

# The Beaver

30 November 2010  
Newspaper of the  
LSE Students' Union  
thebeaveronline.co.uk  
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## Sabbs consult students on fee-setting policy

Beth Cherryman  
Oliver Wiseman

Higher tuition fees offset by substantial bursary schemes to support students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, is the way forward for the LSE, suggested a number of students at last week's 'Future of Fees at LSE' consultation meeting.

Students used the discussion, chaired by Students' Union General Secretary Charlotte Gerada, to debate the School's response to cuts in government funding, with some favouring a freeze on fees; others, a means tested system of charging students.

Ideas proposed in the meeting, for LSE students and organised by the LSE Students' Union Sabbatical Officers, will form the basis of a survey to be sent to all LSE students aiming to identify the key arguments Officers should put to the School in their capacity as student representatives on the relevant committees. The survey seeks to establish "bottom line" principles which should not be compromised given the "worst case scenario".

The meeting marked a change in emphasis from the Sabbatical Officers in their approach to fees at the LSE. Responding to Gerada's preliminary remarks which emphasised the need to find out what students thought was the best way for the School to set fees, International Students' Officer Michael Lok asked if this connoted an end to the 'Freeze the Fees' campaign, the Students' Union also needed to make more feasible suggestions that the School would be more likely to take on board. Community and Welfare Officer Hero Austin added, "We are keen to engage with students who felt alienated by 'Freeze the Fees'".

The initiative comes in response to concerns for prospective LSE students in light of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review, the possibility of the School facing 100 per cent cuts to teaching grants and the prospect of annual tuition fees of up £9,000.

All present were in agreement that the LSE could do more to widen participation. In particular concerns were voiced regarding the lack of student involvement in the widening participation activities. Gerada suggested easy improvements could make the process "more inspiring".

She argued that "the LSE will need to consider improving its scholarship and bursary schemes". Gerada voiced concerns that a fees increase will deter students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds from attending the LSE, "particularly," she added, "as it already has the perception of being elitist and unreachable to some."

The LSE deny this claim, stating: "Our proportion of state school pupils was 71% last year compared to 55% at Oxford, 59% at Cambridge and 64% at UCL." The LSE also has the largest proportion of ethnic minority students out of any Russell Group university.

The School will continue to monitor its level of bursaries as part of their ongoing review of student support. "It is likely that a revised scheme will be necessary, but we do not yet know what the national scheme will look like," said an LSE spokesperson. The LSE will have to wait for the government's grant allocation, which will occur in January. This leaves a very short timeframe in which to make fee-setting decisions so as to have the information available to prospective students entering in 2012.

Polly McKinlay, an LSE student who attended the meeting, said: "I think the most important measure for access is to have large bursaries giving upfront money as opposed to a discount on fees, but for particularly high achieving students, so that it doesn't just become an entitlement."

LSE Director, Sir Howard Davies, made it clear in a recent letter to the Business Secretary, Vince Cable, that the proposed reduction in teaching grants for non-STEM subjects "diminishes the value of the humanities and social sciences" and ignores the public benefit they provide.

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## We will march... with or without the NUS



Around 40 LSE students joined a rally against education cuts, which saw controversial police tactics employed | Full story, page 4  
Photo: Joe Rennison, for London Student

## LSE activists attempt Lib Dem occupation

Oliver Wiseman

LSE students gained nationwide exposure last Thursday when they attempted to occupy the constituency office of deputy Liberal Democrat leader Simon Hughes MP.

Angry at the prospect of Lib Dem MPs breaking their promise to vote against increases in tuition fees, as well as the scrapping of the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA), approximately forty students from the LSE, University of the Arts London, and London South Bank University occupied the corridor outside Hughes' office. The occupation lasted several hours before police threatened to arrest them for aggravated trespass.

The move came the day after Hughes, MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, home to three LSE halls of residence, appeared on a BBC Young Persons' Question Time expressing his "indecision" over the forthcoming House of Commons vote on tuition fees.

The decision to occupy was made at a weekly Freeze the Fees campaign meeting, by a consensus vote of sixty students. The occupiers issued a press release explaining their motivation for occupying, which stated: "[We] attempted to meet with Simon Hughes by calling, emailing, 'green carding' him at parliament, and going to his surgery hours. [We] were given an ambiguous answer that 'MP Simon Hughes was leaning toward voting no on the legislation in its current form'".

Protesters spoke to Hughes on the phone, securing a face-to-face meeting where he promised to hear their demands and explain his concerns over the vote. Taking place one day after the second major demonstration against cuts in education funding, the occupation attracted considerable press attention.

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Features page 17

## Correction

It has come to the attention of the Beaver that there was a factual inaccuracy in the piece "Ferguson's attendance sparks remuneration questions", published in last week's issue (23rd November). The piece cited a source which falsely claimed that Professor Ferguson is receiving "a salary in excess of £500,000" while holding the Philippe Roman Chair. This claim has been rejected by both Professor Ferguson and the Head of the Department of International History. In light of Professor Ferguson's statement that "the figure is out by a factor of five", the Editorial Board accepts that the claim was wholly inaccurate, and expresses its regret at the piece in its final, published form. We wish to apologise unreservedly to Professor Ferguson for any offence that the error may have caused.

## Emergency occupation motion garners 400 signatures

Sachin Patel

'Freeze the Fees' campaigners have submitted an Extraordinary General Meeting motion to the LSE Students' Union in order to facilitate a potential occupation of School property.

The motion, which resolves to "commit [the Students' Union] to using the full range of tactics available, including non-violent direct action and occupation of our university property" was received by members of the Democracy Committee last Friday, having attracted over 400 signatures.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) is expected to be called this week, in which all students will be invited to vote on whether to grant the campaigners the right to launch an occupation. Potential locations for the occupation include the Shaw Library, the Senior Dining Room,

and the Old Theatre, which was previously occupied by the Students' Union Palestine Society in 2009.

At least twenty-five universities in the United Kingdom have already been targeted by student-led occupations. A number of these occupations have since ended, while action to evict occupiers of the Brunei Gallery at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) is currently being pursued through legal proceedings. The motion submitted to the Democracy Committee states that "This Union believes that occupation and non-violent direct action are a necessary part of a range of tactics the student movement can use."

The EGM motion also resolves to "demand that the LSE makes a public statement against the cut in the teaching grant and changes in the funding system". A similar demand has been made by UCLU, the student body of University College London, of its parent institution.

To date, the LSE's public remonstrance against cuts to higher education funding has consisted of a letter written to the Universities Minister David Willetts. The motion adds, "This Union believes that as historically socially progressive institution, the LSE should be protecting equality of access for future students". During his appearance at the Union General Meeting earlier in the term, LSE Director Howard Davies was jeered by students when he asserted that the School's letter to the government was the most effective way of campaigning against the removal of teaching grants for non-STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.

Although the last occupation to occur at the LSE did so without the backing of the Students' Union, signatories of this motion are seeking a more concrete mandate before they decide whether to launch their own occupation. The motion notes that the NUS President Aaron Porter

"supports...any non-violent direct action taken by students as long as it has been democratically agreed by a recognised student body."

At time of going to press, the Beaver understands that the EGM will take place on Thursday in place of the ordinary Union General Meeting, at 1PM in the Old Theatre. An online vote on the motion will then take place, lasting twenty-four hours.



Freeze the Fees campaigners present their motion to their Democracy Committee  
Photo: Amena Amer



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Graphic: Marion Pierfitte

# The Beaver

Established in 1949

Issue No. 737

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## Common room for manoeuvre

**A**s snow threatens to flake its way down onto Houghton Street, all our thoughts turn to the upcoming Christmas holiday, and the prospect of leaving the LSE in search of some much needed rest. It has been a long term, punctuated by a renaissance in student activism and constant debate about how to finance higher education.

But life rolls on, and this week saw the reopening of the Philosophy department common room in its newly refurbished state. It is a constant challenge at the LSE to find space for students to study in. Our library is crowded and acoustically deficient, and classrooms are rarely free, so it's great to see new investment (including generous support from the Annual Fund) going into study spaces. The news is all the sweeter because last year the Beaver campaigned against the poor state of the common room, spurred on by an intra-departmental petition. Back then it was in a lamentable state; the paint was peeling and the furniture was piecemeal and unsuitable. It is great to see this new space opened in celebratory fashion, and we hope that it is used to its fullest extent.

We are also on the verge of a new spell of protests against the government's planned higher education funding cuts. Sit-ins are occurring all over the country at universities including Edinburgh, Oxford and Manchester. Our own Students' Union is keen not to be left behind; this

week sees the likely occupation of areas around campus. The right to protest is obviously one we at the Beaver hold dear and it is good to see an active student body standing up for what it believes. That said, we hope any action taken by the Students' Union remains non-violent and constructive, and that it does not unduly disrupt timetabled teaching. The peaceful demonstrations taking place around the country serve as useful models for our own possible protests around Houghton Street. As a paper committed to education, we really do hope that any action taken doesn't hinder the learning of other students at the LSE. Organisers would do well to avoid the irony of disrupting exactly the sort of higher education they seek to preserve in embarking on their campaigns.

Further from home, Aaron Porter, the President of the NUS has apologised for what he called "spineless dithering" (see page 3). This is the latest example of the NUS attempting to satisfy all interested parties and disappointing everyone. It is this newspaper's contention that the NUS has failed to properly represent the interests and views of the student community. Too often in the recent debate about tuition fees it has sounded a blunt message: we oppose the government's plans. Yet this is demagoguery; constructive criticism has been shunned and nuanced argument abandoned in favour of soundbite-friendly attacks on what is an incredibly complex set of proposals.

Furthermore, this newspaper remains unconvinced by Mr. Porter's arguments in favour of a graduate tax, and we remain grateful to our Students' Union for not having endorsed this particular lame duck. It also doesn't help that the NUS closely resembles a political crèche. Our representatives are often MPs in waiting who have not been in formal education for a number of years (Mr. Porter graduated in 2006, for example); seldom do they have anything above their own potential careers in mind.

The whole purpose of the NUS is open to question. Currently it attempts to represent and campaign on behalf of students whilst balancing a lucrative business enterprise – we sense that sooner or later there must be more vocal discontent concerning its mixed priorities and perceived lack of function forthcoming from leading institutions, to overwhelm the vapid support that it currently receives. ☞

### Setting an example

I couldn't find your riot training vids online. Would you upload them?

East Building  
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 London WC2A 2AE

Get involved in The Beaver  
[www.tinyurl.com/2010beaver](http://www.tinyurl.com/2010beaver)  
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**REAL IMPORTANT COLLECTIVE**

**Friday 3rd December  
 NAB 204 | 5PM**

*Important elections to safeguard the future of the newspaper (not in an apocalyptic sense)*

Managing Editor | News Editor |  
 Comment Editor | General Manager  
*Be there – else Benedict will rage...*

## Union Bashō

### Porter-ble

Thought more would come to see Aaron Porter speak. But this is LSE.

*Bashō is the Beaver's sake-sodden haiku poet, who this week wiled away an hour getting bored stiff by the NUS President.*

## LSE PRIDE WEEK

**30TH NOV - PUB QUIZ;  
 THE THREE TUNS; 8PM-12PM**

**2ND DEC - PORN & POTLUCK;  
 SHORT BUS AND DRINKS;  
 6-9PM; STG S421**

**1ST DEC - DISCUSSION  
 ON LGBT IN RELIGION;  
 7-9PM; KSW G1**

**3RD DEC - QUEER CRUSH/  
 MR MISS LSE;  
 9PM; THE UNDERGROUND**



# "This is the fight of our lives" – Porter



The NUS President addresses the UGM | Photo: Duncan McKenna

**Nathan Briant**

Last Thursday, the President of the National Union of Students (NUS) Aaron Porter spoke to the Students' Union General Meeting (UGM) about the imminent cuts to the higher education system, recent protests and the government's proposed immigration cap on non-EU students.

Porter talked of how universities had been "disproportionately singled out" by the coalition government. Porter highlighted the 80 per cent cut to universities' teaching budget, "which in itself hasn't been equally distributed" across the country.

On the potentially imminent increase of university tuition fees, Porter said he believed that the vast majority of students he had met felt that the government should at least contribute to, if not entirely pay, the cost of higher education for students in the United Kingdom. To suggest higher education is not a social good is "absurd", Porter said.

The NUS President also stated that the government's attempts to increase mobility for students added up to "noth-

ing". Porter cited another cut the government had announced earlier on the same day, this time an initiative founded by the Labour government in 2004 to widen participation in higher education.

On the matters of an imminent immigration cap for non-EU residents of the UK, Porter said that if there were to be exemptions made for "international footballers then there should damn well be" allowances for international students. However, he added that post-graduation the government had a responsibility to use whatever measures they deemed necessary - although he personally saw no reason for one.

On possible action toward "keeping up the fight" which has been partly orchestrated by the NUS over the last few months, Porter said that he felt "it's not overstating it to say that we're in the fight of our lives", and that people opposed to tuition fee increases and education cuts should be campaigning against their MPs in the shape of "writing, visiting them and doing stunts outside their surgery".

Responding to the higher education rally that had taken place last Wednesday, and allegations that kettling that had apparently taken place, Porter at first appeared non-committal, before appearing

# Immigration cap looms for LSE students

**Shrina Poojara**

The coalition Government has unveiled details of the planned immigration cap to be imposed in April 2011, following their election pledge to reduce net migration from last year's figure of approximately 215,000 people to "tens of thousands" by 2015.

In particular, the Home Secretary, Theresa May, emphasised stricter future regulations on student visas, stating, "A recent check of students studying at private institutions below degree level showed that a quarter could not be accounted for. Too many students at these lower levels have been coming here with a view to living and working, rather than studying. We need to stop this abuse."

May also outlined that the government would also consider restricting the "post-study route", which last year alone accounted for the placement of 38,000 foreign graduates into the labour market. Commenting on this proposal Michael Lok, LSE Students' Union International Students' Officer said: "Lots of students choose to remain in the UK following their studies, be it to work for top-tiered firms or to serve in NGOs and social enterprises. These opportunities to contribute to the country's political and economic spheres will be greatly reduced if post-study work is indeed restricted."

As a university renowned for having one of the most international student bodies in the world, the government's plans will particularly impact LSE, with over 60 per cent of its students coming from outside of the United Kingdom. The Students' Union's 'Students Not Suspects' campaign stands opposed to the UK's new points-based immigration rules.

LSE Students' Union Postgraduate Officer, Daniel Kroop, who has been working on the project with Lok, intends to begin a campus-wide campaign against the new policies. Kroop said: "Cutting off opportunities for internationals only hurts Britain and the LSE. Our institution gains strength from its diversity. Postgraduates, so many of whom are internationals, have a particularly large stake in this debate. Working together, we can pressure this government and preserve what has become a hallmark of an LSE education."

Lok added, "At the LSE, with a student population predominantly coming from abroad, there will be an immense effect on the student composition here, and on the general ethos of the School, if the government does proceed with its plan. If you look at the list of distinguished alumni, from Heads of State to Nobel Prize Winners, it is not hard to notice international students' significant contribution to number of fields after completing their tertiary education in the UK."

Charlotte Gerada, LSE Students' Union General Secretary, commented, "There are major inconsistencies in the government's logic - on the one hand emphasising the need to attract the most brightest minds to our competitive universities, and on the other, suggesting that numbers of non-EU immigrants should be drastically reduced, and our borders protected from bogus student visa applications. These contradicting perspectives will damage fair access of talented students from across the world to attend our universities, at a time when international students are already faced with a variety of barriers already: high tuition fees, complicated, timely and expensive visa application processes and unfair working restrictions."

more decisive. Initially, he said that if the police had kettled in students as a result of violence then it would be wrong for him to condemn the violence; however, he later condemned the police after a questioner told Porter that she had seen "children hit with batons". Porter answered this quickly by saying, "In which case, I'll happily condemn that...I'll send out a press release. I don't want to wait about on that." He added that he only supported action which was "non-violent" and that had the support of the student body for which it was campaigning.

Later, General Secretary of the Students' Union Charlotte Gerada spoke of her personal hardship in the higher education rally on the 24th November, at which she and other Sabbatical Officers, 40 other students and staff from the LSE had to endure standing for seven and a half hours until they were allowed to leave by the police - she added that others were unable to leave for nine hours. Gerada said that it was a "bit of a horrific day over all".

Ashok Kumar, the Students' Union's Education Officer, and Hero Austin, Community and Welfare Officer, also added similar sentiments. Kumar said of the police van which was damaged by students placed in the kettle before the

march, "You can put 4,000 old people and if there's a van in the middle they would go to town on it", adding that the van's damage represented the crowd's reaction to "the [police's] violence".

Towards the end of the meeting, the UGM took an unusual turn as the Chair of the meeting, Jack Tindale, temporarily left his position to propose a motion, leaving the meeting to be chaired by newly-elected Vice Chair, Lukas Slothuus. Tindale, a member of the student committee at Bankside House, the LSE's largest halls of residence, felt that it was "unfair" that a mandatory charge of £11 would be paid by every resident to clean their bathrooms. Tindale added that this was a pilot scheme that would eventually be rolled out to all residences, and that he opposed the change in policy because many students would not pay the charge, resulting in declining standards of hygiene and cleanliness in residences.

Tindale's motion met criticism, however. One questioner from Rosebery Hall spoke of how it wouldn't affect him, and another said that the motion was "ridiculous".

# Dissatisfaction with civil partnerships at LGBT debate

**Benjamin Butterworth**

Leaders in the legal profession have claimed that the current system of civil partnerships is unsatisfactory, in an open debate hosted by the LSE Students' Union's LGBT society last week.

Andrea Woelke, Chairman of the Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association (LAGLA) said Britain's system of civil partnerships for homosexual couples was an "absolute mess".

The comments came during his opening speech, in which he disputed the position of leading gay rights organisation Stonewall, who had previously considered gay marriage to be too expensive. "When Stonewall said implementing

gay marriage would cost £5 billion, they just weren't right. I lobbied them hard to change the position and, thankfully it would seem, they have."

Woelke used the event, hosted in the Hong Kong Theatre, to champion a Spanish model for British law-makers. "When they suggested gay marriage in Spain, some people seemed to think the sky would fall in. Well, I'm not aware the sky did actually fall in, but they now have full marriage rights for homosexual couples. All we have to do is stick a clause in the marriage act extending it to same-sex couples. No need to waste millions."

Much of the debate centered around the distinctions that the state makes between civil partnerships and marriage. Award-winning family law writer, Helen Reece, argued that nowadays the need for

change is minimal. "Discrimination has now been pretty much wiped from the statute books", she said, citing equal tax rights as a prime example.

But President of the LGBT Society, Amna's Noury, contended that civil partnerships would gain greater legitimacy if extended to heterosexual partnerships. "At the moment it's just like, we'll give you this, just to shut you up. There's a case in the courts already of a heterosexual couple wanting a civil partnership. It's only right."

Alongside the panel, third year Government undergraduate Scott MacDonald suggested lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) couples should claim their own identity, not "conform to hetero-normative models". MacDonald, also a member of the Students' Union's Debate Society, was careful to point out he

wasn't arguing his own personal opinion. He suggested extensions could lead to polygamist marriage, and even animal marriage. "You know, we could soon have the right to marry a goat", he pondered.

LGBT Officer of the Students' Union Reagan Persaud, who was among the audience in Clement House, praised the evening's debate. "It was very insightful. This sort of event is a really good way of raising awareness of the kinds of issues which the LGBT community has; it brings a real insight for the wider LSE community."

The debate drew a significant audience who seemed engaged in the points that were raised. One second year student attending the event commented: "The event raised key issues that greatly affect the LGBT community."

# News in brief

**PROFESSORS PROFESS SUPPORT**

Last week over a hundred lecturers from universities across the UK signed a letter expressing their support for the recent student protests against the proposed change to tuition fees. Among the signatories were Professor Richard Hyman and Dr Patrick McGovern from the LSE. The letter opposes the government's proposals to cut funding for the arts, social sciences and humanities which they believe will "risk losing not just a generation of artists but also a generation of critical and creative thinkers" and result in the "effective removal of higher education for working people".

**AROUND WE GO**

Members of the LSE's Department of International History were joined last Wednesday by visiting Professor Niall Ferguson in a discussion about Britain's intervention in the First World War. Dr. Heather Jones, Professor David Stevenson were also on the panel which was chaired by Head of Department Professor Dominic Lieven. Debate ranged over multiple counterfactuals surrounding the conflict, including the possibility of a neutral America and the chances of the allies emerging triumphant had Britain declared war in 1917.

**DEBATE SOCIETY TRIUMPHS**

The Student's Union Debate Society has had one of the most successful terms in the societies history. This term alone, Anser Aftab and John Ashbourne, representing the LSE, won the Oxford IV tournament - one of the most prestigious debating tournaments in the calendar. The same team also made it to the finals of the English Speaking Union's John Smith Memorial Mace, which was held this weekend. The society is hosting a schools' tournament this coming weekend. The tournament will see 83 teams from 32 schools across the country compete.

**NUS PRESIDENT APOLOGISES**

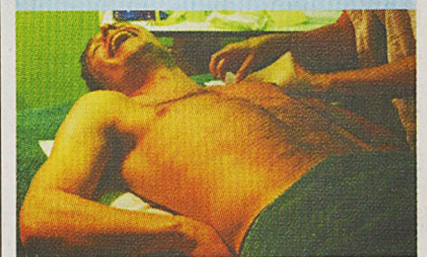
NUS president Aaron Porter has apologised for his "spineless" lack of public support for university occupations around the country. Speaking in response to University College London last Sunday Porter said: "I apologise for my dithering in the last few days". Calls had been growing for a vote of no confidence in Porter whose backing for some of the more vocal protests to the government's reforms to university funding had been judged lacking. Seeking to "avoid a civil war within the sudden movement" Porter promised to "support all non-violent action" which opposes current government proposals.

**LSE LOSES A LEGEND**

LSE Emeritus Professor David Frisby sadly passed away on 20th November. Frisby was awarded a scholarship to study sociology at the LSE after high school. He was so distinguished in his studies that he won accolade for the best marks in his year on the final exams. Professor Judy Wajcman, Head of the Department of Sociology, stated: "Alongside his reputation as the intellectual expert of *fin-de-siècle* social theory, he was a wonderful and generous colleague who helped mentor many of us. We in the Sociology department will all miss him terribly".

**EDUCATION OFFICER LAMBASTED FOR "TORY SCUM" JIBE**

A verbal jousting has ensued on the Facebook profile of Students' Union Education Officer Ashok Kumar, in response to his posting of a status which read, simply, "Tory scum". Student Trustee Sam Tempest Keeping left a comment on the status, writing: "As an elected representative this is wholly unacceptable", prompting over forty subsequent comments from LSE students past and present. Kumar defended the status as a "witty remark" reflective of his personal opinion, and not that of the Students' Union.



**GOT A SCOOP? BRIEF US...**

The Beaver welcomes all students to contribute to the News in Brief section of the paper. If you feel that there is anything noteworthy on campus please contact us at [news@thebeaveronline.co.uk](mailto:news@thebeaveronline.co.uk)



# A Common Room fit for a Philosopher King

Dana Andrecut

The recently refurbished common room in the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method was officially opened on Thursday, 25th November.

The refurbishment has been ongoing since the beginning of Michaelmas Term, and was instigated following complaints that were published in the Beaver last year ("Dismal" common room sparks petition", 17th November 2009).

The new space now displays the LSE colours, red and white, in a more modern setting. Entitled "The Pat Gardner Room", after a former philosophy department administrator, the space is also decorated with black-and-white photographs showing the area prior to the refurbishment. A

digital photo frame displays a slide-show of photographs of current philosophy students.

At the official opening on Thursday, Professor Luc Bovens, Head of the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, welcomed the staff and students present at the event, to the new common room. He said: "We are grateful to the Annual Fund for a generous gift that made this complete makeover possible." He told the Beaver: "It really was the outcome of a collaborative effort between Estates, the staff of the department and the students. There were some interesting planning sessions in which all parties were invited and made some drawings, and we discussed various possibilities. I think that the final product is terrific." He added: "If I now could get my desk to look as neat as the common room, then I would

really be a step ahead with my work."

Students were also excited about the new common room. Blake Heller, a Philosophy and Economics masters student told the Beaver: "The design is fresh and modern. It makes good use of the space. I look forward to seeing students and members of staff giving it a personal touch. If someone donated a kettle, that would be fantastic."

The total refurbishment costs reached approximately £18,000, £10,000 of which was donated by the LSE Annual Fund. The room is intended to be used by the 150 undergraduate and 70 postgraduate students in the department, and its opening hours are 8am to 9:30pm, Monday to Friday. After 6.30pm a LSE swipe card is required for access.



Photos: Duncan McKenna

## "We are keen to engage with students who felt alienated by Freeze the Fees"

» continued from page 1

A benchmark of Davies's response to the government's proposed policy, the idea of cross-subsidising subjects at the LSE, received heavy criticism. Davies's sug-

gested that the LSE might charge different amounts for different subjects, considering the discrepancies in the earnings of graduates from different disciplines.

Discomfort was expressed at price determining what students choose to study. Kima Pezeshki, a Philosophy and Economics student looking to work in the public sector, said: "There should not be a price tag ranking system on subjects.

It forces us to make judgements about people's future wages based on their degree discipline, which is absurd. It ignores the academic purpose behind subjects like Economics, and as a result, we would lose valuable potential teachers or lecturers who are pressured into the financial sector to pay back significantly higher debt."

Some students would have preferred to have been consulted prior to the formu-

lation of the 'Freeze the Fees' campaign. Third-year Government undergraduate Scott MacDonald said: "While it was great to have the students of the university finally being consulted on the issue there was a slight feeling among the participants I spoke to that it was too little, too late."

With the government's policy still before Parliament, the LSE's formal fee-

setting procedure will not begin until the new year, leaving a term for 2012 fees to be approved by the Academic Planning and Resources Committee, Student Numbers and Fees Committee, the Academic Board and then the Council. The results of the fees survey will be incorporated into a paper presented to each of these bodies by the Students' Union.



LSE students take direct action outside the offices of Simon Hughes MP  
Photos: Dougal Wallace, for London Student

## LSE students 'kettled in' at education cuts rally

Sachin Patel

Around forty LSE students taking place in last Wednesday's demonstration against cuts to higher education funding were left 'kettled in' by police acting "disproportionately" and "unnecessarily".

The students, who joined over 5,000 other students gathered on Trafalgar Square, were not involved in any acts of violence but were nonetheless penned in by police officers for up to eight hours.

Alongside protesters from the LSE, schoolchildren as young as fourteen were caught up in the controversial police tactic, wherein protesters are corralled into a confined space for an extended length of time.

Additionally, the Metropolitan police was accused by students of deliberately having left a police van in the middle of Parliament Street, in an attempt to provoke students into acts of vandalism. The Students' Union's Sabbatical Officers released a statement on the evening of the demonstration, criticising police conduct throughout the day. They said: "Most people felt that this disproportionate and unnecessary action was premature and provoked further frustration among the students." With regard to the kettling, General Secretary Charlotte Gerada said: "There was absolutely no justification for young people to be kettled in for this period of time, with no explanation."

A number of LSE students recounted their experiences in the containment zone, with many making use of social networking services. Third-year Social Policy and Criminology undergraduate Herbin Duffield said that "Police at both ends continuously told us that the other end of the kettle was the way to go", adding that "The police were aggressively forcing everyone back with their riot shields".

After eventually escaping from the kettle by crossing a police line, Duffield stated, "It was utter relief to be out - we had been in the kettle for around four hours but it could have been another three." Fellow student Sean Sayer posted the following Facebook status upon securing his own release from the kettle: "Big thanks to the policeman that took pity on me and let me out of the kettle that never boiled." Police officers were seen letting only female protesters out of the kettle, leaving many others contained well into the evening.

The abandonment of the police van attracted a great deal of anger from students; the Students' Union statement noted, "some students felt that it was left purposefully, encouraging the protesters to damage the vehicle". Echoing the sentiment, student Lucy Killoran of the University of the Arts London said: "To abandon the van and blockade the protesters in, is almost an invitation for violence."

Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove attracted media attention in

the aftermath of the demonstration when he urged the media to deny violent student protesters the "oxygen of publicity". By invoking the words of Margaret Thatcher, Gove has been accused by student leaders of attempting to stifle any kind of protest. Herbin Duffield said, "I wondered if many [first-time protesters] would be put off protesting again and whether this deterrent was the main reasoning for the kettling."

In her speech to the Union General Meeting (UGM) the next day, the Students' Union's General Secretary made a similar argument, and urged students not to be dissuaded from further action by perceived police misconduct. NUS President Aaron Porter, addressing the same UGM, assured questioners in the audience that he would immediately issue a press release condemning unjustified instances of police-led aggression, but said that he could not unilaterally condemn kettling in case it had been a necessary response in certain cases.



Schoolchildren attempt to dissuade protesters from vandalism  
Photo: Joe Rennison, for London Student

## "Although we didn't make it all the way into the offices, today has been a success"

» continued from page 1

LSE Students' Union Education Officer Ashok Kumar said, "The action by LSE students was profiled in over a half-dozen newspapers including the cover of the Guardian, the Times and the Telegraph, as well as ITV, BBC, Sky, and ITN. This action, along with continued demonstrations around the country, has continued to add pressure on the Liberal Democrats and the coalition government not to pass legislation to raise fees."

In a statement on the occupation, Hughes said: "If anybody thinks that the way to persuade me or my colleagues to their point of view is to disrupt the work done by my staff or by me looking after my constituents then they are making a foolish mistake."

