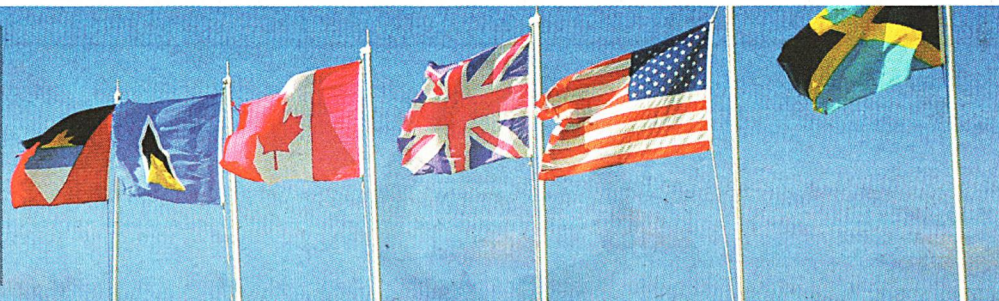




**LSESU
INTERNATIONAL
WEEK 2011**



The Beaver

15.11.2011
Newspaper of the
LSE Students' Union
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Blood Bank event unites

» 4 LSE students listen to the tales of women from both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at an event held by the LSE Students' Union's International Officer, the LSE Students' Union Israel Society and the King's College London Israeli Palestinian Forum. The event also featured a short film produced by Saatchi & Saatchi about a project by which Israelis and Palestinians donate blood, which is given to patients across the border. Many of the attendees had participated in a blood donation earlier that day.

Students struggle to reclaim early payment reward

» 4 A number of students experienced delays of receiving their Early Repayment Award which was given to students who paid their full tuition fees between 31st August and 31st October. Instead of receiving the award as a 1.5 per cent discount for their fees, the award is transferred to the LSE sQuid card, which can be used in designated places on campus or in student halls. Some students complained about this change, commenting that it is not a real discount.

Bhangra Crush a success

» 6 Bhangra Crush, organised by the Sikh-Punjab Society, attracted above average turnout last Friday with foreign music, animated dancing and live drummer. Alex Bond, a regular Crush organizer, said that the purpose of Bhangra Crush was to offer an alternative to the regular theme. The overall comment on this event was positive, and members of the Sikh-Punjab Society was glad that they were able to express their own culture this way.

LSE takes part in National Demo



LSE students participate in last Wednesday's National Demo. | Photo: Wanda O'Brien

**Naomi Russell
Sydney Saubestre**

Thousands of students took to the streets last Wednesday despite a heavy police presence. An estimated quarter of the 10,000 anticipated protesters showed up to protest the rising tuition fees proposed by the coalition Government of Prime Minister David Cameron.

Around 60 LSE students left Houghton Street at midday to join

students from across the country, united in their stance to "protect education, fight privatization" in light of the changes proposed by the White Paper. Around sixty students from LSE joined students from across the greater London area in the protest.

Scotland Yard had announced that it would be deploying 4,000 police officers in anticipation of the damage done by the student demonstration last March. Omnipresent neon jackets were a constant reminder that they were authorized to use rubber bullets in case of "extreme circumstances."

Students were led through a preset path, which began at the University of London Union and finished at London Met University, by mounted police officers. The police officers, though generally amiable, were adamantly trying to contain the protesters, urging anyone carrying a sign to stay within the delineated group.

When the protest reached Trafalgar Square, a faction broke off to pitch tents in Trafalgar s

Square, chanting, "Whose square? Our square!"

Police officers mobilised quickly to

remove the twenty tents at the foot of Nelson's Column. Several people were arrested and removed from their tents.

The rest of the march was relatively peaceful. A few incidents involving plastic bottles and sticks being thrown at the police resulted in tension and brief scuffles. They were quickly resolved with minimal damage. No rubber bullets were used and though riot squads were deployed, they did not have to intervene beyond forming lines to prevent demonstrators from making their way to St. Paul's Cathedral where the

» 3

LSE Interim Director speaks at UGM

Stephanie Gale

Judith Rees, Interim Director of the LSE, spoke at the Union General Meeting (UGM) this week on issues ranging from tuition fees to the School's relations with Libya.

Rees began by saying that although raised tuition fees were regrettable, those within the School have to "help ourselves as much as we can" given the current economic climate and competition among universities. She also noted that she would like to "dispel any myths" that may have arisen, in

particular noting that the university has no plans for compulsory staff redundancies or increased class sizes.

Despite these comments, Rees expressed a number of concerns she has for the LSE, beginning with the government's seeming intention to let an increasing number of private providers into the sector. The LSE received some of its government funding on the condition that it has to provide private providers' students with access to the LSE library, which is already heavily used by students at the School.

Rees also said she is concerned about staff visas, given recent proposals that have suggested overseas staff

will only be able to work in the UK for five years. "Given that our reviews for staff is currently at five years, this makes no sense," she said, adding that the LSE will be "lobbying like frantic" over the issue.

Rees went on to express doubt about recent proposals for students to apply to university via UCAS after they have received their A-level results in August. Under such proposals universities would have just six weeks to complete the entire admissions process. Currently, professional LSE staff consider applications in great detail, which may not be achievable in six weeks with temporary staff.

Rees also spoke about the School's relations with Libya, saying that the Woolf Report will hopefully be released by the end of the month, pending the completion of a University of London inquest into the academic integrity of the PhD Saif al-Islam completed while attending the LSE. Following suggestions on the Politics Show that the LSE may be involved in future associations with Libya, she commented that the School had received no formal approach. She added that any future dealings will be entirely up to the Council, which will have to know in certainty that there is a "reasonable regime" in Libya before the

LSE is to have any association with it.

Regarding the Kanazawa controversy, Rees said she would like to establish that "staff as well as students deplore his views," and that the School has done what it must to punish Kanazawa under employment and trade union laws. She said, "As far as I am concerned, the matter is closed."

Rees then stayed for a five minute question and answer session with UGM attendants. In response to a criticism of the scheduling of the LSE100 examination on the 6th January 2012, several days before the official start of Lent Term, she argued that staff searched for

» 6

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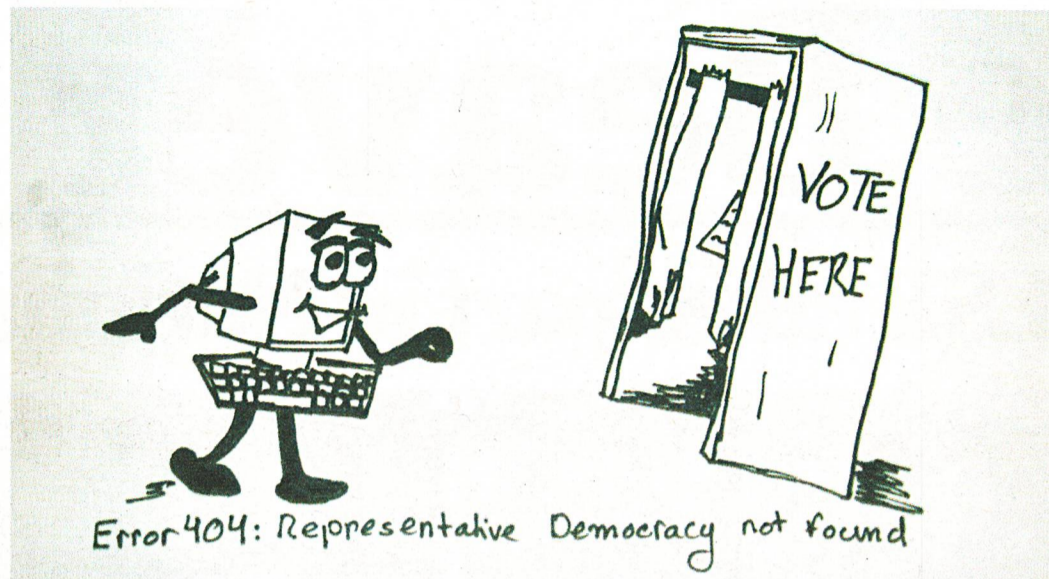
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Union Bashō

Rees-ly good

Nostalgia
Director's Questions
was tamer than in the past.
And that's a good thing?

Bashō is the Beaver's evasive haiku poet and goes to the Union General Meeting so you don't have to.



The Beaver

Established in 1949

Issue No. 757

Telephone: 0207 955 6705 Email: editor@thebeaveronline.co.uk

To UGM and beyond

Judith Rees breathed new life into the Union General Meeting (UGM) this week by appearing as guest speaker before an audience of LSE students. For the second time this term we have been reminded why the UGM is actually an institution to be proud of. Rees appeared in order to address issues from campus ranging from the tuition fee hike to the School's links with Libya and later answered direct questions from students. Having this direct communication with important figures from the School is precisely why the UGM is still such an important forum for our university. It allows people to become engaged in matters of genuine importance on campus and creates a dialogue between the student body and those in positions of power.

This is precisely why we support the coming UGM motion to abandon the online voting procedure and return voting power to those who actually show up. Democracy relies

on informed decision making and the availability of information. Those who do not attend the UGM make a decision that affects the entire student body, based on the wording of the motion heading. They are not exposed to any of the arguments and counter arguments that are brought up in the debate at UGM, or party to the questions raised which can frame a seemingly solid motion in a new light. We agree that decisions should be made by the many rather than the few, and that there should be unqualified suffrage. But we also believe that everyone has the opportunity to attend UGM, everyone has the chance to engage and to educate themselves. The privilege to affect change is entrusted to those who decide to partake in the democratic process, a process that involves far more than just ticking a ballot.

This week at the LSE also sees the celebration of International Week. This series of events celebrates the

uniquely international culture that we are lucky enough to enjoy at the LSE. This has so far seen our very own football (that's soccer - just in case) world cup and will, over the coming days, host events such as an international fair on Houghton Street, two "International Film Festivals" and a series of talks about the international community. The international make up of our student body is one of the jewels in our crown and so we encourage everybody to get involved and take part in the plethora of cultural diversity our campus provides us with.

Collective

Rasha Al-Dabagh, Ahmed Alani, Nicola Alexander, Jon Armstrong, Laurence Atchison, Emma Beaumont, Liam Brown, Harry Burdon, Benjamin Butterworth, Simon Chaudhuri, Gurdeep Chhina, Bethany Clarke, Rory Creedon, Roberta Cucchiari, Alicia Cunningham, Aisha Doherty, Eden Dwek, Maz Fletcher, Alice Leah Fyfe, Alice Gunn, Paniz Geder, Alex Haigh, Rachel Holmes, Max Jenkins, Kirsty Kenney, Aleona Krechetova, Rory Creedon, Zoe Leung, Neeraj Mashru, Duncan McKenna, Anoli Mehta, Rimmel Mohyidin, Angie Moneke, Chu Ting Ng, Kerry-Rose O'Donnell, Maxim Owen, Aameer Patel, Maatin Patel, Hannah Payne, John Peart, Alex Peters-day, Shrina Poojara, Timothy Pool, Aimee Riese, Chris Rogers, Zac Sammour, Sydney Saubestre, Lukas Slothus, Jack Tindale, Laurence Vardaxoglou, Michael Veale, Ankur Vora, Heather Wang, Sam Williams, Vincent Wong, Mathew Worby, Alexander Young

The Collective is The Beaver's governing body. You must have contributed three pieces of work, or contributed to the production of three issues of the paper (editorially or administratively), to qualify for membership. If you believe you are a Collective member but your name is not on the list above, please email

collective@thebeaveronline.co.uk

The Beaver would like to thank the LSE students who contributed to this issue.

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Part B Competition

Win 2 tickets to "A Walk On Part" at the Soho Theatre. The play is a dramatisation of the critically acclaimed diaries of former MP Chris Mullin. To win these tickets, tell us which constituency Mullin represented in parliament. Send answers to

partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

You're hired!

Dearest Beavies and Media Group fanatics,

Once again, we're looking for amazing people to be part of our team. This time, however, we're looking for a Media Group Marketing Manager. The general responsibilities will be overall promotion of all entities within the Media - via marketing, Houghton Street stalls and whatever innovative ideas you have. This position would look fantastic on your CV and you'd be able to appoint a team to support for. To apply or send in inquiries, email:

editor@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Photographers needed

To all those with a disposition to take photos, and are looking for something to finally fill that monstrous void in their lives fear not. The Beaver is here. We're looking for photographers, mainly covering events on campus, but also for online slideshows. A perfect addition to the CV for that inevitable internship application.

To apply or send in inquiries, email:

photography@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Wanted: Part B editor

The ever elusive position of Part B co-editor has become available. If you're interested in arts, culture and the odd sex scandal, apply to be co-editor of this beloved section of the paper. Elections are being held on Thursday 18th November at 6.30pm in Clement House 2.07

If you'd like to find out more about the position email partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Submit a 150 word manifesto to collective@thebeaveronline.co.uk

continued from page 1

Occupy London Stock Exchange has its camp. The level of support from observers was notable. Some businesses displayed signs expressing solidarity with the protesters and confirming their defense of the right to protest. Construction workers stopped work to observe demonstrators and cheered on protesters' cries "to unite and fight."

This sense of distant unity struck students as positive for many marchers, who felt like their cause had a larger scope. Emma Clewer, 3rd year Sociology student said, "My favourite part of the march was walking past a group of builders who stopped work to wave placards and express their support for our cause."

Stephanie Gale, a 2nd year Government student, also felt that this reiterated a growing sense of discontent with the government from multiple fronts.

"The March showed a united body of people throughout the country who have frequently been disapproving of the Government's measures to decrease the accessibility of education for all."

Many demonstrators felt that the positive atmosphere of the protest was overshadowed by the heavy police presence and were upset by the police's use of "scare tactics."

"The police presence was entirely disproportionate," said Amena Amer, LSE Students' Union Education Officer, "their use of force was completely inappropriate and inexcusable, taking protesters by surprise on a number of occasions when it was completely unnecessary."

Clewer added, "the police brought quite an intimidating atmosphere to the march with their hostility and the knowledge that extra measures such as rubber bullets were being considered." The lower than usual turnout was partially blamed on promises of arrest and other intimidation methods.

While education was the official focus of the march, the chanting and placards diversified, covering a range of ideological issues not previously stated as the aims of the march. Sophie Newman, 2nd year Government and History student, commented, "although issues such as the overthrow of capitalism or the abolition of the royal family may be valid issues in their own right, the demonstration was about the protection of education. I think that some people might be put off from

joining in because they associate the event with these more controversial views." Clewer claimed that the true value of the event was in showing that "there

is still a movement there and that students will be fighting these cuts until the very end." As dusk fell, the protest quietly dispersed amid fears that chaos at St.

Paul's would erupt. Instead, demonstrators slowly trickled through a line set up by the police, putting an end to an important message.



Police walked in front of the protesters. | Photo: Sydney Saubestre



Students carried an LSE Students' Union banner as they walked in the protest. | Photo: Annie Ren

News in brief

HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS AT LSE

Viktor Orbán, the Prime Minister of Hungary, outlined his view on how Eastern Europe could stimulate economic growth and prosperity last Thursday in a public lecture held in the Shaw Library, Old Building. Orbán has held this position since the 2010 general election and the Hungarian Government has taken measures, including simplifying and reducing taxation, increasing the flexibility of the labour market, and abolishing regulatory obstacles of the market entry by businesses, to create a competitive economic institutional framework.

IPHONE APP SAVES LIVES?

It has been suggested that a new iPhone application, tested at the Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London on Saturday 12th November, not only makes return journeys less stressful but also saves lives as it could detect the density of a crowd following disasters. Eve Mitleton-Kelly, Director of LSE's Complexity Research Group, and her team have been researching the implications of the installation of this app. They said that the app could help crowd safety during major disasters, but it will only work when the number of usership is large.

TOP UK INSTITUTIONS LOOK TO THE EAST FOR FUNDING

Oxford, Cambridge and the LSE have drawn increasing financial support from the East, especially from China and Hong Kong, according to South China Morning Post. The article on their website reports that, last year, Hong Kong businessmen donated at least £2 million to these three universities and the number is expected to increase this year and next. The article also stated that the LSE said donations from Hong Kong had surged from just £19,000 in 2007 to £45,000 in 2009 and more than £775,000 in the last academic year.

PEOPLE HAPPIEST AFTER SEX

George MacKerron, an LSE researcher, developed a iPhone app named the "Mappiness" which was used by 45,000 iPhone users to record their level of happiness at least five times a week. This study shows that people are happiest after having sex, followed by exercising, going to a movie or a concert and then singing or performing. And being sick in bed is ranked first on the list of things that make people unhappy. Waiting in line, commuting, caring for adults, working and studying were not enjoyed by many, either.

ECONOMICALLY-TROUBLED COUNTRIES BETTER TRAINED

The finance ministers of the economies that are experiencing more severe economic crises are more likely to have received high levels of economic training, according to a new research conducted by Dr Joachim Wehner of the LSE and Professor Mark Hallerberg of the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. The research looked at the education of the political leadership of twenty-seven European countries and eleven non-European Organisations for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries since 1973.

GOT A SCOOP?

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

Pulse dismisses DJs over discriminatory comments

Bethany Clarke

The co-hosts of Pulse Radio's Guilty Pleasures FM show have been dismissed after making several discriminatory comments on their 29th October 2011 show.

One of the co-hosts said that he used the term "window-licker" in reference to people with disabilities, although he said he "was unaware what it actually meant." His co-host corrected him on air, and an immediate apology was made.

The two co-hosts also used the term "trannies" while discussing their plans to attend a clubbing event called "Tranny Shack," advertised on the TimeOut website.

One of the Guilty Pleasures FM hosts said, "we apologise for any offensive language we may have used during the show in question. The last thing we want to do is offend any listeners and lose the show we love hosting and want to continue to host."

A decision was made at an internal meeting of the Pulse Committee to remove all the offending material

from its website and to not make the incident public, according to a source inside Pulse. Pezeshki said that it was taken down from the website "to avoid causing any further damage," and because its content "does not reflect our views." At present Pulse have refused to release the tapes of the show.

At the internal meeting, the Pulse Committee also concluded that they should cancel "Guilty Pleasure FM" show and ask the presenters to leave. This decision came after "Guilty Pleasure FM" had been recorded for a subsequent two shows. According to Heung, "When the show was found to contain offensive material, the committee member who found it spoke to the presenters and also informed the rest of the committee. We then took a democratic vote and the majority decided to remove the show."

One of the presenters commented; "timing was a little bit suspicious - we were told that we were being fired from the show last Friday evening, two weeks after the show had aired... I fear that a politicised agenda is beginning to grip the administration of Pulse radio, enforcing a toxic level of political correctness which will stifle the content of the radio shows." The present-

ers have fought the decision and have asked to appeal their position at the next Committee meeting.

Following the offensive language used in the "Hot Boyz" show last year, Pulse has implemented a system to ensure better accountability of presenters. Pulse takes "serious preventative measures about this kind of incident," said Pezeshki. At the beginning of the year it drafted a Code of Conduct contract to be signed by all show DJs before they go on air. The contract disallows DJs from including offensive material in their shows, and gives Pulse the right to remove presenters and/or shows in the case of a breach of contract. Several Pulse DJs have confirmed that they had to read and sign a contract before airing on the radio station. "The comments made on this show directly breach the equal opportunities section of the code of conduct, and hence we are obliged to take disciplinary action," Pezeshki added. According to the presenters, they "have not been presented with a contract to sign and have never seen a copy of the contract." It is not yet clear how this oversight happened.

Pulse radio is regulated by independent regulator Ofcom. According

to Ofcom's terms of license, radio programmes broadcast in public spaces must not include "offensive language, sex or violation of human dignity."

Benjamin Butterworth, the Students' Union's LGBT Officer said: "People sometimes question why we need liberation officers in this day and age, but these defamatory remarks illustrate just how far we have to go in achieving proper understanding. There's a great deal of ignorance around trans and transgendered people."

"I hope the Pulse presenters in question understand the unacceptable nature of their remarks," he added.

Polly McKinlay, the Students' Union's Disabilities Officer said, "jokes made about disabled people at their expense and with no understanding of their lives are totally ignorant and very offensive. Equality and diversity training for the media group as a whole could be very useful in raising awareness and making sure people know where the line is."

Students encounter difficulties claiming Early Payment Reward

Alice Dawson

Students hoping to take advantage of LSE's Early Payment Reward scheme have been disappointed by delays in receiving their rewards.

When a portion of a student's tuition fees are received by the School before 31st August, they are given the opportunity to claim an early payment reward which equates to 1.5 per cent of their fees. Between 31st August and 31st October, students can only claim a reward if their payment constitutes the full amount of tuition fees payable.

The Early Payment Reward scheme is also open to General Course students. Moreover, alumnus students already enjoying a ten per cent fee discount are able to combine the reward with their discount.

The reward is accessed via the sQuid card, described on the LSE website as "a sort of campus card." It may be used as a method of payment at a variety of locations on campus, including the Library and catering areas such as LSE Garrick and the Mezzanine Café. In addition, students at Rosebery Hall use the sQuid card as the method of payment for evening meals.

Information provided on the LSE website regarding fees and student finance indicates that "rewards are transferred to student card within five working days of the advertised deadline dates." For example, students who meet the 31st October deadline will receive their early payment rewards via the sQuid card within five working days of this date.

Despite this indication, some students waited longer than the advertised five working days and have expressed their discontent at the amount of time it took to receive their early payment rewards. Heather Wang, a second year BA History student, com-

mented that, "It took so long to get the reward. And by putting the money on our sQuid account, the School is basically forcing us to spend this money on the School itself."

Furthermore, Xiaochen Yang, a second year BSc Actuarial Science student, is dissatisfied with the relatively low amount of locations on campus that accept the sQuid card, reducing the value of the early payment scheme. She commented: "This is not an actual discount! I never eat on the fourth floor or in the Garrick, and we can't even use it in the SU shop."

Bernadette Roy, a second year BSc Mathematics and Economics

student, is "not happy with the way LSE handled the reward scheme at all," she labelled the process "very long and unclear" and indicated that it took "quite a few weeks, maybe a month" after submitting her payment before her reward was available. During the process, she was given "no indication of when the money would be available."

Students wishing to make a claim for their early payment reward have until December 1st 2011 to submit an application. All cards must be registered with sQuid prior to application and rewards must be spent by 31st July 2012.



Photo: Bethany Clarke

LSE launches new Global Masters Programme

Bethany Clarke

The LSE has launched a Global Master's in Management programme, aimed at executives looking to study global management while continuing their jobs. The degree is now accepting applications for 35 places, and will begin in September 2012.

The programme will consist of seven one or two week modules spread over the course of seventeen months. This means that participants will only have to spend ten weeks away from the office over the course of almost two years. Two of the modules will be taught abroad, in Singapore and Istanbul. These sessions will focus on the specific challenges facing professional life in their respective regions.

Dina Dommett, Associate Dean in LSE's Department of Management said: "Global management is geographically varied as well as

fast-moving and we've reflected that. By travelling to Singapore and Turkey, participants will get genuine insight into business thinking across the globe."

Between the class sessions, participants will continue their study through online material and discussions.

Dommett said, "We'll make it easy for working people to take the degree but that doesn't mean we'll make it easy. It will be intense and it will be thorough."

Despite its international nature, the course's core teaching and content will be provided by the LSE.

The LSE hopes that the international nature of the course will appeal to applicants from across the world. The School will also be bringing in prominent speakers from business and government.

The new programme is intended to complement the full-time Master's in Management currently offered by the School.

Motion for censure fails at Beaver Collective

Bethany Clarke

A motion for censure was made against the Executive and Social Editors of the Beaver at Tuesday's Collective Meeting.

The motion for censure against Nicola Alexander, Executive Editor, fell by 10 votes for to 37 votes against.

The motion put forward against Shrina Poojara, Social Editor, fell by 7 votes for to 38 votes against.

Duncan McKenna, Managing Editor of the Beaver, said, "I think this

motion did not focus on the issue at hand, as it has been suggested several times. I therefore think that logic prevailed, and fully support Nicola."

According to the Beaver Constitution: "Dissatisfaction with an editor or member of the Collective may be expressed via a vote of censure or a vote of no confidence." A motion for censure "shall constitute a serious disapproval of an individual's actions in regard to the paper."

The paper also elected a new Photo Editor, Matthew Worby, at the collective meeting.

Blood Bank bridges Gaza divide

Connor Russell

Two women from either side of the Israeli-Palestine conflict spoke at the LSE last Thursday as part of the Parents' Circle Bereaved Families Forum. The event was hosted by Hannah Geis, the LSE Students' Union International Officer, the LSE Students' Union Israel Society and the King's College London Israeli Palestinian Forum. The speakers told their stories of loss and renewed hope for the future, which brought together people who had lost family members to discuss their situations and the projects they have undertaken to bring about empathy across the entire region.

The event began with a short film produced by Saatchi & Saatchi, entitled "Blood Relations," in which one of the speakers, Seham Abu Awwad, was featured giving blood and telling her story. The film covered a project set up by the Parents' Circle and Saatchi & Saatchi, in which Israelis and Palestinians donate blood which is then given to patients on opposite sides of the border. Many of those present in the room had also taken part in the project, as a blood donation session had taken place earlier in the day in London, and so the screening proved an emotional experience for some.

After a brief introduction by Aimee Riese, president of the Israel

Society, and Professor Jim Hughes of the Government Department, Robi Damelin and Awwad told the room of their background and motivation for involvement in Blood Relations and the Parents' Circle. Damelin's son, David, was killed by a Palestinian sniper while guarding a checkpoint on Israeli Army reserve service. A Masters student at Tel Aviv University, he had expressed objection to war generally but undertook service regardless as he felt it was a duty to demonstrate respect to fellow Israeli soldiers. In 2000, one of Awwad's brothers was killed by an Israeli Defence Force soldier and another was critically shot in the leg, which led to a radical change of perspective for Awwad's mother who, along with Ms. Awwad herself, joined the Parents' Circle.

They both described initial anxieties and apprehensions about the group and how over time they began to overcome attitudes that had been ingrained in them from birth. They have since met many others in the same situation, as the Parents' Circle now stands at over 500 members and Awwad is the Women's Committee Chair. In addition to Blood Relations, the organisation holds regular meetings in both Israel and Palestine, with what Ms. Damelin described as a "fair amount" of permits for Palestinians to travel into Israel, since the Parents' Circle is not affiliated to any political party. Alongside working directly between members, the group holds talks and seminars in Israeli and Palestinian

schools and with youth summer camps that emphasise cultural interaction. Damelin highlighted the presence of an entire generation of Israelis and Palestinians who have been completely segregated from one another, as a key reason for hatred and the fact that group seeks to bring about empathy on the most basic level.

The event had been criticised for promoting "normalisation" on its Facebook page, as some activists feel that the work of the Parents' Circle accepts the political status quo. Awwad

responded particularly strongly to this criticism, arguing that the organisation rather points out everything that is not normal about the status quo, on a human rather than a political level. The Palestine Society did not return comment on the event.

Aimee Riese said: "The Parents' Circle not only show the essence of the conflict, humans and human suffering, but also offer hope for reconciliation and peace - something we hope activists on all sides of the conflict are working towards." "The emotional

messages by the speakers allow us to think carefully about how we 'export' the conflict outside of the conflict zone and how to connect with the real people involved," added Riese.

