

The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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Initial LSE impressions from blink, pages 8-10

'Women can never be trusted'
B:art theatre, page 20



How accountable are our executive officers? - page 6

Briefing

ID Card fiasco

The LSE has admitted it is at fault as between 600-800 students find themselves without their university ID cards, after poor communication between administrative departments.

News page 3

Tories on top

The LSE SU Conservative Association garnered the most sign-ups among the student chapters of the three mainstream political parties at the LSE, nearly equivalent to Labour and the Liberal Democrats combined.

News page 3

Beggars disbelief

Westminster Council has launched a campaign to crack-down on persistent beggars after a survey found they were the main reason visitors would not want to return to London. Critics say the plan will not solve the root of the problem.

News page 5

Defending the hunt

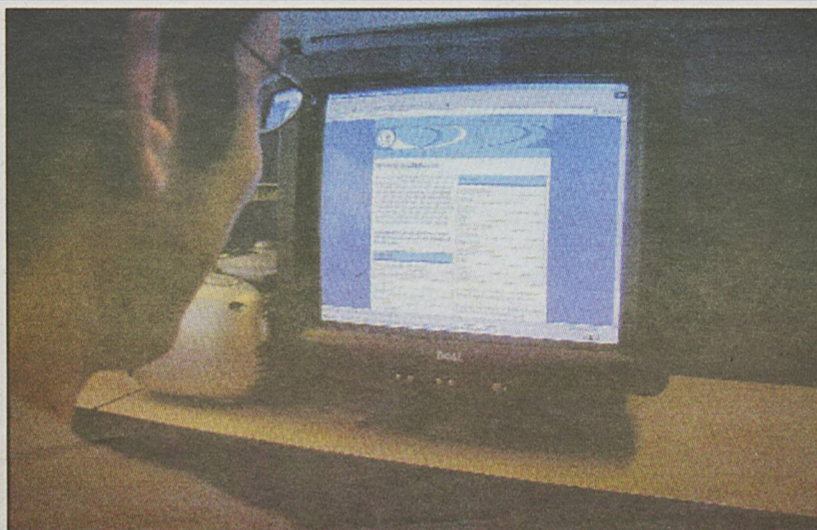
It's not cruel, provides employment for thousands, and deserves protection argues Sophia Money-Coutts.

blink page 11

Definition of the blues

As the USA's The Soledad Brothers' appear in London, music takes the opportunity to discover the meaning of "Rustbelt Blues".

B:art page 16



New and returning students discovered the SU website to be incomplete, but Leicester has benefitted from the services of On Campus UK.

Oh K, so where's the website?

Chris Heathcote
News Editor

Communications Sabbatical Officer, Khurshid Faizullaev is facing intense criticism for his supposed inaction over the development of the Students' Union website.

Faizullaev was elected as the first ever sabbatical Communications Officer last March, and promised as part of his campaign to overhaul the current Students' Union website.

But at last week's Union General Meeting (UGM), he was confronted by several angry stu-

dents who asked why, after almost three months of full-time paid work, Faizullaev had not only failed to build a new site, but had actually removed most of the content from the old one.

The result had been that as thousands of new and returning students from all over the world made their way to London, the SU website could not even be used to tell them the most basic information, such as details of the Freshers' Fair.

Faizullaev responded by claiming that he had "lost two years of my life" through stress related to the project. He added

that his intentions had also been thwarted when his computer broke and though disagreements over whether it was really his job to manage the Union's online resources.

He promised that progress could now be made because the UGM had endorsed his proposal to move the LSESU website away from School-controlled Business Systems and Services (BSS) and to a private company, On Campus UK.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, the Communications officer said that On Campus UK could offer LSE students a much better alterna-

tive than BSS had under the existing arrangement.

Pointing out that the company was already providing 46 other Students' Union's websites such as Oxford, SOAS, Bristol and Anglia Polytechnic, he stated his hope that a new site could boost advertising revenue and become a visually more impressive resource, with enhanced graphics and images, in contrast to the present drab design.

Continued on page 2
Editorial Comment, page 7

Hurndall suspect on trial this week

Mike Fauconnier-Bank

The trial of an Israeli soldier, charged with the killing of 21 year old British peace activist, Tom Hurndall, recommences today, Tuesday 12 October.

Hurndall, a photojournalism student from North London, was shot in the head on 11 April 2003, whilst acting as a human shield in the Gaza Strip, protecting Palestinian children from Israeli Army gunfire.

As a mark of solidarity for his family, Hurndall was elected Honorary Vice President of the LSE Students' Union in last year's Michaelmas Term elec-

tions. He will retain this honour until this year's ballot, in just over one week's time.

Hurndall's parents have grown close to the LSE SU after they visited the School on his birthday with his sister, Sophie. They were accompanied by Imran Khan, one of the family's lawyers; and members of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), whose work was being documented by Hurndall, at the time of his shooting.

The main purpose of the family's visit to the LSE was to allow Hurndall's mother, Jocelyn, to accept the Honorary Vice Presidency on Tom's behalf. A screening of a documentary on

Hurndall's case was then followed by a question and answer session.

Hurndall died in January of this year, following nine months lying in a coma.

The IDF soldier was first arrested in December and, initially, charged with intent to cause injury. This was amended following Hurndall's death, and Sgt Idier Wahid Taysir has since been charged with manslaughter.

One of the main issues that the family's lawyers will seek to address at the trial is whether the current charge of manslaughter is appropriate, or whether this should be further escalated to a charge of murder.

This follows an unprecedented breakthrough in May when the family, through its lawyers, successfully challenged the State Prosecution's decision not to release certain evidence which was contained in the Military Police Inquiry Report.

Carl Arrindell, a family friend and spokesman for the Foundation, was quoted as saying: "This is a major step forward in our campaign to find out exactly how Tom died and who is responsible. The implications of getting access to this evidence are substantial."

New Students' Union website still in planning stages



Gen Sec Macfarlane and Comms Officer Faizullaev have taken joint responsibility for the unfinished website. / Right-hand photo: Sandra Ma

Continued from page 1

However, an investigation by *The Beaver* has discovered that the situation is not as simple as it seems.

To begin with, On Campus UK usually require a four-year contract with anyone who signs up. Since UGM policy lapses in three years, Thursday's motion will not cover the specified minimum time and consequently, it is unclear if the company will even allow the LSESU to become a customer.

In addition, although the hosting and training up of in-house web managers is free, On Campus UK insist on taking a 70 percent cut of all national adverts, allowing SUs to have control only over local adverts.

At present the LSESU's three main advertising contributors are NatWest bank, Waterstone's book shop and STA Travel. All three are national companies with local outlets and are therefore a grey area when it comes to the contract.

Both Faizullaev and SU General Secretary, Will Macfarlane have stated their confidence that On Campus will accept a three-year contract, as they have with other SUs and allow the Union to keep revenue from its three largest sponsors. If they are wrong however, the whole project will be sent back to the drawing board.

The Communications Officer's actions have also earned him the criticism of the Union's existing and long-standing website partner.

Stephen Emmott, Head of Web Services at BSS told *The Beaver*; "I'm disappointed that the LSESU did not consult with us before submitting the proposal to the UGM. I feel that not only would it have been courteous, but they could have benefited from our experience in drawing up the new proposal."

Emmott also said when he met Faizullaev, at the handover meeting in the beginning half of July,

the Communications Officer had appeared to have agreed with him that it was better to stay with BSS.

"My recollection was that he came around to being in favour of our approach by the end of the meeting. There are very good reasons for staying with the current provision, if analysed."

It therefore came as a surprise to Mr Emmott to learn, from *The Beaver*, that the services of BSS were being dispensed with.

"One of my first tasks next week will be to find out more about the proposal. At the forefront of my mind is concern over what will happen to the websites of LSESU clubs and societies, as these form parts of the LSESU website. Hopefully, whoever drew up the proposal has addressed their fate," concluded Mr Emmott.

Faizullaev, however, disputes the claims against him. He says that over the summer he worked "very hard with BSS."

"Unfortunately [Emmott] got the wrong impression of what we agreed. I never said we would stay with BSS," he added. He admits that he only met Emmott once, but that he was in more regular contact with Sue Woods, also at BSS.

"I didn't go to Stephen Emmott because I knew he couldn't provide what we wanted."

"I will have to go and apologise."

The societies' websites would continue to be based at the existing site with links to the new one, until they can be moved to the On Campus designed site sometime in the future.

But even after the questions over the website had abated, queries continued to be raised after a succession of students suggested the sabbatical officer had been deficient in his duties.

Some second and third years asked Faizullaev why they had not been sent information about the freshers' events via a global

email or a mailout.

The fact that the global email is actually the responsibility of the General Secretary, Will Macfarlane, was one that seemed to escape Faizullaev's questioners.

"I offered to answer the question, but K gave the same response I would have given, just in a more confused way," said Macfarlane. "We were reluctant to send out a global email over the summer. Instead we printed more copies of the Freshers' Month of Madness Guide."

When asked why the global email was not the Communication Officer's responsibility, Macfarlane responded; "the General Secretary has always had responsibility for it and I have my own ideas of how I want to use it. K has never asked for control of it and has enough on his plate."

Nonetheless, when Faizullaev told the audience; "I don't do global emails," some critical members of the audience were prompted to ask; "well, what do you do?"

Before the UGM Chair, Natalie Black, called a halt to the endless questions, Faizullaev finally admitted that the website debacle was, "Just one of those cock-ups" and that, "we have missed a golden opportunity for which I take full responsibility."

He added that he hoped to have the new website up and running by Christmas, but that until then improving the existing one would be the priority.

Nonetheless, it had been a testing hour for Faizullaev and his performance had not satisfied everyone.

"His answers were like those of a schoolboy telling the teacher the dog had eaten his homework," said one bystander.

Carter remains defiant

Mark Power
Executive Editor

LSE SU Treasurer Gareth Carter yesterday remained defiant after calls at last Thursday's Union General Meeting for him to donate the proceeds from a Union Sabbatical Officer salary increase to a RAG Week Charity.

Carter and the three other Sabbaticals received a pay-rise from £22,053 to £24,680, in line with all junior academic staff at the LSE.

When asked by a student at the UGM which charity he would be donating the proceeds from his pay-rise towards, during the LSE SU's annual Raising and Giving Week, Carter insisted that he would be returning the money through buying drinks in the Union-owned Three Tuns Bar.

The controversy over the pay rise comes after he broke an election promise to freeze sabbatical wages after criticising former Treasurer Jo Kibble for raising wages in line with negotiations for London weighting between the School and Unions.

The current pay increase comes under much the same conditions as that previous rise.

When *The Beaver* asked Carter as to whether his campaign promise was ill-advised and naïve he refuted the suggestion, saying he did not think it was "naïve to promise something when the adjustment of all junior management pay scales in the school was something no-one foresaw."

This is despite the pay negotiations having occupied the minds of teaching and academic staff unions for the better part of the year previous to the election.

Carter's proposal, criticised by some as offering to drink copious amounts in order to make-up for breaking a campaign pledge is according to the Treasurer, "a great cycle of reinvestment."

He went as far as to describe it as a "substantial reinvestment in the Tuns."

Questions as to the benevolence and sound management practice exhibited by this pledge remain unanswered.

European Social Forum hits London

Alexandra Vincenti
and **Mark Power**

The European Social Forum (ESF) is due to be held in London next weekend, attracting delegates from across Europe to discuss and listen to seminars on contemporary social and political issues.

This year's Forum, which will take place between 15 and 17 October at Alexandra Palace and in Bloomsbury, will be the third of its kind. It has attracted support from the Greater London Assembly, *The Guardian* newspaper, trade unions, Oxfam and many faith groups, as well as the LSE Students' Union.

The event will centre on six

themes: democracy and fundamental rights; social justice and solidarity; war and peace; corporate globalisation and global justice; against racism, discrimination and the far right; and environmental crisis and a sustainable planet.

Education and Welfare Officer Sian Errington said: "The ESF is a coming together of anti-fascist, environmental and international movements from across Europe to discuss how to fight the rise in fascism and racism across Europe and how to create a sustainable planet."

The Forum hopes to attract in excess of 20,000 delegates to its meetings over the three day period. Key speakers include the

journalists George Monbiot and John Pilger, as well as the Booker Prize-winning novelist Arundhati Roy and other trade union, political and social leaders.

When asked as to why the SU was supporting the event, Errington stated that the values promoted by the forum were commensurate with those shared by LSE students and that "the LSE SU is supporting it because it recognises these issues are of crucial importance to our students."

Students seeking more information about the forum's events and programme should consult leaflets distributed around the School or visit www.fse-esf.org.

Collective Meeting

There will be a Collective Meeting next Monday, 18 October, at 6pm in D502 to elect a new Graphics Editor.

This election is open to anybody interested in the position. For more information, or to put yourself forward as a candidate, please email thebeaver@lse.ac.uk before 5pm this Friday, 15 October.

School takes blame for ID Card fiasco

Sam Jones and
Andhalib Karim

Hundreds of LSE students have been left without valid ID cards for the past two weeks following an administrative blunder.

Between 600 and 800 students, if not more, were told upon registration that their ID cards were not available for them to pick up.

When asked, the LSE confessed that it could not say exactly how many people had been affected.

Without ID cards many students were forced to carry registration certificates in order to prove their identity.

Others were unable to take out books from the library, while some first year students were told that without a card they would not be allowed entry to their Halls of Residence.

Most students were initially instructed to return later during the week to collect their cards. However, upon returning many were again turned away.

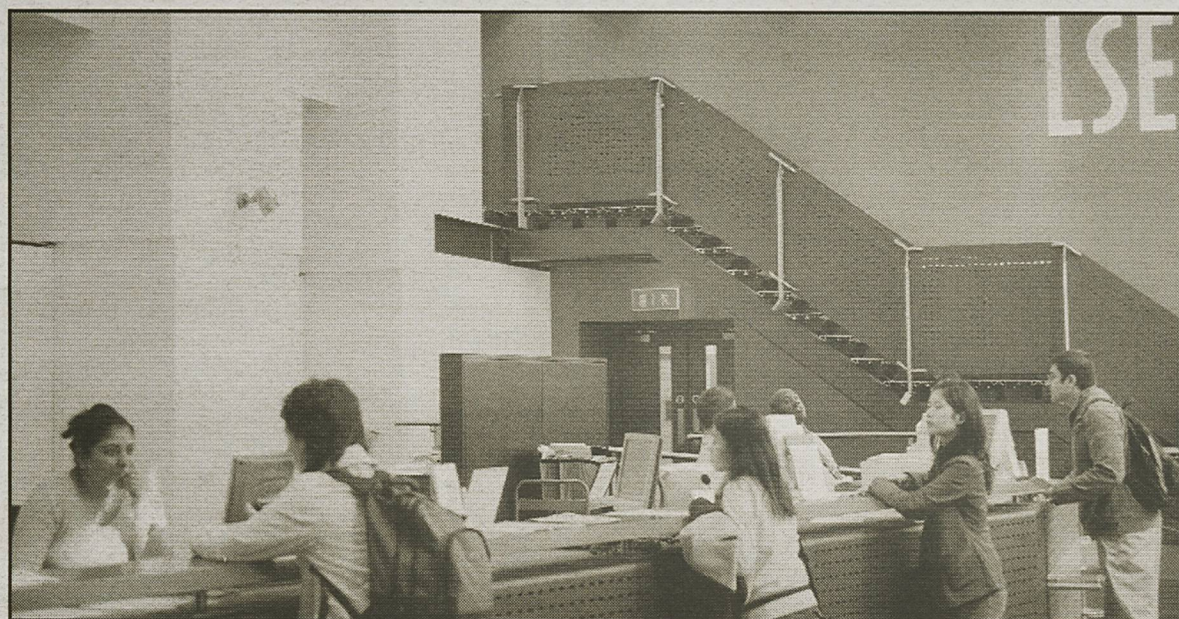
Students were subsequently told to expect an e-mail when their cards were ready.

As *The Beaver* learned, however, no e-mails were ever sent out, leaving many students completely in the dark.

The Admissions Department said that it had instead hoped to rely on 'word of mouth' to let students know that cards were ready for collection.

Mark Maloney, the Head of Student Admissions commented that the whole process had been "unclear, chaotic and poorly thought out", stressing that it "could and should have been managed more efficiently."

Maloney, who is responsible for the registration procedure, accepted blame for the problems but did point out that his team



Students Services Centre has recently been home to hundreds of students queueing for non-existent ID cards. / Photo: Nigel Stead, LSE

were doing all they could to rectify their mistakes.

The backlog was caused after another administrative department, possibly Reprographics, something Maloney refused to disclose, had failed to print sufficient numbers of cards, delivering the bulk of them only days before registration.

Checks were consequently not made in the short space of time available and, as a result, many faulty cards were issued, only to be recalled later.

Other students were told that some of their details had been mislaid while the system was being updated.

Among them was former LSE Students' Union General Secretary Elliot Simmons, who was told that some of his details had been 'lost' since he was not recognised as a returning student, having spent a year as a Sabbatical Officer.

Another student who experienced problems was Marie Kidman, a 3rd Year Accounting and Finance student.

Kidman had to make four trips to the LSE for the purpose of picking up her ID card, and only on the fourth attempt did she succeed.

On her first visit, Friday September 24, she was told that her ID card was not ready, and she would be e-mailed when it was.

No e-mail was received, and Kidman went again a week later, only to be told that her card would be ready by 5:30pm that day.

Kidman returned the following Tuesday, October 5, only to be told her card would be ready in an hour, which is when she finally picked it up.

Coordination between Student Administration and the unnamed department had, according to Maloney, been poorly managed, allowing such mistakes to go unnoticed.

However, he added that for most people the new 'Swipe and Go' registration process had been a success, greatly reducing queues.

Yet for students with no cards, the untested system exacerbated waiting times.

Maloney admitted that in an effort to get as many people registered as possible, the Admissions Department had focused on those who did have cards rather than immediately dealing with those whose cards were unavailable.

A meeting was convened on Friday to discuss how such problems could best be avoided in the future.

Maloney remained categorical, promising that he was "absolutely confident that the same mistakes would not be repeated next year."

Current SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane told *The Beaver*, "Clearly there have been problems, some of which should have been avoided.

"However, with every new system there are always integration problems and hopefully next year we will have an efficient registration system with these difficulties fully resolved."

Conservatives extend lead after Freshers' Fair

Prashant Rao
News Editor

Following sign-ups at Freshers' Fair, the LSE SU Conservative Association has emerged once again as the largest student chapter of a mainstream political party, with 148 sign-ups.

The number, interesting especially at the LSE, traditionally a politically active left-wing university, has been dismissed by several left-wing students at the School as merely attributed to the comparably vast array of choice on the left.

Total sign-ups by the Conservatives are nearly equal to those of the two other mainstream political parties with Labour signing up 81 members and the Liberal Democrats totalling 75.

Paul Bristow, National Chairman of Conservative Future, an organisation for Conservative youths, which has claimed to be the fastest growing political movement in the coun-

try, believes that it is history repeating itself, on a national scale.

According to Bristow, "If you look at the situation in 1995, Conservative students did particularly badly and the Labour students did well because Labour was seen as the party of tomorrow.

"Those that are interested in politics and are dissatisfied with Tony Blair will naturally come to us," he said.

He went on to say, "Left-wing universities around the country in Newcastle, Manchester, York and Liverpool - Labour heartlands - young Conservatives are doing very well."

Daniel Freedman, chair of the LSE SU Conservative Association added, "people are beginning to ask, 'If the parties of the left are now turning to free-market policies, perhaps we should turn to the Conservatives as well'."

Matthew Willgress, Secretary for the Labour Party's LSE Students' Union chapter,

believes it has more to do with the variety of choice on the left at the LSE.

"Nationally, [the Conservatives] are growing from a very small base following the 1997 general election. Mostly, at the LSE it has to do with the plethora of options if you are either at the centre-left or left," he said.

There is also little doubt amongst observers that while the School is far from the radical student body it was in the 1960s and 1970s, it is also no longer an obviously left-wing institution.

"The LSE is definitely becoming less left-wing...People across the world want freedom, the right to choose their own future, not have it imposed by a communist dictatorship," says Freedman.

"Students see this. The arguments...of the efficiency of the free market is really beginning to hit home."

Dissatisfaction with the current Labour government is a commonly attributed reason for

the high number of students who have signed up with the Conservatives, one that Willgress himself sees as affecting the size of the Labour party at the LSE.

"If you look at the people at the LSE who started the chapter of the Green Party here, they are mostly ex-Labour members."

Laura Sheppard, Secretary for the LSE SU Liberal Democrats, however, feels that political apathy and dissatisfaction with Labour are not the only reasons for making their political affiliations at university.

According to Sheppard, the Liberal Democrats' lower sign-ups than Labour and the Conservatives was due in part to its poor stall positioning at Freshers' Fair.

"People join these societies for many reasons including what social activities are offered and out of a general interest in politics rather than a particular political affiliation," she added.



Union Jack

Of all the things 'UGM' might stand for, for those of you not fully acquainted with the 49-page 'Codes of Practice' the 'Union General Meeting' is nothing less than the Sovereign Body of the Students' Union. It is Union Jack's job to guide you through it.

I will play Jack the Lad with the AU balcony boys upstairs. I will tease the careerist jackasses grunting through their reports on stage (or in the case of Scaredy-Sian, murmuring through them). I will blend in with all the angry unelectables and bemused real people sitting on their jacksies. And, like most union hacks I remain, Sir, your humble Jack of All Trades (and master of none).

One person who is perhaps Master of even fewer trades than Jack is K. Now K is a chap who doesn't know jack about anything, or so it seems. As Communications Sabbatical one might expect some knowledge of communication. Instead, K declared that "a freshers' fair is a ... fair", and responded to questioning of his ability thus: "I had a problem with my computer", "I didn't address the mail-outs", "I'm not doing the global email either", "Please Miss, the dog ate it". Just what is he doing? By the end of this year's first UGM Jack's fears have been confirmed: 'K' clearly does not stand for Kompetent.

But don't let's get sidetracked. First up on Thursday was election of the Chair of the UGM. Jack suspects Will Macfarlane had to explain to K that he wasn't eligible this year. And Dave Cole shrewdly declined to declare his candidature.

