

The Beaver

8 March 2011
Newspaper of the
LSE Students' Union
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Howard's end

Director resigns, cites 'personal error of judgement'

Lauren Fedor

Sir Howard Davies resigned as Director of the School at a meeting of the LSE Council, the School's highest governing body, on Thursday night. Davies's resignation came after more than two weeks of heightened scrutiny over the School's links with Libya.

In a statement released on Thursday night, the School said it "had accepted the resignation of Sir Howard Davies as Director".

Peter Sutherland, chair of the Council and the LSE Court of Governors, said Davies has been "an outstanding director of the LSE these past eight years", adding Davies's achievements at the School will "endure long after the current controversy has died away".

"We accept his resignation with great regret and reluctance but understand that he has taken an honourable course in the best interests of the school", Sutherland said.

Davies has been asked to stay on until "arrangements for a successor have been resolved", according to the statement.

"The short point is that I am responsible for the School's reputation, and that has suffered", Davies wrote in his resignation letter to Sutherland.

"I advised the Council that it was reasonable to accept the money, and that has turned out to be a mistake", Davies said of accepting the donation from the GICDF. "There were risks involved in taking funding from sources associated with Libya, and they should have been weighed more heavily in the balance".

"The grant from the foundation was used to support work on civil society in North Africa, which will have value in the future," Davies said, adding the training programmes the School has run in Libya will "also prove valuable in enhancing the practical skills of many people who will be needed under whatever successor regime emerges".

"I have no evidence whatsoever that anyone has behaved improperly in this whole episode", Davies said.

Davies also said he "made a personal error of judgment" in both accepting the British government's invitation to be an economic envoy, and the subsequent Libyan invitation to advise the North African

country's sovereign wealth fund.

"There was nothing substantive to be ashamed of," Davies said, "but the consequence has been to make it more difficult for me to defend the institution than it would otherwise have been."

Speaking to the BBC on Friday morning, Davies said his acceptance of the British government's invitation to be an economic envoy "muddled [his] personal position and [his] personal experience in the financial sector with [his] role as the Director of the School".

"My own personal position was getting caught up in the School's", Davies said.

Prior to joining the LSE in 2003, Davies was chairman of the Financial Services Authority, the UK's financial regulator. Davies previously served as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry and Controller of the Audit Commission, and has also worked for McKinsey & Company and the Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Davies's second term as LSE Director was due to end next year. In an interview with the Beaver last term, Davies said of his future at the School: "In 2012, a decision will have to be made as to whether I carry on beyond that".

"I will have to think about it, and so will the School", Davies told the Beaver last autumn.

Davies told the BBC he initially submitted his resignation last Sunday, 27th February.

"I offered my resignation on Sunday, and was told I should not do it", Davies told the BBC. "I was asked to withdraw it, which I did".

"The Council of the School asked me, unanimously, to stay on", Davies said, "but I decided that I would not stay on because the reputation of the School is my responsibility, and it has, as you rightly say, been damaged".

In his interview with the BBC, Davies said the School "will recover" from the controversies of recent weeks.

When the presenter asked Davies if he was "the wrong sort of person to run a university", given his banking and political affiliations, Davies replied, "You wouldn't expect me to agree with that".

"I have engaged usefully with the academic community," Davies said, adding, "I'm not apologising for my overall tenure at the LSE".

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PRIVATE B



Council announces far-reaching inquiry into School's Libya links

Lauren Fedor

The LSE Council announced the commission of an "independent, external inquiry into the School's relationship with Libya and with Saif Gaddafi and into related matters" last week, after a meeting held on Thursday, 3rd March.

Lord Woolf, former Lord Chief Justice for England and Wales and former Chairman of the Council of University College London, will conduct the inquiry.

The independent inquiry will set out to "establish the full facts of the School's links with Libya" and "establish clear guidelines for international donations to and links with the School", according to a statement from the School.

Woolf will make his recommendations to the Council "as soon as possible", according to the statement.

The Council identified five separate issues for Woolf to investigate involving the LSE's ties with Libya, including the School's 2009 agreement to accept a £1.5 million donation from the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation (GICDF).

In 2009, the GICDF pledged £1.5

million, to be paid over the course of five years, to support the activities of LSE Global Governance, specifically the development of a "research programme on North Africa, focused on politics, economics and society", according to a statement from the School. To date, the foundation has given the School £300,000 to support the centre's "work on human rights, women and development, democracy and civil society, and economic diversification".

Around half of the £300,000 has already been spent, "mainly on research projects on human rights, women and development, democracy and civil society, and economic diversification", according to a statement on the School's website.

When the LSE Council met earlier last week, on Tuesday, 1st March, the LSE's Director Howard Davies recommended the LSE reallocate the £300,000 it has received from the Foundation to ends beneficial to the Libyan people. The Council agreed, announcing after Tuesday's meeting that the School would set up a scholarship fund, totalling £300,000, to support students from North Africa.

Davies has since announced his resignation from the position of Director, citing his acceptance of an invitation from the

British government to act as an economic envoy to Libya as a conflict of interest.

A committee, including student representatives, will be formed to discuss the particulars of establishing such a fund, according to a statement from the School.

Also on Tuesday, the Council "firmly endorsed the Director's statements and decisions so far, including the decisions to close the research programme and to express regret at the reputation damage for the School caused by the association with the Gaddafi name", according to the statement.

As the Beaver reported last month, "highly distressing" reports about recent events in Libya prompted the School to halt the Global Governance programme funded by the GICDF, and refuse the remainder of the pledged £1.5 million.

A statement released by the School on Monday, 21st February, said the School was "reconsidering its links [with the GICDF] as a matter of urgency".

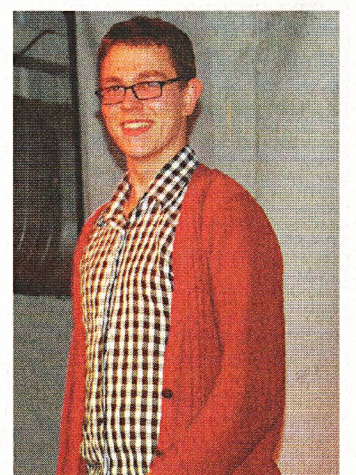
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LSE STUDENTS' UNION LENT TERM ELECTIONS 2011

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Union Bashō

Error of judgement

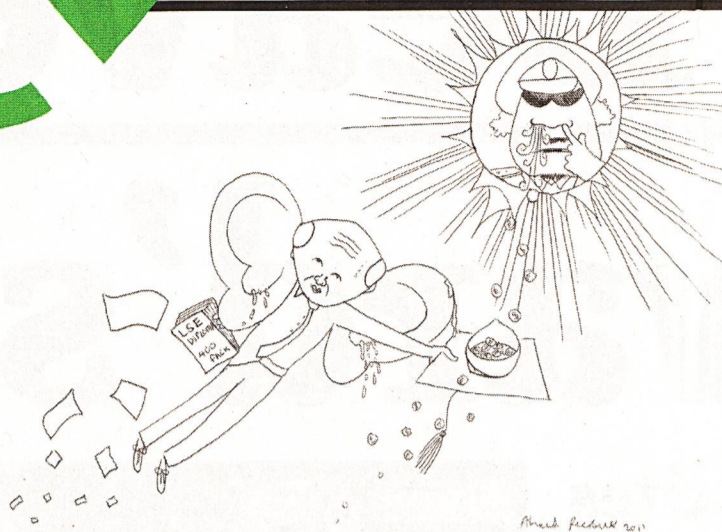
Ashok is happy. But despite Thursday, he'll be gone before Davies.

Some night

Economists felt the Quad was sticky Friday. 'What happened?' they asked.

Bashō claims that because he satirised three out of four new Sabbs last week, he has the predictive powers of Ashok Kumar.

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The Beaver

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Hot seats and scorched seats

Howard Davies has paid the ultimate price (see page 1) for the School's lack of an ethical investment policy and, one might say, conscience.

Two years ago this newspaper called for the School to divest itself of investment in BAE systems, an arms company, and our calls were echoed by students eager to help preserve the LSE's historical traditions. A year ago, this newspaper raised doubts over the rationality of accepting a £1.5m from the Gaddafi Foundation in Libya, given the protestations of the late Fred Halliday, and an overwhelming bulk of evidence suggesting Libya was not a country to do business with. On that occasion, perhaps by dint of the paper's standing at the time, our sentiments were not generally shared by the student body—indeed, the then-General Secretary of the Students' Union said such donations should be "encouraged".

How he must rue his words now, albeit from the fjords of Norway (see page 5). Davies, being more localised, must suffer the consequences of being made a scapegoat, and this newspaper will not bow to popular pressure and suggest his time had been called. The decision to accept Gaddafi's money was made by the School's most senior decision-making body—not one man—and was an example of collective failure to see past short-term goals. Some say Davies was a prudent man, and that his unwillingness to break a rigid pay structure even for big names may have prevented certain stars from descending upon Aldwych during his time here. In the case of Libya, it would appear a corresponding problem has occurred: in the race to secure funding by all means possible, and against a backdrop of falling government support, the School failed to correctly balance risks and benefits.

Facts brought to light now suggest the School was duped, and fell into a gross deception at least partly masterminded by Monitor, the management consultancy (see page 5). Private firms tend to escape scrutiny at such moments as these, but this newspaper believes the extent to which Monitor engaged in a re-branding of Libya must be uncovered. Was the country's rapprochement with Bush and Blair simply a cover? Were the efforts

ostensibly made by the Gaddafi regime to clean up its act parts of an elaborate disguise, cooked up by a Boston-based firm with several former MI6 agents on its payroll? Such a context would help explain why the School was so eager to enter into an Executive Education contract worth £2.2 million.

It is important not to lay the blame for possibly foolish decisions at Howard Davies's feet, and this newspaper gauges the general sentiment on campus is one of disbelief that so many other great minds on Council permitted these proposals to go ahead without further scrutiny. Shami Chakrabarti, so often a figure of affection in the eyes of LSE students, may appear particularly two-faced in this context, preaching of human rights through every media outlet whilst apparently turning a blind eye to the less savoury aspects of Libya under Gaddafi, and how this might taint money received by the LSE.

Even if Chakrabarti was not present at the earlier meeting in June, this would surely not preclude her from reading the minutes, earmarking the topic as one meriting further investigation, and raising her concerns at the second meeting.

One senses Robert Halfon (the MP for Harlow) may not be so zany in suggesting the only way for the LSE to recover its reputation is for a wholesale change of personnel on Council.

One person not on Council who has escaped criticism so far—baffling, in this newspaper's view—is Howard Davies's predecessor, the sociologist Anthony Giddens. As with Chakrabarti, people often feel nervous about criticising Giddens, given the unavoidable mark he has made on British politics with his doctrine of the Third Way, beloved of the New Labour aristocracy. But facts emerging about Giddens's funded trips to Libya made on the invitation of Monitor, combined with his barrage of written statements testifying the progress made by Gaddafi's senior and junior, should now raise a suspicious eyebrow.

This newspaper hopes sincerely that the media's obsessive poring over Howard Davies's CV does not get in the way of them acquainting themselves with Giddens's doings. We fear he will be let off the hook.

Even a casual observation of Davies's

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Think you can write like Bernard Levin?

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THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE CLEARLY DOES!

Kumar files police report over death threats

Nicola Alexander

Students' Union Education Officer Ashok Kumar has contacted the Metropolitan Police Service after allegedly receiving death threats and hate mail over the weekend.

Charlotte Gerada, General Secretary of the Students' Union, told the Beaver Kumar received threats via a Facebook message to his personal account, and several phone calls to his personal phone from withheld numbers. The Facebook message, sent last Friday, said if Kumar did not stop "fucking up our university" then "someone's gonna smash [him] with a brick". The message was signed, "Haters".

The callers, who began targeting Kumar on Friday, have since called him several times each day, Kumar told the Beaver. The Education Officer reports the calls were less frequent on Sunday.

According to Kumar, one call, received on his mobile phone, was picked up by a

representative from the National Union of Students (NUS), who was asked to help with the investigation. Two callers, one female and one male, alternated their conversation with the NUS representative, who Kumar said he believes they mistook for himself.

"The callers asked if I was going to Crush," Kumar said, adding, "When the NUS representative responded that he had not understood what they had said, the callers said, 'because if you do we'll fucking merk you'".

Other calls reportedly included offensive racial slurs that attacked both Kumar's nationality and his race.

It is unclear what particular motive instigated the phone calls to Kumar, or whether they are linked to the Facebook message. The senders of the message made clear that they were offended by Kumar's public handling of Howard Davies' resignation, referencing one interview in the Evening Standard newspaper in particular.

In a collective statement, the Sabbatical Officers said they were "immensely

disturbed" and "utterly disgusted that several students at our campus can behave in such a way".

There is no confirmation beyond the Sabbatical Officers' statement that the threats have been made by LSE students.

Gerada said no other Sabbatical Officers have received such threats.

"There is no space on our campus for any form of threat, prejudice or violence", the officers said.

Kumar and the Students' Union filed a report regarding the verbal attacks at Holborn Police Station on Friday. Over the course of the weekend, Kumar and several other witnesses met with the police to lay the groundwork for the investigation.

"The police will be using records supplied by my phone company to track down the owners of those numbers", Kumar told the Beaver, adding perpetrators "should be aware that withholding [their] number has no bearing on whether it can be traced". He said perpetrators "can and will be found".

The Sabbatical Officers told the Beaver several students have come for-

ward with information to assist with the investigation.

"One student has already been traced and is currently being dealt with by the police as well as the university", Kumar said. He urged students to come forward now, saying if they did so, he would "seek to resolve this using the schools internal procedures". He added, "If [they] do not, I will be seeking a prosecution".

According to Kumar, the LSE has pledged its full support in helping to track the callers and also penalise them, if this is deemed necessary by the police.

Kumar said the culprits would likely be charged with racially aggravated offences, which in many cases warrant imprisonment. The charges made against the callers fall under section 2 and section 4 of the Protection of Harassment Act 1997.

Kumar told the Beaver he will "be pushing for the strongest penalties" if the alleged perpetrators do not come forward.

Election results herald new era for the Students' Union

Mehek Zafar

The results of the LSE Students' Union Lent Term elections were announced last Thursday evening in the Quad.

The results of the races for the Sabbatical Officers, part-time Executive Officers, Democracy Committee, Athletics Union Executive Committee and Student Trustees topped off two days of voting and a week of campaigning.

Third-year anthropology undergraduate Alex Peters-Day beat incumbent Postgraduate Officer Daniel Kroop in the race to become the General Secretary of the Students' Union for the 2010-11 academic year. On election night, Peters-Day projected a positive outlook for the future of the LSE, despite the resignation of Howard Davies. "The new Director is going to have pressure to listen to students", she told the Beaver.

The position of Education Officer went to Amena Amer, who is currently reading for a master's in social psychology. Amer emerged victorious in a lively contest with third-year anthropology undergraduate Alexandra Kane, who is the editor-in-chief of the Clare Market Review.

The new Community and Welfare Officer will be second-year government undergraduate Lukas Slothuus, who beat off competition from current Environment and Ethics Officer Hannah Polly Williams, and third-year history undergraduate Leena Taha.

"Thanks to all the people who supported me", Slothuus told revelers in the Quad. "I love you!"

"I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed," Amer told the Beaver after her win. "I don't think it has hit me yet. I hope I do a really good job".

Stanley Ellerby-English, another anthropology finalist, won the post of Activities and Development Officer, de-



Students soak up the election night vibes in the Quad, where the Media Group's live coverage was also screened
Photo: Shawn Shariati

feating second-year Mohammed Najmul Morley, who is reading social policy and criminology.

In his victory speech, Ellerby-English declared, "I fucking love activities!"

The other part-time positions were won by the following students: Sherelle Davids (Anti-Racism Officer), Polly McKinlay (Disabled Students' Officer), Lois Clifton (Environment and Ethics Officer), Hannah Geis (International Students' Officer), Benjamin Butterworth (LGBT Students' Officer), and Lucy McFadzean (Women's Officer).

"I'm really happy and want to make feminism such a big deal," McFadzean told the Beaver. "I'm shaking!"

The two positions open on the Board

of Trustees are to be filled by Anneessa Mahmood and James Maltz. There were five positions to elect for the Democracy Committee; they were won by Jack Tindale, Josh Still, Rabi Niam, Aimee Riese and Emma Clewer.

The new Athletics Union President, Brendan Mycock, was enthusiastic about his victory, telling the Beaver, "I am delighted, I want to say thank you to all those who have helped me over the last few weeks". The other positions on the Athletics Union Executive Committee went to Tom Lennon, Josh Stacey, Ovie Faruq, Sarah Long and Matthew DeJesus.

Benedict Sarhangian, one of the anchors of the live election coverage on LooSE TV, told the Beaver he was disap-

pointed by this year's election campaigns. "The winners don't seem to be lacking in fervour", Sarhangian noted.

Incoming Anti-Racism Officer Davids told the Beaver Thursday was "the best day in [her] life".

She said she meant to celebrate the night by drinking hard and calling her mum.

Nathan Briant, Bethany Clarke, Alex Haigh, Shrini Poojara, Chris Rogers, Luke Smolinski, Heather Wang, Vincent Wong and Alexander Young contributed additional reporting to this article.

News in brief

HEALTH IN OUR HANDS

Academics from the LSE and UCL in conjunction with Professor Martin McKee from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, have warned the government that the plans to reform the NHS by handing greater decision-making power to local authorities could lead to fragmentation of policies and inefficiencies in the allocation of the budget as a result of being "exposed to political interference". The academics have worked on a paper that outlines how the government can better deal with these problems.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Last Wednesday, LSE hosted Battle of the Bands. Joss Foster, Live Music Coordinator, said, "We wanted to get the band scene up and running, which wasn't too active last year". There was a wide collection of music amongst the four bands, from indie to jazz to rock and roll and "dirty, bluesy rock". The band Tin Can 44s, who played the final set, eventually won. The event was judged by a panel of judges including Pulse Station Manager Kimia Pezeshki, and several other LSE students. One attendee said, "The jazz band were very fun!"

UCU PROTEST

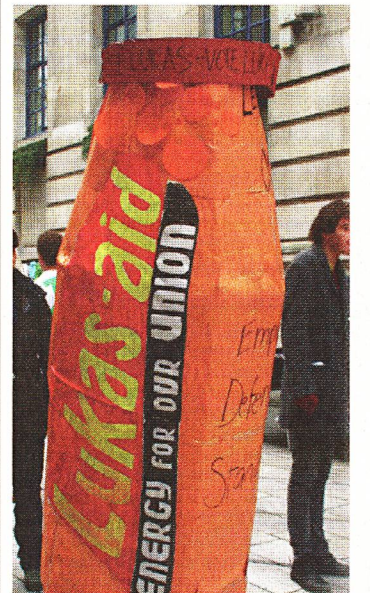
Students and staff discussed cooperation between the LSE Students' Union and the University and Colleges Union (UCU) at the forthcoming Trade Union Conference (TUC) demonstration at a meeting last Friday. Students' Union Education Officer Ashok Kumar and LSE UCU Branch Secretary Mike Cushman were present at the meeting. A Beaver reporter left the meeting after Kumar said attendees would rather their discussion was private. The TUC protest is planned for 26th March and more than 200,000 people are expected to attend.

THE COLOURING-IN SUBJECT

The course of geography module GY100, taken by all first year students studying Geography, has been entirely completed as of this week. This is a full 4 weeks before most other LSE modules. Students taking the module have no more lectures or classes after this week. This has raised serious cause for concern over the content of geography courses relative to other subjects taken at the LSE. The International Relations module IR302, Ethics of War, has also finished ahead of most other courses. The Ethics of War is a module that is not running next year.

BONUS CHECK

The unsurprising finding that executives value deferred bonuses less than immediate ones was published in The Psychology of Incentives, a collaborative report by members of the LSE Management Faculty and professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. The author interviewed 100 senior executives from FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 firms. Respondents placed a 20 per cent higher value on immediate bonuses, compared to deferred ones.



GOT A SCOOP?

Got a story that you think we should be printing? Send us an e-mail: news@thebeaveronline.co.uk

On the campaign trail...



Libya connections continue to rock School

Gaddafi gives £1.5mil to LSE GICDF donates to LSE Centre of Global Governance

Phyllis Lui
Sam Trampert Keeping

The LSE has accepted a donation from a Libyan non-governmental organisation headed by Saif Al Islam Al Gaddafi, LSE alumnus and son of the Libyan leader Muammar al Gaddafi. The donation from Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation (GICDF) amounted to £1.5 million and was intended to support LSE Global Governance.

"To increase the fundraising programme at LSE and provide volunteer leadership for strategy, identification and solicitation of significant gifts to the School", had a clear majority in favour of accepting the donation, and "due diligence work had been undertaken to ensure the probity of the Foundation. Victor Dabadah, a governor of the LSE, on whom the Beaver reported was involved for alleged involvement in bribery and fraud against the Bahrain Royal Family also spoke of the high regard in which senior politicians and opinion formers in the Gulf region held Saif Gaddafi". Dabadah is currently under investigation by US authorities for his part in a fraud case involving Alcoa, the world's largest supplier of alumina, for whom he worked as an agent. In March 2008 Alcoa



The Beaver
Established in 1999
Issue No. 718

From Tripoli to global democracy

More than a year on from the storm in-a-storm that was the naming of the Sheikh Zayed Centre for the Study of Global Governance, this time, the LSE has accepted a six-figure donation of £1.5 million from a Libyan non-governmental organisation, headed by the son of co-opting Colonel Gaddafi. Perhaps ironically, the donation was intended to support the Centre for the Study of Global Governance, a centre that is committed to research on global governance and research on "principles, rules and laws necessary to tackle global problems". It does not take a stretch of the imagination to say that Libya is hardly the bastion of democracy, or that it looks to global governance for solutions to global problems, with Colonel Gaddafi himself calling the UN Security Council the "Terror Council" in September 2009. Gaddafi himself has been in power for 42 years after a coup in 1969 which is typical for any state that claims to be deeply committed to democracy. This is not the school's only involvement with Libya, with our esteemed Director sent as an economic envoy to Libya at the request of the UK Government. In the wake of Al Qaeda's suspiciously motivated release last year, which tested the resolve of many leading politicians, it is prudent for universities to be linked so closely to a country whose government officials are most liberal sensibilities? As general as the donation is, can we really be proud of the LSE when we name our newest lecture theatre after leaders who have been tried for terrorism when we accept hefty sums of money from

sources that we instinctively think are questionable? Donations, however, are not the same as investment. This is hardly the same as investing in BAA, or any other arms company. Premises of ethical investment of our money have not yet seen to be grotesquely compromised, at least as of yet, and perhaps this is more important than donations that the school receives. Ultimately trying our institution in any organisation or nation that will not LSE's already tainted reputation for being unethical and business-minded is going to dampen our pride in our institution. We are part-way through an academic year in which the School has resolved to try harder with regard to ethical investment: a noble step towards cleaning up its image and reassuring inquisitive students that this is an open establishment, founded on clear principles. If the School does not act expediently to assure us that Saif al Gaddafi's millions do not come with strings attached, it risks looking like a helpless schoolboy who has lost his shorts.

How the LSE's dealings with Libya unravelled on the pages of this newspaper

Inquiry will "establish the full facts of the School's links with Libya"

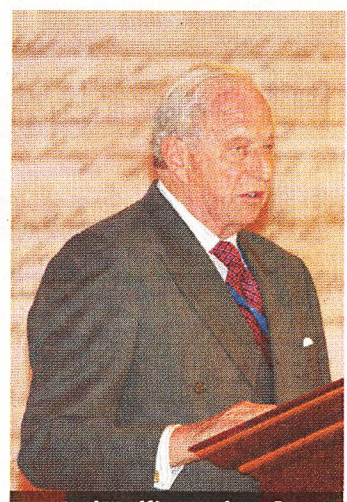
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The Council said on Thursday that it will carry out its own investigation of the administration of LSE Global Governance. The GICDF is chaired by Muammar Gaddafi's son, Saif, an alumnus of the LSE who earned both an MSc and a PhD from the School's Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method. Saif's doctoral thesis, awarded in 2008 and entitled "The Role of Civil Society in the Democratization of Global Governance Institutions", has come into question in recent weeks as academics at other universities, as well as contributors to a collaborative website, have pointed to purported instances of plagiarism. The Council also suggested Woolf look into the academic legitimacy of Saif Gaddafi's thesis. On Thursday, Monitor Group, a consulting firm based in Cambridge, Mas-

sachusetts, released a statement admitting part of the work it completed for the Libyan government between 2006 and 2008, for which it received \$250,000 from the Libyan government, included helping Gaddafi with his dissertation. The Beaver reported last week that the School had begun its own investigation of such allegations. Academic Registrar Simeon Underwood told the Beaver the School was "duty-bound" to follow up on the number of allegations, but said the following of standard procedure would be subject to the agreement of Council. Following the institution of the Woolf inquiry, it appears these regulations will not need to be followed. The GICDF's donation is not the only collaboration between Libya and the School. In 2007, LSE Enterprise, which designs executive education programmes for public bodies and private organisations, delivered a course to officials from the Libyan Economic Development Board, preparing them for a "sweeping programme of reforms" to regulatory systems, change management, public

governance in the 21st century, and accountability. The Council urged Woolf to examine the £2.2 million contract between LSE Enterprise and Libya's Economic Development Board, £1.5 million of which has been received to date. The School said last month that the LSE Enterprise programme had concluded, and no further such courses are planned. On Friday, in an interview with the BBC's Today programme, the departing Director defended the decision to provide training programmes for the Libyan leaders. "My own view would be that that is not a mistake," Davies told the BBC. "Many, many companies and organisations in this country dealt with them," he said, adding, "To say that we will not train officials in developing countries because of things their regimes might or might not do, I think is very curious." "I'm proud of the fact that universities...educate people in difficult countries," Davies told the programme's

presenter, John Humphrys. "Personally, I am not resigning for that reason". The Council also suggested the inquiry examine the LSE's 2007 acceptance of £50,000 in return for Davies's advice to Libya's sovereign wealth fund. "I shouldn't have accepted the British government's invitation to be an economic envoy, because I think that muddled my personal position and my past experience in the financial sector with my role as the Director of the School," Davies said in the far-reaching interview, explaining that he instructed the Libyan government to give the £50,000 he was offered in return for his advice to the School instead. "I told them to put that in a scholarship fund in the School," Davies said, reaffirming the decision was a "bit of a muddle" with his LSE role. The Woolf inquiry is also slated to explore the LSE's payment of £20,000 in tuition for the head of the Libyan Investment Authority, and the School's acceptance of a £22,857 award from GICDF to pay for the travel costs for academic speakers to travel to Libya.