"Regularly and rationally, privately

and publicly I engage in debate with many students and other people about higher education and many other issues."

Hero Austin, LSE Students' Union Community and Welfare Officer, was pleased with the event. "Although we didn't make it all the way into the offices, today has been a success," she said. "We've put public pressure on Simon Hughes, urging him not to break the promise he made at the last election to oppose any rises in tuition fees."

The brief occupation of Hughes' constituency office is part of the Students' Union's increasing participation in the nationwide student campaign against cuts to public spending. Kumar lent the Students' Union's support to those committed to direct action. He said: "The LSE Students' Union believes in a diversity and multiplicity of tactics. Whether students choose to write letters or occupy their MPs constituent office, we want to help out in both. Only through this diversity of tactics can we succeed in our task ahead."

## Ferguson posits "bloody" Cold War theory

Luke Smolinski

Last Wednesday, in his series of public lectures on the Cold War, Professor Niall Ferguson rejected the idea that the end of the Second World War brought about a long era of world peace.

According to Ferguson, there was in fact a Third World War, which received little attention because it was waged in the Third World itself.

In his talk, Ferguson attacked the commonly held belief that the Cold War between the US and the USSR was never that bloody. To neglect the Third World's War, as many historians have done, is to understate the magnitude of the calamity of the Cold War, Ferguson asserted.

Though war was never declared between the two countries, fighting still occurred. The battlefronts were simply re-located to poorer countries. Governments and revolutionaries alike were backed, funded and supplied with weapons. The CIA sponsored coups, the USSR armed nationalist movements. Wars were prolonged and fomented by both countries, to devastating effect.

Ferguson pointed to uprisings in North Korea, Cuba, North Vietnam, Angola and Mozambique, all of which were funded by the Soviets. After the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) seized power after independence from Portugal in 1975, Angolan government forces were supplied with Soviet-

made T-55 tanks and MiG fighters, while tank crews and pilots were mainly Cuban. The conflict between government forces and guerrilla fighters ended in the 1990s.

It was argued that contra-Marxist regimes backed by the USA were often no less heinous - and no less dictatorial - than the Marxists themselves. Ferguson flagged up the barbarity of the Khmer Rouge of Cambodia, who killed between 1.5 and 2 million people between 1975 and 1979. According to Ferguson, the essence of American foreign policy was, "It doesn't matter if he's a sonuvabitch, so long as he's our sonuvabitch."

The idea that there was a post-war global peace, Ferguson said, is a myth. While it is true that there were more people killed by war in the first half of the 20th century, there were more people killed in intra-state wars in the second half. The wars in the second half of the 20th century were also longer in duration and more numerous.

Professor Ferguson, author of *The Ascent of Money*, *Empire* and *The War of the World*, and presenter of Channel 4 documentaries of the same name, holds the Philippe Roman Chair in History and International Affairs at the LSE. He is known for his revisionary historical narratives, his firm defence of the British Empire and his criticisms of both liberal and conservative thought. He is currently writing a biography of Henry Kissinger and will present a Channel 4 series on Western civilisation next year.



# Fink's thoughts on the new Conservatives

Executive Editor of the Times and eminent philosopher muse on whether the Cameron Ministry adheres to the conservative tradition

Chris Rogers

Last week the LSE Sociology Department hosted a public debate on the motion, "Are the New Conservatives conservative?" The debate was sparked by Cameron's Conservatives describing themselves as "liberal, progressive and even radical"; descriptions that have long been anathema to conservative thinking.

Speaking on this motion was Roger Scruton, who spent 20 years as Professor of Aesthetics at Birkbeck College, London, and is currently a visiting professor at the University of Oxford. With him was Daniel Finkelstein, the current Executive Editor and Chief Lead Writer for the Times, and a political advisor to William Hague between 1997 and 2001.

Roger Scruton spoke on the motion from a philosopher's perspective. He outlined the broad conservative philosophy as put forward by conservative thinkers,

such as Edmund Burke, in order to see if modern conservatism matches up. He argued that the conservative philosophy was based on a bottom-up view of society and the recognition that those who are here at the moment are not the only people society consists of, saying we must recognise our "inheritance from the past" and "our responsibility to the future". Scruton argued that the failure to bear this in mind is the cause of the crisis we are in now. He also asserted that we are emerging from a "systematic assault upon our social and political heritage" where politicians have had to "more or less surrender to the European machine".

Social co-operation is seen in two forms, either with a goal in mind, which Scruton attributed to socialist thinking (such as with education using "social engineering" to bring about equality), or, as in conservative thinking, with no goal in mind. A corresponding conservative belief would be that education should be an end

in itself. Conservatism, he argued, was not about "conscriptio from above" to create a socialist utopia, but from below, encouraging ordinary people to act.

Scruton concluded by giving Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, full marks for understanding the principles of conservatism; however, he was less sure about the rest of the Conservative party.

Daniel Finkelstein argued that conservatism is 'pragmatic' adjusting in response to changes in the country. Conservatism is a movement to represent the country: it thus changes with the country. This means that the definition of conservatism changes over time as the understanding of the country changes, illustrated by the more accepting attitudes to homosexuality. Conservatism is not a timeless ideology but a response to a given situation at a particular time.

Finkelstein added that because conservatism reflects the view of a particular

country, it differs between countries, which explains why the Republicans and the Tories differ so much in ideology.

On these criteria Finkelstein defines the modern conservatives as very much conservative. He describes them as a "broad party of Britain and fundamentally pragmatic". Moreover, Finkelstein believes that the Prime Minister David Cameron adheres to a conservative tradition.

The panel was then opened to questions. The first asked how conservatism, by nature suspicious of change, could be reconciled with the fundamental changes in the NHS currently taking place. Professor Scruton argued that though conservatives wished to conserve good institutions, if they become deformed and begin to degenerate, "radical surgery" is needed and thus justified. Finkelstein argued that it is not in fact a root and branch reform, but adjustments, so that in the future government cannot change institutions as they please but instead allow them to

"evolve their own character over time".

Another question raised the inconsistency of conservatives grafting big ideas, especially the free market, onto long-standing institutions. Scruton believed that the free market was fundamentally conservative; knowledge is gained by people acting together rather than being held by some bureaucrat. Daniel Finkelstein argued that the Conservatives were not actually very neo-liberal: they have accepted a socialised NHS, compulsory education and high tax levels, and since the 1980s have only liberalised "a bit at the edge".

A final question asked what the panel would outline as a broad, conservative foreign policy. Finkelstein argued that more alliances should develop, and as we gain more knowledge about each other our values will become similar. Scruton succinctly summed up his view, saying, "pursue the national interest as best you can and bugger the rest".

# O! Come let us adore him

LSE's Anglican Chaplain is officially licenced

Chris Rogers

Last week, having served for three months as the LSE's Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. James Walters was officially licenced as the Anglican Chaplain of the School.

Walters formally received his licence in a ceremony which took place in the Shaw Library.

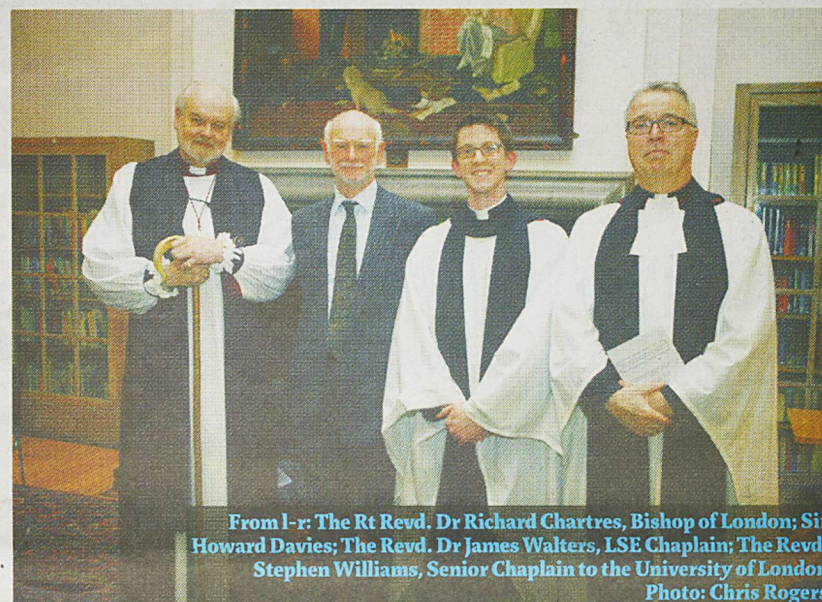
The ceremony was attended by prominent figures such as the Bishop of London, the Rt. Reverend Dr. Richard Chartres, and LSE Director Howard Davies, as well as friends, former colleagues and family of the new chaplain.

The Bishop of London spoke on the topic of faith in the modern world and the need to understand different faiths. Later, Davies spoke about the religious roots that existed within the LSE, positioning it between the religious foundation of King's and the secularism of University College London. Sir Howard noted that religion had an important role to play at the LSE historically and today. Prayers were then led by four students from the LSE. The ceremony concluded with drinks in the staff dining room.

Commenting on his appointment, Revd. Walters said, "The interface between the Church and society has always been the focus of my ministry and my

research. This is a time of great challenge and uncertainty in the fields of politics and economics so I am thrilled to be working in such a vibrant intellectual environment which is considering these issues."

Revd. Walters comes to the LSE having finished his curacy at St. John-at-Hampstead. Before ordination he worked in Westminster for a Member of Parliament and as a public policy researcher. He replaces David Peebles, the former LSE Chaplain who was unable to attend the ceremony and is now working at his new ministry in St. George's Bloomsbury.



From l-r: The Rt Revd. Dr Richard Chartres, Bishop of London; Sir Howard Davies; The Revd. Dr James Walters, LSE Chaplain; The Revd. Stephen Williams, Senior Chaplain to the University of London  
Photo: Chris Rogers

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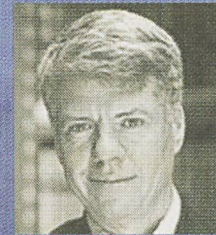
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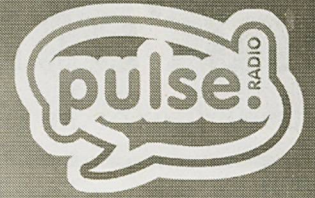
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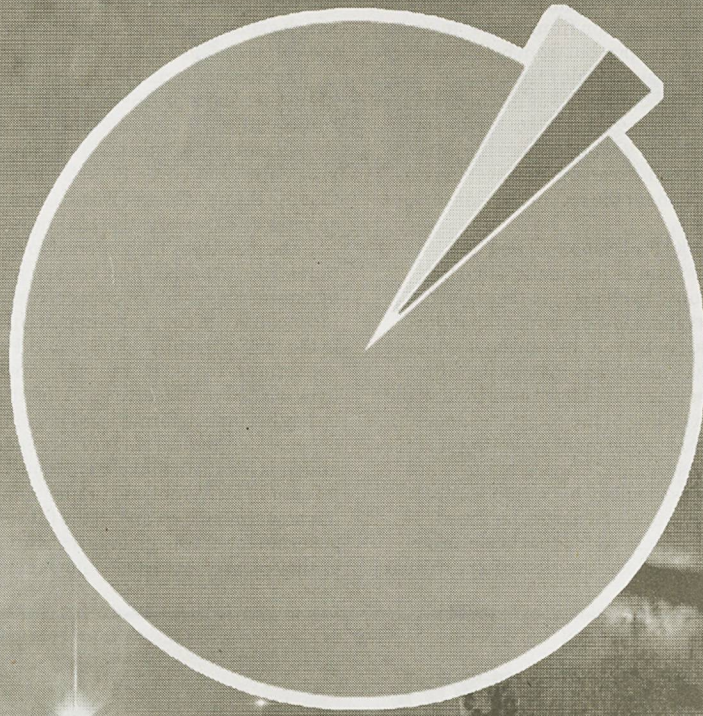
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## CLARE MARKET REVIEW

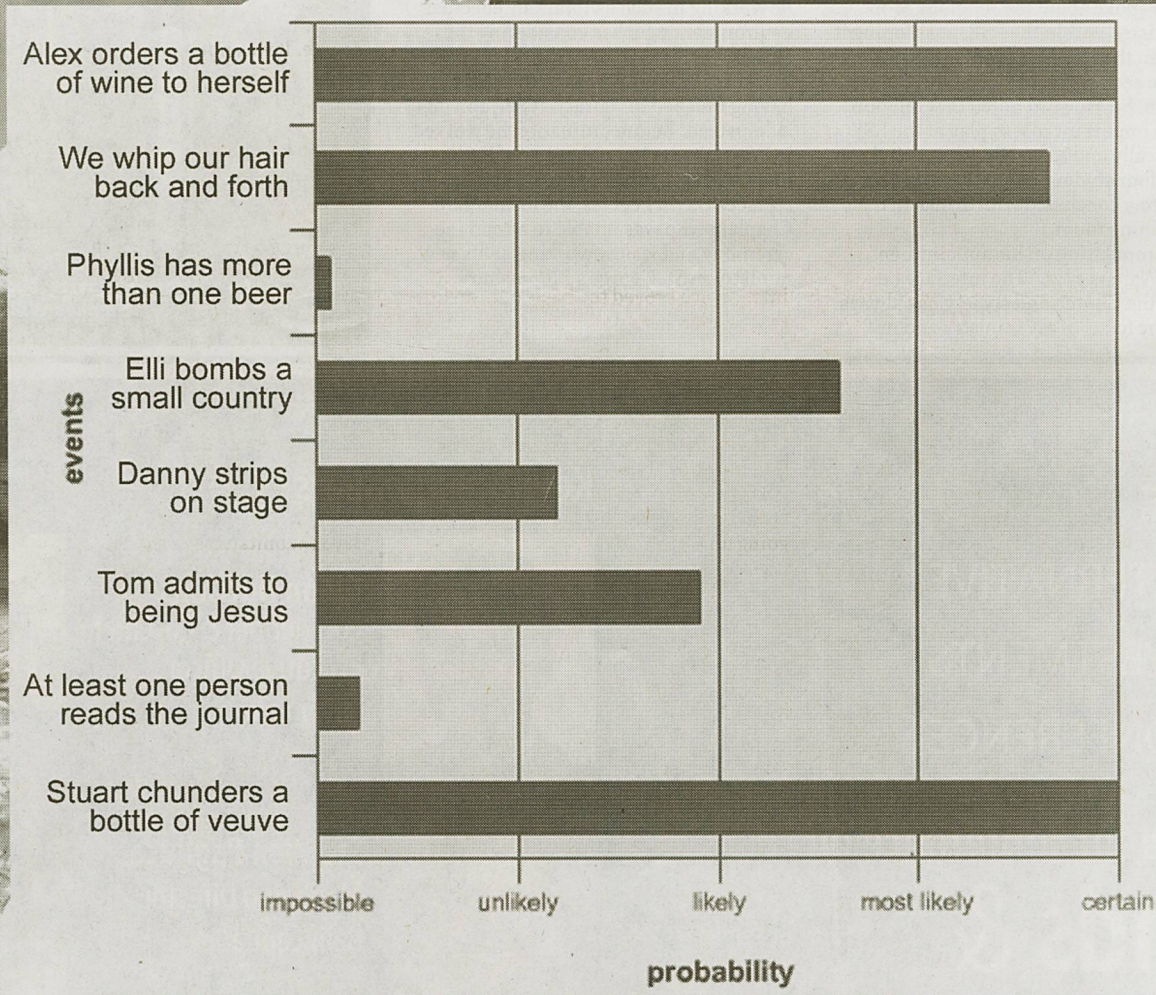


### Why we are having a party



- to launch the first issue
- to promote the station
- to get smashed

### Probability of events during the night



## CLARE IS PULS(E)ATING

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DISCO STU, JAMES DYE,  
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"CLARE IS PULS(E)ATING" ON FACEBOOK



# Comment

## Bush and history

Asad  
Khan



It's much harder to properly write about George Walker Bush than it is to caricature him. The media finds the latter course much easier. But to paint the man in broad strokes is to simplify the incredible influence he had on shaping our world. The United States vigorously reasserted itself in the consciousness of the global community in the wake of the 9/11 attacks and maybe, in that sense, Bush was like the Ronald Reagan, or Decider, he aspired to be. But that is where the comparison ends, as Bush finds the route to historical redemption via his new memoirs a steep climb. It would be therefore relevant to try and make sense of Bush's chances on several fronts. Bush reigned over a singularly tumultuous time in world history. I was ten years old when the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center took place, and even I had the vaguest of notions that this event was one of those rare cataclysms. It was when George Bush at last met his moment in history. It was when his very unique administration surveyed the wreckage of the former Soviet Union, the perception of fundamental Islam at the gates, and the perpetual support of Britain's New Labour government, and knew its time had come.

Electorally, George Bush entered office only by the grace of a Supreme Court decision, in one of the closest elections in history. Even this was no mean achievement; Bush's humble, clumsy self-portrayal of himself effectively downplayed his Ivy League status and patrician upbringing. As the New Yorker ironically pointed out, while the Elder Bush was pure Connecticut, the Younger Bush was instead well-meaning Texas at odds with the awkward aloofness of Al Gore. Bush also achieved re-election to his credit, whether due to the effectiveness of John Kerry as opposing candidate or Karl Rove's systematic tinkering with gay referendums in Middle America yet to be decided.

On the home front, Bush himself was elected on a platform that focused on domestic reform and small government. Yet all his efforts were directed at engorging the state apparatus. And, of most note to the American voter, he inherited a healthy

economic surplus from Bill Clinton and bequeathed a trillion-dollar deficit. Perhaps Anis Shivani put it best when he said, "The beauty of the Bush philosophy of governance is that it creates and accelerates those very conditions of stress (radical economic inequality promoted by tax cuts for the wealthy and concomitant cuts in public services for the less well-off) that then provide fertile ground for popular acceptance of measures intended to further worsen conditions."

In government, he surrounded himself with men that were almost fanatically neoconservative, all of whom steered him in the opposite direction of cautious, deliberated leadership required after the gauntlet of 9/11. First seen in the wake of Watergate as Gerald Ford's Republican Party desperately regrouped, this generation would be embraced by Reagan's dense brand of American exceptionalism. Donald Rumsfeld (Abu Ghraib scandal), Paul Wolfowitz (World Bank scandal and subsequent resignation), Scooter Libby (Valerie Plame leak and subsequent prison sentence), United Nations Ambassador John Bolton (of "There is no such thing as the United Nations" fame), it was for all purposes Rush Limbaugh's fantasy football team. The inconsistent Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell aside, all were unbending in their zeal for a redefined, socially conservative, internationally unilateralist America. It was an administration that was practically marinating in ideology, when the world needed it the least.

But even these men paled in comparison to Richard Cheney. When a former vice president lectured Cheney on the ceremonial nature of his job, he replied, "I have a different understanding with the president". The understanding was ironically not unlike that of the Bush Sr.-James Baker co-presidency earlier. Much has been written about Cheney, but I don't believe in reductive generalizations, so I don't believe in waiting that the younger Bush's vice president was a calculating spectre intent on swallowing the world whole. I do believe Dick Cheney was highly competent, as well as consistently faithful to his, at times overwhelmed, boss. But I also believe that there is nothing for the ordinary human being to admire about Dick Cheney: a war hawk who screamed for personal deferment from Vietnam five times, who subverted the presidency by selectively presenting sensitive information, and whose nause-

ating support for torture instead ended up hurting the intelligence-gathering it was meant to achieve.

On that subject, Cheney gratuitously endorsed a wide range of brutal interrogation practices that went above and beyond the more publicised waterboarding technique including severe beatings, painful stress positions, severe sleep deprivation, exposure to extreme cold and hot temperatures, forced nudity, threats, hooding, the use of dogs and sensory deprivation -- many of which were morbidly plagiarised from techniques Chinese Communists used extract confessions from captured U.S. soldiers. Why I mention Cheney at length is to say that anything that wounded the idea of America to its people and the world outside during those eight years was represented by the scorched earth ideals of the vice president.

### It's harder to write about Bush than it is to caricature him

Concerning the seminal event of the Iraq war, the most convoluted of British intelligence proved the basis of invasion: that Saddam was developing weapons of mass destruction, the lack of which is now well-documented. The most tenuous of links was forged between the al-Qaeda terrorists that planned the 9/11 attacks with Saddam Hussein's regime, the fact that the pan-Arab secularists of the Ba'ath Party having virtually nothing in common with the Salafi jihadists of Afghanistan going unnoticed. Bush says in Decision Points that as a student of history, he studied the postwar rise of democracies such as Japan, Germany and South Korea. He failed to study that their largely homogenous populations were a world apart from the sectarian fissures that have long plagued Iraq, which accordingly exploded in ethnic violence: Shi'as killing Sunnis killing Shi'as. Not least, by creating two Shi'a states geographically side by side for the first time in history, American intervention has actually helped Iran's

influence in the region.

Lastly, did the wars make for a safer world? Apologists say that no event resembling 9/11 occurred for the rest of Bush's term. But no such event had occurred a hundred or so years before it either. Secondly, if Hamid Karzai is belittled as the mayor of Kabul by his countrymen, the writ of the government, much of it controlled by warlords and Karzai's brother-in-law, cannot extend very far. Even if it will later, sham elections and riotous corruption have become synonymous with the Karzai regime, not reining in America's enemies. And as both Pakistan and India jockey for influence in Afghanistan as Obama's 2011 withdrawal nears, Bush may have helped his successor create the same sort of endgame Afghanistan saw when the Soviets pulled out in 1989: American neglect resulting in civil war and the rise of the Taliban. What is undeniable is that Pakistan is far worse for Bush's presidency. The "major non-NATO ally" has paid, and continues to pay, among the heaviest prices in combating militancy, with over 30,000 lives of soldiers and civilians coming to pass in its course. It was not helped by Bush's proxy war in Pakistan's north-west; unmanned drone strikes being operated, and subsequently escalated, by US forces, killing militants, murdering civilians, and risking radicalising the rest of the population.

Lack of space prevents going into Bush's nuclear deal with India, an achievement he fails to mention in his book, or Hurricane Katrina, during which Kanye West's bombast that Bush didn't care for black people was apparently the lowest point of his presidency. For a man, to paraphrase Pierre Trudeau, called far worse things by better people, in a racial sense, this is hard to believe. So is there hope for Bush? History might be gentler to fallen presidents than we, who are unable to see them at arm's length, are. There may come the day that Lyndon Johnson is one day rehabilitated by posterity on the basis of his domestic achievements, or Richard Nixon for his foreign policy. Harry Truman left office with a popularity rating that hovered in the 20s, dying before history consummately reversed its verdict. There is a tiny possibility that George Bush may also see that day, on grounds of unique circumstances in times of emergency. But it will be only because of the emotional distance history provides, not in spite of it. ☛

## The Pope and his (views on) condoms

Hannah  
Payne



Last Tuesday a book was published, a book in which Pope Benedict XVI, to the smallest of extents, condoned the use of the condom in the prevention of HIV. With the AIDS epidemic an incredibly prominent issue in countries where Roman Catholicism is strong, it seems only right that the Pope is finally taking a step in the right direction.

The Vatican's stance on birth control has long been a contentious issue and perhaps came to a head on the Pope's visit to Africa last year. On this occasion, as I'm sure we all recall, he took the opportunity to suggest that condoms would actually increase the AIDS problem rather than helping to stop the spread. This recent change, it seems, was an incredibly quick turnaround of opinion.

An answer to this switch is perhaps to be found in the details. The fact remains that none of what was said is official - the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church remains anti-birth control of all kinds. Still, it may well be the most ignored of all Catholicism's doctrines: the vast majority of British and American Catholics do use birth control. It is something that the Vatican must have noticed what with the gradually dwindling numbers at masses, especially across the UK.

Further thought can be given to the example given by the Pope: one of a homosexual male prostitute - in this specific case the condom would not be used as birth control but solely in the prevention of the spread of disease. The mixed messages from the Vatican since the initial announcement of the comments gives way to uncertainty as to whom the remarks apply. This is surely a concern: if there is not clarity then the blind faith that the Vatican apparently expects of its followers becomes even more unreasonable than it was in the first place.

The acceptance of such hypocrisy in religion, and yet nowhere else in the public sphere, is a question that is utterly baffling. Whilst we expect politicians, for instance, to stick to their word and keep the promises that we may have had made to us, somehow the church is able to alter its teachings and abandon some of them with no interrogation as to why. Whilst in the idea of the church, we could certainly include every denomination of the Christian faith, it does appear to be from the Roman Catholics' leadership that we get the very best in contradiction and doctrinal change - and certainly the most entertaining. The Pope himself is able simply to say that he had perhaps been enlightened or experienced some divine teaching and there we have a new doctrine to be immediately imposed.

In some ways, this is probably a good thing. The chance to alter teachings is perhaps the only way in which these faiths can remain relevant and applicable to their followers. It is also clear that whilst unofficial, and almost irrelevant, to the Western Catholic world, the new stance on condoms is a positive step towards the prevention of HIV and AIDS. The problem with this scenario is the obvious and unavoidable lack of commitment. Whilst it is pleasing that the Pope might allow condoms in certain situations, the lack of clarity and directness result in an altogether unconvincing attitude. Not only is this thoroughly disappointing, but it leaves the statement at risk of not making the difference to attitudes that is so greatly needed to truly take effect on the epidemic.

So, whilst change in this case is certainly good, there may have to be a little evidence pointing in the direction of success before it'll be easy to accept that the Pope might be able to make all the difference. Call me a papal sceptic, but I've still not forgiven him for the atheist-fascism comments. ☛

## The police and the boiling of the kettle

Trusting the police might not always be the best thing, as last Wednesday's events showed

Hero  
Austin



Britain's police are very different from many other countries'. They do not carry guns, for instance, and the archetypal depiction of a policeman involves him strolling round the town muttering 'ello, 'ello, 'ello'. This image, and the lack of a gun, are both emblematic of the idea that here, the police are part of the community conducting a service, rather than an imposition upon the community.

It is a pleasant perception, and doubtless holds true for many police officers, but it shatters when you are confronted with the sheer brutality of police tactics at many demonstrations. In this situation, you realise that the very people who you were brought up to believe would protect you from harm, are the most immediate threat to your well being. It is difficult to communicate one's feelings upon that realisation. But when you are sat on the ground, defenceless, with your hands up to show you mean no harm, and you are

confronted by a line of police men and women in riot gear, shields raised, batons in hand, visors down and combat boots on, and you have no idea what they are going to do next (except that it will hurt), it is utterly terrifying. This was exactly my experience of the peaceful Bishopgate Climate Camp last year. Watching the videos of the London education protest on Wednesday, it is easy to recognise that same fear, bewilderment and resentment experienced upon the realisation that the police present are not there to protect you or uphold your rights, but instead the exact opposite.

Reports and evidence have already been given in response to last Wednesday's policing. Many people tell of how, with no warning, the lines of riot police parted and police on horseback charged the crowd. We have video footage to show that young students ran and fell back, terrified, crying. We have heard that the police batoned school children who were not remotely violent, that they attempted to take names under false pretences and that they did not communicate with the crowd, only adding to the confusion.

A less overtly brutal tactic that needs to be addressed is 'kettling'. This is where police cordon protesters into an area and refuse to let them leave. It is supposed to

be used in response to a peaceful demonstration that is turning ugly; the tactic is designed to ensure that rogue groups of protesters do not break off and rampage around the city, presumably burning things. In reality, it is implemented far too readily and itself is often responsible for a protest taking a more violent turn.

Kettling is an inflammatory tactic. This is evident when you look at the simple chronology of the protest on Wednesday (and of the G20 protests last year). You will notice that up until the police put cordons up, there was no violence, not even to the empty police van suspiciously abandoned in the middle of the protest area. This delegitimises the use of the tactic in the first place; if it is done prior to violence then the police are removing people's freedom only on the basis that they are peacefully protesting, which is completely unjustifiable. Moreover, kettles, as it is well known, boil. Being trapped in an area for over 10 hours without justification, information or basic provisions such as toilets and water, is unlikely to put people in the best of moods. Frustrations grow, are fed upon by anybody present who feels like being violent, and eventually overflow. It is clear that kettling does not reduce the risk of violence, but increases the likelihood of it.

Kettling peaceful protesters for over 10 hours, whilst simultaneously inflicting baton blows upon them, sends a clear message: we will not uphold your right to protest, do not demonstrate again. This is directly contrary to the police's duty to facilitate peaceful protest. It is unbelievably important not to allow them to break the current movement by deterring people from exercising their democratic right to voice dissent. If you were there, register your complaints at the Metropolitan Police Authority. If you have photos, submit them to newspapers and if you have videos, upload them to the internet. The more public this is, the less likely they are to do it again.

\*The Students' Union will be running briefings before the next protests to reassure people and give them tactics for dealing with these situations, watch this space. ☛



# Not really Reclaiming the Night

The fundamental faults of the event are clear to see

Jennifer

Izaakson-Jones



Last Saturday, as part of 'Reclaim the Night', thousands of women marched through London holding 'End Male Violence Against Women' placards. The march was organised by the London Feminist Network, as it has been since the 1970s, and annually held to protest against violence that permeates women's lives worldwide.

The march has a strictly 'no men' policy, so men who are against violence towards women cannot participate. It's this separatism that will bear the brunt of this article's criticism. Numbers historically have determined the impact of movements and protests. We can surely agree (though maybe the London Feminist Network wouldn't) that not all men agree with violence against women? I certainly know hundreds that don't and I know many who are explicitly feminist and anti-sexist. Reclaim the Night attracts thousands, would it not be better for raising awareness of violence against women if anti-sexist men were allowed to join, possibly doubling numbers. Ultimately, in relation to the issue of violence against women, does it matter if individuals don't have ovaries?