The conclusion of the evening focused on the situation at the LSE, as both speakers warned against both sides "importing" the conflict without empathising with one another and expressed an interest in creating a future event at the School with representation from both the Israel and Palestine Societies.



Londoners donate blood to the programme last Thursday. | Photo: Saatchi & Saatchi

Frank names Darwin father of economics

Shu Hang

Robert H. Frank, economics professor at Cornell's Johnson Graduate School of Management and author of "The Darwin Economy," argued that Charles Darwin will replace Adam Smith as the intellectual founder of economics in a public lecture he delivered at the LSE last Thursday. The lecture, entitled "The Darwin Economy: liberty, competition, and the common good," was chaired by Paul Mason, Economics editor of BBC 2's Newsnight.

Throughout the lecture, Frank reiterated the fact that "individual interest and group interest often do not coincide," and that in such cases, people often forgo what is good for the group for their own agenda. Hence, he argued, self-interest does not always lead to the common good.

Frank began his talk by declaring his respect for Adam Smith, but added that he takes issue with the "modern caricature of Smith" adopted by his disciples who claim that the economy will "magically" benefit everyone through the act of "turning selfish people loose in the marketplace." He argued that Charles Darwin's understanding of competition describes economic reality far more accurately.

According to Frank, regulation plays an essential role in the market. He illustrated his point by saying that if a hockey player decided to take off his helmet to gain a "competitive edge," his opponents will have no choice but to "restore the balance by taking off their helmets" as well. Consequently, "no one gains anything," though they all lose the protection provided by the helmet. The solution, he argued, is simply to make helmets compulsory.

Frank applied this analogy to the current economic situation, in which bankers have to take more risk in order to secure a high wage. He stressed that the practice is not justified as the risk is taken at the public's expense, and that bankers are the real "welfare queens."

Frank argued that bankers have a tendency to willfully misconstrue Smith's work: "anything that prospers

in the market is morally celebrated." To Frank, this "self serving rhetoric" makes light of the real implications that banking can have on the market, simply because it is "well received by the market" and allows a small group to make money.

He went on to say that bankers are "fighting over a piece of pie without creating a new pie," and that "we are not sending the right amount of people to the industry."

Frank also said that people are spending too much money on un-

necessary luxuries due to expectations to conform to the "standard" lifestyle of people in their social circle. He proposed a new tax regime whereby civilians would be taxed based on how much they consume, with the marginal tax rate increasing as consumption increases. This would discourage "waste" and the money can be invested in projects that would benefit society, he said.

When confronted by a representative from a libertarian society for defending the act of taxing, Frank said

that a tax-less country would have no army, thus making invasion inevitable, and citizens would end up paying taxes to the invading country instead. The witty response was met with laughter from the audience, while Paul Mason, event Chair, jokingly suggested that Frank was referring to Greece.

Responding to the question as to whether it is wise to reduce consumption given the economic climate, the author said that the crisis was not caused by increased savings - as Americans "weren't saving anything

at all" - but by the undue risk that financial institutions undertook. He concluded that the government needs to change the structure of the market to disincentivize recklessness.

Benjamin Ng, a first year BSc Economics student, was intrigued by the tax system that Frank proposed, saying that "it should work in theory." He also praised the speaker for his "awesome hair."



Photo: Annie Ren

Perry talks about need for a "special relationship" with China

Vincent Wong
Senior Reporter

Stephen Perry, chairman of the 48 Group Club and managing director of the London Export Corporation, criticised Western efforts to build relations with China in his public lecture at the LSE last Tuesday.

His talk, entitled "Doing Business with China: problems, challenges and opportunities" surveyed the 48 Group Club and the London Export Corporation's trading histories with China and outlined his views on the country's future development and its commercial implications. It was the third lecture in an annual series hosted by the Confucius Institute for Business London, which is based at the School.

Sino-Western relations, Perry thinks, have been one-sided: "The Chinese know they need the West. They know they have to work with the West. On the other side, the Western effort has been fragmented, with its

relations with China dominated by Chinese demand and supply. They are operating where China wants them to be."

He went on to say: "[rebalancing relations] depends on identifying Chinese policy, future trends and finding ways to work with that."

He also said that Chinese policy is motivated by two considerations - meeting the needs of its population and building self-reliance which are reflected in the two stages of its development model - export-led growth and the move towards a domestic-driven and high value-added economy.

China's building up of huge dollar reserves, he claimed, are an attempt to manage U.S "aggression" and thereby sustain progress towards these goals. He continued: "Trying to undermine China will leave conflicts as undermining to us all as the euro crisis."

Britain, Perry thinks, needs to approach China less like the U.S and more like Germany, which he sees as representing the "accepting face of Western power," and which has reaped economic benefit from its stance.

"We don't need to choose between China and the U.S," he said, "We can work with both. I'm confident we can get there. But we've still got some way to go."

"The business world needs to become intimate at all levels with the Chinese to create prosperity for us and China. It is too narrow to have a plant and operations in China, and have your CEO or chairperson go there once or twice a year," he later said. "No major company can afford not to have a major strategic approach and partnership with China."

In the question and answer session following his talk, the chair, Nick Byrne of the LSE Language Centre, asked where Britain could help China. Perry said that the Chinese are weak in high-technology areas and that Britain had a role in technology transfer. He also suggested that British firms could help China take care of its elderly by becoming preferred partners in its health industry.

Later questions concerned the business environment in China. Perry was asked about what motivates

Chinese firms and the role that corruption and business ethics plays when working with them. "Market share, not profit," he said, "is the main motivator of Chinese firms." "But if you want to do business with [them], they'll fight you for every penny." He added, "They're not light-touch."

On corruption, he said: "Nobody knows how important corruption is. But if it provides stability and the opportunity for development, it shouldn't be a major problem. That's [China's] model, and we need to understand that. But any company which gets involved in corruption in China is a hostage."

He went on to say that business ethics in China were at an early stage in development.

Other questions concerned China's future. Perry was asked whether the Chinese authorities will be able to manage its development. "It's an enormous operation," he replied, "The risks and challenges are phenomenal. Problems of resistance are major. But China is focused, and its actions are well-researched and planned."

Perry was also asked whether China has imperial ambitions. "Unless the West gets things right fast, China has that option," he said. "We should pay attention to the negative scenario. If we are smart, we will work with them to get to where they want to, in exchange for mechanisms that will make us feel safe. This won't come from attacking China on human rights."

The last question concerned the extent to which China can remain self-reliant. "If China had to choose between developing quickly but having to make concessions on sovereignty, and developing more slowly but retaining sovereignty, it would choose the latter. If they are pushed too hard on sovereignty, they will react." Perry also added that "at the same time, their sense of independence might frustrate others. That's the risk China faces every day with the U.S, which has the power to hurt. You have to deal with all this in a very sensitive way."

LSE students win Deloitte Competition

Heather Wang

A team of LSE students competed and won the Deloitte Case Study Competition which took place from 1st November to 7th November with the shortlisted teams presenting their solutions for challenges on the last day.

Deloitte Case Study Competition was organised for all London and Oxford Master's students. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited is one of the Big Four accountancy firms along with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Ernst & Young, and KPMG.

Suchita Singh, MSc Management and Strategy, Suna Yeltekin, MSc Organizational Behaviour, Gabriela Francki, MSc Organizational Behaviour, and Arjun Mehta, MSc Environment Policy, represented the LSE.

The 2011 Deloitte Consulting Case Study Competition was launched on Tuesday 1st November at Stonecutter Lecture Theatre, Stonecutter Court.

On 2nd November, twenty participating teams were presented with the case study challenge, which was based on a realistic business scenario similar to problems Deloitte had to tackle on behalf of its clients. This case study presented to the students revolved around a telecom company that was

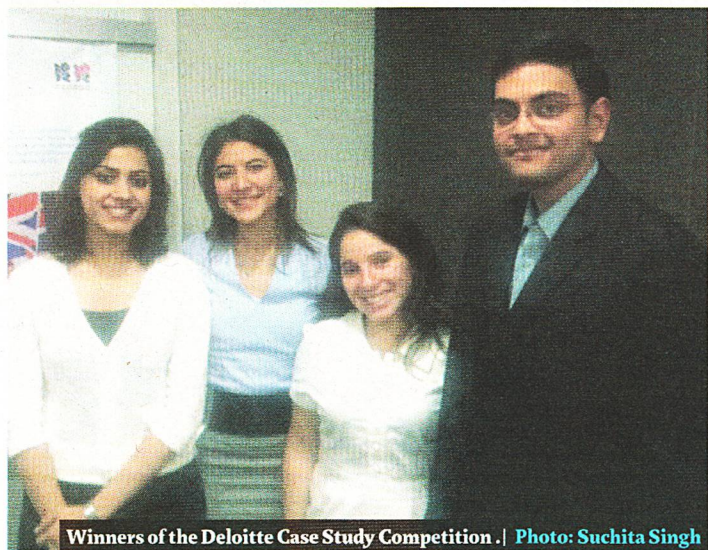
facing various problems and challenges. The fictitious company was witnessing a cultural disconnect between different departments, undergoing a Customer Relationship Management implementation in which various internal leaders were not very confident and looking into options for offshore acquisition.

Each team then had three days to discuss and find ways to solve the real-life business issues. The solutions for the challenge, presented by Powerpoint, needed to be submitted before 4th November to be reviewed by a panel of judges.

After the shortlisting process, four teams were selected who then presented their solutions to a panel of Deloitte Partners and Directors and other participants on Monday 7th November.

According to Suchita Singh, "after a lot of cross questions and answers, the LSE team was judged to be the best team". As a reward, the team received a prize bag with chocolates, mugs, key chains and an Amazon voucher, but the real prize was a dinner scheduled for next week with the Deloitte partners.

Suchita Singh said, "The LSE community will be glad to know that we beat Oxford Business school, Kings College, UCL and Imperial!"



Winners of the Deloitte Case Study Competition. | Photo: Suchita Singh

Crush a Bhangra-ing success

Alice Dawson

A novel mixture of Bhangra, R&B and the usual "Top Forty" hits blasted through the speakers. Though little change was made to the decor, the venue felt different; the foreign music, animated dancing and live drummer were enough to transport students out of Crush for an evening and into a party in central New Delhi. Crush was transformed last Friday to ring in the eleventh year of the highly anticipated Bhangra Crush, organized by the Sikh-Punjab/Punjab Society.

The night began quietly, but as the clock struck eleven, an above average turnout was witnessed on the Quad. The Sikh-Punjab/Punjab Society seems to have bettered with age, as none of the issues seen in the previous years reoccurred. Student ID cards were not collected at the door and bouncers were well behaved.

The Sikh-Punjab/Punjab Society's members were thrilled with the opportunity to express their own culture

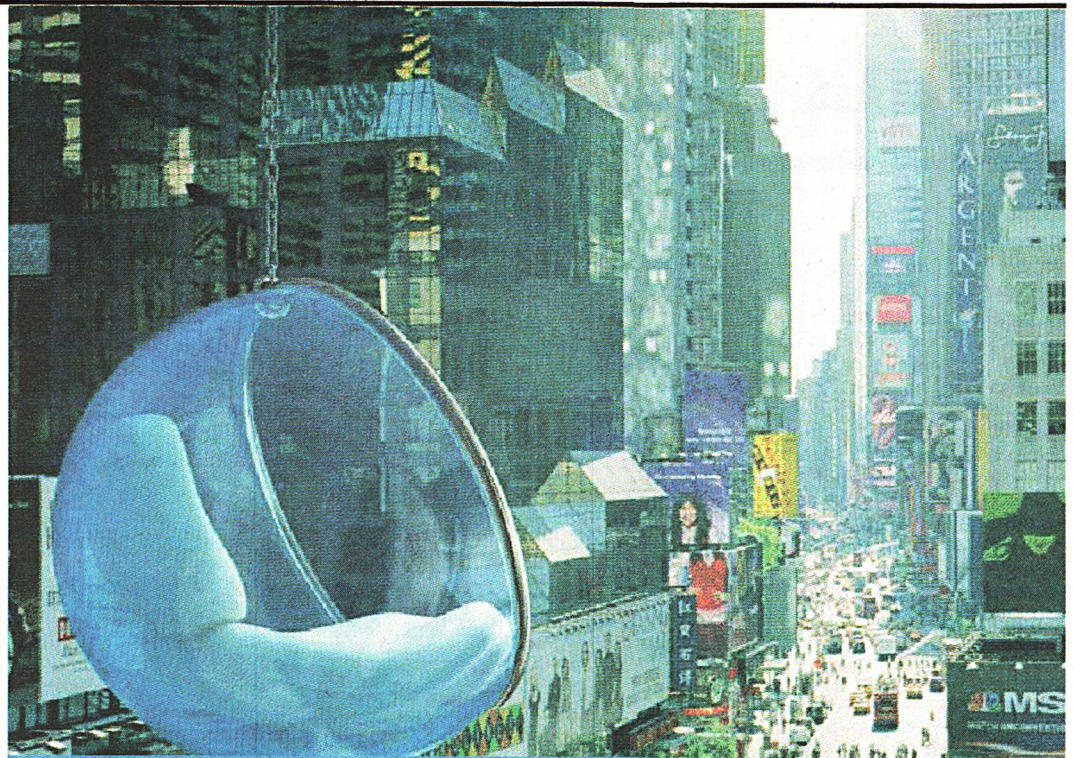
while indulging in the Three Tuns' well stocked bar. Daler Mehndi, a member, emphatically pointing out that the event was a chance to "drink the Tuns' Bacardi and JD supplies dry."

The more official stance from the society was that the event "showcased Punjabi music and dance to the LSE." The event also attracted many LSE students who have not previously been involved with the society. Bhangra Crush also attracted students from the larger University of London network, with students from King's College London and Queen Mary attending just to show off their dancing skills.

Alex Bond, a regular Crush organizer, welcomed the change.

"The main goal of the event is to provide an alternative to our normal Crush night," he said and continued, "the aim for Crush is to be seen as a night that reflects the multi-cultural nature of LSE, and events like this help promote this image."

Perhaps other societies will see this as an opportunity to light up Houghton Street with their own particular flair.



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» continued from page 1

another time, but the 6th "was the best they could do."

When asked if the university would consider going private, she replied that it would be "madness to go down that route."

Rees was also asked about Peter Sutherland's role in the Council. Sutherland, who is Chair of the Council and of the Court of Governors at the LSE,

was the subject of controversy during the Libyan scandal due to his role as the Chief Executive Officer of BP when Libya and the U.K. signed oil deals worth billions in 2004.

Rees responded that a separate group, not including Sutherland, may be established to vet donations in the future.

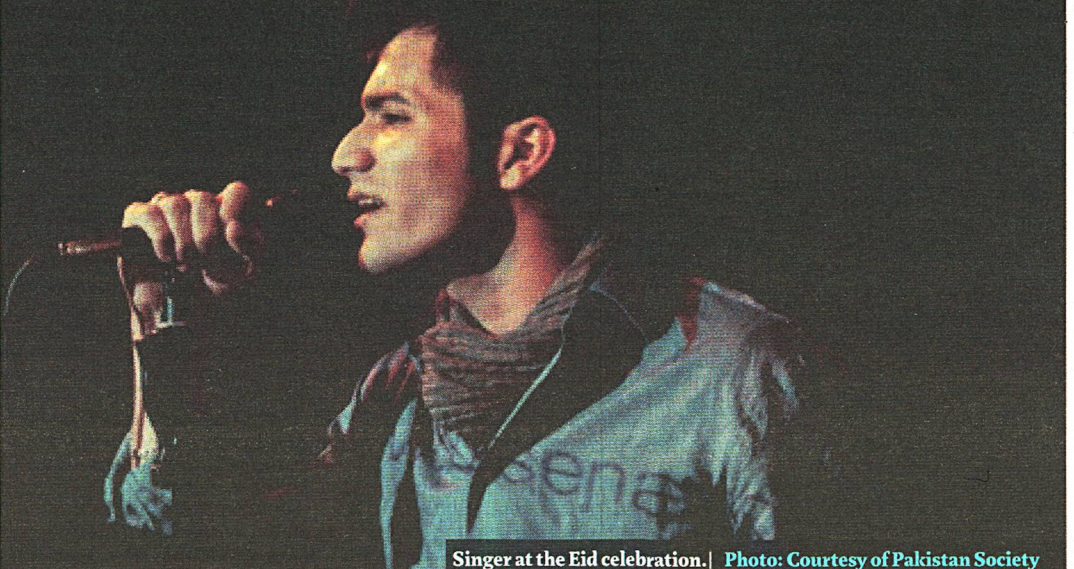
She also said that any committee set up in reference to future ethical investment would have to be considered by the Council following the release of the Woolf Report.

Following Rees' departure the sabbatical officers then offered a

summary of their week. Most of them commented on their viewed success of the protest against the government's Higher Education White Paper last Wednesday.

After the UGM, Lukas Slothuus, Community and Welfare Officer, said, "I was happy to hear the Interim Director deny that LSE will go private, and that she had considerable sympathy for the students' anti-cuts struggle. It's a shame we haven't heard her say those things in the media. I hope the new Director will be a loud and strong voice against the Tory-led government and its savage cuts to education."

LSE Pakistan Society celebrates Eid...



Singer at the Eid celebration. | Photo: Courtesy of Pakistan Society



LSESU INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2011

Discover just how international our campus is with a week of stimulating debates, interesting talks, and delicious international food...

* TUESDAY 15th *

11:00 - 14:00 - International fair on Houghton Street

Come along and discover Brazil, India, Chile, Hong Kong, Colombia, Albania, and Korea on Houghton Street. In addition, learn about Asian Careers, AIESEC, and get some coffee and tea from Sustainable Futures when you purchase a special LSE international sustainable mug...

18:30 - NAB.2.09 - International Film night with LSESU Film Society:

Screening of "L'Auberge Espagnole" ("Pot Luck")

19:00 - 20:00 - CLM 3.02 - LSESU Debate Society: 'This House Believes That the Nation State is Dead'.

There will be 4 speakers, 2 for and 2 against and there will be the chance for audience discussion.

19:30: Tower 1 U8 - 'From Eleanor Roosevelt to Gaddafi: The Rise and Fall of Human Rights at the UN'

An insider account by Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of Geneva based UN Watch with LSESU UN Society and LSESU Israel Society.

* WEDNESDAY 16th *

18:00 - 19:30 - CLM.2.05 - 'Development in the Wake of Recession'

Join the discussion with the LSESU Development Society

* THURSDAY 17th *

18:00 - 20:00 - NAB 2.06 - 'Different but interdependent' How can we create a greater feeling of regional and global togetherness?'

Join the discussion with LSESU Think Tank Society

18:30 - St Clements S221 - International Film night with LSESU Film Society:

Screening of "The Gods must be crazy"

20:30 - The Underground - Open MIC Night with LSESU Music Society.

All international students are welcome to participate! Email s.shah40@lse.ac.uk

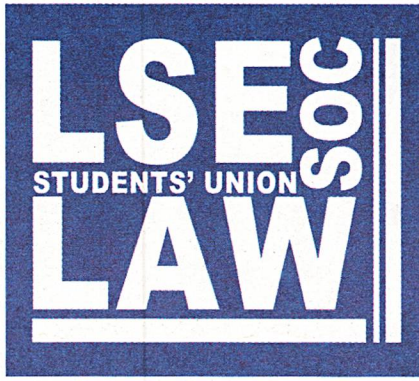
* FRIDAY 18th *

11:00 - 14:00 - International Food Fest on Houghton Street

Come along and sample cuisine from across the world. All proceeds are going to charity. Participants include the Singapore, German, French, Israel, Bangladesh, Punjab, Israel, Albanian, Chinese, Benelux, Colombian, Pakistan, ACS, and Mexican Societies.

The whole week there will also be an INTERNATIONAL PHOTO EXHIBITION and a special international menu in the 4th Floor Restaurant.

For an updated calendar of International Week, go to www.lsesu.com or email Hannah Geis, your International Students' Officer at su.international@lse.ac.uk



Presents

The
Christmas Feast

Drinks reception
3-course meal
Mince pies
After party
Free Bar!

~
1st December 2011 - 7pm-1am
At the Russell Hotel
~

Tickets: £30, available on Houghton St 15th & 17th Nov

Comment

A response from from the 'real victim'

The actual issues that need to be addressed when talking about rape

Anonymous

I am not usually the sort of person who is too outspoken about my views or tells other people what they should believe in or campaign for. This, however, changes when others pretend to act on my behalf or use a cause which I feel strongly about for other than political motives.

I am obviously referring to the outrage and campaigns following the publication of the "Agony Uncle" column 2 weeks ago. I feel I have the right to complain about it because I got raped last year and I am one of the "actual victims" (as we were referred to at various points). Honestly, I do not believe that rape has anything to do with satirical columns in student newspapers making jokes about it. The statistics in regards to sexual assault are shocking, and reasons to account for them are numerous. However, at LSE, we are told to not fully rely on statistics as they do not tell the full story. I wish to share my experience on the matter and why I felt offended and partially disturbed by the fraction pushing the issue and their problems with the column.

People always tell you that girls have to be careful, should not dress provocatively and should not go home alone when they're drunk, and all these factors were at play when I got raped. Because of this mindset, I would not tell anyone after I got raped. I couldn't shake the feeling that people would think that I had "asked for it" and it was my own fault. In fact, when I

went to St. Phillips the day after to get the "morning-after" pill, the doctor could sense my distress and asked me several times if it was consensual. I kept insisting that it was, making up random stories.

After it happened, I just wanted to forget about it and not engage with it on any level, which I believe is the overwhelming reason that so many rape cases are not reported. Rape victims often don't report their experiences because they want to move on with their lives, leave the experience in the past, not because of it being made "socially acceptable" via comments made in the media.

The only reason I did, eventually, go to the police, about a month later, is that, after several pints (experiences like this always comes out when people are drunk, doesn't it?), I told a friend about it. I did not call it rape at that point because, although I clearly know now that is what it was, I didn't want to acknowledge it out loud, realise its enormity. I classified it as a weird, not very consensual one night stand. My friend reacted like drunk close friends do; she burst into tears and then told me I got raped. Even after hearing someone else utter these words, I was still hesitant to fully accept it because of the feelings of guilt and shame. It still required another week of my friend pushing me before I went to the police. The convincing argument was not getting revenge or justice (admittedly on a personal level it would be nice to possibly get that), the pain of telling a stranger in graphic detail and re-living these memories seemed too much of a price for those reasons. The point that convinced me was that the guy could do it again to someone else, and this responsibility I could not bare.

So, about a week after I began to realize what had actually happened, I went to the police. At this point I want to quickly intersect, and comment on

I wouldn't tell anyone after I got raped. I couldn't shake the feeling that people would think that I had "asked for it" and it was my own fault

some negative statements made on the Facebook event that LSE students set up to introduce their issues with the Agony Uncle column. Some statements were made concerning the police and how they treat cases of rape. You may hold different views on the police, but in my experience they were amazing in the way they dealt with my case and were greatly supportive. They provided me with a number of resources to help me move on and reacted empathically to everything I said. They also did try their best to follow up

my case, in which I was not of much use - given my very patchy memory of the night, partially caused by alcohol, partially by trauma. The case never did go to court, but the reason for that was mainly that they were unable to find the guy who raped me and not any failure on their side in their treatment of the case. The police investigation went on for about a month in which I was forced to constantly relive what happened which helped me to accept that I got raped yet I still felt partially that it was my fault. Months passed without this feeling of guilt going away, with me making excuses for the guy who did it. Along the lines of "well, it was an ambiguous situation," "you can't really blame him, given the other factors at play" which in a way ties in with the argument made against the Agony Uncle column in that it addresses this partial "social acceptability" of rape.

At one point though, and I cannot remember exactly when, I think it was after I picked up my clothes I was wearing that day which were sent for DNA sampling last March, I felt a feeling different to guilt; I felt angry. For the first time since it happened, about 10 months earlier, I did not feel guilty but actually angry at the person who raped me. This is because I understood that there is no justification for what he did and while it seems very obvious when you are not put in this situation, once you are it becomes rather confusing.

So, to sum this up, I did feel very offended in the last weeks, but not because of the article that was written, because of the counter reactions after it was published. I do understand that other women were offended and outraged by the piece and I believe the steps taken thereafter on the Beavers side should be enough to bring the

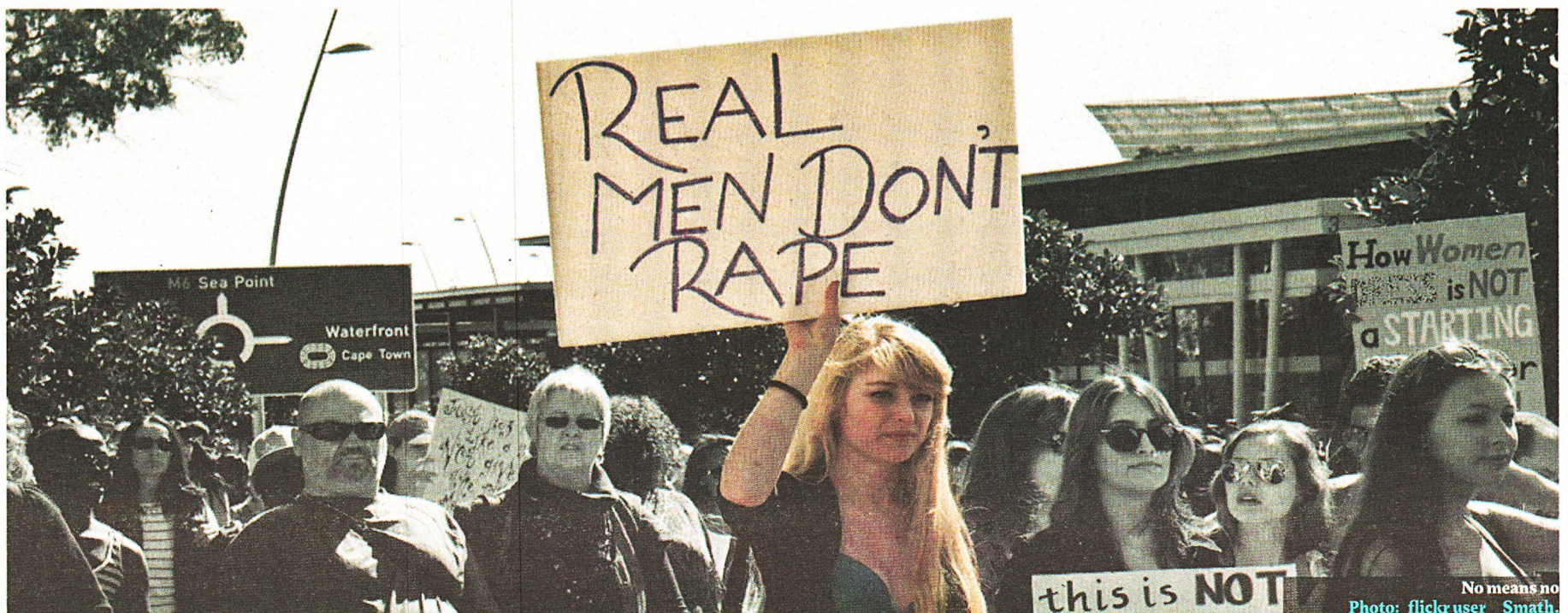
point across. However, this being dragged on for this long put me in numerous situations wanting to shout at people telling them "yes it is bad, but that is not why girls get raped, it's because the guy, and the guy alone, is at fault". Putting so much pressure on the social framework around rape seemed to me to justify the actions of the guy who raped me, which I only got over after a very long time.