Lord Woolf is to conduct a five-part inquiry into LSE's links with Libya
Photo: flickr user Qatar Law Forum

Schools says search for Davies's replacement may take a year

Alex Haigh
Senior Reporter

The School will not secure a new, permanent LSE Director for at least nine months, a spokesperson for the School told the Beaver on Monday. Students' Union General Secretary Charlotte Gerada told the Beaver the decision will be made "as quickly as possible", but current circumstances may mean the process could take many months. Gerada said Davies can stay in his position as head "for as long as he feels comfortable" even though although he has ostensibly resigned. Gerada went on to say, "Howard doesn't want to be hanging around", and she anticipates he will leave his post in a short period of time. The Council has asked Davies to stay on until arrangements for an interim successor have been resolved, the spokesperson said, and Davies has agreed. "I am of course willing to help with the transition in any way I can and to stay on for a period of time if that is helpful", Davies wrote in his resignation letter to Peter Sutherland, chair of the Council and the LSE Court of Governors, submitted last Thursday, 3rd March. The School has yet to receive applications for the directorship, the spokesperson told the Beaver, adding that even if such applications had been received, the candidates' identities would be kept confidential. The spokesperson said the selection committee would identify which qualities it would like to see in a new Director, as "it's a highly demanding and complex position and one with an extremely public profile". At a meeting of senior academics

and service leaders held on Friday, 4th March, George Gaskell, pro-director for resources and planning, and Adrian Hall, secretary and director of administration, told attendees the Council had set up a subcommittee to immediately consider candidates for an interim director. The search group will target either current senior members of the School's academic community or recently-retired academics for the position, a service leader who attended Friday's meeting told the Beaver. Gaskell and Hall said it might take a few weeks, possibly until the summer, before the interim director could begin work. However, if a retired academic assumed the interim position, he or she could likely start sooner. According to the source, attendees were told the search for a new permanent director will commence when Lord Woolf's inquiry is complete. Such a search will likely take close to a full year, as is standard for appointments of vice chancellors. The LSE Council has designated a subcommittee, the directorship selection committee, to decide who will take over as Director, according to the spokesperson. The committee includes lay governors, staff members and the General Secretary. As the selection process is likely to continue into next year, Alex Peters-Day, the General Secretary-elect will take Gerada's place in the committee during the next academic year, Gerada told the Beaver. Gerada told the Beaver an interim director would be chosen "probably from academics" at the School. She said though the General Secretary will sit on the committee to appoint a new, permanent Director, the General Secretary will have no say over who assumes the interim position.

Doctoral thesis row continues after fresh allegations of wrongdoing emerge

Sachin Patel

Mounting allegations of plagiarism and ghost-writing in the doctoral thesis of Saif Gaddafi are to be investigated as part of the external inquiry, announced by LSE Council last Thursday, 3rd March. The Beaver reported last week that the School had begun its own investigation of such allegations. Academic Registrar Simeon Underwood told the Beaver the School was "duty-bound" to follow up on the number of allegations, but said the following of standard procedure would be subject to the agreement of Council. On Thursday, Council has instructed former Lord Chief Justice Harry Woolf to investigate the academic integrity of Gaddafi's thesis, as well as four other areas of uncertainty surrounding links between the School and Libya. The handling over of the plagiarism investigation to Lord Woolf comes as further pieces of evidence have been disseminated through the media. Last Sunday, 6th March, the Independent published claims made by Professor Abubakr Buera of Garyounis University in Libya, saying Saif Gaddafi "gathered some PhD holders" from Buera's own university, to "help him write his doctoral dissertation". Buera specifically claimed that Gaddafi consulted Dr. Ahmed Menesi, an economist who later came out of retirement to take up a series of senior positions within the Libyan government. Having served as governor to the Central Bank of Libya, Dr. Menesi was eventually announced as Libya's ambassador to Austria in July 2007. It has also emerged that the second external examiner of Saif Gaddafi's thesis—who interviewed Gaddafi alongside Lord Desai—was a contemporary of Professor David Held, the co-director of

LSE Global Governance, the centre which was pledged £1.5 million by the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation. Professor Tony McGrew of the University of Southampton is a professor of international relations who co-authored and co-edited a number of books with Held, including Globalization/Anti-Globalization, and Globalization Theory: Approaches and Controversies. Held acted as an adviser to Gaddafi during his time at the LSE, and has been criticised for defending the scholarship of the Libyan dictator's son. Meanwhile, Lord Desai, a retired economist, has continued to defend the process by which Gaddafi's thesis was examined. In an article published in the Guardian on Friday, 4th March, Desai wrote, "We...gave Gaddafi an oral examination for two-and-a-half hours. He stood up well but we referred the thesis back for revisions and emendations. When he did these to our satisfaction, he was awarded the degree." On the apparent transformation in the younger Gaddafi's political beliefs, Desai said that, at the time, Saif "was showing a lot of interest in democratic freedoms and human rights", but has now "gone public with quite a savage image", which Desai called "quite shocking". But the same doctoral thesis has attracted negative comments from other academics. Writing in the Australian, a newspaper, a senior lecturer at the University of Western Sydney last Monday said the thesis was "a wearisome read". Dr. David Burchell described the thesis as "a craven homage to the doctrines of...professors David Held of the LSE and Joseph Nye of Harvard...recited in the sing-song manner of a vicar in a BBC murder-mystery". Separately, a former lecturer at the LSE, who worked alongside Professor

Held, has alleged that on a previous occasion, Held "insisted" he accept a student to an MSc programme, although her grades were "substantially lower than what we usually required". Erik Ringmar, who is now a professor of international relations at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, claims a relative of Sidney Blumenthal—a former aide to President Bill Clinton—was fast-tracked into the LSE via a handwritten note from Blumenthal to the then-Director, Anthony Giddens. According to Ringmar, the note made the case that "accepting his niece to do a degree at the LSE would be a wonderful opportunity to 'continue to deepen our transatlantic ties'". Ringmar's claim has been dismissed by the School as that of a "disgruntled member of staff who no longer works at LSE". The role employees at Monitor Group, a Boston-based management consultancy, played writing in Saif Gaddafi's thesis has been called into further question following the firm's admittance that they mishandled a multimillion dollar contract with Libya intended to improve the country's reputation. A spokesperson for the firm said the arranging of visits for academics and policymakers to Tripoli had been based on "misjudged possibility". On Thursday, the consultancy released a statement admitting part of the work it completed for the Libyan government between 2006 and 2008, for which it received \$250,000 from the Libyan government, included helping Gaddafi with his dissertation. According to documents released by Wikileaks, the goal of Monitor's work with Muammar Gaddafi was to introduce the leader as "a thinker and intellectual, independent of his more widely known and very public persona as the Leader of the Revolution in Libya".

school

Gaddafi beamed into Sheikh Zayed

to an LSE student from Libya working on her dissertation. Gaddafi, the world's longest-serving... Gaddafi beamed into Sheikh Zayed...

LSE stung amidst Libyan uprising Gaddafi-funded Global Governance programme arrested

Popular uprisings in Libya and elsewhere... Gaddafi-funded Global Governance programme arrested... No wonder they look a bit RAGged

LSE and Libya - the end of the affair

Davies calls for full reparations following donation reversal School to investigate authenticity of Saif's thesis

News of Davies's departure enraptures student body

Oliver Wiseman Widespread support for LSE Director Howard Davies weighed on LSE Students' Union General Secretary Charlotte Gerada's mind as she walked to an emergency meeting of the LSE Council...

At a meeting held last Friday to discuss the Students' Union's stance on the numerous issues surrounding Davies's departure, students aired more vociferous criticisms of Davies. Robin Burrett, a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology...

Former GenSec's email "taken out of context"

Phyllis Lui The LSE Students' Union official who was on Council at the time when the donation was discussed has denied that the Students' Union strongly supported the original donation. In an email that was quoted on the LSE website...

crates to be unacceptable - tantamount to instructing them to be better oppressors - and lobbied for students to have a place on the Development Committee. This was also ignored. Believing the email to be taken out of context, Fisher spent most of his years at the LSE arguing for an ethical investment policy...

As guilty as the next man

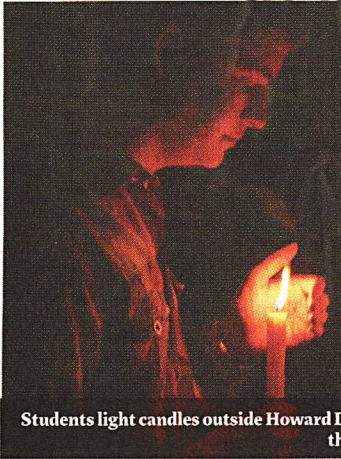
Analysis As Sir Howard Davies's two recent interviews on BBC Radio 4's Today programme demonstrated, much of universities' agreeing to take funding and donations from abroad, particularly from the Middle East, is up for interpretation. It is not just the LSE, however, which could be caught up in the news...

departments to 'train and educate experts on Islam.' The Palatinate, the university's student newspaper, responded: 'Any Iranian students travelling to Durham for the seminars are unlikely to have been aware of how they were funded.' The report also named the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), the University of Edinburgh, the University of St Andrews, Exeter University, University of Wales Lampeter and City University as institutions which had taken funding from despotic regimes.

Embattled Director Howard Davies

Embattled Director Howard Davies Photo: flickr user TheManBookerPrizes

Despite the Saudi Arabian state's record on human rights, the University of Cambridge took a donation from Prince Alwaleed Bin Tala, a Saudi prince who, in exchange for an Islamic centre in his own name at the prestigious university, gave £8 million. Other recent donations to Cambridge have included £506,000 from BAE Systems, the weapons manufacturer. The Cambridge Student, a newspaper, told the Beaver that Deputy Vice Chancellor Stuart Laing was a member of a delegation sent to sell arms to the Middle East...



Students light candles outside Howard Davies's office, to show their appreciation for the departing Director | Photo: Aisha Doherty



Embattled Director Howard Davies Photo: flickr user TheManBookerPrizes

Lent Term 2011 Elections - Wrap up

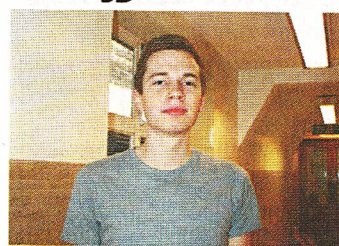
Say hello to your new Sabbatical Officers



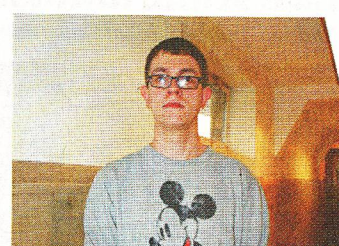
ALEX PETERS-DAY
GENERAL SECRETARY
"Finding your feet - Satisfaction guaranteed! Increasing standardised, quality feedback; expanding contact time with permanent academic staff; shared teaching best practice. Increasing participation: website area showing officers' major meetings so you can have your say. Stepping into the future; Fighting the ban on post study work visas: opposing xenophobic, knee-jerk immigration policies. Job support: Further developing the LSE Professional Mentoring Network for graduates. Campaigning against unfair, unethical, unpaid internships so you can get a job based on talent and merit."



AMENA AMER
EDUCATION OFFICER
"Enrich the LSE learning experience by ensuring the provision of study packs and lecture recordings for all courses in all departments; Campaign for earlier re-sits; Further prioritise the use of the library for LSE students during exam time; Push for smaller class sizes; Establish an international internship scheme and ensure that LSE hosts more NGO-based and public sector fairs. Working for LSE Careers has made me aware of the opportunities available to students and where there is room for improvement."



LUKAS SLOTHUUS
COMMUNITY & WELFARE OFFICER
"Empowering our community; ensure staff build connections with students, understanding what we care about. Organise for Sabbaticals to be engaging with students on Houghton Street regularly and running workshops to truly empower students. Defending welfare provisions; we have endless welfare provisions but in practice lots of students feel excluded. I will undertake a full review and make them relevant to every single student by improving outreach. Standing up for students; fight against cuts, and work with the School to protect international students' rights."



STANLEY ELLERBY-ENGLISH
ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
"Building a better community; actively promoting student group events on campus, in order to promote greater participation. Actively promoting student group achievements, to develop an interest in those who represent the LSE. Building a better SU; providing greater flexibility in the types of financing and support available from the SU. Building a better relationship with student groups. I am, and will continue to be, very personally interested in the different groups and activities on campus. I intend to make sure I am actively engaged with the activities of student groups."

Official complaints log points to scrappy election season

Sachin Patel

Formal complaints registered in this term's LSE Students' Union elections suggest a late flurry of discontent from campaigners and candidates made it difficult to fully communicate sanctions before voting closed.

A total of seven complaints were formally investigated by the Students' Union Returning Officer, Maira Butt, also a member of this year's Democracy Committee. Other students contacted by the Beaver said they had submitted complaints, which were then deemed by Butt to be not sufficiently substantiated.

Only two subjects of complaints received sanctions prior to the start of voting, with General Secretary candidate Daniel Kroop receiving a formal warning for sending a campaign email on 17th February, a week before the start of official campaigning. Sherelle Davids, the African-Caribbean Society to help on her campaign team, as early as 18th February.

Following the resolution of these two complaints, the next complaint to be investigated concerned Scott MacDonald, a student not standing for any position. MacDonald was reprimanded for having sent an "unsolicited message to an already existing" mailing list on 2nd March, after voting had started. The message is alleged to have contained a list of candidates MacDonald recommended voting for—a practice carried out by many other students, but not to pre-existing lists of addressees. He was asked to send a further message to the same mailing list, detailing the other candidates standing in each race, and to erase the list.

Three of the remaining complaints concerned campaigning methods used by Sherelle Davids, who was alleged to have endorsed the implicit labelling of her competitor as racist. The complainant alleged, "One of the campaigners for Sherelle Davids shouted that the candidate she was supporting was the best as 'she [Sherelle] was not racist'." Davids was found guilty of the allegation, and was banned from street campaigning between 6:20 and 6:55PM, just five minutes before voting closed.

Davids was subsequently prohibited from campaigning for the rest of the election period, as a sanction for an additional breach of election rules. Her campaign team were alleged to have "accused a fellow campaigner of institutional racism in his professional capacity as a police officer".

The final complaint, registered against Community and Welfare Officer-elect Lukas Slothuus, was not resolved until 4th March—after all election results had been announced—but the sanction "banned [Slothuus's campaigner] from campaigning for the duration of the election".



Elections analysis

Nathan Briant
Alexander Young

Despite a perceived increase in student activism this academic year, last week's Students' Union elections failed to see a universal increase in voter turnout. One cause for this is likely to have been the number of candidates in the running. On Thursday, in races where there were more candidates than in last year's race, turnout increased. In races where there were fewer candidates than the previous year, turnout was down.

This year's campaigns seemed to be, on the whole, more muted than those of previous years.

One candidate told the Beaver both Houghton Street and the area outside the Library were "quiet" in the days leading up to Thursday's results, relative to previous years.

Last year, three candidates fought for General Secretary, and 2,216 votes were cast. The eventual winner, Charlotte Gerada, received 1,183 students' votes. This year's winner, Alex Peters-Day, received 998 votes, besting her opponent, Daniel Kroop, by 15 per cent. 1,858 votes were cast in this year's race.

Likewise, in the election for Education Officer, there were fewer candidates for voters to choose from, and there were 400 fewer votes cast. On Thursday, Amena Amer beat Alexandra Kane with 54 per cent of the vote.

Amer worked with other candidates and their campaign teams to push her own vote forward, collaborating closely with the campaigns of Mohammed Najmul Morley and Lukas Slothuus, running for Activities and Development Officer and Community and Welfare Officer, respectively. It is worth mentioning that while Amer and Slothuus were successful in their bids to become Sabbatical Officers, Morley was not.

Whereas the current Activities and Development Officer, Charlie Glyn, ran unopposed last year, this year's race for her role was more lively. Initially, when nominations opened in February, there were five candidates, three of whom promptly dropped out of the race. Stanley Ellerby-English and Mohammed Najmul Morley were the two candidates remaining on Thursday, and Ellerby-English won the race by only ten votes—a margin of just 0.62 per cent in one of the evening's most closely-fought elections. Rather predictably, there was an increase in the number of votes from last year, with 1,618 votes cast this year compared to 1,416 the year prior.

Similarly, in the race to become Community and Welfare Officer, there were more candidates more votes were cast. Lukas Slothuus was elected as next year's officer after third preferences were taken into account, beating his nearest rival Hannah Polly Williams with 50.1 per cent

of the votes, compared to Williams's 44.6 per cent. Also of note: the third-placed candidate, Leena Taha, did not receive any second preferences, having accrued 214 votes in the first and second rounds of voting.

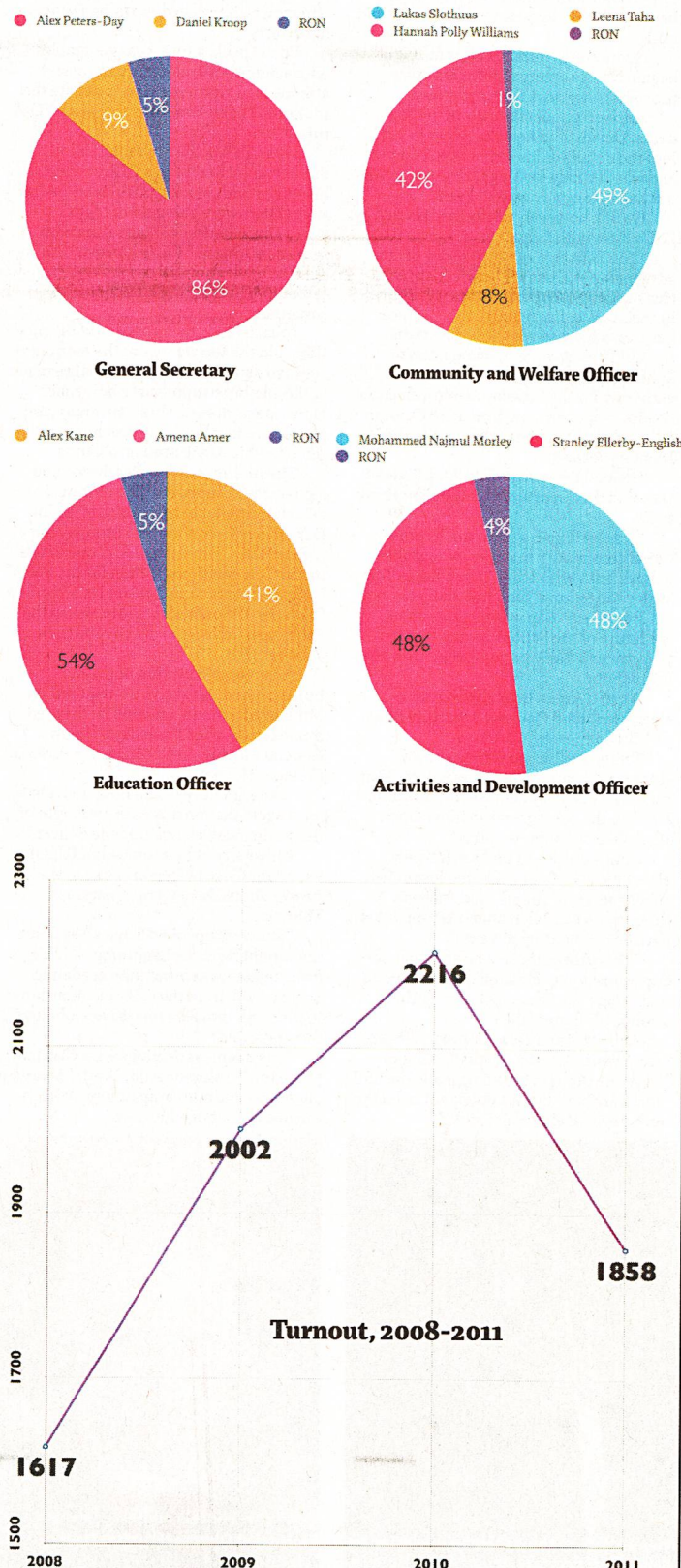
Online exit polls, commissioned by the Beaver, predicted victories for Daniel Kroop to take General Secretary, with 48 per cent of the vote compared to Peters-Day's 44 per cent; Alexandra Kane for Education Officer, with 67 per cent of the vote to Amer's 30 per cent; Hannah Polly Williams for Community and Welfare Officer, with 50 per cent of the vote to Slothuus's and Taha's respective 41 and 7 per cents; and Stanley Ellerby-English for Activities and Development Officer, with 69 per cent of the vote to Morley's 21 per cent. This is likely indicative of nothing but the self-selective nature of those choosing to participate in the poll.

In one of the most contentious contests of this year's election, Sherelle Davids beat Eden Dwek in the race to become Anti-Racism Officer. With just two candidates in the competition, Davids won with 51.3 per cent of the vote, to Dwek's 40 per cent. 1,547 valid ballots were cast, but voter turnout was notably lower than last year, when 2,290 votes were cast. Four candidates competed in last year's election.

The Athletics Union President election was far less hotly contested: Brendan Mycock was just fifteen votes short of winning in the first round, eventually winning by 50 per cent of the vote to Hendrik Scheer's 46 per cent. 1,687 ballots were cast. But there was a degree of animosity on the part of AU members which may have reared its head had the results differed—for the first time, voting in this race was campus-wide, and Mycock's rival, Hendrik Scheer, was perceived to be receiving more endorsement from students outside the AU.

Elsewhere, Lois Clifton, a challenger for the Environment and Ethics Officer, won in the second round of voting. Hannah Geis won International Students' Officer by a margin of 3 per cent of the votes dividing her and her opponent, Gaelan Ash Bickford-Gewarter. Polly McKinlay, who ran unopposed, was reelected as Disabled Students' Officer, and Lucy McFadzean won Women's Officer. In one of the night's surprises, Benjamin Butterworth, having neglected to campaign over the two days prior to results night, was elected as LGBT Students' Officer, beating his closest rival Emma Kelly by just three votes, in the third round of voting.

Society endorsements seem to have had little effect on results in all but the General Secretary race; here, Peters-Day may have benefited from her eleven endorsements, compared to Kroop's six. In the Education Officer race, Alexandra Kane received fifteen endorsements compared to Amer's ten, yet lost the election by 13 per cent of the vote.



Shadow education secretary condemns internship "auctions"

Alexander Young

The Students' Union Labour and Social Policy societies hosted Andy Burnham, MP for Leigh and Shadow Secretary of State for Education, in a joint event last Tuesday, 1st March, in which Burnham shared his views on social mobility. Organised as part of the society's Social Policy Month, Tuesday's event centred on Burnham's personal views, rather than Labour Party politics. Burnham began his talk by providing historical context, demonstrating the necessity of education in the modern age. Showing how society has changed, Burnham cited shifts in the number of "professional" jobs from 1913 to 2000—a shift from one in fourteen to one in three jobs—as evidence of both great technical progress and a general level of social mobility.

Praising the value of expectations in the quest for social mobility, Burnham said it "changed the expectations of my parents, the fact that their parents had their own home, even though their experiences were limited by the education system of the 1950s". Criticising the role moral luck continues to play in Britain, Burnham stated his father's life chances were cut short by his failing his 11+, due to the "separation of his parents". His father's successes were down to his "choosing his career well".

Burnham later referred to Ed Miliband's rhetoric of the "promise of Britain", saying each generation will end up better off than the last. He said while people think social mobility is greatest in countries with extreme disparities in wealth, "it is in fact the opposite that is true".

The issue of unpaid internships also came up. Burnham decried the auctioning

of internships at finance companies and banks to "millionaire Tories" at £3,000 each. Similarly, he said the auctioning of internships at Oxford's Red Dress Couture Ball was wrong, even though the proceeds were going to the disadvantaged rather than the "Tory Party coffers", as it was still the auctioning of 'life chances'. This, he said, was typical of the elitism still inherent in the upper echelons of society.

Adam Connell, policy events officer of the Social Policy Society, told the Beaver after the event it was "a pleasure" to host Burnham, "given his stature as a politician and his real and moving concern for social mobility in the UK".

"Hosting a joint event with both the Labour and Social Policy societies allowed us to engage with Andy from two different perspectives", Connell said, "which led to a very successful and enlightening evening attended by many members of both societies".



Photo credit: LSE Students' Union Social Policy Society

Cox and Westad, head to head over the future of the US

Bethany Clarke
Senior Reporter

Professors Michael Cox of the Department of International Relations and Arne Westad of the Department of International History, discussed the future of relations between the United States, Europe and Asia in an LSE IDEAS event, chaired by Niall Ferguson, last week.

On the idea that the twenty-first century is the 'Asian Age', Cox said, "the quick answer to that is no". Cox questioned whether the United States' interest in Asia is something new, adding, "the United States has always been an Asian power".

Westad argued Europe would be "of less and less importance" to American global strategy. He added there would be "less and less continuity and more and more of a break" in transatlantic relations. The conversation quickly turned to

the issue of American hegemony. On this issue, Westad said, "Nobody believes the United States is going to abdicate overnight", but that the country's current position is unsustainable. He added it will be interesting to see how the United States handles this transition of power, questioning whether or not the American decline will be "graceful".

Cox countered by "putting out a warning sign" on the debate over decline in US power, saying that "there may be an economic shift taking place, but I don't think there is a power shift". He added that the American model has "enormous appeal" and that the current international system "can't function without America at the heart of it."

As the discussion turned to China's rise, Westad said that the country is "not a complete superpower". Cox agreed, adding that there is a significant "mismatch between the economic and political growth"

of the country.

Ferguson moved the debate on to the topic of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), asking bluntly, "What is NATO for now?" and describing it as a "sham military alliance". Westad said that NATO is an appendix to American military power, agreeing with Ferguson that Europe's location makes it a suitable strategic base for American military power. He said "for some time this will highlight Europe's role" in the international community, although Europe will certainly not "decide the strategic picture".

Cox said NATO still exists to "prevent the renationalisation of foreign policies in Europe". He added the political and cultural similarities between America and Europe "are not insignificant".

After an hour and a half of friendly but serious debate, Cox, Westad and Ferguson were able to come together to celebrate an Arsenal victory over Leyton Orient.

Ferguson delves into 1989

Luke Smolinski

Niall Ferguson delivered the last of four public lectures on the Cold War and his last public lecture as Phillipe Roman Chair, last Tuesday. He promised to draw together the threads from previous lectures and arrive at a conclusion.

To understand why the Cold War ended peacefully, as it did in 1989, Ferguson told us we have to understand two opposing issues of our age: nuclear arms and human rights. Both the nuclear arms race and the growth of a concern for human rights are the crux to understanding why the Berlin Wall fell.

First, he said, if we are to answer the conundrum of why the Cold War lasted for so long without causing the destruction of civilisation itself, we must consider the nuclear arms race.

There are scholars, Ferguson noted, such as John Gaddis, who believe that the Cold War was long and relatively peaceful because of – not in spite of – nuclear weapons. The idea is that the leaders of both superpowers were so nervous of "pressing the button" that neither did. Push the button, went the logic, and there would be mutually assured destruction. Hence, Gaddis thought, "paranoia and prudence can co-exist in a nuclear world".

Ferguson said there were many times in the Cold War when the worst could have happened. In the Cuban missile crisis, Kennedy did contemplate invading Cuba. This was at a time when, unbeknown to the US, the island contained 80-odd nuclear warheads, positioned there by Soviet forces.

Furthermore, in the Korean War, many in the Truman administration favoured using nuclear weapons, including General MacArthur. According to a survey at the time, 56% of Americans supported "using atomic artillery shells against Communist forces... if [Korean] truce talks break down". Manifestly, Ferguson said, Gaddis's approach underestimates the risk of nuclear war.

The second reason why the Cold War ended in 1989, Ferguson said, was the will to keep up to the standards of the United Declaration of Human Rights. The Helsinki Final Act 1975, a document signed by the USSR, put pressure on Gorbachev to uphold human rights in the USSR and Her Satellite states.

According to Ferguson, Helsinki "exposed the reality and corroded the legitimacy" of the USSR. As such, it signified "the beginning of the end". When people began protesting in Poland, Gorbachev could either do a volte-face on his previous statements on human rights and crack down militarily, or accept defeat. He opted for the latter, which set in place the series of events ending when the Berlin Wall crumbled in 1989.

Ferguson closed by comparing the situation in 1989 with the current uprisings occurring across the Middle East. He said that the difference between Poland and Egypt is that in Poland, there were institutions of a civil society, trade union activity, a multi-party discourse; in Egypt now, there is none of that. He said this was why he was pessimistic about Egypt, stressing the need in a democracy for civil institutions. He said that neoconservatives must realise that it is "naive to think, let's just privatise and hold elections".

LSE event a highlight for Turkish opposition leader

Alev Sen
Senior Reporter

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu MP, leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), the main opposition party in Turkey, came to the LSE last Tuesday as part of a series of public lectures on contemporary Turkish studies.

Months before Turkey goes to the polls in a national parliamentary election, Kılıçdaroğlu outlined his party's commitment to democracy, secularism, free speech, and redistributive social welfare policies. Notably, he was critical of the policies of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the party in power in Turkey since 2002.

