

the Beaver

16 October 2007 Issue 667 The newspaper of the LSEU



Martin Bell
End of Blair

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Howie D
talks Booker

Part B 4-5



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Delays to Student Loan payments

■ Miscommunication leads to late delivery of maintenance loans

Michael Deas
Senior Reporter

Students did not receive their maintenance loans on the expected date due to a breakdown in communication between the LSE and the Students Loan Company.

The Students Loan Company (SLC) informed students by post that they would receive their loan, normally around £1,500, on October 4th yet many students have still not received their funds and students did not start receiving their loans until 10th October.

A first year Government and Economics student anonymously told *The Beaver*: "I arrived in London with a small amount of money from my parents, relying on my loan to come through on the 4th. I didn't receive it until the 10th and being away from home for the first time with no money was a really scary experience."

Mark Maloney, head of student administration, told *The Beaver* that the SLC were wrong to inform students they would start receiving money on 4th: "The SLC set a UK-wide date for students to receive their loans. However, students must register with the LSE before their details can be passed on to SLC for processing and funds normally take three days to clear. This year, LSE's term started a week later than the majority of universities, which was not taken into account by the SLC due date."

Information about Fresher's could only be sent after they registered with the School on 3rd and 4th October so first years were never going to receive funds on the due

date. *The Beaver* was unable to ascertain why the SLC was unaware of the late registration date.

It also remains unclear why returning students, who registered for the academic year with the LSE online in September, did not have their information passed on to the SLC in time to receive their loan on October 4th. The SLC told *The Beaver* it did not start receiving information from the LSE until Fresher's registration had taken place. An LSE spokesperson was unable to confirm that the School sent out information on returning students prior to registration of new students.

The LSE only informed students who contacted them about the delays, saying it believed that only a small number of students would be significantly effected. This perhaps explains why only four of the Emergency loans offered by the LSE were taken up.

There are also some students, who applied for their loan on time, who have still not received funds.

Rob Oorthuysen-Dunne, a 2nd Year Economics History student, has had significant problems with his application. "My student loan still hasn't come through, they have only promised me a quarter of my student loan that I had last year, despite the fact that my financial circumstances haven't changed. I have repeatedly tried to contact the students Loans Company, who put me through to Bexley Council but Bexley Council didn't answer their phones. I've emailed them and its been a week and there is still no reply."

Poor communication between students and the different institutions that administer loans has been a recurring theme throughout discussions *The Beaver* has had with affected students.

The Beaver has also heard reports that graduates have had problems with the repayment of loans. Graduates have been told that the SLC does not know how much money they still owe and some have even had money taken out of pay packets despite having paid back their loan in full.

Ian McLaren Thomson, spokesperson for the SLC, told *The Beaver*: "Whilst we are aware of a small number of problems with the system, bearing in mind the scale of the operation we face in providing finance to students throughout UK, we feel that broadly speaking the system works."

He added: "If you make the normal allowances for errors being discovered in bank information and the like, which always happens, we can only report to you that your administrators have acted in an entirely professional way, keeping students' interests as their highest priority and doing everything in their power to ensure prompt payment"

Mark Maloney, Head of student administration at LSE, also defended the school: "We're still adjusting to the new systems put in place since the introduction of top-up fees. LSE will be working with the SLC to address the issues that have been raised by this year's registration and ensure that lessons are learnt."

Photograph: Louisa Evans



Year-round RAG off to flying start

Michael Deas
Senior Reporter

Over 30 LSE students collected money from the public for Marie Curie Cancer Care at six central London tube stations on Saturday. In the first of a series of RAG Raids this year, students wore costumes and carried collection buckets to persuade the public to part with their spare change.

The collectors began at 8.00am and continued well into the evening, and undoubtedly benefited from the large number

of people out in central London to watch a packed day of sport.

RAG Officer, Jess Cartwright, told *The Beaver*: "Yesterday was a hugely successful and memorable day for LSE RAG with some hilarious moments, and some ingenious costumes. For the first RAID it was absolutely brilliant. LSE has finally joined the ranks of charity RAG fundraisers, and as yesterday proved we ain't half bad."

Last year the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) carried out just one week of RAG fundraising. However RAG

events will now take place throughout the year following the passing of a motion at the Union General Meeting (UGM) last term.

Ben Jones, a 1st year Philosophy and Economics student who took part in the Raid at Oxford Circus told *The Beaver*: "It was really good fun. It went really well and I found it really rewarding."

RAG hosts the Freshers' Ball tonight at Ruby Blue, with proceeds going to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Tickets are available from SU Reception.

PartB: Visual Arts



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Frieze your assets

Features: Death Penalty



Crime and Punishment
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C&A: Money, Money, Money



Page 8
More ABBA than LSE

In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

EducationGuardian

Students using laptops risk 'persistent' pain

Students who regularly use laptops are putting themselves in danger of persistent neck, back, shoulder and wrist pain, and they are often unaware of the risks they are taking until it is too late, according to new research.

Surveys carried out by ergonomist Rachel Benedyk and her team at University College London's Interaction Centre found that 57% of respondents had experienced aches and pains as a result of their laptop use, with 7% having pain a lot of the time. The survey involved 649 undergraduate and postgraduate students of a range of nationalities, and the majority said they had never encountered ergonomic guidance on laptop use.

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

Research must show payoff

Academics face a change in the way their applications for research funding will be judged by the seven research councils to ensure that UK research has a bigger economic impact.

The councils have agreed to revise the way research proposals are assessed by peer reviewers to ensure that the potential economic impact of research is considered in funding decisions.

Under the changes, which are due to be phased in over the next year, peer reviewers considering work of similar quality will favour the proposals they believe will produce the greatest economic benefit for the UK.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

VARSIITY

Top schools embrace new 'Pre-U' Exam

A handful of leading public schools have this week confirmed their decision to road test a new alternative to A levels that has been developed in Cambridge, beginning in the next academic year.

Winchester, Eton and Rugby join a number of colleges in piloting the Cambridge Pre-U examinations from September 2008. The move reflects growing concern over the potential of A levels to challenge and distinguish the most able students. The Cambridge Pre-U examination is an attempt by Cambridge International Examinations to respond to the complaints of leading schools that modular examinations and unlimited resits have led to a focus on exam success rather than rounded education.

Picture of the week



Photograph: Merrick Kingston

Please send your submissions for 'Picture of the Week' to photos@thebeaveronline.co.uk to be featured here

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beaver columnist shortlisted for award

Congratulations and the best of luck to *The Beaver's* very own Ben Gianforti who has been shortlisted for Student Columnist of the year at the Guardian Student Media Awards.

The entries have been submitted to a panel of editors and reporters from The BBC, The Guardian, Sky and Channel 4 amongst others. Winners will be announced in an awards ceremony in London in November. Describing himself "the little American who could", his pieces are available online at thebeaveronline.co.uk and on his own website www.thedeaddshark.com.

Unis accused of busting unions

The University and College Union (UCU) has accused leading universities of '1980's style' union busting tactics after a leading law firm confirmed it was advising universities on how to circumvent recognised trade unions.

Law firm Pinsent Masons said frustration with higher education trade unions had been a "recurring theme" in discussions with university clients in recent months. The firm has been advising Universities to come up with alternatives to Unions such as staff forums.

Malcolm Keight, spokesperson for UCU, said: 'Universities should concentrate more on understanding how staff see their employers regarding pay and conditions, and understanding low morale - not shooting the messenger.'

State school students miss out

The school a university applicant attends is still a more important factor than their exam results, research has claimed. The Sutton Trust charity analysed of 13 research universities including LSE, Oxford and Cambridge, and says state school students are missing out.

The study found that 100 elite schools accounted for nearly 20% of admissions to top universities.

The trust also found the number of pupils at the top 30 comprehensives who went to Oxbridge was just a third of what might be expected if based on ability.

The Sutton Trust is set to spend £10m over the next five years on improving educational chances of disadvantaged youngsters.

CORRECTIONS

Last week's article "Fuck Bush row" named The Rocky Mountain Collegian as the newspaper of the University of Colorado. It is in fact the newspaper of Colorado State University.

The article on PhD completion rates should have been attributed to Ruchika Tulsyan.

This week in 1997



The Tuns looks certain to face fresh competition with a new pub set to open in the heart of the LSE 'campus'. It will be owned and operated by Young's, the huge pub management chain with a reputation for offering reasonable prices in City locations.

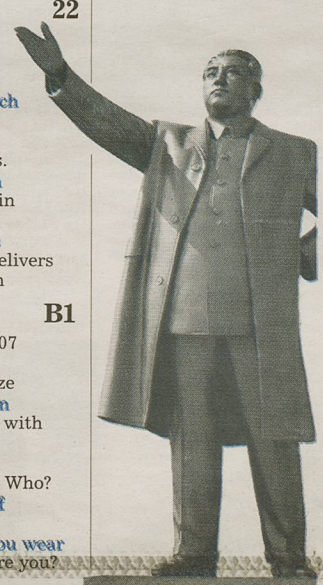
The site will be at the bottom of Columbia House, opposite the Nat West bank, on the corner of Houghton Street and the Aldwych. The premises were previously occupied by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The building is currently vacant, exceptionally so in an area of high rents and sought after locations.

Young's were unwilling to give *The Beaver* details of their plans for the pub. It is understood however, that they wish to open before Christmas. Planning may therefore be at an advanced stage, and the company's recalcitrance intended to allow them to change their plans without embarrassment.

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Bankside kitchens converted

Vishal Banerjee
Senior Reporter

Bankside Halls of Residence have shut down most of their kitchens and converted many of them into study areas or lounges. The move has been met with widespread protest from students living at the halls and the majority of students consider the move unfair on their living arrangements.

The decision to convert many of the kitchens was taken by the Residences Committee in May 2007. However, around half of the students present at a recent Bankside Committee meeting claimed that they had little or no indication that such a proposal had gone through. In order to gain access to a kitchen, students must now apply to management and pay an extra £5 a week.

The LSE website's page for Bankside states: "Kitchens are now limited to a maximum of seven students per kitchen and residents will need to apply for a kitchen space. The contract for the kitchens will be for one year and applications must be sent to the Accommodation Office."

Bankside remains one of the few LSE halls of residence which offers catering to students, with its own restaurant that can seat up to 250 people.

According to a summary of a recent Bankside Committee meeting put together by Emma Al-Tareif, the Bankside Committee President, it seems



that "although this information was available on the Bankside website, it was not advertised strongly enough".

Present at the meeting organised by Al-Tareif were Paul Trivett from the Accommodation Office, Students' Union Residences Officer Louise Robinson, Bankside Warden Dev Gangjee and a number of residents from Bankside.

Louise Robinson, SU Residences Officer, objected to the conversion of kitchens in Bankside and was met with applause from the audience at the meeting. When a vote was taken at the end of the meeting, students demanded a move back to previous living arrangements.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Robinson said, "Kitchens are a fundamental core meeting area for many students and I

am united with many Bankside residents in strong opposition to this move. The current situation is contradictory and disgraceful for several reasons. Kitchens provide a forum for building friendships and networks in halls - to be denied access to these will only encourage students to retreat to their rooms and be isolated.

"Secondly, the cost savings of cooking are a right all students should be allowed to enjoy, and indeed the charges for kitchens, otherwise lack of access, undermines this."

However, Paul Trivett from the Accommodation Office has defended the action to convert Bankside's kitchens, saying, "Firstly, Bankside House is a catered hall. There is a large restaurant providing breakfast and evening meals which makes a substantial loss. Student kitchens at Bankside

have been a problem ever since opening in 1996. The rooms were planned as being for preparation of drinks and snacks only and were never designed for full self-catering. They have inadequate ventilation and facilities to allow comfortable use by large numbers of students in this manner."

A student survey at Bankside showed that the communal kitchens were the worst aspect of the halls, with 47 per cent of students describing them as below average or poor.

Trivett has accepted that when the decision was taken in May 2007 there were "some concerns raised by students during consultation last year, mostly about the 'loss' of facilities".

He went on to say that last year's Committee seemed positive about the move, although it has been met with fierce oppo-

sition this year. When asked if the move seemed popular, Trivett said, "Demand for self catering has exceeded supply by around 60 per cent. As always, student opinion is to be surveyed so that the facilities can be reviewed."

Nevertheless, opposition from students have been fierce and a 'Bring Back Kitchens to Bankside' Facebook group has been set up. The page, which has over 160 members, claims that the move shows a "lack of consideration for student welfare".

Peter White, creator of the Facebook group, argues that the reasons given for the conversions are easily solvable. The move apparently comes on the back of students complaining about stolen food and the requests for more study and social spaces. White says, "An easy solution to stolen food would be lockable cupboards, I've seen loads of other student halls with them and it's not a difficult thing to do. As for study space, each student has a desk in their room and the study room in the basement which is open 24/7."

This opinion has also been backed up by Louise Robinson who said, "Kitchens did score poorly on previous surveys, but no kitchens does not mean no problems, and again more study space was not an invitation to remove a basic utility area from the hall."



Union Jack

It is official. Jack is out of rehab. The UGM is the panacea for all that was, is and will be wrong with Jack. And so it proved last Thursday, when he stumbled into tumultuous and emotional crowd that had gathered in the political coliseum that is the Old Theatre.

The C&S hoodlums occupied their pride of place on the far right corner, while the Exec sat quietly in their pen on the left, reminiscent of reticent lambs awaiting slaughter. Those dastardly LooSE vultures prowl their usual hunting grounds. Fascist agents of *The Beaver* shift uncomfortably in their seats.

The stage is set. The actors are eager. The audience quiver in anticipation. Enter the Sabbs from stage left.

Not. Bureaucracy, bureaucracy. This Nubian institution oozes red tape from every orifice. Elections for the UGM positions were, rather unfortunately, top of the mind-numbing bureaucratic playlist. A ploy, Jack suspects, to drain the Theatre of its furious fervour. The audience grovelled in agony as the monotonous affair unfolded in bullet time. The farcical Left did offer some rapturous applause when Tarzan Marwah seized power in a bloodless coup, but it was only Feline Felix's tight top and titillating bottom saved Jack from a trip to dreamland - a firm arse girds up his loins like no aphrodisiac can. Oh baby.

Even as the dust settled on Felix's salacious stage acts, orgasmic fascination began to cloud Jack's mind for the remainder of the humdrum electoral exercise. His libido was bursting. Desire throbbled in all the right places. And then it happened.

Question time. Cue the firing squad with their obligatory half-time barrage of high explosive posers. But even as the Sabbatic Four trooped gingerly up to the guillotine, the Zionists sprang their deadly ambush. Shedding his headscarf mischief for a prime spot on the floor, Yid Al-Tittybum unleashed some enfilade Semitic fire on the unsuspecting Union Fuehrer.

Alas, Al-Tittybum's piss-poor marksmanship misfired upon him, as Baker-Maker skillfully evaded his Yiddish onslaught. But a proud 6-0 war record means the Zionists never take 'no' for an answer. For where Al-Tittybum had failed, DJ Smellidon shall succeed.

Smellidon's repertoire of rhetorical firepower was overwhelming. The indiscriminate carpet-bombing that ensued left the Reichstag aflame and the Fuehrer scrambling for cover. Baker-Maker attempted a Custer-esque last stand with some ruffled ripostes in defence of his shameless shenanigans, but the Jewish Lobby proved its worth.

The gripping slugfest left Jack beside himself with joy. But the sands of time had cruelly run out on him, as Tarzan dealt a premature end to the UGM. Even as the hacks filed out to continue their tirade, Jack can't hide a lustful chuckle. The show is finally on the road, and looks to get better.

Constitution confusion

Subash Viroomal

It has emerged this week that the Standard Society Constitution circulated to societies this Freshers' Fair "was in fact the incorrect document", according to the Students' Union (SU) Treasurer, Libby Meyer.

The Standard Society Constitution is used by all societies who have not had an individual constitution approved by the LSE SU Societies Manager.

Accepting the confusion as "extremely urgent and wish(ing) to rectify the situation as soon as possible", Meyer has indicated that a C&S meeting on Monday 15 October will approve a fresh Standard Society Constitution. Although *The Beaver* went to print before the meeting took place, Meyer insisted, "We (the SU Committee) foresee no problem in the ratification of this proposed amended version by C&S."

This leaves the uncomfortable question of why nothing was done about the issue sooner, who is responsible for the debacle, and possibly worse, what will be the retrospective action on Societies who have,

through possibly no fault of their own, followed a different Standard Society Constitution text.

The problem dates back to May 2006, when it was decided to update the Standard Society Constitution. C&S met twice in May to debate proposed amendments to the Standard Society Constitution submitted by the then Societies Officer, Arthur Krebbers. James Ketteringham, C&S Chairman, told *The Beaver* that it was left to Krebbers to compile the final version of the Constitution which included C&S amendments.

This final version has not been found, but minutes of a C&S meeting of 22 May 2006 which refer to it have been located. *The Beaver* can reveal that it has obtained three separate, incorrect copies of the Standard Society Constitution over the past week - at different times of the week, each copy has been claimed by SU officials to be the correct version.

At issue are clauses relating to the timing of societies' Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and officer elections. The graphic below details the different clauses in the various

constitutions and the process by which the constitution was modified in May last year.

Should a new Standard Society Constitution be passed on Monday 15 October, it raises difficult questions about action against society committees voted in during this (or the previous) academic year.

On behalf of C&S, Ketteringham promised to "minimise any retrospective action on societies" whilst reiterating C&S' usual affirmation that it tries to "run the Union as well as possible".

SU Treasurer Libby Meyer has stated that the SU "will be sending an apology email to all SU societies with the new SU societies' constitution attached".

She added, "To avoid further confusion in the future, we will be making the choice between the SU societies constitution and a society's own constitution (and the way this must be approved) more transparent." This will be achieved by making all societies indicate whether they are adopting "the SU societies' constitution or their own constitution as a part of the main form that society committees must fill out to register/register-again".

Remembering William Widjaja



Ruchika Tulshyan
Senior Reporter

LSE remembers William Widjaja, a first year Management undergraduate who passed away in a car accident this summer in Singapore. William was an Indonesian national who completed his secondary and tertiary education in Singapore and had just concluded his first year at LSE. He will be remembered by friends and family.

Those close to William say that he was a warm and generous person and very passionate about badminton. He was in the Men's First Team for the School's Athletics Union Badminton Squad and represented the LSE in various inter-university competitions.

The badminton team members remember him for his enthusiastic approach to badminton and his unfailing ability to inspire others in the team. His other great passion was the football team Manchester United, which led to his frequent trips to visit the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester.

William was a loyal friend with a close group of friends that extended beyond London and everyone who knew him speaks foremost about his friendly nature. He spent his summer vacation in Singapore where his parents are based and was tragically killed with his friend who was also in the car accident on 25 August 2007. A wake was held in memory of William in Singapore, at the end of August.

He will be sorely missed.

1 May 2006

Former Societies Officer puts forward his proposed Society Constitution to C&S
Clause 7.1 reads: 'AGMs must be held by a Society at least once every academic session. They shall be conducted in either Michaelmas Term or Lent Term'

2 May 2006

C&S meet; no amendments made to relevant clause in Constitution

11 May 2006

Version of the Constitution held by the SU Treasurer
Clause 7.1 reads: 'AGMs must be held by a Society at least once every academic session. They shall be conducted in the first four weeks of Michaelmas Term'

22 May 2007

C&S pass amendment on relevant clause
Clause 7.1 reads: 'AGMs must be held by a Society at least once every academic session. They shall be conducted in the first four weeks of Michaelmas term or within four weeks of establishment of that academic session'

October 2007

Version of Constitution held by Societies Manager, Alice Kington, relevant to all societies
Clause 7.1 reads: 'AGMs must be held by a Society at least once every academic year'

GenSec questioned over Twinning Letter

- SU General Secretary Fadhil Bakeer Markar accused of misleading the student body
- Israeli Society President claims he told AGM he had "nothing to do" with drafting letter

Alex Teytelboym

Fadhil Bakeer Markar, the General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union (SU), has been accused of attempting to mislead the student body over his involvement in the letter about the twinning of the LSESU with An-Najah University in Nablus, Palestine. Marilyn Carsley, President of the Israeli Society, has stated that "during the Israeli Society's first AGM, [Bakeer Markar] came to apologize for the letter and he also claimed that he had nothing to do with it, that it had been drafted before he took office." This version of events was confirmed by another member of the Israeli Society who also attended the AGM.

However, Alexandra Vincenti, former Education and Welfare Officer, said, "The [former] sabbatical team did not draft or approve of any drafts of the letter sent to new students concerning the twinning of LSESU and An-Najah University."

Alli Dewji, former Communications Officer, said, "I have at no point whatsoever implicitly or explicitly condoned the sending of information about anything to do with Palestine or the Right to Education campaign to incoming Freshers."

"I recall an email exchange between some members of the executive, I believe they were James Caspell and Ziyaad Lunat and possibly others, in which one made the suggestion of sending some sort of information and another or others concurred."

"I do not recall any specific draft ever being sent to me though one may have arrived in my inbox during handover and been seen by my successor."

Other former sabbatical officers refused to comment on this issue.

A motion passed in the Union General Meeting (UGM) on 18 January 2007 mandated the creation of the Ad Hoc Task Force to deal with the twinning. Joel Kenrick, former Treasurer of the LSESU, chaired the Task Force until July 2007.

The *Beaver* contacted Kenrick, who confirmed that the Task Force decided to put a notice about the motion in the Freshers' Guide. A text of the notice had not been confirmed, but a consensus was reached that it should be in line with the UGM motion. However, the Task Force missed the deadline and the notice could not be added.

Bakeer Markar has chaired the Task Force since July, when the previous sabbatical team retired. However, according to Andy Hallett, a member of the Task Force, no meetings of the Task Force have taken place since then. Several members confirmed to *The Beaver* that they had not seen a text of any letter, which was intended for the Freshers' Pack.

Bakeer Markar is the only current sabbatical officer on the Task Force.

It is understood that Lunat and Bakeer Markar decided to put a separate letter, which contained more controversial language, about the motion into Freshers' Pack without consulting the entire Task Force. Bakeer Markar circulated a letter around the Executive Committee, inviting comments.

The text of the original letter was changed, because it seemed out of line with the original motion. Only Lunat and Bakeer Markar signed the final letter.

Doug Oliver, former Returning Officer, said, "I think it would be important that you 'hammer home' the need for Fadhil [Bakeer Markar] to act responsibly. His promise at the election to be an effective representative to 'unite' all students was perhaps spurious

Letter sent to all new LSE students

Dear Student,

Congratulations on your offer to study at the LSE! I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about our twinning arrangement with An-Najah University in occupied Palestine and our support for the Right to Education of Palestinian students (<http://right2edu.ljirzeit.edu>).

The LSE Student's [sic] Union supports the Right to Education Campaign based in Palestine. In the last five years over 800 Palestinian children have been killed by the Israeli Occupation Forces and over seventy educational establishments have been damaged or destroyed. We are taking a noble step in supporting our fellow Palestinians in their struggle to acquire an education, a basic human right which is violently denied by Israel.

The LSE student's [sic] Union is also proudly twinning with An-Najah University in the northern West Bank city of Nablus. By twinning with An-Najah University we are making a clear stand in support of the Palestinian plight and against the Israeli military occupation of Palestine that has its 40th anniversary during this year. Our twinning programme will focus on three key areas: academic cooperation, cultural interchange and practical support. We will also work with a dedicated group of LSE academics that have been trying to establish links with Palestinian universities.

An-Najah university has been active in the service of the Palestinian community at the local and national levels and it is an integral part of local community development. The university has become a cradle and an incubator for a plethora of social and civic activities. An-Najah was founded in 1918 as a small school and upgraded to university status in 1977 to meet the evolving needs of the Palestinian society. Today An-Najah University is the biggest Palestinian university offering over sixty bachelor degrees and more than thirty masters.

Nevertheless, pursuing education in Palestine is a unique and dangerous challenge. Israeli policies of segregation, isolation and persecution of the Palestinian population have deprived the students in Nablus of their rights. Many students at An-Najah university have been killed or captured and were imprisoned by the Israeli Occupation Forces without charge. Others have been prevented from reaching their universities through checkpoints and curfews. Foreigners have been prohibited from attending Palestinian universities and denied entry into the country with the expressed purpose of isolating Palestinian students from international solidarity. Mais, a twenty year old [sic] female Pharmacy student at An-Najah says, "The image for the future in my eyes is vague; I feel that there is no future under these conditions. The Occupation is damaging our hopes and every dream that was built in our mind is in the past. Sometimes we live with no school, no University and no job and it feels like we also live with no hope. This all affects the way we look at life and the future. Somehow in the end it seems that the clouds will lift and despite everything we feel more determined to fulfill our ambitions and to go on."

Twinning our Student's [sic] Union with An-Najah University is a small albeit important step to lift the clouds over Palestine and bring hope to its oppressed students. If you would like to take part in this initiative in defence of human rights and the right to education please contact Ziyaad Lunat on su.soc.palestine@lse.ac.uk by the 19th of October 2007. We look forward to welcoming you at the LSE!

Yours sincerely,

Fadhil Bakeer Markar
General Secretary

Ziyaad Lunat
Mature & Part-time Students Officer, President of LSESU Palestine Society

given some elements of his record, but it is clear at this first opportunity he has failed fundamentally."

During last week's UGM Bakeer Markar said, "We recognize that some students have been offended by the letter regarding the Palestinian twin-

ning and the Right to Education campaign. The Students' Union Executive [Committee] is focusing on this and discussing this, and formalising an official apology for the students who have been offended, and we will put that apology in all SU medias [sic]

as soon as possible."

Dan Sheldon, Secretary of the LSE SU Labour Society, asked if Bakeer Markar "overstepped his mandate". When Bakeer Markar denied the allegation, Sheldon pressed, "Why are you apologising?"

Bakeer Markar also

claimed that he received no complaints about the letter. He repeatedly denied that his telephone number, email and an invitation for comments were absent from the letter. However, it was pointed out to him that the telephone number was incomplete and only his facsimile and Palestine Society's email address were in the letter.