Instead, two new candidates stepped forward. Miss Natalie Black and James Esher, Esq. offered policies broadly similar but with the former appearing a jot less tolerant of nastiness. The women's hockey team captain was returned and efficiently took up her position. One Kevin I'mstoned was soon elected Vice Chair and charged with minute-taking, not easy in such a state I imagine. (Note to Kevin: this is not SOAS.)

Next up was a sillystring of unnecessary reports by executive officers planting the foundations of their bids for Sabbatical office. Residences Officer Rishi arouses Jack's cynicism: can we really trust anyone so nice?

Almost as overwhelmingly, as it happens, as James "I Wish I'd Gone To Eton" Eyton's attempt to incite the fury of that Tory battleaxe Ann Widdecombe. No, the Union does not believe that Alun Michael's title should be renamed 'Minister for Urban Whinging'. No, the Union does not agree that anyone on the *Daily Mail's* payroll is worth writing to.

Alas, Jack is getting a bit carried away. The truth is, Jack is rather nostalgic. Gone are the days with a Kibble to mock, a Packer to bluster, a Jimmy to sing and joke. Indeed the world moves on, unless of course you are Oliver Ranson, whose bewildering demeanour once again graces Houghton Street in the form of a master's student.

Merger in Manchester forms UK's first 'super-university'

Allison Ball and
Sophia Money-Coutts

The Queen will visit the north-west later this month to formally open the new combined University of Manchester, which will become the largest single-site university in the UK.

The merging of The Victoria University of Manchester and The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) creates the first British 'super-university' and will have a combined student population of 34,000.

The universities secured £82m from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Office of Science and Technology and the North West Development Agency to help with the merger and plan £300m of further investment.

The merger is expected to boost Manchester's rapidly grow-

ing economy, and add a further step in the city's urban regeneration to become a metropolis which culturally rivals London.

The two universities share a rich red brick history, and both were established in the heart of the city at the time of the industrial revolution when Manchester's factories and mills dictated the world standard in productivity.

They were informally affiliated, in a similar way to the colleges of the University of London, for most of the twentieth century and shared accommodation, student advice centres and sports facilities from 1905 until 1993.

The close proximity of their buildings and the high standards of teaching, facilities and applicants made the merge a natural course to follow.

Students of sciences wishing to apply to university in Manchester previously had to make a choice between the two.

Consequently, the best candidates in medicine, mathematics, technology and engineering were divided.

However, the merged university will offer more courses than any other British university and now hopes to attract candidates who may have previously been undecided between the two.

They say that one of their fundamental aims is to provide the highest quality of academic research outside Oxbridge and London, with the help of 10,000 academics.

According to *The Times* newspaper, only Cambridge matches the 36 subjects rated excellent at the university.

Although the administrations of the two universities supported the decision to merge with a unanimous vote from the Council of the Victoria Museum of Manchester, the academic staff displayed less enthusiasm.

In 2002 Sally Hunt, General-

Secretary of the Association of University Teachers, expressed concern about job losses on behalf of the Manchester teaching staff.

She told *The Guardian* newspaper that the duplication of degree programmes between the two universities would mean the removal of some courses from the syllabus and consequently threaten the jobs of academics.

Publicly, Manchester University Student's Union welcomes the merge, but Ben Blackburn, a second year Pharmaceuticals student from the Victoria University expressed concern over the quality of administration and teaching after the amalgamation.

"I'm worried that the University is going to become too big to manage effectively, and that might mean we lose our position in the league tables.

"UMIST never did as well as us in those terms and I hope

results don't begin to slide" he said.

In 2002, University College London (UCL) and Imperial College London had plans to merge, a move which would have meant a joint institution of over 30,000 students.

However, a successful compromise was never reached, largely because of opposition from academic staff concerned for their jobs.

When asked if the success in Manchester would tempt the London universities to restart talks, the Provost of UCL says he "can't imagine anything that happens with the Manchester merger would change that position."

The LSE, meanwhile, said "We're small and specialist", adding "in research LSE is top for the study of the social science and we don't see this picture changing."

UCL hunts for £300m

Jamie Quinn

University College of London (UCL) is to ask its alumni members such as comedian Ricky Gervais, broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby and Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin for £300 million in donations.

President and Provost Martin Grant explained that the impetus for the fundraiser arose from the need to uphold UCL's academic standing, retain top academics being tempted by high salaries at American universities, and to "create a new culture of giving among British graduates."

Money donated by alumni will be used to improve facilities and research funds for the Institute of Women's Health, the UCL library and the Spinal Repair Unit.

UCL also hopes to construct and support the Panopticon, a museum designed to house a collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts along with the university's art collection. A further £50m has been designated to improve financial support for students and academics through fellowships and scholarships.

UCL's campaign follows in the footsteps of the LSE's "Campaign for LSE," which aims to drum up £100m from alumni. As of June 1, the School's campaign had already raised more than £62m.

The campaigns run by UCL and the LSE have both stressed the importance of maintaining their positions in academic rankings despite growing competition from better-funded American universities.

Hamish Stewart, head of UCL's alumni giving programme, explained that the scheme was aimed at showing alumni "how their money can make a huge difference to generation alumni following them."

Giddens pays tribute to New Labour

Nazir Hussain

In a lecture, last Thursday, entitled "Egalitarianism: Old and New", former LSE Director and world-renowned sociologist Professor Lord Anthony Giddens, outlined the need for New Labour to embrace a new commitment to egalitarianism.

Giddens, who helped popularise the idea of 'The Third Way', or revival of social democracy in a globalised economy, stated his belief that the results of New Labour's policies since taking office in 1997 has been real and substantial.

He praised New Labour for being the first Labour government to have effected redistribution rather than just speak about it.

Giddens highlighted policies which represented a break from its past: the Brownite view of linking social policy to economic growth, emphasis on equality of opportunity rather than equality of outcome, and prioritising the



Former LSE Director Anthony Giddens spoke on the subject of egalitarianism.

narrowing of gap between the lower and middle stratum rather than the uppermost and middle. Its results, he says, are visible with a flexible labour market leading to low unemployment and increased tax collection as a percentage of GDP.

He said that what New

Labour needed was a new commitment to egalitarianism to tackle issues like child poverty, for which the UK came in 14 in a survey of 15 EU countries. Attempting to pursue Old Labour policies would not work, he insisted.

According to Giddens, New

Labour needs to better articulate its emphasis on social justice and spell out a clear vision of an egalitarian society. With so many 'scatter-gun policies' in place, it is hard for the public to see its coherence.

Schools offering IB to treble in two years

Stefanie Khaw

Bob Reed, chairman of the International Baccalaureate Association of Schools and Colleges Association in Britain has told *The Independent* newspaper that he expected the number of British schools offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) to increase from 70 to 200 within the next two years.

Students in the UK and abroad have been taking the A-Levels as a pre-university course since the 1950s and since September 2000, the exams have been modular, consisting of AS and A2 courses.

But the system has never been universally popular and just over four years later, more changes may be afoot

The IB's most popular feature is that it forces students to study a wide variety of subjects from maths and physics to visual arts, music and theatre.

The A-Levels, by contrast have no fixed guidelines whatsoever to what subjects one should take.

Many students end up taking subjects skewed towards the sciences or humanities.

The Beaver Briefing:
International Baccalaureate
Subjects graded down from seven to one.

Students are required to study six subjects, at least three at Higher level.

Standard offer from LSE for IB Diploma is 6,6,6 at Higher.

An IB qualification would represent achievement in a wide range of subjects while A-level examinations show achievement in specific subjects taken only.

Mr. Reed told the BBC that the IB marking system was also better than A-levels at telling the brightest students apart.

He said that the percentage of students obtaining a grade seven in IB was between five percent and 10 percent, while 22.4 percent of A-level entries obtained an A grade this year.

The IB, if implemented on a wider scale, would be hugely beneficial to universities swamped with applications from students with three A grades for A-Levels.

The LSE was the first university in the UK to accept the IB as an entry qualification in the 1970s.

A spokesperson for the School told *The Beaver*, "Our Admissions Officer at the time worked very closely with the International School of Geneva and the United World College of the Atlantic to ensure that the IB was a suitable qualification for students who wished to study here."

The usual standard offer given in the undergraduate prospectus is an AAB for A-Levels or an IB diploma with 36 points including 666 at Higher Level.

The School said it does not expect the rise in schools offering the IB to affect the School's admissions process. The approximate number of students at the LSE with IB qualifications cannot be confirmed at the time of press but it is estimated to be between 10 and 20 percent.

Westminster to crack down on beggars

Jeff Berman and
Jess Brammar

Officials at Westminster Council have announced a new plan designed to curb begging within central London, *The Guardian* reported on Tuesday.

According to Westminster Council research, visitors to the area, which includes the LSE campus, cite the prevalence of beggars as their number one reason for not wanting to return to the city.

The strategy was announced following requests from central government and is designed to cut off the flow of cash from the public by asking members of the public to instead donate money to respected homeless charities and community organizations. But the Council say their plans are also designed to help beggars, not punish them.

A study has shown that more than 77 percent of those arrested for begging have tested positive for Class A drugs and the council has stressed that help will be on hand to them.

As part of the plan a 24-hour telephone number providing sup-

port and advice to the homeless will also be provided.

CCTV cameras are to be used outside cash machines to dissuade potential beggars from gathering there, following government research that showed that 54 percent of people questioned would not use a cashpoint if someone was begging next to it.

The cameras will take photographs of repeat offenders in order to enforce anti-begging laws.

Those caught begging on more than five occasions will receive antisocial behaviour orders, or 'Asbos'.

Audrey Lewis, Westminster Council's cabinet member for community protection, told *The Guardian* newspaper, "The message that comes out from the strategy is, if you need assistance, whether it be for treatment or a roof to sleep under, we can assist you."

However, Ms Lewis emphasised that the Council will be tough on continual offenders, saying, "We will not tolerate persistent begging."

But Hayley Williams of the LSE Students' Union's Action on Homelessness Society was not



People don't like using cash machines when there are beggars around.

Photo: James Upsher

convinced the plan would be a success and questioned the motives.

"With violent crime on the increase, I think it inappropriate for police time to be spent criminalising people who are likely to have deep rooted social and health problems," she added.

It is unclear at this stage as yet whether the measures will

curb begging throughout London, or force beggars from Westminster to other areas.

A scheme, initiated by Camden Council and reported in *The Beaver* this time last year aimed to target the same problem. The fact that the posters are still visible a year later suggest that its goals have not yet been attained.

President of Trinity College, Oxford claims university to go private within 20 years

Kheng Lim

Michael Beloff, President of Trinity College, Oxford University has stirred up major controversy by suggesting that Oxford University could go private in 15 to 20 years, in response to higher Government targets for state school students.

In a speech to the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference in St. Andrews, Scotland, Beloff stated that such a move would mean that Oxford would be immune from Government pressure to increase its proportion of state school students.

Arguing that the Government's attempts to do so would result in a dumbing down of standards at Oxford, Beloff

told the conference that Oxford's failure to reach Government levels of having 77 percent of students from state schools in 2002 - 2003 (the actual figure was 55 percent) was the result of a desire to maintain demanding academic criteria.

He further added that Government attempts to get 50 percent of all students into university by 2010 would result in "a scary vision of students from 'bog standard comprehensives' proceeding to take 'Mickey Mouse degrees'" and that universities were "educational institutions" and not "laboratories for social engineering".

Beloff's plan of action would be to launch a massive fundraising campaign in order to muster up the resources to privatize undergraduate courses.

Upon privatization, Oxford University would charge tuition fees exceeding the £3,000 maximum and set up bursaries for poorer students.

However, Oxford would still require Government funds for research.

Oxford University's Student Union has been angered by Michael Beloff's comments.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, John Blake, President of Oxford's Students' Union said that Michael Beloff was living in "fairyland" and that "such a plan was completely unfeasible and deeply, deeply wrong."

He added that the "damage to access as a result of such comments would be calamitous" and that Beloff's "irresponsible" statements seriously undermined the hard work put in by the Oxford

Students' Union and the University to show that Oxford was not elitist.

Furthermore, Blake accused Beloff of being very calculative in giving his speech on the same day as the inauguration of Dr. John Hood, the new Vice Chancellor of Oxford University who had promised that Oxford University would be involved with the state sector forever.

According to Blake, Beloff was "drowning out wiser voices."

When asked whether he had anything else to say, Blake said that Beloff would be leaving in a year's time and that "this was a good thing".

The LSE has confirmed to *The Beaver* that the School has no intention of going private.

'Female Rooney' considering studies at LSE

Shams Sooltangos

Teenage girl dubbed by many as 'the female Wayne Rooney' because of her early talent, has stated her desire to study law at LSE.

Seventeen year old Eniola Aluko has already earned the respect of many within the profession who have called her the most talented British female football player of all time.

At only eleven she scored an astonishing fifty goals in only sixteen games for her Broadmeadows Junior School Team and she wrote history itself by making her first premierships appearance for Birmingham City

Ladies at the age of fourteen.

Eniola now plays for Charlton Ladies who are presently at the top of the Premiership. She went one further two weeks ago by obtaining her first England cap against Holland. Journalists of Birmingham's *Sunday Mercury* newspaper were so impressed by her performance that they called her "the new Rooney".

With such an impressive background everybody would have thought that Eniola's sole objective would have been to shine on the international football scene. However, she has her mind firmly set on going to university.

In an interview with the *Sunday Mercury* she announced

that she wanted to study for a Law degree at the LSE after completing her A Levels in media, law and psychology.

Her possible arrival would undoubtedly be viewed as a major asset for the LSE Women's Football First Team which is presently under the command of Antonia Strom and has been developing during the last few years.

Craig Harris, the Men's Football Club captain, commented that "the potential signing of such a promising star would be brilliant for the Ladies team. High quality players with such profiles are much sought after, and the chance to have her help in

chasing glory would obviously be superb.

"That said, profiles do not win places, and I know she would have to battle at trials for her position, just like the other players - it is the Captain who picks the side," he added.

"If she really is the 'new Rooney' it will be a great addition to the WFC I am sure."

All this does not preclude the question of whether or not she would be able to free herself from her obligations with Charlton to play for the LSE First Team.

Maybe Eniola's intended arrival could be the first foothold on attracting other world class athletes to our school.

Brief News

Madlani elected ULU Halls Officer

LSE Students' Union Residences Officer Rishi Madlani has been elected as ULU Inter-collegiate Halls Officer. Madlani, who has already represented LSE students in Inter-Collegiate Halls for three years will be responsible for liaising with ULU to highlight issues regarding Inter-collegiate Halls. Madlani was particularly concerned that the closure of College Hall, the only women's hall available to LSE students would discourage some Muslim girls who prefer single-sex accommodation from applying for halls and feels the new position will enable him to propose alternatives.

Fatima Manji

Meadway resigns

Postgraduates Students' Officer, James Meadway, is to step down from his position within the Students' Union. Meadway, who has been in the post for nearly a year, has been forced to resign for personal reasons. As elections for non-sabbatical positions are traditionally held in the Michaelmas term, this will not impact too heavily on the Union or on students themselves. The Postgraduates' Officer will be re-elected by Week 4 of this term, until which time *The Beaver* has been reassured by Returning Officer, Anthony Gililand, that their duties will be covered by other members of the Executive Committee.

Joanna Clarke

Tuns to finally serve food

The Three Tuns bar will commence selling its new food range this week, after delays surrounding a mistake in payment delayed the new range of light meals and snacks from making their appearance behind the starved bars of the Tuns. LSE SU Treasurer Gareth Carter said an "embarrassing mishap" regarding a mistake about whether payment could be made by direct debit had delayed the delivery of food serving equipment by a week. He assured *The Beaver* it would be available for the coming week.

Mark Power

\$1m success for teaching project

Enterprise LSE recently concluded a landmark executive education programme for 100 Citigroup Private Bank executives. The million dollar tie-up with the American-based bank is the largest customized education project that the school's executive education wing has undertaken to date.

Grace Tan

The accountability charade

As Union politics gets underway for another year, *Jonathan Gradowski* considers how unaccountable our officers are.

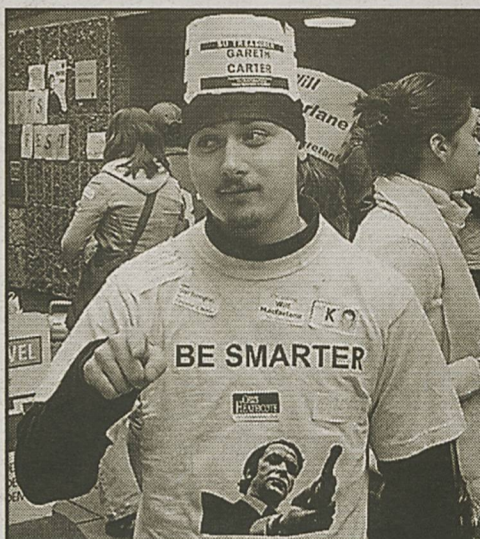
Every Thursday students shuffle into the Old Theatre to hold their elected officials accountable because they have nothing better to do. And every Thursday, our elected officials pretend to be accountable. It's not unlike that old communist quip: we pretend to work, and they pretend to pay us.

Fittingly, dressed in communist red, the Education and Welfare officer embodied the first reason why this attempt at democratic accountability is futile. She spoke, but no one heard. And that wasn't because no one was listening. On the contrary, I was strenuously attempting to. But because she spoke at such an inaudible level, it was impossible to understand what she was saying—unless you already knew what she was going to say.

Unless you're already intimately involved in student government, you won't have the faintest idea about what it is "our" elected officials are speaking about.

And this brings us to the second reason why democratic accountability at the LSE is such a farce. Unless you're already intimately involved in student government, you won't have the faintest idea about what it is "our" elected officials are speaking about—even if they're not mumbling and speaking at an audible level.

A grand total of 23 officials—not all them elected—defended their record (such as it is) at last Thursday's UGM and, since I'm not part of the LSE student govern-



"I did not have sexual relations with that woman."



"I will freeze sabbatical wages."

ment cognoscenti (such as they are), I couldn't challenge their assertions because I don't have the slightest clue what it is the vast majority of them are supposed to be doing and what it is they're writing reports about.

I have no doubt many UGM attendees feel the same way—like a BSc Accounting & Finance student watching C-SPAN— but in violation of a cardinal law of public speaking, these officials speak about their jobs as if everyone in the auditorium knows this information. They don't. It's esoteric information and requires prefatory explanation.

But even if you can hear what these officials are saying and know what they're talking about, democratic accountability is still pro forma. Take for instance the stunning revelation (well, for me at least) at last Thursday's UGM that the Treasurer, Gareth Carter, enacted a pay increase for himself after explicitly pledging not to do that in his election campaign last year.

One student in the audience took him to task for this gross act of perfidy, and wryly asked, "So what charity you be donating your pay rise to?" Mr. Carter's answer was a study in Clintonian prevarication and ambiguity. Once he concluded his non-answer, another student put the still-unanswered question to again: So what charity are you donating the money to? "The Three Tuns," he blithely replied.

This is what passes for democratic accountability at the LSE: an elected official goes back on his campaign pledge by giving himself a pay rise and when called to account for it, he replies that he'll be spending his unilateral raise on his singular desire to get drunk.

And, indeed, there's the rub: when our elected officials are called to account for their actions, their reply, in effect, is har-

Conceiving new birth controls

Lack of parental responsibility is a charge many would level at some of society's current problems. *Eliot Pollak* thinks he has a solution.

As all aficionados of US politics know, the 'right to choose' is a major issue in determining whether you vote Republican or Democrat. Yet over here in the UK, abortion and the fascinating moral debate surrounding it has never been a major political football.

I have long felt that this 'right to choose' debate is missing a crucial point. For me, a woman should surely have the right not to have to choose. Allow me to explain.

If I wish to watch television in my own home, I require a license from the government. If I wish to open a fruit stall on Kingsway, I require a license from the local council. Yet once I turn sixteen, I am legally empowered to commit an act that could potentially be far more dangerous even than watching Eastenders.

I am free to bring a fellow human being into the world, rear him/her as I wish and, once said child turns sixteen, abnegate responsibility for the damage they may one day wreak upon the world. In an age where a solitary nutcase can kill

hundreds of innocent bystanders, this is surely no longer acceptable.

Is there a solution to the problem? Having consulted with my medically inclined friends, and having washed my hands with soap afterwards, I believe firmly in the following radical proposal.

All male babies should be sterilised at birth in a reversible operation... On receipt of a parenting license, the bloke can have his pencil resharpened.

All male babies should be sterilised at birth in a reversible operation. As boy grows into man, an hour will arise where the fellow believes he has collected enough wisdom, and developed sufficient social responsibility so as to be allowed to procreate without endangering society.

This chap and his partner can then apply to an independent body, and follow-

ing interviews/home visits etc a 'parenting license' may be awarded. On receipt of this license, the bloke can pop back into his local hospital and have his pencil resharpened.

It may sound crazy, yet a similar system is used frequently in this country anyway. Potential adopters as well as gay couples both require independent permission to parent.

So party leaders (and I know you all read this column), what does this policy offer your troops? Well for the Lib Dems, it's daft and nonsensical, which traditionally has been enough to make a policy Kennedy fodder.

For Michael Howard, it offers an automatic vast reduction in the population, meaning that even he will recognise the need for more immigrants, thereby removing the damaging slur that his party are racist.

And as for Tony Blair, it will allow this control-obsessed government to finally achieve the ultimate control—of whether a person should be allowed to enter this world or not.

The Beaver

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The Beaver is available in alternative formats and online at www.lse.ac.uk/union

The Beaver

Comment

Letters to the Editor

The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver@lse.ac.uk, and should be no longer than 250 words. Letters may be edited prior to publication.

Dear Editor,

As a one time horse-owning resident of a Shire county you may imagine that I was a little taken aback at being labelled 'strange' by Kheng Lim in your article concerning hunt protestors. I think the piece poorly reflected the balance of opinion on the issue of hunting with dogs, and failed to address the fundamental political significance September's events.

