

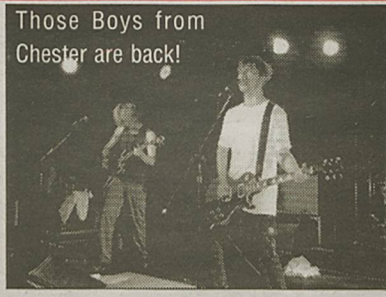
THE BEAVER

In this week's edition of The Beaver

Our Man in the States reviews the hot tips for the new season



Those Boys from Chester are back!



Tuesday, October 6

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London Transport's Fare Deal?

Michael Collins

Following the imposition of tuition fees, London students at last received some welcome news this week as the University of London President Matt Hyde, secured a deal that will give students a thirty per cent discount on travel in the capital.

The London Transport scheme is being heralded as a major coup for the student body and a personal victory for Hyde who has campaigned for three years to see the implementation of a 'fares fair' system for students. Hyde said that the deal between London Transport, the National Union of Students and ULU was a "welcome victory for students, not just at ULU but nationwide."

Operating with a photocard ID, the scheme should see average savings of £150 to £200 a year for students who use at least a zone 1 to 2 travel card. The scheme comes into effect immediately and students wishing to take advantage of the deal can collect application forms at their student union or at London Transport offices.

The deal could also have a knock on effect for student accommodation, with many students seeing living in cheaper accommodation in the outer zones of the city as a more feasible option, if travel into the centre is less expensive.

There is however great concern that the scheme is only open to full-time students between the age of 18 and 24. This will exclude a large sector of the London student population, many of whom are

ULU deal means a third off travel costs but postgraduates and mature students will miss out on discount.



Cut price trains: at a platform near you soon...age permitting

Photo: Dave Balfour

postgraduates or mature students. The scheme also discriminates against part-time students, who are often self-financing and are trying to

work and study at the same time.

Leaders of student unions within ULU have expressed anger that the scheme will exclude many of their

students.

Nick Burch, President of Heythrop College, argued that the scheme is blatantly unfair since student

hardships exist regardless of age.

"We are pleased with the progress that Hyde has made, but two thirds of our students are over the age of twenty-four and the union will be pushing for an extension of the scheme to include all students."

LSE Student Union President, Narius Aga, had even considered pulling out of the scheme in protest at its discriminatory conditions.

"My initial thought was to boycott the scheme, but we have decided to go ahead and lobby for an extension and no stone will be left unturned in order to achieve this aim."

ULU President Matt Hyde has also promised full support to extend the scheme to those who fall outside the 18-24 age bracket.

"It is still a priority campaign this year to secure the discount for mature students as well as those under the age of 24," he said.

In spite of the obvious short comings of the scheme, it is a particularly student friendly deal. Adam Liversage, an LT spokesman, simply said that "it had been recognised for some time that there is massive demand for a student card." It appears that LT were willing to go ahead with the student card following a successful pilot scheme run at Queen Mary and Westfield College in west London, and hope that students who use public transport whilst at university will continue to do so in later life.

Given that the scheme has been on and off over the last few months, the student community will seize upon the deal as timely relief from the growing burden of student debt.

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UNION JACK

JACK AWOKE WITH A RINGING IN his mouth and his ears tasting like an ashtray. It was the morning after the first three tuns blowout of the year and Jack naturally had spent it entertaining a rather attractive young fresher at his Holborn pad. Of course the evening had hit a low point when he rolled over twice and still found himself on top but either way it was still better than Jasper 'Emergency' Ward's foamless bubble bath (Jack wonders whether the lack of soap is anything to do with Bernardo Duggan's new look. One month and counting "Young" Barnyardo...)

But anyway, Jack isn't here to relate tales of his sordid personal life and even though he no longer has to appease the living monolith that is Big Craig (who has moved to the warmer climes of Benjy's on a permanent basis) the trawl through the depths of the Union must continue.

And speaking of depth, Jack welcomes with open, um, arms, the arrival of Ed and Welfare Sabbatical, Maria Neophytou. Jack is most definitely a fan of Maria's, but the question on everyone's lips is can she do for the Union what she did for the radio club? (On the air? Unaware?) One can only hope that Ms Neogeo will prove herself able to ride as high as her skirt. She definitely brings much needed aid to the SU's waning sex appeal (donations welcome) and Jack for one is glad he came.

Apart from Ms. Neophyte, it's business as usual at the top of the rickety SU ladder. Another summer meant another scandal for the infamous Yuan Potts. His position as SU treasurer obviously carries no weight in Hungary where he's now a wanted Romanian gangster. Topping last year's Yugoslavian incident, when our hero attempted to run a police checkpoint in a hijacked Serbian APC, this time around Yuan was accused of "socialising with a prostitute", "international terrorism" and "being called David." No stranger to the long arms of global law enforcement himself, Jack has found a kindred spirit in "Terrorcotta" Potts.

And while we're on the subject of underworld organisations, the Conservative society were out in force this week trying to strong arm freshers into their secretive cabal. Jack can't help but feel Georgina Reason (Don't you mean "feel for" - Ed) but surely the easiest way to keep freshers out of the Labour club is to introduce them to Nick "seven seats" Kirby. Jack wonders whether Eunick classes as the soft underbelly of Labour. Maybe Mr Blair's spin experts could help him out; Jack thinks it's likely he gets stuck frequently.

And what of Narius Aga the SU's self styled (Jack assumes he cuts his own hair) president? Well, after inhaling paint fumes all week our gallant leader finally put his foot down. Nobody noticed. Jack hopes he doesn't take fashion tips from Maria to arouse more attention at next week's UGM. Jack's advice; bring your cameras kiddies. Until then though Jack's off to get his LSESU ents Gold Card (Ch'yeah right!).

Nadezda Kinsky

THE CONFUSION AND CHAOS OF the beginning of the academic year this year was not helped by the building works which returning and new students found to be obstructing several areas in the East, Clare Market and St.Clement Buildings.

The works in the Clare Market building are mainly due to reconstruction of the entrance area, providing a new exit from the Quad, necessary for fire safety reasons. This will mean a glass division of the Clare Market entrance area, giving one extra entrance straight into the Quad in addition to the existing entrance to the Quad from outside the Tuns.

Other building works, on the upper floors and in the other buildings are mainly ones of redecoration, also providing much needed improved lighting and floors. These changes apply to the first three floors of the Clare Market building, the IT Center in St. Clements Building and the entrance, mezzanine and first floor of the East Building. The East building is the only one where construction seems to have thus far made any noticeable progress with the brand new SU reception already in use.

Some have questioned whether this severe degree of disruption at the beginning of Michaelmas term was necessary, especially since it looks like the works will not be finished for some time. It is understandable to some degree that the school did not



The Beaver scanner is'n't working...

Photo: Library

want to disrupt its summer school programme with the beginning of the works, but this does not explain the exceptionally late start of improvements being undertaken.

Construction did not begin until 15 September, a full month after the summer school had closed, leaving only two weeks until the beginning of term. This delayed start to building works, and the waste of one whole month, causing the current obstructions to a smooth beginning of the year for many freshers and returning students, remains

unexplained apart from the usual rumours that there had been 'problems with the contractors'.

General Secretary Narius Aga appalled at the apparent lack of organisation on the part of the school leading to the current situation. He found it "highly unfortunate that students have to return to a construction site". He also said that it was "outrageous" that the Open Day for new students held last week took place in a "potentially hazardous environment" and regretted that it "did not give a positive image of the

school".

Concerns have also been raised as to the costs of the development which does not appear wholly necessary at a time when the issue of top up fees still looms and returning students are the first ones to contribute substantially to the cost of their degree. At the time of going to press, figures of costs were not yet available, but the final figures are planned to be presented to the site development committee at the end of next week.