In an email to *The Beaver*, Lunat claimed, "text [of the letter] reflects the Right to Education Campaign that our Students' Union is affiliated with." Objectors have pointed out, however, that a search on the Right To Education website gives no results for phrases 'Israeli Occupation Forces', 'Israel occupation' and 'Palestine occupation', which were used in the letter.

Carsley added that about 15 people have asked if "anything is being done about the letter...saying it was absolutely unacceptable."

A committee member of the Jewish Society, who did not wish to be named, said, "Members of LSE staff and student body enquired about the steps being taken for what one person ... described as a 'shocking letter'."

An email from Palestine Society, distributed by Socialist Worker Students Society, said, "Some individuals did not take lightly the democratic choice of our [LSE] SU and proceeded to undermine our students' choice."

A Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) meeting was held on Monday evening as *The Beaver* went to press. James Ketteringham, a member of the C&S, said that the committee will be "looking at the original motion to determine [its] opinion as to whether rules were broken."

GenSec Response

Fadhil Bakeer Markar
SU General Secretary

First of all I would like to question the neutrality of this news article. The author of this article is using *The Beaver* to put forward his own agenda, rather than writing an unbiased news article.

I did go to the Israeli Society AGM, this was to explain to them about the UGM motion which mandated the LSESU to "promote wider understanding of the impact of the Israeli occupation on education in Palestine universities" and how we based the letter on that mandate. I did apologize for causing any offence to any student who we as the LSESU represent. One point to clarify is that I have not mentioned at any point that the letter was drafted before I took office.

As the LSESU codes of practices state, a sabbatical officer should chair any taskforce mandated by the UGM, and as none of the current sabbaticals were members of the taskforce earlier, as General Secretary I took over from Joel Kenrick (Treasurer 2006-2007). We have had no meetings because during summer not many students are around, and freshers will only be arriving in October.

The Sabbatical team decided collectively to send a letter, the whole Executive was consulted on the content of this letter before sending it out. It was requested that information regarding the motion passed should be included in the SU handbook. However this request was communicated from the previous sabbatical officers to the current sabbatical officers after the handbook deadline. Thus the decision was

made to include a letter to inform new students about the initiative since this letter would be virtually equivalent to a handbook entry due to fact the letter possessed the same audience and timing of distribution. Since the motion mandates the Union "To promote wider understanding of the impact of the Israeli occupation on education in Palestinian universities", it was adequate to have consulted the executive only.

I signed the letter as the General Secretary of the LSESU, who is the primary officer responsible of implementing and promoting union policies. The letter was drafted by Ziyaad Lunat in his capacity as a member of the Executive and due to the knowledge he possessed, at least in part, from his presidency of the LSESU Palestinian Society. Since Ziyaad was both

the author of the letter and the instigator of the original motion it seemed fitting to credit his contribution with his signature, name and title detailed on the letter alongside the General Secretary's. It was important the document gave a named contact and a collection of individuals familiar with the issues at hand. The presence of the su.soc.palestine@lse.ac.uk email address is thus justifiable under this reasoning. In addition to this the letterhead should and did, in many cases, detail contact information for the LSESU itself.

As stated at the UGM, the SU Executive will be discussing this at its meeting on Tuesday 16th October, and will formalise and apology to the students this has caused an offence.

Text of UGM Motion

Union Resolves:

- 1 - That the LSE SU twin with a Palestinian University and affiliate with the Right to Education Campaign
- 2 - To form an Ad-Hoc Task Force that will facilitate a cultural exchange between LSE SU and the chosen Palestinian University Student's Council to enhance mutual understanding
- 3 - To promote wider understanding of the impact of the Israeli occupation on education in Palestinian universities.

Students turn to prostitution

Students at Cambridge and across the capital are resorting to the world's oldest profession

Timothy Root
News Editor

The Cambridge University student newspaper, *Varsity*, has published reports of student prostitution at the University. This follows research findings at Kingston University in south-west London last year of more and more students entering the "sex industry" as a way to earn extra money.

The article in *Varsity* quotes one girl in particular who said she worked routinely as a call girl in her first year. She was reputedly earning £50 per hour, and at the height of her activities slept with 40-50 men over a period of two months. She once visited seven men in one night.

She told *Varsity*, "I met other students who did it too. Once you've done it, it is tempting. If you need quick, easy money, it's there."

Another student, who apparently worked as a stripper earning £100 per dance, said, "It can be so degrading...but, when I'm home, I'm not going to stack shelves at Morrison's for £5.50 an hour when I could do this. There are the moments I really don't want to do it, but it is certainly character building."

Mark Fletcher, Head of the



Varsity, the student newspaper of Cambridge University, has exposed prostitution on campus

Cambridge University Students' Union, said the article dealt with "very isolated cases", but Rob Wallach, Secretary of the university's Senior Tutors' Committee, said he was "very concerned" by the claims. He went on to say that "senior tutors would want to do everything they could to give support to students well before any found themselves in

such a situation". The LSE Students' Union Women's Officer, Daisy Mitchell-Forster, echoed this sentiment: "Given the precarious financial situation that many students find themselves in and the spiralling student debts exacerbated by the Government and university Directors, it is not surprising to hear reports that prostitution is

on the rise at some universities."

However, she added that "women should remember that the reality is that prostitution is an extremely dangerous and dehumanising activity, that, whilst presented to some as a choice, is one induced by financial hardship and other such social demands imposed upon students in our society".

New name for Masti Ke Rang

Vishal Banerjee
Senior Reporter

Plans for the LSE's largest cultural show have recently been unveiled under the new name of *Timeless*. This follows on from the success of last year's *Masti Ke Rang* at the Peacock Theatre, which was received enthusiastically by students from various London universities.

The organisers say the name *Timeless* has been chosen for the cultural show as it plans to feature a mix of traditional and contemporary performing arts. The event is planned for late December or early January.

All proceeds from the event will go to The Prince's Trust, the charity for young people set up by the Prince of Wales.

This year the organisers of *Masti Ke Rang* and *The Dance Show* are collaborating to revamp the image of the cultural event. Over 25 societies have been invited to work with the show committee in an effort to increase the diversity of performers. Last year *Masti Ke Rang* sold over 800 tickets and managed to raise around £3000 for charity. The organisers of

Timeless are aiming to sell over 1000 tickets, a goal they hope to achieve by broadening their cultural base at the LSE.

Timeless will include dance, music and fashion events performed by students at the LSE. The organisers are looking to book out a major West End Theatre to increase the profile of the show. The show is looking for corporate sponsorship to fund some of the planned events.

Mikesh Vora, who is President of the show alongside Seeta Haria, said, "Utilising our wealth in cultural diversity we believe that we can put on a cultural show, *Timeless*, that showcases the passion, talent and teamwork of LSE students outside the classroom. In order to make this show as spectacular as we hope it can be, it is important that all LSE students come together and work as a team."

Over 400 students signed up for *Timeless* at Freshers' fair and a Facebook group has also been established to increase interest. Auditions for the show will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week and the organisers of *Timeless* have strongly encouraged any potential participants to join.

Protest surveillance criticised

Police take photographs and video footage of participants in anti-war protest

David Osborn

Last Tuesday thousands of people from all over Britain rallied in Trafalgar Square in opposition to the presence of British forces in Iraq. Beneath the banner "Not one more death, bring all the troops home now" the crowd was addressed by Tony Benn, George Galloway and Brian Eno among others.

During the rally and march there was a large police presence. This included at least two teams of police photographers taking both photographs and video footage. The police photographers were using large zoom lenses and appeared to be photographing individual participants.

Throughout the rally the police took photographs of participants from the steps of the National Gallery as well as from among the crowd. The Metropolitan Police were contacted but refused to comment on the surveillance, other than to say that it was "standard practice".

Chris Nineham, one of the march's organisers, called the surveillance "outrageous", adding, "The main purpose is to intimidate and make people think there is something inherently wrong with demonstrating."

The event, which included a march on Parliament Square, was timed to coincide with Gordon Brown's appearance before the House of Commons and what was billed as an important announcement regarding the war. During his



Protesters campaign outside the Houses of Parliament

appearance Brown announced that he planned to withdraw half of Britain's remaining forces in Iraq by next spring, which would bring the number of deployed troops to 2,500.

The organisers had requested to be able to march on Parliament Square but they had been told that the march would not be allowed because of a law from 1839, which is meant to guarantee the freedom of movement of MPs to

and from Parliament. The organisers had planned to march on Parliament Square in defiance of the ban, but were granted permission from the Metropolitan Police only one hour before the event.

Nineham said the ban was a "worrying attempt to restrict civil liberties and the right to protest" and that it attempted to insulate MPs in a physical sense from the public. The organisers of the event were

pleased with the turnout, particularly student participation, as well as the overall success of the march and said it was indicative of the bitterness and anger felt towards the Government's war policies.

The event continued to highlight the tension between the Government and the public caused by the war in Iraq. To date 170 British soldiers have been killed in Iraq and though the number of wounded is withheld by the Ministry of Defence, use of the American ratio of killed-to-wounded (1:9.67) suggests that there may be more than 1,500 wounded. According to a report published last month by the British

The main purpose is to intimidate and make people think there is something inherently wrong with demonstrating.

Chris Nineham
March Organiser

independent polling agency Opinion Research Business, the number of Iraqi civilian deaths is in the vicinity of 1.2 million. There is estimated to be two million Iraqis displaced within the country and an additional two million external refugees.

LSE Careers website chaos

Consultancy fair rush overloads system



Simon Wang
Senior Reporter

Students experienced severe difficulties last week when using important parts of the Careers' Service website.

The section of the website that allows students to book appointments and events crashed repeatedly, forcing many to resort to visiting the Careers Service to book an appointment in person.

The Careers Service stated that it was aware of the problem and blamed high demand for the breakdown in service.

Fiona Sandford, Director of the Careers Service, told *The Beaver* that last Thursday was particularly difficult due to the fact that students were starting to book for this week's popular Consultancy Fair.

Problems at the Careers Service:

- **9.30am, 8-10 October: system crashes when students register for appointments**
- **11 October: interest in Consultancy Fair downs system for 90 minutes**
- **Call 020 7995 7135 to arrange an appointment in the event of system failure**

The release of appointments for CV and cover letter checks at 9.30am generated a large amount of traffic into the Careers Service website, also causing system crashes lasting between 30 minutes and an hour on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

The Beaver was told that the supplier of the software is aware of the problem and has increased the capacity twice last week. They have promised that ensuring that the system is robust is their highest priority.

Students who have visited the Careers Service have expressed their frustration with the system's failings. However, many seemed to think that the Careers Service is doing a good job handling the situation and that turning up at the Careers Service ensured only a short wait for an appointment later that day.

Mice invade the Government Dept

Ruchika Tulshyan
Senior Reporter

The LSE Government Department may have a new type of pest to deal with, beyond the latest surge of freshers. In an email sent out to all LSE students in the Government Department, it was outlined last week that Connaught House had a "mice problem". The Government Department has just moved to Connaught House this term, after residing in Lincoln's Chambers for many years.

The email sent out by the administrative assistant of the Government Department stated: "This has implications for the health and safety of all of those who work and study here. While the problem is being dealt with as best as possible by pest control, we too have a responsibility to ensure that we are not encouraging the mice."

The email also had guidelines to help make the department "a less appealing place for our furry friends", including suggestions to clean up mess and put food in secure containers.

According to an LSE spokesperson, the problem in Connaught House was identified this month and pest control was contacted, resulting in the third, fourth and fifth floor areas being baited. The premises



Connaught House, home of the Department of Government

are scheduled to have a weekly check until the problem is eradicated but staff and students have been encouraged to help in playing their part to keep the campus clean. The School has stated, "We also ask that students and staff inform the School immediately if mice or other vermin are spotted within School buildings."

A third year Government student has said, "I'm absolutely disgusted to hear about this problem. As a result, I prefer getting in touch with the department via email and even requested to meet my departmental tutor away from her office to avoid going to Connaught House."

Elizabeth Fison, a third year Government student and the LSE SU Students with Disabilities Officer commented, "Wild mice, as with other pests, are a problem generally in modern life. While I don't like them being in the Government department, I judge departments on other issues. I hope, however, that the causes will be tackled, such as finding where the mice are coming from and keeping the area clear of food so the mice don't keep returning, rather than the usual approach taken in today's world of killing them with the pain of traps or poison."

Paul Kennedy on reforming the UN

Estee Fresco

On Thursday 11 October, Professor Paul Kennedy gave a speech entitled "Reforming the United Nations - Mission Impossible?" Kennedy is the first Philippe Roman Chair in History and International Affairs at the LSE. The professor did not tackle the question of UN reform by dressing up like Tom Cruise and scaling the walls of the auditorium; instead, he used a historical approach to answer the question.

Kennedy noted that the UN was born out of the failure of the League of Nations, so it was crucial that the UN avoid the mistakes of its predecessor. At the time that the UN was founded, small nations relied on peace-loving, powerful countries to provide them with security if they were challenged. At the same time, there was a rising concern that Germany and Japan would rise to power again and pursue a plan of aggression.

UN founding fathers, like Sir Charles Webster and Gladwyn Jebb, felt that if large countries were required to maintain peace and security, they were entitled to a special place in the UN. This rationale explains why the permanent members of the Security Council were given special powers to make decisions

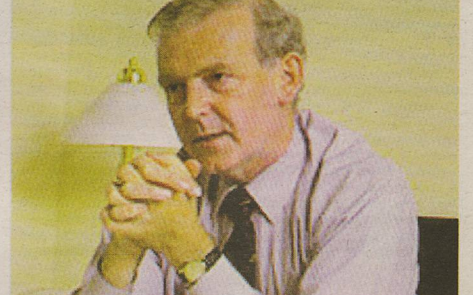
regarding war and peace. Finally, Kennedy claims that the big players like Webster and Jebb "absolutely had to keep the big elephants inside the circus tent". In other words, they had to avoid the risk that countries such as America, Russia and Germany would refuse to be part of the UN.

As all powerful countries had to agree to be part of the UN, the international organisation had to strike a compromise between the ideals drafted in the charter and the "harsh realities of great power politics". Kennedy observed that there is a tension in the UN between the political interests of the five permanent members on the Security Council and the idea

that these countries should be the ones to create and maintain global security.

The professor doubts that the negative capacities of the permanent members can be reduced or that new members can be put on the Security Council. The fact that all the permanent members of the General Assembly have to approve any changes to the UN Charter and that all these countries have political interests makes charter reform difficult. Considering that existing permanent members have the capacity to "paralyze the proposal of action", he suggested that any increase in the number of permanent members would only increase this problem.

Photograph: LSE website



Paul Kennedy, the inaugural Philippe Roman Chair at the LSE

International Graduates Scheme launched

Overseas students can spend an extra year in the UK post-graduation

Ruchika Tulshyan
Senior Reporter

International LSE students may now have a whole new reason to stay in the United Kingdom after their degree thanks to the International Graduates Scheme (IGS).

As of May this year, international students graduating from a UK Bachelors, Masters or PhD degree programme have been able to apply on their own behalf for permission to stay and work in the UK for 12 months under the IGS.

The application is open to all international students, regardless of their course of study and when they commenced university; as long as they graduate after May 2007. Though the permission cannot be extended beyond the initial 12 months it is granted for, it is possible to apply for transfer to another work permission programme or permit, such as the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) or Work Permits. Both of these can be routes to permanent settlement in the UK, according to the LSE Careers Service website.

The School's international students, who make up over 50 percent of the student body, now have the opportunity to spend an extra year in the UK and explore options in various career fields. "It will definitely be something I would like to apply for when I graduate next

year. If the IGS then translates into a full work permit, all the better, but just that extra year to work in the UK, I think, will be a great start to my career," said a second year Economics undergraduate from Hong Kong.

According to Fiona Sandford - Director of the LSE Careers Service - Howard Davies and the LSE Careers



service campaigned strongly for IGS and have been actively promoting the scheme since its introduction earlier this year. "LSE deserves some credit for the introduction of IGS, it was something we worked very hard towards achieving," said Ms Sandford.

However, the Careers Service does stress that many big organisations have been approaching the IGS with caution as the Scheme is not par-

ticularly well understood. Ms Sandford emphasised, "Many employers are wary of it because there is no absolute guarantee that the IGS will translate to a full work permit."

While the Scheme has been well-received by more niche employers, NGOs, Think Tanks and smaller organisations, the Careers Service has warned international students not to expect all employers to even know about IGS, although much has been done to educate major organisations about it.

"LSE has done more than any other UK university to promote IGS and although there is still a level of ignorance about the Scheme, students should take the opportunity to educate employers about it through their applications and interviews," Ms Sandford added.

Does this mean that international students may finally have an easier route to work and live in the UK? Not necessarily. But one thing is for sure: with the introduction of IGS, international students may now have the opportunity to "test" out if the UK is the best place for their career aspirations before they begin the arduous process of work permit applications.

Full and up to date details on the IGS can be found on www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk and on work permits in the Schemes and Programmes section of www.workingintheuk.gov.uk.

Professor challenges Asia's "Islamic Threat"

Rachael O'Rourke

John Sidel, Professor of International and Comparative Politics at the LSE, has been praised by Asian media for his work criticising Western understanding of Islamist terrorism in Southeast Asia.

In his essay "The Islamic Threat in Southeast Asia: A Reassessment", Sidel argues that legislators, academics and journalists all greatly exaggerate the Islamist threat to the region.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Sidel argued that the "Islamist threat" has been grossly inflated and that Islamic groups within Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines have faced continual "decline, disappointment, and disengagement from state power".

The most fundamental question asked is whether there actually exists an "Islamist threat" at all in the region. He suggests that the widely accepted current depiction of "the collective good...being threatened by dangerous zealots" is ultimately based on information provided by the region's security services, despite their record of corruption and covert manipulation of Islamist organisations.

Sidel accuses the media, governments and "pseudo-academic terrorism experts" of "selection bias". Instead of



Supporters of a radical Indonesian cleric protest in 2003

focusing on the relatively few hostile events that have occurred, such groups should emphasise "how much violence has not [occurred]" and the "millions and millions of Muslims who are not terrorists".

Michael Vatikiotis, of the Hong Kong-based *Asia Times*, was quick to praise Sidel for "standing up to the myths being perpetuated about Islam and Muslim identity in Southeast Asia".

However, he suggested that Sidel had underplayed the importance of Islamic political and social assertiveness, claiming that in some countries "there is insufficient ideological ballast to counter the forces of Islam and therefore insufficient middle ground on which

to contest elections."

In response, Sidel points out that Islamist parties in Indonesia only claim a minority of the electorate while the ruling party of Malaysia, the UMNO, has remained in power for the last fifty years. He adds that he does not ignore general trends of rising Islamic assertiveness, merely interprets them as "important signs of Islamist difficulties, Islamist decline, Islamist disappointment, Islamist defensiveness".

He asserts that small events should not be elevated "into a grander narrative of Islamist struggle" and that the forces of Islamism should be encouraged to become "important players in the process of democratization in Southeast Asia".

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Give peace a chance



Douglas Oliver

To justify the suppression of freedom of expression in defence of the right to education is nothing short of self-contradiction

In their letter of October 2nd, Mr Lunat, Mr Unkowsci-Korica and Mr Caspell, outline their reasons for supporting the University and College Union's (UCU) decision of May 30 to discuss a possible academic boycott of Israel. Amongst other things, they laud the universal right to education, declare themselves inheritors of the School's progressive traditions and claim to be champions for the oppressed Palestinian people.

However, as their support for the wholly counter-productive UCU motion shows, their commitment to the universality of access to education is questionable and their opposition is indicative of how little they have to offer the people of the Occupied Territories. More broadly, despite the abandonment of the proposal last week for being in contravention of anti-discrimination legislation, the fact that such a counter-productive proposal was seriously considered is a worrying indication of the polarised and intractable nature of the Israeli-Palestinian debate, both in the UK and elsewhere.

The motion proposing a discussion on "the moral

implications of links with Israeli academic institutions" passed by 158 votes to 99, at the UCU annual conference,



Academic freedom is not only fundamental to intellectual debate and learning in an education system, but also a central feature to any society that wishes to defend freedom of speech

did not in itself confirm a boycott. Nevertheless, it was certainly designed as a pre-cursor to the passage of one the following year. Voted upon by a small delegation unrepresentative of the UCU's wider membership, the move was widely condemned by religious groups and politicians across the Britain and was commented on in European, north

American and the Middle Eastern Press. Whatever the motivations behind those who pursued the policy, there are several reasons why it is clear that the policy flies in the face of the enlightened traditions of British academia and is of no assistance to the campaign for a just settlement to Palestinian grievances.

The implementation of the policy is extremely crude on a practical level. As a simplistic treatment of Israel as unified whole, the boycott rejects without distinction Israeli moderates, liberals, Israelis seeking disengagement as well as all Arab-Israelis - along with more "extreme" pools of academic thought. Indeed the irony of such a boycott is that it would silence the group in Israeli society with perhaps the strongest record of standing up to government policies in Gaza and the West Bank: it is from Israeli universities that conscripts have campaigned against serving in the Occupied Territories. In fact, on the very day the boycott motion was passed, Israeli academics called for free movement for Palestinian students between the West Bank and Gaza.

tunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error."

It can be concluded that the letter, along with the proposed motion, represents little more than a self-absorbed form of gesture politics. Indeed its perspective has more in common with the extreme elements supporting the Israeli state: both treat the two sides of conflict as homogenous black and white representations of good and evil. The truth is in actual fact more

nuanced and grey - both sides are capable of good deeds as well as great atrocities - suicide bombings on civilian targets or brutal incursions in to Palestinian towns. The situation cannot be resolved by one side castigating or attacking one side more than the other, but will require patience and compromise. While Israel may have more power to act at present, it will require action from both sides - and the first step is the most simple and the most important: communication. The real consideration of the boycott undermines that possibility.

Though failed, the spectre of a boycott has already helped undermine Israeli moderates who will be essential if the Middle East can start facing up to some of its intractable problems. This move has given credence to the facile equation of European anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. It is in these conditions that the already resurgent Israeli right, led by Netanyahu and Likud, will prosper from a strengthened sense of siege mentality amongst the Israeli people.

Though the authors of the letter frequently claim inheritance to the veritable principles of the School's founders, it seems unlikely that the Webbs - whose unequivocal support for academic freedom has come to define the LSE - would have had much time for the UCU's actions that Lunat et al so fervently support. By instituting an "academic boycott" it is clear that the central purpose of the "academy" - as an arena for inquiry, debate and controversy - is critically undermined. Academic freedom is not only fundamental to debate and learning in an education system, but also a feature central to any society that wishes to defend freedom of speech. The practical and moral value of the freedom to speak is, as J.S. Mill explained: "If the opinion is right, [people] are deprived of the oppor-



Utsa Mukherjee

War of the Words



James Caspell

Ziyad Lunat

International pressure can help produce change, and an academic boycott join a phalanx of foreign opposition to controversial Israeli policies

Last May, the University and College Union (UCU) passed a motion for its branches to discuss supporting the growing international movement which advocates a boycott of collaboration with Israeli institutions in response to the military occupation of Palestine. The motion did not call for an immediate boycott, but for a debate. It did not advocate a specific political programme but it requested that academics examine the implications of their existing links with Israeli universities.

None of the boycotters wish to stop talking to Israeli academics but they ask UCU members to consider if they should continue to conduct their usual business with Israeli institutions, regardless of their actions in the Occupied Territories.

The supporters of the motion have since been targeted, intimidated and threatened. The UCU leadership has banned discussion of the Israeli academic boycott, citing 'legal advice', in an attempt to subvert the democratic vote.

of the union's highest decision-making body. The elite Russell Group of universities have in turn sought to defend what they superficially label as "academic freedom" for Israeli academics; ignoring that it comes at the direct expense of Palestinians to live and study in peace. In Israel, such "freedoms" have been built and supported by the oppression of the Palestinian people through a 40-year military occupation.

Many observers across the world have compared the Israeli state to apartheid South Africa; Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter and Noam Chomsky have all condemned the brutal and institutionalised ethnic segregation of two peoples who share a history of attachment to the Middle East.

John Dugard, a South African professor and UN special rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, stated earlier this year: "Israel's laws and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories certainly resemble

aspects of apartheid. It has become abundantly clear that the wall and checkpoints are principally aimed at advancing the safety, convenience and comfort of settlers." Can academics partake in research, cooperate or receive funding from Israeli universities as if there is no occupation, no settlements, no wall and no apartheid? At what point academic cooperation turns into complicity for war crimes?

Israeli academia is far from a bastion of freedom of expression. When Israeli academics do speak out against their state's policies, they are often persecuted and harassed by their state and media. Ilan Pappé, for instance, is now transferring to Exeter University in order to escape the concerted effort by the Zionist lobby to thwart his career.

Israeli academia has remained compliant in the regime of ethnic segregation; no Israeli institution has ever publicly opposed their state's military occupation or the deprivation of fundamental

rights to the Palestinian people. The flow of advisors from academia to the government and vice-versa in Israel is remarkably above average. Many ministers and army strategists who plan the control network in the Occupied Territories come from Israeli academia - architects plan the settlements while the military derives its defence technology research from its universities.



The boycott is motivated by an opposition to the systematic discrimination against Palestinians under Israeli occupation

Some highlight the fact that many Palestinian universities have been founded under occupation. However, between 1973 and 1992, Birzeit University alone was closed on

15 occasions while a military order in 1982 intervened directly in the university's administration. Israel has made no positive financial contribution to education in the Occupied Territories. Instead, Israel has forcibly closed Palestinian universities, shot and killed Palestinian students and lecturers, bombed a Palestinian school for the blind and consistently harasses students on their way through checkpoints to school.

When our government continues to unconditionally support Israel despite its actions against the Palestinians and blatant disregard for international law and human rights, boycotting becomes an enticing tactic. The academic boycott was effectively adopted in similar circumstances in the past. In 1965, 496 British academics from 34 universities published an open letter calling for an academic boycott of South Africa, in solidarity with 2 academics served with banning orders by the racist regime. After a long campaign, the boycott was adopted as policy by the Association of

University Teachers in 1988, and remained so until the end of apartheid.