Kılıçdaroğlu was visiting the UK at the invitation of Ed Miliband and the Labour Party. He was elected party leader for CHP less than a year ago, after the previous leader resigned. He has been an MP for Istanbul since 2002, and was a senior civil servant specialising in finance, labour and social security issues prior to that.

Professor Şevket Pamuk, Chair of Contemporary Turkish Studies at the LSE's European Institute, chaired the public lecture. Pamuk said, "The event was very good. Kılıçdaroğlu told me that this was the best event of his three-day visit to the UK. His advisers told me it was 'the biggest and most interesting meeting' they attended."

"The audience asked some very interesting thoughtful questions," he added.

The audience, who packed out the auditorium, came from across the political spectrum, and included both supporters and opponents of CHP. Kılıçdaroğlu's talk was about the economic and social policies of his party. He gave a short speech, but, for most members of the audience, it was the question-and-answer session that followed that really made the event. Kılıçdaroğlu answered questions on a wide range of political issues. Several questions were asked about human rights, the Kurdish question, Cyprus, and social welfare policy.

Sinemis Temel, a master's student at the LSE said "I had the chance to listen to Kılıçdaroğlu once before in Ankara... however, it was very crowded, unlike the LSE event." Temel asked a question about the party's welfare policy proposals. Kılıçdaroğlu explained the party believed expanding spending on social insur-

ance was affordable and that they were prepared to look elsewhere for funding if necessary, including making cuts to the defence budget. Another master's student Eren Sagir said, "Kılıçdaroğlu really impressed me with his open, honest and sincere responses to all sorts of questions, including some very challenging ones."

In response to questions about the Kurdish question in Turkey, Kılıçdaroğlu argued that it is not just an ethnic question, but also a social question of problems arising from poverty, unemployment and cultural traditions and said he preferred to use the term the East and South-East question for this reason.

Cagdas Canbolat, an LSE graduate, was not convinced by Kılıçdaroğlu's answers. Canbolat said "Kılıçdaroğlu's answers did not clarify his position on the use of the Kurdish language in Turkey. He said CHP were the first mainstream party to support Kurdish people speaking in their mother tongue. But I know that he has also said that the Kurdish language cannot be included in the Turkish constitution."

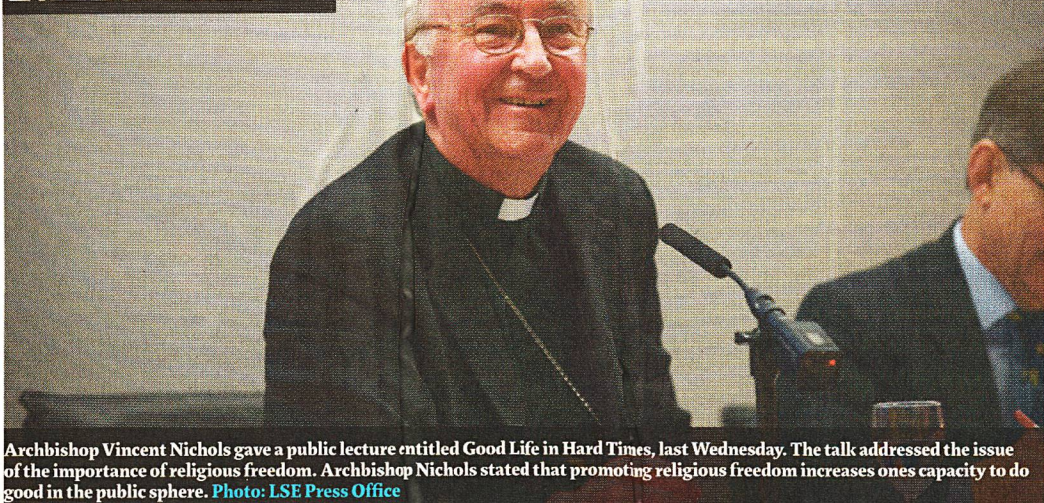
Oguz Ozden, a master's student, said "It was interesting that he admitted that CHP did not try to do anything in the East of Turkey before. He explained the party's new strategy of going to and listening to people in the East and other poorer groups in Turkey. I'm really glad I attended the event. I felt more optimistic about the future of CHP and Turkey."

In response to questions about Cyprus, Kılıçdaroğlu argued Turkish Cypriots have an independent state, and that a peaceful solution can only be reached through negotiation between the Greek and Turkish sides.

Recently there have been several significant demonstrations in Northern Cyprus against the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who said Turkish Cypriots are "dependent" on Turkey. Kılıçdaroğlu said the words Erdoğan used were "wrong".

Ahmet Bakir, a graduate of London South Bank University in the audience, felt Kılıçdaroğlu's response left questions unanswered. Bakir said, "I still felt he was on the same page as AKP. The uprisings in Cyprus against the Turkish government were because Turkish Cypriots want rights to look after themselves. I didn't get the sense that CHP were going to do anything different to AKP."

THE GOOD LIFE IN HARD TIMES



Archbishop Vincent Nichols gave a public lecture entitled Good Life in Hard Times, last Wednesday. The talk addressed the issue of the importance of religious freedom. Archbishop Nichols stated that promoting religious freedom increases ones capacity to do good in the public sphere. Photo: LSE Press Office

Comment

Sam Vimes?

GADDAFI'S GENEROUS GIFT *Blood money or academic investment?*



LANGTON

We all know how much the LSE loves money, but accepting funds from anyone or anything vaguely related to Colonel Gaddafi out of all people is not a clever move. Despite this, Howard Davies resigning over it is a massive overreaction.

The bottom line is that Colonel Gaddafi is absolutely mental, and has done a fair bit of wrong in the past, so regardless of how pleasant his son seems to be you just don't associate yourself with him. For a man who has been responsible for assassinating dozens of critics of his government while allegedly supporting and financing multiple terrorist acts and organisations throughout the past forty years, it's probably safe to assert he, and everyone who his related to him, are nuts. And even if they aren't, you're probably better off assuming that than accepting large amounts of money from them and just hoping this guy's the only sane one in the family (his daughter joined the legal defence team of Saddam Hussein – I will say no more, the list goes on).

Putting his family's sanity aside, I think most people would agree that the LSE should not have accepted the donation from Saif, Gaddafi's son, let alone agree to train Libyan civil servants through LSE Enterprise for a tidy sum of £2.2million. On top of that, Sir Howie made the pretty poor choice to advise on Libya's sovereign wealth fund in return for £50,000. The defence for much of this was that the money was being used to fund scholarships or research, thus it benefited the students and academia. Well, that's kind of you, but it doesn't really matter

what you spend the money on, you still got it from a country whose leader is world-famous for his wrongdoing, and whose family history is so bizarre and violent it's almost laughable. It is yet another occasion where people have been so fixated on wealth they fail to see – or choose not to see – the immorality staring them in the face.

Anyway, all of this begs the question: should Sir Howard Davies have resigned? I don't want to be a massive disappointment twice in a row, but I'm going to have to go with no. The British government has never imposed harsh sanctions aiming to restrict dealings with the Libyan government, and that's why so many companies do so, without anyone at the LSE caring nearly as much as they seemed to about Sir Howard. British arms companies sold arms to the Libyan regime, which I'm fairly sure will cause far more significant damage to innocent people than this saga will to 'LSE's reputation'. People only seem to care and show uproar either when they're told to or expected to, or just for the sake of it. Sir Howard deserved to stay at the LSE, and his resignation was a massive overreaction for mistakes that have caused little harm. He has been too humble and selfless in resigning, which in itself displays the positive characteristics that those who foolishly campaigned for his resignation are clearly lacking.

Talking of unfortunate protesting motivations and techniques... if any of you found the invasion of Milbank Tower over tuition fees either remotely amusing or respectable, while now supporting Howie's resignation, you might have made a mistake. Regardless of your past views on Gaddafi and his crazy family, you might have something in common: one of Gaddafi's sons once attacked the police with a fire extinguisher. The people you claim to be ashamed of being associated with might not be so different from yourselves after all. ☛

Sir Howard deserved to stay at the LSE, and his resignation was a massive overreaction for mistakes that have caused little harm

The 'selectional advantage' that the Libyan cash afforded the School has been nullified by the reputational damage that followed

The LSE faces an ethical dilemma. Should it have accepted cash from the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, or not? Once again I'm going to put my bollocks on the line and take the contrarian position. Most people seem to think that Sir Howard Davies' decision to accept the £1.5 million donation from the GIDCF was morally unjustifiable. Any attempt to counter them on their own terms leads to one trying to explain either how the money was legitimately Gaddafi's, or how it wasn't tainted by intimate association with his authoritarian dictatorship. These projects are bound to fail. But I'm tempted, nonetheless, to say that it really doesn't matter.

First a digression. When Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* was published in 1859, it marked a scientific paradigm shift. Yet it had implications far beyond the laboratory walls. The doctrine of evolution by natural selection wrestled the world away from its comfortable position in the bosom of theological design—a hoary bosom that had nourished the natural, aesthetic and moral worlds with meaning and explanation for millennia. No longer was human life to be explained using rationally indefensible and transcendental values. Darwin's theory threw a rational light onto the question of why the world is as it is; a view that retains hegemony today, with no signs of departure.

The evolutionary explanation of the unsettling of classic, theo-centric ideas about the moral world. If humans evolve by natural selection, with evolution reflecting the principle of 'survival of the fittest', what happens to justice and morality? Much contemporary philosophy grapples with this issue.

These are vague and general thoughts. The point is that the interaction of natural selection and morality is fascinating. Are they complementary ideas, or mutually exclusive? And in the case of Sir Howard accepting the donation, are we not seeing precisely this interaction? For polemical purposes, I want to claim that by accept-



WILLIAMS

ing the money, Davies secured the LSE an advantage that renders any moral critique perfectly unintelligible. An extra £1.5 million in the coffers was a useful 'fitness boost', and although not all of it ultimately found its way in there, every little helped. Davies did the right thing. He saw an opportunity to strengthen the LSE's financial position at no one's direct expense, and took it. And as long as the human world is explicable in evolutionary terms, this is all that matters. Justice consists in fitness. Objections that appeal to higher moral values are at best meaningless, and at worst rationally indefensible.

Of course, all of this has force only in the rarefied philosophical debates in evolutionary psychology and game theory. On Houghton Street, at the UGM, and in this newspaper, the ideas that people will appeal to will be earthier and more personal. This is probably for the best, but is not reason to refrain from stating controversial (if weak) arguments in defence of difficult positions. His choice needs our support, and if a controversial argument is required to defend it, so be it.

However one assesses the morality of Davies' decision to accept Gaddafi's money, it is clear that the 'selectional advantage' that the Libyan cash afforded the School has been nullified by the reputational damage that followed. This is lamentable, and for that reason, Davies made a wise decision in offering his resignation. But with his resignation comes opportunity. His successor can improve the LSE in exciting ways. But one thing, I hope, stays the same. The LSE must remain the kind of institution where people, however good, bad or ugly, want to train their future leaders. We cannot forget this fact. ☛



LSE Students gather at the Candlelight vigil to convince

Howie to stay

Photo: flickr user badheartbull

London School of Ethics

The outgoing General Secretary reminds us why principles should take priority in an institution

Charlotte Gerada



This has been an eventful fortnight to say the least – something I didn't ever anticipate bearing witness to during my time as General Secretary of the Students' Union. The turn of events with regard to LSE's relationship with Libya and the Gaddafi family have created utter chaos, confusion and condemnation from the LSE community and beyond. Just over a week ago, a group of LSE students met to decide their position on this matter, and agreed to a set of demands to rectify this mistaken association.

Students felt content with Howard's decision to give back all the money that LSE had received from the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation (GICDF), potentially to put towards a north African scholarship fund (worth £300,000). But the media unpicked further entangled connections between the LSE and Libya. There are now several separate issues that have been brought into the limelight, causing a global media frenzy, and immense pressure on the School to defend its integrity, its past decisions and the robustness of its decision-making processes. The five most significant areas of debate have been since handed over to an external investigation, to be conducted by Lord Woolf, a former Lord Chief Justice.

In past days, media scrutiny has intensified significantly, targeting not only those involved in the LSE Global Governance centre and Howard himself, but individual LSE Council members too, including the much-loved Shami Chakrabati, who was interviewed in the Times on Tuesday.

Much to my surprise, I received an

invitation to an emergency meeting of Council on Tuesday evening, whilst rumours of Howard's impending resignation whirled round Twitter, Facebook and print media. I didn't think for one minute that Howard would sincerely be proclaiming his resignation: although students had strongly challenged LSE's links with the Libyan government, there wasn't a strong suggestion that Howard should give up his seat as Director.

I went to the meeting with a clear perspective on the matter – I was not mandated to support his resignation: many LSE students are fond of Howard and his contribution to the LSE, and there had been no suggestion to isolate Howard as the only responsible party in creating this mess. However, I did also know that LSE students care greatly about the LSE – its reputation, academic rigour, and dedication to democratic principles. So, on balance, it seemed reasonable to ask not just for all the money in question to be redirected to scholarship funds, but also call for an independent investigation into all international links – financial or otherwise – to restore transparency and trust in the LSE's decisions and processes.

I was incredibly shocked to hear the news at Council that Howard was standing down. There was sincere regret that Howard had come to that decision, and there was a feeling of reluctance to allow him to take the full flak for a bad decision that was after all collectively agreed to by Council. But, after listening to Howard's comprehensive analysis of the decisions made then, and the repercussions occurring now, Howard vocalised his realisation that his poor steer on this highly contentious issue was not just about the luxury of hindsight, but more to do with poor judgement that many trusted in good faith – including LSE Council. Howard's personal advice to the sovereign wealth fund, in combination with the LSE's academic and financial connections with the Libyan government, has amounted to severe reputational damage for the School.

Although we are all shocked about Howard's resignation, and many students wholeheartedly appreciate his contributions to the LSE community as Director, he has done the honourable thing by resigning. Although students may feel enraged, upset or confused about why he's stood down, let it be clear that the long-term reputation of the university and our commitment to ethical affiliations is what is most important. Students, Directors, staff may come and go, but the LSE as a global institution will remain – so restoring our reputation is key. If Howard truly believes that resigning is the best way to do this, we must respect his decision. I'd also like to clarify on behalf of the Students' Union, that the Students' Union is not responsible for Howard's resignation. We certainly did not pressure him to do this, and we certainly don't have the power to do this!

Looking to the future, we believe there are areas for improvement and clear lessons to be learnt. Whilst LSE is certainly not the only institution building questionable links with questionable regimes, this Libya fiasco should provide the platform for LSE to reassess its processes and decision-making procedures for once and for all, so that we can be clear leaders in ethical investment, donation and financial policy.

With regards to student representation, the Students' Union always has and always will continue to push for improved democratic procedures in decisions to do with investments and donations, with improved student input. Students have historically been excluded from the preliminary decision-making committees regarding large donations and investments, leaving only a discussion and final decision at LSE Council (with only two student representatives out of twenty-five governors), which often leaves very little room for debate and opposition. If LSE students or officers were somehow involved in the relevant preliminary committees, we could make the processes

regarding donations and investments more open, democratic and transparent. We could hold open meetings with students (like the one held last Friday), gauge student opinion and ultimately vote on issues which could then be taken to the relevant committees. This would directly benefit students and strengthen their voice, thereby helping to stop poor decisions occurring in the first place.

The independent inquiry is something that every student so far I have spoken to endorses. It will highlight any links that the LSE has with regimes across the world, including donations and investments, that may in the future damage the LSE's reputation. If the LSE is to restore its reputation globally, and ensure it is protected in the future, the School does need to look into its current processes and connections. This is something that governors of the Council asked for at our meeting on Tuesday, and something we again supported in Thursday Council's meeting. I hope that the enquiry will highlight how the LSE's procedures could be improved, with transparency and student engagement at the heart of it.

In the meantime, in these uncertain times, with what feels like the eyes of millions across the world focusing their attention on our institution, we must look forward to the future. Forward to who we believe would be a good candidate for our next director, to how we can for once and for all unearth compromising connections with regimes across the world – and not just at the LSE. It's time that all institutions checked themselves, their ethics and principles on this matter, and ensure that no donation or financial link damages our integrity as a progressive, principled institution. I'll make sure before my time in office ends, LSE Student's Union does exactly this – enshrine an ethical policy that protects us now and for future decades.

Quick COMMENT

Was it right for Sir Howard to step down?

I'll just say that I think he himself was probably the best judge of the matter. However, it's sad to see him go.

– **Marion Koob**, 3rd year, BSc Government & Economics

His resignation may cause problems of change, regarding. The very best that could be done by anyone now is to carry on.

– **Vincent Mock**, 2nd year, BSc International Relations

He should not have resigned. It only serves to perpetuate the media frenzy and hurt further our university's reputation.

– **James Hanson**, 2nd year, BSc Economics

Despite possessing all the competency one could ever need to run a university, agreeing to train future administrators of repression and violence is an inexcusable deal to make.

– **Matthew Box**, Sports Editor, The Beaver
To suggest he is responsible for murder is an insult to those killed by actually deplorable leaders.

– **Benjamin Butterworth**, Social Editor, The Beaver

I think we were wrong to accept the money, but he seems like a decent man – on the whole.

– **Bex Bailey**, 1st year, BSc Government with History

I can't really decide. It makes sense but I just don't see him as BFFs with an evil dictator.

– **Paul Langerberg**, General Course, Economics

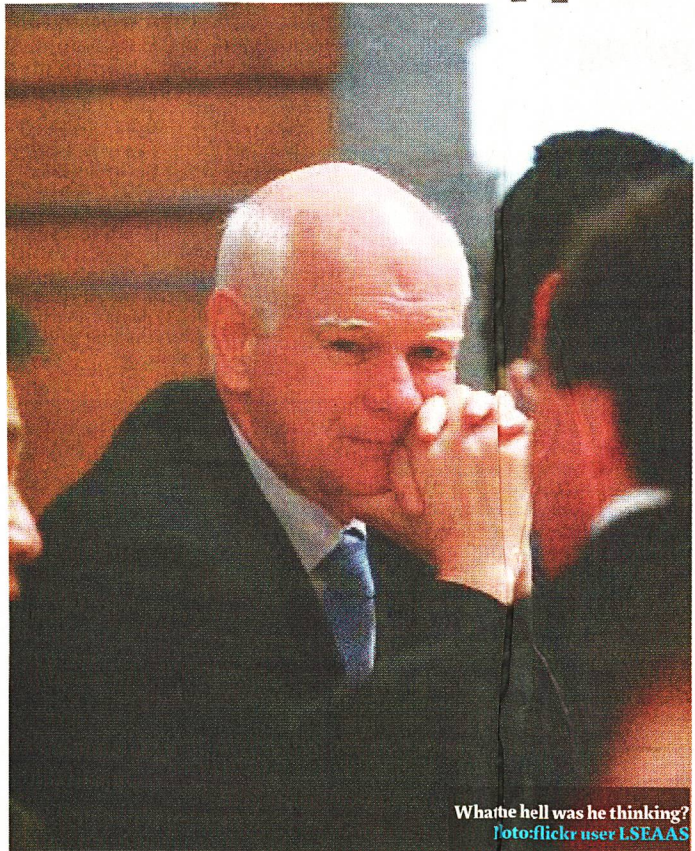
NEXT WEEK...

How pointless is week 11?

Send in your submissions!
Email comment@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Libyan Subsidised Economics

The LSE needs to stop prostituting itself in exchange for its integrity



What the hell was he thinking?
Photo: flickr user LSEAS

Poorna Harjani



Sir Howard Davies has finally stepped down from his dodgy directorship. But what legacy has he left? And what type of individual can we entrust to lead the LSE in the future?

The donation of £1.5 million through the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation to the LSE surprisingly never raised concerns of being 'blood money'. The LSE should have politely declined this in the first place – before Libya's crisis.

Anyone vaguely clued-up on news is familiar with terrorist links to Libya in the Fletcher killings, the Lockerbie bomb and Gaddafi's generally controversial thirty-year rule of Libya.

Until now, Libya was attempting to be progressive with greater allowance of private sector activity. However, history cannot so easily guise itself. Most lucrative opportunities are given to Gaddafi's own family and government officials in his dictatorship, worsening poverty. Transparency International's 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index ranked Libya 105 out of 163 countries.

Davies wrote in his Director's address last term that the LSE was fairing better than most Universities in the financial crisis. Therefore, the LSE was not desperate for funds.

Davies's view has more weight upon this University than anyone else's. Being LSE, it is a given that a many of the student body would have marched the streets in support of Howard if he expressed concerns over the donation – especially the students who so readily admire his achievements.

However, while he was travelling to advise the Gaddafi regime on how to better invest its oil wealth, students at the LSE were facing graduate employment hardships, overcrowded facilities and teacher cuts.

This only strengthens the argument that Davies used the LSE for his own social purposes. Gaddafi's connection was through the LSE and choosing to readily help a regime with such human right violations should have been an issue. We entrusted our Director, our leader, to uphold the LSE's reputation wherever he ventures in each and every action.

Moreover, Davies's further expertise would have been useful in LSE's own spiralling crisis. The last of Howard's legacy is his lack of overseeing the propriety of this University.

Corruption to this level has eaten the LSE. I say this in past tense. Throughout last year, we thought we could depend on Howard's leadership to see us through LSE's falling league tables.

Students are left in a lurch, to a deflated reputation. Mass negative media spotlight which we are now so used to has made the LSE the exception to the rule 'any publicity is good publicity'.

Furthermore, investigations are now being held into whether Said – al-Islam plagiarised his doctoral thesis.

Every assessed work goes through a procedure of being automatically checked by plagiarism software. Is this a case of the rich and powerful being able to subvert formal codes of conduct?

Academic preference demerits our degrees, and how students perceive themselves as branded LSE products.

We can only hope that the School Board will hold Howard accountable in forming too-close relations with the Gaddafi. A ruler widely known to have decades of terrorist associations. The depth of the LSE's closeness to the Gaddafi regime has even been tapped into by Wikileaks.

The successor of Davies's post cannot just be anybody with a soaring career record.

What past events have shown us is that the Presidency of this University must lie with someone honourable. An individual who can judge objectively the difference between good money and bad money; when to accept certain favours and when to decline despite profit motives.

After all, a leadership position this high profile brings temptations of greed. We demand a moral compass above all qualities in the next Director of the LSE.

How the student community sees it...

LSE STUDENTS' UNION CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY

The LSE Students' Union Conservative Society believe that the resignation of Howard Davies was unnecessary but we support his decision to act in a manner he thought necessary to defend the reputation of the School. Whilst the LSE faces external pressures, the society would in no way endorse the actions of any members of the Students' Union who might have contributed to the resignation of the Director. The School has been left without strategic direction at a time of unprecedented stress in UK higher education. We are not commenting on the association of the School with Libya, completed at a time of apparent rapprochement with the West and when our institution was possibly under much pressure from the UK government to facilitate new relations with Libya: we will leave that to the investigation to be carried

CHARLIE GLYN

I think it's very hard to say whether it was the right decision for Howard to resign. I have not been privy to all of the information about the relationship between the LSE and Gaddafi/Libya, so the basis for my opinion is on what I have witnessed at LSE. Howard's role as Director was to steer LSE in the way that would enhance its progressive nature and diverse culture, while striving—as always—for the academic excellence which the School is known for worldwide. Unfortunately he made a mistake in that steering and we are where we are today because many others, too, believed the situation to be unproblematic and even positive for the School. But now the focus is on retaining our reputation, ensuring that we are transparent and honest about our operations and not letting this undermine all of the incredible work and study that happens at LSE. If Howard believed this was the right thing to do, then I support that. I know the Students' Union and the School have disagreed on things in the past but I think we're all united in that we want to move on from this and ensure that the LSE continues to be credited for what it's here for—as a beacon of academic excellence.

Charlie Glyn is the outgoing Activities and Development Officer

LSE STUDENTS' UNION UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY

Howard Davies' decision to resign is an honourable decision under the circumstances. While all members of the LSE community in some way accepted the link with the Gaddafi family until now, with the benefit of hindsight it was a clear mistake and it is right that Howard has taken responsibility. It is becoming increasingly clear that the standards applied when seeking donations to the school need review, and that when we develop links with regimes that do not respect internationally agreed human rights, more serious questions need to be asked than were in this case. However, Howard has always been a highly accessible director, a friendly face on campus and a good friend to societies which has enriched student life for all concerned, for that we will miss him.

ATHLETICS UNION

The resignation of Sir Howard Davies is a great shame for the Athletics' Union. Although accepted as a course of action needed to limit damage to the LSE's reputation, Howard's support for the AU has been invaluable. From attending our events, liaising with our members and helping sport gain the recognition it deserves within the school, Howard has encouraged the AU, seeing us as an asset to LSE student life. His backing has been greatly appreciated and he resigns with the vast majority of AU members behind him and deeply respecting him.



To occupy or not to occupy? Photo: The Beaver archives

LSE STUDENTS' UNION LAW SOCIETY

Whilst we condemn the atrocities being carried out in Libya at the moment, we do not believe that it is necessary for Sir Howard Davies to step down. The Director's resignation was a decision executed by the Council, and it is deeply regretful that someone who has brought so much to the LSE is being made a scapegoat for a collective group of culpable individuals. Davies is a man who is greatly admired and respected by many students in the LSE and it is a shame that the vocal minority is obscuring the majority view on campus. Whilst he is best placed to decide when it is right for him to step down, students are going to suffer a great loss with his departure. We would support Thursday's EGM motion to bestow upon Sir Howard honorary status and for Sabbatical Officers to personally thank him.

LSE STUDENTS' UNION LABOUR SOCIETY

His resignation has been greeted with sadness and he will be missed. However, the events of the past few weeks are a wake up call, reinforcing doubts concerning the LSE's eagerness to secure funding at all costs, and emphasising the need for greater accountability. Given that this was one of several questionable decisions by the LSE such as the naming of the Sheikh Zayed Theatre, our Director's departure must be part of wider response in which they seek a readjustment of its international associations and funding processes. With cuts impending, this will become increasingly pressing.

Howie D or Gaddafi: who's the bad guy?

Why we're all missing the main point of the issue

Asad

Rahim Khan



The Autumn of the Patriarch, by Gabriel García Márquez, is an incredible novel. The protagonist has been the dictator of his small Caribbean country for the past 200 years, and in long, unpunctuated, convoluted paragraphs, the corrosive nature of absolutist rule on the man's psyche, and the populace he rules, is really brought to bear on the reader. Libya, a small Arab country rich in oil and sparse in population, has been headed by Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi since 1969. And a worse embodiment of that book's message could not be imagined. One only has to watch Gaddafi's visage change over the years from an austere soldier in uniform to a hideous comic book super-villain, alternately covered in garish lounge robes or festooned with cutout clip-on medals, to see a picture of derangement. And that's when people begin missing the point. For too long now, the Colonel has emulated his now-deceased friend Idi Amin in fooling the world that he is more mad than bad. Accused of bombing everything from discotheques to aeroplanes at the height of his infamy in the mid 1980s, Gaddafi has established what he represents to the world many, many times over, and he has had a longer time to do so than any other sitting head of state today. It is basic hypocrisy for a West that tolerated,

The focus of the issue should shift to its rightful place: past LSE and in Libya, where the loss of life is very much ongoing.

and in Bush and Blair's case recently rehabilitated, Gaddafi to now cry foul when it is fashionable forty-one years later. But what is sadder still is that they only found the LSE to beat over the head with, using the hopefully conclusive Libyan uprising. Last December, Muammar Gaddafi came to the London School of Economics and Political Science, in the most dramatic public lecture since that of Israel's Danny Ayalon in 2009, whose deeply divided audience violently turned on itself. Warmly received by the LSE as the world's longest-serving "Brother Leader", Gaddafi's address over video-link was ceaseless comedy. As faceless minions disinfected his mic, Colonel Gaddafi spoke of his sprawling philosophies; how the US was not imperialist anymore as "Obama was not a Yankee", how the Lockerbie bombing was a Reagan-Thatcher conspiracy, and how all states faced disintegration if they didn't form territorial unions – illustrated by a nightmarish Gaddafi World Map (Russia had swallowed up Central Asia again and India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan were, God forbid, an undifferentiated mass).

