



THE BEAVER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

Issue 460

Tuesday March 4, 1997



Keep smiling,
the Oscar is on
the way
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Dan looks into his
crystal ball
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Happy Birthday SU

1897-1997

Zoe Peden

THE celebrations for this year's Global Festival have particular significance because they mark the SU's centenary.

The roots of the Union trace back to the weekly UGM meetings, starting as an afternoon tea hour a century ago. These were arranged by a certain Miss MacTaggart with the intent that students could meet to gossip and sometimes hold serious discussions. There seems not to have been much progression since then.

These tea hours were "formalised" in 1897 when the Student Union was founded, and to begin with, was appropriately called the Economic Student Union. The first Chairman was a student by the name of C.M. Knowles. These "jolly" tea hours met fortnightly for "lively" debates on topical subjects and soon became a focus for social activities.

Miss MacTaggart said at the time "from the beginning students showed themselves to be gregarious and argumentative, eager to take advantage of every chance of meeting each other". From the way seating is split left and right with a couple down the middle it would seem that a century later students go out of their way not to meet each other.

Since then, the LSESU has developed into an active and motive force. From improving facilities to increasing representation and prompting student rights, the SU has become one of the most powerful



The Three Tuns pub sign back in the 1950's.

Photo: BLPES Archives

student unions in the country.

The LSESU is one of the only Student Unions in Europe to hold a weekly UGM. Lord Dahrendorf, author of the LSE centenary year, speaking to *The Beaver*, described the history of the SU as "varied" as that of the School itself. This has certainly been the case. Since 1897, the activities and scope of the LSESU has extended. The SU has consistently aimed to promote student issues, and campaign for improvements in student life. The successive campaigns to increase student representation on various School committees as well as acting as a voice on matters of crucial importance to students. The recent campaign against tuition fees has demonstrated that the LSESU is one which will play an active role to further student interests. There is also the other side of the SU, which since its establishment has strived to improve student facilities, such as printing services, the union shop and, perhaps most significantly, the Three Tuns bar.

As candidates prepare for this week's SU elections, they should be aware of the long legacy of SU achievement on which they can still build.

INSIDE

The Beaver reflects on the development of the SU and asks alumni to look back on their time and experiences at the LSE: pages two and three.

SU National Conference Success

Andrew Yule
and Dhara Ranasinghe

TUITION Fees - Bad or good? This was the debate which triggered of the National Conference against Tuition Fees in the Hong-Kong Theatre last Tuesday.

Oposing the implementation of fees, Douglas Trainer, President of the National Union Of Students, argued that the imposition of fees would "open the door" for the Government to increase student contributions to their education in the future.

While the opposing argument was

As the SU celebrates its centenary, the fight to promote student rights continues

taken taken up by Iain Crawford from the LSE's Centre for Educational Research, there appeared to be a degree of consensus between the two speakers. Crawford and Trainer both identified a Maintenance and Income Contingent Loan (MICL) as the way forward. In defence of MICL, Trainer commented that education would remain free on the point of entry.

Turning to the issue of the Student

Loan Company, Crawford criticised Treasury's handling of the Loan Company and urged the need for a repayment system.

In reply to a question posed by Dan Crowe, General Secretary of the LSESU, on whether the student movement was conceding the argument by agreeing to pay maintenance costs, Trainer stressed the need to take a "realistic" approach.

Trainer, went on to criticise the LSE for not accepting an amendment, at last terms Court of Governors meeting which would have allowed tuition fees if two other Universities implemented them first, and that by doing so, it had lost a bargaining position.

In considering the whole debate on tuition fees, Crawford added that it was also necessary to consider other parts of

the Welfare State, also in need of funding.

The agenda for the second part of the day was "The Way Forward for the Anti-Tuition Fees Campaign." Sam Parham chaired the debate, the main speakers in which were Lee Findell, NUS Vice President, and Chris Fabby, President of Huddersfield SU, leader of a successful campaign in Huddersfield. Mr Fabby spoke encouragingly and passionately about the campaign nationwide. His final comment on the matter was that only

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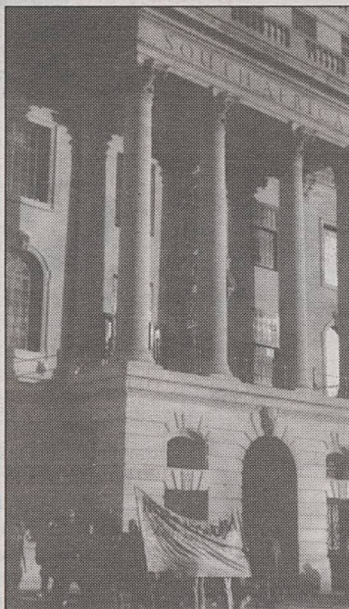
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News From The Archives

This week's archives takes a look at what the SU was up to in previous celebratory years.

IN 1957, the event occupying the student body and the LSE Student Union was the situation in South Africa. Students were opposed to the "apartheid" policy of the South African government and in particular to the introduction of racial segregation in the universities and the 'treason trials' that had taken place. The School united in its opposition and created a committee which consisted of all religious, political and national societies of the school" chaired by John Steve. As a sign of their protest, the students organised a silent march to South Africa House on a Friday lunch time to present a petition to the High Commissioner. Those with the intention of participating were asked to wear a black armband as a sign of their support. *The Beaver* wrote "this is an issue over which students have great sympathy with their South African counterparts and are therefore urged to wholeheartedly support this protest".



March on South Africa House

Photo: Library

the headlines of *The Beaver* reporting "Election Fever!", the candidates of the Court of Governors were shocked, horrified and even 'disturbed' to learn that M. Atilla (the initial M stands for Mole) was standing as a candidate to the Court of Governors. Said to be deaf, dumb and blind, some claimed that his handicaps would not in any way stop him from taking an active part in the committee because "students on School committees are helpless, regardless of whether or not they are able to speak, hear or see". Nevertheless, the answer to the question why the horror and indignation?" at this news was revealed in *The Beaver* which reported that M. Atilla was a stuffed toy with an NUS card! The Returning Officer said that he had "accepted Atilla's application to stand for Court of Governors" despite the fact that he did not possess an LSE admissions card. Students insisted that "his presence on the Court of Governors would greatly enhance the potential of this committee".

The SU saw the controversial issue of LSE disaffiliation from the NUS in 1967. The Disciplinary Board took a long time to make a decision and there were suggestions of a unification of the Union in opposing the delay of the Board's decision. Instead, an amendment was passed electing a deputation of Union members to "convey the Union's sense of dismay to the Board". The SU criticised the voting system of the NUS and the idea of the LSE paying £970 of its £6,000 grant to NUS and its associations with the International Student Conference which was reported to receive money from the CIA. The motion to disaffiliate, however, was defeated by 10 to 88 as it was felt to be an "undemocratic move". Alan Evans commented that "LSE would be acting selfishly in disaffiliating".

IN 1977, the mood amongst members of the SU and the Students of the LSE was much less serious. With

IN 1987 all major reports of SU activities were conveyed in the UGM. Issues of *The Beaver* focussed on the weekly UGMs. General Secretary, Nick Randall, promised undergraduates (in one of the UGM meetings) that they would be allowed to take books out of the library. It was allegedly said to be "akin to letting American tourists take the Crown Jewels out of the Tower of London"! Randall also claimed that he was at the head of one of the most vital motions to be debated in the whole year: the Housing Association motion. Students voted for a campaign against government housing "policy" and there were hints of direct action at later stages. The gravest problem however, was said to be Richard Ford. Social Secretary for the SU at the LSE, he was accused of having no history. His predecessors were notorious for their inefficiency and were "characterised by their incompetence and/or offensiveness". Yet Richard Ford seemed to be doing a "good job" triggering off rumours that "something's got to give"!

Beaver: past and present



The first Beaver Editors, 1949

Photo: BLPES Archives

By Kartiki Batra and Zoe Peden

THE *Beaver* was first published on 5 May 1949. The beginnings of the paper however, were by no means modest and was greeted by George Bernard Shaw. The post card by Bernard Shaw to *The Beaver* read: "socialism will abolish class; but it will replace them by sets. *The Beaver* while accepting this as rational and inevitable should organise meetings of all the sets to save them from stewing too long in their several juices and live by taking their own washing".

The Beaver began with a resolve to induce a more cohesive atmosphere among the students. It sought to justify its existence by eroding the prevailing 'lethargy' among students. It was to be a means of informing students of the various activities taking place at the LSE. "In this way", wrote the editor, F.D Alandish, "the average student will more readily appreciate the interesting events which take place daily at the LSE".

The columns in these early years included a 'controversy' column to which everyone would contribute and another column called Marginalia, offering light hearted humour.

Union debates were reported as being operated along the lines that nothing is worth saying unless said by a familiar face. With the Chair only having eyes for its most intimate associates, meaning Union discussion becoming a closed shop arrangement.

Representative opinion of the Union was reported in 1949 as being shockingly narrow, with 99 per cent of the Union being male and 85 per cent of Union members being on the Union council.

Although there are more females, half a century later in history, little has changed.

Since its establishment in 1949, *The Beaver* has been at the centre of SU activity, acquiring a certain reputation, which it will continue to hold.



The Beaver Editors, 1997

Photo: B.A Roualec

What's so different about the LSESU?

Miriam Chalabi

As it is the centenary of the Student Union this week, we decided to do some research on other Student Unions in the country. Unlike the LSESU, the Edinburgh University Student Union was established in 1889 and the student representative council was set up in 1884. The organisation was divided in two parts, but the men, women and the student representative council (SRC) merged in 1973. The workings of their union differ to that of the LSE. The SRC meets once a fortnight, the Committee of Management once a month, the House Committee once a week and the Finance Committee holds general meetings to ensure that all plans devised by these committees fall under its budget. When questioned about the Union's greatest achievement, the President of the Union Debbie Clark, said that it was all "the number of small achievements it has made" and she stressed that Edinburgh SU was run by volunteers, more than any other student union she was aware of.

Cambridge University was less complicated. Established in 1972, the executive meets every week and its policies are made by the council which consists of the presidents of every college. According to the President of the Student Union, the fact that the Union exists is, an achievement itself since it has been tremendously under funded and has been continually fighting against the college system (which has stressed the sovereignty of the colleges) for so long.

Finally, Warwick University established its Student Union in 1966 and the team consists of six sabbatical officers who run the union. The executive meets once a fortnight and the sabbaticals every week. Their greatest achievement for the year, it was said, was the three and a half million building extensions which will include forty-five computer terminals, work space and suite training rooms. As of August 1 1997 there will be a seventh sabbatical acting as communication officer for the union.

The LSE therefore has its own unique system, being the only student union that has weekly UGM meetings open to all.

General Secretary, Dan Crowe commented that the LSESU was unique in that it has always supported "progressive and controversial causes", such as Nelson Mandela and Winston Silcott. The LSESU, he also commented continues to maintain its notoriety from the 1960s.

The London School of Agitation?

Chris Roe

The disturbances at the end of the 1960s turned the LSE into a household name, synonymous with radicalism, activism and revolution. Few however, actually remember the details of the 'troubles' and their impact on the LSE.

The first 'trouble' occurred in 1967, after a lengthy period of unrest following the appointment of Dr Walter Adams as the new Director. The SU was concerned about allegations of mismanagement at Dr Adams' old college in Rhodesia and felt that, his appointment should be rejected on these grounds.

A planned meeting to discuss "direct action" against the proposed Director was banned by the resident Director, Sir Sydney Caine. An attempt to occupy the Old Theatre on January 31 indirectly led to the death of a porter with a heart condition, and disciplinary charges were filed against David



The age of discontent

Photo: Library

Adelstein, President of the SU and Marshall Bloom, President of the Graduate Students Association. In an impressive display of solidarity five hundred students began a sit-in on March 9. This was the first such demonstration in England, and lasted for over a week. Amnesty for the protesters was eventually granted.

The 1968-9 session also saw the resurrection of student radicalism, with demonstrations against the war in Vietnam and apartheid in South Africa. A motion in January 24 1969, proposing to forcibly remove a number of gates

around the School led to the most serious violence however when the move was seen by students as a measure to prevent further occupations. Professors attempting to protect the gates were no match for the Marxists armed with sledge hammers, and eventually the police were called in and occupied the School, which remained closed for twenty five days.

Despite assertions by some parties to the contrary, the days of LSE radicalism seem to have finished, as the relatively benign nature of the anti top-up fees campaign has demonstrated.

SU: Past and Present

Danielle Bourgeois

DO you ever wonder where our fearless leaders will be in ten years from now? Our sabbaticals were asked three questions. What was their single greatest accomplishment as a sabbatical? What was the most difficult obstacle they faced during their tenure? Finally, where do they envisage themselves ten years from now? In touching and sometimes tear-jerking detail the Sabs revealed their hopes, dreams and misgivings.

Dan Crowe, General Secretary: Crowe believed his greatest accomplishment was the National Conference on Top Up Fees. The most difficult aspect of his tenure was the apathetic turnout to the top-up fees protest, and his subsequent resignation and reinstatement. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, he determinedly replied: "a rock star".

Darrell Hare, Treasurer: Hare replied that having the most successful Fresher's Fair "ever" was his greatest accomplishment. His most difficult obstacle was, having to contend with an Executive which could sometimes make rash decisions. "On the beach in Antigua",

was how Hare pictured himself in a decade's time!

Sam Parham, Education and Welfare: Parham spoke optimistically about the future. Asked to recount his greatest accomplishment as sabbatical, he looked nervous, but emphatically announced "The best is yet to come!". Parham cited disagreements and infighting among the executive as a stumbling block to the Union's productivity. As for long-term ambitions, Parham aspires to be "scoring for Brighton" in ten years' time. **Chris Cooper**, Entertainment's: Cooper's high points included raising £6,000 from Freshers' Fortnight and "getting Dan to do all my work while I got pissed." Cooper said he was disappointed by student apathy and a lack of co-operation among the SU executive. Cooper could barely choke back his emotions as he said, "I want to drive an engine, Just like my Dad."

Years from now, when you see an Elvis impersonator, a football commentator with a social conscience or an inebriated engine-driver, you can say you knew them way back when....

The Times are Changing...

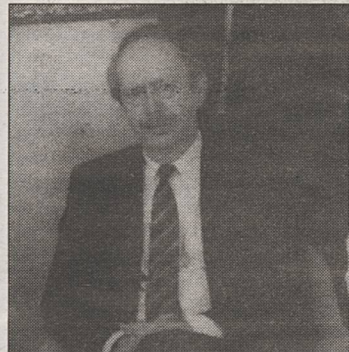
A special *Beaver* investigation on alumni's views of the LSE.

The 1950s

ALUMNI who held positions in the Union in the 1950s were particularly responsive to our questionnaires, and they stood out for their comments on the UGM: Robert Williams, Vice-President of the Union for welfare wrote back asking "What is the UGM?!" He also admitted to having been "totally unsuited" for his job and surprised at his own election, having believed that "students should rely on their own wits" with regard to their welfare.

John Martyn, President of the Union in 1953, remembers the UGM as "occasionally very unruly, with surprise votes of no confidence". John Henshaw, who was Vice-President (External Affairs) in the same year, recalls them as being "tribal, with flashes of individual brilliance", whereas Lord Dahrendorf, a PhD student at the LSE during this time, said he could not really remember the UGMs. In the late 1950s they were "strangely supported by a small, but active, minority of students", according to Alan Hale, the President of the Union in 1958-59. This might be some consolation to those who believe that widespread student apathy is a recent phenomenon, but unfortunately nowadays even the 'flashes of individual brilliance' seem to be few and far between...

Our eternal gratitude goes to John Martyn for securing and seeing through



Lord Dahrendorf
Photo: Courtesy of Lord Dahrendorf

the establishment of the SU's bar on the ground floor of what he called the "Three Tuns building"; he also organised students to help with flood relief at Canvey Island, and despite his gentlemanly behaviour was condemned at the following UGM for failing to provide sufficient transport. Alan Hale remembered the SU's role in the protest meetings about the invasions of Hungary and Suez, in the mass march to Trafalgar Square against apartheid in South Africa, and in the abolishment of the most shocking human rights abuse of all: a boycott of the "refectory" (Brunch Bowl!?) in protest against prices. At a NUS Conference John Henshaw held down the coat-tail of a well known LSE communist delegate to prevent him rising to disseminate views divergent from agreed LSE student union policy - a very valuable contribution to the SU indeed!

The 1960s

THE "Swinging Sixties" at the LSE seem to have been a universal concept, mass involvement in mass movements. Michael Dyson, a BSc Economics and International Relations student at the LSE from 1966 to 1969 identified "having no responsibilities" as his favourite aspect of university life. While Mr Dyson was not particularly involved with the union, he spoke enthusiastically about his participation in various union organised demonstrations, ranging from anti apartheid marches in Fleet Street to student sit-ins in the Old Building.

Peter Curtis, currently Director of a market research company, and a BSc Economics with International History student at the LSE from 1965 to 1968, echoed Mr Dyson's enthusiasm for LSE life in the sixties.

Curtis expressed particularly fond memories of the LSE Jazz Club, as well as mass marches through Fleet Street

and Lincoln's Inn Fields, during one of which he was interviewed by Finnish national television.

Professor Layard of the Centre for Economic Performance and the Economics department, studied for his MSc Economics degree in 1966-1967 and defined the time as an "exciting but disturbing period." He remembers the SU leaders as having "strong militant tendencies." The Union was then led by Dave Adelstein, who Professor Layard

Trade at the LSE from 1962-1965. Professor Bromich slightly contradicts Curtis, stating that UGM's were "packed and with many fine speakers".

However, even in the sixties some time was reserved for the more mundane side of student life that is study. Mr Dyson admitted attending a number of classes in the homes of professors during the 1969 sit-ins; including the home of Bob Hunter, now in the Clinton Administration.

Professor Eileen Barker, now a member of the Sociology department at the LSE, studied the same subject at the School from 1967-1970. Talking to *The Beaver* she reaffirmed Mr Dyson's stories about classes in teachers' homes. She went on to talk about how "charismatic" the SU leaders of the day were, as well as the strong student solidarity of the time.

She stated that "the truly bad attitude was to be apathetic. Things don't seem to be like that any more."

When asked what he thought of the LSE today Mr Dyson stated "I seethe with anger when I think that an institution like the LSE could put money before their original aims." Professor Bromich spoke positively about the Union of today, indicating that in his opinion it had "responded well to the additional challenges placed upon it."



The LSE on strike!
Photo: Library

alleges, became even more militant in 1968-69, in reaction to the Vietnam war.

Curtis denied much direct involvement with the LSESU, stating that he usually spent the weekly UGM hour in the Tuns. Professor Michael Bromich, of the Accounting and Finance department, studied Industry and

Compiled by: Jonathan Black, Kartiki Batra, Matthias Mennel, Heloise Gornall-Thode, Miriam Chalabi, Liz Chong, Andrew Yule and Dhara Ranasinghe.

The 1970s

VIRGINIA Bottomley and Edwina Currie both attended the LSE in the 1970s, Mrs Bottomley studying for her MSc in Economics in Social Policy and Administration in 1974-1975, Mrs Currie her MSc in Economic History in 1971-1972. Both women were more reserved in their comments about demonstrations and student sit-ins in the seventies. Whether this signified a lull in student activity after the excitement of the sixties, a more studious, post-graduate work ethic, or merely personal disagreement with the issues under debate is uncertain.

Mrs Currie claims to remember nothing of the LSESU during her time at the school, stating that she did not attend UGMs and avoided Union activities, demonstrations and sit-

ins. While Mrs Bottomley, now a Governor of the LSE, expressed similar sentiments, stating that she "did not become involved in demonstrations and student sit-ins", she spoke at length about them. Although Mrs Bottomley insisted that the LSESU of the time was much more "civilised" than that of the University of Essex, where she studied for her BA Sociology degree, she showed a general feeling of antipathy towards student protests; "The students regarded themselves as the oppressed proletariat, suffering from the iniquities of the capitalist estate. My view was that the students, in general, were a privileged minority." She did, however, go on to point out that at the time one in eight people attended university, compared to "as many as one in three today."