A boycott of collaboration with Israeli institutions remains a proportionate yet powerful act in drawing attention to the fact that those involved in academia around the world will no longer tolerate the atrocities that are being committed by the Israeli state at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Such a boycott against Israel is in no way anti-Semitic; it is supported by Jews and non-Jews and opposes racial prejudice of all kinds. The boycott is motivated by an opposition to the systematic discrimination against Palestinians under Israeli occupation. It would help protect to those critical of the occupation within Israel and show solidarity with the Palestinian people who have been denied their basic rights for far too long. It is the duty of all those committed to social justice to support such non-violent action and actively oppose racial segregation of any kind.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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It's all in the name



David Woodbridge

In between the light introductory banter and a healthy slew of references to the LSE being the single greatest institution of higher education to be found anywhere, Howard Davies' welcome speech to new undergraduates contained one particularly interesting point.

We will be the first new intake of students to be awarded a degree from the LSE rather than the venerable University of London (UOL), which has been certifying LSE students ever since the School came into existence over a hundred years ago.

Maybe it's interesting only to a pedantic fart like myself who prefers spending late nights memorising trivial minutia over a night out in town. It certainly wasn't to the vast majority in the Peacock Theatre, who applauded because it seemed like the right thing to do. After all, why should they care? They probably have never even heard of the University of London before then, much less realise that the LSE was a part of it. And having 'London School of Economics' along with that cute little beaver logo printed on their degree certificate would go a long way in securing that Goldman Sachs internship, ahead of someone who did exactly the same course via the External Programme and got exactly the same grades but had received a UOL degree instead.

It is the apathy and vain-

The LSE brand name is such an important mean to an end, so much so that we throw out heritage for prestige and marketability

glory of students at the self-identified 'top colleges' (King's, LSE and UCL) which is slowly killing off the University that's been knocking around for over a century



The University of London is being undermined by shallow individuals with no sense of history and interested only in short-term gain

and a half. The first institution to allow women and non-Anglicans to receive degrees. The pioneering institution of distance study over a hundred years before the Open University even existed.

I suppose many of you do not know anything about the pivotal role the UOL played in expanding higher education in Britain. Probably because you picked the LSE because it said in The Times University Guide that its graduates receive high starting salaries and didn't bother to look into its history or those of any related institutions.

Now I shall regale you ignorant lot with a story which begins in the early 19th century, in an England which boasted only the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. In this England, if you happened to be Catholic, Jewish or any sort of non-Anglican, you weren't getting a university education. As for women, shouldn't you be at home raising children instead of trying to read the classics? Thankfully, a group of enlightened liberals decided to found a university in London, with the 'quaint' notion that anyone could attend, regardless of religion, gender or race. The new liberal college subsequently became the University College as we all know it today.

The Establishment took some time off from peasant-shooting to oppose this new, secular institution, even going so far as to found their own, mock-Oxbridge rival (King's College) in the capital. However, they eventually acquiesced to the forces of progress. Even then, the government wasn't prepared to confer university status on two institutions in one city. So the University of London was founded as an unrelated entity in order to examine and award degrees to candidates from the two colleges, continuing the tradition of having a college teach students and a university award them degrees.

Eventually, other colleges with different

missions were federated into the University. It may interest self-proclaimed socialists concerned with equality that Queen Mary College was founded to provide the then relatively impoverished East Enders of London with access to higher education, and the Birkbeck College to educate working men in the evenings. Feminists may like to know that the Royal Holloway (founded by Thomas Holloway using the fortune he made from selling laxatives) and Bedford Colleges were founded to educate women at a time when such institutions were extremely thin on the ground. The External Programme, which allowed Nelson Mandela to study for a law degree whilst jailed under the South African apartheid regime, was founded in 1858 to provide distance education to those who were unable to physically attend any of the colleges and was the first of its kind anywhere in the world. The high standard that the University of London degree attained over time meant that the graduates of the External Programme as well as those of the smaller

and perhaps less well-known but still academically superb colleges such as SOAS, Heythrop and the Royal Veterinary College would have no trouble seeking employment or placements for further study.

In recent years, this standard has been eroded by the actions of some of the larger colleges, seemingly less concerned with maintaining the high level of education across the federation than with cynical self-preservation. By awarding its own degrees without even having the decency to leave the University (as Imperial College did earlier in the year), the LSE is essentially stating that there are now two tiers of student and that the London degree is not worth the paper it is printed on. Not only is this insulting to the University's long and distinguished history, it is also grossly unfair to hard-working students at other colleges and on the External Programme.

The University of London is being undermined by shallow individuals with no sense of history and interested only in short-term gain. I urge anyone who feels the same way to write, as I have done, to the LSE administration and request that, at the completion of their course, they receive a UOL degree and not of anything else.



Living the ABBA mantra



Andre Tartar

The LSE, a world-leading social sciences university, was founded to cultivate a new breed of political and business leaders, a new generation of movers and shakers. It therefore comes as no surprise that many of the school's alumni revolutionized their academic disciplines, shaped social and economic policy, and changed nations through their public service.

So when did the driving ambition of many of our students transform from a Cabinet position into a desk job on the Goldman Sachs trading floor? Where did this frenzy for finance careers come from? Mostly I direct these questions at those studying economics, mathematics, or any of the other minimally quantitative disciplines, though it seems to me that nowadays just about everyone in the LSE considers a Goldman Sachs job offer as the ultimate accolade.

Legions of LSE students look to climb the corporate ladder in spite of the masochistic lifestyle. Surely life's more than "Money, money, money"?

Not that there is anything wrong with investment banking, commodities trading, or even hedge fund management per se. But where are our future academic economists, our future public servants, our future policy thinkers?

Investment bankers live their lives to serve paymasters whose only goal is to increase their own wealth and, as a side thought, that of their clients. Financial analysts and researchers specialize in ever more exotics credit derivatives or mini-markets, finding more obtuse and artificial ways of extracting wealth from the world economy. Indeed, the financial sector is crucial for the globalised economy and essential to finance the next generation of innovation, but in and of itself it does not exactly contribute much that is new.

I don't deny that money, and having lots of it, is a marvelous thing. I myself, at one

time, contracted the investment banking bug. But all it took was a quick step back, a chance to observe my peers in their hyper-competitive frenzy and listen to recruiters, to realize that being a banker, consultant, or trader involves a massive time investment with seemingly little in return apart from a paycheck. They do not augment our collective knowledge or improve the human condition. Their 10-hour days make it virtually impossible to raise families or cultivate their character with the cultural seasoning of life.

On the other hand, government officials direct and shape the political, economic, and social structures of their countries. Writers create enduring works and create new windows onto the human condition. Academics ponder the past to illuminate the path to the future. Are these not more enviable intellectual legacies than a pay slip branded with

the Merrill Lynch, McKinsey and Co., or Deloitte and Touche brands?



Bankers, consultants and analysts are just glorified service workers; they are not keepers of wisdom or the protectors of the good

Don't get me wrong. I am not arguing that people should not work for such companies, for they are key components of the world economy. I am merely asking that the acolytes of the 'High Finance cult' recognize the side of their occupations, that hides behind, tai-

lored suits, chauffeured limousines, and 80-storey glass and steel towers. Bankers, consultants, analysts are just glorified service workers; they are not the keepers of wisdom or the protectors of the good. They are no different from, say, a worker at a fast-food chain, albeit managing much larger amounts of money that belong to high-profile clientele.

In summary of this mean-spirited critique, those people that dream of a job in finance and that actually excel at it should be duly applauded. But they should only be applauded for their success, not for being exceptional leaders, guiding lights, or the shining future. They are workers like any others. They are chained to an office and a corporate ladder, their higher authority is the profit motive.

As students and future graduates, we should be hailing the future NGO-workers and lauding the future diplomats. They may not make as much come bonus time, but they may actually, in profound ways, influence many lives other than their own.

The Beaver

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Published since 1949

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If you have written three or more articles for The Beaver and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email: thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

The Beaver is available in
alternative formats.

The views and opinions expressed in The Beaver are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors or the LSE Students' Union.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

the Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 667

Tightening belts

...is no excuse to forget good causes

With delays in the arrival of student loans, coupled with the closure of those cost-saving kitchens in our largest halls, now is not a good time to be budgeting for student life. Now is the time when old heads are setting into familiar routines of scrounging around for the rent and stretching the 'Basic' food ranges. Freshers, meanwhile, may now be realising that maybe buying that round of cocktails in a central London bar wasn't the best way to impress their new mates. However, it only takes a drop of perspective to realise the fortune that we all have to be students here in London, and those all around us who could benefit from a helping hand.

Despite the wealth of the city we all abide in, Londoners are less likely to donate to charity than those in other areas of the UK. According to a report by the Charities Aid Foundation and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, only half of us give to charity in any given month, comparing unfavourably to the national average. However, we do make up for this infrequency by giving more, with a generous average monthly gift of £22.

As students, giving at this sort of level is usually simply not possible. However, there are myriad ways in which cash-poor but time-rich students can play their part...

Raising and Giving has raised and given...

...but needs YOU to continue

It is with great pleasure that this newspaper reports that the first RAG event of the new academic year, indeed the first RAG event since the move to the new, annual RAG arrangement, received such a healthy turnout. Marie Curie are currently counting the rewards of the first successful raid. Asking complete strangers for money, particularly the notoriously unfriendly London commuter, is a difficult job, and one that is made only slightly easier by the wearing of ridiculous garb. The fact that so many students were willing to give up their time bodies well for this first year of charity fundraising. If you missed out, fear not! There will be plenty more of these fancy dress 'RAG Raids' throughout the year, and there can be few better excuses for dressing up and letting your extrovert side out to play. Forthcoming Raids include the Amazing and Crazy RAG Raid Pub Crawl on November 17th.

The planned events don't stop there however, with many standing out as deserving of more attention. The LSE Lost event will see sponsored students driven to the countryside, not knowing where they are going, and challenged to make it back to Houghton Street without spending any money. Other events planned include Halloween fancy dress, a sponsored hitchhike to Paris and a parachute jump.

RAG is also the perfect antidote to the old excuse about charity - that you just don't know where to start. With every event dedicated to helping a different charity, RAG events are a way to help a whole host of good causes.

If you missed the first raid then your chance to make amends is tonight. RAG is hosting the Freshers' Ball at Ruby Blue, with all proceeds going to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Tickets are available from SU Reception. If you can't make it, or even if you can, drop an email to su.rag@lse.ac.uk about the hundreds of other ways you can get involved.

Letters to the Editor

The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.



c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

"pure piece"

Dear Sir,

It is surprising that Mr Caspell and his friends appear to have missed the widely-publicised press release from the University and College Union (UCU) relating to the attempt to boycott Israeli academics. The press release stated that the UCU had received advice to the effect that, if the resolution being considered were passed, it would amount to a blatant piece of unlawful discrimination. In the light of that advice, the UCU, wisely I think, decided not to pursue the resolution.

The key point, which we must not forget, is that the UCU affair was not (as Caspell and company would have us believe) a debate about the plight of the Palestinians at all. It was a debate about academic freedom and the integrity of university institutions.

In my view, no self-respecting place of learning worthy of that description could ever subscribe to the concept of boycotting academics and denying them freedom of speech and employment. This was the avowed purpose of those who planned and propounded what was plainly a poisonous resolution. It is important that we should be vigilant to protect these rather important freedoms and not be sidetracked by the different agenda of others.

As to the charge of intimidation, I must say that a bit rich coming from Mr Caspell whose own letter is itself a pure piece of attempted intimidation.

For the record, the Council of the LSE unanimously rejected the call for a boycott. The Court of Governors of the LSE, with the exception of a single vote, took exactly the same view. The resolution was also condemned by the National Union of Students.

Lord Grabiner Q.C.

Chairman
LSE Court of Governors

"futile attempts"

Dear Sir,

The factually incorrect rhetoric espoused in various comment pieces and letters in *The Beaver* last week did not come as much of a surprise.

When the pro-Zionist clique lost the vote to twin with An-Najah University last term they realised their argument would have to change and therefore they have cleverly morphed it into bureaucratic and constitutional terms.

The attack on Fadhil Baker-Markar is purely this. Not one of those who attacked Fadhil during the UGM last Thursday is bothered about him 'overstepping his mandate' if endorsing Union policy is 'overstepping his mandate' Fadhil has a year of it to go. However each and every one of the critics opposes the notion of justice for the Palestinians.

When it was claimed in

The Beaver last week that 'Israel has always honoured human rights', many images returned to me from my own trip to An-Najah University, Gaza and Ramallah two years ago. Images of standing at Israeli checkpoints while students were attacked, strip-searched and humiliated in front of crowds of onlookers, images of Third World refugee camps facing daily incursions and images of futile attempts of resistance, such as the throwing of stones. These are hardly the actions of a country that 'honours human rights'. But more accurately, these are the actions of a country which has flouted more UN resolutions than any other, yet faced no sanction.

I felt proud to receive the Students' Union's letter and know many others who feel the same way. Those who attack Fadhil on 'constitutional grounds' are trying to take the politics out the issue - and thus hiding their real agenda - to continue support for an Israeli occupation that more and more westerners, including myself, have seen as the abominable crime that it is.

Estelle Cooch

"very proud"

Dear Sir,

As an Arab student studying at the LSE, I was very proud that the LSESU took the stand in divesting from Sudan last year. The atrocities committed by the government-sponsored militias against the non-Arab population should be condemned. Human life is sacred, regardless of ethnicity, language or religion, and any act of oppression and violation of human rights should be denounced across the world. Therefore I am extremely disheartened by the double standards in *The Beaver* with regards to Israel.

Did anyone question why we "singled out" Sudan? Did anyone "bother" to present the views of the Sudanese government? Why is Israel always an exception? Several human rights organizations including Amnesty International and B'tselem have recorded numerous human rights violations, and the campaign for the right to education has shown no improvement in the situation for students, academics and universities in the Occupied Territories. Why is this being taken lightly?

Jinan Bastaki

"time democracy"

Dear Sir,

We vehemently dispute the accusations regarding the letter sent to freshers detailing the widely reported violations of the right to education in Palestine.

The Beaver editorial claims that "what separates democracy from mob rule is the former's ability to provide representation and voice to the minorities". *The Beaver* editorial conveniently forgot that this "time democracy" through

the UGM motion, chose to side with the minority. Palestinian students constitute a minority at the LSE; this year, there are only two Palestinian students at the LSE. One should question why is the number so small? Israel refuses to allow Palestinians to gain an education abroad. Such is the case of Khaled Mudallal, a student from Bradford university, who has been held captive in the world's largest prison, the Gaza Strip.

An article in the Comment and Analysis section questioned whether there actually is a violation of the right to education in Palestine, saying that "in reality it does not exist." These rather scurrilous comments are an insult to the dignity and perseverance of the millions of Palestinians that struggle to get an education on a daily basis.

We firmly stand behind the Palestinian right to education and against Israel's illegal and violent occupation of Palestine despite recent efforts by the Zionists to undermine democracy at our Students' Union. By serving as apologists of Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people, they stand complicit with the apartheid system that Israel has created.

Ziyaad Lunat
LSESU Mature and Part-Time Student's Officer
President of the LSESU Palestine Society
James Caspell
LSESU Postgraduate Student's Officer
Aled Dilwyn Fisher
LSESU Environment and Ethics Officer
Daisy Mitchell-Forster
LSESU Women's Officer
Vlad Unkovski-Korica
PhD candidate

"crypto-fascist"

Dear Sir,

It is with increasing concern, alarm even, that I have been viewing the most recent centrespread pages of your arts pullout magazine, Part B. Although these chastely pictorial pages, apparently devoid of content, may appear innocuous, I fear that, freed from your restraining influence, Mr. Daniel B Yates (aka Danny the Hat or Big Boy B) may be abusing his editorial privileges to promote his sick crypto-fascist agenda.

Although I have not yet been able to fully decipher his intentions, I fear it cannot be much longer before they become apparent, by which time it may well be far too late. I beg you to act now to put a stop to this madness.

Capt. Brock Hardmeat IV Esq.

"unilateral misuse"

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you to raise a number of concerns regarding the Palestine letter sent as part of the welcome pack to incoming undergraduates this year.

While many of us have divergent views on the Palestine-Israeli conflict, we

are united in opposition to the letter due to concerns over unilateral misuse of power and breaches of procedure in the process of composing and sending such a letter.

We are very worried about the signal given out about our Union by sending such a partial letter - on an extremely complex situation - as our first communication to Freshers. The critical reaction of many LSE students indicates that in this act the LSESU failed to represent and take into consideration the views of all students.

We demand a full retraction and apology to all students at LSE for the unilateral misuse of power and breaches of procedure. In addition, we have posed a number of questions in the full version of this letter (available on and Facebook) which we expect to be answered fully, truthfully and promptly. Amongst these questions are:

Have any LSE lecturers been on the Task Force, on the email list of the Task Force or offered to speak on this issue at UGMs?

Where were the Executive Committee told the letter originated from? Was every member consulted on the content of this letter?

Was the content of the letter sent to Freshers within the remit of the original motion?

Were all members of the Task Force aware that a letter was being sent and consulted on what the content of the letter should be?

If not, who wrote the first draft of the letter?

Who approved it and what changes were made?

Why was it necessary to mention Ziyaad Lunat's position as Palestine Society President?

We expect a full reply to our questions and an apology, and will not hesitate to take this matter further if we do not receive an adequate response.

We hope that this issue is resolved quickly and definitively, and that the LSESU can get on with representing and winning for students.

Carys Morgan
LSESU Societies Officer
Lizzie Fison
LSESU Students With Disabilities Officer
Andy Hallett
Vice-Chair, Constitution & Steering Committee and member of Twinning Task Force
Helen Roberts
Constitution & Steering Committee
Dan Sheldon
Secretary, Labour Society
Marilyn Carsley
Chair, Israeli Society
Barry Vogel
Chair, Jewish Society
Paul Church
Chair, Conservative Society
Eddie Dodge
Chair, LGBT Society
Arthur Krellbers
Honorary Student
Alex Teytelboym
Daniel Jason
Jessica Lever
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Ben Epstein
Alex Hershman

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Don't watch that, watch this



Stuart Powell

Distributors may withdraw films in respect for various sensitivities, but such a decision denies the audience the right of choice

Ben Affleck's directorial debut *Gone Baby Gone*, which tells the story of a missing four-year-old snatched from her bed in Boston, has been recently withdrawn from the London Film Festival and shelved for general release indefinitely. The reasoning behind this move is clearly to be found in the film's similarities to the

case of Madeleine McCann's disappearance. Buena Vista International, the film's distributor, stated that they were "sensitive to the depth of feeling surrounding the disappearance of Madeleine McCann." The film has premiered in the US and France and has a planned release date elsewhere in Europe, so it would seem that the sensibili-

ties of the McCann family and those of the British public are the main concerns, and rightly so to a point.

The fact remains that we all have a choice whether we go to the cinema and watch the film. The film, as do many controversial ones, tells a parallel tale to one being played out in real life, but on this particular occasion the film is not seeking

to exploit the news story (it was filmed last year) and any similarities are coincidental. The depiction of such a sensitive issue on film, in the eyes of some, appears to trivialise and belittle. But equally a film can provide startling insights and offer surprising honesty.

Indeed, *Gone Baby Gone* will invariably present a more sensitive treatment of child abduction in a general sense than other media. The Hollywood Reporter praised it as "understated...thoughtful, deeply poignant, and with moral implications for ourselves." This is more than can be said for much of the polemic newspaper coverage. That the film may unsettle because the McCann case is a personal family affair and that it seems closer to home for many parents up and down the country is a fair statement. But a well made, nuanced film will engage with many of the emotions members of the public may be struggling to understand and articulate.

Ben Affleck agrees with the withdrawal on grounds that "We don't want to release the movie if it is going to touch a nerve or inflame anyone's sensitivities." Well, is this not what film should do, at least in part? The film may make for uncomfortable viewing, but this is usually testament to its subtlety, power and realism on screen. What is perhaps most frightening to some is the way in which film humanises the

story. The broad brushstrokes of other media and the comfortable emotional distance we maintain in reading newspapers and watching the news is compromised as we are dragged into a story only more intense for its contemporary resonance. Such an experience may inflame, but it could also be especially enlightening.

cathartic effect for themselves and the country. A series of films addressing the Iraq war will be released this year and next, concerning alleged US massacres of Iraqi civilians (*Battle for Haditha*), surviving the grief of losing a loved one (*Grace is Gone*), and the human cost of the rendition policy (*Rendition*). Such a response from a traditionally cautious industry, whilst the war continues, is almost unprecedented. It was years after the fact before a range of films were made addressing issues concerning Vietnam. It is a healthy and positive move for these films about Iraq to be released when troops are on the ground and the debate over the war is at its fiercest.

“
Distributors should overcome their reactionary distaste and allow the audience to make an individual choice to trust the filmmaker, or not

The question is why should we remain cold and distant until present-day relevance has past? *United 93* based on the failed hijacking on 9/11, offended a small minority of the survivors families but the overwhelming majority of the families found that the film encouraged greater understanding of the events of that day and even claimed it had a

Ultimately, decisions on whether to withdraw a film have to be made on a case-by-case basis. Filmmakers with irresponsible agendas should not be encouraged to cynically exploit horror and despair. But on the other hand, contemporary issues can be cast into a sharper light by film – raising awareness and understanding when it is most needed. Comparisons between films on Iraq and *Gone Baby Gone* are difficult to make, but the principle of brevity in releasing thought provoking films for today remains. Distributors should overcome their reactionary distaste and allow the audience to make an individual choice to trust the filmmaker, or not.



Engineering a new lease of life



Molly Tucker

Often a last resort of couples who hope to conceive, the choice of IVF is far from a rash decision made without consideration for consequences

I am writing in response to an article in *The Beaver* last week, comparing modern IVF practices to incest and the concept of designer babies, which I found to be naive and insulting to the many families who find they cannot conceive 'naturally'.

Ms Torun draws attention to the 'incestuous' nature of the common practice of in-family egg and sperm donation. Incestuous is an incorrect and misleading term to use here. The reason that infertile couples prefer the assistance of their families is for highly practical reasons: not least because it is perfectly possible to still share as much of your child's genes as your dad or brother fathers it instead of you, but also because knowing the medical history of the family is extremely important if your child contracts any kind of serious illness. There is no sexual relationship between donor and mother, and in the case mentioned, it is the closest that the prospective mother could come to carrying her husband's child. Surely this is preferable to carrying the child of someone she doesn't

know, and will have no genetic link to the man who raises it?

As for questioning the trauma that a child conceived in this way might suffer, I would posit that in such a position most people would still choose to have been created using artificial means than not at all – parents who use

“

Parents who use IVF do so because they cannot conceive any other way and their offspring would otherwise not exist

IVF do so because they cannot conceive any other way and their offspring would otherwise not exist.

Certainly the revelation that you were created because your uncle/aunt/grandfather made that possible would be preferable to discovering that you were conceived using the sperm of a perfect stranger, who could be absolutely anyone (and until recent legislation making it impossible to conceal the identity of sperm donors from their genetic offspring, was often anyone looking for some easy cash).

The issue of the child's identity and the complications therein is not dismissed, as Ms Torun implies, but carefully considered, and in many cases, especially in an age when science is revealing more and more about just how influential genetics can be on the way we live our lives and raise our children, keeping the child's identity as close to its parents as possible is preferable.

Most of all, I found the closing question to be verging on offensive. For most infertile women or men, normal conception would be infinitely preferable to the painful, lengthy and often unsuccessful IVF treatments they are forced to subject themselves to should

they wish to have children. Normal conception is not old-fashioned, it is impossible for these people, and most undergo significant heartache and expense to start a family. It may not be the 'old-fashioned' way, but IVF children have been desperately wanted and planned for by their parents (genetically related parents or not), often for years before

they were born; no small matter in the UK, which boasts the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Europe and 201,173 abortions last year.

As for the snipes at celebrities 'buying' babies, perhaps the same people who so vocally criticize those people who choose to give homes to orphans of poverty-stricken and war-torn countries, should

remember that those who adopt abroad are removing these children from the very real risk of trafficking, sexual abuse and an emotionally and economically stunted development.

In response to these critics, I would like to ask: why are you so judgmental of those who want to create loving families, not complicate them?






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Radical Left



Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

Germany has for years been the lead exporter in the world economy. But in June of this year Germany has also seen the formation of a new radical left party - Die Linke - which is now Germany's third largest party with over 70,000 members and a consistent showing of between 11 and 14 per cent in the opinion polls. This new party has emerged out of two very different traditions in Germany - West and East - and its prospects are still undecided. It will face internal struggles between the traditions of 'socialism from above' and 'socialism from below' that it has inherited from the past.

Die Linke combines the WASG from the West and the PDS of the East. The former contributed 11,000 members while the latter provided 59,000 members. A further 4,000 members (mainly trade unionists from the West) joined in the two weeks following the foundational congress. The radical student wing of the party has branched out from 8 to 36 university groups in the last four months. The WASG was a grouping that united former supporters of Social Democrats (SPD), trade union militants, single-issue campaigners and revolutionaries. In that sense it was not unlike its smaller sister party called Respect in Britain. The PDS was the successor party to the Stalinist Socialist Unity Party or SED that ran East Germany.

While the WASG was formed relatively recently, the PDS has been a major party in Germany since unification. It was in and out of parliament, has thousands of local councilors across the East, and has shared government in several regional parliaments. The impetus for the unification of the two parties came with the decision by former SPD leader and minister Oscar Lafontaine to break with the SPD in 2005 over the SPD's increasingly market-driven agenda. The rough equivalent in Britain would be someone like Ken Livingstone or Tony Benn breaking definitively with Labour.

What has made this new party so popular? Die Linke's main demands include reversing the new retirement age of 67; scrapping Hartz IV, (a particularly nasty set of unemployment benefits laws); and withdrawing all troops from Afghanistan. These policies have tempted one tenth (40,000) of SPD members to contemplate switching party allegiances to Die Linke. Even more Green voters, on average the richest voters for any party in Germany today, have found Die Linke's stance on Afghanistan attractive.