Paving the way forward

Chris Roe

A RADICAL PLAN TO IMPROVE the LSE site is in the final stages of development. Under the scheme Houghton Street, Portugal Street and St Clement's Lane will be resurfaced and pedestrianised, creating a more coherent campus atmosphere.

Negotiations with Westminster Council, who are responsible for the roads around the LSE, were described as "well advanced" by Max Steuer of the Houghton Street Project Group, the body which considers improvements to the structure of the LSE. Mr. Steuer has consistently argued for a more integrated campus atmosphere, and it appears that he has found a kindred spirit in LSE Director Anthony Giddens, who has publicly stated a commitment to improving the LSE's fabric.

It is estimated that the plans will be finalised by January, and conditional to approval work is anticipated to take place during the next summer vacation in order to minimise disruption. Details

have not yet been finalised, but Mr. Steuer assured *the Beaver* that the paving would incorporate a "consistent surface" and a "distinctive" design.

Mr. Steuer, added that the advantages of the proposed



Houghton Street: soon to be dragged into the twenty first century

Photo: Yuan Potts

alterations were considerable. As well as the aesthetic pleasure of studying in a pleasingly homogeneous environment, disabled access would be improved by the new campus network. Also the eradication of traffic from Portugal

Street would prove beneficial on the grounds of safety and taste.

Contrary to allegations printed in the *London Student* and the word from from the campus rumour mill it appears that the cost of the project, anticipated to be in the region of

£1.5 million, will not be borne by the LSE. Mr. Steuer was at pains to stress to *the Beaver* that the university would "not be funding" the scheme. Instead compensation from private industry for disruptive local developments, presumably such as that in St. Catherine's House, and money from redevelopment funds in the area would meet the financial burden. Mr. Steuer claimed that external organisations regarded the plans for Houghton Street as an integral element in a general upgrading of the neighbourhood, which has seen renovation of the Strand and a putative restyling of Westminster Bridge.

The LSE Student's Union greeted news of the project with guarded enthusiasm. SU Treasurer Yuan Potts described the development as "very good" providing that the LSE is not obliged to contribute to its realisation. This seemed to capture the student mood on the topic: none were opposed to complimentary campus improvements, but few were enthusiastic about essentially cosmetic work if it was to come out of the School's already tight budget. This has a particular resonance in the first year of tuition fees for home students, who now have a particularly personal interest in the allocation of university funds.

Fair a success despite the odds

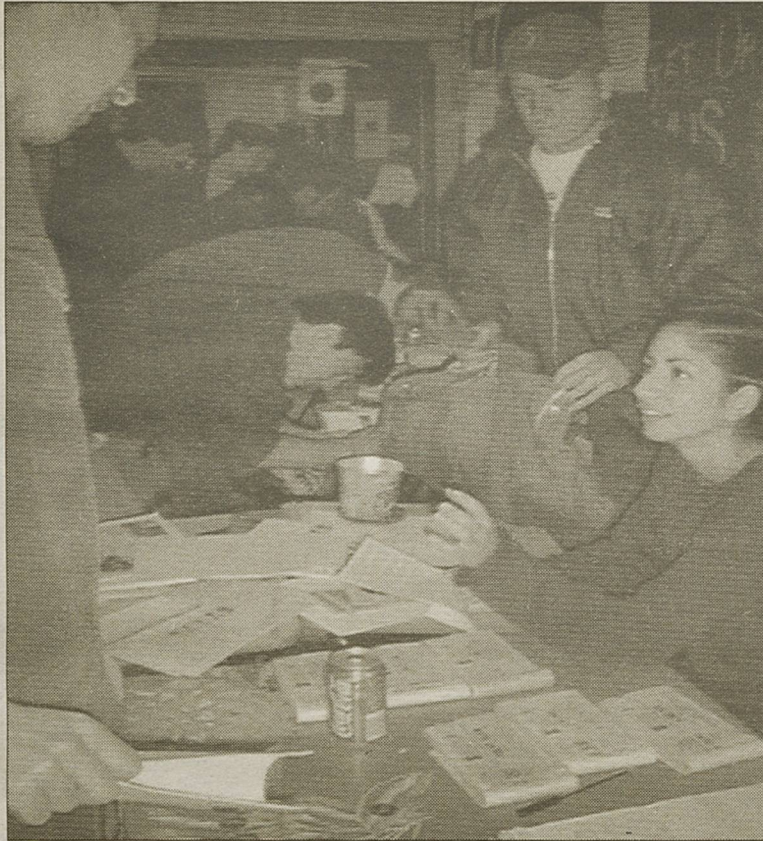
Matt Brough

THE LSE STUDENT UNION'S annual Freshers' fair took place last Thursday and Friday, once again attracting crowds of eager freshers with the ever present lure of "Free stuff." However only a few months ago the future of this year's fair was in doubt.

When the LSE announced its programme for the renovation of the old building's ground floor towards the end of the last academic year, sabbaticals became concerned that no provision was to be made for housing the '98 Fair. Plans to register returning students in what rooms remained as opposed to the Hong Kong theatre led to a number of confrontations between the school and the then treasurer, Imogen Bathurst. However after talks between both sides, an amicable decision was finally reached and the go ahead for this year's fair was given.

The fair itself proceeded as planned on Thursday without any major incident and succeeded in attracting a large number of new students throughout the day. However, once again, the presence of unwelcome elements led to headaches for organisers and Union officials.

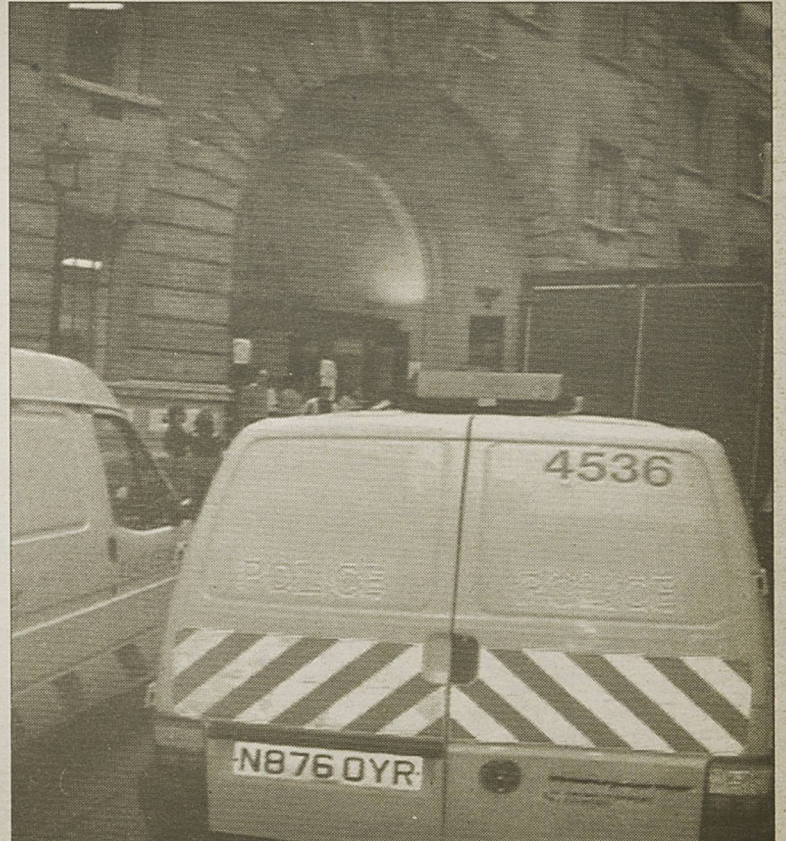
Not ones for breaking with tradition, Hizb-ut-Tahrir (who have been banned for publishing material



Inside: Freshers queue to sign up...

contravening the LSESU's guidelines on equal opportunities) once again made their annual appearance on Houghton Street, this time only to be moved along by the police.