He was asked about his WikiLeaks allegations, to which he started giggling, making the audience laugh not for the first time. He was asked about relations with Brazil by a Brazilian student, and about relations with Pakistan (which was shamelessly

irrelevant of me to ask, yes). He was asked about his connections to Tony Blair, to which he feigned ignorance.

After being presented an LSE cap by proxy, the Colonel was broadcast leaving his 'office' exulting to the crowd. The attendees filled out of the lecture hall and went home. Like so many Western analysts, we too had missed the point by mistaking an intensely cruel leader's friendly bizarreness and laughably illogical for harmlessness. LSE would come to be flayed by the press for the entire episode three months later.

But the Libyan uprising should not be the turning point that sullies the LSE in the eyes of the world; it is the same world that forgot about Gaddafi after Reagan's 'surgical' airstrikes of the 1980s, ignored him during the 1990s, and welcomed him back in 2003 after rapprochement with Bush climaxed with him returning his pittance of a failed nuclear programme. Gaddafi never lacked the will to make the bomb but his starved scientists lacked the capability. Now that the blowback effect of revolts in Tunisia and Egypt spread to Libya, and the hilarious tyrant of the past million years shows his true colours (yet again), it suddenly becomes evident that the LSE accepted money from a force of evil in North Africa.

But besides blaming everyone else, it is evident that our university has been at fault. Whether Saif al-Islam copy-and-pasted his entire dissertation from Wikipedia or not is beside the point; conferring a PhD on the younger Gaddafi should not have been considered in the first place.

Justifications of his right to education, and that he was a mildly reformist voice in his father's regime are all valid. But if history's anything to go by, the sons of Arab/African despots, from the Uday Husseins to the Jean-Claude Duvaliers, are usually half as intelligent and twice as cruel. Witnessing Saif al-Islam come off as some incoherent, Middle Eastern Lex Luthor on TV, warning of rivers of blood if the uprising continues, vindicates a theory that doesn't need much vindication.

Sir Howard Davies made a self-admitted mistake in accepting money from the world's most outstanding dictatorship, in a move that did not touch one on his personal fortunes (not to be crude, but better that supposed 'Libyan blood money' be out of the colonel's hands and be used to train North African professionals rather than the frantic mercenaries flooding in from Chad to crush the uprising). His misfortune lies in both the timing of Gaddafi's murderous stand, and the fact that the Blair squad that so aggressively forced his rehabilitation on the world has since retreated to its hole, leaving the LSE with the sole bulls-eye across its centre.

Like the plagiarism issue, arguing about the validity of the Director's resignation is redundant now. And I like to think our Students' Union is not what a friend and third-year economics student called "a socialist band of professional window smashers". But they, like everyone else, have truly missed the point here in that their criticism of the Director continues unabated even after his resignation on a point of principle. He did the right thing, and so lessened, if not annulled, the moral ground of his detractors. He should be commended for doing so, and the focus of the issue should shift to its rightful place: past LSE and in Libya, where the loss of life is very much ongoing.

Was this the resignation the Libyans were looking for?

Let us know!

comment@thebeaveronline.co.uk

How we can bounce back

Why we should all still be proud to go to the London School of Entertainment

John Collins



The School is facing one of the most precarious periods in its history. We face a continued media onslaught in the wake of Sir Howard Davies's resignation and a slow drip of gossip and revelations about our dealings with the Libyan regime over the next few months. Meanwhile we lack a Director to set a course and steer us out of these troubled waters. This all comes at a time when the LSE is facing the challenges of a changing financial model, a ludicrous immigration cap and a series of world rankings that are undermining its reputation. We should not underestimate the turbulence that lies ahead of us. But I for one remain proud of this School, proud of our Director and certain that we can weather the storm. In order to do this, however, I think it is essential that the student body closes ranks and works with the School administration in the immediate period going forward.

I need not revisit the controversy. It seems to me that the School believed that it was making a bet, not just a monetary one, but a bet that the LSE would have a special place within a modernising Gaddafi regime. Events have shown it to be a dangerous gamble, and one that turned sour. Nevertheless, I do not hold Davies in any less esteem in light of the revelations. I believe he was right to resign and to do so for the reasons he himself pointed out. It is a sad end to a distinguished run as Director of the School, but he is ultimately responsible for decisions made, and accountability must be exacted. Neverthe-

less I, like most students I'm sure, will be very sorry to see him go.

All of the questions surrounding this sorry affair will, in the fullness, of time be answered. Lessons will be learned and the School will suffer its penitence. It is only right that this should happen. In the context of the death and mayhem being inflicted on the Libyan people even as I

As students we rise and we fall by this institution, not just by the prestige of our degrees, but by the legacy it represents

write this, at the hands of an alumnus and patrons, we have not the right to mope or feel sorry for ourselves. Instead we must take this as a time for internal reflection and learning. Now is not the time for point scoring or agenda-setting. It is not the time for public condemnations of surpluses or School finances. And it is certainly not the time for certain Sabbatical Officers to be peddling half-baked accusations to the media. So, with this in mind, I would hope that all of us behave in a manner that encompasses the sensibilities and attitudes of all the people affiliated with the

School, not just those publicly expressing moral outrage. We are all saddened by this and all anxious about the future. It is precisely for this reason that cool heads and restraint must prevail.

As students we rise and we fall by this institution, not just by the prestige of our degrees, but by the legacy it represents. We are but stewards of these rooms and this name. A School that has trained a century of politicians and public servants; bankers, billionaires and corporate bosses; Nobel prize winners and world beating academics; social critics, philanthropists and numerous other walks of life. It is often an untidy mix of ideologies and, at times, cultures. Yet few of us would be here were we not convinced that there is something special about this School, something that is unavailable in almost any other institution on the planet. As a recent article by the Postgraduate Officer Daniel Kroop pointed out, we are the recipients of a cosmopolitan education not available at Harvard, Yale, Oxford or Cambridge. We have access to a global network that other universities can only envy at. Whatever our political differences, we are all a part of the LSE community, something that stays with us long after we stop walking down Houghton Street on our daily trips to Wright's Bar, or in search of our free Hare Krishna lunches.

This is what we must join together now to affirm, and this is something we must work together to protect going forward. We can take these challenges that face us and make a better School out of them, one that continues to be worthy of our history. But for the time being let us, at the very least, work together now to ensure that our School moves past this. To paraphrase President Obama, now is the time to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin the process of rebuilding our LSE.

The Students' Union, not the Sabbaticals' Union

Why the SU needs to stop overestimating itself and stick to what they know

Daniel Parnaby

As Howard Davies leaves the London School of Economics and Political Science, one cannot help but be struck by a supreme irony, that having spent most of the year being lambasted by the Students' Union for his failure to fall into line with their demands to keep tuition fees subsidised, he now finds himself being condemned for taking part in the search for alternative funding. The Students' Union is quoted as saying that his resignation was "the first step in restoring our faith in the integrity of the university", and we await with interest their list of further economic and man-power sacrifices. This article will not attempt to justify donations from Libya, though it will note that many long established endowments at educational institutions have come from dubious sources, from Oxford's Rhodes scholarship or my own school, which was founded by a smuggler during the Napoleonic wars, but shall focus on how the moralistic hyperbole and lack of rational pragmatism that appear to have triumphed in the Students' Union has become manifest.

One of the first things that students learn at the LSE is that economics is

about the reconciliation of infinite wants with finite resources. Politics, in so far as I understand it, appears to be the art of convincing people that infinite (or at least additional) resources can be provided to meet their wants. This can lead to particularly amusing pledges come election time: cuts that lead to no service losses or job cuts, or increased spending that magically requires no tax increases. As these pledges are often unattainable politicians turn to hopelessly vague and abstract promises, or think of pledges to bring hope, national rebirth, or Cool Britannia. Of course politicians are often usually deterred from making absurd policies because they have to deal with inconvenience of then implementing these policies. This sense of pragmatic reality has long served to prevent parties with a reasonable chance of winning, preventing any serious attempt by Labour to implement Clause 4 in its entirety, or a serious attempt by Conservatives to dismantle the fundamentals of the welfare state.

Of course one of the first things that one can observe in student politics is the absence of any great abundance of power. Many of the essential functions of the Students' Union, such as RAG, media, sports clubs or the vast array of societies are essentially self running, and unless they manage to bankrupt themselves or begin engaging in cannibalistic orgies on campus require little in the way of governance. Moreover the most visible face of the Students' Union—the Three Tuns, the Quad and Crush—are managed by the

professionals. The Students' Union's role is therefore essentially limited to ensuring student presence on various committees, the minutes of which have probably never been read and to campaigning, which emerges as your primary way to prove to the student body that you are present and have thus far evaded capture by pirates. Given that a Students' Union official can never be put in the position of actually having to implement any of their policies, they have no incentive either to campaign for objectives that are vaguely achievable, to select campaigns that aren't mutually exclusive, or in the slightest nuanced. This brings me back nicely to their statements concerning Howard Davies.

The Students' Union currently has several key disagreements with the LSE. The first is the Freeze the Fees campaign. This prevents the raising of any revenue by the School. The second is the campaign to raise teaching standards, which costs money. These two principles would of their own accord appear mutually exclusive but when combined with the de facto demand that all funding must be from sources which are not only respectable but on pain of the Director's job perpetually unchallengeable, one can see a complete and irreversible divergence from reality. Although the Students' Union would most probably attempt to square this circle by saying it believes in maintaining the existing grants system, that is a goal no more attainable than the provision of trained monkeys as undergraduate butlers and has a degree of similarity to David

Cameron refusing to deal with the deficit on grounds that "he doesn't believe in recession".

Of course, one could be forgiven for being slightly cross that the Students' Union pays over £100,000 a year to pay those in charge of these campaigns from the King Cnut centre of policy feasibility and for the average student becoming aware of their policies only when they see one of the elite on a poorly rated news show, or in the back half of a broadsheet newspaper article. However, my political antenna, which I freely admit often gets tangled, senses that the mood has passed mild disapproval to complete mental block-out of the pronouncements that hail from the Kingsley Rooms, something perhaps symbolised by the relatively few motions that meet quorum at the UGM. This leads to the capture of the Union by whichever group is most politically passionate on campus, usually consisting of individuals who are completely unrepresentative of the wider student body, and serves to diminish the relevance and power of the Union in its dealings with the school.

To many of you this may not seem like a bad thing, to have the Students' Union retreat to the campaigning organisation of a few well organised interest groups on campus. After all, many of the Students' Union activities have little or no relevance to the average over stressed student on Houghton Street. However in writing of the Students' Union, we risk diminishing what remains our only source of represen-

tation to the school if we get into trouble. Moreover there are still things that they can do successfully, such as protecting Wednesday afternoons and victories such as twenty-four hour library access. What we need is a Union that will prioritise issues like these over the high profile but unattainable or downright contradictory campaigns that appear to be the priority at the moment, something that given the nature or the roles given to our elected representatives. If our representatives were to be given increased control over the business functions of the SU and if quorum were to be increased to 10 per cent of the student body then I feel that such a change may be possible. Instead of having to rely on divisive high profile campaigns to get themselves noticed, Union representatives could prove their metal by improving the running of our services ideally by reducing the costs of the food and drinks on offer at the Union. Moreover the increase in quorum would lead to a very real reduction in the number of measures that were to be passed but would assure that these motions were supported by a large percentage of the student body and had broader legitimacy. Moreover, if Sabbatical Officers were to be restricted from making statements on issues which the UGM had not voted on, or did not directly address Union policy, in the same way that cabinet ministers stick to the government line, then our Students' Union could become a genuine positive improver of our student experience. ☘

Directions for the new Director

Suggestions and recommendations for the next Howard Davies

Richard Crellin



As a third year, starting to at least think about revision for my finals, there is a certain symmetry regarding the resignation of Sir Howard Davies as Director of the LSE. This comment intends to steer well clear of the various caricatures of Davies' villainy and heroism that will doubtless compete with the LSE Students' Union election results in a crammed edition of the Beaver. Instead I think it necessary to focus on the implications of a single rumour that started flying round the LSE last Thursday night.

It simply cannot be true that Tony Blair is tipped to become the next Director of the LSE, can it? I cannot imagine the kind of orgasmic protests and occupations

that our Sabbatical Officers would engage in should such an unlikely event come to pass! The proposition raises an important issue however. Who will be next?

To look back, Sir Howard's record highlights one important aspect of choosing a Director—what does the School look to achieve in the future? In many ways, as a financial man 'Howie D' was the perfect choice to oversee the expansion of the School that has characterised my time here. A new Students' Union building, the purchase of the Land Registry building, and other local items of real estate, have accompanied a swelling of student numbers that has led to that feeling of overcrowding that pervades Houghton Street. Our expansion is, for the time being, on hold. So what do we want from the next Director?

First and foremost we need someone ready and willing to lead on teaching reform. The LSE's attempts to make progress here have been a slow hotchpotch without direction. Every year I have voted in Students' Union elections, Education Officer candidates have promised

me a better education. Every year I have studied here, lectures and classes remain unchanged. Clearly a top-down approach to teaching reform is needed. With most academics unwilling to adopt an Oxbridge style tutorial system, or, for that matter, even take classes, we definitely need radical and innovative change. This change will be quicker and more effective if it is led, somewhat dictatorially, from the Director's office!

Secondly we need another Director, as Davies was, who is committed to giving LSE a twenty-first century, environmentally friendly campus. With new space available it will soon be time to retrofit buildings like the Clare Market and East Buildings. The school must not slip back into old habits. We have a lot of money and it should be spent on creating buildings that will last, and not cheap short-term fixes to long-term problems. My only comment regarding Libya will be that perhaps the new Director should adopt a more ethical approach to investment, although I suspect that whoever lands in Davies' office will have their hands well

and truly tied in this respect.

Finally, we need a Director willing to engage ever more closely with the students. I always thought Sir Howard did this well, although on select occasions. Appearances in musicals and plays, lecturing for LSE100, and termly confrontations with the UGM should not be played down; Davies often got "in amongst it". But there was room for improvement—there nearly always is. The new Director will need to live up to the old and surpass him if possible. Until we can share a pint in the Tuns our Directors will always be deemed too aloof.

So Goodbye to Howard, whether you wanted to have his babies or hang him from the spiral staircase in the Library, we should not spend too much time picking over the past. The biggest decision facing this university is now its next Director and it is not a decision we can afford to bungle. Having said that I won't be here to witness the ensuing carnage anyway—but good luck regardless. ☘

ALUMNI SPEAK OUT

As a proud alums and friends of the LSE, we believe that revelations about the school's relationship with Libya have seriously damaged the school's reputation. However, we believe that Sir Howard Davies' summary dismissal under these circumstances has hurt the school further. Hindsight can be severely misleading: The decision to accept money from Libya should be examined in the light of information available at that time. Gaddafi, long ostracized and isolated, had recently been welcomed back into the folds of the international community after he publicly "renounced violence". Several high-profile visits by western leaders followed, including one by Tony Blair who hailed the start of a "new relationship" with Libya. Millions of dollars worth of contracts were signed with British companies, and Davies was invited by the British government to be an economic envoy to the Libyan government.

Meanwhile, Saif Gaddafi had just finished a PhD at LSE with a dissertation on "The Role of Civil Society In The Democratization Of Global Governance Institutions", and a charity he runs offered a grant of 1.5 million pounds in support of the work of LSE's Centre for the Study of Global Governance on civil society organizations in North Africa. Few would contest the urgent need for such work. LSE decided to accept this grant. 300,000 pounds were received by LSE as the first installment.

Donations to academia have long been exploited as vehicles of legitimacy by dictators and industry-barons. The lesson here is that we live in a world where institutions will be held accountable for their decisions, and LSE, who has previously led the way in ethical management of endowment funds, should certainly learn from this. Sir Davies is a skilled and honest leader, whose willingness to admit a lapse of judgment has promptly and unfairly been used against him. But upon close consideration, it is obvious that the lapse of judgment we speak scathingly of today was indeed one of the entire international community. LSE has already paid a price for this ill-begotten money; losing Howard Davies will be compounding that error.

We offer three concrete suggestions to the LSE council: first, to extend the mandate of the Woolf commission to investigate the school's relationship with all foreign governments; second, to open a dialogue with faculty and the student body on criteria for accepting large donations from governments or corporations; third, to reinstate Howard Davies as Director of the school. LSE deserves no less.

Signed,

LSE, Friends of Howard Davies

Letters to the Editor

Sir – I fear that your article of 22nd February ("Graduate Teaching Assistant left unpaid for months") and the printed correction in last week's issue leave a grossly incorrect impression of GTA pay at this school. As a first year GTA last year I taught two class groups of one course for which I was paid £3,421. That was my annual salary. And this 'annual salary' is the crux of the matter—I know of no GTAs who actually work on a full-time basis at the LSE and earn the stated minimum annual salary by the School's website. Each normal course (one-hour class per week plus lecture attendance) counts as 0.1251 Full Time Equivalent—that is just about 12.5 per cent of a full-time position. A teacher trying to achieve a full 'annual salary' would have to take on eight classes at once—much more than normal faculty teach. Moreover, departments usually do not award this much teaching to one individual—for good reason. Thus the use of figure of the School's so called 'minimum annual salary' is highly misleading.

It is when one looks at the hourly rate stated in the "Correction" of 1 March that a more accurate picture of GTA pay is established—stated as £8.84/hr. An hourly rate for GTA teaching is hard enough to establish since most GTAs spend more time than they are paid for marking papers, giving advice, reading and preparing classes,

etc. This aside, the hourly rate stated in the "Correction" is still lower than last year's hourly rate of pay for invigilating exams (just over £10/hr). This means that last year I was paid more for standing in a room for an hour ensuring students do not cheat and taking students to the toilet, than for critically engaging students with readings, analysing writing and speaking skills, and synthesising information into a clear discussion for a classroom of students.

Given the fears around the future of higher education in the UK, it is important that students receive an accurate picture of how their teachers are compensated for their work. They need to know that the LSE expects their teachers to spend no more than twenty minutes on reading, marking and commenting on an essay. I spend on average 45 minutes, and I believe most of my colleagues would echo this. I hope the Beaver will pursue this issue further.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie James
Department of International History

Sir – Grateful as I am for your running a correction last week to your article about Graduate Teaching Assistant pay, I would

like to correct the correction. GTAs are paid on a minimum of Salary Band 5, of which the bottom step is £26,430 per annum, or £14.47 per hour—not the figure quoted in last week's paper, which is the bottom of Salary Band 1, used only for certain support staff roles.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Harris
Head of HR Services

Sir – I write with reference to the coverage of the Director's termly address to the UGM, and the raising of student concerns about the diversity of LSE Careers' provision in reaching out to do "more to promote the third and public sectors" ("Howard Davies – 'Going straight to £9,000 isn't right'", 22nd February).

It is disappointing that such a concern should be raised in the middle of the Careers Service's Development Month, involving many NGOs, charities and international organisations.

LSE Careers is well aware that advertisements and posters students will find across campus for banks and finance companies can provide a misleading image of the service. Many of these are displayed by individual student societies and this is exaggerated at present by the large

banners currently displayed on Houghton Street, managed not by LSE Careers but by the Students' Union. Students will understand that the that public and third sector organisations do not have the resources (or the incentives) to build the kind of on-campus brand awareness that the banks and others enjoy, particularly in the current climate.

Our annual Public Sector and Policy Fair and International Organisations Day are testament to the strength of our relationships in these sectors and we have been working closely with the SU to support and increase volunteering opportunities across campus. We are constantly seeking to enhance our provision across all areas of the labour market but especially the development, environment, voluntary and public sectors. Feedback from those students who engage with the service indicates that they feel well supported regardless of which sector they aspire to work in. Should your readers have suggestions about how LSE Careers can better communicate its full range of provision they are very welcome to contact us at careers@lse.ac.uk

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Owen
Director of LSE Careers

Social

LSE goes multi-lingual

Hwa Young Kim on why Houghton Street isn't nearly as multi-lingual as it is multi-cultural



Everyone knows that LSE is a very international university. It's almost a cliché to say it is. But has it ever been called or referred to as a multilingual one? Sure, when you walk down Houghton Street you might hear the occasional conversation in German or Hindi. But is this true multilingualism of the LSE student body, or is it just a consequence of being so international?

It's clear that the LSE needs to emphasise this neglected element of the LSE student body. The Students' Union and the LSE Language Centre both accept this, and because of this, the first annual LSE Languages Day was born.

The Languages Day is on March 8th, but what's it all about?

It will start with a wide variety of national and cultural societies gathering together in what we refer to as a campus. Here, they will set up their stalls to pro-

mote their respective languages to other students who will eventually walk across Houghton Street that day. Multiculturalism at its best.

“The Languages Day is on March 8th, but what's it all about?”

Students themselves also have a role to play. While most of us will be hastily walking down Houghton Street (because we are late for class or desperate to get to the library), those of us with some time to spare can participate in a competition for £50 vouchers. Show off how many languages you can speak, and you'll have the chance to win a prize that can stimulate the economy.

The university itself will also be playing a proactive role. At 5PM, prominent members of the public and the LSE will be discussing “Why Languages Matter”. People like Nick Byrne (director of the LSE Language Centre), and Dr. Lid King (National Director for Languages at The Languages Company), will be gathering in the Wolfson Theatre to discuss the virtues of being multilingual. Is it about intellectual value, or about making it easier to get a job at Goldman Sachs? Are monolingual Brits at a disadvantage? Should another

language be compulsory for university entry? These questions—and more—will be discussed during this time, making it an enlightening opportunity. A performance of Tom Stoppard's Language Colloquium will also be taking place, adding an element of entertainment to the aforementioned enlightenment.

The day ends with the LSE rewarding those who have truly recognised the value of learning another language. So anyone who is currently taking a language course in the LSE will be invited to a reception, which means free drinks and some music in the background.

Yes, it's true that we are living in an English-speaking country and are studying (or trying to study) for our degrees in English. But maybe this isn't enough. If you truly believe in what LSE stands for (Let's See Europe), you might as well learn another language to see it better.

Experience: Twenty-four hours in Istanbul

Poonam Chopra on her Istanbulian adventure

Istanbul'da hoş geldiniz—welcome to Istanbul!

Istanbul is a tale of two cities. Straddling Europe and Asia and divided by the strait of Bosphorus, the former capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires is the only metropolitan city that has its foot on two continents, with the old city sprawling over European territory and the modern, residential areas established on the Asian side. Considering its massive size, a time-frame of twenty-four hours can hardly do any of the city's gems any justice at all, but it is sufficient to scratch the surface and instill a curiosity for more. It is an enchanting city, fusing the history of several cultures, languages, religions, and eras together and establishing itself as Turkey's economic and cultural epicentre.

Formerly known as Constantinople, Istanbul is a city of contrasts, and not just in a geographical sense. Discover a synagogue, an orthodox church, and a mosque all erected in the same vicinity. Witness a man atop a horse, pulling a cart, and weaving in and out of traffic while a sea of imported luxury cars zoom by. Watch retired old men sitting and playing cards in quaint tea houses, while modern businesswomen strut by in short skirts and suits, sipping their Starbucks coffee.

Shop around in vast stylish, glass-fronted shopping malls or haggle at one of the old beautiful underground bazaars.

Have your camera on hand and be ready to shoot because everything will be picture-worthy. Start your day with a traditional Turkish breakfast at one of the many waterfront cafés before introducing yourself to contemporary Turkey at the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art a few steps away. Stroll through the expansive Grand Bazaar and buy a wide array of spices, jewellery, hand-made crafts, carpets, and other trinkets. Marvel at the regal splendour of the Hagia Sophia and the Sultan Ahmed Mosque (the Blue Mosque) and soak up the magnificence of Islamic architecture and Turkish history. Discover other historical landmarks around the Sultanahmet Square like the Basilica Cistern and the Egyptian Obelisk.

And if that isn't satisfying you, you can go saunter through the quaint alleyways of historic Old Istanbul (Stamboul) and witness the restrained mystique of the East blended beautifully with the pronounced boldness of the West. Alternatively, pay homage to the former Sultans of the Ottoman Empire by visiting the Topkapi Palace and walking through the former corridors of power. You can pick up a döner kebab for a quick tasty lunch on

the go from a roadside vendor.

A trip to Istanbul is incomplete without stopping by at one of the many pud-

“Witness the restrained mystique of the East blended beautifully with the pronounced boldness of the West”

ding and sweet shops along the way and sampling mouthwatering Turkish desserts like baklava or Sutlac (Turkish rice pud-

Jackie O's Ugandan Prose

Jackline O. Amaguru

My lasting love for Ghana

Though I've always had an admiration for anything Ghanaian, attending a Ghanaian wedding party on Saturday night sealed the deal – it is official: I love Ghana! Can someone please get me the t-shirt? The following day, Sunday 6th March, marked Ghana's 54th anniversary of independence. One of the guys at the wedding invited me for the official Independence party. I had to decline because, as I tried to explain, “that would be an overdose of Ghana and party for one weekend”.

My admiration for Ghana started with the first Ghanaian friend I ever had – Kofi Aaman (not Annan). His kindness and goodness sparked my interest in his country and reminded me of my history classes about ancient Ghana's rich history, including Osei Tutu's mystical golden stool. Osei Tutu's Asante Empire threatened to go to war over the sacred golden stool if I remember rightly. Well, the gold is not only under the Ghanaian soil but in the hearts as well.

Call it coincidence, but all the Ghanaian men I have met are generally well-learned, ambitious and refined gentlemen. If you have never met one, kindly google Kofi Annan, but ignore his few funders.

Unlike Uganda which was a long term darling of the west only for being an HIV success story despite the government's mishandling of the northern Uganda war for many years, Ghana has global appeal not only to donors but by a varied audience – on pure merit.

Let's start with the basics: Ghana has had the same Electoral Commissioner for several years, who has seen power change hands through elections to three different men – of different parties. I'm struggling to identify at least 5 countries on the motherland that have achieved such peaceful inter-party transition! In my dear Uganda for example, it seems as if the Electoral Commission chief got his terms of reference complete with the results he must announce for every Presidential election he presides over.

Not only is Ghana well respected in the African Union, it is also a favoured destination for researchers from all over the world, plus African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans who wish to establish a link to their African heritage and roots in the motherland. Why choose Ghana? “It has less drama,” one LSE student once told me. Also, the fact that President Obama's first Africa-tour as president kicked off in Ghana says a lot.

Ghana also made Africa proud as the longest surviving African team in the 2010 world Cup, which was the best organised and most profitable World Cup ever. Ladies in Kampala were crazy about the Boiteng brothers (one played for Ghana and the other for Germany). I'm sure you all noticed Ghana's magical Asamoah Gyan, who scored like a wizard. His celebratory dance was something else. However, when Gyan missed a decisive penalty shoot, I was so heartbroken that I swore not to watch football again. I won't be able to resist the African Cup of Nations next year. Besides, Paul the Octopus is no longer available to broadcast results so I just have to see for myself.

At the wedding party, I was in awe at the variety of tasty Ghanaian delicacies and the elegance of the ladies in their traditional attire. The men looked good too, but I had to trade carefully because knowing African men, not many of them wear wedding rings so it's hard to know who is single and who is not. Anyway, time to google “cheap flights to Ghana”.

Hounded, accepted, tolerated

Previous directors and their relationship with the school

1895-1903

William Hewins

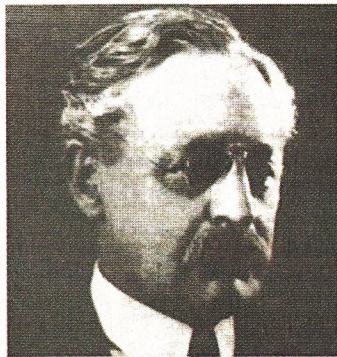
- Historical economist and mathematician.
- When the Webbs founded the school, Hewins accepted their offer to become the first Director.
- Resigned to work for Joseph Chamberlain and his campaign for tariff reform.
- Beatrice Webb on Hewins: "Shaw always declares he is a fanatic. He is a churchman and an ardent believer in the scientific method in economics and politics."



