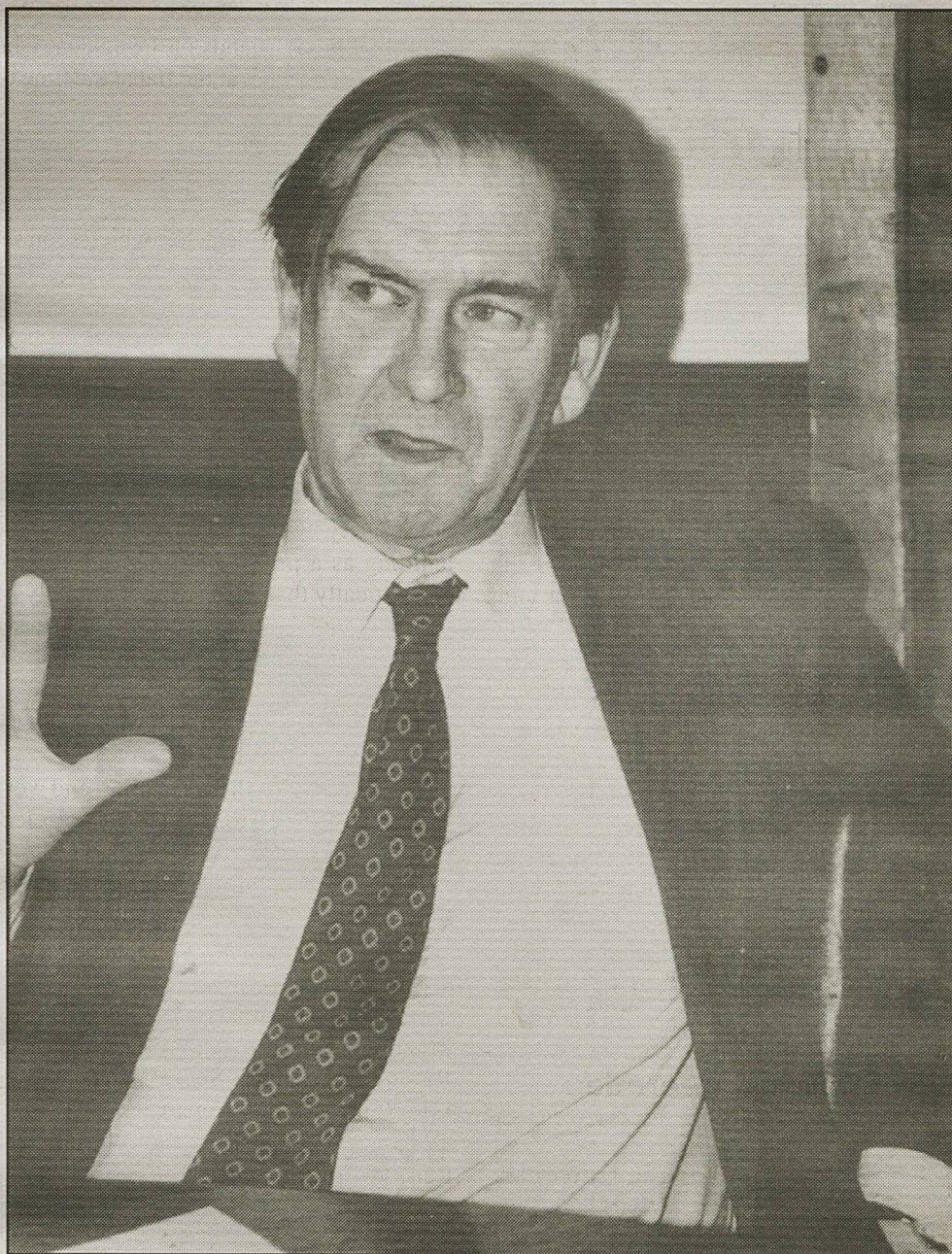
Advice on e-mail security can be obtained by visiting the IT Students Help Desk (S198).

Postgrad Fees

(continued from page 1)
search institutions may rethink their approach to funding.

Oxbridge, previously a fierce opponent of 'top-up' fees, as it would have threatened their funding privileges (traditionally Oxbridge received two payments from the government per student, the national award and a college fee), now faces the same financial problems as other institutions following the abolition of their special privileges. The move towards 'top-up' fees in some form now seems irreversible.

Hague 'transforming dinosaurs'



Sir Douglas Hague CBE addressing a meeting of LSE Demos last week Photo: Anastasia Shorter

Nick Sutton
News Editor

Sir Douglas Hague CBE, a former adviser to Mrs Thatcher, and Associate Fellow of Templeton College, Oxford, addressed a meeting organised by LSE Demos last week.

Sir Douglas, a critic of many British institutions, which he believes are not performing as well as they should, outlined his views for 'Transforming the Dinosaurs'.

Speaking from his considerable experience in both the public and private sector, Sir Douglas outlined four ways in which institutions can change - coercion (through competition or regulation), contagion (by bringing in people from outside the organi-

sation), coaching (bringing in outside advice to help institutions change), and learning (whereby organisations set about changing themselves).

Hague directed many of his criticisms towards the civil service, schools and universities, but has made other sweeping recommendations.

These include restricting those in the top tiers of major organisations to a maximum of five years in one job; exchange between the public and private sectors of substantial numbers of people - including bringing people from outside into universities; and the establishment of new public sector bodies to achieve particular tasks or be time-limited.

Brighton President booted out

Nicola Hobday

Last week's Union General Meeting saw a discussion of the forceful repatriation of the President of the Students' Union at the University of Brighton, Pancho Ndebele.

The motion at the UGM, proposed by Gregor Claude, highlighted the implications of restrictions on foreign students becoming sabbatical officers.

He hinted that this was a conspiracy on behalf of the British Government to discriminate "against non-western people".

In 1974 the government made a verbal agreement to extend the student status of foreign sabbatical officers in order to allow them to remain in the country. However, this agreement was never formalised and therefore it is up to the University as to how easy the process is made.

At the LSE, with fifty percent foreign students, sabbatical officers from overseas are fairly common and therefore the system is very straight forward.

Vini Ghatate, Students' Union Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer, described his experience with the Home Office as very simple. However in the case of the unlucky Ndebele his experience shows that some formalisation of the system may be needed.

Pancho Ndebele had been back to Zimbabwe over the Christmas break during which time his student visa ran out. As a result of this, he was forcefully repatriated, suggesting that the incident was the result of an oversight by Ndebele.

However, a Home Office spokesman said that failing to renew a student visa on time would not usually be a problem. He added that any aspiring foreign sabbatical officers should call the Home Office to ensure that they will not have any problems.

As to whether there would be any formal clarification of the status of foreign sabbatical officers, the spokesman said that there were no plans at present to change the rules.

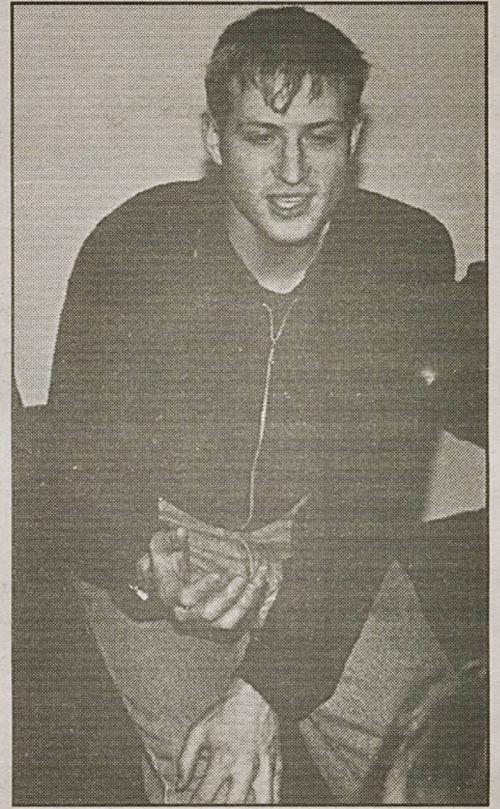
The University of Brighton and the Na-

tional Union of Students are campaigning to allow Pancho Ndebele to be let back into the country. Jim Murphy, NUS President, said that Ndebele's repatriation was "a deliberate and arbitrary contradiction of the ministerial exemption."

A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State, Michael Howard, informing him of Ndebele's situation.

Ndebele has been accepted to the University of Loughborough for an MSc in Water Resources Technology Management next year. This is an added reason why, it is argued, he should be allowed back into the country, in addition to the fact that he was democratically elected as President by students at the University of Brighton.

The fate of Pancho Ndebele could be seen to have serious implications for all students nationally and at the LSE. The fact that a student may be prevented from standing for sabbatical position or voting for the candidate they feel is the best to represent their interests has, as Gregor Claude puts it, "very serious implications for student democracy."



Gregor Claude, proposer of the motion
Photo: Anastasia Shorter

Butler's Fire: student fined

Oliver Adelman

An LSE student and resident of Butler's Wharf has been fined £30 following the fire at the Hall three weeks ago, according to Peter Urbach, the Warden.

The fine was levied because "it appeared likely that his group of visitors had caused the incident," according to Urbach.

The fire, which occurred on the morning of January 21, led to the evacuation of the building for about 50 minutes.

According to one Butler's Wharf resi-

dent, five or six friends of the student who has been fined were at the flat at the time of the fire.

It is thought that one of the student's friends set fire to some notes, which were subsequently placed in a wastepaper bin and held up to a smoke detector, which soon set off a smoke alarm and led to the evacuation of the building.

"There is very little doubt in my mind" that the fire was set in a deliberate attempt to activate the flat's fire alarm, Urbach said.

Asked what would happen to a resident of the Hall were they to be found to have deliberately set off the fire alarm in the building as a prank, Peter Urbach replied emphatically that "they would normally be chucked out". He added that the incident is "not regarded as arson by police or the fire brigade."

Hall elections controversy

Richard Hearnden

Last week's Hall Committee elections at Butler's Wharf have been overshadowed by controversy amid allegations of favouritism, ballot rigging and electoral malpractice.

The criticism centres around the polling procedures and count itself, where various discrepancies have been uncovered.

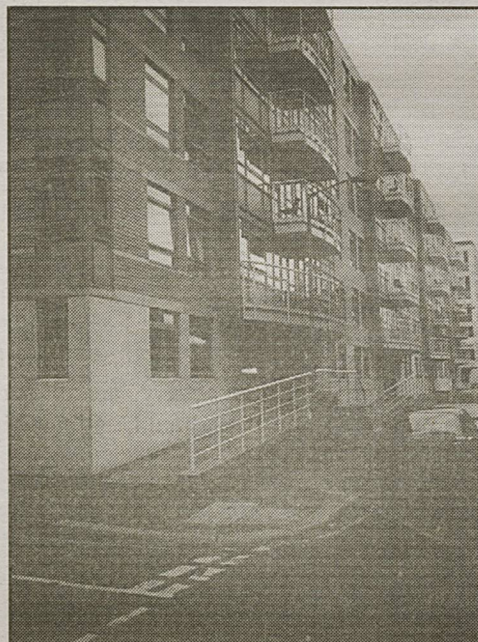
One resident stated that he was almost able to vote twice, by pointing to someone else's name and claiming it was his own. "Of course, I didn't vote again but I could have done so quite easily." This should have been impossible under SU electoral procedure which stipulates the presentation of ID cards at the polling booth.

Further allegations of foul play have been levelled because two of the presiding officers were also candidates for the presidency. Both Mankash Jain and Ola Abiola were already sitting on the committee af-

ter a by-election held in October, and were therefore deemed to be eligible for election duties.

Formal complaints have been submitted to the SU and the returning officer, Barbara Serra, who was unavailable for comment.

Other results are: Brunno Marade (Vice President), Denis Aghaizu and Lester Ramoutar (Social Secretaries), Philip Isiersemenzel (Treasurer), Christof Tsakonas (Overseas Officer), Stephanie Reiss (Women's Officer) and Rizwan Ashia (Secretary).



Butler's Wharf Halls
Photo: Library

Ashworth's pennyworth

Duncan McGrath

Speaking exclusively to *The Beaver* last week, the School's Director, Dr John Ashworth outlined his views about the School and his future.

In a statement issued to the Court of Governors Dr Ashworth "made it clear...that it was not in my mind to seek to extend my term as Director. . . For the good order and management of the LSE" he did not wish to constrain the Selection Committee for the Appointment of the Director in their quest.

However, press reports since this announcement have clarified his position: "It will be for the LSE, quite properly, to decide who should be its next Director. The post may or may not be offered to me as my colleagues and the Governors see fit."