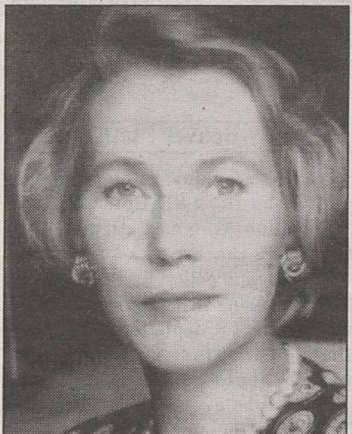
Reaffirming her attitude towards demonstrative LSESU action at the time, Mrs Bottomley told *The Beaver* that she "greatly admired the 'sang froid' with which Ralf Dahrendorf (Director at the time) "handled such matters."

While LSESU organised direct action and protest was still at the



The Old Building as it was.
Photo: Library

forefront of LSE life in the seventies, it was obviously not greatly supported by two of the Conservative parties foremost MPs to be, and was apparently dealt with efficiently by Lord Dahrendorf, one of best known Directors.



The Rt. Hon Virginia Bottomley MP
Photo: Courtesy of Mrs Bottomley

The 1980s

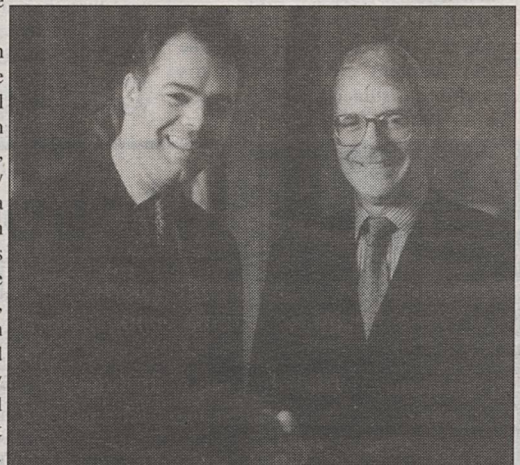
"THE happiest year of my life". This was how Richard Bacon, *Beaver* editor between January - December 1983 described his editorship, when interviewed by the paper. Bacon studied Politics and Economics and takes pride in the fact that he is one of the few *Beaver* editors to leave the LSE with a first degree. Questioned on his achievements as Editor, Bacon cited changing the printers to Cambridge Heath Press, considered to be a more efficient printers at the time. The paper was also short listed for the Guardian/NUS Student paper of the year award.

Bacon described the original Houghton Street Harry, initially established as a racing column on the sports pages by the Sports Editor, Martin Graham and from this stemmed a particularly memorable and amusing event concerning the SU. Graham had wanted the

SU to sponsor the horse, Caballo, and passed a motion to this effect in the UGM, where it was narrowly defeated. Within ten days, it had won two races and trebled in value within the year and would have made an estimated profit of £15,000.

Bacon clearly enjoyed his time as Editor, but was there a downside to his editorship? Yes, as an active Tory, Bacon fell under criticism for making the paper biased.

Richard Bacon is currently working for the Public Relations Company, Brunswick and is a prospective Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate for Vauxhall.



Richard Bacon with John Major. Photo: Courtesy of Mr Bacon

The 1990s The 1990s The 1990s The 1990s The 1990s The 1990s

THE 1990s have remained politically significant. Michel Van Hulten, General Secretary in 1991-92, reflected that the early 90s witnessed the dominance of the Social Democrats on the SU executive.. The most controversial issue concerned the Tottenham Three. In the previous year, attempts had been made to define what the SU could and could not do, following the election of Winston Silcott as Honourary President. The issue resurfaced in 1991 when Silcott's conviction was overturned. The press conference was held in what is now the Underground Bar, leading to more political drama...

Van Hulten described the UGM as the



Cartoon by Hector Birchwood
centrepiece of student politics which could "make or break" the Sabbaticals. Van

Hulten is currently working for the EU Council of Ministers.

1992 saw the establishment of a fourth Sabbatical for Equal Opportunities and Welfare. The first holder of this post, Peter Harris described it as a "challenge". The hardship fund was reformed and the safe transport scheme established. Describing his most memorable event, Harris without hesitation cited the debate over tuition fees, stating "we gave the Director a thrashing". John Ashworth's attempts to introduce tuition fees at the LSE was defeated by 76 votes to 9. Peter Harris currently works for HiPact, an association for universities,

working to broaden access to Higher Education and urges the LSE to join.

Student politics continued to dominate Martin Lewis' year as General Secretary in 1994-95. This year saw the SU's activities at a peak; student representation on the Academic Board and the Standing Committee were achieved and this was Lewis' best moment as every General Secretary for 37 years had campaigned for it.

'The battle' to open the library on Sundays was won, the Aldwych Group of universities to campaign against top-up fees was established, and Entertainments

Sabbatical Gary Delaney, brought the Chuckle Club to the LSE.

Lewis remarked that the UGM was "just as nasty". Martin Lewis is now a financial PR Consultant and a part-time stand up comic. In summing up his year as General Secretary, Lewis stated that it was "the happiest year of my life".

The Beaver wishes to thank all the alumni who have helped us with the articles on this page.



Don Foster Photo: B.A. Roualec



Douglas Trainer, NUS President Photo: B.A. Roualec

the recent allegations aimed at the NUS leadership, for not organising enough. Thus, the comment was met with hearty applause.

The final session of the day was given over to talks by MPs. The title of the session was "The Policies of the Political Parties", a title very apt to the subject of the talks. Don Foster, speaking on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, was insistent that the Liberal Democrats are dedicated whole-heartedly to higher and further education, assuring the audience that under a Liberal Democrat Government "every student in full-time and part-time approved courses will have fees paid as well as a significant part of their maintenance." Mr Foster reacted strongly to the accusation so often made towards the Liberal Democrats, that they can say whatever they like, as they will have no chance to be proved right or wrong. Apparently if everyone who wanted to vote Liberal actually "followed their convictions" and did so, we'd have a

Liberal Democrat Government in a few months time!

Mr Foster did pledge himself and the Liberals as totally opposed to tuition fees, in principle. However, he did point out that on the issue of fees imposed by autonomous colleges and universities there is very little the Government can do short of passing new legislation to discourage it.

Bryan Davis, Labour's spokesman on education, talked a lot. While he

declared that the idea of tuition fees is an unacceptable one, he seemed unprepared to commit himself or his party to an actively anti-top up fees stance. He stated that the Labour party will deal with the issue if and when they are elected. He insisted that they would at least wait to see the outcome of the Dearing Report, declaring that it would be ridiculous to submit to it only to ignore its subsequent conclusions.

When asked by Dan Crowe if he could unreservedly assure students that The Labour Party would not endorse the idea of top up fees he again repeated that he was not wholly in favour of fees, they would have to wait for the outcome of Dearing. This non-committal response appeared to frustrate Dan Crowe into an angry and hard-hitting summing-up. While he thanked all the delegates for attending, he expressed frustration at the apparent lack of success at his campaigning tactics. Crowe declared that it may be time to "rethink tactics", even suggesting that traditional LSE tactics of occupation are not out of the question.



Bryan Davis Photo: B.A. Roualec

National Conference Continued from page one

through "active campaigning" could top up fees be defeated. A delegate from Cambridge commented from the floor that what was desperately needed was better organisation, including an efficient system to spread news and views all the time, and right across the country. This is something apparently lacking at the moment, with



Anyone for a Wright's Bar mixed grill? Photo: B.A. Roualec

The Beaver would like to thank all those who have helped make this SU Centenary Edition possible

Mystic Dan predicts the future

Dan Crowe

1997 is the centenary year of the LSE Students' Union. It also marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the National Union of Students, the umbrella body to whom we are currently affiliated. Although there has been much talk about disaffiliation from the NUS, an over-riding reason to stay active within the national organisation became apparent at last Tuesday's National Conference Against Tuition Fees.

The event, jointly organised by our union and the NUS, aimed to discuss and debate strategies and tactics in opposition to tuition fees. It was the only significant action taken by the NUS on this most pressing issue, and the conclusions that can be drawn spell trouble ahead.

Indeed, the student movement stands at a crossroads. On Tuesday the NUS President clearly stated his opposition to students paying tuition

fees. Unfortunately, due to the NUS conceding on the principle that students should pay for the living costs whilst at university (via a £5,000 or so loan per year) we are automatically put on the defensive. With the leadership of the NUS safely in the pockets of the Labour Party, the time is fast approaching when they will sell us out again.

The most likely result of the forthcoming General Election will be a Labour government, committed to no increase in public spending. After abolishing grants and replacing them with income-contingent loans (the primary goal of NUS's Higher Education funding policy) they will next turn their attention to tuition fees. Senior Labour Party figures were reported in the *Financial Times* as advocating fees, and in his book "My Vision of a Young Country" Tony Blair

himself accepts the idea that students should also contribute to their tuition. Bryan Davies MP, the Labour Party Higher Education spokesman present at the Conference refused to categorically



Dan Crowe. Photo: Library

rule out a Labour government imposing tuition fees. "Wait for Dearing!" is the cry, "We must wait for Dearing!" Sir Ron Dearing's grand Inquiry into Higher Education is set to report in the summer. Used by both major parties to bury the issue of Education Funding until after the General Election, it has been gathering evidence from sources far and wide. It's report will not make happy reading for those at NUS HQ in Holloway Road. Dearing is set to announce that students

should pay at least 20 per cent of their tuition fees, a proposal that will undoubtedly be implemented by Tony "Education, Education and Education" Blair. The NUS leadership will then have to opt for towing the party and governmental line or sacrificing their career prospects as budding MPs. Past evidence suggests they will choose the latter.

Ultimately, we are set for a showdown between the NUS leadership and an austere Labour government on one side, and thousands and thousands of students on the other, who make up the rank and file of the student movement. They will not accept tuition fees in any form, and a national campaign of resistance will be inevitable. Just when you thought the radicalism and activism of the 1960s had gone forever, demonstrations and a nationwide campaign of occupations will be the order of the day. Don't say you haven't been warned!

Environmentally Sound?



John Gummer Photo: Nick. Robin

By Beaver Staff

LAST Monday John Gummer addressed the LSE Conservative Association. Gummer attempted to cover all the aspects of British environmental policy.

Expressing strong concerns about environmental depletion, he hinted that in the future environmental policy should ensure that future generations are not left with the burden of their predecessors. This would, however, involve a shift in taxation from products to resources.

Europe resurfaced as a dividing issue. Britain, Gummer stated, is at the forefront of the fight for clean air. All this because Britain accounts for no more than 3 per cent of the world's emissions, and therefore cannot play a significant part on her own.

This was a speech with a great deal of insight, and as the Secretary of State for the Environment stressed, that we might regret the fact that the next general election will not be fought on such issues. Little was said on the recent handling of the BSE crisis in which the Environment Secretary was recently involved.

School's Out

This Week's Questions

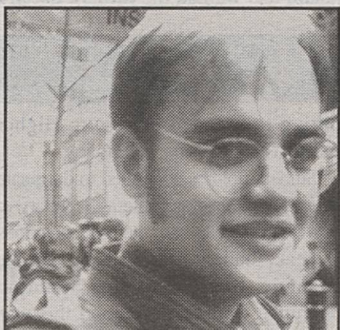
- 1) What should the LSESU do to celebrate its centenary?
- 2) Do you go to the UGM and what do you think of it?
- 3) How many pints of beer do you think have been consumed in the Tuns since it opened in the 1930s?



Compiled by B.A. Roualec

- 1) Abolition of fees and make the Government pay for everything
- 2) The most pathetic thing I've ever seen.
- 3) Why speculate? I don't give a shit!

Jon Be 1st year BSc Govt. & Econ.



- 1) Plastic colour issue of *The Beaver*.
- 2) A bit of mild amusement.
- 3) Lots!



Jordi Perez O'Shea 1st year BSc Econ

- 1) Fireworks
- 2) Never been there
- 3) 10 million pints

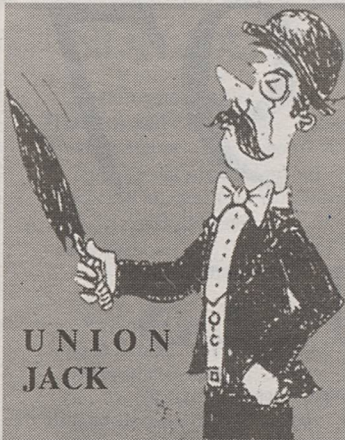
Ugo Solinas 4th year European Studies



Tristan Van der Stengen 4th year European Studies



- 1) Drink wine
- 2) Never been
- 3) 6 million pints



Ah... breath in: the hustings; the smell of the chase; the bullshit; the promises; the records; the earnest condemnation of past failures; and the brave new visions of a brave new union. Hustings are to Jack what pretty frocks are to Bernardo Duggean: comfortable, natural, and exciting. So, with no further adieu, let us dress down a few of the eager hopefuls for high office.

Gen Sec first. Nominees began the catalogue of accusations that the union was poorly run, and needed ME for a spicier tomorrow! Although Baljit is no more, his legacy empty vessel remains noisily moored in the Old Theatre. The running will surely be between Nicey Narius and Raj Jethwa. Narius, looking resplendent in his imperial blazer, appeared to be going for the old colonial (Raj?) vote. Softly spoken, and overwhelmingly sincere, his earnestness was lost due to lack of rhetorical ability. Perhaps the unwillingness to rant at UGMs could be a hidden plus. If so, Jethwa is similarly advantaged: his undoubted ability to tell the Labour club what to say is less convincing when he himself is speaking. Looking more George Michael than Tony Blair, Raj introduced a number of populist measures (photocopying at 3p a page, etc.), and started a trend of promising more money to the *Beaver*. Trying to get good press, eh? Touche. Both are good candidates, and will provide for a close race.

Sadly, both frontrunners failed to convince in the gladiatorial environment. This left the way open for the only true revolutionary: Jon French. Harking back to 1789, French attempted to hide his history of letting them eat cake with a tirade of naked populism. Despite his negligible chance of winning, French's knowing pragmatism is refreshing thorn amongst the roses. But, Independent candidate? Sir, you are a charlatan! Have the courage of your convictions, and lose with Conservative dignity. Convictions could equally be applied to Stuart Locke: how dare the Bolshie fashion disaster attempt to woe us by shaving off his trademark burns and shelving the flairs? He talks of conviction and passion; we know the truth. Alright?

Honourable mentions must also go to Chairman Hampshire attempting to cash in on the Antonio Banderas protest vote by modelling himself on an iconic Mexican dictator. Does this mean he has been embezzling union funds? Nevertheless, his recommendation of the withdrawal method for other (non-hispanic) candidates does have a crucial flaw: to withdraw, you must first have actually have intimate knowledge of the fairer sex. Surely he should know better? Perhaps some sort of honour is in order: a Knighthood, perchance? Certainly, Parham would have a problem on this one. His ideal woman is rumoured to scream "LaaaarTeece Teece, nooo suGarr!!" at the point of climax, but Sam remains unable to penetrate the inner sanctum. Despite lack of luck in love, Parham's performance as the Wright's Bar mixed Grill candidate was surprisingly amusing. Now the only question is, who thought it up?

Perhaps we should really be asking why some notables didn't show. Tom Smith, deciding not to go for third (13th?) time luck must have decided his life can continue without a sabbaticalship. And what of the usual suspects: Peter Doralt, Gotz Mahindra, Che Cropper, and Dan Lam? So much talent, so much Bullshit, so little time... so they must be waiting for next year. This is problematic; although Gen Sec is a close run thing, the lack of candidates means that the other three positions are already as good as won. But... it could go either way... evenly matched... after the 90 minutes... game of two halves... early doors... going is good to firm... can't win anything with kids... whatever. Let the battle begin!

Stay tuned next week for Jack's take on the other three shoe-ins.

Complacency, Emancipation and Tradition

Female emancipation is a relatively new innovation in terms of society's advancement. Yet, the rights to vote, own property and to self-determination are not universal. Fault cannot be placed solely with a male-oriented society, filled with stereotypes and 'traditions' left over from past centuries. Women are partly responsible for their own situation. Few women today say that they are feminists- influenced by the association of feminism with riot grrls and the arguments that there are few problems in male-female equality. Yet the plot was lost somewhere along the way: Feminism is not about the female superiority, but about the fight for equality between the sexes. Statistics brandished by legislators, do-gooders and a recent tabloid newspaper 'proving' that men are now the 'threatened and inferior' sex, citing 'new employment figures', hide other agendas. A main cause of the rise of female employment is the lower wages women command, in contrast to their male counterparts. Furthermore, the recent 'debate' tying working mothers to their children's poor exam results was based on figures which were entirely unreliable and ignored the most crucial issue: that in today's so-called advanced society, women should no longer bear sole responsibility in the familial arena. Such arguments only serve to bring disgrace upon women for their complacency: which is why we should all be feminists. (Ps. Sam: what has happened to anti-racism week and my envelopes?)

LIZ CHONG



The Beaver

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Politics Editor

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WHAT'S ON

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

LSE Debating Society

"This House believes the Tube should be privatised"

Followed by Debating Workshop

All Welcome- Experts and Novices

Room D202, Clement House, 3.00 pm

LSE Aid for Bosnia Society

calls all interested in being part of a summer convoy to Bosnia and Kosovo to come to our weekly meetings

New members welcome!

Top of the Veggie Cafe, 2.00 pm

LSE European Society and LSE Conservative Association

present "Britain in Europe: After the Election"

Lord Howe, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Secretary D602, Clement House, 1.00 pm

THURSDAY MARCH 6

The Cine Club

presents "The Untouchables" Members Only Membership available at the door E171, New Theatre

The Francophone Society

presents "The Worlds of Francois Mitterand" Hubert Veduné Former Secrétaire Général de L'Elysée Hong Kong Theatre, 3.00 pm

The Lakatos Award Lecture

"Are fundamental natural laws the product of cosmic evolution?" Abner Shimony, Professor of Philosophy and Physics, BostonUniversity The chair will be taken by Dr. John Worrall Old Theatre, 5.30 pm

FRIDAY MARCH 7

The LSE Aid For Bosnia Society

presents Speakers and the ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Also featuring film on Srebrenica and the campaign seeking the truth about the 10'000 missing since July 1995

Hong Kong Theatre, 1.00 to 3.00 pm

SATURDAY MARCH 8

The LSE Christian Union

presents "World Missions Day" A85 or A86

MONDAY MARCH 10

The LSE European Society

presents "EMU: A Central European Perspective" Josef Tosovsky, Governor of the Central Bank of the Czech Republic

TUESDAY MARCH 11

The LSE Italian Society

presents Italian lessons which now take place A85, 12.00 to 2.00 pm

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12

The LSE Law Society

presents The Grand Law Ball at The Waldorf Hotel Drinks Reception at 7 pm in the Palm Court Dinner Jackets, Gowns Carriages at 1 am

TUESDAY MARCH 18

The LSE Arabic Society and the UCL Arabic Society

present "Party at Sedona" (Off Regent Street-tube Oxford Circus) Tickets £10 or £15 for VIP tickets- VIP room with finger buffet and belly dancer For information and tickets, call LSE- Joe: 0958 491 603

AEROBICS!

NEW CLASSES:

Monday: Aerobics 6.00 to 7.00 pm Wednesday: Hips, Bums and Tums 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm *Thursday: Circuit Training* 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Monday to Wednesday: Members £1.50 Non-Members £3.00 Thursday £2.00 *Badminton Court*

REVISING FOR EXAMINATIONS

Students are invited to attend a three-week seminars on revising for examinations. There will be advice offered on preparing and planning for revision, tips on effective revision techniques and so on. All students are welcome. The seminar series will commence on WEDNESDAY MARCH 5.

Seminars will start at 2.15 pm and last for approximately one hour. All seminars will be held in Room A42.

Societies contributions to Whats' On should be delivered to The Editor, The *Beaver* office (opposite The Underground) by Wednesday 5.00 pm. Submissions received after the deadline will not be printed in the following week's *Beaver*.

ELECTION '97

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

GENERAL SECRETARY

Narius Aga
(Independent)

Overseas & EU Students' Officer
1996-7
Beaver Collective 1994-7

It is time the students of the LSE had a strong Union and tough leadership. Someone who fights for Student rights and campaigns effectively on behalf of ALL students - home, EU and Overseas, male and female, under and post-graduate. Although my detractors will try to convince you otherwise, let me assure you that I seek an equal role for home and Overseas students - nothing more, nothing less. Having attended every single UGM, every single Exec. meeting and performing every single task I was mandated to, I think my record for commitment and dedication speaks for itself. What I do pledge if elected, however, is the following: continue saying "no, no, no" to Top Up Fees, campaign against a rise in Overseas Students' fees, extension of the school's hardship fund to Overseas Students and for another low-rent hall of residence. We have had enough of the same old faces with the same old promises. What this Union needs is a breath of fresh air. I sincerely believe that I am the person to provide that change.