Other unwelcome visitors were the Jellybaby Society, who were banned from this year's fair after "financial irregularities". Nonetheless the society (who are supported by



Outside: police move along trouble makers

nightclub Miss Money Penny's) attempted to set up a stall on Thursday morning only to be confronted first by Union officials and then the Police who kindly

escorted them off the premises.

However despite such incidents this year's fair has still been heralded as a success and successfully kicked off another academic year.

STA Travel

Basement

East Building

Houghton Street

Book Now For Christmas

An Open Invitation For Open Minds

Universities:

London School of Economics

Imperial College

Date:

Thursday, 8 October, 1998

Time:

6:30 pm

Venue:

Caxton Suite

Merchant Centre

1, New Street Square, EC4

***Firmwide Recruitment
Presentation and Reception***

*Attendance is strictly by registration
at the LSE and Imperial careers services*

Places are limited

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EDITORIAL

The start of the academic year at LSE is always hectic, with some continuing students having difficulty finding accommodation and course change forms flying around. Then there's Freshers trying to find their way around the complex corridors of Buildings A-Z but ending up in The Tuns.

Among such chaos, it can often be forgotten that a large Union does exist at LSE, and that there is scope for everyone to get involved. In this sense, the role of 'The Beaver' is to provide information and comment on all things LSE, ranging from News and Union pages to an Economics Focus and Style and Gallery pages. And of course there's the Sport's pages, whose unnerving wit and incisive satire is quite astounding! The next issue will also see the return of *Bart - Beaver Art* - which was introduced last year to cover Film, Music, Theatre, Books, Opera and Art in a section 2 supplement.

Furthermore, there is the UGM, whose turnout towards the end of last year was paltry (in the most positive assessment). It is a chance for students to voice their opinion and it would be great to see a large turnout for this Thursday's meeting, where a new Chairman will be elected.

In general, I urge everyone to get involved in some aspect of LSE life, be it the Athletics Union, Drama Society, UGMs or *The Beaver*. Though this may not be like a campus-based University, students can still gain a great deal of benefit through involvement in simply one aspect of the Union. Just don't be apathetic!

ZAK SHAIKH

VOLUNTEER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The LSE Student Tutoring Programme

Assist teachers in schools for two or three hours per week for a minimum of 10 weeks.

Participation is voluntary but travel expenses are paid

Last year 150 LSE students helped in about 30 primary and secondary schools, mainly in the London boroughs of Camden and Islington.

Two short introductory meetings are being held for those interested in taking part this year on:

Wednesday 7 October and Monday 12 October in the New Theatre (E171) at 1.15.

Attending a meeting does not commit you to taking part

THE BEAVER

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email:beaver@lse.ac.uk

LSE Labour Club

Now The Biggest Political Society in the LSE

The Date: Monday 12th Oct

The Time: 13:00

The Place: S78

If you haven't joined already, Come to this meeting

Ballroom Dance

Join the University of London Ballroom and Latin American Dancesport Society

The 1st Class will be at:
Wednesday, 14 Oct, 1998, 19:30 @ ULU Badminton Hall

Contact E.Boukhalkov@lse.ac.uk

Let's Talk About Six

After mixed reviews of their second album 'Six' Mansun ventured out to London's Virgin Megastore for some practice and promotion. Quite impressed, Daniel Lewis took a closer, better look at their album and live qualities.

Mansun
@ Virgin Megastore

Now nobody ever said that Virgin Megastore would be a great venue. No beer, no toilets, what is going on? Oh well, a small price to pay to catch Mansun prior to their upcoming UK Tour.

The Hip Hop/ R'n'B section had been thoroughly removed to fit 500 fortunate prize winners and music editors awaiting Mansun's entry. In the meantime we hear the Sex Pistols 'Never mind the Bollocks'. Very True. They emerge, and rattle out, you guessed it, Six tracks. The only problem was that only four of them were from the new album, not a good

sign. Perhaps they've allowed the doubters to get them down. So many reviewers have dismissed this album as prog rock, an ode to pretentiousness and a dramatic let

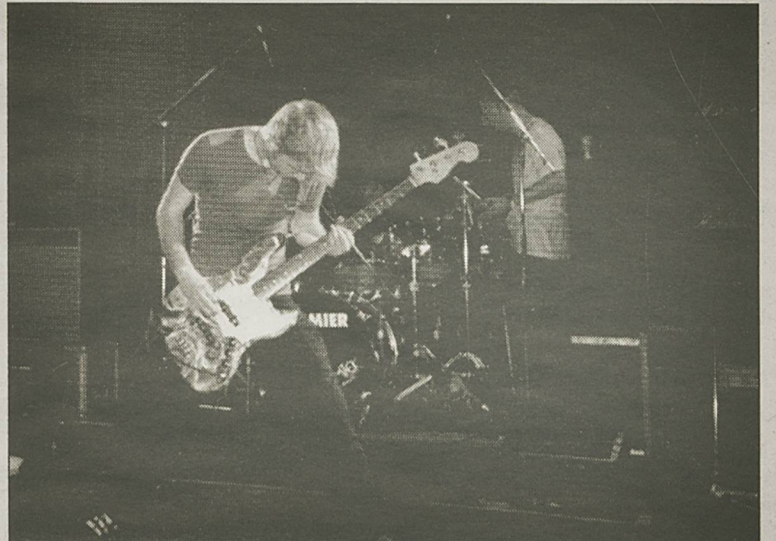
So many reviewers have dismissed this album as prog rock, to my mind it's those people who need to be dismissed.

down. To my mind it's those people who need to be dismissed.

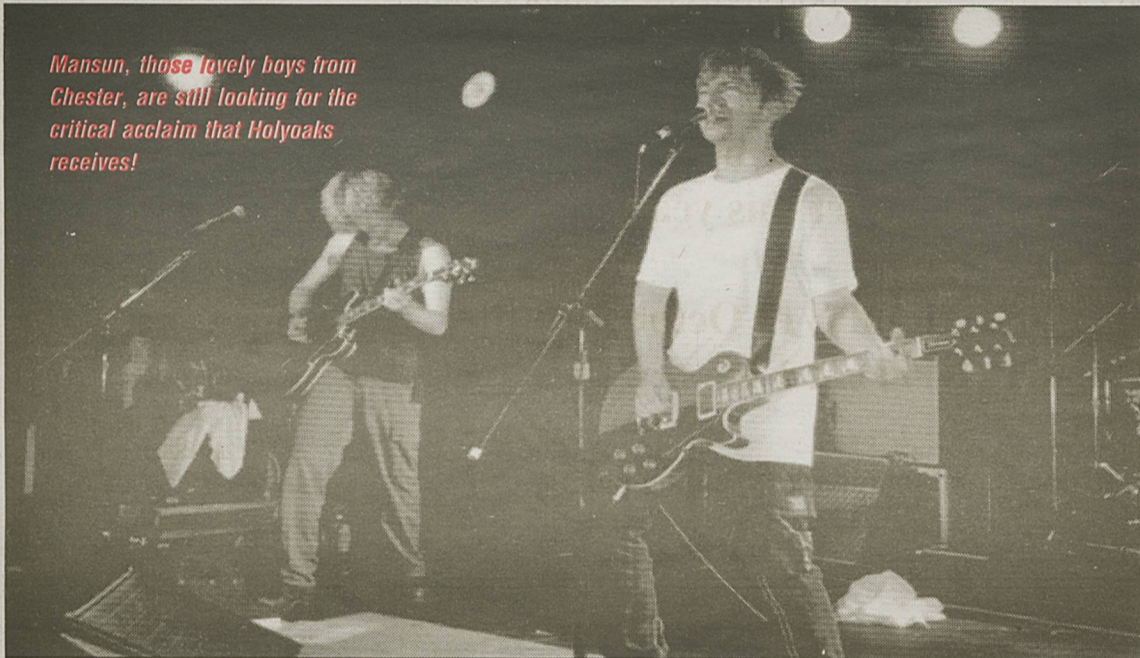
Admittedly, when I first heard the album I thought it was utter cods, but a few more listens and I was hooked.

