

The Beaver

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GOD

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Lent Term Elections Pullout inside, including Sabbatical centrefold

Hustings kicks off election season

The Beaver Team

The LSE SU Lent Term Elections have thus far been characterised by formal complaints, mistruths, and intrigue in what is turning into an increasingly compelling week of campaigning and electioneering.

With all bar one Sabbatical election the subject of intense competition, the race is set to take to Houghton Street during the week amid intense speculation as to the electoral prospects of the candidates.

While the most important and hotly contested race is the bid for General Secretary, competitive elections have evolved for the positions of Treasurer and Communications Officer. It is apparent, though, that after the Hustings at the Union General Meeting (UGM) and the Quad, the Education and Welfare Officer election is generating the least interest of all Sabbatical elections.

Both of the executive officers running for General Secretary, however, have squared off in gradually more contrasting debates after many bemoaned the inability of either candidate to separate themselves from each other at the UGM, both in their speeches and the subsequent questions.

Current Societies Officer Will Macfarlane claimed in both Hustings that his concentration on student issues and not international affairs is in the best interests of the members of the Students' Union. Communications Officer Omar Srouji, however, disagrees, saying his political views are to be respected, and his willingness to express his views were apparent at the second Hustings when he trumpeted the fact that he had founded the current incarnation of the Friends of Palestine Society.

A source within the Srouji camp went on to say that, "The job of General Secretary is obviously concerned primarily with student issues, and both candidates have similar politics on that front. While Will's campaign is titled 'Students Not Politics', Omar wants to show that he's a candidate who's more willing to go and look at issues that are outside the domain of typical student issues. Will is calling for consensus and not division, but if you look at the LSE, you have people who care a great deal about international affairs."

When questioned as to whether or not Macfarlane had an advantage in getting the endorsements of societies, the source commented, "There's still a lot to play for...I think there's a perception that Will's the favoured candidate in hack circles, but in terms of whether in the whole election, is Omar playing catchup? I'm not entirely sure - you have to remember that most students at LSE are, intellectually, left of centre."

Macfarlane, however, has the endorsements of several societies, including the Women in Business Society and the



Let battle commence: General Secretary candidates Will Macfarlane (left) and Omar Srouji at last week's hustings.

Photo: Ben Chapman

Investment Society, although some of the largest societies have continued their tradition of not endorsing individual candidates. Srouji's camp, on the other hand, remained tight-lipped about any endorsements they have received.

He continues to assert that his reluctance to discuss international affairs and conflicts at the UGM is, in fact, an advantage, as he will instead push for focus on student affairs and interests - something, he claims, has been markedly absent from UGMs this year.

He goes on to say, "I'm not an apolitical person, but I'm campaigning for a job where I don't believe you should be political - I'm not running to be an MP, I'll be accountable to a plethora of political opinions. I don't think it's appropriate that my political opinions come in to the fray, and therefore I don't feel it necessary to express them."

When asked to differentiate himself from his competitor at the UGM, Macfarlane pointed to his advantage in terms of experience, having served as LSE representative to NUS Conference as well as holding a place on the Court of Governors in addition to his current post as Societies Officer. In contrast, Srouji, aside from holding the post of

Communications Officer, is the founder and former Chair of the active Friends of Palestine Society.

The race for Treasurer has also stirred much debate with current LSESU Treasurer, Jo Kibble, hoping to be re-elected with competition coming in the form of LSEFC First Team Captain and former Sports Editor of *The Beaver*, Gareth Carter, and former Chair of the Constitution & Steering Committee, Oliver Jelleyman.

Carter came under fire after the first UGM from both candidates for his assertion that freezing executive salaries at their current level would save the Union £20,000, though he retracted that statement after the UGM, saying it was closer to about £8,000 instead.

It was Kibble, however, who generated the greatest reaction at both Hustings from his supporters as well as his detractors. Greeted by a bombardment of crumpled paper from the balcony at the UGM, Kibble defended his term as Treasurer by saying that he had made political decisions which had to be made.

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2004 Graduate opportunities

We will be visiting your Student Union during the day on Wednesday 3rd March. Come and see us to find out about our 2004 graduate opportunities or visit <http://graduates.deloitte.co.uk> to apply.

Deloitte

"Oriental Glamour" showcase

Minh Do

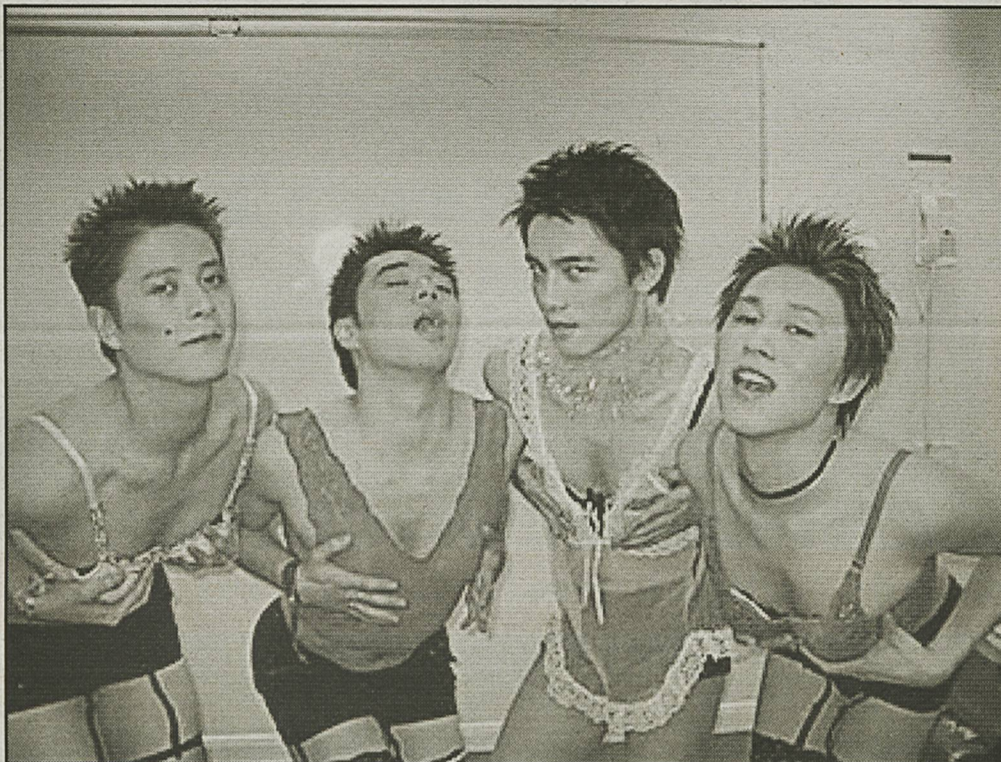
The Chinese Society's variety show titled, "Oriental Glamour" was a runaway hit, featuring a diverse set of acts ranging from Canto-pop renditions to a fashion show.

The lineup included nine performances, beginning with a hip-hop dance choreographed by Stacey Chow. The subsequent introduction speech informed the audience, to the dismay of many, that the show would be entirely in Cantonese.

A Canto-pop rendition was quickly followed by the much anticipated fashion show. The programme had promised five different styles of clothing, and while there were loud cheers from the male part of the audience when the models took to the catwalk in the latest beachwear, the standard of the clothing on offer didn't do the show justice.

Roy Chung's clear baritone voice won over a large part of the female audience in the acapella, although his background "dwarves" were often out of tune. This was followed by an enjoyable stand up comedy performance that launched the traditional Variety Show practice of throwing paper aeroplanes on to the stage.

The audience was then welcomed to the Moulin Rouge, and few could have known the effect this performance would have had. The Lady Marmalade drag dance will surely go down as one of the greatest performances in Chinese Society Variety Show history. Starring Society President Max Wan, as well Variety Show Producer Quinton Choi, the dance was without a doubt the highlight of the show.



Participants in the Lady Marmalade drag dance strut their stuff.

Choreographer Michelle Wan said after the show, between fits of giggles, "it was great fun to work with the boys, they did themselves proud."

The intermission gave way to a band that played various songs by "System of a Down", followed by the longest and largest performance. The play, named "MI4", had some hilarious moments and was highlighted by performances from Jeff Wei and Michael Lee.

Perhaps a tad expensive at £10, "Oriental Glamour" showcased some great performances. The Lady Marmalade Drag Dance was a must see spectacle and the play had some thoroughly side-splitting moments, though the lack of linguistic support for a larger cross section of audience was disappointing. Overall, an enjoyable night out.

Students allowed to cast votes

Kheng Lim

The Electoral Commission has urged students to get their names on the electoral register for the upcoming London Mayoral, Assembly, local and European elections, which will all be held on June 10th.

In a news release earlier this month, the Electoral Commission stated that only 10% of England's 1.2 million students actually participated in local elections held in 2002.

The release pointed out that few know that European Union (EU) citizens and citizens of Commonwealth nations are all eligible to participate.

However, EU citizens can only vote if they are not registered to vote in their home countries.

The LSE Student's Union has backed the Electoral Commission's call to the ballot box.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Elliot Simmons, the LSE Student Union's General Secretary stated that there were 400,000 students in London, just under 10% of the London electorate, and that it was vital that Commonwealth and European students participate.

An LSESU Spokesperson has said that student participation in these polls is vital to keep extremist parties such as the British National Party (BNP) out of power, and that an estimated 68% of LSE students should be able to vote for the London Assembly and Mayor.

The spokesperson added that in the last few weeks of term, the Student's Union will be running a campaign encouraging students to vote, which will include a stall in the Quad and registration forms will be made available in halls of residences.

Andrew Schwartz, LSESU International Students Officer has said that international student participation would force politicians to appeal to a broader aspect of society which would ultimately benefit international students themselves.

He cited the example of visa extension charges for international students, opposed by Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat candidate for the post of London Mayor.

Opinions differed amongst international and European LSE students interviewed by *The Beaver* over whether or not they would make use of their right to vote. According to Wayne Hariman, a Canadian First Year International History student, he wouldn't bother unless it was a General Election.

Theodore van-Sante Kelly, a Dutch Economics undergraduate told *The Beaver* that he would vote in the London Mayoral election because he would be living and working in London for the next few years, but not the European Parliament elections due to the fact that he felt that it was an institution which did not affect his life that much.

Other students interviewed dismissed the whole idea completely, either telling *The Beaver* that they were here in the UK to study and not take part in politics, or that they simply weren't bothered.

Of course, others were extremely enthusiastic about the whole thing.

AUT strike causes minor disruption

Simon Chignell

Less than one in six UK universities reported a significant impact from last week's nationwide Association of University Teachers (AUT) strike action, and whilst the LSE experienced some disruption with many cancelled lectures and classes, the effect of the AUT strike at the LSE was minimal.

In addition to this was the fact that 53 of the 166 institutions in the sector were not balloted for strike action, and another 40 had only minimal AUT membership.

However, the mood on the LSE picket line was defiant, with AUT members declaring that the strike was a "clear success" and as a member on the picket line warned, "this is just the beginning".

When asked if he felt it was necessary to punish students through these actions, one AUT member stressed that the action

was a last resort: "What must not be forgotten is that it is with immense reluctance that these highly dedicated professionals have had to take this action."

He stressed that there were also broader reasons making strike action necessary, such as the marketisation of higher education and the low priority given to the sector by a government elected under the phrase "education, education, education".

He also proposed that progressive taxation was the only solution to the issue of under-funding in Higher Education.

Lecturers who declared support for the strikes through the cancellation of lectures and refusal to cross the picket-line were applauded and cheered by students, whereas some who announced that lectures would continue despite the industrial action were booed by some students, signalling that students supported the action, though many freely admitted that they had

ulterior motives for supporting the strike, in that it would give them a break from work.

One senior lecturer, explaining why he felt strike action was necessary, commented: "Lecturers have, over the last few years, had pay rises less than the rate of inflation whilst numbers on some courses have as much as doubled."

"The latest pay offer of around 3% comes with certain requirements and concessions that would mean that new lecturers would actually have a lower income. As there was a picket line I was therefore unwilling to cross it, but I really don't want to have to penalise students."

As AUT members entered their second day of strike action they were joined by the National Union of Students (NUS) who called upon all students to "shut down education" for one day, to show opposition to the recently passed Higher Education Bill and specifically variable top-up fees. NUS President, Mandy Telford said to *The Guardian* newspaper that up to two million further and higher education students had opted out of classes to protest over the government's plans for top-up fees.

In what the NUS called "an unprecedented move", action was reported to have taken place at over 200 UK institutions, making it clear that plans to force a market into higher education would not be welcomed by university staff or students.

Many campuses across London were reportedly brought to a standstill by student action, with some of the largest protests taking place at University College of London and the University of London Union. Events included students receiving degrees from the "University of Hard Knocks" emphasising the catastrophic effects of the potential marketisation of higher education.

Voting in the Lent Term Elections

Voting in the upcoming elections can be incredibly complicated, as the Union adopts the Alternative Vote (AV) and Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral systems.

When voting, *The Beaver* encourages you to give great thought to your second and third choices, especially for posts with more than two candidates (such as Treasurer) or more than one available seat (such as Finances & Services) as these preferences often affect the outcome.

Finally, the ballot box will not be travelling to Halls of Residence this year, so voting will take place in the Quad on Wednesday between 09:30 and 17:30 and on Thursday between 09:30 and 19:00.

So go out, cast your vote and do your Union proud.

RAG Week hailed as an overwhelming success

Vishna Gandhi, Sati Nagra and the Executive Editor

The LSE Students' Union held what has been billed as one of its most successful RAG weeks ever last week, with widespread student involvement in the fundraising campaign.

Students took part in a variety of activities aimed at raising money for charity, partaking in the British university tradition of Raising and Giving (RAG) week. Organised by LSESU Entertainments Officer Jimmy Baker, the fundraising this year was in aid of the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee School and Cancer Research UK, as well as a new charity for the campaign, UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Baker estimated that the week had raised in excess of £5000, although he will not be able to announce the exact figure until later in the week. He said that the week was "absolutely brilliant: I'm really happy that the Union has pulled together with so many great ideas to make so much for charity."

He also expressed his gratitude for the help and ideas of all those who got involved and made the event the success it was. The week broke all expectations as last year's RAG week, generally acclaimed a success, raised just £3419.

The week began with the innovative International Food Fair on Monday, where many sampled Afro-Caribbean, Austrian, Colombian, Japanese, Vietnamese and Southern African, along with other types of food, drink and music.

A new addition to the usual RAG week line-up, the event raised approximately £600, exceeding expectations as food vouchers sold out, forcing event organisers to issue more.

The traditional and legendary RAG Week pub crawl followed on Tuesday, ben-



Tina Turner or Jimmy Baker? Have you ever seen them in the same room together?

efiting from the cancellation of lectures and classes due to AUT strike action. Eight teams of eager students swarmed the streets of London on the bitterly cold and wet afternoon, collecting donations whilst stopping for the "occasional drink".

Although many questioned the concept, after raising a staggering £1,757 no one could doubt the powers of persuasion of the somewhat inebriated LSE students. Baker, and his team led by Will MacFarlane came in first place, having raised £327.

Baker also performed a starring role in the "Stars in their Eyes" competition on Wednesday night, preceded by the notorious Athletics Union Hustings.

Baker played Tina Turner, strutting around stage in a revealing leopard skin dress belting out "Simply the Best". The audience reacted in amusement to "Ladies' in Red" (Chris de Burgh), and Ricky Martin and his flamboyant "Chica Latina", whilst there were also "The Dolly Partons", Tony Hadley, and the rugby girls' rendition of the Spice Girls' "Wannabe". The girls were crowned winners of the event collecting the most money. The event raised approximately £600 in total.

Those students that were willing to brave the dizzy heights of the Old Building and a few flakes of snow continued to contribute to the RAG week cause. Thursday saw students that had raised a minimum of twenty pounds in sponsorship abseil down the wall to the delight of enthusiastic onlookers.

Baker, talking mid-week to *The Beaver*, was keen to stress that this year he did not want RAG week to revolve solely around drunken antics, and by introducing new events such as the International Food Fair he in fact hoped to "try to attract different aspects of the student community into RAG week".

Although the LSE community will have to continue to dig deeper and work harder if they wish to contribute RAG week donations anywhere near the totals donated by King's College London and Imperial College, who each last year raised approximately £80,000 and £100,000 respectively, the growing success of LSE's RAG week was undeniable. Midweek estimations of funds raised were already nine times that of the £400 total achieved in 2000.

Crick's turn to answer the questions

Elaine Londesborough

Michael Crick, the controversial investigative journalist, visited LSE last Monday to take part in the latest Director's Dialogue event.

Crick, described by *The Guardian* newspaper as a 'rabid Yorkshire terrier' (to which he took much offence, being from Manchester) talked candidly about his past investigations in casual conversation with Sir Howard Davies, Director of the LSE.

He criticised current broadcasters and papers that fail to find the material to go that extra mile and give a different quality to the news. He said that "all decent journalism should be investigative" and that "everything you do should be telling people something new".

Crick was also severely critical of British journalism and its standards of accuracy. He claimed that American journalism had much higher standards and a more competitive culture with regard to pursuing controversial stories. He envisaged the increase in prestige of media courses could help to increase standards and improve factual content, making journalism more of "a profession rather than the trade it seems to be now."

When asked why he had focused so much attention on Jeffery Archer, Crick responded that he is "fascinated by successful people". He said that the success of Archer "tells us so much about the 80s and

90s" in that people "did not hold him to account about his background".

Crick called Archer a "bully" at various points during the dialogue and said that through his investigations of Archer's time at the Greater London Council he received "total confirmation of the man's dishonesty".

During the talk, Crick constantly referred to his belief that many successful people have a combination of ruthlessness and charm that ultimately helps them to get as far as they have done. This he said was true of Terry Venables, Richard Branson and his most recent victim, Alex Ferguson, among others.

Ferguson, the highly successful but controversial manager of Manchester United, was criticised for bullying young players into signing with his agent son. Crick also accused the Manchester Evening News of 'arse-licking' when it came to Ferguson, and insisted that it is "part of your journalistic duty to hold local institutions to account".

Perhaps the most revealing description Crick gave was of his investigation into Iain Duncan-Smith. He claims to have found "lies on his CV" such as that he gained a MBA from the "Dunchurch College of Management", when he actually spent only ten days there doing staff training.

When Crick uncovered evidence that Duncan Smith's wife, Betsy, was being



The man who got Archer convicted? Michael Crick at the LSE last week.

paid from his parliamentary office allowance without actually doing any work, the BBC refused to run the story. He said that "if it hadn't been for the Hutton and Gilligan affair the BBC would have run the story".

He called the Hutton report "unjust to

the BBC", but also implied that while it may have been just, there wasn't enough criticism of the government to balance it out. Crick also implied that the inquiry will lead to a period where journalists "are too nice to politicians and too cautious".

Bristol University applications drop after snub by independent schools

Jess Brammar and
Election Agent

A drop in applications to Bristol University has been linked to a boycott by independent schools amid allegations of biased admissions procedures.

The boycott followed a joint statement issued in March 2003 from The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HHC), which represents leading public schools, and the Girls' Schools Association (GSA), which stated that the university had "arbitrarily rejected well-qualified candidates".

Applications to the university by public school students have fallen by 5 per cent since the March 2003 boycott, which saw more than 450 school heads being advised to discourage their pupils from applying to Bristol. In their statement, the HHC and the GSA said that, "Bristol has been very public about a policy which unfairly discriminates against applicants from good schools, whether independent or state.

"We cannot recommend to our colleagues that they should encourage young people to apply to Bristol until such time as the university can assure us that its procedures are fully documented, fair, objective, transparent and consistently applied."

Much of the concern, *The Guardian* newspaper reported in March 2003, was based around public statements made by Bristol University regarding its "widening participation" programme, which was aimed to encourage applications from students from under-privileged backgrounds and under-achieving schools. This initiative came in line with a move by the government to provide universities with an extra 20 per cent of funding for each student accepted from a poorer background.

A report by The Department for Education and Skills released in January 2003 regarding the issue of applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds highlighted "efforts universities are committed to making to reach out to schools and colleges with low participation rates in higher education, for example running summer schools, and master classes." The report also stressed that, "those who make admissions decisions should...ensure fairness and equal opportunities regardless of class or background and [understand] the implications of equal opportunity legislation."

Despite these allegations, Bristol University remains one of the most popular in the country, and accusations of social engineering have been vehemently denied. A spokesperson for Bristol University told *The Beaver* that, "The number of applications tends to fluctuate year by year, and this year's variation is not unusual. Bristol remains outstandingly popular, with more than 35,000 applications for a little over 3,000 places. Those applications are from people from every kind of background."

Can Okar, President of the University of Bristol Students' Union told *The Beaver* that the "The University and the Union are, unlike a few other issues, absolutely united on this." He stressed that the policy "is about getting the best students and nothing to do with social engineering."

Although the majority of the criticism has focused on Bristol, earlier research by the HHC and the GSA reported in *The Guardian* also identified other universities, including the LSE, as allegedly having discriminatory admissions policies.



The plush surroundings of Bristol have recently become less appealing to those from independent schools.

Hustings report

(Continued from page 1)

Jelleyman, a self-described "socially-liberal conservative", has remained remarkably uncontroversial through it all, with a source within his campaign commenting, "Jo and Gareth are flinging mud at each other like randy howler monkeys; Oliver has, and will show a little more dignity."

The race for the new sabbatical post of Communications Officer has, contrary to the expectations of many before Hustings at the UGM, become a three horse race with Chris Heathcote, the only first-year contesting a Sabbatical post, surprising many who had previously dismissed his candidacy at both the UGM and the Quad.

Khurshid Faizullaev, current Chair of the UGM, and Matthew Wilgress, one of the LSE delegates to NUS Conference and long-time student activist, have found themselves in what pundits are increasingly referring to as an exciting three horse race as *The Beaver* News Editor Heathcote, with an enthusiastic group of first-years campaigning on his behalf around the campus, has emerged as a very real threat to become the very first Communications Officer and first-year to win a Sabbatical post in recent memory.

Meanwhile, the race for Education and Welfare Officer between current Equal Opportunities (Female) Officer, Sian Errington, and Beyzade M. Beyzade, who stood for the same position last year, and has been previously disqualified from an SU election, is being described as a non-event.

As voting begins on Wednesday morning, Union commentators are predicting a week full of surprises as the candidates prepare for the week of campaigning and canvassing in Houghton Street, where they will attempt to convince the student body to turn out at the polls on Wednesday and Thursday to vote for them.

Indeed, in the words of one SU insider, there is still much to play for with nothing yet decided.

Acemoglu debates institutions

Saleem Bahaj and Jai Shah

Last week, between the 23rd and 25th February, the LSE was proud to receive Professor Daron Acemoglu as this year's Lionel Robbins lecturer.

As Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a former LSE student and lecturer, he captivated a packed audience of students, staff and members of the public with his Theory of Institutions. Though Acemoglu has written a wide range of economic and political analyses, his Theory of Institutions has increasingly come to the fore in helping to understand global inequality.

The first lecture, chaired by Professor Lord Layard, focused on the importance of institutions and their history in understanding the differences in prosperity between nations. Acemoglu, while highlighting the harsh income inequalities between developed and developing countries such as in Sub-Saharan Africa, where income per capita is 1/20th of the United States, stressed that this was a consequence beyond simply geographical or cultural conditions. The primary roots of inequality stemmed from colonialism and later, industrialisation. This analysis gripped the audience and left them clamouring for more.

The second lecture, even more packed than the first, was chaired by Christopher Johnson, the son-in-law of Lionel Robbins, and went on to develop Acemoglu's Theory of Institutions. He argued that institutions are formed by social conflict, and that the distribution of political power determines their efficiency. Those with political power, who create institutions solely for their own benefit, disregarding the rest of society, create poor institutions. This was experienced by the natives in many European colonies.

The third lecture, chaired by Sir Howard Davies, Director of the LSE, used empirical evidence to support Acemoglu's conclusion that good institutions will only be formed when those with political power create institutions that benefit both themselves as well as other members of society or when there are constraints on their power. Thus democracy, which distributes power relatively evenly and puts constraints on those in power, leads to more efficient institutions.

In a world where inequality between nations and people is a major concern, Acemoglu presented another important, if not fundamental, cause. He also illustrated the difficulties in overcoming these problems and invited further research into the subject. One can only hope that the Lionel Robbins lecture of 2005 will be as compelling and informative.

New director for Russell Group

James Upsher

The elite Russell Group, comprising the top 19 British universities, has appointed its first Executive Director. The Group, which campaigned for the introduction of top-up fees and has recently voiced concerns that the £3,000 cap is too low, has enforced its leadership in an effort to increase its collective voice in the higher education debate.

The new Director, Michael Carr, has been the Group's secretary for ten years, and will take up his new post in May. Carr will be the first director of the group, which has evolved into a more centralised body since its birth as an informal meeting of Vice-Chancellors and Directors at the Russell Hotel in Bloomsbury.

Carr is a Graduate of the University of Durham, and has worked in various administrative capacities for Sussex, Sheffield and Hull Universities before his current appointment as Registrar to the University of Liverpool.

Financial sweeteners for Maths

Kheng Lim

A report on post-14 Maths education has recommended a package of financial incentives to stem the decline in the number of students studying Mathematics at university.

These include fee waivers, writing off debts and targeted bursaries for students who choose to read Maths. Financial incentives could be extended to other related subjects also in need of students, such as natural sciences or engineering.

The lack of graduates becoming Mathematics teachers was also addressed by this report. According to *The Times*

newspaper, the number of Maths teachers with qualifications higher than an A Level had fallen by 3400 between 1996 and 2002, equivalent to a loss of one Maths teacher by every secondary school.

Speaking in *The Times*, Professor Adrian Smith, Chair of the report and Principal of Queen Mary's College, London said that a quarter of teachers qualified to teach Maths ended up teaching other subjects instead.

To solve this quandary, higher pay of up to £5,000 per annum, "golden hellos" of £4,000, and £6,000 training bursaries have been put forwards as suggestions. Another recommendation is the utilisation of

undergraduates reading Mathematics and other "highly Mathematical" subjects as teaching assistants in schools. Mathematics academicians could also be used as mentors for students and Maths teachers, and to conduct "Masterclasses".

The final aspect of Maths education to be scrutinised by the report was that of GCSE's and A Levels. It recommended that GCSE Maths be turned into a double award in order to emphasise its importance to students, and that the number of tiers be reduced from three to two.

Professor Smith also blamed the AS/A2 system for causing a decrease in students taking A Level Maths.

Bhagwati defends globalisation

Adrian Li

Professor Jagdish Bhagwati spoke to a capacity crowd in the Peacock Theatre on February 24th in a public debate with Professor Saskia Sasson, defending globalisation from its various critics.

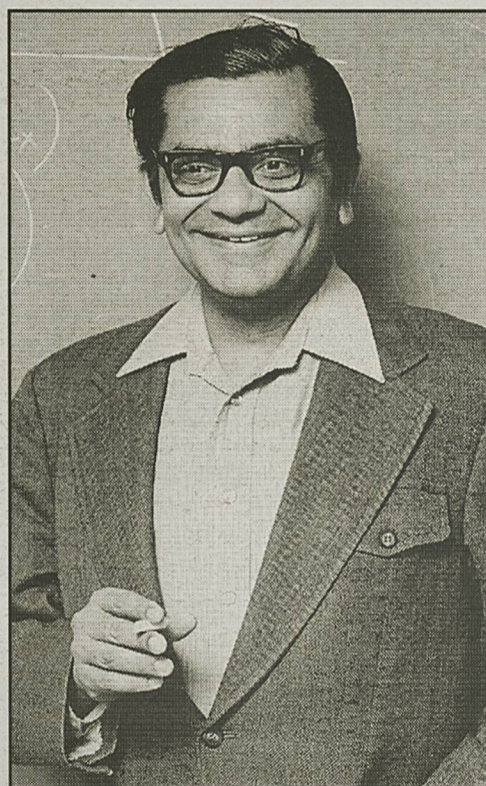
In an open exchange of ideas between both speakers lasting about 45 minutes, Professor Bhagwati provided frank insights from his latest book, "In Defense of Globalization". He argued that no one doubts the economic benefits of globalization, saying the "fears that globalisation is harmful is not on economic grounds". He suggested that NGOs leave the economic arguments to economists, and concern themselves with the social implications of globalisation and its effects on areas such as the environment, poverty and income distribution.

Drawing on personal experience with the United Nations, he felt that implicitly, many critics assume that globalisation is the cause for such problems by remarking that these problems exist in a globalised world. Rather, Bhagwati claimed that "globalisation needs to be fixed on social dimensions", calling for good governance and sound policies rather than waiting for increased economic growth that will hopefully solve these problems.

In response, Sassen argued that the problem with globalisation is not whether it was worth defending. The question that should be asked is why globalisation hasn't done enough given its potential.

