

# The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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The nuke debate  
explodes in blink,  
pages 16-17

Jeffrey Lewis  
shows comic side  
in B:art, page 21



Election results and campaign montage, pages 6 and 7

## Where there's Will there's a way

### Key election results:

**General Secretary:** Will Macfarlane  
**Treasurer:** Gareth Carter  
**Education & Welfare:** Sian Errington  
**Communications:** 'K' Faizullaev

- Angus Jones wins Societies Officer
- Rishi Madlani re-elected to Residences
- Left to dominate part-time Executive and Constitution & Steering Committee

**Mark Power**  
Executive Editor

Current Societies Officer Will Macfarlane was elected the new General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union last Thursday.

After a late-night count of ballots cast in the LSE SU's annual Lent Term elections, it emerged that Macfarlane had inched ahead of his only competitor, current Communications Officer and founder of the Friends of Palestine Society, Omar Srouji.

Responding to the announcement of his success, Macfarlane congratulated the candidates in all the elections, expressing his optimism for the year ahead, and paying special tribute to Srouji and his agent, former Beaver Editor Ibrahim Rasheed, as well as his own agent, PuLSE Station Manager, Aqeel Kadri.

Macfarlane's victory came after a week of intense campaigning that kicked off with last Thursday's Hustings at the Union General Meeting (UGM), in which observers noted the similarity of the proposals of the two candidates. As the last Hustings in the Three Tuns bar on Monday interrupted post-lecture drinks, observers noted a distinct attempt on the part of both candidates to differentiate themselves and prevent criticisms that the race was lacking interest and focusing on personality over substance.

Whilst Srouji sought to appeal to the LSE's centre-left contingent by reiterating his support for the discussion of international issues by the SU, as well as the need for a more campaigning Union, Macfarlane sought to build on what he considered a greater experience in student advocacy by citing his membership of the Court of Governors and work for Residential Services at Passfield. It is likely that Srouji attracted the ire of some of the Union's Jewish and Israeli students for his continued campaigning for LSE SU support of the Palestinian cause.

Macfarlane, who stood on a platform of 'Students not Politics', represents a triumph for those who wish to see the Union paying less attention to what they see as controversial issues of international politics, like the Arab-Israeli dispute, which have caused division and disunity on campus after fiery confrontations on the issue in the UGM.

Macfarlane told *The Beaver* he was "happy after three



It was the hats wot won it: A yellow-shirted and orange-capped Macfarlane on Houghton Street last week.

years of working for this union to have the top job." When asked what he thought of the incumbent, Macfarlane said that current General Secretary Elliot Simmons had done a very good job. He did, however, indicate that he would be looking to exercise more leadership than Simmons.

Macfarlane said one of his first tasks after hand-over early in the summer would be to start the campaign to keep Wednesday afternoons free, as previously it had always been left too late to adjust timetables. He also said that he hoped the current sabbatical team would consult the newly elected slate on issues that are likely to affect their term, with particular note to the Tuns refurbishment which generated much concern throughout the election campaign for Treasurer.

In the race for Treasurer, former Sports Editor of *The*

*Beaver* and Captain of the LSE Football Firsts team emerged victorious, as he defeated incumbent Jo Kibble by a comfortable margin, after the third candidate, former Chair of the Constitution and Steering Committee, Oliver Jelleyman, was knocked out and his votes redistributed.

Carter claimed victory after a tough campaign with Kibble, who fought hard for re-election despite being mired in controversy throughout his term over his annual budget, and more recently the lack of consultation over the Tuns refurbishment.

*Continued on page 2.*  
Full election coverage on pages 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9.  
Editorial Comment on page 11.

# Election counting reaches frenzied pitch

Continued from page 1

The race itself was subject to scrutiny after it was revealed on Wednesday that an individual, independent of all the candidates, was found to be campaigning negatively in Bankside House via the distribution of leaflets, and then by sending out emails, discouraging students from voting for Kibble.

The race attracted numerous complaints of malpractice to Returning Officer, Vita Maynard, which resulted in one of Kibble's supporters, Postgraduate Students Officer, James Meadway, agreeing to refrain from campaigning on Kibble's behalf after complaints were made regarding his conduct in hustings meetings.

Thursday evening saw a jubilant Carter celebrating his victory to the chagrin of Kibble supporters, generally associated with extreme left activism on campus.

Both sides' followers reacted with obvious emotion to the victory, causing tension around the count room as candidates and their supporters had to be separated from each other to avoid arguments and the trading of insults.

In a development that shocked pundits, UGM Chair Khurshid "K" Faizullaev emerged as the new Communications Officer, by the slender margin of just eight votes. This came after the elimination of promising newcomer Chris Heathcote and the redistribution of his votes between Faizullaev and Matt Willgress, a well known campus campaigner and advocate for anti-racism groups.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Willgress said "Chris and I ran very good campaigns given the degree of background manoeuvring and societies support we had to catch up on."

It emerged over the course of the week that Faizullaev had obtained the crucial support of several key societies who it seemed turned out to vote en masse.

Earlier in the week observers had largely written off Faizullaev's poor showing at Hustings and his lacklustre campaigning effort.

After the initial vote was counted showing Faizullaev to be in the lead by eight votes, a tense recount ensued reminiscent of last year's Treasurer's race which resulted in Kibble's victory over Candice MacDonald by a single vote.

The race for Education and Welfare Officer ended as many had predicted with the current Equal Opportunities (Female) Officer, Sian Errington, winning by a resounding margin - easily the least contested of the Sabbatical posts.

Her opponent, Beyzade M. Beyzade was

widely regarded as an unrealistic candidate, having previously been defeated in an election for the same post. Interestingly enough, in an earlier election, he was defeated by Re-Open Nominations (R.O.N.).

Despite being resoundingly shunned in the elections for Sabbatical posts, left candidates achieved a clean sweep of success in the elections for part-time executive officers with LSESU Labour Society Chair Angus Jones winning Societies Officer and People and Planet activist Joel Kenrick winning Environment and Ethics.

The race for Societies Officer came down to the wire with an extremely close run-off between eventual winner Jones and his opponent Nick Spurrell, after the redistribution of Kevin Chung-Yu Liu's votes. Election to the post was especially competitive as it is seen as a springboard to the position of General Secretary.

Indeed, both Simmons and now Macfarlane were Societies Officers before becoming General Secretaries.

Alexandra Vincente was also among the left candidates, winning Women's Officer over Union stalwart Sam Nicklin.

Alykhan Velshi was one of the night's biggest losers, having been defeated in his bids for International Students Officer and Anti-Racism Officer, while his chances for re-election to the Constitution and Steering Committee seem bleak.

International Students Officer went to first year Law student, Salah Mattoo, who managed to win the post despite not campaigning at all during election week; Anti-Racism Officer was won by another first year, Farhan Islam.

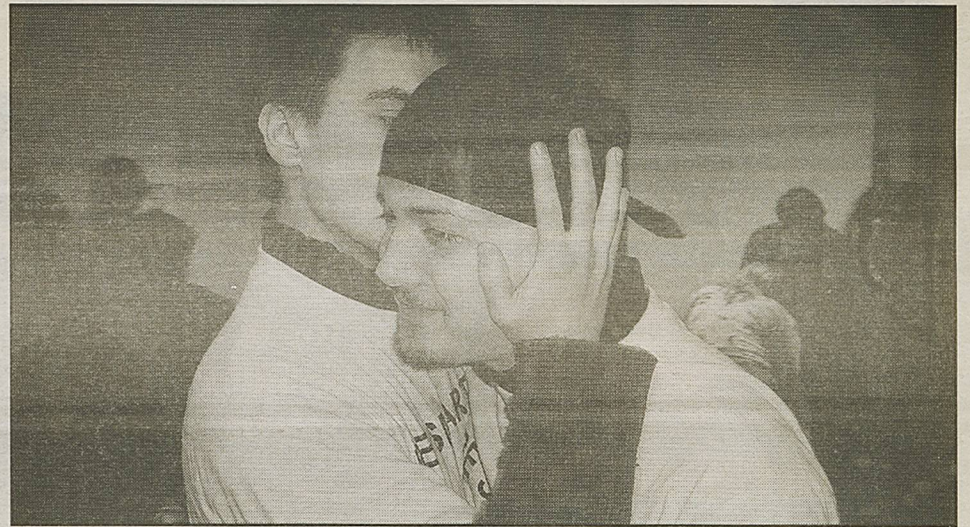
Incumbent Students with Disabilities Officer Hazel Mowbray was convincingly re-elected to her post, after Jonathan Gradowski dropped out. Anthony Gilliland won out in the elections for Returning Officer, having defeated Alexander Phua.

The Finance and Services Committee was named at the very end of counting, with Spurrell, Daniel Freedman, Nazir Hussain and Natalya Peysakhodina emerging victorious after previous favourite El Barham dropped out, opting instead to focus on her campaign for the Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S).

Election turn-out was slightly up on last year with 1605 votes cast as opposed to last year's 1595, out of a potential electorate of 7952 registered students.

While results had not been confirmed for C&S at time of going to press, sources within the count room widely predicted a shift in the makeup of the committee from right-dominated to the left.

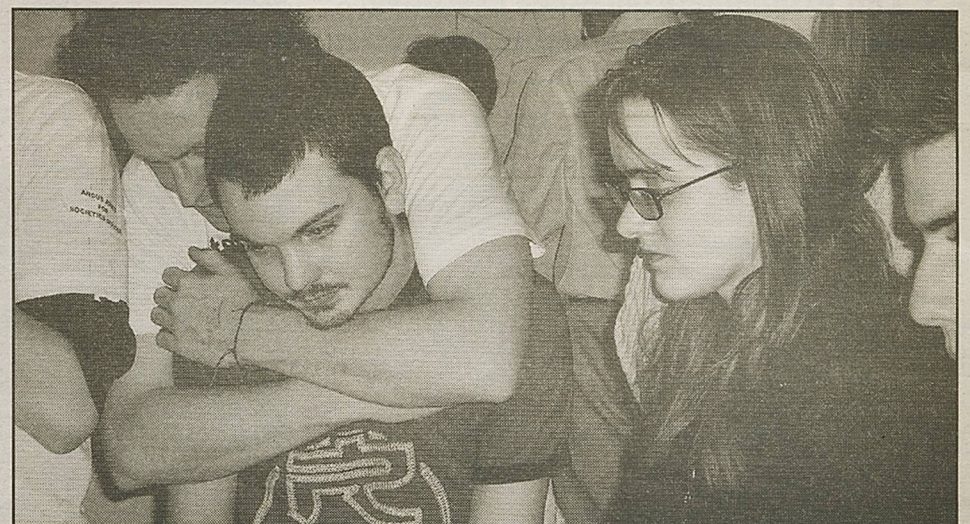
*Election analysis, pages 8, 9 and 11*



Carter shares a private word with close friend Justin Nolan after his victory.



K rejoices upon hearing that he had won Communications. / Photo: James Upsher



Newly elected Education and Welfare Officer, Sian Errington, right, and Matt Willgress anxiously look on as the Communications vote is tallied.

## Word on the street: campaigning takes off

Prashant Rao  
News Editor

With election week ending Thursday night, running into Friday morning, a week often characterised by gimmicks and unrealistic promises came to a relatively quiet end.

Houghton Street was once again overrun with desperate candidates who knew that every single vote was critical, badgering often irritated students to vote, and more importantly, vote for them.

Time and again, students would hurry down the street with their heads firmly facing the floor or, in the most severe of cases, bypass the street altogether, opting instead to walk through the Old Building.

Complaints were voiced time and again, questioning why there were no stickers that those who had voted could

wear, indicating that they had performed their civic duty and cast their ballot.

As per standard practice, candidates were not allowed in the Quad during voting, and no election paraphernalia was to be seen in the vicinity, leading to Omar Srouji's agent and former Executive Editor of *The Beaver* Ibrahim Rasheed being barred from the Quad for the duration of voting for allegedly canvassing voters in the area.

Srouji, Communications Officer and losing candidate for General Secretary, was markedly outnumbered by those campaigning on behalf of Societies Officer and eventual winner, Will Macfarlane.

It was the race for Treasurer that would provide the most intrigue, however, as it was marred by numerous rumours circulating through the student population of anti-Jo Kibble emails being sent to stu-

dents in both the Geography Department and the Institute of Management, with a formal complaint being filed on behalf of the Kibble campaign to the Returning Officer, Vita Maynard. While the email to Management students has surfaced, the one sent to Geography students remains largely an unfounded rumour.

The email criticised Kibble, the current SU Treasurer, for being responsible for "controversies, internal fighting and outrageous financial decisions," within the Union and called for all students of Management to number Kibble last on their list of preferences for Treasurer. Upon hearing of the email, the Kibble camp promptly blamed the eventual winner, Gareth Carter.

The student implicated in the instance of negative campaigning was forced to retract his statements, apologise to Kibble

and stay away from Houghton Street and anything to do with the elections.

Kibble once again provoked the loudest and longest response at Hustings at The Three Tuns, having to wait more than a minute as members of the crowd voiced both their approval and dissent to his candidacy.

Numerous complaints were also filed by Beyzade M. Beyzade, the losing candidate for Education and Welfare Officer, against *The Beaver*. In his complaints, Beyzade accused the paper of purposely doctoring his picture in last week's election pull-out, and attempting to hasten his defeat.

By seven o'clock on Thursday night, however, the street was left deserted as candidates attempted to get some dinner in preparation for the gruelling count ahead.

# International Hall raises charges

Mark Power  
Executive Editor

Charges for students living in the intercollegiate and newly refurbished International Hall are set to increase after it became the only solution to plug an estimated £600,000 funding gap in University of London residence's maintenance budget.

Leading the charge in criticising the University, International Hall Club President Nigel Sellars said the fees changes had been "rushed and ill-thought out." He claimed that he had only been contacted three weeks previous to last Wednesday's meeting of the Intercollegiate Accommodation Committee, during which the changes were decided upon.

Fees for residents of International Hall are set to rise by 8.5 per cent after a series of negotiations brought the increase down from an originally proposed 20 per cent. This will mean a single study bedroom will cost around £116 per week, making it one of London's most expensive student residences. Sellars said that the original justification for the fees increase was to reflect International Hall's "premium quality" facilities which he claims are woefully inadequate despite a recent renovation.

Speaking to *The Beaver* he wryly commented that the premium rate services must include "the mice infestation, the sub-standard bathroom facilities, and the computer room with desks and no computers."

When questioned as to the reason for the increase, University of London Director of Student Services Dr Dennis Buckley said that the figure of 8.5 per cent had been reached as a compromise in reaction to student concerns over the increases. He said that the University would have to be able to charge the increase in order to make the hall break even following its



International Hall, where student fees are expected to rise by 8.5 per cent.

recent refurbishment. He also confirmed that the University would offer to reimburse residents not staying in halls over Easter for meal costs levied to them following the introduction of sessional contracts whereby students are made to pay for their rooms for the entire year, including holidays.

Dr Buckley was also able to confirm that sessional contracts would be introduced to all University of London Intercollegiate Halls next year resulting in an increase of up to 20 per cent on student rent bills for the year, due to them having to pay for their rooms over holiday periods. When asked if he thought students were likely to be hit hard by the proposals, Dr Buckley responded by saying that he was introducing the changes with "great reluctance". He said that "The University understands that students are under terrible financial pressure" but sought to point out that the University in general was also under pressure and they could not afford to have halls running a loss, whether in the

special case of International Hall or generally over the entire system.

In the case of International Hall, however, he has been criticised by Sellars and other residents at the hall, for not exploring all of the options and approaching the changes in a rushed and poorly researched manner. Sellars revealed to *The Beaver* that it appeared that Dr Buckley made the concession to 8.5 per cent in the IAC meeting at the last moment, which caused the members to vote for the increase. He noted as well that although University of London Union President, Chris Piper, had voted against the increase, ULU Vice-President for Education and Welfare, Susie Riley, had voted for it. She justified this by saying she thought it was the only option available to students, although she was critical of "chronic UL mismanagement."

LSE Accommodation Officer, Paul Trivett, said that the changes were regrettable and that the School would be targeting offers of places to intercollegiate halls to those needing full year contracts.

# AUT to boycott marking exams

Vishna Gandhi

Monday March 1, saw the conflict between lecturers and university employers over their continuing pay dispute intensify as members of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) began to boycott the setting and marking of exams. Members of the AUT, which in the main represents academic and related staff in the old universities, are strongly in favour of action just short of a strike, including boycotting student assessment and exams and not covering for absent colleagues or computer staff providing on-call cover.

Although last week's edition of *The Beaver* reported only "minor disruption" as a result of the nationwide AUT strike, these developments have instilled fear and concern in campuses all over the country as students' exam results and even degree classifications are potentially at risk.

Speaking to *BBC News*, the AUT said the boycott action had been forced on staff by the "intransigence" of the UCEA, further going on to describe an offer of a two-year wage increase of 6.44 per cent as "insulting". Research conducted by the AUT and reported in *The Guardian* newspaper argues that under the employers' proposed changes, annual increments would be reduced, and many academic-related staff, such as senior librarians, would lose £47,000 over 21 years; researchers £17,000 over nine years and lecturers £6,300 over eight years.

The LSE confirmed its position on the boycott, describing the course of action taken by some members of the AUT as

"regrettable". Talking to *The Beaver*, an LSE spokesperson said: "This is a national dispute relating to pay and grading, not a local issue between the School and the AUT. We would like to talk to the local AUT about the proposals for pay modernisation and the implementation of what is called the Framework Agreement. We will be doing all we can to minimise any disruption to students."

Although last week's lecturers' strike

was supported by numerous students, AUT General Secretary Sally Hunt's assurance that her "members are doing this not because they want to hurt students, but because they have no choice" will offer little comfort to those affected by the new threat of exam boycotting. As the conflict between lecturers and university employers rages on, it is all the more evident that students' sympathy for members of the AUT will be increasingly tested.

# Hilary Benn visits LSE

Michael Best and Jai Shah

Last Thursday Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, visited the LSE and spoke to an enthusiastic audience on the topic of state failure and its implications for development. While Chair Sir Howard Davies' introduction mockingly refused to name Mr Benn's "irresponsible" predecessor, Clare Short, Benn kept the audience amused by noting that his first name would continue the Department for International Development's (DfID) feminist tradition.

While stressing that progress has been made, Benn highlighted his grave concern at the lack of political will to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG) agreed upon in 2000. The first deadline to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 will not be met and shockingly, at current rates, Africa will not achieve goal number four - to reduce by two-thirds the infant mortality rate - until 2165. The 46

states that fare worst in the World Bank's indicators of institutional stability, while accounting for only 14 per cent of the world population, contain 41 per cent of the world's people living in absolute poverty. For Benn, peace and stability are prerequisites for development.

Benn identified four key points for the international community to focus on to remedy the problem of state failure. First, the causes of state failure need to be understood and Benn praised work done at the LSE in this area. Second, action needs to be taken earlier to prevent state crises when the boundary between a state's sovereignty and its responsibilities to its citizens and neighbouring countries is crossed. Third, more needs to be done to ensure the safety and security of citizens, both in terms of direct action exemplified by the UK's intervention in Sierra Leone, and indirect support to ensure global security. Finally, he stated that success will depend upon cooperation between the concerned parties.



## Union Jack

Jack has been forced to extend his remit this week after the shortest UGM in recent memory. Jack wonders what the 75 people that did turn up were doing; didn't they know there was an election on?

It was a week that tested the stamina and the Blue Peter skills of the sabbatical hopefuls. Jack feels the future is bright...the future is orange hats. Kibble's t-shirt confections demonstrated cost-cutting skills that might have served him better before Christmas, but his plan was ultimately foiled by putting one on Madway.

Despite protestations that there was little to choose between Macfarlane and Srouji, it seems most people had no trouble as the bandit won with one hand tied behind his back. Jack was devastated at the lack of comedy candidates in the Gen Sec race; no loud Americans, last-minute no-hopers, or Madway stooges. Even Kibble managed to suppress ambition a little. Speaking of Kibble, there were many (m)elodramatic scenes as he disappeared into a hole created largely by his own shovelling. So the AU has the last laugh and the Pirate gets the treasure - it'll be roast dinners all round then...

Whispering Sian Errington made sure village idiot Beyzade was despatched without difficulty, but partner in whine Matt Willgress lost out narrowly to our esteemed UGM chair. K was just about special enough despite having the worst hustings performance, worst campaign and worst manifesto. But K had other tricks up his sleeve; having spent most of the year making moves (also known as 'doing an Elliot'), his support was strong enough to carry him to heights Willgress can only dream about.

The forces of progression monopolised the other exec posts with Spurrell, Velshi and Velshi again losing out but the general lack of candidates for the sabb positions meant there were no cock-ups of Bellini-like proportions. Even Kibble managed second place, and only comms provided any real drama at the count.

The count provided a handy backdrop for has-been hacks to parade around in a worldly-wise, patronising, and altogether wanky sort of way. The sight of 'dull' Peter Taylor is usually enough to send Jack to sleep but when combined with ULU's very own rat charmer Chris Piper, Jack felt positively narcoleptic. No count would be complete though without an appearance from Narius 'generally a sad bastard' Aga but Jack fears this particular General's last stand is still some way off.

So triumph for the left in all but the most important elections, which should keep the revolution at bay for another year at least. Jack is sure he'll be first against the wall (unless Kibble's updated his list again) but he's not cashing in his life insurance just yet.

So there's this bandit, a pirate and an elf having breakfast...

# Vice-Chancellors fight fines over lack of widening access

Elaine Londesborough

The government has announced plans to fine universities who fail to bring in poorer students. Vice-Chancellors are angry at the move, believing that the government is meddling too much in their admissions processes.

Under the new plans, the Office of Fair Access (OFFA), dubbed "Oftoff" by some observers, will be set up to make sure that universities have access widening schemes in place. These would include bursaries and plans to reach out to disadvantaged schools, and encouraging poorer students to apply.

Universities would have to make agreements with OFFA about how much they intend to charge their students.

If universities fail to live up to this agreement, they could be fined up to £500,000. OFFA will also have the power to stop universities charging extra fees at all if they charge more than what was origi-

nally agreed or fail to provide adequate bursaries to students.

According to Charles Clarke, the Education Secretary, and the Department for Education and Skills, the plans are being put forward with an emphasis on expanding the range of people who apply to university and would not attempt to dictate admissions policy. However, universities themselves feel that they should be responsible for their own admissions and that they are in the best position to decide who should gain access to their university.

Professor Michael Sterling, Chairman of the Russell Group of top universities, told *The Independent* newspaper "This is about admissions. It's a nonsense to say it's about applications. The main objective of universities must be to admit the best people. Anything else is discrimination. If we go down the road of biasing admissions processes to admit certain groups of people into certain courses, we will be accused of discriminating."

The proposals apply mainly to old universities, who have the worst record for widening access, but Vice-Chancellors from old and new universities alike are horrified at the tone of the new plans.

Many Vice-Chancellors from across the country have come out against the plans and have been very vocal on the issue at a recent meeting of Universities UK (UUK) in London. New universities fear that the move signals further intrusion into university admissions by the government.

Some have seen the establishment of OFFA as an attempt by the government to appease those backbenchers that were adamantly opposed to the introduction of top-up fees. The plans would ensure that universities would not be allowed to charge what they like, without taking into account the effects on access. Some experts have argued that universities are wrong to oppose the plans and that they are in fact an effective way to regulate the introduction of top-up fees.

# EU expansion to take its toll on British higher education system

Nazir Hussain

With ten new countries - Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joining the European Union (EU) this May, questions are being raised about the effects of this development on UK universities.

Students from these countries currently pay fees as international students, but will pay the same fees as Home/EU students once their countries join the EU.

Sir Howard Newby, the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) Chief Executive has predicted that the number of students from these countries will increase fourfold from the current

5,000 by 2010, and place great pressure on the HE system.

The Higher Education Minister, Alan Johnson, has responded by stating that, "Talk of new EU students forcing out domestic students is an unhelpful exaggeration. That is because the expected growth in EU numbers is negligible in terms of the overall percentage of students in this country."

A separate and comprehensive report published by the Higher Education Policy Institute entitled "Projecting demand for UK higher education from the Accession Countries" projects an overall net benefit to the UK if the living expenses of students from these countries were factored in.

Nonetheless, the report predicts that

having an additional 20,000 - 30,000 students from these countries in addition to the 180,000 - 250,000 projected from the UK in 2010 "will put great pressure on the HE system."

The report was also cautious in its conclusions.

Whilst students from EU countries are currently not eligible for student support, the report noted that the "EU's commitment to progress student mobility across Europe" could lead to legislation mandating the introduction of support for students from the EU, thus increasing the cost of EU students to the UK taxpayer significantly.

It also stated that the setting up of a robust system to collect fees from students after graduation in view of the Higher Education Bill will be "extremely challenging."

The effect of the entry of these ten countries into the EU on LSE's fees and students ratios appears uncertain.