I do not wish to downplay women's very real subjugation. We live in a society where men are privileged simply due to their sex, whilst women suffer both structural and overt oppression because of theirs. Women suffer objectification that men cannot, if we consider even everyday exploitation, women are still paid less, we own 1% of the world's property – the inequality is gargantuan. Women are the overwhelming victims of sexual violence. But do these facts add up to 'all men being oppressors' or that all men support the continuance of their privileged position? I'd argue no, because who is oppressed in our society and who isn't, is not solely based on lines of gender or sex.

Take a typical 'women's issue' of

household labour (cooking/child rearing), shared experience of which is meant to be universal for all women. An ordinary working class woman has far more in common with a working class man than say, a rich woman like Harriet Harman in regard to housework. Harman if necessary can afford to pay for childcare, employ a cleaner or maid to do housework – both the working class man and woman would have far greater trouble achieving this. Our experiences as women are not universal.

## I'd prefer an anti-sexist male alongside me, rather than Ann Widdecombe

The placards 'end male violence against women' are incredibly problematic. Women are capable of violence, against men or other women – are we not against this as feminists? There was nothing non-violent about Margaret Thatcher when she bombed the Falklands. Or the female abusers who make up the 10 per cent of reported domestic violence allegations. Or the female U.S soldiers who abused prisoners in Abu Ghraib. The idea of women as intrinsically 'soft' and 'nurturing' and therefore incapable of violence is just the sort of social constructionist bullshit that feminist thought is intended to undermine.

There are many other problems with Reclaim the Night. Trans-women aren't allowed to participate. The marches political elements that are anti-sex workers rights, manifesting often in a protest outside strip-club Spearmint Rhino on Tottenham Court Road, possibly don't

consider the ambiguous message sent to women who work there – the demonstration is never clearly aimed at the clients. Is this not woman hating? Last year a pornography shop in Soho was also protested at. These debates around pornography and sex work often subside into a 'porn is women's exploitation so therefore is bad/must be banned' versus 'porn is bad but we can't be anti-censorship/maybe porn can be liberating-let's make feminist porn' both of which are the extreme poles apart on the ever swinging pendulum of dire feminist politics. If these debates remain ghettoised, considered in isolation and not looked out at within wider context (modern porn is ultimately exploitative and degrading because we live in an exploitative society that degrades women, not in of itself) then the pointless merry-go-round of these discussions will continue.

With this argument of wider context in mind I want to return to the argument to include men on the march. Women's oppression cannot be looked at in a vacuum, men also face daily violence, whether physical or the anonymous systemic violence of poverty and exploitation. Those who have the finances to protect themselves from the onslaught of job cuts, homelessness and do not rely on the welfare services about to be slashed do not face the same level of violence and oppression. We would never think to make gay pride marches LGBT only? We would never think to not allow white people on Unite Against Fascism marches against the racist EDL? So why is Reclaim the Night different?

I'd prefer an anti-sexist male to be alongside me on Reclaim the Night, rather than a pro-life woman like Sarah Palin or Ann Widdecombe. The divide in society is not based on owning a uterus, it's about whether you want liberation for women and for everyone else and whether you are willing to fight for the social and structural transformation that true liberation requires. That fight starts with building demonstrations with as great a numbers as possible and from them coordinating a radical movement to overhaul society – and for that both men and women play equally vital roles. ☛

# Outrage about the Immigration cap?

It will have a great impact - people need to start talking about it

John

Collins



The government looks increasingly likely to legislate a serious blow to Britain's education sector and economy. As you'll have guessed by my title, I'm speaking not of Browne, but of the pointless immigration cap. I have to say that I find it bizarre to have encountered virtually no discussion of this issue on campus. Instead there seems an eerie silence as we passively watch this damaging law sail gracefully through parliament.

There's hardly a need to rehash the impracticality of the government's proposals. One need simply look to any fair-minded publication that has seriously tackled it recently. The basic point is that the PM is trying to fulfil his unworkable election pledge to reduce net migration into the country from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands. The problem of course is that the government has virtually no control over the main drivers of net migration, namely: outward migration; a European single labour market; and human rights laws protecting, for instance, a family's right to live in the same country.

Consequently Cameron can reach his arbitrary target only by drastically reducing the number of visas available to non-EU students and highly skilled workers. If this sounds like a lose-lose, it's because it is. But it gets worse. Restricting global business' ability to bring in qualified workers merely adds to growing concerns about London's suitability as a centre for European commerce. The less appealing Britain becomes as a commercial hub, the less chance there is for a speedy recovery; this in turn will result in more protracted austerity measures, all of which, together, make it less likely that Britain will remain a global player. No silver linings here.

Meanwhile, although the cap will temporarily assuage voter concerns surrounding immigration, integration, race to the bottom et al., it will make progress on none of these issues. Eastern Euro-

pean migrants will continue to flow in and fill unskilled job vacancies. These jobs were already closed to non-EU unskilled workers by the Labour government. Furthermore, the deep structural causes of working class Britons' economic malaise will remain unaddressed, as will concerns over ethnic integration. All this is to say nothing of Britain's underlying demographic trends which will render the country with a shortage of young talented workers (precisely the type this law bars entry to).

And then of course we come to the issue ostensibly dearest to our hearts: the future of Britain's education system. As is often rightly pointed out, Britain has the only university system in the world that can compete with that of the United States. A significant driver of this is its ability to attract the best and the brightest from emergent economies. Along with their talent, these students also bring economic gain in the form of fees and disposable income. Perhaps even more vital is their role in establishing the long term transnational networks that will secure Britain's place as a global hub. This is not to mention the fact that they have also long subsidised the education of Britain's own citizenry. Taking a blunt axe to this growing and lucrative sector, vital as it is to so many levels of the economy, will be pointless and self-defeating.

So, in the interests of at least having our voices heard, I think the time has come for the SU to begin a prominent discussion of how to confront this problem. My own preference is that this would not involve such counter-productive tactics as throwing foam snowballs at guest speakers and engaging in criminal damage. Perhaps we could look to the Socratic Method and the teachings of Dr. King, Gandhi and others as still somewhat relevant. Indeed, now that I think of it, the latter was a product of the British education system. Food for thought I guess. ☛

# The Beaver bears its teeth

Why this newspaper doesn't seem to represent the views of the LSESU

Jakob

Schaefer



The past weeks have seen increasing disappointment and irritation among a significant number of students with regards the coverage of Students' Union activities by The Beaver (I guess this does not extend to all Beaver contributors but is confined to some of its editors). The Beaver is perceived to be encouraging resentment towards the SU Sabbaticals and tending to give a twisted account of what is going on in the Union. This irritation, however, does not only restrict to The Beaver's reporting, but extends to seemingly innocuous actions and remarks made on campus.

It has been alleged by some that the 'Freeze the Fees' does not reflect the real issues LSE students are concerned about (e.g. Leon Fellas' comment in one of the recent issues) and that the LSESU should basically scrap the campaign. Now, there are two reasons why these claims are a little naive: first because the benchmarks the SU has at their disposal to gauge student opinion suggests the opposite, and secondly because the SU simply can't. This year the 'Freeze the Fees' motion has been the only passed motion, despite the paralysis of the UGM due to online voting in combination with a quorum of 250. This is against the backdrop of other motions being submitted that some 'Freeze

the Fees' opponents might view much to be more sensible, such as the motion 'Students Not Suspects'. An overwhelming majority of the students who voted, did so in favour of the motion (171 – 15), but it was not passed because it did not reach the quorum. Those facts can only convey one message to the SU Sabbaticals: that running the 'Freeze the Fees' campaign actually means to represent most of the students – where else shall they draw conclusions from? Regarding the second reason, this is rather a formal point: once a motion is passed it becomes LSESU policy, so it is quite meaningless to claim SU Sabbaticals weren't doing their job.

Yet, in order to meet the demands voiced that the campaign should encompass wider student opinion, the Sabbaticals hold general assemblies, every Friday in the Underground at 5pm, and anybody who wants to take part in steering this campaign has been invited to drop by.

It has been claimed that the 'Freeze the Fees' campaign has been run aggressively, with a negative rhetoric (e.g. John Collins' comment in one of the recent issues), and that the SU should try to engage in dialogue with the senior management of LSE first and foremost (e.g. The Beaver editorial from November 16). However, in contrast to Howard Davies' accusations that the SU was not entering into a 'rational dialogue' at a recent UGM, the LSE Finance Committee which reports to the LSE Council has expressed their recognition for a 6-page strong paper that was submitted by the SU to explain their stance in a 'rational' way.

That paper was written in a co-effort by a number of enthusiastic students

who turned up at the weekly assemblies and hold no position in the SU. Following papers, including the publication of the SU's stance towards the cuts on the website, have been worked on by students appearing at the said assemblies who were welcomed by the Sabbaticals to participate in SU's policy-making. Thus, claims that the SU has not entered into a 'rational' dialogue, it is felt, neglect the efforts and sacrificed study time those students dedicate to convince the School of their arguments in a moderate way.

Additionally, such claims neglect all the other activities of the SU. The Sabbaticals sit on many committees of which six are most relevant and where they participate in a 'rational' dialogue with senior management. Contending that this is not so must either derive from laziness to do proper investigation or from deliberate deceit.

On a general note, there seems to be widespread misconception of protests in our kind of society. In a recent editorial of The Beaver it was said: 'Students may do a lot of sitting around, but Houghton Street is no Tiananmen Square'. This, obviously, is the old 'Kid, finish your meal, the children in Africa are starving' argument. Is this suggesting that students should wait until living conditions are as they are in China before any measures of resistance are taken?

Ashok Kumar is one of the people at LSE I've heard the wildest and most erroneous rumours about. Just recently I overheard one student in the computer room above the Three Tuns telling another what Kumar had purportedly been doing at the protests on November 10. She

## Why don't people just go down to the Kingsley Rooms and confront them with their opinions?

wasn't meaning it because she had been told by somebody else, but it was hundred per cent untrue. It is, of course, not conducive against that background if the Democracy Committee puts up a picture of a student smashing windows while Ashok Kumar delivers his report at the UGM. UGM Chair Jack Tindale seemingly found it funny, but I was shocked. For students it may be perspicuous that our Education Officer has not been involved in smashing windows, but that may be not so clear to the police and this kind of allusions can easily lead to false suspicions and investigations.

Beyond that there appear to be certain tensions between The Beaver and Kumar.

Maybe it is because they always pick him out when somebody is held accountable for something going wrong in the campaign. The Beaver wrote: '[...] when the rest of the officers were asked for their opinion [about the SU General Secretary condemning the violence at Millbank] after a moment's pause he said, simply 'sure'. In fact, contributors of The Beaver attending the UGM had explicitly pressed Kumar to give his opinion although the UGM Chair stressed that the question had already been answered by the Sabbaticals in unison. Later in the same article The Beaver Collective Chair, Benedict Sarhangian, who is duplicitously called 'questioner', was cited as asking Kumar to respond to allegations that SU Sabbaticals had been calling opponents of the 'Freeze the Fees' campaign "Tories". The articles omits that said 'questioner' had accused Kumar of calling them by a particular British swear word. Needless to mention that Kumar did not say something like that (and that is as sure as he would not use "mate", just because he's not British).

I am thankful that The Beaver has tried to balance views in the Comment section but am suspicious as regards their impartiality in general. That might also be a consequence of the large article they dedicated to Howard Davies' thoughts on fees, cuts and the campaign in the Features section, whereas they squeezed the Sabbaticals' response into said Comment section. It does not seem like some of the editors really want to know the Sabbaticals' view on the raised issues. Why don't they just go down to the Kingsley Rooms and confront them with their opinions? ☛



# A man's worth

Perhaps more should be said about some footballers', and other people's, salaries

**Leonora Rumsey**



In a Champions League football match last week Wayne Rooney scored a goal. For the 90 minutes that he spent on pitch, Rooney simultaneously pocketed around £2,000. This is the man who has exceeded all our expectations when it comes to ridiculous football pay checks, the man whose annual income from his Manchester United contract alone reaches £13 million. The preposterousness of such an income is what initially spurred me to write this piece; however Rooney's fortune, incomprehensible it may be, lends itself to a deeper debate about the worth that our society awards to our respective careers.

Albert Einstein once concluded that "the value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive". Does Wayne Rooney give enough to merit £13 million-a year? That is something that can be extensively debated. I'll readily admit that I profess no interest in football or any other sport. However, I'm going to stick my neck out and say: absolutely not. Because what exactly does Rooney give? In this football season, two goals and counting - a recent history that is nowhere near as record-breaking as his pay check. Reflecting on

his goal against Glasgow Rangers last Wednesday, Rooney quipped, "Thankfully it went in". Thankfully indeed: Rooney needed a goal to prove his worth as footballer. It's not his fault that no matter how many goals he scores they are never going to be worth £13 million.

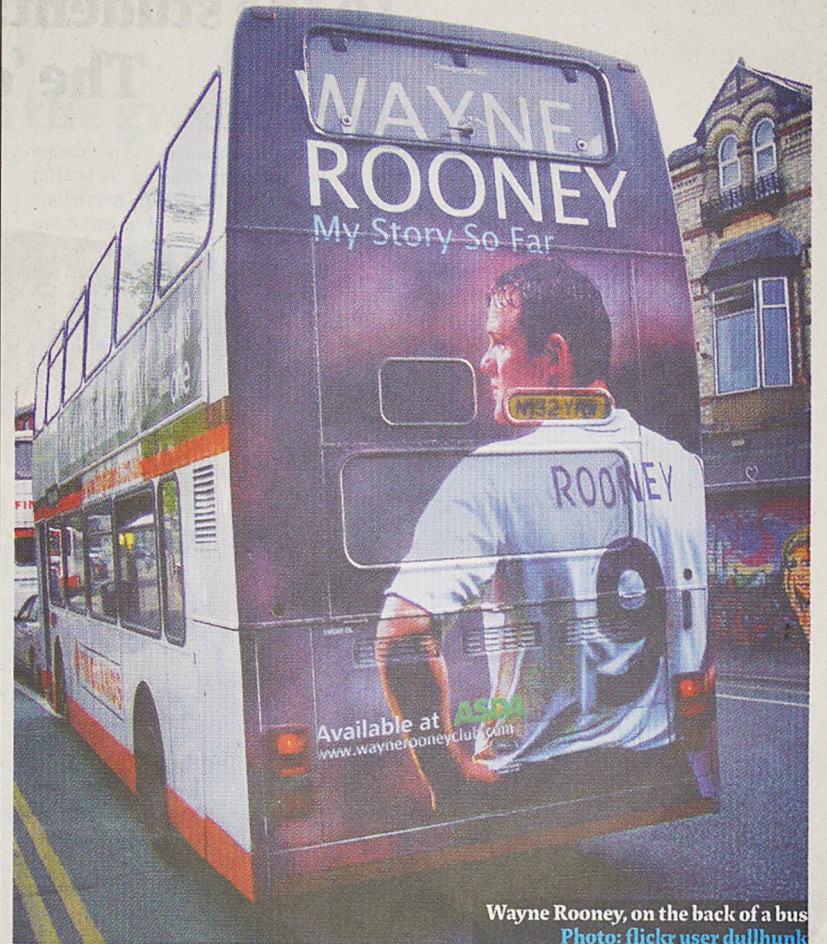
If Rooney's income is completely unwarranted, then it begs the question of what he does deserve to be paid. How do we reward monetarily people's professions; how do we value what job is worth more than any other? There are jobs that are menial that we would be unable to function as society without; rubbish collectors and toilet cleaners spring to mind. Is the necessity of these professions reflected in their pay checks? No. The prime minister of this country, who I appreciate is not a popular figure among some right now, is paid £142,500 per year, a measly amount when one considers that it is just over half Rooney's weekly £250,000. Whatever your political allegiance, it seems undoubtedly wrong that a head of state, the man most responsible for this country's wellbeing, whose career is dedicated to the governance of Britain, is paid less annually than a Premier League footballer's weekly earnings.

Reasonably, our pay checks ought to be a reflection of the qualifications that we are required to have to fulfil a job. Rooney's career requires little more in qualifications than a left and right foot. This argument would explain why historian Professor Niall Ferguson of the LSE is allegedly paid nearly £100,000. It also justifies why David Cameron ought to

be paid more than a bin man. Whilst both professions are crucially required for Britain to function, almost anyone can throw rubbish in a van, but there are few people capable of governing a country. Whether you think David Cameron is one of them is not part of this debate.

And yet this line of thought seems to justify Rooney's pay check too, because despite his recent failings, his career is an impressive one. Here one may argue a Robert Nozick-style defence of Premier League footballers' pay checks: if fans are eager to pay money to watch these matches, then surely the players are justified in reaping the monetary rewards of their sporting ability and the popularity it has garnered them.

Ultimately, the money rewarded for our professions reflects how much society values them. It's a conundrum of our social judgment that we appear to value footballers over doctors, teachers and servicemen, all of which arguably give more than they receive back. However there is no right or wrong answer to this debate; how we value things is completely subjective. As a student at the LSE, I've reluctantly learnt to accept that there are some things in life that just don't make sense, whichever way you look at them. And for me personally, awarding £13 million per year for a man to kick a ball around a football pitch is something I will never get my head around. ☹



Wayne Rooney, on the back of a bus  
Photo: flickr user dullhunk

# Letters to the Editor

**Sir** - On November 24th a mass movement of students, teachers and lecturers of all ages and social backgrounds converged in central London to demonstrate their opposition to the education reforms proposed by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government.

This demonstration expressed a frustration at the most significant attack on UK public spending in a generation, yet it should also be seen as a validation of the democratic process. Wednesday's movement shattered the myth of British voter and youth apathy, as many thousands of school children took to the streets to express their personal engagement in politics and their concerns for the future of their nation. That these young people were met with an inflexible police presence which detained them in a public space for up to nine hours is nothing short of shameful.

Media reports of the day's events have focussed heavily upon the acts of vandalism perpetrated by a small number of protestors, some of whom attacked an empty Metropolitan Police van parked in Whitehall and caused damage to two bus stops. These acts were committed by only a minority of those present, and are a reaction to an antagonistic police presence whose tactics criminalised all those in the immediate area.

The media focus upon vandalism during Wednesday's protests diverts attention away from the very real threat posed to the future wellbeing of the British people by the proposed public spending cuts. Furthermore, media coverage of vandalism detracts from the significant human rights issues raised by the detainment of large numbers of people in public areas, with limited access to toilet facilities, water, food and legal advice. On Wednesday, these practices criminalised, intimidated and demoralised thousands of entirely innocent citizens engaged in the legitimate pursuit of political protest.

The experience of being detained, cajoled and observed by riot police, photographers and helicopters is a brutalising one, which suggests an institutional lack of respect not only for the demonstrators' grievances, but also their right to articulate them. Those of us who witnessed or experienced this process can only express a profound dismay at the Metropolitan Police and government's attitude to popular political demonstration.

We wish to express the fundamental validity of the demonstrators' cause

and their right to express their concerns through street level protest. We urge all those who support this cause to continue to lend their invaluable assistance whenever and wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,  
Staff Members, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics and Political Science: **Dr Catherine Allerton; Dr Laura Bear; Dr Fenella Cannell; Professor Stephan Feuchtwang; Dr Thomas Grisaffi; Yanina Hinrichsen; Professor Deborah James, Head of Department; Dr Nicolas Martin; Professor Martha Mundy; Dr Mathijs Pelkmans; Dr Andrew Sanchez; Dr Michael W. Scott; Dr Harry Walker.** Research students, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics and Political Science: **Hakem Al-Rustom; Gustavo Barbosa; Vicky Beresford; Michael Berthin; Maxim Bolt; Dr Victoria Boydell; Thomas Boylston; Alanna Cant; Ankur Datta; Maria Efthymiou; Julieta Falavina; Elizabeth Frantz; Gus Gatmaytan; Florent Giehmann; Agnes Hann; Tom Heath; Michael Hoffmann; Anni Kajanus; Daniela Kraemer; Dina Makram-Ebeid; Aude Michelet; Zorana Milicevic; Jordan Mullard; Andrea Enrico Pia; Fernande Pool; Sitna Quiroz-Uria; Denis Regnier; Désirée Remmert; Miranda Sheild-Johansson; George St. Clair; Martyn Wemyss; Matthew Wilde.** Staff Members, Department of Philosophy, London School of Economics and Political Science: **Tomas Hinrichsen** Staff Members, Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science: **Dr Sharad Chari.** Staff Member, LSE Law: **Professor Simon Roberts.** Staff Members, Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex: **Dr Carolyn Heitmeier; Dr Mukulika Banerjee; Dr Alonso Barros.** Staff Members, School of History and Anthropology, Queen's University Belfast: **Dr Amit Desai.** Staff Members, Department of Social Anthropology University of Edinburgh: **Dr Katie Dow.** Staff Members, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, School of Oriental and African Studies: **Dr Elizabeth Hull.** Research Students, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, School of Oriental and African Studies: **Giulia Battaglia; Alice Tilche.** Research Students, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths College: **Muzna Al-Masri; Theodoros Rakopoulos; Elisabeth Saleh; Jessie Sklair; Johannes Wilm.** Research Students, Department of Anthropology,

University of Essex: **Leonidas Karakatsanis.** Research Students, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge: **Lois Lee**

**Sir** - The Hot Boys would like to sincerely apologise for the misogynistic and distasteful views aired on the Liam, Chris & Henry show. We, Henry Adefope and Liam Goy, concede that we took things too far, albeit in a light-hearted manner. A show that was characterised by humour; incurring loyal listeners throughout its short tenure as a result of its slapstick element, never meant to bring offence to anyone and made this clear during the duration of each show. We now hope this matter can be finally drawn to an end after being dragged on for weeks amid bizarre media sensationalisation. We also hope that the personal and vindictive attacks by members of the Athletic Union who took offence to the show may finally come to halt.

Yours sincerely,  
**Henry Adefope**

**Sir** - I thought your article on Professor Ferguson was excellent.

I would like to make a few observations which are relevant to your piece in The Beaver today.

When I came to LSE some time ago it was a different place in many ways. Do not get the idea that I glorify the past. I lot about the School is better today, and as I say, much is different. In the "old days" we had one kind of academic staff, different grades, of course, and they did not matter that much. All academics were members of the Academic Board. The Board was supreme, and all at the Board, lecturer or professor, were equal in an important sense. All teachers were expected to do teaching, research and administration. We had many visitors to the School, but no paid visitors. It was felt that there was no need to bring super stars to LSE in order to beef up or enliven the intellectual environment. The regular staff were more than capable of that, or else they should not be here.

Gradually this changed, and under Tony Giddens there was a major change. New categories of teachers were established, such as School Professors with little if any teaching responsibility and no administrative responsibility. It was widely proclaimed that we needed to bring in super stars to beef up our profile.

People like Ulrich Beck and Bruno Latour were given special status and were held up as models of intellectual achievement.

In my view, this particular change from the past is a big mistake. Of course we have always benefitted greatly from visitors. One of the reasons that LSE resisted pressure to move to other locations, such as Croydon, was that such a move would reduce the flow of really exciting visitors. They came because they wanted to be here, and to go to the theatre. If they were on leave from their home university, the home university paid. Of course we benefitted from many such visitors, and so did they benefit from the environment here. That was why they came.

The current fad of thinking that certain imported scholars are so much better than what we have here is total folly. Obviously there are great academic figures at other institutions. Paul Samuelson and Robert Solow, among many others, made sustained visits to LSE under their own steam. If we have resources to pay visitors, they should be normal teaching replacements. Visitors intended to dress up the place are not needed.

I admire the calm restraint of your piece in The Beaver, and fear that the Ferguson case is not an isolated example. We have a very strong staff at LSE, for the most part, and where there are weaknesses, and we have the money, it should be used to attract potential tenure track staff or higher up permanent members of departments. Swanning around does not do the job.

Of course, the line gets blurred when it comes to visitors to Centres. In my view, they should be confined, when it comes to pay, to people manning up or bringing research grants. If the work in a Centre is not interesting enough to attract top visiting, but not full-time research, scholars without paying them, we should be asking if that Centre really should be at LSE.

All the best,  
**Max Steuer,** Reader Emeritus in the Economics Department, LSE

**Sir** - We need unity to defend education and break the Con Dems' attacks. Stand with protesters against victimisation.

- Stand with the protesters against victimisation
- Hands off our students, our colleges and our universities
- Broken windows cannot compare to the broken hearts and dreams of a genera-

tion denied education and jobs

Wednesday's 10th November national NUS/UCU 50,000 strong national demonstration was a magnificent show of strength against the Con Dems' savage attacks on education. The Tories want to make swingeing cuts, introduce £9,000 tuition fees and cut EMA. These attacks will close the doors to higher education and further education for a generation of young people.

During the demonstration over 5,000 students showed their determination to defend the future of education by occupying the Conservative Party HQ and its courtyards for several hours. The mood was good-spirited, with chants, singing and flares.

Yet at least 32 people have now been arrested, and the police and media appear to be launching a witch-hunt condemning peaceful protesters as "criminals" and violent. A great deal is being made of a few windows smashed during the protest, but the real vandals are those waging a war on our education system.

We reject any attempt to characterise the Millbank protest as small, "extremist" or unrepresentative of our movement. We celebrate the fact that thousands of students were willing to send a message to the Tories that we will fight to win. Occupations are a long established tradition in the student movement that should be defended. It is this kind of action in France and Greece that has been an inspiration many workers and students in Britain faced with such a huge assault on jobs, housing and the public sector.

We stand with the protesters, and anyone who is victimised as a result of the protest.

**Ashok Kumar,** Education Officer, LSE Students' Union; **Isla Woodcock,** Feminist Society President; **Emma Clewer,** Socialist Worker Students' Society President; **Dr Milke Cushman,** LSE UCU President; **Professor Richard Sennett,** LSE Sociology Department; **Dr Clare Hemmings,** Director of Gender Institute LSE; **Professor Paul Gilroy,** LSE Sociology Department; **Professor Judy Wajcman,** Director of Sociology Department; **LSE; Professor Conor Gearty,** LSE Law Department; **Professor Mary Evans,** LSE Gender Institute; **Dr Tania Burchardt,** CASE LSE; **Professor Diane Perrons,** LSE Gender Institute; **Dr Suki Ali,** LSE Sociology Department; **Jennifer Izaakson-Jones,** President, LSE Unite Against Fascism



# Photo

30 November 2010 | The Beaver

Photos by Jaynesh Patel and Rosie Coleman

To the students of the United Kingdom I give:  
The 'oxygen of publicity'.  
Cheers, Gove.



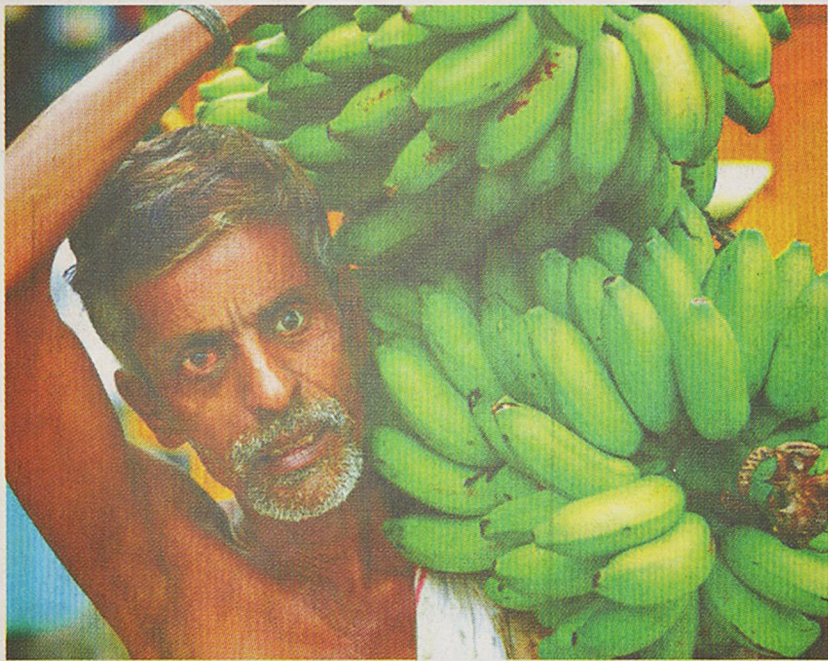
Want to join our photography team?  
Contact us at  
[photography@thebeaveronline.co.uk](mailto:photography@thebeaveronline.co.uk)



# Social

## Green Bananas

**Kieran Nelson** discusses her disillusionment with the green movement



It all started in 2006. I saw *An Inconvenient Truth* at my university cinema. It was arresting, urgent, and eloquent. At long last, someone was finally putting voice to the issue. We were destroying the ecosystem of planet earth, and this could not continue.

The initial rush was tremendous. It hit the newspapers, the airwaves, and the internet. Friends of mine created green websites without any clear reason d'être, just to join the rising sentiment. I did all I could to verbally fight the climate scepticism I was hearing, until I realised, to my joy, that the green movement was being slandered... because it was winning. For the first time in my memory, it was becoming politically possible to fix humankind's most immediate and desperate problem.

But even then the malaise had already begun. Greenwashing was rampant. BP changed its name to Beyond Petroleum,

and adopted a green and yellow flower symbol. Green-coloured websites sprang up selling personal carbon offsets... the purchase of carbon credits on a trading system which, I noted, India and China had not signed onto. And then, in my home of British Columbia, Canada, our provincial government handed us each a \$98 tax credit, to spend as we saw fit on climate action.