This album has often been paralleled with 'OK Computer' in that both albums mark a widening of horizons, experimentation with new styles, techniques and instrumentation. Or is it that they both have a spoken bit in the middle that everybody skips, Mansun's supplied by Tom Baker AKA Dr. Who.

On the surface they both seem to be a more depressed move, Radiohead from Angst and Mansun from whatever the hell 'Attack of the Grey Lantern' was about. However I'm not sure about Six's depressed quality - It's no 'Holy Bible' that's for damn



Mansun, those lovely boys from Chester, are still looking for the critical acclaim that Holyoaks receives!



sure.

Tracks named Negative, Inverse Midas, Anti-Everything, Cancer definitely hint towards a depressed nature, but I'm really not so sure. Some lyrics seem so firmly tongue in cheek, such as 'Someone nudged me in the street, some one looked at me twice, now I'm negative', that it makes

Easy to see why this album has been rejected as ludicrous.

me really question the aim of the album. Coupled with 'Being a Girl' - especially the piss-take that the video is - makes it easy to see why this album has been rejected as ludicrous.

Yet tracks considering social conformity (Six), obsessive behaviour (Television) and Paul Draper's own of

losing it (Special/Blown It and Legacy) do make me think that album does want to be more serious.

Musically this album's just about as paradoxical as it lyrically. The album veers from the kind of construction you'd find in early 70's Rock, to swift bass driven music akin to West-Coast Pop, with some Supergrass style silliness, Semi-Gospel and classical music thrown in for good measure. It's so all over the place that it seems that the album is constructed from around 50 different tunes.

But some how it all comes together quite well. Perhaps Six is a little over long (but can you have too much of a good thing?) and lacking maybe in really obvious singles, but it is such an addictive album so I'd strongly recommend you give it a chance. (9)

The Good Will Out

Daniel Lewis heads 'sarf of the River' to catch Embrace as they hit Brixton Academy to entertain all you Good Good People.

Embrace
@ Brixton Academy

And I think to myself, what a wonderful world." Indeed. Embrace walk on, hands aloft as per, to the dulcet tones of Louis Armstrong and here I am, compelled to venture 'sarf of the river' to Brixton, although it probably was worth it - just this once.

Embrace have been making waves in the music press, especially NME, for the last 18 months now, and album went top a few months ago but they still seem to be having difficulty having a real impact. Not that you'd have noticed that night. Brixton is usually a particularly cavernous venue, yet on Friday, containing approximately 2,000 up-for-it souls, it all seemed rather cramped.

As soon as 'Blind' ripped into action it all kicked off. Indie-kids and rugger-buggers alike all propelled themselves to the front with the seeming intention of breaking my spine. Whatever, that's my intention too. 'Blind' and the

next song 'The Last Gas' can not be resisted and I find myself near dehydrated after just 10 minutes. But hey, it's all in good fun.

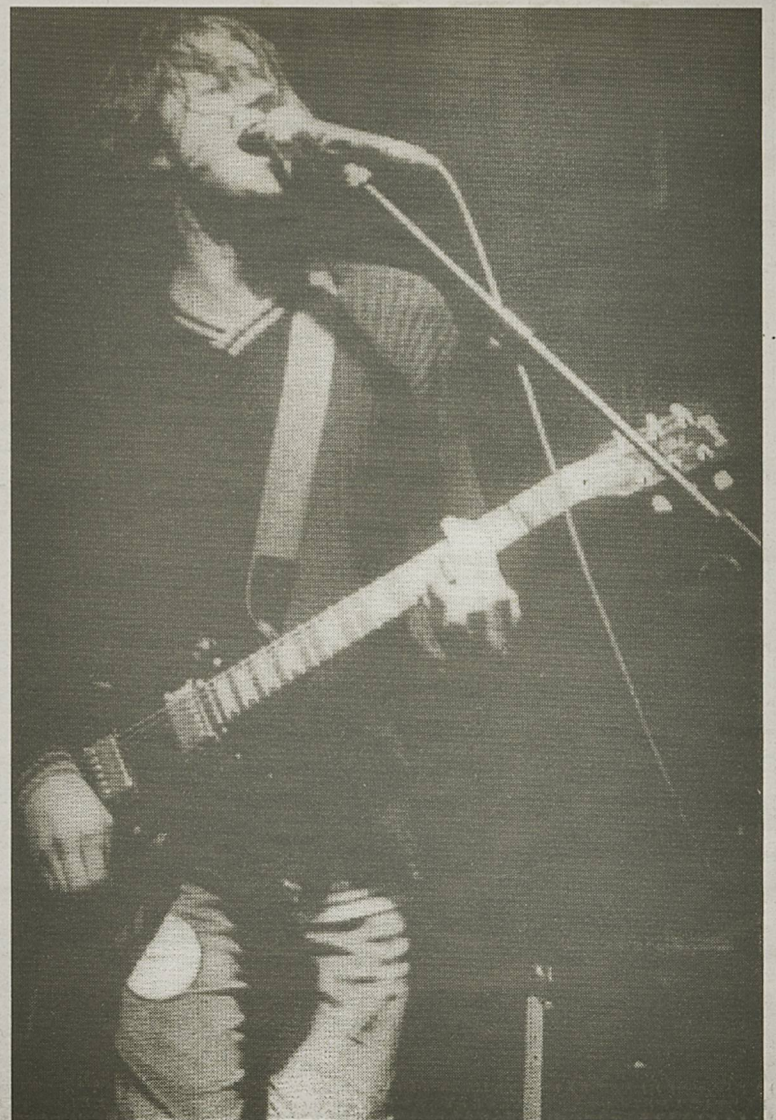
Luckily the mood then slows with tracks like the brilliant 'Retread' and 'Come back to what you know' and then it's the moment to really test Danny's voice - the B-Side 'Free Ride' - and it comes off

The closed eyes may betray his nervousness, but the lead guitarist's voice was good nonetheless.

well. All my fears are summarily allayed. Superb. But maybe we can forget about Danny, because Lead Guitarist Richie, the other McNamara brother takes centre stage, if only metaphorically, to sing yet another surprisingly good B-Side 'The Way I Do'. The closed eyes may betray his nervousness, but his voice was good none the less.

Back on stage Danny-Boy continued with the rapid 'One Big Family' and a few other, if weaker, storming tracks from the 'Good Will Out'. Then they wander off, traditional but tedious, a bouncer throws some water at me and a girl who looks like a Korean Kate Moss looks at me funny, then they return for the beautiful 'Fireworks', the best of the night, as per, and sounding more heart-felt with every listen. The last time I saw Embrace they concluded their activities with a reprise of 'One Big Family' but now that they have the tracks, they played 'The Good Will Out' to the anthemic, Hey-Jude-esque delight invoked.

One downside to the gig was the distinct lack of any new material, although perhaps I'm simply being impatient, there is still plenty of good stuff to enjoy. Overall, a very enjoyable, if sweaty and sapping gig, and should they ever visit a venue this size again - the audience has doubled since their last London show - I'd definitely advise you try and take it in, you never know, you might like it.



Man from Unkle

Even though hyped to death - Unkle know how to keep their shit together.

Unkle

Psyence Fiction

Hmm... Unless you've been hibernating in a cardboard box over the summer you should already know the deal behind the Unkle project and this, their first album.

