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& ECONOMIC SCIENCE

# The Beaver

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

ISSUE 402

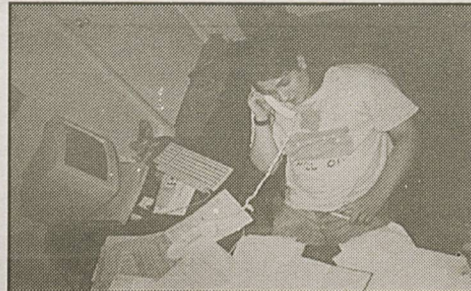
27 SEPTEMBER 1994



**The shop**



**Dr Bike**



**Gary the sab**



**The shop**

## Welcome to the jungle (we've got fun and games)

### RON VOCE

Yes the LSE's a jungle! If you had been here all summer you would have seen the LSE as nothing but a concrete jungle as change took place everywhere.

Not only did the LSE shop change into a split level affair, but the Quad got a coat of paint as did the Tuns.

Prices have risen in the Brunch Bowl and the Beaver's Retreat and shockingly even in the Tuns. Jim Fagan, Bar Manager puts this down

to the changing of breweries yet again.

The sabbaticals have all settled in quite cosily. Martin Lewis has been sorting out the changes that the Education Act has made necessary. Vini Ghatate has been organising his global festival, speaking to ambassadors and consuls alike. Ola Budzinka has been looking into ways to save money and maximise revenue whilst organising Freshers Fair. Finally Gary Delaney has been organising Freshers events including the massive weekend AKA Groove Juice

and Come Together.

As an old hand at Fresher Fairs, this will be my fifth, you shouldn't feel overawed, just jump straight in. The societies, the politics, the lectures, the classes and the whole caboodle go to make up the whole LSE thing.

Take the plunge and you will see that the LSE is a jungle, you will not know what is around the corner, who you will bump into next. One thing is certain if it's happening at the LSE it'll be in *The Beaver*.



The Quad, once it was open to the elements, then it was built over and painted yellow. Now it is a lovely dark blue....aahhh!

Photo: Ron Voce

## Freshers

And they're unpacking their bags in Passfield Hall,  
Checking their looks upon mirrors on walls,  
Hoping the zits haven't sprouted today,  
And praying the clothes haven't creased on the way.

While somebody swears in the depths of Carr-Saunders,  
That they'll sing the song but won't join the chorus.  
Yet egos are thwarted when she doesn't look round,  
Or when he finds a friend in a faraway crowd.

In the disco the shy ones play confident tricks,  
As they hope to find love in room S26,  
and his Father is chair of the Party, he mentions,  
In passing of course, with the best of intentions.

And the hosts think they have all seen it before,  
And heard conversations behind open doors,  
Where freshers mix backgrounds without telling all,  
As they unpack their bags in the Passfield Hall

Ron Beadle (LSESU Executive Officer) ©1987

## Ex LSE Professor Sir Karl Popper dies

### BEAVER STAFF

Sir Karl Popper, widely regarded as the most important philosopher of the twentieth century, the true successor to Immanuel Kant, died on the 18th September in London at the age of 92.

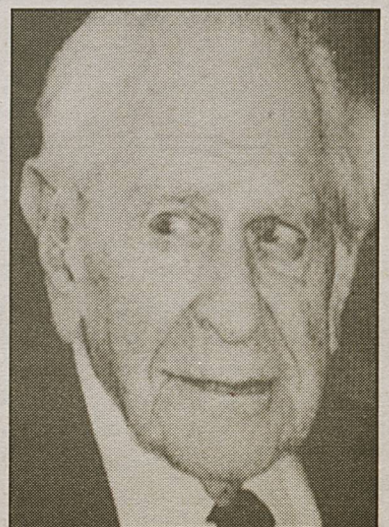
Popper was one of the last of the remarkable group of philosophers from Vienna until forced to flee by the onset of Nazism. His published work such as *The Open Society and Its Enemies* stood up for democracy against communism.

Popper was born in Vienna in 1902 and studied at the Univer-

sity in Vienna and obtained his doctorate in 1928. He published *The Logic of Scientific Discovery* in 1934 and after leaving Vienna for initially Cambridge spent the war years in New Zealand, where he completed *The Open Society*.

In 1946, Popper arrived at the LSE, becoming a Professor in 1948 of logic and scientific method and remained here until he retired. His weekly seminars were some of the most significant in a student's academic career as Popper called on his charges in a thick accent to "Criticise".

He will, needless to say, be sorely missed by many alumni and the LSE in general.



Sir Karl Popper: 1902 - 1994

# Union Jerks?

**J**ack is back, revitalised and sporting a new look this year eager to bring you all the inside information from the most important political forum at the LSE. Unfortunately, the Editor has decreed that Jack will have to continue to write about the Union General Meeting.

Next week, for those of you who are vestal virgins of the UGM, with no expense spared Jack will bring you the essential guide to what goes on every Thursday at 1 pm in The Old Theatre. This week, however, Jack feels it is her duty to present the Who's Who of the four Sabbatical Officers of the Students' Union. The likelihood is that you have already run into these unsavoury characters in your induction, but first impressions are often false, and those terribly nice illusions are about to be shattered....

## LEWIS, Martin.

General Secretary of the LSESU since July 1994. Graduated with a 2:2 in Government and Law. Member of Liberal Democrats and Union of Jewish Students, which has in the past caused anxiety as to who he should be keeping in with the most. Stood for election as an Independent despite these affiliations, with the justification that national politics do not affect the Students' Union. Of course, grant cuts, student loans and the Education Act do not effect the Students' Union and his reasons for standing as an independent have nothing to do with realising he would never get elected as a Lib Dem. His chequered political history includes a stint in the DSG, the careerist centre-left group which swept to power in the elections a few years back until everybody realised that they were useless and dumped them out the next year. Described in previous editions of the Beaver as Martin Stupid, this refers to his excitable nature, propensity for talking crap at inordinate length and self-importance verging on the obsessional. Then again, you have probably found that out already.

## GHATATE, Vincent.

Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer of the LSESU since July 1994. A Greenpeace man, who swept to power in the election against the fragrant Kate Hampton of the V-necked jumpers, largely thanks to his connections with Passfield Hall where he was twice President and embroiled in alleged scandals to do with transfer of funds to Greenpeace and telephones, but ask Vini himself to explain that. The Passfield posse clearly love him and gave him the required votes to get the job he wanted. His great project is a global festival for the Centenary, but Jack has noticed young Vincent is looking a lot more harassed than he used to be. The pressure is obviously getting to him.

## BUDZINSKA, Ola.

Finance and Services Sabbatical since July 1994. Ola was able to win an election with photographs of her looking like somebody completely different. A small woman with funny glasses and a penchant for aerobics instructors, her previous liaisons with one Martin Lewis probably due to them being so similar in the talking crap and loving themselves stakes. A tip from Jack is to ask a detailed question at a UGM and watch her squirm. Ola is apparently a Hari Krishna, which may explain a lot, and you have probably been flogged one of those stupid books by her on Oxford Street.

## DELANEY, Gary.

Entertainments Sabbatical since July 1994. Jack knows very little about Delaney other than he looks like a soapdodger, is rumoured not to eat vegetables (except chips), and he is a long-haired lover from Birmingham. Often seen researching his responsibility for the Tuns, although he has never been seen to actually buy a drink. He swept to power by standing himself rather than his underpants as he did the previous year, and by nicking a For Sale sign to parade around for a week with looking incredibly mad. Then again, it is Jack's contention that you have to be mad to be a Sabbatical Officer.

# LSE Foundation: the first year

## NICK SUTTON

**T**he LSE Foundation has now been in operation for just over a year. Yet despite its presence at the School, very few students seem aware of it and even fewer understand the important role it will play in the future development of the School.

As the current Government reduces its spending on higher education, it is essential that, if the LSE intends to remain one of the top universities in the world, it finds alternative funding sources. Unlike its peers - the Oxbridge colleges, the Ivy League schools, and the Sorbonne - LSE lacks the large capital resources which could ensure it has a secure financial base. It is hoped that the professional fund-raisers of the LSE Foundation will be able to amend this.

The Foundation, as the School's permanent development arm, is currently directing much of its energy to 'The Second Century Campaign' - an attempt to raise a provisional £40m for the School over the next five years. Progress towards this target appears to be moving well: nearly £4m has already been raised in pledges and donations from companies, individuals and alumni of the School.

If 'The Second Century Campaign' target is reached, students will be among the main beneficiaries. Projects include £5m for the purchase of new student residential accommodation; £7.5m for scholarships and financial support for both overseas and home students; £10m to revamp the Library through the purchase of further special collections and teaching materials, the complete computerization of the Library's catalogue, and a radical redesign of

the Library building.