Like everyone else, I spent mine on rent.

My faith in the green movement cracked the day I saw that cheque. I had never before had my intelligence so directly insulted by my own government. They were handing our own money back to us, rather than using it to fund green energy projects. And what politician was going to make themselves unpopular by suggesting that this 'free' \$98 should now be taken away?

And yet, despite the Pandora's Box

of nonsense that was exploding across Western society, the green movement rose to new heights. The year 2007 roared; the American housing crunch came in the summer, but it was too far away to affect our lives. The price of gas rose, and the era of the giant car was finally over.

Then it came.

When the word 'crisis' began to inundate the news, we learned in short order how much we cared about the planet's ecology. Our governments had spent loose change on the green movement; now they were spending vast sums to save the banks from collapse. As savings dwindled, we as a society learned very quickly that the most important thing that occupies our minds is economic production.

The green movement was set back a decade.

Something became clear to me then. It was that, for all the noise being made about it, nobody had a single idea of what would actually be required to fix the planet's climate problem. I heard of carbon trading schemes, Danish wind-mills, compressed-air cars, and weather-proofing. I heard of recyclable mesh bags replacing plastic ones at the supermarket. What I did not hear was anyone take on the profound conceptual contradiction in all of this: that our industrial society, the very miracle that has given our people unprecedented living standards, health, and longevity, was the engine of our planet's destruction. That to avoid apocalypse, we had to convert every part of our industrial society to run on sustainable energy.

This would require nothing less than a fundamental change in the way our citizens lived their individual lives. As of yet, there still is no solution.

I really began to see the limits of the green movement when I travelled the world. I found cars belching leaded emissions in Cuba, and garbage littering the streets of Cairo. Across the Trans-Siberian, from Poland to Belarus, Russia, and Mongolia, I found the same identical Soviet block of flats: with a central boiler

which burned furiously all winter long, forcing everyone to open their windows to cool down. You think they have recycling programs in Minsk? Think again.

In 2009 I arrived in the UK to study at the LSE. On one of my first nights out, I finished a brew from an offsales store and tried to do the dutiful thing.

"Could you please stick this in the recycling?"

"Um... we don't have recycling."

"This is a pub."

"Yes."

"But you don't recycle your beer bottles?"

"No. It's bad. But we don't."

It was then that I learned that the 'recycling belt' consisted of a very small strip of land down the western coast of North America. And of course, on the LSE campus. But take a few steps off Houghton Street and your bottle will go to a landfill.

Posters in LSE residences asked students to put on extra layers while in their rooms, and to disconnect the heaters during winter. There were signs asking us to put the lids on pots when we boil them, and to turn off our lights when not in our rooms. But we just didn't care. And why should we? Anyone could see that these measures were insignificant compared to an industrial system the size of planet earth. Without a single government programme in place to prevent people from wasting energy, why would my personal contribution make the slightest difference?

I watched the Copenhagen conference come and go. No world leader spent more than 24 hours at the summit itself. China and the USA would never come to an agreement, and the problem of climate change in the developing world was solved by throwing cash at it. The new year came, and mediocrity continued.

After graduating in 2010, I went home to Vancouver to three surprises. The first was a \$98 Climate Action Tax Credit cheque, which I used to help pay off student debt. The second was a new concept

known as the '100 mile diet' which we were all supposed to embrace to cut down on food transport. And third, our local power company was running righteous advertisements asking us not to keep the lights on when we left the house.

Despair set in. I knew precisely what would happen if the ludicrous '100 mile diet' was applied. Agricultural commerce would cease, and the crops of California and the prairies would rot in the fields. Famine would return to the developing world. Major cities like London would be starved out of existence. Our diets would revert to the nutrition levels of the 1500s, and my poor gluten-free father would never eat another scoopful of rice in his life.

The 'powersmart' advertisements make my skin crawl whenever I see them. It's 2010, and I am still being asked politely to 'take that extra minute out of my day' to stop destroying the biosphere that 6.5 billion people need to exist. We could reduce energy consumption by a third by weather-proofing the world's houses. I have seen 'free' \$98 cheques, but I have never seen so much governmental organisation as to send people over to my house with a caulking gun. If Vancouver, the northern capital of the recycling belt, cannot even organise a community programme to retrofit our buildings, what do you think is happening in Soviet-built flats from Poland to Mongolia?

The malaise continues. Today, I will use the Vancouver transport system and see the righteous adverts again. Most LSE students will walk into their residences and see signs asking them to wear their winter clothes inside and put lids on their pots. Saturday, I will fly to Cancún to see a climate conference which not a single world leader will attend.

On the surface, it appears that the green movement has already rotted and withered. But on the contrary, I think it was just never really ripe in the first place.

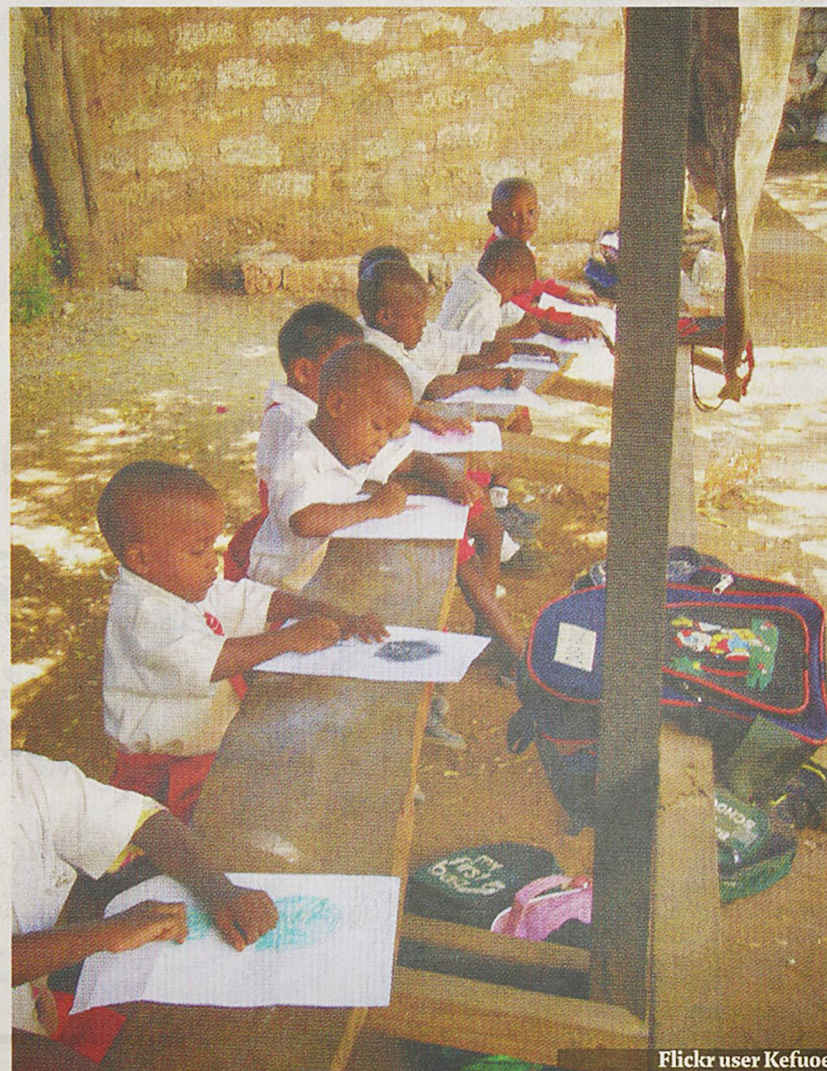
## An opportunity with Aiducation

**Tara Lee** talks to Beth about volunteering with Aiducation

Looking back over the last few weeks of demonstrations and protests against the government's plans to cut funding to our university finances, it's easy to forget how lucky and privileged we are to have access to so many education opportunities. Many young people worldwide are not so lucky, and even raising money for basic education can be a struggle – if not completely impossible.

So Bethany Ridgewell, Beth as she calls herself, leans forward in her seat in the Garrick eager to share information about Aiducation, a non-profit organisation in Kenya which aims to tackle the issue of access to education. In 2006 Jeremiah Kiponda Kambi set up Aiducation as a response to the harsh reality that secondary school fees in Kenya were simply too high for a large proportion of the population, and bright students have no choice but to give up on their education. Jeremiah took on this problem, and together with two friends, he set up Aiducation International, a 100% non-profit organisation that organises scholarships for bright and talented young students in Kenya to go to secondary school.

In Kenya, primary school is publicly funded, and the Kenyan state awards financial aid to the best 10 per cent of secondary-school graduates for university fees. However, there is currently no funding for secondary school in Kenya, which is why Aiducation International has stepped in. Scholarships are raised from individual Aidumakers, currently from Switzerland, Germany and the UK, who select the high-potential student they wish to sponsor. These students are selected from the top 10 per cent of their year, with an in-depth selection process



Flickr user Kefuoe

to ensure that the brightest and most deserving students are awarded scholarships. The Aidumaker receives progress reports on their scholar, and can therefore see how their money has directly changed a young person's life. So far 200 scholarships have been raised, with the first scholars set to graduate in 2011.

A first year undergraduate student at the LSE, Beth was surprised that, though there were plenty of applicants from other universities, she turned out to be the only student from the LSE to apply for a Public Relations position at Aiducation. Thrilled to have been offered the post, she is now keen to spread awareness about the organization on campus. More than that she, and the organization itself, are keen to get more LSE students on board.

"It's a surprisingly great way to network," says Beth, with a somewhat cynical perspective on the interests of the average LSE student. "We are a charity made up of professional volunteers, so networking with experts in PR and the Banking industry is completely possible."

Then, with a twist of her mouth, she flashes a smile and says "I love my work with Aiducation. The work we do is exciting and meaningful; drafting press releases, planning social events, pitching our work to many different clubs and companies in the city! Working for such a brilliant charity is never dull and the cause is hugely rewarding."

She rifles through the stack of papers in front of her and points to a profile of an Aiducation scholar; Obrein Telly, a 17 year old boy from Gede, Kenya who wants to become a neurosurgeon and open hospitals and care centres for people suffering from mental disabilities.

An inspirational quotation near the

bottom of the page is revealing of the impact Aiducation is making; "I want to achieve what most Kenyans are dreaming of."

The charity is relevant to the LSE in more ways than one; Jeremie Guillaume, CEO of the London branch of Aiducation International believes that LSE students are ideally located to help raise scholarships and spread word of Aiducation amongst the financial industry. A former LSE student himself, Jeremie did his MSc in Management at the university before he went on to join the charity. "We're really keen to have more LSE students involved in Aiducation. Fundraising is what is most crucial at the moment. LSE students can play an important part in this regard by creating fundraising teams with a target of one scholarship per team, or by 'pitching' Aiducation in Service Club meetings"

If you would like to find out more about Aiducation International and the work they do, you can visit their website at [www.aiducation.org](http://www.aiducation.org)

If you would like to volunteer for Aiducation International in any role, or believe you can help in any way, please contact Bethany Ridgewell at [b.ridgewell@lse.ac.uk](mailto:b.ridgewell@lse.ac.uk)



# LSE Diary

## Marion Koob is a semi-tourist in Lyon

In the winter months when the temperature falls below freezing and all hope dies with the sun at 4pm, I like to think of warmer places.

I spent most of last summer in London, grey and overcrowded, commuting back and forth between Russell Square and the lovely neighbourhood of Chiswick. The tube makes me aggressive. The thought of losing two hours a day, numbly packed into a train, drove me mad. So I endeavoured to always, at all costs, have a book with me - the more arcane the better, in order to make myself feel productive.

Try reading the Anarchical Society by Hedley Bull in that context, and you'll undoubtedly feel proud of yourself. By the end of it, I was happy to leave the city for a few weeks and head to France, where my extended family (by which I mean any relatives who are not my parents and siblings) live. The Saturday after my last day of work I headed to Lyon, experiencing the joys of Stansted airport for the first time. Unbeknownst to me, passing through security is just the first step to attaining the boarding gate, which I reached considerably reddened, after a series of travails in theme-park like shuttle-trains and endless Orwellian elevators.

Yet I arrived, and despite it being early September, I recognized that I was finally in a place where the summer makes itself felt. To my London-weary eyes, the vegetation looked nearly tropical; the yellowed extending fields surrounding the airport, reminding me of North African scenery. My grand-parents who had been kind enough to pick me up from the heart-warming EasyJet Terminal, commented that my uncle was taking pictures at a wedding in a village nearby. In perfect logical conclusion, we headed in that direction.

Our entrance had a well-scripted qual-

ity, despite my protests that crashing someone else's 'best day of their life' was at best awkward, for we arrived just at the moment the bride was stepping out of the church, surrounded by a rather tame audience. (In other words there was no howling of congratulations or suggestive jokes, no bombarding of rice or confetti onto the bride and groom, all of which I had come to consider as good manners.) After saying a quick hello to said Uncle, we headed home.

Driving around Lyon's surroundings provides you with two key facts about the city; its economy is doubly industrial and agricultural. You are bound to either cross wide expanses of fields, or industrial plants of an indefinite nature. Regularly visiting family in Lyon has made me a semi-tourist of sorts - that is to say I am mostly deprived of any interesting cultural information whatsoever, but still flatter myself to have a decent sense of the city layout and atmosphere.

In that capacity, I would argue that the most striking element of the city are its set of banks. Two rivers cross through Lyon, the Rhone and the Saone, which provide beautiful cross-river perspectives, complete with majestic bridges. Pale yellow houses line the streets which run parallel to the two fleuves. Next, place des Terraux beholds the impressive mairie and the Lyon Museum of Fine Arts, which hides a ravishing inner courtyard. The latter combines the function of art gallery and ancient history museum, both branches of which are worth a stroll. From the perspective of a pretentious, metropolis-dweller (which I too often have) the displays are impressive given Lyon's relative geographic location.

The Lyonnais are also insanely proud of their football team. After ranking first for seven years in a row in the national championships, the team has over the past

two years thrown the city's inhabitants in thrusters of despair. The stakes aren't necessarily solely about winning; the rivalry between cities is such that many a patronising comment can be made within polite conversation about the fallacies of your interlocutor's favoured group. Wearing an 'Olympique Lyonnais' football scarf outside of the city can at times provoke unwarranted comments. Lyon's best-hated competitor naturally resides in the nearby city of St Etienne, but the general mood is also averse to Marseilles generally (of whom it is said that their ego has never recovered from winning the Champions League in 1993), and the Paris St Germain, a team which has usually been dire and whose supporters have the reputation of being violent. The Gerland Stadium is a necessary insight into Lyon's way of life.

My week also took me to the giant complex of La Part Dieu. The place is a mall, flanked by the city's main train station and overlooked by a tower in the shape of a pencil, which is markedly the largest building in the city. While this is usually the teenager's haunt (cue grumble of French elders about the consumerism of the young), children are usually headed to the magnificent Parc de la Tête D'or - where one might certainly glimpse a series of exotic animals, but also a show of Guignol, a local celebrity all of its own. The puppet, whose history goes back to the early 1800s, usually occupies himself by defending the helpless and stumbling into situations of comic misunderstandings. A personal hero of my early years, it is him, more than anything else which to me represents Lyon's defiant yet good-hearted nature.



# Of missed deadlines

## Nathan Briant on his last term as an editor

Firstly, I don't want to let the cat fully out of the bag, but I'm meant to have written a piece about something that I've not done during my time at LSE for Mehek for several weeks, but, sadly, I have let her down once again. So an article - not about my legendary sexual prowess which exploded at the age of 16 and then took early retirement when I packed my bags and headed south to London two years later (and that's not going to be written because that would be totally untrue) - will be written for next week's issue, but for this week I'm going to write something simply so as not to let Mehek down. But God knows, I know how it feels.

Because, as I stand down at the end of this term as Comment Editor - or potentially before or after that, I've never quite understood Beaver protocol - I've learnt quite a lot about myself and also how people are generally; or perhaps more accurately about what people are like writing on a student newspaper in the middle of London in 2010.

Generally, people aren't always that reliable - some people will never care to tell you about their not being able to send you that article that they promised to you five days before. That said, I'm doing exactly the same now. As I write this on Saturday night in the pre-Match of the Day, post-X Factor lull, I've still yet to submit either of a News article and this article, in spite of the fact that the paper will be put together in just over 12 hours' time.

So in that sense I'm a hypocrite. From starting as Comment Editor in January, I think I've set deadlines - deadlines which have rarely ever been kept - which, now I think about it, were probably a bit stringent. Sorry about that, all. But, if you're reading this and you've written for Comment within the deadline, week after week, thanks so much: a kiss or a drink - or both - is probably in order.

I'd like to just say that I have greatly enjoyed my time as an editor - and the space that people have given me in the

office, both when I've been there for no reason or when I was supposed to be working, which usually resulted, at least until the last few weeks, in a video of The Office being turned on and disturbing everyone. No, actually, I did that last night. Still, apologies all - I hope I haven't made too much noise. That probably applies to the people down the corridor as well.

**As I stand down at the end of the term as Comment Editor...I've learnt quite a lot about myself**

Anyway, to all those to whom much of the above is a complete irrelevance, either if you're wondering who I am or what I did, I didn't do much. The paper would be nothing without the contributions of the students who write for it, without fail, week after week. Not the Editorial Board: we just fiddle with InDesign and Photoshop for hours on end.

To those who want to take over from me: you're making a good decision to stand, and you won't regret it should you

win. The laughs and the experience will override any trouble you may unwittingly drive the section into. You will have some tough weeks - when you're tired, or when content's really thin on the ground, or when there's too much content and you have to disappoint some people, or when you've unwittingly upset someone - but you'll learn quickly as you go on.

Also, don't assume a high standard of the content you're going to receive. Some of the prose in this newspaper will have been heavily edited; it's staggering to find that some people, lots with English as their first language, are seemingly unable to write or spell properly, despite surely passing A-Levels with flying colours. Likewise, you will receive articles that are truly first-class.

And forget utilising Sundays for anything useful - other than the Beaver, obviously. You will be in the Beaver office/hovel for hours and hours and hours. Don't resent that you're giving up a substantial amount of time, or you'll quickly hate it.

The only good things to come out of my giving up my editorial role, on a personal level, will be that my academic progress and time spent on my work will probably soar - I've been kind of neglecting my work on a Sunday for a year now - and after Christmas I can pop across to Hampstead Heath on a Sunday. That's it, really. I'm losing far, far more than I actually gain: friends on Ed Board will be regularly seen, but missed on a Thursday; strangers won't laugh at my jokes if I'm telling them while I walk up Parliament Hill, and my degree's probably a lost cause anyway, in all fairness. But it's someone else's time now.

That's about it, really. If you ever need any help, get in touch. I'm sure you won't need it. Good luck.

So, that's my whimsical piece of the year done. Wait until next week for another instalment for something I should've written weeks ago. How for now...

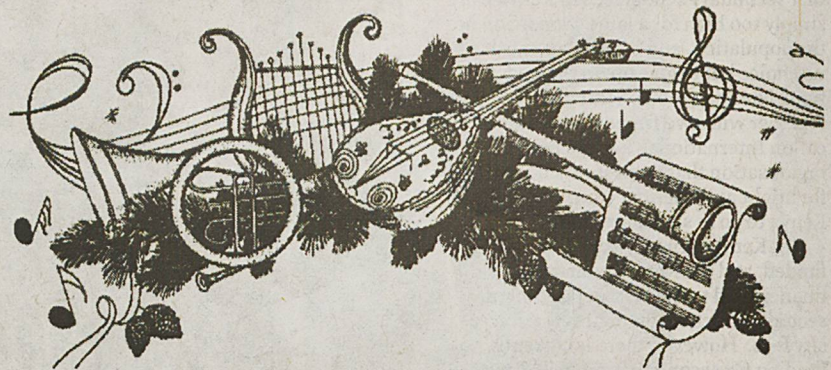
## MUSIC SOCIETY

### CONCERT

Come in for an evening of light music

WHEN: 2 DEC, 2010, 7:30PM

WHERE: SHAW LIBRARY







# PART B

It was a focal point of the general election.  
Laura Fairrie filmed it all, in the **Battle for Barking**.  
And we've interviewed her.

**Private B**

Yes, it's here  
to stay

**Film**

It's in here  
Somewhere

**Television**

Inbetweeners:  
a defence



# Shoe-la-la!

All Alice Leah Fyfe wants for Christmas is shoes

I think we all understand the fetish we seem to have with shoes. No matter how much ice cream you've eaten or how the rain has frizzed your hair, your feet are a constant which, come rain or shine, will be guaranteed to fit into any of your favourite or comfy shoes. It is a well known fact that the shoes you wear complete your outfit and set the "key", so to speak, to your look. And I'm sure we've all taken a change of shoes with us in the daytime, so we can go out somewhere dancing later. A pair of patent loafers or killer heels will be sure to transform whatever you're wearing from work to play-worthy in no time. Personally, I don't wear heels that much, unless on very special occasions. I guess I'm a bit lazy and value comfort. But style never has to be compromised. Of course, the wonderful brogue is still going as strong as ever; this season in gorgeous suedes and velvets and in ankle boot styles. Close by, we also have loafers and slippers which provide elegant comfort in a range of styles for most occasions. Last month, my friend told me about this shop.



**Kate Kanzier** is perhaps not a brand you will have heard of; those who have will know that it's a secret worth telling. The brand started in 2001 and the

store opened two years later. I first heard of Kanzier through a friend who had been vehemently told to visit the shop by her sister. So we went, on a whim, to the store in Leather Lane, about 15 minutes walk from LSE. The approach to the shop was not what I was expecting; old newsagents and greengrocers line the street and there's a daily market, selling everything from books and bags to jewellery and utensils. But Google Maps assured us we were in the right place and sure enough, in between two very tired looking shop fronts was the jewel in Leather Lane's crown; a glossy black glass façade, behind which we hoped would be the treasure trove so ardently recommended to us.

And indeed, we opened the door to find an immaculate, lacquered shop lined wall to wall, floor to ceiling with shoes. The perfect environment for shoe shopping: luxurious velvet chairs and benches, and massive gilt mirrors. I was looking for some loafers at the time and managed to decide on a pair of Dorothy-esque ruby patent ones. But the choice was massive: tan, brown, black, navy patent, black patent - I could have bought them all! Then there were brogues: lace-ups, slip-ons, boots, heeled, suede, leather. Well, I say leather. Kanzier's creations, while very stylish and on trend come with an unusually low price tag for what seems like a boutique store. Pumps start at £20 while loafers and brogues are around the £35, £40 mark. Which is pretty reasonable I reckon. But there is one catch. The shoes are not leather. Surely no better than Primark, I

hear you say? But they are leather-lined, no horrible clammy feet or sticky blisters, but a sure way to provide amazing value on trend shoes. They're also super comfy and, while the more sturdy models from Russell & Bromley or even Topshop will last you a lot longer, Kanzier provides a bit of one-season fun; the ability to dip into a style for a short amount of time and play around. Like dressing up. I wish there were more independent stores exactly like this, providing a shopping experience parallel to some of Sloane Street's best. It really was like walking into Narnia through the wardrobe door. I think I'll be returning very soon to pick up another pair. Of course, Kanzier also sells heels, classic 50s style court shoes in numerous colours and designs and chunky-heeled brogues which go wonderfully with knitted tights and skater dresses. They're a little more pricey, about £55, but still excellent value for a pair of unique shoes which you won't find on the high street. You just have to go and see for yourself. Don't be surprised if you walk out with more than a couple of boxes though!



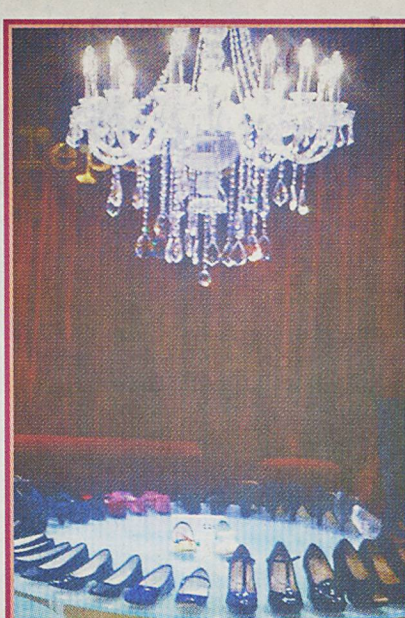
**Brogues and Loafers from £35. Kate Kanzier, Leather Lane, EC1N 7TJ www.katekanzier.com**

Every season, I'm sure heels get more and more daring; some now look like weapons of torture, others like small works of architecture. But we love them even more because of it. And I'm definitely going to be the old woman to say that you should look after your feet and wear "sensible shoes" whatever you can subject your feet to, do it! You will only be young and daring once. I will say though, that there is nothing worse than ill-fitting heels, or a poor soul who simply cannot walk in their shoes. So please, please make sure try them on properly; parade up and down the shop like a silly person, it will save a lot of anguish later on. But it's not enough to just be high; more emphasis is being placed on the heel itself, miraculous pieces of structural engineering. From the highest street, platforms and wedges are the place to be, and anything in between (see Amanda's All Saints Wedges on the right) here are some show stoppers.



**Office £88**

**Urban Outfitters £110**

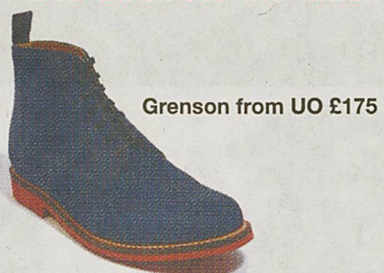


**Annika Ranga went to Selfridges' Spectacular Shoe Gallery**

With a whole new department dedicated to shoes, supposedly bigger than the Tate Modern's Turbine gallery, it's a wonder that Selfridges hasn't needed to expand its own building. It is the world's biggest Shoe Gallery and houses six unique galleries and eleven beautiful boutiques, filled with the world's most iconic designer brands. The Shoe Gallery sells over 7,000 shoes a week. It is designed in such a way that the border of the gallery contains what is known as 'apartments' for the luxury designer brands, such as Louboutin, Jimmy Choo, Chanel, Dior, Gucci, Prada and more. Each brand is given full creative direction on the design of their apartment; Tod's shoes will be in a Milanese-style loft while Repetto's resembles a ballet studio. The latter have even exclusively designed shoes just for the Selfridges collection. The rest of the gallery has high street brands such as Topshop, Office, Dune, KG by Kurt Geiger, who each have their own sections too. It's shoe heaven not just for girls but for guys too. Before you walk into the gallery you are greeted by a 7-foot silver stiletto, just a tease as to what is yet to come. As you walk in, you're filled with awe and a sudden urge to spend some money. As all of the latest shoes are showcased in front of you,

beginning with the high street brands and whether it be stilettos, flats, boots, UGs, the Shoe Gallery has every type you could ever want and all housed under one roof. Your shoe journey is not over, however, and continues, slowly taking you to the apartments - the couture designer gallery, where you are tempted by all shoes expensive but elegant. Since the gallery's opening, Selfridges has experienced a 44 per cent rise in shoe sales. With 55,000 shoes in stock at any one time and 4,000 shoes on display from over 150 brands, the Shoe Gallery is sure to change the way you shop. It has 35,000 square feet of shoe space. It's a shoe department you could never have dreamed of existing until now. So be prepared to do some damage on those credit cards and spend those student loans on what is sure to be a good investment and give you an even better return - leaving your feet accessorised and happy with fashionable shoes. Selfridges has enabled shoes to enjoy a new renaissance and you're sure not to leave it empty handed: if you do so, that's quite an achievement. So, like true fashionistas, let temptation lead the way and embrace the shoes. Move over diamonds, shoes are a girl's new best friend.

## and three for the lads...



**Grenson from UO £175**



**ASOS Dress Slippers £40**



**Ask the Missus Boots £56.99**



**Topshop £65**



**Maaike Mossel & Yan Giet** scout Houghton Street's best dressed

**Amanda Sun, 1st year Law student (right)** Vice-president of the Fashion Society

struts on Fashion Cloud 9 with these black velvety wooden wedges that can only be described as deliciously impractical! Spotted at LSE's 'How I made it in Fashion' event, she describes All Saints as the ultimate brand she swears by.



**Elisabeth, Masters public policy and administration (right)** The shoes, which Elisabeth bought at Church's, are her way of brightening up her outfit. As she is quite tall, it is hard for her to wear heeled shoes without towering over everyone, but she still wanted to have "special shoes". Calling her style "classic with a twist" she does not favour overly colourful clothes and prefers "structured clothes that stand out in their simplicity". Zara and French Connection's classic styles will usually find a place in her wardrobe, coupled with some designer items. I especially like the combination of the shoes with the socks: definitely a nice twist!



**Bart, Postgraduate in Politics and French (left)** Tailor-made, velvet purple brogues with acid blue laces; would surely be the recipe for shoe ecstasy, if ever there was one?! The mere mention of 'men's purple brogues' is usually enough to send any shoe fanatic into a state of frenzy, yet Bart manages to put it off quite effortlessly. Sadly, you will have to hop onto the next Eurostar to Marras, Paris if you want to bag the exact same pair!



# Defending The Inbetweeners

Rish Gudka on minge mobiles and bus wankers

Crude, vulgar and offensive are just a few of the words that have been used in the last two years to describe the hit E4 comedy, **The Inbetweeners**. The reality is that despite the abundance of criticism, the show has turned out to be one of the most creative British productions in years, bringing in almost 4 million viewers for its recent finale. But although the show itself has ended, this array of media disapproval has raised the question; where do you draw the line? It is evident that over the years, the boundary of what has become acceptable to broadcast on television has been pushed further and further. Surely there must be a moral limit.