The reasons for the party's successes are inseparable from German capitalism's fixation on staying a leading exporter in the world. Driving down wages, extending the working day and life, attacking the welfare state, this is the bread-and-butter stuff of the ruling elites' strategy. We often read in the press how the welfare state in continental Europe is the problem - if only Kohl or Junpe had smashed the unions like Thatcher had smashed them in Britain, job 'flexibility', industrial 'modernisation' and more generally essential 'reform' would result: the race to the bottom would ensure high profits for the few and a work-for-a-pittance-until-we-drop ethic for the rest of us. The trouble for the elites is precisely that since there was no decisive confrontation between capital and labour in Europe during the neo-liberal turn, the mass of ordinary people still have a vast array of institutions that defend them and their interests against 'accumulation by dispossession' as David Harvey has characterised neo-liberalism.

Die Linke represents perhaps the most advanced electoral example of this phenomenon. But, Die Linke has contradictory potential. On one hand, its PDS wing has no problems with entering social-liberal coalitions with the SPD - leading to tight budgets and neo-liberal counter-reforms. More than that, Lafontaine could be like Bertinotti in Italy or Livingstone in Britain: in social opposition today, in social-liberal government tomorrow. On the other hand, while the PDS wing has lost its share of the vote in Berlin, the young and radical wing of Die Linke is still able to mobilise 80,000 people in the anti-G8 protests in Rostock and to recruit militant trade unionists. We don't know whether the wildcat (unofficial) strikes of the postal workers will have overturned our fortunes in Britain and smashed the anti-union laws by the time this is in print - but if we have learnt anything from our German colleagues, it is that we still have a world to win!

thebeaver.features@lse.ac.uk

Notes on Nothing


The island of Canna was plucked from obscurity this week, when a Neil, a Welsh-speaking gardener, and mother Deborah, along with their two daughters, Elinor and Anwen were selected from over 350 applicants to run the island's guest-house. Their move will raise the island's population from 17 to a dizzying 21. Canna is part of the Inner Hebrides, which may sound cosmopolitan and exciting, but is actually one of the most remote parts of Britain. According to reports in Scottish papers, Winnie MacKinnon, who runs the postal service on the island, is particularly pleased. At least she is now, next she will be out on strike next week demanding a BMW Series 5 post-bus and danger pay for delivering anything from a 'furrin' country. You know, in case a 'furriner' has planted a bomb in it.

But, islands like Canna are the reason that state services are so essential. Without state support, the 21 Canna-ites would be without water, gas, electricity, phone, post and, of course, broadband. Releasing these services to the clutches of private enterprise means that these tiny islands will be last in the queue, if they can afford it at all for improvements or new services. Some might argue that's OK, I mean isn't it a form of child abuse to take kids to an island with only 19 other inhabitants, 2 of whom are related to you, and the other 17 are grizzled crofter-types with names like Nathraichean and Lioslaithe? But, you forget without these remnants of a lost age, young English families (like the Camerons) would have nowhere to ethically holiday, or to buy a dirt-cheap second home in.

And once you have your idyllic second home in the country, the next thing is to ensure that the state is prevented from gobbling up the vast profits released from it on your death. Inheritance tax is, apparently, one of the most-hated taxes in Britain. It strikes at the heart of our fears. That our parent's death won't instantly propel us up the property ladder. The obsession with homes in the UK has been going on as long as slightly dowdy, posh-but-alluring TV presenters have been showing (read 'ordering') us to slather walls in cream paint, chuck down some laminate flooring and artfully spread an Indian throw. The British people have a sense of entitlement to their property. It is entirely untaxed profit, and we like it that way. It probably harks back to our traditional role as forelock-tugging serfs and pigherds. Quaffing ale all day, sleeping in dung huts by night, we dream of a studio flat in Clerkenwell, that we could bequeath to our children.

Right Reaction

Annette Pacey



The rolling strikes called by the Communication Workers Union caused serious disruption around the country. Small businesses that rely on the Royal Mail to carry out their trade were hit badly, with some saying they are concerned they will have to lay off staff. Many Open University students faced additional stress and uncertainty just as many of them prepared to post off their end of year assignments, which are due in October. Here at LSE where nearly everything is online we may have got off lightly, but your right-wing columnist found herself suffering from a delayed career development loan and two weeks without her copy of *The Economist*!

Sympathy and support for the postal workers out on strike was practically non-existent. Hardly surprising when one of the key issues in the dispute was the CWU's refusal to accept that their members should work all the hours for which they are paid. According to Dave Ward, CWU General Secretary, this seemingly obvious requirement amounts to 'slavery'. Most working people would be delighted to work around 75% of the hours they get paid for, but few would consider it a realistic prospect.

The wildcat strikes over minor changes to shift start times illustrate the utter indifference of the striking workers to the crippling disruption they are causing millions of people and businesses who depend on the Royal Mail. The government refused to intervene to resolve the dispute, despite calls from some MPs. If the Union expected support from the formerly left wing Labour government it will have been disappointed. Business Secretary John Hutton said the offer put forward by Royal Mail was 'decent and fair', and even Gordon Brown urged the strikers to get back to work.

The 'attack' on postal workers' terms and conditions amounts to the Royal Mail's entirely reasonable attempt to curb the so-called 'Spanish' practices which were largely abandoned by UK businesses in the 1970s. Currently, postal workers who finish their round before the end of their shift are free to go home early with no loss of earnings. Any variation on normal duties such as helping out in the sorting office, making collections outside normal routes, or covering an absent colleague are paid as extra overtime hours, even if these duties are carried out within the normal working week. Effectively workers can work less than their contracted working week of 37 hours and 20 minutes and still get paid their full wage plus overtime. Despite being portrayed as slave drivers by the union, the Royal Mail is offering workers a 6.9% pay rise, along with efficiency incentives to persuade the workers to give up these unfair practices.

In 2005 the market was opened up to competition and since then the company has struggled to drag itself into the modern age. Competition with private companies like DHL and UPS has forced Royal Mail to attempt to increase efficiency and keep costs under control, but it has been an uphill battle. In a BBC interview Royal Mail CEO Adam Crozier claimed that although Royal Mail workers are paid around 25% more than its competitors' workers, the competitors are around 40% more efficient.

The newly competitive environment also means the Royal Mail pension scheme has to be affordable. In the last few years both public and private sector workers have had to accept less generous pensions so the Postal workers are hardly exceptional. If union demands were to be met, giving workers a pay increase with no change to pensions and retaining the Spanish practices, the ability of the Royal Mail to compete would be severely undermined and its future thrown into doubt. Everyone, including workers, stands to lose from such a scenario.

Remember who pays the workers; the taxpayer. Why should taxpayers pay postal workers for hours they don't work while inefficiency runs the Royal Mail into the ground?

The strikes were wholly unjustified. The Royal Mail does not exist to provide postal workers with a living. It exists, at considerable public expense, to deliver the post. Workers' needs are important but when unreasonable demands threaten the very survival of the business the union will find that public support evaporates. Adam Crozier is right to say that the dispute needed to be settled in a way that allows the business to prosper. Giving in to the CWU's demands would have been a short-sighted mistake.

FACTS ABOUT TAX

Inheritance tax is **40%** of the value of an estate **over £300,000**

but **0%** on estates **under £300,000**

94% of estates are not affected by inheritance tax

Yet, **80%** of the British public consider the tax "grossly unfair"

What is it worth?

In 2006/7, **£3.5bn**, and projected **£4bn** in 2007/8. But proposed Tory tax cuts would cost **£3.5bn**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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Daniel Jason looks at the link between strong religious belief and capital punishment

The church and s

Last Wednesday, in Trafalgar Square, I caught sight of the representatives of the Worker-communist Party of Iran publicising the 'World Day against the Death Penalty' on 10 October. They were calling for an end to state executions in Iran and around the world, where the possibility of an execution is still a reality.

Having always lived without the threat of the state being able to terminate my life, the thought of living in a state, which has that power terrifies me.

According to Amnesty International figures, Chinese government has carried out at least 1010 executions in 2006. In numbers of executions, it is followed by Iran with 177 executions, Pakistan with 82, Iraq and Sudan with at least 65, and the United States of America with 53.

An important issue is not that the state may terminate someone's life, but what they may terminate a life for. It may seem that you are more likely to get a fair trial in the US than some other countries with more dubious human rights records. In the US, for example, matters of personal morality, such as sexuality are kept out of the criminal justice system. In Iran, on the other hand, homosexuality is an offence which can result in the death penalty. Though, according to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad - homosexuals do not exist. Somehow, it is hardly surprising the gay community are less vocal in places where the punishment for homosexuality is death.

Despite the many systemic flaws in the US system, it is just easier for the Iranian or Sudanese government to execute

you without any repercussions.

The Torah is one of humanity's most significant holy texts which is still used today and it prescribes the death penalty for several things, such as murder or violating the Saturday Sabbath. However, the LSE Jewish Society explains that this is purely academic and is used more as a deterrent than actually practiced. The Mishnah, one of the oldest texts in Judaism written around 2,500 years ago, describes the arduous route in which a judge may prescribe the death penalty successfully. This was prescribed in an effort to ensure the penalty of death can't actually be carried out. The text regarding capital punishment finishes off with the words "a court of law is considered to have acted cruelly if it prescribes the death penalty

more than once in 70 years." The modern state of Israel does not use the death penalty, though an exception was made to execute Adolf Eichmann, notorious Nazi war criminal, who was charged with crimes against humanity and wanted by police internationally.

Different Christian denominations have different views about capital punishment. Though the New Testament states, "let he who is without sin cast the first stone" - a saying which has filtered down the ages and is still in use today - the death penalty has been used by the Christian Church for centuries. It is striking that the only liberal democracy on the 'top ten' state executors is the self-proclaimed 'Christian Nation' - the USA.

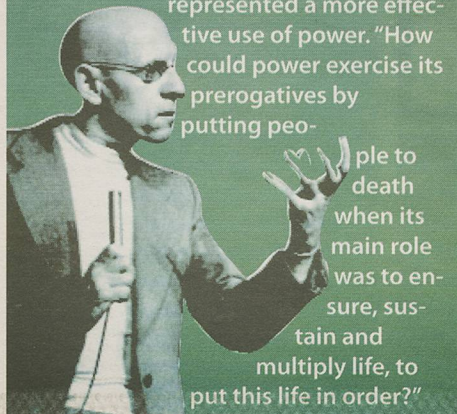
While individual Muslims and citizens of Islamic theocracies hold strong anti-death penalty views, Islamic governments tend to be more supportive of the death penalty than secular states. The Koran, the youngest of the holy books of the monotheistic religions, condones the death penalty for various *hadd* (fixed) crimes such as robbery, adultery and apostasy of Islam - interestingly, murder is not amongst them. The actual use of the death penalty from one Islamic state to another may differ, but a case against the death penalty in any Islamic country may not be made. Just as a states founded on the tenets of the Torah or a Christian fundamentalist state would adhere to the rules on the death penalty, Islamic states cannot contradict



Foucault

Foucault argued that the death penalty places the individual outside of the state's power. He stated "death is power's limit, a moment that escapes it; death becomes the most secret aspect of its existence, the most private." While many have claimed that the violence of the death penalty renders it unconstitutional, Foucault argued that replacing it with life imprisonment is merely to substitute a more insidious form of domination and control, reflecting an increasingly panoptic society. Foucault argued that life imprisonment

represented a more effective use of power. "How could power exercise its prerogatives by putting people



to death when its main role was to ensure, sustain and multiply life, to put this life in order?"

“ In the US, the states which are most likely to use the death penalty are those with a higher proportion of religious Christians ”

Aim for the stars

Christine Whyte asks if single issue cause strike at the heart of the problem



Moral absolutes are rare in an age of atheism, liberal democracy and market-driven reform. The age of opposing ideologies, hard-won and hard-fought is over, and it seems that uncertainty has crept into our morality as well as our politics. Campaigns against the death penalty now revolve around issues of wrongful conviction, cruel methods and systemic prejudice. These issues are vital, and show up the criminal justice system of our 'democracies' as a sham. But, is this truly the basis for a reasoned opposition to the death penalty?

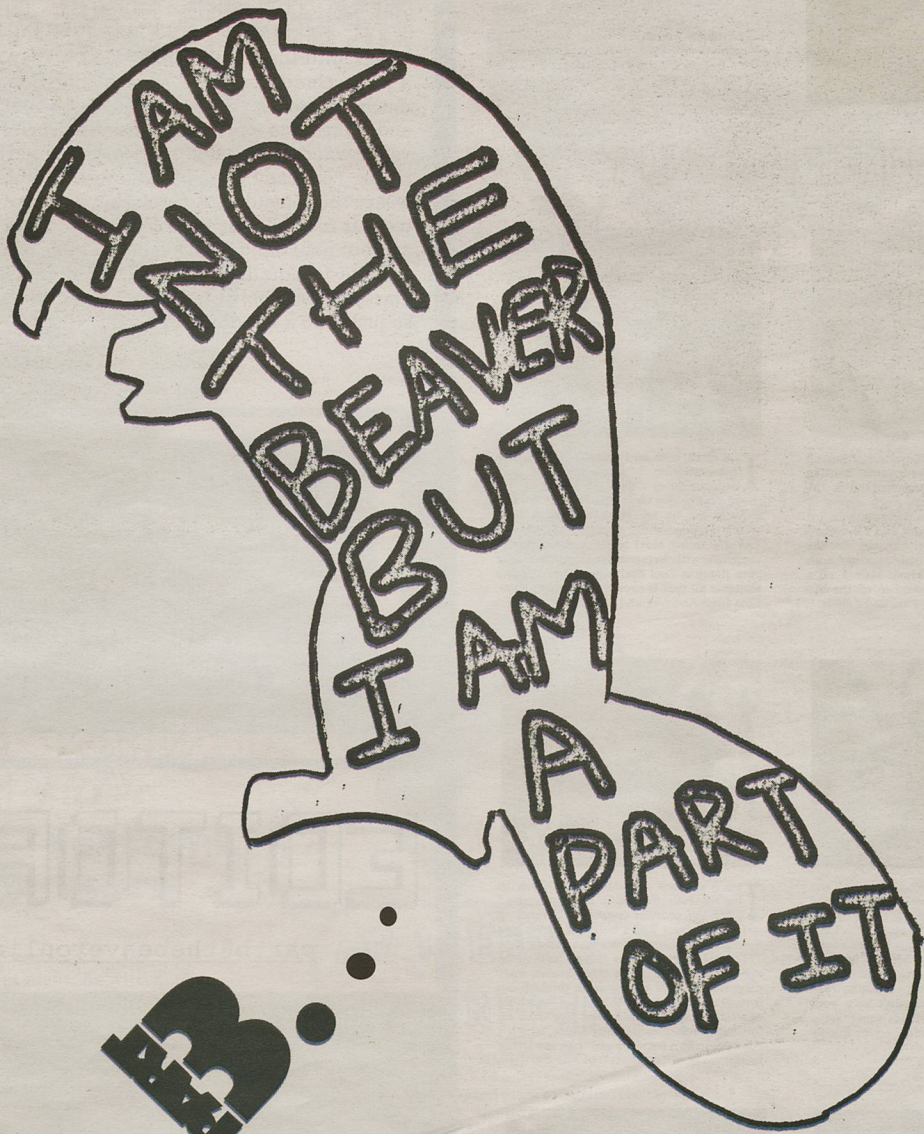
The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal highlights many of the key points taken up by current anti-death penalty activists. He was a

former Black Panther Party activist, cab driver and journalist from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1981, he was convicted of the murder of police officer Daniel Faulkner and sentenced to death. Since that sentence has been quashed he has been serving an undefined sentence of imprisonment at State Correctional Institution Greene near Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. In a way, his case was a success for those who campaign against the death penalty. Though some pro-execution activists insist his execution is warranted and mandated, it seems unlikely to ever be carried out.

His conviction, though, in a racist and possibly politically motivated set-up needs to be completely overturned. By concentrating on the details of pro-

cedure and taking on only individual, 'media-friendly' cases, the anti-death penalty movement fails to challenge the power of the state to kill in a fundamental or revolutionary way. Individual cases such as Mumia's can form useful 'rallying cries' for the movement, but when we lose sight of the final goal, aiming instead for gradual change and reform, we will lose momentum to make fundamental changes.

Taking a stand against the death penalty is not, at the root of it, about concerns about method or system. By making these the focus of arguments, we lose the opportunity to make a fundamental change to the American (or indeed British) criminal justice system. The death penalty is an outdated and barbaric tool of an oppressive



B...

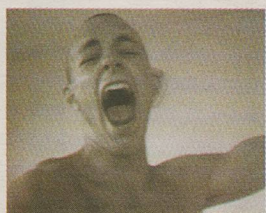
A PART OF IT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON

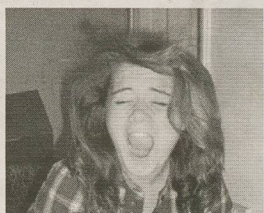


As every granny knows, identity is contingent, constructed by history and language. We are all trains of signifiers signifying signifiers, endlessly deferred, and it is impossible to stand outside this train and take a look at yourself. I know because I tried, fell off my train a long time ago. I'm sure another will be along soon. Some signifiers I have remembered: Bernard is rock not jazz. Bernard is prettier in his head than in his mirror. Bernard read Kafka, he thinks he 'got' it'. Bernard came here from Belfast. Bernard switched from rum to whisky. No one gives a hoot about this FAUX-ASS nonsense.

STAFF - QT



I am all the opinions. They are frothing up and spilling out to form rants. Ranting through the atmosphere to land in the land of PartB. Whether you are wrong or incorrect you can always disagree with I. I music and I film. I politics and I bicycle. I have learned to stop worrying and love the bomb. I am currently a little obsessed with Saturday nights at Bar Music Hall. I am a season ticket holding member of the Yid Army. Identity is all that I am and I am it.



I am Holli, with an I not a Y. I have issues differentiating between the right and wrong side of Chav and too regularly dress akin to my Grandmother. My friends identify me by my ginger patch of hair, which is hidden under my fringe at all times. The way to my heart is chickenbreastripit, tamediumwithcheeseandpineapple - unless your name is Paul Smith and then a single thrust is all that is necessary. I like to bake. I am from Andover, and for this I am sorry.



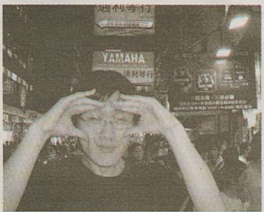
I am Erin, bitches. When I'm not out chillaxin' with my homies then you can probably find me down at the homeless shelter helping people get their lives back together. I'm also lookin' out for the shorties coz' I know that when life gets hard all you really need is a little love for yourself. I think it was Nostradamus, or maybe Fred Dibnah, who said "If you can't keep your shit tight when everyone else is losing theirs, then go fuck yourself", and I try to live by that every day.



I am a unicorn, a symbol of purity with highly erotic overtones. I was conceived after my parents consumed a meal of soup made from Bull's bollocks which had been given to them by some piss-taking New Yorkers. I don't consider this to have given me the best start in life (fuck knows what disgusting matter was flowing through my foetus) and look how I turned out - with an obsession for mythical creatures and an unhealthy relationship with music, which I consider to be a better friend than any living being!



I am Tom. I am 23 and have just started a Masters course in Political Theory here in LSE. Having spent the last three years of my undergraduate life in Manchester I've been somewhat starved of good culture. So since I arrived in London I've been trying to make up for lost time and hope to continue doing so over the next year. Although I'm originally from the deepest, darkest, regions of Dorset, I've become proudly metropolitan over the years and can't see myself heading back to the farm anytime soon.



I am different from you. I look different, I dress different, I eat different, I watch different films. I read different books. I listen to different bands, I walk differently, I talk differently. But I'm not different from you. I choose to be different. I choose what to do. I choose what to like. You choose to do something else. You choose to like something else. We all make this conscious choice. We aren't different. But we are different.

FITZROVIA

Middle-class consumers like you, oh yea 'fess up yes you are, will adore this hood. Not unlike the Hotspur, Tottenham Court Road offer more thrills and spills than anything Chelsea can boast - **PUBS, DRUNKS, HOBOS, DRUNKS, GABG-ETS, DRUNKS, CHOW, DRUNKS.** Life on TotCot was grand until the day the music died - Fopp's dismal demise struck a tragic chord in many a groovin' soul. But you need not worry too much. Just drink your brains out just about anywhere in Fitzrovia, and wake up to a brand new day drenched in your own piss. Better yet, if you do so outside a Tesco, you might just end up a few quid richer. For many a copper shower fall upon those who rest their weary soul outside a supermarket. But that won't go if you're kitted out in the latest Kate Moss or Topman outfits. Rich folk they are, but not stupid. If living on the edge is up your alley, let not the relative tranquillity of this hood diminish your bloodlust. Pint glass and beer bottle galore. Whoever wins, the doc's not far away, so just grab a handful and let fly.

CHUN HAN WONG

PARTE HONCHOS

- straw boss bernardkeenan
- literature honcho erinorozco
- style honcho hollieastman
- film honcho angustse
- rant honcho josheller
- theatre honcho tomwhittaker
- travel honcho willjoce

EDITORIAL

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We are in search of identity in this issue. Aba insists she is a whole that is consistent across time, one which likes *censored* at breakfast, lunch and dinner. Daniel has dispersed himself somewhere and can't get himself back. He is probably *censored*. In a concession to the multiple and fractured self we are in an office as we type, and we are in a Julian Opie below. We also upset ourselves with some money at Frieze Art Fair, and shot some breeze with Hard-Fi. We explore labels in Style, personalities in Rant and legacies in Music. In Literature we review the short-list of the Man Booker Prize, the winner of which is announced today. We are PartB. And you are? ...

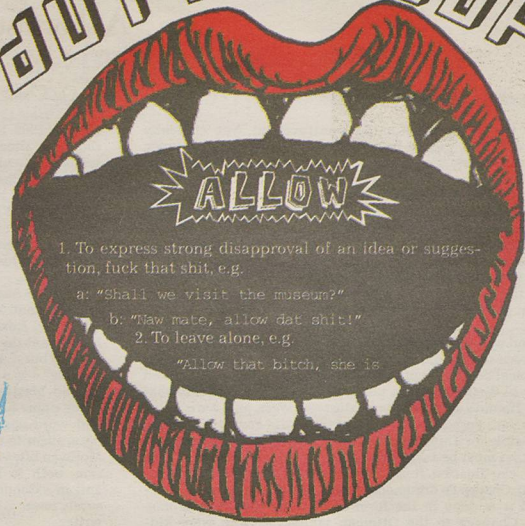


Aba and Daniel

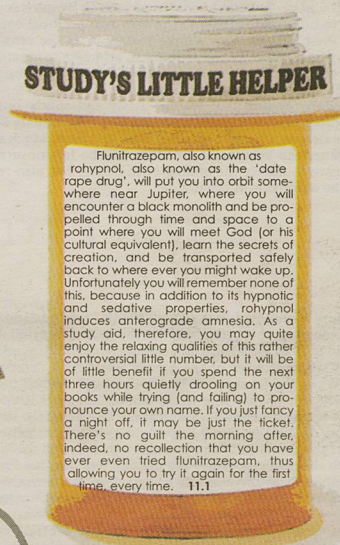
KNEEL BEFORE GORZILLA



DUTTY MOUTH



- 1. To express strong disapproval of an idea or suggestion, fuck that shit, e.g.
 - a. "Shall we visit the museum?"
 - b. "Taw mate, allow dat shit!"
- 2. To leave alone, e.g.
 - "Allow that bitch, she is



Flunitrazepam, also known as rohypnol, also known as the 'date rape drug', will put you into orbit somewhere near Jupiter, where you will encounter a black monolith and be propelled through time and space to a point where you will meet God (or his cultural equivalent), learn the secrets of creation, and be transported safely back to where ever you might wake up. Unfortunately you will remember none of this, because in addition to its hypnotic and sedative properties, rohypnol induces anterograde amnesia. As a study aid, therefore, you may quite enjoy the relaxing qualities of this rather controversial little number, but it will be of little benefit if you spend the next three hours quietly drooling on your books while trying (and failing) to pronounce your own name. If you just fancy a night off, it may be just the ticket. There's no guilt the morning after, indeed, no recollection that you have ever even tried flunitrazepam, thus allowing you to try it again for the first time, every time. 11.1



Ms. Rubella Valve reviews porn

TURD. TURD. TURD. TURD. TURD.

The scene is dark. We find ourselves in a German forest at night. As with most internet-intended pornographic clips, the camera is handheld and our view is slightly wobbly. Enter a priest with no pants, and a distressed nun. Not the opening scene you would expect for a film entitled "Church of Fudge". I don't speak German, and there are no subtitles, but it appears as though the nun has something on her mind, a weight bearing down on her chest. She's been a bad girl, but Father Faecal is here to help. No cheap cum shots, no big bouncing boobies on show, this film is art. The nun remains fully clothed, and gets down on her knees. Father Faecal begins her purification process. Turning his ass to her face and squatting slightly, he begins to defecate into her mouth. "Take, eat, this is the poo of Christ," Gross, perhaps? To us, maybe. But she fucking loves it. She gulps it down like it really is chocolate... a minute into it, she even starts rubbing it in her face. She can't get enough. I'm not even sure this is porn - isn't this supposed to make me horny? My mind wanders... how does one go number two for that long? He must have been on a fibre-rich diet. And do they rehearse these scenes? Or just have a quick walkthrough with the director and pray all goes well? Pardon the previous pun, but this is one clip Rubella Valve will not be book-marking.

MR. WLEFT'S TOP RECIPE

Whaddup y'all, Mr Wleft from the campus food-slot here. I've received a few complaints from some readers who demand more accessible, healthy recipes. I don't even know what those words mean, you crazy geekfreaks! I try to welcome you into my world, and that is how you repay me? To insult me to my face like some common gypsy goat? Or maybe to kill me?! Is that next? [Editors note: some content has been deleted] Ok kids, don't worry... I relax, I relax. I have a leetle bit more whisky and now I relax. So, I cook for you something easy, yes? Something even those big four-eyed freak geekazoids can enjoy. Take one cup of appreciation, four tablespoons of reality check, a heapful of the real world, then shove it up your ass! Hope you healthwimps enjoy that. And for my real fans, I leave you with a cocktail I discovered by chance. One pint beer, plus six shots of tequila, a handful of barbituates, and a few pubes for spice. Mmm, your guests will never know what hit 'em. See ya next week, psychos!