Other plans include a large extension and improvement of the information technology facilities at School, in Student Halls of Residences and the creation of a 'pool' of portable computers available for students to work off-campus.

Student involvement in the LSE Foundation is regarded by Howard Raingold, its first Director, now resigned, as vital. Indeed, through the 1895 Group, Students are able to provide important input into the work of the Foundation, act as Ambassadors of the School, and run their own small-scale fund-raising activities - including a Ball to be held in the Cafe Royal at the end of this term. The first President of the 1895 Group was Martin Lewis, whose involvement, together with that of the future Group under Serra Konuralp, will ensure that the views of students are expressed to those who run the Foundation.

# Aldwych tube to close

## RON VOCE

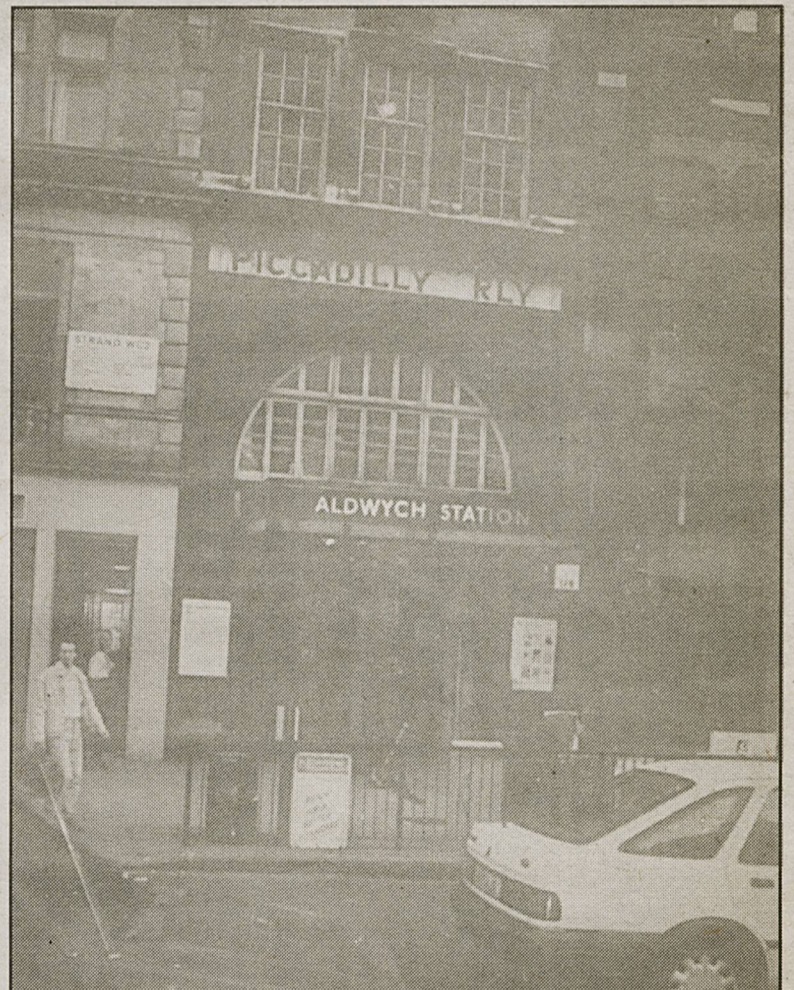
**O**n Friday 30th September, Aldwych tube station on the Strand is set to close after 87 years of service.

When the American Charles Yerkes decided to connect his two tube lines at Holborn, thus bypassing the Aldwych spur, it is doubtful he would have seen the spur continuing on for so long.

The Department of Transport feel that the Aldwych spur is no longer viable as it is now only used at peak times with the number of trips on the line being only 80 per day.

A spokeswoman for London Underground stated that to keep Aldwych open would cost £3 million as the 87 year old lifts need replacing.

Frank Dobson, Labour's transport spokesman said that this closure was "going in the wrong direction" stating that the spur could be extended to Waterloo and beyond.



Aldwych tube station set to close on Friday after 87 years  
Photo: Ron Voce

# New LSE Students' Union logo unveiled

## BEAVER STAFF

**O**ver the summer, Martin Lewis, General Secretary of the LSESU, came up with a new corporate logo for the Students' Union.

The logo incorporates the Schools own log to maximise the identity of the Students' Union with the School body as a whole.

Lewis reasons for this new image was that various LSESU departments "tended to use individual logos", and that with this new logo it should "indicate unity and promote cohesiveness". There should now no longer be confusion as to what is a Student Union service and what is a School service.



# Atkinson resigns after Ellis defeats O'Leary

## "Ellis is a Cro-Magnon" storms Atkinson as election marred by irregularities and vote rigging scandals rock LSE Tories

### BEAVER STAFF

On Friday 10th June at 6.00pm, whilst the majority of LSE students were celebrating the end of their examinations, the LSE Tories were electing Alexander Ellis as the new Chairperson by a tight eight votes to seven.

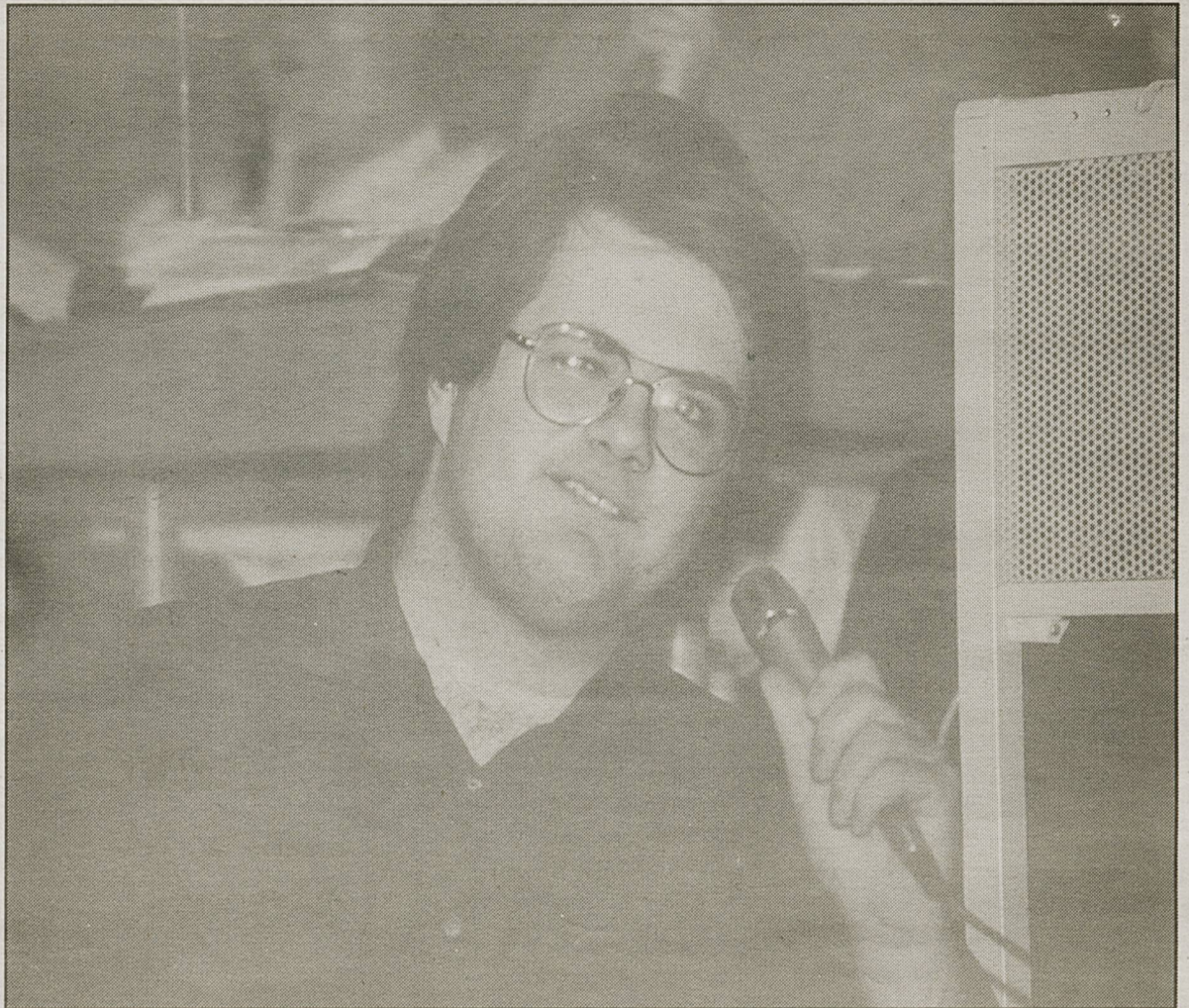
The election had arisen after the Chairperson-elect, Paul Birrel resigned over allegations by certain members of the LSE Tories over his involvement in the selling of a story concerning an LSE student in a homosexual affair with a junior Conservative Whip. Although Birrel denied these allegations, the naming of him in Private Eye and the copies found pinned on LSE notice boards has made his denials sound less plausible.