The Inbetweeners has been described as a "painfully accurate portrayal of male adolescence". This may be true to some extent but speaking from a personal experience, the extent to which so-called profanities are used by the characters is certainly unrepresentative of today's youth. One may argue that they have added these for comic effect which has in turn been successful, with the show recently winning the Rose d'Or for best situational comedy. In fact it is certainly plausible that the show, despite the issue of obscene material, is so successful because it is has elements to which all audience members can relate. Whether it's Will learning to adjust in his new school or Simon hopelessly chasing after girls, everyone can find some aspect of the show with which we can identify. At the end of day, some may be offended by the sheer audacity of the show with its sexist and derogatory content but the vast majority seem to be impressed. The critics are definitely in the minority in this case, and although they raise a valid

point, the standards to which modern television shows are based upon, are in fact being adhered to.

The broader issue of inappropriate content on television is a key issue especially with the expansion of television broadcasting on the internet, making it more readily available. Especially in regard to how easily it can be accessed by children, it is important how such shows can have detrimental effects on society. A re-

## Fans will not be happy if the producers rein in the vulgar but hilarious content

cent report by the BBC found that 67 per cent of parents of teenagers thought that unsuitable content was broadcast before the 9pm watershed. Consequently, we have to question whether society has become too accepting of shows such as the Inbetweeners, which are clearly intended for adults rather than teenagers such as those portrayed in the show.

The harsh reality is, television channels are simply responding to the demand of their viewers. People want to see content displaying promiscuity and explicit language. People are drawn to this form of entertainment in which has led to all of us being completely desensitised to profanity, sexual content and ill humour. Not that this is a bad thing, but

it does beg the question, where does it stop? If television comedies continue to progress in this manner, what does the future hold? Will it reach a point where young children are saturated in vulgarity the moment they turn on their televisions and will we have a generation of swearing toddlers? Hopefully, this won't be the case and the broadcasters will eventually find some boundaries in regard to what is shown on television.

At the end of day, it is certain that we are entering a new era in which information is readily available to all. Despite shows such as shows such as the Inbetweeners being perceived as obscene, they do serve an entertainment purpose. The show itself transforms real life situations for teenagers and adolescence into humorous programming. Even those who should really be offended (a long list comprising of disabled individuals, women, bus users...) appreciate the well written humour. This isn't the case for all comedy shows but it is certain that all offensive elements are added for sheer comedic purpose. The key issue lies with the fact that under-aged children are exposed to such content and that is why shows receive such harsh criticism.

What parent wants their child listening to obscenities such as 'minge mobile', 'briefcase mong' and 'bus wanker'? It is more than understandable why such shows are disturbing for parents to watch but for sheer entertainment purposes - it's difficult to beat at the moment. I, for one, am looking forward to the planned Inbetweeners film, and as far as I am concerned, myself and many other fans will be disappointed if the producers bow to pressure to rein in the vulgar but hilarious content.



The comedy of **The Inbetweeners**: stuck in the middle!

## Simon Chaudhuri's TV tips for the week

**The Morgana Show** Channel 4, Tuesdays, at 22:35

A new sketch show on Channel 4 starring a relatively unknown comedienne and impressionist, Morgana Robinson. Robinson's unfortunate targets include Cheryl Cole (the kid sister), Fearnie Cotton (the daredevil) and Boris Johnson (the bumbling 12-year-old public schoolboy). And yes, that last one does seem rather close to reality.

**Misfits** E4, Thursdays, at 22:00

The second season of E4's BAFTA award-winning series continues. The show takes the comic book theme of superheroes and applies it liberally to the ASBO-earning, happy-slapping British

youth. This week Alisha is mugged while walking through the estate and Kelly makes a visit to the tattoo artist. Previous episodes of the second season are available on 4oD.

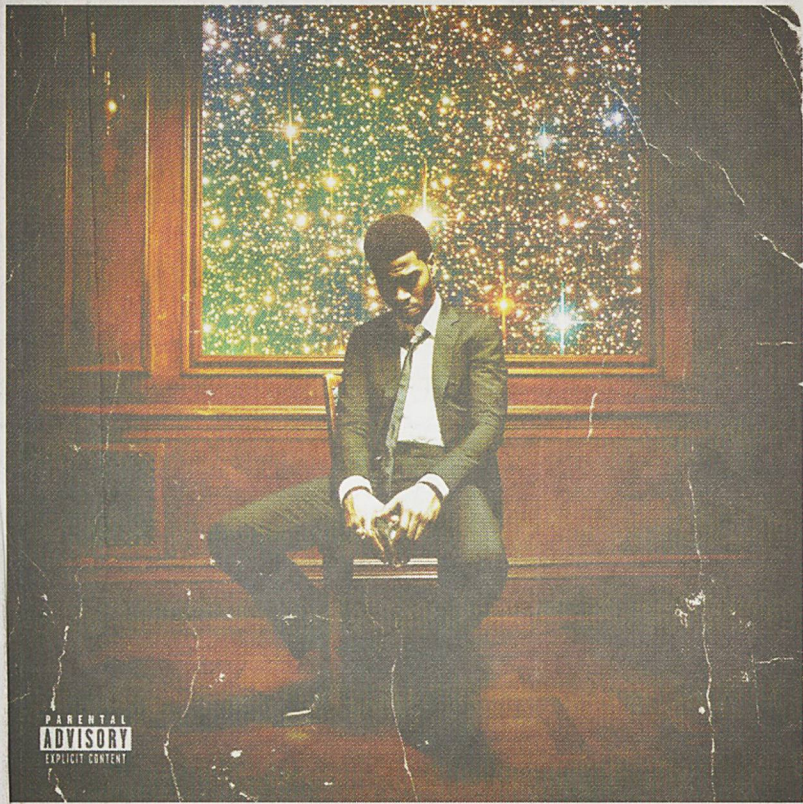
**Peep Show** Channel 4, Fridays, at 22:00

Mark and Jeremy, socially challenged duo, return to our living rooms for a seventh season, the longest running sitcom in Channel 4's history. After the underwhelming That Mitchell and Webb Look, David Mitchell and Robert Webb take a break from the BBC and return to the characters that launched their careers. The first episode of the new season sees Mark and Jeremy at the hospital awaiting the birth of Mark's baby, whose mother, Sophie, is adamant on a natural birth.



# 2009's Favourite New KiD On The Block Returns

Shrina Poojara deconstructs *Man On The Moon II*



Up until July 2008, Scott Mescudi was, essentially, a nobody. Since then, his self-released mixtape *A Kid Named Cudi* led to him being signed to Kanye West's label GOOD Music, his single "Day 'n' Nite" was one of the biggest hits of 2009 and his debut album *Man on the Moon: The End of Day*, which debuted at #4 on the US Billboard 200 chart, was named the Best Hip Hop album of 2009 by Entertainment Weekly.

Though his stage name **KID CuDi** is likely to ring a bell, the man Scott Mescudi has kept himself a mystery to the masses... until now.

The self-proclaimed "Mr. Solo Dolo" is back with his sophomore album ***Man on the Moon II: The Legend of Mr. Rager***. On his blog, CuDi wrote, "Man On The Moon II is dark by nature and instead of bringing you into my dreams like my first album, I'm bringing you into my reality, good and bad."

CuDi fans will quickly pick up on the distinctions between his debut and its

darker, more mature sequel. The 17-track record is another five-act concept album but Common's relatively irritating narration has been abandoned in place of deeper, more personal lyrics laid over a haze of hip-hop beats, pulsating synth and spacey rock guitar chords, which transition perfectly between chapters.

The listener is drawn in from the first track "Scott Mescudi vs. The World" as CuDi's greeting "What up? How's everyone doing?" strikes over eerie wails and deep drum beats, with Cee-Lo Green's soaring voice lifting the track. Mary J. Blige joins the handful of featured artists on the record, her strong vocals complementing CuDi's on "Don't Play This Song" and "These Worries".

With CuDi admitting to using cocaine at the start of his career as a means to "get through interviews", *ACT II: A Stronger Trip* addresses his drug use with tracks like "We Aite (Wake Your Mind Up)", which draws the listener into a sinister alien world and "Marijuana", which is effectively CuDi's tribute to the "pretty green bud", allowing one to truly

feel privileged to gain an insight into CuDi's mind.

CuDi's geek rock influences are clear on the album's first single "Erase Me", which has become a sing-along anthem for teenagers all over America - Kanye's presence over the heavy guitar hook provides lyrical hilarity to the track. The only criticism is the track feels rather out of place, appearing in the middle of an otherwise seductively disturbed album. The upbeat tracks on the record are not unwelcome, however; Ashin' Kusher and Mojo So Dope provide swagger-filled, head-bopping beats to perfectly break up the album's darkness.

## CuDi's geek rock has become a sing-along anthem for teenagers all over

The album's title track, "Mr. Rager" presents to us CuDi's self-destructive alter ego, portraying his constant battle between good and bad over hypnotic beats and evocative hooks. "The End", following the album's dizzying progression, is a welcome touchdown to hip-hop fans as the album briefly puts the listener at ease with a track of mellow perfection, with full credit to Nicole Wray's soothing vocals.

Perhaps the most haunting track on the record is "MANIAC", where CuDi admits, "I am a maniac... I love the darkness" over a heavily synthesized beat amid truly spine-tingling vocals by St. Vincent.

Some may be disappointed by the lack of KID's peppiness or an instantaneous chart hit ("Day 'n' Nite"-style) but it is evident that Mescudi has matured as an artist, unafraid to let the listener into his world of cocaine and isolation with an album that takes the listener on a trippy journey that leaves a lasting impression.

Establishing KID Cudi as a truly talented artist of our generation, I am both alarmed and exhilarated to think about where Mr. Rager will take us next.

# M.I.A. - O2 Academy, Brixton 10.11.10

ΛΛΛΛΛΛ? Rishi Gudka explains



I found myself in the heart of Brixton last Wednesday night, eagerly anticipating the first concert of **M.I.A.'s** autumn tour promoting her latest album **ΛΛΛΛΛΛ** (Maya). The distinctively unusual O2 Academy Brixton was definitely the perfect venue for the inevitable cathodic display of music, art and dance that was about to ensue.

M.I.A.'s third album was certainly not well-received by critics. Her underground following since her debut album, *Arular*, reached leviathan proportions until her international hit "Paper Planes" saw her first taste of worldwide stardom. However, the singer-cum-rapper tenaciously contested any sort of commercial breakthrough despite being nominated for both a Grammy and an Academy Award last year.

Realistically, she had no control over her fate with expectations from an ever-growing fan base, unfairly increasing with time and anticipation. As a performer M.I.A. was unpredictable: reckless but entertaining to say the least, with an array of unusual costumes verging on absurd, and even some dangerous acrobatics.

You definitely get more than you expect with her wildly intimate performance, leaving audience members feeling almost enlightened by her hypnotic presence. However this comes at a price - the set list was evidently changed at M.I.A.'s whim while she was on stage which seemed to disorientate most of the audience.

Moreover, some of the introductions to songs such as "Bucky Done Gun" were unexpectedly long and overdrawn, suggesting problems backstage. Undoubtedly it was the most diverse crowd I have ever experienced, with audience members' ages ranging from 7 to 70. I was actually in awe when I found the entire crowd simultaneously bopping their heads to the slow trance-like dubstep of "Story To Be Told".

The only thing I could possibly deduce as 'missing in action' from M.I.A.'s performance was the lead single from her

new album, "XXXO". This was possibly a little concerning but after witnessing the spectacle of her performance, no one can question her style or substance.

Critics may have expected too much from **ΛΛΛΛΛΛ** but they cannot slate her performances at all. M.I.A. could be described as one of the most selfish musicians around because she makes the music she wants, performing what she wants with little concern of others' opinions. But after witnessing her live, I have no qualms in suggesting that she will continue producing music that pushes boundaries despite what anyone thinks of her.

## Spotify Spotting

What Oliver Wiseman, Features Editor, is listening to this week.

Boyz II Men  
Cutie Pie

The Egyptian Lover  
Freak-A-Holic

Aeroplane  
We Can't Fly

Major Lazer, Mr. Vegas, Jovi Rockwell  
Can't Stop Now

The Kingsmen  
Louie Louie

Find the playlist here:  
[spotify:user:wisemano:playlist:4sUWpuggNu4168Rg5Bvs2J](https://open.spotify.com/user/wisemano/playlist?uri=spotify:user:wisemano:playlist:4sUWpuggNu4168Rg5Bvs2J)

# The 39 Steps, Criterion Theatre

Christopher Finnigan reflects on the tame humour that attempts to accommodate all

**The 39 Steps** is fittingly located at the Criterion Theatre. Positioned directly opposite Piccadilly Circus' bright advertising lights, it sees both foreign and domestic tourists pass its door in great numbers. This, a play that has the ability to entertain a wide audience is required, and that is exactly what we find in this play. The 39 Steps is an adaptation of John Buchan's classical spy adventure, which first gained notoriety when Alfred Hitchcock put it on cinema screens nationwide in 1935, and in September celebrated its fourth anniversary at the Criterion which in January will see its cast for four years change. Unashamedly ridiculous, its slapstick humour is the kind that can be found on BBC One on a Sunday for all the family to enjoy. It has the ability to entertain your grandmother and little sister simultaneously, which unfortunately has resulted in an extremely tame and conventional two hours.

The plot consists of a charming English man, Richard Hannay (David Bark Jones), who finds his friend Annabella Schmidt (Dianne Pilkington) in his flat after she reveals a plot to take British military secrets out of the country by a four-fingered German spy. Hannay, the main character, races up to Scotland to find the four-fingered man while being chased by the police for the murder of his female friend. This simple yet dramatic narrative provides a strong basis for the characters to exploit the preceding scenes and easily extract humour from them. The policemen predictably play the fools, Hannay faultlessly tempts every woman he meets to fall in love with him and all the actors 'spontaneously' forget their lines, prompting torrents of laugh from an easily pleased audience. The play provides us with an even easier form of

humour, that of a visual nature, whereby a prop is introduced onto the stage just a little too late, making the offstage cast appear comically unreliable. Even though these jokes dominate, they are thankfully not the only ones present, as clever references to Hitchcock's films or some, yet far too few, witty remarks fall from the characters lips. It does - like most plays

## Unashamedly ridiculous, its slapstick humour is the kind that can be found on BBC One on a Sunday for the family to enjoy

on at the West End - have a very strong cast, whose versatility is put to the test in these two hours.

The play has a consistently good pace, which means your mind isn't tempted to wander. Four actors play what seems a countless number of characters, with no one monopolising, allowing all to have an equal amount of time to annoy the audience. Its structure is neat, with the final scene ending back on the opening one. While the narrative is conventional, the use of the stage is imaginative.

Shadows beam onto the back of it as a door frame opens up to many different rooms and at one point the curtain is quite deliberately used to a pathetic standard to speed up the plot. The train scene is ingeniously resourceful; the best, effective shadows and sounds aid in transporting the audience along with the actors: all four replicate the mode of travel by constantly bumping up and down. Hannay at one point escapes from the carriage on to the roof where the police follow. Here the audience is convincingly taken along with them. Perhaps it's this scene that somehow allowed the play to receive in 2008 the Oliver Award for Best New Comedy. Its general tomfoolery is reminiscent of Monty Python, yet without the clever social or political satire and doesn't expect much out of its audience, so is a comfortable watch as it guides them by the hand, showing them exactly where to laugh.

London has many daring alternative corners that see challenging, engrossing and highly entertaining plays being commissioned; plays you wouldn't find anywhere else in England. Yet the Criterion Theatre, I'm sure, due to its location is not one of them. However, neither does *The 39 Steps* occupy the category of the great few plays that line other parts of the West End in and around Piccadilly Circus. Those certainly do make for a great evening out, as they combine a richer plot with more original and convincing humour. If you wish to spend the evening laughing, get someone to tickle your feet with a feather rather than watch this play. The laugh will be just as fulfilling.

*The 39 Steps* is currently showing at the Criterion Theatre. Its next cast change is towards the end of January.



A play you'll never forget? The cast of *The 39 Steps*.



# BATTLE SCARS



She was often mistaken for the BNP. She was spat on. The BNP threatened her. But she also formed some genuine friendships, and found that not everyone in the far-right party is an "evil monster". Director and Producer Laura Fairrie talks to Ahmed Peerbux about her own uphill struggle in charting

## THE BATTLE FOR BARKING

**Y**ou wouldn't think the British National Party would give, of all people, a middle class woman privileged access to its shrouded party machine and leader. But that's exactly what they did with film-maker Laura Fairrie in the run up to the general election. And the results are extraordinary.

Before their dismal performance in May, there was a very real fear that the BNP would prize the constituency of Barking - previously a Labour safe seat - from Margaret Hodge. There was reason to believe so; the BNP had twelve councillors in Barking and Dagenham. And under Griffin's leadership, as he never fails to mention, the BNP had acquired a Jewish councillor and Black and Asian support, lending (shaky) credence to his self-styled title of moderniser.

That does little to detract from the BNP's common conception as a band of thuggish suits in boots, an assumption Fairrie now takes issue with. "When I first started trying to get access to the BNP I had all these preconceptions about them as well, but I really wanted to go in with an open mind. What I found was this group of misfits that just were so alienated and cut off from society, who found this place to belong in the BNP, or the 'BNP family' as they'd call it. A lot of them were ex-Labour voters. A lot of them weren't necessarily racist. They were just so fed up and confused. Of course there's racism in the BNP, and of course here are some horrible characters, but there's reason behind that racism, and they're not all evil monsters."

There are some who would have trouble digesting that; who would take offence with it even. "People thought I was

awful for it. It became a real struggle with my own conscience. A lot of people were really critical of me for finding people who didn't fit into the BNP stereotype. But like everything in life, it's not just simply black and white. I was trying to be fair and non-judgmental. I was trying to give both sides a fair voice."

Nick Griffin's appearance on Question Time courted controversy for giving the BNP a legitimate platform; despite his performance being critically panned, the BNP claimed that it quickly resulted in 3,000 people registering to sign up as party members. So does giving the BNP "a voice" do their recruitment for them? "Look, a lot of people get angry with me for having made this film, but I think you can actually make more progress by giving them a voice. If you treat the BNP as monsters that must be ignored and just bashed on the head, it reconfirms their sense of being outsiders, of the establishment being against them. If you treat them properly, then suddenly they have to look at what it is they're saying, and they have to be responsible for their actions."

Surely it must have been difficult trying to allay their fears and breach that deep-seated mistrust. "It was a constant process of negotiation with the BNP. They let me in, but I constantly had to persuade them that I wasn't secretly filming and that I wasn't going to stitch them up. When they were out walking the streets, leafleting six hours a day in the freezing cold, I was there with them. They saw that I wasn't just coming in as a journalist to grab a few soundbytes and run off. But they still didn't trust me, right up until the end. Especially as a woman, I think. They just couldn't work out what the hell I was doing there as a woman on my own with

a camera. Even now I hear from some of them saying that their expectations are low, that they'll be made to look like evil idiots."

Have any of them seen it? What did Nick Griffin make of it? "I've tried to show it to Nick Griffin. They all made such a big fuss the whole time I was making the film. I was intimidated, threatened even, and I've since not been able to show it to any of them. Maybe they just don't want to relive an awful, awful result and a complete humiliation."

Despite a year of increased national exposure, the BNP suffered a crushing defeat, finishing third behind Hodge and the Conservatives. "They didn't stand a chance. They were so disorganised. The media were building them up as this viable threat, but that wasn't what I was seeing. They were just going around with their photocopy leaflets, showing them through doors. That was the extent of their campaign."

No one can forget Bob Bailey's scuffle with some Asian youths while canvassing. Was it not frightening filming alone - Laura didn't have a film crew - when there was a constant threat of violent confrontation? "I did feel vulnerable and scared on my own. Without money it's very difficult to get people to commit people to a year's work. I had a tiny budget. I can't really say how much because I think my executive producer would be embarrassed! Many people assumed I was BNP. I was even spat on. Sometimes going home on the tube I would think "what the fuck am I doing? I've got two young kids." There were times when I just didn't feel safe, especially when I was out with Nick Griffin walking the streets. There was a real sense that someone would

come and kill him. Cars would drive by slowly, and they'd drive off, and then another would drive up really close."

Was her access to Griffin - whether canvassing or in the cafe - predicated on her skin colour? "I thought that maybe it did help a bit, but then they were so keen to prove that they weren't racist. During the election, BBC Panorama sent a TV crew with a black cameraman. The BNP were so lovely and friendly and welcoming to him. Nick Griffin went out of his way to be nice to him, and they'd all given me such a hard time for months and months. So it's difficult to say..."

**There was a real sense that someone would kill Griffin. Cars would drive up slowly, drive off, then another would come up really close**

Laura tells me that some people feel the BNP come off better than the Labour Party in the film. Does she feel the camera inhibited their honesty? "I was there so much with the BNP, and they got so used to me being around, that often they'd forget I was there. So there is a lot of honesty in the film. Having said that, Nick Griffin is incredibly calculating and

incredibly careful. So I didn't get the Hodge denial moment or whatever else it is that people are hoping to get out of this"

What does Margaret Hodge make of it? "She's disappointed. It's not the film she wanted. She wanted something that was going to show all the brilliant work she was doing in Barking to reconnect with the white working class vote, something that would show what monsters the BNP are. But once Nick Griffin announced he was standing, she wobbled a bit and for a while she wasn't so keen or me to make the film. It became quite difficult because I started moving between both sides. One day I'd be in the Labour Barking office, and the next I'd be in the back of a BNP van. But to her credit she allowed me to carry on making it even in the times she was terrified, when she thought she would lose."

The BNP ran a dirty campaign against Hodge in Barking, calling her 'Margaret the Egyptian Hodge' because she was born in Egypt, before coming to Britain with her Jewish parents, who were fleeing Nazi-occupied Austria. What about Labour's campaign? "I very much had the sense that Labour was playing just as dirty a game as the BNP. Margaret's whole thing on the doorstep was: "the BNP are Nazi fascists. You either vote for me or the Nazis." And that's demonising and calling everyone who wants to vote for the BNP in her community a fascist. Well there are reasons they are voting for the BNP - they've been so let down by the Labour Party. They've been left to rot in revolting tower blocks for seventeen years without a chance of being moved, with no one to listen to them."

**The Battle for Barking** is showing on Tuesday 30 November, at 10PM on M4



# A Whole Lotta Love

Alexander Young's plans for an 'open relationship' don't go down too well with the missus...

How far can one reconcile one partner's intense concern for monogamy with the other's need for an understanding of their polyamory? As much as this could well be an essay title for PH214: Morality and Values, it could also reasonably be a chapter in my autobiography given my last few weeks: yes, I am one of those men. I have no doubt that, in the minds of some, this is going to be met with a more than a modicum of misandry – whether this is to be focused on discussions of the male genital nervous system holding its dictates above those of the central or men being incapable of understanding love I will leave to your individual prejudices, those of you who are concerned.

I'll try to correct any such thoughts by stating that this isn't simply about spreading seed willy-nilly: my polyamorous nature is backed up by, in LSE tradition, reason (in fact, much of my thought on the subject is derived from the work of an LSE alumnus in Bertrand Russell). Simply put: sexual monogamy can be described fairly convincingly in terms of an attitude derived from religious and biological detritus concerned with making sure that offspring were raised by a male and a female so as to reduce the risk of the orphaning of a child. In an age of readily available and effective contraception, the concern for the raising of offspring is removed. It follows from this, along with the premise that sex is enjoyable in different ways with different people, that there is no problem with promiscuity: it may even be to one's advantage to be so.

Now that little digression into the land of informal logic is over, we'll move a little more into the difficulties that this view has in its practical application to a relationship with someone who takes a polar opposite 'yours-and-yours-alone' view. It's completely unworkable. It presents an amount of trouble equivalent to the Hindenburg crashing into the North Tower. Admittedly, some of this was my own fault: I may have neglected to mention to my girlfriend my predilection for promiscuity for the best part of eight months, and then just dropped it into a conversation with

the statement 'so, an open relationship would be great, don't you think?' Perhaps, just perhaps, that wasn't the best plan of attack: it was about as blunt as an ageing Lord after a few drinks. This is about as close as I could get to singing a song about 'wogs' in front of journalists. My phrasing of the question left me open to the accusation of implying that she wasn't 'good enough' or just 'enough' to satisfy me: those led to me fumbling for words and clumsily working my way around English grammar to give explanations which were never going to be enough for someone who had devoted themselves to me.

In spite of my stupidity, the entire process didn't go too badly: tears were

## There is no problem with promiscuity: it may even be to one's advantage to do so

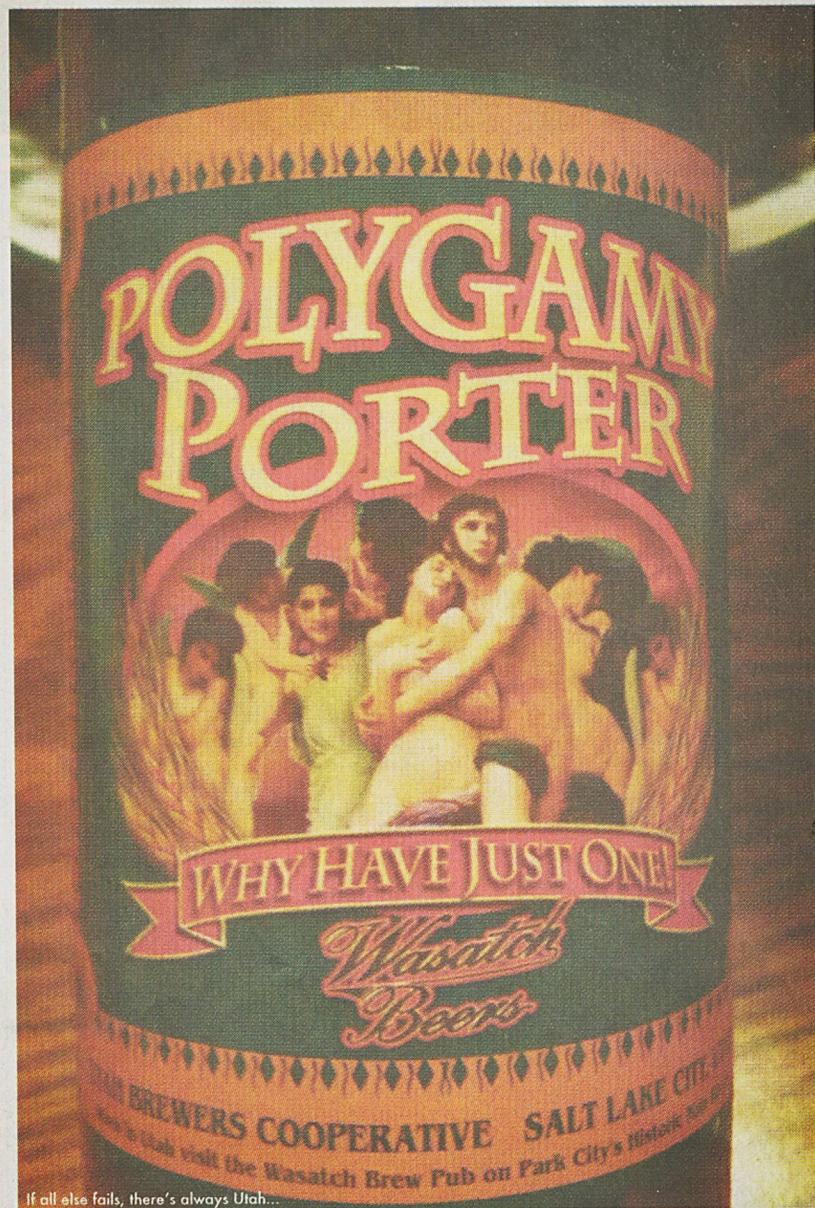
recovered from and a frank and honest discussion ensued. Terms were set out for the arrangement and fears allayed: everyone appeared to be happy with at least trying out this arrangement, and seeing where it would lead. Then the bombshell was dropped: "I'll do whatever I can to keep you." This is quite possibly the most intense guilt-tripping one could suffer: the air of 'I am abandoning everything I believe in, but it's for you, so it's OK' was palpable and just intolerable. This being said, I'm a dreadful human being who is incredibly capable of compartmentalising, so I just ignored it and basked in the smug satisfaction of having just gotten my own way, as you would.

The conditions of the arrangement were themselves somewhat odd and a little bit incoherent. First of all, she said that others were not to be favoured to her. This was incredibly unfortunate, as I had several payoff matrices ready to be pinned to my walls detailing who best to sleep with and when: my response would definitely have been 'sorry, babes' if someone else had come out on top. Of course, I am being facetious: the logic of 'primary partner' would surely determine that no others were to be preferred?

The second rule was a little less ridiculous in concept, but would have been stupid in practice: no sleeping with her friends. Fortunately, there is not a looker amongst her friends and I am terribly vain and far too prone to coming up with animals that people look like: I could not imagine having sex with Weasel or Aardvark short of developing a frustrated bestial fetish.