When asked about this decision, Dr Ashworth said that he had been a Vice-Chancellor for fifteen years and felt that it was long enough. He also expressed concern about the declining standards of British degrees.

Dr Ashworth was disappointed at the academic conservatism that had slowed his plan to improve the LSE's scholarship and research during his time as Director. The money spent on building projects and expansion were justified, he said, because "you cannot run a first class international university out of a slum."

He also expressed his dismay at the lack of competition from other UK universities. In a recent list of Economics Degree pro-

grams LSE came third worldwide behind only the University of Chicago and Harvard. The next UK institution was Cambridge placed at 21 with Oxford 34th.

According to the Director, funding was not a problem for the LSE in itself, but unless there was increased funding to other universities within the UK there could be no scope for competition and a decline in academic standards was bound to ensue. There was nothing to be gained from LSE becoming semi-detached from other universities here and charging on alone. Improvement could only come via competition from other domestic institutions.

The Director was particularly disturbed by the fact that the School had not received any PhD applications for economics from British students this year. The reason he cited was the appalling absence of academic challenge in Britain that made it more fruitful to read for a PhD in economics abroad.

Dr Ashworth believed that there had been a need for change in the LSE's outlook in the eighties and that he had tried to adapt it to the new mass system of education in the nineties. Speed was essential if change was to be for the better but it was not going to happen while there were still those that opposed change because they perceived it as a threat.

The dilemma of choosing the next Director is now in the hands of a Selection Committee, headed by Sir Peter Parker (Chairman of the Court of Governors), which will be making a public announcement later this month.

University Challenge

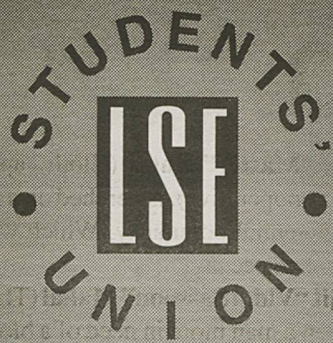
Beaver Staff

The LSE is to enter a team to compete in University Challenge. The programme starts recording in the Summer, and Students' Union General Secretary, Martin Lewis is to start a selection process at the beginning of March.

LSE has had an infamous history on the recently revived quiz show. Ents Sabbatical Gary Delaney said, "The LSE was banned from appearing on University Challenge ever again for answering 'Mary-Queen-of-Scots' to every

question." Martin Lewis disagreed: "It was not 'Mary-Queen-of-Scots', but 'Leon Trotsky' that was answered as contribution to the 1966 student revolts. Gary doesn't know what he's talking about."

Last year Ron Voce, former *Beaver* Executive Editor, attempted to enter a team but only three people turned up for auditions. Martin Lewis does not want to see a repeat this year, and will be holding auditions on the evening of March 1. Individuals can enter, and the best four will be selected for the show itself. Lewis is currently consulting with academics for suitable questions.



1. The Library

At the Joint meeting of the Student Governors and the Standing Committee, I proposed that the Library be opened on Sunday's next term. Specifically with limited borrowing from the course collection and access only to the main collection. The proposal received a reasonably favourable response from the Standing committee and will now go to the Academic Planning And Resources Committee to discuss its financial viability. I hope to be able to inform you of the success of this proposal within the next couple of weeks.

Other proposals about the Library include:-

Reassessment of loan periods; Staggered class timetabling to reduce condensed demand for books; Long term increased opening hours; A 24 hour 7 days a week study safe, comfortable study room in the School available to all students; Library call numbers printed on all reading lists and continued access to Senate House library.

2. Academic Affairs:

My 'Report on the Academic Structures Of The LSE' is finally about to make the rounds of the School's Committee structure. The issues raised include:- Introduction of October examination resits (LSE is one of the few British HE establishments not to have these, as the days of generous grants where students may easily afford to resit a year have long gone, it's about time.); Student representation; Special circumstances procedures for students suffering illness or unexpected circumstances during the exam period; Anonymous marking of long papers and dissertations; A slimmed down school wide questionnaire, with published results; The School should examine split department degrees to ensure that students who choose these courses are not unfairly disadvantaged; A working party on Departmental staff student representation; Mechanisms to assure teaching quality with compulsory teacher training and refresher courses; Where courses are Euro centric the names and descriptions of the course should adequately match what is provided.

This is a very brief summary of the report, which is available from the Student's Union reception. If you would like to discuss the recommendations and/or get involved with Academic Affairs, then please come and see me.

3. Academic Board:

On Monday 20th. February, we will discover whether or not we have Student Representation on the Academic Board. Every Academic in the School is a member of the Board, which is the School's most Senior Committee, where all crucial decisions made are sent. Students have often tried to gain membership of the Board, to enable us to play a part in the decisions that affect us. The last time the Student's Union proposed representation was in 1991. This time instead of the usual rejection the Board decided to have a postal ballot of all its members.

If we gain a place on the Board, students will move a large step closer to being adequately represented in the School. If we don't then it is time to ask searching questions of the School's internal structures. The Academic Board can no longer remain at the centre of the School's Committee structure if students are not allowed to play their role. If Academics wish to maintain their fellowship, they must sacrifice its authority, making it as the club that some of them suggest that it is.

Student support, fee structures, even Smoking policy are all decisions made without students at the Board, if the Board doesn't want students then it shouldn't make these decisions!

4. Elections:

If you are interested in standing for any of the posts for Student's Union elections and you want a chat about what the posts involve and how the Union operates, or if you have any problems, questions, suggestions, or you just want to drop in for a chat, then to come and see me. I'll either help you or send you to someone who can. My Office is E205 on the floor near the print room and my phone number is 071 955 7147.

UN: A time to die?

Silvia Santoro

A debate about the role of the United Nations (UN) and its future took place in the Old Theatre as part of the Student Union's Global Festival.

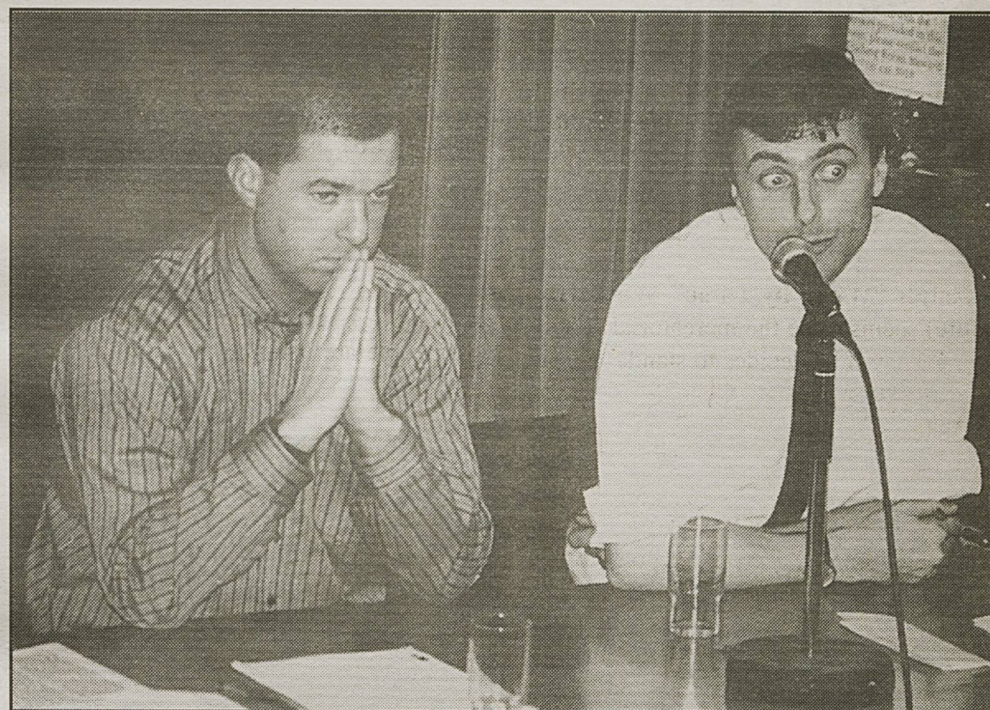
The chair of the debate on February 10 was Professor Christopher Hill, from the School's International Relations (IR) Department. Speakers included Nicholas Hinton (Save the Children Fund), Rosemary Wrighter (*The Times*), Suzanne Long (UN Association), and Nicholas Sims, also from the IR department.

The debate was provocatively titled – "The UN at 50 – A time to die?" – and its objective was to focus on the controversies which have arisen during these past fifty years about the UN, its operations, and its achievements.

Mr Sims, who opened the debate, emphasized how, by the very act of coming together, the UN has made the world a safer place. According to him, past and recent criticisms of the UN are undeserved, and even though there have been errors, the operations of the UN should be appreciated.

Suzanne Long pointed out that, thanks to the actions of the UN, countries can no longer ignore human rights conventions and get away with it.

Everyone spoke very enthusiastically about how the UN was able to solve crises



United Nation speakers

Photo: Joanna Arong

such as those in Namibia, El Salvador, and Chad without the loss of lives. The press, according to Long, provides only very selective information about the UN, giving coverage only to those cases which are newsworthy, which tends to be when the UN has had problems.

On the whole, controversy was deliberately avoided throughout the debate. The only criticisms from the platform regarded the democratic legitimacy of the whole structure of the UN, and organizational problems.

Rosemary Wrighter and Nicholas Hinton gave very comprehensive accounts of how they think the UN should be reformed in order to make it more accountable to the population and to make it more efficient. However, no one wished to touch on controversial issues such as selective policing and double standards throughout the implementation of policies. Questions from the floor about these touchy issues were either ignored or carefully by-passed to the disappointment of many in the audience.

Extravagant NUS bungle

Toby Childs

Cries of profligacy, waste and extravagance abound following the disclosure that NUS representatives charged with the responsibility of scrutinising the executive spent £5000 on a conference which did not happen.

Replacing the little known NUS Conference, the lesser known 'National Council' hired prestigious Trade Union premises for a weekend in which to fulfil their duties.

The first day reportedly revolved around purely political issues of no immediate relevance to students who they claim to represent. The second day stuck to the agenda but officials apparently 'forgot' to ratify their decisions and votes, negating the whole procedure. Although it would appear simple to ratify proceedings retrospectively this allegedly breaches NUS regulations.

Observers were unsure which situation they found more amusing, the initial incompetence or the inflexibility of union rules.

The case has been said to highlight the growing gulf between students and their 'representatives', elected virtually unopposed by minimal numbers, often consisting of a 'bloc' of dedicated supporters. The consistent over representation of the far left is due to this electoral shortcoming.

Students in Houghton Street said the off putting character of those involved in 'student politics' deterred many from

participation. Fears were also voiced that this reduced the calibre of candidates generally. Repeated surveys indicate that few students know who their representatives are or even care.

The NUS is depoliticising itself and becoming more concerned with student

issues in response to the change in attitudes.

The switch from Conference to Council is expected to save £290,000 a year, according to Martin Lewis, Students' Union General Secretary, but the wasted money cannot be reclaimed.

Law think-tank extended

Nola Donachie

Labour Lawyers, founded in 1948 and often viewed as the Party's 'Think-Tank' was extended to the Labour Party's legally aspiring youth at a meeting in the House of Commons.

The crowded meeting in the Jubilee Rooms on February 7 heard that the current legal system was in a state of crisis and that various lawyer MPs had difficulty asserting their left-wing ideology in such a staunchly conservative environment.

Despite this, the Labour Lawyers have a positive view of the future. Contrary to popular conceptions of "The Law" the audience was told that it "is not a dry or esoteric concern, but is dynamic, growing and has the capacity for change."

The general tone was that for those students privileged to be afforded the opportunity to qualify as either a barrister or solicitor their skills should be used as a weapon for the protection of those people whose concerns are grossly underrepresented in our country, and globally too, in order to improve the quality of their lives.

Fortunately the whole presentation did not remain in the mood of a sentimental crusade as the speakers told of the Society's composition. Their members divide into specialist sub-committees which are assigned to research and make recommendations on particularly topical or important issues, often assisting the Frontbench with the legal aspects of their portfolio.

One of the group's primary concerns is the ever-diminishing budget for legal aid. They are planning to publish a consultation paper very soon in an attempt to redress the recent growing trend of inaccessibility to legal advice and hence the denial of "justice" to the masses.

To finish the meeting there was a whirlwind appearance from Tony Blair MP. He emphasised accessibility as the crucial factor in the country's legal dilemma. He was once the representative of the Labour Lawyers to the Party and said that in his time the society had been "like a retirement home for elderly lawyers." He stressed the need to extend support for the Party throughout the nation and into every profession. He believes that the Labour Party is the only party committed to social change and that would-be lawyers should join The Society of Young Labour Lawyers.