Birrel's letter of resignation, read out to the meeting of sixteen Tory members, placed the blame for this onto Hugh O'Leary, whose name was mentioned on a message left on the Beaver answer machine allegedly from Mazher Mahmood, the News of the World journalist responsible for writing the initial story "thanking him for his help".

When the result was declared by outgoing chairperson Erik Mielke James Atkinson resigned his office immediately stating he

could not work with Ellis who he described as underhand especially when it became apparent that Ellis had openly said that he "could arrange for non members to vote" in the election. The view was held by both pro and anti Ellis factions that there does now appear to be an irreconcilable split in the LSE Conservatives.

The fact that a meeting was called in the absence of many leading members of the Association worried many, long serving member Bernardo Duggan was not even in the country as were many others. It is feared that Conservative Central Office will see the LSE Tory's as a joke and they will be disbanded. This fear of has led Chris Parry, President of Rosebery Hall, to state that he will refused to rejoin this year and intends to distance himself as far from the Tories as possible. It remains to be seen how the LSE Conservative Association recovers this year in the wake of a resurgent Labour Club. The recruitment at Fresher's Fair and the ability to attract leading politicians remain crucial to the success of any Chairperson. Ellis will certainly have his work cut out especially as it appears that Birrel is not even returning to the LSE and he may find himself isolated within the Association.



James Atkinson, caught in a lighter moment at a UGM last year

Photo: Pam Keenan

SEPTEMBER 26TH - OCTOBER 1ST 1994

## Children's Day

## London's Flag Day for Children

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## Student from LSE wins prize

BEAVER STAFF



A second year International Relations undergraduate at the LSE, Gareth Hulbert, won one of the three "highly commended" awards in the undergraduate section of the Young Business Writer of the Year competition. This was for a 1000 word comment on "Can Europe ever be united?" The annual competition, which is now in its sixth year is open to undergraduates and sixth-formers throughout the UK, is sponsored by international law firm, Clifford Chance, organised by City University Business School and supported by The Financial Times. Hulbert was presented with his award by Ian Hay Davidson, the Chairman of Storehouse and LSE alumnus.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New Sports Administrator appointed

Elizabeth Petyt has been appointed as the new Sports Administrator replacing Harriet Hughes, who left over the summer.

### The new LSESU shop to open next week

The refurbished LSESU shop is to reopen on Monday 3rd October. The new mezzanine floor with its entrance onto Houghton street should despite the small delay prove to be very successful.

### LSESU Handbook

The LSESU Handbook for freshers, should be out on Thursday. Problems over production and invalid contracts saw an Executive committee meeting called with the out come being that the Beaver was given the responsibility to finish the handbook.

**FULL STORY NEXT WEEK**

### Dr Bike, calling Dr Bike

Dr Bike is the LSE's very own bicycle repair person. This year Dr Bike is Merlin and every Friday evening in the entrance to Clare Market Building he and his assistants will repair your bike. Remuneration can be in many forms, but Merlin did ask for it to be of the liquid variety from the Three Tuns. If you can catch him during the week he may effect repairs at other times too.

### New Lockers at LSE

The LSE has refurbished its lockers and the process of allocation. Rather than a key, students will have to provide their own padlock. To obtain a locker, you must fill out a form from outside room A12 (opposite the Porters lodge) and then if you are allocated a locker you will be informed. Illegal use of lockers by not using this system will see your padlock broken. If you have any queries, please ring 071 955 7713 (internal 7713) between 8.30am and 4.15 pm until 17th October.

### LSESU Cafe

The LSESU Cafe is open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday with hot food from twelve including a Quad Take Out window open until 2pm. The Cafe is a "clear your own" table affair and smoking is not permitted on the ground floor.

The London School of Economics

The Latin American Society

Membership 1994 ~ 1995

"Have you got yours!"



# Money's too tight to mention

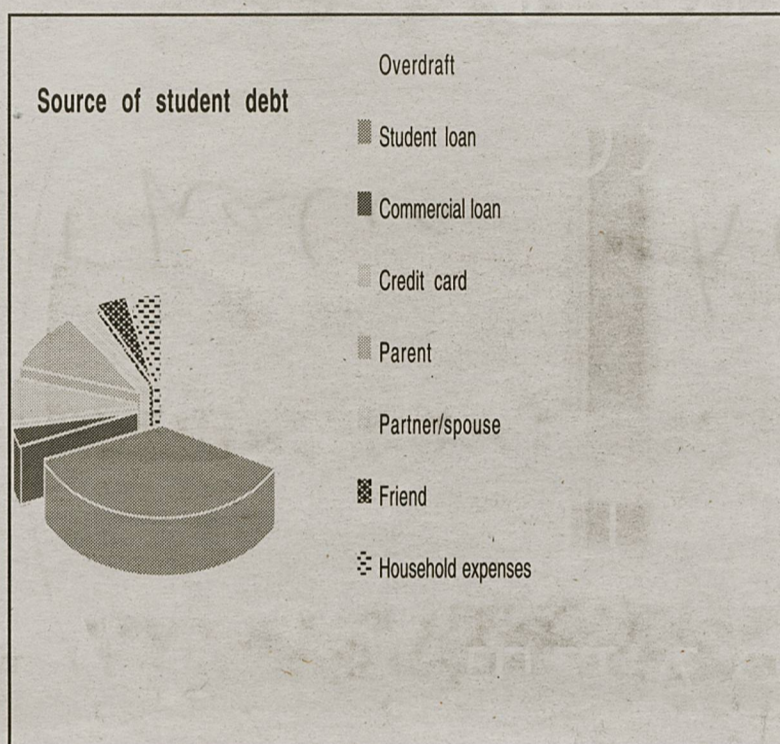
**GURPREET MEHET  
GURPREET SANGAR**

Over 70% of all higher education students believe they will be in debt by the end of the academic year and over 80% have taken no financial advice over their debt.

These figures come from a survey run by the National Union of Students and the National Westminster Bank. These facts may be quite frightening to many "freshers", but to many students they have become accepted as commonplace as the average debt for a twenty one year old student on leaving higher education is now approximately £2,500.

The survey was conducted in February 1994 at both Manchester University, King's and University Colleges London. The number of students who took part was 1960. Of which 73% were undergraduate, 69% were in the under 21, 75% were in receipt of a Local Education Authority grant and only 43% had taken out the student loan.

At a press conference at King's College in July, Jim Murphy, the President of NUS, said that this report showed that "students are living below the poverty line and many are now considering sacrificing their education." When challenged by a journalist of the national press to produce a specific example, Murphy was unable to



give any to back up NUS's claim that one in five students drop out due to financial hardship, stating that the survey was "only for students still at university."

Ian Moss, Vice-President Welfare, commented that this was just the first of many surveys NUS was going to undertake. He cited the area of mature students, whose external commitments to dependents, mortgages and the inability to use parents as "lender of last resort", meant that those students over 26 had, according to the survey a debt of over £6000. Another area NUS were considering looking in to was that of

part-time students, who could not obtain grants or access funds, and had difficulty obtaining the few Social Security benefits they may be entitled to.

Moss and Murphy made clear that student debt was not due to the excessive lifestyle of students but just the basic living costs, such as food, accommodation and transport. The Education Select Committee, as long ago as 1991, stated that a student living in London needed over £5,000 just to survive.

When this is taken into consideration, the 30% cut in grants, even with the reciprocal rise in loans, which many students still refuse to take, leaves students more worried about debt, than their education. Yet even though 63% of those surveyed believed it would take between one and two years to clear their debts, 68% believed in the long run they would benefit financially from their education.

Murphy announced that NUS would continue its policy of lobbying and petitioning Parliament as it had proven "successful" in obtaining amendments to the 1994 Education Bill. He argued that an "urgent review of the British system of student financial support" was needed and "the Government must admit that there are now many students who cannot cope."

The final word, according to Murphy and Moss, that summed up the student debt crisis was to be left to a 22 year old University College London finalist who commented about his own debt problems that "if I were a company, I'd be bankrupt!"



Spare any change.....

Photo:Pam Keenan

## Chancellor forced to abandon stage amidst protest

**BEAVER STAFF**

The Right Honourable Kenneth Clarke, MP, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was forced from the stage of the Old Theatre where he was giving a Social Market Foundation public lecture on 12th July. At a lecture two weeks before, Lord Lawson of Blaby, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, had said he missed being Chancellor, but seeing the fear in Ken Clarke's eyes when he was forced from the stage in the melée of stewards and demonstrators, it is very doubtful.