Despite my middle class, horse-owning, Shire county-residing background I would certainly place myself in the anti-hunt lobby. However, the Countryside Alliance were not 'undermining proud democratic traditions' by defending what I agree is a 'distinctly unsavoury past-time' but rather exercising the rights which democracy cherishes. It of course seems repugnant to many when the privileged bourgeoisie are so frenzied in the defence of their privileges - but this is a reflection of traditional class tensions and not political common sense. An extremist from the 1980s miners' strikes would have been congratulated for such a rebellious act of political defiance; rich poshies like the Countryside Alliance are condemned, and in your paper termed 'weirdos'. It seems to me refresh-

ing that in the modern climate of bland policy and political apathy, at least one minority can still be bothered to fight the establishment for their beliefs. The article slammed their political protestation as 'sad, pathetic and deluded' - but didn't we gather several times last year with banners, whistles and jeers to heckle 'W' and fight the top-up fees bill? It is arrogance to presume beliefs you hold strongly are worth tackling the government over, but those held by others are irrelevant. I disagree with their objective, but applaud their enthusiasm.

It also occurs to me that the Countryside Alliance might just have a reason to be angry (I know it seems unlikely, but stay with me). The government's decision to push through a popularly supported bill at this time is thinly veiled electioneering. The bill allows no proviso for the gradual phasing out of hunting with hounds, but puts a block ban on the controversial sport, which will mean the destruction of many hunting hounds when it comes into effect. I wonder if the animal loving anti-hunt protestors will intervene to save them from their impending doom? Finally, as for suggesting that invading the impotent, the-

atrical talking-shop that is the House of Commons disrupts the workings of British democracy - well that's just ridiculous, isn't it?

Ally Ball

Dear Editor

Regarding your blink feature **Hunt Protestors: How Unspeakable:** Whilst personally advocating a ban on fox hunting with dogs, I found Kheng Lim's article to be both amusingly simplistic and ridiculously partisan. From his/her introductory denouncing of hunt supporters as "Weirdos", through to his/her utterly puerile imagining of hunt protestors working in abattoirs, Kheng somehow contrived to omit most of the salient facts and arguments for both sides of the debate. "Puzzlement on their faces" indeed - you would have after digesting Kheng's article. I hope you do not have to resort to publishing such dross in future issues, and for a return to the informative and even-handed articles that blink readers have become accustomed to.

Steve Simpson

Kommunication problems

Communications Officer K Faizullaev's grilling at the Union General Meeting this week was well deserved. The introduction of the job of Communications Officer at Sabbatical level was precisely intended to deal with the kind of communication problems that earned K this challenge.

It is well established that the Union has a general problem communicating with the student body. If it has already managed to irritate and disenfranchise people who attended the UGM, people who are generally closer to the inner circle of SU goings on than most, then the Union's communications are off to a bad start.

Without a clear and detailed job description, the job of the Communications Sabbatical is to take a proactive look at the way the Union interacts with the majority of students. For those new arrivals who had serious problems obtaining information about the Union over the internet, before they arrived, an opportunity has already been missed; they probably already regard the Union as a slightly less than competent provider of services, information and representation.

Faizullaev's job is not to fulfil a narrowly defined set of criteria present in his job description. His post was created and he was elected with a clear

goal, to help the Union better communicate its workings with the student body. This requires an innovative appraisal of the current situation, and original solutions to change this. Faizullaev has, thus far, failed to rise to this challenge.

At the very least he should have sorted some sort of temporary website which provided arriving students with basic but essential information about the Union and Freshers' Fair.

The fact that BSS were unaware of the Union's plans to proceed with negotiations for a contract with On Campus marketing, and that K had not even consulted or discussed future plans further with BSS is a shocking neglect of his responsibilities.

The controversial introduction of a Communications Officer was only ever going to work if the holder of the post took their responsibilities proactively and pushed through a radical programme of reform around the way the Union communicates with its students.

K has instead chosen a very literal interpretation of his job description and focused himself on narrowly defined projects instead of taking a holistic look at the situation. He would be well advised to reappraise his performance to date and take a new look at the Communications Officer role within the Union.

Manchester merger

The merger of the two Manchester universities into a new 'super-university' is a move to be cautiously welcomed. On the face of it, there are a number of benefits from the merger of the two Universities which will create Britain's biggest, and possibly most competitive University. It also makes good sense to merge to Universities in close proximity with courses which logically link together.

The benefits in terms of research funding and shared administration are obvious. Nor should the fear of a loss of administrative jobs stop potential mergers. However, a University of 34,000 students is a tough administrative adventure. It may well mean that there are not many administrative savings as the burden of merging the systems of the two institutions will be significant. Similarly, the University will need to keep a keen eye on teaching quality and student feedback, and should work closely with its Students' Unions.

With the LSE making its application to be granted degree awarding powers, we are seemingly moving in the opposite direction. It is also worth noting the failure of the UCL and Imperial college bid at a merger, which attempted to merge two diverse colleges with very different identities and campuses with no geographical connection against the will of the student and staff bodies.

The increased flexibility of the Higher Education sector in approaching the management of its institutions is promising and shows the degree of innovation and fresh thinking needed if academia is to lead the 'knowledge economy.' However, universities should be wary of concluding the Manchester solution is universally applicable. Their solution will not mean that other institutions will be left behind if they fail to follow that path. The LSE's bid to extricate itself from the University of London is probably wise, and a recognition that this institution's strength lies in its independence.

Michaelmas Term elections

Nominations for the following positions open

2:00pm on October 14

Representatives to:

Court of Governors (5 places) & Academic Board (2 places)

Delegates to:

ULU Council (2 places) & NUS Conference (5 places)

Executive Posts:

Postgraduate Students' Officer & Mature & Part-time Students' Officer

Honorary President & Honorary Vice-President

Nominations close 5:00pm on October 20. Nomination forms and information leaflets are available from Students' Union reception, East Building.

General Course Representative

Nominations opened October 11 and close 5:00pm on October 15.

Only General Course students can stand and vote in this election.

Nomination forms and information leaflets are available from SU Reception.

Voting will take place in the Quad on October 21 and 22 from 11am to 3pm.

Correction

The Beaver would like to correct some inaccurate pricing information in last week's story 'Tuns price hike amid rising costs' (*The Beaver* 602). The price of a shot and mixer in the Three Tuns Bar is £1.60, not £2.00 as stated.

Features

Musings**Hiding in the Liberal Bush**

Matthew Sinclair
blink Editor

Americans don't understand liberalism, George Bush claims liberal heroes for his own nasty little movement and the Liberal Democrats are making flimsy attempt to cast ugly populism in the, more honourable, form of liberal enlightenment. What a strange death liberalism is dying.

John Kerry is no liberal; a liberal believes in free trade and not in castigating "Benedict Arnold CEOs" for having the temerity to bring jobs to poor foreigners. Liberals defended British free trade when it was unilateral and complete; they would have little positive to say about stoking protectionism. John Kerry's liberal credentials look weak on anything remotely economic, the income tax was a measure the Liberal party fiercely opposed.

George Bush has made his own attempt at claiming the liberal mantle. While with Tony Blair last year he described his admiration for the great British liberal thinkers, Lock, Smith et. al. Rubbish. Preventing courts granting people the right to marry who they like is illiberal. Deciding that money the state spends on science should be spent based on a vague moral objection rather than science or a competitive bid is illiberal. Providing huge increases in protection for agriculture or steel is illiberal. Bush doesn't seem to believe in freedom unless it can be obtained through open warfare.

His economic policies are a horrible Keynesian (principles he declared his support for in the second presidential debate) concoction that is preventing the proper functioning of the multi-lateral trading system and leading the US economy down the road to penury; Asquith would be appalled.

During the Liberal Democrat conference a lot of time was spent discussing just how wonderful the Liberal Democrats council for Liverpool's plan to ban smoking in places of work was. Apparently this measure remains liberal, John Stuart Mill would approve, because, although the Lib Dems are preventing people smoking, they are protecting the right of others not to smoke. This is ridiculous, if you want to avoid smoke then don't go to a bar where people are smoking or find one with a non-smoking area. Bar staff are working part time jobs with plenty of other options in our healthy labour market. If bar staff did not want to take the, slight, risk of second hand smoke they would work somewhere else.

I once saw Lembit Opik, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomeryshire, stand up and asked Eric Forth, a Conservative MP of a libertarian bent, how he could possibly be in favour of Christmas opening on libertarian grounds. A simple answer "you're trying to ban something" would have been ideal. It takes a Liberal Democrat and the ideological contortions populism brings to make something as simple as liberalism complex. Dirty, dirty Liberal Democrats.

Study in the City

If you get things right you could move from studying in the city to working in the City

Caroline Biesterfeld

The ceremony was hot. Howard Davies delivered a sparky, yet touching speech. The rarely sighted heads of department performed a spectacular display of linguistic gymnastics, as this year's international robed force filed across the Peacock theatre stage. Only one of LSE's finest platinum blond activists briefly slowed the procession by flashing "No Fees" to the cameras.

"I couldn't help but wonder" was a degree a winning ticket in the job market 'lottery' or was it just the by-product of three years "sex, drugs, rock and roll"? In a society where eight weeks of tears and tantrums in the Big Brother household did more for Shell's popular profile than her First, why should study be the name of the game? Even with a 2:1, media scare mongering would imply that you're merely adding to the government's target 50% of school leavers with 'Mickey Mouse' degrees.

The pressure is on students and institutions alike. To compete with Oxbridge and government league tables, revenue and work ethic have to come from somewhere. And, according to The Times, in LSE's case, these come from abroad. Those lucky enough to study here will each have beaten "twelve others" for the chance.

With the Star Ship Enterprise of libraries; a language centre; and a location bordering the law courts, The City and theatre land, LSE is equipped to provide the environment of a potential employee's dreams (though a few more shrubs wouldn't go amiss). It still basks in the glow of a politically driven past, so there are regular visits from leading and infamous speakers.

'There is persuasive evidence that propositioning, and other extra-curricular activities, can penetrate academic timetables.'

Where does three or more years of university social and academic life leave the LSE graduate? That's up to you.

Though tutors will not make sure you take advantage of the academic opportunities, listen to them lecture, and there seems little need to refer to text books. All in all, George Bernard Shaw - whose sense of social responsibility led him to found the LSE and criticise "art for art's sake" - is probably proud. Freshers, on the other hand, might be feeling daunted.

More worryingly, despite all our social scientists, recent research reveals that chemistry is lacking! Rumours suggest LSE tops the charts for 'Least Sex Ever'. As one first year said, being a student is more about "study, debt and birth control". More students gather together to sweat it out in the library around exam time, than at Crush. However, optimistic vibes are beginning to flow from the top:

"Employers are likely to attach greater importance to personal qualities, and to evidence of an entrepreneurial attitude, rather than to the precise nature of the degree, or the institution from which you earned it. But for those who used their time at university well, and see their academic qualifications as just one important element of the proposition they put to employers, the prospect remains bright". Sir Howard Davies. The Sunday Times. September 12, 2004.

There is persuasive evidence that propositioning, and other extra-curricular activities, can penetrate academic timetables. Freshers' Fair is the best place to start. Entrepreneurs, politicians, sportsmen, artists, dancers, musicians and jugglers etc. sell themselves to anyone who is willing to experiment. Testosterone reaches high levels at the weekly Union General Meeting, in the Old Theatre, and on Wednesday nights, at Shaftesbury Walkabout - where, particularly after ten pints, the AU gents are charming. The Shaw Library is another leisure zone, for endless hours of classic soul. And the newly refurbished Tuns looks enticing...

It is hardly surprising that students have been protesting against top up fees: if we do not want to pay for our education, we would certainly prefer the state to pay for all the 'personal discovery' time too. Conceivably the rounded three year experience of the undergraduate may have to be streamlined? Our generation may be the last to enjoy the work hard/play harder balance that current university life allows!

Like many of my peers, I am avoiding the employment race for another year as a post-grad. Any syllabus I learned over the last three years has proved extremely hard to recall, but whether facing prospective landlords or holiday job employers, having the LSE 'tag' has already helped. The big city seemed overwhelming on first moving here. However, there must be few other places where the university challenge can be so open to interpretation: make of it what you will.

Caroline Biesterfeld is a Masters student.

Features

On being an International Student

International Students pay £10,000 a year straight into the British economy, all they get in return is aggravation.

Stacy-Marie Ishmael

When the Beaver trumpeted that "International students are not wanted at Natwest," the only thing that really struck me about the headline was its (erroneous, in my experience) implication that this was a recent development.

Namedrop "Natwest" in any conversation with one of those unfortunate souls classed as "overseas resident for fee purposes," and one is almost guaranteed to inspire a torrent of invective and language too colourful for direct quotation here. It is incredible that a bank located upon the premises of a school which continually boasts that over 60% of its population is international is not just markedly unable, but evidently unwilling to even attempt to meet the diverse needs of an international student.

Steve Pollock, the manager of the LSE branch of Natwest, attempted to attenuate his obvious disregard for international students - or, as he put it, "those types of people" - by claiming that Natwest, unlike other high street banks, offers its international student base an "actual relationship." Really? Even if this were the case, and it is not, based on the reactions of random international students polled and my own frustrating experiences, then the relationship would be so patently dysfunctional as to necessitate its immediate termination.

It is incredible that international students are treated like lepers in so many domains, even as they are actively courted in others. One the one hand, the UK economy benefits staggeringly from the financial contributions of international students (£10,000 fees, anyone?), and one of the regular activities of the High Commissions in far-flung corners of the globe is to persuade the indigenous young people of the benefits of a British education. On the other, it often seems as if we are not really wanted here.

We have all had various experiences with visa fees and immigration nightmares, the suspicious customs officers that await one at the airport, the difficulties posed by one's lack of access to overdraft facilities or a chequebook, the constant treks to cash machines because of the limitations of a Solo card - accepted nowhere that you need it to be. I have been refused

'The relationship [with Natwest] would be so patently dysfunctional as to necessitate its immediate termination.'

entry to selected nightspots because of a lack of a suitable form of identification - I do not have a UK driver's license, and there is no way that I would go clubbing with my precious passport in tow. Why is it that my ISIC card is accepted on the European continent, and even in the US, which has a draconian policy on underage drinking, but not in London?

Even attempting to get a contract for a mobile phone is fraught with difficulty. The latest student offer on Orange is eminently attractive - until you reveal that you have not been domiciled in the UK for at least three years, and the formerly-friendly "telephone trainer" snaps to attention and requests a £150 deposit - in case you skip town without paying, you understand.

What often compounds the frustrations of international students in these situations are the wholly unsympathetic responses of a surprisingly large number of "home" students. These range from the embittered, "how dare you complain? You should be grateful for the opportunity to study here" to the latently xenophobic, "well, why don't you just go back to your own country then?"

It is attitudes like that, combined with the administrative migraines of attempting to accomplish even the simplest daily tasks, which often make us wish that we could.

Stacy-Marie Ishmael is a 2nd year International Relations student.

EVENT **Teach First Presentation**
DATE **19th October 2004**
TIME **6.30 pm**
VENUE **Thames Room, Mellon Financial Centre,
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The Grumbles of a First Year Law Student

The Law Department mistreats its students

Steve Gummer

THE FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENT n; More arrogant and vain than Narcissus and as lethal and ambitious as the average London driver. Oh and this one thinks he can write as well... But don't judge us too harshly; we've got a lot on our plate.

Mindful of mush from a holiday spent in bars and on the beach, the extensive reading list comes as a bit of a shock to most first year law students. For those of you who haven't seen it, it is about a mile and a half long, with revision required simply to learn the difference between casebooks, textbooks and statute books.

Equally, we are not helped by lecturers offering no advice on which books to buy, unless of course they are their own, but simply telling us, in the most unspecific manner possible, to 'look at all the options'. This creates a list about fifteen times longer than the one previously described and the innocent undergrad's brain is instantly thrown into the sort of comatose that you thought you'd already slept off after the opening freshers party.

It's not even the fact that our course is so much harder than everyone else's (a frequent assumption made by a law student) so much as the fact that not even our own lecturers seem to

side with us. In my first introduction I was told to look forward to feeling 'completely inadequate'. Fortunately, this was something I feel completely used to, but in a room full of striving students such a sentiment did not go down well.

However what I was unprepared for was a united strategy from all our professors, probably designed to destroy morale built from Freshers' Week. Each and every one gave an identical lecture, how to use LSE for you, how to register your class (as though being present in the class wasn't proof enough that you already done so). We were even shown how to enter Internet Explorer.

Not even the jokes changed from subject to subject; the casu-



Law can be fun.

al remark about how their kids can use the PC better than they can after a web page didn't appear (possibly a technique to cover their panic). Everyone laughs of course, if only to put on a show, or maybe in a vain attempt to pick up points if the lecturer happens to be looking.

Yet this too is all ingrained with the psyche of your typical law student. As for me, I don't think I can cope with being courteously welcomed to the LSE one more time. They could just be looking out for our well being, genuinely being friendly but in my opinion there is a bigger plot.

If you need more evidence of conspiracy, look no further than whoever wrote or worked on the timetable for the Law induction week. Don't get me wrong; I think that E171 is a great lecture hall. Of its many advantages we can include its impressive ventilation system. Nothing can compare to a little recycled oxygen early on a Monday morning to stimulate the mind. Maybe it'll do us future lawyers some good to share something?

Yet I am not certain that we deserve the dismal lighting that accompanies such refreshing O2. On the plus side, such a lecture hall accompanied with the continuous drone of 'THAT LECTURE AGAIN' create a very conducive atmosphere to compensate for the lack of sleep I got the night before.

Of course, this rest is frequently disturbed by nightmares of all the lawyer jokes I have heard from the other students since arriving at the LSE. I honestly had no idea there were so many:

'What's the difference between a lawyer and a trampoline?' asked a thrilled second year Sociology student, who was clearly enjoying my suffering.

'Don't know,' I mumbled back paralysed with a passive fear of the cheesy punch line to follow.

'You take your shoes off before you jump on a trampoline' he laughed, in an almost threatening manner.

Therefore I will use this article to issue an announcement, to all non-law students, that if you real-

ly don't like this article, a distinct probability, and require instant vengeance upon its author, don't stab me, or hit me, or even leave an insulting note on my locker. Just tell me another of those splendid jokes that seem to do the job almost every time. Apparently there is a full three years of them to come!

Yet, inconceivably the worst is still yet to come. We, the first year law students have to put up with ourselves. The uncontrollable ego, the inevitable damnation of our once innocent undergrad souls and the brutal and uncompromising ambition that turns into contempt for everyone we meet. Though I haven't experienced any first hand, I'm entirely convinced that the brutal backstabbing and bloodlust has already begun. You can see it, in your colleagues eyes when they introduce themselves to you, if a conversation were candid between two first year law students I think the script would be much different, so here are a few to look out for when talking to one of us:

'It's nice to meet you' (I don't think this kid is as smart as me)

'What did you think of that lecture?' (I didn't understand a word but it'll be okay if you didn't either)

'Where do you come from?' (I wonder if his school was better than mine)

And most dangerously of all: 'I'll buy you a beer' (and bill you for it later)

So, if there are any sections of society who feel aggrieved because they hate law students too but were not mentioned, I will be glad to discuss them next time. But for now, I feel justified in signing off. So here's to the law student, hated by all, loved only by themselves (which given the size of their egos, including my own, maybe more than enough). Not only do they learn about crime and punishment but, during their course, they suffer both as well!

Steve Gummer is a 1st year Law Student.

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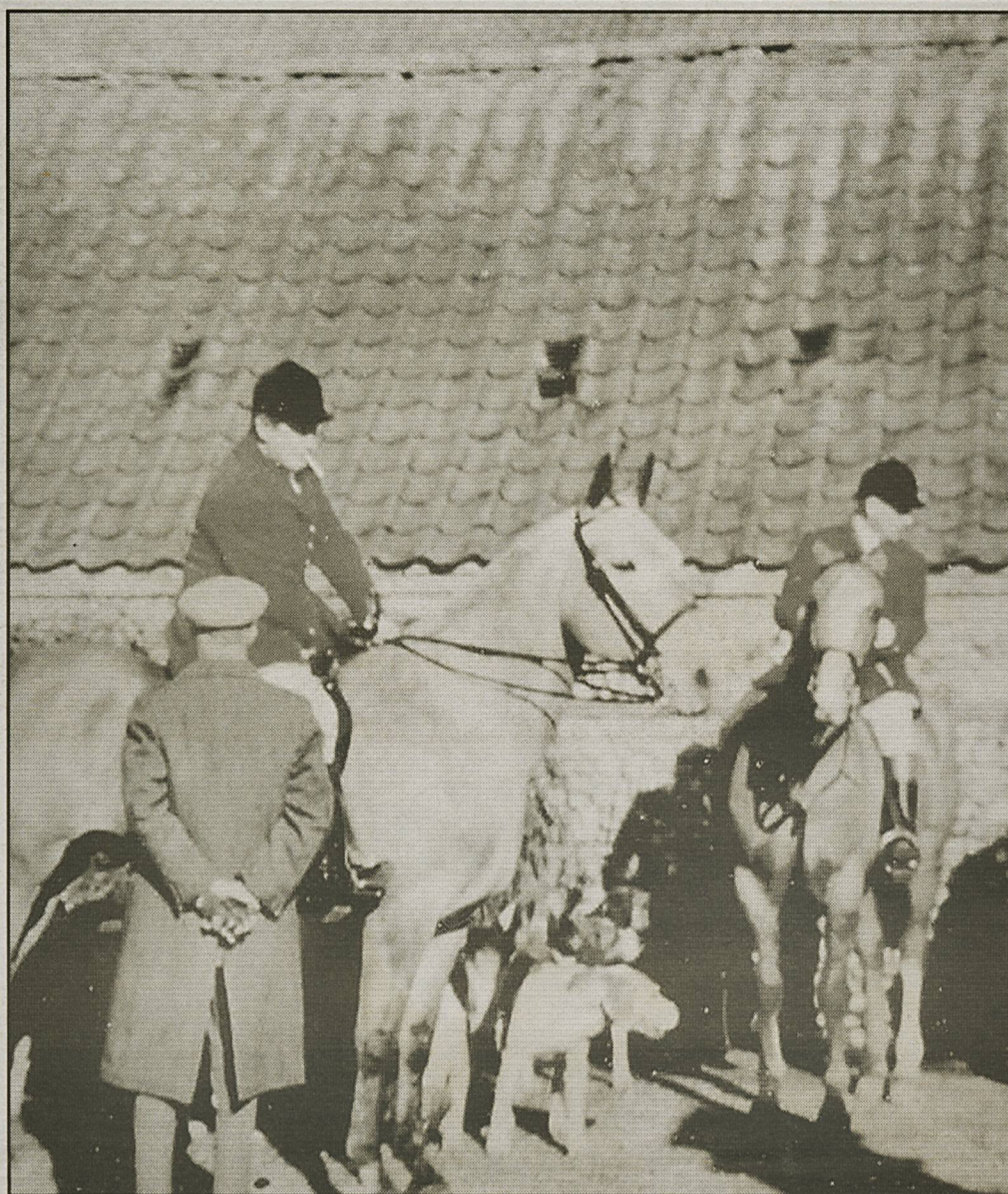
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Politics



"We'll keep on hunting"

In Defence of Fox Hunting

Prime Minister has been even weaker in his justifications for a hunting ban than he was over going to war in Iraq. He did not even bother to show up for the most recent vote on hunting a month ago. Blair knows what a volatile subject this is; he has talked recently of finding 'a middle way', where some hunting could continue with strict licensing. Whilst you might think this would be fair, actually it is an affront to the countryside and desperate political opportunism. Come on Tony, either it's cruel or it's not.