Jon French
(Independent - More for less,
without NUS)

My first priority as General Secretary will be to LSE students. My initial objective will be to disaffiliate from the NUS, a body that is simply a vehicle for the political careers of left-wing sabbaticals and which currently costs us over £9,500 per year. The money saved will be used to improve LSESU services, including the conversion of the Cafe to enable it to serve meat. The LSESU will enjoy total decision-making autonomy, leading to a better range of products in the Shop and the Tuns and more money being available for *The Beaver*.

I would continue the fight against top-up fees, but I would mount much more effective campaigns than previous ones - negotiation is the way forward, not pointless demos and protests. Above all, I would ensure that the LSESU becomes the best students' union in the country, providing 21st Century services for 21st Century people!

Philip Hampsheir
(It's something to do,
isn't it?)

For a start:

I'm a real independent - I'm totally unaffiliated. This means I'm not an apologist for any party's failing or outdated ideology.

I don't just have policies - I have ideas!

Every candidate is against top-up fees. I have ideas on how to solve the higher education funding crisis!

Why are there no rape alarms in the basement of the LSE and 20 Kingsway? These places frighten the shit out of me! Why has nothing been done?

How can other candidates expect to

affect mass student policy by withdrawing from NUS? Leaving the system so you can affect the system more is a bloody stupid idea!

I've shown my commitment to raising student politics beyond the boring, inane level that has descended on the LSE in recent years. My charisma has been shown as chairman of the UGMs.

Vote Philip Hampsheir 1

Raj Jethwa
(LSE Labour - An
international students' union)

In its Centenary year the LSE Students' Union must serve the wider student body and give every student a real stake in it.

That means campaigning against top-up fees and giving overseas students a firm commitment to campaign for the capping of their fees in real terms.

That means expanding the Print Room by moving the General Secretary's office and cutting the cost of photocopying to 3p a sheet - the same as ULU and half the price of the Library.

That means installing discount overseas telephones in the East Building and using the money from this to buy SU computers just for e-mail, leaving more School computers for academic work.

That means lobbying the School to deliver on its promises to hall residents and making the School spend less on showcase halls and more on budget accommodation for more students at affordable rates.

Vote for real policies - vote Labour.

Stuart Lock
(SWSS)

At the LSE last week, Labour's higher education spokesman, Bryan Davis, refused to oppose top-up fees. This is the latest kick in the teeth for students and ordinary people. The latest in a long line of sell-outs: the welfare state, and a graduate tax, and any real redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor.

The general election will see the Tories kicked out for the first time in most students' memories. Yet we'll have more of the same attacks and cuts from the incoming Labour Government implementing the wish of the mad market.

SWSS is the alternative, but we need to be strong. Tony Blair makes it more clear every day how strong we will need to be. That's why we say JOIN US! We're a political alternative. This is not for Stuart's cv. Make your vote Stuart Lock for General Secretary and NUS Conference.

A plum pudding
(Vote none of the above)

The "Wright's Bar"
Mixed Grill
(Cheap and tasty)

TREASURER
An apple crumble
(Vote none of the above)

Imogen Bathurst
(Independent)

Imogen Bathurst
The best candidate for Treasurer

Having been the Finance & Services officer on the Executive Committee for the last year I have had much opportunity to learn how the finances of the Union are handled, thus I feel that I am in the best position to take over as Treasurer.

I have many ideas on how to generate finances for the Union while benefiting the Students of the LSE. For example I intend to negotiate to get a cashpoint installed in the Union buildings.

In addition considering LSE's high proportion of overseas students an overseas phone shop within the school would offer cheap phone calls and add to Union funds.

I would also like to see the ever expanding Print Shop open up in to the space which is currently the General Secretary's office. This addition of space would increase turn over and efficiency.

Vote for Imogen-do the sensible thing!

Philip Lenton
(LSE Conservative
Association)

As Treasurer I would work to ensure the sound and efficient running of the LSESU's finances. In order to do this, I intend to rely on Conservative policies which have proven so successful over the past eighteen years, including private financing and competitive tendering of Union services, and ensuring that the Union supplies LSE students with what they actually want, not what the lefties say they want.

Over the last few years, Sabbaticals have made an endless number of promises, none of which have actually been kept, the most prominent of these being the *debacle* over the proposed refurbishment of the Tuns. I am a man of action, not words, and I would carry this philosophy with me into the job of Treasurer, to ensure that the finances of the LSESU were administered according to sensible Conservative economic tenets. Vote Philip Lenton - he'll get things done.!

EDUCATION & WELFARE OFFICER

A can of spam
(Vote none of the above)

Kshitij Jain
(Independent)

Yuan Potts
(Independent - putting
students first)

Firstly, I have tried to be honest with my campaign, only promising what I can achieve.

The Student Union spends over £140,000 on welfare services. I am sure we could get better value from this money- so I will carry out an extensive student survey, then a **full external audit**.

I have promised to do some work on an **LSE radio station** based around a core of welfare issues: money

management, housing advice and job adverts.

My **Alternative Course Guide**, written by students for students, will allow you to choose your courses based on recommendations.

My lobbying will be focused on the three crucial issues: better computers, autumn resits, and a real-terms freeze in Overseas Fees along with no Top-Up Fees.

Above all, I will try to be **available, accountable and responsive** to your needs. Regular office hours. Consultation on big decisions and monthly written reports.

Oh... and I don't like pies.

Georgina Reason
(LSE Conservative
Association)

As Education and Welfare Secretary I pledge to try my utmost over the year to follow the example set by Sam Parham. In order to do this I will do no work whatsoever, wear bad jumpers bought from Oxfam shops and live on a diet of high-fat chocolate in order to bring my currently svelte and slender figure up to the gargantuan proportions of our un-beloved chubby chum Parham. I'll also ensure the welfare and well-being of all LSE students by embarking on regular campaigns to destroy the LSE Labour Club using my tried and trusted method of "death by snogging" - in fact, I've already begun this mission with an attack at the very top, and it seems to be working: Dan Crowe's lost all his hair, which means the end must be near! Vote Georgie Reason - 'cos Two Dogs is better than one!

Ben Selwyn
(SWSS)

Every candidate standing for this position must answer is 'How are we going to improve education and welfare?' Is the odd stall in the quad every now and then really as much as we can expect?

For education to be successful it must be disseminated in the best possible atmosphere. SWSS aims to create an atmosphere of unity among students, be they black or white, male or female, gay or straight.

We want an atmosphere of success - where we fight back against tuition fees and win. We also want to unite with working people to unite and fight against the racism of the BNP, and against cuts in our living standards that the next government will attempt.

In an atmosphere of Unity, Solidarity and Victory education about fighting other forms of oppression will be all the more beneficial. A vote for SWSS will be a vote for Student and Worker Unity.

Anj Soumal
(LSE Labour - An
international students' union)

The Students' Union must stand for all its members. This means providing services specifically aimed at real needs within the student body. The needs of minority groups should not be forgotten in the noise of the UGM. I will, for example, make sure that the Union provides proper prayer facilities for Islamic students. The demand for single sex self-defence and aerobics classes will be met. Student sport will be protected by lobbying for Wednesday afternoons to be kept free of lectures

and classes.

But our policies will benefit the entire student body. An employment agency, monitored by the Union, to help with part-time and holiday jobs. A Refreshers' Fair in the Lent Term to help keep students involved in societies. The money raised by both of these will go into the Hardship Fund - the only source of money open to all LSE students.

Vote for real policies - vote Labour.

ENTERTAINMENTS OFFICER

Adrian King
(Independent - Diversity,
integration, and tigerskin
pants)

THE SERIOUS CANDIDATE.
Proposals:

(1) Weekly or Fortnightly **LSE entertainments pamphlet** to keep everyone informed of what's is going on.

(2) Regular **Student surveys** so that all students' opinions are represented

(3) **Collaboration with other colleges** for bigger, better, more diverse parties, fashion shows, plays, art exhibitions, poetry readings...

(4) **Get non-academic outside speakers to LSE**, Authors, Musicians, DJ's, Professional Athletes,...

(5) **Reduce LSE segregation** by persuading societies to join together and have multi-cultural events.

(6) Organise **cheaper ticket prices for plays and theatres** around town so that it's financially possible for student to enjoy London

(7) More **mid-week events** at school.

(8) Offer a **wider range of music in the Three Tuns**, expanding to areas of Jazz, Banghra, Swing, Soul, Hip Hop, Blues, and bring in live bands.

Vote Adrian King for more variety, more events, more choice, and representation of your needs. Thank you.

Jasper Ward
(Free Nelson Mandela)

Once upon a time there was a sperm named Jasper. Jasper had already proven himself a clever young sperm, with two years of being the Social Secretary in the testicles of Carr-Saunders's Hall. Now the time had come to move up into the big wide womb and fertilise the social egg.

So Jasper set off with the other sperm on the journey down the fallopian tubes until he reached the social egg. Only one sperm, the newly elected Entertainments Sabbatical would be allowed in.

Jasper struggled with other sperms promising riches beyond the egg's wildest dreams; expansion of Friday and Saturday night events, introduction of an extra weekly event and even an annual LSE Ball, with a host of other treasures. Only on Wednesday March 5 and Thursday 6 would conception take place.

Don't be the condom that ends Jasper's quest. Let me fertilise your social egg.

Hear more from the sabbatical candidates - and ask them your questions. Hustings tonight, Tuesday 4th, at Bankside Hall of Residence.

NON-SABBATICAL POSITIONS

Equal Opportunities Officer (Overseas and EU Students' Issues)
 Matthias Mennel (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Mehvesh Mumtaz (Independent)
 Sri Agnee Pathmanathan
 Jake Tyshow (LSE Conservative Association)

Executive Slate - 5 Places
 Judith Bentall (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Dev Cropper (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Clyde Fowler (Free Nelson Mandela)
 Jacob John (Independent Green)
 Dan Lam (Independent)
 Jonathan Leclerc (LSE Conservative Association)
 Maria Neophytou (Independent)
 Katherine Pigott (LSE Liberal Democrat)

Finance Committee - 3 Places
 Samuel Hart (LSE Conservative Association)
 Malik Jalal
 Makis Kaketsis (LSE 2000)
 Kingsley Kemish (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Jon Smith (LSE Liberal Democrat)

Constitution & Steering Committee - 7 Places
 Emily Arkell (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Satbinder Singh Bains (Independent Labour)
 Jonathan Black (Independent)
 Guy Burton (LSE Liberal Democrat)
 Swagata Chatterjee (LSE Conservative Association)

Jon Frewin (Independent)
 Kshitik Jain (Independent)
 Malik Jalal
 Nick Kirby (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Nina Soteri (Independent student voice)
 Mark Turner (LSE Conservative Association)

NUS Conference - 6 Delegates & 1 Observer
 Guy Burton (LSE Liberal Democrats)
 Darrell Hare (Independent - Only truly independent candidate)
 Ceri Hopewell (Independent)
 Osman Ilyas (Independent)
 Stephen Little (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Stuart Lock (SWSS)
 Fatma Msumi (Independent)
 Sam Parham (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Jesscia Parkinson (Independent)
 Yuan Potts (Independent - Putting students first)
 Georgina Reason (LSE Conservative Association)

NUS Women's Conference (1 Delegate & 1 Observer)
 Carla Covarrabias (Independent, member of women's group)
 Anita Majumdar (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
 Susan McPherson (Independent)
 Fatma Msumi (Independent)
 Katherine Pigott (LSE Liberal Democrat)

LSE Centenary Global Festival

March 3-7 1997

The Global Festival is one of the most popular events of the year, bringing together many societies for a week of fun, food and frolics. This year it is running alongside Women's Week, so make sure you check out the quad for stalls, shows and more!

Tuesday

12-4 pm
 The Underground is transformed into a **Scandinavian Showroom**

11 am-2 pm
 Free chocolate in the Quad as part of Women's Week's **'Diet-free day'**

3-4 pm
 Hubert Vedrine on **'The Works of Francois Mitterand'** in The Hong Kong Theatre

4-6 pm
 Jar your jaded taste buds with **food Sri Lankan style** in the Quad

7-11 pm
 It's wild, it's weird, it's in the Quad. Don't miss the **Scandinavian Viking Party**, unless, of course ...

7.30-10 pm
 ... you see a film in the Underground. **'Like Water for Chocolate'** plays as part of the Global Film Festival

Wednesday

1-2 pm
 In need of a new perspective on Islam? A **speaker from the Islamic Society** speaks in the Hong Kong Theatre

12-3 pm
TACO FIESTA! The Mexican Society invade the Quad and do what they do best

1-3 pm
Islamic Society Stall in the Quad

4-6 pm
Cakes and drinks with the Italian

Society in the Quad. A chance to get rid of any lingering bitterness from England 0, Italy 1

6-8 pm
Peace in the Middle East. Video, workshop and food.

7-11 pm
 Free of sporting nationalism, head for The Underground and the Football Appreciation Society's tribute to England's finest sporting moment ... a replay of the **'66 World Cup Final**. Thirty years is a long time - but did that ball really cross the line?

8.30-10 pm
 Prefer greasepaint to mud? LSE's bright young actors are **'Bouncers'** in the Quad

Thursday

12-3 pm
Inspiration from China arrives in the Quad. This is probably not just another class on alternative management techniques.

1-3 pm
 When did you last see a Palestinian film? **'The Three Jewels'** plays in A 86

4-6 pm
 Baked beans and Oasis can only take you so far - if you're lucky, as far as the **Pakistani food and music** in the Quad

7.15-8 pm
 The Old Theatre has seen a lot. Lectures, bad political speeches, mushrooms. Will it stand up to **Greek dancing?**

8-11 pm
 You'll need restoring after that, now won't you? A **Greek food and ouzo**

party in the Quad should be just the thing

7.30-10 pm
 Mind you, a few hours on ouzo always makes me feel like it's "Night on Earth". Another treat from the Global Film Festival plays in The Underground

Friday

12-2 pm
Bosnian Film and Speaker, in the Hong Kong Theatre

12-3 pm
 This is not just a Kenyan Experience. This is the **Ultimate Kenyan Experience**. In the Quad

2-3 pm
 Cyprus is one of those issues that seem to make a 'neutral perspective' impossible. Greek and Turkish speakers debate the **prospects of Cyprus** in the Old Theatre

5-6 pm
 £1 for a **buffet and comedy show** courtesy of the Indian Society? Sounds like another good deal in the Quad to me

6-7 pm
 Friday's going to be a real barrel of laughs. The Eastern Vision Forum has its **Comedy Show** in the Old Theatre

9 pm-1 am
 The Quad and Rio de Janeiro: are they really that far apart. The Global Festival rounds off with a **Brazilian Carnival** and tries to get Sam Parham to limbo ...

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following candidates, elected unopposed

Returning Officer
 Paul Ashcroft (LSE Conservative Association)

Equal Opportunities Officer (Women Students' Issues)
 Anita Majumdar (LSE Labour - An international students' union)

Equal Opportunities Officer (Mature Students' Issues)
 Lee Townsend (LSE Labour - An international students' union)
Academic Affairs Committee
 Hywel Jones (LSE Conservative Association)
 Mehvesh Mumtaz (Independent)
 Rob Reed (LSE Labour - An international students' union)

VOTING

FOR ALL POSITIONS WILL BE OUTSIDE THE Old Theatre:

WEDNESDAY March 4th
 11.45 pm to 1.15 pm

THURSDAY March 5th
 9.30 am to 7.30 pm

Voting in LSE halls of Residence will take place on Wednesday 4th between 4 pm and 10.15 pm. Exact times at each Hall will be posted.

Voting is by transferable vote for all elections. Do not mark your ballot paper with a cross - put numbers next to candidates in order of preference i.e. 1 for first preference, 2 for second, etc.

Remember, you will need either your LSE id card or your Library card (at the discretion of the Returning Officer) to vote.

THE COUNT

for sabbatical positions and non-slate executive positions will take place in the quad from 8 pm on Thursday. The computerised count for the Executive Slate and Union committees will take place on Friday morning.

Fatma Msumi Women's Officer

If you asked a woman today if she desires equality, if she thinks wife-beating is bad and barbaric, if we should improve the general lives of women, undoubtedly many will answer that all these are necessary.

However, if you asked them if they are FEMINISTS, many will with vigour reject the term. Sometimes, without even knowing what it means.

One thing we should be aware of if that the feminist movement is facing a backlash, although it has undoubtedly been responsible for accomplishing most of what women enjoy today. There has been media distortion claiming that feminism is an anti-men thing, and that it is actually to blame for the many negative changes in society.

However, the NUS Women's Priority Campaign has adopted the 'Absolutely Feminist' theme for this year. In a conference I attended, it was noted that it is necessary to dispel the myths surrounding feminism, which are often shared by men and women. In fact, as I said earlier, many women no longer choose to call themselves feminists but will often agree with the basic demands for women's equality.

An essential part of being a feminist today seems to be challenging the view of those who think feminism is

outdated and that 'new lad' culture is where it's at. However, I have to point out that we still have to maintain what we have achieved and, although we may not have to face certain problems now, if we don't change certain aspects of the society today we might be victims tomorrow.

For example, if I was to hand out a questionnaire about the type of woman likely to become homeless or a prostitute, I am almost sure that 95% or even more would tell me it is not their mothers or their children, and certainly not themselves. The fact is that these people are somebody's mother and child. There is a tendency not to bother with these things because 'they are not happening to me and certainly will not.' Therefore, live and let live. Somebody will take the responsibility somewhere - but who would that be if we all chose this attitude?

Some of the facts out there are that, for example, domestic violence is still prominent and is yet to be given considerable attention. And don't forget that women constitute half the world's population, perform nearly two-thirds of its work, receive one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one-hundredth of its property (UN Report).

There are still more men called John in the House of Commons than women MPs. In fact, the few splashes of bright colour always stand out well against the sea of grey suits.

Furthermore, in its pamphlet 'The

Bar in the 1990s' the General Council of the Bar stated that "The aim of the Bar of England and Wales is to ensure that the interest of the public, of every man, woman and child in the administration of justice are best served." Yet the Bar is a notoriously male-dominated profession. Using its own figures, only 16.5% of Barristers practicing in London are female, a mere 3% are appointed as QC and less than 6% are selected as part-time judges. You wonder how such an imbalance can facilitate the aim of justice for every citizen regardless of sex. Perhaps this also explains why 1% of reported rapes result in conviction.

To me, feminism is about my life as a woman. It is about finding a theme which makes sense of my experiences of sexism, sexual harassment, domestic violence, the opinions people hold of me if I decide to stay at home and wear a scarf, etc., and of course all the other forms of male intimidation and domination. It is about living the anger and fear which male domination and inequality give rise to, a theory which tells me that this is wrong, that there is no legitimacy in my subordination. It gives me the chance to challenge my experiences, to refuse to accept oppression.

There is no one feminism. For example, as a black woman, my life experience and thus my feminism is one of many forms and types. As women, however, we know that we can live together, learn from our experiences and not favour one set of experiences

over all others.

Feminism is open, shaped by the women who produce it and not fixed or rigid. However, if we claim that it is about women's experiences, then it follows that one precondition is that "you have to be a woman". This is not a separatist stance. It is simply a fact, in the sense that if feminism is shared by, makes sense of and helps to challenge women's experiences, then men cannot share. However they can be profeminist which is valuable and important, something no feminist should want to undermine. Unfortunately, this is not in line with those who search for one knowledge, one theory and one truth. We have to be prepared during this struggle for responses based on ignorance.

We also have to remember that our right to autonomy is crucial. We therefore must be able to define and identify the areas in which we feel oppressed and discriminated against, wherever they are, regardless of background, beliefs, etc.

Finally, I would like to remind that we, as women, have as much right to be at this university as the next person and as such our views and opinions are equally important. Asserting our own identity should make our life at the LSE a challenging and ultimately an important one too.

Women's Week is taking place this week - check out the timetable on the Features Page.