Demonstrators, predominantly Socialist Workers and not from the LSE, were protesting against VAT on fuel and the Criminal Justice Bill. Although a public lecture they were barred from the Old Theatre but made their presence felt, by chanting "Tax the greedy not the needy" and "Tories Out, Tories Out" amongst others. Surprisingly for an event involving a cabinet minister the Police presence was non-existent and when the stewards gave way under the pressure storming the stage was easy.

Clarke was ushered off the stage he spent over 30 minutes in the Senior Dining room whilst three van loads of police arrived to remove the demonstrators from

the foyer of the Old Building. The Police also removed many final year B.Sc (Econ) students who were trying to find their grades after waiting all day for them. Many of the final year students made their feelings known to the demonstrators, calling them "no better than fascists!" and that they were devaluing the LSE degrees which they had just found out the results of, especially when most were not even students let alone from the LSE.

Once the demonstrators had been removed from the building they dispersed quickly. Two final year students from the LSE Socialist Workers Student Society, Mubin Haq and Louise Ashon who, along with a few other LSE students, were involved seemed pleased with the demonstration, but the director John Ashworth said "the LSE will continue to protect its visitor's rights to freedom of speech." However in a letter he released later he did say that "public meetings" might in future have restrictions placed upon them.

Kenneth Clarke eventually returned to the stage and gave a speech that urged the government must mix free market principles with enlightened social policy. Commenting on the demonstrators he said "I was disappointed that they couldn't think of any original slogans."

## Patten Out, Shepherd in!



In the cabinet reshuffle over the summer, the Rt. Hon. John Patten M.P. was replaced as Secretary of State for Education by the Rt. Hon. Gillian Shephard M.P. Shephard moved from the Department of Employment, whilst Patten moved to the back benches. It

appears that Patten paid the price for his failure to pass government policy especially the Higher Education Act which in its highly amended form has recently been passed by Parliament. The new Secretary of State refused to be drawn on any future plans for higher education.



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# The Beaver

The other day Dr David Starkey, he of the 'Moral Maze,' walked past E197 and commented to his associate that I was illiterate and a history student to boot. Whether he knew I could hear doesn't matter because I know I am illiterate, I have poor grammar and I managed, without braking into a sweat, a 2:2 in history. Now perhaps I shouldn't tell you that, but the point is, what is someone as lazy as me doing working on the most hour sapping and time consuming affair at the LSE. Well it's simple. I do it, as do some 30-40 other students, because we enjoy it in a 'sick' sort of way. We hope our efforts are appreciated and in general they are. If you wish to come along and take part there is room for all, all we ask is committment and your time. You may end up with a 2:2 but you can at least say you've achieved someting.

Talking of achieving something. At the end of last year the Union General Meeting passed a motion to create policy that their should be a Beaver sabbatical Editor. Over the summer, Martin Lewis has been trying to push for the idea of a Communications sabbatical. Well no offence but the UGM has already passed the idea of a Beaver sabbatical and that should remain. An independent press to some may seem to some Union hacks as unfair to them, but it is not unfair to the students who are owed a fair and unbiased view of the LSE. A Comuncations Officer sitting on the Executive, with some control over *The Beaver* does not fill me with happiness. Time will tell on this one.

Finally I would like to thank Nigel Boyce, Dennis Lim and N.P. Flywheel without who this Fresher Edition would not have appeared. Hopefully the full crew will return for next weeks edition, plus some new happy smiling faces. I do hope so, because we need some new 'sick' people

T.T.F.N.

## Beaver Staff

Executive Editor	Ron Voce
Advertising Editor	Scott Wayne
Arts Editors	Susha Lee-Shothaman
	Dennis Lim
Campus Editors	Marie Darvill
	To be elected
Letters Editor	Rachel Cuthbert
Music Editor	To be elected
News Editors	Phil Gomm
	Steve Roy
Photographic Editors	Pam Keenan
	To be elected
Politics Editor	Tom Randell
Production Editor	To be elected
Sports Editors	Both missing, presumed dead
What's On Editor	To be elected

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### Negatives by

Gargoyle Graphics 8/9 Hoxton Square N1

### Printed by:

Eastway Offset, 3-13 Hepscott Road, E9

## Laser printermania

For those of you who have sadistic tendencies: this should prove an interesting read! A couple of times a year, the nightmare comes back: the IT project is due.

For those of you who don't know, IT stands for Introduction to Information Technology, and is a course taken by more than 400 students at the LSE. Now, I am not suggesting that it is the project itself which is a nightmare. That "title" is reserved for the printing! Yes, dear readers, in a matter of a few days, more than 400 students have to laser print their projects (that's not counting the non-IT students, who obviously have their deadlines, too.)... and how many laser printers are at our disposal? ...4! And one tends to count oneself lucky if two of them are functioning properly.

Each of the printers take quite a long time to print out only a few pages. Consequently, queues are enormous! Now seriously, for all that we students pay to attend the LSE, shouldn't we at least be able to have access to some laser printers that work, without having to stand in line for 3 hours? The fact that we must pay to use the printers is ludicrous in itself, in my view, but I would overlook that fact completely, if I knew that I would get to a functioning printer within half an hour.

To echo the sentiments of many IT students: who is to blame- the IT department (for demanding laser printed projects) or the LSE as a whole? To be frank, I don't really care, as long as SOMETHING is done about the situation. I am sure that I am not the only one who is sick of it!

Ina Woyseth

## Student insurance fiddle?

Dear Editor

Among your readers is someone who thinks I've stolen their £1.

Several thousand Freshers have so far applied for an Information Pack on Student Insurances (for their Belongings) as recommended by their Sixth Form or by their College Admission office etc.; and as required, have sent me 4 first class stamps (£1) - whereupon they have received the Pack by return. As far as possible.....

..... However, about 200 of them failed to complete one side of the form, so I don't know who they are or where they live. In many cases, Admissions have kindly identified them for me, but there are

still nearly 100 "Missing Persons". I don't want to them to think I am a con man.

So if you are reading this and are waiting/wanting the pack and suspect that I have fled the country with your £1 please get in touch with me at then address below.

Yours sincerely

Alan Broad MA

Student Insurance Service

P.O.Box 172

Headington

Oxford

OX3 OAL

## Martin Lewis says thanks !

Dear Ron,

Thank you for doing the handbook. After all the problems, headaches, nausea and vomiting, I'm glad to see that we finally managed to get something of the sort out, and that all in all, in the final analysis it looks to be quite good.

So now I've thanked you all there is left for me to do is to formally wish you, "The Beaver", its editors and the collective good luck, much success, productivity and production over the coming year

Yours sincerely

Martin Lewis

## Here we go, here we go.....again!

Dear Beaver,

I have noticed in recent issues of your publication a worrying trend. There appears to be a growing tide of oppression, abuse and vilification directed at a small but significant minority of the LSE's student population.

As a member of this increasingly agitated group, I feel bound to warn you that there will be a terrible price to pay for any further sneering at ex-King's College, Arsenal-supporting post-graduates.

Yours

Sam Pullen

## Part-time clerical supervisor

Required for approximately 30 hours per week commencing 3/10/94. Must have excellent organisational skills, be reliable and honest, and be able to work on our own initiative. Position includes some use of databases therefore suitable applicants must be competent with computers. Starting salary will be £5/hour.

For more information contact

Andrew Harvey c/o LSE Foundation on 071 955 6768.

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### The Beaver

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# LSE SU 9

## What's NUS? The Finance and Services Executive Officer "tells it like it is" at

### CLAIRE LAWRIE

If someone had asked me, last year, what NUS was about, then all that my mind would conjure up would be the memory of Ms. Dominique Delite stapling my mug-shot onto a tacky grey card and purring "Next!" But that grey card not only obtains concessions at the cinema, but makes you a member of the National Union of Students which is 72 years old this year, and now "represents" 2 million students in further and higher education in the U.K.

NUS conference is held annually and this year's was the second one since the abolition of the costly (£300,000) Spring and Winter conferences in 1992. A national rail strike coincided with the last day of the 1993 conference forcing it to end a day early. A day which has subsequently never been regained. This has left NUS with only 4 days for 1400 elected delegates representing over 800 colleges and universities, to vote on policy decisions. They also used the short time to elect a new Executive Committee and a new National President as pint-sized careerist Lorna Fitzsimmons was retiring.

The setting for conference is in the town which is the home of tacky trinkets and toys, the much climbed tower and venue for the likes of Cannon and Ball, Chas'n'Dave et al. The Winter Gardens Ballroom, Blackpool is also the venue for NUS conference but minus the entertainment.