1903-1908

Halford Mackinder

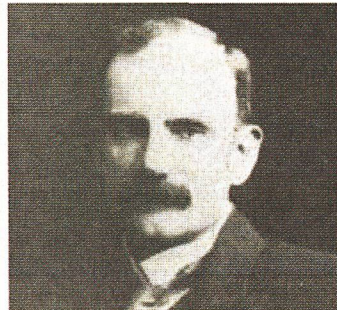
- Most prominent academic geographer of his time, considered as one of the founding fathers of geopolitics and geo-strategy.
- Went on to become a Conservative MP after resignation.
- On Geography: "The science of distribution. The science, that is, which traces the arrangement of things in general on the Earth's surface."



1908-1919

William Pember Reeves

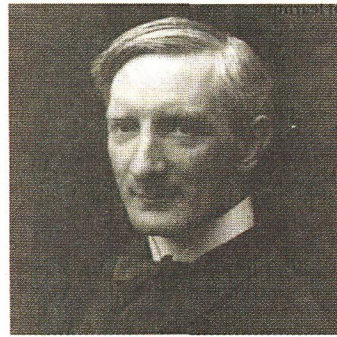
- Former agent-general of New Zealand, was also a historian and poet.
- Was highly influenced by the Fabian Society, and in particular by Beatrice Webb.



1919-1937

William Beveridge

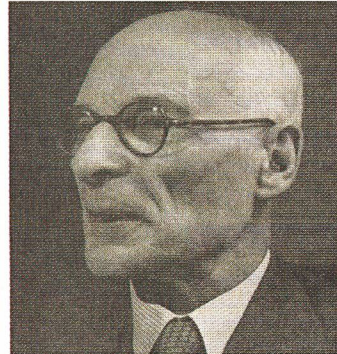
- Trained lawyer – was involved in mobilising and controlling manpower during World War I.
- Became leader of the Liberals in the House of Lords in 1946.
- "The object of government in peace and in war is not the glory of rulers or of races, but the happiness of the common man."



1937-1957

Alexander Carr-Saunders

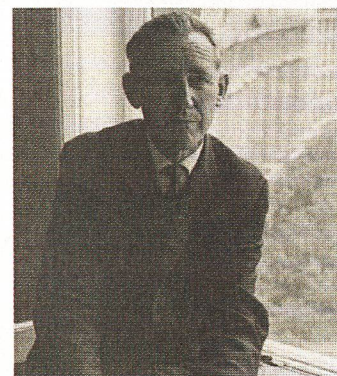
- Was both a natural and social scientist, and was educated in zoology at Oxford.
- Pioneer of population studies.
- Was the Secretary of the Eugenics Education Society, and saw in eugenics a solution for the engineering of society into a better condition.
- Held the post of Director until his retirement in 1957.



1957-1969

Sydney Caine

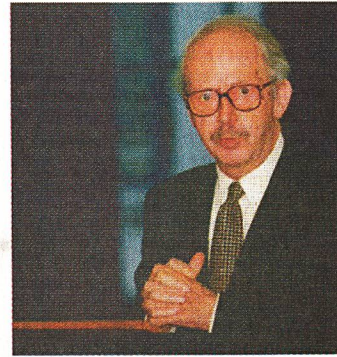
- Previously worked as the vice-chancellor of the University of Malaya, a consultant at the World Bank, and Minister at the British Embassy in Washington.
- LSE Alumnus, and between 1963 and 1970 was the Chairman of the Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning.



1967-1974

Walter Adams

- Historian, educated at UCL and lectured there in history from 1926 to 1934.
- Previously worked as the head of University College of Rhodesia.
- His appointment gave rise to student protests due to links with Ian Smith's racist regime in Rhodesia. Students occupied the Old Theatre, and two Students' Union officials were suspended. The students went on a hunger strike that lasted for five days.



1974-1984

Ralf Dahrendorf

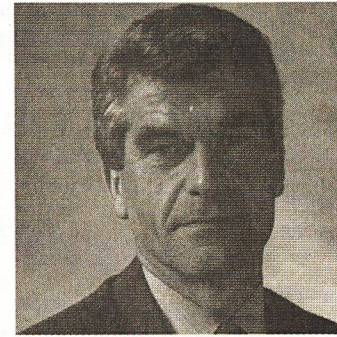
- German-British sociologist, philosopher and political scientist.
- Member of the Foreign Office of Germany and the House of Lords.
- Leading expert on class divisions in modern society.
- Oversaw the first redevelopment of the Library in Portugal Street.
- A bronze bust of Dahrendorf was sculpted by the artist Bertrand Feiblesben, unveiled in the Old Building Atrium in September 2009.



1984-1990

I.G. Patel

- Was the first person of South Asian origin to head a higher education institution in the United Kingdom.
- Howard Davies said: "I.G. Patel was a highly talented Director of the School, who was remembered here with great affection. In particular, he continued LSE's long tradition of scholarly teaching and research links with India which – thanks in great part to him – remain as strong as ever today."



1990-1996

John Ashworth

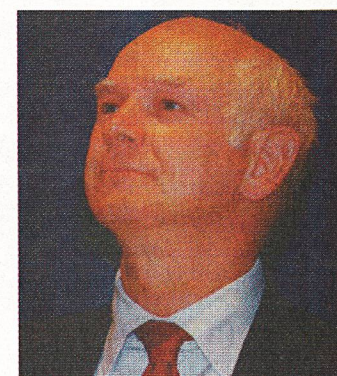
- Led the school through various changes – including speculation about a move from Aldwych to County Hall.
- Knighted in 2008 for public services.
- Worked as under-secretary to the government's Cabinet Office from 1979 to 1981, as vice-chancellor at the University of Salford, and was a former chairman of the British Library board.



1996-2003

Anthony Giddens

- One of the architects of New Labour, Giddens's Third Way provided the framework for the progressive centre-left in British politics.
- On Gaddafi (The Guardian, 2007): "As one-party states go, Libya is not especially repressive. [He] seems genuinely popular."
- Giddens was twice invited to visit Libya by the management consultancy Monitor Group, after which he said Saif Gaddafi was a "driving force behind Libya's rehabilitation and potential modernisation".



2003-2011

Howard Davies

Given the context of his resignation, it is understandable that the achievements of Howard Davies during his two terms as Director of the School have been somewhat relegated to the recesses of most people's – staff and students alike – subconsciouses. It is important, however, to realise that questionable funding is not all that he has brought to the School over the course of his eight-year tenure: while he may be receiving a drubbing in the national press, the Beaver recognises the worth of a more holistic view of his work.

During his first year, Howard

Davies oversaw both the raising of fees to £3,000 and the introduction of the LSE's bursary scheme, which was to become one of the most generous of all UK universities. Indeed, perfectly in keeping with his suggestions that the charging of £9,000 per year undergraduate fees was "not right", he said at the time that it was necessary to "continue to recruit students from disadvantaged communities." The purchase of the New Academic Building was also overseen by Davies: a building which was to expand the ability of the School to teach and house the Department of Management and Department of Law. In his 2004-5 Director's Report, Davies stated that the teaching capacity of the School was to be increased from 7,500 to 9,000 by 2012; this was achieved by 2009. During this period, the School also gained powers to award its own degrees, rather than being a mere constituent college of the University of London. In the academic year 2005-6, Davies oversaw further acquisition of property by the School: the towers on Clements Inn, Lillian Knowles House and Northumberland House were acquired. Passfield Hall was also refurbished during that year: all of these acquisitions and changes served to improve quality of life and quality of teaching for students.

The decline in student satisfaction over the course of his tenure did concern Davies: in every Director's Report, he referenced these declines. He commissioned a Teaching Task Force under Janet Hartley to attempt to ascertain the causes behind the decline, with the results showing that class sizes needed to be reduced and promotion opportunities be linked to teaching performance. In 2007-8, he aided the LSE in obtaining two grants from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), leading to the establishment of a research centre dedicated to spacial economics, led by the Geography Department, and a research centre dedicated to climate change headed by Lord Stern – the Grantham Institute. The level of bursaries, awards and scholarships awarded have increased at a rate above student body growth over the years of Davies leadership.

Davies has suffered incredibly poor luck during his tenure: the School lost a large amount of research funding in 2008-9. Even during these difficult times, however, the School recruited more teaching staff in an effort to reduce class sizes. Though the level of surplus that the School maintains is often criticised, the careful management of the School's finances has served to enable it to carry on somewhat unaffected by the government's prioritisation of STEM subjects.

For some, it may well be that these achievements are far outweighed by the acceptance of suspect funding and the training of future Libyan leaders under the Executive Education programme. It must be borne in mind that Davies has stated in a BBC Radio 4 interview that he "jumped" and that he had the full support of the LSE Council in continuing with his role. This all points to him being willing to become a martyr over the situation, especially when combined with the "reputational" damage that the School has suffered being his core reason for resignation.

One must bear in mind that the Council operates on a basis of consensus and that the Director has no more say in matters than any other Council member. Fred Halliday, as the sole person giving any dissent on the issue, is the only person free from any blame in the situation. From the minutes of the LSE Council meetings where the issue was discussed, the then General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union is just as culpable: his remarks in both the June and October meetings seem to point only to his assent of the discussion of such matters, with no substantive comments made.

Peter Sutherland, Anne Lapping, Ros Altmann, Stephen Barclay, Chris Brown, Angela Camber, Alan Elias, Mario Francescotti, George Gaskell, James Goudie, Janet Hartley, Kate Jenkins, Paul Kelly, David Lane, David Marsden, Ashley Mitchell, Eileen Munro, George Philip, Brian Smith, Sarah Worthington, Anthony Battishill, Vivina Berla, Bronwyn Curtis, Alan Elias, Tim Frost, Robin Mansell, and even the unimpeachable Shami Chakrabarti, are just as open to blame as Davies. The decision to take money from Libya was taken collective by the LSE council. To heap blame at the door of Davies is to merely scapegoat with no reason.

Alexander Young

Accession to the canvas

Sam Williams analyses Howard Davies's legacy

There are few places on the LSE campus where the history of the School is more palpable than in the Shaw Library. There is a sense that one gets when sitting in an old scarlet armchair, light seeping in through the tall windows onto the shelves of dusty books, of being situated in some undefined location between the School's past and its present. The famous Nicholson painting of Sidney and Beatrice Webb hanging above the fireplace at one end of the room serves as a constant reminder of the School's foundation over a century ago. The Fabian Window, a relic of an ideology and an age, sits awkwardly behind a grand piano. In an institution that takes pride in its place at the cutting-edge of contemporary academic research, and in its location at the heart of a cosmopolitan twenty-first century city, the Shaw Library provides a rare passage to earlier chapters in its story. The sense of narrative is compounded by the portraits of former Directors that line the walls. From the stern glare of Williams Beveridge (1919-1937), to the animated oratorical pose of Anthony Giddens (1996-2003), these pictures remind users of the library of the eminent men who, over the past century, have shaped the LSE into the world-renowned institution it is today.

Each of the Directors, gazing more or less severely out of their frame, left the School with a distinctive legacy. It is a commonly repeated sentiment that the LSE was founded by socialists—it is less celebrated that its first Director, Williams Hewins (1895-1903) was a Conservative politician and economist. Beatrice Webb wrote of Hewins that he was a fanatic; "an ardent believer in the scientific method in economics and politics". This approach has left a lasting legacy on the style of intellectual pursuit at the LSE. Indraprasad (I.G.) Patel (1984-1990) has been imputed with the School's success in spreading its appeal to the Asian sub-continent and Far East; something that has had a profound impact on its subsequent reach and demography. Anthony Giddens was a famously influential figure in Labour

policy-making circles while Director. The respect that senior British policy-makers have for the LSE and its academics can in large part be attributed to him.

And now a new portrait is to join the historical procession played out on the Shaw Library walls. Howard Davies's resignation last week has ensured that his accession to the canvas will come sooner than expected, and has raised important questions not only about his own legacy, but about what the future holds for the LSE. It is certain that a close analysis of Davies's influence on the School will take place in the coming weeks and months. In the early days, the assessment of his impact will be distorted by the voice of contemporary events. His intimate involvement in the recent Libya-LSE controversy will be difficult to see past, particularly given its central role in his premature and inauspicious departure. Nevertheless, as events in Libya resolve themselves and fade away from public consciousness, the more substantial legacy that Davies has endowed to the School in other respects will become manifest.

Widely credited with overseeing a shrewd and timely programme of property acquisition and campus expansion, Davies perceived the fundamental importance of increased teaching space to the satisfaction of the LSE's ambitions in the 21st century. The purchase and renovation of the former Public Trustees Building, now the New Academic Building (opened 2008), set the tone for a series of other purchases, including Sardinia House and the prestigious and beautiful Land Registry building on Lincoln's Inn Fields. Though yet to be converted for teaching purposes, these buildings mark an important and significant investment made by the school. Future generations of students are likely to be thankful to Davies for his part in these developments.

Yet for all the sadness that surrounds Davies's departure from the school, there is a sense amongst the LSE community that it has been afforded an opportunity. The next Director faces a stern set of challenges. Guiding a small, research-intensive, social science institution through

the erratic (and often unfavourable) vicissitudes of the modern global market for higher education will not be an easy task. Simultaneous to wanting to ensure its mere survival in this competitive market, the next Director will want to take the School in their own particular direction. The School faces the immediate challenge of restoring its reputation for being an ethically principled institution. Rightly or wrongly, this reputation has taken a battering in the past weeks. Nevertheless, this task will prove straightforward in comparison to the more fundamental one of restoring to the LSE an academic reputation that has diminished in recent years. Though Davies himself was always quick to attribute the School's league table slumps to systemic bias in the scheme of university commensuration, there is a sense amongst students that this is more an excuse than an explanation. The next Director will have to heed students' complaints that teaching at the School is impersonal and conducted in insufficient time (two hours per week for subjects that are among the most delicate and challenging in academia). Ensuring that students are fully satisfied with the quantity and quality of teaching is a job of absolute priority for Davies's successor. They have an opportunity to fix a university that is ailing in important ways.

It is still early days, and events at the LSE are moving quickly. Speculation is rife about who will take on the big job. Names posited, with varying degrees of satire, have ranged from Muammar Gaddafi (who will be out a job soon) to Gordon Brown (who is out of a job). Whoever it is will face a consequential set of challenges. We know that Howard Davies will soon be looking down at us while we read in the comfortable chairs of the Shaw Library. The big question now is: who will be next? ☛



Flickr user: steena

Scepticism is necessary

Emir Nader claims Davies's resignation was justified

It is far too easy to fall in to the trap of lamenting Howard Davies' resignation. I too, when arriving at LSE, warmed to this Dumbledorian patriarch. He has all the makings of a lovable grandpa: charming, with a learned mind surrounded by a thinning shock of silvery hair.

However, us students, being the rational sceptics this institution moulds us in to, should not be seduced by such emotive fantasies for a second. And I, having considered the facts, have no qualms in saying I believe that Davies' resignation was the right thing to happen. I am sure everyone is aware of why there is controversy over this issue so I won't waste time here rehashing it but we must be clear there is no room for one of the foremost universities in the world to receive money from dictatorships.

There is a common opinion that universities should be politically neutral, which I personally do not believe is possible, yet this issue more than any other has the ability to tarnish our school. Let us be clear, the acceptance of Gaddafi family money was the LSE's tacit approval of a dictatorship. The recent bloodshed have been disgusting and has brought Libya to the media fore, but this was an autocracy when Howard Davies approved the donation.

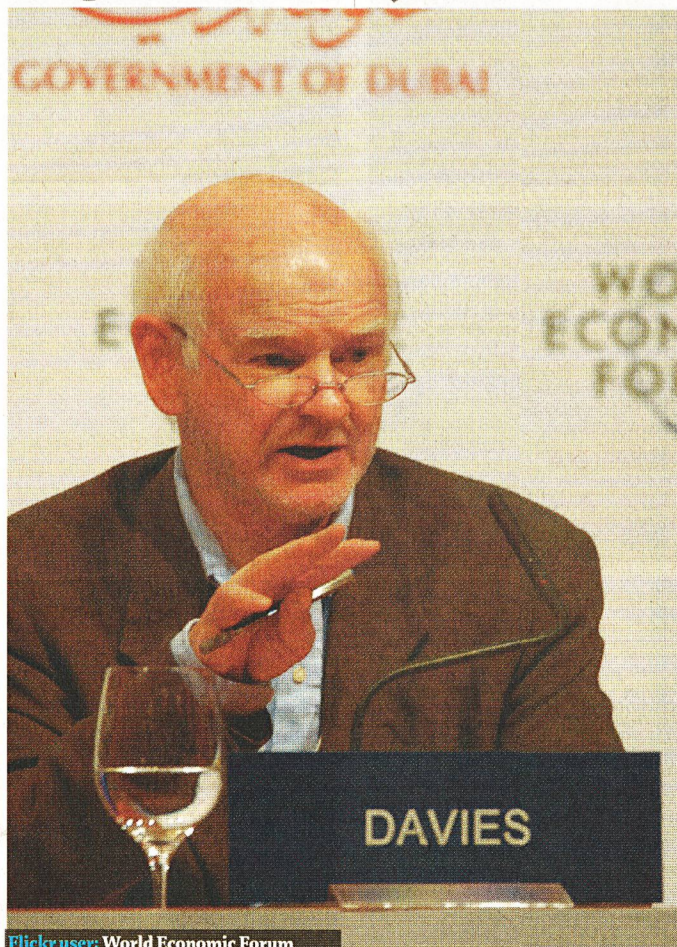
In fairness it is understandable how the rationale, or purported rationale, the school used to support the donation passed management and scrutiny. It goes something like 'Saif is committed to reform and democratic politics, he even wrote his PhD on it! Single-handedly!'. Universities struggle to turn down extra money and so this was greedily signed through the Council.

Fast-forward a year and it seems that Howard has only just realised that

the family he accepted money from has funded internal and international terrorism for forty years. Is it then wrong for one to assume that the sincerity of Howard's recent departure and regret is not as heartfelt and deep as he would like us to think. Moreover, he was not forced to walk the plank by the Council or even from the 'socialist-hippies' on campus (a title I am reluctant to wear). Our director simply did wrong and as in all institutions he, being the top dog, must take the rap; it is just and right.

Howard did some good things too. He was active and engaged with student's societies. He courageously said £9,000 tuition fees were unfair and that the LSE will be one of the few universities not to kick the next generation [so hard] in the teeth when even universities of 'inferior' prestige and academic rigour will do. Howard believed so much in us that nobody even thought it remotely predatory when he lurked in a dark corner of the Quad on RAG's human auction night, outbidding all for an evening with Lizzy Ferguson, the Drama Society president.

The greatest irony in all of this debacle is that the Queen of our great land asked during a briefing from the top brains at LSE why hadn't anyone seen the economic crash coming. If they had, then the recession may have not been as bad, a series of North-African uprisings may not have arisen, questionable institutional links may not have surfaced and, quite possibly, Davies would still have a job. Maybe. ☛



Flickr user: World Economic Forum

To Sir Howard Davies

For three years and one more
(I suppose that makes four)
I have lived, wrapped up in LSE
A home that I hate and adore.

You very rarely crossed my mind,
Until the day that you resigned.
But your presence reassured me
In ways that cannot be defined.

I would just like to say -
Your performance in Platonov's play
As Hoz or George Bernard Shaw
Really blew me away.

Now Houghton St. lies bereft
Your departure feels a bit like theft.
Who will preside over graduation
Now that you have left?

Sarah Alexandra George

Responsibility to protect

Teddy Nicholson explains movements towards intervention in Libya

When the United Nations Security Council met to discuss Libya last week, the expectations were justifiably not high that something concrete would get done. It has not been a good few years for the UN, not so much because of crises, though there have been some, but rather the prevailing sense that Kofi Annan's more liberal era I nostalgically recall has really gone the way of the dinosaurs.

However, just when I begin to really think that the 'liberal moment' of the late 1990s is well and truly over, something happened that I did not expect. This was the passage of Security Council Resolution 1970 on 26th February on 'Peace and Security in Africa', for which read 'Libya'.

Resolution 1970 has imposed sanctions on Libya, condemned the violence and, in a hugely important development, referred the situation to the International Criminal Court (ICC), and it did so unanimously with usual holdouts Russia and China getting on board. At the time of writing the prosecutor of the ICC has announced that he will open an investigation into Libya four days after the referral. By way of comparison it took three months for the prosecutor to start to investigate Sudan after the referral.

As exciting as this is for the UN, the really interesting parts of the resolution are two little lines, one near the beginning in the preamble and one near the end. The first is "Recalling the Libyan authorities' responsibility to protect its population" and the second, in clause 26 says "...expresses its readiness to consider taking additional appropriate measures, as necessary, to achieve [access for humanitarian agencies]".

The UN is an organisation in which many of the most important developments happen obliquely through the vague endorsement of principles or understandings that have very little formal status. That is what has happened here. The phrase used in the preamble - 'responsibility to protect' - is a direct reference to the principle endorsed by the General Assembly and the Security Council five or six years ago that seeks to formalise humanitarian intervention under the UN. No one at the UN uses these phrases without knowing precisely what they mean. The other one is the reference to "additional appropriate measures, as necessary", which is a hair's breadth away from the phrase "all necessary means", which the UN uses to authorise the use of military force as it did in the 1991 Gulf War.

These are the result of a strong push by the US and a compromise brokered by the UK to leave all avenues open, and for all avenues read the possibility of intervention.

What we have, therefore, is a situation in which suddenly after years of dormancy, the doctrine of humanitarian intervention is back being discussed by governments rather than just journalists and academics. The resolution passed extremely quickly and soon after we saw David Cameron announcing to the House of Commons that the UK was planning a no-fly zone over Libya with Britain's allies. He pulled back from this, but for a few tantalising moments it seemed as if governments were really talking behind the scenes about humanitarian intervention with a seriousness unseen for a long time.

Predictions are hard, particularly about the future, and by the time this goes to print there is a high chance that this will all have been rendered irrelevant, whether by a confirmation of no military intervention on the part of the West, or even an invasion may have happened. At the moment I do not believe that the US, UK and other European states (or North Africans) will be willing to intervene militarily. Turkey has said publicly that they will block NATO from intervening, and the unilateral option is highly unlikely, particularly given the over-extension of the West in Afghanistan and Iraq. Libya will most likely remain a test case for whether a

diplomatic and humanitarian process can adequately support the anti-government forces in the country.

However, the idea is back. If history is seen as a contest of ideas in which the most robust survive and drive policy, then humanitarian intervention sprung up in a big way from 1997 to 2001, and was then dealt a near-mortal blow by the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan which showed how it could be used as a cynical tool rather than the moral instrument it is meant to be. This bred cynicism among Western societies, and people began to believe the fallacy that military intervention is always and necessarily imperialist.

The argument has been that humanitarian intervention is Western and that any Western intervention is necessarily neo-imperial, or a twenty-first century manifestation of a 'white man's burden', or just geopolitical expansionism dressed up in nice clothes. Added to this is the argument that the West doesn't get to preach humanitarian values when we haven't been particularly good at upholding them ourselves - see Guantanamo Bay and its ilk.

I don't buy this. Humanitarian intervention isn't about imperialism, nor is it about spreading values at the point of a gun. It's the international equivalent of the old principle that if I see someone being attacked on the other side of the street, if at all possible, I should not just walk on by but stop and help them against their attackers. To the charges of hypocrisy, Western governments are clearly responsible for some horrendous acts, but firstly committing a wrongful act yourself does not render you incapable of identifying one on the part of another. Secondly, those who led the countries responsible aren't around any longer, and the US in particular has changed for the better in a way that so long as Gaddafi is around Libya never can.

Although humanitarian intervention may be most notably associated with Kosovo, it's not just a Western idea. Nich-

olas Wheeler, a professor of international politics at Aberystwyth University, identifies the real beginnings of humanitarian intervention as the Tanzanian intervention in Uganda and the Indian intervention in East Pakistan, or as Indira Gandhi called it at the time, a 'civil invasion'. Furthermore, the African Union has one of the most advanced codified endorsements of humanitarian intervention, and earlier this year the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) came very close to sending troops into Côte d'Ivoire.

What we have, therefore, is a situation in which suddenly after years of dormancy, the doctrine of humanitarian intervention is back being discussed by governments rather than just journalists and academics

There is a good chance that external powers, whether Western or otherwise, will either be too cautious, too divided or too unwilling to incur the costs of intervention. However, this crisis has offered a small measure of rehabilitation to the idea that military intervention is not necessarily and always a bad thing, that foreign policy that is grounded in morality can be

a force for good, and that in a post-Iraq war world, Western military interventions are not necessarily imperial. He may have almost killed it with Iraq, but Tony Blair's Doctrine of the International Community still remains the most powerful argument for foreign policy with a moral core for liberal intervention.

Whether the Security Council will move to endorsing 'all means necessary' to solve the Libyan crisis remains to be seen, but last week we saw the return of international liberalism at the UN and this time it was unanimous. That's reason enough for me to celebrate.

Feature Story
- noun
1. a newspaper or magazine article or report of a person, event, an aspect of a major event, or the like, often having a personal slant and written in an individual style.

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Ambassador Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe Speaking with the press on February 25, 2011 during the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Libya.

Flickr user: US Mission Geneva

Obama and the Oscars

Daniel Lahey describes the political criticisms behind *Gasland* and *Inside Job*

Amidst a sea of applause, documentary filmmaker Charles Ferguson walked timidly up to the front of the Kodak Theatre to receive his award. Leaning his head down towards the microphone, he began his sheepish acceptance speech with a political message: "Forgive me. I must start by pointing out that three years after our horrific financial crisis, caused by financial fraud, not a single financial executive has gone to jail, and that's wrong."

It is not unprecedented for winners of the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature to harness the opportunity to speak in front of the approximately one billion viewers who tune into the Oscars each year to promulgate their political views. In 2003, upon accepting the award for his film, *Bowling for Columbine*, Michael Moore elicited thunderous boos from the Hollywood crowd as he railed against the "fictitious" Iraq War initiated by President Bush only three days prior.

Unlike Moore's outburst, however, which was largely unrelated to the content of his movie, Ferguson's statement very much encapsulated the fundamental argument of his film, *Inside Job*: the 2008 financial crisis was precipitated by three decades of wanton deregulation of the financial markets and, despite the evident need to reverse course, the Obama administration has failed to seriously bring about reform. In Ferguson's view, the absence of criminal prosecutions against the financial executives involved in the housing bubble of the mid-noughties provides just one indication of the White House's continued unwillingness to curb the unscrupulous financial practices of Wall Street.

Further underlining the theme of continuity over change on Oscar night was the inclusion of another like-minded film in the Best Documentary Feature category: *Gasland*. As with *Inside Job*, *Gasland*'s content also calls into question Obama's willingness to live up to the flowery rhetoric of change he delivered so effectively as a presidential candidate. Taken together, these documentaries, as well as the recognition granted them at the Academy Awards, are representative of a growing liberal disillusionment with the current president.

Inside Job's indictment of the Obama administration extends beyond simply criticising its unwillingness to direct the Justice Department to investigate criminal wrongdoing among financial executives. Equally troubling for Ferguson is the manner in which Obama has essentially stacked his White House team with Wall Street insiders, many of whom were involved in proselytising the same deregulatory dogma that facilitated the 2008 crisis. Most prominent among these are Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, who, in his previous position as president of the New York Federal Reserve, tacitly condoned the inflation of the housing bubble, and Obama's first Chief Economic Adviser Lawrence Summers, who for years was a zealous opponent of regulating the derivatives market. Despite candidate Obama's promises to bring about a new era of government oversight on Wall Street as president, since taking office his financial reforms have been roundly dismissed by critics as laughably weak. All in all, the film is a lament to Obama's failure to chart a different economic course for the country than his more recent predecessors.