In a lively exchange, Bhagwati displayed his great sense of wit by taking potshots at his counterparts and colleagues. In mentioning the transition of liberalising economies, he said that Jeffrey Sachs had introduced 'shock therapy to Russia and left it at shock'. He also criticized Martin Wolfenshon, head of the World Bank, for 'acting like Evita Peron throwing money all over the place' when handing out foreign aid. He also made clear at the start that his latest book was not in response to Joseph Stiglitz's criticisms of globalisation, but rather the idea for it came from the riots and manifestations that took place at the G7 Summit in Seattle in 2000. He did point out that it would seem to many that he was going around on the lecture circuit trying to undo the damage done by Stiglitz and other critics with their "weapons of mass destruction".

Bhagwati is a University Professor at Columbia University. He has also served as Economic Policy Advisor to the Director-General, GATT (1991-1993), as Special Adviser to the UN on Globalisation and as External Adviser to the WTO (2002-2003). He works with several NGOs in the US and



Professor Bhagwati.

India and is on the Academic Advisory Board of Human Rights Watch (Asia).

Sassen is the Centennial Professor of Geography at the LSE.

Bidding for blokes (and charity)

Executive Editor

Ten of LSE's allegedly most beautiful men were auctioned for an evening out last Friday at Crush, in order to raise money for RAG Week charities.

The event, organised by LSE student Kati Krause in conjunction with RAG Week, organised by LSESU Entertainments Officer Jimmy Baker, aimed to auction dinner for two with ten of LSE's most desirable men, with the proceeds going to charity. Dinner coupons were provided with the kind assistance of local bars and restaurants.

The evening was heralded by all involved as an extraordinary success, raising approximately £1,200 for charity.

Kati Krause, who organised the event was overjoyed with its success. She had proposed the event after as a remedy to the decline in popularity of the slave sale of previous years during RAG planning meetings.

Baker added that despite some earlier negative expectations, the event had confounded the critics and become a runaway success. The most expensive man was the surprise last minute addition of LSESU



How much would you pay for this lot?

General Secretary Elliot Simmons, who was bought for £150. The highest price of the original ten, Stefan Issleib, was £100.

Members of LSE Administrative staff were vocal in their bidding, accounting for at least £250 of the funds raised. One staff member told *The Beaver*, "never let it be said that the School administration does-

n't support the activities of students."

The event was the first of its kind for RAG week and builds on the diminishing success of its predecessor, the slave auction, which was experiencing a decline in popularity.

Brief News

Sir Howard Davies supports Rowing Club

The director of the LSE, Sir Howard Davies has given almost £5,000 to the Rowing Club to purchase a new boat and rowing oars. The money came from a small Director's fund made up of fees which he obtains from giving speeches. James Eyton, captain of the Rowing Club, told *The Beaver* that the Rowing Club is "extremely grateful for this kind donation" and revealed that they had decided to name the boat, "Sir Howard Davies".

Election Candidate

Universities to be fined for elitism

Universities which fail to honour access agreements attracting poorer students could be fined up to £500,000. Education Secretary, Charles Clarke, has said that elite institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge and the LSE will be expected to offer bursaries higher than the minimum £300 to those on the lowest income groups studying courses costing the maximum £3,000 per year, and should set aside 10 per cent of their fee income for the provision of bursaries.

Nastaran Tavakoli-Far

Poor graduates still not getting careers

A government study published this week suggests that working class graduates are still not enjoying the same career opportunities as their more privileged classmates. The report by the Institute for Employment Studies focused on 1,500 undergraduates who were the first to experience the introduction of tuition fees by the government in 1998. Poorer students were exempt from paying the fees of £1,000 a year, in an attempt to stop them being deterred from gaining a degree.

Jess Brammar

European Parliament investigates UK fees

The European Parliament has begun an investigation after allegations that the British fees system is in breach of human rights law. An applicant to the University of Edinburgh challenged rules that charge English higher fees than other EU citizens. English student Oliver Edwards, 17, contacted the petition committee in Strasbourg while considering a place at Edinburgh University. In common with other English applicants he would be charged £3,600 during his four year politics course. Scottish and EU applicants would only be charged £2,000, at the completion of the degree.

James Upsher

Student loans to be exploited by the rich

Financial advisers have suggested that there may be a loophole in the Government's controversial plans for top-up fees that could see wealthier students exploiting the system for financial gain. David Shepherd, an adviser at school fees specialists Clarke & Partners, told *The Observer* newspaper, "It may be worth taking out the student loan even if you don't need the money, then investing it to get a better return elsewhere." Since only 25 per cent of student loans are means-tested, any student could receive 75 per cent of the available loan to invest.

Joanna Clarke

Failing the Foreigners

Ozan Sakar questions how well the Union represents international students.

The Lent Term Union elections are approaching fast and the candidates are busy trying to sell their promises to unsuspecting students, the majority of whom will not even bother to vote. The Union boasts that LSE Union elections have some of the highest turnout ratios in the country, however in my opinion this is just an exaggeration. The majority of the students do not care what the Union does at all.

For example, let's take the human chain around the LSE, which aimed to protest the top-up fees. The people who took part boasted about it being a huge success and yes it even appeared on Newsnight. However, if you look at the number of people who took part (around 40 or 50), you can see that in a student population of 6300, this is negligible. The Union mostly consists of the factionalised few far-left right, whose core support is small, but who nonetheless make their presence known. But the question is - do they represent the students?

More than half of the students at LSE come from overseas and are charged eleven times more than their home-fee friends. The overseas students, as far as I can see, are either apathetic to top-up fees or actually in favour of them. I am not saying that top-up fees should be introduced and the fees for international students should be decreased, but the Union apparently sees itself as the vanguard against the introduction of top-up fees, and actively campaigns against them. The top-up fees have formed the main agenda, if not the whole agenda, of the Union for the whole academic year, and yet more than half of the LSE student population, i.e. the majority, do not care about this debate at all. The Union can campaign against top-up fees, but it should not do so by presenting their case in the name of all the students. Otherwise, they commit the same mistake, if it can be called so, of which they accuse Howard Davies when he undersigned a petition urging the gov-

ernment to introduce top-up fees as the head of LSE. Therefore, when the Union campaigns against something, it should also ask itself whether they legitimately represent the majority view. Obviously, the Sabbaticals will claim that they are legitimately elected and therefore have the authority to represent the students, however, with such low electoral turnout, I would contest whether they are the legitimate representatives of the majority.

The real problem with the Union is that it retains a domestically based agenda. It essentially fails to represent the issues most central to international students. Obviously, everyone in their first year at LSE go through the problems of settling down. But for many international students, this problem is heightened by the culture shock which many of them face. This culture shock can, and does, push international students, who cannot integrate, to cluster around their national societies. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but because of this problem I do not see a great deal of internationalism which LSE boasts of. Rather than being a truly international environment, it is a place with many different national groups, which do not interact with each other to a great degree. The School itself tries to provide a mentoring scheme to overcome those problems, but what does the Union, whose priority should be to care for the welfare of the students, do? As far as I know, nothing. Oh, of course they can campaign against top-up fees and solve this problem again or debate whether the wall being built in Israel is a wall or a fence.

Another issue affecting the international student body is that of work permits during their time in the UK. As any international student in their second or third year can tell you, the difficulty of finding a decent internship or job is even more difficult for international students due to restrictions on working rights. I know that the Union Welfare Office does


provide a certain degree of assistance, but does the Union, for example, know that LSE Careers Office, whose job should obviously include giving advice on work permits cannot do so, because they are not authorised by concerned government authorities? When I questioned a Careers Advice officer in the Consultative Forum on the subject, I was shocked to hear that they did not have the authority to give advice on work permits or any info regarding this issue. How can, what is purportedly the world's most international university's careers office, fail to advise their international students on this subject? This may suggest a conspiracy theory whereby the government is happy to take international students for apparent financial reasons, but they are unhappy if they work in this country after they graduate. So, where is the yearlong Union campaign against this issue? There was none.

None of what is argued here means that the international students should pay lower fees or that home students should pay more fees. Nor is it suggested that the problems of international students should gain precedence over the problems of home students. What is clear is that half of the LSE student population is made up of international students, and their problems should be as central to the Union's agenda as domestic issues. If international students are reluctant to take part in the Union governance or in the UGMs it is because the Union consistently fails to address issues that are important to international students.

Obviously, nothing is going to change, and in The Beaver, we will still read only top-up fees, the Israeli wall/fence, Davies' past associations with GKN and the intrigues in the Union, all of which, I admit, are important issues, but still if the future Sabbs or Execs, and the students become a bit more conscious about the reality in LSE after reading this article, I'll consider my job done.

...Birds Seeds...

Little Nuggets of Wonder



Hi, how are you? I'm fine. There was no room in the inn for my column last week because greedy Aqeel gobbled up all the space. 'Outrageous' I hear you cry! Well I appreciated the rest. This does mean, however, that some of my tales are somewhat tardy, but none the less pleasing!


I graced the beloved tun of inequity last Thursday (one before last) only to find some of our most upstanding colleagues in academia in a sorry sorry state. Master Bellini was lost for words. Not so much lost for noises but after nine hours of snake bite the noises couldn't quite be coaxed into words, as often as he tried. He did make one coherent interjection. I was discussing the trials and tribulations of realism in theatre with a thesphy alumnus, and Peter joined in with 'I think we need more fisting'. Lovely. So this is what happens to people who do a year as a sabbatical. I like to call it 'terminal mulletude'. Kibble's already showing signs, yet I fear he's shown them since birth. Elliot, keep a check on your normality, it could befall any of us. I think this year we've got some real good treats vying for our votes and affections.

It seems that general secretary and treasurer are going to be very closely run races indeed. I was most impressed by the lines taken by some candidates. Running for treasurer was ol' Joe who'll lap up the

mud and spittle stained lefty votes.... The Pirate though appeared to have a popular argument in his non-partisan politics free view of the role as treasurer. He has the balcony ox's sweaty bellowing votes in the bag. Despite his UGM hustings being primarily based in 'coherent Kibble bashing' and not much about his own policies, it was still rather convincing. But there's an understated long shot swinging his way up on the inside.... Mr Jellyman. He's right when he says that we don't want somebody exciting handling our money....it'll be a battle of titans....to the death.

General Secretary is clearly going to be tighter than Joe Jacobs' cod piece....I think they're both perfectly apt. My preference is a secret for the purpose of this column. I'm not going to be at any more hustings but if any of you are, can somebody ask for me, 'out of 10, how lovely are you?'cheers.

I recently obtained (through deceit and cunning of course, I cannot reveal my sources), a copy of the 'summary procedures in the event of an occupation within LSE' that has been e-mailed to all LSE staff. I'm not joking....it has been written by the borg. Staff are advised to evacuate their building, as resistance is futile, they will be assimilated. They are specifically warned to 'take the power leads for your PC, monitor and printer with you'. Their



minds are one, they do not need property. So students having a shout in a corridor are at risk of stealing PC leads are they? Hmm. Or are they worried that the odours omitted by protestors might cause the computer equipment to self-destruct?! Who knows. The best section on this list of instructions is the part entitled 'Where can I go to carry on working?' Poor, poor staff of LSE! The author of this stunningly crafted security instruction really is writing on the assumption that LSE only employs drones, and that we students are thieving little vagabonds. Staff, don't forget to 'lock all filing cabinets, cupboards and doors and take the keys with you'-our ships are impenetrable.

This is where I will depart for another week. Enjoy the festivities that are 'election time'. Also, I forgot to mention Schwartz's response to my slating of him a few weeks ago, apparently it consisted of 'fuck you'. That's what I get for likening him to an ape!...such an articulate insult you found Mr Schwartz, all those syllables and complex thought processes...well done. I take it all back. Not. Happy hunting campers.

Editor's note: We would like to apologise that some of Bird's ascerbic wit has been censored due to draconian election rulings.

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The Beaver

Comment

Elect the elections

The LSE is due to be gripped by election fever this week. High-minded masters students will condescendingly shun hacks in the street thrusting leaflets and faces in their close physical proximity asking how they had thought about voting in the crucially important SU elections.

It has become a la mode among many students to decry the elections as being meaningless and the petty hacking of a small group of over engaged political students. This analysis has some merit, but it is not productive. Voting in the elections is not a Herculean undertaking, and it is not asking too much of your average student to attend a hustings meeting and read *The Beaver's* election pull-out and fill in a ballot paper. Contrary to popular belief, it will not result in an iniquitous decline into hackdom, rather it will help to make the Union less of the problem many naysayers complain it is.

This election contains a healthy selection of candidates in most races, and in some, the selection has the potential to significantly change the way this Union operates. This year the Union has suffered from a lack of strong leadership and a

consequent decline into petty squabbling and divisive infighting. It is not this organ's role to express a preference in these elections, but it is important that the average student turns out in this election and uses their voice.

The Beaver's coverage of elections this year is more daring than previously, yet it is so in the hope that it will engage the wider student body in the elections and increase voter turnout. The previous policy of keeping dumb on the whole issue did little to relay the campaign to the School community and enliven interest in the proceedings.

Those students who feel like the Union has little to offer them should engage with the candidates whilst they are in the streets, get them to make election promises, even write them down and hold them to account if they fail to deliver. The Union's political leaders are much more accessible than national politicians, and a broken promise is always bad press. Election time is genuinely the time for proper debate and concern for the issues that all the students on this campus face, and the entire community should take the chance to engage in the political process.

In defence of Britain

Michael Crick's comments in the Director's Dialogue last Monday in relation to British Journalistic standards were interesting in light of the debate thrown up by the Hutton report and the Gilligan Affair. Crick claims that Britain lacks a culture of journalism that is hungry enough to pursue the big stories, yet an examination of British and American television news reveals this claim to be questionable. The BBC is undoubtedly a more unbiased and hard-hitting organisation than, for example, CNN and Fox, who carry obvious bias and lack the integrity.

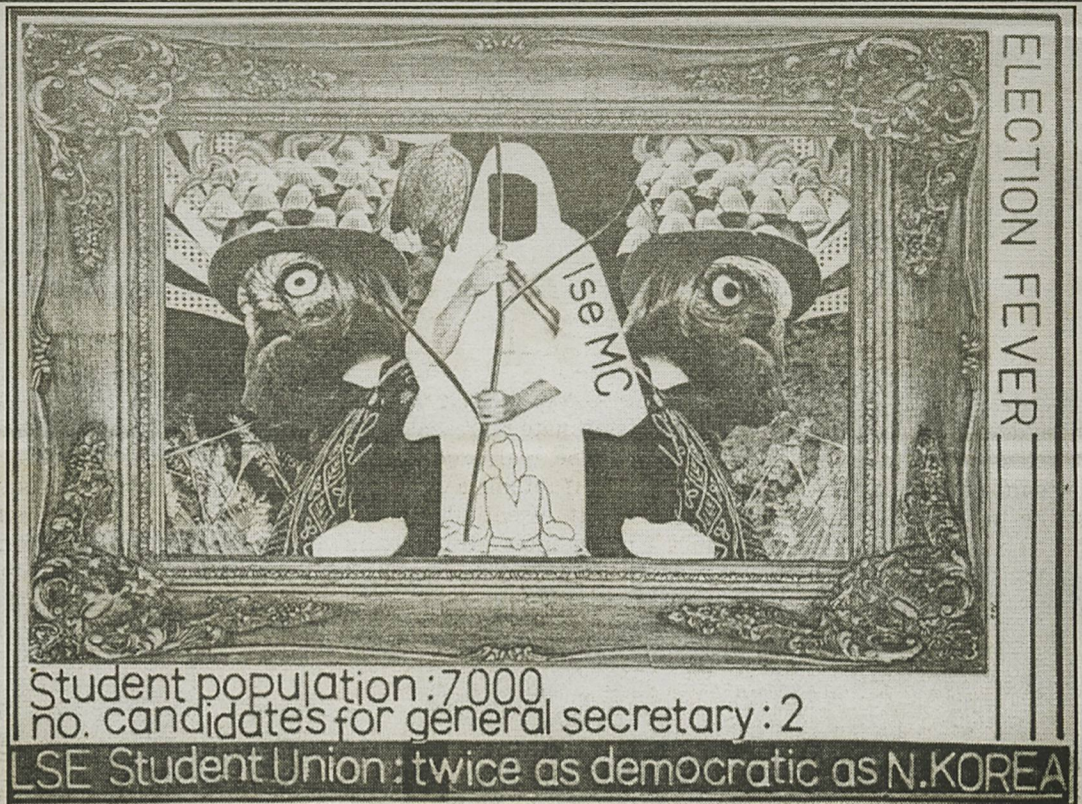
America does not have hard hitting, and questioning investigative programmes like Panorama, who Crick himself has worked for. Michael Moore's film 'Bowling for Columbine' was in part, such a hit exactly because it was so questioning of the status quo and aired things the national media avoided. It is always easy to gaze starry-eyed at the greener grass on the other side, but British journalism is not all that bad. There is always room for improvement, but in general, Crick's claim that America has a superior journalistic culture to Britain is simplistic and ultimately erroneous.

RAG goes higher

RAG Week has once again, building on last year's results, been an astonishing success. It seems likely that the week will have raised in excess of £5000 for the Union's chosen charities. Although it falls on one of the busiest weeks of the term, it is one of the best and most inclusive weeks run by the SU, and ultimately the most rewarding. The week's success has been a testament to the dedication and commitment of all who helped, but most of all to those who

turned up and took part in good spirit. The success of the week is also a tribute to Jimmy Baker, who has worked extremely hard to ensure a successful campaign.

The real and enduring strength of RAG Week is that it is, for the most part, just great fun. The week manages to combine achieving significant revenue gathering for charity, with a community bonding experience as well as enjoyment for the participants.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In response to the article in last week's beaver referring to Howard Davies' recent recommendation to join the non executive board of directors at TotalFinaElf. This issue is not one of politics which seems to often blur our vision within union politics, this is an issue of basic human rights. The LSE student union was one of the first student unions to pass a motion to disinvest in Burma. TotalFinaElf remains the biggest foreign investor in Burma and despite many other companies pulling out after pleas from the Burmese people themselves, TotalFinaElf has been involved in a joint project with the military dictatorship. This is not an issue that only the 'left' should care about but anyone who cares about human rights and we need to ask ourselves, do we really want our university to be associated with such a company with a fundamental disregard to human rights?

Sophie Hug-Williams

Sir,

In the letter you published from John Kent, warden of Carr-Saunders, in last week's edition, he claimed that "effective balancing of student and commercial needs are much more likely to reduce student dissatisfaction". As five students who were unfortunate enough to live under Mr. Kent's 'stewardship' in Carr-Saunders last year, we'd like to suggest that the removal of Mr. Kent as warden of the hall would be the most effective measure to reducing student dissatisfaction. Throughout our time in the hall, we found him to be supercilious, arrogant and unapproachable. The fact he claimed in his letter that "issues such as over charging are likely to disappear beneath a more uniform, co-operative system" is laughable, as the fines dished out by Mr Kent to various residents of the hall matched levels of inflation not seen since the Weimar Republic. His letter was filled with management speak which would make David Brent of *The Office* proud. Mr. Kent and Mr. Brent's physical similarities make the situation even more comical.

Unfortunately, students who are unlucky enough to be at the receiving end of Mr. Kent's grossly disproportionate fine system are unlikely to see the funny side.

Matthew Bawden
Noshir Irani
Andrew Kinash
Paul McAleavey
Simon Taylor

Dear Sir

An astonishing story about Rag Week. After purchasing a Rag Week t-shirt and pint glass today I sat back at a table in the quad when two girls on my table started having a conversation, obviously for my benefit, about the slogan printed on the t-shirts:

-'London School of Alcoholics. Is that meant to be a joke? Don't they understand the effects of alcoholism?'

-'Yeah, sick isn't it. Should be something like "London School of Spoilt Brats"'

I did not say anything, partly because I was a little shocked, partly because I am too slow witted. I could have pointed out that I believe the slogan will have no effect on anyone's attitude to alcohol, and that anything which encourages people to give money to charity is a good thing. I could have asked the American girl whether there was a better example of hypocrisy than calling some fundraisers 'spoilt' while attending a University where she most probably pays over ten thousand pounds (in tuition alone) per year to attend. How many starving people could you feed for ten thousand pounds?

Of course, there were points of importance in these idiot's poorly thought out argument. Alcoholism in reality is clearly not funny. Many of us will graduate and be earning salaries that we probably should be ashamed of and none of us give enough money to charity. Well done to the people organising Rag Week. I hope enough people buy the t-shirts so that people on campus who do not realise the meaning of Rag Week will ask and be enlightened.

Tim Brown

Dear Sir,

In last week's column regarding Mr. Bush's handling of the war on terror, Mr. Velshi again appears to be blinded by the idiocy of his own conservatism.

Velshi first attacks John Kerry's credentials as veteran. Former U.S. Senator Max Cleland, who himself lost both legs and an arm in Vietnam, has been campaigning vigorously for Mr. Kerry and is an important symbol of Kerry's strong support amongst veterans. Cleland understands the skullduggery of the right all too well, for he himself lost his 2002 election after the GOP ran an advert which superimposed the faces of Saddam and Osama over his own whilst calling him weak on defense.

Velshi also claims that Al-Qaida is no longer capable of launching large-scale attacks against the West. Funny that, considering our very own CIA Director George Tenet testified before Congress last week that Al-Qaida is "still is capable of carrying out assaults on the scale of Sept. 11, 2001."

Though much attention is focused on Iraq these days, let us not forget that other warzone-Afghanistan. Contrary to Velshi's assertion that "most of the Taliban are rotting in Guantanamo," the situation in Afghanistan remains perilous and fraught with danger as attacks from a regrouping Taliban continue to threaten the basic security of the Afghan people, as well the foreign troops stationed there. Furthermore, hundreds of soldiers and Iraqis have died in that country in the weeks following Saddam's capture. While Bush would like to forget his infamous aircraft carrier speech declaring an end to "major combat,"

Most importantly, as Mr. Bush prosecutes his war on terror abroad-turning the U.S. into a rogue state in its own right-he and his deputies are slowly and quietly prosecuting their own domestic war on the civil rights of every American.

Joshua J. Dorner

Crushed: A Journey into the Land of Pulls and Pints

Crush is a sleazy place... but with good music it can be enjoyable.

Tracy Alloway
Features Correspondent

On an unusual Friday evening - made peculiar by its serious lack of social events, I found myself urging my flatmates to join me on an excursion into unknown territory - the land of the LSE Crush. "The most established student night in London" seemed a good option, cheap drinks and entry would offset our newly-arrived £300 electricity-bill, and the promise of attractive economics students (although this seems at first glance, a far-fetched idea) appeared perfectly suited to our romantically-challenged student lives.

Little did I know what we were getting into. As a second-year International Relations student (yes - "one of those" a remark I heard numerous times during our outing) I had somehow managed to miss, or escape depending on how you look at it, Crush for the past year and a half. I had heard descriptions from various friends - the most accurate being "it's an experience," yet none prepared me for the orgy of cheap-booze and desperate pulling which we encountered.

Upon entry to the Three Tuns, my flatmates and I were pleasantly impressed by the extremely favorable ratio of boys-to-girls (something like 40% girls to 60% boys). The odds were obviously in our favour. My flatmates, currently attending the art school, Central St. Martins, hadn't seen this many straight men since they accidentally wandered into the Arsenal Stadium. Understandably enthused, we perched at the bar, ordered our first round of drinks (only £4.50 for three!) and waited for the guys to approach.

And boy did they approach! The majority were LSE students, although there was also a suspicious abundance of older gentleman. An International Relations PhD student in particular struck me as oddly out of place, admitting that he could be one of my class teachers for next year and then proposing marriage to my nineteen-year-old friend. (She declined).

Pick-up lines were used in abundance, including but not limited to "I thought I'd better come over and talk to you before you caught me staring," and "Can I buy you a drink,

or do you just want the money?" (Boys take note, the best line had to be "Besides this one, how many other pick-up lines have you heard today?") Approaches by



This is not crush. Too much empty space.

guys in the Three Tuns, though clichéd, were still highly amusing. It was not until our entry into the Quad that things got downright sleazy....

Total numbers for time spent on the dancefloor are as follows: ass-pinches: three, full-body gropes: one, temptations to punch a guy in the face: one, injuries sustained from being caught between cross-fire of drunken brawlers: two, actual number of hot guys spoken to: four (amazingly). Let me elaborate on some of the negative statistics. Much to my chagrin, all the ass-pinchers managed to escape before I could seriously lecture them on proper social etiquette. The kid who managed to grab my entire body (much in the style of Japanese businessmen on the subway) was not so quick. I managed a retaliation by throwing him off of me and then loudly complaining, only to have his burly friend push me back and admonish me with "go easy." (Yeah, like I could really injure a guy twice my size).

It's unfortunate that what should be an innocuous (or inebriated?) student night out, has to involve violence and sexual assaults. Pick-up lines, though corny, are fine. Dubious approaches on the dancefloor, though not that desirable, are understandable. Groping and skirmishes are not. I think I finally understand the

high boy-to-girl ratio, I'm sure the cheap and sordid meat-market feel of Crush (though meat-markets are not a bad thing in themselves) has put a lot of students, girls in particular, off the idea of a Friday night in the Quad.

On a lighter note, the music, though cheesy, succeeded in getting the vast majority of people on the dancefloor. The drinks were, as promised, incredibly cheap, and the crowd did contain an abundance of attractive guys (Though these mysteriously seemed to disappear at around midnight). Those people who seemed to be enjoying Crush the most, were those who had come in large groups of friends (I'm thinking of a particular group of LSE sportmembers right now) or those who chatted casually in the Three Tuns.

Moreover, anyone who complains about not being able to find a boyfriend/girlfriend at LSE should haul themselves over to Crush quickly. In an alcohol-fuelled, highly sexually-charged and crowded space, its unlikely that anyone without a remarked resemblance to the Elephant Man, won't meet at least one person to flirt with (or dare I say, go home with). Those girls in need of a confidence boost (and those tough enough to withstand rude behavior) should consider it a cheap alternative to Old Street or Leicester Square.

Indeed, The Three Tuns might soon be looking as good as any club in the city, with a £500,000 pound refurbishment planned. Though I remain slightly doubtful over the financial aspects of the project, I'm hopeful that such a refurbishment would encourage slightly better behavior from the more intoxicated students. Maybe a few expensive pieces of furniture and some large windows, will deter people from violent brawls (if only because they wish to avoid heavy damage costs after breaking any of them). However, as much as I've complained about Crush, I do see a danger in it losing its casual and relaxed appeal should an über-modern refurbishment come to fruition.

Regardless, of its decor, the sex, drugs, and pop character of Crush is unlikely to significantly change in the near future. So, one important question remains: would I or my flatmates consider going to Crush again? The answer is undoubtedly yes, but not until we're either really broke or very dateless. Happy drinking and pulling to you all...

Tracy Alloway is a 2nd Year International Relations Student and blink Features Correspondent.

Politics

Fabian Thatcherism



Oliver Letwin; his plans should be more radical.

Glyn Gaskarth

It's time to get radical in the battle for Choice and Freedom

Oliver Letwin announced on Monday that under a Conservative government the proportion of national income spent by government would grow by one per cent less than the rate of growth of the economy. If the economy grows 4% then public spending will grow 3%. Slowly the state will take a smaller proportion of its citizens income and will spend proportionately (albeit not absolutely) less. Health and Education spending will be the same as Labour plans but spending increases in other areas will be slower than Labour plans. Specific programs like the New Deal and the project for a new RAF fighter plane will be eliminated. Civil service recruitment will be frozen. Departments will not be allowed to hire civil servants to replace those who retire. This will create pressure on the state apparatus to designate priorities and thus provide efficiencies. The money the state spends on health and education will be given to patients and parents to spend at the hospital and school of their choice. Spending on pensions and benefits to pensioners is to be increased in line with the growth in earnings. That is the plan. The trouble is its not sexy. There is no measure like the sale of council houses to excite people. I have a few suggestions.

The Conservatives should compile a list of all the remaining industries and real estate owned by the government. Each company should be valued and free shares in these companies should be granted to all citizens of this country. Real estate owned by the state should be valued and that which is in prime locations or is superfluous to requirements should be sold off and the departments relocated to less expensive areas. This process has already begun to occur by moving the Student Loans Company to Glasgow and the Vehicle Licensing Centre to Swansea. Why not extend this across the board?

The message is: Labour says you own the BBC, Channel Four, the Post Office and the Crown Estate in theory and as a collective i.e. nationalisation. The Conservatives

'Choice is a moral issue. The denial of choice to the very poorest people is despicable.'

will let you own it as individuals and in practice i.e. as shareholders. Every citizen would receive an equal amount of shares, which would be invested in a fund in their name. Withdrawals from the fund would be allowed in order to invest in a pension fund, buy health insurance, purchase private schooling or acquire life insurance. The objective is to make these institutions free of government interference and to make the individual citizen less reliant on the state i.e. because all would have capital assets to draw upon.