NUS Conference "in disorder", with demonstrators blockading the podium. This action led to Conference being abandoned.

Photo: Claire Lawrie

Last years four main debates were already prioritised through a postal ballot (LSE failed to submit anything) and were student union reform, student financial hardship, NUS reform, anti-racism and anti-fascism.

And those elected to represent the LSESU at the UGM-grandiose conference were 5 delegates: Leandro Moura (the leader), Francisca Malarée, Kate Hampton, Vini Ghatate and Martin

Lewis. Three observers: Louise Ashon, James Atkinson, Justin Deaville and myself as Press Officer. The LSE delegation were also later joined by Ron "I've been seven times before and I'm coming back for more" Voce, the Beaver Editor and Ralph Wilde, who made an excellent speech as a guest speaker from Stonewall. Other LSE Students there included Dave Ward and Gidon Koch and there might have been others, but we didn't notice them.

Unlike the UGM with its broad political spectrum as demonstrated by the leanings of the delegates, a striking feature about NUS is the strong leftwards tilt. Comments such as "Remember 1968!" and "There's going to be a revolution. Soon!" just don't seem out of place there. It seems that anything to the right of Labour Students has been severed and branded as the enemy. The Liberal Democrats, for example, somehow felt im-

pelled to disguise themselves under the inoffensive label "Independent". This realignment ensured that when Francisca Malarée (Chairperson of LSE Labour Club) gave her voting card to James Atkinson, a well known Tory, he had no other choice to vote other than Labour as they were the furthest right!

Despite the conference having this leaning, division is common. There is often bitter factional infighting with the vocal minorities hoping to exploit procedural wrangling to spin out or even stifle some debates. Even so, it was accepted by many delegates that more business, motions being discussed, was completed than in any previous year.

The group with massive influence, despite having only 80 members is "Socialist Organiser" They recycle their main members with Kevin Sexton being regurgitated relentlessly for a decade, meaning that he's been to more conferences than Ron Voce. They are notable for vicious personal attacks on people that disagree with them i.e. everyone. Socialist Organiser relies on a succession of "front" organisations such as "Left Unity". This current Socialist Organiser front group was originally set up as an alliance between all the left groups. Its success was such that the Socialist Workers left after the first meeting and the remnants left after the first week. It's currently a bastion of unity and alliance of Socialist Organiser, Socialist

## WORKING IT OUT TOGETHER

**NUS IS WORKING** to end student hardship. Financial hardship is forcing many more students to undertake part-time work, which is affecting their studies, making students ever more dependent on overdrafts and now forcing increasing numbers out of education.

The situation is set to worsen as the Chancellor plans to reduce your grant by 30% over the next three years. NUS wants these cuts reversed and students to receive a fair grant which is sufficient to live on

**NUS IS CAMPAIGNING** for quality education. We monitor the work of universities, colleges, government departments and local authorities to make sure students' interests are represented. NUS produces a detailed response to legislative proposals and frequently influences the outcome by lobbying and petitioning. Last year the government proposed an Education Bill against NUS and your student union. The student movement succeeded in changing government's plans and securing a future for your student union.

It is a time of dramatic change in education. NUS believes that education must meet the needs of students while serving the whole country

**NUS IS SUPPORTING** student unions. By training student union officers and providing back-up throughout their term of office we help them develop the skills to improve your union. We provide an expert advice service, NUS cards, legal representation and give financial advice to student unions. With NUS Services Ltd., cheap prices are negotiated for student union bars and shops; and we provide a consultancy service to help make student unions even better and more efficient.

**NUS IS YOU** - the student movement is run for and by students. NUS and your student union run campaigns and provide services to improve the lot of students. Without such high levels of student involvement, NUS would not retain its role in society. That is why the student movement prides itself on its democracy and places such an emphasis on student participation.

Jim Murphy, President, National Union of Students  
Nelson Mandela House, 461 Holloway Road, London N7 6LJ

## the solution: NUS makes sense



# Blackpool 10

## NUS Conference, so you all can see what NUS does with our affiliation fees

Organiser and... (surprise surprise!) ...Socialist Organiser.

The Socialist Workers Party who are very vocal and with many more members at grassroots level than Left Unity/Socialist Organiser - literally 50-100 times more, are in stark contrast to "Militant" whose members, judging by the size of their delegation, seem to have got lost on the way to Blackpool. There's the very bizarre and very irrelevant Revolutionary Communist Students who are anti-student unions, pro-Serbia, pro-Shining Path and against gay rights, feminism and abortion (I think!) Their handful of members stand for every post and make interminably dull speeches but this year they surprisingly didn't with draw their nominations before the vote.

The above are just a few of the vast array of groups you'll find at NUS Conference. Others (even!) less relevant include "Workers Power", "Socialist Appeal", "Workers Revolutionary Party and just about every combination of the words "Socialist", "Worker", "Revolutionary" and "Party". It is as if the Berlin Wall never fell. In this alphabet group of organisations you merely have to grab three random letters and chances are you'll have the name of a group.

There was, at last, a glimmer of unity when Tory delegate James Atkinson succeeded in making a Royal Holloway delegate shyly confess that he was a "Tory-minded Independent". Alas, the hope of an alliance was foiled when James broke off the short lived political love-affair by retorting that he was "an independent-minded Tory". James demonstrated this further when he did not support the single solitary Conservative who was brave enough to take to the conference hustings for the first time in a decade. Edward Lord must have expected the boos as he got up and sat down, but no the almost respectful silence that greeted his address. Which is more than the guest speaker from the African National Congress received. After travelling from afar to Blackpool, he declined to speak due to delegate intimidation.

A demonstration of about 50 delegates was staged by a combination of Palestinian students, Revolutionary Communists, Black Students Caucus and what seemed to be any other people with a grievance joining in. The disruptive, banner-waving gaggle had been outraged when VP Welfare-elect Ian Moss had decided to devote only 15 minutes to a debate on anti-racism and anti-fascism, which contradicted the 1/2 hour extension promised only the day before. His limp



Jim Murphy, National President-elect of NUS, relaxing during one of the rare quiet moments at National Conference at Blackpool.

Photo: Agency

attempt to avoid a delicate issue by curtailing time to discuss it, failed miserably to pass unnoticed. It effectively led to the abrupt end of the conference as the NEC "polit -bureau" types and Constitution and Steering Committee abandoned the floor.

**"In this alphabet group of organisations you merely have to grab three random letters and chances are you'll have the name of a group."**

Other such glaring anomalies occurred when conference discussed NUS affiliation to the Anti-Nazi League. The motion was broken down into parts in such a way that if you voted "for" the parts then you'd be voting not to affiliate, but if you voted against the "against" then you were effectively voting not to debate the part! Therefore, no

opportunity was actually given for delegates to vote for NUS affiliation to ANL. Hardly democratic! Many delegates appeared to be against the affiliation as they believe the ANL is a Socialist Worker front. However, other delegates, such as Leandro Moura, believed that "factional infighting should be subordinate to the fight against fascism and racism", arguing that "protesting against ANL at NUS Conference gives out the wrong message to a very hard working grassroots anti-racists in college groups".

Scottish President-elect Jim Murphy expressed disgust with the demonstrators behaviour, when the ANC speaker left, as he believes the key to NUS's future relevance is "credibility" and reform. This was said against a backdrop of a chanting chorus of "You Sad Bastards!" by delegates at the demonstrations. But some of the demonstrators had attempted to explain to the ANC speaker what the Conference had done over anti-fascism/anti-racism issue and Louise Ashon commented that there was a "great deal of anger in conference as the debate wasn't properly reflecting the issues that students find are important". The resultant disbanded conference that costs £400 per 90 seconds, didn't just waste debating time.

A delegate who didn't waste time (in taking to the floor to speak) was self confessed ego

(eco)-feminist Kate Hampton. Twice Kate gave a philippic speech to no-confidence the chairperson, Tracy Neal (National Treasurer), and succeeded in ousting the chair for incompetence after a convincing voting victory. Although the LSE didn't submit any motions to Conference, it redeemed itself by participating heavily on the floor. Martin Lewis gave a "I'm proud to be a Liberal Democrat" speech and Louise Ashon made an election speech for VP Welfare and after a recount found that she had been elected to the block of twelve for the National Executive Committee.

**"It seems that anything to the right of Labour Students has been severed and branded as the enemy."**

The personalities of the conference were especially prevalent during the election speeches. Greg Vincent, standing for re-election to the Constitution and Steering Committee, put a paper bag over his head and sang "vote for me", but the prime

turkey candidate for NUS personality was Faz Hakim. The drama queen's performance of being emotionally torn was far more tear jerking than any of Nick Deardon's sobs. Ms. Hakim, the NUS National Secretary, who after a year in the job shocked the world (apparently) by dramatically announcing her resignation in her hustings speech. Her exact words that dribbled out were "I can't go on".