The "F" word

UGMs - Speak or Be Bored

Phil Atio ponders the point of UGMs

For the few who attend, the Union General Meeting are an excuse to waste time. Their time is more than adequately wasted by a process that would appear to accomplish much less than it purports. But is the Union as incompetent as its critics suggest or does the fault lie with those to whom it is held accountable? Is its appeal limited to the self seeking few or does it genuinely address the concerns of the 'average student'? If not, is the 'average student' to blame if the Union fails them?

Week in week out, the UGMs strike a profound chord of repetition and familiarity. The General Secretary assumes the stage to call for his resignation, often over his sexual indiscretions. He did exactly that only to have his hecklers grovel for his reinstatement. The Education and Welfare officer is made to explain his failure to educate students on their welfare. The Treasurer informs us of the profits the Student Union has amassed under his direction and of his reluctance to part with any of it save for the renovation of the student bar where, one assumes, the remainder of the funds are embezzled. Finally, the Entertainment Sabbatical notifies us of the week's bar extensions, thereby reiterating the Treasurer's earlier remarks.

From there on proceedings degenerate into farce. Questions are posed in the hope of humiliating those who have to answer them. Acres of unsustainable forests are thrown at the innocent who are humiliated further still when their heads come into the line of fire. Mushrooms are thrown at drug abusers and on non-drug abusers alike. Abuse is indiscriminate.

The socialists accuse the 'f***ing Tories' for the degeneracy of modern society. The Tories point to the socialists as the classic examples of this degeneracy, arguing that they are

the product of the Welfare State. The Liberals, as ever, stand undecided. In fact, they hardly stand at all. Their representative has an annoying habit of leaning against the stage rather than standing on it, thus making him harder to hit. This of course, is all in tune with party policy of addressing the people at their level. Little do the Liberals realise however, that they are offending their petty bourgeois,

The broad mass should, it seems, remain content to discuss the appeal of the individual Spice Girls. All the Union officers are accountable to the UGM. They are accountable, therefore to those willing to attend the meetings. But the same faces appear every week. Those who do not attend therefore have no say. This is only fair. But judging by the level the intellectual debate can one blame them? Even

do when there is a motion on Cyprus? Are the drunks as numerous as when plans are put forward for the renovation of the Tuns?

Motions are supported or opposed by the same representatives of the political parties. Why do we allow them to taint the issues with their political bias? Could it be that all but a handful of individuals have stage fright?

'It's your Union!' the poster tells us. Why then do we allow the select few to run the entire show? We alone, however, are not to blame. The whole process is in need of re-examination. Paper throwing is a right but should it hinder discussion?

Humour, in all its many guises, may be an integral part of our UGMs but how often does it descend into sexism and the exchange of personal insults? By the time the speaker moves to a vote the audience has forgotten the proposal! Democracy in practice?

It has failed to support major student demonstrations over the past year. Its' concerns, as relayed to us through the UGMs, appear trivial. So it grants bar extensions and hands out free condoms. On the odd occasion it writes a letter of protest. Aside from that, it succeeds only in enforcing the tired old stereotype that students drink copious amounts of alcohol and then have sex, or have sex and then drink copious amounts of alcohol.

We have the audacity to complain in private but lack the courage to do so in public. Few go to the UGMs. Even fewer cast a vote. The incompetent are jeered. The sexually desirables are whistled at. The broader concerns of students are ignored. How many of you leave convinced that little if anything has been accomplished? The fault clearly lies on both sides. Ask not what your Union can do for you, but what you can do to get your Union to do what you want it to do.



UGMs - the supreme decision making body of the LSE?

capitalist audience with calls for more working class student representation at the LSE. Motions are passed or carried depending on how far the audience has got in eating its' lunch. For fifty odd minutes the UGM serves as a safety valve for post-teenage angst.

In the Students' Handbook, the UGM is hailed as the supreme decision-making body of the Union. Yet the day to day management of its affairs is subversively confined to the thirteen person Executive Committee.

though there are no lectures or classes scheduled during this time, hardly anyone turns up. This is the only time you get to have a say in the affairs of your Union. Sacrifice if you must an hour of arduous study. Postpone your miserable lunch in the Brunch Bowl. Close the damn stalls in Houghton Street! Why does it seem that attendance at UGMs is determined only by the nature of the debate that it about to take place. Do the Greeks, for example, ever arrive en masse as they

Women's week- why all the fuss?

Beaver Staff

With International Women's Day approaching, the issue of women in society is again brought to the forefront. But what really happens after that? Are the conditions of women substantially different now from what they used to be? Women do manage to juggle careers, family and a social life, or so it seems, in the glamour-filled movies that grace us from Hollywood.

We do have certain rights now that were not there a century ago, rights that seem so much a fabric of our society that life would seem strange without them, such as the right to vote. A recent survey conducted by People's Weekly in America revealed that almost 54 million women in the recent American elections did not vote, or voted as their partners told them to. The problems lie with society's stereotypes and the Practical suggestions include putting as much emphasis on science and arts for the education of both boys and girls. All around the world, there is now greater emphasis being put on the education of women in respect to their studies and as well as in birth control.

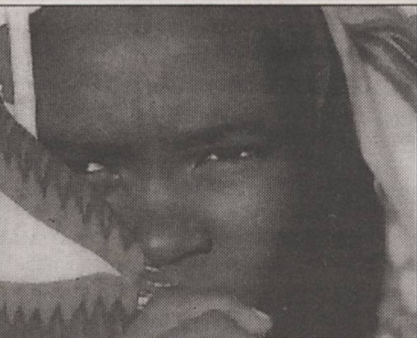
In supporting International Women's Week at LSE, remember that the struggle for equality is still essential. March 8 is International Women's day, designated by the UN in 1976 when women wanted the world to recognise certain issues that only affect them. We still have to realise that we have a long way to go to ensure that women have the same opportunities as men throughout the planet. These are not cliched problems - they are real and do exist. Educate yourself! Be a part of the LSESU Women's Week in the Quad. Collect information, come and celebrate what has been achieved, collect your T-shirts, rape alarms and lots of other freebies. Check out the programme below... Don't live in ignorance!

Starving and deserving of help

Why the Malaysia Club's fundraising events for Children's Aid Direct are deserving of support, writes **Ken Yong.**

Whenever and wherever disaster strikes, we shake our heads in sympathy for the unfortunate victims. But how many times have we actually done something to help those who were so unjustly victimised? It really is easy to show sympathy and compassion, but what these people really need is action. Quick, efficient and sufficient action. Action taken out as soon as the calamity and that is exactly what Children's Aid Direct is all about. Turning compassion into action.

Some of you may know them under a different name, that of 'Feed the Children', which is what this organisation was originally called until 1996. But for the change in its name, everything else is the same. The organisation is fiercely determined to its cause, i.e. to deliver aid including food, clothes, shelter and hygiene materials directly to the hands of children and their carers. Because it is relatively small, its lines of communications are short, which enable it to respond quickly and effectively to reach those caught up in humanitarian disasters. Children's Aid



The plight of Children

Direct also works with the local communities in the aftermath of disasters to support those caught up in humanitarian disasters. Children's Aid Direct also works with the local communities in the aftermath of disasters to support those in greatest need through their rehabilitation.

In the last sixteen years, the number of children affected by war and economic collapse has increased from 6 million to about 24 million, and it is forecasted that this figure will rise to over 30 million by the year 2000. Chances of survival are almost nil if aid is not given. That means that a few million children will never be able to live normal lives or see adulthood. Nothing is more irreplaceable than a lost childhood. That is why Children's Aid Direct is child-centred, focussing its resources in this particular area.

The amazing thing about Children's Aid Direct is the efficiency in which they manage their 'business'. They can

boast that for every pound donated by the public, they deliver two pounds worth of aid, 85 per cent of which is spent on overseas aid. This is due to the huge amount of support they receive from government funding and private companies. And it's not just money they receive, they get used blankets from United Airlines and used camping gear from Eurocamp, which would all have been thrown away if Children's Aid Direct had not approached them. But their main source of donations is the general public. Individuals, schools and churches play a vital role in raising funds to support their work. So it is up to us to help ensure that these unfortunate victims are given every chance to live a normal and productive life.

Every year, Children's Aid Direct holds challenge events to raise money which will be used to change the lives of thousands of children who have been affected by war and poverty. This year, a team spearheaded by the LSE's Malaysia Club will be participating in one of the mountaineering events. A Child Awareness Week is going to be held from March 11 to 18 to raise money for Children's Aid Direct. Various fundraising events are going to be held, such as a slave auction, a craft and food fair, as well as a movie presentation. So, please watch out in next week's *Beaver* for more information on these events. Everyone's support is necessary to help make the week a success.

WOMEN'S WEEK

MONDAY

Sexual harassment & Assertiveness

Stall in Quad

T-shirts on sale from 11 am to 2 pm

Debbie King talks on sexual harassment

2 to 3 pm

Assertiveness Classes

6 to 10 pm

TUESDAY

Diet-free day

Stall in Quad

T-shirts and free chocolate from 11 am to 2 pm

Free Aerobics Session

5 to 6 pm

WEDNESDAY

Personal Safety

Stall in Quad: Last day to get t-shirts

11 to 2 pm

Discussion on Rape

E197 2 to 3 pm

Workshop on Personal Experience

E197 3 to 4 pm

THURSDAY

Equal rights and Domestic Violence

UGM: Support the women's motion

1 to 2 pm

Talk on Domestic Violence

by Annie Yau Karim

C120, 2 to 3 pm

"What does equal rights mean to you?"

Panel Discussion C120 5 pm

FRIDAY

Women's Social

Women's Buffet at the Veggie Cafe

Limited Places: 50p

5 to 6 pm

Women's Special Night in the Tuns

Simon Retallack, Politics Editor, talks to the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, about the Tories' record on the conservation of the natural environment and the institutions of traditional community.

If you're a conservative - Should you vote Tory?

Hearing John Gummer speak, you would be forgiven for believing that the Conservative Party had genuinely started turning a shade of green. He waxes lyrical about the terrible dangers of climate change and the overriding need "not to cheat on our children." There is, however, only one tiny problem with this rhetoric; the Conservative Party has been consistently cheating on future generations since 1979. Gummer should be given credit for his recent conversion, but what cannot be ignored is the Conservative Party's record over the past eighteen years. As a so-called 'conservative' party, you might have expected it to do a little conserving, not least of the natural environment and the basic institutions of community. In practice, the 'Conservatives' have done precisely the opposite.

The destruction of Britain's countryside, increased air pollution and the threat of global climate change have all been contributed to by the policies of successive 'conservative' Governments since 1979. Throughout the 1980s, the Tories pursued a massive roads programme and planning policies which allowed out-of-town developments, such as super-markets, to proliferate, adding to car dependency. As traffic grew, the Government's reaction was to launch a \$20 billion 'Roads for Prosperity' programme in 1989, the biggest of its kind in British history, oblivious to the fact that the more roads you build the more traffic you get. Even today, John Gummer refuses to admit that this policy was mistaken, arguing that the roads programme has been "satisfactory to make our industry work." This perhaps should not be very surprising given that the Tories' policies are generally geared towards the needs of industry. Nor should it be forgotten that the roads programme still totals £6 billion and includes a new scheme: Design, Build, Finance & Operate (DBFO) roads - under which the construction companies finance and build roads and are then paid back over 30 years by the Department of Transport with 'shadow tolls' per vehicle, thus encouraging them to get more traffic to use roads to increase profits. John Gummer also supports the infamous Salisbury by-pass, although he is not happy about the proposed route, and is still allowing out-of-town supermarkets to be built, even though he now has the power to stop them.

Another effective way of encouraging car use, despoiling the countryside and increasing pollution, is to run down the public transport system, which the Tories have been most adept at. Apart from the problem of consistent underfunding, the Government's own advisors have warned that privatisation, competition and de-regulation have been damaging to public transport networks. Take the deregulation of busses in 1986, which John Gummer says has been "crucially important to ensure that you meet people's needs." Would a service which met people's needs see its use decline by twenty-five per cent and produce higher fares? Would it be criticised for providing poorly co-ordinated timetables? Is it a mark of success that the old monopolies that so displeased the Tories are rapidly being replaced by private monopolies, with fifty per cent of routes being dominated by only three bus companies? The Chairman of the Government's own Round Table on Sustainable Development criticises "the absence of a strategic overview," and

yet John Gummer continues to insist that "the way to destroy a public transport system is to have a regulated one."

Gummer's only criticism of the Government is "for not privatising the railways more quickly." He says this in the month that South West Railways has cut two hundred services after sacking seventy-one drivers, creating total chaos. But for John Gummer, all that has happened is that "they have perfectly properly re-organised the service so they can now afford to have lower fares." Cutting two-hundred services is certainly one way of achieving lower fares, but one would hardly call that an improvement in the service.

One way to help lessen the impact of increased private car use, which has occurred as a consequence of Tory policies, would be to ensure that the world's rainforests were preserved to help absorb CO₂ emissions. One way of doing this would be to impose import bans on timber such as Brazilian mahogany. John Gummer, however, opposes this, preferring to try to "get people to cut to a sustainable basis," failing to understand that if you want rainforests to be sustainable you must not cut them at all.

As far as reducing CO₂ emissions is concerned, John Gummer, in line with Tory policy since 1979, prefers to rely on nuclear power, despite the many grave problems associated with it. One such problem is that leukaemia rates among children living near to nuclear power plants appear to be abnormally high. John Gummer denies this is a problem, claiming "there is no connection with leukaemia rates, the science doesn't show that at all." But it remains the case that there is no other possible explanation for cases such as that of Seascale, near Sellafield (the location of THORP - the highly contentious Tory-backed nuclear waste reprocessing plant), where the incidence of leukaemia among children is ten times the national average.

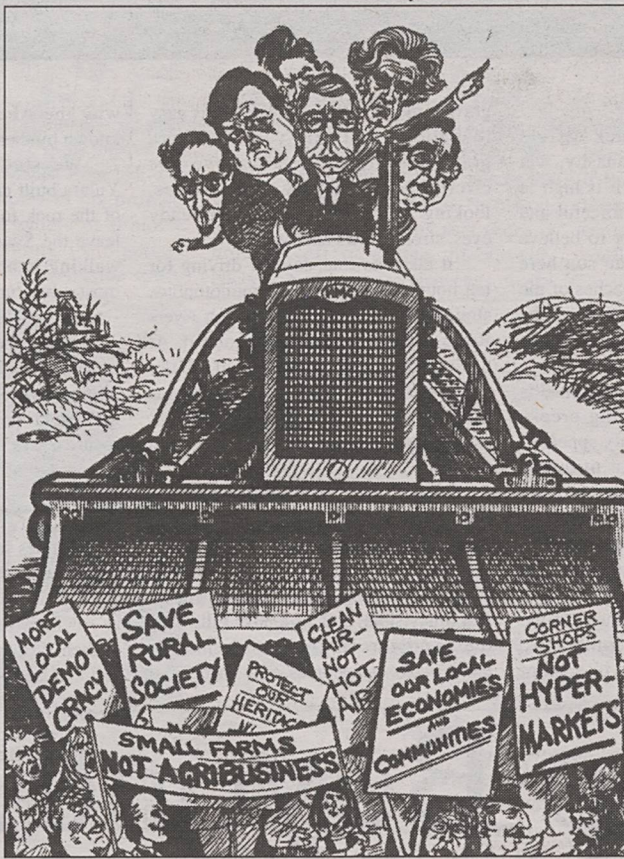
An even more incontestable, indeed unsurmountable problem is that of safely storing the highly dangerous waste which nuclear power generation produces. Mr Gummer's response to this problem is to say, "It seems to me that you don't get caught for nought." He sees it as a fair trade-off; CO₂-free electricity for the price of huge amounts of highly toxic waste, which his generation of course will not be lumbered with. But he is presenting us with a false dichotomy. The choice is not limited to fossil fuels and nuclear, neither of which justify the use of the other. There are alternatives, such as solar, wind and water power. Moreover, nuclear power is a highly uneconomical industry, requiring massive subsidies, a point which even Gummer seems to accept, admitting, "it is difficult in the present circumstances to make it economically successful." In which case it is very hard to understand why the Tory Government has preferred not to invest the money in safer, alternative

sources of energy which do not contribute to climate change or threaten our health.

If John Gummer was genuinely concerned about climate change, he would accept the recommendation of leading scientists who call for a sixty per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions now if we are to avoid doubling the amount of CO₂ emissions in the atmosphere by 2030, which would result in a 1.5-4.5 per cent increase in global temperature. But Gummer told me, "I have no target for cutting to sixty or fifty per cent." He argues for a cut of only ten per cent by the year 2010, which he describes as "a realistic speed because nobody will do it faster than that." The reality is that

unsubstantiated claim that "organic farming can be environmentally very un-acceptable." What is truly unacceptable is that a man who as Minister for Agriculture oversaw two of the most terrible consequences of intensive agriculture, BSE and organophosphate-induced illness, should continue to deny any responsibility for these devastating and avoidable occurrences.

The consequences of using organophosphates (OPs), which are closely related to a form of nerve gas, have been known for forty-five years, and were reiterated in 1981 when a committee of Health and Safety doctors published a document named MS17 disclosing the dangers of exposure to



Who are the true Conservatives?

Cartoon: Richard Wilson*

such an attitude could not be more conducive to ensuring a real change in climate ensues, devastating the natural environment upon which human beings depend for survival, and which one would expect a 'conservative' Government to conserve.

The Conservative's failure to conserve some of the traditional institutions of the local community, such as small, nature-friendly farms, is also notable. Small farms have been swept away by the revolution of intensive agriculture which the Tories have promoted. Intensive agriculture sustains large farms which create huge fields by pulling down more and more hedgerows, and use very large quantities of pesticide and artificial fertiliser in order to produce food which appears cheap. It appears cheap because many of the costs, such as massive land erosion and ill-health from nitrates seeping into the water supply, are externalised; you only pay for them after you have bought the food. Organic farming, however, avoids these problems, and yet it is only practiced on 0.3 per cent of our agricultural land (compared to ten per cent in Austria). This should not be surprising given the views of Tory ministers, such as John Gummer who continues to insist that organic food "is more expensive to produce," and who states, "I don't believe that it is necessarily better." Indeed, he even makes the completely

reply is highly dishonest given that his Government's own Health and Safety report stated that the solvents present in sheep dips could penetrate protective clothing, and that repeated low-level exposure could cause cumulative damage.

It should also be remembered that it was John Gummer who publicly fed a hamburger to his young daughter, some time after the possibility was first raised in 1986 that the agents that cause mad cow disease (the consequence of feeding cows with minced sheep - a classic example of intensive agriculture) might end up in beefburgers. Rather than err on the side of caution, Mr Gummer blithely asserted that because no risk had been proved, there was no risk. When I pressed him on this point, once again, Mr Gummer denied all responsibility, stating, "in all circumstances I followed the precautionary principle by going further than I was told was necessary." But had he really followed the precautionary principle, infected cattle would immediately have been traced and culled, to prevent them from entering the human food chain. This was only done last year. It is thus hard to believe Gummer's protestation that he was "only interested in the public safety." Had the Tories preserved traditional, natural farming, none of this would have happened.

As so-called 'conservatives', the Tories have also been spectacularly

unsuccessful at conserving the basic institutions which allow society to function; namely local communities and families. Indeed, the Tory Party's pursuit of free-market, neo-liberal policies and the promotion of self-interested market values have had a seriously adverse impact on the very institutions which they profess to be concerned about. John Gummer, unsurprisingly, denies this, saying feebly, "this is the most peculiar argument I have ever heard." If he looked at the facts, he would see that big business, encouraged by the Tories, has built supermarkets and chain stores which have ruined local shops and firms. The liberalisation and increased mobility of capital and trade has meant that corporations no longer pay any allegiance to local communities and shift production to wherever it is cheapest, contributing, together with increased labour 'flexibility', to the deep economic insecurity which puts severe strains on families and marriages. Similarly, the promotion of labour mobility by the Tories, who advise people to constantly move home to where there are jobs, has been a major contributing factor towards the loss of the extended family and stable community, weakening, if not entirely destroying, the informal social monitoring of behaviour which is one of the most effective preventive measures against crime, which has nearly doubled since 1979.