The Booker Prize

A shortlist of the Shortlist

The 'Reluctant Fundamentalist' by Mohsin Hamid

Gracing the cover of Hamid's controversial, yet critically acclaimed novel is praise from last year's Booker prize winner, Kiran Desai. Aside from both being contenders for one of the UK's most important literary awards, Hamid's prize hopeful and Desai's prize winner are both similar in their attempts to deal with the fundamental split between East and West. Hamid in particular chooses to juxtapose the two in the context of the War on Terror, using one man's experience as an illustration of their fundamental differences. As Desai points out in her review of Hamid's work, he engages in "constant negotiation of the political with the personal". Yet readers may find it hard to disengage their own political views from what the novel purports to present.

I found myself struggling as I read Hamid's piece. I felt a barrier between myself and the narrator, Changez. I riled against his stereotypical depictions of the 'self-centred American' and biased accounts of Western foreign policy. In fact, it must be said that many of Hamid's indictments against the West, and America in particular, are posed as if to suggest the entire country is directly responsible for Third World misfortune; a familiar accusation, but one that must be taken with a grain of salt in the absence of academic clarification. It isn't until reaching the latter half of the book that Changez's arguments strike a chord to a wider audience and it is done in the form of a subtly placed metaphor. Relating Changez to the Ottoman janissaries who were kidnapped from Christian families and trained to advance a Muslim empire, Hamid highlights the ways in which Changez's actions actually endanger his former home. He also demonstrates how the financial and professional benefits of joining Western society are used to blind individuals to the very real political consequences of their actions. This simple metaphor is the crux on which the entire novel rests and without it, attempts to create an empathetic character that reluctantly finds himself playing the role of 'fundamentalist', would fall flat.

The dramatic ending that Hamid deftly and subtly builds upon throughout his novel confirms to readers the ultimate confusion that exists as a barrier between East and West. Much like Changez's American companion, readers will be left unsure of how to interpret not only the ending of the novel but also relations with the other side of the divide.

Erin Orosco

Mr Pip by Lloyd Jones

Mr Pip, a story of survival on a remote South Pacific island, is Jones' first book to be published in the UK. Narrated by Matilda, who is 13 at the time, it is a coming of age tale set amid the difficult circumstances of the bloody war which overruns her island. When the teachers of Matilda's island flee for their lives, Mr Watts, the island's sole white inhabitant, takes it upon himself to continue the children's education. This takes the form of the reading of Dickens' Great Expectations as well as getting the adults of the community to come share their (often useless) wisdom with the children. With each passing day, Matilda finds herself becoming both increasingly wrapped up in the world of Pip, Dickens' protagonist, and more critical of her own situation.

The idea that through a reading of Dickens, Matilda can grow and mature, and become able to analyse the subtleties of her world, is convincingly portrayed. It is, however, supposed to be the central theme of Mr Pip - Jones doesn't succeed in making it so. It is vying with many other issues for attention; Matilda's physical and emotional isolation, the racial and political tensions which arise from the white/black divide as well as the impoverished island/rich mainland contrast. In the end, we get a little of everything, but nothing is really brought to fruition and thus the novel loses potency. Jones' attempt to end the novel by bringing it back to the notion that Mr Watts' reading of Great Expectations was Matilda's greatest teacher of life-lessons feels hollow and contrived.

Mr Watts finishes reading Great Expectations to the children on page seventy-nine of Mr Pip and it is from this point onwards that the novel begins to lose its impetus. Apart from a genuinely swift and shocking sequence of events in the last forty pages, the goings-on of the island often feel as though they are being related in a series of short, disconnected episodes with little sense of build-up or plot progression. The narrative bounces along happily enough, with more than a little charm, but the writing, apart from the odd sentence, fails to deliver the beauty or fluency which would really draw the reader in to Matilda's world or make us genuinely empathise with the struggles she faces.

Mr Pip is a nice read which contains some original ideas and explores, albeit superficially, some interesting ideas. As a shortlisted candidate for one of the world's most prestigious awards for fiction however, it comes as a bit of a surprise. Up against the likes of McEwan, if it can win, it will be an even bigger surprise.

Rahim Rahemtulla

On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan

Britain, 1962. Empire's end. Macmillan on the radio. "A time when a conversation about sexual difficulties was plainly impossible. But," as On Chesil Beach's maudlin hook continues, "it is never easy." McEwan has put Edward and Florence, two awkward virgins, in a drab hotel on a beach on their wedding night. A lovers' rendezvous with the arbitrariness of history awaits. I told you it was maudlin.

You do have to admire McEwan's sheer, forensic control over his two characters and his prose. Edward's disastrous coming over Florence at the novella's climax - "if his jugular had burst, it could not have seemed more terrible" - is a lesson in efficient style. So is an Old Master's decisive scene-setting of a rogue public hair. In fact, the writing is tone- and word-perfect, rising from slow motion naturalism to a precise scrutinious skewer as McEwan bites into his characters' self-deception, both in the wedding night's close-up and in extended flashback sequences. He is surely never going to get better than this as a writer.

Soon, however, the string-pulling grates and the control becomes too much. The characters' neuroses are over-explained, over-resolved. Florence - quietly imperious, but with a "visceral dread" of sex - never becomes the powerful riposte to Emma Bovary she could be. Edward is not even worth the bother of analysis. The result is a nasty, ponderous feeling of prurience, that this is a book McEwan did not really need to write.

McEwan has been called a creator of psychological "containers" within narrative "engines" rather than of characters within novels. On Chesil Beach continues the trend.

Joseph Cotterill

Darkmans by Nicola Barker

Darkmans is the latest offering from Nicola Barker, whose previous novels include Wide Open and Clear. Intriguing, disturbing, surreal, genuinely funny and suffused with dark exuberance, Darkmans validates Barker's reputation as one of the most original and talented contemporary British writers.

Nothing is as it seems in this memorable novel, which explores the idea that the past - personal and historical - can intrude into the present and distort individuals' actions without their consent. Ashford, a landscape dominated by bland new housing-estates, commercial outlets and other quotidian monuments of modernity, acts as backdrop to an array of ordinary yet bizarre characters.

Central to the narrative is Daniel Beede, a 'venerable' man disillusioned by his failure to save Ashford's historical sites. Other characters include a refugee with a morbid fear of lettuce, a female forger with seductive eyebrows and a precocious child who builds cathedrals from matchsticks. Weaving and capering through them is the dark presence and voice of John Scogin, a medieval jester whose idea of a risible prank is to lock beggars in a barn and set it on fire. His malicious influence on the characters leaves a trail of broken language, confusion and destruction in its wake.

A convincing sense of unease permeates Darkmans. Powerful, almost grotesque images - a scrawny terrier with paralysed hind legs, or mysterious bruises appearing on a woman's arms - appear throughout the text. Vital scenes are sometimes deliberately excluded so the reader shares the characters' bewilderment. The flow is also broken by interjections, often caustically amusing, from some other voice - but whose? Is it Scogin's, or the malicious but incisive 'inner-self' of each character? We are denied the comfort of knowledge. This powerful, disturbing atmosphere, combined with vividness of language and genuine insights makes Darkmans a remarkable work.

Yiyi Chen

The Gathering by Anne Enright

If I were to find one word to describe The Gathering by Anne Enright, it would be brave. And if I were asked to describe it further, I would say that it's not only brave, but frightfully clever and sparingly beautiful. The novel opens with the main character, Veronica, a housewife living in Dublin, finding out that her older brother, Liam, has died by drowning. What follows is essentially a family saga, starting in the past with the family's maternal grandmother, Ada Merriman, when she meets Lamb Nugent, her future landlord and the man she truly loves. Interspersed is the story of Veronica's trip to Brighton to pick up Liam's body and the wake that follows.

It's a brave book in that it tackles themes such as sex and family in a way that is completely uncompromising. In the hands of a lesser writer, Enright's approach could be considered vulgar and disrespectful. But Enright manages to slide away from such extremes using the wry irony she injects into Veronica's narration. The way Enright describes the family's history - a history dominated by lust and sexual dysfunction - is harsh and unflinching, and it feels like the only true, honest way to tell the story.

This is ironic considering that the book is written in the unreliable first person narrative. Veronica makes no secret that there are gaps in her memory. We never, for example, get a straight answer on whether or not Lamb Nugent and Ada Merriman had an affair, but we do know that the pair definitely desired each other, and their refusal to acknowledge that desire have ramifications that extend into Veronica's generation. Yet Enright also affects a balance in order to give the reader reason to believe Veronica's version of the truth.

And that leads me to say that it is a gorgeous book, because underneath it all, this is a story ultimately about the ties of love and family. Thoughtless and stupid as her family can be, it is clear that Veronica loves them, and she speaks in a voice that is both tender and brutal at the same time. Enright writes in terse language, inserting just enough detail to make this book a wonderful, earthy, riveting read.

In short, if The Gathering doesn't win the Booker Prize, then I'm going to eat Howard Davies' shorts.

Eunice Ng

And a short review of a book on the Longlist

Self-Help by Edward Docx

Maria Glover is dead. Screwed-up twins Gabriel and Isabella bury her in a powerfully imagined St Petersburg and then return to London and New York to self-destruct. Nicholas Glover, their evil witty Anthony Burgess gay dad - please read Self Help just to read Nicholas - sulks in Paris. Arkady, Maria's abandoned and impoverished pianist son gets ever closer to their lives.

Don't believe this ambitious and well-structured narrative. The Glovers do indeed think they're characters in an Anglo-Russian Highgate novel of family secrets - and very bravely Docx gambles the first half on readers putting up with Gabriel and Isabella's irritating non-problems - but this is just Self Help's conceit. Docx's weapon is the polished, overwrought and overthought writing style that follows the Glovers around, and which by the second half becomes a post-naff monument to itself. The prose isn't the Nabokov perfection it wants to be, but it does its job of hinting that taciturn Arkady, and Henry his heroin addict benefactor (a superb character and an honorary Russian), are the real heroes, much as Humbert Humbert's urbaneness distracts us from Lolita's basic heroinism.

Gabriel, the novel's axis (Docx can't quite keep Isabella from degenerating into so much narrative glue), obscenely fancies himself a neo-Russian Fatalist out of Fathers and Sons. Though the novel's first sentence has him "relieved to again be among the Russians," he shouldn't push it. Self Help, a Dickensian globalisation satire, belongs to them alone, and how half-Russian Docx deserves to flourish as a writer.

Rahim Rahemtulla

The Booker Men

Former Booker winner DBC Pierre has some talk for Daniel BYates

You won the Man Booker for *Vernon God Little*, nice one, 4 years on, what has winning and the subsequent raising of your profile changed, what has it left the same?

'Thanks. It has changed everyone around me but left me the same. Is that too existential?'

I don't think so, no. You have large cultural cache amongst the student population, why do you think it is that your work seems to speak so convincingly to students and young people?

'Who knows, but I hope it's that we share a disdain for much of what the last generations put together in terms of a world to live in, yet still a love of outrageous beauty underneath, and this grungy, ironic fortune running through it. Maybe we get along so well because we're sick together of all the taboos around the evidence of how crap some things are.'

There's a sense in which a novel is a very domineering form of expression, it's a one way communication which shuts up the reader. Do you ever wonder what it is that qualifies you to speak at such length at the expense of the voices of others?

'This is a fun angle to think of, but doesn't hold up: a novel is an artwork, and very few artworks are themselves parties to discussion. And, more than other common expressions which can be stumbled upon in the public domain, the novel is a purely voluntary thing. Notwithstanding any hangups that might be invoked about having to finish what you start, it remains voluntary for many individual pages. You invite a novel; I need no qualification as it costs your voice nothing. Write your own novel and shut me up. Essays are domineering. Novels are intimate.'

Your novels have been rightly praised for their acute and funny grasp on global themes. If the world was three weeks from ending, what would you do?

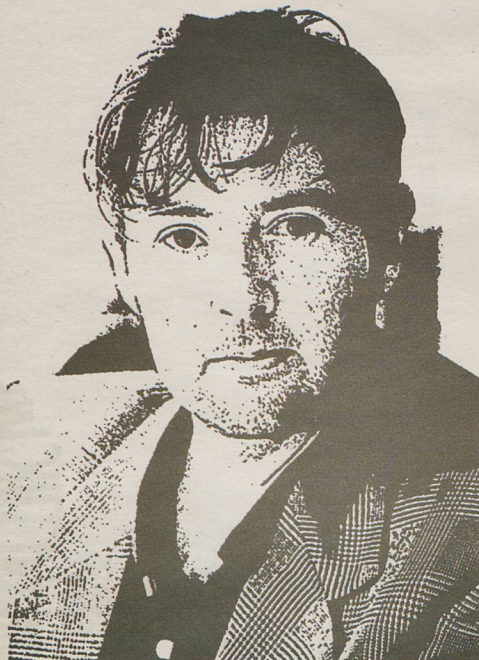
'Stock up on drugs and cigarettes and find a motorbike.'

What do you think other people would do?

'Sit around with guitars singing Kumbaya.'

You've climbed a mountain, you've traversed valleys, all in order to find this box. You open the box, what is inside it?

'In my dream world? A missing last page from the Bible that says 'Only Kidding'. But you well know in reality, though we oozed blood on our trek to the box, it would have an expired Boots voucher and letters with finger-paintings from a first form day trip eight months earlier.'



Talking Booker with Howard Davies

Howard Davies, for those who don't know, is both the director of the LSE and the most recent Chair of Judges for the prestigious Man Booker Prize for Fiction. On the day of our interview, we're sitting in his spacious office on the first floor of Columbia House. Outside, it's a rare sunny day in London. In Houghton Street, people are milling around in the pandemonium that is Freshers' Fair. Davies has just come back from it and notes the Literature Society 'were very bouncy,' although more than that he could not say.

I ask him how he became involved the Booker Prize.

'I think they asked me,' replies Davies, 'because [the organizers] usually like to have as the chairman someone who is not straight from the literary world.'

As he might be the first to admit Davies isn't even indirectly from the literary world, but he has a keen interest which extends beyond that of a layman. He studied History with French at university, the French component being a French Literature course. For the last fifteen years, he has reviewed in journals like *Quarto* and the *Literary Review*, and he occasionally writes literary reviews for the *Times*. He's also a trustee of the Tate and - something he has had cause to repeat often of late - continues to read a novel a week as has been his habit for the last forty years. And it's not just his perceived underqualification that has proved an issue, there's another aspect that Davies fully admits has been something of a challenge.

'Basically you had five months [to read the one hundred and ten submissions]... you have to read 5 novels a week, which is a bit like training for a marathon really. You think you can't do it, but you get to it and then you just press on.'

Overall, he was impressed by the submissions, and noted that the non-English writers tended to take more risks, tackling bigger themes and issues than their less interesting domestic competitors. Davies cites in particular the short-listed novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. He says that he was hard pressed to find an English novel which tackled a theme as daunting as that. He was also concerned about how few English novels dealt with 'the world of work'.

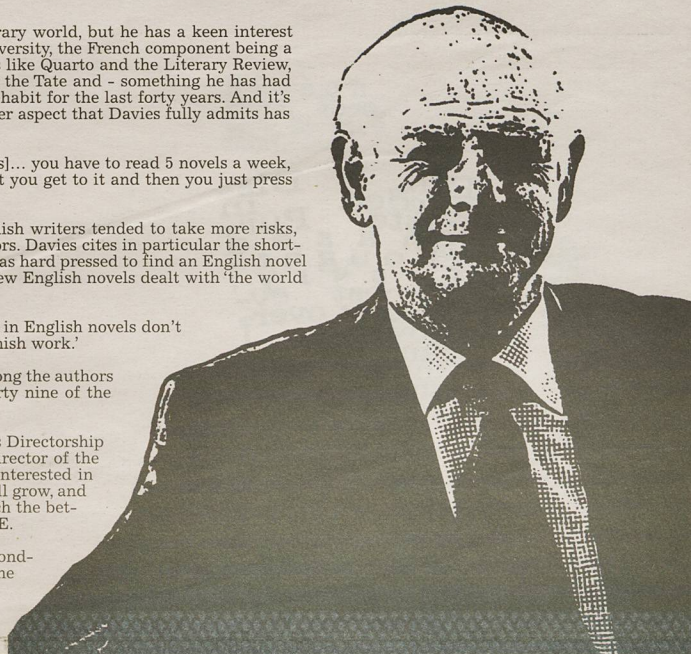
'There were very few novels about credible people and jobs. Most characters in English novels don't seem to have a job...they seem to be interested with what happens when you finish work.'

If that sounded a little stuffy Davies was also critical of the gender ratios among the authors submitting work. He'd expected the ratio to be fifty-fifty, whereas a mere thirty nine of the overall one hundred and ten submissions were written by women.

When asked to relate his work as Chair of Judges for the Booker Prize to his Directorship at the LSE, he said, 'I think the fact that people thought it was OK that the Director of the LSE could do it says a lot. In the very least, it shows that we're not all just interested in accounting and finance.' He hopes that the literary and arts scene at the LSE will grow, and if his involvement with the Booker Prize can help facilitate that growth, so much the better. Perhaps this will encourage Davies to pledge more money to the arts at LSE.

In his own words, literature 'broadens your emotional range, admittedly second-hand... because how many marking and dramatic experiences can you have [in one lifetime]... I do believe that because of this, people who don't read fiction miss out on a lot.'

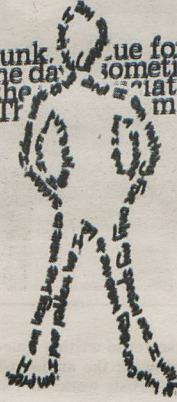
by Eunice Ng and Daniel BYates



Window
 Window
 Window
 Window

I AM THE FUTURE

Steps. Rush to lecture. Stumble out of the pub drunk. Queue for the cashpoint. Queue again for
 Killing time, or salvaging it. Not enough time in the day. Sometimes think when I see them rush-
 who am I? Or what am I? Houghton Street. Even the...ation of this title I have been given
 these words. Say me? I know they are not. Then I ask, who are you?



I AM

Confused about where I am
 Bashful and introverted
 Today I'm feeling slightly
 you were preparing me for
 I know they are not. Then I ask, who are you?

STRAIGHT CUT SELF
 NOB

Pigeon:
 Food. Food:
 Gimme food.

Pigeon:
 Food. Food:
 Gimme food.

Pigeon:
 Food. Food:
 Gimme food.



It's almost time for us to ring Ross Phillips, guitarist of *Hard-Fi*, and I'm waiting for Daniel to arrive with the microphone recorder. I re-read the email in the PartB inbox from *Hard-Fi*'s publicist: "You need to call him at 2:30pm - the band are doing interviews all day, so if you miss the slot you're basically stuffed!" I glance at the clock, it reads 2:38pm. Daniel finally bursts through the door, and once we're set up and dialling Ross' number, its 2:43 pm. It rings, we wait nervously, and he answers.

"Hi Ross, PartB here, sorry to keep you waiting."

"Hey guys, that's alright, don't worry about it."

You would think that with millions of records sold around the world, two number one albums down their sleeve, sell out gigs in the UK and abroad under the belt, he might be a little bit of a diva. In reality, that view couldn't be further from the truth. Determined to not let success get to their heads, they even opted to record their second album in their taxi rank converted studio which they

invested a few hundred quid in to record their debut.

"What's on your rider?" PartB waits in anticipation to hear the endless list of ridiculously extravagant demands we would make if in their position - seedless peeled grapes, Grey Goose vodka, Colombian coke, your first born child...

"Becks. Imported beer. Lots of imported beer. But no whisky. Whisky's banned."

Why?

"Cos it's fight juice, innit?"

Ah, the intricacies of the *Hard-Fi* mind. From their brief and basic rider it is clear you can take the boys out of Staines, but you cannot take Staines out of the boy.

We ask for his best rock-'n-roll hangover cure.

"I think you have to embrace the hangover. There's no miracle cure, really. Just lots of water."

So it seems even rock bands just ride it out like the rest of us. Perhaps someone should tell Ross of the miracles of Berocca. We ask Ross what the most embarrassing song on his iPod is.

"*Fine Young Cannibals*."

And what did the boys do before their band hit the big time?

"I worked in a hi-fi shop that sold cheap speakers. The other boys just did bits and bats really. We've always been in bands trying to make a living doing that. Kai worked for Rentokil and we used to tour in his van."

So it seems there is hope for everyone. We ask him who his favourite rock legend is.

As we con-

jure up images of Jimi and Kevin Shields in our mind, Ross responds, "Well, it's gotta be Elvis, innit? What with his fried banana sandwiches and that."

What if you attempted to bring Elvis back from the dead to be best man at your wedding, but got the incantation wrong and got Barry Manilow instead?

"I'd have to ask him to leave."

Kerry Katona of Atomic Kitten fame has just been given an online time capsule by the 100 Year Project (www.the100yearwebsite.com). What would be in *Hard-Fi*'s time capsule?

"Bottles of Stella Artois. AC/DC's '74 Jailbreak', and a twenty pack of Bensons."

Hard-Fi play We m b l e y Arena Dec. 18th.

JIM VALLANCE - WHO?

By Ben Lamy and Lois Jeary

According to his website, at some point in the last thirty years Jim Vallance lost count of the number of songs he has written in his career, and consequently does not know the amount of royalties he is owed. To reclaim his earnings he began to research his own work online, compiling an impressive list which demonstrates the wide scope of his song writing. It wouldn't be surprising if no-one else knew the body of Vallance's work, as it is the artist and not the songwriter who is identified with the track - think of 'Summer of 69' and you think of Bryan Adams, not Jim Vallance.

"I met Bryan in a music shop in January 1978, where we were introduced by a mutual friend. We had a quick chat and decided to get together and try writing songs. Bryan came to my house the following week, and we spent the next eleven years together. We became very good friends, almost like brothers. Then we had a falling out and didn't speak for years. Now we're friends again, which is much better, don't you think?" Vallance also speaks highly of the other artists he has worked with: "Steven Tyler's a true original, creatively and as a person. He's highly intelligent, but in some ways his development was arrested at an early age. He still has a child-like wonderment, which greatly fuels his creativity. He's a wonderful human being. I adore

Steven."

He claims the secret to writing timeless songs is in knowing the audience's expectations of the artists work: "If I'm writing for Aerosmith, then a small amount of research, like listening to their previous albums, will tell me what their audience expects from them. Of course, you want to introduce some new ideas into the mix, but it's important not to stray too far from the recipe." Admitting to being "insanely in love with all sorts of music", what does he think are the best song lyrics ever written? "Very tough question! I must say that 'End of the Innocence' (by Don Henley) is a beautifully crafted lyric. The words sound good together, and they also mean something. Same for The Beatles' 'Across the Universe'. Lovely words, although I'm not quite sure what they mean."

If he could change one thing about the music industry he asks "Please, could you pay for the songs?", which is not an unreasonable request from a man whose livelihood depends solely on the royalties from his works, with no alternate sources of income from touring, merchandise or the other trappings of fame that recording artists can enjoy. Whilst the recording artists get the fame and appreciation for the songs they perform, the songwriter gets only their name in small print on the album sleeve. Vallance does not consider this alienation from the products of his creativity a negative thing, recognising that "often, with 'credit' comes some degree of fame, and with fame comes loss of privacy. Once you let that genie out of the bottle, there's no putting him back. I much prefer taking a back seat - no one knows who I am." Marx would have a field day.

THE GO! TEAM, SATIN PEACHES AND OPERATOR PLEASE: NME FRESHERS TOUR

By Simon Wang

Ironically, it needs to be noted that there seemed to be a distinct lack of freshers at the London date of the NME Freshers' Tour. The audience seemed to consist of confused businessmen who had inadvertently wandered in to the Astoria and aged indie/electronica lovers, rendering the average age of those in attendance somewhat higher than the average fresher. Still, the atmosphere was buzzing with chatter and anticipation as the first band rolled onto the stage, Australian Gold Coast five piece band Operator Please. Undoubtedly, they were a very good opening band as they had a contagious energy which got the crowd riled up. However, although they were very enthusiastic and bought a

range of sounds into the mix (I really liked the violinist), a lot of their songs seemed repetitive and only one song stuck to memory (their headline song, 'Just A Song about Ping Pong'), and by the end of their set the crowd had dissipated. This wasn't helped by the second supporting act, The Satin Peaches, whose disjointed chords made me, as well as several members of the crowd back away slowly to the bar area in a vague hope that a few more units of alcohol may improve the situation.

However, there was electricity in the air as the anticipation built before Brighton based seven piece dual drummer band the Go! Team jumped onto the stage. The energy that they radiated seemed everlasting and this was definitely reflected in the crowd, who seemed more and more excited as the night progressed. Lead vocalist Ninja was energetic throughout the night, bouncing along to the band's anthems like a high-school cheerleader. The band was backed up by a continuous video, which changed and flowed and moved with the songs and beat, seemingly dancing along with the band. The music was (as expected from a band with two drummers) extremely rhythmic; however they did mix up the music playing from pure melody to pure voice to pure rhythm, which certainly made the night more interesting.

Log onto www.nme.com to find out more about the artists, or type in <http://www.nme.com/blog/index.php?blog=108> to check out the tour blog.

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angustse reviews control, the new film about joy division

CONTROL YOURSELF

You don't have to know who the person portrayed is, let alone love him, in order to enjoy a biopic. The simple answer is that all biopics feature a dramatic life. Rags-to-riches, rise-and-fall: any juicy script with wide contrasts, coupled with an A-list cast, does the trick in capturing all audiences beyond the hardcore fanbase. With a music biopic, it's a no-brainer to include a greatest hits package of performances, either tightly choreographed or inserted appropriately at certain peaks and troughs of the person's life, maximising the dramatic potential.