Only a few days earlier Faz had failed to turn up for a meeting of the Black Students Caucus as she was engaged with other matters. Other people had their own ideas. "Too busy to be black" someone commented. Faz alleged that she had been in the firing line from all sides: death threats from fascists, pressure from Muslim extremists, accusations of not being black enough and being told "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the country". After much public friend hugging and blubbing, the conference watched Faz limp off to an ovation. However all was not what it seemed. It transpires that Faz couldn't go on because she had landed a top-job at the Labour headquarters in Walworth Road SE17 as Equal-Opportunities Officer. Congratulations are due to the cynical, but rightly so, Ron Voce as he reckoned this "straight from the beginning".

Apart from NUS seeming like a pantomime of the National Executive saying that they're brilliant and the delegates on the floor saying they're crap. It is evident that NUS isn't just a complete waste of time and money. The last year has been a hectic and eventful one for students, student unions and NUS. NUS successfully managed, with help from students, to force changes to the controversial Education Bill which threatened the very existence of student union representation and many other "non-core" activities. This is particularly noteworthy as right-wing Tory back benchers are still planning a last ditch attempt to kill of students' union politics, despite the governments U-turn over its plans for students' unions and is not thought to be ready for another.

NUS is now leading a campaign to overturn the 30% grant cut and is calling for an urgent review of student financial support as well as plans to set up a new charity organisation to work alongside the reformed NUS structure to provide education research and information to students and the public. Not a bad list of achievements for four days work, maybe we should stay in NUS after all.

# Life in the fast lane

They're calling it the adventure of the year. Dennis Lim hitches a ride as the Keanu Reeves action vehicle hurtles into town and finds himself hooked on "Speed"



Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock - lovable dimwit and intrepid bus-driver - in a scene from "Speed"

After last summer's rich harvest of big, juicy blockbusters ("Jurassic Park", "The Fugitive", "In The Line Of Fire"), this year has seemed barren in comparison - "The Mask" (Jim Carrey, please please PLEASE fuck off), "The Flintstones" (Liz Taylor - see how the mighty have fallen), "True Lies" (Arnie doing what he's been doing every summer for the past 786 years - yawn) - until now, that is. Hollywood might have been unable to deliver a smart action movie, but there's no doubt that, as compensation, we've been presented with the next best thing - a completely, unreservedly BRAINLESS action movie - and it's called "Speed".

Keanu Reeves is Jack, a daring, risk-taking, lovably dimwitted cop. His adversary is a totally bonkers terrorist bomber (played by - surprise, surprise - Dennis Hopper, everybody's favourite

psycho), who gets his kicks from planting huge quantities of explosives in worryingly public places, demanding lots of dosh and watching the LAPD go berserk trying to prevent large-scale carnage and bloodshed.

"Speed" is essentially a film in three parts. First, Hopper threatens to blow up a lift; then, he threatens to blow up a bus and finally, in the unashamedly ludicrous subway sequence, he threatens to blow up Sandra Bullock. The much-discussed bus ride is the designated showpiece and lasts for over an hour - with an intrepid Ms. Bullock at the wheel, the bus veers through rush hour traffic, smashes through barricades, takes bends at 50 m.p.h. and whizzes past 50-ft gaps in uncompleted motorways - substantially more eventful than a ride on your average London double-decker.

There is much talk of Reeves becoming

the next action hero. What can I say? Keanu Reeves - a man whose dramatic abilities, with the solitary exception of "My Own Private Idaho" have in the past been so horrifically wanting that I've often wondered if he was taking the piss - which, of course, means that he is perfectly poised to assume the mantle of Big-Budget Action Hero. He'd obviously be good at it - a more streamlined model after Mel, Bruce, Sly and Arnie, far more aesthetically pleasing, less annoyingly prone to lame wisecracks and - unlike all of the above - blessed with an abundance of charisma.

On his first outing, Dutch director Jan de Bont comes good, utilising experience gleaned from years as a successful action movie cinematographer. De Bont knows the genre well and throughout, he keeps the cameras well-positioned, the pace relentless and the audience very, very excited.

What else? There are no botched, embarrassing attempts at character development, simply because there is zero character development. The death count is surprisingly low (a plus point for many, definitely a quibble for Rambo fans), as is - unfortunately - the wit factor. The script is, for the most part, lamentable and the acting - hey, WHAT acting? BUT DO WE EVEN CARE AT ALL? Don't be ridiculous. Of course, it's all wildly implausible if you stop to think, but the thing about "Speed" is it doesn't ALLOW you time to indulge in silly, time-wasting activities like thinking - this is mindless entertainment at its adrenaline-pumping, crowd-pleasing, foot-stomping best.

"Speed" is, quite simply, one hell of a fucking trip - go on, get high on it.

("Speed" opens throughout London on Friday, 30th September)



## The Beaver's guide to the best films on general release around London

### THE LAST SEDUCTION

Linda Fiorentino is magnificent as the manipulative superbitch who fucks, uses, torments then discards (in that order, usually) the hapless men around her with ice-cold ruthlessness. Well-acted and stylishly directed, this oozes class from every conceivable orifice. Sleek, sexy and

very funny to boot.

(MGM Piccadilly, Metro, Screen Baker St.)

### THE HUDSUCKER PROXY

The latest in a line of winners from the truly godlike Coen brothers. This time, they borrow heavily from Capra and come

up with a wacky, fantastical fairy-tale in which a small-town buffoon foils the plans of a scheming bigwig by, err... inventing the hula-hoop. All-round superb performances from Tim Robbins, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Paul Newman, who make the most of a snappy, witty script.

(Barbican, MGM Tottenham Court Road)

### GO FISH

A celebratory lesbian comedy, shot in arty, grainy black and white, but a completely colourful experience in every other respect. Still one of the best films on general release and, by some way, the most romantic film of the year so far.

(MGM Piccadilly)

### THIRTY-TWO SHORT FILMS ABOUT GLENN GOULD

GoULD was one of the greatest pianists of this century and this film is an intelligent, intriguingly-structured pastiche which succeeds in depicting the true nature of genius - sometimes tortured, often remote, always enigmatic. If that doesn't convince you, the obligatory glorious soundtrack should.

(MGM Swiss Centre)

Next Week: Ken Loach's new film "Ladybird, Ladybird", our guide to London's best and cheapest cinemas, new fringe theatre productions and more...

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# Art for art sake

## Ron Voce views the "Glory of Venice" at the Royal Academy of Arts

My summer seems to have been spent listening to Classic FM and looking out for Sea Containers mentions in such amazing papers as varied as the West Lancashire Evening Gazette and the Bradford Telegraph and Argus in my job as a reader at a press cuttings agency. So when I arrived at the Royal Academy of Arts on Piccadilly to view "The Glory of Venice: Art in the Eighteenth Century" exhibition, after a hard night at work the mere mention of client "124" and Classic FM which, we mellow out to in the small hours, put me in a state of mind that was not exactly conducive to be objective about eighteenth century art.

My view that I was back at work was heightened by the poor lighting at the exhibition, which in a hurriedly typed note asked us to ignore it when we wrote our pieces. In a way I was pleased that some of the paintings were in rooms so dark, that by not seeing them I saved time in my walk around the exhibition. This time last year I was treated to modern American art of varying degrees of style, this years new exhibition although very worthy throws up only a couple of genre styles which seem to be summed up by religious images and icons plus views of Venice and its environs.

At the dawn of the eighteenth century, the republic of Venice was already 1000 years old; it was to survive for another 97 year. It was no longer a major force in Italy, let alone Europe, the nearest analogy could be with a declining post second world war Britain, harking back to the "good old days" in all things. Because of the great



The Rialto Bridge with Palazzo dei Camerlenghi c.1760-3

The Rialto Bridge with Palazzo dei Camerlenghi c.1760-3

city that Venice had been it attracted artists to paint its vistas from the Doges Palace, St Marks, and the Grand Canal, whilst painting religious picture for the churches, monasteries and zealots of the area.

Walking around the pictures, sketches, statues from Ricci, whose *Flight into Egypt* is, despite its small size, the most effective painting in the first gallery, which sets the religious tone of the exhibition as you wander through the 14 galleries, you age with

Venice, through Piezzetta and Tiepolo whose scenes of the martyrdoms of St James and St Bartholomew vie with each other to be the most brutal of their time. The two of them dominate the first half of the eighteenth century with three galleries to themselves until Canaletto gets a look in with his eye for detail and incident, which can be seen in his vistas of Venice like the Grand Canal and the procession of the Doge.