Whilst there are currently only 144 students from these ten countries out of a student population of 7 500, the size of the potential influx is unknown.

66 of the 144 students come from Cyprus and 31 from Poland. Approximately half of the 144 are undergraduates.

LSE's Academic Registrar, George Kiloh told *The Beaver* that owing to LSE's broad spread of international students, "We are not expecting the kind of impact which may affect other universities."

He did say, though, that "we envisage an increase in undergraduate applications from candidates who will now be assessed as Home/EU fee payers", and that the school will continue to review the impact on our potential student fees.

Kiloh also added that the School's financial future would depend on the decision that will be taken by LSE on the charging of variable fees.

In the long run, however, the impact of EU expansion on the UK higher education system, and the School in particular, remains to be seen.

# Haiti - on the American foreign policy agenda?

Arya Alatsas

On Thursday March 4th, the Grimshaw International Relations Society organised an event with speakers Dr Ann Fitzgerald and Isabelle Mohaupt to raise awareness of the current state of emergency and transition of government in Haiti. Fitzgerald, a Senior Lecturer at Cranfield University's Department of Defence Management and an expert in Haitian international and domestic affairs, offered a pithy and highly informative account of Haiti's troubled history, which has been riddled with continuous authoritarian and corrupt government, in addition to past haphazard and short-lived international efforts of aid and stability.

Mohaupt, a Haitian national, former investment banker and member of the "184" peaceful, unarmed opposition movement to the now deposed leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide, conveyed her emotional

first hand experience of Haiti's situation.

With a few vociferous Haitians among the audience, the general impression was that the situation in Haiti, although dire in many respects, is one of hope and unity. Despite recent international involvement from Canada, France and the United States among others, the general consensus is that Haiti's problems are not easily solved nor are they short term. The speakers both agreed that after the current wave of short term rioting and relative instability, the process of rehabilitating Haiti will take the better part of a decade if not more.

However, few countries with the military and economic resources essential to sustain Haiti have the requisite interest and political will to intervene in the long term. While US involvement is preferable and crucial for regional stability in the long run, Haiti is unlikely to be a winning policy platform in a presidential race focused on international and domestic issues.

# HEFCE announces funding

Jess Brammar

The government this week announced that its funding for university teaching will rise next year by only one per cent in real terms, despite increasing student numbers.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announced that university funding specifically for teaching will rise 9.3 per cent, taking the annual total for 2004-2005 to nearly £6 billion.

However, when taking into account inflation and the contribution paid by students through their tuition fees, the rise in government funding is just 0.9 per cent.

Universities UK (UUK), the organisation that represents British universities, responded to the announcement with a statement, commenting, "Teaching is at the heart of universities' activities and must be properly funded if we are to maintain quality and give students the teaching and learning experience they deserve."

"While we acknowledge that the Government has taken steps to halt a long decline in investment in higher education, funding for teaching clearly remains inadequate."

In light of an increase in university applications in recent years, the government package will also include a total sum of £273 million to support widening participation for students from under-represented groups such as lower income families.

However, this move has received a mixed response from universities with claims that funding for wider participation should be provided in addition to the teaching budget rather than as a part of that budget.

The extra cash will also provide for an additional 20,000 full-time places at British universities. UUK voiced their concern that 5,000 of these new places will be on Foundation courses for vocational subjects, claiming that expansion must be "driven by student choice and market demand" rather than by pre-emptive funding.

Furthermore, Sir Howard Newby, chief executive of the funding council, told *The Times* newspaper that a rise in the number of 18 year-olds over the rest of the decade meant that there would have to be 150,000 extra university places to maintain the current levels of young people entering higher education.

Sir Howard also highlighted the fact that Department for Education and Skills had failed to provide extra resources to fund additional EU students next year, following this year's increase in EU member states.

This could potentially leave British applicants competing with students from the expanded EU for limited university places.

In a statement to *The Beaver*, Andrew Farrell, the LSE's Director of Finance and Facilities, said, "Students here will already be aware of the various expenditure needs - teaching, improving student facilities, scholarships and staff pay."

"At LSE we also have our estate issues. We are now looking at the implications of this announcement, along with other factors, on School spending plans for 2004-05."

# Library installs new software

James Upsher

The Library has selected a new management system that will be implemented in time for the 2004-2005 academic year. The package of three tools, a product of Endeavour Information Systems Inc., won out after a long and detailed review of the market options. The system is used at several other large academic libraries including those run by Edinburgh University, Hertfordshire University and the Open University.

The library administration reviews the current market options every seven years - the current system, Unicorn, was introduced in 1997 and so is now reaching the end of its life. There is a highly specialised market for library management systems and few are capable of handling the capacity and demand levels of the BLEPS.

The new package includes the "Voyager" library system, "Encompass", an online tool for accessing all the Library's resources and "LinkFinderPlus", which manages direct links to electronic sources.

This is the result of months of work on the part of the library. They first drafted a detailed specification of requirements with the School's Purchasing Manager. Companies were then short listed, according to the European Union's (EU) rules, from written bids. Suppliers came to the LSE to demonstrate their products and LSE staff visited other major academic libraries to see them in action.



The Library will debut its new management software in Michaelmas 2004.

Students have been involved from the beginning of the process through the Library User Committee. The four systems on the final shortlist were then presented to students in November last year at a very successful feedback day. Work is continuing with focus groups to refine the look and feel of the system further.

The Voyager system promises great improvements for students using the library: searches can be saved for later recall, the system supports multiple languages and can display non-Roman scripts. Voyager will also improve efficient

use of the library's books, as it offers more flexible hold options, including cancelling requests to avoid the problem of uncollected holds. The LinkFinderPlus system provides a single point of access to all the electronic libraries resources, including over 4000 full text journals.

The system will go live on Tuesday the 31st of August, so as to provide time for staff to master the system before students return. Training courses and reference material will be provided, but the more basic functions will be familiar to any current user.

# Scotland approves visa extensions

Zuhura Plummer

In the same week that the Home Secretary tightened immigration laws in anticipation of an influx of economic migrants from Eastern Europe, the Scottish Executive outlined plans to increase the population of Scotland through migration. The devolved power demonstrated its independence from Westminster when the First Minister, Jack McConnell, introduced "Fresh Talent" which aims to attract 8,000 workers into the country. The working population of Scotland is projected to drop below three million by 2027 and the scheme is designed primarily to attract students and young people. There are currently 5,000 international students who graduate from Scottish universities every year and with

present visa regulations they have three months, after graduation, before they are required to leave the country. The "Fresh Talent" scheme intentions would give them two years, in which they could settle, work and, hopefully boost the Scottish economy.

However the plan has come under attack from Dominic Grieve, Tory MP in the Scottish Executive and supported by Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow - a well-known opponent of devolution. Grieve said it raised "deep constitution issues".

Although the idea of more flexible immigration policies corresponds with the freedom of movement principal of the EU, McConnell is facing a possible legal challenge to his plans. Experts have warned that the measure breaches the European Convention on Human Rights, because the

same entitlement will be denied to foreign students studying south of the border.

There are also practical concerns: Home Secretary David Blunkett's hard line means that those tempted to stay in Scotland will, after two years, no longer be in the hands of the Scottish Executive, but under the jurisdiction of the less welcoming UK immigration service.

The number of foreign students who will actually take up this offer is questionable, as most openly acknowledge that they are there for academic purposes only and intend to return to their home country. Foreign governments and companies who are sponsoring students will also be expecting returns on their investment, not for the benefit of the Scottish lands.

# Huntington criticised

Afaaf Rajbee and Raihan Alfaradhi

The play on words at a talk entitled, "The Crash of Civilisations? (Or the history of coffee)" did not escape the attention of the amassed crowd outside room D211 a fortnight ago for what turned out to be an insightful and thought-provoking talk. The theme of the talk was to address the question of whether the "war on terror" was actually a "clash of civilisations" as predicted in 1993 by Harvard political scientist Samuel Huntington.

Abdur-Rehman Malik, a Masters student in Social Policy at the LSE, explored Huntington's theory on how civilisations are intrinsically in conflict. Huntington tore the world into three distinct civilisations - the West, Sino and Islamic - with a clash envisaged between them. With this in mind the Islamic Society saw it necessary to open dialogue on the topic as part of Discover Islam Week.

Malik began by disagreeing with the sweeping generalisations of this theory

and said that all people are participants in the daily interactions of society, which provide the lifeblood of any civilisation. Tangentially, Malik confessed to being a passionate "coffee addict", and went on to describe how the coffee we now drink in Starbucks originated in Arabia. For those who missed it, here's a brief summary.

Coffee was first discovered growing wild in Ethiopia around 600 AD. Through Arab traders, coffee beans found their way into Islamic lands where the beans were boiled creating a drink called *qahwa*, (literally, that which prevents sleep). The world's first coffee shop, Kiva Han, opened in Constantinople in 1475 and Turkish law made it legal for a woman to divorce her husband if he failed to provide her with her daily quota of coffee.

In conclusion, Malik warned against the dangers of putting our trust in extremists. He encouraged moderate Muslims to acknowledge themselves as citizens of the west and felt the sooner we move the debate on from a clash of civilisations, to a cultural renewal of society, the better.

# Student exchange

Adrian Li

British students at the LSE have been invited, along with French students at Sciences Po, to take an active role in the Centenary Celebration of the Entente Cordiale, to be held under the patronage of Monsieur Gérard Errera, French Ambassador in London and Sir John Holmes, British Ambassador in Paris. They will be invited to attend several commemorative ceremonies devoted to the Entente Cordiale on April 8th and 9th. This will take place after the state visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II scheduled from the 5th to the 7th of April 2004.

The celebrations for LSE students involved are sponsored by a number of individuals whose contributions will cover the cost of food and accommodation. LSESU General Secretary, Eliot Simmons assured *The Beaver* that efforts are being made to organise free or subsidized travel on Eurostar.

# Brief News

## £1.8bn to universities

Alan Johnson, the Higher Education Secretary, has assured MPs that the estimated £1.8bn which will be generated through top-up fees will go directly to universities. A Liberal Democrat amendment that would, in effect, scrap the controversial tuition fees of up to £3,000 a year was rejected by the standing committee considering the higher education bill. Johnson also rejected claims made by the Liberal Democrats that the additional income from graduates would result in a lower contribution to universities from taxpayers.

Nastaran Tavakoli-Far

## Honourary student nominations open

Every year 20 students are awarded honorary studentships in recognition of the significant contribution they have made to the Students' Union during their time at the School. All registered students are eligible for this award, regardless of their level of study. If you wish to nominate an individual for honorary studentship please collect a nomination form from LSESU Reception. All forms must be returned to LSESU Reception by 5pm on Monday 15th March.

Elliott Simmons

## Harvard reaches out to poorer students

Harvard University announced plans last week to scrap parental contributions from families who earn less than \$40,000, in a bid to attract more low-income students. It will also significantly lower the contribution from those with incomes between \$40,000 and \$60,000. This move was prompted by focus groups with students from low-income backgrounds last autumn, with university officials discovering that the majority were paying some or all of their parental contribution themselves.

Joanna Clarke

## Oxford to privatise?

David Rendel, Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, has claimed that Oxford University could possibly privatise at the end of the decade when the cap on tuition fees is removed. The implications are that Oxford University will then charge students £15,000 or more per year for courses. In response to such claims, Sir Colin Lucas, Oxford's vice-chancellor, told the Times Higher Education Supplement that the proposed cap of £3,000 for fees would ultimately need to be reviewed.

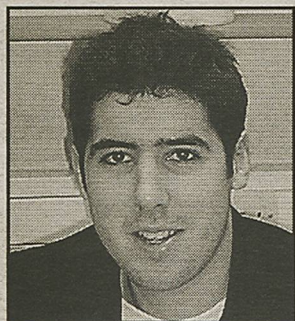
Adrian Li

## Judge Jules returns

Judge Jules, the legendary Radio 1 DJ and LSE alumnus, will be returning to play a special set in aid of Cancer Research UK on Thursday 18th March. The night also features two of the LSE's most promising young talents: Blondie & Billy Gonzalez warming up the crowd. Limited tickets available in advance from SU Reception at only £3 for MBS members/ Gold Card, £5 for non-members. All proceeds go to Cancer Research UK as part of LSESU RAG week.

Jimmy Baker

## General Secretary



<b>Will Macfarlane</b>	<b>815</b>
Omar Srouji	597

## Treasurer



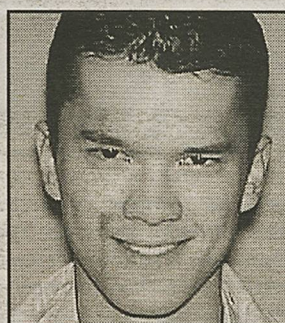
<b>Gareth Carter</b>	<b>739(120)</b>
Jo Kibble	532(56)
Oliver Jelleyman	246(transferred)

## Education and Welfare



<b>Sian Errington</b>	<b>984</b>
Beyzade Beyzade	215

## Communications



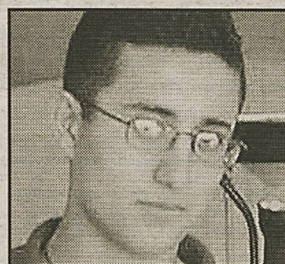
<b>'K' Faizullaev</b>	<b>635(127)</b>
Matt Willgress	627(143)
Chris Heathcote	403(transferred)

## Societies Officer



<b>Angus Jones</b>	<b>577(138)</b>
Nick Spurrell	522(105)
Kevin Chung-Yu Liu	398(transferred)

## Residences Officer



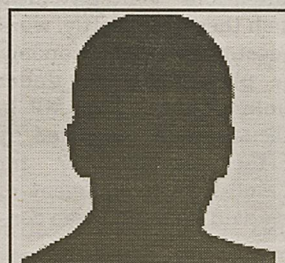
<b>Rishi Madlani</b>	<b>742</b>
James Eyton	546

## Environment &amp; Ethics Officer



<b>Joel Kenrick</b>	<b>706</b>
Louis Haynes	430

## Womens Officer



<b>Alexandra Vincenti</b>	<b>631</b>
Smanatha Nicklin	581

## Anti-Racism Officer



<b>Farhan Islam</b>	<b>706</b>
Alykhan Velshi	377

## International Students Officer



<b>Salah Mattoo</b>	<b>586</b>
Alykhan Velshi	466

## Disabilities Officer



<b>Hazel Mowbray</b>	<b>988</b>
R.O.N.	58

## Returning Officer



<b>Anthony Gilliland</b>	<b>539</b>
Alexander Phua	446

## Finance &amp; Services Committee

Nazir Hussain	239 (1st prefs)
Daniel Freedman	209 (1st prefs)
Nick Spurrell	156 (1st prefs)
Natalya Peysakhodina	143 (1st prefs)

## Constitution &amp; Steering Committee

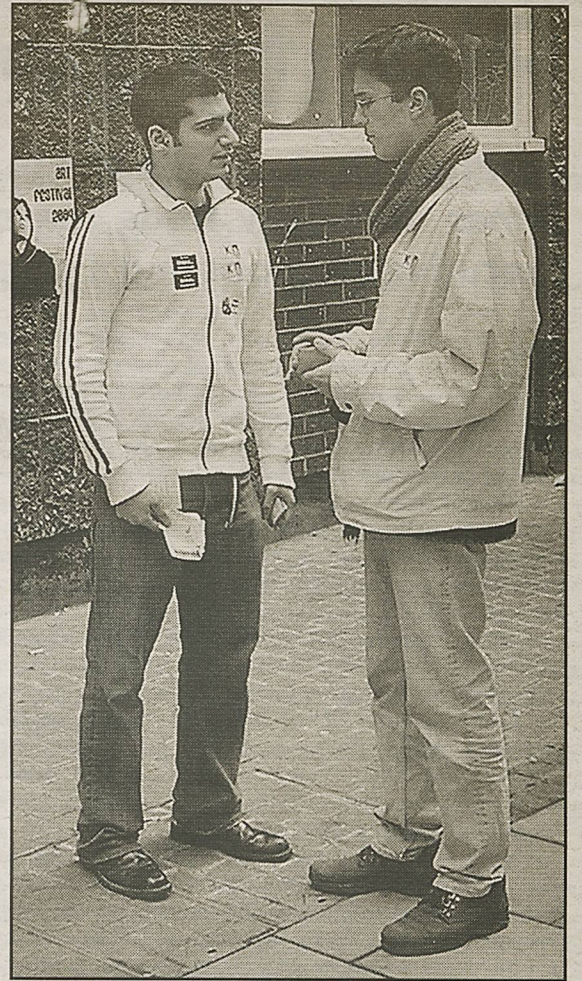
Result to be declared



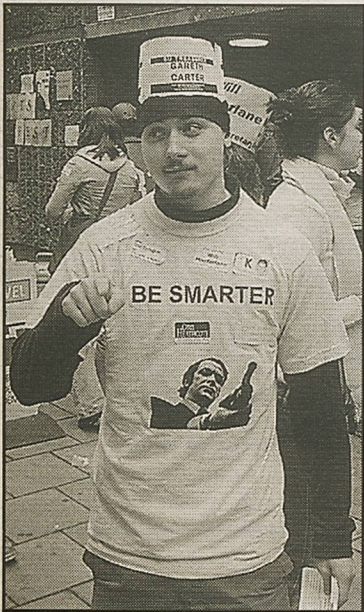
Great communication: the Heathcote campaign was one of the most vibrant and colourful campaigns on Houghton Street.



Kibble on the campaign trail.



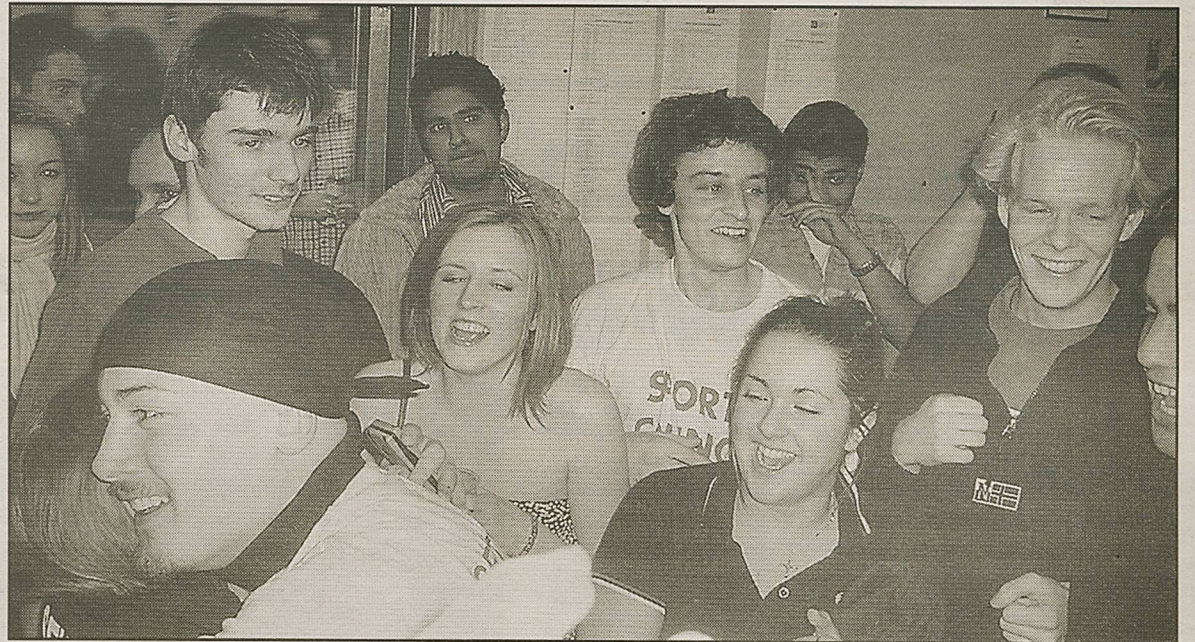
Every vote counts: eventual Communications Sabbatical winner K, drumming up support.



The Union's most photogenic man? Gareth Carter: Treasurer.



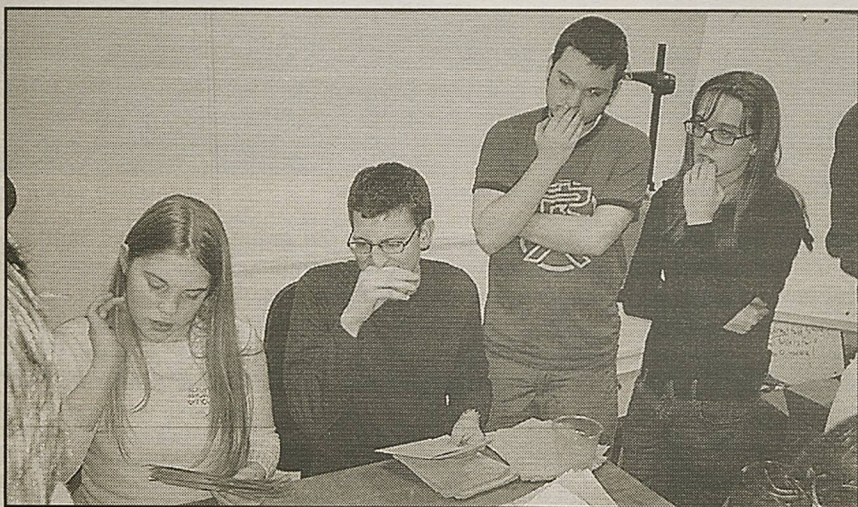
Sharing the triumphs via TV screens in the Tuns...



The moment they Got Carter: jubilant scenes outside the count as the Treasurer result is announced.



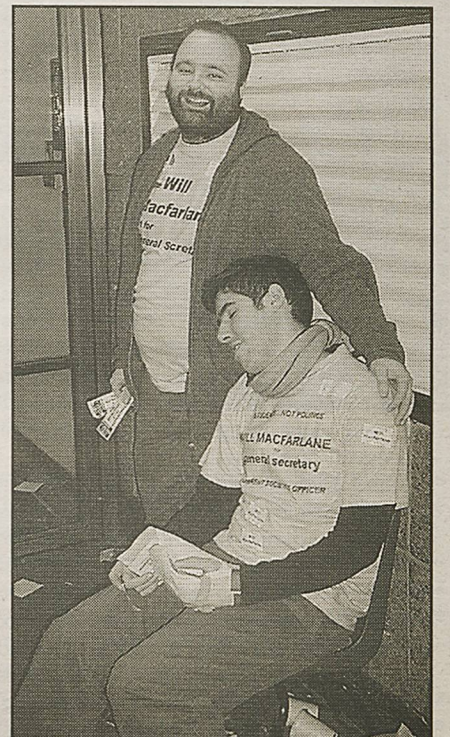
Houghton Street was awash with campaigning as voting took place over the course of Wednesday and Thursday.



Newly elected Education and Welfare Sabbatical Sian Errington looks on with Communications candidate Matt Willgress as tense recounts take place in the closest race of election night.



Defeated Gen Sec candidate Omar Srouji campaigned hard throughout the week.



A long week over: Macfarlane takes a break whilst awaiting victory.

# Plenty Left to shout about

Despite defeats for the Left in three of the four Sabbatical elections, *James Meadway* finds reason for optimism in victories in the Executive elections and a year of widespread student activism.

What stood out this year was the clear engagement of an enormous number of students in Left political activity: from the 700-strong Stop the War meeting at the start of last term, through to the epic 1,200-strong Stop Bush protest, and on to the 500-plus Union meeting that voted overwhelmingly to condemn the construction of Israel's apartheid wall.

The general desire to do something about the misery of the world is great, and is unlikely to be erased by infantile demands to somehow remove "politics" from elections in the most political university in the country.

Clearly, "politics" is much desired: we had an excellent set of results for the Left: with every single position on the part-time Executive Committee now held by progressives, the Left tide only ebbed when it washed against the ingrained conservatism of the sabbatical elections. The Left faces a difficulty in cracking out of single issues - like the war, or the environment - and in creating a credible programme for a broader mass of concerns.

Even so, Sian Errington won the Education and Welfare Sabb, and Matt Willgress came extremely close to grabbing Communications Sabbatical. It was only for General Secretary that a last-minute failure of nerve by several union societies, something of a whispering campaign, and a well-oiled election machine delivered Will Macfarlane to the post by a significant margin.

The Treasurer's election, meanwhile, was a disgusting farce, ruined by the undemocratic practices and absolute

cynicism of the Right. Jo Kibble was an excellent Treasurer, committed to the job but fatally undermined by an orchestrated smear campaign of ridiculous proportions. They trampled all over the democracy of this union, and lied outrageously whilst they did it.

I can confirm that Jo Kibble does not, in fact, devour small children for breakfast, worship Satan - or steal money from the Athletics Union. Jo does have a portrait of Lenin in his room, but frankly I'd rather have a Treasurer with Lenin's picture than Lenin's facial hair. Unfortunately, Gareth Carter is that Treasurer, appointed by a show trial masquerading as an election.