Control makes no claim in being groundbreaking, but it is still refreshing. A biopic about the brief but revered 70s rock band Joy Division (the predecessor to the highly influential 80s dance-punk group New Order), it charts the beginning and the end of the group. Adapted from the memoir *Touching From a Distance* by Curtis' wife Deborah, this is the theatrical debut of famed photographer and music video director Anton Corbijn, the man responsible for creating the 'image' of Depeche Mode and U2.

The essential events are covered: how Ian and Deborah met and married young; how the band met Tony Wilson, co-founder of Factory Records which they eventually signed up with; Ian's epilepsy and increasing disillusionment with married life compounded by Deborah's pregnancy; Ian's mistress Annik Honoré comes into his life; and finally Ian's emotional breakdown, struggling between his illness and his conflicted love for two women.

It's the details that lift this biopic beyond the norm. Shot in gorgeous black and white, Corbijn captures the environment and atmosphere of growing up in Macclesfield and the Manchester scene. Some contemporary music - David Bowie, Lou Reed - is chimed in the opening. Even the accusations of the band's neo-Nazism are, perhaps cheekily, hinted. Most importantly, the actors learnt and played the songs, and with a quick YouTube browse you could tell they are note-perfect. These sparks of musical genius are deliberately contrasted with the monotonous nowhere land, both in how the film is shot but also its gritty, commonplace settings.

Control has its problems. It feels curiously slow soon after Annik is introduced, although this recovers later when the domestic strife becomes full blown. The predictable use of 'Love Will Tear Us Apart' (their 'highlight') is disappointing. And although many bands - for example the 'New Romantics' (and now the emos), Interpol -

have professed Joy Division being a source of inspiration, it is hard to see, particularly for those who aren't music fans, why they mattered in the first place. Snippets of their songs are merely interspersed in the film, and the performances are few and low-key.

But Corbijn's intentions are far nobler than a simple hackjob to make a spectacular advert showcasing the band. His decisions in filming, from the precision in details and shooting in black in white, culminates into the effect as if we, the audience, are witnessing a moment in time, a historical footprint in each scene. An early scene focusing on the audience, including the band, in awe at a Sex Pistols gig encapsulates the intensity of experience which Corbijn has equally conveyed during the band's performances.

And if you aren't persuaded by the music, *Control* is also a character study focusing on Ian, a man trying to break out and make a living with his talent but is crumbling inside. A music film

stripped of the glamour and excess rock star clichés, and focusing instead on the psychological turmoil and domestic life of the protagonist, is the right story to tell.

Samantha Morton, something of a British indie goddess alongside Tilda Swinton, gives an excellent performance as the childhood sweetheart shattered by Ian's infidelity. Newcomer Sam Riley, sporting the haircut and dance moves of Ian Curtis but also having an uncanny resemblance to Pete Doherty, is outstanding as a sensitive figure, worn out and stuck in circumstances beyond his control. Supporting cast is equally efficient - Craig Parkinson as Tony Wilson and Toby Kebbell as the band's manager provide comic relief, with one scene playing a great inside joke about the legendary record label. A cameo by punk poet John Cooper Clarke brings a pleasant shock to the uninitiated.

Control is a labour of love for Corbijn. Having left the Netherlands in 1979 to work for NME, Joy Division was one of the first bands he covered and loved. There is no other person worthy to carry this fitting tribute to the band and the tragic singer. And for those who had no clue who they were, hearing the opening of 'Transmission' just might make you want to discover them.

joydiv.org massive joy division datamonster, all of the knowledge
corbijn.co.uk anton's officious site, lots of good content
home.wxx.nl/~frankbr/joyextro.html excellent and overlooked interview with the band from Extro sci-fi magazine vol.5
www.joy.com mining machinery, check their RS20s Roof Control Support System

FILM 2

FRIEZE ART FAIR

As the leaves on the trees in London's second largest Royal park turn a gentle yellow, and drifting from the trees form a ruffled patina over the mannered arcades and avenues, London's largest art fair lumbers in on its annual Autumn placement. Housed in a gigantic weatherless hunk of structurally reinforced canvas, Frieze is a monolithic art enterprise wherein millions of pounds worth of the world's most sought-after contemporary art is devoured by some of the world's wealthiest people.

Frieze's rise to prominence in the Art world's calendar has been nothing if not prodigious. Started only five years ago by a magazine of limited international repute, it has become a seasonal magnet for the 'international wealthy set' who bring immense buying power to traditionally moribund Autumnal London. As Alex Israel of global supergallery Hauser & Wirth confided to me, 'Frieze is becoming more than big business, it's becoming enormous business' and certainly with 151 of the world's most wealthy galleries shifting an estimated 40 million pounds worth of art over 4 days, this is a mercantile event on a par with Jesus's temple or the most prestigious of arms fairs.

The experience on offer to the financially-ordinary visitor is a mixed one. Frieze accommodates over 15,000 visitors a day in what is basically a tent. Rammed in like maltreated cattle visitors troop from stall to stall in an overly-intimate conga line, and the continual clipping of heels and accidental shoulderings become a sapping ordeal. What's more the currents and forceful eddies of people qualitatively interfere with one's ability to view of the work on display, being at the same time an impediment to free movement and an unwanted force of propulsion, forever preventing you from getting decent sight of pieces and pushing you past ones that might deserve lingering appraisal. In fact, outside of a hurricane-swept moor in the night, or say, the surface of the sun, the Frieze Art fair provides possibly the worst conditions under which to look at art. One is reduced to looking for cute one liners and advertorial gags, things quickly grasped are the only things grasped. Whilst all narrative, ambiguity and subtler meaning are lost in the throng.

For pieces to succeed under these conditions they either need to be so bad you can totally ignore them,

danielyates encounters the art capital in our fair capital

or physically imposing enough to transcend the human mass and limited space. On the latter of these terms Ann Veronica Janssens' *Sans Titre (Provisoire)* was a palpable hit. A vast ceiling-high stack of LED tickers, of the type used at sport stadiums, deliver a text-based version of international news in a scrolling digitized scuttle, a wry examination of the media's reductive role in political knowledge and the conditions of the eternal-present. Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dagset's untitled piece consisted of a lengthy L-shaped corridor crammed with hundreds of small white frames each containing a snap of their lives, their friends, their friend's penises, their friend's penises on trains, a ragged and phallic pictorial biography, a facebook photo-record transposed into the sanctified space of a gallery. There was a rather poor display from many British artists. David

pellung way we have come to expect. Apparently Jake and Dinos Chapman had been doodling on people's banknotes, defacing the Queen's head in a borderline treasonable manner. Certainly fun and Dali would've approved, but indicative of the-lack of quality.

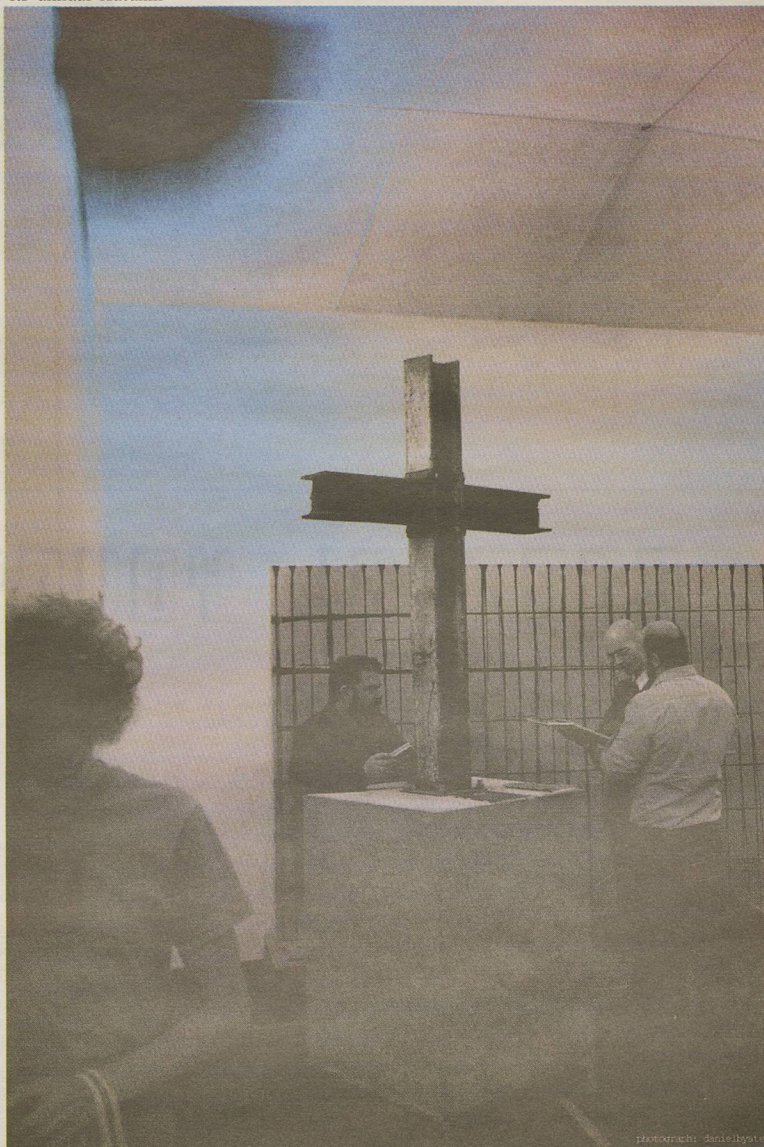
As a friend cutely observed, Frieze is an 'art mall' which in itself is a rather depressing thing, but even if you are to accept that an appropriate response to art is to buy it, then you still confronted with a mall selling thousands of things, none of which you can afford. Jonathan Horowitz's kitschy figurine bearing the inscription 'millionaires are people too' was the perfect tongue-in-cheek supplication to the people for whom this fair was intended. If millionaires were made to feel welcome, the rest of us were treated a bit like tramps outside a yacht-shop, allowed to hang around for a bit, getting a brief glimpse of things way beyond our financial means before getting moved on. In the face of this reality, and as a measure of Frieze's runaway financial success, many gallery people I spoke to were anxious to promote the idea of inclusivity. Maureen Paley of the Maureen Paley Gallery sounded assured when she told me that 'this year there has been a definite shift in the balance of emphasis from buyer to viewer. The range of scene has been much more than you might associate with the commerce of the fair.' But in truth her insistence sounded hollow in the light of her gallery's aggressive branding, five figure price tags and horde of sales reps.

Frieze is a place in which one can marvel at the extent to which capital has penetrated the art world, and the extent to which the art world has bent over to accommodate it. The Saab stall, in which a decidedly ironic show model car was flanked by some attendant decorative catalogues, appeared to be taken as a normative presence. Not a dissenting word was to be heard when the BMW logo was shamelessly visually-matched with the final moving circle of Oliver Payne and Nick Relp's meditative filmic take on Mondrian. The idea of confronting capital is a nostalgic glimmer, that is dismissed with slightly embarrassed shrugs by an art world that long ago commodified financial dissent, and recently got bored of the irony that entailed.

When Tony Ousler can flog old television remotes for £50 a pop, and the critical presence smiles indulgently as one might smile at a child who asks why people have to own things, then something has gone awry with the capability of art to hold to account the processes that have come to shape and underpin it.

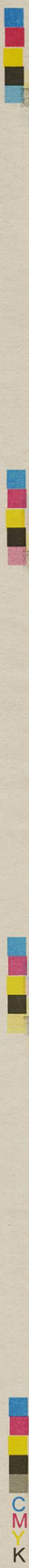
There's a very real sense in which the aforementioned child has had its teeth kicked in by a playground bully and may need something more than an indulgent smile to address its lack.

blogs.guardian.co.uk/art/2007/10/why_frieze_is_a_gold_mine.html to be plugged into the electricity of money is apparently exciting. <http://www.forloveandmoney.org.uk/> the excellent Resonance FM's podcast take on Friezeconomics http://www.db.com/en/content/company/headlines_6895.htm vague details of cultural appropriation undertaken by the Deutsche Bank Education Space at Frieze



Photograph: SerielleSystem

Shrigley's conceptually immobile set of paintings were nothing to write home about, as were Gilbert & George's embarrassingly self-parodic forays into desktop publishing. Sarah Lucas's unprepossessing photographic self-portrait sagged limply, her Frieze presence a long way from her legendary Frieze one. The exception proved to be Anish Kapoor's *Inout*, a deceptively energetic blob of plastic, organic and gloopy but with very delicate form and sparkly surface, playing with depth and reflection in the com-



YOU ARE WHAT YOU WEAR

holliceastman helps you mould yourself into the LSE stereotypes

With Freshers' week subsiding and the beer goggles finally clearing from your eyes, finding your identity at university can be a fearful prospect. A clean, fresh, and dauntingly blank canvas lay ahead of you. Utilising clothing to shape your identity is hardly a revolutionary concept; nonetheless finding ones place is a sometimes difficult manoeuvre. So if you're new to LSE and are searching for some guidance here are four inspiring stereotypes to lend a helping hand;

The Rah: A standard instillation of any British university, the Rah is usually spotted in a crowd, jabbering about Daddies credit card, her pursuit of the latest Juicy sweats and how Tarquin hasn't responded yet, and what to wear to Mahiki tonight whilst glaring at her Blackberry. You don't have to be landed gentry to get this look, just garnish yourself with a large scarf, as ethnic and gap yearesque looking as possible, a pair of skinny jeans, your school leavers hoodie, Pearls, an over-



sized shoulder bag, and a pair of Uggs. Big hair is vital, crowned, of course with the largest **Nicole Ritchie** inspired sunglasses you can get your hands on. Ohh and a t a n , although a close approximation to an orange should try to be avoided. **T h e I n v e s t m e n t Banker protégé:** If you think that the Hedge fund society was founded in honour of **Charlie Dimmock** then this may not be your bag. Dressed in a suit, even for a 9am lecture on a Monday when everyone else appears to have opted for staying in their pyjamas, with laptop and FT in clutched in hand, the Investment banker is spotted unnerv-

ingly close to the lecturer. Whilst the rest of the student body may view checking Facebook as the best use of the library computers the future I.B is more concerned with his stocks. Fear not, to get Investment banker style access to a signing on bonus is not necessary, throw on your best suit - open collar for casual occasions, your shiniest shoes and your laptop bag and you're ready to go.

The General Course student: Usually freshly arrived from the US of A, a General Course student is usually spotted by the name of their American University blazed across every item of clothing, be it a hoodie, T-shirt, shorts, baseball hat, tracksuit bottoms or scarf. To this extent it can be a hard style to replicate as covering yourself in vast amounts of LSE embossed clothing would fail to have the desired effect. An alternative way to recreate General Course chic would be to simply adorn a shirt (which must be described as an Oxford) or something Polo, teamed with a pair of straight jeans and either Haviانا's (regardless of the weather) or a multi-coloured boat shoe. Then just added the phrase "Mad Chill" to



your vocabulary and transformation complete.

The Rude Boy: If you have a passion for all things Gangsta and think that Sean Coombs is a fashion designing genius then this may be the style for you. Rude Boys are usually to be found "cotching" outside the Library in large groups, but Vodka Island is the ideal spotting location. Luckily whether you're actually from the 'hood or just from Harrow, the Rude Boy approach to fashion is easily interpreted; baggy jeans worn with an extremely logo-ed T-shirt, a zip up Hoodie and some form of large sports shoe. Next ice yourself with a single stud earring and a Puffy style necklace. Properly preened hair is key to this look, think lots of gel, spikes and if you really want to go all the way, maybe a few highlights. Finally start referring to your friends as "Bruv" and your ready to cotch with the best!

If none of the above float your boat worry not. Conformity is overrated. Embrace your own identity, whether Gap year chic or a passion for post Nu-rave neon's. Expressing yourself in your own way is vital for your own happiness, so chuck on that sequin head band and those flowery Crocs you always wanted to buy. It's your canvas, it's up to you!

STYLE

WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?

josheller goes in search of identity and finds socks

Anyone fighting through the hordes of people on Houghton street or frankly anywhere in this insanely crowded university will inevitably come to the conclusion that LSE is packed full of people. Students are trying to establish their identity in teeming campuses across the country, LSE though, exists in the heart of the UK's busiest city, making the search that much harder.

Considerations of identity are perhaps most important (whether they realise it or not) to first year undergrads. It is a harsh fact that the first few weeks of freshers can be absolutely horrible. Obviously meeting new people is great, and everything is lovely and all exciting and wonderful and amazing etc. Yet the struggle for identity means being thrown into a group of new people can be hell, particularly if you're forced to live with them. For it's really in halls where the battle for identity escalates into a full blown nuclear fucking war. Fresh from school most have probably never lived away from home before (except perhaps if you were building African children's orphanages in South East Asia or you've "done" South America). Now in a totally new peer group, the shared struggle for individual identity is painful, difficult and to all intensive purposes basically crap. Many will try and establish themselves from the get go, using every conversation to slip in hints of how political they are, or casually remind people how they're so chilled out and easy going. People frequently forgo the hints and are one step away from screaming "I'm really really left

wing!!" into your face. Those who are shyer than others, intimidated by the people exclaiming their characteristics, can feel even less willing to socialise and retreat further into their shell. Some find it easier to give up on the fight altogether and cling to a group with utterly generic and non-confrontational characteristics. These



groups are the easiest to spot, ignoring any attempt at individualism they all go on the same fucking pub crawls wearing the same fucking t-shirts, drinking out of each other's crotches until they're hammered enough to try and convince themselves they're enjoying it. It's not all bad though, it gets easier, and you do become more confident and more secure. Although some advice might be to find people you actually like and spend time with them, rather than just clinging to people because they're there. But the truth

is that even vastly experienced second years, third years and beyond, are often fighting to assert their identity. Practically everyone is scrambling to be part of a group or be associated with something they feel their personality requires, be it a sports team, a society or just a group of friends. This obviously isn't a bad thing. It's nice to

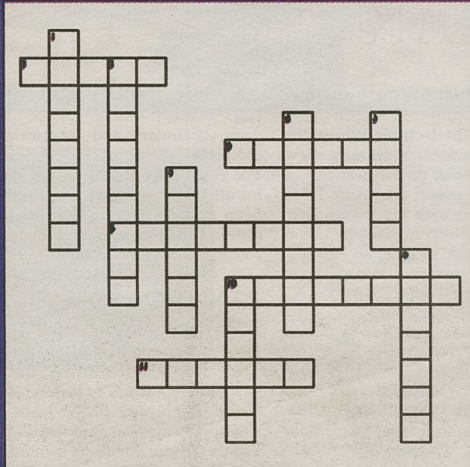
have a group that you feel you belong to. If it's based around a common interest then that just makes it easier. Trying to establish an identity isn't necessarily a bad thing at all. It's the honing of that identity as an end in and of itself that is really quite tragic. Joining societies for the sole reason that you want people to notice you're in them. Spending time with people so that others will see that you spend time with those people. That isn't an identity; it's a perception, and a pretty soulless existence at that. It is easy to see that some individuals are more individual than other individuals. There are those people who have a stronger identity. They are more recognizable than

everyone around them. What it is that gives people strength of identity is much harder to distil than one may suspect. A lengthy study (cursory glance) indicates that it isn't necessarily a boorish and loud personality that has strength of identity. Quiet and reserved people can have it as well. It seems that any character that stands apart from the crowd is on identity steroids. An easy way to set yourself apart from the crowd is to look different from it. People who wear weird clothes are always considered to have strong identities.

This leads me to talk about something of which I have not one clue; clothes. I guess I understand the fashion as art idea, but surely no one would assert that fashion is simply about "looking good"? Is it not the case that almost the whole point of fashion is identity? You associate with (or absolutely reject) certain groups and trends. I don't think it's as simple as a binary situation; fashionable or not, it is an identity that you're wearing. Is it a bad thing that people wear certain clothes so they are perceived a certain way? Perhaps not, although maybe it is a bad thing that people perceive others in a certain way because they wear certain clothes. Indeed, I myself am not oblivious to this. I wear odd socks, partly because I don't really see the point of wearing matching socks, mostly because who can be arsed to actually sort through socks? But maybe a little bit because then people will know that my identity is being the kind of person that wears odd socks.

GRANT

C-WORD



Last issue: Email: thebeaver.parth@tse.ac.uk for a personalised list of solutions

across

- 2. As George Michael says, you gotta have this. (5)
- 6. Not just another word for vagina. (6)
- 8. What we are in search of in this issue. (8)
- 10. "Smoke and a..." this. Also Breakfast in the morning. (7)
- 11. First name of our director. (6)

down

- 1. You cannot travel without it. (8)
- 3. According to SWPS, George W is the number one. (9)
- 4. What some artists do with a brush. (8)
- 5. Culture including hip hop, soul. Also, not rural. (5)
- 7. Precedes the words "Don't move!" in armed robberies. (6)
- 9. Founder of deconstruction. (7)
- 10. Arr. Peg Leg. (6)

LSE in LOVE

You think you're gorgeous. Absolutely gorgeous. And I told you so one drunken evening in the tuns. You thought I wouldn't remember but I do. Call me!

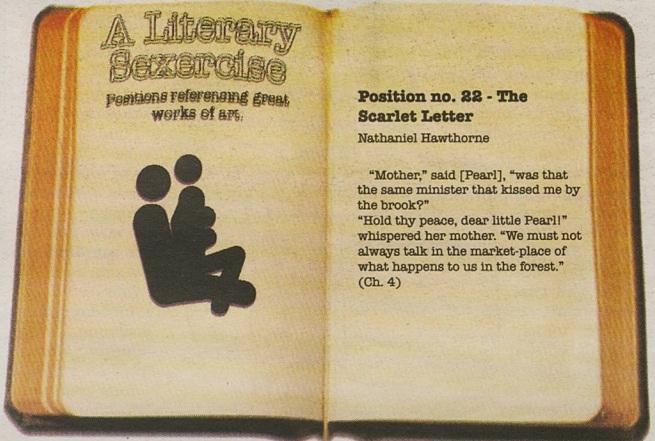
You pressed yourself against me in the Old Building lift. Was that a gun in your pocket or were you happy to meet me? Let's do it again sometime. With a real gun.

You touched me in the most special of places. My testicles. maybe one time we could touch each other at the same time and on purpose, maybe at a bus stop for 7 minutes?

You met at vodka island. You were sinking, I was floating your boat. The biologist from Imperial tried to grab your molecules and I stepped down. I regret that now.

You baby I love your way, every day. Wanna be with you night and day. Everyday. This cheesy song is more than just our inside joke, its the truth.

You met you in prison in 1978. You were damp and had killed that prostitute, I was in for parking offences. We made a pact whereby I gave you my money and things. My bottom is lonely boy please.



Position no. 22 - The Scarlet Letter

Nathaniel Hawthorne

"Mother," said [Pearl], "was that the same minister that kissed me by the brook?"
 "Hold thy peace, dear little Pearl!" whispered her mother. "We must not always talk in the market-place of what happens to us in the forest."
 (Ch. 4)

Ask Auntie Shaw REMIX



Salut, comrades. This week I penetrate the reifying technological petrification of the Society of the Spectacle as I immerse myself in the rigorous critical analysis of the 20th Century French intelligentsia. The time has come for you too to take the plunge; cast off your bourgeois inhibitions (and clothes), for this is the end of the dialectic, and that can only mean one thing: sexytimes.

Dear Auntie,
 I've been dating my bird for three months but she won't put out. She wants to wait until we are in love so it'll be "special". Could she be ill?
 Sincerely,
 Horny Young Man Eager4 Nookie

My dear H.Y.M.E.N., the history of sex in the west is not simply one of repression, condemnation; the tyranny of the pulpit and the confessional. Instead, this "repression" forms part of our modern discourses on sex, discourses which rather than repress sexuality have in fact contributed to the complex machinery for producing truths of sex and its pleasures, to be embodied in 'sexuality'. In contrast to the societies of China, Japan, Rome, and Arabo-Muslim nations which granted themselves the *ars erotica*, in which pleasure is not defined in relation to the permitted or the forbidden, the *scientia sexualis* of the west can certainly be frustratingly counter-revolutionary. Your only hope is to study the advanced seduction techniques of M. Jagger, who documented methods for rendering any female "Under My Thumb". That - or try buying her doubles instead of singles. Gin especially good.
 Yours, Auntie Foucault

Auntie,
 I am holding my iPhone and masturbating furiously. The skin has turned red and it stings. Could I be developing an infection?
 Regards,
 Really Actually Seriously Hurts

Friend R.A.S.H., in the reified society of the spectacle, satisfaction no longer comes from the use of abundant commodities, but in the recognition of their value as commodities. Your religious devotion to Apple reveals a naked Steve Jobs as your Christ, your only use to him the fundamental use of psychic submission. Thus madness reappears in the posture which pretends to fight it. The only prescription is sudocrem and lube, then death.
 Best, Auntie Debord

Auntie,
 I have just moved to London for to study. So far all the boys I have met are pale weedy specimens with acne and over-considered haircuts. Where are all the Pete Dohertys?
 Have we been sold a lie?
 Love,
 1st year, Sociology

Yes, my girl, like many before you, you have come to the vulgarian citadel in the hopes of finding true love, a Doherty or a Gallagher or a Daltrey or a McCartney to call your own; only to realise that the idea of swinging London is an illusion! The source of this malaise can be traced to Beatlemania, a project devised during the period of decolonisation, when a crumbling British Empire meant that, soon, little England would be exposed as a damp Conservative backwater on the edge of Europe. England's ruling class determined, correctly, that the Internationalist movement sweeping Europe was drawing ever-increasing numbers of that most precious reproductive commodity to the Continent: Swedish girls. In an deft manoeuvre, they devised a neo-Imperialist plot to ensnare these Scandinavian beauties, famed for their skills in reproduction. Appropriating the rhythms and chords of black American music, they trained four young Etonian agents in the mannerisms of the Liverpudlian proletariat, and

unleashed this creation upon the world, brainwashing the nubile, maternal girls of Sweden (and beyond) with the lie-dream of cool, rebellious chic and rock'n'rolligion. This mode of production firmly established, the machine continues to propagate the lie-dream through the weekly music press and hit parade. Flee, while you still have the breath to run.
 Love, Auntie Sartre

Dear Auntie,
 I was a young boy who had big plans. Now I'm just another econ undergrad. I'm just a grouch wanking on the couch, the world owes me so fuck me! Please?
 3rd year, Econ

An existentialist perspective enables us to understand how biological and economic conditions led to male supremacy in the primitive hordes. Yet men have presumed to create a feminine domain of maternalism, of immanence, in which to lock women up. The fate of women and that of socialism are intimately bound. Both are to be set free through the economic development consequent upon the social upheaval resulting from machinery. When the socialist society is established throughout the world, there will no longer be men and women, but only workers. Your desired subjection of my body only demonstrates that which soon will be torn down. Thus the day of patriarchal econ students and their fetishes will end; then, perhaps, with your back to the wall, you will let loose the violence inside you. But that, young man, is another story. Until then, why not facebook me?
 Yours, Auntie de Beauvoir xoxo

Well, time for me to burn the museums and occupy the university. Send your lovely emails to the thebeaver.parth@tse.ac.uk, or befriend me on Facebook and remember, I've seen things you people wouldn't

State: crime and punishment

the teachings of the Koran.