In *Gasland*, filmmaker Josh Fox

documents the dire environmental threat posed by the recent expansion in domestic natural gas drilling in the United States. For decades, Washington was heavily dependent on natural gas imports from Canada and overseas to help meet its energy and heating needs. Six years ago, however, the industry's landscape was permanently altered by the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which was spearheaded by Vice President and former energy executive Dick Cheney. The Bill exempted gas companies from a variety of Nixon-era environmental restrictions, granting them a free hand in adopting a controversial mining technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," to unlock America's vast natural gas reserves located deep underground.

As Fox's film demonstrates, the subsequent gold rush in gas drilling has brought with it a number of serious environmental hazards, most notably to the country's water supply. The "fracking" process involves the injection of roughly six hundred chemicals into the ground, many of them extremely dangerous to ingest even in trace amounts. *Gasland* meticulously documents how these often seep into the water table and endanger local residents' health while rendering their tap water unusable.

Despite the mounting body of evidence presented in Fox's film regarding the grave environmental dangers of hydraulic fracturing, the Obama administration has thus far failed to take any concerted effort to regulate natural gas drilling. While two members of Congress have drafted a piece of legislation called the FRAC Act, which would abrogate some of the regulatory exemptions granted to gas companies under Cheney's 2005 Bill, the

president remains unwilling to spend any political capital in support of its passage. As with the message of Ferguson's film, *Gasland*'s pessimistic conclusion regarding the lax state of natural gas industry regulation further undermines Obama's status as an agent of change.

Has the president let down many of his supporters by steering a middle course on reform? Or is it simply that progressive Americans placed unrealistically high expectations on what he could accomplish in one term? In defending his centrist approach to the presidency, which has also involved scrapping the public option from his landmark healthcare legislation and extending Bush-era tax cuts, Obama has stressed that, "this is a big, diverse country" that was "founded on compromise." While certainly an understandable argument, the president's new-found pragmatism simply does not accord with the rhetoric of his 2008 campaign.

As both *Inside Job* and *Gasland* demonstrate, as well as the considerable acclaim accorded to them at the Oscars, a growing number of American liberals are unwilling to ignore the widening gap between the words of candidate Obama and that of their president. This sense of disillusionment was perhaps best captured by Ferguson in an interview about his film, in which he stated, "when President Obama was elected he had a very, very special opportunity of a kind that comes once a century, maybe, to really change this country for the better...and he blew it, he let it pass."

WHAT IF...

...Wilson was a Soviet spy?

Jack Tindale

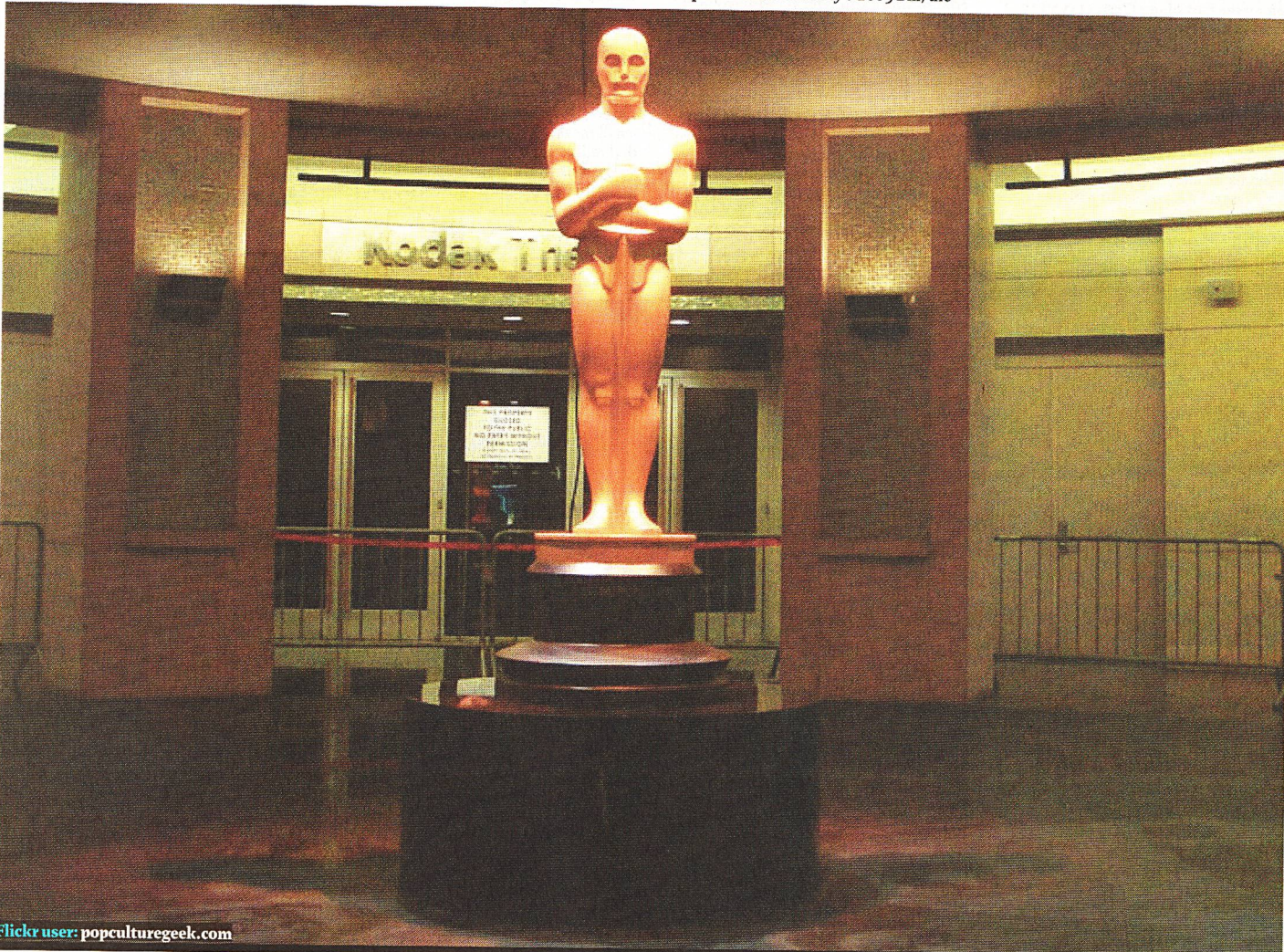
The flight of James Harold Wilson to Moscow on the night of the 17th September 1975 remains the climax of one of the most astonishing periods in the history of Downing Street. Peter Wright, the plucky MI5 agent who uncovered the story and had originally been dismissed as a paranoid fantasist, revealed to the then-Chancellor, Denis Healey, the full extent of the Prime Minister's ties to Moscow.

Harold Wilson, known as Agent Lavender to the Kremlin, had been approached by the KGB during his wartime tenure at the Ministry of Supply. The true reason for his double-agent status will never be known, whether he did so for ideological reasons or simply for money will never be known. In reality of course, the infiltration of the Labour Party by foreign agents provoked one of the greatest scandals in British political history. Over his time in Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and Prime Minister, the number of state secrets that found themselves on the Politburo desks must have numbered in the hundreds.

When Peter Wright passed his meticulously garnered files to Lord Mountbatten, the British establishment, so long in seemingly inexorable decline was galvanised into action and immediately called for a full enquiry. After the mass resignation of the entire Labour Cabinet at the end of the week, a new unity government was formed under the leadership of Christopher Soames, a non-partisan figure who tended his resignation as European Trade Commissioner before returning to Westminster where he became acting Prime Minister. The new Conservative Party leader, William Whitelaw, became First Lord of the Treasury as a sop to the opposition, whilst the interim Labour chief, Edward Short, became Home Secretary with special responsibility for a new root and branch review of the Security Services.

The old Labour Party, mired in the humiliating position of apparently being filled with traitors slumped to a humiliating fourth at the General Election of 1976, during which time Roy Jenkins' break-away faction eclipsed the rump party led by Merlyn Rees. Tony Benn's socialist faction attempted a protracted court case over who was entitled to the still-sizeable assets of the old party, although he would eventually admit defeat in 1984. David Owen, a future Social Democrat leader during the 1980's would succeed Jenkins as leader of the opposition and slowly began the long return of the Labour/Social Democratic Party to electoral respectability, although the spectre of Communist fifth columnists would haunt the moderate-left for the next few decades.

As a modicum of stability returned to the British government, Comrade Wilson eventually surfaced in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, soon followed by his long-suffering wife Mary and his Secretary, Marcia Williams. The cost and effort of extradition was deemed too great for the Foreign Office, and the former Prime Minister was largely left outside the public eye, although his occasional writings on the benefits of Marxist-Leninist economics. His famous editorial for Pravda, in which he extolled the virtues of, "the rouble in your pocket" remains one of the few hurrahs of the Brezhnev-era, during which time the inherent weaknesses of the Soviet state became apparent in comparison to the west.



Flickr user: popculturegeek.com

Measured musings

As has been iterated many a time in the Beaver, 'academic politics' are so vicious precisely because the stakes are so small. As much as the repetition of this platitude has made it meaningless to the point that its main point of contention is that people never know whether to attribute it to Henry Kissinger or Wallace Sayre, this week has demonstrated that our Students' Union is no exception to this rule.

We have seen some of the most back-handed of campaigning: one candidate and one campaigner were accused of being a part of an institutional racist organisation due to their role as Special Constables in the Metropolitan Police; other candidates broke their agreed détente in order that they rally their last-minute vote: both evidence of a breakdown in the moral fibre of students when they also become election candidates.

Of course, such dealings are probably just an instance of the 'real world' of

politics writ small: whereas here, things happen amongst a small electorate in a more public manner and thus are more likely to be dragged up as being vicious. Perhaps it is not a case of the stakes being smaller, but rather the electoral stadium in which they are performing: these sort of betrayals of trust and mudslinging no doubt go on in wider-ranging political contests, but they tend not to be heard of due to the information costs involved in large-scale campaigns. This is not to say that this sort of controversy does not

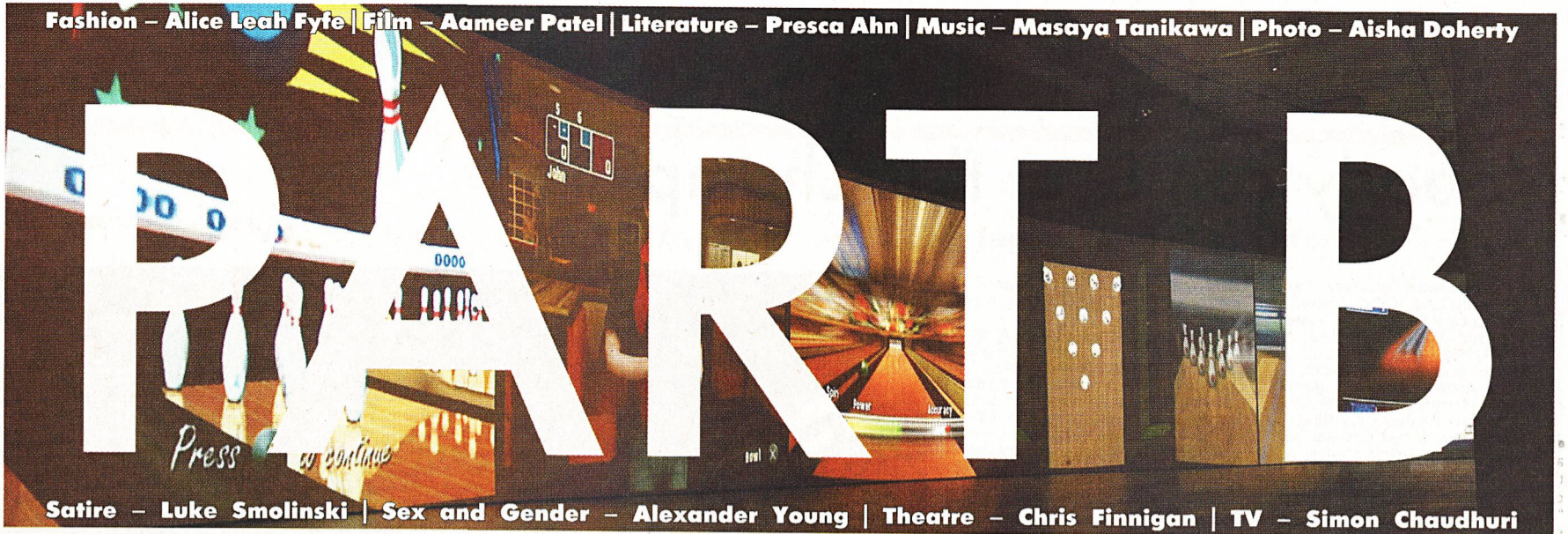
crop up on the large scale: Watergate is a painfully obvious example of how things can completely blow up on the large scale of political campaigns; the setting of fiscal policy in line with the political business cycle is equally abhorrent in terms of setting a rival campaigner an unequal footing.

Whilst the campaigns of those within LSE Students' Union may never reach these dizzying heights of corruption, we have definitely seen things on the scale of Peter Griffiths' infamous electoral slogan

of 1964: 'if you want a nigger for a neighbour, vote Labour.' The core difference between the two cases is that the people of Smethwick saw through this slander and carried on voting as they would have otherwise: perhaps we have not been so lucky. Maybe Griffiths' guidelines on electoral procedural guidelines did not necessitate him re-publicising his candidacy every time he misstepped.

Alexander Young

Sooth-Sayre



Editor's Picks of the Week

Fa

Supermarket Sarah
Until 25th March
Selfridges

Fi

Birds Eye View Film Festival
8th - 17th March
BFI Southbank, ICA &
Southbank Centre

Th

Flare Path
Until 4th June
Haymarket Theatre Royal

Wolf Gang
8th March
Madame JoJo's

Mu

Apples & Snakes
9th March
Soho Theatre

Li

Beat the Champ
Until 22nd May
Barbican Centre

Vi

Literature.

Civilization by Niall Ferguson

Luke Smolinski reviews the historian's new book about Western hegemony, empire, and Mao's pyjamas

In 1969, when historian Niall Ferguson was five years of age, the BBC broadcast an epic series – commissioned by David Attenborough – on Western civilisation. The series was a staggering thirteen episodes long, 50 minutes each, and presented by an avuncular, if pompous-sounding chap called Kenneth Clark – a man you sort of wish had been your tutor at private school. The series was called “Civilisation”.

As if to rival it, Ferguson has produced a book, alongside a television series of course, called *Civilization*. Everything has been duly updated: the suits of a classics teacher have been traded in for suits of a City boy, and long shots of an old man walking have been swapped for snappy shots of Ferguson posing. But in the same tradition as Clark, Ferguson sets out to tell an epic history of Western civilization.

The key difference is signified by the switch of one letter: s for z. In his book, Ferguson describes how the United States of America, along with Kenneth's small states of Europe, came to dominate the rest of the world for 400 years.

It is a strange and absorbing tale, if

only because Ferguson is a man who asks so many questions. The book abounds in historical mysteries. “Why is it,” Ferguson asks, “that Californian jeans – which were also issued to convicts in many state penitentiaries – came to dominate the world of fashion?” They were essentially workman's trousers, after all. He goes on to say that “perhaps the greatest mystery of the entire Cold War is why the Worker's Paradise could not manage to produce a decent pair of jeans” – and follows up with an eloquent explanation of the fall of the Soviet Union, as told through the story of blue jeans. Likewise, Islamic headscarves and Maoist pyjamas (Ferguson explains how Mao's suit is in essence just grey pyjamas) are used to explain the spread of the consumer society. This kind of narrative is Ferguson at his finest.

“The reader is walloped over the head by a swift succession of political theorists”

Consumption is just one of the ways in which “the West” dominated “the Rest”, as Ferguson puts it. The other five are: competition, science, property rights, medicine and the work ethic. *Civilization* begins well, launching with an explanation of how a Western power pulled away from a “Restern” one.

Fifteenth-century Portugal accumulated a vast overseas empire while competing with rival European powers; these imperial holdings soon outgrew those of Ming China. Seventeenth-century Prussia bested the Ottoman Empire due to the Scientific Revolution which eluded the latter. South America never became as peaceful and prosperous as the USA because property rights were never

established adequately.

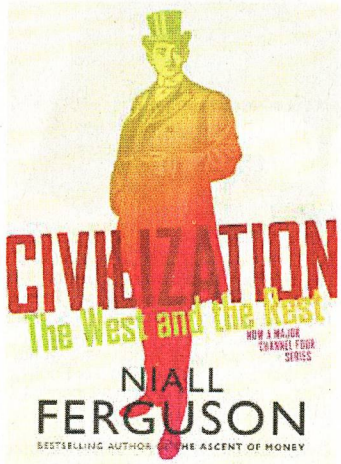
“Consumption is just one of the ways in which the West dominated the Rest”

The remaining chapters seem a little unstructured. A prime example is the chapter on medicine. In it is a bizarrely placed history of France, from the Revolution through the Napoleonic Wars, ending with World War One. Quite what this has to do with Western medicine, I'll never know. It is a 50-page ramble worthy of Gaddafi, complete with the ravings of a colonial apologist. If this is not enough, the reader is walloped over the head by a swift succession of political theorists (blow-by-blow: Rousseau, Burke, Tocqueville, Clausewitz). I am mystified as to how he thought his target audience of sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds could withstand such an intellectual pummelling.

Sometimes these tangential discussions are praiseworthy. Among other things, one finds out that Kant's grandfather was Scottish, that Hugo Boss produced the Nazi uniform, that the Chinese invented golf and that under Stalin, nineteen people died for every ton of steel produced. These nuggets of trivia are a joy.

Overall, though the book is not as good as *Empire*, *Civilization* is still classic Ferguson: enthralling, stimulating and thoroughly well-written. So long as you can tolerate the odd grumble about global warming, it is definitely worth a read.

£25.00, Allen Lane, 432 pages



Visual Arts. Comedy.

Nobody can Beat the Champ

Aameer Patel talks to **Cory Arcangel** about futility, progress and his new exhibition

As I entered an unusually darkened Curve, a unique gallery space at the Barbican Centre, I was struck by the lack of lighting beyond the screens and textured loudness of the exhibition. I felt slightly intimidated, like a challenger entering an incumbent champion's home arena. It turns out however, that **Beat the Champ**, a co-commission with the Whitney Museum of American Art, was simply the name of a local bowling television show when artist **Cory Arcangel** was growing up.

Cory Arcangel's work explores the role of media and technology in society. His palette contains much of this technology, in this case, a catalogue of bowling video games spanning across the entire history of the platform, from the Atari 2600 to the Sony PlayStation 2. Although he isn't a gamer, this is not the first time he has worked with games: his Super Mario Clouds project (2002), where the entire content of the game except the clouds were erased, has many fans, particularly on the web.

My reaction doesn't surprise him: "The sound is a big element of the exhibition and the volume – the fact that it's loud, was important. I'm not sure if it was meant to be intimidating, but I wanted it to be a big, startling presence."

Sound is separated well inside the Curve, to the extent that the games you face always take priority, but the others in the collage, and there is great variety, cannot be escaped. Closing your eyes would lead you to think you're in an arcade.

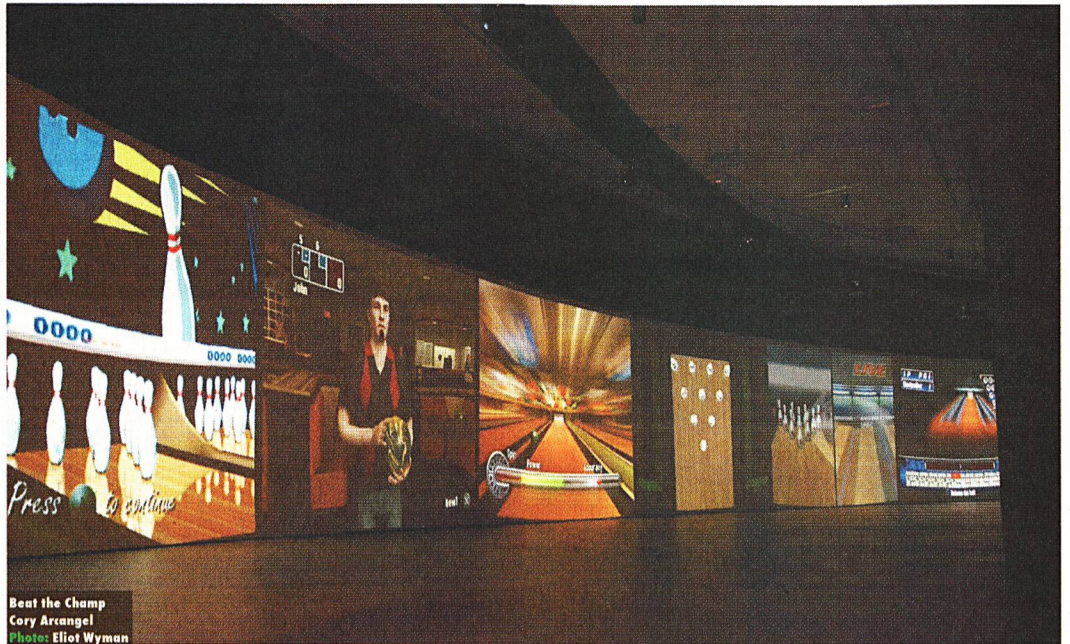
The exhibition takes the form of fourteen automated, self-playing games beamed side-by-side in chronological order – moving forward through the exhibition is moving forward through history. Walking just ninety metres through such technological advancement is striking, both because several decades are suc-

cessfully showcased in so little space, and because the speed of this progress is inescapably clear.

Technological progress is vividly apparent: crude but charming sounds gradually grow more realistic and graphics become increasingly lifelike, marking the transition from casual game to simulation. The exposed consoles at the end of the exhibition emphasise this, in that despite advancing technology, the physical size of the consoles decreases, with the most recent console being the smallest. But this is not the purpose of the piece. The artist hopes that it "presents an ambiguous view of what technological progress means and that it questions the very idea of progress."

"It presents an ambiguous view of what progress means"

My veteran's eye noticed an upward trend in the number of buttons and joysticks on controllers, and subsequently the level of control available, but they do not appear to be utilised in bowling games. The choice of bowling games therefore becomes significant, and Arcangel underlines this: "It had to be bowling games. It would have been difficult to pull off with more elaborate physical simulations – it had to be something clumsy." He also agrees that aspects of these games have changed very little: "the mechanics are quite simple and were codified pretty early on, by the early to mid-eighties, so very little has changed in terms of gameplay. But it is interesting to



Beat the Champ
Cory Arcangel
Photo: Eliot Wyman

me that these games exist and continue to be made." The project began before the most recent generation of consoles, but he notes the fundamental changes Nintendo has brought about with the Wii: "perhaps it represents the opposite – the games have gone back to being really simple. They seem to have reversed the trend of games becoming increasingly complicated." Indeed, the simpler games in the exhibition exude most charm.

There are other reasons for choosing bowling games. The playful bright colours of early games become realistic representations of bowling by the end, with dim ambiances and less intrusive onscreen information. Bowling, unlike, say, fighting in an intergalactic war, is situated within everyone's reach, so the need for realistic simulations is beguiling. Arcangel cannot comment on people's reasons for playing bowling games, but reveals that this played a part in his choice: "it's interesting because there aren't many physical hurdles in bowling. At the very least, they're not as high as other human sports." He also finds the decision to virtualise the activity curious: "bowling has to be one of the most awkward virtual experiences possible – it can be awkward enough in real life. But for the piece to work it had to be something clumsy."

Nobody beats the champ. The games are programmed not only for the player to lose, but to do so by rolling only gutterballs. Although the exhibition is imbued with futility, Arcangel stresses that any message is a general one and certainly not targeted at video games: "I don't

consider the piece to be about games at all. My hope was that video game bowling could be used as stand-in for how we use technology as a whole, because it is so central to our culture."

His choice of medium yields unintended comment. Player avatars mature with consoles, from a wacky, spiky-blue haired figure, to more realistic representations of bowlers, right down to team shirts. The gaming audience also widens

"Walking ninety metres through such technological advancement is striking"

along the same road, and only in the final game was there a female player, who in her non-static waiting state (like Mario playing with his hat or Rayman juggling his head) was tossing the ball up and down in what came across as an ironic show of strength. In light of this, I was surprised to learn that none of the avatars were chosen, but were selected by the games at random. The games themselves were chosen only on grounds of popularity and availability.

The overall message seems bleak – programmed failure can have no other effect. One of the pervading images, spanning multiple games and consoles, is that of the player holding his head in his hands. There are few better expressions of frustration. However, while the exhibition's humorous working title, "The Decline of Western Civilization", is apt, it does not represent the artist's perspective. For him, the notion of decline is interesting only as change: "I don't really have an interest in what we win and we lose, but change is interesting – things are changing all the time and have always been changing. Change produces uncomfortable moments, moments of friction – that's what I'm interested in."

Beat the Champ is witty and insightful and forms an immersive experience. Its methods are quite simple, but the effects are strong. It communicates with ease. Visitors walk through and witness advancement but they do not. Each step holds both failure and progress. This is just as Cory Arcangel intends.

Beat the Champ is at the Curve gallery at the Barbican Centre until 22nd May 2011, open daily 11am-8pm with late opening on Thursdays until 10pm. Admission is free.

For more information on Cory Arcangel and to see some of his past work, visit www.coryarcangel.com



Beat the Champ
Cory Arcangel
Photo: Eliot Wyman

The uncompromising American comic abroad

Chris Finnigan chats to **Doug Stanhope** about his first UK tour, Charlie Sheen, alcohol and politics

Vulgar, shocking and opinionated **Doug Stanhope** is an uncompromising comedian. He is best known in the UK for his work with Charlie Brooker on Newsnight and is infamous on the fringe circuit come festival time. Gearing up for his first UK tour, which begins at the end of the month, I speak to him about how he prepares, where he finds his material and some of his thoughts on American politics.

Some of the issues you've poked fun at are freedom, Sarah Palin and drugs. Is it fair to say your material is very political?

I wouldn't call it political. It might have social relevance, but I wouldn't necessarily call it political. I really don't know shit about politics.

What's your favourite topic to use as material?

Ah Geez, I don't know if I have a favourite. I guess which ever is the most fun and current. Or the one I have the best jokes about. Right now it's Charlie Sheen, he's my favourite thing to talk about – not really political or socially relevant.

What do you think of Charlie Sheen at the moment?

I think he's brilliant. It's the first time there's been anyone on the social radar that is unapologetically fucked up, banging whores and saying "So what? It's nothing to do with you. Its none of your business!"

You'll be coming to Britain soon to tour. Can you tell us a little bit about what audiences can expect?

No I can't. By the time I come over there who knows what will be going on in the world. I might find a malignant lump I'd be talking a lot about or maybe just a new 9/11. I have no idea.

So I take it your act isn't planned in advance. Does it involve a lot of ad-libbing?

Not necessarily ad-libbing. Especially in the UK, I always force myself into a notebook – to find anything new to talk about. I get sick of saying my same shit so quickly.

Do you have to adapt your material when you cross the Atlantic?

I don't necessarily adapt anything. There's just stuff I have to outright dump because it would have no relevance over there.

Is it true you planned to stand for President in 2008?

Yeah. We thought we'd give it a run, but it turned way too difficult and boring, and way too much paperwork, and not funny enough.

What would you have done if you had of won?

As little as possible as government should do – just really nothing.

You're a registered Republican right?

I registered Republican only to vote for Ron Paul in the primaries.

But in the presidential election you voted for Obama?

Yes I did. Just to go vote. I really had no interest in either of them, but yeah, as far as personalities go, he's a guy that isn't gonna irritate you on TV for four years.

How do you test out your material for your gigs?