To bolster these terrible reasons for not sleeping with her friends, it is also the case that it would be incredibly tasteless, and I do possess the slightest amount of decency. The thing that managed to really jar me, however, was the third request: don't tell me about it. Of course, I can understand the sentiment, but it seemed to imply such shame at the proposition. Combine this with the statement that it made her feel 'cheap,' and we have a prima facie case of her being nothing but remorseful of her ceding acceptance of the idea. Not to get self-righteous here, but if anyone has a right to feel 'cheap' over this, it is most definitely me in dealing with her shame: 'if my natural inclinations cause such disgust in you, why do you bother? Do you not value my view of the world?' But no, to her of course, this is just about me getting my dick wet.

That last hurdle is insurmountable to anyone who values monogamy intrinsically. I end up feeling personally negative about the idea of an open relationship and how it would affect me: how I'm just going to be looked down upon by her; I feel awful about the entire enterprise and give in to a world of frustrated desires and the bleakness of monogamy. It's like I'm already married.



**Director:** Sofia Coppola **Cast:** Stephen Dorff, Elle Fanning, Chris Pontius, Michelle Monaghan  
**Runtime:** 98 minutes **Cert:** 15 Year: 2010

Who is Johnny Marco? Why is he such an asshole? They are the two questions he (Stephen Dorff) is asked but cannot seem to answer as Sofia Coppola returns to familiar ground in the Golden Lion-winning *Somewhere*.

He is a rich, successful actor who

happens to seduce women with but a glance and is admired enough for airport security guards to stop harassing everyone else in order to get a photo with him. For him, the six thousand or so miles between the Chateau Marmont in LA and another lavish hotel in Milan are as easy as walking through a room.

This life is not wonderful. The parallels with Bill Murray in her magical *Lost in Translation* are obvious, but not hugely significant, although he is just as lonely. His life contains many parties and crowds, but they are populated by floozies of both gender. Only sex provides a few hours of intimacy and relief, and it

is willingly provided by countless women. The only intimate relationships he has are with an old friend (Chris Pontius) and his daughter, Cleo (Elle Fanning).

He is forced to reassess his life after spending some unexpected time with this charming, forgiving and mature eleven-year old, played impeccably by Fanning. He loves her but has not been affording her the attention she deserves. Even when they are together, his friend is more attentive and seems better suited to spending time with a daughter.

Camera work is effectively slow and focused. There are many long, drawn out scenes of pure observation, whether it is Johnny sitting with his daughter or lying in bed under the soothing lullaby of identical Playmate strippers. This is the pace of real life and the greater part of Johnny's life. We see it in its beautiful trappings.

After spending the longest continuous period in his daughter's company that she can remember, after realising what this time gave him – realising that he prefers to watch her ice-skate to even the

most expensive strippers, he attempts to apologise for its scarcity over the roar of a helicopter and reflects on himself and his life: "I'm fucking nothing". He simultaneously acknowledges two facts.

Dorff conveys detachment and muted discontent with great success. He is definitely an asshole when it comes to women. Yet we do care for him, since most of the people in his life are worse, in their insincerity. He does not want girls and they do not deserve them.

Sofia Coppola again transmits her unique humour, a lot of it subtle and in unlikely places. Like much in this film, it will be lost on or dismissed by some. This is due perhaps to the introspection she empowers with.

Much will also be made of the soundtrack, but it is quite understated. Every choice works effectively and even Gwen Stefani is accorded a sense of poignancy.

The film begins, ends and regularly contains detached shots of observing Johnny driving his car, as we follow him

travelling but going nowhere. Despite all he has, his days are largely determined for him. Like his hotel room, attached only to the outside world by the police sirens which manage to traverse its walls, he remains detached. The people and buildings he drives past could just as well be a million miles away.

His car takes him to these places and anywhere else he chooses. Reflecting his position, it is a Ferrari, but on the highway it is just one among thousands. After many miles, on a small, walkable road somewhere, he begins to take steps towards something.

*Somewhere* is released in cinemas on 10 December.

You will enjoy this...  
If you liked *Lost in Translation* or *Sofia Coppola* in general.  
Tarantino loved it.

## STEPHEN VIZINCZEY In Praise of Older Women

'A sort of *Tom Jones* or *Felix Krull* set in post-war Budapest, and very funny. If you were compiling an anthology of foreign-born writers who make the English writer canon, he would belong, and he is one of very few who would' Norman Stone, *Spectator*

'You cannot put it down: witty, moving and it is all about sex. Truly original' Margaret Drabble, *Guardian*

'Refreshing, individual, forthright ... It is, in an important way, a post-pornographic book' Eliot Fremont-Smith, *The New York Times*

'A masterclass in the politics of men and women ... an essential handbook for the modern man. One day sex itself may be this good!' Patrick Kielty

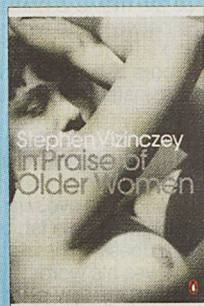
'Gives the reader a peek into what actual emotional entanglements look and feel like' Lewis Manalo, *PublishingPerspectives.com*

'Luminous and enlightening ... In a voice free of vanity and subterfuge, the writer tells a story of the worst of times, and the ever-shifting truths about girls and youths, men and women, and their sexual connections – and misconceptions' Paula Fox

'Irony, lightness, naturalness, exactitude ... a masterpiece' Pierre Lepape, *Le Monde*

Over 5 million copies sold worldwide  
8th printing of the Penguin edition

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Stephen Dorff on Expert: *Somewhere*



# PRIVATE B



## A word (or 300) from Sucha Petal

Ahem. We live in confusing times. The government is slashing funding to education and raising tuition fees to £6,000, possibly £9,000! Well, we at the Beaver have students' interests at heart, and we are appalled! It should be at least £12,000!

This is a complex issue and I - gosh, I mean we - took a long time deliberating over this. But in the end, this Petal - I mean this paper (well, it's the same thing, 'int it?') - believes that students at LSE want fees to rise.

So far this paper has seen no evidence that students overwhelmingly support the Freeze the Fees campaign. Which is shit. By which I mean, we couldn't be bothered to do a survey. And we don't get out that much.

So I went to see Howard Duvets, who is a thoroughly nice man (and pretty bloody attractive too, in the flesh, if you don't mind me saying!) because he's an economist and he's jolly clever. I mean, if someone's bound

to know, he's gonna, isn't he?

So I asked him and he told me that we definitely should raise the fees. Which confirmed what I thought already. Which was spooky. Like I always say, great minds think alike!

Then he gave me a biscuit and I left.

So that's why people are very silly to go protesting. Somehow, I think the director of LSE knows what he's talking about, don't you? I mean, who do you trust more, Howard Duvets or a man whose last name is a green frog? Ha! Ha! That was a joke.

So now you know. A more expensive university education is what students want. Boy, I'm glad we have a student newspaper which sets things straight!

'Best,  
Sucha Petal  
(also editor-in-chief of the magazine for the unemployed, *Cut The Dole Weekly*; and Eternal President of the pensioners' magazine, *Kill Them All Monthly*)

### Those exhilarating minutes from the UGM in full:

Aaron Portaloo: And I want to say on behalf of the National Union of Teachers and Students, this is a fight for the very existence of our universities!

[one man claps]

Aaron Portaloo: This is where the chaos starts and student voices begin to be heard!

[one man cheers]

Aaron Portaloo: I cannot think of any stu-

dent who isn't angry about these government cuts!

[one man whoops]

Chair: Righty-ho! OK, peeps! Can I have questions from the floor please? Not from the ceiling this time!

[silence]

Chair: Yes, that was a joke, chaps! Feel free to laugh!

[one man laughs]

Chair: Can we have that man removed now?

## LSE buys up small building



Relatively unknown building

LSE has bought a building in Westminster for a small sum of money, it emerged yesterday. The unidentified property, sited on Buckingham Palace Road, was bought for £4.2 squillion.

It follows the purchase of 32 Lincoln's Inn Fields for £37.5 million earlier this month.

In a time of tuition fee hikes, government spending cuts and immigration caps, Director of LSE Howard Duvets defended the decision as financially prudent.

"Well, you've got to get rid of this blasted surplus somehow!"

**Pissaheades speaks out!**  
Nobel Prize-winner Chris Pissaheades condemned the decision: "Having won a Nobel Prize, I say this is a ludicrous

decision! I mean, I should know, I won a bloody Nobel Prize, din't I? Er... say, would ya like some more brandy?"

Pissaheades, named after the Greek god of urine, continued, "Howard Duvets can do literally anything he likes, because he knows students won't make a fuss and those that do will be branded dangerous nutjobs!"

"I mean, for crying out loud, imagine if David Cameron - in the midst of heightened fiscal austerity - purchased the Isles of Scilly! There'd be uproar! Especially in the Isles of Scilly!"

Mr Pissdoffades went on, "It's strange. People actually listen to my rants now I've won a Nobel Prize. Did I say I won a Nobel Prize?"

Mr Pissadopolos added, "And stop taking the Piss out of my name!"

## News in briefs

### FERGUSON APPEARS ON CAMPUS: SHOCK!

There was widespread shock last week as Niall Ferguson was sighted on LSE campus. One student said, "I thought it was a mirage but [cont. p93]"

### LSE STUDENTS' HEADS TOO BIG FOR IMMIGRANT CAP!

Since the unveiling of the government's immigrant cap, it has emerged that one student's head is too big to fit into it. Many face similar problems as [cont. p93]

### HOWIE DUVETS REJECTS CLAIMS THAT HE'S SELLING OFF HIS BEARD!

Last night Mr Duvets denied plans to sell off his beard are being pursued, saying, "LSE Council only discussed the option in light of the Browne Report. It is right that all options are considered. As it was, the cost outweighed the benefits."

### LOTS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS: SHOCK!

The Beaver News offices were shocked this week as it was revealed that many students went to class. The scandal follows [cont. p93]

### NO-ONE READS THIS BIT!

Reports came in last night, saying everyone skips the News In Briefs section of the newspaper. It appears [cont. p93]

### SPORT

Lash, lash, lash, minge, Jack Wills, Zoo Bar, lash, cock joke, 'banter', shagging, snakebite. Oh, and finally, some scores - we lost. Zoo bar.

## LSE to open a hotel

In a move that has caused both consternation and unbridled joy in some sections of the staff and student community at the LSE, plans of converting the Tower One into a Sleepy Inn hotel have been revealed, in a deal which will cost the LSE £12 million over a five-year period.

In plans, which according to Jeffrey Archery, the LSE's site manager, were first mooted 'at least 5 years ago', the whole building will lose its classrooms as the Bridlington firm installs 1,000 straw bunk beds. The LSE has said to need to increase student satisfaction by increasing their attention to some of the 'university sleepers', something highlighted in the TES's university satisfaction survey last year.

In a meeting with Archery last week, he told Private B, 'Look at how many

people you can see asleep in the middle of the day. There's no reason for why we shouldn't well roll out the whole plan to all students who want a good snooze because they're too irresponsible to get a good night's sleep the night before. That people use the library as an impromptu motel is fine, reasonable. But we want to increase their comfort - the deal with Sleepy Inn will help us doing this.'

Last week 33 people were found to be asleep in the library or lolling on a table. None of them were available for comment - as a result of them being asleep and/or just generally irresponsible and rude.

Another, Gary Newman, a part-time Anthropology Masters student, said that the idea was 'tip-top. This idea is outstanding. Have a few bevies, get a girl, go to Sleepy Inn is definitely going to be

my weekend plan. £70 for two hours, definitely got that money: bish-bash-bosh, you know what I'm saying? Oi oi!

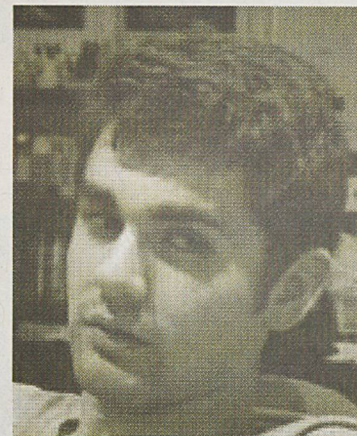
Sleepy Inn National Manager Ian Humphreys welcomed the move. In an exclusive interview with Private B, taken from his office in Bridlington, Humphreys said: 'All I care about is money - I'm doing cartwheels, mate.'

**Having welcomed our brilliant haikuist to the News section, we welcome his equally superb half-cousin, RUBBASHŌ**

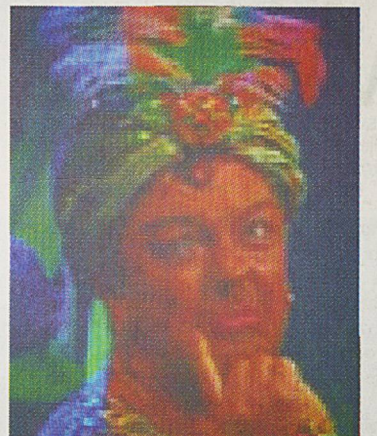
**The irritating Thing about haikus is that You can't fit everyth-**

## LSE Looky-likey

...Which bears no resemblance to Private Eye's Lookalikes feature. Which we haven't even heard of.



The Genie, Giver of wishes. Been in a lamp so long that he's bent out of all recognition



Al Smith, former Pulse Deputy station manager. Black and white picture auteur. Not a poser.

# The Shop Around the Corner

Ramya Muthukumaran



**Director:** Ernst Lubitsch **Screenplay:** Samson Raphaelson **Cast:** James Stewart, Margaret Sullavan, Frank Morgan **Runtime:** 97 minutes **Cert:** U Year: 1940

The beauty of old movies is not that they're black and white. Nor the fact that special effects are not needed to enhance the atmosphere. It's the simplicity of the whole ensemble. The characters are well etched, the script is thoughtfully crafted and the actors do their jobs. Set in the 1940s, *The Shop Around the Corner* oozes old time magic. The film captures the happenings in a shop selling leather goods. Set in Budapest, the story revolves around the employees and owner of Matuschek & Co.

With a small but well characterised cast, the film is a romantic tale of two sales assistants, Klara Novak and Alfred Kralik, played by Margaret Sullavan

and James Stewart. Kralik is presented as a hard working, no nonsense sales assistant who calls the shots in the company. Being the oldest employee, the boss (Hugo Matuschek), favours him and values his opinions.

Kralik gets involved in a romantic affair with a girl, who turns out to be Klara, in a series of letter exchanges that started with an advertisement in the newspaper. As the two characters get entwined in this affair, they build up each other in their heads and exaggerate the image of themselves in order to make an impression. When Klara's true identity is revealed, Kralik decides not to confront her but continues playing the part of the annoying co-worker, whilst being the intellectual lover in his letters.

James Stewart is as charming as ever in this tale, with an honest portrayal of a sales assistant who doesn't beat around the bush. Apart from the central protagonists, the characters played by Kralik's coworker who was also his close confidant, Pirovitch, and Pepi, who was

the errand boy, are admirably sculpted. Pepi, with his comic timing and nonchalant air is quite entertaining. Particularly when he points to his date on Christmas even and says, "I'm her Santa!"

It is clear that the Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks romantic comedy *You've Got Mail* was inspired by this film, even paying a small tribute to in the name of the bookshop.

What sets it apart is the time period, which provides an alternate backdrop to the film. Set during the Depression, it tackles more than one issue with underlying tones of human struggle. Instead of painting a rosy picture of the world, it inversely questions the integrity of people.

Matuschek's wife's infidelity and his immediate reaction to blame Kralik portrays a realistic image of human nature, while Kralik's predicament about revealing his true identity to the girl he loves when he gets fired show us the relevance of this film to any society.

*The Shop Around the Corner* is rather fast-paced and provides snapshots of

instances instead of long, well-rehearsed dialogue sequences. It doesn't beat around the bush with flowery language, instead concentrating on the acting prowess of the characters to create the magic. It flows, to some extent, like a play, especially the comic sequences at the beginning, where Pirovitch runs away from his boss every time he asks people for their opinions.

While the movie is primarily about the romance between the two leads, instead of brewing it up to be larger than life, it is made more believable with relatable characters. Instead of questioning how the letter-exchanging lovers end up in the same place at the same time, you appreciate the simplicity of the romance and the story. Even at the end, where Kralik pretends to have met Klara's lover and paints him to be a fat, unemployed man, Klara doesn't question anything but plainly believes his words.

Given that the film is set in Budapest, how all the employees and customers speak fluent English (barring Pirovitch,

who seems to have the tinge of an accent), is beyond my understanding.


Klara and Kralik share good on-screen chemistry. Their portrayal as arch rivals who have no sympathy for each other is easy to believe. When Kralik realises Klara to be his letter exchanging lover, his attitude towards her completely changes and while it is plainly visible to the viewer, Klara seems to be oblivious.

The film makes you want to live in a simpler world, where people are easier to forgive. Klara doesn't question Kralik even at the end of the film, when he reveals himself to her. Instead, asking him to lift his pants so she can make sure he isn't bow-legged. They then proceed to kiss (I found this a little strange!). It isn't the most enchanting kiss but I guess we have evolved in more respects than one since then! Realistic, simple and truly lovable!

*The Shop Around the Corner* is released at the BFI Southbank and selected cinemas nationwide on 10 December.



# Features



**'As I walked out one  
midsummer morning...'**

Everybody needs a hero; mine's Gerald Brenan  
writes **Calum Young**

Flickr user: marcp\_dmoz

**V**enture into the Twentieth century sector of the National Portrait Gallery in London's Covent Garden, turn left at W.H Auden, go right at Anthony Eden and you'll find my hero. Unlike his neighbours T.S Elliot and Lloyd George, Gerald Brenan doesn't sport a suit in his portrait. Instead a trim figure stares out at the onlooker, clad in a worn bomber jacket and wrapped in a wool scarf. He looks like he has just stepped-off a mountain pass. Two thirds of the way up a weathered face, Auburn hair frames worldly blue eyes. Frozen for posterity at the age of 32, he appears every bit the thoughtful adventurer. He was every bit the thoughtful adventurer.

Gerald and I were introduced five years ago. Having just planned a summer hike through northern Spain I was scanning second-hand book shops for a piece of travel writing on the subject. I had already read Laurie Lee's beautiful memoir *A Moment of War* which traces his own journey through the Spanish countryside on the eve of the Fascist coup in July of 1936. At the shop's counter a friendly cashier considered my dilemma and offered up a dog-eared copy of *South from Granada* by Brenan. 'If you liked that, you'll love this' she said.

*South from Granada* is one part autobiography, one part History, and one part anthropological survey. It details the eleven years Brenan spent in Spain between 1919 and 1930 during which he lived in the small village of Yegen in the Alpujarras. Reading in the mornings and walking in the afternoons, Brenan offers a wonderfully nuanced portrait of a bucolic society deposited in a century of extremes. There are chapters devoted to witchcraft and religious views, as well as a long study of the areas first ancient settlements.

The book is always curious rather than intellectual. Its facts come from conversations with local residents over a drink rather than impartial textbooks. In one notable vignette, Brenan interrogates a brothel owner in Seville about her genealogy, much to the dismay of the Madame who is trying to conduct 'business as usual'. Brenan also sets out with a local shepherd taking the arduous journey

to the summit of Muhlhacen, the highest peak on the Iberian peninsula. Midway through their journey, mountain wolves set upon the two travelers, and Brenan records the agile dexterity of his companion as he fends off the dogs with his staff.

Brenan's persistence is his charm. Like all writers he is interested in uncovering the motives and feelings of those who surround him. There's a tirelessness to his pursuit of knowledge and mastery of the details. *South from Granada* stands as a lasting testament to the oral histories of a generation of illiterate peasants and it preserves a culture which would otherwise be lost to time. The book's fascination with the mysticism of Yegen and the fragile existences of the inhabitants whose lives are profoundly shaped by the whims of fortune.

A scion of the minor gentry, Brenan served with distinction in the First World War. He emerged from the army in 1918 with a pension and a desire to learn having missed out on a place at university. Spain chose Brenan in so far as it offered an incredibly cheap living cost and a relatively stable political climate. Among European powers, it was only the country to stay neutral during the war. Whilst Spain did not enter the war, the war entered Spain. Shipping blockades brought rabid inflation and a massive current account deficit bred a weakened Peseta abroad. Knowing his pension would go further in Spain, Brenan set-off for Granada and a decade of books.

Detractors argue Brenan's style is amateurish. They're right. He read and thought in a world before research grants and peer reviewed publications. But this is not a negative facet. *South from Granada* is one of the last and best examples of gentlemanly scholarship. It wasn't published to curry favour with the academic fraternity, but rather out of an innocent love for the country and the people it portrayed. Brenan's Edwardian upbringing engendered a respect for learning for learning's sake. Hence the book doesn't just tell us about Spanish oral history, it's also a disguised epitaph for a sort of British adventurism.

*South from Granada* springs from a vein of British travel writing which

flourished during the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Intertwined with many an imperial journey went a desire to log and understand the habits of those who were met along the way. Was all imperialism sensitive? Certainly not. But amongst a section of the well-heeled and well-educated sons of empire there was a noticeable desire to engage with the world. Remember T.E Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and Graham Greene's *Journey without Maps*. This tradition dates from an age when travel was a slower process. Cultures were firmly partitioned, rather than the mixed blanch-mange of cosmopolitanism that they have become today. It is difficult to reflect on a culture which you know only through its international airports and identikit office blocks. How many international businessmen today pen lengthy ruminations on Beijing or Tokyo?

But Gerald Brenan was not a man of only one book. He's best known to the student population as the author of the *Spanish Labyrinth*, a history of the Civil War which has developed a cult of its own inside Spain. Like *South from Granada*, Brenan's passion for his subject bleeds through the pages and 'el laberinto' as it is known, continues to inspire debate today. Unlike any other set text I know, the work is peppered with references to people met and conversations held. Despite the *Labyrinth's* scholarly integrity it's a fabulous

advertisement for the personal nature of History. Global trends and economic change are not epiphenomena, they effect people. When Brenan cites a right-wing widow shedding tears over the end of the Spanish Empire in 1898, his point is rammed home. This provides a pause for thought for the modern historians who have industrialised knowledge. Every statistic is the sum of individual actions.

Yet when I think of Gerald Brenan as heroic, for all their brilliance, I don't think of his books. Writing is noble, forceful even, but heroism requires action. In 1912, at the age of 18, Brenan set-out to walk to China. He was accompanied by his close friend John Hope Johnstone, the occasional photographer and eccentric. The pair made their way across Europe for 1,560 miles before a lack of funds forced them to turn back. To this day when the LSE grinds me down, work gets too much or London weighs on me just a little too heavily: I like to think, that I could always do the same. ☘

**How many  
international  
businessmen  
today pen  
lengthy  
ruminations on  
Beijing or  
Tokyo?**

## THE WICKED WIT OF GERALD BRENAN

**"As I get older I seem to believe less and less and yet to believe what I do believe more and more"**



# Blue Sky Thinking

Oliver Wiseman celebrates the beginning of a dogma-free, idea-heavy age of British politics



“Can the political centre-ground be more than just intellectual no man's land?” This is the question New Labour valiantly sought to answer. Tragically, they got it wrong. Rather than conjuring up anything new, the past decade or so has been an unsustainable alloy of a conviction that the market knows best and a confidence that grand public spending projects will solve society's problems. Blair and Brown were little more than intellectual magpies with incredibly bad taste.

With an uncertain economic future, novel global challenges and coalition politics in full swing, some of Britain's best minds have set themselves the question modernising Labour MPs conjured up nearly twenty years ago. They couldn't have picked a better time. Two such men are Will Hutton and Nick Boles.

Hutton, a governor of the LSE, executive vice chair of The Work Foundation, and all round man of the left. A social democrat with idiosyncratic but relevant views on capitalism, globalisation and the British economy, Hutton's thoughts have resonated through recent British politics. The State We're In, Hutton's survey of the political, social and economic landscape of Nineties Britain chimed with the discontent that led New Labour to their landslide 1997 win.

In his latest work, *Them and Us: Changing Britain – why we need a fair society*, Hutton tackles a concept laid claim to by all in mainstream British politics but secured by few, fairness. The last election was rife with talk of the thing. Labour called for a “future fair for all”, the Conservative Party introduced a “blueprint for fairness” and the Liberal Democrats wanted to see fairness “hard-wired” into British society with their manifesto promising “four steps to a fairer Britain.” Does Hutton pin down this notion and give it modern political relevance?

“Free markets are neither god given nor the product of evolution”

What he does do is explain why this question matters more than ever. “Big finance had lost all sense of proportion, fair dealing and due desert” he writes. “What it exacted in margins, fees and costly but flawed risk-management devices had been funded by the non-financial sector, which for its pains had been plunged into the deepest recession since the early 1930s and now faces a faltering recovery hamstrung by private debt. It's grotesque.”

Like any sensible social democrat, Hutton isn't afraid of capitalism. He's acknowledges it as a remarkably productive system. Fairness, to Hutton, plays its part when it facilitates open, plural and elite-free society and business. The market, democracy, and a proactive government play a symbiotic role in augmenting our society. Such a conclusion is a surprising but encouraging conclusion from Hutton.

Boles, the newly elected Conservative MP for Grantham and Stamford (Thatcher's childhood home – coincidence? Yes), founder of the influential and in-vogue Policy Exchange, and close confidant of Cameron has penned a more practical and arguably less cerebral prescription for post-recession Britain. In *Which Way's Up?*, a more measured, democratic and liberal-minded brand of conservatism is on offer. Boles believes in more than just the market knowing best.

Socially liberal (gone is the Mary Whitehouse influence on the Conservative party), Boles's focus is on the resuscitation of the British economy and improving the way politics works in this country. An ardent localist, Boles advocates a radical redistribution of power across the country.

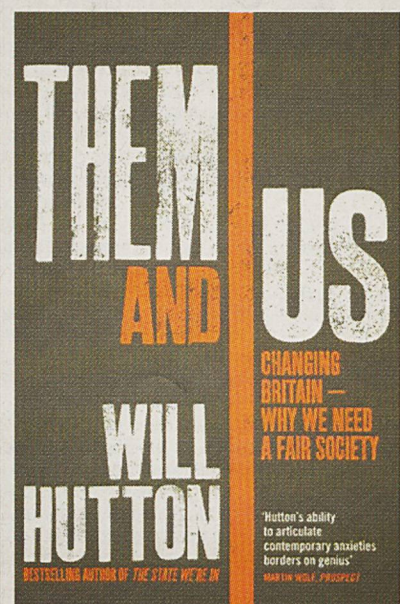
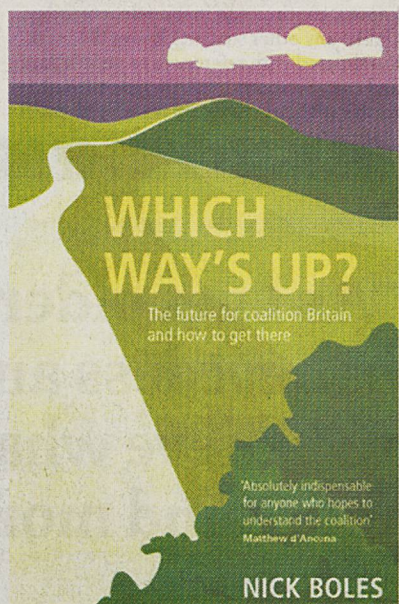
“Now that our political elites have been declare morally and fiscally bankrupt”, argues Boles, “it is possible for anyone to argue that the best way to run our country and our communities is for the British people to cast one vote every four or five years and hand over control to whatever motley collection of individual

representatives this process produces.”

In the final pages of *Which Way's Up?*, Boles proposes a ten-year pact between Conservatives and Liberals. Boles's deal would mean Liberal Democrats gave Conservatives a free run in seats they hold, recommending to their campaigners they vote Conservative and vice versa. This far-fetched plan is a credit to Boles's commitment to a particular kind of politics. Whether one calls them ‘conservative means to liberal ends’ or ‘classically liberalism’, Boles's ideas are what drive his politics.

Boles sees the coalition as “a big top pitched on ground that is common to modern Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, its blue and yellow striped canvas is held up by five sturdy posts, each of which is planted in a solid earth of shared principles, values and beliefs.” Those posts are personal freedom, the creation of opportunities as the primary pursuit of government, responsibility for our planet, an understanding that Britain's prosperity is not guaranteed, and local communities should and can be given real power and responsibility.

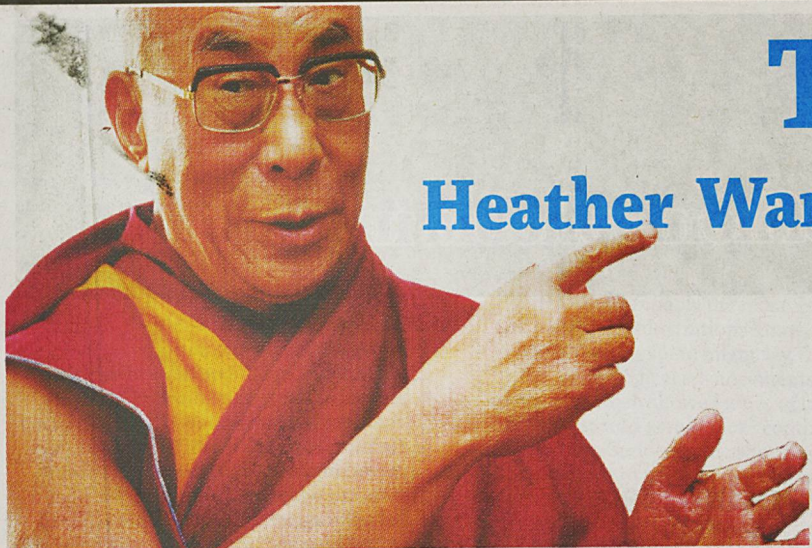
We live in a comparatively dogma-free age where politicians have a better chance of persuading voters to think the unthinkable than ever before. In 1970, 56 per cent of the working classes voted Labour. In 2010, it was just 33 per cent. The reverse trend is true of the middle classes, while choice of newspaper is now a better indicator of voting tendency than income. In short, politics has become less about whose side you're on and more about what you stand for. There has never been a better time to think, and listen to others think. Do as Hutton and Boles do: engage in politics because of ideas, not tribes.