It remains to be seen, of course, just how Carter will remove the Union's deficit, increase the AU's funding, improve the Student Advice Centre, and doubtless also heal the lame and the sick without any increase in actual Union funds, but who knows? Perhaps the "sexist thug" image is a cover for a financial wizard of Soros proportions. All those *Beaver* columns he wrote demanding bricks be hurled at his fellow students, that the present Education and Welfare Sabbatical be "spit-roasted" on stage, and so on, were possibly just a cunning ruse. It certainly fooled a few of us.

Given his past record, his dubious election, and the excessive expectations he has built up, Carter can expect a rough ride. Meanwhile, the Left has a solid base to build on for the next year and a determination it may once have lacked.



The election of Angus Jones was a crucial victory for the Left on election night.

## Onwards the counter-revolution

In the Lent Term elections, students were offered two possible futures for the Union. *Matthew Sinclair* describes how they chose a Union focused upon the needs of students over a campaigning call to arms.

During the Michaelmas elections it appeared that there was an irreversible left-wing drift to the Union. The campaigning union was enjoying its short-lived period of confident expansion and even the most extreme were elected so long as they said their regular prayers at Lenin's tomb.

While the right generally suffers in universities - too many young people - the left tend to take their political leadership from the best in student politics. This is the one arena in which you can be a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist and not be rapidly removed from politics and the mortal plane. Since the Michaelmas term elections the counter-revolution has closed ranks and redoubled its efforts; the big question before the lent term elections was whether this had changed the Union or just its General Meeting.

Elections are over and the new sabbatical team is something remarkable. Has the sabbatical team ever before looked quite so similar to the Conservative endorsement list? Certainly not recently.

It would appear that the unholy alliance of the right-wing, an enthusiastically drunk AU and various apolitical types have formed something of a revival. At the end of the count for the Michaelmas term elections the winners were singing the Internationale; no longer. A combination of AU chants, a stony Uzbekistani smile and endless orange-hatted grins were the response this year. The "apolitical centre" and right-wing had united and proved remarkably successful in all the big races.

Sian Errington's victory was effectively assured once her opposition revealed itself and was unable to maintain even the modicum of sanity required by a student official. This year's comedy campaign meant that political affiliation was put aside to ensure a stable education and welfare officer. The members of the part-time executive are either left-wing in the way Charles Kennedy is left-wing - innocuously - or shady, anonymous types in minor roles.

All of the big fights were won by the new alliance and won well; leftist personalities were excised from the union in the greatest left-wing cull since Stalin got busy with the Red Army. Why?



A rallying-cry to students' concerns? The Left's activism cost it dear in this election.

A lot of the socialist candidates were running on campaigning platforms. Watching officers this year standing on Houghton Street as particularly well paid human billboards led students to vote against harassment. The endless failure of the campaigns meant that advertising your candidate as "the Convenor of the LSESU's Don't Price Students Out Campaign" tainted them as a failure from the off. Finally the campaign against Howard Davies' every move seemed the clearest example possible of putting political ideologies before the interests of students. Students voted against a campaigning union.

Many of the left-wing candidates may have begun to believe that having all the socialist cards in your pocket is enough to win student union elections; that if the left was behind them they needed little else. By contrast, the cen-

trist candidates put in the ground work and built up a solid network of society endorsements that moved their campaigns beyond the confines of the politically active.

What could the consequences of this victory be? Well we'll be paying a different kind of officer's wages this year for a start. There might also be fewer well-paid leafleteers on Houghton Street... possibly.

The consequences for the future are less clear. Those at the political centre do not win elections on their own: this year they made an alliance with the right, last year with the left. That alliance was based upon ties in *The Beaver*, the AU and the right sharing enemies and a willingness of right-wingers to win through proxies. Can this alliance be maintained?

We'll see.



# Let the Beaver roam free

As the rest of the student population looks back on a week of election fever, News Editor *Prashant Rao* contemplates how *Beaver* coverage can best serve students and the democratic process.

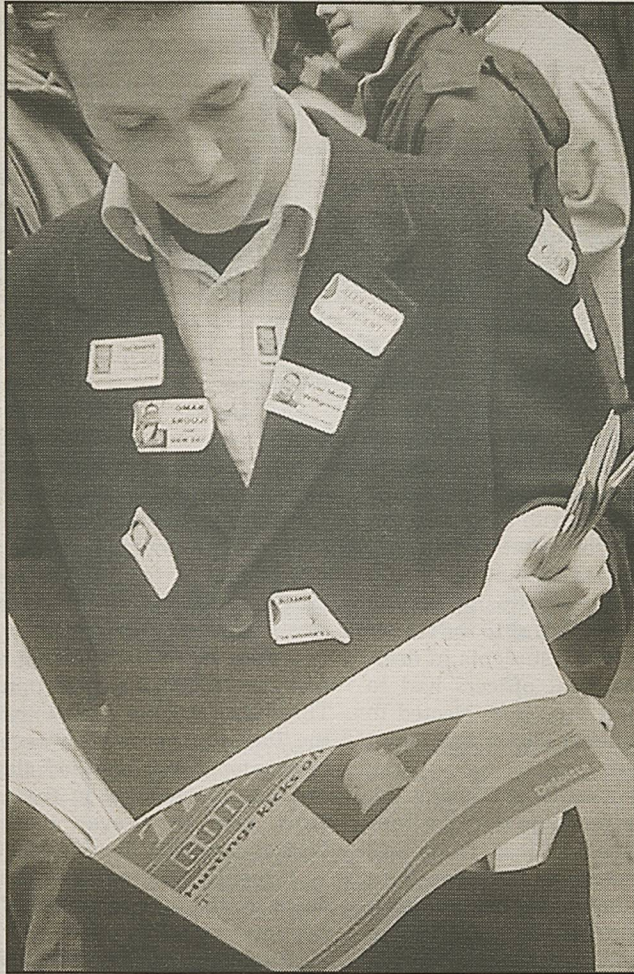
Issue 598 marked the first time that *The Beaver* had ever covered Hustings, and while the response has been mixed, hopefully it will start a trend where *The Beaver* will be given even greater editorial leeway during election season.

Our status as the only publication on campus that comments on student issues - *The Script* isn't student-centric by design and PuLSE is just not popular - means that every reporter who covers Hustings must be incredibly careful while putting their story together.

The issue is not whether all candidates are given equal coverage in the Hustings report - it goes without saying that the General Secretary is the leader of our Union, and the Sabbatical posts are obviously more important than other Executive posts - it is that each candidate in a given election must be given equal coverage as their competitors, and we have to be careful not to express a preference, even implicitly.

This causes a great many problems even if you follow the rules to the letter - several students have come up to *Beaver* reporters asking why, for example, Oliver Jelleyman's campaign got a quote, but Jo Kibble's and Gareth Carter's didn't. Or why the election for Communications Officer got two paragraphs but Education and Welfare only one.

I can't tell you that in a thousand word article, each of the four Sabbatical posts would have gotten equal coverage - that's just not how it works: Chris Heathcote's performance at all three Hustings surprised everyone, including himself, and we felt that warranted coverage; Jo Kibble, like him or not, spurs the greatest reaction from the crowd, and we felt that needed to be told; the General Secretaries exhibited remarkably similar personalities at the first Hustings, something even they acknowledged, and we felt that the Union should know.



To put it simply, we cover what makes the news in a given week, and to say that Hustings was not news would just be ridiculous. How could we not cover them?

Many people read through last week's front page before it was ready to be published, including the current Returning Officer and several parts of the text were vetoed, and anything that looked even remotely like the expression of a preference was taken out at the very last minute.

I'd like to think that *The Beaver* did the Union a great service by reporting on Hustings - ten more people voted this year than last, without the ballot box going to Halls of Residence, and I think we had something to do with that.

Where does that leave *The Beaver* though? Our coverage for this set of elections has been more in-depth than any edition in our history, and hopefully, what lies ahead is only improvement.

That's why we took the decision to print the front-page last week and credit the story to "*The Beaver* team", because it didn't matter who had written it - we had taken a step forward as a Collective, for the good of the Union.

We couldn't just stay put and pretend as though elections weren't going on - perhaps the only thing worse than a bad article is none at all. It is our duty to inform the students that make up the Union on the issues that matter in a given week, and elections were what mattered.

Me? I'm proud of what we accomplished - while parts of *The Beaver* were censored (including the comment section), we took a step forward. I can only hope that during next year's Michaelmas elections, writers will be able to freely express their views, without threat of censorship.

Peter Parker's uncle told him, "With great power comes great responsibility", and we've proved over the past couple weeks that we have both.

# The many makings of a winner

Victorious General Secretary election agent *Aqeel Kadri* reflects on the ingredients of success.

Campaigning for a sabbatical election is a tiring business. Ballot descriptions, policies, posters, flyers, stickers, manifestoes, speeches, t-shirts and endorsements all need work for a good campaign. But the difference between a good campaign and a winning campaign will always be the candidate.

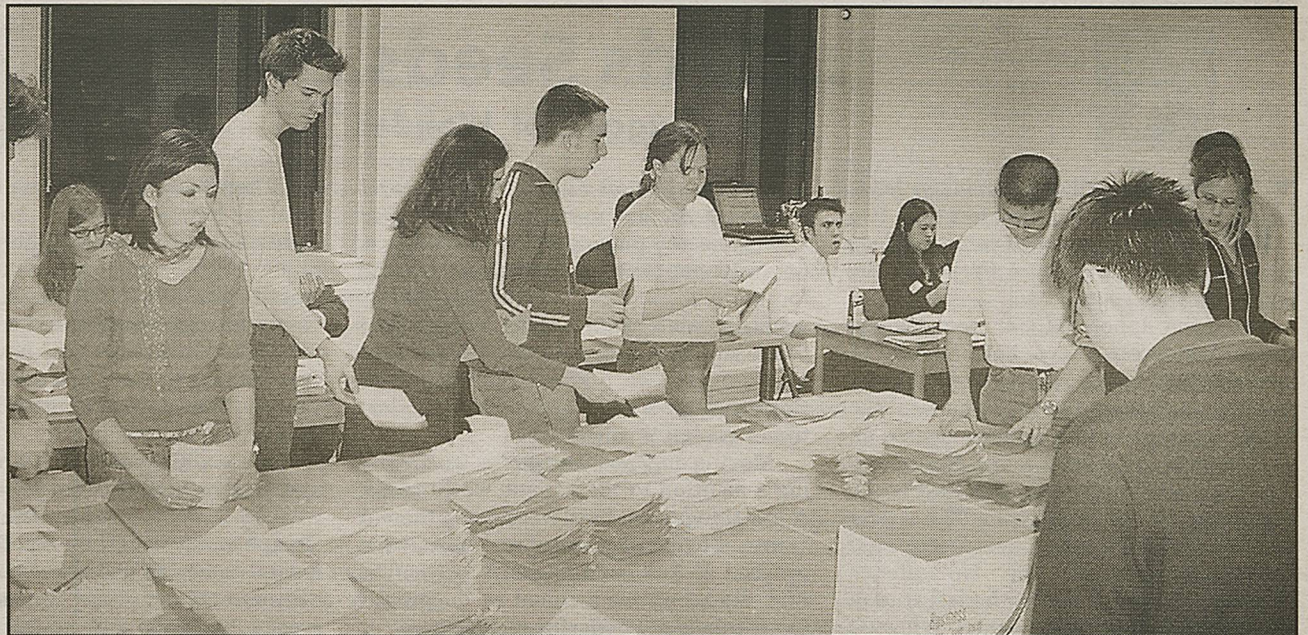
Winning an election requires belief as much as it requires effort; once you've got the belief and the right candidate, the campaigning part is easy. Writing as a winning campaigner obviously influences my judgement on the nature of a good campaign, but I still believe some principles of our successful campaign can be applied generally.

Winning an election is not about appealing to those whose support you know you already enjoy. It is important not to alienate your allies of course, but preaching to the converted is mostly a waste of effort. A broad appeal is required in order to be successful.

A quick look back at recent electoral successes in this union shows that manifestations of hard political views are not the most palatable, particularly in the context of the major positions.

Standing from an apolitical (by which I mean non-partisan) angle does not mean you do not wish to make political decisions or do not have any political views. It is absurd to accuse a candidate of being unable to exercise a political decision because of his non-partisan stance on student issues. A 'political' decision in a students' union is a decision which is taken in the interests of students, not one coloured by personal ideology.

Concentrating a campaign on student issues is the only way to achieve the breadth of appeal required for victory. All campaigns need to be based around four or five main areas; innovation is good but identifying the main issues is more important. We all know what the main concerns of the student body are: accommodation, class sizes, and teaching quality are all high on the list, with a number of other areas worthy of attention.



So many ballots, but getting them to fall right for you is a long, hard, complex business.

Campaigns need to be planned from start to finish, from poster locations to ballot descriptions. The speeches and posters need to identify the core issues and communicate the intentions of the candidate, as does the manifesto.

But most of all, it is about connecting the policies, the face, the name, and the ballot description. T-shirts and stickers are the best methods of distributing the candidate's name as widely as possible, while flyers need to outline policy areas as well in order to clinch the votes of those who don't want to read posters or manifestoes.

Being the first to the best poster sites, having prominent slogans but plenty of policy on the posters, using new posters on polling days to remind people to vote, even

making hats from the leftover paper. All these elements meant the campaign had maximum exposure and therefore the maximum chance of success.

There are of course a great number of other elements that contribute to deciding an election, but a good campaign is crucial to success. Yet this in itself is nothing more than a tool that must be used effectively by a good candidate in order to ensure victory.

A good campaign can take you so far, but no matter how good the speech, or how sharp the slogans, it is in the end the quality of the candidate delivering them that will make the difference between win and lose.



# The Beaver Comment

## Leadership lessons

Another year's elections heralds another new era in the life of the LSE Students' Union. The prospects for the leadership of the Union are largely promising, with on the whole a sound team of Sabbatical Officers due to take office, and a promising executive committee.

Will Macfarlane's tenure as General Secretary is likely to herald a welcome return to leadership to the position, something which has been sorely lacking in the last two years. As Macfarlane himself has said, incumbent Elliot Simmons has done a great many things for this Union whilst in office, however, he has largely failed to make a strong stand and lead the Union on its policy. This he has largely left to Treasurer Jo Kibble, who was seemingly more interested in running the campaign against top-up fees than the nitty gritty of the Union's financial affairs. It is important that sabbatical officers remain within the roles they were elected to perform or, as Kibble found out, they jump into political hot water when they move beyond them.

Khurshid Faizullaev's victory over Matt Willgress in the race for Communications Officer once again highlights the importance of the votes swayed by certain key societies. For all intents and purposes, Faizullaev's campaign was a write off. His appearances at Hustings lacked lustre and his posters and leaflets chronically lacked any compelling reason to urge voters to tick the box in his favour. Compared with the late-comer and promising first year, Faizullaev's campaign was

abysmal. Yet this belied and confounded the back-room deals between his campaign and several key societies that ensured he was guaranteed a certain proportion of the vote, which, although it was close, was just enough to pip favourite Willgress at the post. The problem with this approach is firstly that it is fundamentally undemocratic, in that it appeals to bloc voters who are led to the ballot boxes by the leaders of the society whilst having little idea of what they are actually voting for. The number of voters seen entering the Quad with an email telling them which way to vote was a marked indication of how this vote was being mobilised. However, it is difficult to counter this sort of mobilisation and, although it distorts Union politics somewhat because of low general turn out, trying to prevent it is unfeasible.

The more important problem with appealing to bloc votes is the effect it has on the candidates themselves, who often find they have made conflicting promises to groups with opposing interests. A candidate taking office in such a position will either fail to deliver on the promises they have made, or be restricted by them so much that they become impotent to exercise any sort of leadership or judgement because to do so would be to risk causing offence to the support base of the officer, which relies on a fragile coalition of inoffensiveness. Whilst the society vote may seem like the holy grail in winning elections, it quite often becomes the poison chalice of office.

## International affairs

The fees increase at International Hall is typical of the plight facing universities around the country. The University of London is particularly acutely hit because its constituent colleges, of which LSE is one, are usually the recipients of large blocks of funding rather than the federal structure itself.

The University has proven itself to be consistently poor at managing its halls of residence which have long been drastically inferior to LSE run halls as well as other college's accommodation. This is partly due to the funding problem, but the administrative structure that devolves too much power to individuals halls' bursarial teams unnecessarily doubles up on administrative tasks and eliminates the potential of sav-

ing of economies of scale.

Nigel Sellars, President of International Hall Club raises some legitimate criticisms of the process by which the decision was made to increase fees in the hall. It seems that little attention has been paid to exploring alternatives and fighting to prevent an increase which seems to have been accepted by the administration as inevitable. It also remains why Intercollegiate halls have moved to longer and more expensive sessional contracts when colleges like LSE have managed to retain term based contracts in halls like Rosebery, and deliver a profit for the hall, because the administration is effective at leasing rooms out over vacation periods to private groups.



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Thank you for Tracy Alloway's enlightening, fair and entertaining article on Crush in last week's issue.

As the promoter, DJ and Union Officer responsible for Crush I would like to clarify a few points.

Ms Alloway says that Crush has a "sex, drugs and pop character." While I am sure that this was just a turn of phrase, I want to make it clear that the Union has a zero tolerance policy on drugs.

For years the Union has done its best to combat drug use on its premises. On Union nights anyone found with drugs on their person is immediately ejected from the building.

While it would be naive of me to suggest that no drugs are ever taken on Union premises, I firmly believe that we do not have a problem with drugs at Crush nor do I feel that drugs are in any way, shape or form part of the character of the night.

I'm glad that Ms Alloway enjoyed Crush and I hope to see her there again soon!

Much love,

Jimmy Baker  
LSESU Entertainments Officer

P.S. Many thanks to the Beaver team for their support and extensive, accurate and enjoyable coverage of RAG Week.

Dear Sir,

While I was delighted to see the Tuns (if not football pitch) ruling 5th Team formally introduced to your readers last week, I was disappointed that the author, Mr Drew "Pink Lady" Soffler, the artist formerly known as American Psycho, failed to explain the reasons for any of the nicknames we have become known

by. I would like to take this opportunity to fill this gap with the greatest brevity possible (some are more obvious than others):

Captain Commie - he's the Captain, and he's a communist.

DJ Dom - his initials are DJ. Despite having "safe hands" he has never been allowed near a set of decks in his life for fear he will destroy them like he does most expensive things.

Gus - Looks uncannily, spookily, unnaturally, seperated-at-birthly like Gus off Eastenders, aka actor Mohammed George.

Big Ben - his name's Ben, he's pretty big.

Gazelle - runs like a deer trying to escape a predator i.e. fast but graceless.

Pink Lady - only drinks Pink Lady. At £1.49 for a champagne-style bottle of sparkling alcoholic pear juice, it is probably the finest of the Matthew Clark Brands products.

Moks - a misspelling of Mohs on his drill-top that stuck.

Freddy - His surname's West and he killed loads of people in his home. He didn't really.

Not-Gay Ben - His name's Ben and he's gay. Hmmm, a bit counter-intuitive that one.

Shandyman - Suggested we go for a shandy at The Berrylands after a game. Awful.

Beavan - My middle name is Beavan. Often referred to as The Beave.

Samadeus - His first name is Sam, his middle name is Amadeus (he's Polish). You see what we've done there?

Minibus - it's about bloody time he bought a minibus to drive us around the place because he doesn't drink.

Irf - like Moks, only he wanted Irf. Silly buggers, both of them.

Dirt - he's just dirty, literally and metaphorically.

I hope this answers the questions that will have been preventing all Beaver readers doing anything at all productive all week as they try to work out the origins of these names by themselves.

Beavan Symonds

Sirs,

It is with growing distress, and a tinge of annoyance, that I learn of Jo Kibble Esq.'s attempts to turn the Three Tuns into a "poncey wine bar", to quote last week's Paddy's Piece. The Treasurer's decision to increase his sabbatical salary by several thousand pounds this year may afford him the luxury of drinking in wine bars; but for ordinary fee-paying students, the Three Tuns represents one of the most affordable opportunities to get plastered on the cheap.

If I want a lavish wine bar, I'll join our distinguished Treasurer on his house-boat or in one of the finer Kingsway establishments; but the Tuns, the warp and woof our LSE education, must not be "refurbished" beyond recognition.

Save our Tuns.

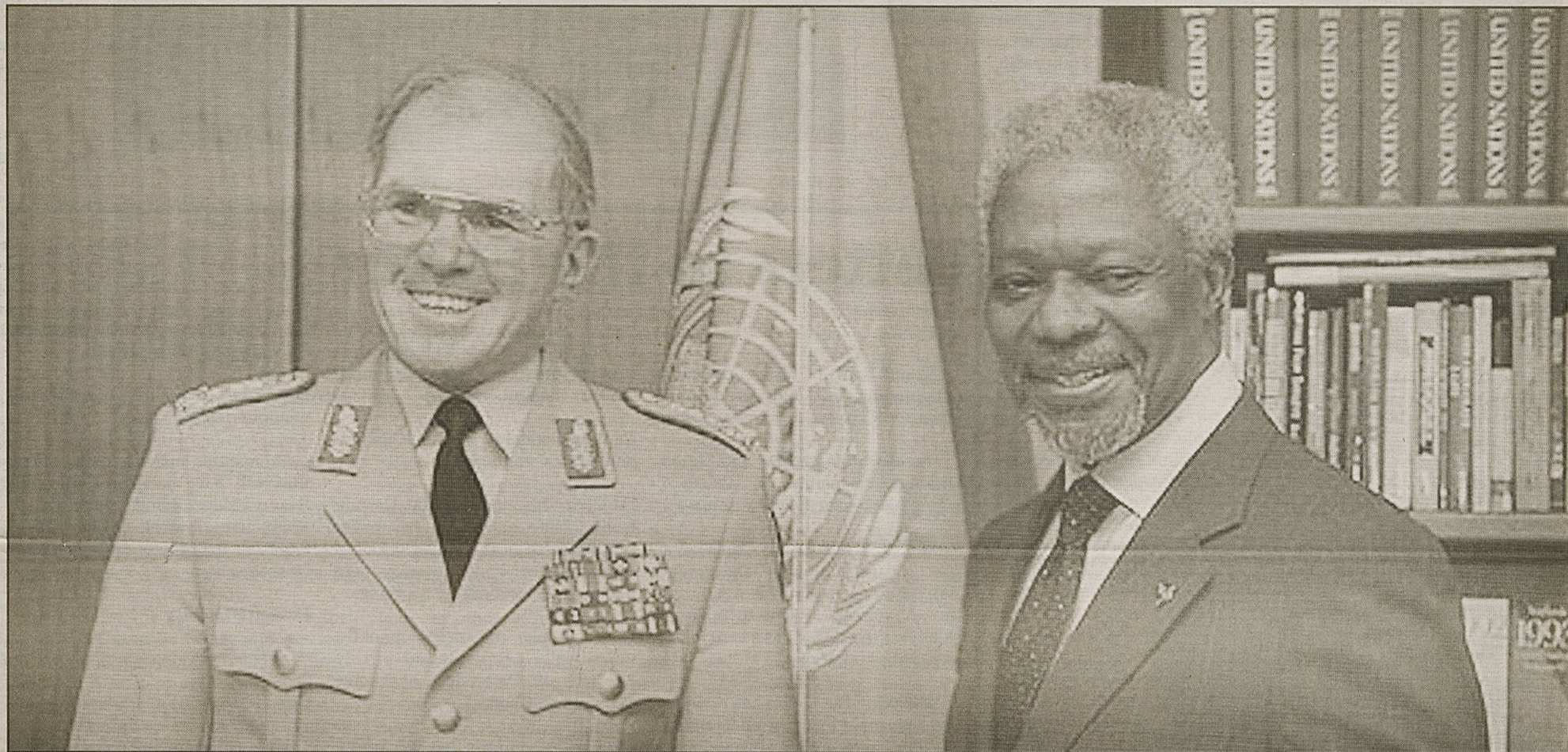
Yours,

Alykhan Velshi

### Clarification

The Beaver would like to clarify a misunderstanding relating to 'Bidding for blokes (and charity)' - Issue 598. We identified the organiser as Kati Krause when in fact she was ably assisted by **Desislava Popova**.

# If we ran the world, it wouldn't be a better place



Could students do better than these people?

## Adrian Li

Last weekend, about 340 students from universities and secondary schools attended the London International Model United Nations at the LSE. They formed delegations representing 75 countries.

First of all, an explanation of what happens at Model UN conferences is in order. Participants are delegates of countries they represent and they have to behave in character as actual diplomats or Foreign Service officers of these countries would. This requires participants to go through a crash course on that country's foreign policy and do research on the position of the country they are representing on the various issues to be debated at the conference. I would suppose it would be like studying for an IR300 Foreign Policy Analysis exam, which I have to take next year.