One day, James Lavelle, head A&R honcho at ultra hip label Mo Wax, decides to ring up his good buddy (and biggest selling act) DJ Shadow. Then he gets Mr Shadow into the studio to record with a selection of musicians and singers (Some famous some... um... not), gets in touch with his marketing friends, hypes it all up beyond belief and serves to an eager public who've been starved of original music since 'OK Computer'.

Well, maybe that's being too cynical. However it has to be said that 'Psyence Fiction' didn't actually become the album to have until the press went crazy about it. Particularly over the presence of Thom Yorke, lead singer with Radiohead, and The Verve's Richard Ashcroft on two of the tracks. So anyway, with a set-up like that, Psyence Fiction was either going to be an absolute classic or another Blind Faith.

Luckily for everyone, though,

Psyence Fiction, fits more into the first of those two categories then it does into the last. Well, almost...

The main problem with Psyence Fiction is that because of the way it was made much of the music seems to be spit glued together. On his own on tracks like Unreal and Celestial Annihilation DJ Shadow keeps his shit together so well that you wonder whether he really needs tag along collaborators screwing around with his flow. As anyone who's listened to his debut album, Endtroducing, would tell you, Shadow knows how to turn out everything from a haunting melody to smooth laid back funk. The trouble is when Lavelle demands that he works with another, the whole ends up less than the sum of it's parts.

The most obvious example of this is Lonely Soul, the much vaunted Richard Ashcroft track. What would have been an epic piece of Shadow, up there with Midnight in a Perfect World is rendered, impotent as soon as Ashcroft's half assed vocals kick in. Shadow tries his best to salvage it with moody orchestral swings but you can't help but think it doesn't quite gel. Similarly on Chaos the vocals seem to detract rather than add to the underlying tune.

However when Unkle works it works exceedingly well. Guns Blazing with Kool G Rap and The Knock with Beastie Boy Mike D are amazing blow-you-away slabs of serious hip hop (even if D does seem to be turning out the same lyrics as Intergalactic) while Badly Drawn Boy's kick ass metal song Nursery Rhyme has already made him hot property in the music industry. Even Thom Yorke is on form with Rabbit in Your Headlights a tune which is both sarcastic and genuinely feeling at the same time.

Despite it's flaws Psyence Fiction is still one of the best albums of the year. Over hyped? Sure, but still, it's the money in more ways than one. Buy it. (9)

Matt Bro



Talvin Singh

OK

For much of last year, Talvin Singh hosted Monday nights at 'The Blue Note': Anokha was always guaranteed to be a great night, and it's astonishing success led to a compilation album called 'Sounds of the Asian Underground'. It was a groundbreaking project that has eventually helped create a large degree of hype and expectation for Singh's debut album, 'OK'.

In terms of originality, it doesn't really get much better than this. This album will probably be classified as experimental Drum 'n Bass, but I've never really understood such terminology. It's classical Indian influences combine amazingly with the hard and erratic beats/off-beats, to provide a rollercoaster of a journey but a consistent message from Traveller (the first track) to Vikram the Vampire (11th and final song). It is Big Music and I love it.

This element of 'Big' comes from the vast array of sounds and instruments used - sitar, violin, harp, brass, as well as the distorted guitars

and the drum machine. Furthermore, 'OK' was recorded in a whole host of locations including Okinawa, Kerala, Bombay, and Brick Lane, London.

The major difference between this album and Anokha is that 'OK' is more classically influenced with either crazy beats used intermittently or subtle drum 'n bass beneath the moody lead sitar or violin. Anokha was much harder and could be ascribed to Drum 'n Bass more easily. Apart from three tracks - 'Sutrix', 'OK' and 'Traveller' - I would be shocked to hear any of this album played in a club environment...even the Blue Note!

Having already worked with Bjork, Courtney Pine, Bim Sherman and Sun Ra, Talvin Singh's high credibility will soar to new heights after the release of this album. It's a rarity for albums these days to give spine-tingling sensations, but this does. The single 'OK' is released on 12th October: buy it. And if you love it, buy the album which comes out later this month. It really doesn't get much better than this. (9)

ZaK



Republica

From rush hour with love

No Republica fan will be disappointed with this latest offering. Definitely on par with 'Ready To Go' and 'Drop Dead Gorgeous'. But, what's the fascination with the 1963 movie? Perhaps Saffron has a thing for Mr Bond, or maybe she wants to be the next Pussy Galore, so as to add acting to her long list of talents (singing, modelling ...). What ever the reason, this song is strongly recommended. (8) JM

Fungus

I'd rather be a doll

...and I'd rather be listening to something else.

If this single is anything to go by 'Fungus' seem to be a band who excel in being exceedingly mediocre. From the Cobain-wannabe vocals to the chug-a-lug progression of the guitar chords, 'I'd rather be...' comes across as the kind of second rate rawk anthem usually perpetrated by 'Kerbdog' and the rest of their 'Kerrrang!' filling ilk. Technically it's fine but, when so many other bands are doing it so much better, a band like 'Fungus' are about as needed as athlete's foot. (4) MB

A

Summer on the Underground

A tip for budding rock bands; blousy, slow moving, sub-Brian-Wilson crap hardly ever sells, unless you're called 'Fountains of Wayne.'

Surprisingly 'A' aren't called 'Fountains of Wayne' and 'Summer on the Underground' is a strange departure from their previous, tight,

hard edged, punk harmonies. And to be honest, it's a change for the worse. Even 'A' fans would be hard pressed to truly like it's far too laid back melody.

It's even more of a shame when 'A' prove themselves with a kick ass cover of eighties smash 'Owner of a lonely Heart' which will probably never see the light of day.

Ho hum. Where's the old Xfm when you need it... (5) MB

The Young Offenders

Pink and Blue

What the hell is this crap??? Brett Anderson on helium vocals? Sub Bis bouncy punk guitars? Jeez... Does the world really have so much bad karma that we deserve this?

If you're wondering how bad Pink and Blue really is, let me make it clear: if any of you buy this single I will personally hunt you down and kill you. Pray to whichever god you believe in that a single like this never appears again...

Young Offenders? Hell. Lock 'em up!!! (1) MB

Tracy Shaw

Ridin High

Mr. Stock and Aitken's greasy fat fingers have been on the search for new soap opera talent to exploit. And so desperate were they that they contacted the actress that plays Deidre Barlow to do a duet with Gary Barlow for this Christmas. She rejected, on the grounds that...well, Gary can't write songs any more. But Tracy Shaw's agent put her name forward for some obscure attempt to break into the pop world

and, for 200 Irish pounds, this is what they've come up with. Less of a clubber's delight, and more of a disgusting tragedy that young people must be forced to listen to this factory line tosh on the radio. To quote Francis Stevens; "she's a sad, tragic dog" and thus her and her heard-it-before song must be dragged through the Rover's Return by the insides and fed to Jack's pigeons. (0.5) PR

Arnold

Windsor Park

From their Bernard Butler Suede like opening riff; Creation's new boys Arnold give us about four minutes of breezy, dreamy, lullaby National Heritage Park theme music. Not unlike anything we might have expected from a radiohead B-side during the Bends period, what I liked was that it didn't become too self-loving or Oasis style indulgent; in short, like my Caffreys -it keeps its head. A fairly good song. (5) PR

Placebo

You don't care about us



Let's face it, Placebo are nothing but an annoying bunch of androgynous post-punk testosterone junkies. Their music so poor that three quarters of the world population hoped for Nancy Boy and Bruise Pristine to quickly disappear to wherever they early last year came from - while the other quarter simply bought the album in order to subsequently re-sell it to their nearest Video- and CD-Exchange. However, Mr/Mrs Brian Molko and his mates cunningly ignored their fame and decided to record a new album. Just to make sure they still sound as

boring as they have always done. Consequently, You don't care about us - their second single release after Pure Morning - is the only possible complain for them to make: It is true, we don't care about them. Not if their songs sound as uninspired as this. Unexpected highlight, though, are the B-Sides: Remixes of Pure Morning by Les Rythmes Digitales and Howie B. Now that's something. Just program your CD-player to always skip the first track. And then, but only then, it is quite a fine single. (5) MG