If shares were also granted to children then every individual would start life with some capital. Withdrawals would be banned until the child reached the age of 18. Then the money could be used to pay tuition fees, top up fees and the other schemes introduced by the Labour government. Government would become smaller. Citizens would become bigger.

The Conservatives should expand their pledges to provide choice in the provision of public services. Choice is a moral issue. The denial of choice to the very poorest people is despicable. Labour tell the poor that they must accept what the state provides. If not they have to pay the full cost of private care, treatment or education themselves. This is impossible for all but the wealthy few. Thus poor people wait on NHS beds for 12 hours while the rich go private. Inner city kids go to bad comprehensives while the wealthy go to private schools or move to the catchment areas of good schools because they can afford the house prices. I believe that choice is morally right and must be extended to all.

If individuals can exercise choice they will purchase the best service at the lowest

Oliver Letwin has set out a scheme for arresting the increase in the size of the state occurring under Labour and setting the scene for a steady fall. He should be proposing something a little more radical.

cost. Efficient hospitals and schools will expand. Bad schools and hospitals will close. Every Parent and Patient should be able to take the money the state gives them and take it to any hospital or school that they want. There should be no reduction in the state money allocation because the operation is performed privately. Parents should not be banned from spending the state's money in a private school. All government targets should be abolished and the departments existent to implement and measure them should be slimmed down.

The Education and Health departments should be limited to the function of providing information to the consumer (like the citizen's advice bureau does) e.g. waiting times, cost of operations, advice on how to secure government funding e.t.c. The government should allow the consumer to get what they want rather than give them what a Whitehall official thinks they need. The Local Education Authorities should be abolished. You do not need them to allocate pupils to schools if a parent buys their education direct from the school with a state scholarship. Provision of bus services e.t.c. could be devolved to local councils. This would make local elected officials accountable for the provision of such services.

Also the Access Regulator for Universities should be abolished. I went to a comprehensive. I find it insulting to imply that I could not compete with any public school student without a government bureaucrat discriminating in my favour. The money spent on the Access Regulator should go into a fund for the Russell Group Universities to provide grants to poor students to cover living costs. Students are consumers. If the institution provides a poor service (I suggest Luton University) employers will not want to employ its students. Students will not want to go there. It will close. Choice creates competition. Competition increases standards.

So there are the beginnings of my manifesto. Public ownership of state assets in practice not just in theory. The right of parents and patients to spend what the state spends on their health and education as they choose. Public services freed from government political targets with professionals free to concentrate on clinical and education priorities. This party program will put the principle back in politics. Now I am excited. The Tories are back in business.

Glyn Gaskarth is a 3rd Year International Relations Student and Chair of the LSE Student's Union Conservative Association.

Musings

A Short Noose

blink Editor

War brings out the worst in people... then peace brings out the ridiculous.

This week we've been treated to all manner of tales of intrigue from Clare Short. Our intelligence agencies have been committing crimes against poor Kofi Annan; they have routinely bugged his office, providing British decision makers with detailed transcripts of his discussions. What a noble woman Clare Short is to blow the whistle in such an enlightened way.

Unfortunately everyone's favourite Page 3 critic's timing suggests that her much feted morals are kept in check by a robust practicality. That she failed to provide this information while a minister and would have risked losing a position suggests that she has her full share of the will to power; that she left her crisis of conscience until after the case against Katharine Gun was abandoned suggests that a possible encounter with the sharp end of the legal system was not to her liking.

Even without these flaws in such a saintly visage there is a ridiculous quality to Clare Short. She tries so hard but will always be somewhat of a joke after she choked spectacularly facing the decision on whether to resign over Iraq and allowed Robin Cook, a ginger fool best remembered previously for causing mischief for John Major's government and having a rather unpleasant affair, to steal the glory with his "dignified" speech and definite decision.

If there was any chance that the Tories might realize that there are some spats best left within the Labour party the aforementioned Major has ruined it for them. The former Conservative Prime Minister, not showing the subtlety expected of a member of Michael Howard's committee of "wise men", interrupted his breakfast with Frost to explain how he felt that the detail of John Ashcroft's decision on the legality of the war should be made public. Perhaps after his last public outing, the response to Edwina Currie, Mr. Major thought he had best find an issue to sound "dignified" about and snap to it. We need to learn to ignore former ministers more often, prime or otherwise.

Essentially the problem comes about when those opposing a war don't quite know when to quit. They keep rambling on and eventually become John Kerry; a former soldier who spoke out against the war then just kept on speaking.

His war veteran status comes across well until other old soldiers are reminded that he accused them of some fairly extreme war crimes. That Senator Kerry left the army to protest the war allowed Gen. Wesley Clark to ramble on about how his war record was bigger. John Kerry shows a failure to demonstrate a healthy, Clintonite, attachment to free trade, the "fair trade" Kerry talks about could more aptly be described as protectionist. When you got into politics to stop a war it can be hard to resist the tempting political ideas populists like John Edwards place before you.

Before the war we were told we might create more Osama Bin Ladens, time will tell; we've definitely created more John Kerrys.

Broadly Left



Secularism Gone Wrong

blink Columnist

Much of the political spectrum in France including the left is currently engaged in a heated debate about the issue of the French government's ban on students wearing religious symbols such as the Jewish Skull Cap and the Muslim headscarf in schools. Those who support the ban, both the conservative French Government itself and their supporters on this issue on the Left, justify it with reference to secularism. However, the reality is this has little to do with the liberal ideals of many French secularists historically - in other words, it is secularism gone wrong.

The French government's motivation is based on two arguments. It says it is defending the secular nature of its republic and is working to facilitate the integration of minority groups. In reality, the opposition of Muslim and Jewish groups to these proposals shows that the government has got it wrong on both counts. Rather than integration, there is great concern that these proposals, which will be reviewed in the relatively near future, will further marginalise those already ethnically and racially marginalised.

The principle obstacle to the integration of Arab and Jewish children in France is not going to be children wearing the hijab or the yarmulke but problems in some attitudes towards Jews and Muslims. A quarter of French voters in the last presidential elections voted for fascist parties; the government's duty as such a time should be to protect the rights of all its citizens rather than join in call for restrictions.

This places secularism in a new situation and one its proponents seem unable to adapt to. On the continent racism and anti-semitism are on the rise. Islamophobia, a relatively new development, is of great concern. In such a context, religion can be not simply an incidental marker of a person's belief but a crucial part of an ethnic identity. In such circumstances a mosque may be more than just a place of worship - it is a place where you know you will find people who have an understanding of what you are going through.

There is something seriously wrong with a proposal that forces Muslims and Jews to choose between their religion and their nationality. Similarly, there is something seriously wrong with a 'secularism' or 'liberalism' that forces people to conform to one identity. People should have the right to wear religious symbols, just as they should have the right not to. With local governments in the UK looking at similar proposals, we should argue religious discrimination should be banned, rather than forcing people to wear or not to wear something.

Politics

Where have all the black students gone?

There are not enough black students at Britain's best universities; top up fees will make this worse.

Stephen Kwasi-Bediako

As we enter the age of top-up fees, the question remains what does this mean for the future of young students in Britain? Moreover, the question of what effect this policy will have on inner city black kids is an area that needs to be addressed. On joining LSE in September 2003 to complete a Masters, I was shocked at the small number of black students here. Yes, there is an active and vibrant African-Caribbean Society, which does not receive enough help from the Students Union; there are a significant number of black students completing a wide range of degrees. However, one or two hundred students out of six or seven thousand are not enough. Especially if LSE is the so-called, 'International Institution', it claims to be. In light of this, an assessment of how tuition fees will affect the potential black students of the future indicates a negative picture is on the horizon. Let's be honest. For a young working class person, whether he be black, white, Asian or blue, there is absolutely no attraction in being an extra £9,000 in debt, especially if it's just to read more books and sit more exams.

The recent television programmes on Black ambition on BBC2 has been an attempt to demonstrate that black students are reaching the heights of British education. While this programme is developing a positive image, there is a little problem. The small fact that there are only 80 odd black students at Cambridge out of 12,000, indicates that even less than half a percent of Cambridge students are black. If we widen our viewpoint across the whole education system there is a blatant trend whereby ethnic groups, especially blacks, are overrepresented in the less prestigious universities and underrepresented in the traditional 'Red Bricks'. There are many reasons for this phenomenon in British society; poor schooling, low income families, peer pressure; a lack of parental interest in their child's education, the list goes on. With this vicious circle of problems feeding on each other and causing talented young individuals from black, ethnic and working class backgrounds to underachieve and steer clear of university, the question is, just how the hell does top-up fees make education fairer? The answer is simple. It does the absolute opposite!

There are specific points and facts that indicate top up fees is not just bad for black kids, but all kids and that a form of graduate tax or better use of existing public money can solve the problem of university funding.

If we take the average black kid from an inner city borough, we can consider the motivations and deterrents he faces in a choice to go to university. People from poor backgrounds in most instances have no real role-models. Unlike their middle class counterparts there are in many cases no high achieving brothers and sisters, or well to do parents who can steer them towards higher education. These are the people who influence their children and convince them by their or other examples, that university is good grounding for life and work. No



Students are increasingly impoverished and far too pale.

'Top-up fees are to the detriment of all and the benefit of the government who might just need their money in case they want to start another war.'

'For a young working class person, whether he be black or white, Asian or blue, there is absolutely no attraction in being an extra 9000 pounds in debt.'

inner city black guy, without a role model or intuition for the benefits of university is going to consider it. Especially if it requires them getting in to £20 to £25K debt in the hope of securing a decent job at the end. Tuition fees are not removing the road blocks to higher education, they are adding to them. Thus there is a need to encourage the pool of successful black professionals in areas such as Law, Politics and Medicine to step forward and help the next generation. Employers with high ranking black employees should be encouraged to send these employees on mentoring schemes and youth development work. Although, this would appear as a short-term ill in regards to losing labour and efforts now, the long term benefits far outweigh this. A more diverse educational system will lead to a more diverse labour market. Where there is more diversity, the chances of innovation are enhanced greatly. To refute the critics, this would not constitute a dumbing-down of the education or labour market, but rather the realisation

of lost potential in Britain's youth, irrelevant of their background.

Gone are the days of graduates being headhunted because of their degrees and walking into high paid jobs. Now we see the criteria for selection moving towards soft skills, interpersonal skills and an understanding of the business world and language in addition to strong academic background. With articulation and image top of a graduate recruiter's agenda, where does this leave the inner city black kid with no middle class background, especially since it's within the middle classes where these skills are predominantly found and nurtured among young people? That is not to say that black graduates are not getting good jobs, but from my time in industry and from the views of others, black representation is still low in high flying sectors such as Law, Consultancy and Banking.

However, there is light at the end of tunnel. More policies focused on improving primary and secondary education can improve the situation. There also needs to be more role models from black, ethnic and working class backgrounds going to schools, colleges and universities to indicate that university is a great place that leads to great things and while it is a little harder, it's the way it is. The government should advocate policies to encourage more black, Asian and working class background professionals to enter a nationwide mentoring scheme. If this needs to be legislated for all employers, then so be it. The alternative is the growth of the rising gun culture currently sweeping the inner cities of the UK.

The job now is to change these state of affairs. The government committed a clanger when they got their bill on tuition fees passed on Tuesday the 27th Jan. A graduate tax on student income after leaving university would have been more favourable and would have been in line with the reasoning of students paying for their education. There are real issues to be resolved. And I have not tried to do that here, but as a student body and then as a society we can face up to these issues and work to stop this bill becoming law. This policy is to the detriment of all and the benefit of the government who might just need their money in case they want to start another war!

Stephen Kwasi-Bediako is a Masters student in Public Policy and Admin.

International

International Correspondent: Anchit Sood (a.sood@lse.ac.uk)

Smite 'n' Spite



Sir Howard's Shame

blink Columnist

Sir Howard Davies, Director of the LSE, recently accepted an appointment to the Board of Directors of an international oil conglomerate. This, in itself, is commendable: the less time one spends within olfactory range of Houghton Street, the better.

However, Sir Howard's choice of oil giants - Total (formerly TotalFinaElf) - has stirred controversy, especially amongst the Left. Unfortunately, it has done so for all the wrong reasons.

The first criticism is of Total's involvement in Burma (now Myanmar), perhaps the most repressive country on the planet. However, Total provides alternative employment to Burmese workers who would otherwise be forced to toil in the country's slave-labour collectives.

The second criticism is of Total's not-so-spotless environmental record. But that complaint can be made of all major oil companies. In fact, amongst oil multinationals, Total is one of the better stewards of the environment.

The criticism the Left have failed to make is of Total's ties to Saddam Hussein - presumably because, to the Left, this is a positive. Saddam Hussein's government had promised Total exclusive rights over two major oil fields if it were successful in ending U.N. sanctions in Iraq. Furthermore, Total had rights to 25% of Iraqi oil fields. These oil-extraction contracts, under private international law, would only be valid as long as Saddam Hussein remained in power. Total, therefore, had a vested interest in propping up Saddam Hussein's Baathist tyranny.

However it is the manner in which the company chose to do so that is the most troubling. Paul Desmarais Jr., one of Total's largest shareholders and Sir Howard's contemporary on Total's Board, is the son-in-law of recently-ousted Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, whose government is currently embroiled in a corruption scandal.

Recent testimony before the French courts has revealed that senior executives at Total subsidiary Elf Aquitaine manipulated campaign finance laws to support favoured French politicians.

Total's links with the French and Canadian governments is particularly disquieting given those countries' vociferous opposition to the war in Iraq. The anti-war campaign, sustained at the state level by Total, is a par excellence corporate-driven agenda. The "it's all about oil" canard is indeed better ascribed to the anti-war movement.

Total constitutes a nexus of sin: it was incorporated in France, it propped up Saddam Hussein and currently funds corrupt Marxist and left-of-centre governments worldwide. To wit, Total is a poster-boy of the Left. How does being associated with Total enhance the LSE's reputation in any way?

Perhaps more importantly, whose interests does Sir Howard truly represent? Speaking at the LSE Students' Union General Meeting earlier this term, Sir Howard criticized the war in Iraq. On whose behalf was he speaking: the LSE or Total?

The Two Englands

The concept of Englishness is not based upon ethnicity and the English define nationality in a manner more open to newcomers than is acknowledged at the LSE.

being English is hardly commented upon. Hardly anyone talks about England, or the English people, or Englishness, or English pride. This, it seems is due to the fact that 'Englishness' is considered to be an exclusively ethnic concept and hence, out of sync with the twenty first century.

As a foreigner, I totally disagree with this analysis. To begin with, as my friends in Winchester have pointed out, race has nothing to do with Englishness. Neither does culture. I have cousins who are Chinese by race but British by nationality, and culturally, they are simultaneously Chinese and English. Many Britons of South Asian origin seem to me to be in touch with both English and South Asian cultures. So it is possible to reconcile 'multiculturalism' and 'Englishness', there is no contradiction between the two. If the Scottish Executive can claim on its website that the Scots are a multicultural, multiethnic nation, why can't the English?

Let's get a few things straight: England is a multicultural and multiracial country. The English nation and the English people are made up of many different races, ethnicities, religions and speak many different languages. English culture is a hybrid of Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norse, Huguenot, African, Caribbean and Asian cultures. There is nothing wrong about having pride in your Englishness because this translates to pride in pluralism and tolerance.

Some may argue that they can never feel English because of the presence of small-minded bigots in this country who vote for the BNP, and who believe that only those who can trace their ancestry back hundreds of generations to the Angles, Saxons and Jutes qualify as English. This, in my opinion is an unconvincing argument because if you were to follow this argument, then you would have to consider Britishness to be a purely ethnic concept. After all, these pea-brained idiots also think that to be British, you have to be of pure Anglo-Celtic stock. To put it simply, denying your Englishness because of the presence of racists is to agree with them, meaning that you have let them win the argument.

[This commentary was written after watching James Moray perform 'Sweet England' on 'Celtic Connections' at 2 am (BBC 4) - which just goes to show how staying in on a Friday night makes you do weird things]

Kheng Lim is a 1st Year Economics student.



Chamber Court, Winchester College.

Kheng Lim

I first came to England's green and pleasant land at the age of sixteen, when my parents and I agreed that it would be best for me to sit my A-Levels in the UK. This was for a variety of reasons: my parents were educated in the UK and they wanted to continue the family tradition. Another important motivating factor was their desire for me to experience a different culture and way of life. I arrived at Winchester in the autumn of 2001, (two weeks before the events of September eleventh) and slowly began to sink into my new surroundings. Homesickness was never a big issue because I was too busy trying to get to grips with an entirely new country and culture to feel any nostalgia for my homeland.

The school I went to was a boarding school which was about 85% white and as such, the notion of 'Englishness' totally permeated my surroundings. This is not to say that the school was a particularly nationalistic place, in fact, the topic of nationality was one that was rarely discussed. However, it was quite clear that most of my peers had a strong sense of who they were and of their own identity and nationality. They were English first, British second and although they would never dream of waving it in your face (that would be extremely un-English), it was always evident. Therefore, I was always conscious that I was living in an English environment and as such, most of my observations of life in the boarding house were viewed and analysed with this in mind.

Ethnic minorities and their cultures were accepted and welcomed. My school was over seven hundred years old but this did not mean that it was a stuffy, conservative place. There were quite a few openly gay students and editorials in the college newspaper openly advocated the nationalization of the school to make the institution less elitist. However, it was quite clear that any exchange of views or culture was a two way process. The English students would learn about our culture, we would learn about theirs. We briefed them on, say, the political and economic issues faced by countries in the Far East and they would teach us about the English binge drinking

'Despite the good intentions of the regulation. I have doubts as to whether or not it will be effective.'

culture. We taught them yoga and how to do dance the bhangra and they taught us the intricacies of the game of cricket.

What can I say about the English? Well, my analysis is based on an extremely unrepresentative group of middle-class teenage boys so it may not represent the English nation as a whole. What I found was that the stereotypes of English 'coldness' were completely unfounded. What many mistake for coldness is simply a lack of superficiality: "Why should I be overly friendly to you if I hardly know you?" An Englishman (or Englishwoman) divides his world into inner and outer circles. If you are in the outer circles, you are of little consequence to him but once you enter the inner circle, a process easily facilitated by going to the same boarding school, you have made a true friend. The other thing I want to comment upon is my English peers' attitudes towards race and 'Englishness'. When I asked them for their opinions on what made a person English, the most frequent answer was that you had to be born or to have lived a long time in England. And what if the person was black or Asian? The answer: a black or Asian born in England is an Englishman. No question about it.

The LSE is worlds away from Winchester. As we all know, at the LSE, great emphasis is placed on the fact that we live and study in a multicultural environment. I totally agree with the notion that multiculturalism is a strength of the LSE, London and the UK, and that it is something to be welcomed and celebrated. However, I've realized that here in the LSE, multiculturalism is considered to be a British premise, and that the idea of



A Case for a United East Africa

A united East Africa would be a force to be reckoned with that could ensure prosperity and security for its member nations.

Muathi Kilonzo

We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory...will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." As Abraham Lincoln famously expressed his hope for a strong union so too must Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda embrace the East African Community. Our countries have much in common; from colonial history to cultural diversity and only a strong Community will ensure that we develop into a prosperous trading block with shared ideals.

The East African Community was born in 1967, from the three newly independent countries. More than a loose community, the three countries not only had common institutions but shared assets and liabilities. The subsequent collapse 10 years later can be blamed on the diverging interests of the countries, where Kenya pursued a liberalised private economy, the other two embraced socialism and Uganda deteriorated into chaos under Idi Amin, leading to the eventual invasion by Tanzania. In 1984 a Mediation Agreement was reached with a mandate of finding areas for cooperation, which eventually led to the creation of the Tripartite Commission in 1991. A secretariat was created under the auspices of the Commission and ratified with the signing of the draft Treaty in 1999 in Arusha. Mapped out presently is a Customs Union, followed by a Common Market, and ultimately a Monetary Union as the final step to an amalgamation.

In the past few weeks I have casually spoken to numerous Kenyans deliberately broaching the subject. What meets me is

either apathy or a general scepticism. The first objection raised holds nothing is wrong, so why change the system; others point out to the differences in the countries. The more refined arguments point to the economics, where some posit that the three countries are all under-developed, poor, have economies moving at different speeds and different levels of economic development, more importantly all have a less than perfect infrastructure. The political angle exposes the dilemma the Lords Resistance Army poses for Uganda and Yoweri Museveni's apparent hint at overstaying his constitutional term in office, Kenya's fight with corruption and the delayed constitutional review, and Tanzania still has to grapple with the legacy of Ujamaa (socialism).

These are valid points; Kenya does have the most developed economic and financial systems, industrial base and the largest infrastructure. This leads some to believe that Kenya will get richer, while they will get poorer. This is wrong. A union will mean that the countries will have greater bargaining power on the world stage leading to greater donor support for infrastructure programs; moreover lower tariffs and free trade in goods will reduce the need for corruption on all sides. With unrivalled diversity in tourism destinations and products, vast tracts of fertile land, control over one of the largest freshwater sources; makes for a diversified, resource rich area for investment.

Formulating a coherent coordinated foreign policy we can stop regional wars and ensure that we have an advantage in exploiting the natural resources of our neighbours. Furthermore, we can actively override Egypt's exclusive use of the Nile, a ridiculous colonial relic of a treaty. As the African Business magazine points out,

'The global system demands size and resources, where small states have little chance of challenging the status quo and having their voice heard. The time for small tentative steps into a political and economic alliance is now over.'

the implementation of a viable customs union aimed at having free movements of goods between the countries in seven years would be relatively costless and conducive to growth, but Uganda and Tanzania need to be reassured that their imports will be welcome in Kenya. Coupled with favourable terms of trade and industrialisation, poverty reduction will be a reality - vital for a region where half its people live below the poverty line. But a bitter pill needs to be swallowed - integration and reform are painful, strong institutions corollary to stable democracies and development need to be created in an environment where corruption is not tolerated. Moreover the populations need to be convinced that the Community harbours real change and not political rhetoric.

The global system demands size and resources, where small states have little chance of challenging the status quo and having their voice heard. The time for small tentative steps into a political and economic alliance is now over. Now more than ever the three countries should shun petty differences and move quickly into a well planned and conclusive community. Big Brother Africa disproved many anarchists by showing that more unites Africa than divides it. The era of the troublesome despotic ruler is over. Kenyans have discovered the power of the ballot box; Uganda and Tanzania are revelling in economic growth. Surely, all you sceptics must see the opportunities, the chances. Driven by a need to make money, make a change or create a truly viable prosperous entity, the appeal is hypnotic. Africa given an opportunity to mould its future should now heed the call.

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Law

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Sale of Organs: Meat Market or Free Market?

Allowing people to sell their organs may appear immoral but such a change redeems itself by alleviating a severe shortage of live organs.

Sophie Train

Our, human, body is one thing we all possess and supposedly have control over. It is often described as the "Temple of the Soul" and as such is imbued with special, albeit intangible qualities which render it sacred. The United Kingdom's legal system, with its conservative outlook, inescapably entwined with traditional religious values, reflects this view. Nowhere is this more conspicuous than in S.1 the Human Organs Transplants Act of 1989 which makes any commercial dealings in Human Organs for transplant a criminal offence. The Act also makes it illegal to transplant an organ removed from a living person unless the donor and the recipient are genetically related. The legislation is accompanied by The Human Organ Transplants Act (Unrelated persons) Regulations 1989 which allows non-related transplants provided that ULTRA (the Unrelated Transplants Regulatory Authority) is satisfied that there has been no payment or undue coercion involved. This article will concentrate on the procurement of non-regenerative, but dispensable organs (e.g. Kidneys) from live donors, arguing that a system of payment for the organs of unrelated persons would be the lesser of two evils when compared to the massive shortfall of kidneys and the huge cost (in both real and emotional terms) of dialysis.

So, dilemma of the day, should we be able to sell our organs for money? Many believe not. Arguments against are morally compelling, so much so, that they often eclipse and prevent objective consideration of the real issues beneath the 'easy on the ear' rhetoric. Many feel that this would be an unforgivable commodification of the human body, the last straw, leading to a slippery slope of moral degeneracy where everything has its price. Organ donation, it is felt, should be an altruistic action driven by nothing but the desire to help another person lead a full and active life. To turn the intimate relationship between the donor and the donee into a cold-blooded market transaction would devalue the gesture and possibly jeopardise voluntary donations of other organs after death. Some commentators suggest that within a short time, a person's organs would begin to be seen as his inherent capital, encouraging the courts or debt collectors to demand a luckless businessmen sell a kidney when the time came to liquidate his assets after declaring bankruptcy! Admittedly this example is as extreme as it is unlikely but the possibility that the economically weak could be exploited by a market system is a very real concern.

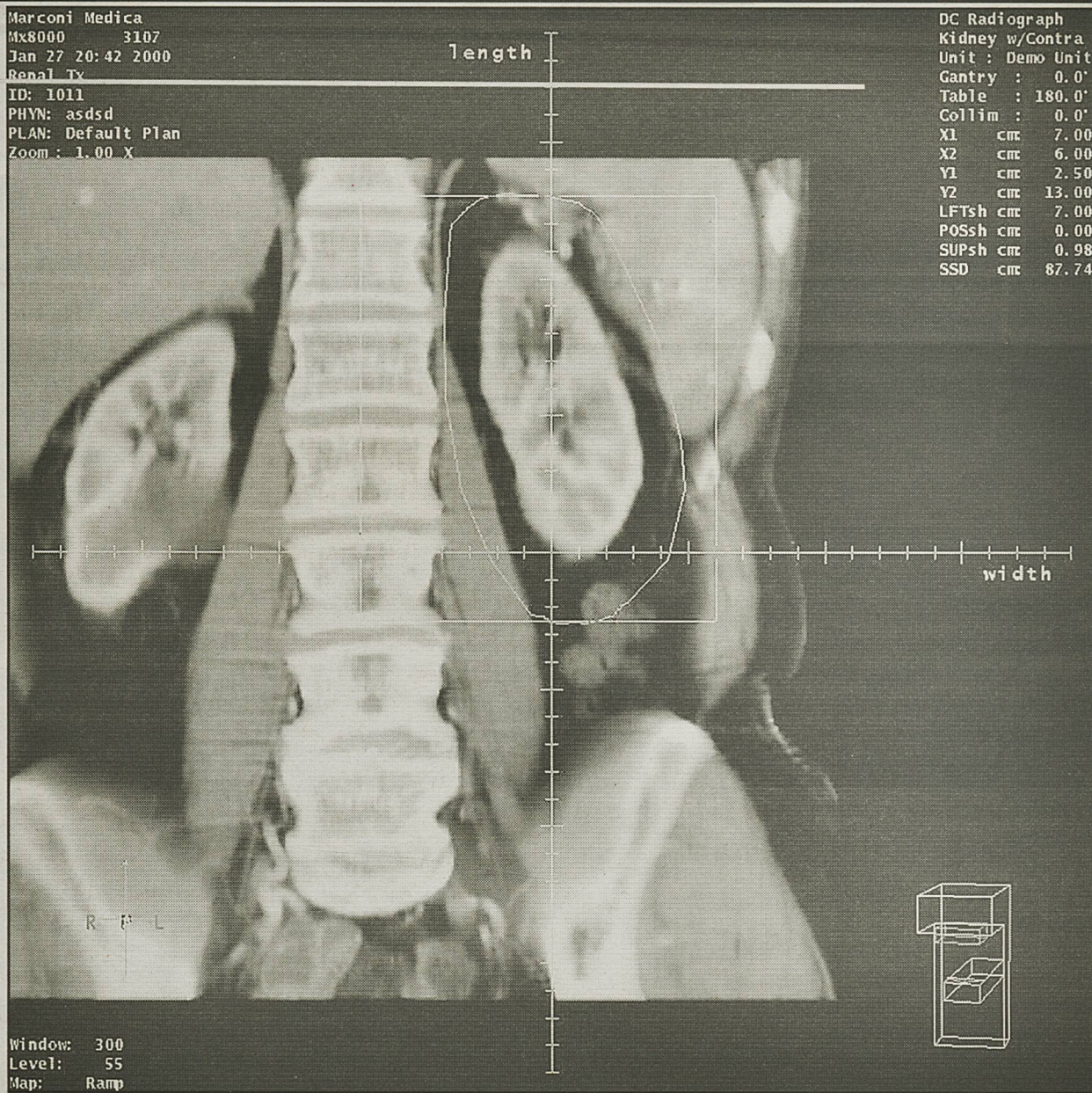
It is clear that the selling of a kidney would be seen as the very last resort for most people and logically only the most financially desperate would consider it. Stephen Jan of the London School of

Hygiene and Tropical Medicine fears that this would lead to "the general redistribution of healthy organs from the poor to the non-poor." In the international sphere, where the price people would be willing to sell their kidney for would vary greatly from place to place, it is possible that 'transplant tourism' could occur whereby people would only buy from those in the poorest countries who asked for the lowest prices. This would be the exploitation of the weakest and most vulnerable people in the world and for many of us, would be an abhorrent proposition.