What happened over the conference was that on the first day, the delegates milled around in the Old Theatre, trying to lobby other delegates on the same UN committee to get resolutions drafted and garner support from ones' obvious allies. For example, the delegates representing countries in the G77 and Non-Aligned Movement would be in one corner trying to form a large voting bloc and the Europeans would be in another corner trying to do the same. Then there was the opening ceremony where each country delegation would give an opening speech, some of them par-

odying or being a caricature of national stereotypes. The second day, delegates would meet at committee level to draft and pass resolutions that would on the third day be voted upon in the General Assembly of this Model UN conference.

I was representing the Russian Federation on the UN Disarmament and International Security Committee. We ended up discussing general and complete nuclear disarmament. My initial reaction to this being on the agenda was that I was going to have an easy time, since I thought there was no way Russia, in the real world, was going to sponsor or table a resolution calling for a complete nuclear disarmament. I did however sign up to a resolution that called for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to be applied provisionally even though it has not been ratified, which is possible under Article 25 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. I felt Russia would have done the same since it has already ratified the CNTBT and it would make use of this opportunity to implicitly condemn the United States for not having done so.

However, what happened was that a simple resolution calling for the provisional application of the CNTBT was hijacked by 47 amendments being put forward to it. These ranged from a failed amendment that tried to affirm every state's legal right to possess and use nuclear weapons as a form of self defense to a successful amendment that appealed to states possessing nuclear weapons to unilaterally disarm to

**'We may have the inbriddled idealism of youth and the feeling that our generation is going to change the world. International politics tempers such idealism.'**

set a 'moral example' to the rest of the world. From a resolution that originally had only 10 operative clauses, we ended up with a resolution that had 21 operative clauses and a further 10 sub-clauses. It had moved away from its original attempt at limiting nuclear proliferation to trying to bring nuclear disarmament to South Asia, get the UN hold multi-party talks to determine the number of nuclear warheads that is sufficient for deterrent purposes and to monitor trade in nuclear technology.

While it sounded idealistic and reasonable to the man on the street, this resolution was not passed in the General Assembly. All the permanent members of the Security Council voted against it and with other states possessing nuclear weapons managed, together with the incessant lobbying by the North Korean delegation at this conference (who hailed from Oxford University) to gather enough

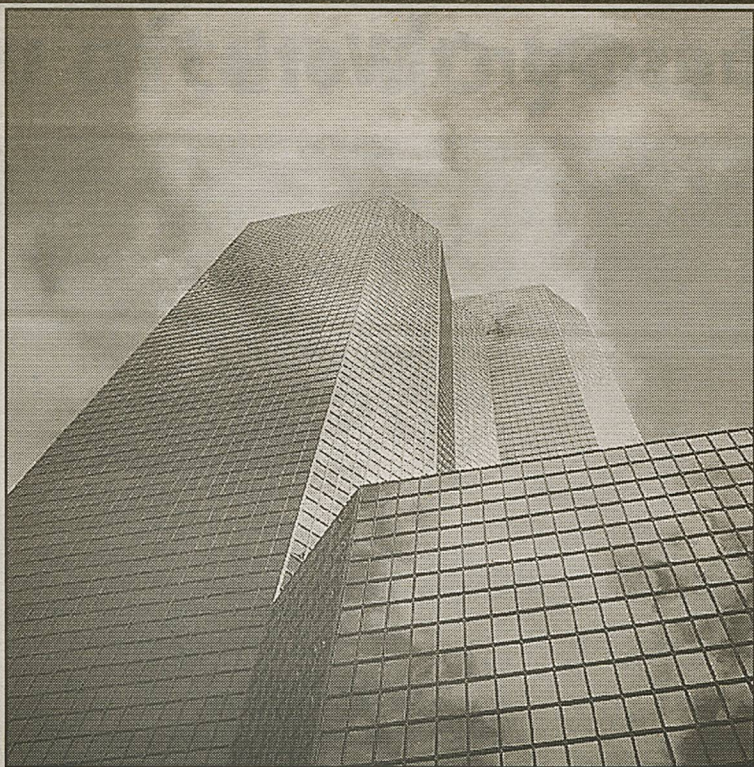
votes to ensure the resolution could not garner the two thirds majority it needed to pass in the General Assembly.

A resolution that did get passed was about peacekeeping which called made the acceptance by warring parties of UN peacekeepers mandatory. If this was passed in the real world, this meant that the UN would have to seek the permission of all warlords in civil wars before it could intervene. In another separate development, a special session for the ICJ was convened for this conference where participants had to argue the case that is currently in progress concerning the legality of the wall/security fence in the West Bank. The decision was that the wall/security fence was illegal, although I wasn't sure if the participating judges for this simulation of the ICJ even ruled on the admissibility of such a case or if they themselves could hear it.

As a whole, what this conference shows is that we may have the unbridled idealism of youth and the feeling that our generation is going to change the world. However, once we get into the system of international politics, perhaps such idealism is tempered. It did fulfill its purpose of increasing awareness of global issues. While we may not have 'solved' the world's problems at this conference, we did become more aware of the intricacies and magnitude of them.

*Adrian Li is a 1st Year International Relations and History student.*

Politics



Total Headquarters, Paris

James Meadway

In 2001, LSE Students' Union became one of the first in the country to pass policy disinvesting from Burma. LSESU would no longer deal with companies investing in Burma, and would no longer allow its own funds to be invested in such firms. A former LSE student, Rachel Goldwyn, had earlier hit the international headlines when she was arrested in Burma for a pro-democracy protest. We assumed, at the time, that the excesses of the Burmese regime were so clear, and the case for investment in Burma so weak that this measure would cause little controversy. After immense international pressure, very few companies will now deal with the Burmese regime. The French oil and gas multinational, TotalFinaElf, is one of the few that remain, but that LSE's Director would invest his time with the firm by becoming a director beggars belief. No-one at this School should wish for LSE to be associated in any way with Total or its record in Burma.

The country has suffered its current dictatorship - a military junta known as Slorc, or SPDC - since 1988. Nobel Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, and her party, the National Democratic League (NDL), were returned as the government in the last free elections to be held there following mass protests led by students. The ruling dictatorship, however, refused to cede power, despite the NDL's landslide victory in achieving 83% of the popular vote. Suu Kyi herself has issued a direct call to end foreign investment in Burma: "We now endorse the idea of international sanctions because we have come to the conclusion that investments in Burma have not in any way helped the people in general nor has it helped the cause of democracy."

Under pressure, most large concerns have now followed this call, recently including ExxonMobil. However, so significant are Total's operations in Burma that Suu Kyi has described the firm as the "best support" of the dictatorship. The reason is simple. All foreign investments in Burma must be made through a joint venture with the regime. The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) is a notorious money launderer, a conduit for cash earned by the junta in the heroin trade; in July 1992, Total signed a thirty-year "Production Sharing Contract" with MOGE for exploiting the Yadana gas field, granting MOGE a 15% share in pipeline revenues. This currently earns the military regime at least \$200m a year. MOGE retains no independ-

**'The country has suffered its current dictatorship - a military junta known as Slorc.'**

ence from the military junta: all its financial decisions must receive the approval of the Finance Ministry, whilst the Petroleum Ministry has negotiated directly on behalf of MOGE with Western multinationals. MOGE is essentially an arm of the dictatorship. The \$1.2bn Yadana pipeline runs for 63km inside Burma, transporting 525m cubic feet of natural gas daily into Thailand. After initial surveys, construction work on the pipeline ran from 1995 to 1998.

The pipeline region became the most militarized in the whole of Burma. Sixteen infantry battalions - including battalions 282 and 273, nicknamed the "Total Battalions" - and two navy battalions were stationed in villages along the pipeline corridor. Between 6,000 and 10,000 soldiers were mobilized at any one time. The military oversaw the use of forced labour from the surrounding population: forced portering was (and is) common, with locals compelled to transport munitions and supplies. Beatings and deaths at the hands of the military are widely reported. Human minesweepers were used on a regular basis, sent at gunpoint to clear minefields planted by opposition forces. Forcible relocations of villagers along the pipeline route began prior to Total signing the contract, under the guise of "pacification": between 1991 and 1996, documentary evidence suggests some 30,000 villagers were forcibly relocated. This is likely to understate the scale of the issue, with many relocations unreported.

A 1998 Commission of Inquiry by the United Nations' International Labour Organization (ILO) released a report revealing the pervasive nature of forced labour in Burma, which is often accompanied by other severe abuses. Since then, the ILO has effectively expelled Burma and has issued an unprecedented resolution calling for all ILO members to review their relations with Burma to ensure they are not contributing to the widespread system of forced labour in the country. TotalFinaElf offers assorted apologetics on

# On Total Fina Elf

Total Fina Elf's investment in Burma should be opposed... along with the LSE's current director's assumption of a place on its board.

its website, but its operations have essentially contributed to the most serious abusive practices. A few examples should suffice.

Eyewitnesses report the use of forced labour to construct Total's offices along the pipeline, whilst during the third pipeline route survey at Kyaukponsaken, near Nat Ei Taung, Light Infantry Battalions (LIBs) 404, 405, 410 and Infantry Battalion 104 provided security for Total personnel. To transport the rations for the troops providing security 500-600 forced porters were taken. Total is aware of such abuses: in an attempt to lessen the use of forced labour on its project, Total has paid some forced labourers after they were forcibly recruited, although many had their 'wages' stolen by soldiers. Total also offered compensation to some people whose land had been confiscated in YeByu township to make way for the gas pipeline, but, after the money was paid, LIB 408 returned to the farmers, forcibly extracting half the compensation. All this is documented by eyewitnesses, and many more examples can be given.

According to one report, "In September 1996 a satellite communications system was built for Total by Future ENG (Singapore). It later emerged that Slorc/SPDC troops providing security for the pipeline have been using this system to communicate with navy fleets 401 and 402. Total directly contributed to the suppression of the local population by provision of communications equipment to the soldiers."

TotalFinaElf's current operations in Burma - quite apart from the shocking abuses they have already led to - materially contribute to the maintenance of a despotic military regime. Burma is in dire straits financially: treated as an international pariah, and deprived of revenues, the government is close to collapse. Multinationals like TotalFinaElf that maintain their operations in Burma provide Slorc/SPDC with a lifeline: their "best support". Removing TotalFinaElf's \$400m a year support for the dictatorship is our best means to fight for democracy there; yet Sir Howard Davies, if he accepts the Total directorship, is doing precisely the opposite. His position will do nothing to alter TotalFinaElf's miserable record; it is far more likely provide a veneer of respectability to their existing operations. We, as LSE students, should do everything we can to pressure the Director into not taking the post.

*James Meadway is a Postgraduate Economic History student and current LSESU Postgraduate Student's officer.*

## Musings

Europe... at what cost?

Matthew Sinclair  
blink Editor

Plans have been unveiled for the European Central Bank's brand new headquarters. In preparation for new entrant nations straining the thinking power of the bank that brought us "Dim Wim" their staff will also be swelling to fifteen hundred.

The new "vertical city" will cost one hundred million pounds, around sixty-seven thousand per member of staff and provide some much needed glamour for that mess of a currency.

This cost is significant but reasonable by comparison with other such projects such as the Scottish Parliament, at over four hundred and thirty million, but is vulnerable to the spectacular over runs that have been a part of a great many of the great new building projects under taken recently.

An example of just how large these cost overruns can be, one need only look at Bechtel's (of rebuilding Iraq fame) work on Boston's Big Dig. Costs on that project doubled from their initial cost to a staggering fourteen billion dollars... a lot of money and a mess of a city for a great many years.

Agencies of the European Union have a fairly poor record of the open and accountable bureaucracy that will be required to maintain such a project. Eurostat's records were largely destroyed by the time auditors got to them, terribly Enron from a state agency, but enough is known to paint a sorry picture of "black account"; slush funds.

These are thought to exist in other areas of European Union. Mr Muis, an account formerly of Ernst & Young, recently resigned in protest at the lack of proper procedure for monitoring where the European Union's money winds up.

Not since Jacques Chirac's funny money has a state so thoroughly failed to deal with evidence of huge great piles of cash ending up where they're really not supposed to be.

Enron was an example of a lot of carelessness and a little recklessness as a small group connived to prevent evidence of corporate failure becoming public knowledge and a, much larger, group failed to put the effort in to prevent such an abuse. Once the fraud had been committed there was an attempt at a cover-up.

There was, however, little fraud in the old fashioned sense of actually stealing money. European bureaucracy is something else.

Another comparison for the European commission is our own fine university. The LSE's bold estates plan, announced a few weeks ago in this very paper, comes in at one hundred and ten million.

Any new LSE estate will serve over five times as many people as work at the ECB and will only cost a fraction more but the modest scale of the plans is a stark contrast to any "palace in [the] sky" like that reported in the Sunday Times newspaper.

The LSE is faced with the massive costs of any work done in London. This is apparently a cost that billionaires are willing to bear... and I'm with them... who wants to live in Frankfurt?

## Broadly Left The Terrorist Umbrella

Tracy Alloway  
blink Columnist

In case you don't notice, this column has fallen into new clutches, mwaaa-haha. Matt (blink Editor) tells me I can use it to disseminate my political opinions to an unsuspecting LSE public...hehe...Let's begin.

Those of you who've been following the news like good little LSE students, will know of the rebellion in Haiti. Interestingly enough, before his "departure" Haitian President Aristide labeled the rebels "terrorists."

Now call me crazy, but lately there seems to be a whole lot of terrorist-branding going around. In addition to Aristide, Zimbabwean President Mugabe labeled foreign journalists, and the USA, the biggest terrorist-labeler of them all, has accused not just groups in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and Indonesia, but also the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (in connection with Palestinian terrorists).

It seems "terrorist" has become a label more prevalent and panic-inducing than "communist" in 1950's America. To make matters worse, the word terrorism, unlike communism, has remained, perhaps purposely, undefined and vague. Without any concrete definition, what's to stop governments from using the label for ulterior motives?

Take America for instance. War against both Afghanistan and Iraq was sparked off by accusations of terrorists within the countries' respective borders. Indeed, Bush has explicitly stated "if you harbor a terrorist ... you're just as guilty as the terrorists." But terrorists are, by their very nature, difficult to pinpoint. Has the US written itself a carte blanche to interfere in the name of the "War Against Terror"?

The US may have had ulterior motives in these Middle-East interventions, though what these could have been other than a bid for regional hegemony, is beyond me. If anyone doubts this line of thought, there's plenty of evidence to suggest terrorism might not have been the real cause for America's "War on Terror" (Ironic, no?).

Blair has said "...there was no way we could have got the public consent to have suddenly launched a campaign on Afghanistan but for what happened on 9/11" (Times, July 17 2002). And, the CIA never proved Iraq possessed terrorist connections (or WMD's haha).

If you want to look at a contrasting example, take America's relations with Saudi Arabia. Fifteen of the total nineteen 9/11 hijackers obtained their visas from Saudi Arabia, but the US has yet to label Saudi Arabia a "terrorist" nation. Why?

The point in all this is that while Aristide and Mugabe calling rebels and journalists "terrorists" might be laughable, the term can and probably will be manipulated for more dubious purposes. In other words, when political difficulties start raining down, expect more and more governments to reach for the terrorist umbrella.

## Politics

# The Drugs Don't Work

Prohibition is not preventing drug use but is making the consequences for society of drug use far more severe.

Chris Pope

One hundred and fifty years ago, Karl Marx derided the idea of "bourgeois rights". He supposed that the freedom to choose how to live one's life was the concern only of a privileged capitalist class. The fate of the rest was pre-determined by their social position. Today, as we look back on the horrors of the twentieth century, we know just how much liberty matters for us all. Yet many politicians still believe that true liberty is beyond some people, and that government could choose better on their behalf. It is on this basis that the political class has decided to prevent the trading and consumption of drugs, which it deems to be harmful.

Just as socialists once believed that society could gain more prosperity from force than freedom, so many conservatives now see coercion as the path to virtue. It is therefore particularly shocking that some of the most enthusiastic prosecutors of the "war on drugs" are people who elsewhere demonstrated how well-meaning initiatives, which attempted to contrive social improvement by restricting individual responsibility, caused more problems than they solved. Yet, using the apparatus of the state to shape virtue is a bit like using a lawnmower to get a haircut.

The effect of outlawing recreational drugs is clear: it forces people who want them to pay money to criminals. Whereas an open market returns profit to those who provide the best product for a particular service, drug gangs are forced to adopt other techniques to eliminate the competition. Violence, street warfare and gang shootings are not collateral damage of drug prohibition, they are a fundamental requirement of a system where buyers and sellers cannot use courts to arbitrate disputes. Every year, ten thousand homicides occur in the USA from drug feuds alone (equivalent to the loss of American lives from twenty Iraq-wars per year, every year).

With prices pushed up by prohibition, heroin addicts are pushed to crime to fund the inflated cost of their habits. As prisons become overcrowded, dangerous offenders are often set free early. Not that prison is a particularly good place for them. Even secure units are rife with drugs, testament to the sheer futility of government attempts to fight the laws of supply and demand. Where there's a willing buyer and seller, the market will always provide sufficient incentives for people to formulate ingenious ways to circumvent controls. In the 1980s, government controls meant that the supply of cocaine was hit for a brief moment, dealers were forced to devise new short-cuts. The result was crack cocaine.

When politicians promise more resources to crack down on this menace, they act like the alcoholic who swigs at scotch to cure his hangover. Things are just made worse. With the global drugs trade worth £150bn per year (almost five times the total UK military spending), professional drug cartels are now better funded than the police. This madness does not, however, stop at the water's edge. The U.S.



Score... let the drugs flow.

**'Just as socialists once believed that society could gain more prosperity from force than freedom, so many conservatives now see coercion as the path to virtue.'**

government's inability to enforce its own laws has launched it into an interminable war in Colombia, fighting the very same gangs whose funding prohibition guarantees. Through Bolivia, Peru and Myanmar, the trail of poverty, destruction and civil war follows America's attempts to exterminate cocaine and heroin. What hope do people have in a country where the most powerful people are criminals, and drug money props up barbaric regimes? In Afghanistan, our reconstruction policy consists of waging war on the only industry that is likely to provide a decent living for anyone. How can we guarantee funding to Colombian narco-terrorists, and then complain when they ally with the IRA?

Before World War I drugs were not regulated at all. Huge corporations like Bayer then produced heroin, but there was no reason for them to push it to schoolchildren, as black-market dealers do now. Getting kids hooked on heroin is not a good strategy when you need to account to the stock market. If multinationals were to enter a legalised market for drugs, firms would probably spend billions on research and development to refine healthier new products, and would be very keen to advertise any potential side-effects in order to avoid the sort of lawsuits that tobacco companies are currently facing.

It is true that addicted drinkers bring misery to themselves and their families, but making criminals the only source for their booze made the situation worse, not better. The 1930s alcohol prohibition brought the most horrific surge in drink-related crime and illness in history, as the trade was forced underground. We are repeating the same insanity with recreational drugs. If the quality of drugs is poor, or even dangerous, there's no one to

complain to, and no court will help you out. If you are hooked, you have no choice of supplier. The AIDS epidemic spread frighteningly as needles were obtained from the same dodgy sources as heroin. Many more people have died through the attempt to prohibit drugs, than overdosing on the drugs themselves.

Prohibitionists argue that their actions make us more moral. But, if anything, drug prohibition trashes habits of personal responsibility and respect for the law. There is no point in commending people for virtue if they do not act virtuously by choice. Statist nannying breeds the mindset that you need not worry about society, because "the government can take care of that". When did innocent citizens forfeit their rights to choose their path, for good or bad? Either people are animalistic pleasure/pain devices, or choice is of essential value, itself. Millions take drugs without becoming addicted. Just because some people react badly to drugs doesn't justify a relentless assault on the rest of society. So long as we do not allow each to live at the expense of others, people should be free to choose.

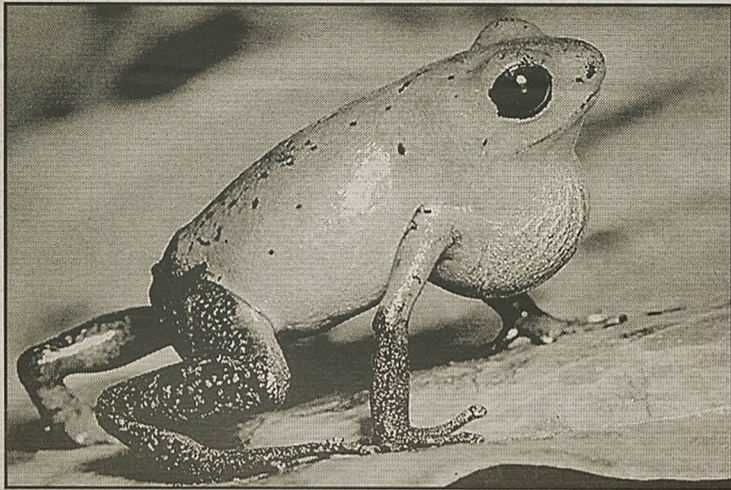
Though persuasion and example offer no immediate utopia, they are far more effective in curing the scars of drugs, than forcing others to live in our image. We make far better choices when we bear the consequences of our actions, and take the bill for them, than when we decide for others. If the bad effects of drugs don't deter people from using them, then neither will legal threats. The heroin junkie is hardly going to think, "Oh, well, if Anne Widdecombe thinks this isn't a good idea, then maybe I'll give up..." or simply refrain from consumption from an unwillingness to steal to fund the higher prices. Sniffing glue is legal, far cheaper than most drugs, and yet you don't find Bostik in every nightclub toilet. Ultimately, drug warriors assume that the only reason that we're not all high on heroin is because illegality pushes the price beyond our reach. As a breed, such politicians share a common feature: extraordinary belief in their own omnipotent infallibility, combined with outright contempt for the capacities of the rest of us.

Tony Blair remembers to appear Tough On Crime. How about being tough on the causes of crime?

*Chris Pope is a third year Government and Economics student.*

Politics

# How often do you think about the Environment?



Look after the environment... it keeps frogs safe.

Julie Strilesky

**H**ow often do you think about the environment? Is it merely a passing thought every month or do you think about it when you board a plane, turn on a light or have a shower?

If the general consensus amongst the leading environmental experts regarding global warming is correct then we may have to drastically alter our lifestyles to avoid consequences more dire than we wish to envision. Such a change would require a paradigm shift in how we think and interact with our surroundings. George Monbiot elucidates this idea in "Sleep Walking to Extinction" by discussing our failure to grasp the reality of climate change. He attributes it to our semi-consciousness, which generalises the moment we live in and projects it on to the future. As a society, we do not seem to grasp the threat. This may be changing.

The reality is that we have infinite consumption patterns on a finite planet. The hundreds of thousands of tons of garbage that we produce every year does not just disappear. Perhaps we should all conduct an experiment by pretending that the world is the size of our bedroom. We could all keep garbage in our rooms for a few weeks to make us comprehend that we live in a finite space and that we have created a refuse-infested habitat for ourselves.

Unfortunately waste is not the most serious problem. Fossil fuels - oil, coal and gas - provide the world with most of its energy. Burning these fuels is the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions and the main cause of global warming. Transportation is one of the largest contributors to CO2 emissions. If you were to start up a car in an enclosed space, within a few minutes the emissions would kill you. Yet, everyday of our lives we inhale those toxic fumes. With an estimated 700 million cars on the planet and the number growing, there is little doubt about where we are heading. At this rate the global temperature is set to rise 3-4 oC by 2100 according to some conservative estimates, causing a rise in sea levels of 66 centimetres and the disruption of the world's climate. The low-lying Maldive islands in the Indian Ocean would disappear entirely. In 1992, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that a cut of 60-80% in human-generated emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is needed to stabilize the world's climate.

The US is responsible for one quarter of carbon dioxide emissions, yet they publicly denied the existence of global warming.

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

However, a new report conducted by the Pentagon declares that climate change is a US national security concern that eclipses the threat of terrorism. They describe a world of global warfare based on access to diminishing natural resources essential for survival that could begin in the next twenty years. As the Observer highlights, Bush's refusal to acknowledge this crisis points to the government's collusion with oil and energy companies who have a vested interest in maintaining current spending patterns. For example, the Exxon Mobil dynasty paid forty-one million to lobby congress against Kyoto. Whatever the debates and ambiguities surrounding the environmental debate, and it does seem they are converging, there is an urgent call for action.

As David Suzuki illustrates, our planet is a living, breathing entity that has no means to defend itself. There is no separation between humans and the environment: what we inflict on the planet, we absorb in every fibre of our bodies. This is not radical environmentalism; this is blatant scientific fact. What poignant irony that we are imposing it on ourselves. Yet many continue to argue that we cannot halt capitalist expansion due to job loss or lagging competitiveness in the global economy. There should be some means of distributing the consequences of environmental protection throughout society so those whose livelihoods depend on the natural resources do not bear them alone.