Machiavelli's last gasp

If you're a candidate you'll know that this is the last chance I have to let everyone know your electoral secrets. For the rest of you remember scepticism is the rule of the day when the following individuals try and canvas you.

General Secretary

Ralph "Wilde by name" Wilde (By Nature) seems to be the mercatorial candidate, 4-1 fav if he decides to stand.

Sean "Deep Throat" Gollooly (Footballers against Kinnear), has again shot up the leader board as favourite if Wilde drops out. 5-1.

Ron "Old" Voce (5 years at LSE isn't enough), the John Major of LSE politics. He may be grey (shiny of course), but he's not boring and he's particularly talented. 6-1

Christopher "Dillon" Parry (Amour d'Greatrex) arrogantly bouncing around as if he's won, it's been muttered that he refers to himself as the Gen Sec elect. He should remember the voters will be as fickle with him as he is with his membership of the Conservative party. 7-1

James "Ron" Atkinson (UGM Chair) is subtly trying to ditch his Tory tag and stand as an Independent, his popularity is high and he may take votes off Dillon above. It'll be a surprise but he could just do it? 8-1

Tom "Ginger" Scott (playing for the

party), recently revealed that he doesn't believe he's a hope of winning against the might of Parry and Voce! If his ambitions don't run that high, does he honestly deserve it?

Angus "Roy" Kinnear (no hoppers alliance) actually believes he stands a chance. It is a little known fact that Angus used to model jockey short underwear for Marks and Spencers he thought it was behind him, but the electorate has a right to know. Odds; most people are laughing behind his back 100-1.

Shock recent news has it that Omar Soomro (see Ed & Welfare) may switch to the General Secretary contest, if he does he flies in at 5-1.

Treasurer

New post, old job. However after Bates comments on Budzinska, not much to measure up to for this one.

Claire "Truck not a" Lawrie (Passfield mafia strikes back) rumours that if elected she'll forcibly dye the Union staff hair blond and cram them all into a giant pair of blue PVC trousers have been hotly scotched, but has this hot scotch got the goods? 5-1.

Marie "duh brain" Darville; questions must be asked about a woman who is honestly rumoured to have asked, "if both teams

wear white in a cricket match, how do you know whose side they're on?" 8-1.

Teresa "Gary" Delaney (I look like Gary, I smell like Gary, but I'm not related to him, yet one day I want to be Mrs. Delaney) Yet again the Labour club have decided to put a first year candidate with no experience or knowledge of the job up on the pretext that she could survive the year. Then again look at this year. 15-1

Justin "Mr. Entertaining" Deaville has been taking private tutelage from Lola Elerian (last years' Finance Sab) rumours have it that she's shown him all the little secrets that experience has given her. Odds: I'd give him 1!

Education And Welfare

This job has changed, moving it from the bleeding heart liberals to the workaholic academics.

Kate "South" Hampton (My hairs up & I've got a steady boyfriend, so this year I'm campaigning on my policies) is there or thereabouts and will be hard to crush. 5-1

Omer "handsome" Soomro (Hard working collective); I've decided to be nice to Omer, as he has apparently been unhappy with the treatment he has received in this column and the accusations that he is just a puppet of Vini Ghatate; I know this because Vini told me. 5-1

Paul "Master" Bates (Cloth caps and whippets cooperative), is perched on a precipice of potential popularity. Which way he falls we shall see. 5-1

Baljit "Vidal Sassoon" Mahal (The I've never seen a man more in need of a blow job in my life pact) is rumoured to be ditching the Labour club and running as an independent.

Entertainments

Darryl "Rag C" Hare (Hugh Grant imitating guru) will either flourish or fail due to Rag week. Two previous Rag Chairs Lewis and Deaville have made the grade, is he up to it (Sorry Alicia, you weren't) 4-1.

Nick "Global Festival" Fletcher (Vini's my campaigns manager, how can I lose) is riding high after successfully piloting Vinifest. Can he hold on through the elections, or will his voters be like his women, making him crash and burn! 4-1

Gerard "Call me Deidre" Harris (desperately seeking election) wants the job so much that he could pee his pants, however with the two big guns ahead of him, his chances are limited. 15-1

Rumours are flying that the big hairy bloke himself (No, I don't mean Ken Clarke) may run again as he hasn't got another job to go to. However naughty ginger Nikki may change all that! 3-1 Yes folks it is true Mr. Delaney has a girlfriend.

Mass Debate

If you hadn't been told that the Revolutionary Communists had ousted the DebSoc committee in a military coup (and what's likely to be their only political success at LSE-Ed), you just might have guessed it from this week's poorly-worded resolution-*This House Believes That There Is No Way That Hiroshima And Nagasaki Can Ever Be Justified*. Having visited these two places myself, I heartily agreed. Judging by the indiscriminate and tasteless mix of buildings I saw, the original architects must have lacked any sense of aesthetics, style or planning. Frankly, both cities looked as

if a bomb had hit them.

Jim spoke first for the opposition, exploring the D-Day celebrations of last summer. This was a highly relevant point because of course, Gary Delaney is very keen to organize an LSE evening to celebrate the US attack on Japan- perhaps a seriously explosive firework display followed by six months in the fall-out shelter... uh... Underground. Unlike any American he then mentioned Vietnam, which was also very important because of course, everyone knows that the Yanks won by using nuclear weapons against the North. How-

ever, one source of hope did emerge from his speech- not every American feels the need to exceed 250 decibels when he opens his/ her/ its mouth. Up jumped Adam the President, to show off his impressive... er... knowledge of International Relations. The floor were astounded to learn that the attack on Japan actually ended WW2. Nor had they realized that atomic bombs have not been used since. The House was then mesmerized by his description of the Cold War Bi-Polar Juxtaposition of Superpower Nuclear Arsenals. Personally, I wasn't aware that provincial green suits were back in fashion. I must have missed that particular edition of *Vogue*.

Greg was not impressed- neither the

analysis nor the dress of the previous speaker cut any ice with him. He instead drew attention to the 200 000 casualties of the operation itself. We were also informed that on the 31st of May 1945 Japan was very close to surrendering to America. The bombs were dropped as a warning to the rest of the world; that the US had the capability and the means to go to any lengths to assert its dominance over the rest of the world- particularly the USSR. He finished with a forceful and damning indictment of the US military but as has been noted in this paper on previous occasions he does indeed seem to have a sense of humour about his beliefs, as he was wearing what looked suspiciously like a flying jacket.

The final speaker for the opposition, Adam Smith, sounded like he might have been more at home in a debate about market forces. Instead, he told us that morality has no place in times of war, that wars are not moral and that wars and morality don't go together. Obviously he had not read the Bible which, surprisingly enough, sets out criteria which allow certain wars to be justified. By these guidelines the actions of the US would have been a use of force exceeding that needed to defeat Japan. Having completely missed the point he left the floor to the other members.

Someone rose to point out that Japan, the nation that gave us 'Kamikaze' pilots was unlikely to surrender without some kind of drastic blow. Another tried to convince us that a conventional invasion of Japan would have caused worse casualties. Why he then mentioned Dresden was beyond me- the total killed by the firebombing of the German town killed was just 13% of the Japanese casualties. Aysha had chaired the meeting superbly, that's if you count sitting on a chair and looking very bored throughout proceedings as the sole requirement for the position. She now made a poor joke about mushrooms and then called for a vote. The proposers had been obliterated, the fatalities; 10 for, 25 against and 5 wounded.

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"16 Now" says Nick Dearden

Dear Beaver,

This time last year, as part of the Criminal Justice Bill amendments, Parliament discussed the homosexual age of consent - which at the time stood at 21. The Government favoured a reduction to the age of 18. Gay pressure groups pushed for 16 - an equal age of consent for gays and straights.

The Government had its way and the age was reduced to 18. This was not the Government's own majority. The question was a vote of conscience and 40 Conservatives voted for 16. Yet the Government was supported by 39 members of the Labour Party, including two front-benchers - Ann Taylor and David Blunkett.

Many people at the time were surprised at the level of anger in the gay community towards this decision - after all, the age had been reduced. Yet, the "Compromise" option of 18 was, in reality, no compromise at all. Firstly, any compromise must be reached by two sides in negotiation - the gay community and its 'representatives' never agreed to 18. Secondly, the principle of equality cannot be compromised - either it

exists or it does not. The new age of consent made matters worse - the Home Secretary promised to uphold the new law, whereas the last had become, to some extent, dormant. Equally, inequality was now re-institutionalised - every homophobe in the country could feel justified in their discrimination; it had been authorised by the Government and was to be implemented by the police.

For these reasons, the gay community still continue to fight. In the last years, the campaign had some important victories. The European Commission on Human Rights has decided that the Government must go to the European Court to answer for its actions; though this will take at least two years. Secondly, the Labour Party conference endorsed the 'policy' of an age of consent at 16 by 97% - an overwhelming figure. Tony Blair has promised to introduce the issue upon taking office. However, he refuses to impose a party whip, leaving his members free to desert again. The Labour Party must still be pushed further in its commitment to the age of consent.

The LSE SU has a policy in

favour of an equal age of consent, and there is still more that can be done. On February 21st a lobby of Parliament is planned for 2p.m. to mark the anniversary of the age of consent failure. A group of supporters will leave Houghton Street at around 1p.m. (look out for posters). At 6 p.m., Outrage, the direct action group, has planned a vigil outside Parliament. I would like to urge all supporters of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights to attend these events, write to their MPs and sign the "16 Now" petition at the Union Reception, to show that we will no longer tolerate inequality.

Yours,
Nick Dearden
LGB SocietyA little message
for Mr. Whippe:

Dear Beaver,

"Come in Whippe, your time is up."

Signed,
The Examiner.Where did the
article go?

Dear Beaver,

We were very disappointed with your front-page article in last week's Beaver covering the Global Festival Inauguration, attended by his excellency Mr. Moshe Raviv (Israel's Ambassador to the U.K.) and Mr. Afif Safieh (the Representative of the P.L.O. Delegation to the U.K.).

You clearly stated the points made in Mr. Raviv's speech concerning the Peace Process and terrorism. However, although you mentioned (barely) Mr. Safieh's "nostalgic recollections" (his opening speech entitled "Those were the days"), you say nothing of his answers to the questions raised by Mr. Raviv and three members of the audience.

Mr. Safieh tried to maintain the atmosphere of Global Peace that evening by making his opening speech touching and witty, but once prompted, responded with great eloquence and passion to every single question raised.

Your article was entitled "Peace in Confrontation"; where is the article to go with it?

Yours,
The Friends of Palestine Soc.

IR student lashes out after Inauguration ...

Dear Beaver,

In the closing speech of Monday's inauguration ceremony, Gary Delaney thanked both guest speakers, Mr Raviv the Israeli Ambassador to London, and Mr Safieh the PLO representative in London, for their words of hope concerning the Middle East peace process. He must have written this speech well in advance of the evening itself. For while the Ambassador spoke words of cautious optimism, combined with certain dissatisfactions and fears, but generally hopeful in their prospects for the future, Mr Safieh's words grew increasingly angry, and erupted during question time into a sequence of breathless threats, abuse and prophetic messages of doom. He had not intended, we were told, to mention the subject (except for some insulting references in his speech), but was "surprised" by questions from the audience concerning (no, not "the days that were" or his DIY skills) but, can you believe it, the Middle East Peace process. He then, reluctantly, unleashed several gems of insight which he had prepared earlier. I wish to respond to several points he raised, but more importantly, resume this letter with a message of hope.

"Hope" is something which Mr Safieh seems to dislike. What began with a complaint concerning his being prevented from returning to his home (we were not told why), quickly turned out to be his plans as concerns my own home. So why don't I start off by clarifying a few points. The West Bank only, not the Mandate Territory of Palestine, is for dispute. The rea-

son for this is twofold: when offered a fairer division of the Mandated Territory by the UN, Palestinians refused the offer. Regrets? I'm ever so sorry. That the Arab states lost the resulting wars in an attempt to get a better deal is sad, perhaps even "humiliating" (as Mr Safieh said in his speech), but alas true. Not an Israeli attempt to extend its territory (since it was willing to accept the division offered in 1947) but bad Arab military and political strategy.

Now, for the first time in history, a people that have been offered territory by the international community only to turn it down and try to take more by force, only to fail (again, and again and again), are offered it again, by the very country they have repeatedly assaulted. And then, accepting in their magnanimousity what they consider to be theirs anyway, can they not at least have the decency to share a hope for a common peace? To show that the obstacles which their incompetence is putting in the way of this peace are as much of a source of sorrow to them as they are to their neighbours?