I just do it. I write it and try it that night. I've been doing this 20 years, you pretty much know if it's gonna work or not.

20 years!

Yeah there are very few times I write something and say jeez I wonder if this will work. After 20 years, if you don't know it's gonna work, pfeff. And if it doesn't, fuck it, you go onto a bit that you know works. I pull myself out of the toilet – if I'm not too hammered.

You are often on stage with a bottle of beer, and you're known to like a few drinks. Do you ever perform sober?

I couldn't perform sober. It would be terrifying!

Have you ever just got too drunk on stage?

I guess that would depend on the audience member you ask. If you ask people, "was I too drunk?" and they say "yes", its just 'cuz what they really mean is they didn't think I was funny. Usually they'd say, "oh he was too drunk" – well that's my show. They wouldn't like it any better if I'd be stuttering with no self-confidence. That's the only difference.

A few of the places you're going to be performing in England are pretty big, for example the Hammersmith



Apollo.

It's the biggest show I've done, where they've come just to see me.

Is that a daunting prospect?

I don't know. I'll tell you when I walk out onstage. I don't worry about things ahead of time or otherwise I'd just be full of ulcers and stomach cancer.

Right I think that's a good line to draw our interview to a close. Thanks for speaking to us Doug.

Have a great day. Oh, and fix this world financial crisis at your 'School of Economics' – 'coz I don't know how that shit works.

Doug Stanhope will be performing at Leicester Square Theatre between March 29-April 2011

Just a Glimpse: the two sides to Dave McPherson

Frontman of heavy rock outfit InMe talks to Masaya Tanikawa about crazy fans, identity and the bonds of brotherhood



Playing hundreds of gigs from the smallest of pubs in East London all the way to the far corners of Europe in less than a year may be some musicians' idea of a tiresome affair. But for 28-year old solo artist **Dave McPherson**, also the frontman and chief song-writer of heavy rock band InMe, few things compare to the rush of life on the road.

"I generally play any show that's thrown at me. I love the whole experience. Like with the big concert shows, you get an adrenaline rush – the more intimate, smaller shows do give you an equal sort of rush, but you get a very natural vibe," says McPherson. "It's very relaxed, and I can talk one-to-one with the audience. They both have their ups and downs. I get to go around and explore places I wouldn't have otherwise. I get fidgety if I'm at home too long, so it suits my lifestyle and personality to get out and experience things."

Having independently released seven solo EPs, McPherson gained a strong following for his soft, earnest acoustic sound. It was a welcome contrast to the heavy grunge-influenced progressive rock songs of InMe; he was one of the founding members in 1996. "It was me and my old friend Joe. We were often playing along to Nirvana covers and all that back in secondary school. Then we brought in Simon, the only drummer we knew around the neighborhood. We were a bunch of school friends that were bored," he jokes.

For a heavy rock singer, his manner is composed and relaxed. "There wasn't a particularly strong music scene there. We were definitely in the minority – the young cool kids that would hang out in the woods and listen to stuff like Iron Maiden. So yeah, we're all really close. Simon is still here more than a decade later. Joe's left a few years back, but I brought in my brother Greg to replace him."

While family feuds can often tear bands apart (see Oasis), the McPherson brothers have an 'open, honest and strange' relationship that keeps InMe together. "Sometimes we sound like we're being a lot harsher to each other than we actually are, but it works with the dynamics of the band. Nothing's ever 'not said' – if someone has a concern, they'll say it," explains McPherson. "We all have a focus on what we want to achieve. There's no ego or anything, especially with me and Greg. For me, having him in the band is special. He's always wanted to be into music, so I brought him in because I wanted to experience certain

things with my family. Since Greg's joined the band, our relationship has strengthened tenfold."

The brothers' passion for music was sparked by a musical childhood, thanks to their father's extensive record collection and an encouraging family full of professional musicians. "My grandma's an opera singer and one of my cousins is a grade-A professional trombone player. Another's a pianist. There's a lot of musical talent going around within my family, so I think it's something we were hopefully were born with," says McPherson.

"My dad is also a very accomplished pianist and he introduced us to the stuff that made us want to become musicians. Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, The Police, all these bands that I still love today. I suppose he shaped my love not just for pop music, but for all the things a bit more obscure and heavy and raw."

It wasn't until he heard the likes of Iron Maiden, Bon Jovi and Nirvana that he felt compelled to pick up a guitar. "I unashamedly loved those kinds of bands as a teenager. It only grew stronger when I ran into nu-metal stuff like KoRn. I'd been learning piano but I gave up since I wasn't that good, especially at reading music," he says. "So after a month of classical guitar training, I wanted to do the more heavy stuff. Since then I've been self-taught, including drums and singing.

"We get strange fans. Back in the day, this girl would pinch off our arm hair then run off"

"I actually find it helps me become a more individual player rather than these guys that just play all the same chords and scales all the time. I try to invent my own scales to make things a bit more interesting. It helped me feel inspired to do a band that was my own sound."

The early days of InMe saw a heavily Nirvana-influenced style, refined into something of their own a year later – described by fans as 'raw and energetic'. The band's sound continued to evolve

with each album release, shying away from the simplistic grunge chugs of debut record *Overgrown Eden* towards the technical guitar shreds and mathcore-esque layers within latest and fourth *Herald Moth*. "Our own little sound has progressed over the years. Hopefully it's hard to name any bands that sound like us. We really feel like we've established our own musical identity," says McPherson.

That identity is a result of his song-writing talents and close-knit teamwork. "We don't write together. There's teamwork, but not in the traditional sense. It's too expensive to hire out studios in the hopes of creatively forcing something out, so we have a plan when we meet up, like for recording pre-production," he says. "If I'm gigging in the week, I have the day to work on lyrics, riffs and song structures. I'd come up with demos on my laptop at home, which is great. I can just bang out something whenever I feel creative."

"I'll certainly take on their suggestions if they, say, want to change a lyric there or whatever. I'm quite happy to work around their suggestions, so by the end it's a compromise. It's not like 'Oh, I love the song and you three have to like it'. Essentially it's me that comes up with the initial song, then I'd work with the rest of the boys."

Biding his time between his solo act and InMe, the band takes priority over everything else for McPherson. "InMe always comes first. We work our commitments around that in every way, so my solo act doesn't ever disturb the schedule of InMe," he says.

"But I think it's nice to fulfill other creative needs. I really like acoustic singer-songwriter style music – it gives me a break from the louder stuff. Once I've done that, I really like coming down to the InMe shows which are never stale. I miss the band when I'm away from them, but when I get back it feels like we were never apart. We all live our own lives, and it works well for us."

Their success is evident from multiple tours across Europe and Japan. Last.fm alone clocks their plays at two million and counting. The 'Best of' compilation peaked at #26 on the UK Rock charts. It isn't just their songs that set them apart: InMe's live shows have a reputation of their own. "I'm not one to blow my own trumpet, but I've seen many bands live and we beat the hell out of ourselves on-stage. We try our hardest to be as high as possible – we're constantly pushing each other," says McPherson. "It's quite brutal but I think that's good. We're

perfectionists so when we do it live, that's how we strive. When I come off the stage I can't talk for half an hour, I have to get my heart rate back down and just stop the sweating."

"Looking back now, it was hard at first. Once we hit college we were struggling to do three or four shows a week, trying to get into London and get recognised. Luckily we got a break. For a little while I thought, right, I'm going to have to go to uni and get a job, get into the real world."

"After a show we can barely do anything..I can't even talk for half an hour"

The real world? The Undertones' bassist Michael Bradley once said that 'being a musician isn't hard work'. He was talking about an insulated life where the day-to-day was organised by a manager; not for McPherson. "Sure, management deals with a lot of things that are beyond me, but I'm very hands-on with the things I do. A lot of promotional duties I do myself as well. I'm not one of these musicians that sits at home then goes on tour and writes whenever they get told to," he says. "I still feel like I'm in the real world, I'm fortunate enough to kind of wvbe self-employed with my own band. I still do my washing up and spring clean like everyone else. I mean, right now I'm sitting in the lounge surrounded by T-shirts preparing for tomorrow's month-long tour. There's been ups and downs, but I've really held onto this dream of mine to play music for a living. I'm happy to be here."

Despite thousands of shows and headlined festivals, the InMe frontman feels nervous about the upcoming tour to promote his upcoming solo album. "With solo stuff, it's not like InMe. I get a lot of help from the band but I'm doing lots of things on my own as well, since it's my little baby. This year there's been overwhelming response from the people who listen to my music, so I'm not complaining at all," chirps McPherson.

"I feel nervous because it feels like,

whereas before I've done the odd show without much expectation, now I feel like I've got to step things up. I know after the first gig's out of the way, the rest will be smooth sailing. It's not a lot of work really when you walk in and you've just got an acoustic guitar to plug in with a mic on-stage, whereas with the band there's much more of a preparation in terms of gear and stage persona."

The band also has to prepare for the unexpected – amongst hundreds of thousands of fans, there are bound to be 'memorable' experiences. "I really enjoy touring. Some artists find it stressful or find day-to-day they get a Groundhog Day kind of fever, but I love meeting new people. Even if a gig's not going well or someone's being annoying, I try to be optimistic," says McPherson.

"Occasionally you do get strange ones though. Back in the day there was a girl who would try to steal our arm hair. She'd try to pinch it off us and then run off. There's also the people who give me too many compliments at once, where I just don't know what to say. We're happy to talk to anyone who comes to our gigs, but it's happened a few times where people were crying when they met us. I mean we're just dorky geeks who love playing music at the end of the day. It's a strange experience. It's... yeah. Weird."

McPherson is on a UK tour to promote his debut album *The Hardship Diaries*, released on April 10th.

To buy tickets for his gig on March 17 at Borderline, visit myspace.com/davemcphersonsolo

Spotify Spotting

What Jeremiah Favara, post-graduate student at the Gender Institute is listening to this week:

Yeasayer
2080

Cults
Go Outside

White Sea
Mountaineer

Bear Hands
Can't Stick 'Em

Mahler's Ninth Symphony Ingram Cheung explores poetic themes of grief, sorrow and joy

It was the last performance in the Mahler anniversary sessions at the Royal Festival Hall. The London Philharmonic Orchestra was conducted by Christoph Eschenbach, featuring Mahler's song-cycle *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (Songs of a Wayfaring Lad) as well as his Ninth Symphony.

Songs of a Wayfaring Lad was Mahler's earliest song-cycle and this juxtaposed well with the Ninth Symphony, the last completed symphony by Mahler that finished a year before his death. The themes underlying much of Mahler's music, similar to those of many Romantic composers, resonated throughout the evening's programme: death, farewell, loss of love, love for life and fondness of nature.

The first half of the evening saw the song-cycle *Songs of a Wayfaring Lad* sung by baritone Christopher Maltman,

winner of the Lieder Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition in 1997. A successful opera singer, he is also known for performing art-songs such as those of Schumann and Vaughan Williams. *Songs of a Wayfaring Lad*, being a half-way house between an opera aria and an art song, was perhaps a perfect match for Maltman.

Mahler wrote the four poems in the collection himself, expressing his own feelings of rejection and the loss of love. Poignantly, the last poem ends with the protagonist walking into darkness and finding rest after the struggle of having to come to terms with rejections. Christopher Maltman's attention to lyrics and his ability to convey those sentiments were second to none. He vividly captured the emotions of grief, sorrow, joy and relief through his masterful expressions. Not only is Maltman a talented singer, but he

is also an engaging performer.

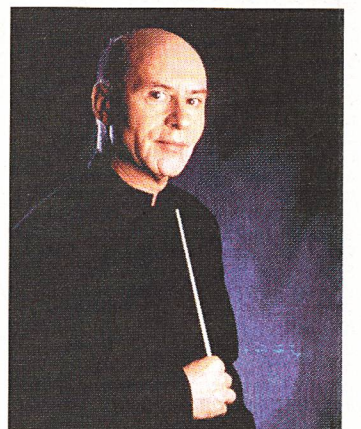
After the interval came the much awaited Mahler's Ninth. It was admirable that guest conductor Christoph Eschenbach conducted the whole number from memory without any scores. It always strikes me when conductors interpret the same piece of music differently. Having only heard two CD performances of the Ninth Symphony, Eschenbach's interpretation was somewhat unexpected and different from what I had in mind. His approach was more reflective and focussed on the subtleties of the music. The balance, clarity and precision of the LPO, combined with Eschenbach's interpretation, led to a mesmerising and unforgettable performance of one of Mahler's greatest symphonies.

My favourite moment of the whole symphony was the end of the fourth movement. The Ninth Symphony,

contrary to most symphonies, employs slow first and final movements. Therefore, instead of finishing on a triumphant clamour (which is what the third movement does), the finale ends softly and contemplatively – almost like bidding farewell to life and to nature. Under the direction of Eschenbach, the LPO conveyed the peacefulness of the music. The ending was controlled with such skill that absorbed all the audience while the music faded away into silence.

From time to time, I think we would all benefit from some reflective music and thought, away from the hustle and bustle of being an LSE student.

Find out more about the LPO NOISE student scheme and sign up online at <http://www.lpo.co.uk/education/students.html>



Fashion. TV.

A Whiter Shade of Pale

Alice Leah Fyfe proves white is not trite

Onitsuka Tiger by Annika Ranga

Whilst walking through Westfield one weekend, I stumbled across a shop that I had never seen there before or even heard of. I looked at the display in the window for a couple of minutes and was impressed: I was surprised to see a row of different coloured trainers (that's sneakers in American) cleverly laid out with a stash of magazines, with the likes of Glamour, Elle and Now to name just a few. And I was intrigued to find out what this brand was, so I went inside to find out more.

The name is **Onitsuka Tiger** is a Japanese brand that sells trainers and clothing for both guys and girls. The trainers are a fusion of Japanese culture and urban design, which is a great new look for this modern world and Onitsuka have created a niche for themselves in the sports industry. The brand was founded in 1949 by Mr. Ki-hachiro Onitsuka who wanted to create sports footwear, which would encourage young people to lead a healthy lifestyle and be sporty as well as looking cool. He studied the basketball team in Japan to find out their needs to create trainers that didn't need to be on a par to Nike or Adidas but were in a league of their own; what started out to be a small business in Japan has now grown to be a global brand that is relatively well known everywhere.

But you know when you've made it big when your trainers appear in Hollywood. And that is exactly what happened to these Tigers. In the 1970s Bruce Lee made martial arts films cool and took to the USA, and in 1978 he starred in *The Game of Death* wearing that epic yellow and black martial arts outfit and trainers to match. And who designed these? Onitsuka Tiger of course. The brand was already going global and making it big in the states. In 2003 Quentin Tarantino used Onitsuka Tiger to reinvent that iconic outfit for Uma Thurman in *Kill Bill: Volume 1*. This catapulted the trainers to cult status. The Onitsuka Tiger Mexico 66 trainers were introduced in 1966 and were the first to feature the now easily recognisable Tiger Stripes. Since then, they have become not only a great sporting shoe but a fashion staple.

There are Onitsuka Tiger stores across the globe and 2011 is big year for Onitsuka Tiger as they plan to open more shops across the globe and plan to bring that 'Made in Japan' slogan to the public everywhere. So if you want a pair of these trainers, you're in luck, as there are currently two stores in London: with one in Westfield (as previously mentioned) and the other by Carnaby Street. If you fancy owning a pair of 'non-mainstream' trainers then head down to either store and buy yourself a pair. This is a label that is too cool to just look over and needs to be sampled.



Notoriously unflattering and hard to maintain, the super-shade, white has unfurled its swan-like neck above muted autumnal shades to reclaim its connotations with the pure and inspirational and become this spring's new black. The trend has been born from a regeneration of simplicity, of structure and form, with influences from flowing '70s chiffon and geometric mod-styles.

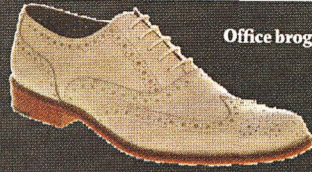
“What's more, even more than black, it matches any shade – even navy”

Also apparent is a distinctly Japanese twist, incorporating bold origami structures with fluid silks and translucent organza. And it is only unflattering when, like any colour, it is delivered in ill-fitting, or poorly made garments. White is an extreme colour, and it needs confident shapes and styling to match.

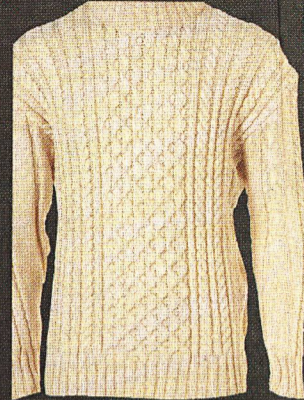
It can be seen as a substitute for the conventional black. In particular the Little White Dress in many different forms will reign the feminine wardrobe this spring, teamed with opaque tights and block colour or metallic accessories. And if you can pull it off, an entirely white ensemble is the ultimate in fashionable dressing this season. So, à la Black Swan, this new odette-odille dichotomy definitely deserves some serious investment. Monochrome staples are essential and white, in a new light, is certainly the star of the show.



Topshop chiffon sleeve dress £50



Office brogues £66.99



Village green jumper £40



Topshop pleated trousers £42



River Island Blouse £19.99



Nixon Time Teller Watch £55



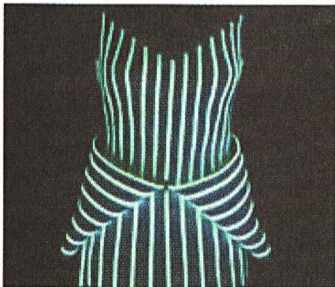
Office wedges £98



Mel by Melissa Vanilla bow pumps £20

St Martin's Courtyard and YKK present

The Future of Fashion Exhibition
Free admission
Runs until 10th March



Glenn, MSc International Political Economy

What to do when you find that the style of Cary Grant and Fred Astaire inspire you, but you feel too young to be able to pull it off? It happened to Glenn. But he has found a solution: by giving a modern twist to the classic look; or is it the other way around? On the one hand, he has a penchant for classic accessories: "According to my friends, I apparently have a relatively extensive collection of bow ties." The pocket square ("just to add a bit of whimsy on a dull Tuesday") is definitely a quirky twist reminding me of old movie stars, as I have never seen Humphrey Bogart without one. But, at the same time, the overall look of his outfit is classic with modern accents here and there. Maybe this is due to the fact that he is originally from Vancouver, Canada and acquires most of his clothing from American brands such as Ralph Lauren and Brooks Brothers, as well as newer brands that sell classic apparel like Band of Outsiders, Thom Browne and Patrik Ervell. He also mentions Gilman and Wings + Horns, two smaller independent

American brands. If you know any of these names, you might see a pattern here. Glenn affirms: "I am a sucker for tailoring, but can't afford those Savile Row suits, just yet." Upon moving to London, he decided to live near Spitalfields, which, needless to say, is a good spot for anyone who seeks to dress in an original way; if you ever find yourself in that area, he recommends you check out Albam, Folk and Present. His outfit today is composed of Ralph Lauren trousers and his favourite coat from Uniqlo ("It's just so warm..."). One last fun fact about Glenn: as he is quite small, he often inspects the children's section for basics. "Same quality but at a lower price!"

M&U
Maaïke Mossel scouts
Houghton Street's Best dressed



Glee Series Blog

Shrina Poojara previews 'A Very Glee Christmas'

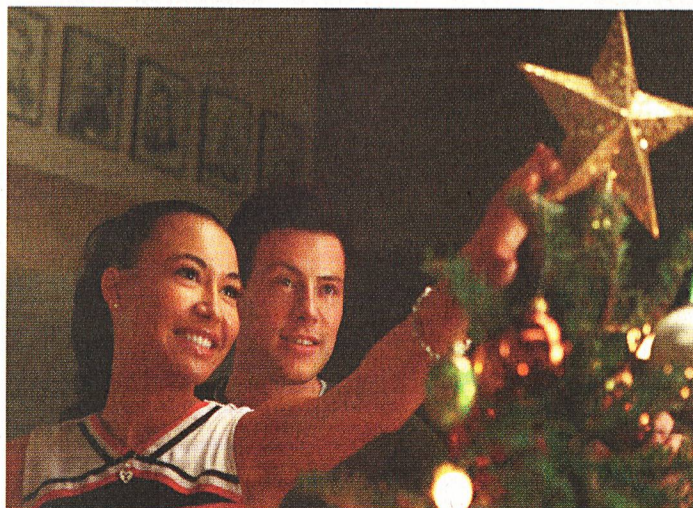
It's times like this when it would be nice if *Glee* episodes were aired in the UK at the same time as in the US: watching a Christmas special in March can be a little depressing. Nevertheless, next Monday's "A Very Glee Christmas" has enough festive cheer to brighten up the day of even the most stubborn of Christmas Scrooges.

The episode starts (yet again) with the standard Emma/Will drama, though things are even more awkward (if that was possible) since Emma's now married! First Ken Tanaka and now this?! You belong with Mr. Schuhe, no matter how hot John Stamos is! Thankfully, said awkwardness is interrupted before we get to another "Touch-A, Touch-A, Touch Me" situation (definitely the most uncomfortable scene from *Glee*'s Rocky Horror) as Coach Beiste organises the staff Secret Santa. Much to Will's dismay, he happens to draw the name of one Sue Sylvester. That's enough to crush anyone's Christmas spirit...

Except Brittany's that is. It seems nothing can crush this girl's festive cheer... unless someone tells her Santa isn't real. That's right - Brittany still be-

lieves in Santa Claus! Isn't she just the cutest? Her incredible boyfriend Artie decides that he doesn't want to ruin the magic of Christmas for her and so enlists the help of fellow glee club members to maintain the façade. They willingly oblige, even Tina, who hasn't seemed to be the biggest fan of the Artie-Brittany relationship up until now. The glee gang head to Santa Land at the local mall but, while the others ask for fairly normal stuff (bling, chapstick and sweet potato fries to name a few), Artie ultimately ends up shooting himself in the foot when Brittany asks Santa for Artie to be able to walk. Will Artie be able to come up with a plan to keep the magic of Christmas alive or will Brittany end up heartbroken?

Meanwhile, the cold of winter does nothing to stop things heating up at Dalton Academy when Kurt's new love interest Blaine asks him to rehearse the duet "Baby it's Cold Outside". I must admit that I'd not heard the song before but this duet is pure perfection and easily my favourite performance of the show. Looks like Kurt may have someone to snuggle up to for the remainder of winter...
Back at McKinley, Rachel is doing her



best to win back Finn, including a performance of "Last Christmas" which is, while being insanely cheesy, my absolute favourite Christmas song, and the Glee duo do it absolute justice - Finn's "I'll give it to someone special" is absolute, cuttignly cold perfection. Rachel isn't the only one not feeling the Christmas cheer: the rest of the glee club edge closer to boiling point as they are yet again getting slushed in the corridors (though, on the plus side, they're now a festive shade of

green!). It also doesn't help that a certain coach has decided to steal Christmas in true Grinch style... Look out for Mr. Schue managing to make "Ho Ho Ho" sound like a total burn (gotta be a skill for the CV), Brittany's adorable appearance as Cindy Lou Who and a true Christmas miracle amazing enough to make us forget the fact that it's two months after Christmas.

Simon Chaudhuri's TV Tips for the week

Monroe
ITV1, Thursdays, at 21:00

James Nesbitt stars in this new ITV drama that follows Gabriel Monroe, neurosurgeon. Co-starring Sarah Parish (*Mistresses*). Expect a low-rent version of *House*.

Silk
BBC1, Tuesdays, at 21:00

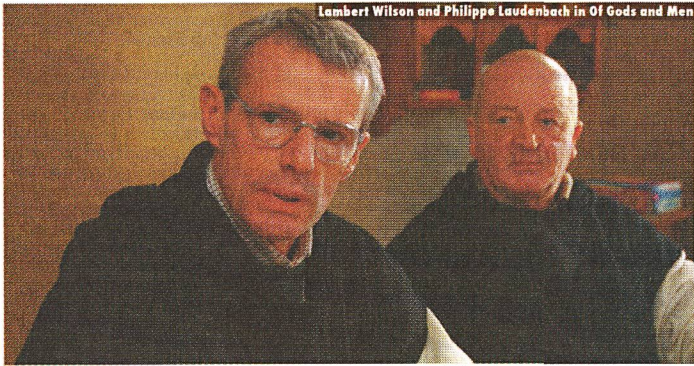
Today sees the third episode of this six part legal drama, however all previous episodes are available on BBC iPlayer. *Silk* follows life at the Bar, the daily challenges that silks face and has been lauded by lawyers for providing a realistic insight into life in London's ancient Inns of Court.

The Ricky Gervais Show
E4, Tuesdays, at 23:00

HBO's second series of *The Ricky Gervais Show* returns to our screens with animations to match Gervais' original audio podcasts. The second season has been well received and noted for better animation than the first season.

PartB Film Awards 2011

Unlike the Academy, our choices are not political, corrupt, or, dare we say it, stupid



Lambert Wilson and Philippe Laudenbach in *Of Gods and Men*

Taking inspiration from "Ignore Sarah Palin Week", PartB ignored the Oscars and hoped the rest of the paper would naturally follow. But like the Academy usually fails to choose the best film from the preceding year, we too have failed in our blackout.

Before we (royal) give our picks, we'd like to point out that we obviously haven't seen every film released in the past year, or even all of the films that have been in contention for awards (notably *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, *Another Year*, *Toy Story 3*, *Dogtooth*, *Honey and Bluetiful*), but we have seen a hell of a lot.

We'd also like to point out that very few of the Academy's voters watch all of

nominated films before voting, although that doesn't explain decisions (all films are from their own shortlists) like Shakespeare in *Love* over *The Thin Red Line* and *Life is Beautiful*, *Dances with Wolves* over *Goodfellas*, and *Kramer vs. Kramer* over *Apocalypse Now*. It should also be said that for certain films, such as *Life is Beautiful*, the country of origin (Italy) did not prevent entry into the main "Best Picture" category, but this seems to be an exception. We resent that.

- There is inevitable bias toward English language films, due solely to our location.
- Screenplay categories are restricted to films in the English language.
- ELO = Winner from English language films.



Best picture: *Of Gods and Men*

ELO: *Winter's Bone*

Best director: David Fincher (*The Social Network*)

Best actor: Édgar Ramírez (*Carlos*)

ELO: Jesse Eisenberg (*The Social Network*)



Simon Garfield and Jesse Eisenberg in *The Social Network*

Best actress: Sylvie Testud (*Lourdes*)

ELO: Jennifer Lawrence (*Winter's Bone*)

Best supporting actor: Simon Garfield (*The Social Network*)

Best supporting actress: Melissa Leo (*The Fighter*)

Best original screenplay: *The Kids Are All Right*

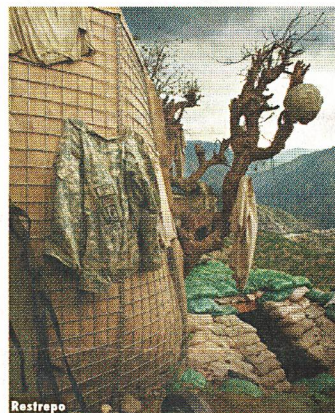
Best adapted screenplay: *The Social Network*

Best score: Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross (*The Social Network*)

Best documentary: *Restrepo*



Sylvie Testud in *Lourdes*



Restrepo



Édgar Ramírez in *Carlos*

The Children's Hour, Comedy Theatre

Simon Chaudhuri reflects on Keira Knightley's latest theatrical venture

The *Children's Hour* is a play being pulled in two directions. On one side, the play deals with the power of a lie told by a malicious young girl. On the other, it struggles with the repression of sexuality that was typical of the 1930s. Set in a girls' boarding school in small-town New England, the play follows the impact of schoolgirl Mary's lie on two young schoolteachers, Karen Wright and Martha Dobie (portrayed by Keira Knightley and Elisabeth Moss respectively). The play, perhaps somewhat ahead of its time, was

originally banned in London and numerous cities across America, finally premiering on Broadway in 1934.