The reason point I write this is that a number of people seem to have used this issue for their own political gains; using the Agony Uncle column to convey their personal problems with the editor or the paper, which frankly disgusts me as it shows complete lack of respect or decency to anyone who has ever been in my situation.

I wanted to write something about this in last week's issue, however I did not as I do not wish to be pitied by people as "the girl who got raped" and expected an anonymously published article to be brushed aside as a way for the Editorial Board to be seen in a better light.

However, after being reminded of getting raped every day since the Agony Uncle issue came up I did talk to Alex Peters-Day, who was extremely supportive. If you still hold the belief that I am made up by the evil Editorial Board of the Beaver or I have no right to hold these views on the issue then you are welcome to ask Alex Peters-Day who I am and she will tell you. I don't mind sitting down with you to tell you all the details of what I find wrong with the treatment of the Agony Uncle column.

But, if you have some sort of sympathy for the "actual victims," please don't because I would rather leave the past in the past.



Let Iran have nukes

Samira Lindner considers the atomic impossibility

Samira Lindner



In one of the (many) recent US Republican presidential debates, the long-aspiring presidential candidate Ron Paul argued that Iran should be allowed to have nuclear weapons. Quite expectantly, this did not strike a chord with the fellow candidates. Fellow candidate Rick Santorum responded, "Iran is not Iceland, Ron. Anyone who suggests Iran is not a threat to this country is not seeing the world very clearly."

So, is Ron not seeing the world clearly? Is it absurd to be arguing in favor of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons? Is Iran a huge risk to the world? I would argue perhaps not.

The latest debates on Iran's nuclear capabilities were initiated with the release of the latest inspection report of the IAEA. While the reactions to the latest report were quite severe, the findings of the report were nowhere near as dramatic. It indicates that Iran has carried out activities that may suggest development of a nuclear bomb. However, it does not say whether Iran has mastered this development or how long it would take until it does.

The official Iranian position on the matter has always been one of denial. However, for the sake of argument, let us assume that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. It is this assumption that serves as the basis for the strong reactions within the international community and has led the media to suspect that a military option may be foreseeable, in particular carried out

by Israel and/or the US.

Israel is of course, a key player in the debate on Iran. Netanyahu and co have once again put forth their perceived existential fear and may be preparing for a military attack. While I understand that Ahmadinejad has in past made some very worrying statements, I think the realities of Iran's risk factor may be different. Recently, two former heads of Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, Halevy and Dagan have spoken out about Iran not in fact posing an existential threat. Instead, they place a greater threat on the domestic radicalization that Netanyahu's aggressiveness incites. So there may be particular populist and interest-based politics at play here that are underlining Israel's policies towards Iran. And since Russia, a veto-wielder in the UN Security Council, recently ruled out sanctions, Netanyahu may feel he is further justified in considering a military option.

I think it's fair to say the US has demonstrated an ambivalent reaction towards Iran's nuclear developments. It appears the Obama administration is tip-toeing around the issue. On the one hand, Obama does not want to damage the US' close strategic relationship with Israel, but on the other hand, another war in the Middle East is the last thing he needs. The perceived risk of Iran may also be (deliberately) exaggerated. As our friend Ron argues, even if Iran were to develop nuclear weapons, they cannot reach the US because Iran does not have an air force. Nevertheless, there is a general mood of potential war-mongering amongst the conservative political elite in the US, despite the fact that another war may be an unbearable additional financial burden, let alone a huge geopolitical crisis.

So is Iran really that much of a risk to the world? Perhaps not. Should we really prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons? There are many ways to argue that we should not. We could use the libertarian argument of no interference in state's domestic affairs. Or we could argue that Iran's

We can easily argue that it seems hypocritical of the international community to be determining Iran's nuclear future

possession of nuclear powers could actually bring peace to the Middle East by creating a power-balance with Israel. We could also argue that it is only natural for Iran to want nuclear weapons since it is surrounded (both geographically and politically) by states who have them.

But perhaps most importantly, we can easily argue that it seems hypocritical of the international community, especially of its nuclear weapon-wielding members, to be determining Iran's nuclear future. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

(signed in the 1960s by the majority of UN Member States) aims to both prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as strongly urge existing nuclear powers to disarm. Many nuclear states have not done so or only half-heartedly. It also seems hypocritical when we compare the international community's reaction to Iran's nuclear developments with the level of indifference shown towards nuclear weaponry in Israel, India, Pakistan, and, most recently North Korea.

Maybe we need to think of this debate in different terms. It truly raises more questions than just ones on the Iran vs. Israel or the Iran vs. US conflict. I think a world in which more nuclear weapons are acquired is never going to be a safe world. However, I also think a world in which all nuclear weapons are not disarmed, is also not a safe world. So instead of focusing solely (and with clear political incentives) on the developments in one country, we need to be thinking of universal disarmament.

Further, while I am not sure whether Iran's possession of nuclear weapons will necessarily lead to further chaos and instability, I am convinced that

the process of acquiring weapons will. In other words, I think the process is more dangerous than the end-state itself. It is in this process, which Iran may be in now, that a potential attack may be seen as triggered. And this is a huge danger to the entire Middle East.

So before this issue escalates into a full-scale war, the West needs to reassess its domestic policies as well as those towards Iran and even Israel. First of all, the West (in particular the US) needs to maintain an open dialogue with Iran. Secondly, in order to successfully urge Iran to deter from nuclear proliferation, the West has led by example and thus change its own policies on nuclear weaponry. Lastly, the West has endured quite enough of Netanyahu's controversial political positions and it needs to alter its position towards Israel in order to discourage its military actions.

Only by using this holistic approach, one that includes an internal as well as external perspective, can the recently heightened tensions be dissuaded. The international community must become aware of the messages it is sending and why its persuasiveness and credibility in the Middle East is diminishing.



Forgetting the day to remember

Why wearing the poppy is the least our troops deserve

Marshall Palmer



This past Friday, November 11, people from all over the UK and the Commonwealth fell silent at the eleventh hour to remember the dead and fallen who fought so bravely since the First World War. Why we celebrate this day is obvious; to mourn the incomprehensibly staggering numbers of men and women who fought and died in conflict since World War I. This is done by the donning of memorial poppies and by taking some time out of one's day on the 11th to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Last year, I traveled to the green fields of France to see the dimpled and still mined battlefields of the First World War, the dishearteningly long stretches of Juno, Sword, and Omaha beaches, and the grand monuments and memorials dedicated to the 'glorious dead.' Spreading to the horizon, the perfectly arranged white crosses for the French, white tombstones for the Commonwealth, and black crosses for the Germans brought home the sheer magnitude of the two great European conflicts. The numbers such as 60 000 (the number of casualties the Commonwealth suffered on the

first day of the Battle of the Somme) suddenly personalised and became far more meaningful--and tragic. I do not pretend that all, or even a large percentage, of these men died for my freedom, even if that may have been

the outcome of their sacrifice. In fact, I imagine that most of them were cunningly persuaded, lied to, or coerced into fighting, and dying, for purposes our representatives, rightly or wrongly, deemed higher than them.

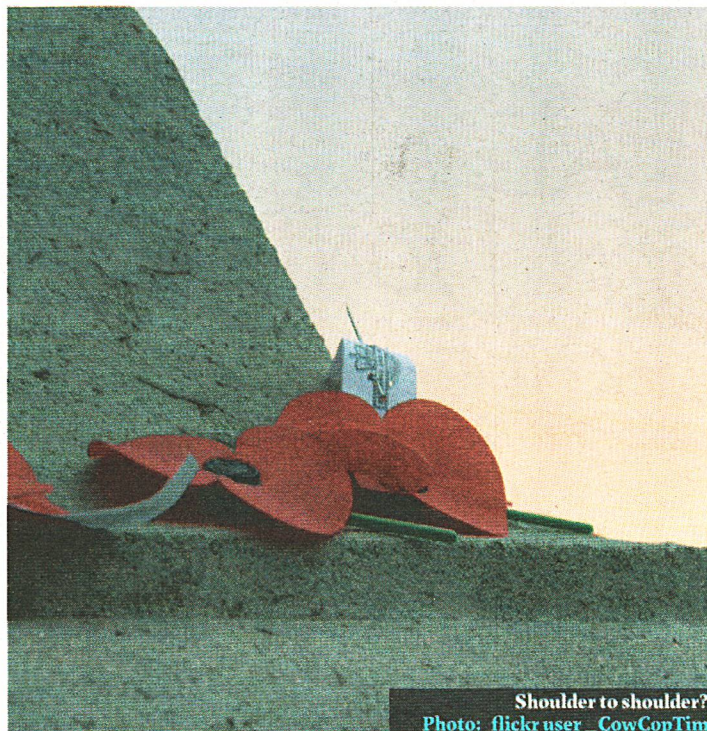
These days of course, I imagine that most soldiers in a volunteer force have a genuine, and rather selfless, belief in the causes our leaders engage in. However, the reason why I wear the poppy and fall silent on the eleventh hour is neither because I believe our leaders were/are justified in war nor because of a fervent patriotism for my native country, Canada, but because it is an absolute tragedy so many day and were killed. In light of this, it seems clear this day deserves the greatest reverence. This is why I was so surprised to see so few at the LSE wearing the poppy on the 11th and so few attend the memorial service in the Shaw library.

Trying to rationalise this, I have concluded that there are three groups of people at the LSE who choose not to remember. The first are the international students who come from places that were not, or were only tenuously, connected to the Commonwealth's conflicts. Their ignorance is understandable and, for the most part, forgivable. After all, I do not celebrate, nor feel I should, the Chinese day of remembrance, for example. On the other hand, I do not reside within China's borders and, as such, do not enjoy direct benefit from Chinese sacrifice.

The second group are those from the commonwealth but for whatever reason are uncaring or ignorant. More reprehensible, however, are the third group, also from the commonwealth. The third group is composed of those

who actively resist remembrance day. The website of the Socialist Workers' Party (whom, I'm assuming because of their pestilent presence on campus, form the political background of most of the third group) justifies their abstention to the poppy through equating it to a celebration of imperialism (and probably investment banking too.) Anti-imperialism and anti-war might be noble campaigns, but the day and the poppy are not, nor have they ever pretended to be, a celebration of imperialism, empire, and war. It is to remember the young men and women that have committed and been on the receiving end of inconceivable, but coldly real, actions. Why we have fought in the conflicts we have had is irrelevant to the remembrance of the individual tragedies. To politicise the event to encourage that inevitable global revolution is insulting as it is stupid.

To the third group, shut up for two minutes of silence and wear the god-damn poppy. For the first and second groups, empathise with the men and women who have given far more than anybody should to the Commonwealth in which we reside. Place yourself in the shoes of a 17 year old man in this city 97 years ago or in the shoes of the men and women currently serving overseas, prepared to kill and die for you stemming from, rightly or wrongly, a genuine belief in the cause. Wear the scarlet poppy.



House of Lords for the religious few

A reality check for Matt Worby's thoughts on the Lords Spiritual from last week

David
Landon Cole



It is not clear to me whether Matt Worby is attempting a parody of a reactionary or whether he actually believes the anti-democratic screed that appeared in article last week. However, it's not the first time that I've seen ideas such as his in print and, as they are symptomatic of many attitudes to religion and politics, it is worth engaging with them.

In ignorance of the many different ways that industrial democracies choose their second chamber, Worby argues that Lords Spiritual should remain in the House of Lords but that they should not just represent the Church of England, but all religions in the UK, according to how much support they have in the country. Where a religion is not united behind a single organisation - every religion - then its

different sects would receive proportionate representation.

Moving on, the Church of England is something of an anomaly in its history amongst religions in the UK and in that it has a legal standing that others do not have. It is easy enough for us to identify the hierarchy

Who would represent Muslims? There is no organisation in the UK that represents all Muslims on all issues. Some might claim to, and some might like to, but the simple reality across most religions in the UK is that the groups representing them are a self-selecting group and that those involved in such groups are going to be the more ardent followers of that religion. They do not represent all members of the religion. Indeed, it seems that the only way to represent every member of a religion would be to ask who they want as their religious deputy. Who would represent Jews, or Buddhists, or any other group?

We know from Mala Htun that setting up reserved seats for a group in a legislature forms groups that specifically go after those seats, rather than through (in this case) pan-confes-

sional organisations. With those seats available, its relevance increases.

In other words, we would give each religious group of any size a self-perpetuating leadership that reinforces itself by claims to representation of the community and some access to power. That is a step towards Ottoman millets that I would rather we didn't take.

This also ignores another feature of religion in the UK: most religious people aren't that religious. An awful lot of people who list themselves as Christians are members of the Church of England for whom their association with the church is of low salience, attending church for birth, deaths and marriages, and perhaps a Christmas service. That milquetoast allegiance is no more a justification for representation in the Lords than it is for religious schools.

There are currently twenty-six bishops Church of England bishops and archbishops sitting, by right, in the House of Lords. As there is no established church in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, one might expect an increase in their numbers to thirty-five. Either way, we're looking

at around two million adherents to a religion being needed for one member of the upper house of Parliament. The most recent census data available suggests the only groups that could claim representation other than Christianity would be 'Not stated' and 'No religion'. Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jews, Buddhists and the rest would not receive representation. It is worth noting that, in 2001, 390,000 people listed their religion as Jedi Knights.

This raises an important question: what counts as a religion? If two millions were to answer the 'what is your religion' question on the next census as 'Jedi Knight', would Worby's scheme oblige us to have a robed, light-saber-wielding acolyte of George Lucas arguing for trains to be made to run on time by using the force?

More serious, although of little surprise, is Worby's attitude to those of no faith. The problems with choosing representatives of a religion have been discussed above; Worby, however, will not offer the same courtesy to atheists, agnostics and the like. If we cannot agree, Worby tells us, we don't have any Lords Spiritual. He would exclude

the second and third largest groups regarding attitude towards deities. Apparently, this is because of Worby's reasoning is that religious people are "moral men and women, holding grounded views on society and well-respected in their community." I see no evidence whatsoever for the proposition that, just because someone has a religious belief they are more likely to act morally; to quote Hitchens, 'what can be asserted without evidence can be rejected without evidence.'

There are many religious people I respect; Rowan Williams, Jonathan Romain and Mona Siddiqui might all be able to make a useful contribution to the politics of our country. If they want to do that, though, they should contest an election like any other representative of any other group.

There are a litany of practical problem with Worby's suggestion but none can be as egregious as the fundamental principle behind the idea: that religions are special kinds of human community that should be privileged just because they are religions. ☛

Why those who recycle are selfish

The three R's are the perfect example of our undying love for ourselves

Tom
Heyden



Global warming. That old chestnut. I'm sure you've all done your fair share of recycling. I mean, LSE have those easily identifiable bins all over the place for us, plus it's not like anyone can drive into university every day. I guess we can give ourselves a good old pat on the back. But if we forget the perennial global warming debate for a minute, and take it as certain (as most scientists do), then how will people of the future look upon our actions? (Presuming of course that their withering scorn is not undermined by sun-withered blindness). Yet however they may castigate us for what happens, the fact is that "environmentalism" is pointless and most "environmentalists" are actually selfish - unless we have a Green Dictator. No, not Gaddafi, even though the damned biased western media never reported much on his environmental policy. Instead I refer to a hypothetical environmental Leviathan, ready to strike down all those that stray from the eco-friendly line.

Let me first indulge in a bit of autobiographical detail. I'm a fairly average-to-decent person when it comes to recycling. I recycle my bottles, paper and plastic. I use public transport (almost) all the time. I use energy saving light bulbs. I've even planted a tree. However, I must admit my digressions. I take a few extra minutes in a hot shower, I drive when I'm in a rush, I use deodorant...spray. There, I said it. But my other confession is that I have absolutely no faith that I am alone in this. In fact, this is the crux of the issue and the source of my somewhat cynical view that there is no hope for the scale of coordination necessary to enact fundamental change to the rate of global warming. Pessimistic? Yes. Realistic? Definitely. It's not my fault that pessimism and realism conspiratorially collude so often.

"Exactly," you might say, "people like you are precisely problem." You



Vanity bins
Photo: flickruser quinnanya

may even invoke the classic mother's line, "what if everybody thought that?" Well, yes, I'll concede you that. But the real problem is that I exhibit more features of typical human nature than I do any truly malicious intention. You see, the global warming issue is a classic reworking of the cooperation dilemma, "Tragedy of the Commons." The dilemma suggests that a group of individuals, acting independently and in rational self-interest, will ultimately

deplete a shared limited resource, even when it is clear that it is not in anyone's long-term interest for this to happen.

Now I wouldn't want to offend you by saying that you act only in self-interest. So let's just say that you are perfect, but on balance across humanity, most people act self-interestedly. The "Tragedy of the Commons" works on the premise that if everyone shares the burden or limited resource equally,

then it is perfectly rational for an individual to ever-so-slightly overstep that mark, and thereby gain an advantage while others spread the cost of that gain. The parallels with global warming are clear, while examples from over-fishing to traffic congestion serve as further instances of the incentive dilemma. (If everyone were to restrict their use of a particularly congested motorway, it would make sense for you to use it!) So can we trust humanity to self-regulate? Or is it more likely that people will rationalize some self-indulgent bending of the rules from time to time? You can guess what my answer is.

Enter the Green Dictator - to implement a top-down fundamental change in the incentive structure. Many of my flawed token gestures towards the global warming battle are already socially constructed. Despite my ideological belief in global warming, I question how much I would actually recycle if the government didn't come round to pick it up every week. However there is no true incentive for complying with these social norms. Moreover, there is no punishment for doing nothing. This may seem extreme but when we translate it to the scale of restaurants and bars, who go through drastically disproportionate amounts of water, plastic and glasses compared to the average household (maybe not student parties), the scale comes into effect. It amazes me that there is almost no government legislation in this area and that we rely on the well-meaning businesses to self-regulate, while others are left alone. Even if you are perfect as an individual, the lack of regulation of businesses and restaurants cannot help but dishearten you.

There simply has to be imposed environmental regulations to enact any real change, or else we will carry on doing nothing. Unfortunately, it may be a case where democracy demonstrates one of its weaknesses, as politicians cater towards the more popular rather than necessary decisions. Some countries in Europe are on the right track, raising the costs of recyclable items and paying this money back once the item is recycled into a machine. Besides the added benefit of making a party particularly lucrative,

it changes the recycling incentive for consumers. Nevertheless, more is needed, especially punitive measures for big businesses and corporations. This is where activists have their justification.

Yet even if somehow this could happen, the scale of cooperation required is still staggering. Imagine we get all 62 million people in Britain to be environmentally flawless, that still leaves almost 7 billion people left to get on board. Moreover, what right do we have to tell newly industrializing countries to halt the march of progress because...erm, well, sorry, but we overdid it and now we all need to join together to stop emitting noxious gasses. Do we expect them to heed the call? The problem with policing this on an international scale is only too evident every time the G20 meet to discuss the issues.

If at first you balked at my alignment of pessimism and realism, hopefully I have convinced you that they are at least a little bit closer together. Moreover, if we accept that our individual token gestures (or even dedicated life adjustments) have no hope of enacting sufficient change, then why do we do it at all? The moral argument certainly carries some emotional pull. "Changing the whole has to start somewhere!" "If you are defeatist you will fulfill your own prophesy!" "Yes we can!" This carries a grain of truth, and to be fair, immediate issues of the surrounding environment are a different question to global warming. But ultimately, the rationality comes down to having a clear conscience. "Everyone else can be cynical, morbid doomslayers, but at least I will have done my part." Fair enough, good for you, but just remember who it is that benefits from having a clear conscience. You. The environment receives no tangible benefit on the scale required. So next time you pat yourself on the back for your environmentally friendly disposition, remember that you are the selfish, selfish human being that stands to gain! Now that doesn't mean I will stop recycling. On the contrary, I will continue to recycle, and so should you, and that way we'll all feel a lot better about ourselves. ☛

Methinks dost thou protest too much

Get us resits and reading weeks, not just teach us how to hold a placard and yell

Eva Okunbor



Before any literary smart ass decides to chastise me, I know that this is a misquote from "Hamlet", by Britain's beloved Shakespeare. However, this quote popped into my head as I sat on the tube today, instead of my usual means of transportation, the bus. This was thanks to transport disruptions due to, surprise surprise, the protests.

"Methinks thou dost protest too much." Now I admit, I attended the original "Freeze the Fees" march, and I have also signed a few petitions during my time in LSE. However, now, in my third year (making up for the mishaps of second year), I find the taste of general protest to have become a little too sour for my liking. Usually, at the sight of seeing someone enjoy something I do not I would just shrug and say "each to his own"... but now I find protesting for the fees has gone well passed it 'sell

by' date, and I sit perplexed as to why people continue to buy into this.

I appreciate those who empathise with the plight of the future university student (or could-have-been student), whilst understanding that others, even those who are British, could not care less. There is a large percentage of LSE who could not care less about the fee increase, considering the majority of students pay well in excess of £9000 to attend this prestigious university. However, this piece is less about whether or not I agree with this particular protest or not. This is more about the Students' Union continued "fascination" with it, and a growing feeling that it seems the Students' Union has become more concerned with improving things for "others" and not thinking of fighting more achievable goals for us - the specific demographic of LSE students.

When I started university in 2009, I remember there being a petition for resits. We all know the result of that, much like with the results for "Freeze the Fees" - nothing changed. But unlike with the protest about fees for students (that do not yet attend university) little has been done to

reignite the fight for resits. Instead it was overshadowed and subsequently forgotten in favour of national student union efforts. Contrary to what it may look like from outside of LSE, the campus is replete with people who don't even know what the most recent march is about. Contrastingly I find

The Students' Union should take the reduced numbers of LSE protestors as a sign

myself starved to find people who would disagree with reigniting to get resits or a reading week (except lucky Law students for the latter).

I have found that protests for these grandest of dreams have begun to make people disillusioned with the protesting population of LSE, and with the idea of protest itself. Considering I had since moved passed the issue of forthcoming increase of fees, I found myself a little annoyed today when my teacher's voice was drowned out by chants of students leaving LSE for the march. Yes, I had joined in previously, but since then, perhaps foolishly, I resigned myself to the government and the universities choice to increase fees. Since then, I have decided instead to focus on other, I believe, more pertinent things.

Yes, my reasons behind writing this piece are fuelled slightly by the annoyance of not being able to find any texts for my class readings this week (which I partially blame on the lack of set texts). Yes, I am fuelled by the annoyance of having to pay for the tube when I already paid for my monthly bus pass. But I realised, I cared more about these "minor" prob-

lems than about the big march. I read on Students' Union twitter account that people believe police containment around the protest intimidated lot of protestors away. Or maybe... like me... other issues have taken precedent now. The Students' Union should take the reduced numbers of LSE protestors as a sign.

I am not saying that our students' union does nothing for the students. The Students' Union is full of very active students (much more so than myself) - usually reactionary, and sometimes to things that do not pertain specifically to LSE students. A lot of this effort could, and I believe should, be redirected inwards. I am not against protest, I am not against fighting for what you believe in, I am not against equality for all etc. But I dare say I am not the only student at LSE who wished the Students' Union put as much effort into getting a reading week as they have done for the most recent national demos. The recent national demonstration does not relate to the majority of students, so can we focus on what does? ☹

You're all feminists

...whether you like it or not

Elizabeth Fraser



Think of what a feminist looks like. Let me guess: female, unattractive, and not all that into shaving? Next, think of what a feminist acts like, and what they stand for. You're imagining a whiny and bitter man-hater, right?

These stereotypes couldn't be further off the mark; feminism isn't about bitterness, or hating men and it couldn't care less whether or not you shave. Feminism is not the sole preserve of women either. Men can be feminists too; after all, it's what's in your head, not what's between your legs, that counts.

So I have a proposal for you: you are a feminist. You might not know it yet, and you might not believe me, but you are. And I'm going to prove it to you.

The furore over the "Agony Uncle" column, "Houghton Street Headaches", got me thinking about the feelings towards feminism on campus. Nearly 200 people added their names to a letter condemning an article that was demeaning to women and trivialised sexual violence, yet there is reluctance amongst most students I have encountered to call themselves feminists. This made me wonder why so many people, who oppose gender inequality and violence against women, don't want to associate with feminism, and I realised: it's still plagued with negative connotations.

Feminism is about equality, pure and simple. If you believe that men and women should be treated equally before the law and equally valued by society; that changes need to occur to achieve gender equality and that violence and repression against women needs to end then you, my friend, are a feminist.

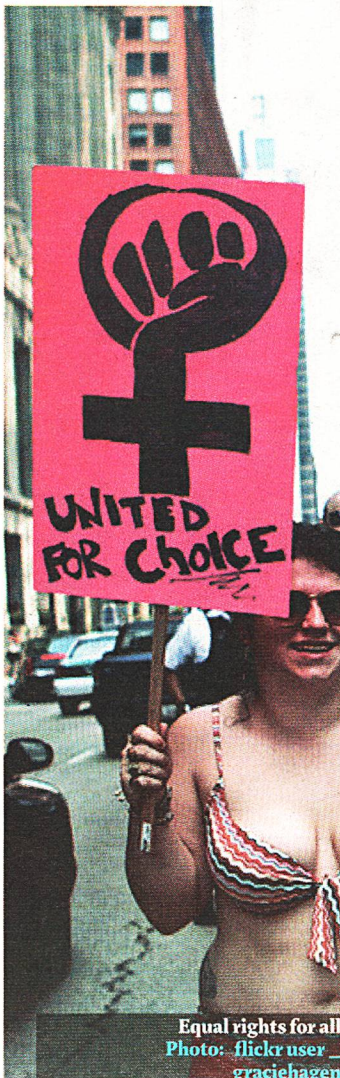
You're a feminist if it seems unfair to you that women make up half the world's population yet collectively

receive just 10 per cent of the world's income, and own just 1 per cent of the world's property. You're a feminist if it makes you angry that across the world, one in three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or abused. You're a feminist if you think it's wrong that in some states many women do not have access to education (two thirds of adult illiterates are women). You're a feminist if you want to change the fact that too many women suffer from violence, discrimination, unequal access to education and equality before the law and aren't equally valued by society.

Feminism isn't about bitterness, or hating men and it couldn't care less whether or not you shave

Hopefully these examples counter the common myth that today feminism is redundant. Both in the UK and worldwide, we have a long way to go in order to achieve gender equality. Across the world women face the dangers of honour killings, early marriages, sex trafficking and spousal abuse to name a few. During times of conflict, CARE International say it is more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier due to the frequency of battle rape, which causes the survivors horrific injuries and they are often stigmatised by their own communities. Structurally, women also face huge disadvantages; many are confined to traditional roles as homemakers and mothers, and so educating women, and enabling them to pursue careers fails to be seen as a priority. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-

operation and Development, women are 20 per cent less likely to be in work than men, and more needs to be done



Equal rights for all
Photo: flickr user graciehagen

to introduce policies that encourage non-discriminatory hiring.