By the next election, it may be too late anyway. It is estimated that a ban means 8000 people will lose full-time jobs and 75 percent of rural businesses will be affected. Certain left-wing writers keep banging on about how the mining industry was shut down so why shouldn't hunting go the same way? This is a pretty fatuous argument considering hunting is not being heavily subsidized by the government; it is already a viable industry in itself. Thousands of horses are kept solely for hunting, and 500,000 dogs are involved, and whilst numbers vary hugely as to how many would be put down after a ban, many who hunt say there is no feasible alternative. These are all factors contributing to the massive sense of frustration many country dwellers currently feel.

Perhaps hunting supporters could have initially dealt with their opponents better. The Burns report made the point that there were too many cases with hunts trespassing on land without prior permission and causing a disturbance. Perhaps the hunting community could have held their hand up and said they would make a real effort to improve.

Similarly, the whole pageantry of hunting that seems to so rile people could have been toned down. The red coat and top hat vision of hunting is not one that sits well with the argument that it is an activity for all social classes. But the time for compromise has passed with the increasing determination to bulldoze the bill through that we have seen with some MPs.

That is why we saw such horrific scenes in Westminster, and why more than 6000 people have signed a declaration promising to continue hunting even if the ban becomes law. The voices in my head are still battling over this one.

A law is a law after all, yet when an issue has been dealt with as shoddily and unfairly as this one, can we forgive the odd rock-star offspring and ruddy-faced farmer for deciding matters for themselves? Moreover, hunt 'saboteurs' have been breaking the law for years by assaulting those out hunting, damaging property, trespassing on private land and squirting

pepper-spray in hounds' eyes. The hunting boot will be on the other foot if the bill goes through, and hunters will feel, amongst other things, immensely cheated.

Of course this anger stems not only from the loss of jobs, business and manner in which many feel the subject has been dealt with, but also from a repulsion at the way the government seems to feel it can curtail individual liberty. If you accept that hunting is not cruel (or at the very least better than gassing, snaring or taking pot-shots at foxes) then the whole argument is comparable to MPs banning football just because they do not like it. Most hunting supporters understand there are people who genuinely cannot bear animals being killed, but what they should realise is that nastier forms of culling will go on after dark following a ban.

The writer responsible for last week's piece says that the issue doesn't excite him either way, and sadly this echoes one of the major problems with the proposed ban. The majority of those salivating at the prospect of outlawing what they deem an anachronistic pastime have made no effort to understand it. Unquestionably, a large proportion of those arguing for a ban are doing so for no better reason than they just do not like hunting.

But is it not dangerous for governments to start banning things just because they do not like or approve of them? What about the halal meat that much of the public find offensive. Plenty of people do not support the Catholic policy on birth control, yet can you imagine a government trying to ban that? Surely, if you are going to be partly accountable for a bill which will ruin lives, you should ignore all pre-determined opinions and listen to the arguments.

The answer from Labour MPs on that one would be 'read the Burns report', and admittedly I have referred to it in this piece. Nevertheless it is interesting to note that the report committee was led by a man who had previously been parliamentary-secretary to Gordon Brown, so possibly not fully impartial to the debate.

The real problem now is that hunting supporters have shifted further and further away from wanting to negotiate with the government, as they feel ignored and cornered. This is why protests are becoming increasingly violent and this is why the proposed law is unscrupulous and unjust.

Sophia Money-Coutts is an undergraduate International History student.

Hunting should receive the same protection afforded to other minority passions. It is not a particularly cruel method of killing foxes and provides employment for thousands of people.

Sophia Money-Coutts

"Nobody really cares about fox-hunting." At least, that was one student's opinion voiced in these pages last week. It is a fairly staggering assertion considering the recent protests we have seen by hunting supporters. Thousands of people do care, so much so that their passionate feelings on this subject resulted in a bloody feud outside Parliament in September.

Kate Lovelace was struck with a truncheon on her head which caught her eye; I dare you to tell her she was wasting her time. William Hudson was hit so hard that blood poured from his head, drenching his shirt, so swagger up to him and say his efforts were worthless because nobody cares.

Yet in a way, it was futile; Labour MPs would have pushed through the bill irrespective of what hunt supporters could say or do. The bill is due in the House of Lords today, and will probably be returned, whereupon the Parliament Act will force it through. Commons Leader Peter Hain says it will then become law in eighteen months.

In the past few weeks, many column inches have been devoted to mulling over the new 'class civil-war' this issue has supposedly brought about. The left-wing of the Labour Party see hunting as a wholly aristocratic activity, and that is evidence enough for them. No matter that hunting

is not principally a pursuit of pleasure by the upper-classes but an effective form of pest control, or that foxes are in fact killed outright by a swift bite to their neck. Oh no, Labour MPs have decided what kind of people go hunting and as such it is cruel.

From this, I deduce such MPs have never looked at photos of such Countryside Alliance demonstrations, or spoken to the people that have been. It takes one glance to see not everybody who waves aloft a banner saying 'Bollocks to Blair' is a tweed-clad toff.

Rural Affairs minister Alun Michael said if the hunting community do not like the ban, then they can illustrate this through the ballot box at the general election. What a mind-numbingly arrogant statement! Imagine the reaction if Tony Blair had said back in April 2003, 'Right everyone, we're off to war and if you're against it you can vote me out in a couple of years'.

Admittedly, a ban on hunting was part of the Labour manifesto, and a war with Iraq obviously was not. Yet, the point remains that it is easy to see how such angry feeling exists amongst the hunting community and that there has been very little serious consultation and consideration with them. Just constant opinion polls of the public, the latest of which states 40 percent of people want to see a ban, as reported in 'The Evening Standard' last week. Not technically a majority there.

If you can imagine such a thing, our

Hactivist



The Dirge of a Dying Democracy

Tracy Alloway

Features Correspondent

A long time ago, in a land far away,
A state was created that's still here to this
day,

In a brave new world, across the Atlantic
Sea,

A Democracy was begun of the highest
degree,

In the U.S. of A. a new day was breaking,
Majority rule was a new government mak-
ing,

But fast forward two-hundred-and-twenty-
five years,

Democracy's crumbling, the world's
switching gears,

Gone are old-fashioned ideals like free
speech,

Government criticisms are no longer in
our reach,

Want to condemn U.S. soldiers? Fat
chance!

The conservatives would "rectify" you in
Orwellian parlance,

Even fat men from Michigan with names
like Michael Moore,

Are being pursued by Republicans as they
campaign door-to-door,

It seems helping young people register to
vote by the oodles,

Is a crime they call bribery when you give
them cup-o-noodles,

In Florida, democracy's been gone since
four years before,

When the elections were organized by a
lady named Lepore,

The state went to Bush, despite Gore's
majority win,

And nothing has changed in the time that
has been,

The voting machines are still unreliable at
best,

But without paper print-outs there's no
way to test,

Meanwhile Bush's brother, the Florida
governor,

Is spinning the situation with the charm of
a Southerner,

"Everything's fine," he shouts with elation,
While international observers cry "manip-
ulation!"

Republicans answer, in their witty retorts,
"We don't need observers, we invented the
election-sport!"

The disintegration has even spread into
Britain,

With the Countryside Alliance a new
chapter is written,

"The banning of fox-hunting," they all
whoop,

"Is an attack on the rights of a minority
group!"

It seems democracy with all its provisions;
Free speech, fair elections, and majority
decisions,

Is quickly fading, being fast wiped from
the page,

We're moving I'm sure into the Big Brother
age,

Can anyone save us from a dawning autocr-
acy?

I think not, hence this dirge for a dying
democracy.

Features

Features Correspondent: Tracy Alloway (t.alloway@lse.ac.uk)

Kerry
vs.
Bush

**Kerry has won the presi-
dential debates so far but
he'll need to do well in
the third if the Democrats
are to win this election**

Jonathan Gradowski

The presidential debates could cost
Bush a second term, but only if
Kerry wins the third debate over-
whelmingly.

From terrorism and Iraq to healthcare
and Social Security, Bush's appeal derives
almost exclusively from his "leadership"
qualities, not specific policies. During the
foreign policy debate on Sep. 30, Bush did
not look like a leader; "He looked like he
was sucking a lemon", as Ceci Connolly of
The Washington Post put it. Kerry, in con-
trast, looked and sounded like the
President of the United States. In the sec-
ond debate on Oct. 8, Kerry won by a neg-
ligible margin or it was a draw. If he fails
in the third debate to conclusively demon-
strate that this leadership image of Bush
that has been sold to the American public
by his handlers is a lemon, Kerry will like-
ly lose this election.

On Sep. 30, Kerry made strides in
showing that Bush's leadership image is
smoke and mirrors. Repeatedly, Bush was
presented with the opportunity to explain
the moral and strategic nexus between the
war on terrorism and the Iraq war. The best
moment was when Kerry said, "Saddam
Hussein didn't attack us. Osama bin Laden
attacked us." But rather than explaining
how Iraq was part of the war on terror,
writ large, Bush lamely replied, "I know
Osama bin Laden attacked us-I know
that." This is hardly moral clarity.

US presidential debates are contests of
character and Bush lost, by a 2:1 margin
according to most polls, to a candidate he's
portrayed as a namby-pamby, windsurfing,
flip-flopper who hails from the culturally
out-of-touch liberal Massachusetts. Perhaps
for another incumbent, this wouldn't be
such a big deal. But for Bush, who's staked
his presidency on his John Wayne persona,
it was.

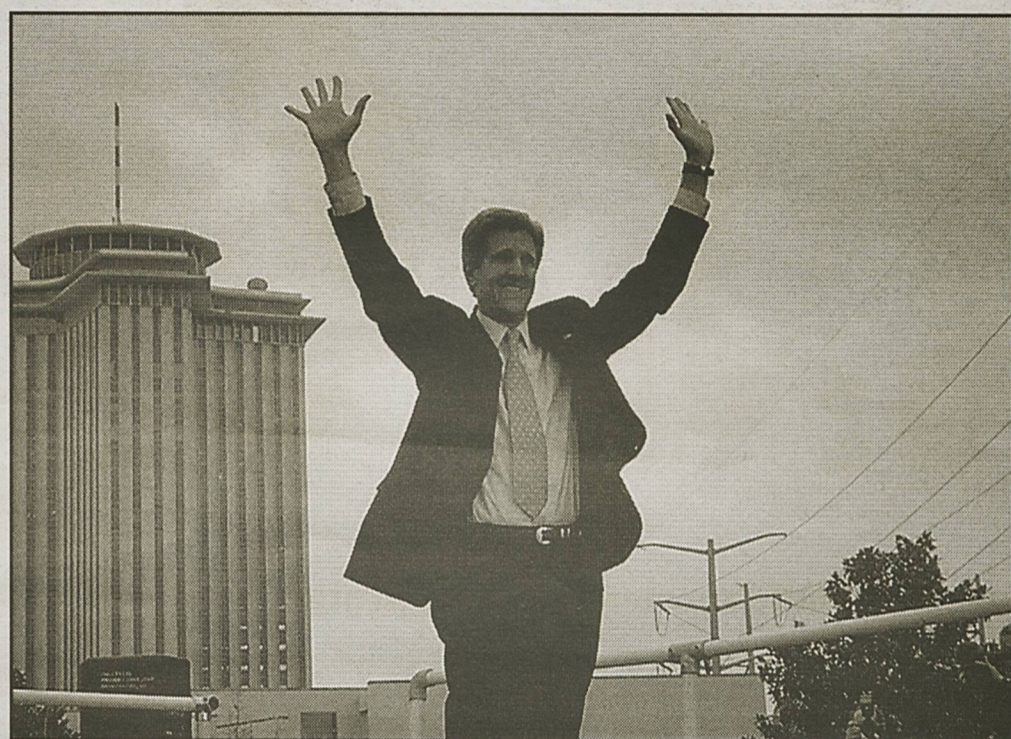
While most polls have Kerry consis-
tently leading Bush on virtually every
issue, voters nonetheless prefer Bush. This
is because he is believed to have steely
resolve, iron courage, and every other
virtue with a metallic adjective before it.
Even on the two issues voters consistently
prefer Bush to Kerry on—the war on terror
and Iraq—it's not because of the actual
policies; it's because Americans know that
Bush will go Dr. Strangelove if the nation
is attacked by terrorists again—and won't
relent like that flip-flopping Kerry with
his "But what will the neighbours think?"
mentality.

This is what explains Bush's lead over
Kerry. It also explains why Bush was in
electoral trouble after the first debate.

After viewers saw Bush being rhetori-
cally manhandled and dwarfed in
demeanor by Kerry, Kerry's leadership
stock rose in voters' eyes-up six points



"Not really Mr. President."



"Upwards, Onwards"

**'American's know that
Bush will go Dr.
Strangelove if the
nation is attacked by
terrorists again.'**

In the second debate last Saturday,
viewers saw Bush holding his own with
Kerry. According to instant polls taking
just after the debate, the result was effec-
tively a draw: ABC had Kerry up by 3
points, Gallup by 2; both within the margin
of error. But in big electoral picture, this
was a win for Bush.

Kerry needs to convince voters that he's
incommensurately superior than Bush, not
just as good. The overwhelming majority of
Americans think Bush is trustworthy, like-
able, decisive, and a strong leader. Kerry's
performance in the first debate narrowed
the gap between himself and Bush on all
those scores, but Bush was still ahead. His
performance in the second debate will like-
ly halt his progress.

This is why the third debate is so
important. And Kerry's task is a difficult
one: he needs to simultaneously discredit
Bush's leadership image and burnish his
own. He must look and sound more presi-
dential than the president. He must make
sure that viewers once again see that image
they saw on the split screen in the first
debate—presidential Kerry on the left hand
side, lemon-sucking Bush on the right. But
if he fails to do this and outcome of the
debate is a draw, he'll probably lose this
November.

*Jonathan Gradowski is a final year govern-
ment student.*

(56%) according to the latest Newsweek
poll taken after the debate. That same poll
had Kerry leading Bush by 2 points in a
three-way race (i.e. Nader included); the
first time Bush has trailed Kerry since
September 13. To be sure, only a handful of
post-first debate polls had Kerry leading
Bush; the majority had him tied or with
Bush up on Kerry by several points. But
the trend was the same in all the polls:
Kerry was gaining on Bush across the
board, especially on the all-important
character traits.

Politics

A Logical Discourse on Iraq

Arguments over WMD are insufficient to support opposition to the War in Iraq



Change is in the air in Iraq

William Blake

Objectionists to the war in Iraq have constructed their criticisms of United States foreign policy and the executor of that policy, President George W. Bush, largely on the assumption that an inability to discover a large cache of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (henceforth WMD) obliterates the legitimacy of the war and the administration. While passionate intellectuals may debate the merits of an aggressive foreign policy, considerate participants should remember that errors of logic committed in the hasty adoption of assumption undermine the legitimacy of their own position. If one honestly examines the logical possibilities of the existence of Iraqi WMD, it becomes apparent that an argument other than WMD is essential to the opposition of the war.

There are four logical possibilities with regard to Iraqi WMD: 1) WMD never existed in Iraq; 2) WMD existed but the stockpiles were depleted and were never replaced; 3) Iraqi WMD do exist and are now in the hands of rogue nations or hostile groups; and, 4) WMD stockpiles exist and remain undiscovered in Iraq.

The first argument is refuted by fact. Although it is widely accepted that Hussein employed WMD against Iranian combatants, Kurds, and Assyrians, it is essential to cite at least minimal evidence to dispose of this argument. In 1993, the apolitical organisation, Physicians for Human Rights, established through gas chromatography and mass spectrometry of samples collected by them in Iraq that both nerve agents and mustard gas had conclusively been used against the Kurdish population (www.phrusa.org/research/chemical_weapons/chemiraqgas2.html).

Iraq itself made declarations that it possessed quantities of WMD to the United Nations (www.un.org/Depts/unscom/Chronology/chronologyframe.htm). Even rampant conspiracy theorists like those catalogued at the World Socialist Web Site admit, "both Iraq and Iran were employing chemical weapons in the course of their eight-year-long war"

(www.wsws.org/articles/2003/apr2003/wmd-a22.shtml). Argument one is dead.

Argument two suggests that Iraq depleted its stockpiles, either through use or voluntary destruction, and did not replace them. This argument is regarded by many conscientious observers as contradictory to the historical nature of Hussein's regime. On several occasions, including that of 19 March 1992, Iraq attempted to use this claim with the United Nations as an explanation of the disposition of items it had previously declared or failed to declare to the body. The basic chronology of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) shows a clear pattern: Iraqi assertions; UNSCOM discoveries to the contrary; reluctant, but incomplete Iraqi admissions; and, more UNSCOM discoveries to the contrary. It also describes an enormous number of attempts-many successful-to prevent UNSCOM from investigating suspected sites and Iraqi claims of the voluntary destruction of WMD. While the pattern itself is terrifically suggestive, one still needs at least one evidentiary exception to disprove the argument-the modern existence of proscribed WMD equipment. Although the search in Iraq is incomplete, we need look only to the Netherlands for our exception. An unfired SA-2 engine-the kind reiterated as a banned weapon by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) in February 2003-turned up in a Rotterdam scrap yard. It had been previously discovered by UN inspectors but somehow eluded destruction as required and was sold abroad by an enterprising scavenger unaware of the nature of his find

(www.un.org/Depts/unmovic/new/documents/quarterly_reports/s-2004-435.pdf). Furthermore, UN investigators discovered in June 2004 twenty other banned SA-2 missile components and "other equipment that could be used to produce weapons of mass destruction" in Jordan (www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/09/08/iraq.scrap.ap/). While it does not account for nuclear materials, biological agents, or chemical agents (NBC), partisans are served well to remember that both the delivery systems and the equipment need-

ed to produce NBC are categorized and proscribed by the United Nations as WMD. Aside from the political ramifications, the second argument is logically defeated as banned Iraqi weapons do clearly persist.

This leads directly into the third argument: Iraqi WMD do exist and are now in the hands of rogue nations or hostile groups. The proof against the second logical argument invites the question, if tangible and stable pieces of Iraq's WMD industrial complex are just now being found in nations ostensibly friendly to the discovery process, how long will it require to find canisters of easily-concealed and volatile elements in the hands of rogue nations or terrorist organizations like Syria or Al Qaeda. The evidence that seals this argument was obtained last May. On May 2, 2004, coalition forces discovered a shell filled with mustard gas that had been rigged as an improvised bomb alongside a road west of Baghdad. On May 19, 2004, a 155mm shell confirmed later as containing the nerve agent sarin was detonated unsuccessfully against a coalition convoy near Baghdad. The WMD were confirmed by further laboratory investigation. (www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4997808/, www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,120268,0.html). In both instances, the munitions were traced back to the stockpiles of Saddam Hussein. While these instances do not account for a publicly satisfying large cache of WMD, the logic of the third argument is satisfied nonetheless.

The final argument, stockpiles of WMD exist in Iraq but remain undiscovered. It should be noted that arguments three and four, unlike one and two, are not mutually exclusive. Common sense might suggest that hiding something that's lethal in tiny amounts in a country over half the size of Texas could take a very, very long time to uncover. And when you consider that Iraq's former ruthless dictator-a man long accustomed to a life of luxury-was himself uncovered hiding in a small hole below ground, you might well assume any WMD that do exist are probably well-buried in bunkers. That turns over 400,000 square kilometres of search into a vastly greater volume of cubic kilometres. Given the historical success of Hussein's government to hide known WMD from UNSCOM, until a large cache of WMD is found or until the last cubic meter of dirt has been sifted down to a reasonable depth, the fourth argument cannot be proven or disproven. To complicate matters, even if the coalition does uncover WMD, it may take them considerable time to judge exactly what they've found. Critic David Kay, former UN inspector and senior analyst of the Potomac Institute, stated that even among the enormous caches of artillery shells and weapons that the coalition has uncovered, "They won't be able to identify them until they take time to go through them." Apparently, "Iraq's military often [didn't] designate them with special markings" (www.wsjclassroomediton.com/wsjtoday/war/03apr07_story2.html). Isn't it interesting that the primary argument on which objectionists to the war in Iraq base their assumption is the very one that proves most elusive.

After a careful logical analysis of the situation, it seems clear that objectionists-for the sake of their own position-should abandon that which is built upon poor logic and engage in debates over the merits of policy. I welcome that debate and will be well prepared for it, when and if logic permits.

William Blake is a masters student in International History

The Right Approach

Freedom 1; Communism 0

Daniel Freedman
blink Columnist

Here's a thought that's bound to send shivers down the spines of the far-left: Four more years of a U.S. foreign policy run by President George W. Bush. Here's another: Freedom. In fact they're connected.

Have you noticed around campus (and the country) the continued opposition of the far-left to the liberation of Iraq? Ever wonder why? Why would anyone wish a tyrant remained in power? Why would anyone want his torture chambers and rape rooms to remain in operation? Why would anyone want his gassings and mass-killings to continue? Why?