The main purpose of the opening act serves to build up to Mary's lie, which is all too easily believed by her doting grandmother, played by Ellen Burstyn. The first act also gives a wonderfully authentic insight into the world of sniping and backstabbing that goes on inside a girls' boarding school, which lays the foundations for Mary's disaffection and rebellion. The second act focusses on the severe ramifications of her lie, bringing the

play to its macabre conclusion.

Given Knightley's reputation following her appearance in Molière's *The Misanthrope* in 2009, my expectations of her performance were easily surpassed. In stark contrast to Moss, who tends towards excessive gesticulation and a frequently raised voice, Knightley maintained an appropriate tone throughout her performance until one of her final scenes, striking an immediate contrast as her character snaps under emotional pressure. Indeed, it was rather surprising that Moss, who capably portrays



The lie made truth: actors in Lillian Hellman's 1934 play

Peggy Olson in AMC's *Mad Men*, is outshone by Knightley in both performance and on-stage presence.

The duo are supported by Carol Kane, who portrays Lily, Martha's aunt. Kane injects a well-needed dose of comedy into the play, lightening scenes that would otherwise be morose without the Aunt's bumbling and selfish behaviour. Ellen Burstyn, a veteran of the stage, plays Amelia Tilford, Mary's grandmother. Amelia is a character simultaneously adored and reviled, for she lavishes attention on Mary to compensate for the notable lack of her mother. However, the audience soon comes to realise that Mrs. Tilford is a judgemental woman who takes the word of her granddaughter as gospel far too easily.

The scenes involving only Knightley and Moss lack a spark, which may be the script's fault, but thankfully many of these are invigorated by Tobias Menzies, who plays Karen's fiancé and interacts well with both Knightley and Moss. Menzies excellently captures the seed of doubt that grows in his mind as to whether Mary's lie is potentially true and we see this through his body language that changes throughout the course of the second act.

What is particularly interesting is the

stripped down and natural way in which the director, Ian Rickson, uses stage lighting. Rickson uses slowly illuminating lights that mimic daybreak or sunset which strike a contrast to the abrasive and harsh lighting sometimes used in other productions. Rickson also uses some dramatic music, on just a handful of occasions, to mark significant moments during the play. This allows the audience to, without having any dialogue to distract them, focus in on the actors' body language and response to a particular development in the play.

The *Children's Hour* proves that Knightley is far more than a pretty face, more than a damsel in distress in a Hollywood blockbuster. From her authentic accent to her restrained but emotional performance, Knightley is the star of a show cast with extremely capable actors. The *Children's Hour* is certainly not light entertainment and its pace does slow at certain times, but is a rewarding play which is as relevant and moving as it was when it was written 80 years ago.

The Children's Hour is showing at the Comedy Theatre until May 7th 2011



Elisabeth Moss and Keira Knightley in *The Children's Hour*

Theatre. Private B.

One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, Teatro Technis

Jonathan Storey and Richard Crellin discuss electroshock therapy and awkward toilet breaks

JS: Based on the 1962 book by Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* tells the tale of Randle P. McMurphy's committal to a 1960s asylum. McMurphy becomes the leader of the ward, encouraging the other patients – both acute and chronic – to rebel against the mechanical and controlling Nurse Ratched. Having been adapted onto the stage in 1963 and for film, starring Jack Nicholson, in 1975 (winning 5 Academy Awards in the process), this production attempts to further obscure the boundaries between the sane and the insane. What did you think, Richard?

RC: I have to admit that while I have never read the book or seen the film I was familiar with the story. Despite this, I still found the production surprising. For me, the portrayal of the various psychological conditions was perhaps the most outstanding element. As the play developed I began to find myself asking: "Are the actors genuine sufferers, or are they just acting?" This was definitely a massive achievement. Jonathan, you've seen the film, how did this measure up?

JS: I can remember watching the film a couple of years ago and coming out of it feeling relatively disappointed. I'd been led to believe that I was going to be witness to one of the greatest cinematic achievements of all time; instead, it felt relatively sedate, with an over-the-top performance by Jack Nicholson com-

pensating for the inertness of almost everything else. It's surprising that this production features many similarities to the film – and, presumably, the book – yet I came out of it genuinely moved. This isn't a play you come out of feeling deliriously happy: its success comes in how hard it grabs you and shakes you to the core. The greatest compliment I can give this is that it shook me hard. What about the actors? Did you find the main characters of McMurphy and Nurse Ratched convincing?

"This isn't a play you come out of feeling deliriously happy: its success comes in how hard it grabs you"

RC: McMurphy, portrayed by Daniel Addis, seemed to tick all the boxes. He was the rebellious, uncouth and sexually deviant charmer that you would expect. Even better was his excellent American

accent (something I could never keep up for two acts!). My only criticism would be that whilst he definitely had a firm hold over the high points of McMurphy's somewhat bipolar nature, he failed in executing the lows to the same standard. He failed to convince me of the stunning desolation that follows the suicide of a close and highly impressionable friend. Nurse Ratched was more difficult. While mechanical and detached, I do not think Kate Kenyon quite grasped the degeneration of Nurse Ratched's control over the ward. Do you share my assessment?

JS: Kenyon's performance was certainly subtle; the role of Nurse Ratched features neither the grandstanding of McMurphy nor the inherent psychoses in most of the rest of the cast. Indeed, what makes the character so horrifying is her complete emotional detachment from everyone around her. Far from being nakedly robotic in her portrayal, I liked how Kenyon would show a flicker of emotion, through a casual eye movement or lip quiver, before letting her inner Ratched out with a stern command to one of the inmates. Her gradual breakdown of Billy Bibbit is certainly Kenyon's coup de grace. As for Addis' portrayal of McMurphy, I agree completely with your analysis, and found it a relief from the showboating – almost hammy – performance I was accustomed to seeing Jack Nicholson play the role. The rest of the inmates and staff were also portrayed marvellously;

from the strong, silent portrayal of Chief Bromden by D.K. Ugonna to the heavily theatrical turn by Robert Rowe, playing Dale Harding, there really wasn't a weak link in the cast. But which areas did you find lacking, on the whole?

"A sobering view of mental illness and its effects on society"

RC: That's difficult. The scene I found most disappointing was the electroshock therapy. While the use of the bodies of his fellow inmates to bind McMurphy down during treatment had a certain symbolism, the symbolism somewhat undermined the examination of his mental state, his pain and anguish. I know you had similar views, Jonathan? Having said that I feel I have to praise the pace and development of the story. The decision to leave one of the patients on stage during the interval retained the tension and atmosphere of insanity and led to an unbearable level of intensity that forced me to beg a five minute break with a trip to the toilet that I didn't really need. The

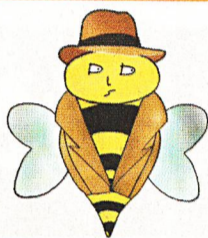
directors really did triumph in creating and sustaining an atmosphere to support the actors in their unenviable tasks. Any other final thoughts, Mr Storey?

JS: I agree that the electroshock therapy scene was probably the least effective one in the play. By trying to be 'theatrical' with its innovative way of portraying the therapy, including a gratuitous use of strobe lighting, it undermined the raw power that the scene was meant to portray. The explicit metaphors to Jesus in that scene also feel like a diversion, rather than an addition. Indeed, the play is at its worst when it breaks from traditional dramatic confines and tries to be 'edgy'; monologues by the supposedly silent Chief Bromden are the most obvious examples. I know you feel differently, however. The use of incidental music is surprisingly understated and often genuinely moving. On the whole, I'd certainly recommend this production to anyone looking for a sobering view of mental illness and its effects on society.

RC: Does anyone happily fall into this category?!

One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest was produced by Alex Rodin, an LSE student.

PRIVATE B



LSE NOW TAINTED WITH UNFORGIVEABLE ATROCITIES.

The Mail

AMANDA PETAL: PAGE 9

"Our society is now a vacuous valueless celeb-ocracy"



PLUS all the goss on Wills & Kates!

LONDON SCHOOL OF USELESS SH*TS

Corrupt, amoral and – worst of all – foreign: how the 'liberal' University cosied up to Gaddafi, while YOU were funding its teaching grants!

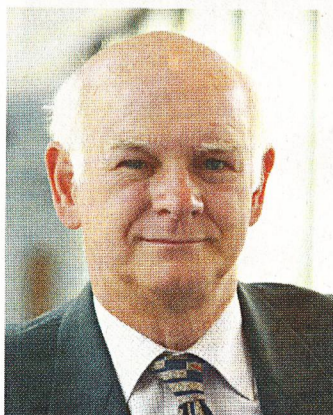
"NICE guy", "A laugh down the pub", "Used to come round to watch *Come Dine With Me*". These are some of the ways in which LSE bigwigs have described Saif Gaddafi, the son of the Libyan dictator.

By contrast, the Mail has always said that the Gaddafi family was ruthlessly oppressive, homicidal to the point of psychopathy, and probably foreign.

As this if not enough, the Mail has exclusively uncovered that its students

are firstly liberal, secondly foreign and thirdly students. It has also been alleged that there is an Islamic Society, and a Lesbian Gay Bisexual (whatever that means) AND Transsexual Society.

What is all the more shocking is that WE THE TAXPAYER are funding this University's foreign, Muslim extremist, secretly homosexual, probably drug-induced student population. Why on earth? Continued p2,3,4,5-97, etc., etc. today and every day, only 70p.



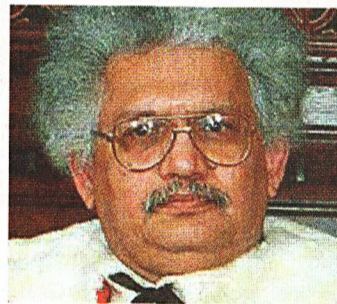
Sh*t: Sir Howard Duvets "ashamed" of being alive!



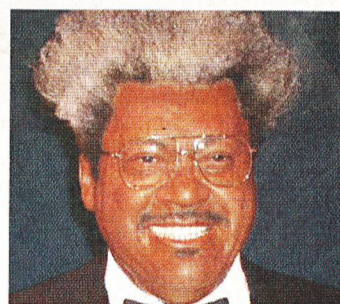
Why CAN'T we kick gays out of B&Bs? You guessed it: it's against their yuman rights!

RICHARD LITTLEPETAL: PAGE 7

LSE Looky-likey



Don King: Convicted of murder for money

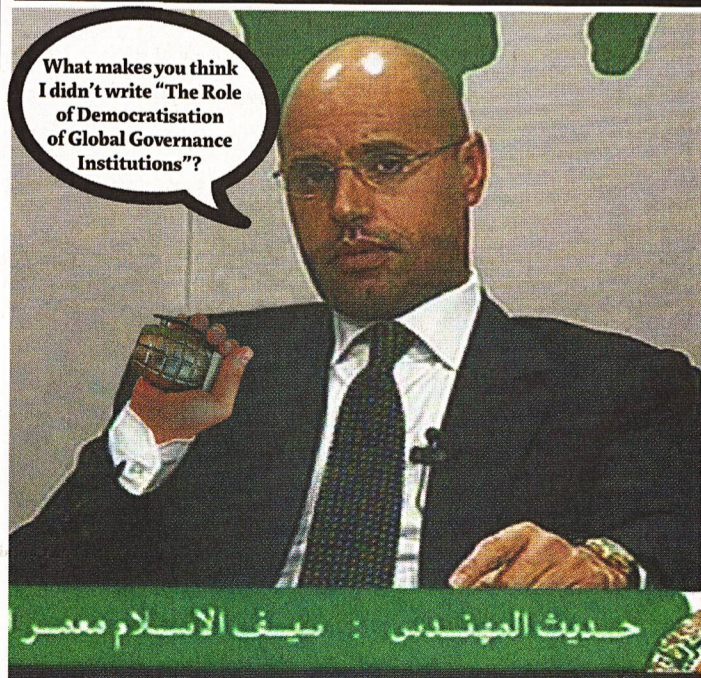


Lord Desai: Happy to take money from murderers

I did not plagiarise my PhD.

Signed

Professor David Held
Saif Gaddafi



Meet your AU Executive

Congratulations to all you guys on your new positions
Here's a few words about the New Team to get to know them better

AU President

Brendan Mycock

Following on from one Ralph Lauren-loving, Nottingham born, 1st team Rugby Captain is another Ralph Lauren-loving, Nottingham born, 1st team Rugby Captain.

Brendan does have some defining features however such as his third nipple and bringing the word 'bozza' in to the lives of so many.

Sarah Long

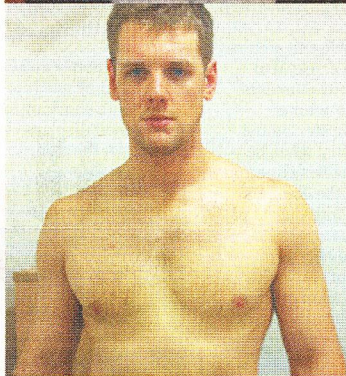
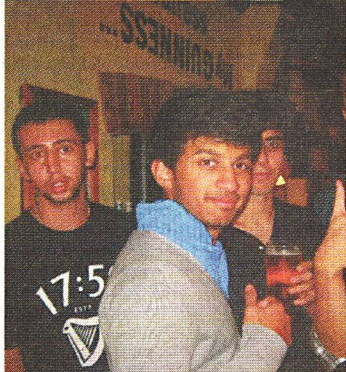
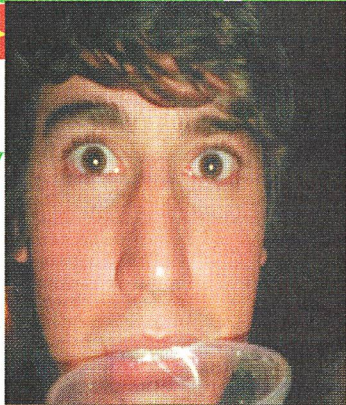
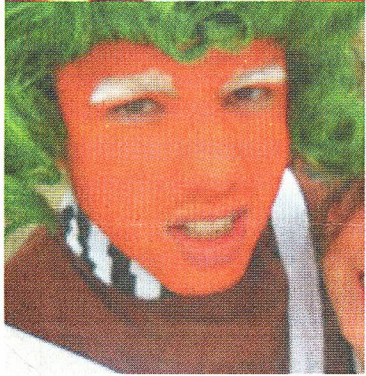
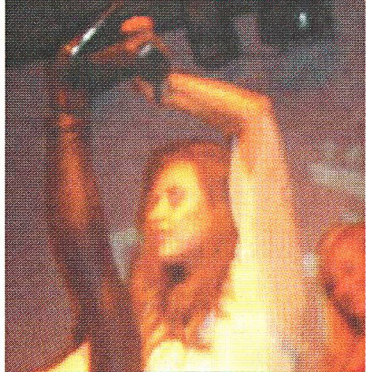
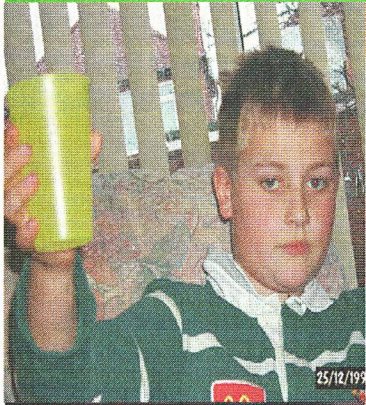
Well, where do you even start with Sarah? There's the name Shlong, there's the flexibility. Mind, this flexibility is gonna come in handy next year when 'dealing' with five men as part of the AU Exec.

Here's to hoping she falls over less at Zoo Bar, and actually remembers something from her Wednesday nights (or at least who she wakes up with).

Matt De Jesus

Perhaps the most surprising victor of all, Matt's campaigning consisted of simply repeated the well worn Ronnie Coleman phrase, "Yeah Buddy!"

Some say a cross-discipline skill set as diverse as Badminton and Rugby brought him in the votes to success.



Josh Stacey

Josh, better known as 'Malibu Stacey', is known among many of the AU as the 'guy who got punched by a girl at Zoo bar'. His win may be down to his love of making friends with many Rosebery freshers. He doesn't have the best track record with women; he apparently tried to pull Keely G with the line "I've got a hole in my trousers", and one of her flat-mates has been overheard criticising his chat. However his skills are a little better on the pitch with his score card being rather impressive this season.

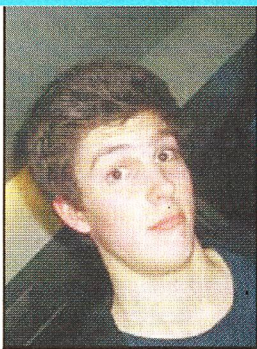
Ovie Faruq

Ovie is one of the politest blokes you could meet, best known among the FC as a Wednesday night regular and among the 7th team for his legendary 4AM emails. Never short of confidence, his performance of 'the salmon' at Hustings will live long in the memory.

Tom Lennon

A true leader through force rather than personality as Rugby Club Captain, Tom Lennon will allegedly be adapting his governance style to increase his adaptability for the diversity of the entire AU. So far this has consisted of intense fake-tanning (Netball), reducing his pint-downing speed by 68 per cent (Football), and re-taking a year (Men's Hockey).

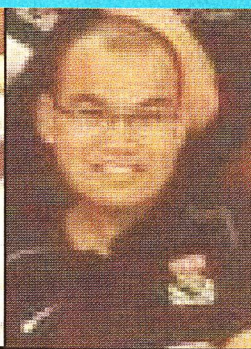
1st Team Tennis Teammates



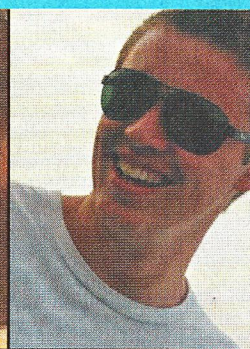
Eduard: Overpowering on and off the court.



Aditya: Poor man's Roger Federer, he's still working on his personalised blazer.



Aimran: Massive hitting Malaysian



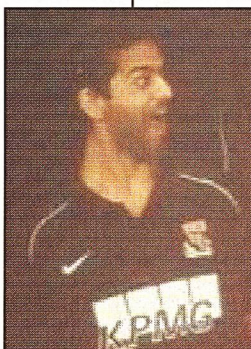
JJ: FC wannabe and Dubai's number 2.



Nikhil: Most likely to own a camel suit. He also enjoys lapdancing members of the rugby team.



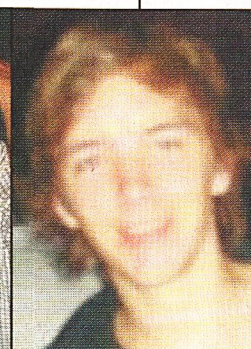
Chris: The UK and LSE's finest



Aroop: Tennis' multi-talented Mr. LSE candidate.



Sanjay: RafaNadal's gym partner, albeit with bigger guns.



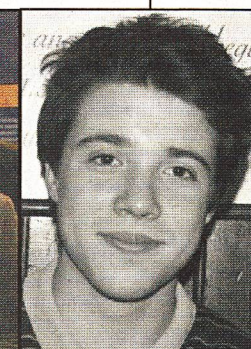
Jonny: (1st Team Captain) Quiet, shy and humble Northern man with a passion for all things from the Far East.



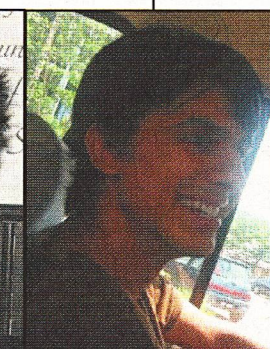
Jeremy: Hoping to be as good as his sister one day; also his middle name is 'Jesse'.



Gerard: 342 years old, hails from Hawaii, and still going to Zoo Bar. He's the team's token veteran.



Alex: Samir Nasri's long lost twin.



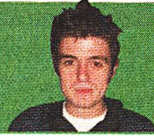
Alvin: More injury prone than Michael Owen.

Sport

The Beaver | 8 March 2011

See inside to meet your new AU Executive

Smedley's Corner



Stuart Smedley

Americans hate them. They loathe them. They describe them as being like kissing your sister.

But what England and India's titanic Cricket World Cup clash – a game somehow upstaged by Ireland's miraculous victory over the Three Lions just days later – showed was that ties are not like some incestuous sin as the folk on the other side of the pond like to believe.

Instead they can be imperfectly perfect outcomes.

Draws can be results which are deserved either because neither side has shown their merit victory or, as was the case in Bangalore last Sunday, because neither side deserve to go home having to digest the bitter taste of defeat.

Maybe it's their devotion to capitalism and the idea that in life there always must be winners and losers, but it seems perverse that, for all competitions in the US, this must be transferred to the sporting arena too. Whatever the occasion, even if a meaningless league game, someone must always triumph, with sudden death overtime or shootouts used to ensure this.

By doing this though, they are missing out as some of sport's greatest contests have finished with nobody emerging victorious, despite both sides having worked their hearts out in pursuit of glory.

That was the case in Bangalore, where both India and England were in superb form with the bat, with the little master Sachin Tendulkar and Andrew Strauss producing innings of supreme quality. The former nudged his way through the opening exchanges before unleashing the Eng-

lish bowling to all corners of the ground on his way to a superb 120 – his 47th one day century. Strauss, meanwhile, started fast and never looked back, winding up with 158 runs from 145 balls.

Both bowling attacks also had their moments, causing mid-innings wobbles for their opponents, which helped provide for such a thrilling finish. England looked set to reach their target with consummate ease with the overs winding down, but four wickets in quick succession put India in the ascendancy. That was until tailender Ajmal Shahzad dispatched the first ball he faced into the stands for six to once again put England in a winning position.

The World Cup joint hosts would have the last laugh though, ensuring Graeme Swann could only get a single from the last ball to secure a share of the spoils.

Just like Newcastle's 4-4 draw in the Premier League with Arsenal a month ago, finer theatre could not have been scripted. But imagine if there had to be a winner, and both sides – exhausted already – forced to battle on in some gimmicky extra period. It would be an outcome wholly unsatisfactory for both players and fans alike. As it was, both teams got what they deserved.

Even dour, unforgettable encounters that finish with no winner can lead to some of sport's most famous moments.

Few will forget Ryan Giggs' winner against Arsenal for Manchester United in the 1999 FA Cup semi final when he intercepted a pass at the halfway line and slalomed his way through the Gunners' defence before firing high into the net past a despairing David Seaman.

His celebration was equally as famous. In an exalted state of ecstasy, the Welsh wizard preceded to whip off shirt, helicoptering it above his head while ex-

posing his bear-like chest for all fawning females to admire.

That goal, scored in a replay, would have never been scored and celebrated in such a fashion though had the two sides been forced to a finish in the original contest, which was as forgettable as Giggs' strike was memorable, having finished 0-0.

Both these examples highlight how that ugly kissing your sister analogy is wrong. Instead, drawn matches should really be described as being like sex in which neither participant climaxes: at least you get some pleasure out of it.

It said something about the moral purity of football that in the same week that the actions of Wayne Rooney and Ashley Cole – both of whom went unpunished and were defended by their bosses for a savage elbow and shooting an intern respectively – helped further tarnish the image of those who play football at the highest level, England cricketer Steven Davies demonstrated a huge amount of courage and strength to come out and declare he was gay.

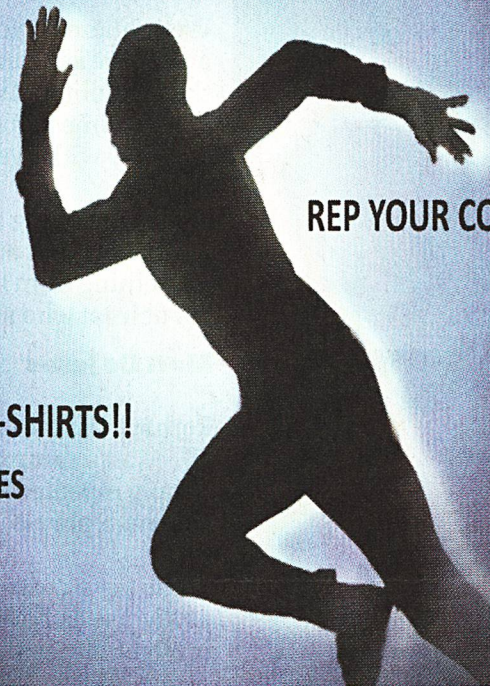
What made it even more admirable was that he did so at this moment in his career, the wicketkeeper being just 24 years old.

That Rooney and Cole are both older – the latter by five years – and continue to display a shocking level of immaturity makes their displays even more embarrassing for the game.



ULU ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011

SUNDAY 20TH MARCH, 1PM
LEA VALLEY ATHLETICS CENTRE



REP YOUR COLLEGE!!
MEDALS

FREE T-SHIRTS!!
TROPHIES

LSE STUDENTS UNION

Dance Show

14th March
7.30pm
Peacock Theatre, LSE
Prices: £8, £10, £12

Dance Club
LSE Students' Union

Let's Dance

This year sees the return of LSE Dance Club's famous annual show, held at our very own Peacock Theatre on 14th March. The show promises to have all the wow-factor of last year's Flashdance, with performances from LSE students across all years. LSE Dance Captain Constantina Koushiappi and the Dance Club are proud to present "The Dance Show!" - a brand new dance concert that promises to take your breath away.

Centered on the theme of a television show, "The Dance Show!" will give audiences a new insight into the world of dance. It will give you our fellow students the opportunity to see your friends and classmates show off the talent you never thought they had.

The show will include series of different genres of dance including Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Belly Dancing and Contemporary. "Hip-Flop", the LSE Hip Hop crew, who played the villains that took Timeless 2011 by storm, will also be performing!

Tickets will be sold on Houghton Street from Monday 28th February, there is a limited supply so make sure those of you who fancy a night backed full of entertainment buy your tickets early.

What are you waiting for then? Mark out 14th March in your diaries and come for "The Dance Show!"

GET INVOLVED!

For more details contact your team captain

KEVIN DICKMAN
K.E.DICKMAN@LSE.AC.UK

We are looking for athletes to represent LSE in the track and field events.

The events are:

60m, 60m Hurdles, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, Long Jump, High Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Putt, 4x200m

The deadline for submitting names is this Thursday so act fast!

AU President - AU electorate?

With election fever over, I find it right to just pause for a second and have a think about the process of nomination, campaigning and, ultimately, election. I believe it's fair to say this year saw a significantly higher turnout of voters from the Athletics Union, and it's arguably because of the hotly contested seat of AU President.

Without wanting to generalise too much, one candidate seemed to have significant AU backing, while the other was somewhat less well-known until hustings. Yet it was hardly a clean sweep when it came to the victory of Brendan Mycock. The only answer for this would appear to be wider backing from members of the Students' Union and societies. Having noticed this support, Mycock's campaigners seemed to up their game, and the "I'm voting Mycock" orange board swept through Houghton Street, eventually sealing a victory.

Amongst all of this, however, there were murmurs of discontent at the fact that the voting for AU President was now Students' Union-wide. The obvious reason for this is that the AU President holds a place as one of the part-time Students' Union officers, but should it really be the case that every member of the Students' Union, including those that aren't in the AU, be allowed to vote for the position of President?

For integration purposes, the answer would appear to be 'yes', but it is possible to feel a sense of injustice at the fact that individuals who are not members of your society have a say in who your President is. Would it be just for the whole of the student body to vote on the President of the Economics Society, or the Law Society? Hardly. Why then, is it fair, for everyone to have a say in who is the AU President?

The significance of this question is not as great as it would have been had Hendrik Scheer won. There seems to be a consensus that people are happy with Mycock winning the election, but given how strong opinion seemed to be on this matter during the campaign period, I shudder to think what the reaction amongst some of the AU would have been if the result was different. I'm not criticising Scheer's ability here, don't get me wrong, I'm sure he would have been just as competent, but I'm just not sure it's right that members who aren't in the AU should get a vote on who the AU President is.