In Britain women are also suffering the impact of gender inequality. The Fawcett Society claims that

women are paid 15.5 per cent less per hour than men - meaning that the average woman is effectively working for free from 4th November until the end of the year. Sexual and physical violence towards women is also a terrifying reality. One in four women in Britain will experience domestic violence, and two women a week are killed by current or ex-partners - this constitutes 40 per cent of all female murder victims. 23 per cent of women will experience sexual assault, with around 80,000 women being raped every year, although only 15 per cent of serious sexual offences are reported. One in two women will experience sexual harassment in the workplace, and one in five women will experience stalking in their lifetimes. Still think women have equal standing in society?

The issues feminism seeks to address can be observed on university campuses as well. NUS figures indicate that one in seven women students fall victim to serious sexual assault or serious physical violence while at university or college, and 65 per cent of women students have been sexually harassed on campus. Feminists at LSE, alongside our women's officer, are working to implement a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment.

For too long feminists have been unhelpfully and inaccurately painted as ugly, hairy, shrill women who complain about everything. Sure, there might be some feminists that don't shave or are ugly or whatever, but who cares?! It's the idea that's important! It may well be that a large number of feminists are women, but considerable numbers of men identify as feminists too; you don't have to be a woman to realise the harms of gender inequality. And maybe some feminists complain a lot, but most pick their battles. They get angry when there's cause to get angry - and unfortunately there's plenty of cause in a world full of violence, structural inequality and gender stereotypes.

So you hate gender inequality, right? And you want to see an end to violence and repression against women? I knew it: you're a feminist. Be proud of it. ☹

-Quick- COMMENT

Are you happy with the new 3-day loan policy in the library?

Yes, it saves me from peeping around aisles ends looking for what the colours mean.
- Aameer Patel, Part B Editor, The Beaver

Yes! If I actually used it...
- Chu Ting Ng, 3rd year, LLB Laws

No because it's so much easier to rack up a fine now.
- Ahmed Alani, Design Editor, The Beaver

Doesn't make a difference to me. I only use the library to use the bathroom after Crush
- Louise Helferty, 3rd year, BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method

No - set texts are no longer a problem, but the much-cherished week-loans no longer exist.
- Vincent Mok, 3rd year, BSc International Relations and History

Yet another obstacle to trying to do the reading... Oh the Humanity!
- Matthew Worby, 3rd year, BSc Government

I like not having to buy a lot of textbooks and the library's passive-aggressive recall notices are amusing.
- Kanika Singh, General Course, Economics

NEXT WEEK...

To what extent has your university experience been affected by not living on campus?

Beginner's wine guide

When I was younger, I went to a French restaurant with a cohort of friends. We were all pretending to be much older than we were, actually believing that the waiters mistook us for a bunch of 20 something artists out for a night on the town. Then came the dreaded moment. The waiter handed us the wine list. We huddled together, each producing a factoid that we had gleaned from the "grown-ups," thinking that we were sounding like French vino connoisseurs. We were young boys, wearing our fathers' ill-fitting suits; looking absolutely ridiculous.

I may have gotten older, but my fear of the sommelier persists. I mean I want him to like me, right? I like to think that all people, to lesser or greater extent, feel the same fear and loathing that I do when faced with a decision about what to drink. Now you might not be a wine person, and that's fine - wine culture in many ways comes across as horribly snooty, elitist and pretentious. But what are you going to do when those bastard sommeliers sneak up behind you and catch you unaware? Wine etiquette, even if you don't like wine, can be useful. From boss to potential partner, wine jargon, like all jargon, is used to separate the insider from the outsider. And it is always better to be inside. If you enjoy wine, then there is all the more pleasure to be had.

I am not a wine snob. I am not one of those people who, when poured a class of wine, swirls it in their glass, compares the colour against a white background, takes a small slurpy sip, and then juggles the wine about my mouth for a minute. I am someone who enjoys wine and wants to know how I can get the stuff I like for a price I love.

Assuming that you know nothing about wine, let's start from the beginning. Red or white? The traditional rule is red with meat, white with fish. And this is a rule of thumb. However, it is perfectly acceptable to order a red wine with a meaty fish like tuna or salmon, especially if the meal contains

strong flavours. The important thing to remember is that although colour is an indicator of certain qualities of a wine, it is not the final judge of taste. The better rule of thumb is strong flavours with red, more subtle flavours with white. The actual differences come mainly from the type of grape, or whether the skins are left on or off.

The next step in deciding what wine you would like to drink is grape variety. Despite common conceptions, there is no such thing as a Pinot noir. What does exist is what is known as the cépage, which refers to vines, which are very similar to the grape variety in question. For white wine all you need to remember is the big eight, consisting of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Grigio, Sémillon, Viognier and Chenin blanc. Important names to remember for red wines are Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot noir, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Shiraz, Sangiovese, Malbec and Granche. Each of these grapes has unique flavours and colours that affect the wine. Once you know the names, all you need to do is try a little from each type, and decide which mixes you like the best.

The next variable is the origin of the wine. Anyone who has ever looked at a French wine list knows that they do not list their wines by grape variety but by region. For example, in my personal favourite region Bordeaux, reds are made from a combination of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot grape varieties. Simply by knowing what grape varieties you enjoy, you can make a much more informed decision on what to buy.

So why do restaurants group wine in terms of variety instead of by grape variety? The answer is that climate affects how the wine will taste just as much as the grape type. The more sun a vine receives, the more time the plant will have to photosynthesise, which creates sugars that affect alcohol content, sweetness and colour.

After you take all these factors into the equation, wine becomes like



Wine Glasses at The Vines of Mendoza

mathematics. And we all know how much you like mathematics. Grape variety plus sun exposure and other regional variations plus age equals what your wine should taste like.

Another thing you need to know is the tannin content of your wine. Tannins are simply a chemical compound found in wine. A light bodied wine will have fewer types of tannin than a full-bodied wine, which will have more tannin. During the aging process tannin becomes "softened," meaning that wine with a higher tannin count like a claret will become better with age, while wines with a lower tannin count come to maturity at an earlier age.

So why do people say that wine tastes like smoky pears on a lazy afternoon with a woman named Matilda? The reason is that during the fermentation process, the newly formed alcohol reacts with the air, forming "esters" which remind us of things like

fruit, because they naturally occur in it. So that person drinking grape juice and tasting apple isn't crazy, he is just pretentious.

In terms of cooking, there is a very simple rule. Never cook with wine you wouldn't drink. Cooking wine has high salt levels and acidity, which makes food disgusting. Good red cooking wines are Mourvedre, Grenache and Shiraz. All three are easy to cook, guaranteeing that you get the most out of your alcohol.


A word against cheap wine: it is your right and privilege to drink whatever you want. Drink cheap wine. I had a friend who enjoyed wine from £2.50. Granted she had to cut it with lemonade, but like all questions of aesthetics, it comes down to personal choice. Drink what you enjoy and to hell with everyone else! That being said, by ignoring the world of wine you are missing one of the fundamental joys of drinking.

Fortunately for us, you no longer have to go to some scary wine specialist to get good wine. These days any supermarket has a good wine selection, for descent prices, and all it requires for you to do is look past those 2 for £2.50 bottles of paint solvent to find them. I recommend a reasonably priced Côtes du Rhône or Bordeaux, as they have a heavy-bodied complex flavour, making it a perfect accompaniment for autumn dishes.

Enjoying wine, like enjoying food, is a learning process. It involves actively trying new things and deciding what you really like. However, after reading this article, hopefully the next time that snooty sommelier comes over and asks whether you would like a bottle of Pollo in a sippy cup, you will be able to use new wine knowledge and make an informed decision.

Max Jenkins

What's the worst thing someone's said to you in bed?



"Oh, I do believe the weapons on this station are fully operational."

"Can we stop because I really need a wee."

Guy: I really want to have sex with you
Girl: It's not going to happen
Guy: But I have a car?

Got any penicillin?

Guy: So, how do you think you did on the econ exam?
Girl: [Awkward silence]

Guy: Can you pass me the remote?
Girl: [Awkward silence]

Guy: Have you ever orgasmed?
Girl: Yes, but not with a person

"I'm going to be sick."

"When are you leaving?"

Guy: I love your titties - is it okay if I call them that?
Girl: No [Awkward silence]

"Who do you think invented peanut butter?"

"How do you get a Boots card?"

[Guy couldn't get an erection]
Girl: That was a bit of an epic fail
[Guy is now nicknamed "epic fail"]

On second thought, let's turn off the lights.

"I'm sorry it's a bit purple..."

"Can we do my favourite position that I used to do with my yoga teacher?"

"Trust me when I say you're no longer inside me."

Guy: Have you ever orgasmed?
Girl: Yes but not with a person

Guy: You know my name right?
Girl: Of course I do... [Awkward silence]

"I came here to improve my English but instead I have improved at sex."

Girl: Why does your penis curve like that?

Girl: "Is it in yet?"
Guy: Yup
Girl: Okay...

[Guy lost his erection]
Guy: I'm allergic to these condoms (Erm, Durex that you always use!? Lie!)

"You're so much more flexible than you look in real life."

I want a baby!

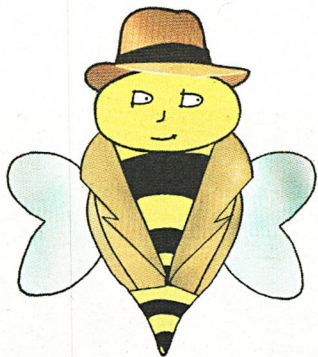
"You're a dirty, filthy boy."

Romantic text of the week

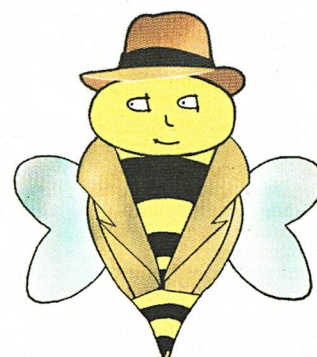
Messages
Angry Beaver
Edit

When I text you saying that I've got to stay up all night doing reading the response I'm looking for is that you're going to come over and sexually distract me from my responsibilities. Not a fucking frowny face.

Sorry. I'm on my way.



PRIVATE B



Rees in surprise UGM announcement

Alumni Launch New Master's Program

A group of influential LSE alumni have announced the launch of a new Master's program aimed at professionals from the political and financial world wanting to build upon the School's proud legacy of teaching people to generally screw things up.

At the champagne reception to celebrate the launch of the £18,000 year-long course, the new conveners of the program released the its contents to the awaiting public.

The program, currently entitled "Rerum Causas Ignorant," will feature lectures by figures such as Taro Aso, the former Prime Minister of Japan and Kim Campbell, the former Prime Minister of Canada, on the best way to lead institutional political parties to landslide electoral defeats.

Erstwhile Greek politicians George Papandreou and George Alogoskoufis will take joint responsibility for a specialised course on successfully ruining the domestic economies of the Mediterranean with Robert Kilroy-Silk leading a seminar group showing how to co-ordinate a bad career in television with a dreadful job as a politician.

The Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger will also contribute to a series of guest lectures on how to use a slight knack for music into earning more money as a drop-out than as a postgraduate.

"This is a great program that builds upon the LSE's influential role



in building the world that we have today," LSE Pro-Director Hugh "George" Gaitskell, informed the B, "Pending arrangements with the University of

London, the new government of Libya, and the International Criminal Court, we hope to be able to invite even more professional alumni to contribute to

the our academic programs over the next few months."

Sir Howard Duvets is 60.

↳ Tanned Ale

You may have noticed that we didn't have a contribution from our Shikoku Syllabist last week. We apologise for this, but apparently he ended up going on a sake-influenced bender and he only came off the comedown on Saturday evening. He sent us this one in, but as it was in Japanese we've had to translate it the best we can using an old dictionary and whatever the editor could remember from watching Neon Genesis Evangelion.

Union Rubbisho

Time when temperature descents owing to orbital fluctuations comes notwithstanding.

Chief-Administrator of Scholarly Guild attends forwarding junior-academic-non-specific-confederation.

Remarkably capable of standing within his, her or its position.

'FROM THE ARCHIVES...'

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: 4TH NOVEMBER 1903

Dear Sir,

I was not inconsequentially incandescent with rage drinking my Port and Lemon yesterday. While doing so, I noted an "article" (and I use the term lightly) within your otherwise illustrious organ's "Society" pages.

The "article" in question, somehow gave the impression that it would be acceptable for women to bear their ankles in public, something simply not becoming of our modern society.

An answer given in response to a question from one young "female" also gave the impression that she would also be granted possession of suffrage within the forthcoming two decades. Again, this is a dangerous precedent that I am frankly horrified to be associated with.

Given the seriousness of these lapses of judgment, I would formally request that you be exiled to the Dominions.

Y'ur ob'd'nt s'v'nt,

The Rt. Hon. Sir Nathaniel Urquhart-Featherstonehaugh
Chair of the Union League of Young Empire Loyalists

That Beaver Collective Agenda in Full

Place: CLM.4.11
[The David Held Memorial Broom Cupboard]

Time: 7:00-8:55PM

Date: November 31st 2011

All members of Collective are free to attend, if you don't know if you are on Collective, don't bother emailing, you won't be.

Chair: Kester the Friendly Ghost

7:00: Meeting to open with the Ceremonial Sacrifice of a Penguin to the Old Ones (the Petal and the Wise Man).
B.Y.O.R.

7:10: Election of Ginger Whoreby to Chief Flickr Leecher

7:22: Kester to step down on grounds of competence, to be replaced with Cicero's Student Union Reincarnation

7:24: Eloquent Statement from the new Chair regarding good conduct, mutual respect and fair conduct over timing

7:35: Everyone to call everyone else a Tory/Trot B***ard

8:46: Proposer to Place Foot in Mouth

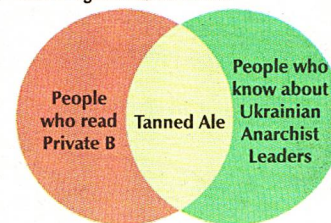
8:47: Everyone to call everyone else a Tory/Trot B***ard

8:55: Censure motion to fail with collective realisation of the general futility of being

Minutes to be uploaded via Marco Peart-White's
Twitter Account.

PWC Report regarding last week's "iMAKHNO" section

Regarding our discussion following the poor reception for the aforementioned parody, we have given our findings in the Venn Diagram shown below.



Our report states that not only is the crossover between "People Who Read Private B" and "People Who Know About Ukrainian Anarchist Leaders" very small, but also that the vast majority of people are not members of EITHER category.

As requested, the £20,000 consultancy fee for this paper will be billed in full to King's College London Student Union.

Yours,
Mr Fisher-Price
Ms Waterstones
The Rt. Hon. Yvette Stupors

All the young dudes, recapture your youth!

Youth is wasted on the young. This statement has more resonance today than ever before. In an age where career plans are meticulously formulated before puberty has finished its dirty work, it seems one's formative years are just that: an internship before the real deal. We are preparing for our lives rather than living them. The hedonism and reckless abandonment that used to define adolescence has lost its lure. Instead we have strayed onto a thorny path of psychometric tests and CV's. Granted this is most likely LSE specific (lovely business that our university is) and heightened by application fever (sadly JP Morgan's summer internship programme closed entries on Friday) but the sentiment remains. Students would rather secure a phone interview than phone a friend for a drink. Thankfully, fashion, as it so often does, offers us salvation. It is an escape from the drudgery of conveyor belt career conversations. In fact, I believe it can help us recall the ecstasy of a life without responsibility.

This enlightenment has led to some interesting patterns of behaviour: now that I'm not obsessing over jobs, a surprising amount of head-space has been freed up. Firstly, I have been continuously running over in my mind whether I should buy the beautiful rouge flower appliqued jumper from American Apparel, when I already have the white version (could just dye that one, but I have had some less than successful experiences with DIY clothing improvements). Perhaps more worryingly, I have found myself manically watching Rihanna's "We Found Love" video on a loop. Not for the music, mind, which belongs solely in Zoo Bar. No, the compulsive viewing is bound in the fact that it features the Bajan beauty frolicking around a supposed wasteland in an array of fantastic outfits. Contrived as it most certainly is, as I'm not sure how often the multi-millionaire finds herself languishing around desolate council estates, the fashion is a revelation. The very essence of youth culture, each garment looks unfinished or over-



Rihanna in "We Found Love"

worn, yet has survived to tell the tale. These clothes all suggest experience and a life lived to the fullest. All torn jumpers, boyfriend blazers and denim bodices add to this casual look. Even on a basic level, the ripped pair of tights or at least the cigarette burn on the top consolidates that very desirable rebellious streak. The message is one of liberation. Everything is put together with innovation, yet looks unfussy. No item is worn with highly strung precision. Quite simply, the oversized jackets present the image of someone who doesn't really give a shit.

So apathy is at the heart of modern youth dressing. Woe betide those who try "too hard," the aim is to look achingly cool without appearing to have given it a second thought. Coming from the North, where every outfit comes with a side order of heels, I find this more challenging than most. Swapping my Kurt Geiger's for Dr Martens is a work in progress. Nevertheless, the lack of laws that dictate dressing the young is a cause

for celebration. You will rarely find us worrying about wearing black tie, or what exactly smart casual entails. This is the antithesis of high fashion. Inaccessible, arbitrary and obsessive about minute details, such as whether A-line skirts are having a moment - it drains the pleasure out of dressing up. This is low fashion, where personal preference reigns supreme and thriftiness is rewarded.

Young fashion is defined by playfulness. We are blessed with being able to wear cheap fabric cuts, frayed edges and metallics. All things those pushing thirty would be heavily chastised for attempting to pull off. We are also allowed to be more irreverent with our garment choices or even have a sense of humour with our clothes (don't tell Anna Wintour). Indeed, 2011 is the year of the witty t-shirt: why make a cheeky comment when you can wear it? Tops inscribed with slogans such as "French kissing in the USA" or "I'm so rock'n'roll right now" (by Zoe Karssen) demonstrate

the kitsch fun that can accompany fashion. We have the chance not to take ourselves too seriously. We should seize it.

To conclude, I suggest we can evoke a sense of hedonism through clothes. Sure, our lives are more LSE than LSD, but our clothes don't have to adhere to that. Furthermore, contemporary young fashion is so exhilarating because the guidelines are so loose, we are subverting high fashion. Colour clashing, leotards and lamé, all things that may have been scorned in the past are now acceptable. Clothes are a section of our worlds we can control and perhaps even have some (whisper it) fun. So, youth of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your stress. Life can be so convulsed, isn't it sometimes desirable to lose yourself in a studded biker jacket? If that is vacuous then I'm content in being the emptiest person at this institution.

Emma Beaumont



Outfits by Manoush



Outfits by Wildfox

This Our Still Life

Director: Andrew Kötting
Screenplay: Andrew Kötting
Key cast: Eden Kötting, Leila McMillan
Year: 2011
Runtime: 57 minutes
In cinemas 18 November 2011

I just do not understand some art house filmmaking. There are examples that include some of the greatest movies, including *Memento* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. Two great examples of films that are dazzlingly directed, superbly acted, and to emphasise the point here more than ever: brilliantly written.

On the other hand, with art house you can just as likely witness film equivalents to the dead carcasses styled for Lady Gaga or Princess Beatrice's hat belonging to the world of fashion. They have you gagging with repetitions of "Just, why?" so fast that if you aren't physically sick from nearly swallowing your own tongue, you'll probably develop mental nausea. That was my experience when viewing *This Our Still Life*, a BFI release directed by Andrew Kötting. To present a quick preview of his past works, *Klipperty Klop* (1986) is his short film where he runs round and round a Gloucestershire field pretending to ride on a horse. For twelve minutes.

Kötting's new addition to the visual arts is part spectacle, part questionable. The focus lies on his daughter, Eden, who suffers from a rare condition known as Jobert syndrome which causes several neurological complications. It is truly moving to see the message he puts through about the two of them drawing still-life images together, with an overarching theme that apparently emphasises who we

are and what we do. We continue to live the story, through the hardships. We still live our life.

That sounds fantastic, and the brief parts of the film that are centred on Eden and her daily life are something to behold, as she continues enjoying life and singing away to Elvis Presley. But these short moments are peppered around a largely bizarre work in filmmaking. I wish to question the relevance of a gas mask-clad woman bathing bare-naked in a small tub out in the woods, to the loving relationship between a man and his daughter. This becomes more puzzling when it is revealed that this lady is Kötting's wife. This snippet is taken from the short film *Hoi Polloi*, which preceded the screening of *This Our Still Life*, and is fragmented throughout it also. It was equally strange, but thankfully shorter.

Odd and strange choices do not stop there, but keep rolling through. A number of phrases are spoken and played as voice-overs over shaky, disturbing scenes. They are spoken by several people with varying dialects, from a posh lady to a common man.

But they are laid over nothing, and for no purpose, just continual shots of the greenery that surrounds Kötting's Louyre: his residence where he shot the film and spent many special moments with his daughter. This sacred or private haven they share seems perverted by seemingly repugnant scenes of a gas-mask clad man wandering around, a senseless recurring theme surpassed in stupidity only by the fact that he is wearing only his underwear.

It made little to no sense, and it remained equally irrelevant whether I was paying attention shot-for-shot, or waking from the sleep it cast me

under at another point in the film and not knowing how much I had missed (regretfully, not a lot).

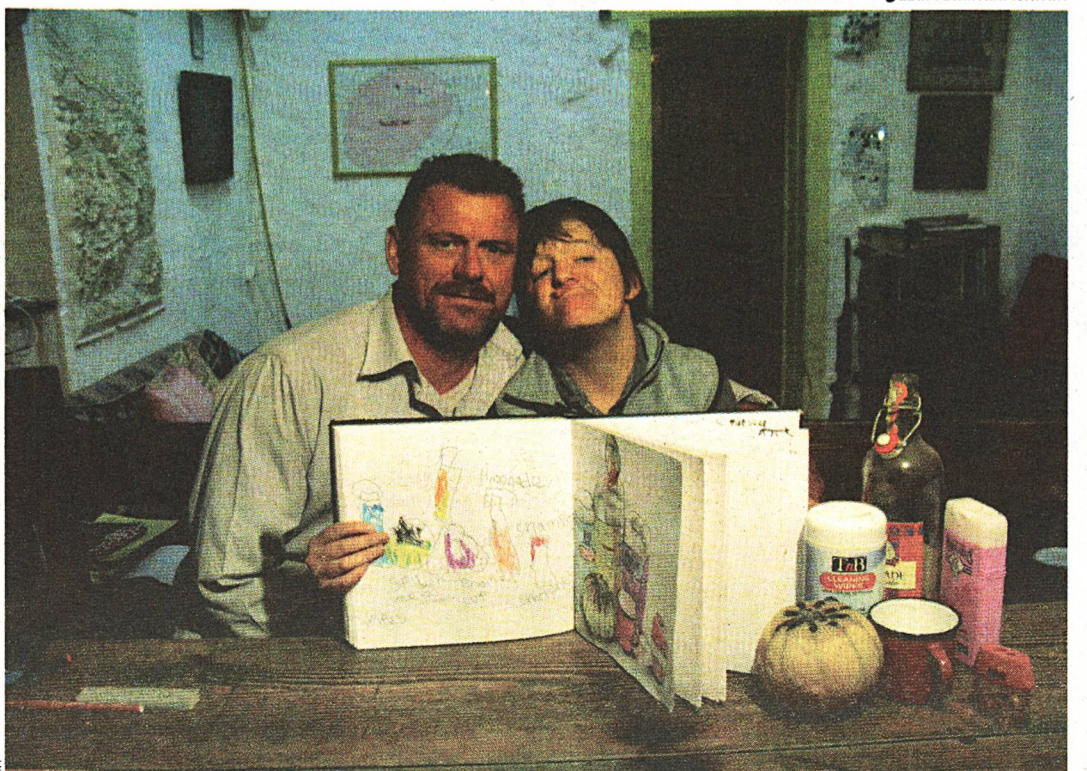
Should these directors have the freedom to do as they please, to make whatever movies they choose? Yes. But I cannot see the point in what they are creating. Maybe that's just my reliance on wanting a good story, to

witness a masterpiece of writing, and that I cannot appreciate the directing or the desire to have no plot and simply allow whatever it may be to unroll.

Perhaps I cannot see what is really powerful, emotive and dramatic about a film such as this, which had my fellow critics buzzing with excitement. What do they see that I don't? All I

know is that art house in this modern sense is something I cannot bear, but I am happy for others to enjoy what they can from it. After all, it isn't released "mainstream," and I could have chosen not to see it. I'll just have to allow the niche market it is directed at to enjoy their gas mask-clad entertainment.

Hari Ramakrishnan



Andrew and Eden Kötting

The shock factor

Sex sells. This is a fact of advertising and publishing that everyone is well aware of and it is not a recent phenomenon. From Collette to D.H. Lawrence, sex has been used to shock – breaking contemporary taboos usually means large audiences. Even now, sex has not lost its power to shock readers – contemporary writers continue to monopolise on it to sell books. They claim they are merely depicting an “honest” account of modern life and this frankness makes their writing representative of society. But in trying to be open and honest we have at times lost sight of what makes writing good. We ascribe praise to contemporary books because seemingly, they are more reflective than books in the buttoned-up past.

The recent publication of Daily Mail columnist Nikki Gemmell's novel *With My Body* (2011) embodies this problem. Described by her publishers as “a manifesto of womanhood,” Gemmell relies on a frank discussion of sex to elevate her novel from a run-of-the-mill chick flick. By addressing female sexuality Gemmell has made a name for herself as an “unflinching” writer capable of “representing” womanhood. But while *With My Body* is readable, Gemmell is no modern day Collette.

Likewise Charlotte Roche's 2009 novel *Wetlands*, which gained notoriety for its ability to shock audiences. Some describe it as representative of new feminism, confronting sex in an un-sanitised manner. But in reality it was poorly written, with some rather graphic descriptions of haemorrhoids and interesting use of avocados – not really what anyone wants to read about. However, it's USP – its shock factor – worked and it sold.

Both of these novels fail to catch the reader's belief and sympathy. Roche, at such pains to make her characters “talk honestly,” fails to present much other information. Ultimately, it's difficult to build up a description of *Wetlands*'s protagonist, except for her haemorrhoids. And as Gemmell slips into fantasy, what should be reality-reflective begins instead to impose a restricted view of experience, hard for many of us to relate to.

It is not just in fiction writing that sex goes kerching. The upcoming book on Mussolini's romantic life, *Il Duce and His Women* by Roberto Olla, claims it can shed further light on established research by highlighting the impact of sex and relationships. The use of Mussolini's lovers' diaries is new, informative and undoubtedly important. However, would the book

receive much attention if it researched other aspects of Mussolini's life? His friendships for example, arguably as catalytic in his rise to power.

As sex becomes a larger part of mainstream media, writers who neglect good writing may run out of tricks. Gemmell's *With My Body* has not been as successful as her first novel, in part because the storyline fails to inspire, but also because the book itself is not really shocking. In 2011, the thought of married women enjoying sex is not that rare. It appears that sex in writing is going to have to become more extreme to sell.

In principle there is nothing wrong with sex in literature. But there is nothing intrinsically good about it either. As Oscar Wilde said, “There is no such thing as a moral book or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all.”