What Palestinians have to gain and lose from this deal is well known. The answers are, respectively, everything and nothing, since they have little at the moment. What Israelis have to gain from this deal is, perhaps, a better international reputation (and if you look at the average international standing of Middle Eastern countries you will understand that this is not a necessity but a luxury). Perhaps it is what Mr Safieh defined as the "Jewish sense of guilt"

which drives Israelis into deal in which they risk the existence of their country in order to help their loving, charming, adorable neighbours to the creation of a country of their own?

These are not children, who receive more attention the louder they scream (for them Mr Safieh could have been assured to have his nappies changed urgently). What representatives say has an effect upon people which is more important than the laugh it can produce within the Old Theatre. Does Mr Raviv have less reasons for anger? Was the soldier killed that morning Palestinian, or was he, again, an Israeli? But Mr Raviv understands, that such talk proves to Palestinians that this deal is leading no-where, makes Israelis wonder why they bother at all, if this is what they get in return, and discourages third parties from helping or investing in an area that is going, so we hear, downhill.

Nobody expects Mr Safieh to lie. On the contrary - a few relevant facts (such as a desperate need for foreign aid to help the Palestinian Authorities, or mentioning the practical problems both sides face) would have highlighted the situation in a manner that would allow the audience to decide whether peace is coming, as Mr Raviv hopes, or non-existent, as Mr Safieh threatens. When one speaks of failure with such passion as he did, I wonder whether he actually prefers his position as "scapegoat of history" over any hopeful future.

No friends, this is not the way. Demagogy and pessimism are easy - anyone can pretend that he is a

loser. What is more difficult is understanding that both sides are having a hard time here, but both sides are doing the best they can. Even more difficult then that is showing courage, and patience and optimism. The trick then is to imagine a successful Middle East years ahead, for all parties involved. To close one's eyes and see prosperity, and happiness, free trade and tourism, and open fields, roads, doors, borders and hearts, and a frightful excess of freshly recycled ploughshares. Now there's a challenge!

Ron Hassner
3rd year
International RelationsIt seems there
is another
little message
for Mr.
Whippe...

Dear Beaver,

I would have written a really long letter but unfortunately this was all I could squeeze in due to the constant Tetris adventures of messrs Whippe and Cooper, and even now I'm on the machine all I can think of writing is what is being shouted at me:

"I am the coolest dude at LSE on this...Tetris is my life."

Yours,
A frustrated letter writer.

This Week...

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

LGB SOCIETY

"Is the Age of Consent Important for LGB Campaigners?"
at 6pm in the Women's Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

FABIAN SOCIETY & LABOUR CLUB

Quiz Night
at 8pm in The Underground
£2.50 per team of four. Lots of Prizes!!!

LSE LAW SOCIETY

Barristers Evening
at 5:30pm in the Vera Anstey Room

LGB SOCIETY

Lobby in parliament followed by vigil in Parliament Square (at 6pm)
Meet at 12:45pm in front of the Old Building

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

AMNESTY LSE

Jill Rutter of the Refugee Council will be speaking on the rights (or lack thereof) of refugees around the world
at 1-2pm in A142

CHAPLAINCY WOMEN'S GROUP

"Native American Spirituality and the Teachings of Brooke Medicine Eagle" by Annie Roberts
at 4:30pm in K51

YOGA SOCIETY

Classes now ONLY on Wednesdays, at 6pm sharp in X032.
Beginners welcome, bring loose clothing and a towel/mat.
Price: donation
For further information, contact Nathalie on
(071) 582 1899

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

AMNESTY LSE

Don't forget the letter writing stall every Thursday in The Quad.
(All day)

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

"A call to the nation - The construction of Scottishness in Political Argumentation" by Dr Steven Reicher
at 7pm in S318
Food and Wine will be served. All welcome

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Another exciting evening in the Underground with DJ Jules and The Beaver's favourite barman Danny Silverstone. And don't forget James Taylor is still upstairs!

Coming Soon!!

MARCH

- 1 Ash Wednesday Service in the Chaplaincy (K51)
- 3 LSE Law Society Ball to be held at the Hotel Russell
- 9 "False Confessions" by Dr Gisli Gudjonson at 7pm in S318 - Presented by The Psychology Society
- 14 National Law Fair in The Telford International Centre, Telford, Shropshire at 12 - 6pm
- 15 National Law Fair at 10am - 4pm

RAG WEEK IS HERE!!

LSE Rag Treasure Hunt Wednesday, February 22

Get your teams together for the 24 hour Treasure Hunt. Great Fun, great prizes and also raising money for charity.

See Martin Lewis in E205

LSE Rag Blind Date

Thursday, February 23
Contestants still needed!!!
See Daryl or Gary in E79

PUBLIC LECTURES

Tuesday, 21 February

"East Asian Values and the Politics of Enlargement"
by Michael Leifer, Professor of International Relations and Pro-Director of the School

At 5:30pm in the Old Theatre
Chair: Dr John Ashworth

The Trial of Robin Hood

Each year the Shapiro Club - the students' society of the Government Department - arranges a trial of some prominent and significant person. In past years the accused have included Christopher Columbus, Margaret Thatcher and Karl Marx.

As their contribution to the Centenary celebration, the Shapiro Club are charging the well known revolutionary redistributor of income, Robin Hood, with obstructing the creation and proliferation of wealth. In his unavoidable absence the outlaw of Sherwood will be represented by John Gillingham of the International History Department, an expert on the history of the period during which the alleged offences occurred.

Prosecution: David Willetts, Conservative MP and author of Modern Conservatism.
Defence: Tim Craddock, former LSE student who has worked for both, trade unions and management, and is presently on the parliamentary panel of AEEU.

The trial: Thursday, February 23 at 5:30pm in the New Theatre. Further information available from Dr Rodney Barker, Department of Government, on (071) 955 7168

The deadline for adverts for the What's On pages is Wednesday noon

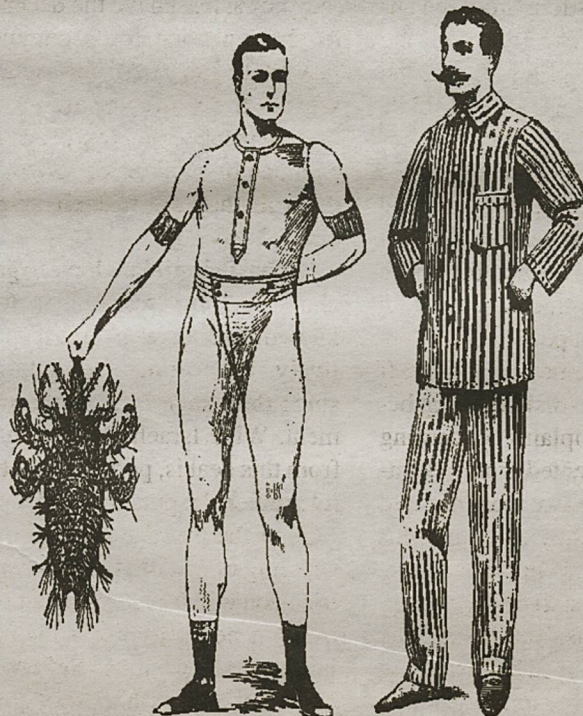
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You need to get out more often? Come to the friendliest place in the universe! Where? Why it's the ever lovely

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COMEDY CABARET SHOW

In the LSE 3 TUNS BAR every Saturday
It costs £4 for students, £6 for others
Doors open 7:45pm. Tickets at the door.



Saturday February 25

we have The Man of Mystical Magic and Silliness

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Bound to make an impression

MIKE HAYLEY

The absolutely outrageous

JOHN MANN

Your Host

EUGENE CHEESE

Neil Masters
Brian Annoying

BE EARLY TO GET A SEAT

Rag Week

Pub Crawl



Have you ever been in a bar when a bunch of medical students have come in dressed as nurses and asked for money and you have always wanted to do it yourself? Well now is your chance as LSE Rag takes London by storm as we trek through Covent Garden and anywhere else where there is lot of money just waiting to be collected. We need lots of people for this event so do come along and make the effort for a few hours. You are guaranteed to enjoy yourself as well as collect money for charity.

The more that come in fancy dress or in a funny outfit the better. So if you come across that bright green wig at home then wear it or at least bring it along so I can wear it. If you do not have anything eye catching to wear at all then go to W.H.Smith or anywhere else then buy a Comic Relief Red Nose, for 75p, and wear that. They actually change colour you know. Just to entice you, not that you needed it, for every £10 that you collect you will get a £1 bar token for when you get back to the Three Tuns. The Pub Crawl is on **Friday 24th**.

Rag Charity

After having its traditional lent term week five finally here. Any of you that missed last weeks Rag is then go and find a copy. No, don't really raise money for charity. So do your bit for charity.

Every day there will be someone harassing you or even that big wad of notes that you have not to panic. Just reach into your pocket slowly and you should find that you are left alone.

The key events to look out for include the tree...

As well as the events at the school there also a example on Monday there is the Carr-Saunders day there is also something special down in the manager. There is also some fun things happening with hopefully the other...

STOP

Want to have something you can keep for the school's Centenary year? Well then... A superb front design with an instantly... and stuck it on our shirts just to make... yes. Go and buy one they are even in co... nary with a fun list of some of LSE's n... ited edition so get them while stocks last... risk of turning Rag Week into a t-shirt a... the style of the 'Babe', 'Virgin' style s... days and has the words 'LSE BABE'...

Treasure Hunt

Another stormer of an event as long as the man himself Martin 'Constitution, People dont recognise me without my beard' Lewis gets off his backside and organises it. So what is it all about? Madness is the answer. No not baggy trousers but 24 hours of running about collecting all the items and answers to the questions. Do not worry, you do not have to stay awake for all 24



hours as you organise the team so that some people go to sleep and take over later on. At stake is a barrel of beer to the winning team as well as a lot of pride. The Beaver team will be out in force led by our main man Ron and there will hopefully be at least one team from each hall. Any sad hall that does enter a team is, well eh, sad. So come on

Butler's, you can do it. So go and pester your newly elected hall president or social secretaries and get them to put yourself in the team. Any societies or departments that want to get a team together then please do. All you have to do is just persuade 15-20 people to join you in a team and go and see Martin in room E205 for a form and any further

info. All team captains should see Martin or give him a call on Ex.7147 before turning up to the start which will be at 6pm on Wednesday in the Underground. The crazy tasks that are involved are such things as getting a foreign travel pass or having a picture taken outside every London football team's ground or anything else Martin can think of.

Rag Week

TUESDAY

LSE Rag

WEDNESDAY

LSE Rag Tr

THURSDAY

LSE Rag

FRIDAY

LSE Rag

LSE Rag

Week 1 1995

Week Is Here

The slot stolen by the Global Festival, Rag Week is a Beaver article and have not got a clue as to what it is. Rag Week is just a fun week of events which are for charity and come along and take part in as many as you can.

You in Houghton Street for that little bit of change in your pocket. The key here when this happens is to take out your money, pop it into the collecting tin. Look out for the posters for the chance to harass the local underground station.

Treasure hunt, blind date, Endurance and LSE Rag Week action

There are events being organised around the halls. For example, the Hall quiz, with some great prizes. On Wednesday, the bar, I am assured by Joby the unnoticeable barman at Roseberry on the Monday and Wednesday nights giving it a go as well.