Caffeine

Kill the brave

'Punk is dead'. One of those great wise words of mankind that everyone has heard before but still refuses to believe. Unfortunately, rightly so. And Caffeine probably just exist to underline this fact. 'Cause their dull and noisy punk-rock music cannot possibly justify their existence. Maybe the title of their forthcoming album 'What the hell am I gonna do when she comes' does. Don't know. At least this single doesn't. Full stop. (3) MG

Superior

Faster than you

The facts certainly are impressive:
1. Superior's front-woman Su Goodacre is damn good looking;
2. Tricky proclaimed that she "has the attitude of Liam Gallagher, the intelligence of Jerry Hall and the potential of Madonna";
3. Superior's first recordings were consequently laid down on a four track machine in Tricky's bedroom. Career woman, eh? But despite all this, Faster than you is indeed an impressive tune. Somewhat reminiscent of PJ Harvey's stranger days, but with a more grungy feel to it. Surely not the latest revelation in indie/britpop but at least passionate, with attitude. Thus it seems true, whatever is touched by Tricky's magic wand turns into gold - and so will this. (7) MG

Beastie Beaver



RIP

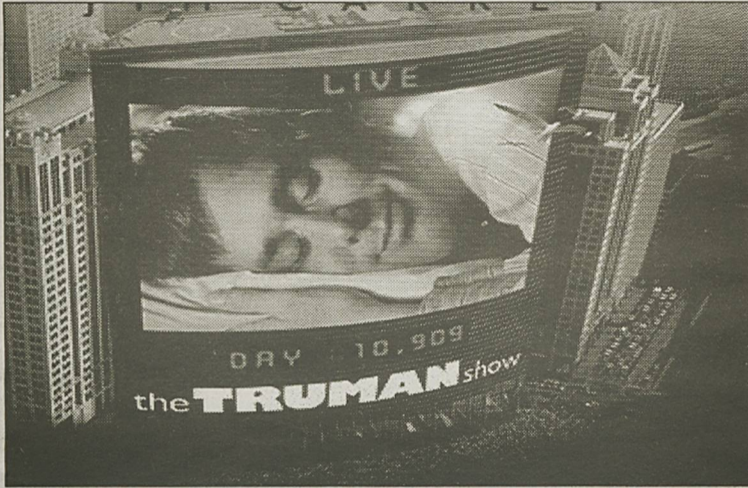
Beastie Beaver, the talk of LSE and the Beaver's star columnist for the Lent Term, finally died last week. Born on the wrong side of the dam on the Hudson River, Beastie swiftly became enchanted with R'n'B and Hip-Hop, evolving into a self-style 'Gansta B-Boy'. Once he hit the Thames he became a pivotal figure in LSE musical life, becoming one of our most valued writers and contributors.

There have been many conspiracy theories banded around attempting to explain this tragic loss. Some believe that he had his ass capped by an otter crew out of Shoreditch, whilst others believed he simple tried to ingest a Stake Slice purchased from the Tins with fatal consequences. However The Beaver can now exclusively reveal that after adopting the rather unwise strategy of building his dam in a shipping lane. As a result his carcass is believed to be attached to a bull venturing towards Finland.

He is survived by crap loads of illegitimate children. It is unlikely that we will ever see his kind again. No, I promise.

Movies Movies Movies

Phillip Rowlatt, our man in the USA gives us the lowdown on what's new...



I spent a long time in the USA this summer, and during some of those hot and sticky Carolina nights I would relieve myself. However on other days I would drive myself to the MovieDromes, purchase a ticket and a small bucket of salty popcorn and find a seat for the movie. This summer has been all about heroes. Smashing the prematurely released Spielberg produced *Deep Impact* out of the Cosmos, came *Armageddon*. A movie I found almost completely enthralling from start to finish; it moved along at a pace not too dissimilar from its rocky star, a meteoroid, "the size of Texas Mr. President," that is spotted hurtling towards the earth by an old sage in his observatory one evening. The problem, we discover, is that God's stone is just too darn big to be blasted off its course by the planet's own Nuclear Armageddon, so the next best idea is to send the 'earth's best deep core driller', not John Holmes nor Dirk Diggler, but Brucey "Oil Rig" Willis to a NASA site to train a team of Astronauts to drill a fuck off big hole through the space-ball. Thus enabling the guys to drop a ton of Nuclear bombs down there, breaking it apart from the centre. However, Bruce isn't content that America's premier space adventuring crew would not be up to the job, I mean come on, this is America at state; God forbid that anything should flatten their already bloated populace. No, he will have to go up there, with his friends from the oil rig - good oily men he can trust to hold his drill steady when he's breaking through a foreign body. And so we are re-introduced, in almost Dirty Dozen style, the recruitment of around ten of these guys, including the loser to beat all winners. What you might not have guessed though, was that I loved it, yes, I loved every minute of the recruitment, the fear in their eyes, the tension of will they or won't they make it back, will Ben Affleck, the twenty first century's NEW Bruce Willis make it back to scatter more Animal Cracker breadcrumbs over Liv Tyler's rug! You will just need to go and see it, or, ask somebody who's seen it. (7)

The Truman Show, starring Jim Carrey is a bright and original attack on TV and the Media's intrusion into our time; a fairly topical but nonetheless timeless piece of work; we follow Jim Carrey, or Truman Burbank, as the unwitting

star of the 24 hr a day live broadcast of...well...his life. From lighthearted beginnings opposite the bathroom mirror where we are introduced to Truman talking to himself, we slowly begin to feel the Kafka-esque hell of it all, with posters advertising Kaiser Chicken, men in round spectacles and dark black overcoats talking discreetly into mobile phones, reporting routes or conversations he's had, Truman's life is organised for him beautifully; here the director supports the show - he is truly safe - indeed, the guy has absolutely nothing to worry about, apart from 15 million viewers watching him take a crap or pick his nose. We are shown people in bars, outside of his false world watching in delight how his life unfolds each day. What will the director choose to do next? Will he ever see the father he lost at sea again? Even if an accident happens at work, it was planned, if he wants to drive off his idyllic, but artificial isle he can't, because of a fear of water instilled in him since a childhood accident. Jim Carrey really does do himself proud as the chirpy, but love-torn and vulnerable hero, and I, along with the crowds in the bar, cheer in support as he begins to become dubious of his lifestyle and pits himself against his fears to find his true love. I felt quite confused and dubious about the poor man's chances of making it in our world, but the director's mission of extrapolating media and TV's interest in personal lives I think was a clever success. Carrey took the role for half his usual fee and the support cast, especially Laura Linney, were frighteningly good at mixing who they were acting, with who they were. (7)

The people's favourite: Steven Spielberg this season came up with an absolute winner for this summer. Nowhere close to his other WWII film, which flopped badly, 1942, **Saving Private Ryan** has been on everybody's lips since June. Essentially it's the story of a rescue mission led by Tom Hanks (America's favourite actor for the past four years) and a small squad of men from different units to save the only surviving brother of three, Private Ryan from somewhere in Nazi occupied France. So what obviously gives the story an interesting twist is that these brave 8 are all asked to sacrifice their lives for the sake of one. A very interesting moral choice

by the commander in chief you may say, but Spielberg chose this tale very carefully I believe; because for me, it suggested a somewhat abstract comment on those soldiers' effort as a whole. The very fact that one of his band gives his life saving a young girl from a sniper introduces what bastions of sacrifice these men were. And that, well, perhaps he does become a little indulgent on the Normandy landing scene, I was at least struck by how much these men gave up in the name of orders and some philanthropy. To be honest, I was completely sucked in by the first twenty minutes of live-like real footage (he used different film stock such that the picture quality looked authentically like documentary footage) where the American footsoldiers storm the beach into a wall of Nazi bullets and shells. You really will have to see this for yourself. (8)

I went to see **There's Something About Mary**, (from the guys who threw *Dumb and Dumber* at us), with some high hopes of being callously entertained. Having finished watching it, I felt that their agenda was even more rotten than I



could ever have imagined. Ben Stiller plays a goodhearted fellow who has had a crush on Mary (Cameron Diaz.. "she's a fox, man") ever since highschool, and when the opportunity arises to track her down to Miami, he becomes embroiled in a hole plethora of mis-demeanors and scrapes with other guys; including Matt Dillon, who plays the slimy private investigator who will do anything, including dental surgery to capture the young woman's heart once HE meets her, and Lee Evans, who is pretty funny as a pizza delivery boy turned crippled architect! Essentially, everybody's



after Mary, and who would blame them? Diaz plays the not so vulnerable maiden-with -it all, including a ferocious terrier dog that gets its food spiked with amphetamines at one hilarious scene.