On the other hand, it could be argued that us having the choice to sell our organs is in line with the popular notion of bodily autonomy. Might it not be the case that the buying and selling of an organ would be a liberating experience which would free the donor from a life of poverty and starvation and the recipient from a life of tedious hospitalisation?

Arguably the commercialisation of humans and human bodies occurs in everyday life already. The thousands of hours spent in the office each year, often leading to the breakdown of family life, fatigue and depression are a far higher price to pay for financial gain than living life with one perfectly adequate kidney. Is not the obligation to stay physically in one place, doing work you would not naturally choose to do more of an infringement on personal liberty and autonomy than choosing to donate an organ?

On some respects it is true that financial inducement would destroy the essentially altruistic basis for organ donation, but the vast shortages of organs illustrates that altruism has its limits. In 2002 there was a waiting list of over sixth thousand patients requiring kidneys and just 370 live donations, even though live donations tend to have much higher success rates than cadaverous ones. It is true that these numbers could be limited due to the strict



Paying organ donors could lead to a valuable increase in supply.

'Relaxing the restrictions so as to allow the regulated sale of organs could address organ shortages.'

'So, dilemma of the day, should we be able to sell our organs for money? Many believe not. Arguments against are morally compelling, so much so, that they often eclipse and prevent objective consideration of the real issues beneath the 'easy on the ear' rhetoric.'

requirements of ULTRA regarding unrelated donation but if the legislation were to be reformed, relaxing the restrictions so as to allow the regulated sale of organs it is probable that these shortages could be easily addressed. John Harris, a professor of bioethics, suggests establishing a 'monopsony', a situation where only one buyer exists for the products of several sellers. This one legitimate purchaser in the market place would take on responsibility for ensuring equitable distribution of all organs purchased, this, he argues, would

prevent the rich using their purchasing power to exploit the market at the expense of the poor. He suggests that one way of preventing the wealthier nations preying on the poorer ones would be to confine the market place, perhaps to a particular nation state or a group of states with similar economic power and living costs so that prices provided equal inducement and equal attainability across the group.

These ideas are interesting but do not really solve the most unsettling aspect of the issue. The financial inducement to donate an organ will still be greatest for the poorer sections of society so no matter how fair and regularised the market is, it will still be the economically weak who will end up donating.

It is clear therefore that the system is not without its defects, but change is becoming increasingly necessary. Life on dialysis is restrictive and demanding, many things we take for granted in everyday life are rendered impossible for the kidney patient due to the large amount of time required for treatment. The cost of a dialysis machine and equipment is very high and the overall costs to the NHS would be greatly reduced if more organs were made available. Perhaps other types of incentive would prove less ethically problematic. E.g.: tax cuts for donor card holders or awarding priority for donors on transplant lists. Until changes are made or more people choose to carry donor cards, the chronic shortage of organs will continue. This proves extremely frustrating for doctors because they know how successful and effective a treatment transplantation can be. Ultimately, however, it is the patients that suffer the tense and often desperate wait, longing for a chance to live a full and free life, independent of a machine.

Sophie Train is a 3rd Year Law student.



On the (Ir)relevance of God

Lorenzo Capitani

A question that has plagued Human civilization throughout the centuries has been whether God exists or not and whether he is responsible for whatever surrounds us . . . be it good or be it bad.

Yet why do we pose this question? Why do we seek the answer?

If the simple answer is to satisfy human curiosity . . . well then the search satisfies a basic need that is part of our nature and it is thus justified.

But the reality of human civilization is different. The pursuit of God has brought the rise of a phenomenon called religion. This phenomenon has shaped the evolution of human civilization, doing things that are both beautiful and horrendous, bringing both joy and misery, imposing lifestyles and moral rules.

So as we can see . . . the existence of God (or the concept of God) has had a relevant impact in forging human destiny.

Yet should it be?

The existence of God has importance only if we allow it to influence, in one way or other, our behaviour. If our behaviour is not influenced by his existence or lack of it, then the presence of God is irrelevant.

Allow me first to define God. God is to be considered as a sentient consciousness capable of creating and defining matter as opposed to a human being who can only assemble matter.

Let us now examine some reasons why God should have an impact on our everyday life.

The argument runs that if God is the creator of reality, if God is the creator of our essence we should abide by his will and desires . . .

Or should we?

The fact that we have a choice in our actions implies that we need not respect the will of God nor that we have to respect

'The existence of God has importance only if we allow it to influence, in one way or other, our behaviour.'

'No need for an explicit order forbidding something . . . just structure existence in such a way that whatever you wish not to be done, simply cannot be done. God, if he is the creator, can put limits on his creation without having to suggest them to anyone.'

his sayings. Many religions declaim that there is a divine law . . . a set of commandments that Must be respected and that these laws/commandments are absolute in nature.

This is False.

Or at least it is false in the way that most religions seem to present to the general public.

If God is the creator of reality then he could very well have structured it in such a way that whatever he wishes to forbid is actually impossible to do!

No need for an explicit order forbidding something . . . just structure existence in such a way that whatever you wish not to be done, simply cannot be done. God, if he is the creator, can put limits on his creation without having to suggest them to anyone.

The presence of an imposition which allows freedom to contravene it, implies that whoever set it was not in a position to delimitate reality . . . and thus was not its creator . . . or if he was, was not omnipotent.

Let us consider another argument.

Law is a result of moral beliefs and ethics which stem from an understanding of reality, and maybe even its source. So once we have discarded the argument that we should not do something because God imposes on us not to do so . . . then maybe we could affirm that we should not do something because god has suggested to us not to do it, for our own good. After all is he not Perfect and then by implication the ultimate source of Wisdom?

Is God Perfect?

If something is perfect it is all encompassing. . . . it need not change. . . it cannot change else it was not originally perfect as it lacked something. . . or if it was perfect, it lost its perfection with the acquisition of something which tarnished the state of perfection in which it was. An argument could be put forward that perfection is dynamic and changes and adapts. . . but if that is true and something that is perfect

can change . . . then whatever a perfect being has said in one moment may be no longer valid in a future moment as the different state of perfection may have render a past truth obsolete in the present and no more applicable for the future . . . so why heed it for eternity?

A perfect being cannot create for it lacks the impulse to create.

If a perfect being creates, that implies that the being lacked something initially and proceeded to create that thing which he lacked. Of course creation may be incidental as a result of the simple existence of the perfect entity, in this case perfection can create. Yet since the entity, in order to be perfect must be all encompassing, why should it seek outside what it should already have within and should already be an integral part of itself? Being perfect it has no need and thereby no impulse to create. One could argue that creation is an act of love and love is integral in a perfect being. Yet once again, why focus on something distinct and separate? If the act of creation is instead directed towards oneself that means that the being was not initially perfect and so had to "fix" something that it lacked! If it is directed towards something outside it means that there is a yearning that is not satisfied within the being and thus the being is not perfect.

So if a being is not perfect . . . why heed its impositions? After all, any suggestions may very well be wrong or inapplicable to a particular circumstance!

Fear is another argument.

We listen to God's desires because we fear him.

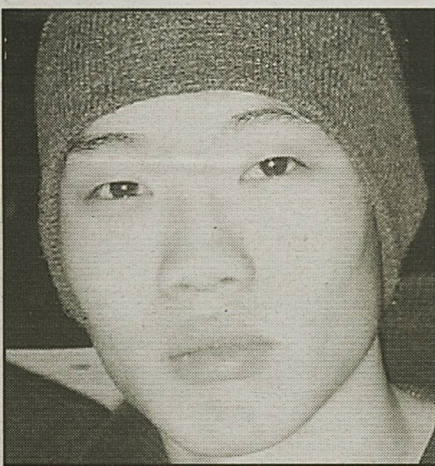
If we do not obey he will smite us.

"Fear is the small death that kills the soul" Frank Herbert once said in his series "Dune" (which I strongly recommend). If we obey a being because we fear it our own essence is crippled and our behaviour is circumscribed to the extent that we will never be able to reach our own personal

The Beaver Lent Term Elections Pullout

Voting in the Quad: Wednesday 03 March, 9.30 am - 5.30 pm

Thursday 04 March between 9.30 am and 7.00 pm



Societies Officer

Kevin Chung-Yu Liu

Sweet talk may be sweet, but most of the time...

It simply ain't real

You want real experience? I'll give you experience

You want real determination? Dare me

You want real diversity? Wait 'til I tell you the story of my life

I am an SU Executive Officer

I know how it works

I am the President of the Taiwanese

Society

I know how it feels

Show me your trust

I'll show you my worth

Experiences

LSE Students' Union Anti-Racism Officer

President, LSE Taiwanese Society

LSE Representative to NUS Black

Students' Campaign

Objectives

To increase transparency of communications between the SU & societies

To safeguard diversity & scope of LSE student activities

To build upon current initiatives to publicise up-to-date information

To encourage extensive interaction between societies



Societies Officer

Angus Jones

ANGUS JONES #1 FOR SOCIETIES

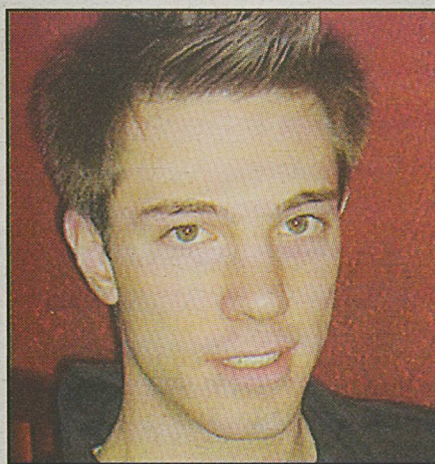
I am running for societies, as I believe I have the union experience and enthusiasm to do the job well.

In terms of experience I am currently your representative on ULU Council, I am actively involved in several societies and have volunteered to help out in the 'don't price students out' campaign. During the past year I have organised society events and fund-raising parties.

If elected I will work with societies to uphold the unions equal opportunities policy fighting to oppose all forms of discrimination on campus. I will make societies aware of what they can expect in terms of resources and services from the SU and increase the publicity of events by distributing society listings leaflets in halls. I will increase awareness of cross society networks that exist across London as well as informing people how to set up networks.

A successful union needs to involve and consult societies in campaigns and more general areas of union policy so all the views are heard. Finally I will provide an approachable point of contact, working with the exec to help solve societies problems and complaints.

Vote Angus Jones for an active and inclusive union!



Societies Officer

Nick Spurrell

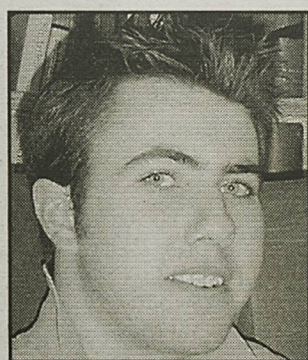
If elected I will work to maintain societies' position at the core of the student union. I will work for increased funds and guarantee to hold weekly societies advice hours for society members and those wishing to start new societies. There is a lot of bureaucracy when it comes to running societies. I will cut this where I can and clarify what remains as much as possible.

You may have noticed the new leaflets around campus listing societies' events. I

will continue the production of these but ensure they are totally comprehensive by finding out listings myself rather than waiting for submissions.

My experience, both within several societies and working for them as a member of the Finance & Services committee, places me best to serve you. My experience elsewhere includes sitting on the LSE Academic Board and on the committees of several society committees in my first and

second years. Vote for me to make sure there's no society left behind.



Residences Officer

James Eyton

Vote James Eyton #1 for Residences

Fair Allocation, Fair Price, Fair Food and Services

During my time in Passfield I successfully fought for improved security lighting, the installation of CCTV and a more secure reception. I promise you the same commitment and dedication to improving your halls experience and as your representative on school committees that I showed when an active member of the SU, including being a member of the Constitution and Steering Committee and also the Finance and Services Committee

Produce a Halls Experience Survey which has not been run for 4 years, to hear your views firsthand

Rent Review for all LSE Halls to look into widening the range of price options available

Consistent and Fair Fines Policy across all Halls so that good residents are not unfairly punished

Ensure adequate parent-friendly accommodation to increase access to the LSE

Lobby for 100% network connectivity at all LSE Halls to keep up with modern study tools

Face to face review with Hall Service Providers - food, cleaning, leisure - in detail to ensure a fair service

Your Bed, Your Vote - Vote James Eyton #1



Residences Officer

Rishi Madlani

Re-Elect Rishi Madlani to Residences Officer

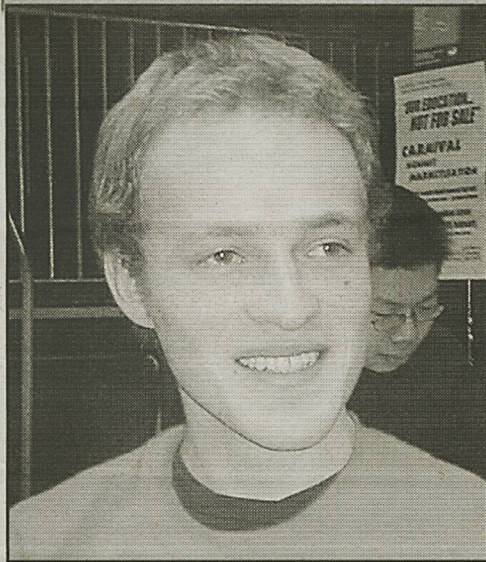
A vote for me is a vote for continuity and experience. This would be my third and final term as Residences Officer and I want the opportunity to finish works in progress and see my projects come to fruition.

I have campaigned heavily for the refurbishment of Passfield Hall to best suit student needs and I believe this is an aim we are on course to achieve. I have been heavily involved in two new halls due to open in 2005 and want to ensure that these also fulfil our expectations.

I have campaigned for a variety of issues in halls from improving security in Carr-Saunders and Passfield to

improving environmental awareness both in terms of recycling and purchasing. I urge you to vote for me to allow me to continue my work and to continue producing results.

My experience in Residences is second to none. I have sat on the decision making committees in the department and have developed relationships with concerned parties that have been crucial in achieving our goals. I pledge to work tirelessly to represent you for one last time, I urge you to give me the opportunity.



Environment and Ethics Officer

Joel Kenrick

- For a Green and Ethical Union.

I have the experience, dedication and commitment to be your Environment and Ethics Officer next year. I will work with the whole union to make LSE a place we can be proud of - dedicated to Environmental Action, Fairtrade and Ethical Investment.

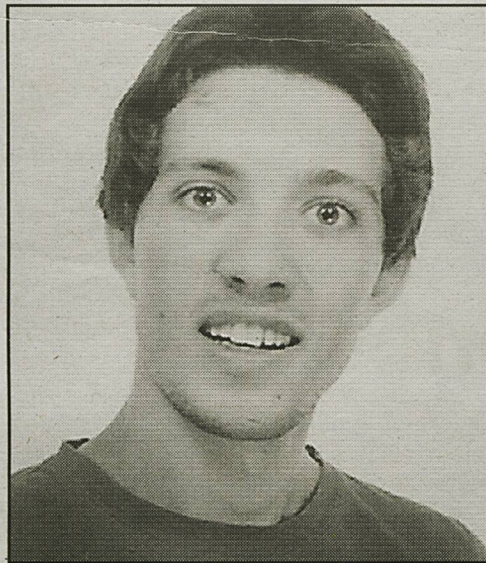
I am an active, experienced and engaged campaigner, working with People and Planet to support environmental sustainability and fairtrade. I am

Chair of LSE Attac Society, active in the Stop the War movement and a member of Amnesty International.

I am passionate about environmental and social justice, willing to stand up for the environment and ethical policies within our Union and in our dealings with others.

There have been many successes over the past years - we are an official 'Fairtrade University' and are developing a meaningful environmental policy. Yet

there is much more to be done. I will work with students and staff to develop a pioneering environmental policy worthy of LSE. I propose to set up an Ethical Purchasing and Investment Taskforce, to ensure ethical considerations are at the heart of our Union. I will push for more affordable and quality fairtrade and recycled products, and develop a meaningful Ethical Investment policy.



Environment and Ethics Officer

Louis Haynes

LOUIS HAYNES: ENVIRONMENT & ETHICS

Manifesto:

- Cut waste and give students best value for money
- Enhance efficiency in allocation of space and resources
- Forge ahead with radical and innovative propositions for buildings

Drive crusade against racism and all other forms of discrimination

Devise a "spiritual" or "mental" environment where all different cultures and opinions are embraced in a union of harmony

Heighten awareness and profile of ethical and environmental issues

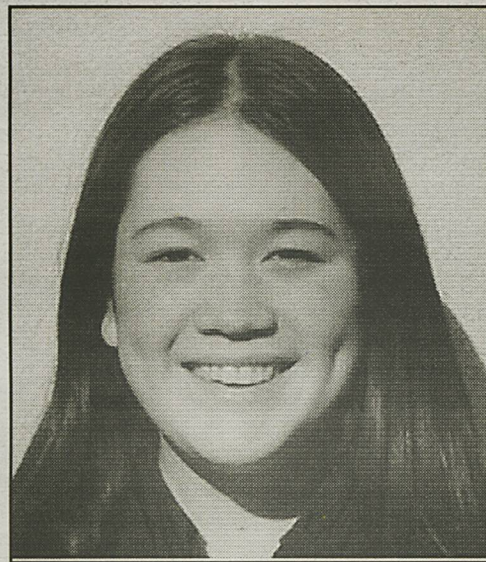
Lead the international campaign for free trade

" I will put the interests of students above petty union politics and will always remember it is the students' money that the union spends"

LOUIS IS AN EXPERIENCED CANDIDATE WHO IS CURRENT CHAIR OF CWSS ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

Womens Officer

Alexandra Vincenti



Womens Officer

Samantha Nicklin

SAMANTHA NICKLIN - NO. 1 for Women's Officer

As a down to earth and approachable person who has been involved in the SU for the last 3 years, I will work for a Union which better caters to its members' needs. The role of women's officer depends not only on a dedicated person, but someone who can enhance this role with personal experiences to better relate and guide the Union.

My goals, For you...

Health - I will work to improve students' sexual health awareness, by encouraging the provision of free condoms at CRUSH and by better publicising the opening hours of the Contraceptive Clinic at the St Philips Medical Centre.

Safety - I will organise safety workshops with the Metropolitan Police to ensure that students are able to look after themselves when out and about in

London. Having worked on the door at CRUSH, I will work with staff to increase awareness of drug rape.

Careers - I will work with the Careers Service to identify skills that LSE students lack and provide more appropriate training in relevant skills to equip them for the job market.

Childcare - I will work for increased funding for subsidised nursery places for the children of LSE student-parents.



Students with Disabilities Officer

Catriona Hazel Mowbray

I am standing for re-election as the Students' with Disabilities Officer. Since being elected in a bi-election in November, I have formulated a prospectus for disabled students, an information guide for staff, held weekly drop-in information sessions, run the termly disability/dyslexia forum, organised the disability friendly awards, scheduled a debate for November concerning disabilities in higher education, with Howard Davies, and attended

the NUS Students with disabilities conference.

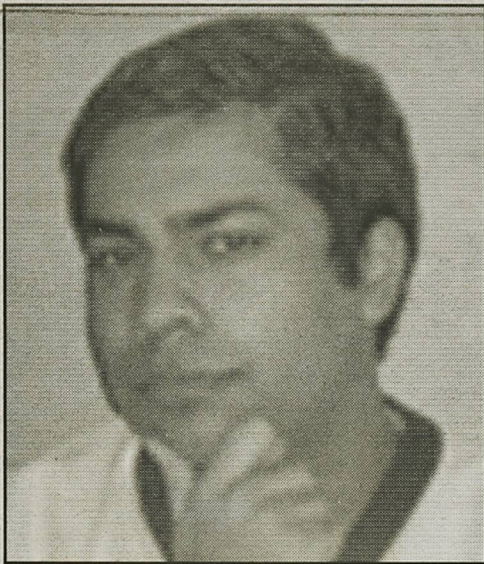
If re-elected, I would like to organise an "Ability not Disability" Poster Campaign, as well as making mental illness an awareness project in conjunction with the NUS mental health campaigns. There is also heaps of scope for dual awareness campaigns involving well known public figures who have a disability as well as being high achievers, for example, Benjamin

Zephaniah. As well as these new ideas, I would continue with the projects I have been implementing this term; providing information, creating awareness, and being the representative on the Students Union for all students with disabilities.

If you have any questions about my plans, or about the current Student Union provision for disabled students, then please don't hesitate to contact me at Su.Disability@lse.ac.uk

Students with Disabilities Officer

Jonathan Gradowski



Anti-Racism Officer

Alykhan Velshi

Fight ignorance with knowledge, unite humanity towards a common goal, promote peace through striving for equality, love all. Tolerance and unity through shared values and common humanity. Join me in making the LSE a place without smite and spite.

What a load of nonsense.

There shouldn't be an Anti-Racism Officer. It is a position that the hard left at the LSE will use to stack the

Executive Committee. Racism, wherever it exists, should be fought by everybody - not just one particular officer.

Have I experienced racism at the LSE? Yes. Every time someone tells me: "You're not a proper Muslim. A proper Muslim would side with Saddam / mistrust America / support Palestinian suicide-bombers / join the Socialist Worker Student Party." Except the people who say that to me - tell me that I because of

my race and religion I should support certain horrible things - are the ones who most want an Anti-Racism Officer.

They divide Muslims and Jews on campus through overly-political UGM motions: all to advance their dastardly agenda. I'll fight racism on campus. I'll fight the true racists. Vote Alykhan Velshi 1st Preference for Anti-Racism Officer.



Anti-Racism Officer

Farhan Islam

Having spent the best part of my secondary school education in an international school I understand the importance of an Anti-Racism Officer in maintaining the harmony and goodwill that international environments like the LSE are so conducive to. I am intent on promoting a positive discrimination free atmosphere and working towards eliminating racism of all sorts. How do I plan to go about this? By getting societies to take a

greater part in events like the Global Week and the Anti-Racism Week and by encouraging them, and the Union, to have as many cultural awareness programs and events as possible to highlight the richness of culture and diversity that exists on campus. While at the same time working against far right racist groups like the BNP.

Anti-Racism Officer

Amber Grewal

International Students Officer

Salah Mattoo

International Students Officer

Alykhan Velshi

My name is Alykhan Velshi. I am running for International Students Officer. Foremost among my priorities are representing students, not playing politics. As such, I propose to:

1 - Lobby against government proposals that adversely affect international students (visa charge, increasing tuition fees, etc.)

The Student's Union has spent too much time dealing with party-political/irrelevant issues. If the Union is

going to be a campaigning one, it must campaign for issues that affect students as students.

2 - Encourage membership in National Societies by all manners of people, to ensure a greater appreciation of the different cultures represented at LSE.

3 - Work on helping National societies get sponsorship for their events.

As Vice Chair of the Debate Society, I have experience in looking for sponsorship, which can be used to help other

societies get funding.

4 - Campaign against campus Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Certain groups (they know who they are) have sought to polarize the campus with fear and wedge-issue politics. Instead of exacerbating old wounds, I will look to ensuring that the Union is a comfortable place for all.

Vote Alykhan Velshi #1 for International Students Officer

International Students Officer

Karthik Sankaran

Returning Officer

Anthony Gilliland

For open, fair and competitive elections vote Anthony Gilliland number 1

Returning Officer

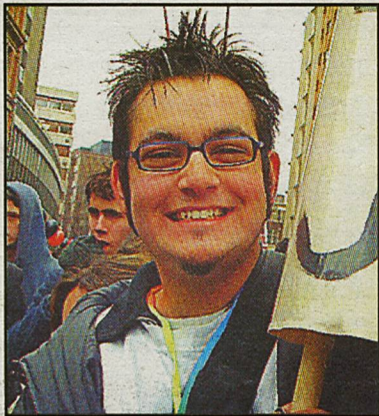
Alexander Phua

Vote Alexander "BeegGuy" Phua for Returning Officer!!

LOUD enough to be heard!! EXPERIENCED enough to do the job with confidence and aplomb!! EXPERIENCED with the mechanics of the LSE SU to ensure the betterment for all students!! INDEPENDENT of any political affiliations therefore able to make just decisions!! FAIR in dealings and will use wisdom, reason & maturity in all actions to ensure justice for everyone!! An INTERNATIONAL STUDENT who works with REASON & FAIRNESS!!

General Secretary

Omar Srouji



I will be a strong, compassionate and approachable General Secretary, capable of representing all students. I will ensure that this Union will work in the student's best interests.

I intend to establish groups within School departments who will be responsible for advising students on their future plans. I strongly believe that there is currently not enough active support from the school on this issue.

I will campaign for a more inclusive union; this will ultimately increase student involvement. I plan to hold forums and inductions for societies and international students to help them find out more about what this union can offer them.

Furthermore, I will lobby to ensure that there are more course packs, more study space and improved Course Collection facilities.

Throughout my time at the LSE, I have

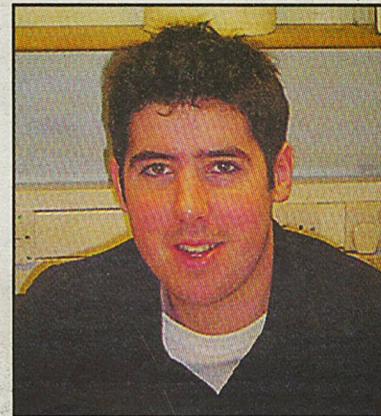
been a very active campaigner. These campaigns have included anti-racism; a greener LSE; anti-war campaigns; anti-top-up fees campaigns and campaigns against human rights abuses in the Occupied Territories.

As General Secretary, I will be at the forefront of any union-backed campaigns. I believe that we need an active union that is not too scared to tackle the harder issues. However, these issues must be discussed in a democratic and sensible way. The activities of our union should reflect the diversity of its members.

Other policies: no to postgraduate and international fee increases; free childcare for student parents; maintain a low-cost hall and campaign for safer halls with better catering/cooking facilities; free Wednesday afternoons; and yes to human rights.

Contact me at o.m.srouji@lse.ac.uk

Will Macfarlane



Dear LSE Students,

Vote Will Macfarlane for General Secretary.

I am the most experienced candidate - current Societies Officer; previously a student Governor, and I led the LSESU Delegation at NUS Conference 2003.

I am committed to a strong, campaigning Union, fighting for both the individual needs and the collective interests of all nationalities of LSE students both undergraduate and postgraduate and all minority groups within the LSE SU.

I am politically independent and represent all LSE students, I want to promote increased consensus on issues and reduce political and religious tension on campus.

I aim to lead strong Union campaigns against all fee increases, demanding more halls of residence spaces, and greater access and initiatives for disabled students as part of the drive to end all forms

of discrimination.

I also want to protect Wednesday afternoons from teaching; and promote extracurricular activities in Union Societies, the AU, and also additional careers fairs.

In order to successfully lobby the School over issues such as Estates developments and access for disabled students, the Union needs to radically overhaul its own systems of consultation with students. I see a modern, useable and interactive Union website as a key tool in reaching out to all LSE students.

Please vote for someone who is committed to all LSE students, not politics; unity, not hostility; and will make LSESU a Union all students can feel part of and proud of.

Vote Will Macfarlane for General Secretary.

Contact me at w.d.macfarlane@lse.ac.uk

Treasurer

Jo Kibble



Re-elect Jo Kibble as Treasurer

I am proud of what the Sabbatical Team has achieved this year and I am re-standing because I want to build on what has been done. If re-elected:

- I will ensure that the massive investment in the Union's bars delivers good value for money and that the refurbishment provides us with venues that more LSE students wish to use.

- I will cement the reforms to society

funding made this year to financially assist the most active groups on campus.

- I will expand the high-profile campaign against top-up fees to ensure the Union fights just as hard against extortionate international and postgraduate charges.

- I will continue to push for extra funding to end staffing shortages in the Student Advice Centre and expand the range of welfare funds offered.

- I will fight for this to be a university

free from racism, Islamophobia, anti-semitism, homophobia and all other forms of discrimination.

The Union I will work towards will be unafraid to make the hard choices required to make sure every student can fully participate in the LSE experience. I have the experience to make those choices and the determination to see them through.

Oliver Jelleyman



Experience in putting Students Before politics - my record as chair of the Constitution and Steering Committee for 20 weeks shows that I put politics aside when it comes to defending student interests. Treasurer needs to make decisions based upon the welfare of students; rather than in an attempt to promote a political ideology.

Accountability - I plan to bring in a pre-budget report to reduce the length of time that students are ignorant of the union's

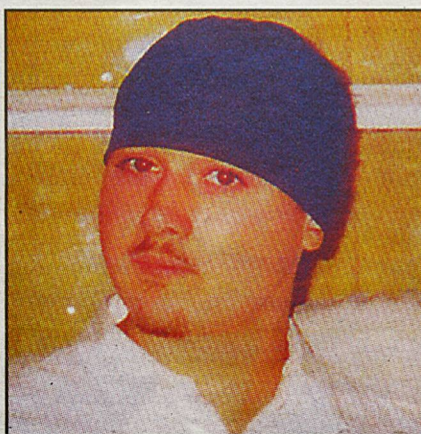
finances. Students should not have to wait until the Annual Budget Meeting in week nine to be able to scrutinize how their money is spent.