What else is global warming doing to the planet at the moment? This is a highly contentious question, yet scientists offer erudite answers. In the developing world entire economies are based on coral. In 1982-83, 70-95% of the corals in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and the Galápagos Islands died because of bleaching caused by the warm waters brought by El Niño. The coral bleaching of 1998 was the most geographically extensive and severe in recorded history. The Philippines

Improvements in the prospects for the environment will require a new realisation of the consequences that follow from continuing down our current path.

has already been blamed for fisheries losses totalling more than \$80 million per year and the elimination of 127,000 jobs. The reefs provide one-quarter of the fish catch in developing countries and employment for millions of fishers. Millions could starve if the coral continues to die.

Half of the earth's forests are gone and each year at least another 16 million hectares of natural forest is razed. The world's forests now lose more carbon to the atmosphere than they absorb, which is a recent, frightening shift.

One obvious signal that something unprecedented is happening to our ecosystem is occurring in the far north. Permafrost degradation is taking place underneath the earth's surface. Scientists have detected a 40% reduction in the average thickness of Arctic ice over the past 40 years; at the current rate of warming, the Arctic could be ice-free in summer by mid-century, which could severely affect the flow of the Gulf Stream and the climate of northern Europe. In Alaska, entire sections of coastline are breaking off and falling into the sea, as the ice, which has kept cliffs solid for centuries, begins to melt. The total area of Arctic sea ice is diminishing rapidly: satellite data shows an area one and a half times the size of Wales is lost every year.

The list is endless and bleak.

Thankfully we have conservative environmentalists to cast doubt on our fears about global warming when we do not want to hear it. In the face of all the problems it does seem overwhelming and futile to take action. However, the technology does exist today to stop and reverse many of these harmful tendencies. There are already countless projects taking place such as the Beddington Zero Energy housing development in Sutton, Kent, which aims to be the first carbon neutral community. Recent developments reveal how far there is to go. For instance, less than 5% of the world's small-scale hydropower potential has been tapped so far.

The question remains, how long will we continue this unsustainable, selfish, destructive way of life? What do we say to the future generations who will have to suffer the consequences of our mistakes? Is it the best we can do to say we are sorry-sorry that we did not do more, or in many cases, that we did nothing at all.

Perhaps, more than ever, now should be a time for optimism. There is a vast potential that could be tapped. Out of sheer necessity we may be on the cusp of a fundamental transformation in the reorganization of human society that could be marked in history as the environmental shift. Now is the time for imagination and possibility.

*Julie Strilesky is a Postgraduate student at the Development Studies Institute.*

## Smite 'n' Spite



Axis of Convenience

Alykhan Velshi  
blink Columnist

**A**fter adjusting oneself to the rank odour whiffing through a typical anti-war protest, one cannot help but notice the tactical alliance formed between Leftist and Islamist groups.

That Islamist groups have allied themselves with Leftists, most of whom deny the very existence of God, provides a glimpse at the inherent contradictions in this coalition.

But the cracks run much deeper and are already tearing the partnership apart. Issues which the Left considers sacred - sexual libertinism, the treatment of women, and animal rights, to name but a few - are deeply unpopular with traditionalist Islamic groups.

Spit-roasting notwithstanding, the Left has generally been open to all forms of non-heterosexual intercourse. At the vanguard of everything from gay marriages to gay bishops to gay slogans, the Left holds homosexuality in the same reverence as Lenin; our outgoing Treasurer's idea of a "great leader". Most Islamist states are less receptive to gaiety, instead treating homosexuals the same way they treat women: badly.

The stoning of Amina Lawal in Nigeria, punished for falling afoul of a dogmatic interpretation of Sharia law, exposed the tensions between Leftists, who, like most sane people, were appalled, and Islamists, who weren't.

The extent to which Leftists and Islamists try to reconcile their conflicting ideologies at times borders on the absurd. At an LSE lecture on Islamic headscarves, a member of the panel claimed that "mandatory headscarf laws actually liberate women", prompting a whispered response from my companion for the evening: "I bet they beat their wives because they love them too."

Even the most basic tenets of Islam have been fodder for the Left's hoity-toity indignation. The preparation of Halal meat, ritually slaughtered according to Islamic guidelines, has raised the ire of Leftists.

Animal-rights groups have decried the slaughtering process, which involves slicing the animal's throat to drain its blood, as cruel and inhumane; this reached a précis in Italy recently, where a pack of Leftists attempted to blockade a shipment of Halal beef. Liberate that.

Whilst there are many things that divide Islamofascists and soap-dodgers, they nonetheless share a deep-rooted mistrust of America. The American idea - a combination of rugged individualism, self-reliance, prudence and robust materialism - is disparaged as vulgar and crude.

This axis of convenience has accordingly become the chief obstacle to the War on Terror. However it is an unstable beast threatened by internecine conflicts. Exposing these contradictions wherever they arise is the first step; revelling in the self-destruction the last.

## International

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

TWO BLINK WRITERS CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF DR. AB

# Does Pakistan Deserve Nuclear Weapons?

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan selling nuclear secrets has raised some important questions over whether new nuclear nations can keep nuclear power from rogue states and terrorists.

**Kanan Dhru**

It is not very easy to believe that countries like Libya and North Korea now possess nuclear weapons. It is shocking to learn that money can weaken your morals to such a great extent that you fail to think about the welfare of thousands of innocent people all over the world. It is not easy to make the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharaff, cry.

When one of Pakistan's top scientists, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan confessed that he distributed nuclear technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya, shudders of terror passed all around the world.

Dr A Q Khan was the pioneer of Pakistani nuclear programme and his work helped Pakistan to be world's seventh nuclear power. According to Military spokesmen of Pakistan, Major General Shaukat Sultan, Dr. Khan had been given unlimited powers and sometimes even the president was unaware as to what Khan was doing outside his work to develop Pakistan's nuclear programme. Dr Khan has attracted US suspicion that he was leaking nuclear secrets since a long time. It was finally in January 2004, that they had sufficient proof against him to remove him from his position, unceremoniously. The CIA spokesman said that pardon was granted for what Dr Khan had confessed but if they found out about Dr Khan's involvement in any more proliferation activity, the pardon would be withdrawn.

Lets just think of a simple analogy. It is a well-known fact that the doctors are not supposed to disclose any information about the medical history of their patients. Letting slip any such information is likely to pose a threat to the patient's right to privacy. The breach by the doctor is not only considered morally wrong but also severely punishable under law. Going by this analogy, what kind of punishment should the law offer for proliferating the nuclear weapons since it threatens the existence of thousands of innocent individuals?

This event proved how our security system has failed to ensure the safety of the citizens and how security is ultimately lost in the rat race of attaining more and more of it! It has kept us all thinking about how far morality of the professionals indulging in such sensitive issues is required? How

should the world deal with such criminals who put the safety of the whole world at a stake? In his confession Dr. Khan offered his "deepest regrets" and "unqualified apologies" to the nation for his involvement in "unauthorised" proliferation activities. It is rather strange to notice that by using the words like 'unauthorised' and 'unqualified', Dr. Khan accepts that he was aware of the fact that he was going against the moral and professional standards. Also that he was aware of the consequences as to what would have happened if either North Korea or Libya had actually attacked some country with the information that he passed on to them. It is shocking even to think as to how many innocent people would melt in the extreme heat of radiation if the nuclear powers were exercised by any of these countries, for how many decades people would be born with physical and mental incapacities, how many hours it would take to destroy everything created by human kind over so many centuries.

Currently every single country would like to possess nuclear weapons in order to safeguard its security. Countries that possess such weapons indirectly encourage other countries to have their own nuclear weapons by showing off the power obtained from these weapons. The neutral stand taken by the International Court of Justice and other central agencies, on the use of nuclear weapons makes it even more difficult to control the production of these weapons of mass destruction.

However, do the developing nations like India, Pakistan, Libya, North Korea etc., who have been increasingly spending their revenues on nuclear weapons have proper security and resources to handle with so much of power? Should there be a criteria for security required to prevent weapons falling into the wrong hands if countries are to be allowed nuclear power? Should morality be one of the criteria?

The present case of Dr. Khan is not very



If nuclear security is not improved the consequences could be truly horrifying.

**'It is not easy to make the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharaff, cry.'**

**'In the past two years the world has seen two wars on the basis of nothing but national security and the protection of the national interest.'**

rare. All of us are aware that it is not difficult for people with power and access to networks to obtain any kind of information. It is very unfortunate that when the truth comes out in such events, the damage has already been done. The classic example the September 11 atrocity which posed big questions about the honesty of even the top security agencies; history has borne witness to so many such incidences. The tradition of having spies in order to uncover the confidential information of the opponents has been practiced since time immemorial. The people who knowingly or unknowingly leak information have always existed and will continue to exist. It should not come as a big surprise to us when someone confesses to giving out unauthorised information today.

So why has this issue become so important?

The threat it poses to mankind is severe for a variety of reasons. It is a known fact that the world has changed post 9/11 and how the issues concerning national security have become more sensitive. There seems to be a lot of tension in terms of defence and security of the citizens. In the past two years, the world has seen two wars on the basis of nothing but national security and the protection of the national interest. In these circumstances, it looks most inappropriate if a person of Dr. Khan's stature and wisdom takes such a step consciously. How do we justify his actions? How do we address the issues of professional ethics and morality? How can we grant pardon to him?

On the other hand, there is no legal evidence to prove what really happened, why Dr. Khan leaked the information and whether the act was a political one or not. The opinion of some Pakistanis has been summarised in a recent letter to the Pakistan News Service, which reads: "... Previous Pakistani regimes did not indulge in any nuclear weapons proliferation, but they did acquire and develop nuclear capability and missile technologies to defend Pakistan. Dr A. Q. Khan is merely taking the blame in order to protect the Pakistani nation from malicious propaganda of the anti-Pakistan media. Dr. Khan, we salute you."

Only time will tell us the whole story of Dr. Khan's dabble in nuclear proliferation. In the meanwhile, the issue may soon be forgotten without making much impact. But this event has done significant damage. It has presented threat against the maintenance and preservation of nuclear weapons in today's times... among today's moral standards. Does a society containing people such as Dr. Khan deserve nuclear weapons?

*Kanan Dhru is a 1st Year Law student.*



International

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

DUL QADEER KHAN'S LEAKING OF PAKISTANI NUCLEAR SECRETS



Star Wars would be well worth the cost and was one of Reagan's many fine ideas.

Daniel Freedman

Citizens of the world's democracies have a right to feel aggrieved with their governments right now. The one area in which the entire political spectrum in a free society--from libertarian to socialist--agree that the government has a duty to act, is in ensuring the safety of its' population. But as details of errant Pakistani nuclear scientist Adbul Qadeer Khan's proliferation network continues to unravel, and the threat that a rogue state or terrorist group will acquire a nuclear weapon is closer to becoming a reality, people are more at risk than ever before. Even the head of the UN body responsible for preventing nuclear proliferation--effectively admitting his organization's failure--recently warned that we could be heading towards nuclear destruction.

Bureaucracies faced with undeniable evidence of their own failure rarely act honourably and admit their own shortcomings. Instead they prefer to blame others for restrictions on their actions and demand more power as the solution. UN agencies are without question the rule rather than the exception in the shifting-the-blame-game, and unsurprisingly that same UN gentleman has demanded that his International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the treaty it enforces--the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)--is given more power. But since the irony of the NPT is that it allows countries to acquire proliferation-enabling technology if they allow IAEA inspections--allowing countries such as Iran and North Korea to manipulate the system to build their programs--any increase in the IAEA's remit is only likely to result in a more sophisticated watching of the proliferation.

Even if the NPT is reformed to stop handing out nuclear know-how to would-be proliferators, it will only at best provide a false sense of security. A guard dog with re-enforced steel teeth that still has the

same muzzle covering its' face--in this case, the United Nations Security Council--still has no bite. The need for unanimity on the UNSC for any action to be taken, puts the odds of Iran ever facing punishment on par with those of one of her mullahs being considered as the next Pope.

Alternatives to the NPT, such as the American-led Preventative Security Initiative (PSI)--which involves intercepting proliferation on land, sea, and air--no matter how successful, as the PSI has been, will always be limited. It can't stop a team of scientists, such as Mr. Khan and co., secretly travelling to a country to help build a weapon. And following the successful nuclear blackmail of the west by Kim Jong Il, other dictators are eagerly seeking a nuclear arsenal to guarantee we will be too afraid to ever act against them.

Yet--and highly disturbing that this day has come--a kleptomaniac with a nuke isn't even our greatest threat. The possibility that Al Qaeda will either build a weapon, or hijack someone else's, can no longer be discounted. Against the Soviet Union and similar dictatorships, the knowledge that America would destroy them if they ever launched a missile--known as "Mutually assured destruction" (MAD)--served as an effective deterrent. However irrational Marxist's theories are, they still value life. But as we learnt from 9-11, Al Qaeda and their ilk delight in a "MAD" scenario, eagerly anticipating their promised virgins.

Our leaders do, however, have an alternative to the horrifying prospect of watching helplessly as Al Qaeda fires a missile at one of our cities. Just as Libya's turnaround and co-operation was not a result of a UN-led prayer group meeting on love and co-existence, rather a fire and brimstone sermon of "with us or against us" from U.S. President George W. Bush, with the brimstone evident in Iraq; once again a U.S.-led non-UN path is needed. The solution lies in a vision dreamt by former

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'However irrational Marxist's theories are, they still value life. But as we learnt from 9-11, Al Qaeda and their ilk delight in a "MAD" scenario, eagerly anticipating their promised virgins.'

President Ronald Reagan nearly 21 years ago.

In his famous "Star Wars" address of 1983, President Reagan outlined a future with a high-tech shield of space-based sensors and lasers protecting America--and possibly her allies--from any missiles. The past few years have seen some advances towards that goal, such as the success of the U.S. Army's Space and Missile Defence Command, together with Israel's Ministry of Defence, in developing a laser weapon called the Tactical High Energy Laser (THEL) that can detect and

# Give Us Reagan's Dream

Nuclear proliferation to dangerous states poses a threat to the international community's security and survival. All should support a defence system of the kind first proposed by President Reagan as the best method of safeguarding our future.

destroy Katyusha rockets fired in succession. But progress has not been fast enough, since not enough investment and support has been forthcoming from politicians since President Reagan left office.

The immense projected cost of such a project has always been the main rallying cry of its opponents. It is true that it will cost billions of dollars, but politicians must answer the question President Reagan asked in that famous speech: "isn't it worth every investment necessary to free the world from the threat of nuclear war? We know it is." We do.

Other nations could ease the U.S.'s financial burden by paying to be protected by the shield. Which country in the world could justify to its citizens not joining the shield and remaining vulnerable to a madman's attack. Even former adversaries such as Russia could be invited to join the shield, as they too now fear the threat Al Qaeda poses. Once the shield covers all countries, spending fortunes to acquire nuclear weapons would be a pointless exercise. And no country in the world--certainly not terrorists or third world dictators--could afford an arms race with the U.S. to try and breach the shield's technology. Diplomacy too would be more effective, as the U.S. could threaten a hostile state with removing the shield's protection if it continued to endanger others.

It was a mistake to abandon President Reagan's dream and put our safety in the hands of UN treaties. Thankfully it isn't yet too late, and if we pour serious investment into the project, the shield can one day soon become a reality. If there is the chance that we can achieve a nuclear-free world, without compromising our safety in the meantime, what price isn't worth that dream?

Daniel Freedman is a 2nd Year Government and History student.

# The Regressive Dilemma

Proponents of the New Right see it as impossible to combine social diversity and social unity but fail to notice multicultural diversity enriching the culture that it inhabits and refreshing it to face new challenges.

Samuel Jones

Social diversity is irreconcilable with the ideals of social unity. So concludes David Goodhart, journalist and compère of new right politics par excellence, in his essay *Discomfort of Strangers*, published this February. It is a troubling conclusion to reach and is indicative of a growing political orthodoxy - David Blunkett's recent proposals to curb the welfare provisions available to immigrants perhaps being the rather blunt end of Goodhart's 'Discomfort'. The welfare state, Goodhart contends, is a project based upon mutual understanding and aid within a society, the cohesion of which is dependent upon a strong sense of social unity. 'Diversity', he argues 'undermines part of the moral consensus on which a large welfare state rests.' Such is the 'progressive dilemma' of left wing cultural and social liberalism. Goodhart's point, of course, ultimately boils down to an 'I'm alright Jack' conservatism, witness - 'why should the welfare state support people who do not share the same values as its contributors?' Is such a point valid? Should we have to provide for those 'different' to ourselves?

Fundamentally, Goodhart's logic is flawed from the outset - barely concealing an undercurrent of tepid prejudices. Much is made, by Goodhart and by political commentators today of Britain's 'shared values' - a notion as trite as it is dangerously elitist. To suggest that we, the 'British' contributors to the welfare state share some concrete and nourishing set of absolute principles and values is laughable. Culturally such a concept is a misnomer. For a start it is ridiculous to suggest there has ever been such a thing as a solely 'British' culture. Albeit a cliché, I cite the fact that more people enjoy curry than they do cricket. What masquerades as a British culture is about as British as - well, um - St. George (of Palestine) and Lizzie Windsor (of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha). What, I ask, are these 'shared values' so necessary to the maintenance of a welfare state? In my mind the few shared values that do exist between Britain's already ethnically diverse population are precisely the values that keep our society together. The 'shared values' we do have are those of tolerance and multiculturalism. The 'values' Goodhart speaks of are precisely the divisive and intolerant forces that are undermining our social unity. They are the values of privilege and of wealth. Values tempered with ethnic, cultural and nationalistic prejudices. What are these 'shared values' but shared prejudices? Either way, count me out; these are certainly not values I wish to share. And even if they are based upon such a nebulous concept as 'British culture', it is farcical to suggest that such a concept can be frozen and made absolute - preserved for eternity in vacuum packaged cool Britannia form.

Goodhart's community of 'shared values' works out to be little more than a community of selfish individuals - each participating for gain. I am reminded of that utopian society of 'families and individuals' espoused by the hopelessly altruistic baroness Thatcher - a society that shared only the value of its own selfishness. At least Thatcher made the claim with a little more élan and a little more openly than the candyfloss posturing of Britain's 'new con-



St. George and his flag are a symbol of England, he was Palestinian.

servatives'. A society of 'shared values', no matter who is a member, is a society of exclusivity. In Goodhart's own words members of this oh-so mystical society ask themselves 'who is my brother, with whom do I share mutual obligations?' Well, for a start, dear reader, you share values with your fellow man. Whether, of course, you choose to share them with Thatcher and Goodhart is up to you.

Crucially, it is precisely through diversity that multiculturalism should be celebrated as a feasible social ideal. A welfare state is maintainable in a diverse society. Diversity - that which Goodhart sees as so destabilising - is actually the salvation of the multicultural welfare state. Unity can and must be achieved through the principles of respect, tolerance and equality - we will never achieve unity along the lines of cultural and moral consensus and exclusivity. Diversity is a far stronger social principle on which to ground a social welfare system than proto-racist nationalism. The challenge for any modern society and indeed any multicultural society is to adapt and assimilate cultural changes - to embrace a plurality of values and moralities in an increasingly globalised world. It is a challenge we will fail in if we adhere to the regressive belief that we can maintain and uphold a separate, distinct and regimented culture of our own. All that is required is recognition of the shared values in diversity - without letting issues of wealth, race, ethnicity or culture get in the way. Possible? Or are our lives all to 'nasty, brutish and short' to contain a shred of altruism? Of course it's possible - Possible when we abandon theories of monocultural protectionism and embrace cultural

**'The 'values' Goodhart speaks of are precisely the divisive and intolerant forces that are undermining our social unity. They are the values of privilege and of wealth. Values tempered with ethnic, cultural and nationalistic prejudices. What are these 'shared values' but shared prejudices?'**

diversity.

Perhaps this is a conjecture that needs a healthy dose of realpolitik? In the end, after all, the question amounts to our willingness to kowtow to the difficulties of

unrestricted immigration. Can we allow for an open and diverse society through immigration? The solution touted by New Labour's apparatchiks comes in the form of 'citizenship' - codifying allegiance and 'shared values' to British society in return for welfare provision. Earlier this month sixteen immigrants swore an oath of loyalty to Crown and Country; part of the new initiative. But this is no true solution. Whilst it indeed acknowledges the need of the immigrant to partake in a social contract - a contract with a multicultural welfare state - it asks no such allegiance from existing citizens. We may well ask of immigrants' duties to us and our society, but what of our duties to immigrants and to multiculturalism?

Society is changing. It has always changed. It is the task of modern societies to adapt and assimilate such changes - to keep apace with globalisation and control it rather than fall victim to its destabilising wake. Diversity must be embraced. The only thing that will come from creating an exclusive society of 'shared values' is a new elitism built on discrimination and judgement. Multiculturalism will never succeed if we do not show a willingness to reach out to our fellow man. Britain's role must be clear - we should strive for a diverse and open society - the cost of which will not be the loss of our welfare system or our unity - but the loss of our prejudices and inequalities. What stands in the way is intolerance and selfishness - 'Progressive dilemma' this is not - This is the regressive dilemma.

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# B:art

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## B:music

edited by Jazmin Burgess and Neil Garrett

### FROM AUTUMN TO ASHES

**JAZMIN BURGESS and AMELIA HUTCHISON** has the misfortune of hanging out with Long Island's most obnoxious hardcore band...

You can't really fault From Autumn to Ashes on the basis of their two kick ass releases 'The Fiction We Live' and 'Too Bad You're Beautiful'. However, they seem to be a perfect example of the fact that music isn't necessarily a reflection of the musician. Because when we caught up with them on the afternoon of their sold out Garage date, we couldn't really have asked for more obnoxious interviewees - what with one being off his face on Xanax (guitarist Scott Gross), another too busy playing with his phone to participate in the interview (bassist Mike Pilato) and the other too preoccupied with his apparent hatred of England and an obsession with having sex with his girlfriend (guitarist Brian Deneve). So, if you think you've ever read a ridiculous interview, well you ain't seen nothing yet...

**So, how's the tour been going so far?**

Scott Gross: What tour?? This one?

**Err.. the one you're on now?!**

S.G: It's a good one. Manchester.

Brian Deneve: Manchester was awesome.

S.G: Got in a fight...

B.D: Manchester

S.G: Manchester.

B.D: Manchester. That was a good time. Got escorted out of the bar...

B.D (to S.G) : You look very studious right now. Or very gay.

S.G: (to us) I'm so pissed off right now. London gets me so angry. This kid just broke my american adapter to European adapter so now I can't charge my ipod. But carry on..

**Okay then. How did you guys end up signing to Vagrant then?**

S.G: Oh well, you see we used to like to go to Island Def Jam Building because it was really big and really high, ritzy and New York City and we felt like we were really important people. But the whole time we had no intention of signing to them whatsoever.

B.D: We just liked walking in and looking at the register, and seeing like Mariah Carey...DMX... so pretty much we were faking it...we did it for a couple of free dinners and lots of drinks

**So, how do you feel you fit into the Vagrant roster? Because you're the first hardcore band they've signed..**

S.G: What?? I can't understand. You've got a nice accent going on there.

B.D: I understood! She said do we feel we fit into the roster okay?!

S.G: Who gives a shit.

**Okay, what are the bands plans for the foreseeable future?**

S.G: Oh god I don't even want to talk about it.

**Right. Well moving on then... As a hardcore band that sound very different from everyone else how would you personally describe your sound?**

S.G: Well I think we sound a lot like Iron Butterfly.

B.D: Yeah, with some Miami Sound Machine mixed in... but without Gloria Estefan... and maybe Huey Lewis and the News.

S.G: And Rammstein. And I hear Eric Clapton in us. Are you familiar with BB King?

B.D: What do you think of Barry Manilow?

**Well I like Copacabana...**

B.D: How can you not like Mandy?!?!

S.G: (points to fruit machine) Can you win money out of that machine?

**Yeah it's like a slot machine...**

S.G: Alright.

**What have been your records of 2003?**

S.G: 50 Cent

B.D: 50 Cent.

S.G: Ummm... 50 Cent

B.D: That's pretty much all that matters... oh and the G-Unit record.

S.G: As long as it's rap.

B.D: As long as there's no guitars in it.Or real drums. I can't stand that shit.

**So, do you find that you tend to listen to music that's nothing like what you produce.**

S.G: Correct. You hit that one right on the... whatever... the nail... the head... but that sounds kinda. Haha how old are you??

**Um, Twenty One..**

S.G: Oh okay that's cool! you can listen to that then...

**(laughs)Okay then. So, what up and coming band from the US would you recommend to a UK audience?**

B.D: 50 Cent.

S.G: You know what? None. Actually, no. Let's talk about Brand New as up and coming...

B.D: Taking Back Sunday... hmm... they're a good little band that people are gonna start hearing about soon... That Blink 182 they've got some good things going on... they might be really big someday.

S.G: You know what my favourite new band comes from over here...Him..

**They're not from here. They're from Finland.**

S.G: Whatever. It's all the same. That's like saying you're from America - there's 50 odd states there... I like them a lot...

**So, coming from Long Island, how are you finding all the press attention on the scene?**

B.D: On Long Island?