Because the UN didn't "approve" it? Please. So any dictator has a right to mass-murder, torture and rape until the UN says it's wrong? Until then it's legal?

Because the U.S. acted unilaterally, with only Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Ukraine, Netherlands, Australia, Romania, South Korea, Japan, Denmark, Bulgaria, Thailand, El Salvador, Hungary, Singapore, Norway, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Mongolia, Latvia, Portugal, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia, Albania, New Zealand, Tonga, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia and Moldova on board? Because those great beacons of democracy China and Russia opposed it? Please.

Some people opposed the war for old-fashioned isolationist reasons. Fair enough. But the left pose as internationalists, they're always pretending to care about oppressed peoples. Was the U.S. removing Saddam really worse than Saddam remaining in power? And now that he's been removed, should the coalition really just pull out and let the country descend into chaos?

And why--as East Timor's Nobel prize-winner, Jose Ramos-Horta, asked--in all the anti-war demonstrations did he not see: "one single banner or hear one speech calling for the end of human rights abuses in Iraq, the removal of the dictator and freedom for the Iraqis and the Kurdish people?"

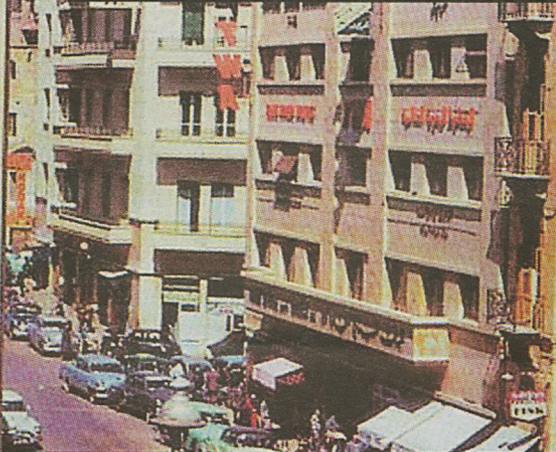
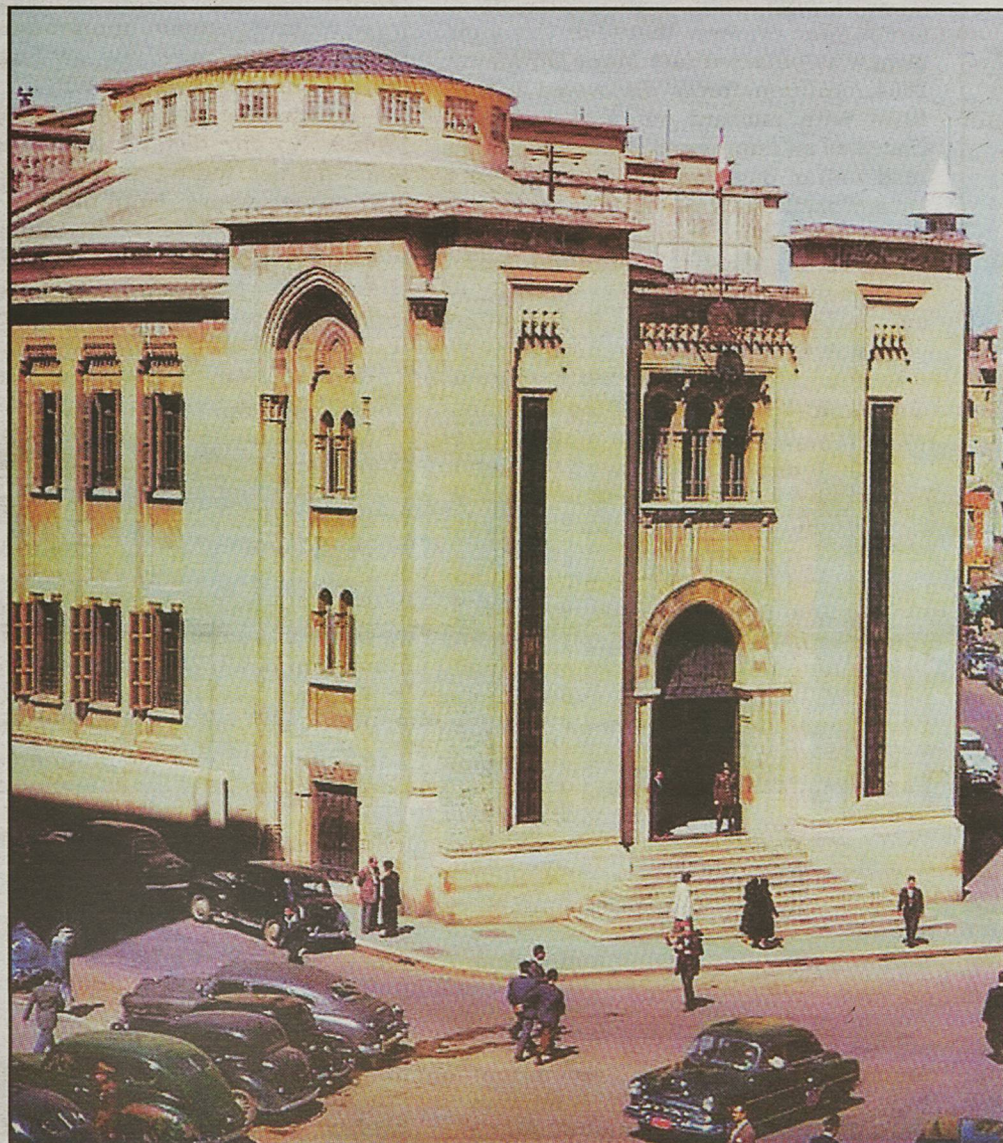
The answer is because the far-left don't believe in democracy. They hate freedom. Their ideal state is a dictatorship of workers--in which of course they are the chosen ruling workers. (Andrew Murray, the chairman of the stop the war coalition, for example, is on the politburo of the Communist Party of Britain, and is an apologist for Stalin. Any guesses what he thinks of democracy?)

The far-left hate democracy because they know once a people have a taste of freedom, of deciding their own destiny, they'll never opt for a communist dictatorship. That's why the far-left preferred Saddam remaining in power to the Iraqi people being liberated. That's why they continue to protest, hoping to force the coalition troops out, so Iraq descends into anarchy before democracy can take hold. And that's why they really hate President Bush and his foreign policy aim of liberating oppressed peoples and creating democracies.

As Prime Minister Blair told the U.S. Congress: "Ours are not western values. They are the universal values of the human spirit, and anywhere, anywhere, anytime, ordinary people are given the chance to choose, the choice is the same: freedom, not tyranny; democracy, not dictatorship; the rule of law, not the rule of the secret police." Sorry commies, I think you've lost Iraq.

In the Lebanon

As internal fighting between Sunni, Shi'ites and Kurds intensifies, intellectuals have begun discussing the idea of partitioning Iraq along ethnic/religious lines. Perhaps they should take a look at Lebanon?



Asma Khalid

A rosary dangled from the rearview mirror and stickers of Mary decorated the dashboard of our Lebanese taxi.

"You're Christian?" I heard my unmentionable thoughts abruptly spoken aloud. I peered into the front seat and noticed a self-assured, Ivy League American student from my Arabic program sitting comfortably with a grin on his face. A New York Jew in hiding, a self-proclaimed Unitarian in Lebanon, he spoke with the driver about their common faith with the ease of a true Christian.

But our taxi driver lacked that Ivy League, American enthusiasm.

"There is always this question in Lebanon," he told us grimly as we sped past a mosque. I was beginning to think only outsiders noticed this country's obsession with religious identity.

Despite its religious fallacies, Lebanon grudgingly earned my respect as a lesson for the Middle East. The country's possibilities overrule its prejudices.

The longer I stayed in Beirut, the more my religious reality, shaped out of a quaint Caucasian town in suburban Indiana, seemed deficient - unable to quell my con-

cerns. I went to Beirut in an attempt to learn Arabic; I returned with a more concrete understanding of religious tension than verb conjugation.

After two weeks in the country, I'd been programmed to check the rearview mirror and neck of every passing Beirut for the appropriate religious symbol. A cross and a crescent became icons for the unspoken truths.

Our Christian, Lebanese bus driver smirked when he asked why I was a Muslim but didn't know how to speak Arabic.

In the beginning, my roommate (a Christian also from the States), sporting a pair of blue shorts, and I, styling a tie-dye hijab, went jogging along the Mediterranean Sea. Later, we were informed of our foolishness. Christians and Muslims don't run together. The Christians were constructing their own walkway so they wouldn't have to share the same sidewalk as Muslims.

Lebanese possess a dual identity; Christianity and Islam have simultaneously entered their social consciousness. And slowly, Lebanon is learning not to shirk its responsibility as a haven sandwiched between Israel and Syria for religiously-tolerant pilgrims. It's one of the most

multi-religious countries in the Middle East, a mélange of some seventeen odd faiths.

Officially, the country is a parliamentary democracy, a religious fusion, a message for the Middle East's intolerance and yet also an oxymoron - a democracy so heavily invested between both church and state. Constitutional rules dictate that the president must be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the president of the National Assembly a Shi'ite Muslim. In an attempt to create religious harmony, Lebanon has instituted its own set of flimsy commandments which dictate the religious affiliation of its leaders. The country offers a Bible and Koran under one cover, with any prophet of your choice making the convenient religious claim of the day.

Nonetheless, Lebanese are Middle Easterners. They think of government as nothing more than a bazaar, a souk where they can bargain their way out of political strife. Sooner or later the once amiable sand-skinned Arab with a scraggly beard and a crooked smile who owns a gold shop in the local market will realize he's getting ripped off by his own countrymen. Every day this Arab merchant might rip off a few tourists, but he refuses to tolerate being

cheated by his own men. And when he's deceived by his own men, he retaliates.

Hence the world witnessed the Lebanese civil war that exploded throughout the '70s and '80s because of an unequal distribution of power amongst religions.

Despite Beirut's present-day Parisian atmosphere, many continue to think of the old, war-torn Beirut.

If it weren't for the backdrop of an occasional bulletted building, it might be difficult to tell a civil war had recently torn through Beirut's streets. As the buildings were renovated, people were reincarnated.

Even today, Lebanon isn't perfect. An unmentionable religious tension permeates the Beirut air nearly as thick as the taxi fumes. At a certain level, the country is a democracy gone wrong. But, it's also hope - as some claim, "the most democratically minded country in the Arab Middle East."

As Iraq attempts to democratize itself, Sunnis, Shi'ites and Kurds shouldn't let the world's reservations about religious unity determine their fate.

Asma Khalid is an undergraduate Government student.

International

China is changing for the good - the market's making it happen



Shanghai is currently looking so modern they've started using it as a science fiction set.

James Upsher

Visiting China for any length of time can be a challenge to the politically inclined. It is even harder for a journalism intern. While I met plenty of young westerners in the hostels of China's tourist trail who were looking to 'find themselves', it was in the financial district of Shanghai that I discovered something about myself - this idealist is now a pragmatist.

Far from the ordered conformity I expected to find in China the Shanghaiese were individualistic, vibrant and frequently confronted authority. They shouted at policemen, disobeyed instructions and on the roads and metro an 'every man for himself' mentality predominated. They are richer than ever before, and more and more eager to know about the West. I arrived with many preconceptions about the Chinese: I considered them sell outs that traded liberty, equality and justice for their new wealth. Now I realise my mistake, and the mistake of those who argued against China's admittance to the WTO; these are the people who are changing this country and they are doing it quietly in the rush to get rich.

China is now more open than ever before. The door to the sleeping dragon has been forced open, not by the idealistic human rights campaigners, but by the Bankers, Investors and CEO's that mingle in Shanghai's bars and restaurants.

There are still ominous shadows cast over China's past and future: colloquially known as 'the three T's': Tibet, Taiwan and Tiananmen. For the future of Taiwan, Tibet and the reform movement the closer China ties itself to the world the better.

Beijing can no longer play hard and fast with international opinion as its stability depends on its wealth; I was told by one banker that the Chinese government predicts social disorder to erupt if the rate of economic growth falls below 7% per annum.

After Tiananmen, the Chinese government did respond to the concerns of the people; anti-corruption campaigns have been a hallmark of the last 15 years and inflation has been brought under control. Today the Chinese government exists in a unique social contract: the people accept totalitarian rule in return for ever increasing wealth.

But China's increasing wealth is not being fuelled by internal markets, it is coming from the boom in exports. China's rapidly increasing prosperity and its burgeoning middle class has been possible thanks to the Chinese ability to fill every shelf in every shop in the Western world. As goods pour out of China, so investment is flooding in; it is one of the largest borrowers from the World Bank and money also pours in from the US, Japan, Taiwan and the European Union.

After the Tiananmen incident, governments around the world imposed sanctions on China; these were limited in extent but still significant. The media's ability to report on international events has transformed since 1989, and it is hard to see how China could turn the People's Army on its own people or on Taiwan without triggering an international response.

If current thinking is to be believed a referendum on Taiwanese independence is likely to come close to, if not during, the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The EU is highly likely to respond to any Chinese aggression with economic sanctions, and in an election year the US President would be under enormous pressure, from both humanitarians on the left and anti-communists on the right, to support Taiwanese self-determination.

The world is no longer the partisan place than it once was; there is no USSR to turn to if the US halts trade, and with opposition from the EU and US there would be little support from other trading nations.

A conclusion to Taiwan's 55 year isolation is a long way off, and speculation is only limited value. What is clear, however, are the rising forces within China, that are moving toward a better future thanks to the market.

Chinese membership of the WTO has placed increasing pressure on China to

ensure transparency of government and the rule of law: pressures that have led to positive change.

But it is not in the corridors of power that the real changes are occurring, but in the shops and café's that line the elegant Huaihai Zhong lu. This is where Shanghai's middle class come to show what they have achieved. People drink coffees in Starbucks, eat McDonalds, and express their wealth in the clothes they wear, cars they drive and houses they live in.

Crucially, thanks to business, they are socialising with Shanghai's huge expatriate population. It is at these parties and meetings that they pick up the language and conversations and hopes of a free people. They have worked hard to get where they are, and while they stay silent whilst the going's good, if the economy turns dues to mismanagement or foolish international action they will find a new voice.

So while I applaud those with principles who stand up to China's appalling human rights record, I believe that their fine words and excellent rhetoric has done little for the Chinese people. Changes on the ground are being powered by trade, commerce and globalisation. Only when the pragmatists break down the barriers will the Idealists have their chance to shine.

James Upsher is a 2nd year Economic History student.

B:art

music -	P. 16-17
film -	P. 18-19
theatre -	P. 20
visual arts -	P. 21
literature -	P. 22

Edited by Carolina Bunting: A.C.Bunting@lse.ac.uk

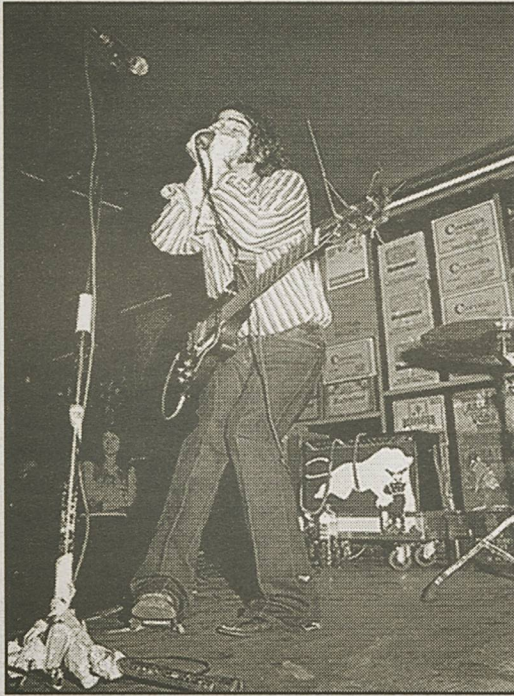
music

edited by Matt Boys and Ben Howarth

The Soledad Brothers

Detroit's finest bluesmen interviewed and reviewed by mattboys

"So do you get excited when supply and demand come together and form an X on the graph?! Does that give you a boner?!!" Yes, Johnny, yes it does; gets me every time. Dr Johnny Walker MD is screwing around tonight. He asks me not to write about why that is, so we talk about the music instead. The Soledad Brothers play a raw, stripped down blues: raucous guitars, wailing harmonicas, dirty sax, pounding drums, half-sung, half-drawled vocals. It's messy; it's vital; it's..... what the fuck is it?? "We play rustbelt blues, it's a pretty distinctive style that I think has only really been cultivated where we come from," that's Ben Swank, drummer, speaking. "You're not going to see a band from LA playing Rustbelt Blues: they've never really lived, they have no real life experience." "At least not down and dirty life experience, hahah..." (Johnny again, goofing).



As it happens, the term Rustbelt Blues fits their music perfectly: they're from the Rustbelt (the previously industrial area of the northern part of the States – full of decaying industry), and they play the blues. Their sound is vicious, a hard and spiky blues sound crossbred with the primitive rock 'n' roll of the locale: Iggy & The Stooges; the MC5.

But the Soledad Brothers? Naming your (caucasian) band after the three political activists from the notorious Black Panther Party incarcerated at California's maximum security Soledad prison in the late 60s? Is there a message being conveyed here? "It's not so much a message as try-

ing to get people to think about what's gone on and what is going on and having an informed opinion. If there's any message, it's 'read the newspaper every day'. You know what I'm saying? It's not so much a message as a..." A stimulus? "Right. It's a guidance thing."

So do you ever get any white boy guilt from playing the blues, Johnny? "I don't feel guilty about it at all." But has anyone ever criticised you for it? "Yeah. I think someone doing that harkens back to that whole mentality of 'the white musicians play over here, and the black musicians play over there', except back then, up until the late 40s, early 50s, there was a line drawn down the middle by the law." Ben:

"Things aren't like that anymore: the polarisation is more of an institutionalised thing, rather than the way people actually feel. Musicians don't look at each other as being black and white, they look at each other as being good and bad. It's all based on merit." Johnny: "and I'm sure nobody ever said to Duke Ellington, why are you playing on a European instrument..."

Enough talking: a band is only as good as their live show. They play in half light, bouncing riffs between Johnny and second guitarist / saxophonist Oliver Henry; picking up slides, harmonicas, knocking over amps. All the while, Ben is pounding away

at the back, looking like a young hoodlum with a black eye and a snarl on his lips. In the great tradition of the blues, songs from the record are transformed live: stretched out, sped up, slowed down, according to how the mood sets in. The crowd really gets into the show, shouting when they recognise bits and pieces, drinking, smoking, interacting. When support act Dooley Wilson is brought on to join the Brothers for an encore, "The Gospel According to John" gets a live makeover. When Johnny demands the crowd gets up on the stage and dances, they're swamped by the entire audience trying to join in. Catch them live and be converted.

The Dead 60s

benhowarth catches the new sloganeering Liverpooldians at the Metro Club

"Didn't know what a good time was till I had a good time with you"

The Dead 60s launched themselves with a flurry of sirens and flashing lights at a largely unsuspecting crowd. Their sound was a mix of reggae and ska influences whilst keeping the pop sensibilities needed to keep the audience engaged. Admirably for a reggae influenced band they have managed not to fall into the trap that is dreadlocks. Full marks.

Frontman Matt McManamon is a scary imposing singer with a striking werewolf appearance and a splendidly

unusual gruff voice. He, like his bandmates, showed a rarely seen fervour and intensity; whatever he sang and played he showed immense passion. Belief was not at any moment in question.

Despite a rather slow start, the band came alive mid-set, their music striking rhythm into the knees, hips and feet of everyone in the room. By the last song the audience was joining in, shouting 'you're not the law' with great gusto. Expect a Franz Ferdinand style breakthrough early next year....



Music at the Quad

The Cooper Temple Clause, The Bazookas and Rising Times play LSE

The gig didn't get off to a good start. The crowd was left outside in the rain for over an hour as news filtered through that sound checks were still going on. People were pissed off and this meant the music had a lot of work to do if it was going to impress.

The first band, Rising Times, had an impressive ability to deflate an already grumpy audience. Plagiarism does them too much justice. Enough said. I felt comforted as they left.

The Bazookas are LSE old boys returning to past haunts. The first couple of songs seemed to swing between rock and punk, which was refreshingly original after Rising Times. They played a Vandals cover, but after that the set went downhill a bit: the music seemed overly formulaic. Yes it made you tap, yes it may have made you jump, but it was just too samey.

The Cooper Temple Clause came on (over an hour late) and the opener was fantastic. It was high tempo, pulse-raising stuff that stifled peoples mumbling complaints of lateness. Again though, they began to drop away, especially for those who are not die-hard fans. The middle of the set was slow and the audience divided into those who loved it (TCTC die-hards) and those who looked shocked after the ener-



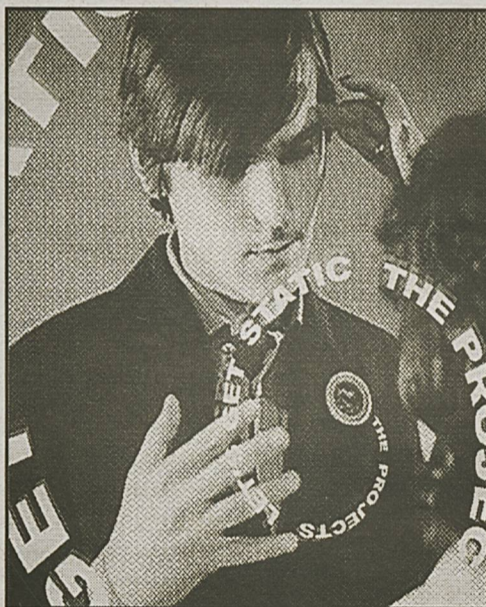
LSE's own, The Bazookas

getic start. This section of the set was the new stuff, from what I could tell, and it occurred to me that they were trying to be a prog-rock band. The trouble being they weren't actually progressing anything. On record the electrical bleeps, synths, snares and whooshes make a bed of melody for the lyrics to ride on, and this works very well. Live, with all their equipment stuck in a small space, this didn't work at all. The electronica element was bland, and, like most of the audience,

rather deflated. Towards the end the pace did begin to rise into their more well known tracks such as "Promises Promises," which was a lovely riff driven metally track that veered towards post rock and also the relatively well known "Film Maker". All in all, it was an entertaining night out, and a definite step in the right direction: it's been too long since there's been live music in the quad.