Save Our Tuns - The current pub atmosphere of the Three Tuns should not be thrown away in a poor attempt at a trendy wine bar. If there is to be a refurbishment, rather than creating a new style for the Tuns why not try adding new facilities such as serving pub food?

Democracy - all members of the Union should have an opportunity to contribute to the process of creating the budget. All groups should be able to put forward their ideas, in this way we can avoid the budget, unnecessarily, becoming a matter of bitter controversy.

Save the Tuns.

Gareth Carter



This Union needs an impartial, pragmatic Treasurer. This year has seen the SU riddled with divisions due to Executive officers' insurances on forwarding personal ideologies, and taking personal politics over the interests of the average student. I pledge to be the impartial, non-partisan officer this post requires, working for the best interests of EACH student, and representing the Union's views.

I promise to freeze Sabbatical wages in

order to save the Union around £20,000.

I am committed to a review of Society funding, introducing an Events budget offering greater potential for financing society events, and promoting better organised, larger events, to the benefit of ALL societies and their members.

Another issue I believe that all candidates should follow, regardless of who eventually gets elected, is a sustained campaign on decreasing waiting times to see an

Advice Centre counsellor. The current waiting times are ludicrous for students suffering from depression and other anxieties. I promise to improve funding to decrease these waiting times.

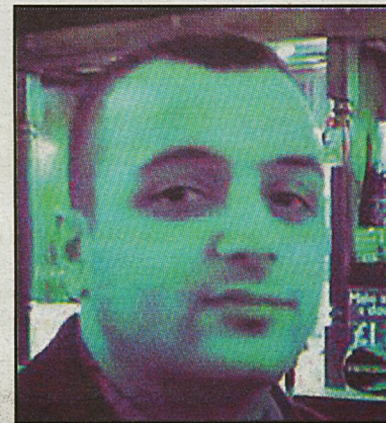
Ultimately, we are 8000 members of this Union, each with your own views. If you want a Treasurer to act on your behalf, in your interests, then please vote for Gareth Carter number 1 for SU Treasurer.

Education and Welfare Officer

Sian Errington



Beyzade M. Beyzade



There are two main aspects to this job - defending students' education and representing students' welfare. With regards to education, I will prioritise arguing for better academic resources for students including better research facilities and more flexible library opening hours. I believe the school should institute re-sits and give feedback on exam papers and coursework in all departments. I would continue to be part of the campaign against variable fees for home students, whilst also arguing against above-inflation rises for international and postgraduate students.

In terms of welfare issues, I would fully support the advice centre and lobby for greater funding from the school. My experience as the Equal Opportunities (Female) Officer of the SU, Chair of the LSE Student Assembly Against Racism

and convenor of the women's and anti-racist weeks will allow me to take a lead in campaigning against all forms of discrimination. I will also argue for more halal and kosher food choices on campus, more affordable and women's only halls places, more childcare and more resources for students with disabilities. Protecting the safety of students must be a priority for the SU, and I will continue giving out free personal attack alarms, better publicise the Crush 'safe-bus,' and involve LSE in the Greater London Authority's 'safe cabs' initiative.

Vote Siân Errington number one for Education and Welfare for a Students' Union that represents all its members, improved academic resources and facilities, the best possible advice centre and active campaigns against homophobia, sexism and racism.

Vote For Beyzade M. Beyzade as YOUR Education and Welfare Officer because...

I will take pleasure in listening to and helping with any students problem.

Legal or other advice or representation will be provided free for all students where needed.

Overenthusiastic campaigns for a free and a better quality education will be frequent.

Volunteer half of the totality of my earnings to be given to Cancer Research.

Ensure and demand fair treatment for all students by the LSE and LSE Students' Union especially for students with LGBT, disabled and cultural/religious needs.

Living La Vida Loca: a better and cheaper Three Tuns with special theme nights.

Special sports period to be dedicated

each week and a 'sports day' to all students.

Ensure better research facilities for postgraduate students and 24 hour library opening to benefit all students.

Students will be provided with a guidebook about where to go out in London: Disabled, LGBT, and cultural needs will be covered by the Guide.

U will have a new taste of improvements if you for BEYZADE.

Communications Officer

Khurshid "K" Faizullaev

"K" for COMMS

Vote #1 for Khurshid Faizullaev for Communications Officer.

The Current UGM Chair, a 3rd-yr LLB student with an international background, not affiliated with any political party, here to represent YOU!

MANIFESTO.....

Engage in dialogue with all students through surveys, focus groups and the media to hear your views on the Union and the School, and to let you know what the

Union and societies are doing

Take your message outwards and upwards. Other Union officers, the Director, and sometimes even the rest of London need to know what you think!

Use communications to include more students in the Union. Increase interest in elections and the UGM by promoting them to societies, sports teams and other student groups. Overhaul the SU website to make it more accessible.

Utilising the Union's potential in

fundraising and advertising. From the Media Group to the building to society events, we can raise money for student welfare, services, societies and sports

Support the Union's campaigns. Find suppliers who will give us Value For Money, inform students of volunteering opportunities, and coordinate logistics

Normalise relations between the Beaver and the Union Executive, so that both are accessible and accountable to YOU, THE STUDENT!

Matt Willgress

This is a new Sabbatical post which I believe should be about involving more students in their union, better promotion of union resources (such as the Advice Centre), fully supporting the Beaver, Script and PULSE FM whilst respecting editorial independence, and ensuring the union has relevant, effective campaigns on issues such as halls provision, opposition to fee rises, keeping Wednesday afternoons free and against all forms of discrimination. If elect-

ed, I would also prioritise building closer links between the SU Executive and societies, halls committees and the Athletics' Union, including giving all these bodies sections on a relaunched, informative SU website.

In terms of union experience I have been on the Bankside hall committee, am a Beaver columnist and was heavily involved with Environment, RAG and Respect Not Racism weeks. My other relevant experience

includes being a team co-ordinator at Respect, the largest anti-racist festival in Europe, and media and PR work for the Greater London Authority.

So if you want a more inclusive and active union that keeps its students better informed, has dynamic forms of student media, and involves all sections of the LSE community, then please vote Matt Willgress number one for communications.

Chris Heathcote

On hearing the Union was creating a Communications Officer I was concerned that the post would fall into the hands of a political 'hack' who would challenge the editorial independence of the LSESU Media Group, rather than have any relevant experience.

I see myself as a fresh face for a new job and, as the outside candidate I hope to encourage usually apathetic students to take an interest in this important vote.

I am adamant that our first Communications Officer should be entirely non-political, since they will set the precedent for future appointments.

If elected, I'll produce a comprehensive SU Handbook and in the Alternative Prospectus I will seek out a range of opinions to make it useful and fun. I'll leave no stone unturned in finding advertising and sponsorship for the Union and its activities.

I want to keep everyone informed so they

can get the most out of their Union. A daily events board outside the Quad and Tuns, paired with a revamped SU website, will bring the Union closer to the many disaffected students.

If you want your Communications Officer to be inclusive, approachable, innovative and accountable, please support my campaign.

Chris Heathcote
Candidate for Communications Officer

Constitution & Steering Committee

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

Constitution & Steering Committee

Louis Haynes

Manifesto:

Strive towards a vibrant constitution where all articles are in the sole interests of the students. Strict enforcement of the law of the land. Ensuring the fair conduct of elections. Impartial, non-partisan judging of constitutional disputes between members of the union. Cut waste and bureaucracy giving all students the best value for their money. Advocating a flexible constitution where innovation and independent ideas are allowed flourish.

Constitution & Steering Committee

Svitlana Kozlyuk

Constitution & Steering Committee

Matthew Sinclair

Constitution & Steering Committee

Alykhan Velshi

Vote Alykhan Velshi 1st Preference.

Re-elect current Vice Chair of the Constitution & Steering Committee.

- 1) Fought against Unconstitutional Boondoggle Budget
- 2) Defended LGBT Society from spurious complaints
- 3) Ensured that Union's anti-war policy remained within the law of the land

Constitution & Steering Committee

Jimmy Tam

Hi there! This is what I look like: BBC (British-born Chinese), probably the biggest quiff in LSE, smiley, glasses (nice ones, apparently). This is what I do: Passfield President, Beaver Collective member, PuLSE DJ, QT media officer, young advisor to Minister Margaret Hodge, charity trustee and self-confessed Pop Tart... So make me YOUR number 1 and I'll put some 'pop' back into the UGM!

Jimmy Tam: Passfield President. Pop Tart. And Proud.

Constitution & Steering Committee

El Barham

I am running for C&S to ensure that this Union's constitution is used to promote the fight for equality and against discrimination, not subverted to serve individual objectives. Having attended more C&S meetings than some elected members, and through serving as an elected member of the Constitutional Review Taskforce, I believe that I have the experience to bring this about. For a more representative Union, vote to break the white, male dominance on C&S.

Constitution & Steering Committee

Amber Grewal

Constitution & Steering Committee

Prashant Rao

Vote Prashant Rao No.1 - as current News Editor of The Beaver, my record clearly shows a non-partisan, apolitical set of goals - namely, balanced and well-documented reporting of the issues surrounding LSE students and staff. My objectives as a member of C&S would be simple - enforce the Constitution and Codes of Practice of the LSESU at UGMs and make sure that this enforcement is done so in a fair and just manner.

Constitution & Steering Committee

James Eyton

Constitution & Steering Committee

Anthony Gilliland

Anthony Gilliland for C & S

A vote for me is a vote for an independent union, a vote for representative and wise decision making in the Union. A vote for a useful UGM and a relevant UGM. I'll ensure your views are expressed in the union. We all want sensible and independent interpretation of our constitution. We want fairness without discrimination, representation of all and respect for all.

Constitution & Steering Committee

Anna Protano-Biggs

Constitution & Steering Committee

Karthik Sankaran

Are you disillusioned with 'politics' as it is wrought on campus? Have you often felt frustrated that your quality of life in campus is just declining and nobody is doing anything about it? You rightfully came to this university with high aspirations, why should you be short-changed? This is YOUR Union, YOUR Welfare, don't let it be 'hijacked' by political infighting. YOUR needs, YOUR complaints should be the priority. KEEP THE AGENDA SIMPLE AND RELEVANT

Constitution & Steering Committee

Mark Power

Vote to return the editor of The Beaver and incumbent to C&S to continue the campaign to provide checks and balances against the misuse of executive power. VOTE MARK POWER #1 for C & S for a fair Union.

Finance & Services Committee

Syed Nazir Hussain

I am an International Student from Singapore studying Government and Economics. I would like to sit on F&S as a way of contributing to the Union. I believe that I am capable of impartiality, and am seeking YOUR vote as a chance to serve YOU. Vote for me as your No 1 F&S Candidate to ensure that YOUR Union funds go to where they are needed.

Finance & Services Committee

Rashod Faizullaev

VOTE FOR RASHOD FOR F&S
1st Year Economics Student Ensuring Financial Clarity
No Political involvement in Finance. Ensuring Transparency in Financial Affairs. Efficiency and hard work to ensure that money is handled in appropriate manner
To represent YOU! Rashod Faizullaev for Finance and Services Committee

Finance & Services Committee

Natalya Peysakhodina

Finance & Services Committee

Romy Yael Katzeff

Finance & Services Committee

Daniel Freedman

Finance & Services Committee

El Barham

Members of the Finance and Services Committee set society budgets and help oversee the running of your facilities. If elected, I will fight for the Union's scarce resources to be channelled to where they can make a positive difference for each and every student. I will also ensure that the agenda to make the Union socially and environmentally responsible is strongly promoted, working for a radical, vibrant Union which everyone can relate to.

Finance & Services Committee

Malcolm Bell

Finance & Services Committee

Nick Spurrell



Face to face

Let's talk about your future

2004 Graduate opportunities

Want to find out more about fast-moving graduate careers in Audit, Tax and Consulting within one of the world's leading professional services firms? Then come along and see us on campus during the day on Wednesday 3rd March - and meet some of the people who are already benefiting from Deloitte's unique range of opportunities, challenges and rewards.

We will be visiting your Student Union during the day on Wednesday 3rd March. Come and see us to find out about our 2004 graduate opportunities.

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A great many people make decisions based upon the teachings of a God. Is this rational? Would a God want to be obeyed? If a God wanted to be obeyed would he be worth following?

"Fear is the small death that kills the soul" Frank Herbert once said in his series "Dune":

'I used to argue that the Christian Satan seeks to buy the human soul with the desire of power and wealth in this world, whilst the Christian God seeks to buy the human soul by offering eternity in the next . . . which of the two is better?'

potential and we will live forever in the shadow and as an extension of the entity we fear. Do we really want to live and exist in fear? If the answer is yes . . . then the existence of God is important for the fear of his actions will define our behaviour. Yet, if fear has no grip on our soul then the presence or lack of God becomes irrelevant.

We listen to God because we desire something from him.

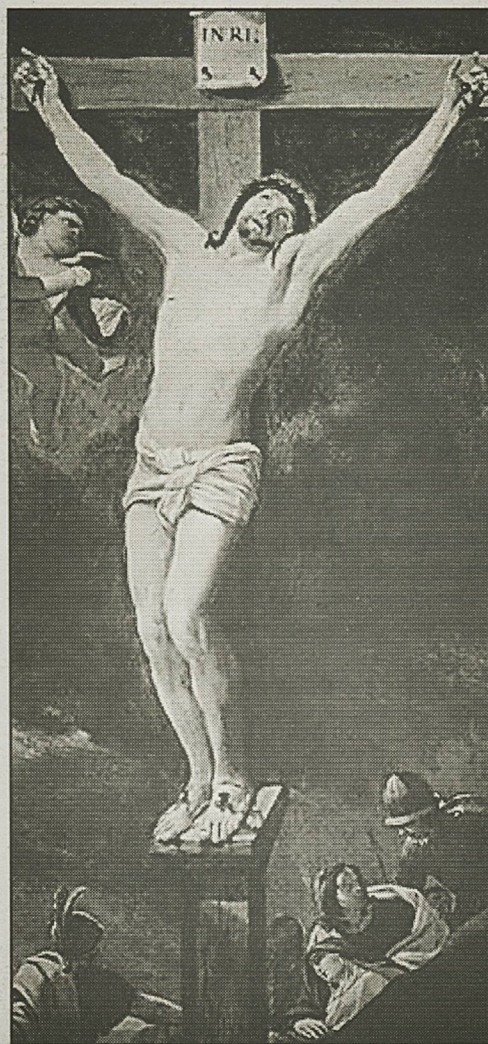
How many have in the past raised their voices in plea or desire for a blessing on ones dear ones or a curse on ones enemies? How many times have men grovelled at the feet of a statue with the determination of obtaining a superiors entity favour? So yes, if desire is at the basis of ones actions, then the presence or lack of presence of God is of cardinal importance as he can dispense favours at his wish.

It is interesting to notice that if God is indeed omnipotent he would have set reality up in such a way that there would be no need to ask him anything . . . there would be no illness to cure . . . and no wrong that need be righted. . . and thereby no need to grovel.

I used to argue that the Christian Satan seeks to buy the human soul with the desire of power and wealth in this world, whilst the Christian God seeks to buy the human soul by offering eternity in the next . . . which of the two is better? Or are both in reality the same? Should we follow dictates because we desire something . . . or should we follow rules because in our opinion they are right?

Let me talk now on the relevance of God.

Should he have an impact on our lives? My answer is yes .. but not in the way that one would believe. If we are to follow the suggestions (and as noted they cannot be dictates) it is because we consider them right . . . as we may consider right the suggestions of a friend. If we contribute to Gods plan we must do so because we con-



sider that plan to be worthwhile to contribute to, not because we desire something out of it, not because we fear retribution if we do not comply with it. So it should be with our dealings in our everyday life, the way we relate to God should not be any different than the way we relate to our fellow human beings that live this adventure called life along with us. As such the presence of God as a supreme being is irrelevant for we are capable of acting independently from his will.

Our relationship with God should be similar to that which we have with a friend: we associate with Him because we enjoy his company, because we consider that his workings are admirable and wish to contribute to their beauty. Yet if the relationship between god and man is a relationship of friendship we must be allowed to disagree and disobey and walk our own way, without the fear of harm or retribution.

Our behaviour should therefore not be delimited by the existence of God or his word but should rather be defined by our own wisdom, a wisdom that one hopes has developed itself by reading the sometimes subtle, sometimes harsh lines of the book of life. Adherence to His thoughts should be voluntary and should therefore never ever be rammed through someone's throat through violence, conditioning, law or force of any kind.

The existence or non-existence of God is therefore irrelevant as our behaviour should be defined by our nature. . . whatever our nature is. . . a nature which was defined by our creator . . . whoever or whatever that creator was.

God is relevant as a friend . . . he is irrelevant as a master.

Lorenzo Capitani is a post-graduate student and President of the LGBT Society.

B:art

Edited by Neil Garrett: N.Garrett@lse.ac.uk

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B:music

edited by Jazmin Burgess and Neil Garrett

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE

Seattle's Death Cab For Cutie may now be more famous for their oh-so-highly esteemed side projects (singer/guitarist Ben Gibbard also fronts the brilliant Postal Service and guitarist Chris Walla has produced a plethora of albums including Hot Hot Heat's recent Sub Pop outing) but their records are still undoubtedly some of the most polished, perfect and beautiful indie-pop records you're ever likely to hear. In fact, they're also one of those rare talents who keep to the highest standards - continually producing majestic records since 2000's 'We Have The Facts And We're Voting Yes'. And so on their recent trip over to the UK to promote last year's 'Transatlanticism', JAZMIN BURGESS caught up with mastermind Ben Gibbard....

Transatlanticism for me seems a little bit more poppy and less melancholic than your other albums - was it a conscious decision to make it that way and break away or did it just end up that way?

Hmm..I don't think there's ever a conscious decision to make a record in a certain way. I mean I write songs for records over a course of maybe two years, so I guess with a record like this one it's just really representative of how I and the rest of the band have changed over the last record, as opposed to an intentional move in a new direction.

Almost every piece or biography I've read about you guys seems to highlight the fact that as a band you're 'fiercely underground' or always 'flying the flag for the independent/DIY scene'..do you find that this reputation helps you getting recognition? Or is it sometimes a burden or a hindrance?

I don't know actually. .it seems like for some reason over the last year or so, we've become held up as this 'staunchly independent' band. (laughs) Which is kinda funny, because I mean it's not like we're Fugazi or anything! But I mean really whatever the ups and downs, being independent is what's always made sense for us - you know, being in control of as much of our band as possible is what we like! In the States we're doing incredibly well now and the records are selling better than they ever have, and it feels good really to be selling something stupid like 100,000 records on a label that used to be run out of a bedroom but now has an office and employees and so inadvertently helps them make a living doing something they love. (laughs) It's just nice to be part of a small community - y'know both economically and socially speaking.

One thing about Death Cab For Cutie is that you sound so different from everyone else, and really somewhat stand alone - do you as a band feel that you have any contemporaries that share your sound?

I think when we first started out we definitely got a lot of comparisons to like Built To Spill and Modest Mouse and people like that. But I always think that our closest contemporaries are probably The American Analog Set. I mean we've been friends with them forever too since we supported them in States almost five years ago and they tend to approach things in the same way as us. And there are also a lot of other bands on Barsuk that do too, so I guess yeah to some extent we do definitely have contemporaries.

Well, conveniently leading on from that, with such an eclectic and different sound is there any way that you'd describe your music and feel comfortable with?

I just kind of consider us to be a pop band. I mean at the core of everything, we're just making pop songs! People tend to be a bit too outlandish with the prefixes they put in front of the music they play! (laughs) I think as well though its not really my position to say what kind of music I play, I like to keep it all as broad as possible really..not get too confined to any kind of genre or anything..

The Postal Service really exploded here, as well as in the US - does it ever feel like it's no longer a side project to you and in fact almost has the same relevance as Death Cab?

It's weird. Because the record in the States has done remarkably well and it's kinda crossed over to a huge mainstream audience via radio or whatever that nothing that Death Cab has. But at the same time, neither Jimmy nor I have any desire to do it like a real band - I mean we have to borrow Jenny Lewis from Rilo Kiley too and she's always so busy! There's just not enough time to devote equal weight to both really and have two full projects! I just got so strung out over the last year with touring and it takes a toll on your relationships with people at home and just your ability to work on music generally. It would be nice in a perfect world, if there could be a balance between the two but there's not. And Jimmy's happy doing other records, and I'm more than happy with Death Cab (laughs) its my first love! We will though get together and do another Postal Service record at some point, whenever time permits...

In so many of your songs, distance and travelling are such reoccurring themes - do you feel that your music has any kind of connection with the beat generation and Kerouac at all then?

Yeah. For sure! I mean I love beat literature, and Kerouac was one of the first writers who really made an impression on me when I was 18 or 19. Travelling round the USA is just so different to anywhere else, just because its so expansive and I was really kinda moved by all that-and still am. And I think touring the States is the closest I can get to having that lifestyle (laughs) y'know rolling into town for 24 hours and getting to catch up with your friends there and then moving on to the next and repeating the process. Although, because we're always doing it so much, travelling has somewhat lost all the romance it once had..but

yeah I think somewhere in there we definitely have a connection back to all that...

What's the best thing you've learned from another band, and who was it from?

Hey, that's a really cool question! Let me think..actually strangely enough, this is not even a band that we're even friends with, but we played a show with Jimmy Eat World, about three years ago and they had built their loft in their van that was a perfect design to carry five people and maximise the space, so we took a piece of paper and took all the measurements down (laughs) and instantly went home and converted our van. So there you go, (laughs) Jimmy Eat World had a greater influence on Death Cab For Cutie than you might think...

Any records you'd recommend from 2003?

Hmm.. A lot of the stuff that came out on Barsuk for sure! Like Nada Surf's 'Let Go', The Long Winter's 'When I Pretend To Fall', the latest Mates of States record. (laughs) I seem to be listening only to bands that we've been touring with. Oh!The latest Dressy Bessy record is amazing, I've totally fallen in love with it. The new Plus/Minus record. And Drag City are putting out this wonderful record by a girl from San Francisco called Joanna Newsom-she's just a singer songwriter but she also plays a harp and has this crazy high pitch voice, it's just beautiful songs-that's definitely my favourite record right now..

Okay, and finally give us an exclusive and tell us something about Death Cab For Cutie that noone else knows?

(laughs)that no-one else knows? your questions rae fun! Hmmm let me think.. We all have irreverent foul senses of humour! And we're definitely not those 'nice shy guys' the press seem to think that we are. (laughs) I mean we are nice guys! But not those boring, shoe gazing indie types the press think we are..

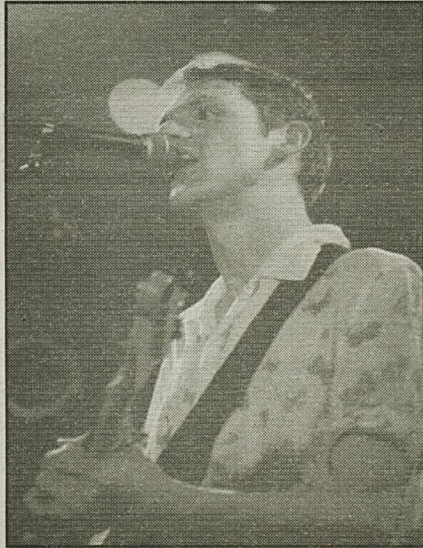
(laughing)So you're like Belle and Sebastian then? Not really just quiet indie kids like everyone thinks..?

Yeah! Exactly (laughs)we played this festival in Spain a few years back and a friend of ours was up all night getting high on god knows what kind of drugs and then driving minibikes with Belle and Sebastian. (laughing) Everyone who plays rock music has to get their rocks of somewhere..including us - and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.



JEFFREY LEWIS & BALLBOY

Last Wednesday night I went down to Lock 17 in Camden Town (formerly Dingwall's) to hear Jeff Lewis and Ballboy. It was ace to see Jeff and his band again and they played an awesome set, considerably longer than the show they put on at the Barfly a few weeks ago when they opened for The Fall. I think there were almost as many people at the Lock for Jeff as for Ballboy, which probably helped to facilitate the excellent vibes emanating from the stage this time around.



Jeff & Co. played favorites from The Last Time I Did Acid I Went Insane including "The Chelsea Hotel Oral Sex Song," "The Man with the Golden Arm" and the title track, which they took into a rad experimental-acoustic type jam during which Jeff and Jack intoned a passage from The Doors of Perception or something similar. They also did "Shoot the Head Kill the Ghoul" and "Texas" from It's the Ones Who've Cracked That the Light Shines Through, plus two or three new ones that they recorded in Birmingham a couple weeks ago. They had another band called The Loners, comprised of two twelve-year old boys, join them for a couple of songs too. Jeff showed his handmade

comic book "documentaries" about Rough Trade and The Fall, which the crowd seemed to dig.

When Ballboy came on, Gordon McIntyre spent a long time using up what was left of his voice to apologize for losing his voice. The band finally kicked off its set with "Public Park," and went on to play (not in this order) "Sex Is Boring," "I've Got Pictures of You in Your Underwear," "I Wonder If You're Drunk Enough to Sleep with Me," and a number of other songs that aren't as dirty as their titles sound (they're a Scottish twee band, after all).

For one number, Jeff and I took turns reading from a spoken word piece over the band's instrumentals. Gordon's vocals held up all right, and Ballboy eventually finished the set with their strongest song, "Donald in the Bushes with a Bag of Glue."



BONNIE JOHNSON

GENRE SPOTLIGHT: LIVERPOOLARIAN

Just what is going on in Liverpool? Whatever it is, I want a strong whiff of it. Liverpoolian is going off! As typified, defined even, by The Coral, The Zutons, The Stands, The Bandits and various other scruffy Scouse collectives currently in an area near you

After the baggy era of The Stone Roses and The Happy Mondays, followed "Indie", a term that came to represent British guitar based bands who were a bit rock but in a more tuneful, less aggressive kind of a way. The most prominent of these were the likes of Oasis and Blur, with a variety of smaller bands such as The Bluetones, Gomez and Suede. Sadly, this died a bit of a death. People got bored with Indie Schmindie, faded bootcut jeans were worn by trendys now. We needed something new...

First we needed a venue. Bands had always come out of London. And the Madchester scene was over. We needed somewhere else, somewhere fresh. Why not Merseyside? After all, this is where popular music as we know it began, back in the day. Yes, Liverpool looked a great little place to get a scene going but how should it sound?

Well, people wanted something a little more...expansive. We were sophisticated people now, we read the paper, we even watched the news on Saturday so we wanted a music style that matched our new found intellect. Gone were the days when your CD collection would be purely of a specific type, we all had variety going on now. We were people so sophisticated that we could claim to be fans of Rage against the Machine and Simon and Garfunkel in the same sentence and not feel embarrassed about it.

Liverpoolian reflects this. It will start off with a tuneful melody which you'll just be starting to familiarize yourself with before...BOOM. With a quick jaunt it will break into a sea shanty, then flip to a meandering beefheartesque guitar solo, then suddenly go all mellow on you then break into a reggae riff then explode into funk-jazz fusion and end with a refrain provided on an electric cello, played with a Wah Wah pedal through a 60's vintage Marshall Amp. It's a bit of everything all in one, a journey through time if you like. This is the beauty of Liverpoolianism

Some great albums: It's a new genre so new albums are coming out as we speak. To get you started try, The Coral (The Coral), don't buy their new mini album though because it's rubbish, The Stands (All Years Leaving), The Bandits (And They Walked Away)

NEIL GARRETT

Thursday night at Electrowerkz

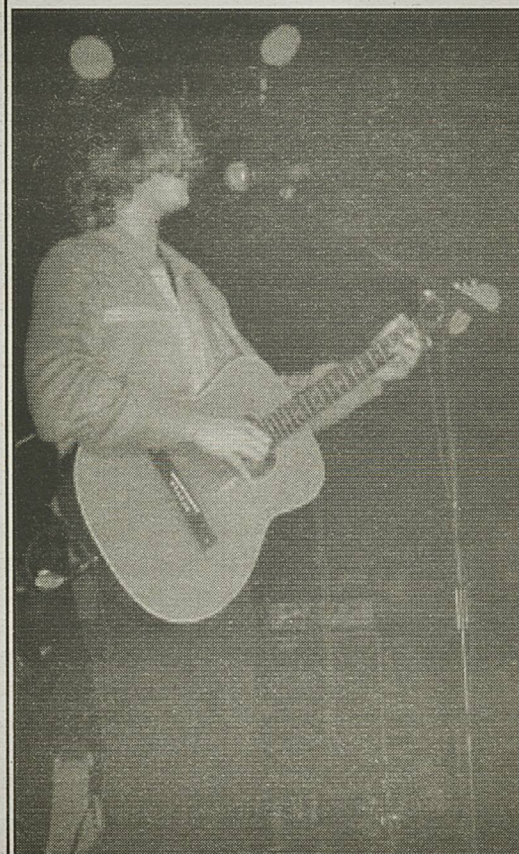
The Zutons, The Mountaineers, Adem and DJ support from the likes of Four Tet, The Bees and Andrew Wetherall. All in a few hours on a Thursday evening...