You could well argue that the film is made up of a variety of callous, but nonetheless funny sketches but the film really does hold together as a fantastic romantic comedy and it did leave me guessing whether Stiller would get the girl in the end - him being almost as morally decrepit as his enemies. (7)

I really didn't know what to expect from the movie adaptation of our sixties cult TV show, the **Avengers**. I guess I was kind of hoping to see Uma Thurman in Emma Peel's leather catsuit prancing around English country gardens, drinking tea and chasing round the countryside in John Steed's old motor. I was not disappointed, because in my opinion this was indeed everything it should have been. True, the heroes: Steed played comfortably by Ralph "you spilt my tea old chap" Fiennes, and the head of their secret service, Jim Broadbent, puts in a performance which is as good as I've come to expect from him. The pair are united to discover just what is wrong with Blighty's now (or then?) computer controlled weather system. The culprit of the meteorological warps is none other than randy old bugga Sean Connery; not utterly at home with being a villain, nor with some very, and I mean very cheesy lines - "now is the summer of our content.." - and a charmingly eccentric love of botany and Uma Thurman (he gets very, very close to bringing those now somewhat white hairy hands to her bosoms).

The film struck a chord with me because of its outright strangeness.. the director has Connery's team of villains (two of which are Eddie Izzard complete with stillettoes! And Sean "Jesus was batman" Ryder!) at one point dressed in gummi bear outfits - to maintain anonymity and old ladies wandering through country parks with M16 rifles. My advice would be to drop some acid and ask someone to escort you to the cinema where it's playing. (6)

Funnier than *Something About Mary*, MTV has financed a very offbeat comedy of two young college undergrads trying to save their bacon at college. With the threat of failure, two freshmen (Tom Everett Scott and Mark Paul Gosselaar - *Saved By the*

Bell's Zack Morris) resort to desperate measures to bring up their grades. Salvation comes at the end of semester in the form of an arcane loophole buried in the college charter which might even let this pair slip through with straight As. Although the leading pair in **Dead Man on Campus** are well balanced as characters, the real star of the film is Cliff, the first of their chosen roommates, selected from confidential Mental Health reports, who is completely bananas. This is an oak promise: Cliff will have you rolling off your seat in the cinema and down the aisle with his high-butane antics around their campus; chases with the police and pyromania. What's more, the soundtrack is very special as well. (8)

Simon Birch tells the story of an eleven year old dwarf with huge faith in God's plan for him. The fascinating title role is played with ease by Ian Michael Smith - treated you might say as a live action toy or a smart, exotic pet. This little comic figure is given an endless string of 1 liners that play off his size in the same way the dirty jokes paly off the ages of the characters in film-maker Johnson's Grumpy old men.

A remniscent piece, told by Simon's best friend Joe Wentworth, looking back on as an adult at the foot of Simon's grave. A sombre Jim Carrey, who also provides the narrator's voice in a similar style to Dreyfus in *Stand By Me*, utters "He's the reason I believe in God", as the story begins, promising an epiphany that doesn't come until the film's climactic sequence.

I didn't find the film too overwhelmingly sickly sweet, although the mood cues and score were perhaps a little over dramatised, this emotional family piece did me proud. (5)

Two films I did not get to see but nevertheless looked very attractive, were the film adaptation of the comic **Blade**, starring Wesley Snipes as a vampire hunter in New York blessed with Vampiric attributes and Stephen Dorff as one of the looney bloodsuckers who I guess, gets staked; and I'm not talking about barbecues ... hadihadiha. Also, Matt Damon's latest, **Rounders** - a tale of two college kids risking their own funds in the tense and tough world of poker. Look out for a particularly good performance from Ed Norton, who, I believe is destined for some other great films, unlike the cheesy, grinning spanner that is Matt Damon.



Ever felt something could be done better?

What did you do about it?

Nothing? Or did you do something to get it done better? If you actually did something, and you're graduating in 1999, you could be exactly what we're looking for. We need students to apply for our Christmas courses this year. The kind of students who don't just study, but also get involved in things and really make a difference.

We're Procter & Gamble. We make, market and sell over 300 world-famous brands including Hugo Boss, Pringles, Pantene, Pampers, Ariel and Oil of Ulay. Making things better is vital to our business. With Pampers, we introduced the world to the disposable nappy, leading to drier, happier babies everywhere. (And fewer faces like the one above.) More recently, we have tremendous success with the launch of Sunny Delight. We have been one of the world's most successful businesses for over a hundred years. But the continuation of that success depends on one thing: the quality of our people.

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We don't expect you to know all about business - we offer some of the best training in the world - but you need to have done things that prove your potential. That's because we'll give you immediate responsibility. You won't be making coffee or just churning charts.

You'll get real, live projects, and the chance to influence things - even revolutionise them, if your plans are convincing enough.

If you are looking for a challenging career which really allows you to break the boundaries then pick up an application form now. We inform all our Christmas course students within a few days if they have a full-time job offer. You could start 1999 in the knowledge that you've secured a place with a company that's one of the most admired in the world.

We only recruit at graduate level and run courses across Brand Management, Customer Business Development, Product Supply Management, Financial Management, Management Systems, and Research and Development. The Christmas Course programme is an ideal way for you to find out more about the company and it's people.

Your first step?

Our deadline for applications is 30th October 1998. If you think you fit the bill, we need to hear from you now. Call our recruitment hotline on 0800 0565258 or come along to the P&G corporate presentation at the Waldorf Hotel on 13th October 1998 at 7pm.

Procter & Gamble
Christmas Courses 1998



A Totally Sabb Summer

After living in Sabland all summer it's so nice to get back to true LSE life. To see all those familiar faces and the hordes of new ones, to witness the Houghton Street brimming with life once again and, unfortunately, to have to fight for a seat in the Brunch Bowl, Tuns, Cafe, at peak times. Sabland is a strange place to live.

Having been to a total of eight training events or conferences over the summer, I have had to interact with other Sabs and NUS-types, who I have found to be a strange breed. They tend to be very outgoing, loud and a bit zany, the kind of people that relish being in the limelight. You get the odd serious one, who wants to "do the best I can for my Union and my students" and who asks lots of questions at events and pays close attention at skills workshops.

And then you get the LSE Sabs. Apart from me, they've done it all before, so they set about the important task of

"networking". Jasper seemed to generate a fan club at Convention so that whenever I said I was from LSE at



subsequent conferences, Sabs would exclaim "so you know Jasper then, good bloke, nice lad.... etc." Yuan scoured the ranks of new Sabs in search of "totty" and "cheeky toasties" (by the way, if its gorgeous men you're after I can but recommend you transfer to De

Montfort where they can be found in abundance). Narius portrayed his tough-man act by threatening to "spark out" any

Sabs he took a dislike to and he thought it was funny to sing 'Vindaloo' at the top of his voice at three in the morning so that none of us got any sleep. I was impeccably well behaved, went to all of my workshops (except assertiveness training because I knew they'd make me do

something 'assertive' and I couldn't face it) and I have the certificates to prove it.