Atheists and agnostics everywhere point out that religion has killed many millions of people. But the same is true of some atheist and secular states, particularly authoritarian regimes. More theocracies have existed for longer than secular states have but, given the chance, secular states have the potential to endorse and use capital punishment. The Soviet Union under Stalin and the People's Republic of China are prime examples. However, as Dawkins argues, it is important to distinguish between religious states, which inflict the death penalty because of their religion and atheist states as atheism has no tenet of capital punishment. Some countries prescribe the death penalty for treason, which some may interpret as apostasy however, secular states have a greater freedom to change their constitution than a religious regime constrained by holy texts.

Because of this, most democracies have outlawed the use of capital punishment: in fact, 90 countries around the globe have. But this is a minority, with 107 still reserving the right to inflict the death penalty on lawbreakers.

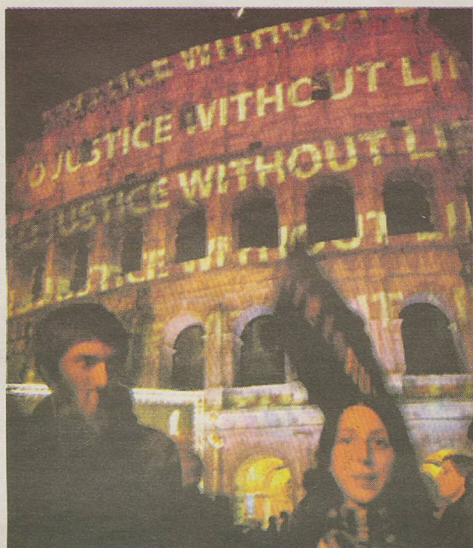
Most of those actively killing its citizens for crimes committed - as opposed to the right to state execution simply being on the law books - are religious states, such as Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. In the US, the states which are most likely to use the death penalty are those with a higher proportion of religious Christians - Texas has ended a total of 388 lives and Oklahoma, 84.

A link can be seen, therefore between religion and capital punishment.

state. And it is bound up as part of a retrogressive and prejudiced criminal 'justice' system. The justice system is rotten; wrongful convictions are merely the symptom.



www.freemumia.com



Kant

Immanuel Kant was an important Enlightenment thinker. He established a series of moral guidelines that provide a beautiful structure for human conduct (even if he was basically re-hashing Jesus). Considered a progressive in his time and even by many contemporary thinkers, the man was actually fully in support of capital punishment. He laid it out in pretty emphatically "whoever has committed murder, must die." In an excellent reversal of traditional arguments against capital punishment, Kant actually thought that if you didn't kill murderers then human life would no longer have any meaning.

He did introduce a few caveats that are nicely summed up in the US constitution with "cruel and unusual," but he the great progressive rationalist argued that capital punishment is a "categorical imperative."



A method to the madness

Electric chair

Invested in the USA in c.1888 using AC electricity and used there ever since. More recently, however, its use in the US is declining in favour of lethal injection.

Lethal Injection

Considered by the US government as more humane, other groups are not so sure: the current method being used may mean that consciousness is regained by the condemned towards the end. Being paralysed, the condemned would be unable to even cry out in pain. It is believed that the current mix of chemicals used means that the condemned are actually dying through suffocation and feel a great burning sensation before they are killed.

Beheading/Guillotine

Once used in continental Europe, it is now commonly practised by Islamic states, such as Saudi Arabia. There are many accounts published on human-rights web sites which maintain that this is one of the most painful methods of execution. It often takes several blows to sever the head from the body completely, during which untold pain and suffering is inflicted upon the condemned.

Firing Squad/Shooting

Traditionally used for military executions or times of war, some states do execute via firing squad for criminal offences. The United Arab Emirates prefers this method, whilst shooting is the most common form of execution in China.

64

The number of countries and territories that retain and use the death penalty, but the number of countries which actually execute prisoners in any one year is much smaller.

1,591

The minimum number of people who were executed in 25 countries in 2006. Last year, least 3,861 people were sentenced to death in 55 countries.

1,591

The number of prisoners who are under sentence of death as of 1 January 2007. 38 of the 50 US states provide for the death penalty in law.*

Imposing the death penalty

Homosexuality

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan

Alcohol consumption

Saudi Arabia

Witchcraft

Saudi Arabia, Central African Republic

Verbal opposition to the government

Syria

Drugs

Bahrain (use of drugs), USA (trafficking of drugs)

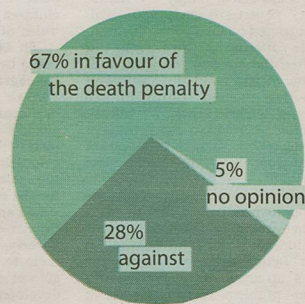
Rape

Palestinian Authority, Uganda, China

Fraud

Vietnam, China

Opinion poll

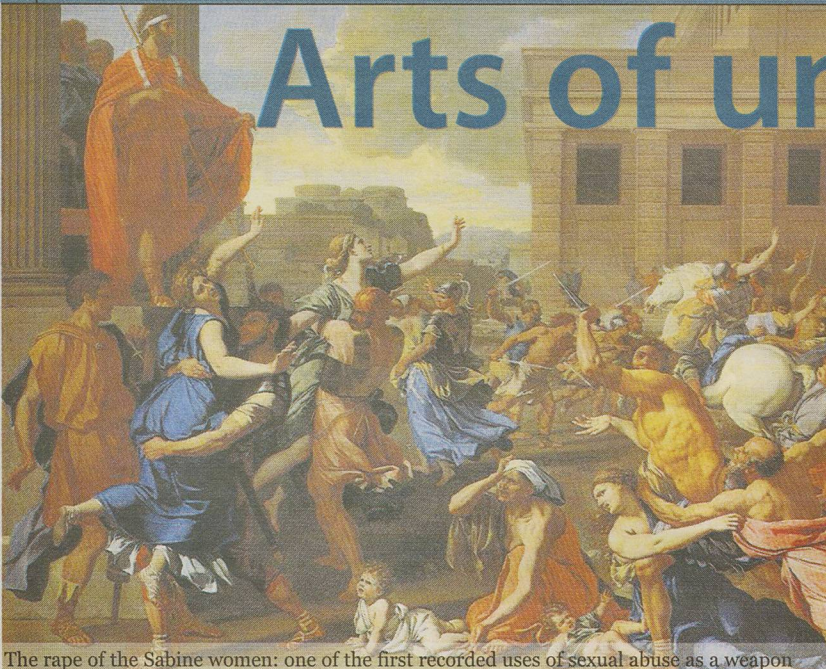


In a Gallup poll conducted on 9-12 October 2006, it was found that Americans are overwhelmingly in favour of the use of the death penalty. Over the last 70 years, this figure has remained more or less constant, the only time the majority of the American population have been against capital punishment was in May 1966 when 47% voted against and 42% in favour.

*Statistics come from Amnesty International.

Arts of uncivil war

Christine Whyte and Bérénice Magistretti ask if rape has become a modern weapon.



The rape of the Sabine women: one of the first recorded uses of sexual abuse as a weapon

Over the past couple of years, the Congo has experienced a sudden increase in sexual violence towards women. The problem has lead specialists to refer to this phenomenon as an epidemic. No one really seems to fully understand why this has occurred. There is agreement that the sudden increase in rapes coincides with the escape of Rwandan paramilitary groups, who fled deep into Congo's wilderness after the genocide. But their choice of the 'weapon' of rape is more difficult to explain.

A local Congolese doctor, Dr. Mukwege, who works in South Kivu

Province, has stated that "they (the rapes) are done to destroy women."

The stories and facts speak for themselves, with the youngest rape victim aged only 3 years, and the oldest 75. Dr. Mukwege argues emotively that "it's a kind of barbarity that only savages are capable of." Yes, but who are these 'savages'? We often think of aggressors of this kind as street-thugs, criminals or drug addicts. But, according to the United Nations, it is often Congolese government troops who perform such atrocities. United Nations troops have also been implicated recently in sexual attacks on civilians. There are other reported aggressors, identified as

paramilitary groups in search of riches, rebel troops seeking political overthrow, and simply poorly-paid and frustrated workers. Therefore, these 'savages' can be found in exterior, authority-free zones, just as well as they can be found within borders of the local authorities.

But what is the motivation for these attacks? Amnesty International claims that rape, when used as a weapon of war, is employed for various reasons, including intimidation, humiliation, political terror, extracting information, rewarding soldiers and 'ethnic cleansing'. Often, rape is used to prevent births within an ethnic group, or as a means to have the

victims ostracised within their own communities. This weakens the cohesion of the community as a whole, and so, in this sense, rape is a tactical decision.

Of course, the fact that sexual assaults often go unpunished does not help. In effect, impunity extends little credibility to the various organisations and conventions that codify rape under punishable law. Not only does the International Criminal Court classify rape as a war crime and/or crime against humanity, but many acts of sexual violence such as rape,

cer was found to have failed to prevent rapes committed by her troops, and so was considered culpable for the rape.

These cases show that what is often not taken into account in explanations given for rape during conflict is the importance of the power differential. Women are overwhelmingly the victims, due to having been constantly viewed as property or sexual objects. This 'normalisation' of the idea of women as 'lower orders' transforms rape into a wider social phenomenon.

Of course, the fact that sexual assaults often go unpunished does not help.

Christine Whyte and Bérénice Magistretti look at victims who are also killers: child soldiers

Today, when people think of developing regions like Africa, Asia or South America, they visualise poverty, disease and hardships suffered by the people. The individuals suffering the most from this are often the children, who are used and abused, and lured into a world for which they are not ready. Children lack the 'entitlements' of adults, according to Amartya Sen's theories on development. They lack the power and influence to establish and claim their rights.

Living a more privileged life, we are appalled and mortified to learn that there are about 300,000 child soldiers in the world, and conflict in Sierra Leone brought this to the world's attention as a particularly 'African' problem. In fact, the use of child soldiers is as old as war itself. The photograph on page 11 of this section shows soldiers from the counter-revolutionary force of the White Army in Russia who were as young as eleven.

But recent technological advances has facilitated the rise in numbers of child soldiers. Weaponry such as AK-47s are now light and simple enough

for children to handle. Naturally, children are more reckless and will confuse combat with play. With an incomplete education and socialisation, children are unconstrained by the 'rules' of war.

In Africa, this problem is exacerbated by the youth of the population. Demographically, half or more of Africa's population is under 18 and opportunities are limited in the world's poorest continent. Africa's history also plays a role. Through colonialism came territorial gain for the colonials, and great losses resulted for the colonised. It turned them into slaves and servants, with no way out. Countries in Africa tumbled into poverty, crime and civil war, forcing them to use all possible resources to get out of such chaos and misery. The development of capitalism in the continent also had a powerful effect on the family. Sociologist Zack-Williams powerfully argues that the children of Sierra Leone were caught between "disintegrating family forms, an authoritarian state and a grasping global capitalism." We could therefore say that these unethical practices we criticise are an indirect result of our own colonial quests.

In Africa, most child soldiers come from deprived families, who live in villages where 'safety' is a myth. Some of the boys willingly join the rebel groups to gain income in order to support their families. But, in the US and UK, young people in poverty-stricken areas are also targeted for recruitment. In the UK, children can join the British army aged 16 if they have their parents' consent. The army is consistently advertised as glamorous and exciting to young people, the current trend in adverts emphasising its 'humanitarian' role. The reality does not live up to the hype. Defence Minister Adam Ingram "admitted that Britain had deployed under-18s to Iraq over a two-year period between June 2003 and July 2005."

Paul Richards, an anthropologist and specialist on Sierra Leone's rebels movement, has spent time with child soldiers, and

presents an interesting and nuanced account of the reasons children may join rebel groups. He noted that while poverty and forced abduction played major roles, it is a mistake to view these children merely as 'victims'. A United Nations (UN) report by Graca Machel also emphasises the need to pay due attention to their agency in conflict. They are rational actors, and as Richards' series of interviews with them shows, often have a mature grasp of their situation.

In Sierra Leone, reasons to fight varied from anger at lack of education, to need to avenge fallen family members, to the prospect of security with the group. As one boy put it, "as a man, you have to stand for your right and fight for your property, fight for your land." These sen-

timents could have been taken from an army recruitment drive.

But acknowledging the agency of children caught up in conflict does not mean doing nothing. We could simply adopt what is known in International Relations as 'statism': that countries are only responsible for their own citizens, and that it is not worth risking our lives to save others. Of course, this attitude would make the great thinker, Kant, roll over in his grave. Being an advocate of cosmopolitan awareness, he would encourage us to feel and care for others.

Education is the key to social and economic development and part of the solution to the problem of child soldiers. Education offer opportunities and options outside of the military forces. As Nelson Mandela eloquently says: "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity; it is an act of social justice... Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Child soldiers are untapped resources of our world, and a source for knowledge, which could lead developing countries into the right direction.



Additional Research by Lucie Marie Goulet

Martin Bell: a ring of truth

Christine Whyte meets the eulogist of the New Labour government

1962 Martin Bell joined the BBC in Norwich aged 24 with a first-class honours degree from King's College, Cambridge

1965 First foreign correspondent assignment to Ghana, shortly before the CIA-backed coup overthrew Kwame Nkrumah.

1965-92 Bell reported from over 80 countries; including Vietnam, Nigeria, Angola, Rwanda and Northern Ireland.

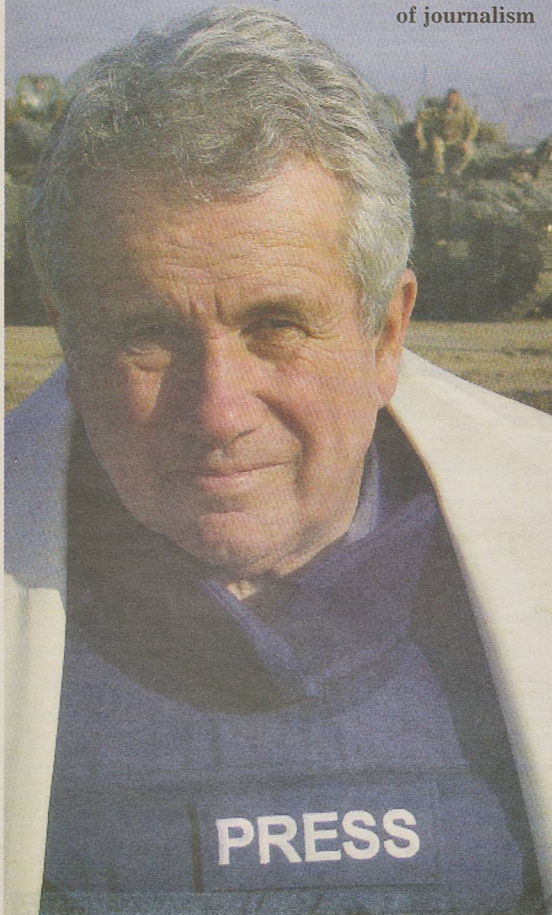
1992 Awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE).

1993 Second Royal Television Society's Report of the Year Award

1997 Stands for election in the safe Conservative seat of Tatton, defeating Neil Hamilton on an independent, anti-corruption platform.

2001 Runs again in Brentwood and Ongar, but fails to win the seat.

Currently Bell is an ambassador for UNICEF, and an outspoken critic of the Labour government and the state of journalism



In 1992, Martin Bell was injured covering one of the bloodiest European conflicts of the past 50 years. His reputation as an outstanding foreign correspondent had already been established by more than 25 years in the field, and he was the BBC's main reporter in the former Yugoslavia. But his injury meant that suddenly he was the news, rather than the reporter. Five years later, Bell was under the media spotlight again, running against Conservative MP Neil Hamilton as an independent candidate. Now, ten years on from that victory he presents his 'obituary' of ten years of Labour Government in his new book, *The Truth that Sticks*. The Beaver spoke to him about New Labour, journalism and Section 28 at the prestigious London Review of Books shop in Bloomsbury.

Can you tell us a bit about your book?

Students at LSE should know that we've been through a pretty grim ten years. We elected a government in 1997 which promised a new beginning and a new politics, a time of great hope and look at all that happened. And I was elected at the same time, so I believed them. So when it all fell apart I thought someone's got to write the obituary of this lot, where did they get it wrong? If we don't understand where they got it wrong, we can't get it right. So that's essentially what this is, it's an obituary of the first ten years of New Labour.

We're keen on 'journalistic balance' here at *The Beaver*, so, do you have anything nice to say about Labour?

Of course I have. In this very volume, I say this is by no means the worst government I ever lived under; they managed a miracle in Northern Ireland, the economy was well run. I thought their record on international development was outstanding. But then they blew it all with an illegal war. With a war that was fought on the basis of a falsehood. And this to me is not only a breach of trust, but is the worst decision taken by a government in my lifetime.

What do you think of increasing devotion, without independence?

You know, I'm a great fan of Alex Salmond, by the way. In fact, I once asked him if I could join the SNP, although I believe in the Union and he said, "No problem." I think he's done extremely well in Scotland because they were right on "cash for peerages" they were right on the war, they were right on the seeds of trust. And if power is devolved from the centre to the regions and nations, that's fine with me. So, I have no problem with that.

With Gordon Brown as the new PM, is it a new start for New Labour?

Well, he hasn't sent our troops to an illegal war, for 3 months. So the verdict is out, let's see how he does. To me the key thing is the attention he pays to the issues of public trust in public life.

According to his book, Bell trusted Tony Blair when he came to power. He claims, in all innocence, to have believed their promises of a 'new type of politics'. Bell's lack of cynicism does him a service when covering humanitarian disaster and conflict around the world. When analysing politics, it makes him look rather naïve.

The book covers all the usual suspects of Labour double-dealing, cash for peerages, Iraq, and the weapons trade. His point is simple, and true. We expected better from Britain's most successful left-wing party. But, the problem with the book lies in this

Do you have any advice for aspiring journalists at LSE?

Yes, I think, my advice to aspiring journalists is never take 'no' for an answer. Persist. Don't expect it to be well-paid, just enjoy it for what it is. It depends who you are, if you're like me - a kid with a low boredom threshold - it is still the best job in the world. And I think it's even romantic, you see, because tomorrow or today you're going to get that amazing scope. And you live in that belief. Explain to us your conception of 'moral journalism'?

So, in politics, who has been 'more right' - Labour or Conservative?

With Labour, those who were at the heart of scandals in those 10 years were not just minor peripheral figures but some of them were quite senior ministers and some more than once. And, we had higher expectations of Labour because they came in on an issue of trust. I think they've done worse.

But you never took a side, as an independent MP did you ever lean towards one party or another?

This is a journalism that cares as well as knows

Because of my experience in the unquiet corners of the world, I came up with the idea that, the old 'on the one hand this, on the other hand that, only time will tell' wouldn't do it. So I created the "journalism of attachment". All this says is that this is a journalism that cares as well as knows, and you don't have to be totally neutral between the aggressor and the victim, the armed and the unarmed. It's basic common sense. But it's wide open to be misused by journalists who think it gives them free rein to express their prejudices, and it doesn't. You have to be absolutely fair and factual, and that's the most important thing.

You note in your book, that the percentage of civilians killed in conflict has increased in 100 years from 10% to 90% of casualties. How do you account for this increasing barbarity?

Wars are now fought among the people, not with massed formations of artillery and tanks, weapons of shock and awe are lobbed into civilian centres. And Al Qaeda, don't care what casualties they cause. Suicide bombing has spread from Iraq to Afghanistan. We have gone in a hundred years from 10% of casualties being civilian to 90%? And we call ourselves civilised? I mean, we're really going backwards very fast.

What is the role of the media in these atrocities? Particularly in the case of Yugoslavia, the media was manipulated and violence used to gain international attention.

In Yugoslavia, it became obvious to me that the media were not just reflecting what was going on, we were affecting what was going on. Therefore we had a responsibility perhaps we didn't have before and we had to be aware of our responsibilities. I don't want to sound too stuck up about it, but journalism, is moral enterprise, you have to have a sense of right and wrong, and if you don't have a sense of right and wrong don't even

I voted all over the place; depending on the issue. Because I was in constructive opposition, most of my votes, but not all, would have been cast with the Liberal Democrats. One of the nice things about being an independent is that every vote's a free vote. And of course you make mistakes, and I'm sure I did.

One thing that a lot of LSE students would consider a mistake is voting with the Conservative Party to retain Section 28, what were your reasons for that?

(Section 28 prevent local authorities from promoting "the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship")

I can't even remember doing it, but if the record says I did, I did. It may have been one of my mistakes, I just can't remember. You're going to make mistakes if every vote's a free vote. I think it was on one particular issue, where I was against affirmative action; it wasn't on the straight "up-and-down".

Do you think Labour have become complacent in power?

There had to be a leadership change, we couldn't go on as we were. In the last 10 years, the Labour party has become the party of government. I have no problem with that, so long as they pay some attention to ethical standards. And we're going see in the coming months whether they do. I mean, I vote all over the place, that's what independents do. Power tends to corrupt. We've seen it. The question I ask myself is: can the Labour party renew itself in power, or does it have to be thrown out of power in order to renew itself? But that's as old as history.

Martin Bell will be appearing at the Frontline Club on 12 October. www.frontlineclub.com

A video version of the whole of this interview is available at www.loosetv.co.uk

simplicity. Most readers who are vaguely aware will know most of the details already, and the analysis tends towards the style of an outrage Points of View letter, rather than an in-depth analysis.

Bell's style is engaging; short and punchy sentences ram his point home. Ex-Labour members disgusted with the turn the party has taken, will delight in his skewering of the usual Party suspects. His in-depth knowledge shines through in his expertise in world affairs and history. He believes that politicians should follow his example, taking on the 'lessons of history' to improve policy. But, what is

missing from his criticism is an analysis of why Blair and his cohorts chose to ignore these lessons.

Bell does pick up on Blair's famous self-justification, "I only know what I believe." and, in a way, Blair's moral crusade is reminiscent of Bell's own 'journalism of attachment'. When ideology and faith are assumed to have a moral weight on their own terms; mistakes inevitably follow. As Bell himself said, "It's wide open to be misused." In his own way, Blair has misused people's trust, their faith and the moral high ground. Unfortunately, Bell's book fails to explore his motivations sufficiently.



United Korea or Mission Impossible?

Natalia Telepneva examines the historical context of the division of Korea

Nowadays we are used to seeing the division of Korea as a hangover of Super Power rivalry in the Cold War. However, more than 15 years after the Cold War "officially" ended, the prospect of unification remains a distant dream for many ordinary Koreans on both sides of the border. Bearing in mind the sorry state of the North Korean economy, it seems surprising that the country could have survived for so long, having lost many of its former Communist markets and investors. But, the division is not merely a product of the Cold War rivalry. Tracing back the history of the North-South Korean relations makes this clear. Rather, since the end of the Second World War, the division of the Korean peninsula has been linked to the two very different modernisation projects that to the present day keep the country ideologically divided.

There never really existed a cunning Super-Power-orchestrated plot for the division of the Korean peninsula. After the war, the Super Powers broadly agreed for a joint Trusteeship Council to be set up to oversee and direct Korean state-building which (as it was planned) would lead to the creation of a unified Korean government. This plan never materialised and, instead, the Soviet Union assisted the pro-Communist interim administration in the North, while in the South the Americans propped up a friendly capitalist government. No one envisaged that the differences between the

North and the South were irreconcilable. In fact, within the ranks of the Korean intellectual elite, there was no unity about the nature of the state that was to be established. One group, led by Kim Il Sung, favoured the Soviet-style road to modernisation, while another group led by Syngman Rhee preferred the liberal market approach. After a couple of unsuccessful unification conferences, the two sides decided to proceed with establishing their own independent states in 1948. Neither side, though lost their determination to unify the country in the near future.

The build-up to the Korean War that broke out on the 25 June, 1950 was characterised by mounting tension between North and South. The North Korean regime was relatively stable, while the South was undergoing a period of social unrest and economic chaos. Syngman Rhee also accused the North of supporting the guerrilla fighters and dissidents that were constantly undermining his rule. At the same time, Kim Il Sung was desperate to complete his task to reunify Korea. By 1950 he gained enough military strength and was supported by the Chinese and the Russians. Meanwhile, the Americans didn't seem to give top priority to protecting the troubled South Korean regime. More

importantly, he had no time to lose because South Korea

was showing signs of political and economic recovery. These factors led to the North invading the South, which was followed by a protracted civil war which nearly pushed the world to the brink of nuclear war.

The Korean War scarred the relationship between the North and the South to such an extent that it remains vivid in the memories of both sides to the present day. Since then, relations between the two sides have had their ups and downs, but at the political level they have always been marked by hostility, misunderstandings, and deep-set distrust of the other side. The first sign of hope in the inter-Korean relations appeared in 1960 when Syngman Rhee was ousted out of government by John M Chang who dropped his predecessor's determination to unify Korea by any means, even if the use of force was needed. In response, Kim Il Sung proposed the formation of a 'confederation' as a first step towards unification. His speech was marked by strident anti-imperialist rhetoric and denunciation of the Southern regime, that, unsurprisingly, no dialogue was possible. Chang's regime had a short life-span and the new leader, Park Chung Hee, who came after him, stressed economic growth as the key to the success of the South and therefore the crucial step towards unification. The North was alarmed: Kim Il Sung signed two mutual defense treaties, with the People's Republic of China and with the Soviet Union, and stepped up building national military power.