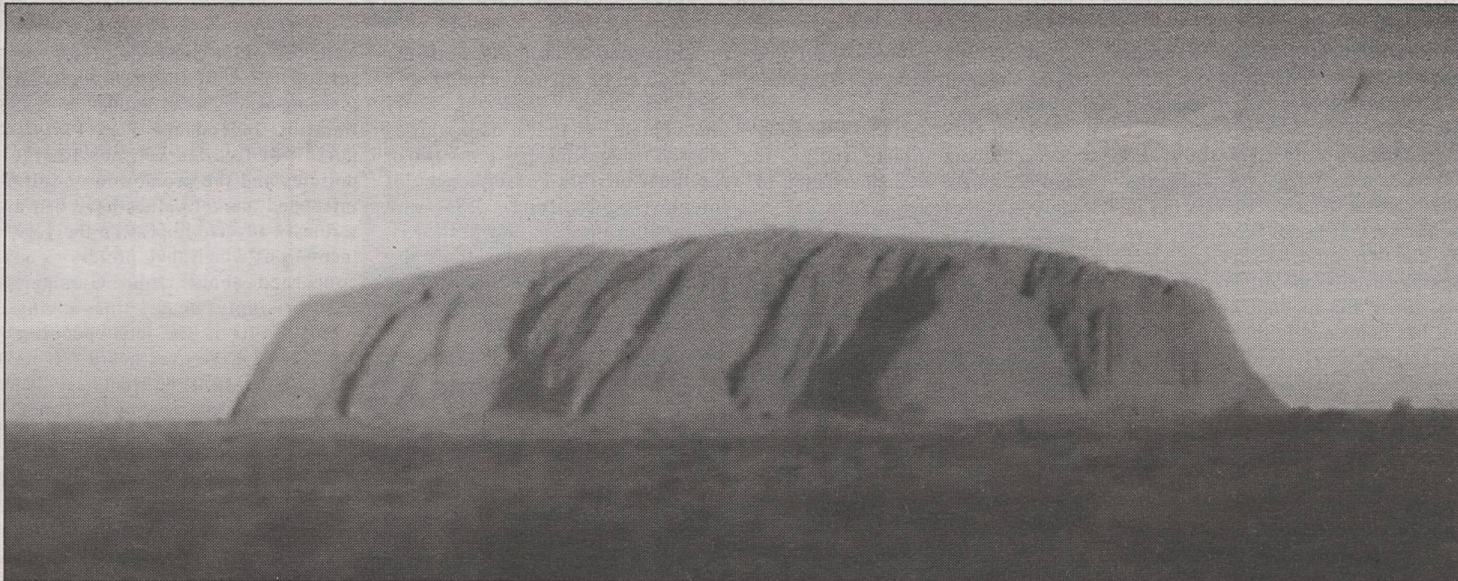
The Tories' conservative record is equally dismal when applied to the preservation of local government. Under both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, government has become increasingly centralised. In recent years the control of transport, education, planning, economic development and many other services has been unashamedly transferred from democratically elected local councils to central Government or to unaccountable quangos, which have grown massively in size and importance (there are now around 60,000 quangocrats compared to just 25,000 local councillors in Britain). Furthermore, local government has been made increasingly dependent on central government for its funding. In 1979 it raised sixty per cent of all the money it spent through local taxation. Now the figure is only nineteen per cent, the rest coming from central government. This effectively means that central government now controls local government, whose accountability to its electors has virtually disappeared.

There are many reasons for not voting Tory at the forthcoming general election, and if you are neither a conservative nor a neo-liberal, you will already know what they are. But if you are a true conservative, anxious as you should be to preserve in John Gummer's words, "the organic institutions of community," take a long, hard look at the Tory record. It is the record of a party which has failed to conserve the natural environment, which has failed to conserve traditional, natural rural life, which has failed to conserve local businesses and local government, and which ultimately has failed to conserve the community and the family itself. Then ask yourself whether such a party deserves your support. If you are honest when you are in that polling booth, and if you are a true conservative - you won't vote Tory.

*The cartoon has come with kind permission from the publisher of 'The Tory Record: An Assessment.' For a copy of the pamphlet call 0181 332 0295.

The Australian Experience: the Outback, Ayers Rock...and Les

During a memorable journey to Ayers Rock, Tasha Kosviner grappled with Swiss walking enthusiasts and dodgy Aussie truckers...



Look! It's a rock!

Photo: Tasha Kosviner

Australia's red centre. A land of searingly violent beauty; a place that can at once be both cruel and harsh, tantalizing and mystical.

My traveling companion and I catch a lift with two Swiss French guys (or "French made in Japan" as they modestly like to call themselves) from Mount Isa as far as Ayers Rock. We follow the road that runs from north to south straight through the centre of this huge island, tracing the changing land from the green lushness of the north-east to the sparseness of the desert. As we progress the earth becomes more and more barren, the trees becoming skeletal and sometimes disappearing altogether, leaving only the cracked earth and the dry, broken wood. The grass becomes less of a carpet and begins to grow in coarse tufts, forcing their way defiantly through the crusty

soil.

The sun in the outback differs greatly from the heavy, squashy, wet sun of the north east. Here it is high in the sky and casts a bright, forceful and arid heat, so that it is easier to believe the danger of the Australian sun here than on the palm-fringed beaches of the east coast, where factor 15 seems to be more of a barrier against tanning than protection from skin cancer.

There is water out here; the road is lined with signs announcing creeks (although to me the signs only appear to be an attempt to make an untamed countryside seem civilized) but even these names, "Alick Creek" or "Skeleton Brook", have a dry sound to them and at this time of the year all that remains of them are empty ditches with red, cracked floors. The redness of the soil is accentuated by the termite hills, rising like the headstones in a giant

graveyard out of the flat land. It is easy to believe that this vast area is a graveyard, for in the air above are circling birds of prey, even eagles, looking for the next meal with beady eyes, strong claws and beaks.

It takes us four days of driving for ten hours a day along the monotonous, straight, flat desert roads to reach Ayers Rock - but we are not disappointed. At 548 metres high, it rises out of the ground like the back of a huge sea-monster and those who know say that two-thirds of the rock lie buried deep in the earth.

During the day it is awe-inspiring enough but at sunset and sunrise it turns, as if by magic, into a bright, red, glimmering wall for about fifteen seconds. The colour change happens so fast it is visible, and, as a hush falls over the spectators as the transformation takes place, it becomes easy to believe

why the Aborigines hold this rock, known by them as Uluru, so sacred.

We stay in the small town of Yulara built under the immense shadow of the rock for one night only and then leave the Swiss guys to their excessive walking hobby and embark upon our most adventurous form of transport yet - truck riding. Outback trucks are mammoth-sized, great shiny things with huge cabs that are more like moving lounges which is just as well because the driver we are fortunate enough to secure is Les - and Les is enormous.

Les's main accolade is that he can tell two hundred and fifty dirty jokes in a row without repeating himself once and he proceeds to do this throughout the twenty five hour journey to Adelaide (and no I *can't* repeat any of them). His other endearing trait is his habit of dislodging his false teeth and

rotating them in his mouth before clicking them back into place with a flourish and a leery grin.

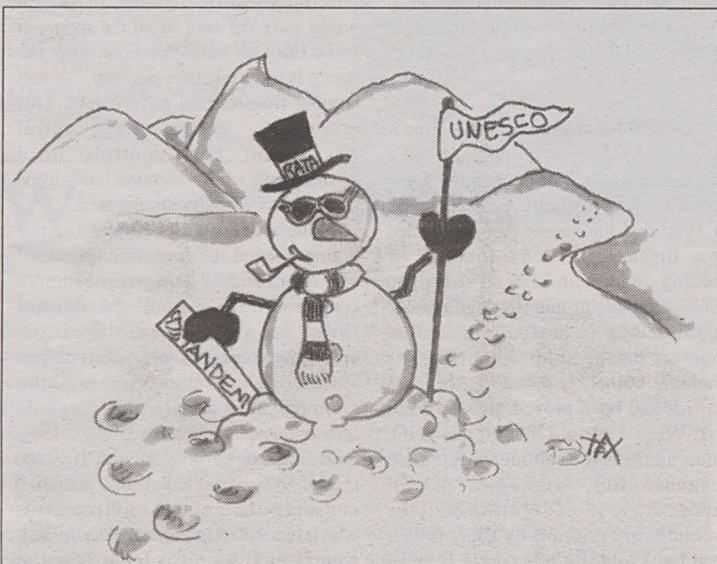
Twenty minutes into the journey Les asks if we smoked pot and without further ado he pulls into a layby and starts skinning up. When the skins run out Les is undaunted. He empties out a coke can and starts canning tinnies instead. And when the gear runs out he explains to us that in order not to fall asleep during the long and boring journeys, most truck drivers do a little speed from time to time. To our amazement and trepidation, as we contemplate a further twenty-four hours of driving with this incoherent and blabbering freak, he whips out a bag of white powder and starts cutting lines there and then.

Gazing out across the miles of desert between us and civilization we decide it would be better to die in a truck crash than of dehydration and starvation and so we grin and settle back with interest as Les eventually restarts the truck, grinds the gears, rides the clutch and eventually lurches off in a cloud of dust.

Twenty-four hours later, after stopping at frequent intervals for Les to replenish his intoxication, we reach Adelaide where Les is to deposit his cargo of frozen chips (it seems Bankside residents are not the only ones whose staple diets are chips...) and where we are to emerge somewhat shakily into day light, civilization and sanity. We swear that we will never try to skip on the cost of a bus ticket again. Les grabs my traveling companion to give her a greasy, bearded smacker as I escape onto the pavements of Adelaide, take a deep breath of the polluted city air and thank my lucky stars that I have arrived.

One Step Beyond...

Christy Acton reports on an Antarctic expedition with a difference



Spending their time productively ...

Cartoon: Hector Birchwood

Are you fed up with the English winter? The rain? The cold? If you answered yes to these three questions, stop complaining! You don't know the meaning of the word 'cold' until, at -45°C, you risk losing your fingers to frostbite if you take off your gloves for a minute. Or if, after five days of trekking sixteen hours a day in the same change of clothes, to prevent painful sores appearing all over your body it is necessary to strip off, leave

the warmth of the tent for the -30°C of outside and wash your body by rolling around on the hard frozen ice!

Who cares anyway? Anyone who would want to do this must have simply gone insane! Fair enough if you're talking about a nutter like Ranulph Fiennes, who dragged a 500 pound sledge for three months 'just for the challenge' of becoming the first man to complete a solo and unsupported crossing of Antarctica (Incidentally, he

failed!)

But there were also three men this Christmas trekking from the South Pole to the edge of Antarctica for a much more admirable goal. Robert Swan OBE (the first man to have walked to the north and south poles), accompanied by Geoff Somers and Crispin Day, completed their walk early in January, before joining thirty-five 'young explorers' from twenty-five nations on an ice-breaker for a thirty day voyage around Antarctica.

Unlike most articles found on this page, this is a story that is both positive and inspiring. Among the young explorers (aged between eighteen and twenty-one) were a Palestinian, an Israeli, a Catholic and a Protestant from Northern Ireland, a Serb, Croat and a Muslim - all from Bosnia - a Russian, a Chechen and others from the UK, the US, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Vietnam, France, the Netherlands, South Africa, Tanzania, China and Hong Kong.

It was partly due to Robert's first expedition to the South Pole in 1986 that scientists discovered the large hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica. The lack of ozone caused severe burning to their faces and the pigmentation in their eyes changed colour slightly.

This is why this expedition, the *Tandem One Step Beyond Expedition*, is so positive. While every day we become increasingly immune to the depressing

political and environmental news in the press, this expedition sends out a message that this need not be so. Young people from all over the world, including some from 'politically sensitive' areas, have come together on the only piece of land on earth that belongs to no one. Many of them are the first from their country to have set foot in Antarctica and they will all be given the title 'UN Special Envoy' for a year when they return home to talk about the experiences they had.

Exploration in Antarctica has come a long way since Scott's day in 1912. Then, Scott and his four men dragged a large sledge to the pole and then died on the way back from exhaustion. Now, with edible food packaging, parafoils (large kites) to pull them along, and satellites enabling messages to be sent from their laptop to the expedition headquarters in London, the age of the pioneering explorer is over. Nevertheless, we can now go 'One Step Beyond' to ensure that Antarctica remains one of the least polluted parts of the earth and that not 'all news is bad news'!

You can keep up-to-date with the expedition by looking at its website: <http://www.onestep.tandem.com>

Amnesty and Women

Jennifer Gibbs reports on Amnesty's activities next week

In honour of International Women's Day, the LSE Amnesty International group is holding a Women's Rights Campaign from Tuesday, March 11 to Thursday, March 13. Amnesty International recognises that women suffer a full range of human rights violations solely or primarily because of their sex. Testimonies prove that women share strikingly similar experiences of oppression and violence.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10:00-3:00, a display table will be set up in the Quad with information on women and human rights - including violence against women and girls, refugee women and other topical issues concerning women globally. You can sign petitions, write letters or just pick up information. Videos will be shown on both days depicting the resistance and power of women who oppose governments that violate their rights and the strategies employed to promote awareness, action and change.

On Thursday, March 13 at 12:30, LSE Professor of International Law, C. Chinkin will give a presentation on "Rape in Armed Conflict" in the Vera Anstey Room. The presentation will be followed by tea and coffee and a film on women's rights. For more information, contact Jennifer Gibbs at J.Gibbs@lse.ac.uk.

Tim Burton and his mates are sitting in a bar. They have just watched 'Independence Day'. They liked it, but only in a post-modern ironic sort of way. They're talkin' - chewin' it all over. A couple of Michelob Lights duly dispatched, one of them has a tremendous idea: "Why don't we"?

The outcome of this 'tremendous idea' was given form in 'Mars Attack'. Believe me, it is a great idea, and it should have been a smashing cinematic achievement. Sadly, there isn't nearly enough great idea to stop Burton's latest swipe at tradition being anything other than a inter-galactic disappointment.

The premise which Burton constructs is simple: "ID4 + humour + irony + style = classic". Upon news that Aliens are surrounding earth, the slimy President (Nicholson) spies a great PR coup. Encouraging humanity to take the visitors as friends, he and the rest of the world is shocked to discover that these entertaining extra-terrestrials are much more concerned with wreaking havoc with the planet. Herein lies both the film's triumph and downfall. Burton, clearly, loves the malevolent and child-like Aliens which his imagination has created. Indeed, he has a right to be proud: this ET with attitude. They play up to human expectations, act friendly, and just when the ignorant earthlings have been duped they pull out cartoon lazer guns and begin a rampage of 'zzap/whoosh' destruction. Perhaps the most endearing cinematic creations of recent years, these cranially enlarged villains are as magnificent as they are



malevolent, and bestride the affair with their creativity.

Sadly, as the aliens run away with the picture, the audience will realise that they have zapped! the rest of the director's ideas. To sustain the alien mahem, Burton needs to create a good film in which they can act. Crucially, he fails. In the style of 'ID4', 'Mars Attack' begins by introducing a host of characters who will later find themselves either zapped! or rescued. Working on the assumption that a cast list from hell will plug the gaping holes in his project, Burton produces a gallery of B-movie staples. Enter grubbing TV reporters (Michael J Fox & ?), overacting stuffy

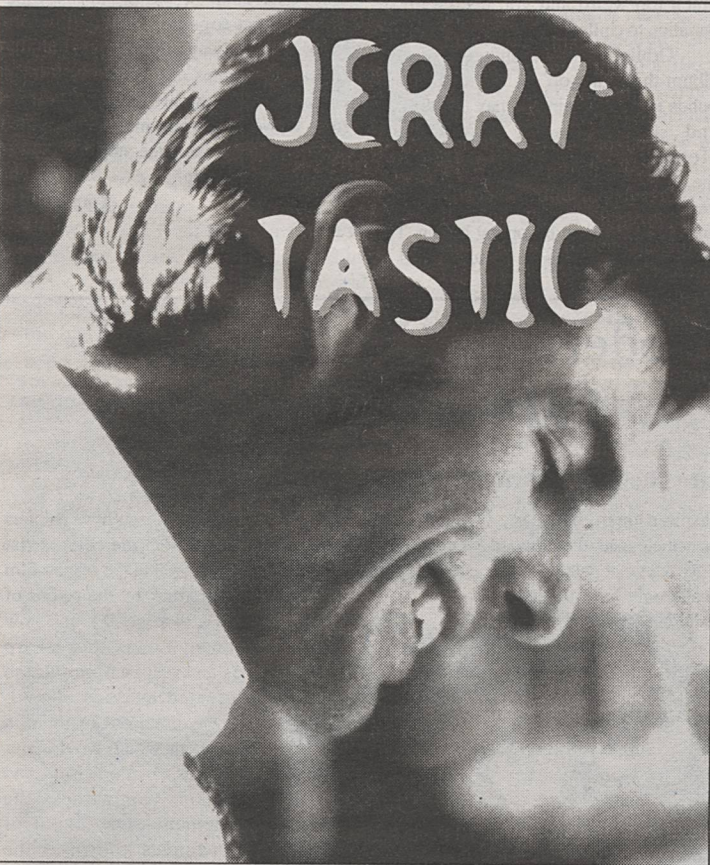
British boffin (Brosnan), slimey politicians (Nicholson, Short), as well as throw-away roles for Glenn Close, Danny De Vito, Tom Jones, Lisa Marie, and various significant others. However, these famous names are working with one dimensional material in a one dimensional environment. Despite their bankability, they seem resigned to the fact that they are nothing more than alien fodder. Burton's willingness to execute his stars in outlandish zapping! set-pieces is certainly refreshing; witness the superb execution of President Nicholson. However, it also means that there is nothing left to entice the viewer. Nicholson, playing two characters, works

well within his limitations: but he and his co-stars still seem to be sleep walking towards humourous ray-gun induced annihilation.

Despite all the pizzazz, Burton must accept that 'Mars Attack' is a film which doesn't quite know what it wants to be, and ends up as being nothing more than boring with style. It works within the sci-fi mould which it is attempting to mock, but fails to build a stable base for its own jokes. It is ultimately difficult to establish if Burton has a given shape to a parody trapped within traditional confines, or a traditional movie trapped within the confines parody. It is clever, but irony is

a tool which should be used to mimic a concrete set-up. 'Mars Attack' begins with a base of irony, and ends up being much to knowingly ironic for its own good. Burton is doing it again: playing a joke on Hollywood by getting funding for a \$100 million failure. But, upon who's face does the egg land? Burton, for sure, will be smiling as his film dies with a heroic style little found elsewhere in modern cinema.

James Crabtree



"Show me the money!" might well be Tom Cruise's rallying cry considering the success of yet another one of his movies, *Jerry Maguire*. It is not though; this catch phrase which has crept into the current American pop vocabulary is the trademark shout of the film's supporting character, the frustrated football player Rod Tidwell, played by Cuba Gooding Jr. Jerry Maguire is about the world of professional sports, and more importantly the money to be made if one is a successful athlete. Cruise's character, Jerry Maguire, is a sports agent, a charming, vicious shark who will do anything to show his clients "the money." However, because Jerry is played by Tom Cruise, who has made his career partly on playing greedy yuppies with hearts of gold, and because director Cameron Crowe has a moral behind the movie's slick look, Maguire realises that in his desire to obtain the biggest salaries and Nike contracts for his clients he has forgotten the personal side of his business. So, at a conference held by his agency, Jerry writes a mission statement, urging his fellow agents to spend more time with their clients, and, indeed, to have fewer clients so that personal relationships develop. Needless to say, Jerry is quickly fired, for the multi-million dollar sports industry has no place for goodwill.

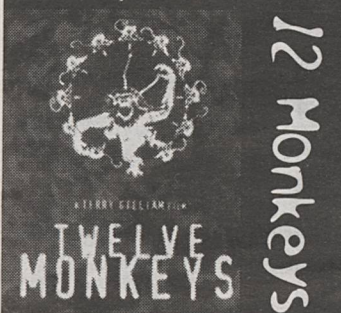
Jerry is only left with one client, Rod Tidwell, a talented but difficult professional football player who knows that his money-earning days are limited and needs a contract, fast. Jerry and Rod, stuck with each other because no one else will take them, devise a scheme to gain Rod a contract and Jerry a commission. Along the way, Jerry meets a single mother with whom he begins a relationship. Here the film's moral message comes into play: in the course of the relationship, Jerry disrespects the woman, played by newcomer Renee Zellweger, and is warned by Tidwell that he must never disrespect a single mother, but rather must treat her almost reverentially. Tidwell is a role model for all men, and the film is rare in presenting a black family as a model of love and togetherness, with Tidwell as a loving father and husband who really only wants the money to provide for his wife, kids, and extended family, all of whom have come to depend on him. As Tidwell's wife herself notes, it is rare to see cinematic portrayals of nuclear and successful black families in America; Jerry Maguire is laudable for this model, and Cuba Gooding deserved the Oscar nomination for his funny and human characterisation.