ALBUMS

The Projects : Let's get static



The Rapture and LCD Soundsystem have proved that the indie/electronic cross-over formula works. London's trendy and ever popular club night Trash is home to the (posing) hipster crowd who love cutting edge indie and electronic music. London and New York City have inspired the creation of new movements both in music and in fashion. The mod scene, punk and britpop all feature in the concept of The Projects 'Let's get static'. What you get is not a London version of Las Vegas darlings The Killers but an original East London based post-punk outfit that blends in some Kraftwerk inspired electronic elements to create new sounds for the metropolitan hipster.

The lyrics tell stories of metropolitan life. The best example is the track 'the street under the high street'. "You're wasting time", warns the singer. "don't make decisions cos the options seem so dull, do your very level best to stay well- sometimes it works, sometimes it fails and this city doesn't strike me as healthy anymore."

Don't get all depressed. The last track on the album promises 'Happy endings'. The pursuit of happiness- is it what life is all about? The song concludes 'it's a lie to believe in happy endings, if you try get the feeling for what life is.'

Love it or hate it but this is good stuff.
jdanieldormann

DJ Krush: Jaku



Returning with his 8th full studio album, Krush again defies the notion that he's a novelty Japanese hip-hop artist. While it is fun to see how he weaves in the Japanese instrumentation, it's really all about the beats, innit. And my, what lovely beats they are. Hip-hop was founded on the kind of ultra-tight drum parts displayed here, and Krush is proving with a remarkably subtle use of syncopation and anticipation that there's still an unbelievable amount of life left in boom-tat-boom-boom-tat. The beats alone could almost convey the album's feeling; an intense, moody, cinematic blend, perfectly suited to being backing music for a slightly over-serious Yakuza crime-suspense-thriller. If you like Massive Attack's moodier moments - i.e all their

moments - then you'd be a fool to miss Krush, and this album is as good as any. The instrumentation is increasingly diverse but always carefully used, the scratching rare but brilliant, the synth element played down in favour of guest musicians, making it more enduring than earlier works. It's trip-hop, really: hip-hop's poor cousin that we never buy albums from but end up nodding our heads to when it ends up as backing music to every advert/film/tv show ever. All in all, this makes a great album to have on while reading, or on the headphones walking around dark city streets in winter (think Fight Club soundtrack with a dash of Japan), but also rewards with brilliant musicianship upon closer listening.

owensmith

SINGLES

Akira the Don: Akira the Don's First EP
Unconventional, shoestring-budget hip-hop with lyrics that tackle guilt, politics, homelessness and projectile vomiting. Opener John the Baptist, with its synthetic strings, "super funky bass" and dark mutterings about sickness and erectile dysfunction, is by itself worth getting the CD for. Akira the Don's Drinking Song is an egalitarian anthem of the joys of, surprisingly enough, drinking songs and definitely a highlight. An essential purchase.
(aedanlake)

The Libertines: What became of the Likely Lads?

Is this the farewell song? It seems to be. The lyrics tell of shattered dreams, and unfulfilled potential. A bitter anger and a brotherly love. The music is the same scruffy yet melodic style expected of this self-destructing band, with Pete and Carls vocals as tipsy yet compelling as ever. Heart wrenching for any Libertine fan, an all right tune for others.
(kieronredman)

The Strokes: The end has no end

Casablanca still sounds sleepy, the pretty guitars still hammer and then intertwine and the rhythm section is . . . actually more imaginative than usual (and Julian seems to mumble something about 'government secrets' and wakes up later for a short lived shout . . . hmmm, interesting). This is trademark Strokes just more enjoyable and even dandier than ever.
(nastarantavakoli-far)

Kaiser Chiefs: I Predict A Riot

Next-big-underground-thing-wannabes Kaiser Chiefs' latest single boasts street-tension lyrics and political sentiment about as convincing as Michael Jackson's face, although this is redeemed by the catchy if formulaic indie-rock tune and the mildy 80's-revival vocal styling. A good one to get stuck in your head for a day, but not much more.
(owensmith)

The Zutons: Don't Ever Think (Too Much)

The new Zutons single veers little from what the sane person would expect. If you expected the same old predictable "Colal-like" Scouse chanty then you'd be... wrong. However, if you'd expected a fun filled three minutes, sax-solo and hypnotic beat then they do not disappoint.
(benhowarth)

Rammstein: Amerlka

The German industrialists continue their decade-long offensive against music with this catchy yet rubbish second single from latest album 'Reise Reise'. More amusing than anything else, this song lacks the chunkiness needed to make dancing to it at rock nights fun. I think it's supposed to be political though.
(sarahaylor)

The Roots: I Don't Care

The Roots return in slightly patchy fashion. The style hasn't altered much, same thick guitar strewn hip-hop, same biting lyric, same groove, but there's something missing. Decent enough, however we know there's better in them. Perhaps they should care a little bit more.
(laurencekavanagh)

film

edited by Dani Ismail

Film Preview..

My House In Umbria

deaglanmacfarland gets a free tour of the Italian countryside



Director: Richard Loncraine
Starring: Dame Maggie Smith, Chris Cooper, Ronnie Barker
Certificate: 12A
Running Time: 109 min
Release Date: 26th November

Before I went to this film I was expecting yet another thought-provoking piece of work from the innovative wing of US audiovisual production - HBO®. I was looking forward to it and expected an engaging mid-brow lit-flick; **Under The Tuscan Sun** with a darker edge and bookish origins.

The film begins with a sun drenched dash to the train station, for a routine shopping trip to Milan. The central character of the story, Emily Delahunty - played by two time Academy Award® winner **Dame Maggie Smith** (**California Suite**, **The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie**) - shares a railway carriage with eight passengers; we immediately get an insight into her fanciful opinions regarding each of her fellow passengers. Emily is a romantic author and lone-

ly eccentric, with a vivid imagination.

As the train trundles through the chocolate box Italian countryside, a bomb explodes, cutting through the bucolic serene ambiance, the train carriage and the lives of the people in it. Emily wakes up in hospital and visits the survivors of the disaster. After three weeks convalescence, the survivors agree to stay at Emily's, in the Umbrian countryside, to share their sorrow and attempt to rediscover their happiness.

Dame Maggie Smith gives an authoritative central performance as Emily and seems well directed. Director Richard Loncraine (**The Gathering Storm**) claims he wanted her once he'd read the script - 'The first moment I read the script, I thought of Maggie'. I must say I'd have thought of Dame Judy Dench myself. In any case, the cinematography and camera work are simple but effective. Loncraine brings out the natural beauty of the Umbrian countryside and architecture by using natural light and accepted camera movement. Nothing

hasty or ground-breaking - the script, characters and surroundings are the stars here. No special effects or sensationalism.

The supporting cast are worthy of note. **Ronnie Barker** is smart, if not wholly convincing, as the English general in only his second film after his thirteen year hiatus from the entertainment industry. The dependable and talented **Chris Cooper**, as the emotionally withdrawn Darwinist, Thomas Riversmith, gives the movie extra gravitas; the scenes between Smith and Cooper will not become legendary but they are certainly engaging.

Unfortunately, the film is fifteen minutes too long, creating a slightly monotonous period three quarters of the way through. Never the less, this is a hugely enjoyable, intimate, cozy drama. An intricate human drama filmed amid the gorgeous Umbrian landscape by experienced professional actors and a knowledgeable director.

3/5

World Cinema

The UK Jewish Film Festival hits London between 13-21 October. Featuring films, documentaries and shorts from a multitude of countries, they will appeal to anyone interested in Jewish history and the current Middle Eastern plight. Showing at the Vue Cinema (VC) in Leicester Square, and The Screen On The Hill, Belsize Park (SOH)

And for the pick of the litter..

Rashevski's Tango

WED 13th OCT - 8PM (VC)

SUN 17th OCT - 9PM (SOH)

Screening at the opening night gala at the Vue Cinema, this film centres around the Rashevski family's search for their Jewish lineage after the death of their grandmother and incites them to observe their roots. In French and Hebrew.

Only Human

SAT 16th OCT - 9PM (SOH)

A light hearted look at the issues between Jews, Palestinians, lovers and in-laws. When a Jewish girl introduces her Palestinian boyfriend to her mother, all hell ensues, especially as he almost, maybe, severely injures her father. A Spanish production.

Twin Sisters

SAT 16th OCT - 6.40PM (SOH)

Based on an epic Dutch bestseller, **Twin Sisters** follows the fortunes of siblings Lotte and Anna who are separated at the age of 6 after their parents die. Lotte lives with rich Dutch relatives; Anna on a pig farm. In German and Dutch.

Out This Week...**Shark Tale**

How will this fare with Pixar's **Finding Nemo**? Being reviewed in next week's issue, all I can ask is - who knows who played Ariel from **The Little Mermaid**'s voice? Oh you do? Well you're probably the only person who does then. But her voice will be remembered in that more than **Robert De Niro**'s in **Shark Tale**, but he probably got paid ten gazillion dollars.

Inside I'm Dancing

A story of 2 Irish blokes in wheelchairs, this film is pretty damn depressing. Find a copy of the first Beaver for a review Basically - the 2 move out of a home for the handicapped to live independently

with their hot, inexperienced new carer, and it pretty much goes downhill from there.

Five Children & It

We have a review for this next week! Just to whet your tongues though.. a group of war torn who meet a sand fairy, voiced by Eddie Izzard. He grants them a bunch of wishes and all that stuff.

White Chicks

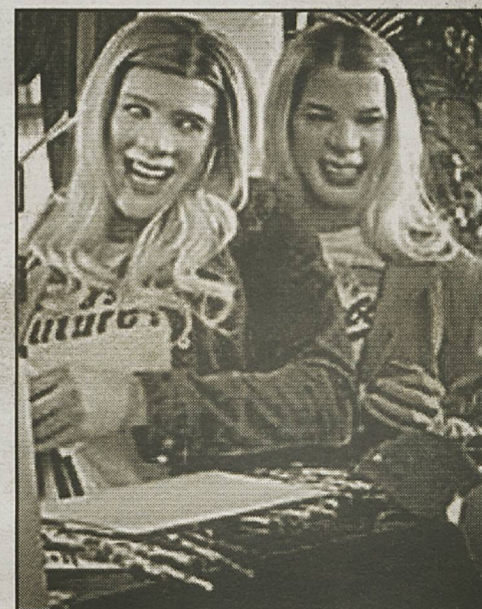
Urgh, the **Wayans** brothers. They annoy me intensely. And posing as ugly white girls does not endear them to me. GET OFF MY SCREEN. But anyway - this male rip off of **Miss Congeniality** might actually appeal to people who don't get out much.

The Final Cut

Ooh another non funny **Robin Williams** movie with a creepy premise. Microchips imbedded in people's minds that record every instance in a person's life are dissected into memorial videos when they die. Some suspense, but more reminiscent sighs over his past life as a comic actor.

A Sound Of Thunder

This release date has been moved around a bit so might actually come out later... Dinosaur hunters can live their dream in this film that allows time travel back to a few seconds before a dinosaur dies (so as not to change the past) and kill said sad buggger themselves. However one stupid hunter steps on a butterfly while in the past and this has, yup..the butterfly effect.



They're really just too ugly

Film World Cinema Review

Look At Me (Comme Une Image)

daniismail falls passionately in love with all French men, everywhere



Director: Agnes Jaoui
Starring: Marlou Berry, Agnes Jaoui, Jean-Pierre Bacri
Running Time: 110 min
Certificate: 12A
Release Date: November 5th

Marlou Berry, constantly befriended as the means to an end – her father (**Bacri**) is an established author whom everyone wants to meet. Her underestimated soprano voice is another thread in this web of disjointed families, quiet greed and remarkable talent.

It is Lolita's vocal training that connects the apparently dissimilar protagonists – her voice coach (director and star, **Agnes Jaoui**) is the partner of an aspiring writer. Where this middle ground – the constant

mention of her singing talent – is leading, seems a little vague throughout most of the film. It then, however, culminates in a concert that, at the risk of sounding a complete ponce, did leave me breathless, as I gaped at the purity and sincerity of the singer's voices. I like, totally, get why people cry at the opera.

It is interesting to watch her flit between the two love interests in her life – both are obviously better looking than her – with the nagging, uncomfortable suspicion that sooner or later one, or both of them, will screw her over once he's got what they want. Her love life is also a prominent feature of the film without, thankfully, turning this film into a love story – evidence of the careful and tenderly crafted screenplay and direction.

Anyone watching **Look At Me** will feel both right at home and almost awkward. The script can barely be deemed as such, for it is more a casual, unforced conversation between the actors; nothing is glitzy and glamorous; nothing that is said is *too* witty or *too* funny, but there are definitely lines that will make you smirk. This 'real' aspect of the film will make you feel that you're intruding on the shambolic lives

depicted in this French publishing story of hidden resentment and high society.

Definitely one I'd recommend as it's a film of a sort I haven't seen in a while. Quiet yet full of vigour, **Look At Me** deserves the demanding tone of its title.



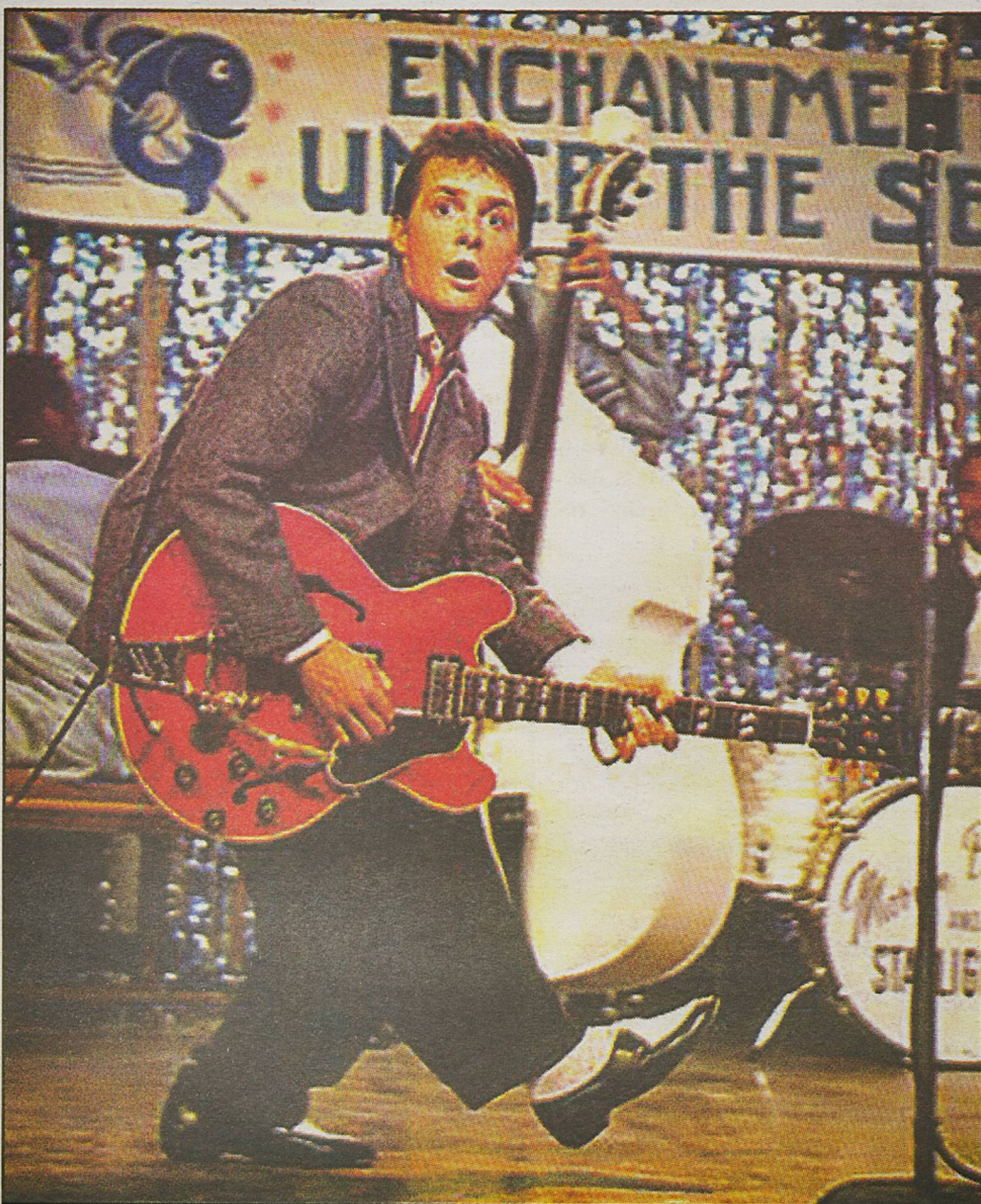
Lolita's gorgeous, young step mother takes her shopping...

Many factors came together to make this film a riveting watch. The main theme that surfaces unexpectedly throughout is that of the overweight Lolita Cassard, played dismally yet simultaneously expectantly by

Film Classic Review...

Back To The Future (1985)

ruksanazaman, LSE's resident crazy 80s geek



Director: Robert Zemeckis
Starring: Michael J Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Crispin Glover
Certificate: 12A

When I think of the 80s, hideous images of giant shoulder pads and dodgy fashion sense haunt me. However, there was one redeeming factor about that decade (other than me entering this world) and that was when **Back To The Future** was released. This gem of a film has got to be one of the greatest classics, not just of the eighties, but EVER!

Michael J Fox plays his best and cutest role as teenage time traveller Marty McFly. He goes back to 1955 in the plutonium powered DeLorean created by eccentric genius Doc Emmett Brown (**Christopher Lloyd**) and accidentally prevents his parents-to-be from falling in love and consequently jeopardises his own existence. In a race against time he has to change history to get himself back to the future (see what I did there?).

Who needs high speed car chases when you can get Michael J Fox stealing a kid's toy, turning it into a make-shift skateboard and being chased by Biff and his moronic bullies in their swish car before they crash into a truck of manure? You *know* it was all down to Fox's fancy footwork that made skateboards cool.

What's not cool is having your mother hit on you. Watching Fox squirm and try to

"1.21 gigawatts? 1.21 gigawatts? Great Scott!" *Christopher Lloyd*

wriggle out of her amorous clutches is entertainment at its best, especially seeing his shocked expression at finding out that his mum isn't as innocent as she seemed as she tries to 'park' with him and horror of all horrors, drinks and smokes too!! And could any fancy dress party outfit ever beat Fox dressing up in a radiation suit pretending he's Darth Vader from the planet Vulcan in an attempt to motivate his weedy dad to ask his mum out? I think not. Blown away – literally for him, by his electric guitar in the opening scenes and near the end, I only have three words for you: GO JOHNNY, GO!!!!

This film is so much fun! It leaves you wanting more which is great as its part of a trilogy, so there actually *is* more, all with the same great Michael J Fox enthusiasm. It leaves you humming the theme tune and driving at 88mph just to see if you leave fire tracks, (anyone who has been driving with me knows the life threatening implications of me doing this). If you haven't seen this film you need to. Even if you have seen it, you still need to because as with all great classics it's timeless (see what I did there again?). If you refuse to watch **Back To The Future** even after reading this review, then all I can say is that you need to be taken to a field and shot and then left for vultures to feed on your rotting corpse.

Moral of the review? Watch this film.

theatre

edited by Carolina Bunting and Keith Postler

Cosi Fan Tutte

keithpostler tells us why women can never be trusted in affairs of the heart

Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)**Librettist:** Lorenzo da Ponte (1749-1838)**Comic Opera:** 2 Acts**Venue:** Royal Opera House (RoH)**Days:** 6, 9, 14, 20, 23 Oct.**Curtain Time:** 19:00**Ends:** 23 October 2004**Running Time:** 3'; 20" interval**Performance rating:** 4 ½ out of 5 stars**Program rating:** 5 out of 5 stars

The Royal Opera House (RoH) puts on a star production. Jonathan Miller's time-tested RoH 1995 revival takes place in current times, using modern costumes - a classic piece adopting a contemporary use of language. The modern make-over of *Così fan Tutti* is executed to the best effect. For example, when the maid, Despina (soprano), puts coffee and cake on the table, it's a take away from Starbucks. The re-clothing is consistent and appropriate throughout the work. So it does not create the feeling of forcing a modernized version of the opera on the public for the sake of being *au courant*. Such contemporaneous touches such as the mischief and matchmaker Don Alfonso (bass) calling up the orchestra on his mobile, and the orchestra cueing him by ring tone have a comic effect consonant with the comic side of the work - an opera buffa. This is one of Mozart's two operas - the other is *Figaro* - whose universality can bear transposition of staging and direction to a modern age without causing glaring inconsistencies between libretto and updated staging or without forcing cuts in the libretto.

The plot carries a time-hallowed theme. In Naples, two young blades - the officers Ferrando (tenor) and Guglielmo (baritone) - make a bet with Don Alfonso that their girlfriends - the sisters Fiordiligi (soprano) and Dorabella (soprano) - will remain faithful. On returning in disguise from the front, each makes love to the other's girl and discovers that the women aren't faithful. Thus the title of the opera, meaning something like 'That's how all women are'; 'Never trust a woman in affairs of the heart'. So the action, which takes



place in the space of 24 hours, revolves around a trial of female constancy and a wager. This theme has deep roots in European drama before Mozart and will arouse a nod of recognition from Shakespeare fans recalling the plots and theme of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Cymbeline*, although the plot of testing the fidelity of one's beloved reaches farther back than to the Roman poet Ovid's *Metamorphoses*' tale of Cephalus and Procris.

One has several good reasons to watch this production of *Così fan tutte*. The RoH is a perfect venue for this opera architecturally, atmospherically and musically; not least considering the circumstance that the RoH is an essential part of experiencing London. The hall suits the opera. Furthermore, the opera has a basic cast: two pairs of lovers: the well-to-do soprano sisters and their officer betrothed tenor and bass lovers, plus a lower-class maidservant to the sisters, in addition to

Don Alfonso, a friend to the lovers. The opera is pared down: it has little chorus and no ballet. The distinctive groups of upper- and lower-class characters mirror a division between serious and comic characters - a divide that makes the opera easy to follow. One is never in doubt about what is happening. Or what the singers are singing because a text panel displays surtitles in English. Excellent acting makes the action clear; the staging uses just one set. Thus one experiences none of the confusion or obscurity of grand opera.