↳ Laura Aumeer

***With My Body*, Nikki Gemmell, Fourth Estate, hardback, £11.99**

***Il Duce and His Women: Mussolini's Rise to Power*, Roberta Olla translated by Stephen Parkin, Alma Books, hardback, £25.00**

***Wetlands*, Charlotte Roche translated by Tim Mohr, Fourth Estate, paperback, £6.39**



Charlotte Roche

International readings

In light of our upcoming International Week and particularly LSE SU Literature Society's Evening of World Literature (Monday 21 November 2011), it seems fitting to bring some global literature to your attention. Three recommended reads, all outstanding, are Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* (Italy, 1972), Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Memoirs from the House of the Dead* (Russia, 1861) and *Tales of the Floating World* by Asai Ryoi (Japan, 1661). While these texts only manage to span two continents, they encompass almost three centuries.

Written by “one of modern Italy's most important men of letters,” *Invisible Cities* reads like a rotating crystal, casting rainbow colours onto the ceiling and walls of your room. It's about nothing and everything. Portraying a conversation between Marco Polo and the Chinese Emperor Kublai Khan, Calvino imagines some of the surreal cities visited by Marco Polo throughout his travels. All one and the same, individually literal, fictional, existent only as possibilities – each philosophically potent and exquisite, mesmerising both the reader and emperor, as he muses over his declining empire and a pipe.

From Calvino's city spires we dive down into Dostoevskian depths. Characteristically intense and panoramic, *Memoirs from the House of the*

Dead is not as plot-driven (or as long) as Dostoevsky's other masterpieces. Written as a collection of notes kept by an aristocrat incarcerated in Siberia, it documents the impact of prison conditions on convicts and the god-like mentalities which brought them there. With characteristic insight, Dostoevsky brings to life a world of contradictions and sadism inconceivable for civil society. Undoubtedly inspired by the author's own four year sentence, the piece is chillingly vivid, unrelentingly humane and typically thoughtful.

In contrast, Ryoi the story-teller infuses *Tales of the Floating World* with a hint of folk wisdom. Yet its subversive moral floats elsewhere out of reach, manifesting as suddenly as the haiku which intersperses the narrative. It documents the journey of a rogue priest, as he wanders through Japan, exploiting the kindness of strangers, provoking brawls, simultaneously enlightening and deceiving others; seeming to learn nothing. His spiritual pilgrimage is a celebration of hedonism. *Tales of the Floating World* celebrates a universe which exists as it is – in moments, hypocrisies and ironies, free from the heavy duties which drag it down to banality, and from misconstrued truths.

With such distinct cultural and historical contexts, these works are

somewhat incomparable. However, it is precisely these structural and thematic dissimilarities which represent the diversity available in literature. To restrict the novel to a beginning, middle and end, or to traditional genres and conclusions, is to criminally misrepresent what literature is. Closer to home, writers such as Joyce and Beckett have shown what the novel is capable of – even transcending conventional grammar until nonsensical sentences begin to communicate with an exactness beyond words, articulating not a simple point, but a cultural and emotional milieu. More and no more than stories, literature is an idea, and as an art transforms across the world and throughout history. A disillusioned reader is simply someone who has not searched widely enough.

↳ Rachel Holmes

***Invisible Cities*, Italo Calvino translated by William Weaver, Vintage, Paperback £5.99**

***Memoirs from the House of the Dead*, Fyodor Dostoevsky translated by Ronald Hingley and Jessie Coulson, Oxford University Press, Paperback £6.79**

***Tales of the Floating World*, Asai Ryoi translated by Daniel Lewis Barber, available online for PDF download**

Don't get lost in translation...

Join LitSoc for an evening of world literature

19:00, Monday 21 November 2011

The Underground
Readings, discussion, food and drink
facebook.com/lse litsoc

Texts from around the world
LSE SU Literature Society | International Week

Inside SBTV: From Bedroom to Boardroom

Channel 4, 10:50, Saturdays

New series. Cameras follow 12 young people working for online music company SBTV. The team meets Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street and attends the Mobo awards, and CEO Jamal talks to Tinchy Stryder

Threesome

Comedy Central, 21:30, Mondays

A comedy about three inseparable friends on the verge of 30. Alice (Amy Huberman) lives with her boyfriend Mitch (Stephen Wight) and their gay best friend Richie (Emun Elliot). They live it up on a particular night and end up falling pregnant. As a threesome they decide to keep the baby.



Holland Taylor as Evelyn Harper and Ashton Kutcher as Walden Schmidt in *Two and a Half Men*

Two and a Half Men

Comedy Central, 21:00, Mondays

It's all change in the ninth season of *Two and a Half Men*. Charlie Harper is dead after falling under a train on the Paris Metro, or so Rose says, and internet billionaire Walden Schmidt (Ashton Kutcher) has stepped in to save Alan and Jake from being turfed out of the beach house they've called home for the last eight years.

The Worst Thing That Ever Happened to me

Discovery Real Time, 21:00, Sundays

New series. People who have survived horrific events share their stories, beginning with a woman who was kidnapped and a student who was paralysed after a night out.

TV Tips
for the
week

The Changeling, Southwark Playhouse

Director: Michael Oakley

Playwrights: Thomas Middleton and William Rowley

Key Cast: Jonathan Benda, David Caves, Sophie Cosson, Fiona Hampton, Rob Heaps, James Northcote

At Southwark Playhouse until 26 November 2011

First performed in 1622, *The Changeling* is a love story steeped in unsettling court intrigue. The Production Works company have created an engaging modern adaptation of this early seventeenth century work that centres around sexual obsession, and although the plot is necessarily predictable – revenge tragedy has been rather popular over the past few hundred years – it is retold with a good degree of originality.

Fiona Hampton plays Beatrice-Joanna, a beautiful young woman in love with Alsemero (Rob Heaps); she is already engaged to Alonzo (James Northcote) however, so she turns to her servant De Flores (David Caves) for help – cruelly taking advantage of his obsessive affection for her. Hampton puts in a boisterous performance as Beatrice, invoking little sympathy as she tactlessly manipulates those closest to her to satisfy her every whim. A web of treachery is spun so thick that she succeeds only in trapping herself in a sickening love affair with the baleful De Flores.

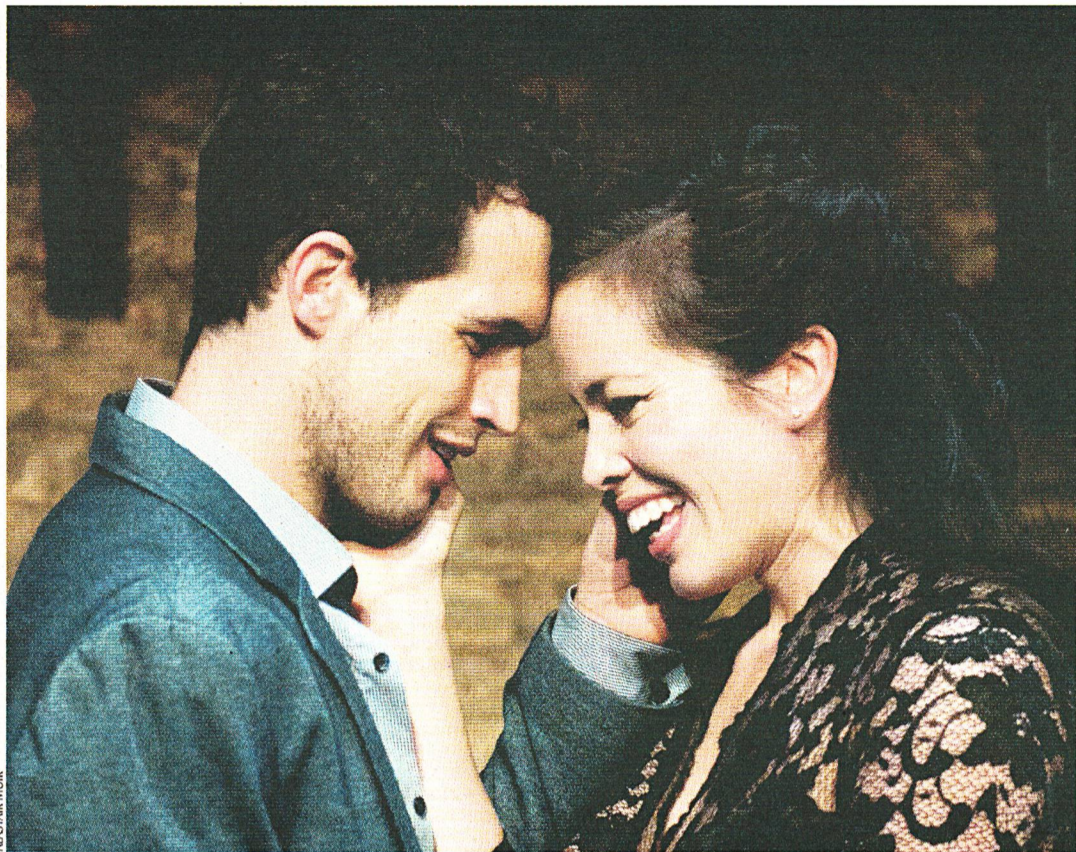
De Flores is a complex character: nervous but powerful, scheming but violent. He quietly lurks in the

shadows and is unbearably threatening when he leaves them. Caves could have done more to personify what is essentially an archetypal role – De Flores was not creepy enough. This is not to say his inner turmoil was not felt – cursed with a hideous appearance and a lowly standing, his frustration was played out well, culminating in brilliant outbursts of anger.

Michael Oakley, appears to have injected a great deal of urgency into what could otherwise have been a slightly stuffy affair. English Renaissance plays are well known for their use of asides, characters pausing to convey their thoughts to the audience, and *The Changeling* includes a vast number of them. To quicken the pace of the action, the creative team have re-energised the script by replacing the asides with voice-overs – a nod to successful film adaptations of the play. This allows the characters to “stay in the moment” more, rather than synthetically putting a halt to proceedings in order to address the audience.

While De Flores’s anger is directed at Beatrice, it is essentially a response to the victimisation he is subjected to in, as he sees it, an unforgiving and restricting world. He has nowhere to turn but inwards, and it is this lack of support that is the root of his vice – and with it the evil that resonates throughout the play.

Laurence Vardaxoglou



Rob Heaps and Fiona Hampton as Alsemero and Beatrice-Joanna

The Woods Are Lovely, Courtyard Theatre

Director: Andrew Hobbs

Playwright: Stephen Middleton

Key Cast: Lucielle Cliffe, Beric Livingstone, Kevin Millington

At Courtyard Theatre until 20 November 2011

Your faithful theatre editor was supposed to do an internship in New York this summer; the product of many pleading emails, application forms and self-aggrandisement. However, it turned out that while I thought it obvious that one of my grand New York acquaintances would put me up for three months, it turned out that New Yorkers are less hospitable to long term sofa surfing than I previously imagined. Confronted then with an unpaid job and nowhere to live, I thought it best to keep the flights I had rashly purchased, ditch the internship, and head into the woods of the White Mountain National Forest for an extended hiking trip.

I am pleased and relieved to tell you that in the many mountain huts I stayed in, I did not come across anyone so vile or violent as Nathan, the psychotic loner played by Kevin Millington in Facsimile Productions's *The Woods are Lovely* now playing at the intimate Courtyard Theatre in Hoxton. Part of the London Horror Festival, the play by Stephen Middleton is based on a simple

premise: alone in the woods of some American national park, a rather smarmy and nauseating British couple find themselves bunking down in a remote mountain cabin with a salt-of-the-earth type hiker, whose behaviour becomes increasingly erratic and scary.

The couple, played by Beric Livingstone and Lucielle Cliffe, are stereotyped middle England to a tee: Hampshire residence, professionals, bores. The dialogue between them is brilliantly conceived and well executed, and one sees into their relationship of total inward dependence despite the outward appearance of independence. This is exposed as they begin to involve Nathan, who is already ensconced in the hut before they arrive, in their personal games and private jokes. Although we are sympathetic to their plight, they are not sympathetic characters. Rather one is slightly sickened by their boorishness and seeming inability to exist outside their little bubble.

Nathan is a chilling character. He gives different accounts of his life to each of his companions, he is prone to violent outbreaks, and becomes genuinely terrifying. His disquiet and intensity burns strongly inside the mannerisms and eyes of Millington's character performance. He lays into George in particular, and forces him to

strip almost naked while asking him a series of questions about his life back in Hampshire; figuratively and literally exposing George to the absurdity of his own existence.

There is a lot of humour in the script, which keeps things light. True to life, there are minor bouts of equipment wars, which I can verify do go on in the world of long distance hikers. There is a slight lack of direction at times, and despite excellent timing from all three performers, it is not easy to stay focussed as the characters go round in circles. This means that the intensity of the play is somewhat constant where it would be better to build to fever pitch until the end when George and Marie are left in a very sticky situation.

The production is sparse, which is to be expected in such a theatre, and is not a point of detraction. However, I was slightly put off by the lack of mud on the walking boots, and backpacks basically empty except for props that were to form part of the performance. Nevertheless I was greatly entertained, and this is a wonderful opportunity to see up close three very talented actors taking great care to execute a script that is heavily reliant on timing and inter-character relationships.

Rory Creedon

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★★★★ The Sunday Express ★★★★★ The Independent ★★★★★ Music OMN

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Competition Time

We have two tickets to *A Walk on Part* at the Soho Theatre to give away. The play is a dramatisation of the critically acclaimed diaries of former MP Chris Mullin and is set to be a classic. All you have to do is tell us which constituency Chris represented in parliament.

Send your answers to partb-theatre@thebeaveronline.co.uk by 17:00 on Thursday 17 November to be in with a chance of winning tickets for a weekend performance.



Tony Blair in 1997

Inside Rem Koolhaas's architecture: OMA/Progress

OMA/Progress is now in exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery. OMA is one of the most influential architecture practices in the world and has recently been in the spotlight for its daring and unconventional design of Beijing's China Central Television (CCTV) Headquarters.

OMA, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, was co-founded by Rem Koolhaas in 1975. Since its creation, OMA has always been several years ahead of common architectural practices. Originally inspired by conceptual designs of the 1960s avant-garde, it continues to bring forth provocative proposals that put gravitational laws to the test.

The current exhibition at the Barbican is meant to celebrate this avant-garde nature of OMA, as well as making known the works of OMA's think tank AMO on architectural, engineering and cultural solutions to sustainable architecture. The exhibition is masterfully curated by the Belgium-based collective Rotor and for the first time in the Barbican's history, the gallery's West entrance is opened to the public allowing direct access from the adjoining Barbican Estate. The Barbican's Brutalist architectural style of the 1970s and the avant-garde concept it held at the time does a wonderful job in preparing the visitor to OMA's exhibition.

OMA/Progress is one of the most entertaining exhibitions in London at the moment. Through photographs, documents, projects, small-scale models, videos and multimedia installations, visitors can not only gain a deeper understanding of OMA's projects, but also enjoyably interact with the materials in exhibition.

The exhibition starts by asking the question of what exactly an architecture exhibition should expose to the public. Should it show pictures of the beautifully completed projects, perhaps on the inauguration day with flowers and nice lights? Or should it show pictures of the projects under construction, maybe during a foggy, rainy day? But as soon as the visitor enters the exhibition rooms, they will understand that Rotor, as a curator, never found an answer to those questions, but instead, decided to exhibit

everything that has been on OMA's minds in recent years.

The first exhibition room shows two round clay objects on a white shelf. The caption states that OMA does not know whether these two clay objects are actually part of project models or they are just leftovers. As a start, this definitely prepares the visitor for the many smiles that will soon adorn their faces. Continuing on the lower level, there are photographic representations of a few of the OMA's newest projects, among which there is the famous Beijing CCTV Headquarters. The photographs give a unique perspective of the interior of the building, which has not yet been open to the public.

The following room is one of most amusing of the entire exhibition. OMA's architects, designers and researchers were asked to put on paper what was on their mind at the time and the result is three walls covered with the weirdest ideas you might have ever come up with. One of the notes that captured my attention was a comment from Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa's presentation, who once proposed the addition of dynamite to a new building's rooms because he believed that after 30 years that building would inevitably become obsolete and would need to be demolished. Other "thoughts" note that "everything that was not made by God, was made by architects" and "it is a super good feeling to have the super power of an architect."

Another fun thought was by an architect wondering whether "people" or the architect had better taste, by asking "why the sloped roof, the bow-window and the chimney disappear from architectural language, when most of people desire them for their home? Why do architects always like what the people don't like?" These thoughts are extremely fun to go through, not only because architects are fun people (as OMA would have probably stated), but because it really shows the passion these people have for what they do and the love they put into their work.

Continuing through the exhibition, before moving to the upper level, there is video installation featuring all 3,454,204 images that were found on



OMA's China Central Television Headquarters in Beijing, by night

OMA's servers running at an extremely fast speed. The images are so many that completing the whole cycle takes 48 hours. If you are lucky, you might be able to see photos of your favourite projects, otherwise you should get ready to camp at the Barbican.

Things become relatively more serious on the exhibition's upper level and through a series of 8 different rooms there are about 450 items illustrating OMA's history and current practice. While many different projects are shown, much space is given to the outstanding project for Beijing's CCTV Headquarters.

OMA's Beijing CCTV Headquarters project is famous and worthy of so much attention due to it pushing the limits of architecture, of gravity and also the artistic connotation it represents. It is OMA's largest project to date and it proposes a new understanding of what a skyscraper should look like. Instead of competing in the race for height with two-dimensional architecture, the

CCTV Headquarters building is a "truly three-dimensional experience," where two leaning vertical towers are connected by a horizontal angular structure suspended in mid-air.

The day in December 2007 when the two leaning structures were connected by the horizontal axis was an exciting one in Beijing – until that day, the whole building was in a very fragile state as it was exposed to seismic activity and ground movement to a greater degree. OMA/Progress shows various photo-reportage of this important day, as well as different materials documenting the planning, engineering testing and building of the CCTV Headquarters. A few of the panels that were used on the exterior of the building are also in exhibition.

Undoubtedly, the project for the CCTV Headquarters fully grasps the nature of Rem Koolhaas's style and what OMA means by "progress." Never before has gravity been challenged so much. Through this project the concept of skyscraper has been

pushed to the limit and conceptual space has been created for architectural progress and for new ideas to develop bringing the three-dimensional into today's architecture.

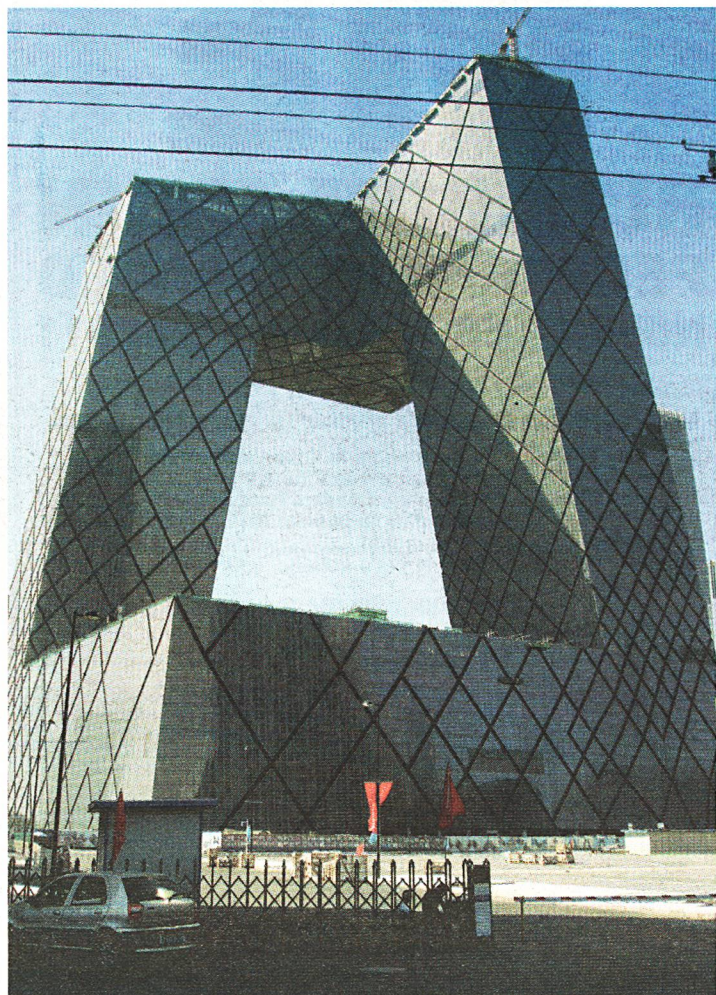
Curiosities

One of OMA's biggest "competitors" in Beijing is Foster and Partners, who not only advanced the project for Beijing's airport, the world's largest and most advanced airport building, but also oversaw the redevelopment of the British Library of Political and Economic Science. I do hope though, that the stairs at the Beijing International Airport do not have the same flaw as they have in our library!

* * *

OMA/Progress is at the Barbican Art Gallery until 19 February 2012

↳ Roberta Cucchiaro



OMA's China Central Television Headquarters in Beijing, by day



OMA's China Central Television Headquarters in Beijing, under construction in 2007



OMA/Progress | Kuedo | The Changeling | This Our Still Life |
International Readings | Beginner's Wine Guide | LSEx | Private B

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Cover

Untitled, 2011
by Vanessa Woo of the
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New Album: Severant – Kuedo

Severant is the debut album by Kuedo (aka Jamie Teasdale, one half of now-disbanded influential dubstep duo Vex'd), following a couple of 12" singles on Planet Mu in 2010 and 2011. None of this points to what Severant is like though, as the *Blade Runner*-channeling, spacious and sometimes-sombre sound on display is planets away from the skull-cracking, built-up and worn down late night atmosphere of Vex'd. In a recent interview in the Guardian he says "There's a kind of lightness in being of a genre that's not self-consciously a genre yet. And once it's become a genre, it has this burden of structure and expectation – and that's where it's been for years." *Severant* really does sound like Teasdale unshackling himself from the dubstep sound, taking a set of influences that have been thrown around a lot recently (big melodies, 80's synths, footwork, "the future", etc.) and turning them into something completely original: no one else really sounds like this.

The tracks are all relatively short, hovering around the three minute mark, often building wonderfully from quick, footwork-type drums, bursting analogue-sounding synths and occasional pitch-shifted vocals, before exhausting their melodies and burning out, taking care never to stretch an idea too far. Take the fifth track, "Scissors," built around the craftily-

lifted hook from Carly Simon's 1980's monster hit "Why." Instead of the lame pastiche as it could be, Teasdale submerges the hook in fast, jittering snares and plaintive keys and turns the whole thing into something alien. These fast, sharp tinny-sounding drums are characteristic of Planet Mu's current fixation with Chicago juke and footwork, following singles by DJ Rashad, DJ Nate and the stunning *Machinedrum* LP earlier this year. Footwork has only very recently spread from its underground, tight-knit Chicago base and once you've got over the fact that the music basically consists of ridiculously fast drums and tiny snipped, looped vocals, the rhythms in the tracks are a total counterpoint to the tired drops and breaks of dubstep. The drums are what really pushes this record ahead, providing a pace and texture that sounds completely fresh. Take "Flight Path," a standout and probably the closest you'll get to club material here, admirably showcasing Teasdale's programming skills. Many of the tracks are touching in a way UK bass music rarely is. The strings on "Salt Lake Cuts" are a subtle joy, totally different to the crazed, plastic use on Rustie's recent LP, and closer "Memory Rain" is peaceful and cathartic, dropping to an R&B tempo, giving a nicely-trimmed vocal more room to radiate, sounding like the soundtrack to a



farewell-scene at a spaceport. Without overdoing it, there really are a lot of moments on this album to which such airy images of a 1980's future can be attached, and judging from the frequent references to *Blade Runner*, Vangelis and Tangerine Dream in

interviews, this is quite intentional. Without going on too much about genre, *Severant* is a bass music album that confidently and coherently maps out the future, and it is easily one of the best of the year.

— Ian Floyd

This week's live highlights

15 Nov: **The Cure** – Royal Albert Hall

15 Nov: **Washed Out** – Heaven

16 Nov: **Neon Indian** – Heaven

17 Nov: **Fred Falke** – The Nest

19, 20, 21 Nov: **Bob Dylan** – Roundhouse

21 Nov: **Battles** – HMV Forum



The Cure at Coachella, Main Stage, April 2009

PartBeat

The office playlist this week...



The Clean at ATP (Curated by Pavement), Minehead, May 2010

Palace
A\$AP Rocky: *LIVELOVEA\$AP* (2011)

Like a Pitcher of Water
Simon & Garfunkel: *A Bridge Over Troubled Water* (1970)

Anything Could Happen
The Clean: *Anthology* (2002)

Aurora
Fred Falke: *Part IV* (2011)



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Features

Pitching a tent over the 1 per cent

Diana Yu questions the purpose of the St Paul's protest movement.

On 15 October, nearly 3,000 people converged on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral in solidarity with a movement that was taking over the globe. Since then, they have been there for almost a month. The small square outside of St. Paul's has been transformed into a massive campground, with rows and rows of lumpy tents. The church itself has had to stop services for a period as they tried to figure out how to react to the protest outside their doors. The protests have led to the resignations of several high-ranking church officials, including Canon Chancellor Reverend Giles Fraser.

On the ground, the protest outside of St. Paul's looks like a camp on the outskirts of a music festival. The protesters say they were inspired by the demonstrations in the Middle East, but they seem to have been influenced by the hippies in the 1960s more than anything else. As the sun sets outside the cathedral, a band plays in front of a crowd of tourists and onlookers on the stone steps. The lead singer raps, "No, I'll never sell my soul for some gold and some cash," while some members of the audience clad in Soviet-era jackets cheer.

Many of the tents bear titles or

slogans, such as the Real Reform tent and the Tea tent. Inside the Meditation tent, a few protesters sit in a circle holding hands, apparently deep in thought. One tent is fashioned like a makeshift cafe. The small tables, coffee and dingy lighting produce an atmosphere for political discourse. Inside the free bookstore, where one would expect to see such subversive titles as "Anti-Capitalism: A Guide," the shelves instead hold Michael Crichton books and popular fiction. The sign outside reads "help yourself"

While the Occupy London website gives nine general points in its Initial Statement, individual protesters come here with their own separate ideas on how government and the economy should be structured. Their views range from placing limits on the current capitalist system, to abolishing capitalism altogether and transforming the world into one gigantic welfare state. They come here to protest economic inequality and unfairness, but also environmental policies, university fees, and a whole host of other concerns.

One huge tent bears the sign "Tent City University," and inside, a man from a think tank gives a talk on environmental destruction fuelled by economic greed.

"Many people in our own government, they know what a problem unmitigated climate change can be," he says into a microphone in the crowded tent. "They know that it can bring down economies. And meanwhile, right across the financial chain, every player just plows right on, stupidly, suicidally, as though there is nothing to worry about."

Instead, as disorganised as the movement is, it does an important job of calling attention to economic inequality and forcing the government to address it.

In other areas of the tents, people engage passers-by, promoting their own opinions. The Occupy site is a hodgepodge mix of beliefs and campaigns.

On the edge of the campsite,

Emma, 25, an activist from Minnesota, hands out socialist leaflets. She argues that even the most ideological politician ends up having to cater to the whims of the richest one per cent and that the current system needs to be abolished.

"I think capitalism is a system prone to crises, and really what we need is a revolution. I think we need to get rid of capitalism," she says.