S.G: All I heard was 'women'

B.D: I don't think she said women at all.

S.G: What did she say?

B.D: She said that there are a lot of bands on Long Island that are getting attention right now.

S.G: We don't get any attention

B.D: No-one likes us.

S.G: Here's the proportions, the amount of people who like us here, like tonight's gig is 500 people, they (Brand New and Taking Back Sunday) would come here and play to 1500 people. It's the same in America where we might play to 1000 people, they'll play to 3000. But whatever they're better than us anyway.

**Well, I only have one question, so I'm sure you'll all be relieved... if someone was to make a film about FATA who would you get to play each of you?**

S.G: Ron Jeremy... You know what, put Ron Jeremy in because I want to get porn in this interview. But on my serious choice I'd chose Edward Norton.

B.D: You can't have him! He's too short!

S.G: That doesn't matter this is not realistic - this is a hypothetical question!! Girls like him...

B.D: I'll chose Tom Cruise then...

S.G: HE'S TOO SHORT!

B.D: Sean Connery..

S.G: HE'S EIGHTY! You'll die soon...

B.D: I don't care! I'm gonna die soon anyway... End the interview on that - okay?!



## IF YOU ONLY HEAR TEN MORE BANDS BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR..

Seeing as we all love Top 5 lists so much, we thought there be no better way to sign of as B:Music editors than to leave you with those bands you NEED to be listening to for the rest of the year. You know what they say.. there's absolutely nothing wrong with leaving a legacy..

### JAZMIN'S TOP FIVE

1) **HOT ROD CIRCUIT** - Having already released three totally kick ass, note perfect post-hardcore albums, one of the most underrated bands around look set to blow everyone's ears away with their fourth outing on the mighty Vagrant records at the end of the year. Trust me, I may not have heard it yet but it's doubtless gonna be one of the albums of the year..



2) **MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK** - If you haven't heard MCS brilliant debut 'I Am The Movie' yet then you most definitely need to. Because the mere fact that not only is it filled with the best moog induced emo-pop songs you're likely to hear but also has brilliant tongue in cheek references to great things we've all forgotten about such as CKone, high fives and breakdancing means that Epitaph's finest are a band that deserve nothing more than the utmost respect..

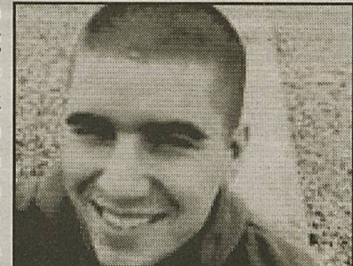
3) **STRAYLIGHT RUN** - Featuring John Nolan of ex-Taking Back Sunday fame, Straylight Run are probably one of the most complete and musically accomplished bands around. with songs that sound like a more hyperactive but yet equally beautiful version of The Shins or Modest Mouse. If piano rock is the genre of 2004 then Straylight Run are already miles ahead of the rest...

4) **BOYS NIGHT OUT** - If anyone else is slightly suspicious of the fact that Funeral For A Friend are actually a bunch of frauds who are doing what American bands have been for the last five years, then you need to hear BNO's second album 'Make Yourself Sick. Why? Put simply, because they've perfected the whole melodic hardcore/singalong-shoutalong thing in a way that FFAF wish they could..

5) **FALL OUT BOY** - With brilliant song titles such as 'Chicago is so two years ago' and 'Homesick at Space camp'. There's no way that you can't feel just a little bit of love towards Fall Out Boy. What's more, their debut album 'Take This To Your Grave' is not only perfectly crafted pop-punk that it's actually credible to like but it'll give you an unrestrainable urge to get moshing all summer. And at the end of the day, there's nothing wrong with that..

### NEIL'S TOP FIVE

1) **QUANTIC** - Will Holland began his days as a youth at Brighton music college. He left, claiming the course was too difficult and resolved to become a plumber. Thank the Lordy though he kept up music production as a hobby. Legendry Brighton label Tru-thoughts listened, he was signed and the world is a better place for it. Quantic has gone from strength to strength, his style of jazzy percussive breaks slipping down a treat. Finally finding the time amongst his live funk band The Quantic Soul Orchestra, touring and remixing everyone from Victor Malloy to Mr Scruff he's put together his third album. It's having the little finishing touches put together and is due for release in April. Expect good things.



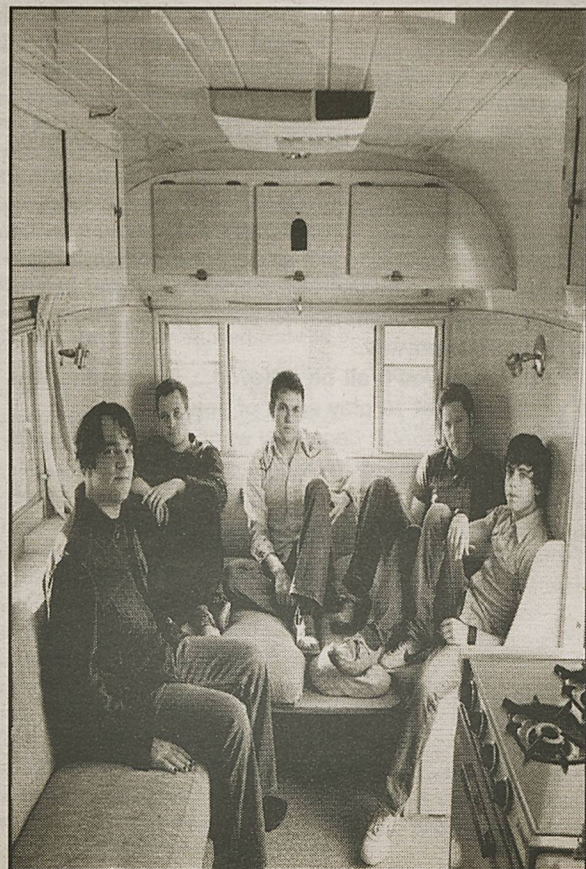
2) **THE BLUESKINS** - It's not a genre yet I don't think but if it was The Blueskins would fit nicely into the garage blues category. Blues, recorded in a garage, a bit like the White Stripes. Fuzzy guitars, a lot of grit, catchy melodies and a raucous smile on its face.

3) **PADEY CASEY** - Don't be put off when I say that Padey Casey sounds a bit like David Gray. Think of David Gray but with a lot less head wiggling, more hair and some good tunes and you get close to what Padey sounds like. At the same time, his music can best be described as nice; it won't set your pants on fire but it's pleasant stuff all the same. He's signed to Sony and he's playing absolutely everywhere so I'm sure he'll get noticed at some point this year.

4) **ELBOW** - OK, so not exactly new for 2004 as they have been bumbling about for a while now but their new album is by far the best thing they've done to date. I think they just were around at a bit of the wrong time Elbow; a time when people thought Starsailor, The Doves and Coldplay were the best mellow soulful indie England had to offer. Elbow, a band that paps on all three of them put together, somehow got overlooked. Not now I hope.

5) **THE BELLES** - A great album to see in the new year was Omerta by Kansas two piece The Belles. A series of mellow, sparsely produced little gems evocative of Neil Young in his beautiful folky period. If you're interested, they are playing on the 16 March at the Islington Academy so go and see for yourself.

## ALBUM OF THE WEEK: The Get Up Kids- 'Guilt Show'



For me, there's no other band out there that deserve more respect than Kansas' finest The Get Up Kids. Because, having not only produced two of the best albums of the 1990s in the form of their brilliant debut 'Four Minute Mile' and the eclectic emo blue print of 'Something To Write Home About', they also proved that they weren't just one of those bands who only played two minute power-emo punk songs with their 2002 release 'On A Wire' - an album of beautifully crafted and musically accomplished semi-acoustic tracks that could melt even a heart of stone. And what's more, with their fourth release 'Guilt Show', the band apparently have produced an album that appears to rock along the lines of 'Something to Write Home About' with the same sincerity and maturity of 'On A Wire'. Moreover, in doing so, it looks like they've made one of their most accomplished and complete records yet.

Opening with the two minute rock onslaught of 'Man of Conviction' (N.B: anyone who thought The Get Up Kids didn't know how to rock anymore is in for a rude awakening) and then proceeding into totally great straight up rock tracks such as the brilliant 'How long is too long?' and endearingly hyperactive 'Wouldn't Believe it', what Guilt Show's greatest strength is that it proves that whilst The Get Up Kids are still the same multitalented loveable band that they were in 1997, they've also learned how to develop their sound to make what they're best at even better. Although, it's the beautifully upbeat 'Sympathy' that steals the show, none of the thirteen tracks on here are anything less than first class standard and sound nothing like filler or just 'album tracks' as is the case with so many albums these days. Okay, so Guilt Show may not rock as hard as Something To Write Home About, but it's still so unmistakably trademark Get Up Kids (thanks mostly to Matthew Pryor's distinctively original vocals and James Dewees' crazy-ass keyboards) and still kicks serious ass and is so gloriously upbeat that it's hard not to fall in love with it.

It may only be March, but Guilt Show is looking set to be one of the albums (if not the album) of 2004. Perhaps more importantly is the fact that it cements The Get Up Kids as one of those rare talents who are able to consistently produce good records and constantly adapt and modify their sound, making it always sound fresh and exciting whilst at the same time reassuringly familiar. The Get Up Kids may have been the ones who inadvertently spawned the plethora of emo/ punk/hardcore bands that are around today, but right now all those upstarts better watch their back. Because as 'Guilt Show' proves, after eight years on the job, The Get Up Kids are still miles and miles ahead of even their nearest competitor.

# COMIC CORNER!

So, we at B:music don't like to do things by half - so following our recent interview with Jeffrey Lewis, we managed to coerce him into using his artistic skills and giving us an all - exclusive-read-it-here-only comic. Here it is: the long-awaited next installment of Jeffrey Lewis' Worldwide Comix Scavenger Hunt, only in B:music. Thanks, Jeff.



FOR THE PREVIOUS TALE, GO TO FRANCE: STEREOSCOMIC@CLUB-INTERNET.FR FOR THE NEXT TALE, GO TO BIRMINGHAM: WILL@BIRMINGHAMWORDS.CO.UK

# B:film

edited by Simon Cliff and Dani Ismail

Released This Week...

## Mona Lisa Smile

KHALYANIKUMARAN reviews the 'Dead Poets Society' for girls. Well, sort of...

For all you unshaven, bra-burning, Antonia Fraser wannabe feminists out there expecting to see Julia Roberts pull young, beautiful and intelligent girls from the oppression of marriage, men and washing machines, think again; this is *not* one of those films. In fact, it's probably more comparable to *Starship Troopers*, but with a better script (yes, it's possible), a much better soundtrack, and of course Maggie Gyllenhaal, who gives one hell of a performance as the smart and provocative Giselle Levy. There's no denying this film is brilliant, although it wasn't what I expected: complicated bitch Betty Warner, played so perfectly by Kirsten Dunst, becomes the formidable adversary to Julia Roberts' high spirited Katherine Watson, and what follows is a witty and poignant piece that is essentially about being true to yourself and becoming the person you want to be. Although set in world that tells women (and men) how to live, Katherine teaches her students to think for themselves, and learns to chart a different course for herself in the process.



This film is indeed surprising in many different ways: it is not some flowery romance that ends with a predictably happy ending, neither is it a film that aims to lecture the other half about issues of the subordinated sex. Yet, I do find it refreshing to find so many good parts for women in one film, each role containing comedy, an inner struggle and great sadness, interwoven together to create a wonderful tapestry of womanhood in that era.

**Director:** Mike Newell

**Starring:** Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst, Julia Stiles, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Marcia Gay Harden

**Certificate:** 12A

**Running Time:** 117 Minutes

**Release Date:** Released on Friday

My favourite scene was during an etiquette lesson (taught by Marcia Gay Harden who plays the ageing spinster with comedic artlessness) where the girls were asked how they would react to their husband's boss inviting their husband's key rival round for dinner. Gyllenhaal retorts that they should file for divorce. This is followed by a huge outburst by Harden who exclaims with tears in her eyes: "this class may be an easy grade for you girls, but the only one that matters is the grade from your husband!". This scene reminds me so much of home (sigh).

And for those whose brains lie down south, there is the token woman-on-woman scene (I mean, what else is there to do in an all girls college than 'get-it-on' with each other?). What I'm trying to say is that this isn't a chick flick whatsoever; it's about having the courage to make the choices that will make you happy, regardless of the categories society will inevitably box you into. The title itself says it all: Mona Lisa Smile - she may be smiling, but is she happy?

**As in Erin Brockovich, Roberts plays a front-line feminist role with dignity, supported throughout by the impressive Dunst and Gyllenhaal. The somewhat gratuitous sex-scene does little to undermine what is otherwise an utterly compelling story of determination in the face of archaic oppression.**

★★★★☆

### the editor's cut

*So much to do, and so little time...*

First up, many congratulations to readers **Ashley Shackleton** and **Justin Nolan** who correctly guessed that 'Last Tango in Paris' was the answer to last week's competition question. A paperback copy of saucy novel 'The Dreamers' is now yours to enjoy in whatever way you deem necessary.

Next up, a mega congratulations to Peter Jackson and Co. for their pretty comprehensive windfall at this year's Oscars. An utterly deserving winner of all 11 awards for which *Return of the King* was nominated, his work is



now over (except for the ROTK Extended Edition released this Christmas, of course). Someone needs to tell him that, in the 7 years he's been making LOTR, he's fathered two children, who've only just realised they actually have a dad. And what a dad! Yes, he's a shaggy pork chop with a fetish for orcs and elves, and he won't win the parents' sack race at his kid's sports day, but he is the brains behind the greatest film event in history. That has to count for something.

Finally, another groovy competition! To celebrate the up-coming release of *Starsky and Hutch*, the kind folks at **The Daily Telegraph** have given us two tickets to the S&H preview on March 16th. Email [beaverfilm@yahoo.com](mailto:beaverfilm@yahoo.com) ('Starsky & Hutch Comp' in the subject line) with your answer to be in with a chance:

#### Which rapper plays legendary S&H sidekick Huggy Bear?

If unlucky, you can still get to see this and other previews for nothing! Just take two different mastheads from Daily or Sunday Telegraph newspapers to the Student Union Shop and pick up a 'Movie Mania' leaflet to claim two preview tickets to a forthcoming blockbuster absolutely free! Job dozxczrne!  
Ps. Congrats to all the new Sabbs. Just remember who's ya daddy...

Comments, ideas and maps to the location of our new Treasurer Gareth's Pirated Pieces-of-Eight: [s.e.cliff@lse.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.cliff@lse.ac.uk)

Classic Review...

## A Hard Day's Night

**Director:** Richard Lester

**Starring:** Paul, John, Ringo and George, Wilfred Brambell, Norman Rossington

**Running Time:** 87 Minutes

**Certificate:** U

JOANNELANCASTER on the best work The Beatles ever did...



What can you say about a film that is summed up by just one chord? It's difficult to know. *A Hard Day's Night* begins with George Harrison and Ringo Starr falling on their faces, and from then on anarchy reigns.

The basic concept is a typical day in the life of the Beatles: Running after girls, running away from girls, running away from their manager, press conferences, and U-boat raids in the bath. Just before their big television appearance Paul McCartney's grandfather (he played a "dirty old man" in *Steptoe and Son*, the relevance of which will become clear if you watch the film) convinces poor old Ringo that the others pick on him- which they do- and that he should get out and see the world. And, for some reason, trail his coat. It might be an Irish thing. So after nearly killing a budgie and throwing a woman into a hole, Ringo of course ends up in the police station, from where he has to be rescued by the others. All's well that ends well; they make their performance, and on to the next adventure...

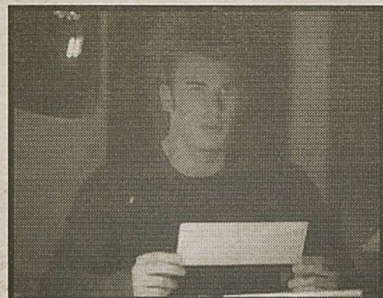
If this sounds flimsy, it is. The genius isn't in the plot, it's in The Beatles. There's something extremely compelling about them as they're so young; George was only 20, the others not much older - natural, funny and fresh faced. Ringo does a brilliant job of being put upon, George has some great one-liners, John Lennon seems to be a comic genius as well as a musical one, while Paul is - in a word - gorgeous. Either they're not acting, or they're very good at it. The songs aren't half bad either.

The problem with a review of *A Hard Day's Night* is that so much of the comedy is non-verbal and very hard to describe. "The Beatles run around a field and fall over a bit" could never do justice to the hilarity of the "Can't Buy Me Love" sequence. Simply put, the film is manic silliness from beginning to end, guaranteed to put a smile on your face. In fact, it really should be prescribed for depression. Go on, how many times will you get to watch the definitive feel-good film, a cinematic revolution, the best pop band ever and an Oscar nominated script all rolled into one?

B:Film Preview... Released Next Week...

# The Perfect Score

ABTEENKARIMI is clearly bitter about getting a 2:2...



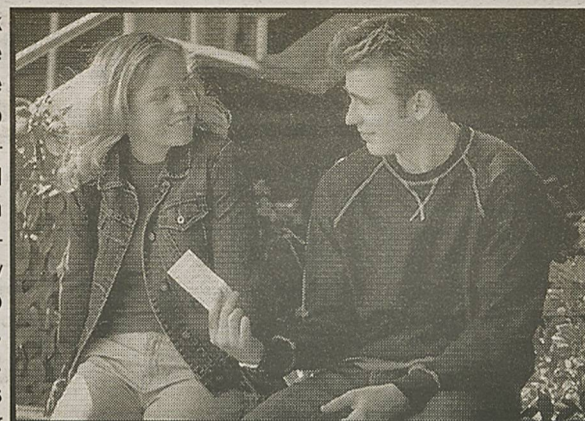
*The Perfect Score* has a great opportunity to expose the growing irrelevance of America's university entrance exam. Its script, were it better written and more carefully considered, would help us see through the tangled web of obscure vocabulary words and asinine math questions and find some way to make the whole experience into the farce that it truly is. Not that the film doesn't try of course; the early scenes do their best to articulate the frustrations of teenagers

who see all their dreams delayed while they attempt to satisfy the demands of a test which is ultimately only a measure of itself, and the various characters muse over all the nasty things that "SAT" could actually stand for. But even these scenes read like they were written by a teenager, and they are not lucid enough to serve as thoughtful commentary.

Plot wise, *The Perfect Score* is generally predictable, and once it moves beyond its potentially interesting premise, it settles into the conventions of a teenage coming of age story. The film features a band of mismatched teens - the brainy valedictorian, the jock, the adorably sarcastic ragamuffin, two indistinguishable white guys and an Asian stone whose lechery and inexplicably advanced computer and mathematical skills are either meant as all purpose comic relief or else he has wandered off the set of the new David Lynch film. He narrates the film from the beginning, but is not introduced until about 20 minutes in, and it doesn't help that his character presents the film's most challenging material in a hallucinogenic haze.

**Director:** Brian Robbins  
**Starring:** Erika Christensen, Chris Evans, Bryan Greenberg, Scarlett Johansson  
**Running Time:** 92 Minutes  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Release Date:** 19th March

Anyway, they decide to break into the headquarters of the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and steal the answers to the SATs so they can all realize their dreams. Hilarity and hijinks ensue, they all learn valuable lessons about themselves, and in the end they realize they don't need to cheat to get ahead in life. Nothing wrong with all that. But where the film bypasses the chance to be interesting



as satire or farce, it also fails in its attempts at more conventional humor. You can see most of it coming a mile away, the jokes fall flat, and at the screening I attended, hardly anyone laughed at anything, although I suspect teenage test audiences must have gone wild.

**In the end *The Perfect Score* is all about the set-up, the heist, and the obvious payoff and it relies too much on the technical details of the caper for its entertaining moments. In the final analysis, I'm not so much indignant as I am disappointed - You coulda been big kid. You really coulda.**

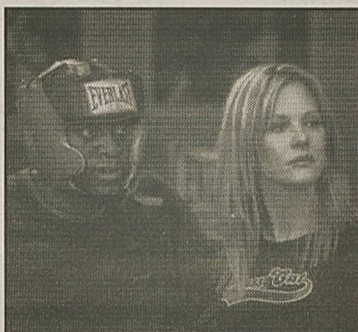
★★★★☆

Exclusive B:Film Preview...

# Against the Ropes

EI-LENEHENG reckons that Meg Ryan and Boxing don't mix...

*Against the Ropes* is loosely based on the story of Jackie Kallen, the first successful female promoter in the male-dominated world of professional boxing. Nothing about the film is surprising, except maybe how cliché-filled and formulaic it is. Meg Ryan plays Jackie Kallen, a small-town girl in a dead-end job, with a passion for boxing, a dodgy Midwestern accent that comes and goes, and a dress sense eerily reminiscent of *Erin Brockovich*.



The story of the overlooked and underestimated small-town girl, downtrodden by big bad men starts off unpromisingly enough with her challenging Sam LaRocca (Tommy Shalhoub), a chauvinistic big-time boxing manager with a cruel streak. The rest of the plot is equally predictable. She discovers boxing potential in Luther Shaw (Omar Epps), a ghetto hoodlum, whom she convinces to trust her, and coaxes former star trainer Felix Reynolds (Charles S. Dutton) out of retirement to train him. It becomes a story of David and Goliath as this trio, with the chips stacked against them, begin to make waves in the middleweight boxing circles. Eventually there is a match-off between Luther Shaw and the reigning middleweight boxing champion managed by Sam LaRocca. No prizes for guessing who won.

**Director:** Charles S. Dutton  
**Starring:** Meg Ryan, Omar Epps, Tony Shalhoub, Timothy Daly, Charles S. Dutton  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Running Time:** 111 Minutes  
**Release Date:** 26th March

good and the customary angst and self-doubt undergone in the process. The gamble taken by the manager and trainer. The seductive lure of fame. And yes the betrayal of friendships, and the alienation between athlete and manager due to the limelight. Not forgetting that it all turns out well in the end of course. The athlete succeeds, is reconciled with his manager, old mistakes are forgiven and friendships renewed. The film has it all down pat. Throw in cheesy lines like: "You can't even see the glass ceiling from here. Find an elevator, press some buttons.", clichéd scenes like *The Reconciliation* and *The Slow Clap*, unconvincing acting, and tangential characters like *The Athlete's Girlfriend*, and you have the rather excruciating experience that is *Against the Ropes*.

**If you are a really avid (and patient) sports movie fan, you may still want to see *Against the Ropes* to remind you of all the other sports film you have watched. Groundbreaking and exciting it is not, but the familiar scenes and lines may warm your heart, like old friends that you are reacquainting yourself with, or like the comfortable feel of a pair of old shoes. Me? I wouldn't pay anywhere near five pounds to watch this film.**

★★★★☆

The film does it all right. Every single element in the sports-flick formula is in place. The anti-hero against the establishment. The inspirational ghetto hoodlum turned

## Movie Matters with Dani Ismail



The only movie that has ever given me nightmares has not been put to bed yet, and by some cruel twist of fate, not the third, nor the fourth sequel is in the making - production of the fifth instalment of the original *Child's Play*, this one entitled *Seed Of Chucky*, is underway. The walking, talking, homicidal, beheaded child's toy is back to haunt us again with cute Billy Boyd, otherwise known as Pippin of *Lord Of The Rings*, manning the devil incarnates voice. Speaking of *Rings*, some shifty school in Birmingham is offering students the chance to learn Elvish, the make-believe language of the Tolkein books, the operative aim, of course, being deluded, desperate teachers trying to induce excitement in children at school.

Another example of literature gone too far is Harry Potter. Why JK Rowling thinks it would be a good thing to write about wizard boy as an adult is beyond me (and of course giving her a chance to capitalise on film-ising the whole saga). Of course, the craze stretches not only to bored

teenagers but lame adults who don't get enough love, but if he himself becomes an adult it will quite lose the plot. It's supposed to be a kid's book that appeals to a wide audience. What will now stop it from becoming trashy, smutty wizard porn? Typing 'wizard porn' in the friendly search engine Google, by the way, produces some 170,000 search results. So don't go thinking it's that unlikely.

When I read the terrible news just a moment ago (McDonalds is reducing - nay, removing - SuperSize portions) I almost couldn't believe it. True, I barely even notice super sizes but I would like the chance to eat it at least. I lost interest very quickly after reading the beginning of the article but then it caught my eye again - *Super Size Me* is a film out in May recounting a month when the film



maker Morgan Spurlock ate nothing but McD's for breakfast, lunch and dinner. "Holy fuck!" you may be thinking, and that would be a good response. The stupid bastard reportedly gained 24 pounds in the process. That's quite a lot. It would be a fun experiment for you all to try at home though.. Bye all.