Critics consider this opera the peak of Viennese Classicism and the foundation of the modern opera repertory. In and at Covent Garden this opera has a solid history of popularity. The current revival is a tried and true production presented for the third time. It passes the Postler Proof: Would one pay to see this production again? Definitely.

for big groups, this can result in a surplus and unfilled seats; these tickets can then be bought by individuals at significantly reduced prices. It is a possibility especially in the case of the big, long-running musicals.

can often be quite high. There are however, potentially a variety of ways to secure significant discounts.

One of the best places to look for discounted tickets is online. Online agents often purchase large numbers of tickets

Cloaca

mattsinclair complains about the barely illuminating quality of Kevin Spacey's pet project

Playwright: Maria Goos**Director:** Kevin Spacey**Venue:** The Old Vic Theatre**Days:** Mon to Sat, matinees Wed and Sat**Curtain time:** 19:30 matinee 14:30**Ends:** 11 December**Performance Rating:** 0 out of 5 stars

Nothing about Cloaca exactly worked.

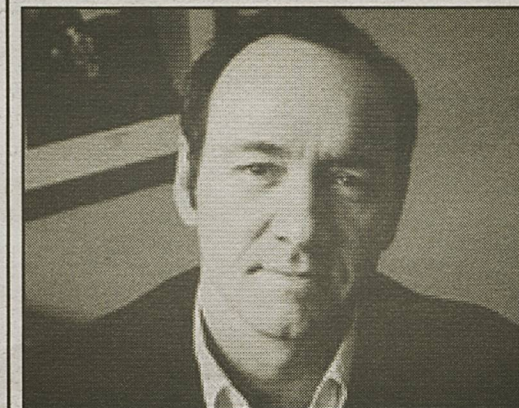
It billed itself as illuminating the inner workings of men; the conclusion seemed to be 'men are unhappy and rubbish'. When a play bases itself around such a dismal concept it is always going to struggle to make itself enjoyable to watch; do I want to spend several hours of my time in the company of such uninspiring characters? It takes writing far sharper than Goos's to get away with starring people you'd find dull if you actually met them.

The situations used for this situational comedy seemed a little weak. When the insane lawyer was caught naked in Barcelona or scaling a building as Batman I longed for a little more imagination; wandering through Baku with a midget called Akim, wearing a sandwich board proclaiming "The End has been postponed" and carrying an umbrella with a hippo shaped handle perhaps?

Apparently the Dutch thought this play was hilarious; I guess we're looking for more over here. If Kevin Spacey is to succeed in having the Old Vic emulate the Royal Court as an incubator of new plays it is going to need to do better at sharpening up the writing in foreign language plays for the English language and the norms in London theatre.

With uninspiring characters it was always going to be difficult for the actors to shine. They had to force the comedy and emotion out of their roles and this became somewhat obvious; Pieter's (Stephen Tomkinson) grief at having to return the paintings he was given by the government department that employs him never feels convincing and without that emotion the dramatic tension of the play is lost.

This play fails to get the concept, comedy or drama right. Watch something else.



Tip Bit:

As already indicated the costs involved with performance-going in London can be extremely variable, and in the case of the larger or more established venues,

visual arts

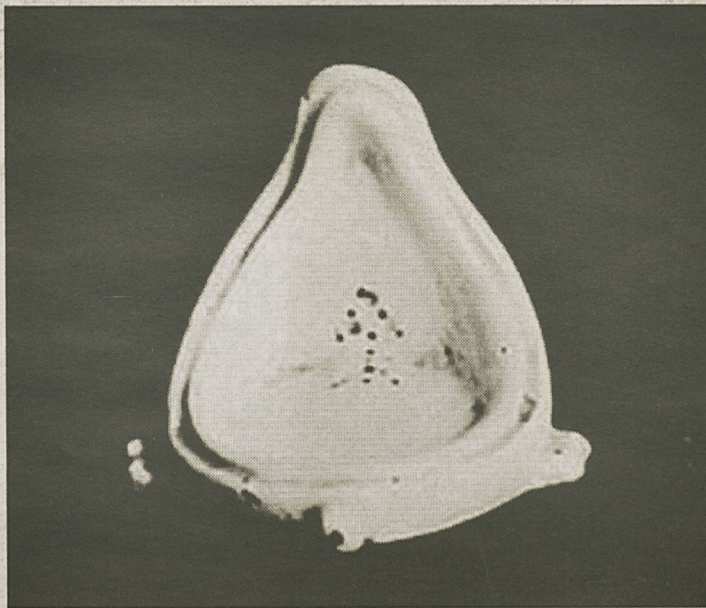
edited by Caroline Bray

Death of the Artist

robertomorris questions the role of the artist in today's society

Jean Baudrillard, the much acclaimed French philosopher, said that "art" died during the Dadaist movement, he particularly made reference to Marcel Duchamp's ready made urinal (at the Tate Modern) as a milestone in this process. Despite his apocalyptic viewpoint, the vanguards of the 20th century changed the way art was looked at by society. Movements such as Dadaism, Futurism, Surrealism and all other 'ism.s, much to many a philosopher's better judgment, made art and artists quite a lucrative "investment". One needs only to look at people like Warhol and his fellow pop artists to see that the whole "struggling artist" stereotype was not very difficult to break out of, even today if one enters some of the most obscure art galleries where unknown artists exhibit their works the prices attached to the pieces are outrageous. My question is this: If art has proven to be a highly lucrative "business", and is very supported by the affluent members of society, why then is there a clear lack of artistic movements among contemporary independent artists? One could only wish these artists to achieve the ideological inertia, unity and support among peers (I'm not getting into money) that members of the music industry enjoy (Hip hop, electronic, Cuban troubadours, etc.).

Throughout the course of history artists, novelists, poets, sculptors and philosophers joined together, they would write manifestos and promote each other. One could only imagine what the Café Voltaire must have been like with Picasso and Tzara sitting at the same table, getting sloshed, and discussing the world. It seems as though in this era of globalization, famous or infamous for its connectivity, these types of cultural and creative "networks" are scarce if not extinct. I am not saying that there are no good artists. I must clarify this point, there are very talented and provocative artists - Gabriel Orozco, John Hicks and Manuel Pardo are in my point of view true innovators. However, it appears as though art has become a self-inspired monologue instead of a gritty collective dialogue.



In 1967 Roland Barthes proclaimed the "death of the author", he basically meant that the interpretation and content of the arts was now left to the beholder and not so much to the creator. In an art world where no apparent artistic ideology is present Mr Baudrillard and Mr. Barthes are being proven correct. The sad part is that there is so much that art could rally around; there are wars, political upheavals and decadence in the moral fibers of society. How could all this not inspire a movement? If one wishes to be superfluous and materialistic then it is also obvious that given today's social acceptance of art and artist's, they would probably make good money. So artists, please do society a favor and meet with each other, drink together, scream at one another, cut off your ears and have angry fights, put on shows with a purpose, write manifestos, criticize, glorify, condemn but do it together, if you make enough noise, people will listen, or at least tell you to shut up.

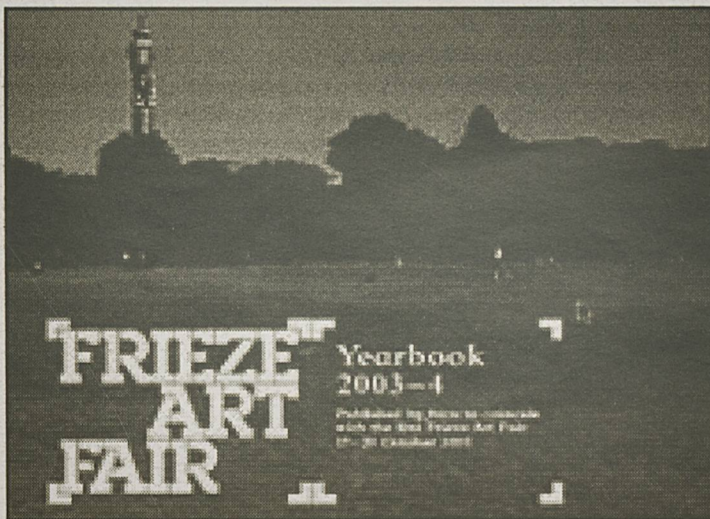
The fair will take place in a temporary structure designed by leading British architect, David Adjaye, in the beautiful location of Regent's Park. Along with access to information about international galleries there will also be a program of international talks, projects and events. In addition, excellent food will be available making the event a whole day out.

Artists that have been commissioned to produce projects for the fair include Adam Chodzko, Emma Kay, Portikus, Pae White and Aleksandra Mir. The artists have created a wide range of projects from impromptu performances and site specific installations to publications distributed free to the public. Los Super Elegantes and assume vivid astro focus will be setting up a 'Slow Dance Club' and will be looking for audience members to dance with them. Joanne Tatham and John O'Sullivan will be presenting spontaneous performances of their play, 'Thou Art That' by their troupe 'The Slapstick Mystics and Sticks.' Also, Annika Eriksson will be presenting performances constructed by the general public after placing an ad in a local London newspaper inviting 'anyone who wants an audience at Frieze Art Fair to contact me...'

For tickets call 0870 890 0514 or go to www.seetickets.com. Opening times are 11am until 7pm Fri-Sun and 11am until 5pm on Monday. Day passes cost £12 or a concessionary price of £8 and a four day pass can be bought for £24.

FRIEZE!

by carolinebray



The Frieze Art Fair is gloriously heading into its second year and will run from Friday 15th October until Monday 18th October. The fair brings together 150 galleries from all over the world who promote their galleries and show samples of works. There are also plenty of free magazines up for grabs and the fair generally acts as a platform for informing both insiders and outsiders about the world of contemporary art.



Weekly Wander

This week we are wandering towards 'A Conversation with Oscar Wilde'. This statue was installed in Adelaide Street, behind St Martin's-Inn-Fields in 1998 and is artist Maggie Hambling's tribute to one of the world's finest writers.

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854 and studied Classics at Trinity College, Dublin and then at Magdalen College, Oxford. At Oxford he began to support the Aesthetic movement and strongly advocated Art for art's sake. In 1884 he married Constance Lloyd and fathered two sons.

His poetry was first published in 1881 and his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, was published in 1891. His theatrical masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which satirised the upper-classes was then published in 1895.

Wilde was a known homosexual due to his intimate realtions with Lord Alfred Douglas whom he called 'Bosie'. Bosie's father publicly insulted Wilde with a misspelt note left at his club which read, 'Mr Wilde posing as Somdomite.' Wilde promptly charged him with libel but lost. He was then accused of 'gross indecency' and arrested April 6th, 1895. Before being released due to poor health, in 1897, Wilde wrote *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, my favourite of his works.

He spent his final days penniless on the Continent and hiding from a society that shunned homosexuality. Wilde passed away on November 30th, 1900 with the great words, 'Either that wallpaper goes or I do!'

Hambling's sculpture is delicate, humorous and Wilde flows elegantly out of a coffin inscribed with his quote, 'We are all in the gutter but some of us are staring at the stars.' And just the other night I wandered past to find three yellow tulips and two white lilies in his hand...



The Photographic Society is back and it is here to stay! If you're interested in joining go to the AGM, Thursday 14th Oct, 4-5pm, Room D211 or email T.E.Mackey@lse.ac.uk

literature

edited by Ion Martea

Classic Pearls

Story of the Eye (Histoire de l'oeil)

by **Georges Bataille** (translated by Joachim Neugroschal)
carolinebray savours the 'pleasures of the flesh'

One of the most notorious, daring and sexually fired novels of all time, this erotic classic unlocks the door to the sadistic and defiling world of a young male protagonist, his orgy thirsty lover, Simone, and their repeatedly debauched friend, Marcelle. Not for the faint hearted, never has such a powerful or provocative novel so clearly conveyed the passions and fantasies of an author. Bataille's words drip with his conviction that sex, violence and death are inherently related within a claustrophobic proximity.

Climaxing in the most shocking yet enticing of transgressions, *Story of the Eye* depicts orgies and torture so passionately described that your concept of morality will be momentarily forgotten and your inhibitions soothed by a hypnotic poetry. Images of black and white stockings juxtaposed, burning buttocks in cold milk and 'eyes staring straight up at the Milky Way, that strange breach of astral sperm and heavenly urine across the cranial vault formed by the ring of constellations'. Each scene doused with strong symbolism and hidden meaning, with this depth running most consistently in the motif of the 'egg'



shape – culminating in the eye.

However, these ravenous images are contrasted with the gentle relationship between the young male and Simone. There is tenderness, caring and understanding. Never explicitly stated between the protagonists but apparent in every

line, they are both consumed by an all-encompassing love for one another. Through this Bataille manages to make the sexual violence sensuous and full even though such desire is primitive, animalistic and inescapable. We are all capable of similar activities if, as when Simone sheds her clothes at the sanatorium to feel more free, we shed ourselves of the taboos of society. I do not advocate excessive sadism and masochism but ask you all to open your blinkered eyes, push away the stereotypes, consume the truly beautiful prose and partake in 'the utter violence of the moment.'

Admittedly a piece of pornographic literature, yet the word 'pornographic' is too cheap for such a rich, meticulously constructed text of thick, velvety, descriptive language, seeped in symbolism. The Penguin Classic is by far the best publication as it includes Roland Barthes' essay *The Metaphor of the Eye* and Susan Sartong's study of pornography as an art form. I challenge you all to delve into your dark side and join Bataille in his fetishistic whirlwind of words.

Publisher: Penguin Books

Release Date: 25 April 2001

List Price: £6.99

Paperback 128 pp.

New Releases



Fleshmarket Close
by **Ian Rankin**
(Orion)

Rebus is a detective on the brink of retirement, investigating the death of an illegal immigrant in an Edinburgh housing scheme.

This is crime at its best from the author that knows how to thrill his readers. Discover the Edinburgh underworld. Intriguing.



Poems
by **John Keats**
(Everyman Poetry - Phoenix)

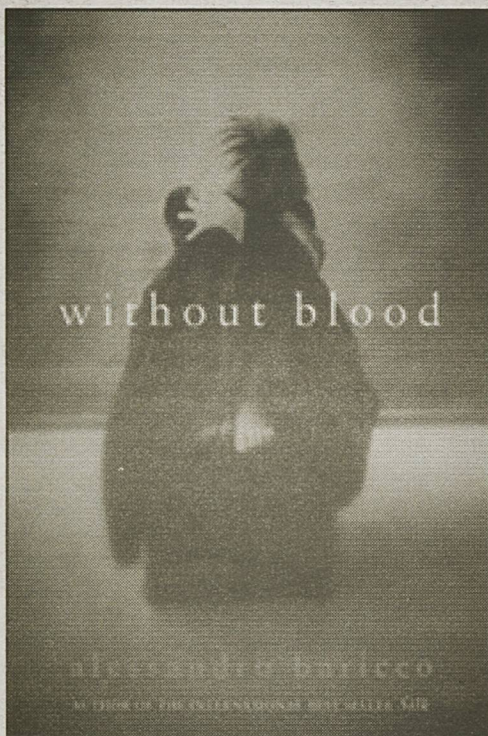
Nicholas Roe compiles a beautiful anthology of Keats' poetry. Get lost in the musicality of one of the best

Romantic poets to have written in English. A pure treat for lovers of poetry. A great escape if a lecture gets dull, though admittedly highly distracting.

New discoveries

Without Blood (Senza Sangue)

by **Alessandro Baricco** (translated by Ann Goldstein)
carolinabunting is thrilled by this Italian masterpiece



Alessandro Baricco's award winning novel, *Silk*, established him as one of Europe's leading contemporary writers. His latest novel, *Without Blood*, surpasses any expectations. Once again we are moved by his sensibility and elegant, controlled prose.

Without Blood narrates the absurd horrors of war and revenge in Italy, as a young girl unwittingly witnesses the assassination of her father and brother. The story unfolds fifty years later, as the two surviving protagonists casually and tragically recount the affects of this horrific night on their lives. The story then spirals carefully and precisely towards quiet symmetrical completion.

Loyalty, confusion, madness, ideology, revenge and forgiveness all grace the pages of *Without Blood*. In spite of the intensity of the narration and the complex

Publisher: Canongate Books

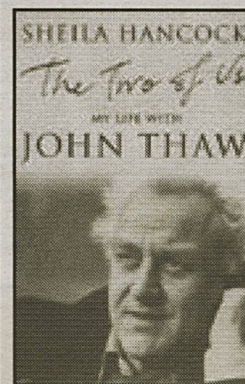
Release Date: 5 April 2004

List Price: £8.99

Hardcover 144 pp

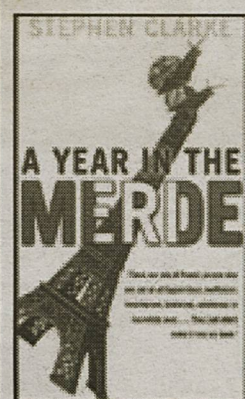
motivations of the characters, Baricco escapes clichés and banality. A master of minimalism, Baricco condenses human tragedy in precise sentences, with singular powerful strokes of language conveying the multilayered scales of human emotion. His profound sensibility adds to the sympathetic quality of the complex characters. He draws magnificent thumbprints of all the personalities in *Without Blood*. Even secondary characters, like the café owner described in one paragraph of the book, are memorable. Baricco quickly – almost casually – dives into their psyche, naturally conjuring plausible (and compelling) contexts for their actions without forsaking the flow or credibility of the plot.

Baricco's care for symmetry, the tantalizing precision of his language and his moving sensibility contribute to the masterpiece of minimalism that is *Without Blood*.



The Two of Us: My Life with John Thaw
by **Sheila Hancock**
(Bloomsbury)

A moving biography of John Thaw, the star of *The Sweeney* and *Inspector Morse*, written by his beloved wife. You are promised a highly personal account of the life of Britain's greatest TV actors, one that would make you want to rediscover his work and that of Sheila Hancock. Passionate, turbulent, an insight into the world of celebrity.



A Year in the Merde
by **Stephen Clarke**
(Bantam Press)

All the stereotypes about the French are hilariously demystified in Clarke's first novel. Learn about Paris and its people as they really are. Highly enjoyable, direct and original. You may want to leave London and run into the heart of Paris to ensure that Clarke isn't pulling your leg.

Thought of the week Poetry

by **Nichita Stanescu** (translated by Thomas Carlson and Vasile Poenaru)



Poetry is the weeping eye
it is the weeping shoulder
the weeping eye of the shoulder
it is the weeping hand
the weeping eye of the hand
it is the weeping soul
the weeping eye of the heel.

Oh, you friends,
poetry is not a tear
it is the weeping itself
the weeping of an uninvented eye
the tear of the eye
of the one who must be beautiful
of the one who must be happy.

Your Guide to What's On This Week

T U E S D A Y	LSESU Africa Forum Society <i>First Meeting</i> 17:30 18:30 Z129	LSESU Green Party Society <i>AGM</i> 12:00 13:00 Y002	LSESU Russian Society <i>Committee Elections</i> 17:00 19:00 D306
	LSESU Alternative Careers Society <i>AGM</i> 17:00 18:00 Z129	LSESU Hellenic Society <i>AGM</i> 17:30 18:30 D002	
	LSESU Austrian Society <i>AGM</i> 18:00 19:00 S421	LSESU Korean Society <i>AGM</i> 18:00 19:00 E304	
	LSESU Globalize Resistance Society <i>AGM</i> 18:00 19:00 <i>Student Salon</i>	LSESU Philosophy Society <i>AGM</i> 13:00 14:00 A379	
W E D N E S D A Y	The Caste System - The Punishment of Birth? 6pm <i>Hong Kong Theatre</i> Is the caste system unfair or just misapplied? A legitimate means of organising society or a tool of social oppression? The presentation will be lead by H.H. Sivarama Swami, a senior monk and traveling preacher from the Hare Krishna movement. After the presentation, questions will be addressed.	LSESU Actuarial Society <i>AGM</i> 16:00 18:00 H102	LSESU Italian Society <i>AGM</i> 14:00 15:00 D702
		LSESU Hong Kong Public Affairs Society 15:00 18:30 D702	LSESU Kazakhstan Society <i>AGM</i> 15:30 16:30 D209
		LSESU Indonesian Brunei Society <i>Introduction Meeting</i> 14:00 16:00 G107	LSESU Malaysia Club <i>AGM</i> 15:00 18:00 G108
		LSESU Israeli Society <i>AGM</i> 13:00 14:00 S50	LSESU Marketing, PR and Advertising Society <i>Election</i> 14:00 16:00 D002
T H U R S D A Y	LSESU Azerbaijan Society <i>Elections</i> 18:00 19:00 A283	LSESU Sikh Punjabi Society 12:00 14:00 H216	LSE SU SHOP Laptop Padlocks RJ45 Cables International Phonocards Electronic Mobile Top-ups A-Z London Maps Kodak Film Processing Special Offers: Time Out £1 OFF <u>Only £1.65</u> The Economist £1 OFF <u>Only £2</u> Academic Diaries - continued special offers - see instore for details
	LSESU French Connection <i>AGM</i> 18:00 20:00 S75	LSESU Southern African Society <i>AGM</i> 14:00 15:00 S50	
	LSESU Indian Society <i>Annual General Meeting</i> 17:00 19:00 D602		
	LSESU Jewish Society <i>Election</i> 12:00 13:00 D109		
F R I D A Y	LSESU Chinese Students and Scholars Association <i>AGM</i> 17:00 19:00 S75		
	LSESU Cypriot Society <i>Elections</i> 17:00 19:00 G1		
	LSESU DESTIN Society <i>Election</i> 10:30 11:30 G108		
	LSESU Music Business Society <i>AGM</i> 14:00 15:00 D306		
N E X T W E E K	LSESU Entrepreneurs <i>AGM</i> 12:00 14:00 D702		

LSE SU Café (In the Quad)

Serving coffee, herbal and black teas, fruit juice and freshly squeezed orange juice.

Also boxed salad selections, sandwiches, toasted paninis, baked potatoes with a choice of fillings.