Emma points to the revolution in Egypt as evidence that ordinary and working class people have the potential to devise an alternative to capitalism and rebuild the system from scratch.

"Now maybe our dictatorship isn't the same as that of Mubarak, but I certainly don't think we live in a democracy," says Emma.

At another area in the campsite, two anarchists tend to the First Aid tent. Freddie, a young anarchist who just joined the movement a week ago, says that the government is to blame.

"I think there should be a system of direct democracy, where the people vote because all the policies are affecting them," Freddie says.

He also believes that many more people would self-identify as anarchists, if they were not so afraid of

the label.

The wide variety of people

"We'll eventually have to leave, but we're hoping that the movement stays on."

in the Occupy movement allows for a convergence of different ideas and open political dialogue. Yet, at the same time, it provides substance to the criticism that the movement does not have any clearly defined goals.

After the Occupy movement began on Wall Street - the so-called "belly of the beast" - it soon spread to other US cities, and then all over the world to countries such as England, Spain, and Italy. The different legs of the movement are all united by their common aim to combat economic inequality and corporate greed, and by their lack of tangible policy goals. Indeed, the buzzwords of "economic inequality and corporate greed" appear on the lips of every protester as the one shared complaint, but their proposed solutions are often non-existent.

The movement has been parodied by many comedy groups and television shows. After all, it is kind of difficult to take them seriously, just as it was difficult to take the hippies seriously in the '60s. The mere idea of several hundred people sleeping in foldable tents in the middle of a city is fair game for mockery. Yet, they should not be discredited simply because they seem silly, or because they cannot provide feasible solutions. The role of protest is not to create implementable policy and legislation. If protest were only a game for intellectuals, one of the primary mobilisers of reform would fail by sheer lack of number.

Instead, as disorganised as the movement is, it does an important job of calling attention to economic inequality and forcing the government to address it. In the United States, during the budget talks earlier this year, Republican politicians quickly threw out the idea of raising taxes on the wealthy, justifying that it was not what the average American wanted. Now, the Occupy protests are forcing them to confront a truth that many average Americans do care about: economic inequality.

Underneath some of the radical ideas, the mix of other issues and causes, the contradictory statements, there lies a core understanding that economic inequality is the problem. It may seem like an obvious problem that does not require a whole movement to point out. However, newspaper articles are easy to ignore, and letters to MPs are easy to ignore, whereas 500 people camping outside a beloved national symbol are not. For now, politicians can try to dismiss the movement and avoid talking about it, but the protesters are pretty determined.

"If we don't get evicted beforehand, we're going to try to stay here until January," said Freddy. "We'll eventually have to leave, but we're hoping that the movement stays on."



Flickr user: a shadow of my future self

Google Earth. Google Plus. Google Memory?

Edward Larkin examines our growing reliance on the internet

Scientific journals usually make for relatively dry reading. They hew close to the facts and refrain from aThus, the recent ending of a report in the journal "Science" by Betsy Sparrow and colleagues was surprising in its voice: "It may be no more than nostalgia at this point, however, to wish we were less dependent on our gadgets. We have become dependent on them to the same degree we are dependent on all the knowledge we gain from our friends and coworkers—and lose if they are out of touch. The experience of losing our Internet connection becomes more and more like losing a friend. We must remain plugged in to know what Google knows."

To provoke this, Sparrow and colleagues had found that we are in the process of exporting memory out of brains and into Google. Despite the inherent potential for sensationalism in findings such as these, the real results are quite modest – the main thrust of the report is that people who know they have access to Google will tend to remember where and how to find something rather than what that thing actually is. The authors of the paper, despite the grandiloquent quote above, don't offer a value judgment on the inherent goodness or badness of this development.

Others haven't been quite so non-committal – in his much-talked about 2008 "Atlantic" cover article "Is Google Making us Stupid?," Nicholas Carr bemoans the effects of the internet on our brains. And indeed, some technophobes have adopted a pessimistic tone towards the new Science report, encouraging us to somehow collectively come to our wits and stop the inevitable decline into cyborgs.

For better or worse, this is not going to happen. Google is here to stay, as are all the rest of the accouterments of the Web – Facebook, Twitter, Wikileaks, etc. So perhaps a more fulfilling quest would be to understand this development in the grander picture. What does it mean that we are now shipping our memory into the cloud?

First, the process of exporting memory outside of our minds is not new. As many have noted, Plato (through his mouthpiece Socrates) lamented the advent of writing, claiming that it debased memory. "The fact is that this invention will produce forgetfulness in the souls of those who have learned it" he declares in the dialogue Phaedrus. "They will not need to exercise their memories, being able to rely on what is written, calling things to mind no longer from within themselves by their own unaided powers."

Fast-forward about 2,400 years and replace stylus with keyboard, papyrus with search results, and the exact same argument can be made about Google. In the 20/20 vision of hindsight, it's safe to say that most of us view the advent of the written word as an overwhelmingly positive development.

Marshall McLuhan famously theorized that each new technology is an extension of a part of the body. A remote control is an extension of the hand, which would otherwise manually flip through TV channels. Bicycles and

cars and planes are extensions of the feet – more efficient methods of propulsion. Binoculars, microscopes, and telescopes are extensions of the eyes. The written word, and now Google, are extensions of the brain.

Concomitant with this is the idea the original parts will be otherwise used when given these artificial boosts – in the case of the remote control, perhaps the hands will now occupy themselves as an arbitrator between mouth and a popcorn bowl. In the case of Google, things that are easily attainable via search engines, free previous brain cells and synapses from the restrictive neural configurations and

time. One of the main arguments marshalled in favor of this conclusion was the fact that it would seem impossible for one man to commit the sprawling epics to memory – indeed, a recitation of the Iliad would take over 24 hours. Some still believe this, but the famous scholars Milman Parry and Albert Lord made waves about 80 years ago when they traveled to pre-literate communities in Yugoslavia and found bards that

could recite poems as long as the Iliad from memory. To the modern mind, remembering the entire Iliad seems impossible. But we are confused. In reality, what is even more incomprehensible through the modern lens is the why of the matter – why would anyone ever remember the Iliad when they could just lug around a copy in our backpacks? Indeed, it is so unnecessary now that we confusedly considered it impossible until Parry and Lord set the record straight.

Clearly, memory has been outsourced before, and thus the idea of a memory migration to Google is not necessarily a

fruitful, innovative, and focused reasoning.

This is not to say that we should seek to export all our memory to Google – indeed, it is intimate knowledge about a subject that eventually spawns creativity, and this knowledge is best gained by a thorough immersion in the field. But I would argue that the amount of factoids we store in our brains about subjects tangential (at best) or unrelated to our deepest interests and passions is significant.

The real key is how our social institutions respond to this new reality. Will they insist on tradition despite the changing times, or will they adapt to the fact that rote memorization need not be so prized anymore?

Will medical schools realize that drilling every last fact about the human body into students' heads for two years – much of it completely unrelated to their eventual fields – might not be quite so necessary?

Will universities decide that teaching aspiring biologists the names of countless proteins and cell types should take a back seat to instilling an understanding of, for example, computer programming and new fields that take a more mathematical view of biology, like systems and synthetic biology?

Will standardized tests that often serve as the keys to the kingdom for student hopefuls continue to emphasize the accumulation of knowledge, or will they be designed instead towards how you think, rather than what you know?

Will the barriers to entry of typically high-skilled fields such as computer science decrease so that engineers can concentrate more on how humans will interact with their products (something Apple does phenomenally well) rather than rigorously memorizing the mechanics of the coding?

All this needs to be tempered, of course. For example, designing a standardized test based solely on how one thinks would probably be a bad idea, since an ability to sustain focused practice is often the top predictor of success. This sort of focused practice often manifests itself in the rigorous memory of facts. Not all people who can simply think well are destined for success – not by any stretch of the imagination.

Memory can and will be remain an integral part of life, and a key pillar of education and success. However, many institutions (medicine foremost) in our society lean towards valuing memory over problem solving, when the reality of our hyper-Googled world means that the power in this relationship should be reversed.

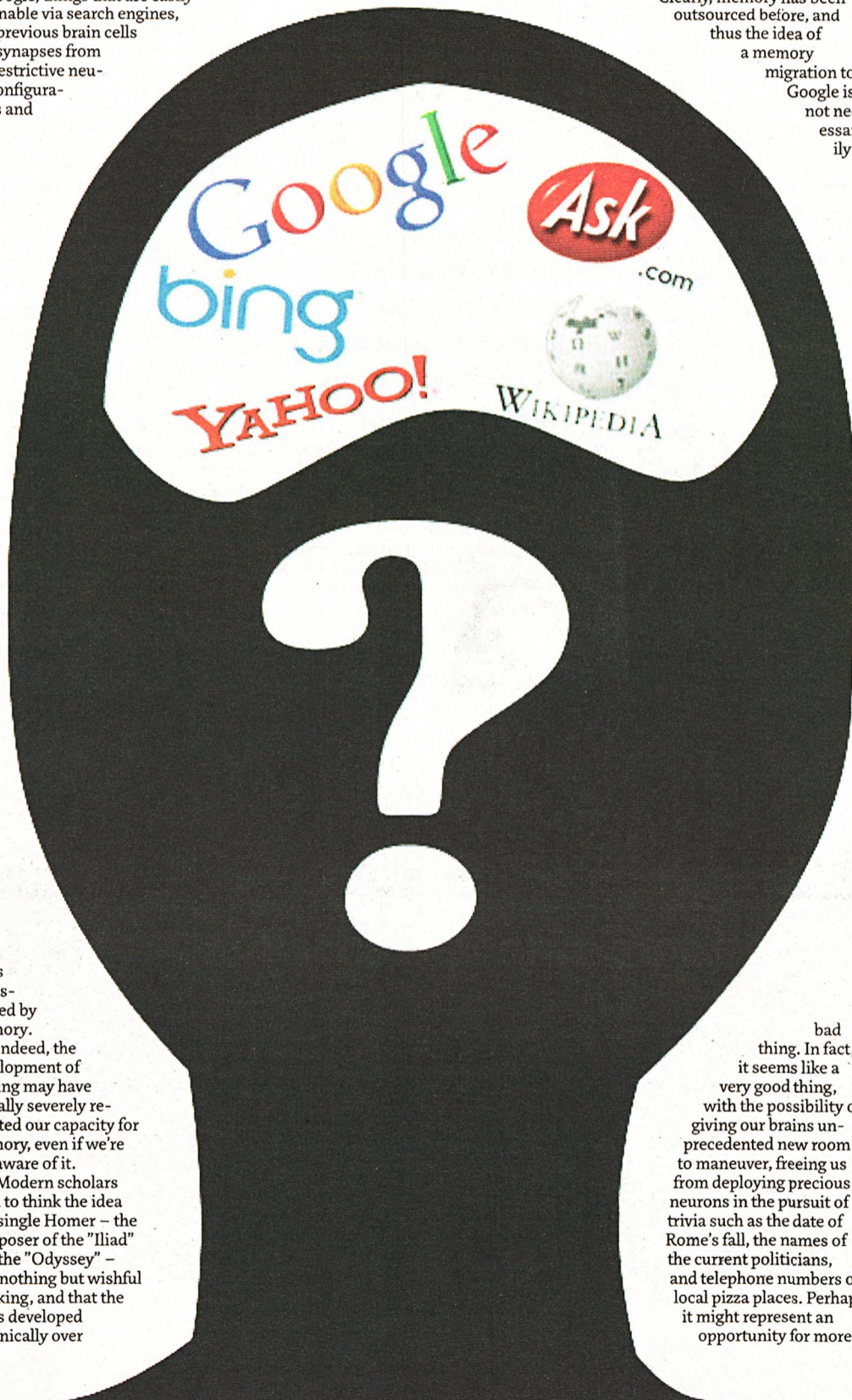
Perhaps losing our connection to the network will feel more and more like the loss of a friend, as the Science article theorizes. But Plato would certainly have said the same about writing. And ironically, the only reason we have any idea about his thoughts on the matter over two millennia later was the dawn of writing, which preserved his dialogues from destruction and dilution. As I was re-reading Plato, it seemed to me like the gain of a friend.

patterns necessitated by memory.

Indeed, the development of writing may have actually severely restricted our capacity for memory, even if we're not aware of it.

Modern scholars used to think the idea of a single Homer – the composer of the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" – was nothing but wishful thinking, and that the plays developed organically over

bad thing. In fact, it seems like a very good thing, with the possibility of giving our brains unprecedented new room to maneuver, freeing us from deploying precious neurons in the pursuit of trivia such as the date of Rome's fall, the names of the current politicians, and telephone numbers of local pizza places. Perhaps it might represent an opportunity for more



A Pakistani Revolution

Abir Qazilbash asks is Pakistan next?

The question of whether the wave of Arab revolutions will spread further east to Pakistan is a question that has been discussed increasingly in the past few weeks.

Imran Khan – the celebrated cricketer-turned politician, is one of the most vocal proponents of such a revolution, having stated last week that he believes “Pakistan is completely ready for it [revolution]. In fact, it’s even more ready than Egypt was.”

The incumbent Pakistan Peoples Party’s Senator holds a more pessimistic view, predicting a Taliban and extremist takeover of the capital, Islamabad.

Shahbaz Sharif, president of the Pakistan Muslim League party, envisages a bloody revolution if “current disorder, corruption, and lack of interest in helping the displaced prevails.” Yet, others see the possibility of a mirror of the 1979 Iranian revolutions to remove the US-backed Shah.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that substantial differences exist between the respective situations in Egypt and Pakistan. Pakistan has had a civilian democracy. There have indeed been long-established political parties and

affairs programs, and newspaper columns all openly criticizing various politicians. The opportunity for a fairly liberal level of political expression means that people do indeed have a means to vent their frustrations

For these youth, the current structure of the Pakistani government is perceived as denying more than it offers.

and criticisms. Such freedoms were not possible in Egypt at the start of the uprisings. In fact, in some ways Egypt seems to be on the path towards today’s Pakistan, however imperfect it might be.

A further difference between Pakistan’s situation and the Arab Spring revolutions is that there is no real ‘dictator’ to overthrow. Some would argue

revolution in Egypt, we also saw it with defecting members of the Libyan army and military. But is it possible to revolt against an army no longer officially in charge?

One thing is certain; there is currently no clear basis for a national mass movement at this stage; there appears to be far more

Although the economy continues to be a problem, with rocketing inflation and a crashing currency, can this truly lead to widespread upheaval in the streets? Russia may have had bread riots against the Tsarist autocratic government in 1917, but we can hardly extrapolate such examples to theorize that economic disparity will result in an overthrow of the ruling class.

However, as Khan notes, the two

is perceived as denying more than it offers. Prospects for social mobility are rare: Pakistan, at 125th in the Human Development Index, is ranked below Egypt, with 60 per cent of the nation living on less than \$2 a day. Justice and security are elusive concepts when rulers are popularly thought of as corrupt and distant. Some 119 suicides, reminiscent of the one committed by Tunisian vegetable seller Mohammed Bouazizi, took place in Pakistan in 2010.

It was undoubtedly the power of the youth in Egypt that was behind the Tahrir Square protests. If we are to take the disillusionment of this segment of society as a benchmark, a revolution in Pakistan may be closer than otherwise expected.

Still, there remains ambiguity over what can constitute the foundation for a large-scale and broad movement of the Pakistani public. There are a few who would like to see an Islamist-style revolution, similar to theocracy established after the toppling of the Shah in Iran. Many city liberals hope for a broader people’s revolution, instead of a religious one. It is clear, however, that there is no evident uniting factor for a national scale movement in the

rooted concern – particularly amongst the youth demographic, regarding the legitimacy of the government and its accountability, as well as largely negative public sentiment against the joint Pakistan and US army drone attacks in the North of the country – all of which could increase likelihoods of revolution. Perhaps the notorious case of U.S. diplomat Raymond Davis, who was on trial for killing two Pakistanis in Lahore but whom President Obama has asked to be released under diplomatic immunity, has led to a united Pakistani anger. “This is not an ordinary situation,” says Khan. “If he is returned to the U.S. under diplomatic immunity, it might trigger the revolution off.”

Khan does have reason to believe that there is already significant public discontent, particularly amongst the youth, which could be the tipping point for revolution. However, key obstacles hindering a speedy onset of revolution are Pakistan’s deeply-rooted ethnic, cultural, political and sectarian divides. Moreover, whilst politicians like Imran Khan, popular amongst the middle class, present themselves as “self-styled revolutionaries,” the primary difference between Pakistan



Manezhe Imran

In fact, in some ways Egypt seems to be on the path towards today’s Pakistan, however imperfect it might

a degree of political freedoms enabling citizens to dissent. Moreover, a glance at the mainstream Pakistani media reveals a host of talk shows, current

ably view President Pervez Musharraf’s military government of five years as qualifying him as Pakistan’s most recent dictator; but this is not quite comparable to Mubarak’s 30 years of autocratic rule. In any case, a protest movement headed by lawyers did successfully demand Musharraf’s exit, as well as an independent judiciary.

Even in the absence of a dictator to protest against, there is still widespread agreement the military continues to pull the strings in Pakistan. Hence, it follows that a true revolution would see the army put out of commission, or even joining forces with the protesters. It was this that ultimately swayed the successful

countries do indeed have several afflictions in common that make a new wave of unrest all the more likely. He posits that Pakistan’s youth, who make up an overwhelming 70 per cent of the country’s population, share the sentiment of complete discontent that were felt by the similarly large proportion of youth in the Arab world. In fact, a 2009 report by the British Council reveals that only one in ten of Pakistan’s youth between the ages of 18 and 29 has confidence in the government. There is the universal worry of youth unemployment amongst other apprehensions.

For these youth, the current structure of the Pakistani government

current climate.

On the economic front, Pakistan is in a tight situation, already struggling to meet requirements for an IMF rescue package. In spite of continued pressure, the government has failed to broaden its tax base, resorting to the printing of bank notes to create revenue. Economists are predicting a situation of hyperinflation with a collapse of the local currency. Khan suggests that such conditions will only further inflame an already disparaging public opinion of their government, which is amplified by media outlets.

The question remains as to whether a flame can be set to the tinder of discontent. There certainly is a deep-

and the Arab Spring is democracy. However flawed it might be, Pakistan does have an established democratic system whereas dissidents across Asia and the Middle East have been fighting for the right to vote. It is worth noting that the generally more “liberal” middle class is a mere 20 million out of a total population of 180 million. Unlike the victorious protesters in Egypt, the impact of social networking such as Facebook and Twitter has not yet animated, or contributed to, large-scale protest movements. One thing is certain; there is currently no clear basis for a national mass movement at this stage; there appears to be far more divide than unity.

"You're sexy, you're cute, take off your riot suit"

Emily Delahaye takes a closer look at police tactics during student protests

Everyone will remember the astonishing scenes of last year's protests: the Conservative headquarters at Millbank invaded and occupied; bricks thrown at the Treasury in Parliament Square; and the students carrying the protest to Westminster Bridge in the late hours of the night. Last Wednesday's student protest was marked not by violence, as last year's protests were, but by its conspicuous absence. Although there were rumours of potential violence on Twitter, and moments of tension felt by those on the march, nothing dramatic materialised. The police say only 20 were arrested, compared to 153 at the protest

in Trafalgar Square in December last year.

What was also notable was the new aspect of "total policing" employed at the protest. This was the tag line to leaflets distributed by the police during the march – "Metropolitan Police – Total Policing." This seemed to amount to turning the protest into what student Nadia Mehdi called a "moving kettle." All side streets off the route of the march were guarded by police; protestors were forced to halt at intervals and were dispersed by the police through filters at the end of the march at Moorgate. This might seem reasonable enough. After all, the violence at Millbank and Parliament

Square was considered by many to have weakened the student cause, by alienating those at home watching the protest. So, by reducing the chance of splinter groups running off and causing havoc, this was in most people's interests. Last year, the police were accused by the public of not having enough of a presence at the Millbank protest, a claim impossible to make about last week, where the police were felt to have outnumbered protesters on some areas of the route.

But aspects of the policing were controversial – in the run up to the event the police announced that in "extreme cases" the use of plastic bullets on protesters would be authorised. As

well as this, letters were sent to any persons who had been arrested by the police at earlier protests, even if they had been cleared or if charges had been dropped. This included people who had been involved in sit-ins, consciously not harming property or any people. The effect of both of these aspects of "total policing" was to discourage young people from attending the march. The idea of plastic bullets, albeit only to be authorised in "extreme cases," would have been enough to frighten anyone from attending, from fear of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. The indiscriminately sent letters were seen by many as intimidation tactics – telling protesters with no criminal record that they would be arrested at the "earliest opportunity" if they engaged in anti-social activities. Some blamed these police tactics for the turnout being smaller than expected on Wednesday, arguing that police had scared people into not attending. On the other hand, many may have abstained from attendance as last year's, much larger, protests seem to have led to nothing and to have achieved no concessions from the government.

John O'Conner, a former Metropolitan Police Commander, told the BBC that the management of the protest on Wednesday would "define the whole of [new Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe's] stewardship" of the London police. So, stakes were high. But the policing of the protest came across to many as heavy handed, with National Campaign against Fees and Cuts co-founder Michael Chessum saying the police had attempted to "pre-criminalise the protest." People in the United Kingdom have a right to protest peacefully – this is what marks us out from

dictatorships where the public are not allowed to demonstrate against the government. Marchers pointed to this in one chant – "this is what democracy looks like" – highlighting how they saw the protest as a necessary part of the British political system.

For most of the students involved however the day was still "enjoyable" and a "good time" was had, according to student Annie Riser. There was music, dancing and good natured slogans ("you're sexy, you're cute, take off your riot suit"). Likewise signs such as Students had the opportunity to meet and make friends with students studying at opposite ends of the country, as young people from many different universities made the trip down to London. Unlike in the protest in Parliament Square last year, where inside the kettle peaceful protesters had no protection from violent members of the march throwing bricks at buildings, the students on Wednesday felt generally safe. But after the protests last year, and perhaps with the memory of the summer riots fresh in everyone's minds, the police had a big presence at the demonstration. Nadia Mehdi, a student from Edinburgh University commented that "total policing" is an accurate description – the march was led by the police and finished by the police. While it was indeed in the interests of everyone that the march went off without disturbances and the police did a very good job in achieving this, if the fear of heavy policing put students off attending, then something went wrong. In the future the police need to show even more how they are working with protesters not against them, not threatening that the march might involve the use of plastic bullets, frightening off the young people in our democracy. ☘



Flickr user: Alisdair Drennan

Behind these walls of green

Jack England ponders the shifting sands of environmental change

In recent decades it has been near impossible to avoid the issue of global climate change and the bottomless pit of worries concerning what's going wrong and what we should do about it. However, it is with less frequency that one comes across an actual example of the effects

climate change and a plan of action to combat them. The Sahel has, for many years, been struck by famine and desertification and now a solution is being implemented to combat these extremely damaging phenomena. The solution is one of a proposed "Great Green Wall" being built to combat desertification in the area. As the Sahara desert continues to encroach on inhabited areas, the UN forecasts that two thirds of Africa's farmland may be swallowed by Saharan sands by 2025. The Great Green Wall is heralded as a panacea for Africa's woes but it is not an entirely new idea. China sees 3,600 square kilometers of grassland overtaken every year by the Gobi Desert and has already taken steps to set up its own Green Wall project to curb the moving sands but the benefits of its own scheme

have not been so clear cut.

The term Great Green Wall Project could be interpreted in the same way as any other piece of climate change jargon to the average person. It is, in fact, exactly what it sounds like: a band of suitable vegetation and water-retaining ponds spanning thousands of kilometres in length and tens of kilometres in width, used to combat desertification. The job of these "bands of life" is to strengthen soil in order to reduce the movement of loose topsoil, protect local water resources that will enable biodiversity, provide energy resources and, potentially, improve agricultural productivity for local communities. To many these Green Walls appear to be a solution solely to an environmental problem, but the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which will be providing \$115m to support the construction of the Sahelian project, as well as associated members of the UN, have highlighted this project as a measure to fight poverty in the largely rural area that the new African Green Wall will affect. Powered by the extra resources they provide and the economic prospects that will accompany them, these projects could reduce youth migration, which in turn will contribute to increasing political stability and a general improvement in quality of life. Boubacar Cissé, African co-ordinator for the UN Secretariat against Desertification, this wasn't capitalized but i feel it should be? 'against' too? described the idea as 'metaphor for the co-ordination of international projects for economic development, environmental protection and to

support the political stability in the heart of Africa.' His statement reveals the sentiment of many involved in the project, that it will be a solution to myriad hardships encountered by the citizens of the 11 countries that it will pass through.

These views paint the picture that these Green Walls will bring untold benefits and very few, if any, woes. However, these proposed schemes have faced fierce scepticism, even from people and countries directly involved with the implementation of the projects. It has been suggested that many of the 11 countries' leaders are ready to forget the project. This scepticism has been put down to unrealistic expectations related to the project even concerning the environmental benefits it will bring. Humans have failed to overcome the harsh reality of the Sahara desert and the powerful nature of its growth for thousands of years, so why will now be any different? For the environmental benefits of the walls to be realised, the plants and processes used need to be completely suitable to the Saharan climate and soil. Many people fear the project will not be implemented correctly believing it will be yet another expensive, failed development initiative in Africa. Adding to the environmental worries are questions of corruption. There are beliefs that the links between local communities and economic resources that are being created will simply line the pockets of the crooked politicians.

Despite the strong sense of doubt shown by some Africans regarding the project, the original optimistic view is – at least for now – being vindicated. The first implementation of the project

in Senegal has shown promising signs. Malek Triki, from the UN World Food Programme has stated that vegetables can now grow in the area, extremely important if the area is to support its population into the future. But there is no guarantee that these optimistic signs will last forever. The project is very much a long term process, which is why it must be implemented in a correct, concise way. The project in Africa has gone well in its earliest stages of employment, but the situation in China gives a contrasting view of the fortunes of the Green Wall idea. China's project appears to have fallen at the exact hurdles which worry leaders in Africa; Poor, top-down planning, below-par execution and corruption. Millions of trees have been planted in China at the border of the Gobi desert, but few have survived, grasslands continue to be overcome by sand dunes and many farmers have been forcibly displaced.