PRESS

To remind you of your time at LSE during Rag Week, buy the best ever Rag top quality t-shirt. It has a recognisable pattern. Some would probably say the most famous brand names in the world are on there for money for charity. Our answer would be no. The back print celebrates the centenary of more famous alumni. The shirts are a limited edition. Not content with the one shirt, and at the Rag Week auction, there is another Rag shirt. This is a t-shirt that are so popular in clubland these days across the front. Girls and boys you will

Week

DAY 21ST

Rag Auction

DAY 22ND

Treasure Hunt

DAY 23RD

Blind Date

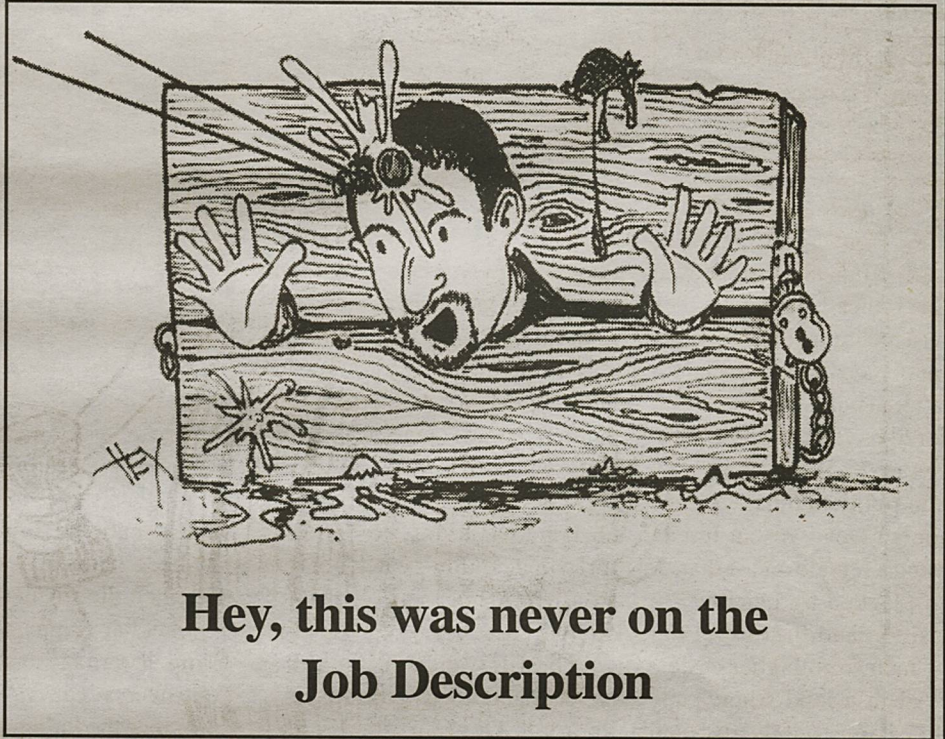
DAY 24TH

Pub Crawl Endurance

Endurance

Gary takes over tonight for a great night of, what would you call it? Entertainment. In LSE's version of Japanese style Endurance the competitors have to undertake various tasks that Gary has thought up. So go and see him in E73, but only if you think you are hard enough.

Also for tonight only we have that very special guy flown in especially all the way from Swiss Cottage, DJ JULES. Sure to pack them in the Underground Jules plays some uplifting party house. (He is a class teacher as well you know.) There will also be a bar until 1am so there is no need to go and get those King's Tutus tickets this week. Anything else we can think of putting on tonight we will as well. All this for the absolute extortionate price of £1. Unbelievable isn't it? I've got to pay to get into my own student bar and the money even goes to charity. What will they think of next? They probably will have the cheek to ask me for an additional donation as well, farcical.



Hey, this was never on the Job Description

Blind Date



Blind Dates contestants? Don't you just wish!

Photo: Library

Is it Cilla? No, it's Dr. Alan Sked who will be the host for this mad evening of fun and frolics. Come and watch all the LSE stars try to match up together. Will Kate Hampton pick Chris Cooper? Will Nick Jones pick Claire Laurie? Will Anton still have the balls to even turn up? I couldn't

tell you but I do know that it will be a barrel of laughs finding out. For anyone who does not know the format listen closely, one contestant gets to ask three questions to three potential dates who are hidden by a screen. From the wittiness of the completely unrehearsed responses (i.e. which

dodging the mad bloke who keeps asking you for money.

Blind Date takes place in the Old Theatre on Thursday with the doors opening at 7:45pm. Come along you might even have some fun - and there's no Cilla Black.

Auction

This is the chance for us to sell anything that we have managed to scrounge off any willing businesses or shops. We have a world famous auc-

ioneer so do come along and pick up some bargains. We have a star attraction of Weekend Break for two at any Trusthouse Forte Crest hotel.

Goddess of flowers

Surviving the onslaught of rape.
Stephen Lloyd on the
tribulations of India's most
famous bandit

Bandit Queen

Director: Shekhar Kapur
Curzon West End, Odeon
Kensington, Chelsea

Bandit Queen comes from a rare genre of films that are based on reality rather than fantasy. The plot has a meaning, the film has a point and the director faces an international injunction. The film that would have been India's official entry to the Oscars now swims in political intrigue.

Phoolan Devi was an Indian bandit and a female one at that. A woman plagued by her low social position and the sexual desires of men from higher castes. She lived in a land where rape brought shame on the woman and the man would walk free. She was married off before her teens for the price of a cow and regarded as a curse by her family. Thrown out of her village for

refusing sexual favours to her peers and raped by a gang of bandits, it is hardly surprising that she converted to a life of crime. But this was not the India of the 1780's or even the 1880's but of the 1980's, and Phoolan Devi was just one of the many victims.

Known as the Bandit Queen, Phoolan Devi massacred and pillaged, ruling the ravines surrounding the River Chambal. She was the scourge of the high castes but the masses considered her to be an avenging angel – the protector of the low castes and poor. She finally surrendered in 1983 – on her own terms, to a police force that couldn't catch her – in front of a cheering crowd of 10,000.

The film (released in 1994) has been shrouded in controversy, Phoolan Devi originally denounced it - threatening to set herself on fire if it was shown in India - but now that she has seen it she is reconsidering her position. Nevertheless the film faces



Seema Biswas

Photo: Mainline

an international injunction and has been banned in most countries including America.

Shekhar Kapur, the director, found it strange how so much controversy can ride over one film since the Indian government treat the subject of rape with such lethargy – but then it's a funny old world.

With superstar status in her homeland and hoping to pursue a

career in politics, one wonders whether Phoolan Devi is still the scourge of the upper classes or now part of the system she fought against.

Shekhar Kapur's portrait of Phoolan Devi, the goddess of flowers is far from flattering but he skilfully captures love and hatred in a powerful way. The acting is consistently strong and the direction solid although the

film tends towards a crusade for Phoolan Devi herself rather than against the social problems of India. Seema Biswas portrays Phoolan Devi admirably well and Nirmal Pandey plays her lover, Vikram Mallah, with courage.

It has been said that on occasion we should open our eyes and see what the world is up to. *Bandit Queen* is a perfect opportunity.



Photo: BFI

Sex kittens

Danny Silverstone on a 60's comeback

Faster Pussycat! Kill Kill

Director: Russ Meyer
National Film Theatre

"What's the point?", asks geeky all American boy The point is of no return. 'And you've reached it', replies Triple D owning, black jumpsuit wearing, porsche driving, cigar smoking, lesbian karate ex-

pert, gang leader Varla. Well exactly, welcome to the crazy world of Russ Meyer. Reissued and reprinted Russ Meyer's mid-sixties drive-in classic has finally received some of the mainstream attention it deserves.

The debauched lifestyle of *Pussycat's* creator and his penchant for big breasts has often caused his films to be hidden under the blanket of political correctness. This is a shame, as *Faster Pussycat* is still one of the

most subversive movies in commercial cinema. Made on an incredibly low budget the film is full of action for actions sake. Three ex Go-Go dancers, a man-eating blonde, a loyal Italian lesbian and their murderous leader go crazy. Their victims? A pathetic all American couple, a lecherous old man and his body building son aptly named the vegetable. Forget the routine ending when the baddy gets her just rewards or even most of the convoluted, wearisome second half and enjoy the unsurpassed first half hour. The acting is as exaggerated as the girls' cleavages, the cars as fast as the one-liners and the soundtrack as cool as the characters. Meyer's is sending up an action picture by inverting every male stereotype around. With hilarious camera angles, fast editing and female leads, the normally glamorised rough 'n' tumble is instead shown in its full inanity. This does not however, detract from the empowering effects of the film. These long lost female equivalents of Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* successfully intimidate everyone. They tower (literally, and metaphysically) over the film. Rarely have women been portrayed as having so much power with so little responsibility. So say, bye bye to straight America and the straight gender roles it demands. Get to the National Film Theatre, and see this film before it zooms off in a cloud of kitsch dust.

Till death do us part

Nicky Maragliano on the less than average Hollywood comedy

Holy Matrimony

Director: Leonard Nimoy
MGM Panton Street, MGM
Piccadilly

Patricia Arquette plays Havana, a small-town girl who works as a Marilyn lookalike at the local fair. When her boyfriend David (Tate Donovan) convinces her to rip off her boss's safe and they hare off on their toes with the loot, the only place that seems safe for the couple to hide is the remote Hutterite (like the Amish but they drive cars) community where David grew up. After hiding all the money, however, David goes and kills himself in a car crash and Havana, who needs to buy time so she can uncover the money, decides to follow Hutterite tradition and marry David's twelve-year old brother, Zeke (played impres-

sively by Joseph Gordon Levitt) as the only way of remaining in the community.

The mismatched couple joke would possibly still be funny if the director knew how to stretch it properly but here Leonard "Mr Spock" Nimoy lets the plot run out of control and err on an uncertain course with no real direction. Small wonder Jim Kirk never let him have a go behind the wheel of the Enterprise.

The scenes of the Hutterite community are stolen off the cutting room floor of *Witness* as are many of the moments with Zeke and Havana showing us how different they are but how much they learn from coming into contact with one another. Amateurish and an annoying vehicle to try and make people believe the crazy notion that a whole community can be happy without MTV or Big Macs when we know full well we'd die in the space of a month.

Prisoner's dilemma

Edd Bannell on life inside

THE SHAWSHANK
REDEMPTION

Director: Frank Darabont
Odeon Leicester Square

The *Shawshank Redemption* is a flawlessly acted film adapted successfully from one of Stephen King's better (non-horror) short stories. Tim Robbins plays banker Andy Dufresne, convicted for the murder of his wife and her lover. Although he pleads not guilty he is sentenced to life imprisonment in Shawshank Prison, an uncompromising and harsh regime run by warden Norton (Bob Gunton) and his ruthless chief guard (played quite maliciously by Clancy Brown). Despite a severe initiation into this bleak world,

Dufresne maintains his sanity and retains an optimistic, unerringly calm approach to prison life. It is this that fellow inmate 'Red' (an outstanding Morgan Freeman) first notices and the pair establish a friendship of mutual understanding and genuine feeling.

The film charts how the characters adapt to the institutionalised way of life, how their outlooks become polarised and hardened and how they come to reassess themselves in the light of their seemingly inescapable situation. So far, so formula you might think, but the film avoids the obvious pitfalls of such a well-travelled cinematic path by concentrating on the characters in their relationships, particularly their emotional interaction. While there are scenes of disturbing violence as one might expect in a film of this kind, there are also many sharply observed moments



Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman

Photo: Rank

of comedy and real feeling where we see what keeps the inmates going. For Red it is aiding his companions through his role as a 'fixer' while Dufresne slips smoothly from one purpose to another, leading him to launder money for the decidedly crooked Norton. But while the others submit to a timetabled existence, Dufresne maintains a most precious asset - that of hope.

Robbins and Freeman are the two actors who seem destined to have the words 'critically acclaimed' prefixing their names in reviews. United here in this com-

elling film, they are a powerful pairing who lend real weight and character to their roles without overwhelming the audience, so that you come to empathise with the men they portray, rather than merely play them.

They are aided by a fine supporting cast who give commendable performances - Bob Gunton's heartless warden stands out in particular. The whole film is supported by Freeman's commanding narration, reflecting with great authenticity the world-weariness of the institutionalised. His perform-

ance threatens at times to overshadow that of Robbins, such is its gentle power.

The Shawshank Redemption is a powerful allegory of the value of hope, friendship and freedom, and director Darabont's intelligent approach lets the performances take a deserved centre stage. Although some may find the slightly fairytale ending sentimentally cloying, I feel it avoids slipping into pastiche and cliché. At my showing, none moved from their seats until the house lights came on. Highly recommended.



A girl and her seal

Photo: Turner

Seal of approval

The latest in an agonisingly long line of animal pictures bores

Nicky Maragliano

Andre

Director: George Miller

Trocadero, Odeon Kensington,
UCI Whiteleys, Plaza

In time honoured Hollywood tradition Rank brings us yet another kiddies movie about a cute animal who acts human and changes people's lives. Andre is a seal - well actually he's not, he's meant to be a seal but is played

by a sea lion. This is due to the fact that seals are apparently a bummer to train and the producers figured that a theatre full of six year olds weren't going to get specific about what kind of aquatic mammal was entertaining them.

Anyway, Andre might as well be a duck billed platypus as far as plot goes because what matters here is the sweetness factor. And Andre has got that coming out of his nose. He spends the film clapping his flippers, dancing around and grunting at the right moments so that

it looks like he understands what everyone is saying to him, easily confusable with how some people spend their Friday nights in the Tuns. The plot tells us that Andre is an orphan seal who was found and looked after by an animal-loving family in the seaside town of Rockport in Maine. Harry (Keith Carradine, oh dear) is the harbour master in Rockport and he and his family specialise in caring for sick animals. The family are unsure whether to send Andre back to his natural habitat or to keep him and so in their indecision they decide to make some money out of him and Andre becomes a national media interest.