Yoghurt and fresh fruit, as well as cakes, also available.

MONITOR GROUP

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NOT the way
we treat our clients

COMPANY PRESENTATION

Tuesday, 19th October 2004
7pm
LSE, Graham Wallas Room, Main Building
Holborn

Workshop:
Saturday, 6th November
London

Applications are by C.V. and covering
letter e-mailed to:

Amanda Martin
Recruitment_London@monitor.com

Finalists are welcome to attend a short
information session on strategy consult-
ing hosted by Monitor Group consultants
followed by drinks and buffet.

Michelin House Tel: 020 7838 6500
81 Fulham Road Fax: 020 7838 6860
London SW3 6RD

First round interviews will be held on:
Tuesday, 7th December 2004

Deadline for applications:
Friday, 12th November 2004

Women's Football Remember Janne Hatlehol

Janne Hatlehol, a Norwegian Masters student in the Industrial Relations Department and a dedicated member to the Women's Football Team, was found dead in her bedroom by her roommate on Wednesday morning, the 8th of September. Her heart had just stopped beating during her sleep. It will take 2-5 months to find out exactly why this happened as she was in such good shape and had never had any serious problems with her health. This is devastating news, she was at a very happy time in her life and was excited about her new job in Washington, and trip to visit her family and friends in Norway. Here are collection of thoughts from her team mates:



Janne Hatlehol, second from right, at Team Dinners.

Janne, our teammate who won 'Most Likely to Wear the Wackiest Hat to Practice' at the Women's Football team dinner at the end of the season will be much missed. She played right forward, a position that suited her great instinct to shoot the winning goal, but to spot a good pass. I was always bumping into her, whether in the library, the street, on the bus....she was always around. Her commitment to everything was what impressed me most about her and something everyone can learn from. She was at every game and every practice, and I knew every email would have an instant reply!
Antonia Strom - Women's Football Captain

Janne was the first person I talked to at the LSE, and we became friends instantly. We sat down to have our first of numerous cups of coffee and a funny conversation. She always had a smile on her face (except when the dissertation was driving her mad!) and enjoyed life to the fullest. She was enthusiastic, energetic, an idealist, determined to better the world. Janne enriched the lives of everyone around her and I will miss her dearly.
Vigdis Jonsdottir

Like everyone else, I don't know what to say. It's so sad that this could happen to someone so full of life. I always loved running into Janne at the library, which is where I usually saw her, because her smile always cheered me up from my studying woes.
Jolene Forman

Still finding it hard to believe that a former teammate is no longer with us. It is clear that she brightened up everyone's lives. That's what we should make so clear to her family and those who loved her - how wonderful she was, how sweet, how caring, and what a superb football player I know that at least my memories of her will ever be fond ones.
Stacy Ishmael

My most vivid memory is her smile, which was there for us all. Her generosity and compassion were also distinct and evident not only in how Janne approached daily life with us but also in her life plan to help in LDCs. I feel fortunate to have known her. I do believe that what we take from Janne's passing makes all the difference to generate something positive out of a tragedy. Whether it is a greater appreciation for living every day, or more patience and compassion for others, or being better at keeping in touch, or volunteering when we can to help those less fortunate than ourselves.
Deborah Honig

She was a really warm girl with a bright smile. I remember how she used to correct my crappy Norwegian and helped with warm ups pre-games. Throughout last season, her efforts have helped me with my own game. Thus though together with many others I'm saddened by her passing, she will be remembered for many good things that she has added to our lives in the short space of time.
Arisa Siong

We all seem to share similar, happy memories of Janne - regularly seeing her bonny face on campus, her commitment and love of football. I remember her telling me how when she'd worked with street children in some far off country the way she'd connected with them and earned their respect was through kicking a ball about with them, which greatly impressed me.
Portia Asquith

Her commitment was admirable as well as the positive attitude that accompanied it.
Julianna Matthews

Janne was a real star of the football team, both on and off the pitch. Her legendary goal-scoring ability, and all-round great play, was of course stunning, but what really counted was her great humour and fun to be around all the time. As everyone has said, Janne really brightened up a dull day in the library, and away from studies she made every football game and night out a real joy. She was always in the best of spirits and up for a laugh, which made all our moments with her so great. Janne will be sorely missed but we will never forget the wonderful memories we have.
Juliet Walton

I have never met anyone quite like Janne before, with her bright and cheerful personality, her purple velvet flares and jangly earrings, she was more than just a fellow team mate. We celebrated thanksgiving and my flat warming together and I will always remember kicking a ball around with her in glorious sunshine in St James' park this summer. She was dedicated to her studies, finishing her dissertation early to go and visit family in Norway and excited by an internship she had been offered in Washington DC. With so much ahead of her it's such a shame and she will be sorely missed.
Bryony Poynor

Firstly it's very hard to grasp what is going on and secondly dealing with how tragic it all is. God, she was so excited to come to DC this fall and meet up over Christmas when I got back there. It's really unbelievable. Janne was awesome- I loved that girl. My funniest memory is of how we both kissed the same boy at Crush 5 minutes between each other and didn't know.
Christina Liu

I would like to express my deepest sympathies to Janne family and friends. I was her supervisor and in regular contact with her during her time at the LSE. She was very enthusiastic and very interested in exploring the issues of workplace democracy, justice and equality in the world of work. I will personally miss her as I am sure other staff and students will.
Paul Gollan

Tribute Match for Mike Griffith



There will be a tribute match for Michael Griffith held at the LSE Sports Grounds in Berrylands, Surrey, on **Saturday 23rd October 2004**.

The match will see an **LSEFC Select XI** take on an **Economicals Select XI**.

Following this match, the First Team pitch at Berrylands will be officially renamed after Mike.

Anyone who wishes to attend is more than welcome. We will update you with the kick-off time as the date approaches.

For Those Who Want to Bend and Stretch....



This week's Aerobics schedule is as follows:

Tuesday	4.30 - 5.30pm	Step
Thursday	4.30 - 5.30pm	Aerobics
	5.30 - 6.30pm	Toning

Classes take place in the Old Gym and will be taken by professional fitness instructor, Tommi.

If you have any queries please contact J.Mykhal'Ova@lse.ac.uk

The True Story of LSE at CalellaFest 2004 -

On a cold Saturday morning in late March 2004, around one hundred of the LSE's finest athletes boarded coaches on Houghton Street, bound for the picturesque Spanish coastal resort of Calella, in order to appreciate the beautiful scenery, practice our Spanish and maybe sample a glass of the famed local sangria.

Like fuck.

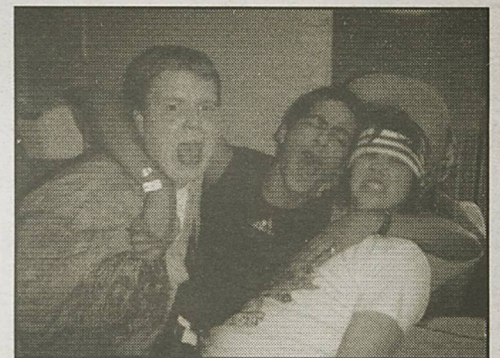
CalellaFest '04 saw the LSE Athletic Union drink this shitty seaside resort dry and win the Men's football shield. We got into fights with pikey universities, we rubbed pepper steaks over our faces and were generally more debauched than the average member of Mötley Crüe. The stories of Calella are too long and too filthy to tell in this paper, so we're going to let the following photos do the talking. If you want to hear about what went on, ask anyone who went. They're fairly easy to spot, they're the ones walking around campus looking dazed and asking "Where's the foam party?". Plans are afoot for LSE to return to Calella next year. The Spanish government are already mobilizing their security forces...



Sphicas enjoyed watching Stelios' suicide attempt



CalellaFest gave our rep a chance to finally 'come out' as a woman.



Fabs finally meets his real parents.



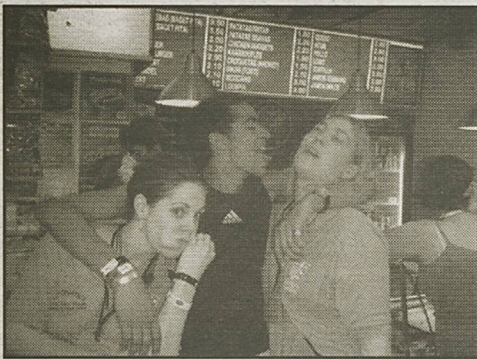
Paddy smoked way too much in Calella.



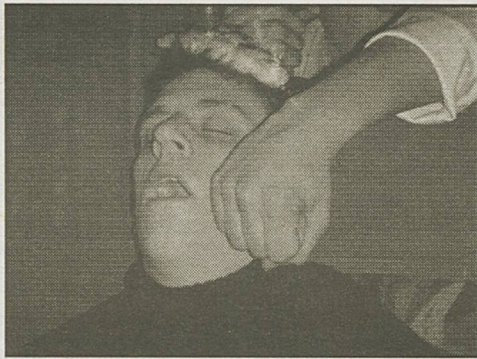
Rick Waller escorted Jarlath from the premises.



The LSE Playboy Bunnies took Calella by storm



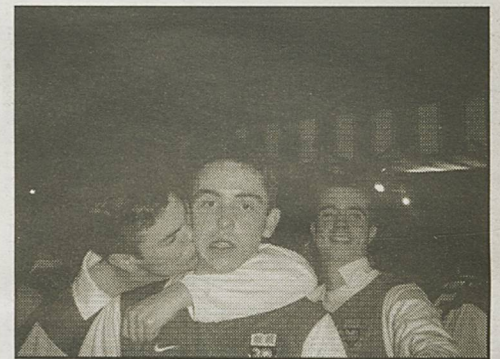
Fabs enjoys the ladies' company.



Alex Goddard. With a croissant on his head.



Whilst on the ferry we were lucky enough to spot a whale.



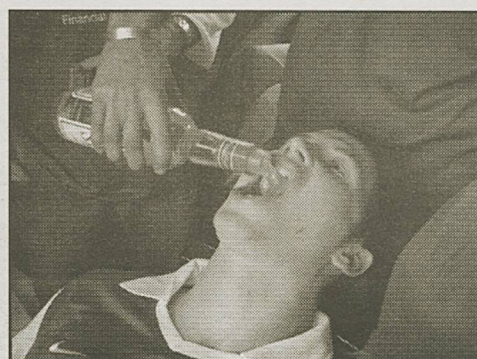
Craig was having second thoughts about the 'girl' he had just pulled.



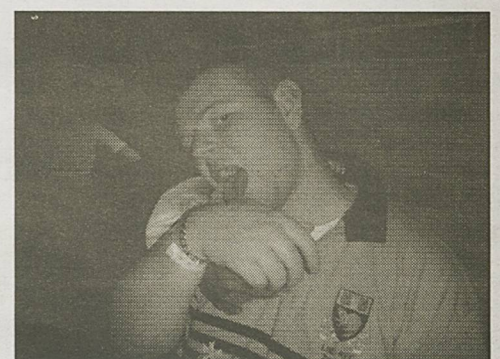
Sian's breasts. And Hide.



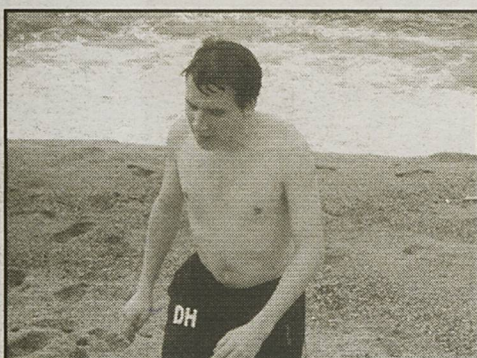
Fact: LSE Students borrow more library books per head than any other students in the UK.



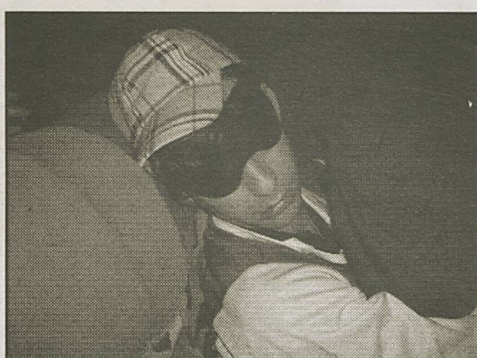
Roger never knew going to the dentists could be so much fun.



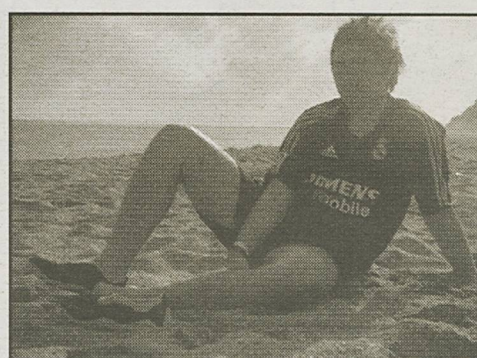
Calella saw Wayne Rooney embark on a tough pre-Euro 2004 training regime of booze and birds.



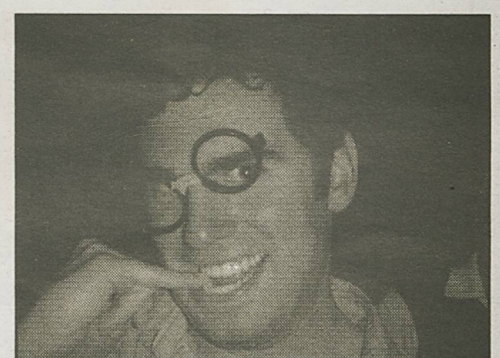
Too skint to afford the coach, Doug swam to Calella.



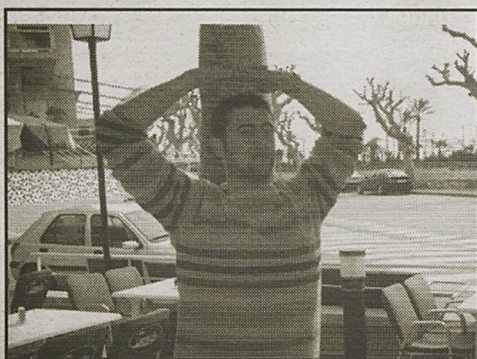
Mike donned his gimp mask to survive the 23-hour coach journey to Calella



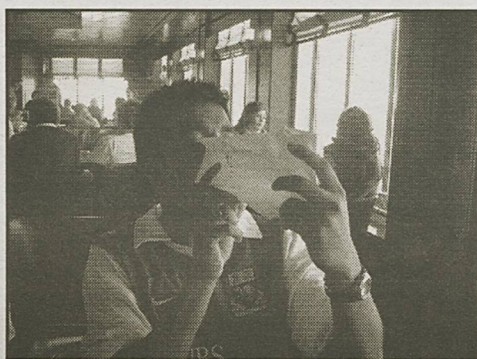
Brummie used Calella as a platform to launch his new career as a pornstar.



Drew's attempts to dress up as Jarvis Cocker came to a messy end.



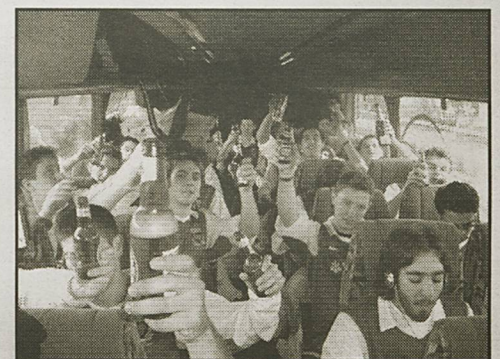
As well as being First Team Captain, John McDermott is a talented ballet dancer.



Shiva puked into the sick bag and then drank the contents. Jackass now want to sign him up.



Everyone was surprised to see the Sugababes in Calella



The booze supermarkets in Calais reported record profits on the day LSE passed through.

Netball Look Forward to Sexiest Season Yet!

Olivia Schofield



Yet again the fantastic netball club has succeeded in recruiting the largest quantity of LSE babes and is officially the biggest female sports club. With over 70 signings at Fresher's Fair we have a lot of hot new talent... in fact I feel happy to quote a drunken rugby boy from last night who confidently informed me that yet again the netball girls were fitter than rugby girls, and then went off to hit on one!

Trials were meticulously organised by our wonderful new club captain Helen - aka Britney Spears according to the last Beaver article. Although Jade (first team captain) looked rather worried when Helen asked people to trial for either 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams, or 4th and 5th teams, then about 75% of people quickly left her court. Obviously the horror stories of captain Phoebe's legacy had spread fast... (only joking Pheebes). However, the lovely Alison (2nd team captain) soon caressed them back onto court by her broad northern accent, whilst Clare (3rd team captain) acted as a translator as no-one could understand her.

Unfortunately I was unable to watch the action from the 4th and 5th team trials but am sure it was pretty similar to this... nervous looking freshers stood on the sideline eagerly awaiting



to be called to show off their stuff, anxious team captains whispering frantically and arguing about poaching players, and then a few old hands (like myself) thinking fuck I shouldn't have drunk so much sangria on holiday and bought those extra 200 cheap Marlboro lights - I can't run and breathe at the same time... After 2 hours of sweating and dying of complete exhaustion (even though I was only on court for about 3 minutes), the team captains got down to the nitty gritty. It reminded me of primary school and playing top trumps in the playground. Each potential player being given

power points and then a frantic swapping and comparing of cards until each captain was happy. However, I think Alison gave in slightly easily when Jade slyly stole Fiona (last years 2nd team captain). But that's good news for the mighty mighty first team!

After the hustle and bustle of trials 4.30pm finally came, which meant home time and beauty preparations for the evening. As usual all the netball girls looked stunning and the amount of leg, cleavage and general body parts on show was very impressive. It's a good sign for nights to come - particularly with the prom-

ises of nakedness and pink rings for next week's AU welcome party. As well as getting our act together with skimpy outfits, thanks to the influence of AU president Pete Davies, Helen has been schooled in the motto "Lateness is Rudeness". This is fantastic news for the club because as was demonstrated on Wednesday, the netball girls were out in force from 7.30pm, rather than drifting in at around 10pm. Just in case anyone was thinking our leader would be lenient on this new rule, Jade walked in 20 minutes late and the first fine commenced. A shot of JD, Bacardi, Sambuca and Baileys, topped with a Smirnoff Ice produced a nice brown drink with 2 inches of thick foam on the top. Down in one Jaddie, lovely jubbly. So girls reading this - you have been warned!

The night progressed with the usual drunken antics. Madonna's 'Like a Prayer' was expertly recited, even Simon Cowell would have been impressed. Quadruple vodkas and diet coke became the drink of choice, and by 11pm we were ready to hit Limeabout. Here my memory goes slightly fuzzy but I was delighted to see that netball girls favourite past time of stealing rugby ties was well and truly alive. Indeed, I think it was Roz who proudly sported 3 of them round her neck! This season is set to be promising. With the teams selected and the drinking ethos firmly in place, yet again the netball club is set to be the biggest, best and fittest female club within the AU. Sorry Women's Rugby and Hockey, you just don't come close...

Cricket Victory for LSE over Strand Poly

Ed Hawker



It was a stinking hot day at Berrylands back in April when the LSE 1st XI took on Kings in a friendly. After a delayed start (Kings proved their below par intelligence in getting lost trying to find their own ground!) we won the toss and elected to bat on a fairly damp and nasty wicket in a forty over game. The bowling throughout was decidedly awful, with 22 wides bowled by the Kings bowlers, but they were able to pick up regular wickets thanks to some stupid shots, including one from the captain. However, the young gun Sachin managed to hang about and make a useful score on debut (which was later followed up by a magnificent hundred against the staff) whilst those around him were falling short. Then it took the experience of Jez and Danish with a partnership of 80, including a massive 6 from Danish into the tennis courts, which took us to 199-6 from our allotted forty overs

So full of confidence, we took to the field, but only after Ranatunga had finished both teams allotted donuts during tea, and we got stuck into them, with some classic sledging coming from the slip cordon and a great atmosphere out on the field. It wasn't too long before the first breakthrough came, with JB the 3rd "rearranging the furniture" with a gem of a delivery, backed up by a great spell of tight bowling from Ed at the other end. But it was our very own "caravan man", aka

Geoff and old school Sumer who ripped through the heart of their middle order, sharing 6 wickets which included the valuable scalp of their captain, not for his cricketing abilities, but just for being a wanker. Kings languished and never even looked like challenging our score, eventually being bowled out for 80 well inside their overs and leaving us free to hit the pub and celebrate victory.

Nominations for the mug of the day go to: Sachin for going out to a ball that bounced twice, Ranatunga for his beached whale attempt at a 'sitter' at gully, Sumer for celebrating the last wicket before it had actually happened and Dan for his fisherman's hat, and the best sledge of the day undoubtedly to Kush for his notable comment 'I told you guys they couldn't bat for shit!!'

So a quality win for LSE, which ended up being our only victory of the year as the British weather conspired to call off our remaining games in the ULU cup for 3 successive weeks, but I'm sure many more victories will be following this year

Trials for this year's team begin Monday, 18th September at the home of cricket, if anyone is not registered and wishes to come along then they should e-mail me regarding this. Also, there have been some people interested in setting up a women's cricket team, but we need interest from a few more people to make this a practical possibility. If there are any ladies out there interested in playing then they should also give me an e-mail, my address is e.c.hawker@lse.ac.uk

LSE Rock Climbing Scale the Heights....

LSE Rock climbers are an unknown entity but at Freshers' Fair this year, they managed to persuade many newcomers with fabulous photos such as the one below. Their Club Captain Rachel Phillips - the first ever female in such a position - reflects on the success of the club: "Its' incredible that only a few years ago their head count was a meagre 12 and now stands at 130! The broad span of absolute beginners and several seasoned climbers has generated a fantastic atmosphere and led to many wonderful trips

abroad. Favourite memories include conquering the massive over-hanging cave, the "Grand Grotto" filled with stalactites, in Greece, not to mention candle-lit dinners with no electricity in a cabin in Spain, accompanied by way too much cheap Spanish wine! Then waking up with the sun for a full day on the rocks in the brilliant sunshine. It just proves you don't need to go to Calella to have a laugh! If anyone is interested in signing up and seeing some amazing sights, please contact me at r.a.phillips@lse.ac.uk"