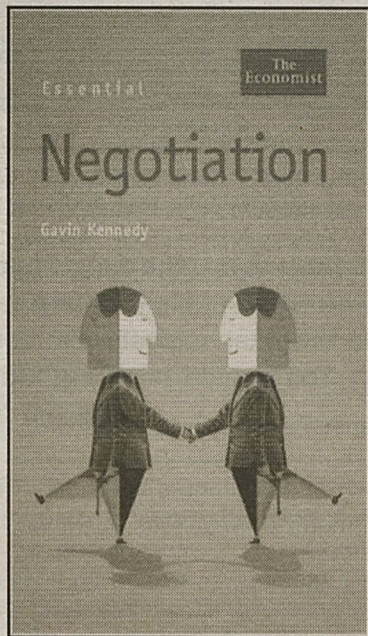
# B:literature

edited by Dalia King

## ESSENTIAL NEGOTIATION

From the Economist Essential series

**MAHIE:** The kidnap negotiation section will come in handy when on Easter break in Trinidad (a suggestion to which this Trinidadian editor takes great offence)



**Author:** Gavin Kennedy  
**Publisher:** Economist Books  
**Date:** Out Now  
**Price:** £10.99

Students often find themselves having to negotiate - with evil landlords, bank managers who threaten to veto one's overdraft and teachers who refuse to grant a perfectly reasonable two-week extension for an already late essay. The witty, tongue-in-cheek advice delivered in Gavin Kennedy's guidebook will prove useful in all of these situations, and most others that you can think of - unless you're negotiating with children. Don't. They will win. Hands down.

Kennedy's style is crisp and engaging. The contents of the book are arranged alphabetically, and are divided into short, easily readable mini-chapters. There are sections on hostage and kidnap negotiation (useful if you're off to Colombia or Trinidad over the Easter break), haggling ("a noble art"), principles ("sometimes it is necessary to rise above them") and

even bribery (unethical, immoral, illegal - occasionally necessary), just to name a few. This is an excellent book for whiling away the time on those long tube or bus commutes.

While this is not an exhaustive primer on the art of negotiation, it is an admirable introduction to the subject. Nevertheless, if you are seeking greater insight into the area, the primer includes a guide to further reading, as well as useful websites. There is even a list of specialised consultants and trainers, if you find yourself in need of some serious help...(loan sharks knocking on your door, perhaps?)

### Happy Days

by Louise Cumberland

Cooking and hurling...  
Sardines in the tube  
Spaghetti - Tesco value  
Cooking the pancakes  
Hurling them into the air ;-)  
Betty Crocker help me out!

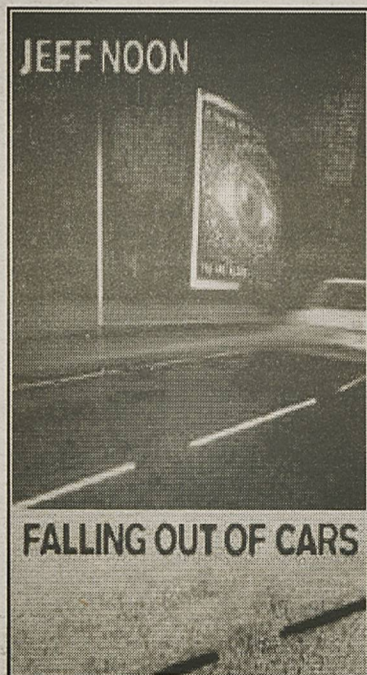
Let's hope he reads  
9p baked beans  
Bush will be re-elected  
Go Omar!  
(repeat x4)

It's too cold to play tennis  
In Lincoln's Inn  
It's a multi-coloured universe  
Dinner is ready  
Am I forgiven?

*Beaver Lit is proud to be an Equal Opportunities section - both the highly skilled and the barely proficient can enjoy a space to show off their literary prowess...*

## FALLING OUT OF CARS

**KIMMANDENG:** At least it's recyclable...



**Author:** Jeff Noon  
**Publisher:** Black Swan  
**Date:** Out Now  
**Price:** £6.99

This book can only be described as frustrating. With the end of each chapter, I found myself hoping that the next one would finally enlighten me, finally explain what was actually going on. However, that chapter never came to light.

The story seems simple enough. Marlene Moore, a former journalist is traveling the country, in a new profession, all the while keeping a record of what she does and sees. After reading a few pages, we find that the world she lives in a world plagued by a widespread disease, who's symptoms can only be kept at bay by the drug referred to as "the Lucy".

Marlene and her fellow travelers all suffer from this disease, which seems to twist their perception of reality and make them suffer from hallucinations. All her fellow travelers except one, a young woman who is immune to the sickness. She is one of few, from which something can be extracted, that helps make the Lucy.

The group travels through the country in search of pieces of a mirror, which may or may not help reverse the onset of the illness. As a reader this is one of the areas from which frustration arises, we don't learn what the cause of the illness is, or what the point of the group's collection of mirror pieces is. We are just led through the world as seen in mind of the main character, in endless longwinded trips from reality to fantasy. And that is the highlight, because nothing much else happens.

The group travels from one place to the next suffering the occasional attacks from the symptoms of the illness, when they forget to take their medicine.

If this sounds exciting to you, I welcome you to read this book.

Otherwise I strongly advise you to stay clear of it, because this is definitely one of those books that if you receive it as a gift you, you give it away unread to someone else on their next birthday.

### Posted Poem #2

*Anonymous*

Hong Kong Eyes, Irish smile  
I hope I didn't waste your time

Beautiful hair and sweetly thin  
Good luck with the Mandarin.

Blessed to have had a simply conversation  
Was too shy to look in your direction

Played again my stupid game  
I failed, you're not too blame

You just probably,  
forgot my name



# B:pubbing

edited by Sarah Warwick

This week is a special on pubs. Everyone's got a local but where do you head for something a bit different? Live music, food, quiz nights and happy hours! Check out this page for pubs that go that little bit further.

## Quiz Nights:

**Best: The One Tun, Goodge St, Tuesdays, 8 pm**

This one is king among pub quizzes. It's been going 7 years and has a huge following (17 teams registered and no tables left by the time we got there!) The quizmaster may be speedy but the questions are spot on and interesting too. Nothing about cricket or Brookside! Just get there early to nab a table and don't expect to win: though you'll have fun trying!

**Also: The Mitre, Craven Terrace, Paddington W2;**  
**The Spread Eagle, Parkway, Camden NW1 (£1 entry)**  
**Prince Regent, Liverpool Rd, Islington N1** (I've known people win

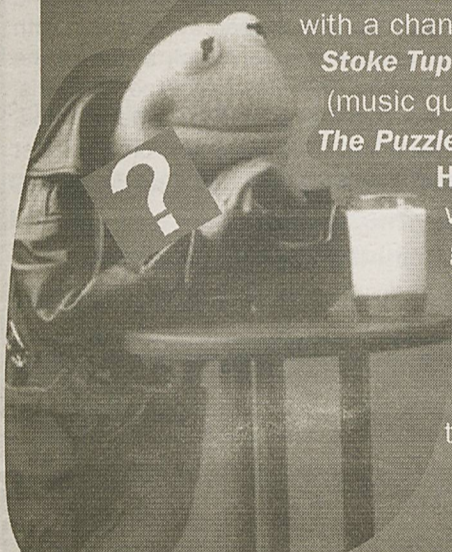
this one... storm it with a group and you're in with a chance!)

**Stoke Tup, Stoke Newington Church St N16**  
(music quiz); all Mondays @ 8

**The Puzzle, Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith W3** (this pub is a weird one: loads of video and board games as well **Tuesdays @ 8**

**The Boston Arms, Dartmouth Park Hill N19 Thursdays @ 8**

**Avoid:** Any quiz with less than 6 teams entered. Will be dull as shit.



## Happy Hours:

The word on the street is that they (the powers that be!) plan to abolish happy hour drinking. But til that sad day comes these beauties should keep you going for a while.

**Top deals: Cuba Libre, Upper St, Islington N1.**

Cocktails £2.50 at this streetside tapas bar between 5 and 7 every week day.

**Bar Solo Inverness St, Camden, London NW1**

Happy hour every night this one with great deals (call 02074824611 to check details)

**Elbow Rooms, Chapel St, Islington N1 and Westbourne Grove W2**

Tuesdays til 2 Pool, mad videos on huge screens, see through mirrors, break dancers and a student night? You're joking?!

**Scream Pubs, Everywhere!**

Thursday nights are pound a pint night. Beautiful!

**Sway, The New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen St, Covent Garden WC1**

Just up the road from campus and cheap as chips. There are massive savings on tapas and cocktails to be had from 4-7pm

**Avoid: Full prices drinks. For as long as possible!**



## Wining and Dining:

**Best: The Chapel, Chapel St, Marylebone NW1**

I could die happy after a meal at this place! Rustic European food done to perfection, friendly bar staff and complementary bread baskets with cracked pepper and creamy butter to have with. It is a bit pricey but even the roast vegetables with cheese (the cheap option) will have your stomach flipper-flopping with joy!

**Also: The Alwyne Castle, St Pauls Rd, Islington N1**

Typical pub fare but with beautiful fresh ingredients. Have a full dinner or just a bowl of olives and a beautiful chianti.

**The Engineer, Gloucester Ave, Primrose Hill NW1**

Dining inside or out: it's your choice. The food is delicious and the drinks are pretty good too.

**The Peasant, St John St, Islington N1**

This one is seriously posh for a pub, white table cloths, silver service, the works. Wait til you're parents visit cos you probably can't handle the bill. Lovely food though.

**Avoid: You probably can't avoid it forever but the Wetherspoons food has all the nutritional value and taste of old pencil sharpenings. Swap it for Scream pub food... much nicer!**

## Live Music:

**Best: The Dublin Castle, Parkway, Camden NW1**

The best in London: any night this place rocks!

**Also: The Bull and Gate, Kentish Town Road NW5**

Come here on Saturday for quality indy unknowns

**The Spotted Dog, High Road, Willesden NW10**

Popular with the old Auzzies and Kiwis, this place is like Crush for antipodeans. If that doesn't bother you, the live music is good and there's a little club at the back.

**The Hope and Anchor,**

**Upper St, Islington N1**

This place is tiny and it smells funny but many great bands started out here so who are we to judge?

**Avoid:** Small Irish pubs with 'live music'. There'll be a singsong, and small irish men with many hands or huge big breasted old women will try and get you to join in a Riverdance. If that's your thing fair enough but don't say you weren't warned!



# B:theatre

edited by Carolina Bunting and Keith Postler

## The Babel of the Bible

The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged)

Genre:	Comedy	Venue:	Criterion Theatre
Run:	29 August 2004	Curtain:	8:00 pm Thursdays only
Running Time:	2'; 20" interval	Rating:	3 ½ out of 5 stars

I suppose one is a fan of the Reduced Shakespeare Company's brand of comedy or one is not. Their abridgements of famous books are not for purists; for the others they are a laugh-comedy not far off from good student revue at its worst yet always professionally delivered. The 3-man troupe's obvious enjoyment as they perform shows through and is catching.

With their diminution of Shakespeare (The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)) the troupe take a conservative approach, proceeding chronologically, within the 4 traditional genres of the Shakespearean canon. So the company at least is practiced in the technique of abridgement. They apply the same chronological approach in their production of The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged), proceeding from Old to New Testament book by book. This avenue will satisfy purists but does not guarantee the most dramatic or comic effect. A deeper reading of the Bible might have enabled them to select topics or themes to allow more focus to their antics. Their reading of Shakespeare is deeper than their reading of the Bible.

As my companioness of the evening remarked: "You don't need to know the Bible for 80% of the material." Moreover, the lines and gags are immediately accessible. The troupe uses a broad range of theatrical and comic styles, including audience participation. They often take a story or snippet thereof from the Bible that is explained in their parody. Thus the show starts with (God?) singing a blues song about Creation. The show's many songs have fantastic lyrics.



The all-male troupe use stand-up comedy, but are more than stand-up comics: they are professional players, playing musical instruments, employing some acrobatics, and clowning well. They have room to expand their skills into dance, mime, and juggling, which they do not practice. None of their skills in themselves are at a professional level, not even their timing, but the troupe is professional enough to take on a range of styles varied enough to prevent an amateurish impression. Their presenting a level of performance just above what we ourselves in the audience imagine we could do endears them to their audience.

The connoisseur of comedy will note their medley of comedy. It includes: ribbing each other, riposte, ridicule, reproach, raillery, mockery, slap-stick, scoffing, buffoonery, badinage, burlesque, jibes, off-the-cuff quips, kidding, shenanigans, playing pranks on each other, wise-cracks, puns, some drollery, a gaggle of gags, lampoons, travesty, horseplay, a portion of invective, many send-ups, whimsicality and wordplay. Irony is not much in evidence although sarcasm is. A few examples will give a flavor of their burlesque. Touted out with huge plastic tits with whirligigs on the nipples, a player announces: "I am Salami." Offstage shout: "Salome!" Player: "I am Salome." For the sophisticated, on a higher note a player ripostes: "No way" answered by "Yahweh."

With rollicking script, imaginative stage props, good costuming and high spirits, the company provides one with a good evening out, with an early enough final curtain to enjoy a leisurely drink at one of the pubs in nearby Soho. Warning: Roman Catholics may experience disappointment at the lack of the Apocrypha being included. Final Warning: Unless you want to claim you have appeared on the West

End stage, do not risk sitting in the front rows of the stalls.

KEITH POSTLER

## Enwrapping and Warped

Calico

Genre:	Fictional Biography	Venue:	Duke of Yorks Theatre
Run:	May 29, 2004	Curtain:	7:30 pm Mon- Sat
Running Time:	2'; 15" interval	Rating:	4 out of 5 stars

*Calico* is every bibliophile's dream play. It takes place in Paris 1928, where a young Samuel Beckett finds himself working as an assistant for the notorious James Joyce. He is immediately taken in by the eccentric Joyce family and becomes the object of fantastical affection of the wild Lucia, James Joyce's young daughter. Initially, Lucia's unconventionality fascinates Beckett. However, as her insanity spirals out of control, the well-intentioned Sam finds himself increasingly repulsed by Lucia's suffocating madness.

The acting in *Calico* is superb. Imelda Staunton provides a powerful rendition of Joyce's wife, Nora Barnacle. Her magnetic stage presence transports the audience right out of the golden Duke of Yorks Theatre on St. Martin's Lane into the Joyce's small Parisian apartment. She ably reveals the intricate pattern of relationships of the family; slowly shedding light on the multi-levelled hypocrisy which holds them together and eventually tears them apart.

Even so, the play revolves around Lucia Joyce played by Romola Garai. The actress strikes a careful balance in revealing Lucia's child-like naivety and schizophrenia-driven sexual curiosity/obsession. Garai's attempt to reveal Lucia's madness is at times unnatural and unconvincing, however these dramatic hiccups do not undermine the overall outstanding quality of the play.

Lucia's arms stretch out to her family members in times of despair. She reaches out for comfort and sanity. As her neuroses take over, her grip of reality slowly dissipates. She holds onto her fictional marriage with Samuel Beckett as, ironically enough, it is the closest thing she has ever experienced to a normal and conventional relationship.

Playwright Michael Hastings hopes to provide greater insight on mental illnesses in an "age of ignorance" through Lucia and her relationships. He claims that while modern medicine believes excessive doses of dopamine in the body cause schizophrenia, a greater role should be ascribed to the family. It is here where the controversial nature of the play arises. Hastings suggests that the Joyce's were responsible for Lucia's tragic descent into madness. He pinpoints Nora Barnacle's insistence on bringing up a respectable family, when her own track record is supposedly less than 'respectable'. He parallels the family's hypocritical attitude towards sex to Lucia's turrets-like verbal outbursts and sexual obsession. Hastings controversially implies Lucia was a victim of paternal sexual abuse. However, the grounds on which he bases such an implication are shaky, to say the least. Perhaps, aware of the dubiousness of his claims, Hastings makes few references to the alleged abuse in the play (bringing his hypothesis forward in the programme). In fact, the only point in the play where the possibility of sexual abuse is implied arises when J. Joyce asks his daughter what she understands by the word play "common insects". He then 'humorously' explains the message hidden in the words is "commence incest".

Actually, the humour of the play rarely provides any comfort in the suffocating prison of madness and hypocrisy that is *Calico*. Interestingly enough, calico is the material which mental institutions use to tie the hands of restrained patients. As Lucia's insanity wraps increasingly tighter around the audience, the calico motif becomes more present. This follows the suffocating nature of the play. A sensation felt by all audience members, who breathed an audible sigh of relief once the curtain fell. So, if you are in the mood for tormenting questions and a deeper insight in the troubled relationships which haunted two great icons of the Modernist period, check out *Calico*.

CAROLINA BUNTING

# B:general

## mail

**Subject: (none)**

I would go and see *The Passion of the Christ*, but I know the ending.  
Jus

**Subject: b:mail**

I thought 'A Day in the Life' (Beaver 2nd March) was a pretty accurate and perceptive description of life at LSE, and it contained lots of the small, but all too familiar, details characteristic of everyday life here. I might even keep it as something to remember my time here by, if and when I do get a bit nostalgic in a couple of decades...  
Clare

**Spread the Love...**

**Got anything to tell us? Disagree with any of this? Send your b:mails this way - conveniently labeled B:mail - and we'll print them here. Anything and everything arts related welcome: [Beavermails@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Beavermails@yahoo.co.uk) or [a.c.bunting@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.bunting@lse.ac.uk)**

Nice one

### Gareth's Amazing Guide To London on a Wednesday Night Out!



How to have a truly quality Wednesday night... it's one of the questions that has pre-occupied philosophers, scientists, mathematicians and architects for centuries. Many a brain cell has been employed in attempting to discover just how to mix the right amounts of alcohol-fuelled karaoke, Tuns-drenched frolicking and Limeabout lopping, in order to find that elusive secret: The perfect Wednesday night out. Well, here's my effort.

An early doors arrival at the Tuns is preferable to a late-gates one. A 6pm entrance guarantees a table for six or seven, and almost no queue for the bar, in order to ease you into the flow.

A personal favourite is a Wright's Bar hot-chocolate mixed with a Jameson's from the Tuns. It takes the edge off, settles the nerves and starts you up. From then on, the night writes itself. A few Guinesses to fill the hole before moving onto the more social types of lager. Go for cheap-round pints of Carling, or wallet-busting Stellas before hitting the first drinking game of the night pretty hard. Seeing as alcohol-induced paralysis is far from near at this point, a fairly cerebral drinking game isn't out of the question, so the old game of '20+1' can be employed here. Later, when the alcohol catches up, simpler games like 'spell your own name' or 'fall off your chair in time to the music' may be called for. After several rounds of '20+1', karaoke is called for. Only get involved when you want to, choose the right song for group involvement and don't show off. When you're ready to sing, get your slip of paper in, along with the offer of a free pint of lager to karaoke man Andy Gold. No matter the pile, you're up next. Sing your song, and then get back to your table. From here, disperse and speak to people you don't really know but would like to. From here-on-in, what you want to do is irrelevant, you're being guided by the angels and demons of Wednesday nights (ie: Limeabout and the London Transport nightbus service). If they're kind to you, you're set. If not, see you in Beckton at 4:12am... Good luck.

GARETH CARTER

Drama and Alternative Entertainments Societies present the LSE ONE-ACT ARTS FESTIVAL on the evenings of March 9th & 10th in the Quad and March 11th in the Old Theatre. All shows begin at 7:30 PM. The show will feature 4 FABULOUS STUDENT WRITTEN, DIRECTED, and ACTED 1-ACT PLAYS from the Drama Society combined with COLORFUL AND DARING PERFORMANCES by Alternative Entertainment performers, CONTEMPORARY DANCE AND BREAK DANCE pieces from the Modern Dance Society, and a LIVE DJ!! TICKETS (£2) ON SALE ON HOUGHTON STREET MONDAY between 12-4 PM and at the door. Get them soon before they sell out! Watch out, will be one wild and sexy night.

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## Your Guide to What's On This Week

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**Jewish Society** presents  
Lord Winston speaking on 'Ethical Constraints in progressive science' 1pm, Tuesday 9 March D402.  
Lord Winston is a Labour peer for the borough of Hammersmith, the area where he first made his name as a pioneer in invitro fertilisation. In more recent times, Lord Winston has become a household name, thanks largely to his work on BBC television programmes including 'The Human Body', 'Walking with Cavemen' and 'Child of our Time'. Lord Winston will be speaking on 'Ethical constraints in progressive science' and will be answering questions.

**Amnesty International and Film Society** present  
**DEAD MAN WALKING**  
7pm, Tuesday 9th March  
New Theatre.  
FREE!!

**Business Society** presents  
John Tiner, Chief Executive FSA:  
"Changing the FSA and the role of the FSA in the British Economy"  
Tuesday 9 March, 4 pm, Hong Kong Theatre

**Drama and Alternative Entertainments Societies** present the  
**LSE ONE-ACT ARTS FESTIVAL**  
7:30 pm, March 9th & 10th in the Quad and March 11th in the Old Theatre. The show will feature 4 FABULOUS STUDENT WRITTEN, DIRECTED, and ACTED 1-ACT PLAYS from the Drama Society combined with COLORFUL AND DARING PERFORMANCES by Alternative Entertainment performers, CONTEMPORARY DANCE AND BREAK DANCE pieces from the Modern Dance Society, and a LIVE DJ!! TICKETS (£2) ON SALE ON HOUGHTON STREET MONDAY between 12-4 PM and at the door.

**Go/Igo/Baduk/WeiChi Society**  
Weekly Meeting  
2-4pm Wednesday, Room Y215  
Free and open to all

**Austrian Society** Presents  
EU Enlargement: EU in Transition  
when and where: March, 10 2004, 4.25 pm in the Hong Kong Theatre  
tickets: free tickets are available on a first come first served basis at the Students Union Reception (Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm)

**LSE Art Studio Society Exhibition**  
Thursday 11th March 2004  
8pm until 11pm,  
Shaw Library.  
Evening includes live Jazz Music from the LSE Jazz Society, free wine and nibbles and a chance to enter our surprise competition! Admission free. Works will remain on display through Friday 12th March.

Anyone wishing to submit works should do so by 5pm Wednesday 10th March 2004. Please label works clearly with name and contact details so they can be returned at the end of the event and leave them at the Student Union Reception. For further information please contact C.A.Bray@lse.ac.uk.

**Central and Eastern European Society (CEEDS)**  
**TRIP TO PRAGUE**  
21st-26th March 2004  
The cost is £165 (inclusive of b&b hostel accommodation and return air ticket), 50 deposit required  
The program will include visits to major European embassies (UK, D, USA), foreign ministry, EC delegation, Pilsen Brewery and, of course, Prague itself. Don't miss this opportunity to Czech out the city in the heart of Europe!

**SCHAPIRO GOVERNMENT CLUB** presents...  
**WESTMINSTER TRIP**  
Friday 19th March (week 10) - 11.30am  
Come on the final trip this year. It's your last chance to get a guided tour of Parliament, see the UK's history, and rub shoulders with MPs. It's FREE. Don't miss out. Email Su.Soc.Schapiro-Government-Club@lse.ac.uk to reserve a place.

**London School of Economics ORCEHSTRIA and CHOIR (and soloists)** perform  
Mozart - Requiem Mass  
Mozart - Andante in C for Flute and Orchestra  
Matthew Taylor - Overture The Needles (LSE Commission)  
**TUESDAY 16TH MARCH 2004**  
7:30 - 9:00 pm  
St Mary-le Strand Church  
Aldwych, London WC2  
Conductor - Tom Hammond  
Chorus Master - Andrew Campling  
Tickets £5  
available from l.clark@lse.ac.uk on ext. 7975  
or 10th Floor, Tower 1, LSE

The **Music Business Society** and **LSE SU** present:  
Judge Jules in the Quad, 8-12pm  
Thursday 18th March  
Judge Jules, the legendary Radio 1 DJ and LSE ex-alumni, will be returning to play a special set in aid of Cancer Research UK on Thursday 18th March. The event will be held in the Quad and is being run jointly by the Music Business Society and the LSESU on the day before the end of term. This night will bring you only the finest of dance music from 8-12 and when combined with cheap drinks promises to be one party you really wouldn't want to miss. A limited number of tickets will be available in advance from next week priced at only £3 for MBS members, £5 for non-members. All proceeds go to Cancer Research UK. Look out for more info soon, e-mail: Su.Soc.Music-Business@lse.ac.uk

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CDF

# Claudia on the Rag

Week Five A Side Tournament

## Claudia 'Munchkin' Whitcomb



Last Sunday saw the RAG Week Five A Side tournament kick off at Fortress Berrylands in arctic conditions in Surrey. Pitch one saw the group of death, with the mighty 2nds, the freshers and the fourths (+ Commie and Joss) battling it out for the top two spots which would take them through to the quarterfinals. The 2nds saw off the opposition with ease as Jan and Wade knocked up their fair share of goals (makes a change from women Jan!). So after two matches which saw 2 teams on equal points and goals, captains Al and Birdman opted for extra time, this eventually finished 0-0 and we witnessed the first penalty shoot out of the tournament. Al 'Judas' Goddard and Rich 'Rimmer' Gull took their places between the posts, set to take on the mighty LSE strikeforce. First up Jimmy 'I can only score from 4 yards' Little, he proved he can at least, next up was captain Al who shot straight past Rich. And it carried on, with goals scored and shots saved, the eventual score was 3-2. Yes it was quite possibly the worst penalty shoot out ever!