The film, of course, has a happy ending, but one that will be credible for anyone who has followed any kind of professional or elite university sports. Tidwell becomes the kind of hero we love, and he represents the reason why sports became such a huge industry in the first place: after years of playing simply to get the money, he finally learns to play with his heart. While this sounds trite on the page, anyone who has watched the Olympics, been a fan of a particular team, or bought a pair of Nikes understands the draw of the sports hero. Crowe uses this potent theme, so prevalent in American life, to spin a classic morality tale. The family is good, he tells us, and money, while useful, can only go so far. Jerry Maguire does not preach, but under the film's slick production, the smoothness of Tom Cruise (still wearing RayBans and white T-shirts), and the excellent portrayal of the excess of the sports world, the message is there nonetheless. Jerry Maguire is that rare commercial, completely Hollywood movie that makes one think after leaving the theatre.

Morra Aarons
JERRY MAGUIRE
Opens Soon



Competition



To celebrate the release of *Twelve Monkeys* on video we have four copies to give away. To win one write the answers to the following question on a piece of paper with your name on it and turn it into the Film Box in *The Beaver* office.

1. Which film did *Twelve Monkeys* director, Terry Gilliam, direct with John Cleese playing Robin Hood?
2. What year does *Twelve Monkeys* open in?
3. What is supposedly Bruce Willis' come back film?
4. Name the French film that inspired *Twelve Monkeys*?

ANY WITCH WAY BUT LOOSE

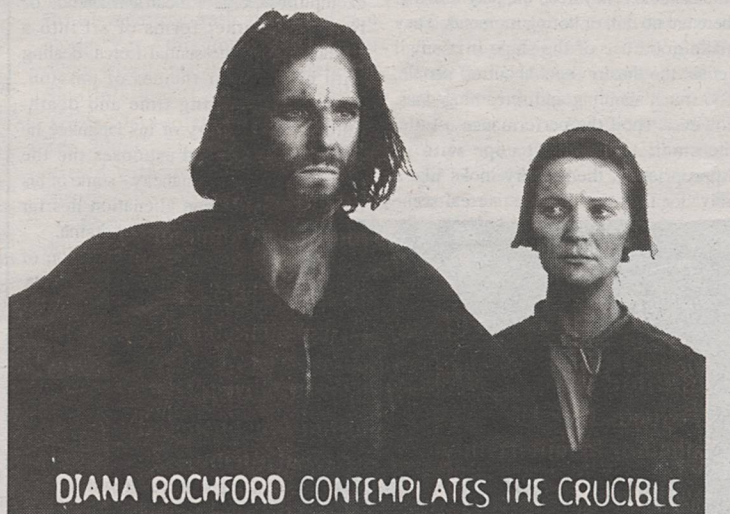
No matter how you feel about the religious or political implications of this film, the story is powerful and emotional. You are gripped by the events, crying out of frustration from not being able to enter the set and sort things out. Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* has successfully been translated onto the screen so that the feeling of anguish that we feel in many theatre productions comes across. I was thoroughly moved by the beauty of the film contrasted with its tragic consequences.

Salem, Massachusetts, 1692, the famed witch-hunt. However, the underlying force of events are timeless. Salem's Puritanical boundaries of society is driven to purge those that have provoked this inexplicable force. Yet we look around us and we see parallels occurring with the purging of Aids victims, communities torn apart by the pursuance of religious ideals. Miller's cry of witchcraft is inherent in the nature of humanity, thus rendering us unable to create some sort of distance with the events in the small locality of

Massachusetts.

Fear is translated into revenge. Truth is no longer on trial but the salvation of each individual's souls, and thus one blames others to save oneself. Yet this story has a locus, a girl Abigail, who having lost her innocence to a married man, John Proctor, and cannot accept that he will not be hers. She wishes to destroy his relationship, to reconquer his affection. Proctor, his feeling of guilt and unwillingness to disgrace his name and family, casts her away. Ultimately, this leads to a story of revenge that tests Proctor's sense of worthlessness, placing him against his community, in denouncing the falseness of the convictions. Probably, in other circumstances he may have joined the sweeping flow of denunciations.

Salem is portrayed as incredibly beautiful, the scenery is magnificent. The log cabins are quaint, immaculate, the sea in the background gives a sense of dreaminess. In contrast, you have people publicly denouncing each other and crying witchcraft, i.e. murder. A small, impeccable, fairyland is



transformed into a land of slayers. The imagery is fantastic. The most beautiful scenes are the most tragic.

Miller's screen adaptation is tremendous. He claims that he has been wary of transferring theatre to cinema, claiming the latter to be an inferior art. 'The play wants to tell, the movie to show'. However, Miller realised that whilst researching for the play, he had constantly visualised the scenes, thus it

was exciting to translate these ideas to the screen. Despite his prejudices against wordy films, he decided to keep the powerful dialogues. These are the force of the film. The words pierce us and we feel the emotions of the characters and the events clearly. 'Because I lie and sign myself to lies!...I have given you my soul, leave me my name!'

The Crucible is now playing across London.



Goldblade

'Strictly Hardcore'

Jon Spencers Blues Explosion, Gary Glitter and the Blues Brothers neatly combined in one CD-shaped turd. Fast-paced, frantic and full of shite. Goldblade have learnt five guitar chords and proudly display this new-found skill by repeating them endlessly in the title track and then shove some brass lines in at the end. They also disguise the fact that they can't sing or write lyrics by just shouting all the time. If you hear this once, you'll probably think it's faintly amusing but crap. However if you hear it more than once then the fun-factor will just disappear and you'll hate it. Strictly for the dustbin men or people you really, really hate.



'Mary Wana'

Nice name, shame about the music... Except I don't even think the title of this single is going to help these guys when it comes to this review. 'Mary Wana' is not the kind of track that keeps coming back in your head after you've heard it a few times. In fact, I think I've already forgotten most of it. I guess it's another one of those bands that might appeal to a certain kind of crowd (Hey! Great name, right?!). The fact they kept on repeating 'Mary Wana' in case we hadn't noticed the pun yet didn't help, but I think the music in itself is simply pretty bland: nothing much can be said about it really. It's just there for a while, then disappears in the back of your mind where you put all those other British indie one-hit wonders.

Flyscreen

'Shesmokesshedrives andwritespoetry'

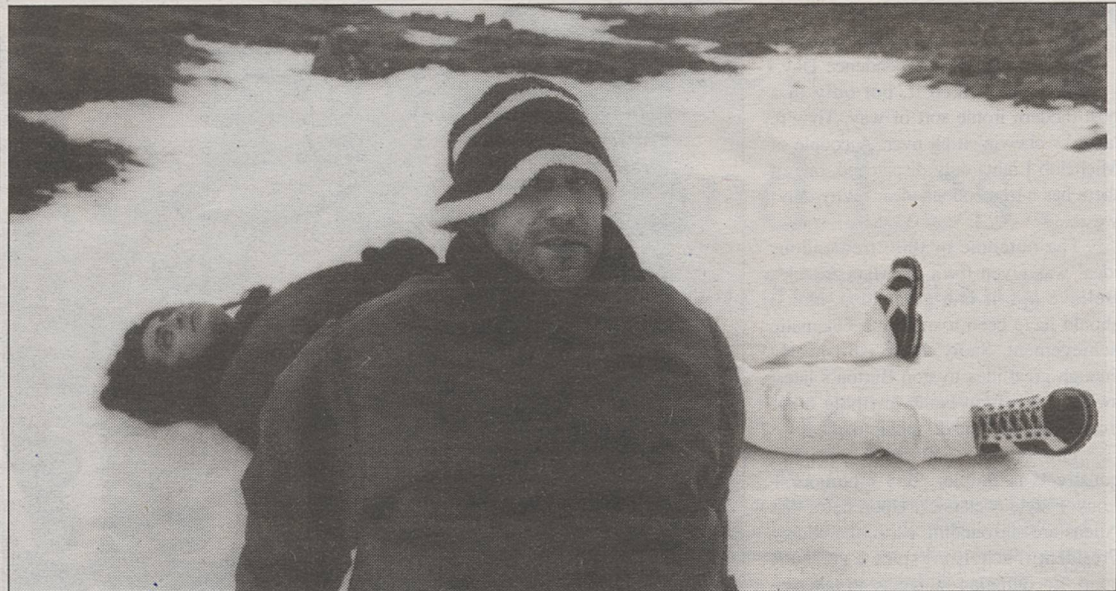
Hmmm... The first thing that comes to mind when hearing this single is 'heard it all before'... Originality is not the key here: it's the usual humdrum mix of electric guitar, a bit of rhythms and an American accent to round it all off. No, this doesn't do anything at all for me, and the two other tracks generously included with the single are... Well... s*** to tell you the truth. I hope I don't hear from this group for a long time, and I pretty much doubt I will, judging by the standard of these songs.

Passion Star
'To Be The One'

British version of the Gin Blossoms, though not really as good. Yes, its another four man indie band!! I can't understand what is the trend with the number four. Well, I wouldn't say that Passion Star are just another indie band. They deserve more credit than that. As their name suggests, they are very passionate singers indeed. The vocalist has a great voice with loads of emotions in his lyrics and words. If you are a Gin Blossoms fan I strongly recommend this one.

Amir Absoud

The Nicotines



The Orb
'Orblivion'

The Orb are not usually touted as a band that make great concept albums. Normally people are far too busy trying to work out where their multitudes of fantastic samples come from. 'Little Fluffy Clouds' was the opening track from their first album: 'The Orb's Adventures Beyond the Ultraworld' and contained possibly one of the most spaced out and trippy samples ever to grace recorded music. But that track has been talked about more than Sam Parham is in the pages of 'The Beaver', what people forget is that the Orb make great concept albums that flow together seamlessly to create a journey 'Beyond the Ultraworld' or wherever else they care to take you. Their first two albums had a definite 'spacey' theme to them, 'Pomme Fritz' seemed to be about the weirdness of life. 'Orbvs Terrarvm' was about the Earth, the ground, and the things that live in it (ie Slugs).

'Orblivion' is, not surprisingly, about the apocalypse and planets that go bang in the night. It continues in the new moody

direction that The Orb seem to have taken, but they have managed to throw off the old cloying lack of decent tunes that has plagued them since 'Pomme Fritz'. They seem to have achieved this by at last making some concessions to commerciality. Not that they are really concessions, because back in the 'spacey' days they always knew how to make a tune with a pumping beat. They just seem to go through a kind of 'drum phobia' period where they refused to include any kind of beat in their tunes at all. True, this did create some music which was more ambient than floating through space in search of a small blue training shoe, but the problem with that is that all of a sudden you find that everything is just much too weird and you need a bit of variation to chill you out.

'Orblivion' is a cunningly executed album that starts off mellow and slowly builds to the storming climax of the sixth and seventh tracks; 'SALT' and 'Toxygen'. 'SALT' contains a sample in the classic Orb style, in that, it is long and varied enough to continue through the entire song without becoming boring. The man sampled, seems to be some kind of

modern-day prophet who relates the number of the beast, described in the Book of Revelations, to the barcode, everyone of which indeed contains the number 666, "No one may buy or sell without this mark". He continues relating evidence as to how the end is nigh punctuating his preaching by shouting "...FACT!". It may sound a little over the top, and you can't help thinking that as you listen, but there is also a power to the whole track which is undeniable.

The Orb have triumphed once again, crafting THE ambient album for '97, mixing in some house beats and of course their fantastic samples, this is an album which will chill you out, make you think and make you want to dance all within the space of an hour. Despite its diversity the tracks blend together like tracks in a blender. It's always reassuring when an Orb album comes out, because you can establish that they are still completely mad. However it's also nice to know that they can still write some stonking tunes. Prepare for Oblivion!

Tom Bucket

"When five Years pass": Theatrically Challenged.

Keith Postler gets an evening-full of challenging fringe theatre

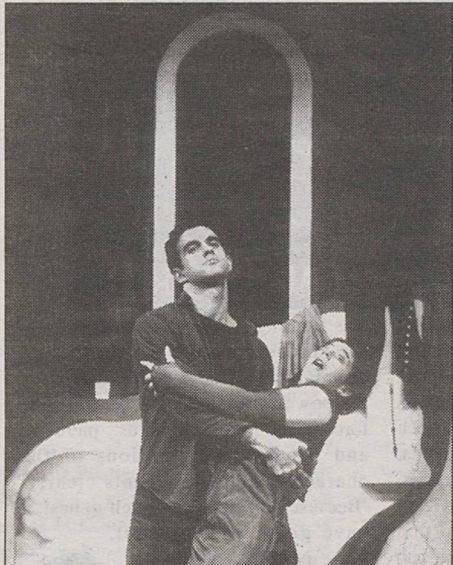
The Chelsea Theatre Company, at the junction of Langton Street and the King's Road, is the venue for Federico Garcia Lorca's play 'When five years pass', produced by The Forbidden Theatre Company. It starts early (8pm), and finishes early (9.45pm), so after the final curtain there's plenty of time to mull over and digest this play over a drink at one of the numerous pubs in the area.

The production is amateur in the etymological sense of the word meaning 'labour of love'. From the first the actors settle into their stride and work evenly as an ensemble. They keep the play moving: there are no dull or boring moments. They make good use of the stage in a small venue: the theatre seats about 60 people. Too much shouting and screaming does, however, spoil the performance a little; the small venue can't cope with it. Appropriately, the scenery looks like a Salvador Dali painting: the surreal scene

suits a surreal play whose author moved in the surrealist circle of Dali and Bunel, all key players in the movement.

'When five years pass' has the principle theme of a literary trope from classical Roman times - *carpe diem* - in the play's own words "one must not wait, one must live". The structure of the play supports, even over-supports, this theme. References to song, dimensions of time, death and acceptance versus rejection repeat themselves, as do parts of dialogue in traditional theatre, although the imagery for them is surreal. The play exemplifies Lorca's theatrical agenda of integrating other forms of art into a drama. It is quintessential Lorca, dealing with his familiar themes of passion, frustration, passing time and death. Through the imagery of his language he opposes reason and espouses the the unconscious and spontaneity - some of his hallmarks. Brechtian alienation lies far

from this approach to drama. The most recent translation of the play by Gwynne Edwards, claims it has survived the test of time. The current production does not leave one so sanguine. The Spanish text is demanding: no less so the problems of translating it into English. Pilar Otari, has risen to this challenge although there are moments which are a little stilted. Is high rhetorical style alive and familiar enough in modern English to draw upon? Despite the fact there are only a limited number of characters it is surprisingly difficult to remember them all at the end. The surreal nature of the play makes just identifying them and their purpose arduous. Such factors make the play a little difficult to digest.



When five years pass photo: Camilla Watson

A Miracle of Modern British Art: 1910 - 1914

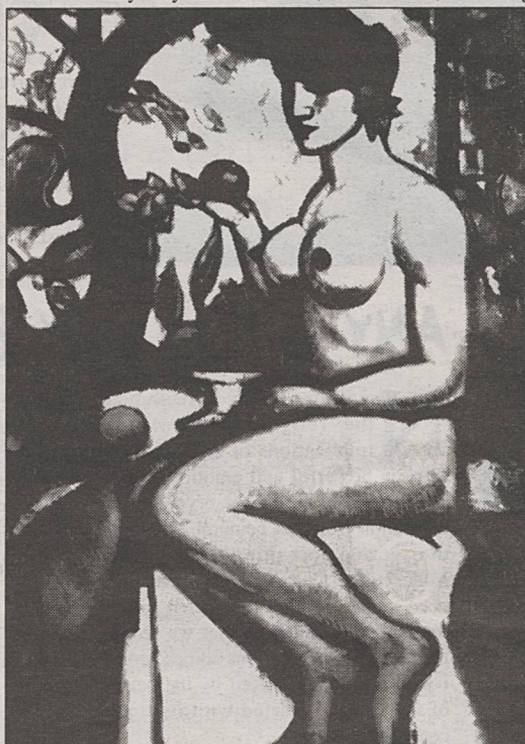
Jen Prittie takes a look at 'The Best of British' at The Barbican Art Gallery

The London art world of the pre-World War One era was a complacent one, blissfully ignorant of the groundswell of modernism sweeping the Continent. This was a time, if you can imagine it, when the British critics who had heard of Picasso still laughed at him, and when you could not get a London buyer to even look at a Matisse. But a series of short, sharp shocks changed all of that rapidly. These came in the form of a number of controversial London art exhibits, beginning with 'Manet and the Post-Impressionists' at the Grafton Galleries in November 1910, which introduced revolutionary new artists such as Van Gogh, Gauguin and Cézanne to the British public. The first shows were greeted with a hail of critical abuse and screaming headlines such as 'Maniacs or Pioneers?' 'Shocks in Art' and 'The Revolt in Painting'. Virginia Woolf thought enough of the shows' significance to write that "On or about December 1910 human nature changed..."

Modern Art in Britain 1910-1914, now showing at the Barbican Art Gallery, brings together works from four of these exhibits, along with paintings by the British artists they inspired. It's a great chance to view some unfamiliar works by some very familiar artists, including three of Gauguin's most important Tahitian pictures and a unique figure painting by Van Gogh as well as lithographs, drawings and more by the fathers of modern art. But its not really the better-known artists who are the main attraction here. The British artists throughout the show may not rank with the masters who

inspired them, but many of them were nonetheless startlingly good. If you know only the great painters of the era, then you really only have the bones, not the flesh,

by Vanessa Bell. You see how painters such as Mark Gertler (the jilted artist played by Rufus Sewell in the feature film Carrington) were struck by the pathos of



John Duncan Fergusson: Rhythm 1911. Photo: Perth and Kinross Council.

Picasso's blue period, and how Wyndham Lewis took sharp angles and planes from Picasso and created a series of evil, smiling women out of them, a development which would later form the basis of Vorticism. And further on, you witness the development of a school of British fauves known as the Rhythm Group who created some truly remarkable, wildly-coloured work, including John Duncan Fergusson's wall-sized 'Rhythm'.

The last two exhibits represented here were even more adventuresome, comprising Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Intimism, Cubism, Futurism, Orphism, Vorticism and German Expressionism; essentially a review of the most important modern movements. But if the inclusion of so many isms can make the head spin a bit, the curators say that this is part of their point; British painters during the exhilarating years since the first Post-Impressionist exhibit fancied themselves as a bunch of competing cliques (including the Bloomsbury Group, the Camden Town Group and more), but they actually had a lot more in common than they liked to think.

The notion that even a somewhat cohesive (and definitely talented) British modernist school existed is a delightful one; you'll probably never get a chance to see it presented quite so clearly again.

Showing Until May 26th.

U2 Pop

Pop? No way! U2 always were and still are a rock band! And one silly album title won't change this universal fact. And indeed, it can't. 'Pop' is not pop. But it's not rock either. Once again U2 define their own style of music. Not for nothing Spin Magazine calls them 'The new U2' and Time Out asks the ultimate question 'What planet are they on?'

It's hard to tell, really. U2's eleventh album breaks with the last ten as if Pride or Desire never happened. After the fantastic 1991 Achtung Baby U2 toured the world for nearly two years with their gigantic sell-out ZooTV. Success paved their way. Then, unfortunately, they took it too far. Zooropa was spit out, a by-product of their tour experiences. Even though it became number one in most European countries it couldn't keep up with the standard of its predecessor. In fact, it was absurd, kitschy - and more or less a flop. U2 took a break, promising something better. But their soundtrack project 'The Passengers' happened. Something worse. So much worse that even drummer Larry Mullen Jr now hates it (though guitarist The Edge assures that he'll love it in two years time). Again U2 took a break - to lick their wounds and hide in their Irish homes. Two quiet years followed, interrupted only by bass-player Adam Clayton's and Larry Mullen Jr's Mission Impossible soundtrack appearance. And uncountable rumours that their next album would be a 'real rock album' (Bono) or a 'trip hop' one (Larry Mullen Jr). But since March 3 we know better. To quote Bono again: 'We made a men's album.'