# The Dalai Lama's legacy

Heather Wang explains the (hi)story behind the man



**W**hen I lived in China, I knew little about the Dalai Lama. But I always had the following idea imprinted in my mind: he is evil - his aim to separate Tibet from China. I never questioned the veracity of the idea. I then moved to England and had the opportunity of reading more about the Dalai Lama in my Religious Studies textbook. He was portrayed completely differently, a noble and peaceful religious leader forced into exile because of the Chinese government's persecution. What's more, I always thought no Chinese person had ever been a Nobel laureate! My perception still didn't change much; I thought the reason he was so highly endorsed in the West was as a means to exploit this conflict to jeopardize China's threatening growth. Only when I started reading more about the Dalai Lama from various angles, was I willing to take in different views on the whole issue. In interviews and talks, (I watched them on Youtube, which is blocked in China) the Dalai Lama appears to be a happy, relaxed and cheerful man. This was a complete contradiction of the image that had previously existed in my mind, of a wicked, violent, and provoking leader that had previously existed in my mind. I then started to wonder: Had I been brainwashed by the Chinese government? Perhaps all the information I had been exposed to in China was too one-sided, making me reluctant to even question the

government's words.

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso (back then was called Lhamo Dhondup) was born on 6 July 1935 to a farming family, in a small hamlet located in Taktser, Amdo, in former Tibetan region, incorporated into Qiang Hai Province by then. At the age of two, Lhamo Dhondup was recognised as the reincarnation of the former Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso, and was named Jetsun Jamphel Ngawang Lobsang Yeshe Tenzin Gyatso (Holy Lord, Gentle Glory, Compassionate, Defender of the Faith, Ocean of Wisdom). In Tibet, the Dalai Lamas are believed to be manifestations of Avalokiteshvara or Chenrezig, the Bodhisattva of Compassion and patron saint of Tibet.

The Dalai Lama's monastic education began at the age of six. The curriculum consisted of five major and five minor subjects. The major subjects were logic, Tibetan art and culture, Sanskrit, medicine, and Buddhist philosophy which was further divided into five categories. Prajnaparamita, the perfection of wisdom; Madhyamika, the philosophy of the middle way; Vinaya, the canon of monastic discipline; Abhidharma, metaphysics; and Pramana, logic and epistemology. The five minor subjects were poetry, music and drama, astrology, motre and phrasing, and synonyms. When the Dalai Lama was 23, he sat his final examination in the Jokhang Temple, Lhasa, during the annual Monlam (prayer) Festival in 1959. He passed with

honours and was awarded the Geshe Lharampa degree, roughly equivalent to a doctorate of Buddhist philosophy.

On 17 November 1950, under military pressure from China, the Dalai Lama assumed the leadership of Tibet at the age of 15. On 23 May 1951, the Seventeen Point Agreement for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet was signed. It is the document by which the delegates of the Dalai Lama reached an agreement with the newly established government of People's Republic of China on affirming Chinese sovereignty over Tibet. However, there was much debate on whether the treaty was valid, as delegates claimed that they were forced to sign the treaty under duress. Nevertheless, the Dalai Lama tried to work with the Chinese government until 1959. In September 1954, together with the 10th Panchen Lama he went to the Chinese capital to meet Mao Zedong, and attended the first session of the National People's Congress as a delegate. On 27 September 1954, the Dalai Lama was selected as a deputy chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, a post he officially held until 1964. In 1959, concerned about his safety, the Dalai Lama went into exile in Dharamsala, India, when suppression of the Tibetan national uprising in Lhasa by Chinese troops took place.

Not long after his exile, the Dalai Lama has set up the Central Tibetan Administration, with the stated goals of 'rehabilitating Tibetan refugees and restoring freedom and happiness in Tibet'. It is commonly referred to as the 'Tibetan Government in Exile'. Although it has a government-like structure, it claims that it is 'not designed to take power in Tibet'. This clearly is not seen to be the case by the Chinese government. In 1963, the Dalai Lama presented a draft democratic constitution for Tibet, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This reform was named 'The Charter of Tibetans in Exile', which aimed to advo-

cate freedom of speech, belief, assembly and movement.

Despite the Chinese government's persecution, the Dalai Lama uses non-violent actions and condemned violence on many occasions (but the issue on the Dalai Lama and violence is still controversial). In September 1987, he proposed the Five Point Peace Plan for Tibet's peaceful solution to the deteriorating situation in Tibet. The Dalai Lama's peace work received widespread international recognition, and in 1989, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet. As expected, China was indignant with Dalai Lama's reception of Nobel Peace Prize.

One of the most important factors that led to conflict between Tibet and China was the argument over sovereignty. The Chinese government firmly contends that Tibet had been part of China since the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). At the same time, the Tibetan Government in exile also claims sovereignty over various ethnically and historically Tibetan areas now governed by China. In 1913, a proclamation was issued by 13th Dalai Lama, stating: 'During the time of Genghis Khan and Altan Khan of the Mongols, the Ming dynasty of the Chinese, and the Qing Dynasty of the Manchus, Tibet and China cooperated on the basis of benefactor and priest relationship'. The relationship did not imply 'subordination of one to the other'. The current Dalai Lama holds a similar view, despite the fact that he asserts that he does not intend to separate Tibet from China. In one of his books, he states 'Historical documents are very clear that China, Mongolia and Tibet were all separate countries.'

Despite being a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the Dalai Lama's so-called non-violent actions were not consistent. He advocated religious freedom, yet has persecuted a religious group that worship a deity called Dorje Shugden. He outlawed praying to Dorje Shugden in 1996,

and those who defied his will lost their jobs, were mocked in the streets or even had their homes smashed up. When this religious sect protested against this treatment, they were told by representatives of the Dalai Lama that 'concepts like democracy and freedom of religion are empty when it comes to the wellbeing of the Dalai Lama'. In fact, the Dalai Lama's own view on peace is not completely unswerving either. He had argued that sweet words can be violent when they intend harm, and harsh and tough action can be non-violent when it aims at the wellbeing of others. Taking such standpoint would give the Dalai Lama much more leeway in terms of violence use. The recent 2008 Tibetan unrest heightened tension between China and Tibet. The violence, directed mainly towards Han and Hui civilian in Lhasa, was believed to have been conducted by the Dalai Lama and his separatist followers.

Recently, the Dalai Lama, the world-wide religious leader, has given clear sign that he will be retiring soon, possibly within a year. According to him, it is also possible that he will be the last in this role, saying that although the system has been useful for centuries, it could be abolished if the majority of followers of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition so wished. This issue over power transition is very contentious and could spark dissent in Tibetan community. Also, this unstable period could be exploited by the Chinese government to achieve its own aims in Tibet.

The Dalai Lama's life has been far from easy, but he keeps in a good spirit and remains charismatic. The road in front of China and Tibetan community with the change of leadership will not be tranquil; we can only hope that with further understanding and toleration, real peace will arrive one day. ☞

# Don't cry for me Argentina

Alex Welsby discusses the consequences of Nestor Kirchner's death

**E**l Kirchnerismo has come to an end. On the 27th of October former president Nestor Kirchner suffered a tragic heart attack in the southern city of El Calafate. He was held in such high regard that many compared him to former General Juan Peron, the namesake of Kirchner's Peronist movement. Argentina is now struggling to come to terms with not only the death of the last caudillo, but also the close of his political era. A default candidate who clung to the coattails of previous president Eduardo Duhalde, Nestor Kirchner will be remembered for his tough fiscal capacity after the 2001 economic crisis, rising from the ashes of a traumatic devaluation and an eighty billion debt default. In the face of a personal and political loss, how long will the grieving period last? Or will it be a case of "don't cry for me Argentina"?

I want to do things for Argentina and for the memory of this great Argentine too,' was Ms Cristina Fernandez's official response just four days after her husband's death. Yet can it be presumed that widowed in this professional capacity, that Kirchnerism has had its day? Has the reign of 'Queen Cristina' come to an end too? There has already been internal defection within the Peronist movement, vice president Julio Cobos, elected from an opposition party to broaden appeal, has come to be regarded as one of Argentina's most popular politicians, laying the foundations for a successful 2011 presidential bid.

In recent years, Ms. Fernandez's presidency has suffered a fall from grace owing to a farmer's strike which earned widespread support, plunging the country into an agricultural deficit amidst her announcement of nationalization of the country's private pension funds. As a result, she appeared to offer a more moderate conciliatory approach, as the appointment of Julio Cobos demonstrated. Yet many believed her presidential victory was based upon her husband's previous

popularity; a coronation fit for political royalty. In reality however, Nestor Kirchner remained constantly in her shadow, acting as an expert puppeteer. He remained formally in charge of the ruling Peronist movement, as well as overseeing the formulation of economic policy. Kirchner's constant criticism leveled against the International Monetary Fund's free market liberalization resonated strongly with the cautious crisis weary population. Plans were already underway to deepen his economic model as a means to garner support for next year's presidential election.

## The political pendulum however does not appear ready to swing away from Peronism just yet

Kirchnerism has paralyzed the Peronist movement, causing it to become increasingly disillusioned with its reliance on trade union support. There is a fear that it will become an insular movement, owing to the significant role which Hugo Majoro, an apparently thuggish union leader is playing. Moreover, there is increasing uncertainty as to whether Ms. Fernandez's bereavement will be to her political advantage. Will public sympathy strengthen the Peronist movement?

Kirchnerism still has the potential, in a bid for political survival, to extend an olive branch to the opposition parties Unión Cívica Radical and Propuesta Republicana. Argentine Political analyst Jorge Giacoble stated 'the boss has gone; we need to see it in those terms. The battle to influence Ms. Fernandez, to assume Nestor's role has already started. What direction she takes depends on who manages to do that.'

The political pendulum however does not appear ready to swing away from Peronism just yet. There is a call for the return of the traditional caudillos. Daniel Scioli, as governor of Buenos Aires, has already diverted his allegiance to become Kirchner's deputy within the Peronist movement.

Argentina's domestic political concerns are now being transcended as state confines unnerve their international counterparts. Recent attempts to achieve an alliance with Uruguay, antagonizing British concerns over the Falkland Islands, and maintaining Hillary Clinton's newly found friendship remain firmly on the agenda. Nestor Kirchner's previous omnipresence prevented an effective delegation of foreign policy within Ms Fernandez's administration; now sheltered by public sympathy, it is an ideal opportunity to garner international recognition

whilst simultaneously bolstering her reelection bid.

Argentina has been left in a political vacuum with the Peronist movement now unable to manoeuvre itself within an already divided political arena. As attention is drawn to the October 2011 elections, no definite candidates have currently been identified. As it stands, Ms. Fernandez's approval ratings are hovering around 35 per cent, not nearly high enough to suggest a first round victory. Keeping Kirchner's previous policies and circle of advisers may help Fernandez to cope with her personal and professional loss. However, this has so far failed to direct Argentina towards sustainable

growth; a consensus has yet to be reached with the agricultural sector and high inflation still abounds. It is without doubt that Argentina is in a state of political mourning, buried amongst prevailing depth of uncertainty. Whether the country is to be stifled politically, and thus domestically and internationally in the wake of the 2011 elections remains to be seen. Goldman Sachs senior analyst Alberto Ramos perhaps offered the best conclusion in a note to clients, 'The disappearance from the political scene of perhaps the most iconic and polarizing political figure of the last decade is a watershed event with profound political and potentially economic implications'. ☞





# Nothing changes

Alex Welsby laments the enduring prevalence of homophobia in football

Earlier this month, Vlado Markovic, Head of the Croatian Football Federation declared, "As long as I am President, there will be no gay players. Thank goodness only healthy people can play football." Rather than inciting protestations however, Markovic simply conveyed a conventional analysis of homophobia in football.

Unsurprisingly, he is not alone. Martin Perry, Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove Albion stated, "If you ask the traditional football supporter or anyone involved they will say football players are not gay." Former manager Alan Smith wrote, "Football is a profession that doesn't allow anyone to be different. You can get drunk and beat up your wife and that's quite acceptable but if someone were to say 'I'm gay' it's considered awful." Similarly, Luis Felipe Scolari, manager of the Brazilian team during the 2002 World Cup campaign, admitted he would have thrown a player off the team whom he found to be gay. The sport itself is inherent with social regression. Not only do homophobic chants resound off the terraces but also racist and anti-Semitic overtones. Last season Sol Campbell, whose sexuality has been questioned throughout his career, was subjected to abuse from Tottenham Hotspur fans who claimed that he was HIV positive and took time to declare their wish to see him hanging from a tree. This is by no means an isolated case. Matthew Upson, despite fathering a child has endured homophobic taunts by both Birmingham City and Aston Villa fans, whilst married Liverpool Striker and soon to be father of two Fernando Torres, has seen his Anfield praise manipulated from 'Liverpool's Number 9' to 'Carra-

gher's bit on the side.' Homosexuality is reduced to derogatory remarks as a means to taunt the opposition; it loses possession as soon as the whistle is blown. The Football Association this year intended to shoot a promotional video as a means to discourage homophobic hate chants within the stands and between the players themselves. They could not find a single Premier League player willing to endorse it and the idea has since been postponed.

It is not so much coming out of the closet anymore though but coming out of the dressing room instead. Open homosexuality within football remains illusive; there are no openly gay football players in England or Spain in any of the four divisions or the German Bundesliga. Bayern Munich striker Mario Gomez has encouraged players to come out saying 'they would play as if they had been liberated. Being gay should no longer be a taboo topic, professional footballers should own up to their own preference.' Fellow German National teammates, Tim Weiser and Phillip Lahm do not share the same opinion however, stating that that 'gay players would be destroyed by merciless fans'. Lahm, in an interview with *Playboy* magazine claimed that players would not be able to cope with all the pressure associated with coming out; 'A player who chooses to out himself still has to carry out his job in front of tens of thousands of spectators'.

Despite Gomez's call for liberation, there does appear to be some truth in what his professional colleagues are saying. Justin Fashanu became the first openly gay English footballer, coming out in 1990, yet despite some admiration the hostility he received led him to commit suicide in 1998. He effectively became a martyr for

homosexuality within football, marking a worrying precedent for the enduring homophobia with which has become synonymous. Perhaps this is why Gomez's remarks encouraged such a diplomatic line from the German Football Federation. They acknowledged that whilst they were campaigning against homophobia in football and would support any player who chose to come out, they felt that they could not ignore the problems that would be associated with such a decision.

Does it therefore become a question of physical safety or an elaborate Public Relations exercise? Max Clifford stated last year that, 'Over the last decade, there have been four footballers who were gay or bisexual who came to see me for advice. Every one of them made it very clear that they believed that if they came out, their careers were finished'. He similarly alleges he was approached by two top-flight clubs wishing to portray a 'straight image'. Even the chairman of the FA's Homophobia in Football clampdown initiative, Peter Clayton, admitted that gay players' commercial value would be significantly damaged. The rationale would be to remain in the closet, dividing time between the pitch, endorsements and stumbling out of Whisky Mist with a few pretty blondes.

In this sense a more philosophical question arises; to what extent should sexuality be involved anyway? It does not appear to be a problem in women's football as in August this year England Coach Hope Powell was placed 68th on The Independent's Pink List of gay and lesbian people in the UK. In 2005 however, then Liverpool player Djibril Cisse vowed not to kiss his teammates after scoring a goal owing to a fear of being thought of as gay. Although a startling admission

**Football is a profession that doesn't allow anyone to be different; you can get drunk and beat up your wife and that's quite acceptable but if someone were to say "I'm gay" it's considered awful'**

perhaps it is a very sensible suggestion. Player's actions are scrutinized at every angle. What are the media and the fans responses to be when during a goal celebration, players removed their shirts and embraced one another if there was a gay player on the team. Team tactics would take on a whole new meaning. Michael Ballack's agent, Michael Becker referred to the German National Team as 'a bunch of queers'. This unfounded claim however has no correlation with their ability to play football; Homophobic remarks were not waged against the side that crushed England's defence and obliterated Argentina's campaign.

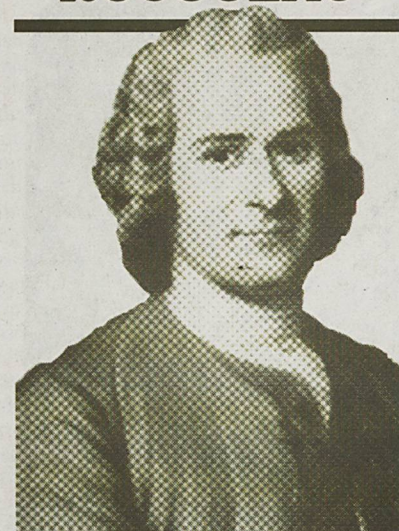
Could football cope with homosexuality therefore? Well yes, I believe it can, just as Rugby League has not been hindered by Gareth Thomas' sexual preference. Posters of boyhood idols should not be ripped off walls, teams will still win and lose whether players are gay or not. Being a homosexual player does not affect your ability to play football, despite what Markovic thinks. The more difficult question is whether football itself can create a more tolerant environment. Homophobic chants were banned in 2008 but as the earlier quotes suggest it is proving difficult to enforce. In February this year, I attended Professor David Goldblatt's lecture at the LSE about football and the rise of global capitalism. The sport is now omnipresent within international relations, garnering a global social responsibility. As the world awaits FIFA's announcement this week as to which country will host the 2018 World Cup, we have all been urged to 'Back the Bid', but reality dictates that we need to do much more. The symbiotic relationship between homophobia and football is yet to be tackled. ☛



## Is voting a duty or a right?

Voting ought to be considered a duty through which you are make a commitment to your community and your future. After numerous years of our forebearers losing lives for the sole possibility of casting the ballot free and fair, it would be simple insult to their memory to throw this aside in order to devote yourself to an activity as trivial as may be your occupations.

Calum Young is...  
**ROUSSEAU**



In order to reach excellence within your state, you must aim for excellence as one of its citizens; how else then, can you trust the government to go in the right direction? To be held accountable, your politicians must be made aware that you are observant of their every move and ready to hold them to their responsibilities come the first referendum. A discarded campaign promise deserves strict punishment.

The typical argument of the economist will be that the costs of offering your voice greatly outweigh any benefit that may come from it. That is erroneous, naturally, and a simple application of Kant's law of universality will allow you to see the aberration. What if everyone made this utility calculus? Concerned solely with their conformity to rational

behaviour theory, no one would then bear to bring themselves to decide on a way for the country's future; the world would be back in the hands of autocrats.

Grumbling about the economy, thus, is simply no longer acceptable if you have not carried out your responsibility as a citizen to make sure the most was being done for your sake.

Epistemic theory also proves the value of an individual's opinions. This argument entails that the more opinions are cast in the making of the decision, the more likely is the final decision to be 'correct', or in other words, to lead to the best outcome. By depriving society of your perspective you are depriving it of making a better, more informed choice which would then lead to an improved state of affairs.

Leaving the opportunity to vote aside

is more than a simple shrug of shoulders, and the clear signal that 'you just don't care'. Democracy is defined as a means of rule by the people for the people. As such, by not voting, you are simply removing your hands from the steering wheel of the ship that is your country. A multiplication of indifference can ultimately lead your nation to absolute ruin, and thus translates into an act of utmost treason to any sense of patriotism. Just like paying your taxes, and serving in the military, voting is an unavoidable and necessary route to being a good citizen and a better human being. ☛

Marion Koob is...  
**PERICLES**



Is voting a right rather than a duty? Yes. Nobody who lives within a modern liberal democracy should feel compelled to vote. Rather, it should be a choice.

Consider those who vote because they are forced to do so. Will they agonise over their decision? Will they carefully weigh-up the positives and negatives of each party and its manifesto promises? Will they be the best informed members of the electorate? The answer to all these questions is no. Those forced to vote will be the least politically engaged members of society, thus their judgement of which party ought to rule will often plainly wrong. Do we want ill-informed decision makers running our society? I for one do not.

Secondly there's an argument to be made on grounds of liberty. Whilst there may be a modern consensus that democracy is the best way to govern a society this hasn't always been so. Those figures who object to democratic process and the electoral system itself should not be forced to comply with something they do not believe. The essence of democracy is debate, and that includes debate around whether democracy itself is the right political system. Let's not coerce people into supporting the rule of the people.

The argument in favour of voting as a duty rather than a right, is also making bold claims about the nature of voting itself. Is it something good that we ought to encourage? I would argue not. Voting

encourages people to neglect their mundane duties in favour of abstract engagement with the political system. Dinner will go uncooked, flats will be left untidy and essays will not be written. This is the opportunity cost of voting. The time spent considering which party to vote for may be better employed doing something else. As Tim Hartford the economist has noted its far more rational to spend time deciding which Hi-Fi or car to buy than it is to deliberate over political parties. The time would be better spent doing something else.

It is also a misapprehension to believe voting represents the will of the people. Whilst opinions may be cast on election day, what follows within a system of

representative democracy is completely beyond the control of ordinary citizens. Hence my argument that 'the British people are only free on the day they vote'. In this sense voting loses its value. Those who pledged their support for Liberal Democrat policies in May of 2010 will not only too well the grossly overrated concept of political democracy. Don't vote because politicians invariably fail to do what they say they will. It doesn't make any difference. ☛



# The revolutionary student

Aisha Doherty speaks of the history and philosophy of student protests

**A** lone policeman, armed with helmet and baton, the single issue kit of the French Police. His only protection against the hordes of protesters he seems to be running towards in blind faith. He is the single upholder of an old order and institution that seems to fade with every approaching step of the crowd. This is Paris 1968. A time of intense violence and debate that sparked worldwide public outcry - fronted by students, against the horrors of the Vietnam War. Student protest had arrived and was here to stay for the next 20 years.

It is perhaps fitting, that as this historical guide to student rebellion is written, our country will have faced yet more disruptions to the peace in the form of student walkouts and mass protests. As the second nationally staged demonstration in a month, this week's events, according to the Education Activist Network, mark the "beginning of a new era for the student movement". As a population, the British aren't exactly renowned for their revolutionary habits, especially compared to their French counterparts. It is certainly the most active this generation has ever been...politically at any rate.

However, this hasn't always been the case, throughout the 60's and 70's; the LSE was renowned as a hotbed for left-wing revolutionary ideals. An intellectual platform with frequent sit ins and protests showing the world how politically aware LSE students were, culminating in 1969 where violent protests forced the school to close for a number of days.

Historically, the 20th Century has given birth to probably the most frequent and violent demonstrations known in Western history, some might say, fuelled by the technological advancements of television which allowed news of latest events to spread across more continents, and quickly. Suddenly, the shocking inconsistencies of the decisions of national governments were available for all to see - the left and right, becoming ever more present within those searching for intellectual stimulus.

Protesters were now a united front against established order. 'The Man' was no longer unquestionably in charge, and "power to the people" was the order of the day. However, for those of you now feverishly clutching your Che Guevara posters, the lone rebels glorified today are often heavily romanticised figures - the revolutions of their time were fraught with death threats, exile and violence upon social order, not always favoured by the very people they were attempting to help.

Let us take a short trip back to 1989. For the West, the communist world system is on the brink of collapse. In the East, a 100,000 strong civilian demonstration, fronted by students, takes place in Tiananmen Square. It follows the death of Hu Yaobang, a former party leader. Their protest for democracy lasts seven weeks, and causes the most violent reaction from government forces in modern history. On the 3rd of June, officials decide to deal with this peaceful protest that 'threatened' the nationalist ideals of Communist China. Tanks roll in, and police opened

fire on an unarmed crowd with death tolls in the range of 800 to 300,000 - including many who were not even taking part in the protests. This was followed by series of arrests and a shutdown of the free press in China. Here, we see the extent to which protests can transform society and cause fear in those who hold power. The tragedy of this was the totalitarian state in which they were forced to pursue their inherent human right of free speech.

Heralded as the Golden age of public protest, Americans during the middle to late 1960s switched on to their foreign policy and the American invasion of Vietnam. For the first time, war came straight into war, with live coverage and pictures bombarding an increasingly disillusioned population. Whilst these horrors were advertised as a great blow to the spread of the dreaded red ideology, many saw a different story - one of civilians against soldiers, families forced against each other and the unnecessary demise of an American generation. All for the special price of \$66 million a day. Universal outcry, prompted by the events at Universities such as Berkeley in 1965 (with the first draft card burnings) and the occupations of Columbia in 1968 (which brought together the Vietnam war will the African American fight for equality). Worldwide, disillusionment with the ruling system was rife as waves of strikes took place in much of Europe.

It is often (mistakenly) thought that violence and revolution are synonymous, even essential to change. This is definitely not the case, but as history shows, those

who are willing to risk the most are often those who have nothing left to lose. As university students, we can learn much from these protests. We are fortunate to live in a liberal country with the power of free speech and will. The past is a reminder that peaceful, intellectually informed protests are most often the way forward, often showing up those in power who are guided by fear and an appetite for control.

So, what does this mean for students today? We are studying at a time of perpetual threat. Not only to the educational future of our (and later generation) but towards the way the government regards students as a political force. The Browne Review and spending cuts have finally given us a voice, which should be used, if not for ourselves, then for the past generations who fought to keep students as influential as possible.

Whilst hiding from the police at the Whitehall protest this Wednesday, I overheard a man comment: "This government always gets what it wants anyway, there is no point in protesting, the laws are passed and they can do what they want." Should this continue to be the case? Or have we learnt nothing from our predecessors?

## WHAT IF...

Martel Lost the Battle of Tours?

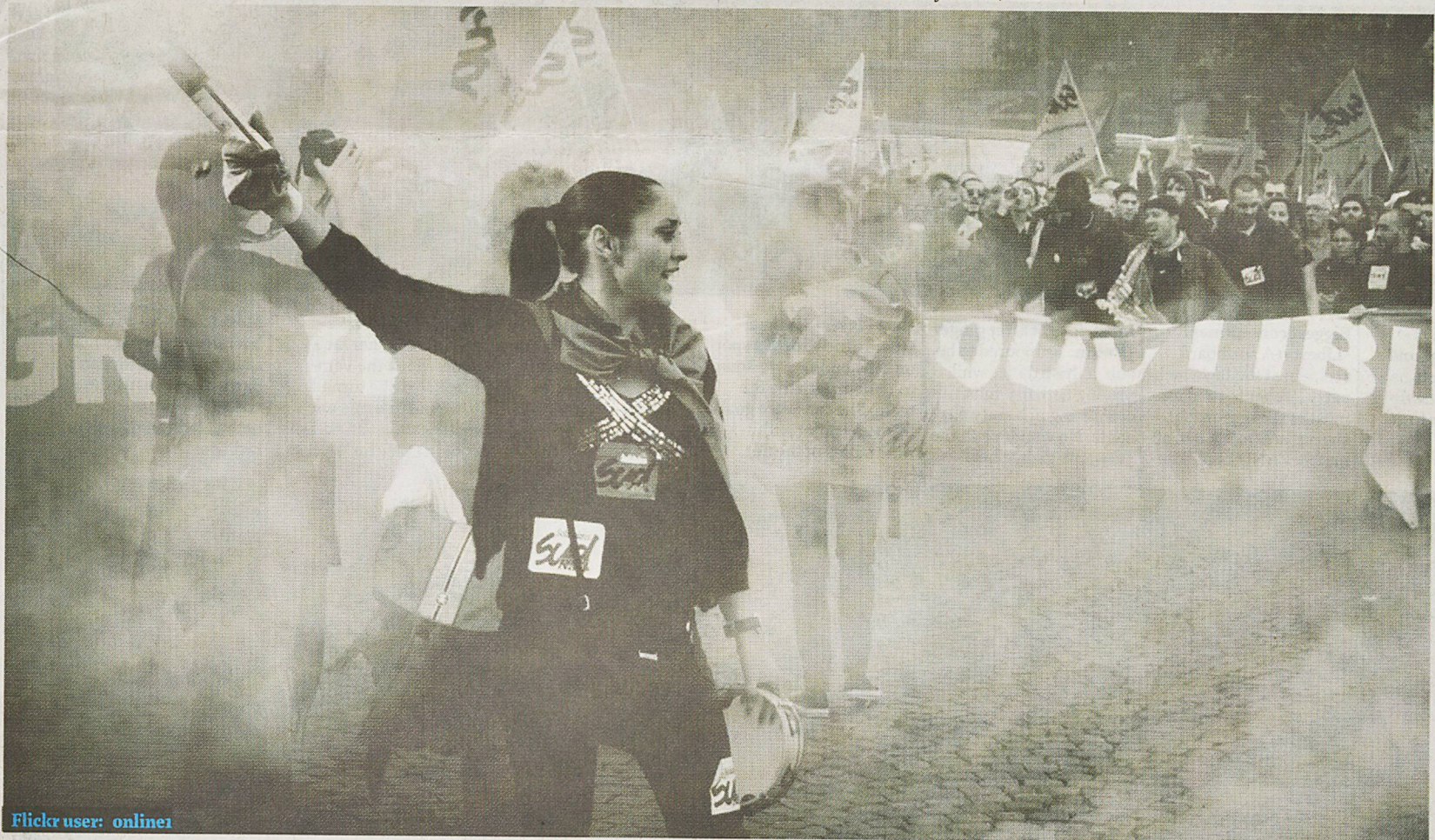
Jack Tindale

**T**he defeat of the Frankish army at Tours (now Limoges, capital of the Emirate of Firanja) in 113 AH marked the final few years of existence for the Carolingian Kingdom, beset as she was by external pressures and domestic quarrels. Although the Umayyah Host was greatly overstretched by the battle, the death of Martel during its final stages robbed the Frankish Kingdom of her final elements of a centralised authority. By the time that Commander Al Ghafiqi, buoyed by the victory, had reorganised his military strategy and mounted a formal conquest of the region by the Caliphate, Paris was already aflame as various local princelings fought for the leadership of northern Christendom.