By the time you reach the last gallery which contains a few of

Canova's sculptures, there is a feeling that there is something missing here, like there's not enough to see. I'm not trying to put you off, art is subjective and I wasn't to keen on this, but you might be and I am sure the exhibition will be successful. The exhibition is open until 14th December from 10 am to 6pm daily, with tickets for students at £4.50.

In closing I would like to say that the best picture, for me, in the exhibition was a Canaletto painted during his period in

Photo: Rt. Hon. Paul Channon M.P

Photo: Rt. Hon. Paul Channon M.P  
England due to the War of Austrian Succession. Apart from his painting of Horse Guards which now belongs to a certain Mr Lloyd Webber, he painted a view of London from the south side of the Thames by Lambeth Palace showing Westminster bridge being built. If you are slightly mad like myself and know London quite well, you'll spend a long time searching out buildings and churches as well as other landmarks. Maybe its not such a bad exhibition after all.

WIN

The Very Best Of

# THE YOUNG ONES

The eternal students Vyv, Rick, Neil and Mike are back with their latest video **The Very Best Of the Young Ones**, featuring five disgustingly funny episodes. All you have to do to win a copy is find 5 differences between the two pictures.

**BBC**  
VIDEO



## Competition Time!

Rude and revolting and rancid! That's the Young Ones now available on a BBC Video called "The Very Best Of The Young Ones". It contains such vintage episodes as "Bomb, Boring, Interesting, Bambi and Summer Holiday" and is available from most major outlets for a knockdown price of £12.99 for 172 minutes of mould-breaking alternative comedy from the early eighties. The Beaver has ten videos to give away by entering the competition on a postcard and sending it to the Beaver office in E197 with your home address, so we can send you the videos if you win, via the Royal Mail, internal mail, or the Beaver drop boxes on top of the distribution bins. Deadline for entries is Friday 30 September and the winners will be announced in next week's paper.

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# Be prepared to dream

## Ron Voce does just that.....

“Will you recognise him?” Gary Delaney asks. I nod, but I’m not too sure. It’s been over two and a half years since I saw Ian McNabb at the Camden Underworld and wrote my first article for *The Beaver*. So as this clean shaven, short-haired and denim clad man poked his head around the door I relaxed and offered my hand “Hello Ian.”

Ian McNabb was out warming up the band for Glastonbury and was not even considering the possibility that his new album **Head Like A Rock** would in July be nominated for the 1994 Mercury Music Award. Instead, as we settled into a bare but functional room on the third floor of King’s College Students’ Union with a view of the Temple and the Thames, Ian nervously offers us some cans of Fosters and some initial bemusement over my who is better, Danii or Kylie question.

It brings an off the wall comment that “the first cut is the deepest”. Gary cringes in the corner and June from the record company, leaves the room. I was hoping to impress but I was doing my best to get the shortest interview on record. Calm down, I kept telling myself as I passed over a cutting of my first article and while he reads it I try and sort myself out.

**“It’s easy to have a hit record! I’ve done it. The hardest thing is to have the right kind of hit record”.**

I count to ten, and come up with clichéd rock question number one about why he chose John Porter to produce the new album **Head Like A Rock** and why use session players when he had played most of the instruments on his last album. “The whole album was going to be recorded in America...he lives there...he knows everybody...he’s English...we didn’t use session player. We used people with names...who’ve played with great names.” This was not just a reference to Crazy Horse, whose work with Neil Young is legendary, but others on the album, have played with Dylan and K.d.Lang amongst others.

Fifteen minutes had gone by so quickly and I was still there. I ask if Gary could take some photos (they don’t come out), Ian agrees as I think he finally feels I’ve done my research when I say that if I could chose two songs that he had wrote for Crazy Horse to play they would be **What Se Did To My Mind** and **When It All Comes Down**. Ian gives me a wry smile as the flash goes off and whispers “I agree!” I was right too, as later that night they played these two songs.

That question may have saved the interview, so I to ask what Ian thinks of the current band made up of the Crazy Horse rhythm section of Ralph Molina and Billy Talbot plus guitarist Mike Hamilton and a keyboard player known as “the Aphex twin” and how long will it last?

“Obviously it’s a great buzz for me playing with Crazy Horse...to turn round and there’s Crazy Horse...it’s indescribable... without question they are one of the best live bands ever. We played Manchester last night...it was the greatest gig I’ve ever done...but tonight we’ll be giving it a go!”

Giving it a go is the best way to describe how the Crazy Horse tracks on the album were recorded.

“The whole thing about the way it sounds, is the way it was recorded and the vibe around it. The main thing

about making great records is to capture something not to try and force something out that isn’t there....we never tried to repair the bits we fucked up but kept on redoing it because that’s the way it was...it took me a long time to realise that mistakes weren’t necessarily there to be fixed.”

I was brought up on Ian’s back catalogue of the Icicle Works, plus his recent solo stuff and I like quite a few of them so I ask which ones he likes? The riposte is a quick “I don’t like any of them”. He comments that the only time he gets to listen to them is “when I’m at someone’s house, they see me and stick one on, but that’s all right because I’m usually drunk...but what’s the point in listening to old records. I’m going to play some tonight though, but that’s different!”

I try not to dwell on the past but in the credits to the new album **Head Like A Rock** he thanks Beggars Banquet for keeping the Icicle Works legacy alive. I presume he’s referring to the **Icicle Works - Greatest Hits** package of last year. Yes he admits “I had everything to do with that, but I didn’t really want to be involved....but I thought if I oversaw it I couldn’t then complain about it.”

Although Ian has a go at me for bringing up his back catalogue yet again, I do ask why, with him being from Liverpool, he has used so much American allusions in his lyrics. “I used to read a lot of American novels, William Burroughs, Bukowski, Steinbeck. I read them all to death. Intrinsically

rock and roll is American! I think I may have hit a raw nerve as we get a little rant on people from Barnsley singing in American accents and others who sing in Dick Van Dyke “cockney”. “It grates...I’m not one of those guys ...”

Talking of complaining Ian McNabb has virtually always been signed to an independent label, whether Beggars Banquet or now This Way Up. Did his time with Epic, also part of Sony make him feel sympathetic with George Michael, who lost his “professional slavery” court case with Sony yesterday.

“I think he got exactly what he asked for. George Michael has done everything he could possibly do to become a big star. Now he’s complaining because he hasn’t got freedom. He sold his freedom for a vast amount of money and Sony are quite right, but I’m not a big fan of corporations, in fact I hate them, but he signed the papers for considerable amounts of money he didn’t have to do that, he could have had his artistic freedom and set up his own label ...but he wanted the money. He’s got what he deserves!”

You may think Ian is a harsh and bitter man who has not made the breakthrough from cult status to the big time. But it’s not. Ian describes his cult status as “everyone knows who you are, but no one buys your records” Here is a man who, after a reasonably large hit in the early eighties with **Birds Fly (A Whisper To A Scream)** said “I went deliberately out of the way not to be pigeon holed. When the Icicle works was seen as a teeny band, I grew my hair long and grew a beard”. Even now when I say **Go Into The Light** on the new album could be turned into a great dance track and a possible hit, but Ian came back and said “it’s easy to have a hit record! I’ve done it. The hardest thing is to have the right kind of hit record”.

As I turn over the tape I realise we’ve been chatting for half an hour. It is no wonder June, from the record company, is getting edgy. Ian returns to the issue of money by saying the main reason from preventing him touring, let alone recording with this line up again is money. “As always I’ve got loads of song’s to record...but if this albums not a success financially ....” He trails off as if debating whether he should withhold some information. You know “Truth And Beauty”, I used my mortgage money to pay for that. The Halifax weren’t happy at all. They didn’t care whether the album was going to be a killer...but the market was so shit they’d rather not repossess the bloody place.” Luckily Ian manage to sign to This Way Up, who I think have picked up a good deal. At least they allowed Ian to pass on some money to the building society.

June from the record company is pacing up and down by know looking at he watch. Billy Talbot is sitting brooding away in the corner, snapping at Gary when he asks for directions to the toilet. I decide that I’ve probably overstayed my welcome. Although I managed to elicit that Soundgarden and Therapy are two of Ian McNabb’s current fave bands and that if I wanted to know what Crazy Horse feel about England I should “ask them”, having got my interview and seeing the reaction Gary’s request for directions received, I bid a short farewell to Ian McNabb.

In a few hours he would take to the stage, blow me a way musically, emotionally and deafen me for two days. But then I knew I shouldn’t have stood by the PA stack. However as I had got more than my original fifteen minutes of time, enjoying myself was the least I could do! As he sang so eloquently that night if you really want something to happen **You Must Be Prepared To Dream** so that maybe, just maybe, that dream will eventually happen. That night in June, mine did!