It's a strange dark chasm Electrowerkz. Home to nights such as "Slime light", it's a dirty, cold and gloomy place; a maze of underground caves, joined up with jagged stone tunnels. The walls are overlaid with uncealed pipes which have moss growing on them and drip a viscous liquid which smells of cats. It's a grubby place. It's a shit hole.

Upon entering, we wander into a small cave to watch an acoustic set from The Mountaineers. They dress, like mountaineers yes, but sound little like keen amblers, more like a folk-tastic psychedelic three piece. They are gifted songwriters; guitar parts are gently picked, drums are stroked with brushes and a warm goodness is dispersed among the crowd.

A pause in the main cave listing to The Bees DJ follows. A great band, The Bees, but peculiar disk jockeys. Their set flips from lazy reggae to a 20 minute tribal prog rock tune, back to lazy reggae, then to a spaced out jazz number, back to lazy reggae, and so it goes on. They like reggae is the conclusion I reach, but, they like other things too.

We wander on, back to the little cave we started in where we are greeted with the sounds of some bloke from Warp called Tom P. As you'd expect from a label as utterly brilliant as Warp, this is superb; squelchy, original, danceable and loveable. Adem (the bassist in great bands Fridge and Gorodisch) follows on stage with his debut performance. A little nervy, a little too quiet in places perhaps, but otherwise extremely good; Adem's songs are personal, heartfelt and sincere, soft wistful ballads which sound beautiful.

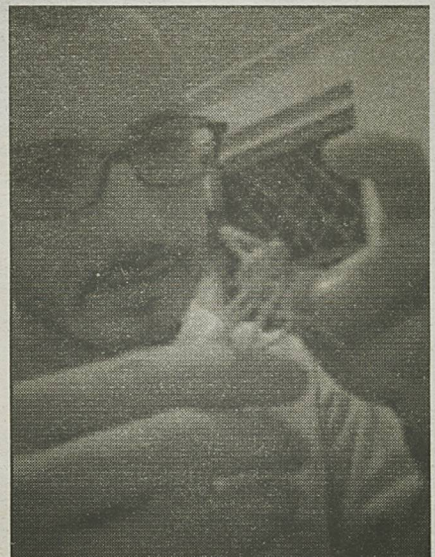


On on on we go. There's still a night out there to be grasped and the Zutons will help us grasp it. Brilliant, psychedelic scouse music, reminiscent of The Doors at their most woozy. This is a potent force. Spiky baselines, catchy melodies, playful guitar lines and some bonkers bare foot woman playing the saxophone. It all culminates in a fabulous concoction which is illuminating. I get warm enough to remove my fleece.

I have a drunken conversation with Adem following this, during which Kieran Hebden (Four tet) DJ's. I tell Adem that I liked his set. He is pleased at this. He points out that the new Fridge record they've just finished putting together is now being played. I seem to recall it's entirely percussive, but continues the mesmerizing music of their last album Happiness.

They are out of Red Stripe it emerges, but they still have some Grolsh left. I sip this and listen to various sparkly Four tet remixes which are played over the speakers. I am happy. I am drunk. It is late and I leave, content that such lovely stuff can emanate from such a cavernous pit.

NEIL GARRETT



B:film

edited by Simon Cliff and Dani Ismail

Out Now Amid Considerable Oscar Buzz...

House of Sand and Fog

JOHNPICTON reviews an Oscar-friendly drama with Kingsley on top form...



whole families get locked up in the bathroom at gun point, but, credit where credit's due, the film takes a good look at immigration and the American dream at the same time.

Colonel Behrani (Ben Kingsley, Oscar nominated for his role) and Kathy Nicolo (Jennifer Connelly), are on-screen opposites. He's a fully fledged Oh-so-proud Iranian exile whose interests lie in donning the old military uniform in the mirror and busting a gut for a stake in the decadent USA and she's an oh-so-messed-up and manless former addict who can't even pull off a suicide properly. This girl's too dumb to understand that not paying (or in her case opening) the tax bill is the sort of thing that brings the bailiffs round and, it gets worse, too dumb to understand that after Behrani bought it at auction, the house, ahem, doesn't belong to her anymore.

If you fancy watching a movie that'll cheer you up, then I'd give House of Sand and Fog a miss. This is a 100% pure feel-bad movie and, guess what, it's all about death, debt and addiction. Yes, it's one bleak as hell story line, but on the whole, Director Vadim Perelman should get a pat on the back for taking on something that little bit different. OK it's the kind of dead-in-your-bed thriller where grim things happen when it's foggy and

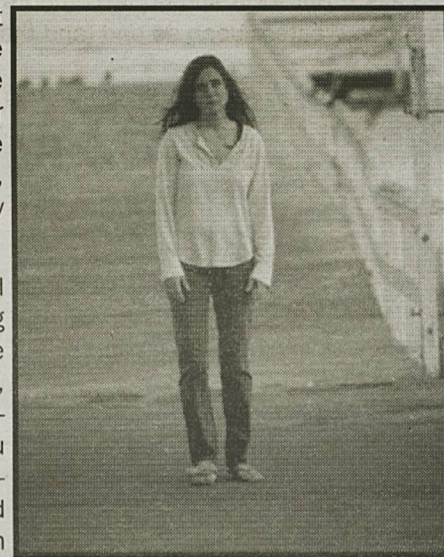
Director: Vadim Perelman**Starring:** Ben Kingsley, Jennifer Connelly, Ron Eldard, Frances Fisher**Certificate:** 15**Running Time:** 126 Minutes**Release Date:** Out Now on General Release

Honestly, it's not even a very nice house, but then again, I guess that's not the point. The house of sand and fog is Behrani's own little bit of America and, even better, a cash cow for his son's education. For Kathy, it's a house that her father worked eight years to buy and, of course, somewhere that she can feel really sorry for herself and eat junk food.

This property dispute ain't good for natural weather patterns either; whenever something bad happens, clouds roll, mist descends, huge waves thunder, dead birds fall from the sky, etc. In fact, although if I called this movie subtle I'd be lying, though it does at least hit you across the face with the taboo issue of immigration, the violence is painfully believable and it's more likely to jerk the tears than any film I've seen for a while.

Fantastic performances, especially from Ben Kingsley, make for riveting viewing though the plot is, whilst original, somewhat dull in places. It may be an Oscar favourite, but doesn't sell itself beyond the authentic-drama film fans, which may put some off.

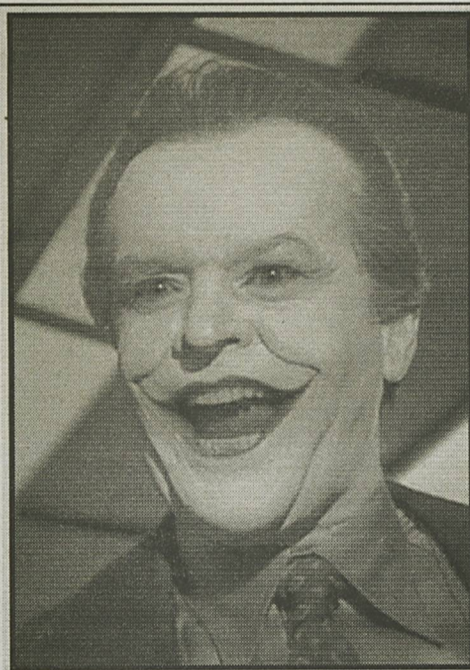
★★★★☆



the editor's cut

Win yourself a copy of *'The Dreamers'* by Gilbert Adair on paperback - yes people, it's our competition time...

It's that time again folks; time to dust off your movie hat and slap it firmly on your proverbial head as we set you yet another filmic teaser with the promise of instant fame and one of two copies of *'The Dreamers'* on paperback (Bertolucci's film is still playing nationwide if you're interested) for the worthy winner. I've not read it myself, but if the film's anything to go by, it should be *'The Lover's Guide'* without the pictures. Leave it to your imagination is my advice.



So, to be in with a chance email your answer to the below question to beaver-film@yahoo.com by midday on Friday (put 'Dreamers Comp' in the subject line if you would be so kind) and we'll announce the winners next week (first two names out of the proverbial hat get the booty). Here goes:

Which other uninhibited sex-themed film, starring Marlon 'The Don' Brando, did Bertolucci also direct?

Good luck to one and all. In the meantime, check out the trailer for upcoming sci-fi spoof *The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra* (viewable at Quicktime.com) which features a bunch of unknowns galavanting around the American desert whilst fighting off a very unconvincing rubbery monster, a sex-crazed cat-woman-type minx and, you guessed it, a 'lost' skeleton. This looks like camped-up comedy in a can, so here's hoping it gets at least a limited release this side of the Atlantic sometime soon.

Also, if you haven't already found it, check out the store Fopp (opposite Les Miserables at the Palace Theatre) for all your DVD needs; it's wonderfully cheap, seriously quirky and should relieve you of all need to set foot inside a HMV or Virgin megastore ever again. Get your ass there soon. But make sure you don't go too crazy and blow your overdraft on the entire James Bond Collection. Nice one.

Comments, ideas and mock Oscar acceptance speeches to s.e.cliff@lse.ac.uk

Classic Review...

Jerry Maguire

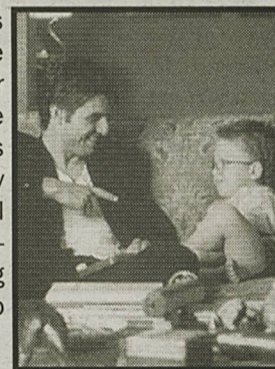
MORWENNABENNETT on one of The Cruiser's best roles...

The first thing to come to mind when thinking of *Jerry Maguire* has to be Tom Cruise screaming 'SHOW ME THE MONEY!'. On the basis of your reaction to that line it becomes pretty obvious whether you love or hate this film. Written and directed by Cameron Crowe (Almost Famous and sadly Vanilla Sky), it is a crowd pleaser and as slick as Cruise's smile. The story centres on sports agent Jerry Maguire (Cruise) who is at the top of the corporate food chain until he writes a mission statement about the evils of the corporate system and is fired - leaving him with only one low level client (Gooding Junior), a goldfish and an accountant Dorothy Boyd (Zellweger) who believes that Jerry is 'the one'.

Crowe has certainly hit onto a winning formula here, adapting the romantic comedy to appeal to a much wider audience. *Jerry Maguire* is a movie about values and Cruise finding true fulfilment in this cynical world - obtaining the 'Quan' if you will. Flashbacks to Dicky Fox's words of wisdom are perfectly timed and keep the conscience of the story ticking along nicely. But far from being preachy this film hits the right balance between sentiment and humour, largely thanks to Cuba Gooding Junior. His Oscar winning performance certainly brings the funny to the movie and perfectly complements the highly strung character of Cruise, causing their relationship to become the most compelling element of the film. Particularly amusing is the 'help me help you' scene in the locker rooms between irate Macguire and butt naked Tidwell. Tom Cruise gives his usual performance of anxious, determined and smugly smiling. He's an actor many seem to dislike but this role is perfect for him and he does it credit. Renee Zellweger comes across as desperate and pretty pathetic as single mother Dorothy, but I can never tell whether that's just her or what the character demands.

There are slushy elements- some of the more sensitive among us may require tissues for the 'you had me at hello' ending, while the rest of us will suffice with a bucket. Yet Crowe ensures there is far from romantic overkill as in the same manner as *'It's a Wonderful Life'* everything essentially gets progressively worse for Macguire until the last 20 minutes when all comes right. Crowe's movies all deal with such different subject matter but what always runs as a constant theme is the music he uses; the likes of The Who and Bob Dylan are used throughout (going back to his days as a rock journalist). Every time I hear 'Free Falling' I think of this movie.

Jerry Maguire is pure Hollywood and sheer entertainment. At the end of the day what makes it a classic is the sentiment and the fact you could watch it over and over. In the closing remarks of Dicky Fox: "In life, to be honest, I failed as much as I succeeded, but I love my life; I love my wife and I wish you my kind of success."



Exclusive B:Film Preview...

Open Range

CERIGRIFFITHS on Costner's latest directorial effort...

A Kevin Costner made Western; does exactly what it says on the tin. Before the opening credits were finished I was frantically searching for the exit. But fear not, I sat through the entire ordeal just so I could inform you that if you were thinking of viewing this "movie", I would rather recommend tearing your toenails off and walking in lemon juice. In fact, I would do just that, every day for the rest of my life if it meant I would never have to see this film again. Oddly enough, Costner doesn't just follow the age-old structure of a Western movie. He absolutely massacres it. He calls it out for a show-down, shoots it in the back and urinates on its grave. Never has a Western been so bad (and that is truly reflective of how shocking this film is).

Open Range has everything that you would expect from a Western: shoot-outs, men in predictable headwear riding horses and the occasional law-less law-man. What you may not have been expecting (though let's face it, it's a Costner film so you probably were) is a film about four guys trying to steal grass from wealthy land-owners and avenge the death of their dog (yes that's right, a dog). However, the cast could be worse; Robert Duvall and Annette Bening do well considering the circumstances e.g. the plot, the script and the obvious (did I mention it's a Costner film?).

But this film is not without its complexities. There is cheese on so many levels. Costner's character, Charley is a good-hearted cowboy with a dark past (original), his slightly too close friend and mentor, Boss is the moral, tough yet sensitive leader of the posse (never would have thought of that) and Button is the boy whose innocence everyone is trying to preserve in the hope of a better, new world (God bless America).

Director: Kevin Costner
Starring: Kevin Costner, Robert Duvall, Annette Bening, Michael Gambon
Running Time: 145 Minutes
Certificate: 12
Release Date: 19th March

The gun-fight (singular) is passable by Western standards. Costner has obviously attempted to make the fight-scenes historically accurate. They are about as accurate and realistic as *Waterworld*. The way Costner attempts to make these thoroughly believable, Wild West battles is by making each character about as skilled with a firearm as Costner is with a film budget and some out of work actors. Every character apart from his own is reflected as either too stupid or inexperienced to be a hero. How lucky we are that Costner is there to save the day and inevitably, the girl (yet, curiously, he is unable to save his career).



There are several graphic and shocking moments in the shoot-outs but it really doesn't make up for the previous hour of mind-numbing male bonding and soul-searching. Nor does it compensate for the half an hour of utterly unbelievable and nauseating drivel that finishes this toe-curling episode the horrors of which one can only hope will fade from memory.

Normally both Westerns and Costner movies can at least be funny but for some reason when you put them together you end up with a monstrosity such as the world has never endured. A Kevin Costner made Western; this is no joke, it is an insult (a dog?). ★★★★★

Classic Review...

Dawn of the Dead

ROBSEAVERS, self-confessed gore-fest junkie, reviews the original and soon-to-be-remade cult horror classic...

"When there's no more room in Hell the dead will walk the earth"

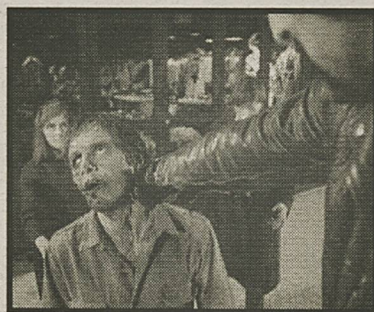
It's not often that a sequel surpasses its predecessor. It's also something of a rarity that a zombie film not only receives critical acclaim, but also does big business at the box office. And yet, *Dawn of the Dead*, the

second instalment of George A. Romero's *Living Dead* Trilogy, accomplished all three in one fell swoop. It is a film that, along with its influential prequel *Night of the Living Dead*, made an unprecedented impact on the horror genre and also the world of cinema at large, spawning a whole generation of horror films, gore enthusiasts (including myself) and copycat franchises.

Dawn of the Dead continues the onslaught of rampaging, flesh-eating zombies witnessed in Romero's directorial debut (*Night of the Living Dead*). The recently dead are returning to life, driven solely by the insatiable desire to feast on human flesh. The initial waves of human resistance have failed and the flesh-eating fiends continue to multiply in numbers. Chaos ensues and an overwhelmed society disintegrates. We follow a group of four survivors who attempt to flee from this ongoing zombie apocalypse, seeking refuge in a shopping mall where they barricade themselves in from the ever increasing numbers of living dead outside...

Director: George A. Romero
Starring: Ken Foree, Scott Reiniger, Gaylen Ross
Certificate: 18
Running Time: 140 Minutes

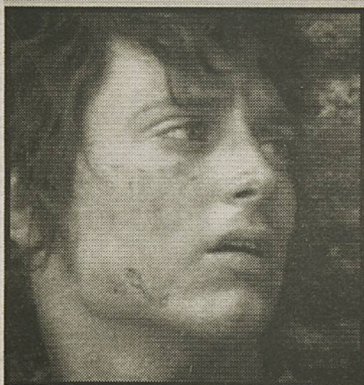
Dawn of the Dead has got it all: Romero blends together scenes of frantic action, dramatic tension, black humour, love and romance seamlessly. Special effects maestro Tom Savini (*From Dusk Till Dawn*) delivers some of the most impressive non-computer generated effects I have ever seen. Credit also has to be given to Dario Argento (horror-film director) for insisting that the early 70's Italian Goth-rockers Goblin be used for the soundtrack: their unique discordant sound complements the raw, hard-hitting style of the film perfectly.



If you particularly despise the horror genre or if violent movies aren't quite your cup of tea, then this flick is obviously not for you. However, if none of the above applies then this film is a must see! *Dawn*'s mass-appeal derives from its ability to function on many levels: the graphically violent gore-fest that Romero serves up will easily satisfy the most blood-thirsty of people. However, if you want a good scare, a bit of a chuckle or a great plot with superb characters this movie will not disappoint. And for lovers of all things deep and meaningful, there's something for you too: the blatant social satire of 1970's consumer culture combined with Romero's bleak portrayal of instinctive human traits - greed, hate and envy - will have you pondering the worth of human existence and ultimately praying for the zombie apocalypse to begin.

To put it simply, this is the best horror film of all time.

Movie Matters with Dani Ismail



It's the answer to a question that many people may have considered at one point in their lives - does art follow life or vice versa? Kevin Smith's removal of the wedding scene in his latest *Jersey Girl* between Ben Affleck and his big-assed ex lover J-Lo firmly states that fantasy does indeed feel obliged to take its cue from fact. Just as they terminated their highly publicised, very fucking annoying engagement, as did Smith cut out their nuptial bliss in what I really hope doesn't turn out to be a flop as that would mean the ruination of what has been a lucrative career as a great director.

The Demi-Ashton, Cameron-Justin combination is proving highly addictive as 30-something Sandra Bullock falls in love with her therapist's 20-something son in *Prime*, co-starring Meryl Streep. It's as much an indication of the growing power older women have as sexual beings as the increasing proportion of lacklustre younger actresses that are being churned out of the metaphorical windmill that is Hollywood. Not to harp on about her, but apparently the blonde bimbo bashing must continue - Elisha Cuthbert is starring in yet another movie! It's a horror movie-remake; can anyone scream typical?

Kiss, Kiss, Bang, Bang is the latest Robert Downey Jr, Val Kilmer film. No, it's not a porno nor a snuff flick you dirty bastards, just a tragically named action comedy. If it were ever so subtly changed to *A Pint Of Piss, A Quick Bang*? it would be similar to a post-Tuns pick up line, illustrating both the vapidness of the quality of drink there and the drunken fool's attempt at suaveness. If, however, suaveness means a staggering display of alcoholism acceptance, then mission accomplished.

Titanic is no longer the only billion-buck-movie, as *Return Of The King* impinged upon its previously rather coveted sole position amidst the mile high figure. I hate to compare them seeing as *Titanic* is so obviously a pile of wank, but the similarities are there to a slight but still depressing degree. A bitch who refuses to share her piece of wood to save her man; a whiny ponce who refuses to destroy a piece of gold to save the world. A lot of sexual tension and a protagonist who has no balls; Leonardo DiCaprio. The facts are there. Think about it.

Out this week that may be of any worth watching is *Along Came Polly*, *The Missing* and *Valentin*. I am really pushing for anyone and everyone to watch the latter and it's not just my feminine lack of resistance to a cute kid in glasses aka *Jerry Macguire* crying out here. Even my friend, the strangely tall, thus inevitably shifty Mr Eades, found some enjoyment in this heart-string tugging movie about love and life from the perspective of a cute pre-teen (somewhere between 8 and 10 years old, but it is highly debated). Anyway, ran out of space, bye all.

B:literature

edited by Dalia King

PERSIAN BRIDES

ALEXANGERT: *Take time to read this book the way you would take time to dream a dream...*

Just The Facts...

Author: Dorit Rabinyan
Publisher: Canongate
Date: February 2004
Price: £4.54



This spring, on your way to the beaches of Jamaica or Morocco or Thailand, why not make a few hours' stop in enchanting Persia, circa 1900. No need to ring your travel agent—all you have to do is pick up a copy of one of the most beautiful books you will ever read, Dorit Rabinyan's *Persian Brides*.

Steeped in sensuality and superstition, this magic-realist mini saga tells of two sisters—fifteen year-old Flora and eleven year-old Nazie—as they inhabit the world on the eve of their respective adolescence and adulthood. As the main narrative develops, it is our pleasure to follow the two through a hedge maze of lovely digressions, which swell their family, their village and our senses to brilliant dimensions.

Yael Lotan's prizewinning translation preserves the urgency of every smell, sight and shriek that fills the girls' lives. It is as if we are taken gently by the hand and guided past a rustling curtain onto a tableau of life so vibrant that we have trouble believing that our own gray world is the reality, and not some poor fiction. Travelling beside the narrator, we sit in on painful births and comic deaths. We recognize the tension between Muslim and Jewish neighbors without being told. We watch out for the evil eye and stay up at night, listening for the approach of serpents bearing treasure.

Though Rabinyan takes a page from Gabriel Garcia Marquez and centers her narrative around a Macondo-type Persian village, in reality her story moves across several landscapes, the most interesting of which has to be the female body. In *Persian Brides*, the functions of this body approach Rabelasian proportions, eating, urinating, menstruating and making love with absolute gusto. Each time we see Flora, we are reminded of the volume of her breasts, the fragrance of her flesh, the thickness of her hair, the pitch of her laugh. Page after page tempts us to taste life, to fill our cupboard with almonds and lentils, cumin and turmeric.

All the same, there is much more here than just baking and snogging. The quiet intensity of feathers floating in a pool of rainwater makes way for brutal episodes of adultery and self-mutilation, longing and desperation. With extreme sensations come extreme emotions, especially as Flora's pregnancy advances in the absence of her truant husband, and as Nazie's beloved grows older while she remains a child.

Take time to read this book the way you would take time to dream a dream. Rabinyan speaks with such effortless confidence that we are immediately and entirely transported. Her words, sonorous and succulent, belie a born storyteller. Not to be missed.

The Blues of the LSE Library by Hide Carlos

The door is a rock
A cause of indignation
The chair is a mock
A lack of imagination

Ahhh but where is my card?
You are such a bastard
You pushed me aside, oh my oh my

We go round and round
Up and down the spiral
But the book is not found

The floor is blocked
People in mass exploration
Stairs give shocks
Weapons of mass destruction

Ahhh but where is toilet?
You are such a bastard
You are still inside, oh my oh my

We go round and round
Up and down the spiral
And the fine is 100 pounds

Ahhh but why do we care?
Anything better elsewhere?
It's our library oh my oh my

We go round and round
Up and down the spiral
And round and round...

Cold Comfort

by Laura Rose

This lent you gave up lying and I took up truth,
Red-wine truth,
Flowing from my mouth like a torrent of hail stones,
Each one etched with the same slur,
That this love has the substance of a doughnut hole.

Amid this forecasted cold-front
You wore your face with sobriety,
You knew by heart each phrase, the very intonation of the truth,
But were not woman-enough to tackle it.
Instead you left us coasting in our private abyss,
Where comfort is a synonym for 'making-do', for 'settling'. For 'boredom'.

Next year they'd give us toasters for our suburban padded cell,
The mason's handshake of cul-de-sac couples.
Each day, another trickle of silent despondency,
Bottled up behind the glossy smile I paint myself at breakfast.
But together we are too weak to bear this,
And alone I am too strong to condone it.

So in the blur of this night,
Our truth is uncorked,
Our harmony fractured.
Beneath the first light I have no regard for volume,
As I am reborn and unleashed as freedom personified.

I am LSE

by Ken Charlery

I am brown.
I take too many drugs.
I'm here cos it pleases mummy and daddy so.
I wank too much. No, i don't wank enough, that's the worrying thing.

I don't use the Library, it's full of people making me feel guilty.
I'm always drinking in the Tuns, at least I'm on campus.
I fell in love at last in my second year. It had nothing to do with LSE.
I play sport but am unfit, not even fit enough to say I play.

I'm so lonely.
I live with four friends who go to LSE too.
I saw a girl I liked last week, get those silly notions out of your head.
I saw, I saw, she spoke, she spoke, she left, she left.

I'm writing this stoned.
I smoke pot to take the edge off, the edge off.
I can feel cooled sweat on my brow, almost poetic, pathetic.
I can see myself losing my nerve, keep writing.

I have to decide on my future.
I have to sort it out, one part success and two parts security.
I want to travel! See the world! Help people!
I am to be a hypocritical, snotty nosed kid who says one thing but does another.

I don't read the books.
I read people's minds, they talk, I listen.
I don't revise for my exams like I should.
I learn other people's work and say it again and again until they give me a first!

I'm getting tired.
Sink or swim...sink or swim...sink or swim.
I am treading water, taking in big mouthfuls of salt water.
I am LSE.

More Original Fiction...

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Top-up fees. UGM infighting. Name-dropping and serial cereal references. Reptilian anagrams. SU politicking. The AU vs. Everyone.

Life for an international student at the LSE is challenging enough without having to contend with these esoteric-isms.

Perhaps one ought to amend that statement. Better if it read - life at the LSE is challenging...

The bespoke be-suited future investment bankers will snigger their disagreement, secure in the knowledge that their ridiculously impressive CVs will guarantee them those crucial City internships. So will the diehard pamphleteers who plaster Houghton Street with their scathing disapprovals of Howard Davies, lambasting his "gunrunning" and bemoaning the fact that he has dined with that reprehensible George W. Flag-waving society members will flog tickets to boat parties and dining extravaganzas. Someone will be Rabidly Against Some Injustice or Another (join the 1pm protest/sign the petition).

The queue at Wright's Bar will snake into the street and meet up abruptly with the inevitable crowd lounging on the steps of the Old Building. "Meet me outside the Old Building, yeah?"

It is but 10am.

Off to lectures. Old Theatre, sir? How shall you be made to sit uncomfortably today? Ah, E171? But where has all the seating gone? Hong Kong? May someone with a laptop irritate you with his persistent tap-tapping as he checks his mail.

Classes then. Another droning presentation, a wad of cash spent on photocopies and transparencies that will be meticulously filed away and ignored. Discussions that are dominated by the Champion Debater and that neo-feminist rain-

bow-stocking clad goth chick with the massively posh accent. You know, that one.

Lunch. Oh god, the endless search for somewhere to sit, fair trade coffee and pain au chocolat precariously balanced atop the almighty FT. Grittier fare at the Brunch Bowl, fish and chips competing with stir-fry for the chance to appal your taste buds.

Quickly, to the Library, before all the working computers are snapped up by fiendish MSN addicts who return your malevolent gaze with blank incomprehension. Shall one wait for the lifts or risk developing LSE Leg, that muscular imbalance caused by the brilliantly designed library staircase? Prepare to battle with the hordes in the course collection for that elusive required reading, bemoaning the bastards who have left only set texts in their wake. Queue at the service counter, seethe as you discover that the book you had placed on hold weeks prior has disappeared from the shelf. Make endless copies of off-prints. Forget your copy card in the machine.

Pick up a copy of the Beaver. Special K? Rowan Flakes? He's accused who of what? Who's dared to do something not absolutely reeking of self-righteousness? Skip to the sports section. Sigh.

Flip through your LSE-emblazoned agenda. Cringe as you realise that you have three 2500 word essays that count for nought but sleepless nights all due in a week. Adjust KPMG shoulder bag acquired at Fresher's Fayre. Wonder what the Badgers were on about, and if the photography society ever really existed.

Time to go home. Arrange to meet some friends. In front of the old building, yeah?