The much needed bestiality plot twists that potentially showed us why Harry really has all those animals hanging around the house never materialises, however, and the film suffers as a result. Most of the jokes stem from the fact that seals can make a noise that sounds like a fart. Somebody stop me from dying of laughter. But all this abuse is pointless, really, as it is clearly a film that is made for children and no doubt will succeed in amusing them a great deal. If you read this whole review without moving your lips or using your finger to follow the words then you're too old to enjoy *Andre*.

Horsing around

Philip Lam watches a film strictly for horse lovers

Black Beauty

Director: Caroline Thompson

MGM Fulham Road,
Trocadero

Black Beauty is Caroline Thompson's first attempt at directing a movie, marking her switch from being the successful screenwriter of movies like *The Addams Family*, and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. For those who haven't heard of the book, it's about the life of a horse, tracing its journey through life - its innocent spirit thrust into the cruel world - while showing us a reflection of ourselves. Sold from owner to owner, Black Beauty experiences life under kind owners and not-so-kind owners.

Frankly, I don't see any reason for anyone from the LSE to watch this movie unless they happen to be very, very avid horse lovers. There is little to be said about the acting simply because there is hardly any of it. That isn't the fault of the actors as the emphasis was put solely on the horse, but goes some way to explaining why it wouldn't appeal to an audience above the age of eight. Apart from David Thewlis who

plays a cab driver who owns Black Beauty for a short while (who also starred in Mike Leigh's *Naked*) the rest of the actors simply have the I-can't-believe-a-horse-is-the-star-of-this-movie look etched all over their faces. Sean Bean is most guilty of this, giving the impression that he's trying to act and at the same time and try pretend not to be there.

Conversely, while we see so little of humans, we see lots of glorifying horse. Black Beauty falling sick, Black Beauty falling down, Black Beauty falling in love (a filly named Ginger gets particular attention) and Black Beauty trying to find his 'place in the sun'. Here's one bit of trivia especially for those who have never managed to understand how horses get their names. The name of the horse which plays Black Beauty is Docs Keeping Time. Go figure that out.

However, enough harping on about what's bad about this movie. What's good were the sets which captured the essence of late 19th century London. Dirt, grime and crowds alternate with scenes of lush countryside. This makes it a show for you to convince any visiting relatives to go and see if you need couple of hours away from them.

Star crossed lovers

Mariam Zarmalwal on Shakespeare's most famous tragedy

Romeo and Juliet

Lyric Hammersmith

Here's to another version of the classic love story for romantics across the world! I'm sure you know the gist of it: boy meets

girl, they fall in love, the stars are crossed by the bitter feud between their respective kinsmen and alas, the cloud has no silver lining.

However, if you're wed to a

Romeo prancing in stockings and a ruffled blouse and a Juliet swooning in braids and a white virginal nightdress, you're in for a shock – or perhaps a pleasant surprise. This performance was both imaginative and stylish portraying the warring Capulets and Montagues as twentieth century Mafia type families – men in sophisticated black suits, sunglasses with slicked-back hair and women in glitzy, glamorous evening wear. The stage was almost bare – the lighting cleverly used to convey dusk, pitch black night and dawn. Visually this play was both sleek and effective from costume to set.

Manipulation of Shakespeare's lines to complement such an interpretation was also achieved with some success. Humour was conveyed particularly well by superb acting from Roberta Taylor, the wonderfully naughty but warm-hearted nurse who plays both her light and her tender moments with credibility

and energy and Sebastian Harcombe, the charismatic Mercutio whose jests and teases are delightful – especially when pointed at Romeo (Stuart Dunce). As for Juliet, played by tiny, bright-eyed Emily Woof, she's annoying portraying the young, sweet thing as a spoilt little brat who makes far more noise than one could imagine from someone so delicate! Maybe my dislike for the young lovers stems from the fact that Romeo and Juliet have never particularly appealed to me as personalities, but Bunce and Woof did them no favours.

In spite of the fact that I personally won't be enquiring "Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou Romeo?" from any balcony or bed, I couldn't help but find the ending moving and emotional. Even the most heartless could not fail but to heave a woeful sigh for the tragedy of unrequited love and the least romantic a wistful sigh for its beauty.



"I have seen hours dreadful and things strange
but this sore night has trifled former knowings"

Murder most foul

The Bard's Scottish play is energetically adapted
by director Kate Brooke. Sonia Kalsi reviews

Macbeth

New End Theatre

If you ever thought Shakespeare was mundane and tedious, (perish the thought), this production of *Macbeth* will certainly change your mind. The plot is basically the plans of Macbeth and his wife to kill King Duncan so that he can become king, their success, and then the tragic consequences that follow. *Macbeth* is inspired by both Lady Macbeth and also the words of the three witches who first tell him that he is to become king and then later that he cannot be killed by a man of a woman born.

The story is dark and dismal, telling of a lust for power which once achieved is ultimately destructive. However, this production brings a new life and vivacity to Shakespeare, discarding its usual formality. This is mainly due to Kate

Brookes' superb direction, as she creatively uses physical imagery to conjure up her Shakespearian world. The technique is certainly effective as there is never a dull moment, with actors striding across the stage and using virtually every inch of it.

The fact there are no breaks gives the production a great sense of continuity; it is not just a play with acts and scenes, it mirrors life. There is also a breathless pace to the production which never lets up until the very final scene. The actors are well cast – Julian Bleach plays a fascinating Macbeth, effectively conveying his unwillingness at carrying out the plan to kill Duncan and then his rapid descent into a world of spirits, madness and guilt. The stage is quite small and the intensity of his emotions appear to encompass all of it. Lady Macbeth, played by Adrienne Swan, is also portrayed well. We see a strong woman, with an ugly passion for power. It is she who

encourages Macbeth to kill Duncan and yet also she who descends into complete and utter madness. The implications of the effects of power are clear.

One particularly striking aspect of this production were the witches who were dressed in red and cleverly both evil and funny. They conveyed a wonderful sense of wickedness. The witches were used technically to link several of the scenes together which added an element of tension to the play because their presence was virtually always felt. The role of the witches was also interesting in that they showed no compassion towards human nature though they played a vital part in the events that took place; they remained completely in their world of trickery and spells.

In short, if you feel in need of a little cultural, but not strictly conventional, entertainment, I would strongly recommend you seeing this production of *Macbeth*. You won't be disappointed.

Baywatch

Prini Patel is left unmoved by an
adaptation of Marguerite Duras

SAVANNAH BAY

Koncrete Theatre
Company

New Grove Theatre

Savannah Bay promised to be a story of the ultimate sacrifice for love – death. Two women who are brought together by the death of another. The mother of the dead woman finds it hard to accept that her daughter could end her life for such a futile cause as the love of a man. The daughter of the dead woman wants to know every minute detail of the events of her mother's death and thus forces her grandmother to recount the tragic tale. They both live in fear of once again being left alone in this world, realising that they only really have each other.

The play, which is disappointingly brief, was accompanied in various parts by live cello music which certainly enhances the very mysterious setting. The lighting is also very cleverly used to add to the eerie atmosphere. Shad-

ows are effectively cast against the walls of the stage and it is easy to find oneself paying more attention to them than the acting itself. This is especially true because of the confusing nature of the script. The audience is faced with a seemingly senile woman and a young vibrant child talking total nonsense! I had to sit through half an hour of the play, completely unaware of the elements of the story. The truth gradually comes to light and the play has finished – what a relief!

This production is certainly not worth the entrance fee. The acting was less than convincing and the long, supposedly dramatic silences during which the actors stare into the audience are, frankly, laughable! In fact, the high point of the play was the welcome early finish. It is a shame that The New Grove Theatre is due to close at the end of February. This is not surprising, however, if the quality of past productions at this venue was as poor as that displayed in *Savannah Bay*.

Not sleeping around

Tom Stone interviews Andy McClure of Sleeper fame

I phoned Andy, the drummer from the band Sleeper, on the afternoon of Saturday the 4th. He had been doing interviews the whole day, but he seemed to be in a good mood, despite the fact that some of his scheduled interviewers had not turned up, and he had had a rough night the night before (Now that I could sympathise with!)

Sleeper have had a lot of exposure in the music press recently, and Andy admitted that they've had a busy time lately, promoting their debut album. So I suppose that's one excuse for his reply to my question of where they enjoyed going out to in London. "Well, we don't really go out that much!" When pushed, however, he did admit that they enjoyed going to the Astoria, where "all the best gigs seem to be these days". Indeed, Sleeper themselves will be playing the Astoria in March. Andy said that he thought it was going to be "interesting" and even went as far as to promise "a few surprises on the night" — so we shall see what stunts they pull (watch these pages for a review of the gig next month).

Much of the press' attention has been focused, not on Sleeper's music, but the outspoken opinions of their lead singer Louise Wener. Over the past month she seems to have been trying to shock or offend as many groups of people as she possibly can. Vegetarians and feminists seem to have been her main targets, but others have also been upset by her assertions that date rape doesn't exist and that the threat of AIDS has been exaggerated. Therefore, I put it to Andy that all this mouthing off she's been doing is just a publicity stunt, and that all of these opinions aren't really Louise's, but she just says them for shock value. Andy, in faked exasperation, sighed "oh no, what has she been saying now?" When I told him about Louise's views on date rape, he sounded genuinely surprised; "Did she REALLY say that?" As for her other comments he said initially that she believed them all, and could talk about and defend all of her opinions for hours. However, when I asked him about it again later in the interview he did concede that some of it was "just a load of crap" and added that "although some of them are her opinions the music press just seem to blow it all out of proportion." So it seems that Louise Wener is engaging in a little showmanship in exaggerating her opinions, it has after all got them a lot of exposure.

Next I asked Andy about relationships within the band, I put it



Ain't she gorgeous lads?

Photo: Indolent records

to him that these may be a bit strained since Louise has split up with the guitarist Jon whom she was going out with for three years. This, as it turned out, was an incorrect assumption as Andy told me that they were all getting on very well at the moment. So do they argue over musical differences? "Oh yes all the time!", he replied "but that's how it works we all want to do our own thing, we all get a bit of a say, and the result is Sleeper."

This brought us on to talking about Sleeper's music. I drew some comparisons between them and other female fronted indie bands around at the moment, comparing Sleeper to Elastica. Andy, in true egotistic rock star fashion, replied that not only were they better than Elastica but also just about every other band that's ever existed! Silly question really. He was keen to point out their individuality, and that their songs, in his opinion, had far more originality than their contemporaries', a point which I had to agree with, although on the subject of originality, I pointed out that the sentiments of their new single *Inbetweeners* did have similarities to those in Blur's song *Parklife*, Andy's excuse for this was "too much hanging out with Blur, I guess" (Sleeper supported Blur on their last tour).

Also on the subject of originality I asked Andy about the similarities between two of their songs "Twisted" and "Delicious". He declined to even recognise that the songs are similar (which they are) but, even so, did offer an excuse that they were both written at a similar time, and by the same person— Louise.

Having got onto the subject

of supporting Blur, I asked how they had enjoyed being a support band, and if the lack of reaction from the audience, which is typically the situation for support bands, had disheartened them at all. Andy was quick to dismiss that there had been any lack of reaction to their music except for on a couple of occasions. Therefore they had never really had a chance to get disheartened, indeed Andy said that he thought that they were "the band who everyone saw by accident last year, and liked." I don't know how many other people saw them by accident when they were on *Top Of The Pops* the other week, but they were certainly very good. There was a rumour printed in the *Melody Maker* last week, that the members of Sleeper were too star struck to talk to Barry White and Phil Oakey, who were on *TOTP* on the same night as them. I asked Andy about this, but he dispelled the rumour—"I don't know where they got that from!" He told me about Louise and Jon talking to the other stars, but it seems Andy kept himself firmly behind his drum-kit. But then drummers aren't ever expected to be outgoing and sociable are they? *Top Of The Pops*, Andy said "shattered all of my childhood dreams...I found it very weird to be there, having seen it on television so much. It wasn't what I expected to be at all."

Still talking about playing gigs, I asked Andy if they were going to play Glastonbury this year. He replied "definitely yes, but only because we get payed a packet!" This was a little cynical, I thought, and so wondered if he agreed with the hippy idealism. "No, it's all a load of shit isn't it?"

Well, I think it's all quite nice just for one weekend, but I suppose Andy's attitude means he probably gets on alright with Louise!