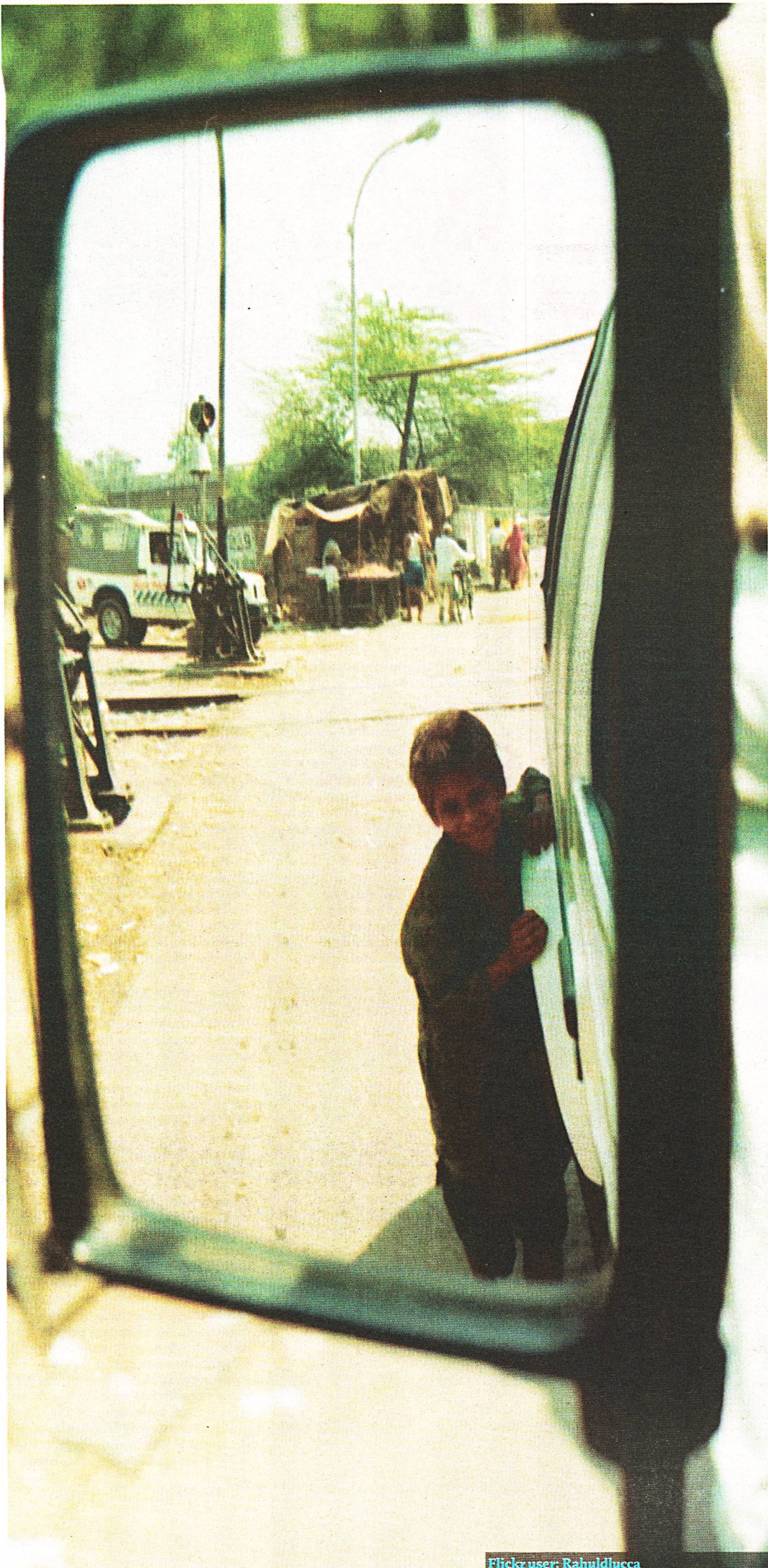
The failures of the Green Wall as a solution to desertification in Asia will stand as an unavoidable warning sign to the on-going project in Africa but this should not mean the plan should be discarded entirely. If, as the GEF and UN have stated, the Green Wall uses completely suitable – and sustainable – plants and farming techniques, co-ordinates with local communities to create external benefits, and is completed with assertion and commitment, not corruption, then it may well stand to stop the encroaching Sahara. Nevertheless, without the full support of the 11 countries, the downfalls we have seen in China may well come to fruition in Africa and the project could still fail. ☘



Flickr user: CGAphoto

Trapped in the slow lane

Samirah Haujee examines how India's poor are being left in the dust



Flickr user: Rahuldluca

As India enters the fast lane of Formula One, the poor are left trailing behind

Two very different pictures exist in India today, the first of dust ridden roads alive with children and women struggling under the weight of water jugs perched precariously on their heads. Further down straw lined carts are pulled along by cattle moving slowly in the blistering heat. The second image is one punctuated by shiny, high-octane sports cars racing forward from this old rural scene. The Indian Grand Prix, held two weeks ago, comes to mind. A different kind of track exists here, one still gleaming from the new tarmac recently laid down. On the other side of India's new £130m track though, is a world ever so far away from the thrill and glamour of Formula One. It is not just a picture of two very different scenes, but of two worlds drifting even further apart.

Can we justify all this extravagance with the boost it will provide to India's growing economy?

Out of reach from the trappings of new glittering tarmac, India's poor find themselves quite literally trapped in a cycle of poverty. It is a world that may never see a penny of the £130m spent on the new track alone. Instead, without food and living on less than a dollar a day, they are forced to look on at the glamorous world so far beyond them. It seems then that the new circuit is a big fat slap in the face for India's poor. Will they ever be helped out? The answer is probably a no, and instead the vast quantities of money being splashed out are solely for the thrill seeking elite.

But as the world stared wide eyed at the brand new circuit, in India the desire to launch itself into the alluring world of a multi-million dollar sport has become almost blinding. The stark contrast between the glossy circuits and the dark streets of poverty stricken India is plain to see. Yet the country has turned a blind eye to the swathes of poverty engulfing its divided society. Instead this becomes a cruel story, one of the new world and its forgotten past. Can we, like the chairman of the construction group, "safely say that India has arrived in the 21st century?" Unlike the colourfully dressed folk dancers lining the new tarmac there is little cause for celebration in the nearby villages. If we, too, were to look at the "new" India in the same way, then perhaps it wouldn't be long before we were accused of gazing at this picture through rose tinted glasses.

Considering what £130m could have bought for the poor of India, spending on this scale becomes ludicrous, a joke even. How do we balance food, shelter and safety for the poor with speed, thrills and vainglorious parties? Certainly, this new circuit will lead to ever more development, creating a new city, one with tourism, wealth and prosperity. But what of those on the sidelines, forgotten in the lands of abjection and underdevelopment? It seems they will be left to look on as India carries on down the long and winding path to the 21st century, without ever glancing back at what it's left behind.

Can we justify all this extravagance

with the boost it will provide to India's growing economy? The building of the track should create jobs, greater incomes and in turn encourage spending, increasing the living standards of the population. However is everyone in society better off? What grows along-side wealth and prosperity is, in fact, an ever more disturbing image of inequality.

Entering a country where both the wonders of wealth and pits of poverty exist, the high-spending thrills of Formula One seem to have done little to bridge that gap

There are few who win in the greater scheme of things. The beer and airline company who sponsor the Indian Formula One team certainly do. Even the hotels are doing well, running brunches and frivolous nights. Describing the "huge hunger for any kind of activity that brings the feeling of being part of a global elite," the director of market research in Delhi has shown that this new track is a cause for celebration. It's an alluring new gem of India and the middle class clearly want to be a part of it. Many of us though would frown in anger listening to the owner of India's Grand Prix team explain that he "[doesn't] know why the international media keeps focusing on the poor part of India, sure we have poverty, why don't you focus on what India actually has... a growing middle class." How can we simply enjoy the sport for what it is when it is so quick to brush away the problems for India's poor?

Entering a country where both the wonders of wealth and pits of poverty exist, the high-spending thrills of Formula One seem to have done little to bridge that gap. The vast sums of compensation paid to farmers after buying their land is really only a short term solution. Now amongst cattle and open sewers one may find shiny new SUVs, the product of the farmer's new found wealth. For now they may feel part of the wealthy crowd with their new cars and fast rides, but what will happen when the money runs out and these farmers realise they have nothing left to live off? This is probably a question the developers never asked themselves, or one they simply chose to ignore.

Despite hosting one of the most important events in the automobile racing calendar, they still find themselves ranked 126th in the world in terms of car ownership. The disparities it seems remain for all to see. Even the prospect of construction jobs seems a cruel illusion with many claiming they received little or nothing for those long hours spent in the blistering heat of Indian summers.

If for one moment we were able to tear our eyes away from the sparkling trivialities of India's new circuit, then perhaps we would see a world where life isn't so fair, one where the poor are left caught up in the dust clouds of the glossy Formula One cars as they cruise down the narrow road of the 21st century. ☘

Money's not everything

Joe Attueyi discusses Conrad Murray and the disincentive from high incomes

Last week Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson's doctor, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter as a result of the inquiry into the death of Michael Jackson. This came as a surprise to most people, after all he was a doctor who had taken the Hippocratic Oath to never do harm, but if you think about it then this should not be the case.

Imagine you were Dr Murray and you were hired to be Jackson's personal physician; in this case you would be paid significant amounts to do this job. What would motivate you? Earning money or helping to protect the health of the King of Pop? Some may argue that whether it was the money or altruism that motivated you, both forces should work in the positive direction of you being a better, more productive doctor. Now imagine that for you, earning more money was your priority. If you were in a position where you could make more money if your clients stayed ill, there would be a strong disincentive to improve your care. It is not difficult to think of a case like this. If you were a doctor, deep in debt and you were suddenly made the personal doctor to a rich and famous

client, wouldn't keeping your client ill for longer make you better off? Provided you were not obviously causing harm to the patient, allowing them to remain sick would be in your economic interest. The more care your patient needs, the more money they would have to pay you for your time.

We are more motivated to get up each day and work hard if there is an opportunity for self-direction and self-improvement in your work

If you think that doctors actually working to make their patients worse off is a preposterous notion and that doctors more often than not have their patients' interests at heart, the fact still remains that high pay has been shown to limit performance according to the work of Dan Ariely, set out in his book *Predictably Irrational*. According to

Ariely, it turns out that pay has two effects; one as a motivator to perform better in order to earn more; and the second impact of stress inducement, sometimes to the point that it overwhelms the incentives for productivity - high pay becomes counterproductive. He found that we are more motivated to get up each day and work hard if there is an opportunity for self-direction and self-improvement in your work and a sense of a bigger picture or of purpose in the work you are doing: a important piece of information for LSE students.

The invisible hand of the market cannot always be governed by money. As Adam Smith said, "by pursuing his own interest [the individual] frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it," but if his self-interest is purely financially motivated, this may not always be the case. Whether its doctors and their duties to their patients or bankers and the financial crisis, time after time human beings have been shown to react in more complex ways when they are encouraged through different stimuli, separate to that of pure income generation.



Flickr user: faultybox

Measured musings | Freedom incarcerated

Seven of the 14 Irish activists who have been detained in an Israeli jail for almost a week are to be returned home to Ireland today," read the Irish Examiner last Thursday 10th November. The 11th attempt to break the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip ended in failure after two ships, the Tahrir and MV Saoirse - Canadian and Irish respectively - were intercepted by Israeli forces.

The Gaza Strip has been under an air, sea and land blockade since an eight day war in June of 2007 that resulted in Hamas - widely branded a terrorist organisation - seizing power. The region, which has a population of 1.6 million and one of the highest population densities in the world, was likened to a "prison camp" by David Cameron as a result of the siege. The Palmer Report - a UN investigation into the deaths of nine activists

on board a Turkish boat, the Mavi Marmara, which was involved with an attempt last year to break the siege - declared the blockade lawful but stated that Israeli intervention in last year's case was wildly out of proportion. Despite the report, five experts reporting to the UN Human Rights Council claim that the blockade is a "flagrant contravention of international human rights and humanitarian law." Outside the UN there have been similar calls to end the blockade and the International Committee of the Red Cross claims that it contravenes the Geneva Conventions.

According to the CIA World Factbook, the Gaza Strip - if it were a recognised country - would have the 169th highest per capita income at purchasing power parity. One million of its population of 1.6 million are refugees, 80 per cent of whom are on emergency rations from the UN; the

remaining non-refugee population are also almost entirely dependent on food rations from the World Food Programme; and 70 per cent of the population are living below the poverty line. According to Olivier de Schutter, one of the five UN experts which declared the blockade unlawful, the siege has prevented Gazans from using one third of Gaza's arable land and 85 per cent of its fishing waters. The blockade has drastically slowed down the delivery of supplies for healthcare and sanitation which have, according to Medical Aid Palestine - a group dedicated to delivering basic healthcare to Palestinian refugees - resulted in 90 per cent of Gazan water becoming undrinkable and the provision of healthcare to Gazans being considerably hindered. It cannot be denied that the blockade is causing much hardship and suffering within the Gaza Strip.

However, Israelis state that the blockade is in place to stop Palestinian terrorist and guerrilla attacks on Israeli soil. This is a legitimate statement. Hamas is widely classified as a terrorist organisation that is responsible for thousands of terrorist attacks against Israel, including suicide bombings in Israeli cities and the launching of thousands of rockets into Israel from Gazan soil. All of these acts have put Israeli citizens' lives in jeopardy. Israel has therefore tried to cripple the Gaza Strip's Hamas government to prevent it from engaging in these heinous acts of violence. But Israeli actions have been accused by many of affecting innocent Gazans unfairly. As a result, some activists have taken it upon themselves to break the blockade from the outside.

The attempt this month to break the blockade was attempting to improve on the "Freedom Flotilla

2" earlier this year, which ended in failure after only a single ship left port for Gaza from an original 10 that had planned to. The Dignite Al Kamara, a French yacht, was allowed to sail from Greece - where the flotilla was based - after it claimed that it was sailing for Alexandria in Egypt. The boat changed its course and attempted to enter blockaded waters so was picked up by Israeli naval forces and taken to the port of Ashdod in Israel.

The failure of the "Freedom Flotilla 2" set in motion preparations for the "Freedom Waves Flotilla" this month. The Tahrir and MV Saoirse attempted to carry an estimated \$36,000 worth of aid into Gaza. The two ships encountered "three warships [...] four Zodiacs, four water cannon boats, as well as four regular gunboats," according to Jihan Hafiz, an American journalist on board the Tahrir. The Israeli ships fired water cannons at the Saoirse - which means freedom in Gaelic - flooding the boat and cutting off all of its electricity. The crew members of both ships were taken into custody and the contents of the boats were searched. Interestingly, some of the aid was in the form of rugby balls and rugby kit to be given to Palestinian children. The crew included Irish MEP, Paul Murphy, and Irish international rugby player, Trevor Hogan, who were both detained alongside the other crew members.

This most recent attempt at breaking the blockade was unsuccessful in its stated goal but it did very effectively promote its cause. This was particularly the case in Ireland where the activists were met by a crowd of supporters on their return. These almost constant attempts are testament to the strong feeling held by many that Israel's use of force to protect its people is too heavy-handed. The disputes surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict are likely to rage for many years in the future but one thing is for certain, this will not be the last time we see external pressures to stop the Israeli blockade nor, indeed, are we likely to see the back of the Saoirse or its crew.

Alex Haigh
Features Editor



Flickr user: Israeli Defense Force

Social

Livin' La Vida Local

Laura Aumeer
on how to enjoy
International
Week

You may think it's obvious why we celebrate International Week at LSE: the large international student population lends itself to a celebration of different cultures. As students with different heritages have set up different societies to preserve and promote their cultures, the week provides a great opportunity to learn from others and try something new. But I would like to propose another international aspect of life at LSE, and that is London's own international heritage. To this day, it surprises me, how little some realise that London has been multicultural, not just in the past few decades but in the past few centuries. The mixing of British and international culture has been a part of London life for ages, and not just from the first vindaloo on a takeaway menu.

I'm sure many of you are aware of Brick Lane, whether you know it for

en, at BYOB or, for the more fashion conscious and the American Apparel warehouse sale/moshpit. Due to its place in modern culture (for example, the Monica drunk-messy nights curry houses or, for the more fashion conscious and the American Apparel warehouse sale/moshpit. Due to its place in modern culture (for example, the Monica

Ali novel and subsequent film), many will be aware of its Bangladeshi immigrant population. But Brick Lane has been home to immigrants from various communities for many years. This goes some way to explaining the plethora of bagel shops and the various markets. The most obvious example is 19 Princelet Street, just off Brick Lane. An inconspicuous building, without a recognisable address and only open to the public for a few days a year as the

Museum of Immigration. For those of you who aren't interested in social history which I imagine everyone - I'll keep the history lesson short: the building was first used by Huguenot silk weavers, then became a synagogue founded by Jewish immigrants, was later used for early anti-fascist meetings and, more recently, was used by Bangladeshi immigrants. From 1719, it has been home to various groups and cultures and one can't help but notice how it represents London's multiculturalism. The building has also garnered infamy for being the home of the recluse, David Rodinsky. He left the building one day for his room to be unlocked decades later, just as if he had popped to the shops and never come back. The building has become a puzzle for some, yet more importantly shows

the multicultural heritage of London that we should be promoting. Coming here, I was soon made aware of another side of London that I hadn't yet encountered. My own heritage is rather mixed and I like to consider myself culturally aware. But even I keep finding aspects of London's international history that I was not aware of. This is the case for many of us I am sure. Why do certain roads house certain shops? What explains the markets and the restaurants we take for granted in London? What is that old building tucked away in the corner? Which brings me back to International Week. Yes, it is important to celebrate new things that various communities are bringing to campus but it really is also the perfect time to explore the older international heritage in and around campus in good, old Londontown.

We Found Laughs In a Hopeless Place

Hannah Richmond on what it means to be a Third Culture Kid



Meeting new people at university always starts with those three overused and, if we're honest, slightly awkward questions: "What's your name?" "What are you studying?" And then finally, "Where are you from?" The answers for me are: Hannah, Environmental Policy, and er... This is where it gets confusing. Where am I from? I was born in England, I lived here until I was 13, then I left for Hong Kong, lived there for a year, then Indonesia for 3 years, and now my family are back in Hong Kong while I am here. I am definitely a Third Culture Kid and with that label comes a number of different characteristics. A third culture kid (TCK) is a child who has spent a portion of their development years in a culture outside of their parents' passport culture, so for me: Hong Kong and Indonesia. A result

of this is that a culture is formed that differs from the home culture and from the host country culture. TCK's can sometimes experience an identity crisis as they have a sense of not belonging in their home country or their host country. For many of my friends from high school, this was absolutely the case. We soon found we all longed for the tight, close-knit community that we had all become used to from our days together at school. Coming to uni was a big shock; we were no longer big fish in a small pond, able to do almost whatever we liked with minimal repercussion, but small fish in a big pond, where no one cared who you were or what you did. It was hard for many of us to connect with our university peers as our experiences and behaviours were foreign to the students who had lived in England all their lives. Third Culture Kids have a number of characteristics, which are said to separate us from our British peers. Firstly, we adapt quickly to new situations, something that might be expected given the fact that we move so often. There were many people at

my school who had to move every 2-4 years as their parents worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The fact that we have lived in many different countries means we can generally speak more than one language to varying degrees of fluency. TCK's are seen to be more politically astute, compared to their British peers, although perhaps not at the LSE, where political activism seems to have become part of everyday life. Finally TCK's tend to seek fellow TCK's to socialise with, due to our similar experiences and lifestyles. The life of a TCK can be very privileged and it is not uncommon in many of the countries we move to for us to have maids, drivers and gardeners. Coming to university with this sort of background can be very difficult; it can be hard to talk openly about our lifestyle as it can be interpreted as bragging yet for many TCK's, we don't know any other way of life. Speaking to some British students, it seems that they believe there is a small gap between the international students and the home status students, namely that they are not here for the

same university experience as the British students. Perhaps it is due to the higher fee payments but the international students seem to have less interest in the social side of university and more interest in studying and doing well. The TCK's that I have spoken to find that there is also a small gap in our understanding of each other, mainly around childhood experiences that a TCK may have missed out on as a result of moving overseas. Despite these potential problems that result from coming to university, integration and adaptation is second nature to TCK's so any problems that arise when moving are unlikely to remain a problem for long. To anyone who has moved to England after a living a nomadic lifestyle, just remember being a TCK can give you invaluable experiences which will be beneficial in later life when starting your career. Just look at the world's most famous TCK, the president of the United States of America, Barack Obama.

Flickr User: jamesomalley



Fresher Kirsty Kenney on expensive city life

Flickr User: stuartpilbrow

Money has been playing on my mind a lot for the last three weeks, a lot more than the looming deadlines, even more than my ex-boyfriend issue. I'd say that, recently, money has been playing on my mind 80 per cent of the time, and the other 20 per cent doesn't count because I've either been asleep or drunk. So, on Wednesday, I decided it must be time to check my balance.

Of course, I had an idea of the damage; I tried to add it up in my head and I reckoned about £150 a week since Freshers', which saw more than £500 disappear. I decided £1,500 all in was a good guess. I couldn't have spent more than £1,500 in 6 weeks. I just couldn't.

But I did! I've rinsed all 3 of my bank accounts and one of them is in £489 overdrawn. Shit.

Calculator in hand, I went through my statements adding up all the money that I've spent since I've been here: £1,853 in the last 48 days, and that's forgetting the £200 cash that I brought with me. Put my accommodation bill on top of that and we're talking about spending some serious money.

I wish I could say that I've spent £200 on textbooks, but I haven't spent a penny on one. I had a travel card for the first month and haven't taken public transport since. I don't buy much food, I live in catered halls. There was one trip to H&M and the American Apparel flea market but that only

accounts for £80. I bought stationary and a printer, and then printing credits because I can't work out how to set the printer up, but I'm not going to lie - that can't have cost me more than £80. The printer was less than half price. I insured my laptop too - that was £60 and spent £50 on makeup but that's it. I'm sure. Still if you take away all those things, I'm averaging nearly £40 a day. That is not normal is it?

What am I doing wrong? There aren't many people who seem to be in the same boat or is everyone in the same boat and just doesn't want to

Some of Kirsty Kenney's Recent Account Activity

26th September - £18.60 - Vibe Bar

26th September - £27.80 - Vibe Bar

31st October - £39.99 - Big Chill House

12th October - £90 - ATM Goodge Street (I don't remember this)

15th October - £100 - ATM Holborn (nor this)

31st October - £39 - The Court

31st October - £7.00 - The Court

31st October - £9.95 - The Court

04th November - £15 - Zoo Bar

04th November - £17 Zoo Bar

talk about it? Because, you know, it's money, and people don't like to talk about money. I don't really care; I just want to know where the hell has all my money gone?

And it's not like I don't carry cash. I know for a fact that I took £30 with me to Zoo Bar last Wednesday. £60 later and I woke up with a stonking hangover, ripped tights and a second year in my bed. 10:00am class was fun to say the least.

So, I spend most of my money on alcohol. Hardly a surprise, as many students do. I just appear to be doing it on a bigger scale. This all started the night before the first night of Freshers'. I arrived a day early (my mistake) and went out in Shoreditch with my friend, Hannah, from Queen Mary. Things got a bit messy early on: lots of shots, triples vods, some cute French boys and lots of "pervin into cock central" if Hannah's Facebook status from the night is anything to go by. After chips, hummus and cheese to soak it all up, I made it back to halls, £90 less well off, ready to make Fresher friends.

The following night saw me ride home in a TukTuk with a new friend after a failed attempt to get into M&M world in the early hours of the morning. The night after that, I fell asleep on the floor on Houghton Street and was woken up by a second year that very kindly put me on a bus home. Things didn't get much better the next week: the freshers' ball saw me leave with

an unknown econ student. I should tell you that there is no real gossip to report: I barely make it to my room before passing out in my drunken state. But, oh the shame of walking across central London at 8am, mascara everywhere, in a full length black dress and 7-inch heels in hand.

It's all a bit of harmless fun, right? But it's harmless fun that's really eating into my budget. I'm not sure just how long I can keep this up for, because at this rate I'm less than 2 weeks away from maxing my overdraft and calling the parents is not something that I want to do.

It's so much fun at the time, and that's the problem. After a couple of drinks, everyone's happy and everyone's your friend. A couple more drinks and we're taking photos like we've been friends forever. A few more and we're having a bloody good time. Well, at least I think we are but I don't really remember.

But I'll tell you what's not fun. It's not fun bumping into the night guard sober, knowing that you entertained him in the common room the night before with your rendition of "The Jamie Song" (my personal speciality, something I wrote when I was 15 and thought I was in love with a shaggy haired rocker called Jamie). Apparently the night guard liked my dancing - I've seen the video, I bet he did. It's not fun when you only know what happened the night before when you look at your

texts. The awkward encounters around campus, "Did I meet you last night?" Please don't remind me that I tried to do the bridge on the dancefloor and fell flat on my head. And it's not fun when you get banned from your favourite late night food fix for giving abuse about their "battery farmed burgers."

And, looking at my bank balance right now really isn't fun.

Someone please tell me how you do it. How do you have fun and not spend a fortune. Not going out isn't an option, not drinking isn't an option. I like to take enough cash/ my card for emergencies, something bad is bound to happen at some point, but the twelve drink round I bought at the pub last week was hardly an emergency.

Recently someone said to me, "I'm doing so well with money, I've only spent £170 since I arrived." A little bit of me was jealous, but really I can't help thinking that you must be having such a boring time, or more that I would be having a boring time if I was doing whatever you're doing. I may be getting drunk and stupid and I may be a couple of weeks away from maxing my overdraft but who cares; I've been having a great time. The hangovers won't stop me and the overdraft is interest free, so until the work drags me down, I'll make it work.

Getting ready for zoo bar as I write.e.

We Found Laughs In a Hopeless Place

Andrew Sivanesan on LSE's new sketch comedy group

What sandwich would Subway need to introduce in order to put people off eating there forever? What if X-box released a video game where you had to solve the Greek debt crisis? If a guy from LSE rapped about their student experience, how would that rap go? It's these sorts of ludicrous questions that brought about Coffee and Smokes.

"What is Coffee and Smokes?" I hear you cry. The short answer: we're an LSE sketch comedy group that films sketches every Saturday afternoon, releasing videos online every Thursday. The fuller answer is that we're a group of people who not only love to laugh, but love to make other people laugh too. We're unashamed of not taking ourselves too seriously on the LSE campus. We're unafraid of causing a stir with our comedy. We want to show everyone that even if you can't play football or rugby, there's a group that'll accept you with open arms and show you a good time. We're a bunch of uni kids who just want to have fun before

we get too old (and too married) for it!

When I first came to the LSE as an eager eighteen-year-old, there wasn't a proper sketch comedy group on campus that I could join. I'd only just started writing comedy and had no prior acting, filming or directing experience. I would have loved to join a group which would teach me new acting and filming skills week in and week out. A group which denounced stiflingly competitive atmospheres. A group which allowed me to be myself every Saturday afternoon. I've now created such a group and it's called Coffee and Smokes.

Coffee and Smokes has been around for just five weeks now, but we've already filmed a music video (the "University" music video - a parody of "A Milli"), some mock video gameplay (the "Houghton Street Fighter" sketch), a spoof fast-food advert (the "Cannibal Marinara" sketch) and much more. Do we plan on stopping any time soon? Hell no. We're only just getting started, and we plan to keep growing in size and stature over the course of this year and beyond.



Photo: Andrew Sivanesan

So now you've got the flavour of Coffee and Smokes, support us by either watching our sketch videos on our Facebook fan page, following us on Twitter (@CoffeeSmokes) or being an absolute maverick and joining our group! Whether you're a plucky fresher

or finishing off your PhD thesis, have never acted before or tread the boards at the Edinburgh Fringe every summer, you're welcome to become a new member of the family! All you need is a passion for comedy and a willingness to get stuck into the film-making

process!

In laughter we trust.

E-mail Andrew at A.P.Sivanesan@lse.ac.uk if you are interested in getting involved.

OVERHEARD AT THE LSE

We're always
listening...

Guy 1: I really wanna apply for this internship but it's only for students from underprivileged backgrounds.