We did LSE proud wherever we went, proving ourselves to be by far the best Sab team in every respect, we won the ULU quiz by miles despite the fact that UCL cheated by using their mobile phones to call their mums. Apart from conferences Sabland is awash with 'events', Sabbs seem to be very fond of throwing each other parties. These consist of partaking in highly odd drinking games and stupid "my Uni's better than yours" type conversations (Imperial developed these into a fine art form, informing Narius at one point that they were about to buy LSE).

And so, that was my summer dear students, I'm sure it compares favourably to your sun drenched hols in Crete and Ibiza....

**Maria Neophytou,
SU Ed & Welfare Sabb**

UGM Motions - A Brief Guide

The LSESU's Union General Meeting is meant to be an opportunity for you as a student to raise issues that you feel are relevant to student life. This may sound like a simple task, but there are constitutional procedures that have to be undertaken first, and this article is meant to be a summary of what it entails. The LSESU's Union General Meetings are on Thursdays from 1-2pm in the Old Theatre (Old Building). The Union General Meeting (UGM) makes Union policy by adopting motions. Motions consist of three sections: 'Union notes', which consists of statements of fact; 'Union believes', which consists of opinions, and 'Union resolves', which consists of mandates for action to be taken by an officer or committee of the Union. There are different types of motions relating to union funds, policy, constitution and Codes of Practice, as well as emergency motions and motions of no confidence. If you want to submit a motion, it must be handed into SU reception by 5pm on the Monday before the UGM at which they are to be discussed or given notice. Motions remain on the Order paper for a maximum of three weeks (inc. holidays) unless re-submitted by 1pm on the next Tuesday. All motions require a proposer and seconder who are full members of the LSESU. Motions can not exceed 750 words and no more than two motions can be proposed or seconded by the same person. The Constitution and Codes of Practice of the LSESU provides more detailed information and is available from the SU Reception

Gen Sec's Column

Over the course of the year, I'll continue to pen this column on a regular basis. The purpose is to keep the student body at large informed on contemporary issues and events pertaining to them, both within the School and outside it.

This week will witness the advent of one of the most unfortunate developments in the history of Higher Education in the UK: tuition fees for home undergraduates. Just after a year of its election, this government has gone back on all its past promises and dealt another nail in the coffin for HE funding. Despite a protracted campaign by the student body over the course of last year, culminating in a last-ditch effort to convince the House of Lords to overturn it, the Bill got approval this summer, abolishing the time-honoured tradition of free university education in this country forever.

Many wrinkles remain to be smoothed out however. Local Education Authorities are finding it difficult to deliver the means tested results and awards letter for the start of term. This could mean that institutions could ask students who do not have the award letter to pay the full £1,000 contribution. This problem is further exacerbated with students from EU countries, for whom means-testing is more complicated. We shall continue to liaise with the School to sort out these matters and others arising and can offer advice to alleviate the hardship caused.

The core issue arising now has yet to be resolved. The advent of fees will lead to rising expectations on the part of students. No longer will 'customer' status be the exclusive preserve of Overseas students. The message going to the government has to be clear: the money raised from fees simply cannot be allowed to float around at the whims of the Treasury. It has to come into Higher Education at the very least, if not into the institution directly. The onus is now on the CVCP (the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals) and other University Governors etc. to impress this point upon the government. Director Tony Giddens, with his close links to the government, is in a position to take a lead in this respect.

The news of the London Transport discount deal negotiated by ULU is heartening. With rising living costs in London biting hard into students' wallets, any concession is welcome and one as significant as this is outstanding. Most unfortunately however, this offer has been restricted to students under the age of 24. This contravenes our equal opportunities policy and not only seems to be stuck in a time warp when mature students were perceived to be those who took a few years out of high-paid jobs but also ignores the statistically documented fact that mature and postgraduate students face equal if not more hardship as compared to their younger counterparts. We shall be mounting a campaign to convince London Transport to extend this scheme to all full-time students, irrespective of age.

The first UGM is two days away. For the freshers among you, come over for a rude awakening, for those continuing welcome back. And don't forget the ultimate accessory: an issue of this paper to chuck onto the stage!

Cheers,

Narius Aga

**Union General Meeting, Thursdays,
1pm, Old Theatre
*Come and have your say***

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday 6th October: Quiz Nite, £100 First Prize

Wednesday 7th October: Bar FTSE at the Tuns

FIRST KISS AT THE LEISURE LOUNGE

Thursday 8th October: Nights in Halls

Friday 9th October: CRUSH featuring Disco Inferno

Saturday 10th October: The Chuckle Club - Phil Jupitus

Monday 12th October: Quiz Nite in the Tuns

Friday 16th October: CRUSH featuring The Double Six
Club

Saturday 17th October: The Chuckle Club

Monday 19th October: Tribal Encounters tour. Excellent
music from Masai Warriors.

Tuesday 20th October: Silly Cow in the Old Theatre

Thursday 22nd October: Silly Cow in the Old Theatre

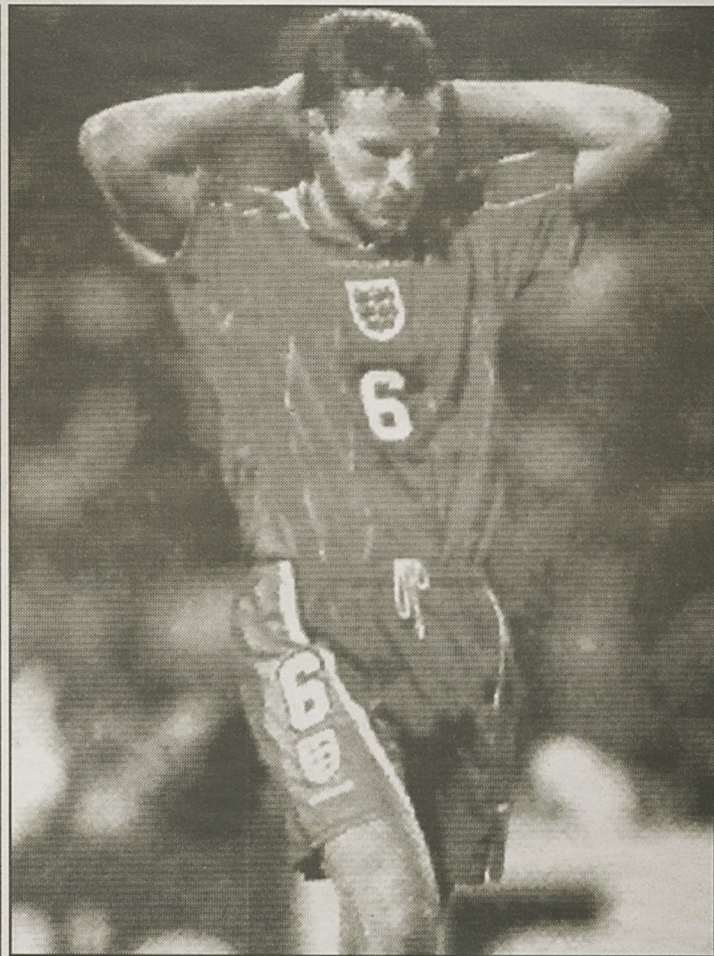
Wednesday 28th October: Don't Forget your Toothbrush at
the Tuns

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Trials! Meet on
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Don't miss (out) get into the AU

Library

If you want to write, Edit,
Layout or take
Photographs for The
Beaver, then come to:

The Collective
Wednesday, October 7
@ 18:00 in A220