Group two was cut down at the last minute and group favourites Marcia took on a mismatched hockey team and Carr-Saunders who quickly became group favourites after their first match kicked off. The 'hockey' boys were seen off easily by both their opponents leaving the crunch match for top spot between Marcia and Carr Saunders. Admittedly we thought this would be an exciting match, but in all honesty it was shit.

Group three saw tournament favourites the makeshift first team take on 3 teams made up of egg chasers with the odd footballer and hockey player thrown in for luck. Captains Nick "I scored a hat-trick for the 2nds and think I'm a football legend" Kearvell, Rich Britten and Ed Crowe put up a fight against Scouse's boys. Match one saw Pikey Craig and co. put two past the cat like keeper that was sly Si.



RAG Week Five A Side Winners, the Seconds.

Tommy O'Dricoll rang rings around the opposition defence in their matches, letting his rugby team mates finally know about that feel good factor of winning something. The 'firsts' won all three of their matches although it looked shady at times, with B-C Kearvell's team coming extremely close to a draw, and only scraped through on a dubiously awarded last-minute penalty. Eventually after a lot of controversy over Emmo's refereeing abilities, Scouse and Rich led their teams through to the next round.

The final group consisted of the 5ths, the 7ths and Team Tuns FC, some may say the easy group. Pink lady seemed to be taking it all a little seriously as he rallied his troops. A wonder strike from Samadeus however put them through their first game with ease, they then saw off the rest of the competition putting them through as group winners. The Tuns FC and the 7ths however provided the second penalty shoot out of the tournament. Some great penalties were taken, Paddy taking out all his rage lashing the ball past Craig in goal. The two Nicks performed well throughout for Team Tuns, and were egged on by Captain Bang Bang. The decider came with a magnificent save from Tuns goalie Craig Thatcher, who for someone with a hangover and the added worry of exactly how much money he had spent the night before, performed brilliantly. But not without stiff competition from the champagne 7ths goalie Manni.

So that was the end of the group stages,

we had our final 8, and the quarter final draw saw:

Marcia Road	v	Seconds
Carr-Saunders	v	Rich Britten
The 'Firsts'	v	The Tuns
The Fourth's	v	The Fifth's

Taffy's team donned their go faster stripes and unleashed themselves on the 2nds team, who had an average age of around 26. They were however outclassed by Jan's men. But a lack of fitness which wasn't helped by Shetters and the Rubbish Jew chain smoking on the sidelines lead to token Yanks Wade and Walker notching up several goals each to put The 2nds through with a 6-0 victory. Carr-Saunders, captained by Amit Mistry, were the surprise team of the tournament, and easily overcame Rich Britten 2-1, mainly thanks to a Cantona-esque performance from Captain Amit. Zac, not having much luck of late, scored for Rich Britten, so he has finally scored in some sense of the word at least. All that decided the third quarter final was a red card against the Tuns, which led to a free kick, which Pirate and Scouse combined to put past Thatcher. Pitch four saw a battle between the fourths and fifths, it all got a little heated. Stocker played well up front putting one past 5th team captain Alex 'Judas' Goddard, who had defected to the 4ths, but Dirt's abilities weren't enough to keep the Fifth's in the tournament. The semi-finals saw a battle royale between the cream of LSE football, the First and Second teams. A close match was decided by a late goal from the Seconds, to put them through to the final against Carr-Saunders, who had overcome the Fourth's 4-0 in their Semi.

With star striker Neville injured for the final, Carr-Saunders faced an uphill struggle against the Seconds. In a close game the seconds pulled away and won 2-0, but not after a valiant effort from LSE's cheapest hall. Thanks must go to my co-organiser Manni Pattar, who, in the week he played his last ever game for LSE, refereed the games superbly, even though he was smoking a joint at the same time.

# Gimperial Get Violated by LSE Runners

## John 'Road Runner' Charles



It's been a while but after 2 months of partying, training and downright laziness I'm back! This month's been pretty hectic with trips to Scotland, Reading and Hyde Park and our world tour finally ended at the not so pleasant surroundings of Victoria Park in Hackney (yes it really is a shithole).

The challenge was simple, if every one of our team beat Gimperial by 5 places then LSE would claim 2nd in the league and top UL team. It was gonna be hard but for once the trip was totally uneventful and the teacher strike had swelled our numbers to an astronomical 15! We arrived in plenty of time to walk the course and size up the opposition which unfortunately looked pretty strong. St Mary's had their usual crack team, the Gimps clearly threatened were at full strength while UCMell with relegation looming once again didn't seem to give a toss. With the cold wind getting worse and ruining any ideas of a warm up I couldn't wait for the start and by 3:15 we were lined up ready to go.

I made my usual rocket start keen to set a fast pace but Dennis and Steve quickly passed me and went onto to finish in 2nd and 4th. Meanwhile I fell back into the clutches of a bunch of Gimps and not wanting to damage my street cred hung behind them ready for a last lap charge. Unfortunately it didn't materialize partly



Note the guy on the left of the back row, not only does he have high waistband shorts, but he's 'interfering' with himself.

due some Brunel git getting in the way but my legs were like rubber by then anyway and I was pretty happy with 17th. The rest of the team performed pretty well with Levi, Cason and Gav all getting in the top 30 and LSE runners were packed throughout the whole field with many great performances in tough conditions. But our mission: impossible had failed with Gimperial retaining their crown as the best UL running team. We still had lots to brag about as Dennis took the individual title with his storming run & the 2nds won Division 2 and got promoted after holding off a strong challenge from Surrey. Lucky UCMell only avoided relegation due to a technicality and because Royal Holloway didn't show up.

I won't bother reporting on the girls race because there weren't any LSE athletes. The Gimps really should have won the women's title as well but their 3rd scorer pulled out handing the title to Brunel (why didn't

she just walk?).

As usual the presentation took ages and most of the other unis had fucked off by the time we got our hands on the silverware, which hadn't improved from last year. Still LSE took the biggest haul and we were the only uni to have individual and team champions I THANK YOU! Clearly the stresses of a long season had taken it out of us with only a small number braving the Hackney experience. We entered the nearest pub to find a lot of old, fat blokes (probably West Ham supporters). All bar one old boy Keith felt seriously out of place! The local cuisine from the chippie wasn't much better so we decided to head to ULU to relax.

In fact it was almost a perfect day but I stupidly left the team kit behind, luckily some Gimp picked it up and now he's got a bag of stinkin vests at his house WAIT.... IT WAS A PERFECT DAY!

## Paddy's Piece

Election fever spread round the LSE last week like gonorrhoea round a Soho massage parlour. The AU elections saw Shetters hold off a strong challenge from Lauren Cox to become President, while Caustic Steve failed to remember that LSE thinks he doesn't exist anymore, meaning Amy Mahoney got Club Liason. Dom Rustam won Communications on the back of a strong election promise to "Do fuck all", whilst Hester got Secretary, Jez got Treasurer and Claudia got Events.

The highlight of Thursday night was undoubtedly seeing Gaz Carter beat Jo Kibble to claim the post of Treasurer. Some people have claimed that I have been overly unfair to Jo Kibble in this column, but I reckon that's complete bollocks. Let's look at the facts. Uncle Joseph once spent his time in his job as Treasurer of the SU (time, which I may add, is paid for by the SU - thus by you and me), writing a fictitious letter to the Beaver, defending his actions, and then signed the letter with a bizarre anagram of his predecessor's name. This is the man who, in his role as treasurer, claimed no responsibility for the budget he presented at a UGM last term, claiming "I only signed it". This is the man who will leave the SU Budget in an eighty grand deficit for this financial year. Fair enough, the plans for refurbishment of the Tuns were launched before he came into power, but his lack of consultation with the student body throughout his tenure has been a mistake. The Tuns is the bar of the Student Union, which is primarily used by, and thus kept alive by, students. Wouldn't it be a wise decision to ask the students what they'd like their bar to look like? In my opinion, Gareth's victory isn't a 'victory for the AU' as is being claimed by some, but a victory for common sense.

The Firsts have reached the ULU Cup Final, after overcoming Queen Mary's in the semis. The final is going to be this Saturday at Motspur Park, home of Fulham reserves. They're playing Royal Holloway. If you are unaware of the pikeyness of Royal Holloway, read on. A match at Holloway requires a trek which would prove difficult for Michael Palin, then they invariably fuck you about and refuse to tell you what part of their campus you're playing on until as late as possible - generally about twenty minutes after they've kicked off. Neanderthals wander their campus, trailing their knuckles on the ground. It's not a nice place. Come to the Cup Final on Saturday (don't worry, their supporters will be arriving in cattle trucks and kept in a cage behind one goal), and you'll have a good afternoon out. You've missed seeing the Champagne Sevenths win promotion, so come and watch the Firsts win the cup.

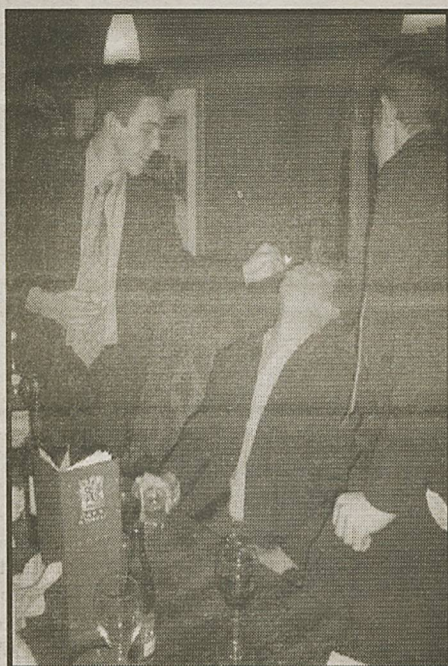
Bye.

The LSE Footy Firsts have reached the ULU Cup Final, and they're taking on the prison scum of Royal Holloway this Saturday, 13th March at Motspur Park. Come along, get pissed and support your university against the pikey twats of Holloway. Look out for posters round campus or email [g.h.carter@lse.ac.uk](mailto:g.h.carter@lse.ac.uk) for travel arrangements. Que sera, sera, whatever will be, will be.....

## Fourths Get a Glimpse of the Divine Comedy

LSE Football Fourths.....1  
Goldsmiths Seconds.....0  
Somewhere around London

Victor 'Pikey' Fleurot



Another refined evening spent at the Gentlemen's Club for the Fourth Team.

Every now and then comes a situation that defies our attempts to make sense of life. It makes you realise men are nothing but toys in the hands of fortune - or unaware actors of the Divine Comedy for the more pious of our readers. I am proud to say I was there when the LSEFC Fourth XI was tied to a chain of ridiculous events beyond human understanding.

The first victim of fortune was Andy 'Mandela' Birdman, who turned up in the Tuns without the kit he had been entrusted with. Error is human, so the gentlemen we are simply reminded him of what a c\*\*\* he is before kicking him back to Bankside. As a result of his mistake, he failed to make our scheduled train in time and we had a nice 30-minute chat in the changing rooms of Albany Park football grounds.

When he finally turned up, sweating like a blind lesbian in a fish shop, we were surprised at how clean and dry the kit was (a feat only Pikey had pulled off so far). The actors then entered the stage for one of the most comic tragedies of all times - or one of the most tragic comedies of all times if you're a Goldsmiths student reading the Beaver. The setting was perfect: a quickly-assembled team of strangers supposed to represent a university, two flat balls without a pump, and

the combined absence of a referee and a whistle.

Now, we're not saying we expect Premiership standards from our hosts, but all university grounds around London possess at least one whistle. These jokers had their kit sponsored by Budweiser but couldn't even produce a noisy object: see the contrast? To keep track of the time, the 'joker-turned-shouting-referee' was given a mobile phone by his captain. In the spirit of the day, this mobile phone would delay kick-off in the second half, when their captain would reply to a text from his girlfriend at the referee's request. Apparently she was doing fine, Simon was told when he inquired.

Back to the first half antics. After we had told the referee how long a game of football is, their captain broke the tradition and proceeded to do the toss himself. I saw his left hand was slightly bigger than his right, and decided he was too stupid to try and fool me. Get in! The magic grass had won us the toss. Bewildered by the atmosphere, I made no use of my win and let them have the kick-off. This ridiculous decision led to a ridiculous outcome, as we scored the only goal of the game within thirty seconds. But there were more divine interventions to come.

Having scored in the first minute against a team sitting resolutely at the bottom of our league, we thought life was starting to make sense again. How unaware of our humble nature! As the game developed, it became clear that all our efforts to control our fate

were vain. Jim Little, on loan from the First team, was leading our pack of misfiring gunmen. For anyone not familiar with ULU sports, a First team striker failing to score against a team struggling two leagues below is like Kylie Minogue failing to pull at Crush after offering volunteers to pay for the cab journey home. Let's just say we were surprised by this turn of fortune.

At the other end of the pitch, events were unfolding with the same Dantesque logic of their own. Our two centre-backs, Craig and Simon, were being left playing statues by the slowest strikers ULU has ever seen, only for 'Iron Fists' Ritchie to see them miss the target with the regularity of a Swiss watch. One of their strikers even had to use all his genius to miss a sitter from three yards out.

In the midfield, Joe and Alex were caught in the middle of things, starting to realise someone on another planet was taking the piss. Unsure whether to cry or laugh, Gaffy the Taffer was trying his best to secure the most ridiculous three points of his young career. It will come as no surprise that Spिकास was the man of the match, and that he and 'Gay' Mike (the two shortest men on the field) won more headers than Jesus did miracles. The divine comedy ended on a high, as the referee shouted (no whistle, remember?) the end of the game just as Dennis had finally managed to run clear at their keeper. Genius... Gaffy the Taffer's attempts to give us some well-deserved criticism after the final shout were drowned in hilarity, as none of us could believe what we had just witnessed. I was there.

## Sexy French Maids Triumph in LSE Catfight

LSE Netball Fourths.....19  
LSE Netball Fifths.....11  
Lincoln's Inn Fields

Ems 'Ready for Anything' Rixon



Ok, not only are netball girls the most stunning, elegant and sophisticated girls in the AU, but we're clearly the most sexy...so imagine, if you will, the incredible proposal that we play our match against the 5ths dressed as French maids and school girls - though if you were there to witness this pornographic fantasy on Wednesday 25th, you won't need to imagine...

As there's no hard feelings or over-competitiveness in netball, we felt to make the match more fun we'd play in sexy outfits (that's just the kinda gals we are!). However, underneath all the friendly girly chat, the 4ths had an undeniable desire to beat and whip the 5ths...at netball (what were you all thinking...probably the same thing as the purvy men who came to watch!) They were beating us in the league, and the 4ths don't take humiliation lying down (only when we're shit-faced and dancing like fools at walkabout!) To

be honest (and totally impartial) they didn't stand a chance. We scored about 3 times in as many minutes and all our French maid lovelies were on top form. Lara was running around like a blue-arsed fly (and by the way I think we all had blue arses, it was definitely not the weather to be cavorting in mini-skirts and fishnets) and was catching every pass there was, and Sian 'mark me like you mean it' Beynon and Shelly were scoring like only netball girls can.

Meanwhile, at t'other end of the court, our brave and valiant captain Laura as GK, was getting physically abused by their teeny tiny GS, and for once she wasn't enjoying herself!

At first sneaky jabs of the elbow to the ribs could be born, but their GS was soon pulled up 3 times for contact in what seemed like about 30 seconds. On some form of mini-revenge she charged Laura and sent her flying arse over tit...she actually charged her down. Unaware that netball is a NON-CONTACT sport, she continued to batter Laura till the end of the first quarter, when Laura came off, quivering in fear, refusing to play against her again...but we were still whipping ass (metaphorically speaking of course.)

I was chomping at the bit to get on in Laura's place and bring the psycho midget down, but instead I had to mark their secret

weapon Tamsin, a 7ft tall giant. I am 5'5"...it was ridiculous. So thorough sneaky maneuvering and the fact that their shooter was a foot closer to the goal than everyone else, they scored a few...but so did we (mwahahahaha) and at half time it was 10-5.

The third quarter was fraught with injuries...all theirs! Their captain Sarah twisted her ankle, and their shooter took a ball in the face, giving her a nosebleed. We think that they realised the game was up, and felt the need to end it all...however, the absence of the bleeding shooter meant the elbowy crazed abuser was back...and it was up to me to teach her a lesson...

The final quarter was a blur for me as I came under The Elbows, twice in the ribs and a sneaky one in the kidneys, but I was more amazed when she suddenly darted off into the centre third to try and get the ball...A word for the uninformed: YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!! Hmph, anyway, everyone else was playing so well, the ball never came my way, so I was left merely to imagine how it would feel to jam my elbows into her ribs. Briony and Lara were zipping all over, intercepting every pass, and getting the ball to the circle in record time, where Sian and Shelly couldn't fail to score. A fantastic shot by Sian from the edge of the circle went straight in, and the whistle blew. We had shown the 5ths who truly rules the crappy end of the club, and walked away victorious, if slightly chaffed by fishnets, 19-11.

The night after the match before was a lovely girly, sangria-blurred haze, (though thankfully we managed to lose the costumes), just to show that although we can wipe the floor with them, we still love the 5ths!!

The Calella Countdown:

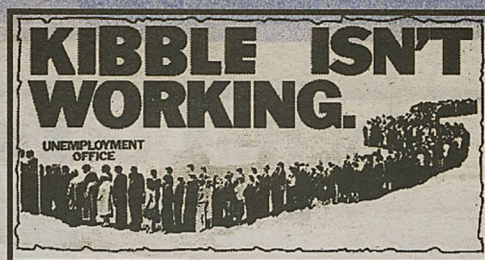
17 days, 22 hours, 43 minutes and 16 seconds

Simon 'Vandal' Taylor's going - Let the filth begin.....

# BeaverSports

Tuesday 09 March 2004

Issue 599



anymore.....

## Let the Champagne Flow - The Sevenths are Going Up!

Champagne Sevenths.....8  
QMW.....1  
Fortress Berrylands, Surrey

Paul  
McAleavey



The Champagne Sevenths were promoted in style from ULU Division 4 following a victory as comprehensive as NATO's last visit to the Balkans. A long hard season had seen the Champagne bandwagon roll out to venues as glamorous as Radlett and Perivale, but we knew that a win in our last game of the season against Queen Mary's would guarantee promotion.

The Lent term had been a frustrating time for the Sevenths, as games were called off due to bad weather and the our fixture schedule became as packed as a Leicester City player's hotel room. However, three games at Berrylands in ten days gave us a chance to seal promotion, and possibly the championship. St George's Medics were dispatched 2-0 with goals from Raihan and Graeme. Absolutely fucked for players for our game against Royal School of Mines, a desperate



call for players on the Champagne Sevenths website attracted much interest. Pink Lady, Sammadeus, Andy and Taffy all responding to Captain Nathan's SOS, and with support from Ceri, Cat and Jo things were set for a good afternoon. A hat-trick from Ed and another goal from Graeme sealed a 4-1 win. The stage was now set for the game against Queen Mary's - a win would send us up, and a defeat would leave us about as happy as Jo Kibble after Thursday's SU elections.

To be completely honest the QM team put up about as much of a fight as Sheryl Gascoigne in a kitchen. A few players from the QM Fourth team, who had been disqualified from the league above us for being nonces, had evidently been drafted in as

ringers for what was their biggest game of the season. Throughout the match they derided each other for their mistakes (of which, to be fair, there were many), called each other 'cunts' and generally acted like dickheads. In between the QM arguments, the Sevenths' supreme team spirit saw star striker Nick Vivyan cement his place as top scorer in the league with a hat-trick. Graeme kept up his recent good form by also hitting a hat-trick. Ross was rewarded for running more than a Leicester City player from Spanish police with a goal, and Ed Calow stuck one in near the end. Manni Pattar, the Sevenths' mercurial goalkeeper, was playing his last ever game for LSE following three years of faithful service. With ten minutes to go, he was relieved of his duties in goal and took up a position as a

striker, looking for that goal which has eluded him for three years. He ran around the pitch like an elephant shot with a tranquilizer dart, didn't score, but set up two goals. Thanks must be passed to Hide 'Nicest Man in the LSEFC' Tanaka of the Firsts, who was drafted in for the game, and destroyed QM down the left flank.



One week on, the QM defenders are still having nightmares about Raihan. One of them is reportedly having wet dreams.

The final whistle blew, and five bottles of Lambrini were sprayed over the green, green grass of Berrylands. Ed's very expensive bottle of proper champagne he had taken from his family's wine cellar was drunk in seconds by the Sevenths, who later descended on the Tuns to celebrate promotion to Division Three. As Spandau Ballet said, "You are gold. Always believe in your soul".

## Meet the new Athletic Union Exec!

The elections for the Athletic Union executive were held alongside the SU elections last week. Following the ever popular AU Hustings, turnout for the elections was described by one AU insider as "healthier than Caustic Steve's genitals", which, to be fair, isn't very healthy at all.

Election fever hit the Quad the previous week with the Hustings, which saw eager candidates dressing up in the hope of winning over the rabid AU crowd. Pete Davies, going for President, braved the February weather by wearing a toga, which he admirably wore onto Limeabout. Olivia Schofield, true to her Beaver pseudonym, came as Pamela Anderson, and Lauren Cox, also going for President, dressed as Minnie Mouse. A series of typically politically incorrect questions were fired at the candidates, provoking some amusing answers. The prospective Events candidates were all asked "Do you spit or swallow?" by outgoing President Darius Tabatabai, to which Womens' Rugby's Vanessa Lim replied "In the eye", an obvious reflection on the poor performances in the past of Mat and Johnny.

Following the questioning, the night got into full swing with LSE's very own "Stars in Their Eyes" show for RAG week. Highlight of the night was the extremely well rehearsed rendition of "Wannabe" by five members of Womens' Rugby, who were the eventual winners, raising £131. "Slam your body down" was given a new meaning when former Sports Editor Ellie Vyras, dressed as Posh Spice, forgot her knickers, leading to some interesting views for those in the front row of the audience.

Outgoing AU Treasurer Will Jordan, and



The New Athletic Union Executive - clockwise from top left - Dom Rustam (Communications), Pete Davies (President), Amy Mahoney (Club Liason), Hester Barsham (Secretary) and Claudia Whitcomb (Events). Absent from photo - Jez Sanders (Treasurer).

favourite barman Colin, slaughtered "Lady in Red", in rather fetching red dresses. Beyzade M. Beyzade was the comedy act of the night, swinging his not so sexy pelvis to "Livin La Vida Loca". His act was only saved by his very sexy co-star Caroline, whose revealing Latina outfit left little to the male imagination, and secured her free drinks for the rest of the evening.

The following Thursday, after two days of voting, the AU results were announced to an expectant Tuns. The race for President was particularly close, with only 17 votes separating Lauren 'Loves' Cox from eventual winner Pete 'Shettters' Davies. Events was equally tense with the vote going to third preferences with Munchkin Claudia pipping the AU Superhero to the title. The

Treasurer and Communications positions were easily won however by Jez and Dom respectively. Hester was uncontested in the race for Secretary but many students were heard to question who was this RON guy? The ongoing saga of Caustic Steve's long university career continued when he discovered he had been disqualified from the elections for not being a 'proper' student. Supportive friends offered comforting words to their friend "You Knob!".

The results are as follows:

**Pete 'Shettters' Davies - President**  
Team: Second Team Rugby (Captain)

Favourite Drink: Stella, always Stella  
Quote: "I promise I'll do as good a job for the AU

as I did for the Rugby Seconds - in other words, total success, and lots of drunkenness".

**Jez Sanders - Treasurer**

Team: Football Sixths  
Favourite Drink: Malibu & Pineapple  
Quote: "I promise to visit Berrylands more than once a year, and not be such a gimp for minding the fire alarm for my parents".

**Claudia 'Munchkin' Whitcomb - Events**

Team: Hockey  
Favourite Drink: Malibu & Diet Coke  
Quote: "I promise to carry on the good work that's already in place and work on increasing participation in events such as the welcome party. Plus get the AU more involved in things like RAG week".

**Dom Rustam - Communications**

Team: Football Firsts  
Favourite Drink: Vodka & Orange (Screwdriver)  
Quote: "I promise to maintain my promise of doing fuck all".

**Amy Mahoney - Club Liason**

Team: Netball Thirds  
Favourite Drink: If Calella rumours are true, then any footballer...  
Quote: "I promise my red hot pants will see as much action in Calella this year as they did last year, proving I can liaise well!"

**Hester Barsham - Secretary**

Team: Womens' Rugby  
Favourite Drink: Vodka and anything  
Quote: "I promise I will be in the Tuns every Wednesday night!"