Guy 2: No problem, just apply and turn up to the interview in a Primark suit...

EC210 class teacher: And if the economy is in this state, it collapses.

Which is what will happen to Greece.

Lecturer: The Chinese leadership thought they could just nationalise the railways, and rake the profits - simple.

Or as meerkat says, "SIMPLES!"

IR class: "You can go check this on Wikipedia tonight. But don't tell the professor I told you that, he'll do nasty things to me. Things that don't involve alcohol."

Journey into an Emily Brontë Novel

From scones to the Queen: **Sarah Carr** on her quintessentially English experience

Every year, the International History department takes a number of students, who are mostly postgraduates, to Cumberland Lodge in Great Windsor Park. Originally a country estate built in the 17th Century, it has been inhabited by a range of influential people, including a number of members of the royal family. It is now a retreat for students to go to discuss the issues of the day. In light of current events in the Middle East and North Africa, this year's theme was "revolutions." As occurs on all university trips, the education was also laced with a good deal of socialising and excitement.

On arriving, it was pitch black as there isn't any outside lighting on the building so we were not aware of quite how grand a building we were entering. This soon changed when we got inside and discovered tapestries, grand pianos and period style drawing rooms. We had set foot into a Jane Austin novel without realising it. Actually, with the fog that had surrounded the house, it was more like "Wuthering Heights." After the initial excitement, we went to find our rooms, which took longer for some of us than others, as half of us were sent out the back of the house and pointed in the direction of a dim light and then left to fend for ourselves. As with any trip, there was the obligatory admin errors that led to that awkward moment when two people realised they had been put in a room with someone of the opposite gender, but that was soon rectified.

Once we had all made our way back down, they kindly opened the bar as we were very tired from traveling such a long distance - at least 25 miles - and needed reviving before dinner and the evening lecture. After dinner, we were all summoned into one of the classrooms expecting the standard run down of all the rules and regulations, only to find there were none and instead we were treated to stories of Colin Firth and the Queen, which I think we all agreed was a lot more interesting. The theme continued from there (sadly minus Colin Firth) with the first lecture which was on the Palace "Revolutions" in 18th Century Russia. It was definitely interesting to learn about something outside of what is covered in class. Needless to say, once all this heavy intellectual work was out of the way, we again descended upon the bar. Once the bar closed at 12 (apparently they don't have Friday night drinking in the Berkshire countryside), there was a mass exodus to our rooms to get our beauty sleep and prepare for the fun and frolics of the next day.

If I had known quite how exhausting Saturday was going to be, I would definitely have had my Weetabix, but a combination of fry up, fruit and a continental breakfast proved to be just as good. Possibly too good as some of us spent so long at breakfast that we missed the first lecture of the day. I have, however, heard rave reviews about it so I am little disappointed that I missed it. However, we used this time wisely and went to explore some of the grounds of the house. After a little more exploring, we eventually made our way back inside for tea and coffee before the next lecture covering the stillborn revolution in Ireland between 1916-1922. Again, this was very informative and offered a nice contrast to the lecture of the previous day.

Later in the day, a number of us undertook the four and a half mile walk to Windsor Castle - although we probably made it a little longer as the result of a couple of unplanned detours due to us only possessing a rather ambiguous map from reception to guide us. This actually worked out well as it meant that we got to see a stag close up and visit the large copper statue of George III overlooking the castle, which was just about in view from there. According to our estimations, it was a half an hour walk to the castle from the statue; in reality, it took over an hour. We have now learnt that long, straight roads are deceptive. When we finally made it there, naturally we went straight to the pub. Whilst here, some of us decided, as we were in Windsor, to do something quintessentially English and go for tea and scones, leaving the others in the pub. It was here we embarked on what can only be described as some rather poor decision making.

Despite knowing how far we had to go, and that the light was about to fade, we decided to walk back. There was a well-established path through the park but what we had failed to notice is that it wasn't lit. Naturally, the first thing we did when it got dark was to creep ourselves out by talking about the possibilities of what could happen to us and telling horror stories. This stopped abruptly when we caught sight of a man behind a tree. Although he was probably an innocent walker like ourselves, we immediately quickened our pace and took up arms: two umbrellas and a torch, as that was all we had on us. We continued like this for some time, planning contingencies for if we were attacked, strategizing for situations that ranged from the gruesome to the downright obscure. Eventually about 15 minutes from the lodge, we caught up with the group we left at the pub.

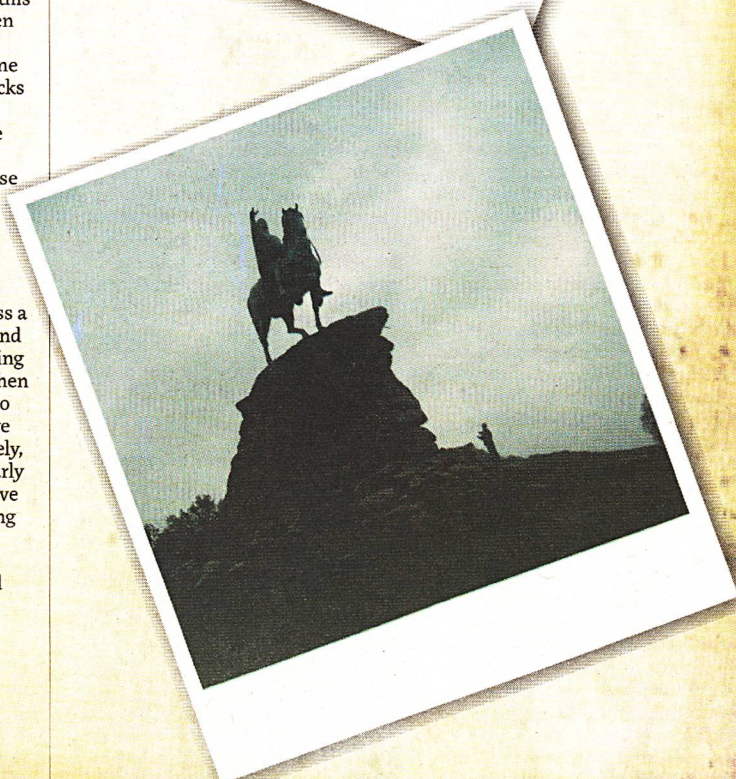
Unfortunately, they were not visible as the fog had begun to set in, so made us jump out of our skins when we came across them.

After dinner, it was back to the classroom for the last lecture of the weekend entitled, "The Age of Revolutions Reconsidered," which offered an overview of how many of the revolutions that occurred were linked. Although sad when it was over, we were all very eager to get started with the quiz. Naively, we assumed it would be a standard pub quiz with a history round thrown in. We were wrong; it turns out that International History quizzes are hard. Once this was over, we again returned to the bar until it closed, either to celebrate or commiserate depending on the levels of success. Many of us stayed in the bar after this and decided to try and order take away. However, rather unsurprisingly, no one would deliver. In the end, we had to settle for crisps and KitKats foraged for us from the kitchen by the helpful man on the front desk. Still, not a bad midnight (well 2am) snack.

Fortunately, we got a lie in on Sunday morning, giving people the time to get glammed up for church. Everyone was rather excited about this as earlier that weekend, we had been informed that the Queen regularly worships there. This meant everyone was subject to extensive police checks and we were not allowed to bring anything to chapel with us. Despite this, the Queen did not show up, disappointing many, especially those who had only gone in the hope of seeing her.

Upon returning from the chapel, there was just enough time for a last minute exploration of the house. In doing this, we came across a section of train, part of an engine and some rather unusual artwork hanging among the traditional portraits. When the time came, none of us wanted to leave but essays were calling and we had to get back to reality. Fortunately, we got back to London relatively early so we all got the opportunity to relive the weekend vicariously by watching Downton Abbey.

All in all, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who gets the opportunity to go.





Scan this code to watch our sketches on your smartphone!

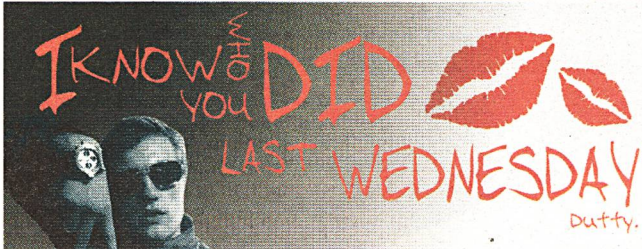
Sketch comedy that goes down smooth

Coffee and Smokes

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Oh my...who would have thought that Wednesday would end that way?! The bitter loss experienced by the "Rest of the World" team to England led to the signs of early onset alcoholism. As veterans from Rugby and Netball were joined by the token AU team of the week, Rowing, Shirts flew off early, to the surprise of a family caught unaware in the Berrylands bar, and sportspersons were showing signs of passing out by 8pm.

Those who soldiered on through the night had their efforts rewarded with a spectacularly underwhelming fireworks show. Despite being representative of its meagre £800-odd budget, spectators seemed suitably awestruck by the lacklustre fireworks, though copious jugs of beer and the flowing gin could account for the dumbfounded individuals.

Before the somewhat offensive departure from Berrylands, other skills and talents were put to the test with the annual game of Musical Chairs. Imagine the sight of the first team rugby players ripping small plastic chairs to shreds. Now imagine your Netball Captain fighting them off, and you'll be close to carnage that ensued.

As the survivors staggered into the welcoming arms of Zoo Bar, it seemed like sexual escapades were already well under way, with unknowns pulling in every corner. Clearly "on it" though, was your little blonde social

8ths Netball Captain. She got more than platonically social and was seen locking lips with your head of "social" Tennis, Mike "The Lawyer" - like Mike "The Situation", but just not quite...

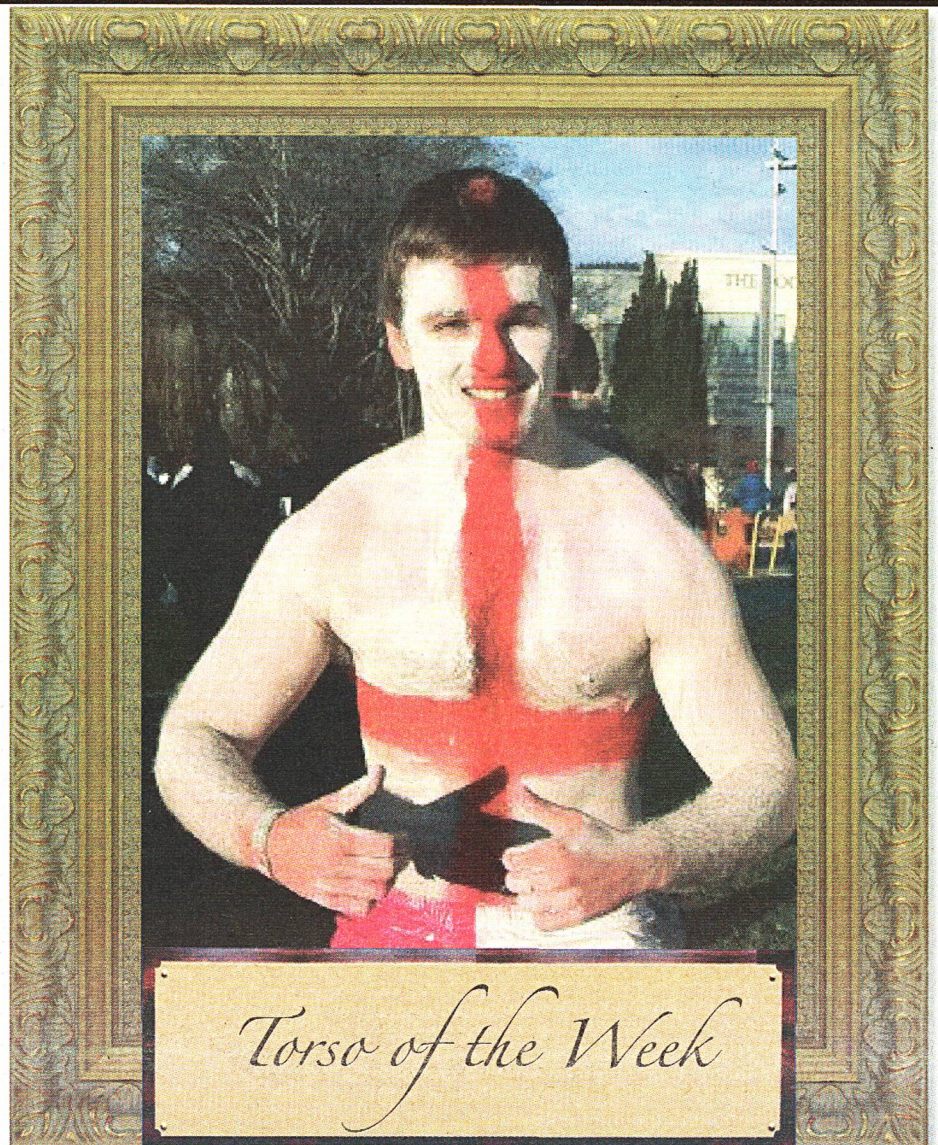
Credit though, has to go to Captain Mateer, who seems responsible for most of the content in this section throughout the year. She was seen heavy-handedly forcing your AU President into submission as her lips missed his and locked onto his nose. The pair were seen bulldozing others out of the way as they as they escaped the prying eyes of Zoo Bar, for the more private setting of the back of a cab. Classy.

Correction

The Beaver Sports Editors would like to apologise to Miriam Mirwitch for incorrectly crediting her article in Week 5's issue and incorrectly correcting the creditation in last week's issue. The article entitled "Mario Balotelli: Why Always Me?" was mistakenly credited to Amit Singh instead of Miriam.

We would like to thank Miriam for accepting our apology and agreeing to continue writing for the Beaver Sports Section.

Maz & Max



Cool Runnings

An update on the LSEAU Running Team's progress so far this season

Nathan Converse

The LSE Running team have gotten the 2011-12 season off to a memorable start, with strong showings from both the women's and men's teams. Indeed, both the cross country squad has showed a depth not rarely seen in recent years.

The season opener at North Lon-

don's Parliament Hill saw the women's side led by Californian Becca Tisdale, who placed fifth in the University of London standings and finished well ahead of the entire King's squad. Making the transition to cross country running, former Princeton heptathlete and west London dodgeball legend Jess Laney followed, while Anna Jo Smith and promising fresher Chantal Longdon rounded out the team.

The season's second race at Royal

deer preserve Richmond Park again saw another strong performance from Tisdale, who finished second in the UL standings, while fresher Rebecca Windemer's experience as a triathlete demonstrated served her well in her debut appearance for the LSE. While injuries and something called 'lectures' have kept post-grad powerhouses Becky Webber and Shanthi Blanchard off of the cross country course so far this season, many expect that this dynamic duo could prove a game-changer for the squad later in the season.

Bronx bad boy John Korevec led the men's team to victory at Parliament Hill, who bested the whole of the KCL lineup and came within reach of UCL's lead runner. After a heated 5 mile race newcomer Luke Sperduto edged out the King's two man as well as LSE captain Nathan Converse. Victory was clinched by a strong debut performance from Northern legend Tom Smith, making the transition from middle distance.

Korevec inexplicably opted to focus on his training for the rowing team and skipped the second race (rumor has it they would let him go after seeing his gladiator fancy dress on Halloween). However, Norwegian Martin Holm stepped up, posting a blistering time of 28:40 on the gruelling 5.3 mile course. Mexican sensation Miguel Montes de Oca brought

the heat at Richmond and came within a hair of besting King's lead runner. The potential for a lethal pack was much in evidence at both races, with Chris Martin, freshly posh from an undergrad degree at St. Andrew's; the furious Fresher Joel Rosen, hardened by years of Alpine training, and veteran marathoner Keith Jordan all well within reach of the leaders.

As the cross country team prepares for their final race of the term on

November 16 at Wimbledon Common, the newly minted LSE Athletics have dived into an impressive regime of pre-season training. Expectations are high that founding Captain Michael Obiri-Darko will lead the team to an impressive showing at the University indoor championships and ensure that the LSE is well represented at the BUCS outdoor championships, to take place in the Olympic Stadium in May.



Photos: Nate Converse



Photos: Nate Converse

Match Report

Netball Seconds Smash into the Season in Style

Pepita Barlow

This season, the Netball 2nds have had their eyes on the prize from the word go: BUCS promotion. Having suffered the severe injustices of a misinterpretation of BUCS regulations last year – an ineptitude that irritated many – we've entered this season treating every goal like championship point. And make no mistake, our delivery is on point.

Last year saw half the team graduate, giving us room for 4 freshers to build a solid squad of fine fodder. Somehow surviving initiations with a functioning heart and liver, these girls have proven they've got what it takes to become true Wednesday night troopers. And despite playing opposite attack/defence positions on court, our Social Sec Shooter and Pri-yeeehh-boi Defender have certainly managed to more than overcome their differences, giving new meaning to 'off-court bonding' with a clear example of that old adage "opposites attract."

Last week was the 2nd's most successful of the season so far. First up, we faced the Medics of St George's. Now, it is common legend that medics are a tough nut to crack – 5 years on court together and they can read each others' moves with a masterful predictability.

Nevertheless, we 2nds – a dedicated band of Wednesday nighters, united on court as we are in our weekly tribute to Bonnie Tyler in The Tuns – totally eclipsed the medics in a stunning 60-21 victory. Time after time, a solid defence squandered any hope the medics had of swimming to the surface, and with our spectacular shooters making it rain with goal

after goal, they were eventually left to drown their sorrows in sore defeat, an ailment with no prescription. The legend of the medics was slain – this time, when faced with the dragon, George's had met their match.

Having taken down the medics on Monday, Wednesday saw us face rival number two: University of the Arts. The previous week saw us beat Creative Arts in Surrey 65-25, so we wanted to round off the arts students domination. I should point out that a victory would be no mean feat – with just 7 players to hand and a re-shuffling of our defensive half, there was no room for error.

But what a mighty blow we dealt. Time after time, interception after

interception, we proved that quality not quantity is, as always, the recipe for success. Fresher Royle brought her farmer's tactics on court, stretching 'faaarr and wide' in the attacking half and deservedly named Player of the Match. Bouncing Bertorelli was up to her usual tricks, diving for the interceptions with a level of speed and agility that made us wonder if she'd stolen the AU Exec's fireworks and ingest them pre-match.

An end score of 54-22 was certainly a sweet score to set us up for another night of standard Wednesday mess. As always, we rounded off our victorious few weeks with a cheeky few (too many) bevies, and our optimism for BUCS victory, as ever, on fire.



Photo: Pepita Barlow

Match Report

Badders Success

Neil Shah

On Wednesday, all three Badminton teams had a great start to their Knock-out Cup campaign with all teams winning at home and proceeding to the next round.

With the Men's 1st Captain away after flying out to his homeland in Bangkok, the team were up against King's 1st. The team played excellently, with Anu Barmecha smashing both his singles and Matt & Neil maintaining their 100% record in the doubles. The final score was very tight at 5-3, but after a great performance it takes the team into the last 16 against Kent 1st. This year's team is extremely strong and are looking set to build upon their success of last season. The 2nd team also had a blinder, being captained by Kaushal Inna who led the team

to an awesome 6-2 victory against Buckingham 1st. The team has had an up and down start to the season, but this win has undoubtedly raised the confidence of the team, who have the potential and talent to make it very far in the competition this year.

The Women's team achieved their best result of the season so far, with a 7-1 win against Brighton 1st. Initially having a few technical difficulties due to a shortage of badminton shoes, the team secured a fantastic win after some strategic borrowing and morale boosting cookies from Xuewei. Jess Cheng played phenomenally as always, maintaining her unbeaten record. Tiffany Toh and Jamie Chew, returning to the team for a third year, as well as our new editions, Tiffanie Lau and Xuewei Zeng, all played exceptionally well being crucial to the success of the team. Well done girls!



Photos: AU Facebook Page

Sport

Inside

- Cool Runnings
- I Know Who You Did Last Wednesday
- Netball: The Story So Far

Carroll's struggles set to continue

Andy Carroll likely to continue to struggle as the Target Man appears to be dying out

Amit Singh

The target man is traditionally a tall, strong forward with great aerial ability, who can score goals and bring others into play by holding it up. However as the make-up of the Premier League has become more continental the target-man has begun to die out, a view corroborated by a recent UEFA report picked up in The Independent.

It is indicative of the recent trend that in the recent U19 European Championship there were no headed goals scored. Further evidence compounds this, in last season's Champions League strikers scored 103 goals, of which only three were headers.

Why has the game changed?

There are several reasons for the shift in tactics that has led to a decline in both headed goals and the target man. The emphasis on route one football has declined as the Premier League has gone more in line with its continental neighbours adopting high tempo, ball playing tactics instead of direct long ball football.

Of the 355 goals scored in the Champions League last season 82 came from through balls in behind defences. Even with regards to goals from crosses of which there were 57 the majority of these were low crosses into feet rather than aerial balls.

The reason for this in the EPL is that one of the key aspects of the target man's game was to hold the ball up, slow down the play and bring others into the game. This feature of play is largely redundant with the aforementioned increased tempo of the game.

Modern tactics are ever evolving and even with teams like Barcelona often play two support strikers who would look to come inside more than they would try and cross it, how many times do we see Pedro, Villa or Messi play an aerial cross into the box? This is in line with the trend of teams playing left footers on the right wing and vice-versa who will cut in on their stronger foot rather than hit the by-line.

Teams such as Barcelona now arguably don't even play with a traditional forward. Messi sometimes plays as the one up top looking to pick the ball up deep rather than getting in behind or holding it up. Rooney too plays a similar role for United when operating as a lone striker.

Andy Carroll and Liverpool.

A £35 million British player is always going to make head-lines, but Carroll has simply failed to hit it off since joining Liverpool. There are of course several factors for this: Carroll has struggled with injuries since arriving at Anfield, as well as there being questions regarding his personal life. He has also suffered as a result of the signings of several

key players such as Bellamy but also midfield players like Adam and Henderson who could block his route to the first team dependent on tactics. In big games Dalglish has opted for one up top, namely Suarez with Gerrard in



Photo: wikimediacommons

behind. It seems hard to envisage Liverpool realistically playing with Gerrard, Carroll, Suarez and Adam in the

same team, this would no doubt leave the side very, very open in midfield.

Suarez is clearly the favourite for the role at the moment. As mentioned earlier he fits into the mould of skilful, penetrative forwards who can make something out of nothing. Regardless of what you think of the player, he is clearly far better technically than Carroll. Liverpool look to play on the ground, hitting balls in behind for the pacey Suarez to latch on to. Gerrard is always quick to try and play the pass, as is Adam. Were Carroll deployed in that role, he would undoubtedly slow down the play some-what. The majority of Liverpool's goals this season have come by threading balls in behind defences and with Suarez running in behind to latch on to said passes.

A comparison of Suarez and Carroll makes dim reading for Carroll. Suarez has 7 goals in 12 to Carroll's 3 in 11. With regards to Suarez's far better build up and technical play Suarez enjoys better passing stats with 79% completion compared to Carroll's 66%. Perhaps an even more worrying stat for Carroll is that for a player who is 6 foot 4 and widely assumed to be a good aerial player he has only won 58% of his aerial duels this season, less than Charlie Adam.

Carroll is a target man by build, however he does have more to his game than this. He is strong and quick, something that is rare for a

man of his physique. What is for sure though is he will need to improve his technical game if he is to fit into Liverpool's new style of play as well as his prowess in and around the box. At such a young age he still has plenty of time to identify his role in the side or even move on to a side who will play around him. The signing of Bellamy who is more of a like for like replacement for Suarez does leave it questionable how many starts Carroll may get this term in the long run if Liverpool want to keep continuity in their style of play.

It should also be noted that whilst teams are shying away from the target man at least in their starting line-ups many sides have the option within their squads. In the national game for instance the idea of a 'plan-b' is key. Even the best technical side in World football Spain regularly give at least sub appearances to the less technically gifted but more aerially competent Fernando Llorente. This could mean there is a place in the England squad for a target man with Crouch and Carroll being favourites. Carroll will however need to gain a decent amount of starts to have a chance at making the squad with Crouch enjoying regular football at Stoke.

Read more of Amit's work at www.thinkfootball.co.uk

LET'S TALK TACTICS



Premier League Defenders Have Gone AWOL

Timothy Poole

Two years ago, a centre back was injured during a friendly and defending has never been the same since. That centre back was me... yet, as much as I'd like it to, my sad departure from the game fails to explain the sharp decline in the quality of Premier League defending this season. Watch any recent episode of Match of the Day and you'll see a showcase of defensive frailty and errors that have cost teams vital points. In the modern game, fans, teams and coaches alike are concentrating solely on attack, but they've made the ultimate sacrifice with a significant opportunity cost: forgetting the basics at the back.

The new approach is wrong. People look at the likes of Spain, Barcelona and Manchester City and think 'wow, this is what we need'. Heavy investment has gone into recruiting new strikers, new midfielders and focussing on an attacking style of play. Yet, it seems that coaches have forgotten how teams really win titles - through

good defending. Spain won the World Cup with a sensational back four; they won games by scoring the odd goal then shutting up shop at the back. Similarly, the last two winners of the Champions League (Barcelona and Inter Milan) won it via world-class defending. Yes, Messi and the strike force he spearheads make Barcelona what they are, but without Alvez, Abidal, Puyol and Piquet - a magnificent defence - they would not be half as successful.

The evidence for my concerns is everywhere, in almost every game. Manchester United's back four has struggled this season due to the lack of a strong central partnership and this led to conceding six at home to Manchester City. Arsenal, similarly, have had serious problems at the back, letting in eight earlier this season against Manchester United. Though, the biggest example of woeful defending is to be found in Chelsea's 5-3 defeat at home to Arsenal. Naturally, people have tended to get carried away with the undeniable attacking prowess that was demonstrated; Robin Van Persie, Juan Mata and Theo Walcott all showed how beautiful football

should be played. Yet, as Alan Hansen explained, it is bad defending and bad defending alone that accounted for the goals that were given away so cheaply.

One has to wonder what Andre Villas-Boas works on with his Chelsea team on the training ground. Judging by their defending, it is quite a wild assumption to make that they do any work in training at all. Of course, I could be judged as being too harsh, but even the most loyal fan cannot dismiss the defensive problems that Chelsea and so many other teams are experiencing. The irony is that Arsenal's defending was just as bad - if not worse. For John Terry's tap in from a corner, the man at Arsenal's front post had drifted off towards the middle of the goal. Why? No one will ever know but it was embarrassing to watch.

I am obliged to mention that it is indeed not just Chelsea and Arsenal who demonstrate such basic defensive errors. Liverpool's defence is, statistically, the third best in the Premier League, but the goals they have conceded recently against Manchester United and Stoke show that it has huge room for improvement. Moreover, at the lower end of the table, defend-

ers are doing such a bad job that they might be better off not turning up. The only defences that don't look shaky are that of league leaders, Manchester City and high-flyers, Newcastle; for a 20-team league and a league that is supposedly the best in the world, this has to improve.

The solution is simple: coaches must get back to basics on the training

pitch. Teams must practice holding their line, defending set pieces and stopping creative players from getting the ball. Although attacking football is as exciting as ever, the current level of defending is unacceptable; once this has been addressed, Premier League matches will be a better and more enjoyable watch for its variety of audiences around the world.



Flickr user: joncandy