Mahie is a first year International Relations student (obviously)

In Death

by Karen Lee

I looked into the eyes of death,
And was swallowed whole.
A bottomless void of emptiness greeted me,
Where once there'd been pain.
Empty feelings of nothing swam up to
embrace me,
And my destructive tears were soothed away
by the arms of darkness.
For death and darkness are happy to
embrace me,
Forever waiting to encircle me in their arms,
Impatient to love me, caress me and to banish
the pain.
In darkness we no longer suffer,
In darkness we are equal.
Saint and sinner measured alike,
And neither are found wanting.
Darkness be the one place where men may
finally be deemed equal,
In death we can finally find peace.

Light

by Karen Lee

Through darkness a breaking beam of light strains forth,
Crawling to my still like body,
Reaching forth a hand as if to draw me from the shadows.
Hope! The most cruellest of creatures,
It but shows us the beauty which can penetrate our eternal darknes,
Teasing and tormenting our senses with the sweet smell of maybe.
Nothing is more evil then the false hope which draws us in,
So close it is, but a breath away,
Only to be banished by the darkening clouds above,
Engulfing the lonely stray of light that wandered into the darkness.
A cold chill washes over me,
No longer the blissful warmth once promised.
No light lasts,
It's but a flickering movement that often filters by,
Yet it's no match against the impending darkness.
No longer do I reach forth,
Attempting to capture the dancing sparkles which float down,
Mocking me with their grace.
For no light can ever remain burning within a room filled with such pitch
blackness.
And that is what I have become,
It's what I am,
The darkness, the black, the unfilled hole.
Never will hope touch me,
For I have no soul to touch.

Home

by Karen Salerno

Dreaming of a below-the-waist, under the sky,
real kind of dream.

Dreaming that doesn't cost your soul.
Dreaming of a dream that is true, that is dirt,
that is sand.

Drifting in and out of the melancholy city,
This city of buildings, and of concrete, and of
cars.

I feel noise and hate and anger and contempt.
I feel distrust and jealousy and empty souls and
empty minds.

I remember wanting to leave or rather needing
the escape from my
city, from my buildings and my universe.
Do you remember wanting to escape that life
that was stifling?

I left without a glance, so proud and sure.
Moving on, I said, they said.
To bigger and to better
To more, but it wasn't more
Only different, and only the same.

I remember leaving proud. Too proud.
Bohemian, worldly, daring, sensuous, glamorous
and different.
Educated more and better, stronger and deeper,
more history, more
respect, more! More!
More unjustified pride for leaving what should
not have been left.
Or should be gone back to, gone back to soon.

Because it isn't now or then or tomorrow or
soon or later or when
that matters.
It isn't that we left for better, it is that we left
for ourselves
and now are better and now owe.
Owe to our homes, to our countries, to our
lives, and to our roots
what we left.
What we left for.

That we learned today and tomorrow and yester-
day.
That hearts and minds and souls and hands
and fingers and life and
living and sand,
And sand. And life.
Together, this is now and then and today.
And going home soon, to home.

Better, more, and owing what we left for.
Going away and not looking back.
That is too sad, too empty.

B:about

edited by Sarah Warwick

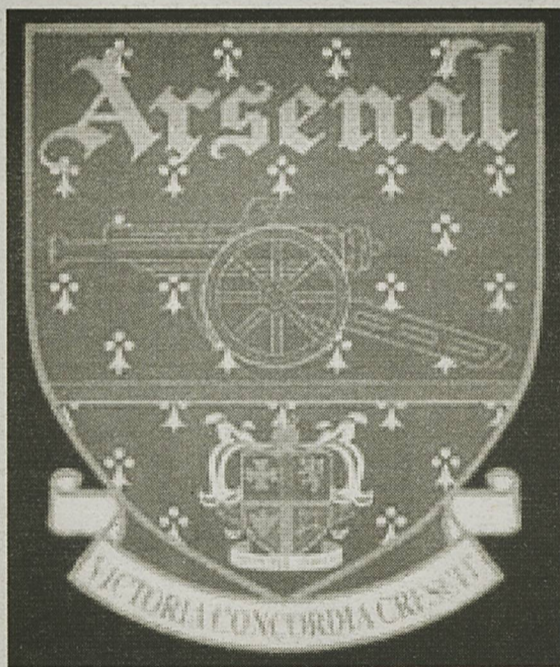
Sport!

That's right readers: this week we've come over all sporty: read on for all the info you need on how to watch and play in the city.

Want to spend your weekend in the terraces yelling chants at the top of your lungs? Or prefer to watch the 'gentlemen' or rugby rip each other's arms off?

JOANNELANKASTER gives the lowdown on where to watch top sport in London.

So you're in London: home of British government, finance, law... and sport. If you don't usually live here, you really should take advantage of this. There is an amazing range of sporting delights to choose from in the capital, to suit every budget. Even if that budget happens to be zero.



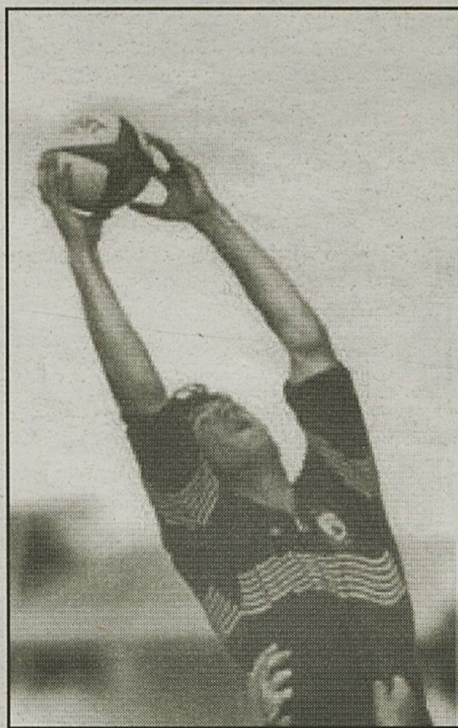
To start at the top of the pecking order, we have **football** (aka soccer, no gridirons!). If you're after big names and glory, there are five Premiership teams in London: Arsenal (Arsenal station), Chelsea (Fulham Broadway), Fulham (Shepherd's Bush), Tottenham Hotspur (White Hart Lane, from Liverpool Street) and Charlton (North Greenwich and a shuttlebus). They're the ones with the flashy stadiums, famous players and high profiles. They also tend to be the easiest to get to, with all the clubs playing in the inner Travelcard zones. But this comes at a price. The cheapest ticket for the cheapest game (prices change depending on the status of the opposition) is £26 for most teams (£20 for Charlton, over £30 for Chelsea), and they sell out fast. Check out the club websites for release dates, as most put tickets up for general release only two weeks or so before the game.

An alternative way to get the football experience is to go for one of the lower league clubs, there are literally dozens. To take a conveniently located example, Queens Park Rangers' Loftus Road ground is straight along the Central Line from Holborn, five minutes from Shepherd's Bush station, concession tickets less than £10. For devoted fans, football is life or death, so adopt the home team and make sure you join in for the real experience.

It's not a great idea trying to buy tickets online. They really don't make it easy. My advice would be to get a book-

ing office number (not as simple on club websites as it might sound - www.bbc.co.uk/london/sport for summaries of contact details) and book by telephone. When choosing the team and match to see, it makes sense to go for those doing relatively well- they have a much better atmosphere than clubs who are about to get relegated. Oh, and I wouldn't go to Millwall if I were you. Their motto is 'no-one likes us, we don't care' and it's so, so true!

If you're set on those big names but can't afford a small fortune, try **rugby**. There are four Premiership rugby teams "in" London: Wasps, Harlequins, Saracens and London Irish (depending on whether you can accept Reading as London). The simplest to get to is probably Harlequins, based at The Stoop, Twickenham- within the Travelcard zones. Their ground is tiny and sells out fast, though, so booking is definitely required. The booking system is actually quite fun to use; you get to choose your specific seats. Well I enjoyed it...



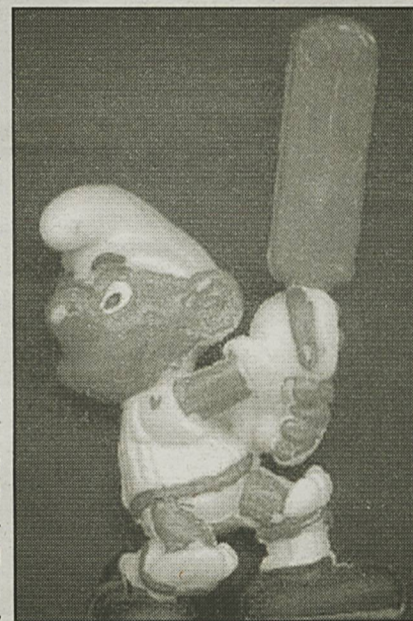
Wasps are a little more difficult to get to, not so much inconvenient (get a train from Marylebone to High Wycombe and they provide a free bus) as expensive at around £11 a ticket. It is worth the effort though; Wasps have five world cup players from England alone, and since the players park in the car park you enter through it's a great place for autograph hunting (if, like me, you find the idea of a piece of paper saying "Lawrence Dallaglio" exciting).

As with the round ball game, atmosphere is best with teams who are doing well, so Saracens is not currently the best team to see. In addition the stadium is a lot further away from Watford station than they claim- it's a long walk- and the online booking system would confuse a better person than me. On the plus side the food is great, it's good for last minute decisions (the stadium is huge- it never gets full) and only costs £5. London Irish use some poetic licence in their name: they're based in Reading (a £15 train journey from Paddington) and often aren't particularly Irish. Great craic though!

One thing to note is that the cheapest tickets for rugby matches are often standing tickets. If this isn't what you want, make sure you check before you book. On

the other hand standing is a great experience. Just make sure you get there early enough for a good spot, enough space and (if you're like me) something to lean on! Another reason to get there early (or not) is that there tends to be something going on: five year olds playing rugby tournaments as Wasps, local "talent" at Saracens, and the 21st of March match against Bath is the St Patrick's Day party at London Irish (NUS £8)- but tickets are going fast! Finally, remember that if you do want to see the cream of English rugby don't go during the Six Nations in March.

Cricket. OK, I know what you're thinking but give it a chance. London has two of the oldest grounds in the world: Lords and the Oval. I would recommend a one day match or better still a 20/20 match which only takes a couple of hours if it's your first time, (tickets £12 at Lords, £10 at the Oval, only book for 20/20s) and I would also recommend the Oval. It's easy



and quick to get to on the Northern Line, literally one minute from the station and Surrey are one of the best teams in the country. Don't forget to buy a programme, it summarises the rules! Cricket is best in the summer, but if you're leaving, the season starts in late April. Take a book or a newspaper, take a hat with a brim if you don't want to squint all day, take a picnic (food is very expensive) and soak up the Englishness of it.

Well, there you have it. And this is only a small selection. You can also find rugby league, bowls, hockey, Gaelic football, Aussie Rules football and most American sports somewhere or other in London. One must appeal to you! Go on, have a real cultural experience...

run:about

SARAHWARWICK defies the weather and gets all active:

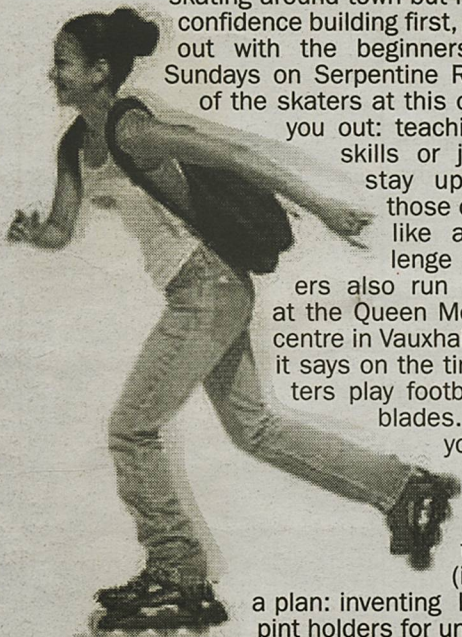
New years' resolutions will be thoroughly broken by now. Unless you're one of those sickeningly active people the Christmas pounds will have made themselves at home on your hips by now. Who can blame you though? Its cold and wet and the gym is about as interesting as watching car adverts, and you can do that on the sofa. Besides if you watch TV instead you might finally be able to work out just what is trying to fight its way out of Richard Whiteley's forehead! It also isn't cheap to start an exercise regime: gyms charge loads and courses seem to all want insurance or a joining fee.

There are ways to get around this though. London has loads of interesting things to do to keep fit cheaply: either by yourself or with mates, many of them free. For help check out B:about's guide to avoiding the gym but still staying trim:

Free: Roller Skating

'Friday night skate' Duke of Wellington Arch, Hyde Park Corner, Friday 8pm, www.citiskate.com

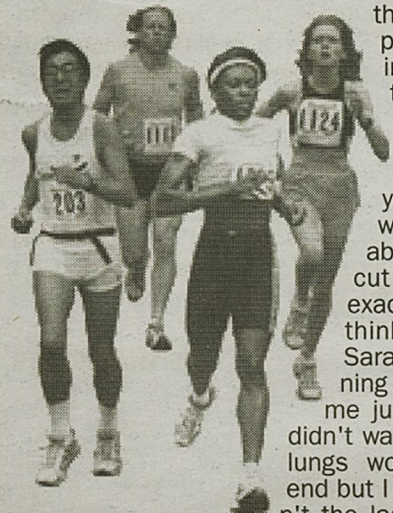
For intermediates and above this group is a brilliant way to keep fit. All groups and ages take part and zip around different route every week for about 5 miles. Lights and guides are provided. If you fancy skating around town but need a bit of confidence building first, go and hang out with the beginners group on Sundays on Serpentine Road. Many of the skaters at this one will help you out: teaching you new skills or just how to stay upright! For those of you who'd like a real challenge the organisers also run roller-soccer at the Queen Mother sports centre in Vauxhall. Just what it says on the tin, these nutters play football on roller blades. Good if you like combining your favourite activities to save time (it's given me a plan: inventing lecturns with pint holders for uni) but not so good if you like your bones nice and complete I should think!



Free: Running

'Run London' Niketown, Oxford Circus Tuesdays 6.30pm (and other times: check www.runlondon.com)

Forget the treadmill and get out and run the real thing. Niketown organise all manner of runs from their central London base and from other points all around London. Tuesday evenings in Oxford Circus see people of a fairly good standard gearing up for a 3 or 4.5 mile around Regents Park. I got roped into this for the first time by my sister who had a short-lived bee in her bonnet about fitness and duly turned up to receive my humiliation! It wasn't too bad actually: despite the skinny girls in professional-looking lycra outfits and the committed and perceptive guides who had a nasty habit of catching your eye when you were just thinking about taking a short cut and knowing exactly what you were thinking. One girl, Sarah, ended up running the last mile with me just to make sure I didn't walk it! I thought my lungs would burst by the end but I made it and I wasn't the last one back which was good. Sarah told me, as I conducted the most



breathless interview ever, that in the spring and summer they do runs every day, all over London and all for free and post them all on the website. Could be a good way to run off the exam stress!

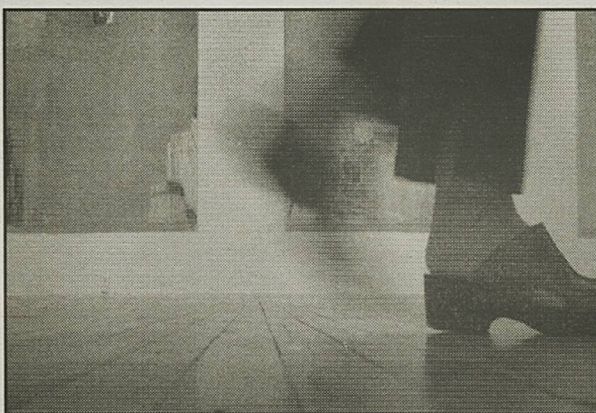
Hash House Harriers, Sundays 12pm, For locations call Kathy Godfrey on 0208 567 5712

This sounds like a lot of fun (as running goes) using brawn and brains to complete a trail about 4 miles long. You have to find your way though and shortcuts if you can find them are allowed and even encouraged! Starts and ends at a pub and things apparently often get out of hand!

Free: Walking

'TimeOut Walking Club' Every Saturday, follow instructions in TimeOut, or go to www.walkingclub.org.uk

The reason I like the idea of this one is the way you meet up with the other walkers. It's like an old spy film: pick up a copy of Time Out and it says in small print: 'take the 9.57am train to Great Missenden and meet in the middle carriage.' Then you have to buy a copy of the TimeOut guide to country walks (£10.99) so that you can be recognised as part of the gang! Its such a clever idea and yet I'm not really a country walk person. Or at least not for the next 40 years or so. Still if you do fancy getting out of the big smoke and seeing some of the 'Home counties, darling' they run 4 different walks every Saturday from about 9 o'clock including one with 1/2 an hour of creative activity and a nature walk.



Free Trials/cheap sessions: Martial arts

Kuk sool won, Harrow Leisure Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Harrow, Thur, 7-8.30pm

This martial art is from Korea and I fully admit that I don't know what it entails! However the course is free so anyone living North West might want to give it a go. If you find out what it is let me know!

Ju-jitsu, Guys Campus, St Thomas St, Fri/Mon 8pm-10pm £2 students

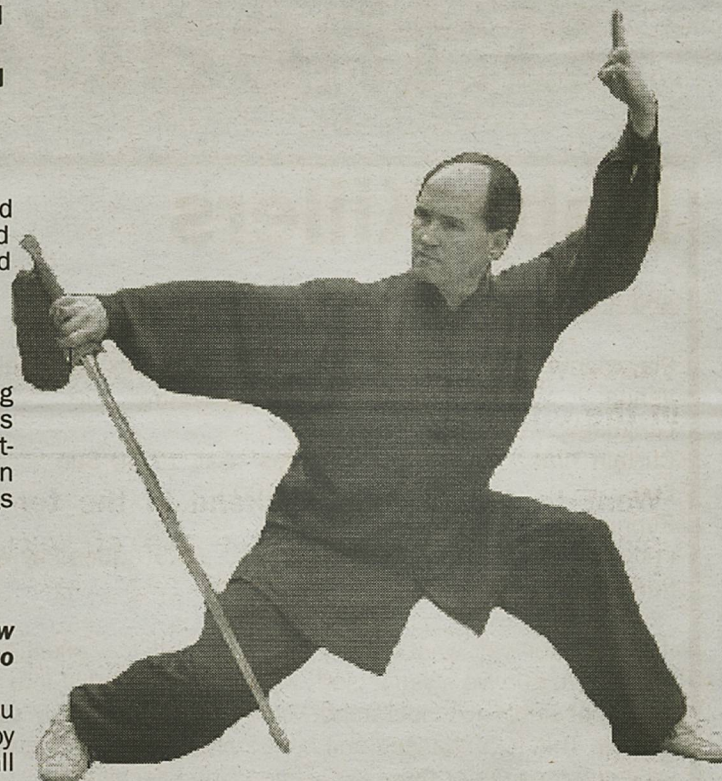
One of the best martial arts for self defence and all round fitness - a while with these expert teachers (British champions Nicola and Nigel Price) will have you round housing in no time!

Kickboxing, Thursdays, near Holborn, Tottenham Court Rd or Euston, www.kbkickboxing.co.uk,

This is much more up my street, in fact I should be starting a course here soon. These beginners classes go step by step through the basic moves and teach good self defence methods. They are a bit pricey for the course (£55 + £25 insurance and membership) but the insurance lasts a year so should see you on to more complex moves and you'll be a sensei before you know it!

Aikido, Central YMCA, 112 Great Russell St. Call 020 7343 1700 for more information

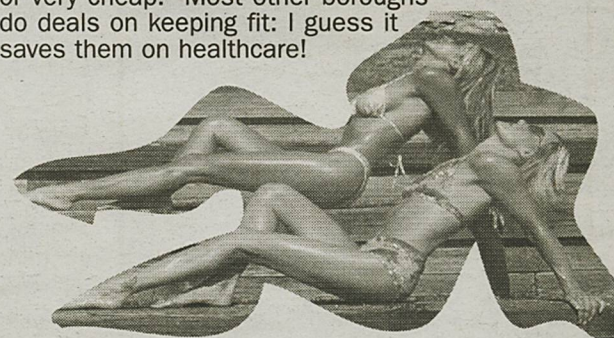
I went along to a free trial here a while ago and was very impressed. You get a nice workout but are concentrating on throwing yourself and your opponent around so you don't notice you're even breaking a sweat. Be careful if (like me) you're not aware of your own strength or you might start throwing people just a little too hard and get told off! It is very good fun though and I learnt a lot in just one session. Only thing is to carry on you have to join for a year, or join the centre which can get a bit pricey. It is worth it if you'll use the facilities: the centre has



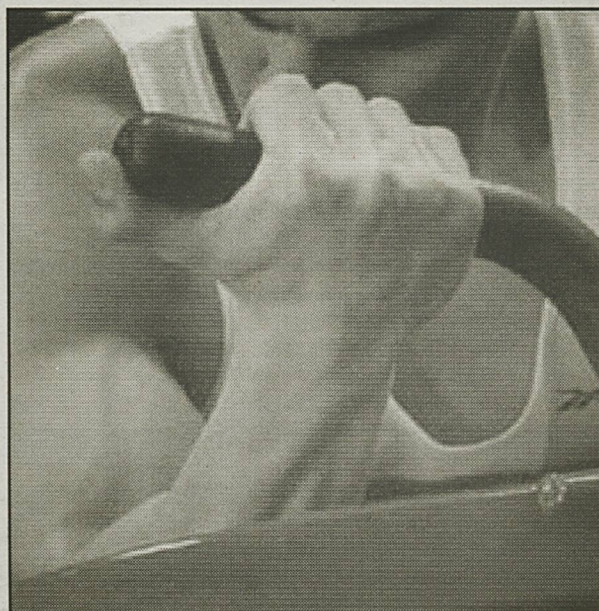
an Olympic size pool, gym, endless classes (step, sculp, yoga, pilates etc) circuit training, trampolining and so on.

and the rest...

There are loads of other things to do in London for free or cheaply. If you do want to stick with a gym there are local authority sponsored leisure centres with cheap ones. In Islington students can buy an annual £21 Izz Card which gives them cheap classes, swim and gym. For £19 a month you get free off peak swim 'n' gym and many classes are also free or very cheap. Most other boroughs do deals on keeping fit: I guess it saves them on healthcare!



Do whatever you like just break free from the sofa, I know it's hard but just think how much better you could look by the summer!



B:theatre

edited by Carolina Bunting and Keith Postler

Baby Killers

And All The Children Cried

Playwrights: Judith Jones and Beatrix Campbell
 Venue: Battersea Arts Centre
 Language: English
 Curtain Time: 19:30 Tues - Sat, 17:30 Sun
 Ends: March 7, 2004
 Running Time: 90"
 Prices: £14.75 Consc. £6.50, Tues Pay What You Can
 Performance rating: 4 out of 5 stars

'I will not tell you what I did. I will not feel it . . . silence has been my strategy to survive myself,' says Myra Hindley, staring into the audience. It is impossible to understand Myra, as she ultimately could not know herself. This is a nuanced and subtle production dealing with one of the weightiest issues of them all, women who kill children.

This first play by journalist Judith Jones and social worker Beatrix Campbell is a brave venture. Dealing with such emotive material it could easily have strayed into the offensive or the melodramatic. Powerfully understated performances by Sharon Maughan (Myra Hindley) and Gillian Wright (Gail), imprisoning an uncomfortable audience in their claustrophobic and morally ambiguous world.



Gail, Myra Hindley's cell-mate, is a composite of several real child killers, researched by the writers. She is violently unstable and is, herself, a victim of sustained violence and sexual abuse. She can't help but give vent to her experiences. As Myra calmly rationalises, confession is good for her soul. Gail, plagued by shaking fits and relentless insomnia feels guilt, something that Myra has never allowed herself to suffer from, she says, 'I'm lucky. I sleep well. The sleep of the dead.'

All the Children Cried was first staged when Myra Hindley was still alive amid a storm of controversy. Since her death, it has been substantially revised in light of the fact that the evidence to her crimes died with her. This is not a play about good and evil, rather, one about choices, making the audience uneasy. What, after all, is the best way to deal with the unrepentant and the unrehabilitatable?

After the performance, a question and answer session with guest speakers, addresses the issues raised by the production. This is a courageous and inventive use of theatre, confronting the audience with a topic that is rarely spoken of. Maughan and Wrights' performances are highly creditable; it is a rare feat to be sensitive, restrained and compelling.

JOHN PICTON

A Novel Twist

Oliver Twist; or, The Parish Boy's Progress

Playwright: Charles Dickens
 Venue: The Lyric Hammersmith
 Language: English
 Curtain Time: 19:30 Mon - Sat
 Ends: March 27, 2004
 Running Time: 2' 30"; 20" interval
 Prices: Consc. £5-£9
 Performance rating: 4 ½ out of 5 stars

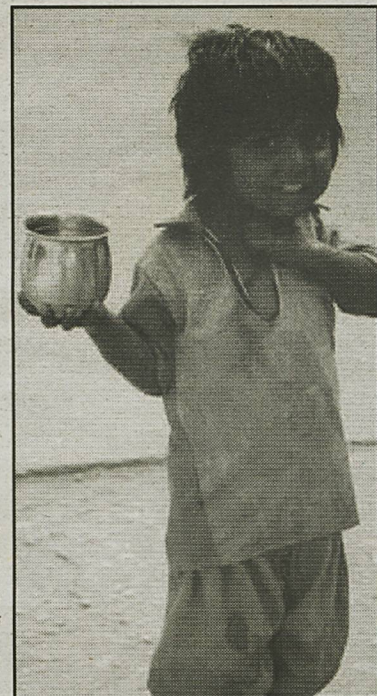
Here's a - if not the - drama to grab all Lefties! The thesis of Dickens' work, originally an early novel, and among his most popular of the 14 he wrote is that poverty breeds crime and that the road from prison to gang criminality is short, straight and speedy. Now here's an idea students can get their head around without being scared by the aura of high art and without the excuse of I-don't-understand-English-well-enough-to-go-to-the-theatre. Here is the social history of poverty, crime, and the workhouse of 19th-century London. Dickens wrote about that against the background of the recent Poor Law Act of 1834 ending the dole to the poor, which forced whole families into separate workhouses in the name of utilitarian efficiency. That should help Righties fix in their minds a key principle of economics and perhaps awaken them to the idea that economics operates in a historical context.

Oliver Twist is also, in the current jargon, an English cultural icon. In the novel the central character, the founding Oliver, is born in a workhouse, where he naturally but inadvisedly asks for more gruel. For this crime he is apprenticed to an undertaker, from whom he soon absconds. Fagin, the gangleader of a band of thieves, kidnaps him to make a thief of him. During a burglary into which he is forced, Oliver is wounded. However, the gang is brought to justice; then the wealthy Mr Brownlow adopts and educates Oliver. So Dickens delivers us a happy ending.

One might not expect it. Some consider Dickens the greatest English novelist ("the Shakespeare of the novel"). Yet Dickens knows whereof he writes. His father was thrown into debtor's prison (memories of which appear in Dicken's novel Little Dorrit); at the age of 12 Dickens had to go to work in a blacking factory: that meant he never received a proper education. By working hard he progressed from office boy in a law firm to journalist as a general and parliamentary reporter. With Oliver Twist he began his indictment of his society. We owe the phrases, among many others, such as "hard man" to Oliver Twist and "hard times" to his novel Hard Times, a protest against utilitarianism and lack of imagination. His lack of faith in government institutions appears in his exposé of political corruption in David Copperfield. On his trip to the USA he urged abolishing slavery and establishing an international copyright. He of all first incorporated lower-class culture into the novel. He is the greatest social critic of the wrongs adults inflict on children and of child labor in any language.

His novels exude theatricality; a critic has noted, "His novels are like plays in action". Staging and filming them, which is legion, is therefore appropriate. This production does credit to his work in nearly every way. It includes superb and superbly performed narration, tableaux, song, acting and music: only dance is conspicuous by its absence. This adaptation apportions lesser scope to the end of the plot than to its beginning and middle. The character of Fagin comes across as dangerous, mercurial, and nasty. But nasty is not the same as evil-the essence of Fagin.

You can experience Dickens all round you near LSE. Just behind Covent Garden, Strandside, are two blue plaques indicating where he lived. The Old Curiosity Shop of his novel The Old Curiosity Shop stands still today near the library, in Portsmouth Street. Dive deeper into Dickens in the theatre: you don't have to take the time to read it.



KEITH POSTLER

B:general mail

Subject: Theatre

I went to see All's Well That Ends Well last week starring Judy Dench. I thought it was really well done. I had heard nothing about the play and was expecting it to be difficult to follow but they made it really accesable. Even though Judy doesn't have the biggest part, it was still really good to see one of Engalnd finest actors in such an intimate venue. I don't think it's going to be running for much longer tho.