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**STA TRAVEL**

# Houghton Street Harry

The Beaver was saddened to hear of the death of one of LSE's greatest sporting heroes during the summer - Henry George Thickett. Thickett attended the School between 1922-1925, reading Economics during his time at the college but it was his exploits after graduating which caught the eye of the public as he became one of the greatest footballing Wing Half's this country has ever seen.

Thickett was born in a small town on the outskirts of Bolton at the turn of the century, the only son of Gladys and George Thickett, who ran a small grocer's shop. After a ramshackle education at the local grammar school, Thickett won a scholarship to Middleton High School, then one of the top economic establishments in the country (In 1976 the school became a comprehensive and was re-named 'The Stephen Crane Institute of Learning'). In 1917, he completed and passed his Oxford entrants exams but passed over the chance to attend the University in favour of a military career, joining the Queen's Own Rutland Regiment. After distinguishing himself in the Great War, Thickett was demobbed in 1920 and spent the following two years training with Wolverhampton Wanderers. However, still wanting to pursue an academic career he left the Wanderers and gained a place at LSE.

His years at LSE were pretty uneventful by today's standards. In fact Thickett himself, in an interview with the Beaver in 1974, stated that most of his time was spent in the Library and attending lectures with the great Laski.

He graduated in 1925 with a Second Class (Lower) degree and set about resurrecting his footballing career with Arsenal. In 1926, at the age of twenty seven, he won the first of his twelve caps for England in a 5-3 victory against Belgium. He retired from first class football twelve years later following stints with Bradford Park Avenue, Derby County and Portsmouth.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he re-enlisted but was discharged in 1942 after being shot in both legs at El Alamein. He later wrote a best selling novel about his experiences which was made into a film starring David Niven entitled 'A Matter of Life and Death'. But not everything in Thickett's life went according to plan.

In 1934 his best friend, Freddy N. D. Dreamers, was mistaken for notorious criminal John Dillinger and gunned down by FBI agents in Chicago while on a shopping trip. The two agents were cleared of any impropriety after an investigation discovered that the battery in Dreamers' hearing aid had tragically gone flat and he was on his way to buy some replacements and therefore oblivious to the demands of the FBI agents.

In 1943 he married Ms. Kylie Flinker, who he met during his time at LSE. Together they had three children, Max, Louisa and Caroline but the marriage was not a happy one. In 1952 they split up and Kylie returned to her native Australia, taking the three children with her. There she met an untimely death, following a shark attack off the Western Territory. Max stayed on in Australia but the two girls returned to England to stay with their father.

During this stormy period, Thickett earned a living as a respected football correspondent with the Daily Express. Sadly, his relationship with his children suffered as a result and turned soured when they jointly published a book on their childhoods entitled 'Daddy Dearest'.

Following the book's publication, he became somewhat of a recluse. He braved the glare of the media in 1976 when he was awarded the MBE for his services to sport and in 1981 he made a startling, albeit brief, return to the limelight after he co-wrote the screenplay for the film 'Escape to Victory', narrowly missing out on what would have been a deserved Oscar.

His last public appearance came in May of this year at Wembley when he was one of the Football Association's guests of honour for the FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Chelsea. Always outspoken on footballing matters, he aired his dissatisfaction with the modern game, in particular the biased status of the "allegedly" dodgy referee, and questioned the ethics of Manchester United's policy of "buying success".

A man of controversy to the last, Henry Thickett succumbed to a brief illness in August and will be sorely missed in the sporting circles he once ruled with unnerving ease.

## Football cliches and other words of wisdom

Or how to fill the sports pages the N.P Flywheel way

**C**aught square at the back', 'Pulled out of shape in the middle', 'Comfortable on the ball' - What on earth do they mean? Do commentators simply make them up in order to give you, the viewer, an impression that he knows what he is talking about? I, and I alone, know what they're really talking about.

### CAUGHT SQUARE AT THE BACK

A common phrase that was first heard in England in the 1960s. In those days Britain was a very "swing-ing" place with "pop" combos such as the Beatles and Freddie and the Dreamers playing on every street corner. Fashion was very important to the "hip" young "cats" and "chicks" who followed soccer and, of course, anyone who didn't dress in trendy clothes was considered "uncool" or "square". Naturally, this went for the players on the pitch too. Football teams were said to be "square at the back" if their defenders had teddy boy haircuts, baggy shorts and whacking great shinpads. Fashions have changed since those days of course, and now baggy shorts are all the rage. Luckily TV commentators such as Alan Hansen and Brian Moore are also top fashion experts, so they are able to pick out teams whose defenders are not wearing the latest styles and tell us instantly that, "they've been caught square at the back". A related phrase is "square ball". This refers to an unfashionable pass usually made by older players such as Ray Wilkins.

### PULLED OUT OF SHAPE IN THE MIDDLE

Pulled out of shape in the middle also came about through the winds of change. During the 1970s the big football kit manufacturers started making their shirts out of nylon instead of traditional cotton. As a result these shirts tended to stretch with repeated

washing and go all loose and floppy round the waist. Teams who wore an old kit were easily spotted by the clothes conscious TV experts who told us that they had been "pulled out of shape in the middle". Luckily football clubs change their kits more regularly these days, so the problem does not arise so often.

### COMFORTABLE ON THE BALL

"C"omfortable on the ball" is an interesting phrase which refers back to the "old days". In the past, as your parents have probably told you, everyone was much poorer than they are today and they couldn't afford to buy anything. Chairs, certainly, were in short supply. As a result people used to sit on lumps of coal, piles of old cornflakes and anything else that came to hand. The nicest thing to sit on though was a leather football - it was "comfortable on the ball". As a result the person who had the football liked to keep it for themselves and not give it away to anyone else. Which is why today the phrase is used to describe players who hang on to the ball for long periods rather than hoofing it up the field to an opponent.

### CAUGHT ON THE BALL

The 'Seventies were also responsible for the phrase 'caught on the ball' - but instead of fashion being the impetus, TV proved to be the sperm that gave fruit to the egg. During this sporting heyday there were two Saturday sports shows: Grandstand - the sportsman's sports programme - and World of Sport - Granny's afternoon in, watching the wrestling with the typists in the crap jump suits. Of course, both shows had their own football slots. Grandstand had, and still has, Football Focus, but World of Sport had 'On The Ball'. Of course, 'On The Ball' was no where near as prodigious as it's rival so it used to have to scrape the barrel when

it came to interviewing the top stars of the day. Instead of getting the likes of Dalglish and Keegan, they interviewed Mickey Droy and Alan Gowling. Appearances on the show could prove to be embarrassing for such players who were ridiculed up and the down the country for being 'Caught On The Ball'. Not to be confused with 'Comfortable on the Ball' because, of course, no one could be comfortable on the ball.

### PLUGGING THE GAPS

"P"lugging the gaps" is a throwback to the days of yore when the Industrial Revolution was in full swing. Football was in it's early, infant days and players held down regular jobs as well as gracing the field. One such team was the Lancashire outfit Newton Heath. Every member of the squad worked in the construction industry and went around the country plugging gaps in places as far apart as Cumberland and Watford. Anyway, because their work involved travelling up and down the country the team often found themselves a player short come match day. In order to combat this, Newton Heath hit upon the idea of buying the best players from other teams so they could "plug the gaps" in their squad. Hence, the saying "buying success".

### WHERE'S YOUR TREBLE GONE?

"W"here's your treble gone?" is a newcomer to the football terraces and concerns Manchester United's failure to win all three domestic trophies following their European Cup exit at the hands of Turkish outfit Galatasaray. Phrases which are distant relatives to this chant include "Your so shit it's unbelievable, "He's French, he's shit, he's never on the pitch - Cantona, Cantona" and the classic "The Famous Man Utd went to Rome to see the Pope"

## Tiverton Town undefeated (not)

**A**s this is probably the only chance all season I will have to write for the sports pages I might as well get in there and say well done to Tivvy Town.

Yes, Tivvy Town, the team who I brought to your attention last year in that amazing column Club Noise. Tivvy Town who won the Great Mills Premier Division by a stroll and were only prevented from being promoted

to the Beazer Homes League because of the lack of first aid facilities. The stupidity of that decision has been shown in the recent results as they are undefeated in seven games in the league. Goals for 35, goals against 4, that's an average of 5 goals per game, if you couldn't work it out for yourself.

Last Saturday, Western Super Mare from the Beazer Homes League ventured down to Ladysmead and were beaten

4-2 in the FA Cup Qualifying Round. Tiverton Town looks as if they are going to make it in to the first round proper as they did in 1990 and 1991. But as they already played at Wembley in 1993 in the FA Vase final who cares. As all those supporters of Spurs now know, FA Cup-Tin Pot Trophy. Come on Tivvy lets have another Treble, just like last year. Srop Press Tivvy lost last night!!

RON VOCE