Whatever it is, it is a mixture of everything. Clearly U2 are influenced by dance music and brit pop, Underworld and Prodigy, Oasis and Blur - a mirror of the band members' varying musical tastes. Techno and house beats go hand in

hand with trashy guitars and groovy bass lines. Obviously producers Nellee Hooper and Howie B played their own important part in U2's new creative process. Or at least they introduced them to sequencers, loops and sample techniques - a completely new field for the four Irish rock musicians. Still they also improved on their basics with Larry Mullen Jr and Adam Clayton being at the climax of their musical skills, making Pop an extremely bass and drum section orientated album.

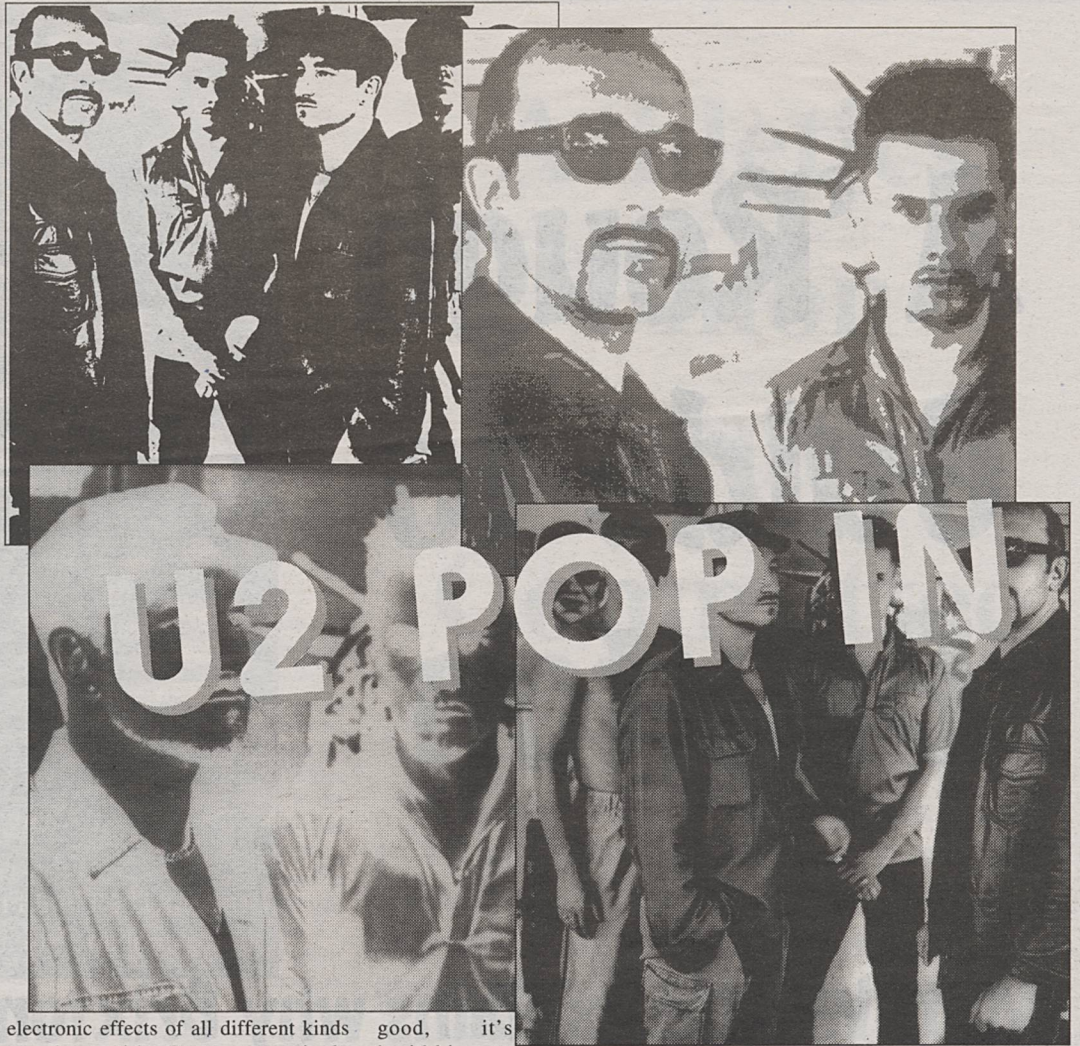
Kicking off with their number one single release Discotheque they set the first three Pop songs in the middle of modern dance music, mixed with ideas of traditional song-writing and Bono's sometimes deep and husky, sometimes falsetto voice. Especially Mofo (nicely put for 'motherfucker') sticks out from the crowd, bringing us fast-speed double tracking drumwork, heavy guitars and neck-breaking samples which make us forget the U2 who once announced the revolution and waved the white flag.

But 'If God will send his angels' gets it all straight again. A gospel-like tune which easily could have appeared on Rattle And Hum, but actually is a late outcome of the Zooropa sessions. Bono's lyrics question the band's strong belief in Christianity - even if God would exist, were everything all right?

From then on Pop slows down presenting us ideas of Achtung Baby refreshed by dancefloor elements and the late U2 irony which is visible throughout the whole album like a plain red stripe. Staring at the sun, most likely their second single release of Pop and a 100 per cent summer hit, for example, is a reminder of their legendary ballad 'One' while 'If you wear that velvet dress' could count as an equivalent to the million-selling Joshua Tree's With or without you.

Only the moody Miami allows another close look inside the world of U2's weird inspiration for this album. It could have been part of 'The Passengers' album, were it not offering experimental

"Call it what you want - it's good, it's brilliant, everything the world has been waiting for since 'Achtung Baby'"



electronic effects of all different kinds together with Bono excessively whispering and screaming about life and death in Miami.

With 'Please' and 'Wake up dead man' U2 bring 'Pop' to a medium tempo and balladesque end. They finally explain their idea of modern 90s music: One step back, but two forward at the same time - giving the listener an exciting trip through days lifestyle and music culture. Pop is somewhere in-between. It is pop, no doubt, but also rock and country, hip hop and dance music, maybe even mainstream. Call it what you want - it's

good, it's brilliant, everything the world has been waiting for since Achtung Baby. U2 go ahead and develop. They change. They shout in our face. It's their music and nothing else. They don't care. They don't have to. We'll love it anyway. But maybe that's just what makes them one of the most successful bands in the world.

Finally, catch U2 on their forthcoming PopMart Tour that kicks off in Las Vegas on April 25. In the Summer they'll play Europe, in August stadiums in London, Leeds and Edinburgh. Tickets

are on sale already, so run and get some fast. It won't be cheap but it'll be the major rock (or pop?) event of this year. Expect it to be bigger, brighter and louder than ZooTV. Expect a giant TV screen. Expect U2 playing in a supermarket. Expect something strange, something never seen before. Or rather don't bother to expect anything. Unexpectedness still seems to be the main idea behind U2's music - even if it sometimes turns out to be just Pop.

Malte Gerhold

Alfonzo Hunter Blacka Da Berry

To describe this album in one word: smooth. The newest member of the Def Squad, Alfonzo is the protege of Erick Sermon. Sermon produces most of the songs and guests on the debut single 'Just The Way(Playas Play)'. Fonz sees himself as a bit of a playa. The album kicks off where the single left off with a smooth number called Weekend Thang. A chorus: "It's Friday night/The mood is right/sexin' all through the night/She's my weekend thang / When I need mad lovin'/I know where to go/baby got a freaky flow/She's my weekend thang" He ain't down wit' all dat Till Death Us Do Part bullshit.

The title track, 'Blacka Da Berry' follows in similar vein. This is a song you can just lay back an' chill to or get some headnoddin' goin' to as you cruise in yo' Benzo(or Mini Metro). Blacka... is followed by some smooth ballads made specially fo' da honies. When You're Ready is all about good, old-fashioned lovin' (what wuz he thinkin' when he wrote this one?). 'Slow Motion' and 'Crazy' are about more wholesome emotions: lust and passion. 'Keep It Tight' is a freaky interlude and if y'all wondering what the name implies then, yep!, you guessed right

Being a bona fide member of the hip hop nation and the biggest fan of gangsta rap this side of the river, I believe Just The Way(Playas Play) is the fly-est track, not least b'cuz the ol' playa himself, Erick Sermon busts some phat rhyme: "Check it! Sit back and let me do my thing/I know what time it is from the hands on my Reittling/ Everytime I bust a rhyme it remains raw to the core/ No rules, I'm breakin' the la / Who brings the ruckus? Def Squad's in charge/ Don't ever think of playin' my entourage"

Groove On is a chilled tune reminiscent of D'Angelo. Everything is real smooth but it ain't got no need to be featurin' on the album of a so-called playa! Dave Hollister(he wrote the song,

bee-atch!) should have listened to the 'Playa's Anthem' b4 putting pen to pad. He obviously ain't been listenin' to his 2Pac and B.I.G. Rest In Peace is Alfonzo's ode to his dead homies. It's a fine lamentation and I'm sure the bruthas is all smilin' in their graves.

Blacka... would be a dope addition to anyone's collection although no self respectin' playa should be listenin' to it unless he's getting his mack on. When you pop in this CD, it will make any honey wet whether she be Duchess or Hood Rat. When it comes to getting a hoochie in the mood, Barry White ain't got shit on this brutha! If only I'd had got me this CD b4 Valentine's Day...

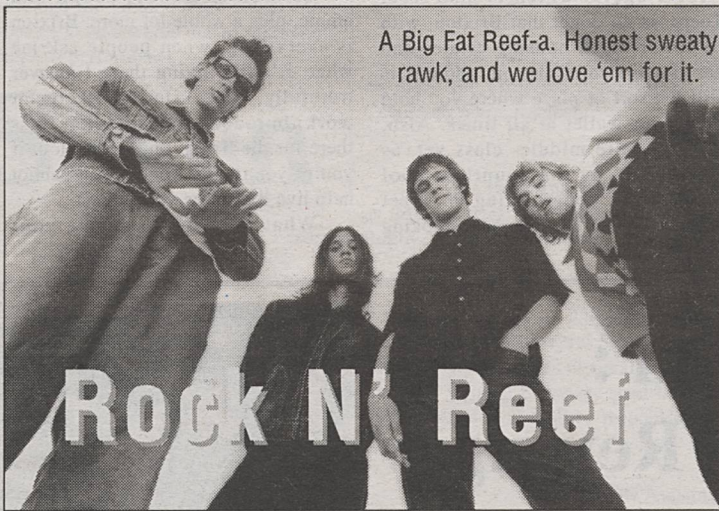
On tha extra poz tip, it's time fo' Da Roach to sign out. Props to all my niggas, shouts to the Rugby Boyz(make some noise!), and to my Rosebery Kru: I gots lov fo' y'all! PEACE!!!

Da Roache (Nice Content. English: must buy harder... Overall: B+, See me. - music ed)

Gravity Kills 'Gravity Kills'

Overdone is about as good a word I can think of to describe Gravity Kills. Carrying on with the trend carried out by Nine Inch Nails and Marilyn Manson, among others, Gravity Kills does not do much to add anything innovative to music today. We have all heard angst ridden men howling about their meetings up with bouts of misfortune; Gravity Kills combines the vocal skills of Depeche Mode with standard repetitive lyrics and feedback. While the songs as a whole are fairly bland, 'Here' is one of the songs that sticks out. Passionate singing and a nicely alternating guitar combine for pleasant listening. Where the album leads us is just about nowhere, though. By the time the album is done I have had time to think of all the much better artists Gravity Kills has taken inspiration and style from and find myself yearning for them instead.

Anar Virji



Reef 'Glow'

I thought alternative rock was dying. Pearl Jam was (and still is) superb (uhhh - ed), but let's face it, the grunge sound is getting a wee bit tiring. Stone Temple Pilots is not the same without Mick Schloss and Nirvana is history. REM and countless other bastard offsprings of Sub Pop, have all lost their sparkle. I was getting ready to surrender myself to the might of the

A Big Fat Reef-a. Honest sweaty rawk, and we love 'em for it.

British industrial trash, until Reef came along. Yes, this quartet is from this dingy island but they can surely kick Seattle's ass. Their second album 'Glow', is a mixture of grunge, Led Zep, blues and a hint of originality stirred with tremendous amount of energy.

Gary Stinger's vocal prowess is the driving force of Reef. His brilliance is most evident in their big hit single 'Come Back Brighter' which just smacks you silly with its wickedness

and aggression. Yeah, he sings like he's trying to get all his phlegm out, but it sure sounds good. Nobody can listen to this song sitting down because it just inspires you to stand up and err... do something. Hold on, because there are other goodies in this album too (which is something I can't say about Bush's 'Razorblade Suitcase'). Their second single 'Place Your Hands' is finished with an element of the 'feelgood' motown sound. The result is a song which is catchy and has a good pace. These boys are capable of producing some sweet songs too such as 'Consideration' and 'Lullaby', which will appeal to those sentimental bozos. In 'Consideration', Stringer sings in falsetto which makes him sound just like the guy who was Prince. OK, maybe not as good, but it has the same 'heart twanging' effect. 'I Would Have Left You' is bloody groovy but it just can't help thinking "hey, doesn't this guy sound like Robert Plant?". The lyrics are not deep; but who gives a shit? I just like their 'get-it-off-your-chest' attitude. Stringer sings; "Been down, but I'll come back brighter/ I won't be sat here waiting/ So come and take me on!" Just brilliant.

KW

White Town 'Women In Technology'

Following the fairy-tale success of 'Your Woman' comes White Town's strangely-named new album 'Women In Technology'. It's got eleven more quirky home-made songs recorded by Jyoti Mishra in his bedroom on his eight-track. Although lo-fi, they all sound professional and high-tech. Jyoti is clearly a very talented man. It is amazing that all the instruments are generated by his computer, and even more amazing that there is just this one guy behind it.

The songs seem deeply personal to Jyoti, and make you feel a bit like an eavesdropper on his life. He seems a really

nice guy, the type that would open doors for ladies, buy flowers for them and carry their shopping. Every single song is about love - unrequited love, lostlove, newly-found love, missing love, undying love, every kind of love possible. It would have been nice to have had a bit more variety, but I suppose love does make the world go round.

Jyoti's hesitant, soft style of singing emphasises his shyness and suits his childlike rhyming lyrics, and adds to his charm. 'Thursday at the Blue Note' is a mystically magical song demonstrating Jyoti's modesty and sense of humour, "Look, I know I'm no oil painting/ But my face doesn't need rearranging/ And I'm quite attached to all my bones." It is also

the only song hinting at his Indian roots with sitar and flute sounds. Another enchantingly simple song is 'Undressed', "I can make it if you stay/ I can't take it if you go." In the dreamy 'A Week Next June' Jyoti sings only accompanied by an acoustic guitar and sounds so sweet. You feel like giving him a great big hug.

Musically, the album is not particularly ground-breaking, but the great thing about it is that it provides hope for bathroom singers and wannabe songwriters everywhere. I'll leave the last words to Jyoti: "I hope you like this album. But hey - if you don't, just go and record your own. It's really not that difficult :-)"

Sunil Sodha

A 'Rough' Guide to Brixton



Brixton: The Final Frontier
photo:Stephane Sireau

Matt Wilkins explains why Brixton is just the place to live

Independent and Guardian reading members of the bourgeoisie sashay about this borough's centre. Here they can browse in its reputable second-hand bookstore, contemplating an evening out at the multiscreen art house cinema, comedy venue, ultra trendy nightclubs, pulsating pubs or avant garde theatre. They can decide whether to eat, among other things, Indonesian or vegan, perhaps while drinking a cup of Earl Grey or jasmine tea in one of the many cafes haunted by the chattering classes. And whilst doing so they could take in and appreciate the diverse cosmopolitan place in which they live. Home to all ethnicities and

classes, Brixton is a hodgepodge of humanity perfect for struggling students, whacked-out rastafarians and even the occasional Tory MP. This could be Islington or Amsterdam, But it is in fact, Brixton 1997.

Brixton retains a reputation from its past of a crime-ridden, riot-strewn ghetto which is also true. There is no doubt that Brixton, with its tower block housing estates and car stereo-stealing heroin addicts, is still the sort of place where you hold onto your wallet at all times. Also, it's not quite middle-class yet, as guaranteed by the countless cool rastafarians congregating on street corners and in the market, smoking

joints and appreciating reggae.

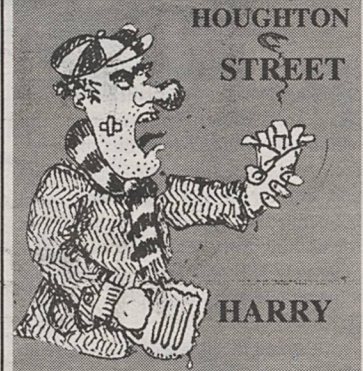
Brixton Market is truly something else. Swaths of Del Boys flogging watches for two quid a go (genuine) rub shoulders with stalls of yams and plantains and butchers offering goats feet and pigs heads, likely to give the local environmental health department an aneurysm.

Brixton is trendy, rough and ethnic, plus a whole lot more. Brixton is everything, when people ask me what it's like living there I answer truthfully, cool. Life isn't there for work, boredom or mediocrity, it's there for the living, and in Brixton, if you're young and trendy, you cannot help live life to the very fullest.

Whatever you do during your

time in London, make sure that at least one night of it is spent in Brixton. Chill out at The Fridge through to dawn and recover with a fry-up at The Phoenix or The Atlantic. Go for a pint at The Dogstar, the only pub I know with queues outside until one in the morning and girls in underwear dancing on the tables. The Brixton of tomorrow could well be the Chelsea and Camden of today all rolled into one. Watch this space.

Matt Wilkins is currently on holiday investigating just what the similarities are between Amsterdam and Brixton, he may be gone for a long time...



Brace yourselves everyone! It's the beginning of another lip-babbling, hand-groping, butt-smacking election extravaganza! Now is the time when all the worthless, dim-witted sods who sat next to you in class have just realised that they are not going to get a first interview at Barings and will do anything to get their grubby, little hands on a sabbatical post that will swagger the £12,000 at your expense.

What we have here my friends is a humble microcosm of the real world, wreaking pandemonium around us for the sake of democracy. Coloured paper flyers will be thrust upon you by pathetic candidates, who wished their feeble loins could muster so much action, and the air will be filled with the acidic stench of their halitosis flavoured breath as they spew out cantankerous propaganda; knowing that many of you will vote for them - just to be left alone. In this game it's not the thought, but the vote that counts and they'll do what it takes to get one.

One can almost feel sorry for them as they stare back through their vacuous eyes and toothy smiles, but through a bottle of Smirnoff Vodka, Harry can see their true power hungry forms slithering across Houghton Street making promises we all know they are too incompetent to keep.

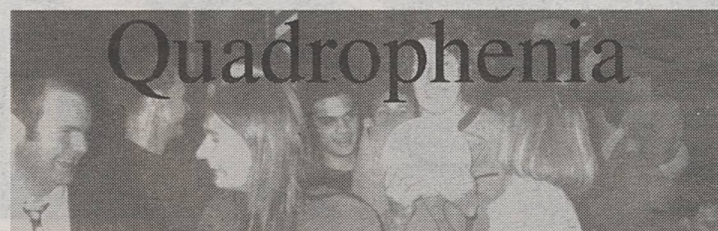
So who are the fools in this democratic ritual: the maladjusted megalomaniacs running for posts; or us, the suckered voters who put them there? Now Harry doesn't want to get philosophical, he just wants to get nasty and down right filthy too... Take Spam Parham, everyone's friendly Welfare Sabbatical; what can we say he's done this year? Well, let's see... he's successfully raised 20 lbs of growth over his corpulent blubber (Harry is impressed by the figures; no doubt Pizzaland is too!) and he's ably contributed to the smog levels in the city, belching smoke from his blackened lungs like a Stalinist factory chimney. You see folks, what we have here is the original bald, hairy-assed, trade unionist preparing himself for a bright future in the backwaters of government bureaucracy. He is not the exception. In fact, compared to the misappropriated Hardship Funds and other corruption by past Sabbaticals, one could say that Spam is just a harmless example of the rule.