The advent of the 1970s spawned a glimmer of hope in inter-Korean relations. The Southern leader, Park Chung Hee announced that he was prepared to propose "epochal and realistic measures" to remove "various artificial barriers between South and North Korea". The dialogue, which followed Hee's speech in 1971, marked a new beginning in inter-Korean relations, but it failed to produce substantive results. The 1980s began with another hopeful prospect. It was the first time North Korea referred to its arch-rival in the South as the "Republic of Korea", and proposed a series of bilateral contacts which actually took place in the early 1980s. They were terminated after North Korea bombed the South Korean delegation in Myanmar, but resumed in 1984. The late 1980s were marked by intensive cooperation and exchange. Both sides participated in the South-North Korean Red Cross talks and a number of South-North economic con-



Neither side, though, lost their determination to unify the country in the near future.

ferences. However, the cooperative spirit declined once the North Korean nuclear programme was put on the agenda in the early 1990s, and reappeared again toward the end of the millennium.

In the present day, the North Korean regime seems to be an inexplicable entity to foreign observers. Having been officially declared to be inca-

ptions. However, they failed to produce anything of substance.

The true international environment is such that no one is truly interested in the unification of Korea. The Russians, the Chinese, the Japanese and even the Americans are keen to preserve the status quo in Asia; while the South Koreans are not too happy at the prospect of having to integrate one of the poorest countries in the world (gross national income of the South Korea is 33 times larger than that of the North). In fact, North

able of feeding their people, the country's leadership has received around \$736m in humanitarian aid since 1995. It continues to repress its people's human rights and international non-proliferation agreements to their own advantage and shows little enthusiasm for the Southern efforts at rapprochement. However, some positive signs of the development of inter-Korean relations can be detected. In 2000, the two sides agreed to construct a resort hotel on the North Korean east coast and an industrial complex in Gaeseong; inter-Korean trade has also had a growth of \$1bn annually. A recent new round of talks between the North and the South has been widely celebrated as a breakthrough in the North-South rela-



Korea, even for many in the South (where a degree of anti-Americanism has been substantial in recent years) embodies a true sense of Korean nationalism; it embodies a modernisation project which is based on self-reliance and national pride. So the struggle between the two continues.



Listings

www.lsesu.com

InvestAbility 2007

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ABN Amro, Barclays Capital, Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, RBS, UBS

InvestAbility, a two day experience event for disabled students/ graduates is taking place in London on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th November. EmployAbility is delighted to be working in partnership with these leading global investment banks and would like to invite you to be part of this exciting event. The two day event is designed to be interactive, participative and fun! The proposed activities will consist of a variety of presentations and activities including; a trading game, case studies, a skills & disclosure workshop, a chance to meet reps from the banks, a tour of a trading floor and much, much more!

To be eligible for this event, you must be a university undergraduate or graduate with a disability, have a keen interest in the investment banking sector with the drive to find out more about the exciting and challenging careers that exist within this industry.

EmployAbility is a not for profit organisation that supports disabled undergraduates and graduates with the transition from education to employment, providing practical advice and guidance.

How to apply? Please visit the EmployAbility website <http://www.employ-ability.org.uk/events.html> and complete the registration form. Deadline - 19th October 2007. Contact; sarah.denniss@eability.org or tel/ text: 07852 764 684

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Listings Week 2

TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER

Jewish Society
AGM, 2 pm, D206

Australia and New Zealand Society
AGM, 2.15 pm, D30

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER

Palestinian Society
AGM, 1.45 pm, S300

Cypriot Society
AGM, 2 pm, Z332

THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER

LSE SU
UGM, 1-2 pm, Old Theatre

Persian Society
AGM, 3 pm, H101

All Societies
Society Training, 6 pm, D302

FRIDAY, 19 OCTOBER

CRUSH!
Sexy Traffic Light Crush, 9 pm-3 am

Students' Union MT Elections

Nominations LSESU MT Election 07

Positions:
Postgraduate Students' Officer
General Course Representative
NUS Delegate (3)
Court of Governors (5)
Academic Board (2)

Close
5pm, 24th Oct

Nomination forms available at
www.lsesu.com/elections and SU
reception

Public lectures this week

TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER

'The Politics of Transparency'
Speaker: Professor Christina Garsten
1.00 pm, H615

'Recent Events in Burma'
Speakers: Dr Jurgen Haacke, Dr Gustaaf Houtman, Thuyein Kyam-Zaw, Professor Robert H Taylor (Emeritus)
Chair: Professor John Sidel
4.00 pm, S221

'Europe's Emerging New Energy Policy'
Speaker: Andris Piebalgs
Chair: Professor Damian Chalmers
5.15 pm, Old Theatre

'Launch of Goh Keng Swee: A Portrait'
Speaker: Tan Siok Sun
6.30 pm, D202

'The Ukrainian Elections 2007: Whatever happened to the Orange Revolution?'
Speakers: Dr Gwendolyn Sasse, Dr Andrew Wilson
Chair: Professor Jim Hughes
6.30 pm, New Theatre

'Public Space and the Body'
Speakers: Antony Gormley, Darian Leader, Renata Salecl
Chair: Susie Orbach
6.45 pm, Old Theatre

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER

'Can the Welfare State work in a Globalising World?'
Speaker: President Tarja Halonen
Chair: Professor David Held
6.30 pm, Old Theatre

'Panel Discussion on Judicial Biography'
Speakers: Neil Duxbury, Professor Lisa Jardine, Professor Nicola Lacey, Geoffrey Lewis
Chair: Rt Hon Lord Rodger
6.30 pm, Hong Kong Theatre

THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER

'Civil Society, Semiclientelism and the State in the Philippines: From Cross-Over to Double Crossed'
Speaker: Dr Ben Reid
Chair: Dr David Lewis
12.30 pm, R505

Doric String Quartet
1.05 pm, Shaw Library

'The Republic of Macedonia: Tests Passed and the Challenges Ahead'
Speaker: Antonio Milošoski
5.00 pm, Old Theatre

'Utopian Hope and Apocalyptic Religion'
Speaker: Professor John Gray
Chair: Lord Meghnad Desai
6.30 pm, New Theatre

'Cash In, Carbon Out'
Speakers: Mr Sam Frankhauser, Mr Abyd Karmali, Mr Ralf Martin, Professor Michael Mainelli, Mr Jan-Peter Onstwedder, Mr Martin Wolf
Chair: Florian Lennert
6.30 pm, Hong Kong Theatre

'The Divergence of the Bottom Billion'
Speaker: Professor Paul Collier
Chair: Professor Stuart Corbridge
6.30 pm, Old Theatre

SATURDAY, 20 OCTOBER

'Peace in International Relations'
Speakers: Professor Jean Bethke-Elshtain, Professor Chris Coker, Professor Oliver Richmond
9.00 am, Clement House

SU Executive office hours

General Secretary, Fadhil Bakeer Markar

Treasurer, Libby Meyer

Communications Officer, Kayt Berry

Education and Welfare Officer, Ruhana Ali

Thursday 2.30pm - 3.30pm, QUAD

the **Beaver**

GET IN BETWEEN THE SHEETS WITH US.

Collective Meeting
Wednesday, 17 October, 4.00 pm, U8

Elections for:
Collective Chair, Secretary, two News Editors,
two Features Editors, Web Editor, Listings Sub-Editor

All LSE students are welcome to attend or stand for any position

Email nominations to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk
by Wednesday, 17 October, 3.00 pm



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London Internship Event
Tuesday 23 October
Commonwealth Club, 25 Northumberland Ave
6.30pm – 9.00pm

Places are limited, so apply via the European campus schedule on our website.

jpmorgan.com/careers



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presentation

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Where

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16 December 2007 for January 2008 interviews

Internship: 15 February 2008

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Event: **Career Presentation**

Venue: **New Connaught rooms, Covent Garden, WC2B 5DA**

Date: **24th October 2007**

Time: **18:30. To register for this event please log onto
<http://www.shell.co.uk/careers/presentations>**



Achieving more together



AU Election

AU Events Officer Candidates

Three Candidates are standing for position of AU Events Officer. This is an important post as the successful candidate will be in control of all AU events. Make sure you vote! Elections are being held in the Quad, 11am-4pm on Tuesday and 10am-1pm on Wednesday. The winner will be announced at the AU Welcome Party on Wednesday night. Here are the Candidates!

Charlie Glyn

Hi I'm Charlie and I'm a very proud member of the Netball Club 1st Team. My time as a member of the AU last year made my first year at LSE absolutely amazing and that's why I would love to give something back and get more involved as the role of Events Officer. I'm organised, fun-loving, determined, but most of all I love getting dressed up - whether its for the glitz of the AU Ball or the fun of fancy dress for the Carol! I'll make sure we keep enjoying the best part of LSE - the AU!



Youngham Park

Like most people, I never considered it within the bounds of normality to wake-up in a rat-rife, hobo's alleyway in Hackney, only to discover you've pissed yourself and your friends have taken photos of their testicles flapping over your comatose face for your 12-year-old sister to embrace on Facebook. This is of course, until I met theAU. Not that I see my responsibilities as to encourage members to urinate on themselves or sneakily place their genitals on friends' faces in the graceful art of tea-bagging, but more that I know you expect to party hard, party wild. By partying with AU, you aren't throwing moral decency and social responsibility out the window; you're merely placing them carefully in a dark cupboard for safe-keeping and retrieval at a later date. I'm a dependable, committed and enthusiastic netballer who has experience in organising many events.



- Goals:
1. Increase variety - e.g. AUFashionShow
 2. Introduce inter-club events - e.g. football-netball dinners.
 3. Improve liaisons with RAG - We have huge, unrealised collective power to make a difference to worthwhile causes.
 4. Introduce 'active' social events. - e.g. paintballing/laserquest/ice-rink/roller disco/bowling
 5. Improve organisation/participation in existing events, particularly Sports Day
 6. Spread gospel of Callela

Jonny Poole aka Pooley, Jon, Anti-Banter, old man, farmer

For those that don't know. I have been here for a while, I have seen 5 AU Presidents, 4 AU Balls, 3 Barrels, 2 homo-erotic shower incidents and 1 Christmassy carol.

With such banterous experience I believe I know what works and what doesn't....

Do's:

- First and for-most BANTER....
- Always attend the much anticipated Wednesday night....
- Get the hotel to supply more than 2 barmen for duration of the AU Ball....

Don'ts:

- Never handcuff a naked 6ft 2in Valley boy to a 5ft tall Cardiff lass, tell him to run and expect her wrist not to break....
- Try to go drink for drink with Jarlath O'Hara, dressed naked apart from blue paint, and carry on going without expecting to be arrested on the way home.....

Vote for Pooley is a vote for the dedication to the LSE AU for half a decade!!!!



Have a Free lunch on Dr Paul



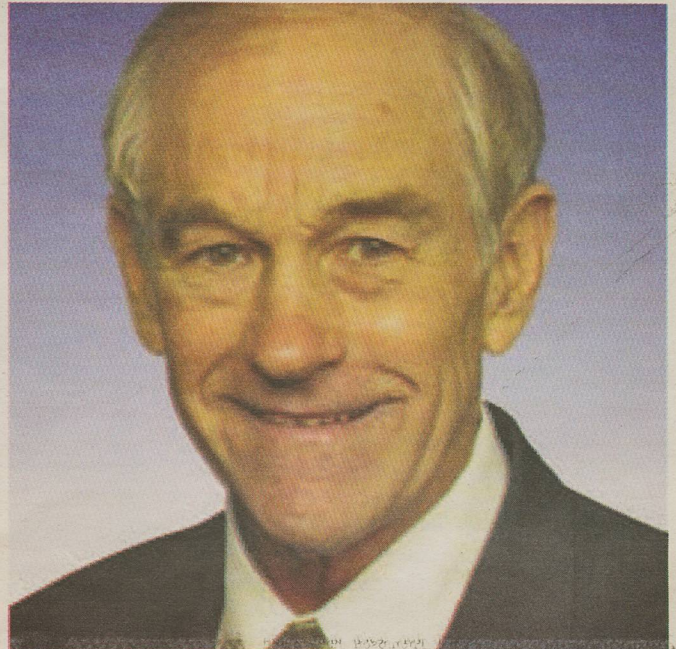
Matthew JCG Partridge

sons, categorically state that betting against a 9/11 conspiracy theorist who wants to legalise drugs is completely risk free, but the free lunch is there if you want to eat it.

In terms of financial spread betting, despite the fact that December Gold still fails to obey the law of gravity, I am going to go out on a limb and still recommend shorting it. I would also suggest selling November Brent, although I am going to be a coward and suggest that you wait until the recent uptrend is breached, and put in an order at 76 (with an aggressive stop-loss at 78). In terms of shares I am going to recommend shorting Rightmove, the online property advertising company. With both the property, and the buy-to-let, bubbles about to burst there is no way that it can justify either a PE of over 76 or the fact that its share price has nearly doubled from its yearly low of 300p. There is no doubt that this dog is ready to be taken outside the farmhouse and put out of its misery. Indeed, I am so convinced that this puppy is on its last legs that I've put in an order myself to short it when it falls below 560.

Of course, I have been avoiding the most pertinent question in terms of betting, namely the Rugby World Cup. I'd like to be a coward and pretend that I don't know the identity of the other finalist but the match just ended half an hour before I wrote this. Therefore, I'm going to pander like Mitt Romney and say that 'Blighty' should be regarded as the favourites to win the final because Argentina's strategy of converting possession into three points doesn't work when you have Johnny Wilkinson in the opposing team. If you really want to put some money on the Pumas you should be looking to get odds better than 2/1 in traditional tams, 3.00 in Betfair.com terms or a price less than 33 from Tradesports.com. In spread betting terms I would say England by 8.

Use any advice given here at your own risk and don't gamble what you cannot afford to lose. Columnist(s) may have positions in wagers mentioned. Prices quoted are correct at time of going to press.



In terms of betting on current events there isn't much going on. I'm still going to keep pushing the Al Gore contract because I think at 11.7-12.0 the market is offering essentially evens on whether he will enter the race (if he does enter the contest Gore has about a 30% chance of pulling it off). My reasoning is that this is the best chance that Gore will have to influence the contest as endorsing either Barack Obama or John Edwards would be a waste of time since they are simply not going to win. If you're a fan of free money I am also going to suggest that you bet, and bet heavily, against Ron Paul winning the Republican nomination. This is because at 6.7-6.9 (in effect 93.1-93.3 against) it is a virtually risk free bet with a better rate of return than any bank account. Taking advantage of a few naive souls to grind out a small return might be against the spirit of this column and I can't, for legal rea-

AU President

Hot off the Pres.



Daniel Holness

So we have reached the end of Freshers' Fortnight. Is this the end of the craziness and late nights? The end of the fun? The start of a mundane, workaholic lifestyle?

If you're an AU Member, not a chance.

The AU embrace the well-rounded people (I mean in a 'they're interesting' way). These are the people that realise the boundaries of their life are not defined by the lifeless walls of the library, that nighttime equals playtime NOT study-time and that friends aren't only found and made in lectures, classes and seminars; they are found and made in bars, sportsfields and aquariums (the preferred haunt of the star of the 'Guest Opinion' column. I'd say 'Don't ask', but, really, please do!) *The Editor*

notes that due to the laziness of Rupert Guest 'Guest Opinion' is yet to appear.

This column is going to be my two little pennies worth of advice; some serious, some not so. Don't worry if some of it applies to you, that you're constantly doing the 'do nots' - you're reading this section of the paper, it's a good start.

Firstly, a gentle guidance, one that I think encapsulates one of the many things that make the AU special: Be yourself and enjoy being yourself. The temptation to be something you're not, to try things you wouldn't normally do and to say something that just isn't what you believe is very high. Why not be the 'cool kid' or 'miss prom queen'? A new life, a new start right? Absolutely, but never compromise who you really are. If you're AU, we will love you like your mother does, warts and all, with more or less sex depending on your upbringing. You will fit in, there are people just as weird and wonderful as you, don't worry. Freak.

Secondly, a couple of 'errors' in the past week have influenced this week's main rule: Think before you speak.

Do not think you can get away with saying, "I'll drink anything you give me" (Silly Fresher 10/10/07), and expect to get away with it. Especially if you say it to Robin Low. 'Duh!' comments should, and shall, likewise be punished. It brings me back to the time when I broke up with this girl and she said, "You won't find anyone like me again! Think about that!" I did indeed muse very hard about it, and suddenly the answer seemed obvious: I should bloody well hope not! Isn't that the reason we break up with someone? If I don't want you, why would I want to go find somebody exactly like you? Does anyone end a bad relationship and say, "Oh, by the way, do you have a twin?" She wasn't happy - for some reason, it wasn't the answer she was looking for...

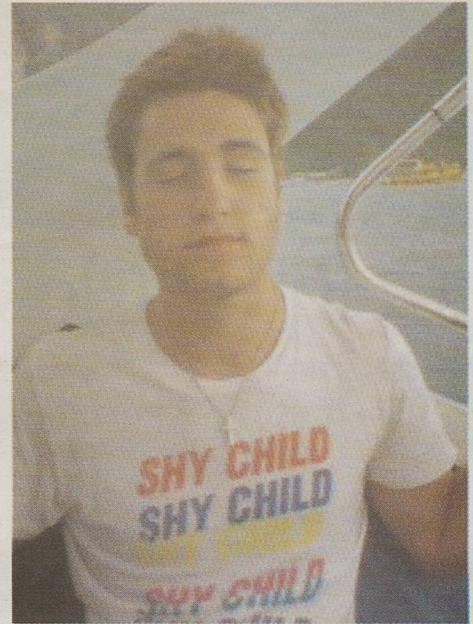
Don't make ridiculous claims either (name and shame time, Jimmy Saville, Silly

Northern Fresher). There's a thin line between bravery and stupidity. I hope you look forward to a hefty fine next AU night - Jim might not be able to fix this one. Admittedly, telling everyone you'd rather be a cunt than play rugby may be your saving grace.

I'd like to finish by saying: I hope all you Freshers loved your first Wednesday. To surmise through an equation: Wednesday Night + AU + Alcohol = Banter + Lash.

This week: the beach-themed AU Welcome Party. Get ready for your first taste of inter-club competitions. Of course, the surf machine will provide plenty of new alternatives to the games. I'll see you there.

The AU: Use it, abuse it, love it.



Men's Football

The Low-Down



Robin Low

The Low pondered how best to start his inaugural column 'The Lowdown', an highly amusing title for a column given to him by The Beaver's very own Tenderbender. Perhaps a simple look at, and discussion of, the week that was is the best way to start. Monday, fresh from a weekend of hard trials, saw the hardcore of the FC make their presence known in one of London's premier nightspots, The Moonlighting Lounge. The fact they were the

only people there for a good two hours only meant a more fluid game of taps could be had, as access to the bar was unrivalled. Slowly but surely the usual suspects crept off early; our illustrious club captain (Christopher Naylor) was the first to go, citing pressing administrative requirements, and it was downhill from there. On Wednesday there were the traditional friendly matches between the LSE teams, from which not much can be judged, other than the slow formation of friendships that can only emerge after showering with Al O'Brien. That evening saw the creation of an FC 'tradition', where freshers drank a mixture of

cider, beer, wine, and butter (the reasons behind the inclusion of butter will be disclosed at a future date, it hurts too much to discuss it now). Following an awesome Walkies, where Jacquesy was in the best of Calella spirits, two very silly freshers emerged, as did the resurrection of Guesty's whale hunting prowess. Not a bad start to the term, and once these silly freshers have experienced the AU Welcome Party, I'm sure they will fit in just fine with the FC, or will be duly transferred to a poly, UCL or King's spring to mind. (The editor apologises on behalf of Robin Low for this distinctly average article)

Football

Football Results	Goalscorers
LSE 1sts 2-1 LSE 2nds	Mike Maynard, Rob Fenton - Toby Irving
University of Arts 1sts 2-3 LSE 4ths	Josh Tendeter, Alex O'Brien, Pierre Bachas
St. Georges Medics 2nds 2-3 LSE 5ths	Graeme Birrell (x3)
LSE 6ths 7-0 GKT 5ths	Mateusz Drela (x5), Ben Kenyon, Bobby Shojai
Royal Vets 2nds 1-5 LSE 7ths	Lacos Kouppas (x3), Hugo Bowkett, Sof Yiannakas

Infatuation

A Match Made In Heaven?



Josh Tendeter

Few before Scouse have forced their way into the heart of FC 5th team captain Peter Greenall. There isn't even space for his housemates Baby Luke Thompson and Christopher Naylor. In fact the only others to have done so are dear old Dave "Knuckles" Hardy and Matthew "Brummie" Davenport. But why Scouse? It seems Greenall's infatuation with the ageing Liverpoolian is underpinned by a range of equally important factors. It first became publicly noticeable on a Wednesday night in which Scouse joined the FC for a game of Taps. Peter's cheeky little face lit up with glee and

it has since showed no signs of burning out. Greenall's underlying respect for Scouse is rooted in his unquestionable commitment; particularly with regard to his work at the Three Tuns. Scouse will never miss a shift, he will never be late and regardless of what he has done the night before he will grace the Tuns with a smile on his face. This is the kind of commitment that Greenall loves (and hopes his 5th team can recreate) It is such spirit and dedication which has in fact made the FC refer to the Three Tuns as the Four Tuns with Scouse gaining the new nickname of "The Fourth Tun". This leaves the nickname Scouse up for grabs, and who better to claim it than Peter Greenall himself. Over the past few days Peter "Scouse" Greenall has talked non-stop about the Fourth Tun (even more than Luke Thompson has talked

about how intriguing it is that Henry Williams pulled eight days ago) However, it remains to be seen whether the original Scouse feels the same way.



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Beaver sports

Celtic Carlos Delivers Lethal Injection



STK

St. Georges Medics 2nds 2
LSEFC 5ths 3

Location: Cobham

One of the most glorious things in life is to taste the sweet nectar of victory, against all the odds, stood shoulder to shoulder with your fellow oddball. Many of the most decisive conflicts throughout history have been won by groups of men who under any other circumstance would remain total strangers, the investment banker and the prison cleaner, the voyeur and the ghetto poet.

Thus began the Fifth team's sojourn back into the drama, tears and sliced clearances of ULU Division 2. The opponents: a group of soon to be Birmingham radiologists, the venue: the millionaire's playground that is Chelsea's Cobham training complex. After a journey full of anticipation and text messages to silly Irish bints and a failed

attempt to catch a glimpse of the immense Michael Essien on the recommendation of what can only be described as I.G Patel after a few too many pies, the freshly formed fifths finally took up arms.

The game began with much of what you would expect, teething problems in a side as unfamiliar to each other as Knuckles is to the idea of not hitting your girlfriend. Yet the potential was there for all to see. There were chances a plenty, Sapha, Andy B (no, Andy Burton has not returned, you can all relax) and Manolito all with golden opportunities to grab the fifths first of what is sure to be many this season.

After the first forty five minutes had elapsed the intellectual warriors from the LSE undeservedly went into the break behind, to a goal bred from a combination of defensive miscommunication and our captain Heir Greenall's inability to refrain from challenges that border on ethnic cleansing. Literally playing with ten men, the teams resumed with everything to play for.

The second half began in a

shaky manner as the outstanding Nick See made a goal line clearance of such improbability that would have made even the most optimistic of fellow's lips hit the floor. The turning point came on the introduction of Graham 'Carlos Tevez' Birrill who provided the answer to lack of penetration missing from the first half performance; sadly we are still searching for a similar solution to issues in Pete Greenall's sex life. After a flowing move of one touch football finished in sublime fashion by Graham, the scores were level.

Anyone involved in top level competition will know the frustration wrought by those who wish to destroy the very soul of sport. Be it match fixing in Tennis, drug use in athletics or the banning of 'hip hop' attire in basketball ("I used to think my Jesus piece was harmless, until I saw a shorty armless"). After a blatant trip in the box on debutant Irish dynamo James Conran was waved away, a new found determination spread through the veins of the fifth team. Suddenly every player on the pitch, bar Greenall, found an extra gear: Nick car-



rying out the amount of defensive work only known to Pete Docherty's lawyer, the insurmountable Sapha casing mayhem with clever touches and sharp elbows and renaissance man Alessandro proving to be as much of a scourge of the medics as MRSA.

With only ten minutes remaining the boys carried out assault after assault on the beleaguered aspiring NHS workers, guess they were preparing themselves for things to come. Finally the breakthrough, another move usually only seen on the training pitches of the men in blue pre Avram, led to the hulking man from Aberdeen grabbing his second. A wonderful swivel on the edge of the area usually only seen in the pasa doble, allowed the former Scotland Point Guard to lash the ball

home. Victory was but four minutes away.

Sadly, a beautiful game was again tainted by another shocking decision, the ref deciding to award a penalty for a dive as evident as Bebe's love for twenty four hour surveillance. Despite the magnificent efforts of yours truly, diving to his left to push the ball onto the post representing both quickness of mind and cat like dexterity, the rest of the fifth team were clearly thinking about their post match sustenance and the rebound was promptly dispatched with aplomb. Yet with the clock winding down Tevez exposed deficiencies in the opposition keeper like those of a certain Kent and Sussex hospital. Cleverly manoeuvring the ball from the grasp of the oaf who is soon to be operating

on people across the country then calmly slotting the ball into the net, Birrill put the finishing touches to a thirty minute hatrick of the highest order Redemption.

So with a stunning victory under our belt, be it with a large slice of luck in tow, the fifth team march on to the next field of glory. That is fortress Berrylands, where next Saturday the mighty bastions of masculinity in both the fours and fives will once again lock horns. The ensuing paroxysm may lead to deaths of an unnamed few, but to the victors go the spoils, and on this performance who would bet against this weird and wonderful family of freaks. Peace.

"No, Andy Burton has not returned, you can all relax"