Hattie

Subject: Aspel

I saw the weirdest think on TV a few nights ago about Michael Michael Aspel (who presents This is Your Life and various other BBC shows). He has so many kids its unbelievable!! And they're all famous. Gail Hipgrove, Melinda Messenger, Mel C from the Spice Girls and loads of other actors and singers.
Jo

Subject: Pixies reformation

Tickets for the Pixies reform gigs sold out within hours of going on sale apparently. You can almost hear the banks rubbing their hands with glee. I hate reformations like this, everyone buys into them because they like a group after they have split up which is why they can make so much money out of them. But they are always tragic. Especially The Pixies, Frank Black is just a tragic figure now, old and fat. It ruins the whole image and spirit of the Pixies. A band gets big at a time and in a place and when you put them back at a different time it just doesn't work.

Francis

Subject: (none)

Blauuuuuuug
Camila

Spread the Love...

Got anything to tell us? Disagree with any of this? Send your b:mails this way - conveniently labeled b:mail - and we'll print them here. Anything and everything arts related welcome: Beavermails@yahoo.co.uk

Nice one

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Pink Ladies & Pop Idols - Meet the 5th Team!



Drew 'Pink Lady' Soffler



Captain Commie

When not holding hands around the Old Building, Captain Commie dedicates himself towards leading his fifth team proletariat into glory. Has played almost every position on the pitch, albeit for half an hour due to extreme lack of match fitness. Translating football tendencies into life, Captain Commie's Walkabout appearances predictably conclude at 12.30.

DJ Dom

Because the nickname 'Like Your Ex-Girlfriend' would not be appreciated in the same vein that 'Like Your Girlfriend' was, the fifths were forced to create a new name for our catlike netminder. Though we settled on DJ Dom, another suitable moniker could have been Destructo as Dom has smashed a four hundred pound glass door, broke Dirt's watch, karate chopped innocent Hombres goers in the face, and came uncomfortably close to re-decorating the interior of a black cab.

Gus

Creates lyrics to pub songs that are almost as bad as anything created by Peter Andre. Though he calls himself 'The King' the closest he's come to being one occurred after getting ass rammed by Gay Ben. An Hombres and Crush enthusiast, his pulling technique of pretending he's American leaves both us and the girls he attempts to court laughing uncontrollably.

Big Ben

A wise man once said that 'actions speak louder than words.' Because Big Ben doesn't say much let's examine some of his actions. Big Ben haphazardly decided that he wanted to kill (literally) a random bloke in the Tuns, relieved himself by a window in daylight during an active class, and got so drunk during a stock game award ceremony that he had to be carried out by security.

Gazelle

Gracefully prancing up the pitch extending his long legs, the Gazelle, much like his compatriot Bambi, is in great peril from hunters (the LSE history department). Worryingly, they insist on interrupting the important things in life such as Wednesdays and the Barrel for less important things such as essays and tutor meetings. Luckily the department wasn't on the prowl on Gazelle's multi-year anniversary with his girlfriend in which he romantically took her to Limeabout for good music and £1.50 bottles of Reef.

Pink Lady

In another life, he was known as the American psycho, but acquired his new nickname through excessive consumption of a drink for girls. The Pink is known and feared throughout the land by opposing teams for his haphazard and unwarranted use of violence, and known and feared by his teammates for his constant slapping and Beaven enforcement activities.

Moks

Even though he doesn't drink, Moks has spent more time in the Tuns than any other member of the fifths. An impressive, flashy central midfielder with skill and pace, the Gods unfortunately replaced his finishing ability with a love for pool.

Freddy

Though Freddy is a third year indentured slave of the history department, those in the fifths know him for his natural science interests. His love of marine life introduced us to the barracuda and Freddy's field experience taught us how the barracuda muddles through moist and sometimes clammy waters. His time away from the fifths due to injury has obviously fried his brain as he now believes he is an auxiliary striker.

Not-Gay Ben

With last year's departure of V Graham Poulton, the fifth team was required to refill its alternative lifestyle quota. Enter Not-Gay Ben. Between caressing Captain Commie's knob, going on the Atkins diet, and spending one hundred quid on a hair

cut, his sexuality is far from a mystery. Though a powder puff off the pitch, on it Gay Ben is a hard-working midfielder with an on field endurance matched only by aficionados of S. Roasts.

Shandyman

The British reincarnation of the Great Gatsby. Aside from drinking shots of tequila with Tabasco sauce and boycotting Wednesday nights at the Tuns due to a crowded Tuns phobia, Shandyman has engaged in other activities such as stealing a massive bin and leaving it at the Pink Lady's doorstep with help from the wretched Samadeus.

Beaven

Uses hair straighteners. In Socratic fashion, Beaven once asked a camp Hombres-goer 'Why do you run like that?' and questioned a heart-broken bloke 'Why'd you make her cry?' after witnessing a domestic dispute at Crush. Though his other off-pitch highlights include nicking signs at Wrongbres and kicking some cunt in the shin when he wasn't looking, his main on-pitch highlight was taking a penalty that almost went out for a throw-in. Prays every night that Frank Lampard will come to his flat to 'Beave him.'

Samadeus

Though he claims he has a girlfriend whom he affectionately calls Jen Jen, she has yet to be seen either in person or photograph. After unconvincingly flashing his shit-eating grin and citing the inability to open email as an excuse not to attend any classes, Samadeus may very well become the first history student to score an 86 on an essay and subsequently be barred from sitting exams.

Mini Bus

When he's not studying hard for a first in economic history, Saif Ullah is busy driving his mini-bus in order to pay for his secret drinking addiction. Saif would have you believe that he's never touched a drop of alcohol in his life, but 5th Team photographic evidence clearly highlights his rampant alcohol abuse.

Irt

The cleaner half of the Irt and Dirt striker duo. A tough, virile drinker, Irt is willing to challenge absolutely anyone to bong a Reef in three seconds or less. Like Cinderella, Irt will turn into a pumpkin if he stays out past 2am, and thus, has yet to make the holy pilgrimage to Crispy Duck.

Dirt

Placing the night of lust with S. Roast girl aside, Dirt's other exploits include offering a tramp Pink Lady, kicking over bins in Brixton, and charming a bird to a sober dinner at Crispy Duck (she was not permitted to order anything over a fiver). Once uncovering some of the sludge, Dirt has some admirable qualities. In addition to being top scorer and appearing with Drew on Pop Idol, he, most importantly, introduced the fifths to Pink Lady.

Paddy's Piece



I've just got back from the Rag Week Five-a-Side tournament at Berrylands - fucking fantastic way to spend a Sunday. Makes a nice change from my normal Sundays, which generally constitute waking up in someone's living room with a hangover the size of Leeds United's overdraft, stepping over comatose bodies in the hallway and making a sloppy journey home on the first tube train. Today, however, I woke up in my own room, albeit with Ed Calow of the Sevens being sick on my floor, and journeyed to sunny Berrylands to play some football and drink some beer.

When it actually came to the competition, the Champagne Sevens team was about as impressive as Jo Kibble's fashion sense. We lost to the Fifts (cheating bastards), and took a Firsts-dominated Tuns Team to a penalty shootout. Our premature exit, however, afforded the opportunity for the drinking to begin. Highlight of the day was seeing Lucilla, playing for Carr-Saunders, skinning several blokes from the Fourth, as her team won 4-0. To be fair though, the Fourth attempted to address the gender imbalance by playing Joss Sheldon in their team. It didn't work though. In the end the final was contested between the Footy Seconds and Carr-Saunders, with the playboys from the Seconds winning. Reports and photos will probably be in next week's edition.

If you turn to page eight, you'll find a Blink article critically examining the values of Crush. What the fuck? Everyone knows the purpose of Crush is to get you royally fucked at as low a price as possible. If you want to pull something that looks like it was starved of oxygen in the birthing process, you can go down to the Quad. If you want to sit and sing songs about roasting, you can sit in The Tuns. If you want to boost your ego, you can talk to the fire alarm girls - paid to stand and guard the fire alarms from people accidentally setting them off. Like Christopher Reve, they can't run away. With the result that you can use chat-up lines as rubbish as "Nice legs, what time do they open?", and not have them storm off. Makes a nice change for some people. Anyway, Crush is an abstract phenomenon which is completely incapable of being critically examined. I've tried to do it several times, typically on a hungover bus journey to Waterloo on a Saturday morning, and it's just not possible.

Talking of Crush, the plans for the new Tuns were revealed last week, and got about as good a reception as Maxine Carr at a Grimbsy home game. The place looks like one of those poncey wine bars that dominate Kingsway. If Kibble has his way, the place will probably be given a new name - something quasi-camp and ever so naughty like the "Cock and Fanny". This is fucking balls. The planners behind this project need to realize that the reason why the Tuns is loved so much is because it is a student pub, not a student bar. Student bars are for polytechnics like King's, where the clear cut lines of the bar and easy-clean plastic floors help these lesser mortals drink in safety, without harming themselves. Anyway, there's no way anyone would be able to remain balanced on those high stools after seven pints of snakebite at Crush. Let's look at the figures. The proposed refurbishment will cost half a million pounds. Admittedly, the toilets in the Tuns could do with an overhaul, looking, as they do, like an Eastern European operating theatre. So how about we spend £20,000 on sorting the toilets, and use the other £480,000 to get two hundred and forty thousand pints of Stella for us all?

Bye.

Kung Fu, Do What You Do To Me

OK, so it's not the same sport. But you try thinking up headlines for karate articles that don't involve Karate Kid references. The LSE Karate team went to Reading and won six medals.

Olivia 'Daniel San' Thornton



It was yet another triumphant day for the LSE Karate Team, when four of our guys competed in the KUGB (Karate Union of Great Britain) Southern Regional Championships in Reading, on Saturday the 21st February.

Yunis Abasov, Kizito Kiyimba, Dario Ghazi and Iosif Gasparakis all entered for both Kata and Kumite categories, and competed both individually and as a team. All of them did extremely well and brought home a nice assortment of shiny medals for us!

Dario, Kizito and Iosif, our three very own black belts, all competed well in team Kata, where they have to do exactly the same moves in a sequence. Unfortunately they came second in their heat and so could not compete in the finals. They came away

with fourth place in the end but it was a tough decision as there was not much between them and the winning team. All 3 also competed in the team Kumite, where they each had to defeat an opponent in turn. Dario won of all his fights, and they came away with a silver medal this time! The first medal in a string of many...

Iosif was on form in individual senior male Kumite, fighting his way all the way to the semi-finals where he picked up his first medal for LSE karate and brought home a bronze. Dario also picked up bronze in both the Senior Male Kumite and Kata categories he entered. As he fought in Kumite he didn't even break a sweat all the way to the semi-finals, but eventually lost 2-1. We do, however, have video footage proving that a clear and fast reverse punch given to the stomach, flooring Dario's opponent, should have been given a point but wasn't! Still, that's 4 medals so far...

Now for Yunis, who has had a brilliant track record for Kumite this year, and it seems to be continuing! Yunis performed well in the Kata category (6th-4th Kyu) and managed to win the bronze. He

also fought very well in the Novice Kumite (6th-4th Kyu) winning all his matches and returning undefeated yet again with another nice gold medal nestled in his chest hair. So that's 6 medals in total!

Dario (Instructor) says: 'It was a rather long day from early in the morning till late in the evening, continually warming up, fighting, waiting, and cheering for our fellow competitors. Individuals had around ten fights throughout the day, sometimes with long breaks occurring and there was no eating of course. LSE Karate Club's competitive experience has grown a lot since October 2003, and its reputation has already spread. We are also invited to an international tournament in Holland (Shotokan Karate International) and to the Essex Cup (KUGB). People like LSE Karate Club and I've even heard the phrase "LSEKC came for medal-shopping!!!!". Congratulations once more to all LSEKC competitors, for their achievements and karate spirit.'

There will now be whispers in the changing rooms that LSE Karate are the ones to look out for... I think we may be needing a new trophy cabinet soon, or a rather big mantelpiece!

Beauteous LSE Beavers Bitch-Slap Gimperial

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| LSE Women's Football..... | 3 |
| Gimperial Tarts..... | 0 |
| Fortress Berrylands, Surrey | |

Xtina
'Lost A Screw'
Liu



music with a minger of a driver. Enough easy listening to want to chew your own arm.

Alas, it seemed as if Gimperial would not have enough bodies to field a team and we would get out with a walkover, but those sneaky tarts were hiding in the changing rooms and suddenly appeared about five minutes before kickoff. They then proceeded to demand a delay in the start time. So as lovely hosts that we are, we made them pay during the match.

With swirling winds and limb-deadening cold, we used a multitude of inventive tactics and just plain old scrappiness. Mrs. Whooping Cough started in again, using her typical defence mechanism, by hacking her marker. I, myself, ran around shouting commands like a banshee with its head cut off, which assisted our lovely defensive blockading. Aris had another great match, as we kept a clean sheet yet again. The gimps were not so bad per se, its just we were better... much better. With co-captains combining up the right flank, and Jules and

Janne fast breaking through the center, there were just too many weapons. Juliet, Michi, Anna, and Kate drew blood attacking loose balls in the midfield while B. Wilde made the whole team of gimps miss with her skills. Stace used her laces to get us some rest time. We even controlled the weather forcing a mid-match period of driving rain and gale force winds to a point when no one could hear or see. The crystallization of all of our hard work and perseverance was when Jules headed in Ant's brilliant corner. Obviously Ant needed to show off to her supportive and fit flat-mates. She then proceeded to score again... greedy twat. Not to be outdone, Jules felt the need to compensate for last week's lack of production, by using her unbelievable pace to burn their piss poor center back then whipping in a magical shot into the back of the net. Ah, compensation!

Unfortunately (for them), we had another maiming episode and for once I was not the cause of it. About mid-way through the first half, B. Wilde was faced with the decision to

either pass the ball around the "defensive" idiot or to whack the ball at her face. The ugly minger screeched post-impact, "AM I DISFIGURED?" No one on her team must have told her that in fact, she was already disfigured before she stepped onto the pitch. Oooooohh. Ouch.

We continued to persevere as the wind and cold continued to wreak havoc on our bodies. Aris's achilles.. Michi's leg cramps...my pulled quads... Anna's busted knee... it's like a full ambulance right there. Our powerful and highly embarrassing half-time cheer of "GO! FIGHT! WIN! GO BEAVERS!" must have helped as a group of guys on the next pitch had just finished and cheerily rallied us on with a couple of fist pumps and a "HELL YEAH!!!" The Beauteous Beavers flirtatiously grinned and winked at them as we went back on. The hacker's Bankside buds, rugby's Porkchop and Miss Salty, finally turned up having experienced typical British train hell at the end of the game, just in time for the victory pint and handful of sweets.

Referee Punches Fabs, Match Abandoned. You know.....

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| LSE Football Thirds..... | 2 |
| Goldsmiths Firsts..... | 3 |
| (Match Abandoned!) | |
| Albany Park, Fucknowwhere | |

Mark 'LL Cool M'
Hultum



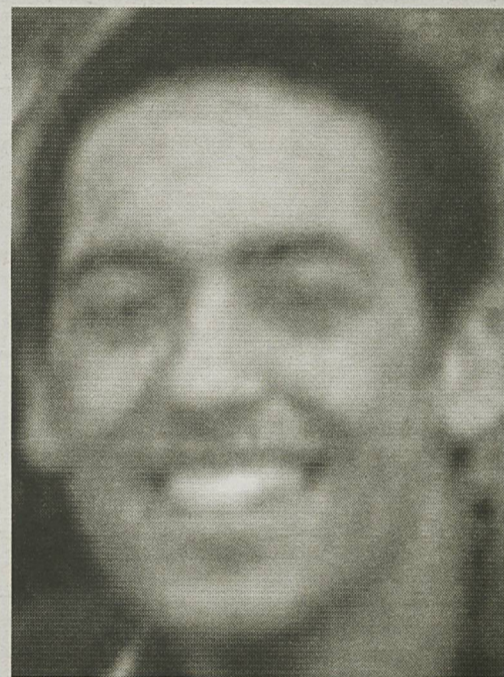
for him (Yes, I have no idea how he's scored that many either).

But from then on the fun began. Their referee, who had informed us pre-game that he was to be as fair as possible, and would not 'cunt us' (his words), went laughably back on his word. As all the AU are aware, one can never expect to get any change out of student refs, but this guy made Jeffery Archer look an honest man. I guess Goldsmiths College, for all their no doubt academic excellence (bollocks), never taught this prick how to use a whistle.

The guy was a joke, worse than Healy in Limeabout, and perhaps even more so than the 'thing' two third teamers 'entertained' Monday night. He gifted them a penalty which brought them right back into the game for starters. His excuse for this obvious bias? "How can I be cheating when I let you lot go one-nil up?" He then proceeded to ignore valid pleas for knee-high challenges, glaring offsides, and anything else that we thought might have been ours. And then, in the 'interests of fairness', he offered them another goal, despite the presence of four forwards in an offside position, though with the new offside rules we may just let the cunt off. And so we went in one down, but by no means out at the interval. The second half was no different, and the ref continued to offer threats of what he would do to us if we didn't just be nice and let him cheat. Somewhere in the midst of all this comedy we got another to level it. Fuck knows who scored though, from my position it looked

like an own goal, but Fabs 'Flava' Joseph seemed to claim it, though this may have been simply in response to Healy pulling away from him in their homo-erotic battle for the prestigious FC golden boot. Goldsmiths went ahead with an actual legitimate goal soon after, and even had time to miss another of their gifted penalties, prompted by perhaps the worst dive in history.

But credit to us, we threw everything at them in the closing stages, with Healy coming excruciatingly close with his weekly contender for miss of the season (he thinks I should liken him to Van Nistleroo here - the twat) And then the game turned uglier. Their ref, a brute of a man no doubt cracked out on some mind-altering drugs, who had informed many of us already that we were "getting on his tits" with our protests that he actually watch the game, snapped. "I'm warning you yeah.. you don't want to not see me be a ref yeah...I wont tell you again yeah....I'm warning you yeah....right, that's it...fuck this (yeah?)" The Third-teamer brave (or stupid) enough to be in his path of destruction was none other than serial violence-inciter Fabs Joseph. Throwing his whistle to the ground he charged at 'Flava', swinging away like Healy's dancing at the Barrel (and every Wednesday for that matter!) without actually connecting, though thankfully for the second time in a week my cry of 'Fabs, move!' was successful. Without a (sane) referee then, or 22 players capable of restraining this beast we laughingly trudged back to the changing rooms contemplating the madness we had just been part of. And so, there you



The most dangerous man in ULU League Division 1

have it.

It's just one thing after another for Gremlin's misfits. Forgotten is the champagne football we (sometimes) display. Instead we remember (and are reporting) the off the field wrongness which seems to be plentiful in supply. Can we go lower? Probably. Watch this space. Until then, you know, you fucking know.

The Doctor Slaying Season Continues for LSE Netball!

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| LSE Netball Seconds..... | 42 |
| Gimpy Medics..... | 20 |
| Latimer Road, West London | |

Alison
Blaise



made it to Latimer Road station at about 2pm. Despite our best laid plans we had made one fatal mistake and allowed Laura to meet us at the station there and although our tube was problem free, she got on the one after us that actually arrived half an hour after we did - so we were late again. I think this may work in our favour cos we seem to play best under pressure, I don't think we would know what to do with ourselves if we had a proper warm up actually on a court and stuff, instead of a mad dash from the tube station to the courts.

My prevailing memory of the match on Wednesday is that it was FUCKING COLD. I couldn't feel my hands, my feet, I could barely catch the ball. I seem to remember we started the first few minutes a bit scrappily then we realised that they were in fact shit and stamped our authority and superiority all over the game. Not sure if it was the cold but no one on our team seemed to be able to keep on their feet and Rach, Aine and Captain Fiona all had some pretty spectacular falls on to the concrete. Clearly we kicked the medics arses all over the court with our killer defence,

mean centre court and scoring frenzy and this was despite some severely questionable tactics on their part. Just as we were getting on a roll in the second quarter one of their players had some kind of panic attack wheezing fit (nope, not asthma, she was just scared by Krystals obvious outclassing of her!) and went off so a player who had been doing the scoring came on in her place.

This leads me to dodgy tactic number two - overall they were pretty shit but they had two players who were a lot better than the rest - although still no match for our unattainable heights of perfection. One was their centre and the other was the girl who did not start but came on for the head case. I don't wish to make any insinuations - fuck it accusation are much more fun!!!! Clearly our reputation had gone before us and they felt that they had to bring in a couple of ringers in order not to be utterly humiliatingly outclassed - didn't really work but hey, worth a try I suppose. They were supposed to be a third team which was a bit unbelievable for these two. Not to mention when Fiona asked the centre about the hyperventilating looney, she said she didn't

know if it had ever happened before cos she didn't know her and had never played with her...mmmm...suspicious?!!

Anyway a few bruises later and the game was over resulting in (another) astounding victory for the seconds. We all headed back to Captain Fiona's, Rach's and Louisa's houses for a spot of Chinese takeaway, copious amounts of wine, some strange cheap arse Pina Colada stuff (I take full blame) and to watch Harold keel over on telly. Off to the hustings we went to support our fellow netball girlies and somewhere along the line there was sambucca and then aftershock which explains why the memory is making me queasy. When the seconds get together we are lethal, both on the court and in the bar!!! Well done to Laura, Aine, Captain Fiona, Rach, Krystal and Louisa and also thanks to Rach O for umpiring for us, roll on the AU ball and well done team cos everyone in the team will be there at some point in the evening.

Following our previous weeks poor punctuality and general disorganisation we decided to play it safe this Wednesday and gathered in the tuns a full one hour and fifteen minutes before we were supposed to play, this is a first for the seconds and was mainly due to knowing that we had to travel on the crappy Hammersmith and Shitty line. The team gathered on time and with no one falling on to the tracks (this time!) we



Pikey Poly Pillaged and Punished by Rugby Seconds!

LSE Rugby Seconds.....41

Kent College of Farmers.....0

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey

Chris Emmerson



It was to be our last game of the year at Berrylands and we were fucking up for giving another poly a hammering. The atmosphere on the train was enhanced by the reintroduction of porn duty, with Shetters duly obliging to tell the whole train of Karen from Croyden "churning her fanny to a froth" over some guy in the latest edition of Razzle. I was stood outside the changing rooms about to get changed when Kieran wandered towards me with a look as if he was about to roundly beaten by the Essex Inside Centre! "Emmo, I left the kit on the train" he said. I can honestly say I tried to count to ten and think rationally, but only got to four before my tourettes won, there is no way we can print what came out. Jan reminded me that the train turns around and comes back, so I ran back to the station, it was due in 2 minutes - result. I jumped on the train and there was no sign of the kit, then the train doors closed, I check for my wallet, I left it at Berrylands. I had to run back to Berrylands from New Malden, only to be greeted with Shetters saying we kick off in 5 mins as the ref won't wait.

We kicked off with 14 men, wearing everything from lions shirts to football shirts, we look a bunch of fucking loppers, but we are not! After nearly ten minutes of almost constant pressure we won a ruck 10 metres out and Tim stepped to go under the posts, Adrian converted 7-0. Come on. This really should have led to an absolute annihilation, but we were not at the races. I am not sure how many times Ed "Naked Boy" Harrold dropped the ball, but it was fucking loads, the only way to describe his performance was to say that him playing was about as useful as a brain to a cleaner.

We continued to doze and let them back in our half and then 22. After a series of rucks they had a four on me and Tupak. The Cuntinese flanker tried himself, I went low and Tupak bosh the bastard back.....we were not going to let the poly score. It was a massive tackle from Tupak and set the tone

for the defence all afternoon. We then went back down the opposite end and Ed caught and passed to Joey who was unstoppable from 10 yards out, 14-0.

The farmers tried a clever kick off, but naturally failed and we went back in to their 22, before surprise surprise Ed knocked on. From the scrum they ran at us and from the tackle in midfield Ed popped to Jathan who set the ball up. The Forwards rucked over and Tim floated a massive miss pass to the wing.....but fuck it is heading towards Tupak, another fucking knock on about to happen, there is more chance of the Pope being Jewish than him catching it. But wait, a second, the little shit has caught the ball, it even took him a couple of seconds to realise before he began to run and scored in the corner 19-0!

As the first half headed to an end with more mistakes, not always from Ed, we won a line-

out 10 metres out. From the line we called a move, Tim gave an inside ball to Jathan who finished brilliantly under the posts, his 7th try of the season. 26-0 at half time.

At half time we made a couple of changes and brought on a couple of players to give them a run out and a bit of experience - Dan Lloyd and Jon Poole. The first half went pretty much the same way as the first as we dominated, but kept making mistakes. Joey was warned for playing trampoline on poly prat's back - but what did he expect? He was lying on the ball, we should have realised the way the refereeing was going, they could not compete so the fool, sorry referee, tried to level the playing field - like an away team at Old Trafford, we got no decisions. Never the less we continued to plug away and after some more good continuity play from the forwards Shetters made a half break to leave me with a walk in for my 8th of the year.

We continued to play reasonably well and Lloyd went over in the corner for a great solo try to make it 36-0. The poly prat then tried to punch him, but only managed to slap him, "is that all you can do? You're shite at rugby as well" concluded Dan, and he had a fair point. Rich Hayes finished off the scoring after another good break by Shetters, and the referee blew up EARLY!! This was the culmination of the worst refereeing performance we had ever seen, by this standard Andy will be seen at Twickers in a few weeks.

So that was that, we looked fucking stupid, but still managed to mock the poly of Kent and finished our unbeaten season at home, next we are away to St Mary's 3rd in the quarter final. Thankfully for Kieran the kit appeared at Waterloo and we all headed to the Tuns for the AU Hustings. Jathan let slip that it was his birthday the previous day and was suitably monstered.

Game Called Off? We'd Rather Be Shopping Anyway....

Womens' Hockey conform to gender stereotypes, but buy some absolutely delightful strawberry bubble bath in the sale at Lush!

LSE Women's Hockey.....2

RUMS Slags.....3

Oval, Kennington

Zahra 'Britney' Nawaz



sure that excites many of you.

When hockey girls end their season we do it with a bang! Well the end of the season did not exactly go as planned. Week 5: we were about to depart from the Tuns when I felt something vibrating in my spandex. Anyway I digress and titillate a few boys' and maybe girls' fantasies. Answering the cell-phone, I found Jarlath's heavenly yet masculine voice on my answerphone informing me that Middlesex had forfeited! Lazy pieces of Poo I say! It was our last match to be surrounded by the wonders of our home ground at Battersea, with little doggies running around the pitch, and these rather large lasses did not have the balls to show up and play! In the spirit of hockey we went onto Battersea and played with each other..... I'm

No I'm lying. The hockey ladies demonstrated their real joy for hockey when all but two, me being one of them, raised their hands in a democratic vote not to play. The real damage was done, not to my desire to play hockey, but, rather to my wallet. Nat, Pana and I embarked on a wild journey throughout

London, into posh boutiques in our hockey kit, where we were pursued by security for looking dodgy in Selfridges amongst expensive clothes that Pana already had at home, had our breast size approximated by the limp wristed man at Hamleys (don't ask!), and spent an extraordinary amount of money. Let the record show that we needed all of those shoes and that Nat plans to return to L.K. Bennett.

The Sunday match against the RUMS medics rolled around with Chrissy chanting in her husky "I am all sexed up and you love it voice" - "You're late You're late" into my voicemail as I helped drag the goalie bag through Oval tube. Yes we lost, yes we were bruised, and yes a few of us thought we had broken one or two vital bones in our hand surrounded by Medics who knew nothing, but you know what we persevered, and we are wicked smart, and look good! Meenal being the scoring genie that she is showed her stuff, with Nic playing as a legend in the D, and I believe we quoted Britney Spears in our team talk along with the twigs of knowledge. Virginia Nat who, for the record is not Natalie Black, but Nat from the States attempted to sing OutKast or something similar in the team talk, but Britney dominated as we all know from Justin's reports, she does ha ha. Good one sorry, I laugh at my own jokes. The long and short of it is the pitch was ghetto, there was no Tea offered, and the docs must have drugged our water at the half-

time because we were a far better team! Also, not to dwell on things despite our last game ugly loss to Kings (uhhh humm Poly Tech!!!), I just want to remind everyone that those same girls will be our employees one day so we should all love one another and most importantly as one eloquent person said on my favorite show and yours I'm sure, Jerry Springer, "Don't hate, Congratulate!" And, if anyone playing on that day wants to hunt down the annoying Yank on the other team we are meeting at 4pm Thursday outside her lecture at Kings to cut her hair because let's face it girls, as much as it may hurt someone needs to tell her the 80s are over and the perm is done. I know I should show some more solidarity with her, but I guess it is because I am brown and no Tara I'm not just a very tanned white person. Brown and Proud! Sorry, getting emotional. And, Kristina, Chrissy, Pana and Nicole would all like to join forces and hunt down those two umpires and give them red cards for calling what was possibly the worst umpired match ever!! And now I shall close this obituary for hockey, born out of my emotional umbilical connection to what has been my livelihood for the last 3 years....okay not really, but ladies it was fun and you helped increase what little alcohol tolerance there was. So bring on the after life, bring on the money and let the good times roll, sweet times comin and goin' ahhh sweet times.