The expansion of Al-Andalus to the border with the Province of Austrasia resulted in a major shift in the Christian world towards the north-east. The Frankish King, Theuderic IV was freed from his captivity by supporters and was finally able to re-establish his court in Mainz by the end of the next year, although he was to die shortly after, perhaps poisoned by one of his many rivals. His successor, Carloman I, was able to sign a peace with Al Ghafiqi at Cologne, although it would take many years before the Kingdom was able to formally settle the boundary between the Caliphate and Christendom at the Rhine. By 136 AH, the year in which both Carloman and Al Ghafiqi died, the Papacy, under pressure from the growing threat of naval blockade and invasion from the increasingly Umayyah dominated Bar al-Rûm had moved to Cologne. Following the Treaty of Aachen in 155 AH, the Papacy formally united with the Frankish Kingdom to become the Holy Roman Empire, inspired no doubt by the spiritually minded system of the Caliphate in Damascus.

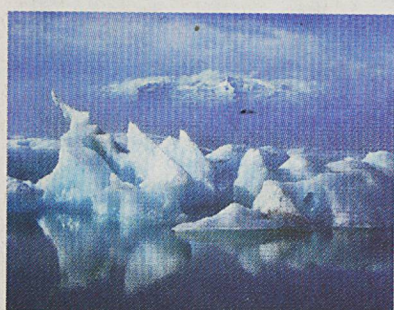
Such imitation failed to preserve the Catholic bulwark against Islam however, over the next three centuries, the Italian Kingdoms and Central Francia had both been absorbed into what is now the Emirate of Roma. Only the dynastic struggles that emerged with the death of the final Umayyah Caliph, Umar V in 367 AH, halted the expansion of the Empire, which was irrevocably split into the six nations that exist to this day. Whilst the Caliphate was formally passed to the greatest of the successor states, Córdoba, all are nearly as large as the territory of the largest Christian nation, the militaristic Empire of Brandenburg which continues to dominate the Christian world.

The Papacy, thrown into a period of interregnum following the death of Pope Celestine V in 578 AH, now has its base in the English capital of Winchester. King Henry XI holds the office of Holy Britannia Emperor co-currently with his own crown, although the position has become a largely sinecure one over the years with the majority of Christians looking towards the Orthodox faction of the Catholic Church which has its base in Great Kyiv. As 1431 AH draws to a close, it is the new Hua Dynasty that remains the dominant rival towards the Caliphate.



Flickr user: online1

## Measured musings



**I**t is now a year since world leaders met in Copenhagen to try to construct a road map for climate change mitigation. The talks concluded badly - agreement was hard to find while squabbling over who should cut emissions and how fast was rife. In the end a token accord was signed that merely recognised the scientific case for keeping temperature rises below two degrees Celsius. In talks where the aim had been to enter into legally binding obligations to take action on climate change, this was a vacuous conclusion to proceedings.

Twelve months on, delegates will be spending this week in Cancún where the follow-up to the Copenhagen Conference is taking place. A number of things are remarkable about this conference but the lack of attention we seem to be giving it is

## No change in Cancún

most astonishing. The Copenhagen Conference was presaged by months of build up, the case for action was eloquently made by scientists, politicians and economists and as a result those present felt duty-bound to come up with something.

To tackle climate change is to prioritise the long-term over the short-term. This makes it a problem that politicians, all too often motivated by the quick electoral win, are unlikely to make a top priority. There was, a year ago, a sense that inaction on climate change might become an electoral deal breaker. Just as, in Britain, singing the praises of the National Health Service is the first rule of any General Election, for a time it looked likely that the electorate would not tolerate inaction on emissions. Tragically, this vision has not materialised. 2010 has

seen the number of deaths from extreme weather double yet more column inches have been expended discussing a few dishonest climate change scientists than making the point for further action on global warming.

Domestically, the once environmentally switched-on Conservatives are too busy to combat climate change. The Cameron that changed his party's logo to a tree and had himself photographed, husky-led, inspecting the melting ice caps, is a thing of the past. Austerity is the order of the day and not even the Liberal Democrat wing of the coalition can muster the strength to return climate change to the top of the agenda.

With Americans less scientifically convinced of human hand in changes to the earth's temperature than they were a

year ago, Britons distracted by protesting students and budget cuts, and China worrying over what to do with its currency, Cancún will pass by unnoticed. Those in attendance will feel no pressure to look to the long-term and, yet again, the climate change problem will be passed on to a slightly younger generation.

Oliver Wiseman  
Features Editor



# Play-off Profiles: This week it's Rowing vs Hockey

## Georgie Gately

**Who is she?**

Women's Rowing Captain

**Where is she from?**

The posh part of greater London

**Natural Wednesday Night Habitat:**

Her appearances at Zoo Bar and its debauchery have dwindled, so probably at home with an Econ-History textbook.

**LSE Sporting Career Highlight:**

Salou - Georgie had an amazing tour. The highlight, suprisingly, being threatened by Deevy to have an electric tooth-brush shoved where the sun doesn't shine.

**Profile:**

Georgie started her AU career as good as it gets, as a 6th team netball member, sadly she made the terrible decision to start a women's rowing club. However she knows when she wants some lash and tour she comes back to the fold.



## Luke Edward Alexander Davies

**Who is he?**

Disgraced Ex-Hockey Captain

**Where is he from?**

Also from the posh part of greater London

**Natural Wednesday Night Habitat:**

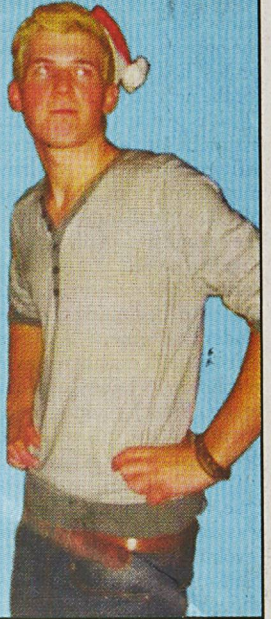
Surrounded by a harem of impressionable young girls, half his age.

**LSE Sporting Career Highlight:**

Turning his trade to lacrosse, as a special guest player and stuffing a well-known north London poly 7-0.

**Profile:**

With as many first names as failed modules at LSE, Luke has remained an AU-lynchpin, single handedly bringing 65% of all females to Zoo Bar each week. He claims to have stuck around for the free pitcher, but many suspect its the for the free minge.

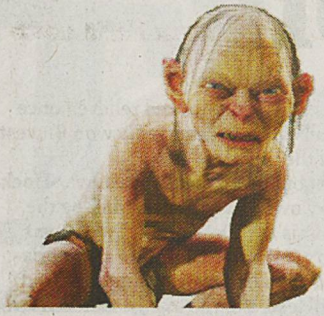


<b>Most Wanted - Barrow:</b> Her name is on police records after being taken home after initiations last year. Word on the street is Cooper is a fan too.	<b>Undercover Genius - Bowers:</b> Works around 100 hrs a week, gets battered the rest of the time and still manages to get a first.	<b>Biggest commitment -Liberty:</b> A surfboard accident at the Baywatch party left her injured for most of the season, but she has still made it to all matches AND Zoo.	<b>Most sought after ginger -Keelin:</b> Rumoured to be able to Irish dance whilst playing netball whilst competing in beauty pageants. No wonder half the FC wants to date her.	<b>Best Player - Rachael Ody:</b> Turned down a spot on the London 2012 squad to remain with the 6th team. She can score goals from any point within a 5 mile radius of the net.	<b>Biggest Social Butterfly - Foster-Gregg:</b> Number of years spent on 6th Team Netball: 3. Number of minutes spent on court: 0	<b>Most Vampire Like - Mona:</b> After her hit TV show Mona the Vampire failed she turned to netball. Shame one match left her so stiff she couldn't play for 5 weeks.	<b>Most Ladylike - Protherhoe:</b> Despite being such a lady off court, Megan's Barry roots means she struggles with the idea of netball being a non-contact sport.
<b>Most surprising netball skills - Liz Butler:</b> She looks like she wouldn't frighten a mouse off court, but she turn into a goal keeping machine when she puts that bib on.	<b>Biggest Drinker - Emma Poole:</b> The answer to our defensive prayers, Emma can not only actually save goals she also can drink more alcohol then Megan and Deevy combined.	<b>Poshest Player - Claude:</b> The addition of the double barrel surname is the touch of class the 6th team needed Blonde, hot and not that sporty- she is what we needed.	<b>Most Aggressive Midget - Boyle 1:</b> What she lacks in height she makes up for in aggression; Rosie gets reprimanded for contact more often than Katie Waissel ended up in the bottom two.	<b>Coollest on court - Rach Lawson:</b> Rocks the hightops and a sexy little skirt while playing netball. Thankfully it doesn't affect her ability to play.	<b>Biggest Hair - Katie Reith:</b> Between back combing her hair and planning a wedding to a Russian Billionaire, Katie has been known to grace the court if she has her contacts.	<b>Most Famous Breasts - Spoursy:</b> Her assets are famous among the FC and have even graced the pages of FHM.	<b>Biggest commitment to Polys - Boyle 2:</b> When Sophie is not on court she is helping Poly dentists complete their degrees by having a good look around inside her mouth.
<b>Second most sought after ginge - Lister:</b> Following on from the FC's love on the gingers: Keelin, L'Orange... Lister has been known to get up close and personal - CALELLA.	<b>Hottest Woman on Earth -Maz Fletcher:</b> Attending the gym 6 times a day and not eating chocolate since 1996 mean Maz is hotter than Eva Longoria and Megan Fox combined.	<b>Most Sophisticated - Gemma Skeath:</b> Turned up to fireworks in red lipstick and heels. Last week's crush ruined her rep a little with an epic fall involving a fellow 6th team member.	<b>Biggest dedication to short people - T.Lee:</b> The only team member with a height advantage. Spends her time allowing midgets to 'grow' in confidence giving them the attention they truly deserve.	<b>Girliest - Eve Robertson:</b> Eve loves all things pink and glittery. She may be timid and cute off court but give this girl a goal shot bib and a ball and she is machine.	<b>Biggest Brummie - Anisha:</b> With a stronger accent than Ozzy Osbourne and Lennie Henry put together, she can be heard screaming encouragement from miles away.		

**Netball 6s Teamates - all 700 of them.**



# GG finds out that there's no beauty without pain.



The Tuns was a lively affair this week, with GG arriving to inspect the fine young specimens of masculinity who had been coerced, elbowed and blackmailed into participating in the RAG charity wax. Big and small, but all hairy in their own special way. With support from the Rugby Olympians and the FC Tourists, the boys dealt with levels of pain that women purport to deal with on a weekly basis, with no complaints.

## HOMOEROTIC

Despite the distinct lack of minge, the FC were not deterred in their Salou recruitment drive, and some guest appearances from AU legends to share their wisdom about the AU institution that is Tour. Their liveliness was only matched by the Rugby club trying to out-macho each other in their annual Pub-Olympics. Sadly, their efforts were in vain, as Fola, back by popular demand, out-machoeed the lot of them.

## SEX & CHUNDER

After so much boy-on-boy action, GG was relieved to witness the multitude of madames who had graced the Verve with their presence. Despite the sabotaged captains list and pitchers that would have been more at home at the Women's Institute, the air-conditioning and sex-booths did not disappoint. "There was so much romping...it was brilliant!" GG overheard one 2nd year student say. The fortunes of the sex-booths were about to reverse however. It seemed as if Matt De Zeus' pre-wax sambuccas finally caught up with him and he single handedly cleared out TWO booths with his projectile vomiting, which was a definite mood killer for the occupants.

## COD

Possibly inspired by another round of NUS

protesting, Russian Greg decided to embark on his own brand of vandalism. In a scene reminiscent of a Black Ops mission, the toilet attendant watched in disbelief as the 8ft4 Soviet pulled a soap-dispenser from the wall and smashed it in to a mirror upon realising that Verve didn't provide Molton Brown hand wash. GG also spied other AU delinquent and LSE's larger son of Nigeria entrenching a fair few racial stereotypes by assaulting every single person he encountered en route to Verve and managed to extricate himself from the club by fighting a fellow Nigerian. GG can report that 1960's Civil Rights Protesters were spinning in their graves.

## SLIME

Whereas some people are fighters, others are most definitely lovers. GG saw the biggest man in Armenia pouncing on almost every member of 5th team netball, in a manner that in some countries may get you put on a register. One netballer who managed to escape his clutches found herself with a similarly sleazy young Ting, much the annoyance of Raquel Oddity. Other netballers seemed to have felt nostalgic with the appearance of a few old AU faces, and GG can report that flames were rekindled, especially between Boyleum and everyone's favourite fat Japanese Deutschebank trader.

## BAYWATCH

As if Wednesday wasn't eventful enough, GG ventured out this Friday to everyone's favourite school disco. Once again the Tuns seemed to consist of the hard core of the Netball, Rugby and Football clubs, although it appeared the Rugby players were struggling to consume additional beverages by looks of things. GG witnessed a small Welshman in a leg brace and soggy jeans trying to chat up the aforementioned hardcore netballers. He claimed that he'll always be ready, even if you were drowning in the Thames in the middle of November.

## NURSE

For some of the Netball hard core, the vulnerability of inebriated Rugby players presented an opportunity. Dyso seemed to step in the role of a carer for one young previous Torso Of The Week, and

duly took him home instead of attending Fabric. GG hears that projectile vomit acted as a pretty effective contraceptive.

## SHAGGING

Other members of the Rugby club, more specifically their Leadership, couldn't even wait until they returned to their abode at Kings Cross to test their own contraception, and various locations of the SU building were explored as potential love-making scenarios, until a bathroom was settled upon. All GG can say is - Classy.

## WALKIES

This week sees the return of Walkabout on Wednesday night. Add this to the absolute carnage that will be the AU Secular Festive Event on Friday, and this week looks like it's going to be a meaty one for GG. Rumours have been flying as to my identity, and sadly, no one's quite cottoned on as to who I am. My ears have also picked up on the disgruntled remarks regarding my divulgence of your sexcapades, but let's be fair, if you're going to bare all, then be prepared to be exposed on paper as well as in real life. Friday will provide me with 12 hours of Netball nudity, Rugby romping and FC frolicking, and make no mistakes, I will be watching. I'd tell you all to be a bit more reserved, but you've ignored my previous warnings. Discretion is recommended, but knowing the amount of alcohol that you lot throw back, I doubt there'll really be any of that either. So, to all my AU slags out there (male and female), come Friday, be sure to dress up and drink up - but if you decide to give it up, you can be damn sure that I'll now, and pretty soon after, the rest of the LSE will.

You know you love me, but most importantly, you know I'm watching. XO XO.

### LSE SPORT RESULTS

Attach: [Share](#)

#### Athl Unik

LSE Athletics Union Squash:  
LSE 1st Mens v UCL: 0-5  
Tennis:  
LSE 1st v LSE 2nds (Mens): 12-0  
12 minutes ago · Like · Comment

#### Athl Unik

LSE Athletics Union Basketball:  
LSE Mens 1st v London Metropolitan University Men's 2nd: 85-45  
LSE Womens 1st v UCL 1st: 53-73  
Rugby:  
LSE 1st v Brighton: 15-25  
LSE 2nds v Kingston: 12-5  
14 minutes ago · Like · Comment

#### Athl Unik

LSE Athletics Union Netball:  
LSE 1st v University of Greenwich 1st: 41-28  
LSE 7th v St Barts & the Royal London Women's 4th: 12-18  
LSE 4th v Imperial Medicals 4s ULU: 17-14  
LSE 3rds v Goldsmiths, University of London 1s ULU: 23-30  
17 minutes ago · Like · Comment

#### Athl Unik

LSE Athletics Union Golf:  
LSE v University of Kent 1st: 1-5  
Badminton:  
LSE Mixed v Royal Holloway: 9-0  
Table Tennis:  
LSE v Kings: 1-16  
23 minutes ago · Like · Comment

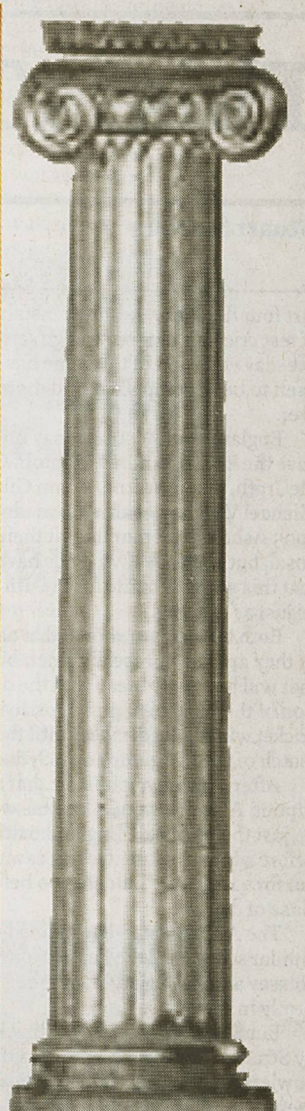
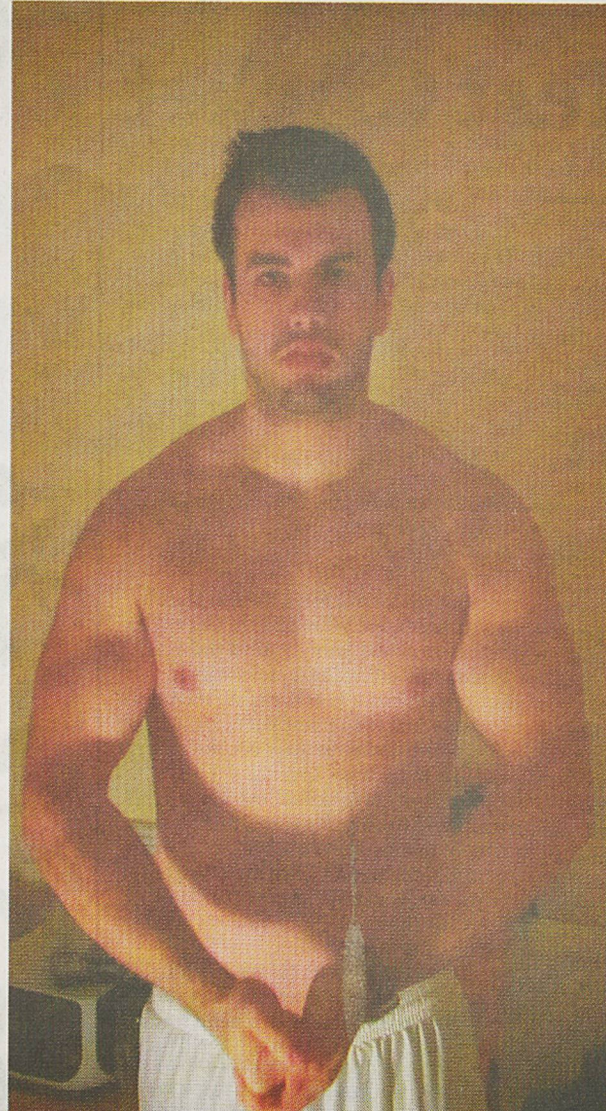
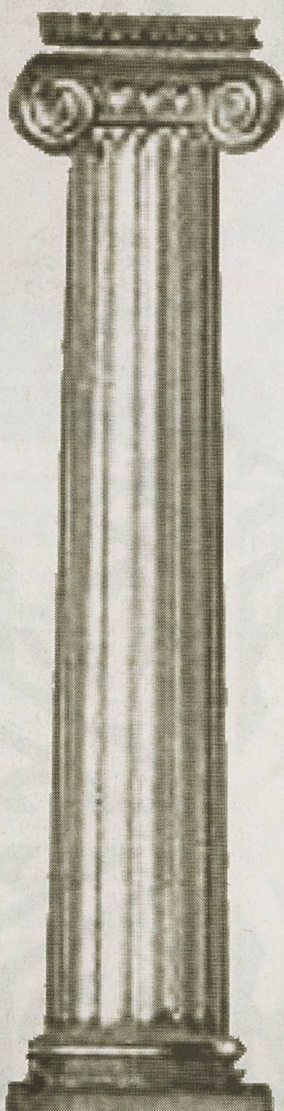
#### Athl Unik

LSE Athletics Union Football:  
LSE 1st v St Barts & the Royal London Men's 1 ULU: 2-2  
LSE 1st University of Portsmouth Men's 5th: 4-3  
LSE 2nds v Queen Mary, University of London Men's 1s ULU: 0-5  
LSE 5th v King's College, London KCLMS Football Ms Club Men's 3s ULU: 1-0  
LSE 6ths v St George's Hospital Medical School Men's 2s ULU: 0-6  
25 minutes ago · Like · Comment

Don't see your results here? Then email your favourite communications officer Ms Protherhoe at:

[Su.AuCommunication@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Su.AuCommunication@lse.ac.uk)

# WAXED TORSO OF THE WEEK



## POPSCENE

With Special Guests

MYSTERY JETS

Saturday 4/12/10 @ The Quad



£4 with a Flyer/ NUS Before Midnight,  
£5 with a Flyer After Midnight, And £7 Without  
Spirits & Mixer at £1.30

Selected Beers at £1.50 And Shots at 99p Only

The Quad, Houghton Street, Holborn, London, WC2A 2AE



# Sport



You lot have been an active bunch this week, and GG's here to tell all about the Post-Wax antics

## Men's hockey smash their records books

James Palmer

Looking to build on last season's BUCS semi-final cup run, a newer and stronger Hockey Men's 1st team were in no way doubtful of breezing through their second round tie with Royal Holloway 2s. The opposition were certainly feeling "bearish" at the prospect of a tie with the daunting LSE HC, attempting to play in their "away kit" bear costumes. Not only was having an entire hockey team kitted out as Yogi impressive, it also pretty much signalled the tone of the game.

However, in the first few minutes some of us started to think we might actually have reason to worry as they were quickly rewarded with 2 penalty corners. However the intimidation tactics of Rob "secret-Lad" Turner, still raging from the incidents on Monday night mopping up vomit, were enough to see the opposition feebly pass the ball around and out of trouble.

From here the LSE strike force (all apart from Ed "Bieber" Mackenzie) had an absolute field day. A new hockey record

of double figures in one game was firmly in the sights of Ian "not-a-lad" Scanlon. However a couple of shocking misses saw resident goal hanger James "JP" Palmer take the record with 10 goals, even scoring from further than 1m from the goal in some cases. JP's instinctive one-touch deflections that land him so many goals also ultimately provided his downfall. Moments after missing a near open goal, he was banished to the sidelines by an unsympathetic umpire after intercepting a Holloway free hit before retreating 5yards, landing him with both Dick of the Day AND Man of the Match.

An unlikely hat-trick came from Luke "Cuddler" Davies, freshly streamlined from his AU leg wax, as well as a hat-trick and an unusually brilliant lobbed goal from Rhys "Shinty-wannabe" Cadman, not to mention a couple from the angry Irishman. That came to a total of 25 goals and an almost unprecedented clean sheet. With a tough tie against UCL 1s to come in the next round, let's hope for a repeat of last years clash and continue on with the HC cup run tradition.



## This is Test Cricket

Stuart Smedley

Just four days into the latest instalment of test cricket's biggest grudge series, the five-day variation of the game has proven itself to be as compelling and dramatic as ever.

England and Australia may no longer have the likes of Andrew Flintoff, Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne, Adam Gilchrist, Michael Vaughan et al., who made the 2005 Ashes so memorable, at their disposal, but so far the two rivals have shown that this winter's battle for the urn could be just as exciting.

Both teams have shown that as good as they are, they possess vulnerabilities that will hopefully mean that the destination of the most high profile prize in cricket will not be decided until the final match of the five game set in Sydney.

After a bitterly poor start that saw captain Andrew Strauss lose his wicket on just the third ball, England battled back before a flurry of late wickets saw them all out for a relatively modest 260 before the close of day one.

The Aussies seemed destined for a similar score until the heroics of Michael Hussey and Brad Haddin put the hosts firmly in front.

But Sunday's sterling fightback - led by Strauss - rescued England as the hosts' bowlers' first innings potency deserted them.

And it is this kind of excitement that test cricket - derided often since the advent of the 20/20 game - needs to demonstrate to the doubters (and the money men) that it is the ultimate form of the sport.

The much shorter form of the game may satisfy the punters who fancy witnessing ball after ball get smashed to all corners, but it really is just a bastardised version of a much more nuanced and subtle game.

All that is required to win is physical might, whereas test cricket is as much, if not more, a battle of wills and mental fortitude.

Get out for a duck on the third ball in 20/20 and it doesn't matter. In test cricket it puts your side firmly against the ropes. And for the individual unfortunate to suffer such embarrassment, the memory lingers when you're next put into the firing line, which makes Strauss' second innings ton that much more special.

Similarly, if your bowlers take a pummelling in the five day game, then it takes a monumental effort not just to achieve parity, but to wrestle back momentum when next wielding the bat. In 20/20 it matters not a jot - your bowlers are expected to take a beating.

20/20 can keep its money to itself, I'll take the theatre and dramatics any week - even if it takes that long to reach a result.

## Wax on... Wax off

Katie Campbell

This Wednesday, the AU regulars were in for a treat. Four daring, and rather furry sportsmen stepped up to the challenge of braving the pain and getting themselves waxed for the RAG charities.

Despite the unusual lack of female presence in The Tuns, the boy's nerves began to build as the crowd and the excitement in the room multiplied. The big question on everyone's lips was who would step up to the ominous challenge of going first? The answer was simple... the skin had been prepped, the Sambuca shots had been downed and Matt De Jesus was ready for the challenge. Surrounded by sympathetic faces, De Jesus' nerves began to waiver as he cautiously made it onto the bed. Luckily the ever-experienced local sweetheart and beauty therapist Marlene meant business, and before Matt had the chance to change his mind, the hot wax was out and there was no turning back. The hairy chest was no test for Marlene and Matt's torso represented that of a newborn baby before he had the chance to consume his second round of shots.

Second to face the firm grip of Marlene was the FC's Norayr. Having dragged himself away from the corner of The Tuns replicating a scene from Salou, Norayr's ability to pull (in a big crowd) was soundly displayed. As the trousers were cautiously removed, gasps filled the room and even

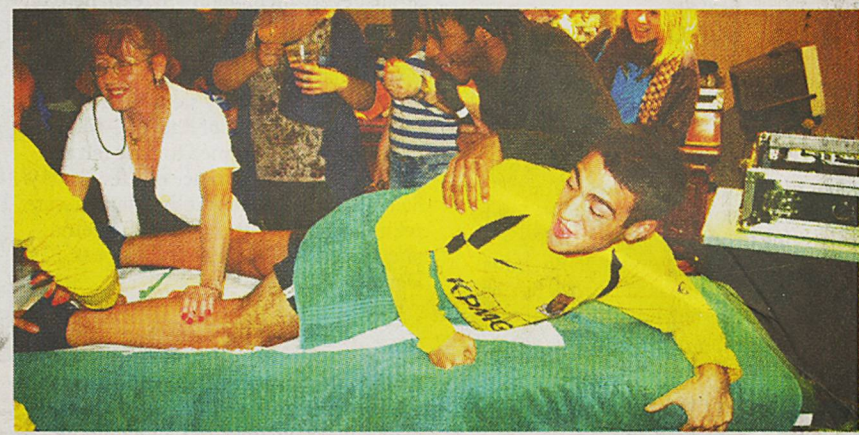
Marlene was shocked by the caveman-like hair Norayr was sporting on his legs, grumbling, "we're definitely going to need more wax". The pain proved a bit too much for the woolliest man of the night, particularly when Nadir volunteered to display his waxing skills. The pins were transformed however, and several girls were heard muttering words of jealousy, wishing they had "such good looking legs".

Up next was a man too nervous to go first. After a few more beverages and admittedly a lot more money raised, David McCauley was eventually ready. The time to psyche himself up had obviously paid off and his cool exterior displayed no sign of pain as the first strips of hair were swiftly removed. It didn't last for long, and the cracks began to show. As the nipples were seen to, and the tingling sensations

swelled, McCauley looked relieved once it was all over. He deservedly won Bravest Man of the night.

Last but by no means least, was Hockey's very own Luke Davies. Making the most of his 4th year at LSE, Davies was keen to get involved. Despite a comisable lack of hair, Davies' pain threshold was still tested to the max, and he survived the ordeal (just about). Raising plenty of money for charity, the effort he put in that night was unquestionable.

By the end of the evening plenty of tears (of laughter and pain) had been shed, and a fantastic amount of money was raised. Thanks to everyone's donations on the night, £100 will be making its way to the 3 charities RAG is supporting this year: Refuge, SOS Children's Villages and Acorn's Children's Hospices.



All I want for Christmas is AU

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Meet @ 12PM in The Three Tuns  
Move to The Den & Centro @ 2PM  
FANCY DRESS

Tickets £5.00  
(in advance only)

For more info search 'All I want for Christmas is AU' on Facebook

Athlet Union