Getting on to the subject of music (that is after all what most bands are all about), Andy told me that they'd just finished a very busy week recording new material for their next single "Vegas". He also said that they've been writing some new material to go on their second album, which they're hoping to start recording in June. On Sleeper's debut album "Smart", which is out on

February 13, there are quite a few tracks which have previously been released on singles, and have re-recorded two of the previous A-sides "Delicious" and "Swallow".

Was he happy with the songs on the new album? "Definitely, we think they're much better, if we didn't we wouldn't have put them on there." Andy also told me that they like to have a lot of say in the production aspect of their songs. When I put it to him that a lot of the production is quite raw, he agreed that most of their songs were, but was eager to point out how "polished" their new single "Inbetweeners" is, and sounded very proud of it, commenting "we spent ages messing about with that one".

Moving on from their music to what he listens to, Andy admitted liking The Smiths, Lou Reed and The Beatles. I asked him if these people have influenced his music at all; "in funny ways, it comes through in ways that you don't really expect", he replied.

Overall, I got the impression that Andy was excited about the prospect of Sleeper's imminent success. He seemed to be very pleased with the music that they're making at the moment, and didn't seem at all worried about the fact that Louise's outspoken opinions might overshadow the validity of the music itself. Hopefully they won't, and everyone will realise that Sleeper write bloody good tunes, because they do!



Amnesty

The Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas "Runujel Junam" (CERJ), Council of Ethnic Communities "we are all equal", has reported that they have learned of a plot organised by the Head of Military Intelligence G-2 of the armed forces against the life of CERJ's President, Amilcar Mendez Uriszar.

CERJ was formed in 1988 to protect indigenous peoples' rights, and has been particularly active in protesting at peasants being forced to join 'voluntary' Civil Defence Patrols. Amnesty International knows of many cases, where peasants who have not wished to do patrol service have been labelled "subversives" by the army and subjected to harassment, death threats, "disappearance" and extra-judicial execution. The abuses have been carried out by uniformed soldiers as well as by men in plain clothes believed to be members of the security forces or acting under their orders.

Human rights victims in Guatemala have included women and children, indigenous leaders and activists, human rights monitors, journalists, students, trade unionists, jurists and politicians. There has been no evidence of any genuine efforts to investigate the vast majority of violations. CERJ has, since its foundation, been the target of a wide range of human rights violations.

Please write, expressing concern for the safety of Amilcar Mendez Uriszar and other CERJ members, and calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the reported plot against his life and the bringing of those responsible to justice, to:

S E Ramiro de Leon Carpio
Presidente de la Republica de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala

Busy
Beaver



Dobar dan my howitzers of love. In case you don't recognise the greeting, that's Serbian for "good day", which is quite appropriate as BB has been sniping the corridors of LSE in order to bombard you with a salvo of this weeks gossip.

First on the menu are revelations that the fascist hate mob has been running loose on college property, but allegations of Combat 18 involvement were strongly denied as it emerged that the wicked perpetrators were in fact the sports editors. Just for the record, this correspondent would wish to distance himself from their crimes against humanity, and the Chinese community.

Surprisingly, Rosebery is in the headlines again, primarily due to the elections, where several of this columns regulars were on the losing side. As Peroxide Clare and Racey Gash cried over their failure to win over the electorate, they could at least reflect that this was probably due to political reasons and not, like a certain other candidate, due to allegations that they were sexually molesting any members of the opposite sex who had left their doors open on the assumption that they were safe from the attention of marauding perverts.

This is not all from Rosebery however, as BB can proudly announce that Kinneer has been producing the goods recently. It's not often that he does anything, so it gives me great pleasure to announce his fling with Virginie. Her name may imply sexual chastity, but judging by the alleged drunken grin on the man's face, she certainly got her fair share oats from this dark horse.

Saturday brought the real action though, as everyone who is anyone descended on Ralph Wilde's place for the most amazing event of the year. No, I'm not talking about the party, but the fact that he snogged a bird. Flavour of the month was Curvy Katherine Lloyd who is going to be having a Wilde time, straight up, but BB doubts strongly that this one will last. This is not the only cookie that our gorgeous girl guide informant provided us with however, as it later emerged that Sausage Osborne got her fair share of pork from a notable ex-campus editor, Avril Shown-Keen. Other notables were Jason Toff-Lewis and Nalin Jarofcharlie who made up for their earlier mistake and had a quick snog. Wine wasn't the only thing to be flowing, however, as GenSex had another run in with his Tinkerbelle who had cast a spell over many others in the room. Her magic wand couldn't stop the tears, though, and he left a forlorn and broken man without a goatee.

Now BB has always found it strange when women are attracted to older men, but one woman who might be able to explain this is Sarah Stifford who spent a weekend in Scouseland with a 35 year old. Apparently it was a great success, topped off with a romantic ride up to the bedroom on his Stannah.

Speaking of older men, I'd always assumed that Sean Gollywog was the biggest better at LSE, but it has also emerged that our very own Strop Wayne likes an occasional dabble on the fillies. The fine young mare in question was reportedly "displeased" by the disclosure of Strop's bet that he would shag her by the end of March, yet BB probably just made the whole thing up.....or did he?

Finally, then, BB has a civic duty to perform on behalf of fine young Ents hopeful, Dick Felcher. He wishes to say that he has never had anything to do with Racey Gash, as it is impeding his pulling powers and endangering his chances of electoral success. This man really is squeaky clean, and would have nothing to do with Sleaze (even though he does know Jimmy). BB must retire now to await another exciting week of sordid gossip from you lovely punters out there. So watch out.....

Quote of the Week

"Ralph Wilde kissed a girl?
Bollocks." - Scouse.

Has PC gone too far?

Where do you draw the line between humour and politics?

David Whippe

This week I find myself in a position which I have never experienced before, hope to never experience again, and will probably feel ashamed of for quite some time. No, I haven't actually pulled at last, but rather feel a degree (albeit small) of sympathy for the sports editors of *The Beaver*. This empathy is due to their being labelled as racist and hypocritical, due to certain segments of HSH 416 which alleged that some restaurants jiz in the food that they serve. Aside from the fact that some of the restaurants in question have been known to have traces of semen found in their food, there are much more serious issues which are brought to the fore in episodes such as this.

The first is the simple fact that the article is not serious, and reading any HSH produced will be a testament to this. It is not printed on a serious page, such as News or Politics, and is thus not intended to address serious issues or put forward intelligent comment. One of the most disappointing aspects is that certain people can only see offence, regardless of the humour element, and immediately take that offence as if it is a written in stone opinion of the "white dominated" *Beaver*. That too much is read into humour galls me because part of the joke behind this sort of article is its very confirmation of racial stereotypes, relying on the hypocritical element to make people laugh. There is always a lot more pleasure in finding humour in things which are not supposed to be funny. Comedy is a positive force, rarely used as a weapon, due largely to its throwaway nature, which is not intended to challenge the intellect.

Indeed, the question which must be addressed is whether poking fun at minorities should be considered offensive at all. It's the old nutshell of why it's all right for minorities to take the piss out of each other on the basis of their race, but not for those outside to do the same. This sort of example highlights the alienation that can be inadvertently caused by crossing race taboos. The view I have always held is that I have the right to take the piss out of anyone, and in turn they have the right to take the piss out of me. I do not hope or



Service with a smile from those jovial Italians

Photo: T. Moos

expect them to take offence, and I do not expect to be offended, solely due to the fact that there is no wicked intent. Genuinely racist/homophobic/offensive people are not funny, they are scary and a menace to society, and this is the essence of the argument. The BNP and their counterparts do not communicate their warped sense of reality through humour, but through violence. Humour at the expense of others should be seen as indicating the level of acceptance in our society, rather than the level of intolerance. This is a sign that all elements are incorporated and should not feel that they are separate or different. Not insulting minorities is just as offensive as insulting them, through the implication that they are being ignored or left out.

Every week in *The Beaver* there is something about British minorities, be it Scousers thieving or the Welsh shagging sheep, and these incur no reply. However, as soon as an article appears about the Chinese or Indian population, there is uproar, including official apologies and the like. It is time this stopped, and a recognition of the inter-racial nature of humour is accepted.

Britain is one of the most multi-cultural nations in the world, and on the whole tolerance and acceptance is part of the British psyche. More British people live abroad than any other nationality, and British foreign investment is one of the largest, way out of proportion with our economic size. The British also have a sense of humour, and perhaps a few others could learn from this.

LSE Top Ten: Fat Bastards

1. Nigel Boyce Fat Features Editor
2. Huge Handyman who plays the Fruit Machine in the Tuns
3. Alex Lowen Fat Red Hamster
4. Howard Wilkinson Geordie Pie-Lover
5. Ben Oliver Big Bulky Bastard
6. Rob Reynolds hasn't left the Tuns 'cos he can't get through the door
7. James Fattacloagh Fat slobbering rugger bugger
8. Alex Ellis Rotund Mekon
9. Fat Elton James Fucking Huge Fifth Teamer
10. Gary Delaney Fat Smelly Ents Sabbatical

Campus Crossword result

Chaos as office is flooded with entries

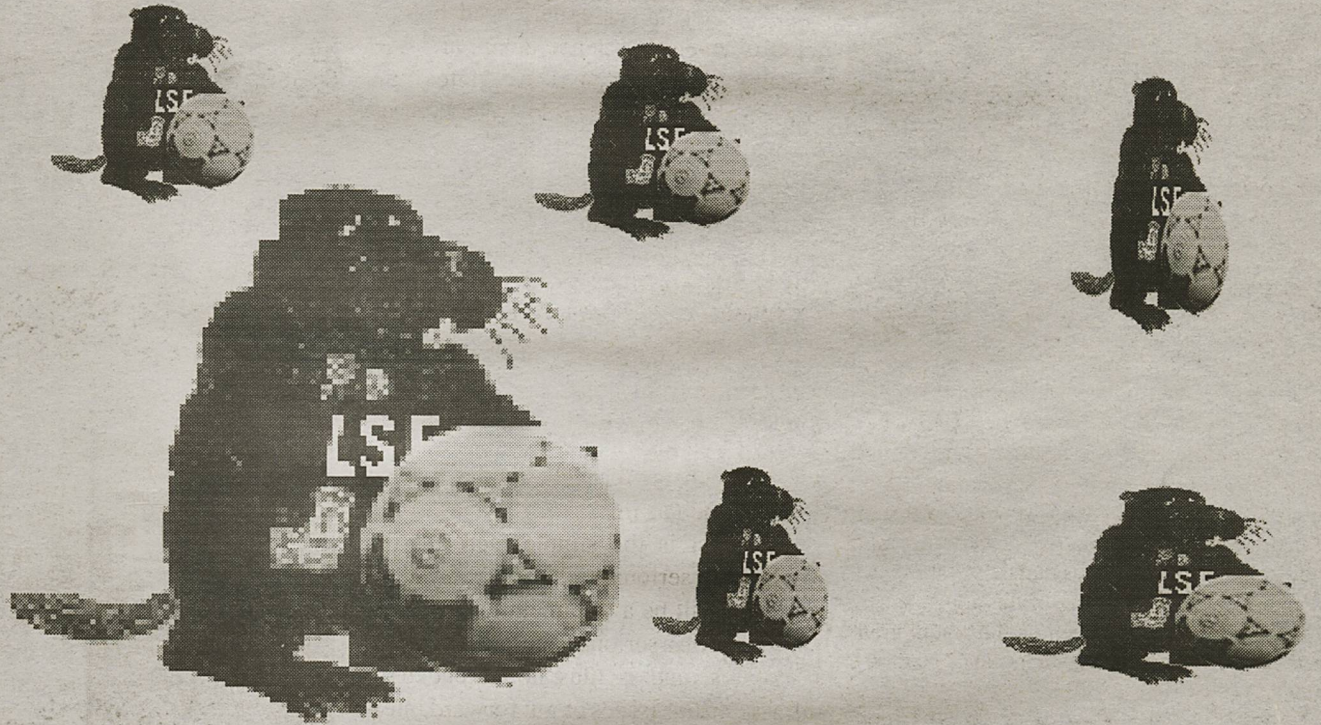
There's good news and bad news for the winner of the illustrious crossword competition. Mickey Khurana got all the answers right, but unfortunately doesn't win anything because I made the whole thing up - this is nothing to do with Rachel not wanting to spend the night with him, honest. Instead he wins a year's free supply of *The Beaver*, to be collected whenever it turns up.