The silly scampering creatures you will see campaigning have their aspirations on REAL power. This is just the testing ground where they'll learn what it takes to be a politician. One day they will be ruling over us no matter where we go; their kind is endemic on this planet. But wait! does it have to be this way? Harry has an idea... Go out and demand another slot to put your vote on which states, 'none of the above'. This is different from the transitory, 'reopen nominations', because it doesn't just postpone the ridiculous spectacle for another day. What we need is something for the common voter, like you and me, to say we don't like ANY of them and we'd rather not put up with their nonsense. If there are more votes cast for 'none of the above' than all the candidates, then the position is dissolved and your money is given back to you. Simple? Harry thinks so. Now go out there and ruin their day before they ruin your life! It's time to take action and nip the weeds at the bud.

What ever are you thinking of Harry? This is the LSE, the home to classes on smarminess and brown-nosing.

Top Ten : Methods of Revenge (for your ex)

1. Put up calling cards in telephone boxes with their phone number on them...
2. Send them pornography through the post in a clear plastic envelope...
3. Follow the example of Ms Bobbit...
4. Point out their first grey hair...
5. Pull their best mate
6. Pull both of their grandparents
7. Take their credit card on a shopping expedition
8. Tell them that you've caught a STD from them
9. Set them up on a blind date with Bernardo
10. Sell your story to *The Beaver* (photographs and all)



Ed Saper's dream of a money-spinner, the Quad

Suspend disbelief for two minutes, and imagine walking up to the entrance of the Clare Market Building. You pause briefly to admire the ornate brickwork over the doors that spell the words 'LSE Student Union', before heading down to the Quad Market. As usual there is already a queue for the cashpoint, so you browse the discount offers on the Mobile Phone Stand, which is doing brisk business. The queue dies down, and you've extracted your tenner. You head straight for the Thornton's Chocolate Stand.

Time to kill before your class, and the unmistakable aroma of fresh coffee is beckoning from the Cafe. Well this would be a good opportunity to grab a cappuccino, and wake up your parents in Toronto by using one of the discount international telephone booths on the First Floor.

Back to reality, and take a look around at the drab interior of the Quad. The same old second-hand book sellers, the CDs in boxes, but never the ones you want. The Quad is the most under-used space in the Student Union. But it has the most potential for offering

services to students that they actually want, not to mention a useful money spinner for the Student Union.

What I have described is not impossible, and certainly enticing a few new traders into the Quad would not be difficult. In fact there is a list of them in Darrel Hare's office. It includes letters of interest from a Camden-based mobile phone shop, a franchise of Thornton's chocolates, a Guildford watchmaker and jeweller and even a body piercer and tattooist.

All were offering rates of up to £100 per day or a percentage of turnover, for the privilege of being allowed to trade in the Quad. I know there is a list for the simple reason that I compiled it when I was on the Finance Committee.

LSE students cannot survive on second-hand merchandise or cheap hair cuts forever. If the SU isn't providing what we want, we will vote with our feet and spend our money somewhere else - and we all lose out as a result.

Ed Saper is currently submitting a bid for space in the quad for his very own PVC trouser stall.

Thirds Crush Strand Poly

After Friday's drunken pulling frenzy, Mulligan proves he can also 'score' against conscious opposition

LSE 3rd XI 6 - 0 KCL 2nd XI

'Poppers' Mulligan

The last time these two teams met just before Christmas, the match ended in a farce. Three sendings off (including that of the 'all new slimline' Chris Kuchanny); twelve goals; three bookings and some of the most inept refereeing seen outside of a Chelsea v Leicester cup replay all contributed towards a game that football pundits would technically call 'crap'.

There were no such goings-on this time round as Theep's troops were in no mood to mess about. In fact, some may say it was Theepan who was the catalyst for this thrashing against the sorry Strand Poly. It was a rather dishevelled looking Theeps who arrived at the ground mumbling about how he could 'take no more'. Since he has been seeing Aggie for a week, this comes as no surprise. It was Theeps who was absent in midweek when the thirds beat RSM two-one. He was actually fit to play but was told by Aggie that 'if he's not well enough to come out with me, he's not well enough to play football'.

However, the match was always destined to be a one man show. If there was ever a video being marketed entitled 'How to score goals after a heavy night on the lash' it would surely be of Mulligan's four goal virtuoso performance. One baulks at using the

Cruyff coined phrase 'total football', but in many ways it was. Two goals up at half-time, both from the boot of the lithe left-wing lothario and LSE were cruising.

The coupling of 'Liltman' Dwayne and Andre 'Austrian Oak' Granditsch produced two more goals just after half-



Strand Polyopathic - 'R.I.P.'

time. This forward pair caused havoc around the Kings penalty area, although the goals were left to Andre as Dwayne, for all of his approach play, couldn't hit

a cow's arse with a banjo.

The usual forward Gavin 'one pint screamer' Freeman was out through what was thought to be a broken toe. It was later revealed though that the STD-ridden Freeman had been seen leaving 'Zens Nitespot' the night before arm-in-arm with his Australian cousin. The fact that the dirty bastard was caught in the act trying to pull his cousin was bad enough but Freeman's desperate claim: 'But it's legal!' was too much. He could not hide his shame at being caught out. One look at Freeman though and it's obvious that inbreeding in the Freeman family is not looked down upon as much as it should be.

There were no such perverse goings-on during the match though. Every LSE player on the pitch gave their all. Howard 'mad dog' Wilkinson once again dominated the centre of midfield whilst 'Crazy' John and John 'Scouse' Simons absorbed the little pressure Kings applied. A few of the LSE players were thankful for Kings pitiful display as rumours that the win was preceded by a booze and illicit-substance fuelled Friday night were completely and emphatically confirmed by team captain Theepan.

This impressive win by the 3rds once again leaves the league wide open although the Golden Boot award now appears to be sewn up due to Mulligan's majestic performance.

Fourths Net Seven

Banks on fire as his Famous Five keep fourths soaring up the league

LSE 4th XI 7 - 0 UCL 4th XI

'Canny' Peter Clegg

The 4ths' continued their fine unbeaten run with an easy victory over the fat, greasy medical students of UCL. However, upon meeting at Waterloo it appeared that the day's events would be anything but smooth, with the presence of only ten fit players (and Dan 'cripple' Pickering). This was a serious problem, as the missing player was current star performer Rabu Mutuhabu who also had the 4ths' kit. Whilst the majority of the 4th team contemplated playing in jeans and trainers, Pickering saw this as the perfect opportunity to fulfill his domination fantasies.

Unfortunately for Pickering, but very fortunately for us, despite not having a game two members of the 6th team had turned up along with the kit. We grabbed the kit as quickly as possible and also allowed 6th teamer Tobias to grace the same pitch as ourselves, explaining to him that it was not every Saturday he'd be able to play alongside such legendary performers as Chris 'scouse' Williamson. Thus

with the pre-match drama over, we proceeded to Berryland's for the game against the hideously ugly medics.

The medics applied some early pressure to our goal but ginger genius Leigh Porter made a couple of superb early saves, helping repel the medics early confidence, but unfortunately he was unable to repel the strong smell of urine emanating from their bodies. Soon we were ahead and not surprisingly star left back Peter Clegg was involved. He played a superb 40 yard pass to the feet of centre forward Ralph Banks who coolly beat their defender before lifting the ball over the keeper from all of 20 yards for a truly great goal. Twenty minutes later we were two ahead, the ball being forced home by recent acquisition Steve 'very' Quick, to give us a 2-0 lead at half-time.

During the interval Pickering once again spoke bollocks telling us that it was a game of two halves and that he'd be as 'sick as a parrot' if we lost.

However, there was no chance of defeat as Rabu, following his thorough inspection of SW Transport had now finally made it to the ground. In the

second half we really turned on the style with the attacking trio of Damian Jackson, Rabu and Williamson (actually playing well for once) creating chance after chance for Ralph 'predator' Banks. The third goal soon arrived again being a superb effort by that man Banks who beat defender after defender before curling a sublime shot into the top corner. However, Banks was not finished yet. He proceeded to net another three goals taking his total for the game to FIVE, with such a performance making a mockery of Pickering's earlier season decisions of leaving Banks on the bench, again illustrating that when it comes to tactical knowledge Pickering knows jack shit. To rub salt into the medic's wounds a seventh goal was put away by Captain Marvel Steve Seget, making it a sorry day for the shit smelling, shit playing medical students.

Man of the match this week has to go to Ralph Banks for his five star performance, meaning that for the first time this season someone other than Clegg has won this prestigious accolade.

Athletics Union Executive Committee

Elections will be held on:

Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th March.

All members of the AU must have their Athletics Union card with them to be eligible to vote. Voting takes place at the same times and locations as the Student Union elections.

All Athletics Union Club Members are eligible to vote for the following positions

The President

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

The General Secretary:

The General Secretary shall chair AU General Meetings and Clubs Councils and shall be responsible for publicising meetings and agendas. Also he/she shall be in charge of the New Students Fare and social events for AU members. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the internal administration of Union Affairs. Candidates: Emma Pinkerton - Womens Hockey, Tom Jeans - 1st XV Rugby Captain.

The Treasurer:

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

The Vice-President

The Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the President and will act as the President in the President's absence. Candidates: Martin Davis - 1st XV Rugby, Theepan Jothilingam - 3rd XI Football Captain.

The Assistant General Secretary:

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

The Assistant Treasurer:

The Assistant Treasurer shall be responsible for assisting the Treasurer and will act as Treasurer in the Treasurer's absence. Candidate: Shyan Sankar - Football & 1st XI Cricket Captain, Madalina Serban - Womens Football.

Thought of the Week

A new series inspired and written by the girl from Mount Pleasant.

What does Danny Fielding wear in bed? (aka Ode to Danny - Part II)

Oh Danny, what do you wear underneath those tight trousers

Pervy thoughts of your pants most certainly arouses

Oh Danny, what lies against your milky soft skin?

Boxers, y-fronts, white briefs or a kinky G-string?

When undressed with me who cares what you once wore, I'll cover you in places you've never dreamt of before.

Your PERT, sexy arse radiant life two peaches ripe for plucking Come to me Danny Boy and give me a good snog.

Next week -

Some thoughts on why Mike Lee has such sticking out ears?

For more information on watching the London Cup Finals please see Liz Petyt (room E78) in the AU Office situated on the top floor of the Veggie Café.™

BeaverSport BeaverSport BeaverSport

Firsts destroy useless UC

Vennini ends goal drought on a par with Ethiopia '82 with fine double against useless UCH

LSE 1st XI 3 - 0 UCHMX 1st XI

Steve Curtis

After putting Goldsmith's to the sword in the previous crunch league fixture, it was time for bottom of the table UCHMX to travel all the way to Fortress Berrylands like lambs to the literal slaughter.

With Curtis out with the 'flu, it was 1st team striker Filippo (15 appearances = 0 goals) Venini to deputise and lead LSE's leading lights of the beautiful game. Danny Fielding's absence through injury meant a re-shaped defence with the inspirational 'Super Kev' Sharpe moving into the right-back slot as Gareth Arthur deputised for Kev on the left flank of the midfield. Andy Goodman continued his recent run of good-form playing at centre-half. Roy Husby and Stu Fry controlled the play in the middle of the park, while, Dirty Cooper™ made his customary transfer from left-back to centre-forward.



Balding Cooper plies his grizzly trade at King's Cross

The controversial decision to give Venini the nod ahead of Miller was fully vindicated after five minutes, when a dangerous challenge from UCHMX's giraffe incensed Miller, prompting him to twat the shortest, smallest player within reach with a punch that would have taken the lights out had we been playing indoors. Fortunately, Curtis was watching from the side-lines at a safe distance, so 'Slugger' Miller opted to smack the opposing full-back in the chops.

Referee Carrigan (Whitley Bay), had turned up fresh from Clown School and his first trick was to produce a card from up his sleeve and Miller simply had to go, as did UCHMX's filthy giraffe.

So then there were ten, and the extra space on the pitch let LSE play

the stylish, flowing open football we never play but always claim that we do.

Before the match, the bookies had Vote Chang [1] 3-1 favourite for netting the first goal, closely followed by fellow centre forwards Dirty Cooper™ at 7-2 and Venini on 5000-1. With such generous odds the smart money was on Cooper and Chang, but not for the first time a crazy-quick on a rank outsider would have reaped rich rewards.

CNN, NBC and ITN were all on hand to capture the moment as Venini's strike before the interval sent LSE in with a 1-0 advantage. Later, LSEFC held an open top bus ticker tape parade in Houghton Street to celebrate the achievements of the man who must hold the record for disallowed goals and suspect off-side decisions. It was also a

relief for Venini's 37 close friends who had been holding a non-stop candle-lit vigil for Filippo and were rapidly exhausting the famous European wax mountain.

The second half promised much for a rampant LSE side and they duly delivered the goods only minutes into the second half. Stuart Fry picked up the ball and tore through the midfield before releasing Venini on the right. Filippo's measured chip picked out Chang in a crowded box and, with every sinew straining, he perfectly executed the technique known as the bicycle kick, lacing the ball into the far corner at fully 97.8 mph.

2-0 up, UCHMX's heads went down and the contest was effectively over. LSE had successfully removed the heart from the medics team with surgical precision - but the operation was not over as the patient had to be sewn up.

If Venini had been the proverbial scalpel that made the first incision and contributed to the second deeper cut, he was the literal needle latching onto Roy Husby's threat. Roy is known for his explosive shooting power and he unleashed another super-strike which clattered against the post with the keeper all ends up, and Venini poked home for the first time since his Limelight strike.

So with the job done, LSE shut up shop for their second clean sheet in as many games. The Beaverball™tastic performance kept LSE challenging at the top of the Premiere League and meant an even more bouyant side were ready to face title contenders - QMW - for another installment of the Battle of Berrylands 96/97.

Readers' Remarks

Letter of Complaint

Well it didn't take long for Hockey Kev and Ben Newton to bring the Perrier Award winning sports pages into disrepute. In true 'Points of View' fashion we've had our first complaint since the Beaver sports pages began back in the days of baggy shorts and socialism. Emma Pinkerton writes:

To The Beaver

I would like to complain about the Rugby article in last week's edition. Although many may have found it entertaining I found it insulting. The article was almost entirely incoherent and unfounded.

The incompetence of your editorial staff to check for spelling and grammatical errors, as well as the general tone of the article was proven yet again. This is however not my main concern. The article held no interest for any but a group that considers itself to be elite and seem to enjoy uncalled for and offensive language at the expense of others.

If this is repeated, I will have to take the complaint further as it reflects badly on the Union and University.

Yours Faithfully,

Emma Pinkerton

Apology from Dan Pickering

In last week's 4th team report an unfortunate remark by myself (Dan Pickering) resulted in considerable distress being caused to a certain member of the school. I apologise wholeheartedly for the upset caused and in future I will be more careful with my remarks.

THE BEAVER AND THE BEAVER'S SPORTS EDITORS WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGISE TO THE GREEK SOCIETY AND TO THE PERSON CONCERNED, FOR ANY GRIEF OR INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY REMARKS PUBLISHED IN LAST WEEK'S FOURTH TEAM ARTICLE. THESE WERE ENTIRELY UNFOUNDED AND THEIR PUBLICATION IN THE PAPER WAS CLEARLY AN ACT OF OVERSIGHT ON OUR PART. WE SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE.

Player Profile



Name: Tom James Jeans
Age: 19
Date of Birth: 19/7/77
Height: 6'8"
Weight: 17st 4lbs
Team: 1st XV Rugby Captain
Favourite Position: Anywhere with Rachel's Sister.

Favourite Team: Pontytridd(?)
Favourite Drink: Lime Spritzer
Favourite Food: Anything Chinese
Sporting Idol: Joy's sister, I've looked up to her since we played netball together and she let me put my balls in her net.
Best Sporting Achievement: Playing Basketball for Wales.
Favourite T.V. Programme: Rugby Special.
Favourite Film: Things to do in Denver when you're dead, School Boy's fantasies Part I.
Favourite Magazine: PlayGirl, Two Dogs and a Leek - Animal fetish bumper edition
Most like to be stuck in a lift with: Rachel's Sister.
Favourite Watering Hole: Covent Garden Wine Bar with Rachel's Sister.
Favourite Chat-up line: Do you like Chicken? Well suck on this, it's fowl.

Next Week - Cut out and keep Top Trumps of the London Cup finalists 1st team footballers.

Hague's heroes through to London Cup Finals

Second team defence tighter and fiercer than Will Hague's ginger curls

Golds's 2nd XI 0 - 0 LSE 2nd XI (aet)
(LSE won 3 - 0 on penalties)

'Old Man' Werner

There was no hope, not for Smiths, when they saw that the United Nations had sent their best to confront them on the pitch. All nationalities (and ages) were represented. The security council of the Canadian brick wall Kung, Mick the wig-wearing northerner, the antipodal Kookaburra Matt, and that bald American/Welsh/b***** Diesel kept watch over the goal, diligently patrolled by the Seconds own version of Sepp Schumacher.

It should have been an easy peace-keeping mission, but Smiths refused to knuckle under. General Secretary Hague nervously paced up and down the sidelines shouting encouragement that was promptly ignored by all. The 2nds slowly took control launching raids led down the left by "I'm not going to talk to you, I'm going to punch you" Baldcock

and on the right by a lightning bolt. (Analysis of stop-frame photography later showed that this was none other than Carr-Saunders's own Dan 'the Man' Walker). But the best assault of the half was yet to come as Amazing Grace hammered a 35 yard shot into the top right hand corner. With Pele Sajan running like the madman that he is, surely now Smiths would succumb.

Surely not. The second half saw Smiths attacking with fierce intensity. But Kung the Canadian brick wall held, and that bald American/Welsh/b***** tackled like the bald reckless b***** that he is. And who was that shadow? The one that wiped every time that the Smiths' forward shat? None other than Kookaburra Matt. Mick the wig-wearing northerner was helping out in his usual spot: up front with the attack (his position of being right fullback notwithstanding).

General Secretary Hague had to do something, so into the crumbling

defensive situation came that Canadian/Brazilian geriatric Werner, substituting for Pele Sajan who had run himself into the ground. With the average age of the team now increased by ten years, the 2nds began to fight back. Dr. Matteo took up the cause and made incisive runs into the enemy half chasing beautiful through balls fed by Tom the American shepherd Thorne. (Tom is a masters student in IR, the coolest department at the LSE). Regulation time ended with the teams level, due to an Amazing Grace-like strike by Smiths.

What now? Who could help the Seconds in extra time? General Secretary Hague noticed that the pitch was slanted on the left due to Kung the Canadian brick wall; thus there was only one solution: bring on England's own brick wall, Naveen the steroid Paul in order to balance out the pitch (replacing the exhausted mad-dog Baldoch). Further attacks by the American shepherd Tom, Dr Matteo and lightning Dan the man was repulsed by the desperate Smiths' defence (including their repulsive right back

who was hated by all). It was with trepidation that both sides heard the final whistle of extra time.

Who would take the pens? Dr. Matteo surely, and Tom the IR god yes. But how about the all important third pen? In the one of the worst cases of football mismanagement, General Secretary Hague pointed at Mick the wig-wearing northerner. Yes, he would take that all important third penalty. The 2nds cheered as the first Smiths' penalty was ably saved by our very own version of Sepp Schumacher. Up stepped Dr. Matteo who calmly slotted the ball a nanometer on the inside of the upright (and not very calmly celebrated his pen by screaming to the gods). The Smiths' second penalty was skyed over the bar: the 2nds could taste the final at Motspur. Up stepped Tom the shepherd god Thorne. He coolly sent the keeper the wrong way and caressed the ball into the back of the net. The Smiths' third penalty was also skyed and the 2nds cheered louder.

Then came Mick the wig-wearing northerner ready to take the all-important third penalty. Would he sky

it as he has done with every single pen in his illustrious LSE career? (All taken in training of course, because no one in their right mind would think of allowing him to take one in a match.) He first eyed the Smiths' keeper, then he eyed the top right corner of the net. He ran up and hammered the ball, bouncing it at least seventeen times before it passed perfectly between the uprights in the spot where the Smiths' keeper had stood only a fraction of a second before (the keeper dived to one side, assuming that the penalty was going to be struck skilfully). Hugging, kissing, laughing, cheering: all this happened on Saturday night (oh yes and a couple of handshakes amongst the 2nds on the pitch, after clinching their spot in the cup final at 12.30 Saturday March 8: be there!).

The Coach leaves Houghton Street at 10.30 a.m. Tickets are £2 each from Liz Petyt in the AU. (Seats are limited). 1sts kick off against Goldsmiths at 2.00 p.m, Women's football final is at 2.00 p.m on Sunday March 9.