Fantasy BeaverBall™



As the LSE football season comes flying into the final hurdle, the race for the inaugural Fantasy BeaverBall™ title is getting so hot that you need oven-gloves to even touch it. But who will come up victorious? It's looking more and more like a two-horse race between the classic thoroughbred Goals Cooper and the labouring fat shire horse only good for Websters adverts, Andreja Popov. And it's Popov who continues to lead the way, his lead over Cooper having stretched to 21 points due to his own return to form and some lucky results for the Third team. Cooper remains stuck in second, 34 points clear of the three-way tie for third place between Clare Wilson, Alex McLeish and Rashad Manna.

At the other end of the scale, the race for the wooden spoon is also looking like a two-horse race between Josh Charlesworth and Andreas Leoccis. The whole world is laughing at you. Here's the table:



1. The Balkan Snipers Andreja Popov	214	10. I pull twelve year olds at Hollywoods Grant Delea	146	19. The Two-Twos Justin Deaville	132	28. Studiously Worse than Grantham FC Paul Jacklin	89
2. Simon Gardiner goes with ugly girls at Kings Chris Cooper	193	11=. Massage Minger Marie's Men Marie Darvill	145	20. Jimmy Trees is a tight Yorkshireman- Pay up to victorious Saunders Tim Payton	130	29. Jozza Johannes Hertz	83
3=. I only picked Cooper because he forced me Clare Wilson	159	11=. I'm a homewrecking bastard Dave Whippe	145	21=. A sort of Beaver XI Ron Voce (RIP)	122	30=. Los Teamos Carsten Thode	74
3=. Macca's magic Alex MacLeish	159	13=. It's goals Cooper Chris Cooper	141	21=. I pull "big jugs" at Xanadu's Alun Howard	122	30=. Beaver's Best Frederick Lamchamkee	74
3=. Windmill Rashers Rashad Manna	159	13=. Cooper and Kinnear: Wankers Jimmy Trees	141	23. Warwickshire's treble warmongers Fat Elton James	111	32. Greece Max Richter	64
6. Sean's Sweaty Headband Sean Gollogly	154	15. Cooper shags slappers XI Bobby Virgin Lowen	140	24. VFL Alfter Dierk Pagenstert	104	33. Burnley Belvedere (B) Mike Tattersall	62
7. Cooper Shags Birds with Teeth Missing Simon Gardiner	153	16=. Shandy's Chunders Nick Shandy	138	25. The winning champions Takis the Greek	103	34. Hotter than Satan's Bollocks Steve Quick	58
8. Julia's Jazzy Jizm Jamboree Julia Mather	151	16=. Perry Groves for England Dan (Butt-rider) Coulcher	138	26. Don't dump me Claire Lawrie or I'll cry again Martin Lewis	102	35. Kettering Town FC Chris Tattersall	47
9. Things can only get better rovers Rikos Leong-Son	149	18. Andre's old washing Steve Roy	133	27. Howard's Biftas Howard Wilkinson	92	36. Eat them all Andreas Leoccis	26
						37. Josh's Wycombe Wanderers Josh Charlesworth	22

BeaverBall Select X1

Alex "Fat" Mcleish

Ed "Nutter" Elkin Simon "Pinhead" Gardiner Ian "Pinhead" Devine Chris "Goals" Cooper

Jamie "Holy" Moses Jimmy "BoyZone" Trees Thomas "Amazing" Grace Sean "Old Man" Gollogly

Angus "Vote" Kinnear (1) Grant "Shit goals" Delea



Georges slayed by dragon-lovers

Firsts go step closer to cup glory

Last Saturday the Firsts sensation-ally moved into the last four of the London Cup, just two more games away from glory, with a 4-2 rout of St Georges, the plucky medics who had fancied their chances after defeating the Seconds 3-1 a week earlier.

The lads were looking in trepidation at the tie due to the absence of midfield make-weight James Trees, who had gone home to have his hair cut by his mother after no barbers down here would touch his greasy, lank mop. Perhaps it wasn't his mother who did it, but instead Denise from Coronation Street, because only someone with a foot on the end of her arm could do such a bad job as this one. Trees' inept, one-paced, spoiling long-ball hoofing was not missed however, as the team, relishing the chance to play some decent passing football for once, quickly took control. LSE took the lead after ten minutes when Grant Delea's mis-hit pass was caught by the gale-force wind and floated fortuitously into the top corner over the head of the hapless keeper. Moments later the wind again came to the rescue when Henrik Goebels' long throw bounced off the bolt on the side of Nick

Blunden's neck and drifted luckily into the roof of the net.

St Georges came back into the match when a Dimitri Karcazes blunder presented them with a gift goal. The fact that he was playing at all was a tribute to the man after

up with the goods when he caressed a twenty-yarder with the outside of his cultured left foot into the net from a seemingly impossible angle. When they saw class like this they knew they were beaten. Even though one of the many Thode blunders let them back into the game, Alun "ten bob" Howard added a fourth which was so easy even "Big Jugs", his girlfriend at Xanadu's, would have scored. Thode had the chance to make amends but put it over from less than a yard. Scoper.

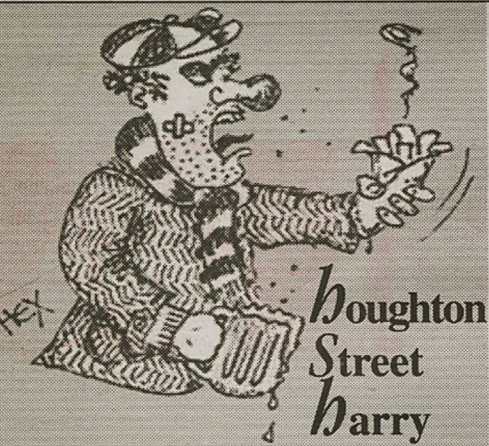
So it's into the semi-finals for the Firsts, but will Trees get his place back in the side? It doesn't matter because the Fifts need a sub this Saturday. It's been quite a successful ULU cup campaign for LSE this year, with both the Firsts and Seconds



The crowd salute the genius that is Angus Kinnear

making it into the last four.

The Fourths unluckily went out in the last eight but are appealing because they're sore losers, so they might eventually make it as well. But what is there that hasn't yet been written about the pre-pubescent Kinnear. Playing for the Fourths, he notched a twenty-five minute hat-trick, the ninth of a quite glittering LSE career. What a player, what a guy.



With the passing of hall elections, it's now time for most to start ganging up and looking for accommodation for next year. All those who previously devoted themselves to the betterment of their hall in flimsy posters and speeches are now saying that they "always wanted to live out anyway", and why not? A chance for true independence, no General Course students clapping at The Simpsons, no alcoholic wardens, living out will be great. Bollocks will it.

For most, the ideal place will be about £40 a week in Russell Square, with all modcons and bills included. Unfortunately, all £40 will buy you in Central London is a sandwich, or one-third of a Paul Smith shirt that all my dinner ladies used to wear. Basically, unless you're in line to the throne and are only here because Oxford and Cambridge wanted a bit more than a bulging wallet and a poncey voice, you're going to have to look a bit further afield. Living in the outer zones is much cheaper, which allows you to hand over more money to men with enormous trainers with number plates on when you get mugged in broad daylight. It's also very important to take the surrounding amenities into account. You'll want to be near "essential" shops such as a launderette, off-license, supermarket that sells pasta and a Chinese (whoops, flagrant breach of LSE SU Constitution, sorry if I offend someone) Oriental take-away. On the other hand, beware if the local pub has a Pentagram on the floor, and if there is a blind, old lady warning you to stay on the path or not go up into the hills, it's probably best to steer well clear. (By the way, in line with LSE SU Constitution, it falls upon me to state that, although the example used was of a blind, old lady, it could equally apply to a partially-sighted, middle-aged man or a perfectly sighted, young animal. Oh, and when I said "bollocks" in the first paragraph, I acknowledge that this may be seen as sexual discrimination and I could equally have said "ovaries".)

Once you've selected your area, it's time to look for the right flat. One aspect often forgotten is heating. It doesn't seem important when you look in the summer months but come winter you will regret not having central heating and instead having a carbon monoxide deathtrap or something pedal-powered. Similarly, it's nice to have a bath you can fit in, rather than a metre-long tin one which a wrinkled old man will inevitably be bathing in when a Cowboy comes crashing through the window from the saloon bar next door.

It's also very important to live with the right number of people. Living with a lot of your friends may seem a really good laugh at first, but multiply a weeks load of shitty pants by seven and see who's willing to go down to the launderette with them. Similarly, once everyone stops doing the washing up, your sink will be full of more china... (alright Harry, stop there, you've crossed that LSE SU Constitution line. You could just as well have said "oriental cutlery" - all those people who couldn't spot irony and satire if it punched them in the face and instead jump on the PC bandwagon even when it doesn't concern them one bit.)

Threes beat frees

Yi scores winner in farewell match

Alex "Peno-King" Lowen

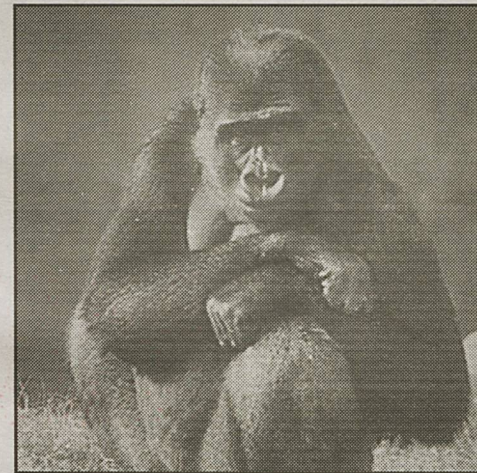
The LSE Thirds continued their unbeaten run with a crushing 1-0 away victory over strugglers Royal Free Hospital Seconds. In another impressive performance despite blustery conditions, the Thirds maintained their title challenge with two hard-earned and valuable points. The inspirational Yi scored the only goal in his last game for LSE before he returns to China.

The game itself was a scrappy affair and despite constant LSE pressure they couldn't find an early breakthrough. The high winds didn't help Royal Free's long-ball game and suited the Thirds intricate passing movements much more. LSE had the better of the chances but they couldn't find the onion bag which is surprising considering they had such goal "legends" as Brendan McGraw and Mike Tattersall in the side. Curtis, Howard and Yi controlled the midfield whilst Whippe looked lost (and fat) on the right wing forcing his early departure after a dismal display. Andreja and Takis linked well up front but the return of Ben "Goals" Griffiths should boost the flagging goal difference. "Safe Hands" Lowen and the rest of the defence had little to do at the back although Royal Free had several of their first team in the side.

It looked all set for a draw until Yi weaved his magic in the opposition's box. He jinked and dummied his way around

suffering a brutal assault the night before at the hands of a twelve year-old with a belt. No-one saw the assailant and she got away with all his worldly possessions, including his Remington Beard-Trimmer™. Maybe she had an accomplice on the inside. "No comment", said Grant Delea defiantly.

When the chips are down and the pressure on, the Firsts always look to Angus "Vote" Kinnear (1) and, yet again, he came



Alex "Peno-king" Lowen in pensive mood

several players before calmly slotting the ball home. Royal Free tried to get back into the game but a brilliant save from Lowen after a slip by Miguel made sure that the rock-like defence gained another clean sheet and four Beaverball™ points.

The premier team of the LSE have some crucial games coming up, but confidence is high and the championship is clearly within their grasp. Unlike the crappy fourths, the mighty Thirds have kept their bottle and nerve when the pressure is on. The Thirds also don't have to resort to petty appealing like their reserve side when they lose games (although this doesn't happen very often) but uphold all that's good in the great game of football. Yi's tearful departure may inspire the team to glory, in the hope that a league winners medal will be winging its way to the Orient.

Up the Thirds !!

Hockey queens

hammered by Kings

Sarah Opie

Actually I thought it was 8-0 but I'm told that Kings managed to hammer in another goal without me even noticing. That happens when you only have nine players in your team. Yes, nine, despite the fact that twelve people promised to turn up and play. That's the great thing about the LSE Hockey Team. The commitment, the drive to win, the pride in representing the college and all that.

Those who did bother to turn up must be congratulated though for playing in perhaps the worst conditions ever. The pitch was flooded, making defence in the first-half impossible without full scuba diving gear. This was compounded by playing against a team of public school sloanes (including one with "unfeasibly large breasts" (Wa-hey - Sports Editors), a real hazard when tackling) and being the crappiest tea ever. We weren't amused.

Special credit must go to Sarah Duerden, playing in goal, who pulled off the save of the season with a death-defying lunge. All the other girls made a supreme effort, despite feeling disheartened at half-time with the scoreline at 8-0. Thanks a lot for turning up and making the effort, at least it can be seen as a "bonding experience!" Those of you who didn't bother to show up, perhaps you'd like to think about the meaning of team spirit, because I'm fed up of your fucking excuses.