

the Beaver

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Part B

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Peter Sutherland was met by protestors when he arrived at LSE in February 2007 to deliver a speech at the Lawyers' Alumni Dinner

Sutherland arrives to take over as Chair

» Students threaten protests due to allegations of environmental and human rights transgressions during Sutherland's tenure as BP Chairman

CHUN HAN WONG & MICHAEL DEAS

Peter Sutherland has assumed his new role as the Chairman of the LSE Court of Governors and Council. His appointment, which has sparked student opposition since its announcement, took effect on 1 January.

He was scheduled to chair his first meeting of the LSE Council, the School's governing body, later this afternoon, but it has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled on 5 February and is expected to draw protests.

Students have questioned whether his alleged responsibility for humanitarian and environmental transgressions since his appointment as BP Chairman in 1997 can be reconciled with the Fabian principles upon which the School was founded. These concerns have been raised since the School's Court of Governors approved the Sutherland's appointment under controversial circumstances in March 2006.

Aled Fisher, LSE Students' Union Environment and Ethics Officer, de-

scribed Sutherland's appointment as "an affront to everything that LSE stands for, and all the principles of peace and justice that I expect most LSE students and staff hold." He also raised concern over Sutherland's record at BP, calling it "one of human rights violations, environmental abuses and an avoidance of responsibility, even for what many people have called the biggest environmental crime in history in the recent Canadian tar sands scandal."

Activists point to several human rights and environmental transgressions committed by BP during Sutherland's chairmanship. These include the hiring of Defence Systems Columbia, a private security firm accused of human rights violations, for installation protection, the 2005 Texas City Refinery explosion, 2006 Prudhoe Bay oil spill, and last month's decision to invest in the environmentally-damaging Canadian tar sands projects.

Sutherland has also been criticised for his role in outlawing abortion in Ireland, during his second term as Attorney General. Students refer to his involvement in the deliberations over the phrasing of the controversial

Eighth Amendment to the Irish constitution, which introduced a ban on abortion when it was passed into law in 1983. Women's groups have argued that the ban has led to a rise in numbers of unwanted children and backstreet abortions. However, Sutherland's supporters have pointed out that Ireland's abortion legislation was passed by a referendum and hence has the backing of a popular mandate.

Furthermore, some students contend that his position as Chairman of Goldman Sachs and his role in the establishment of the World Trade Organisation, of which he was Director-General from 1993 to 1995, make him an ideal candidate to chair the LSE Council. The narrow defeat of a motion calling for a student referendum on Sutherland's appointment at the Union General Meeting last January indicated significant support for the BP Chairman amongst students.

Nevertheless, student protests against Sutherland's appointment have taken place on a number of occasions. In November 2006, a sit-in demonstration was held prior to a public lecture delivered by Sutherland. An accompanying online petition against his ap-

pointment was signed by 500 students. A demonstration was also held outside a dinner reception hosted by Sutherland early last year.

Students also expressed concern over Sutherland's failure to step down from his position of BP Chairman. Fisher accused Sutherland of duplicity, saying that he "has already lied to students by not stepping down from BP as agreed with the School, as revealed in minutes from Council." He believed that Sutherland will use his new position "to advance his career, not the interests of LSE students."

Nevertheless, Sutherland has stated that he would step down as BP Chairman in "April or so" of 2009. Last month, he told FT.com that Tony Hayward, BP chief executive, and other non-executive directors had urged him to stay on until the 2009 annual general meeting to provide an overlapping period with Hayward's appointment, which began in May last year. The need to look for a successor, which Sutherland described as "a process which takes some time", was another reason for extending his stay.

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EducationGuardian.co.uk

Helicopter Parents Are Landing

Universities around the UK have registered the rise of the helicopter parent.

The trend, already well rooted into US academic life, is also spreading to graduate recruitment. Helicopter parents "hover over their children".

Graduate recruiters in the US now have specific policies to deal with them. Paul Redmond, head of careers at Liverpool University, says his department is going to have to "be more open and say it doesn't look particularly impressive to have your parents with you at a fair".



Universities Warn of Higher Fees

University fees will rise following a redirection of higher education funds next September.

Funding will now prioritise undergraduate degrees. 20,000 places for first degrees should be created.

Bill Rammell, Higher Education Minister, said that "For the tax payer, funding people for a first degree has to be a higher priority than supporting those studying for a second degree." The University and College Union forecasts fees starting at £7,000 even for home and EU students.

Dr Geoffrey Thomas, from Oxford University, fears the higher fees will "drive away students who can't afford them". The government does not expect any university to lose cash in the process.



Oxford Union Re-Poll to Go Ahead Unchanged

A re-poll for the position of Oxford Union's President will take place next week.

The previous result was overturned when newly elected Krishna Omkar was convicted of electoral malpractice.

Omkar was accused of "disturbing" arrogance towards the Union's constitution as well as "intimidating" his opponent Charlotte Fischer.

Omkar appealed the decision on the basis of "factual inaccuracies" and reliance on rumour. The Appellate Board rejected his appeal. He will not be able to run again.

Picture of the week



Photograph: Chloe Evans

Please send your submissions for 'Picture of the Week' to photos@thebeaveronline.co.uk to be featured here



Hall security only fools dummies



This week in 2007 Hall security only fools dummies

Lax and ineffectual entrance security and shocking negligence on the part of hall staff were exposed at two LSE halls, in a special investigation by The Beaver.

Reporters were able to enter the School's Grosvenor House and High Holborn halls last week without being asked for any form of identification at either hall.

Entrance was gained into Holborn following residents into the hall, with entrance security not bothering to stop or question "tailgating" reporters.

Reporters then proceeded to check the hall for flat doors left open by students.

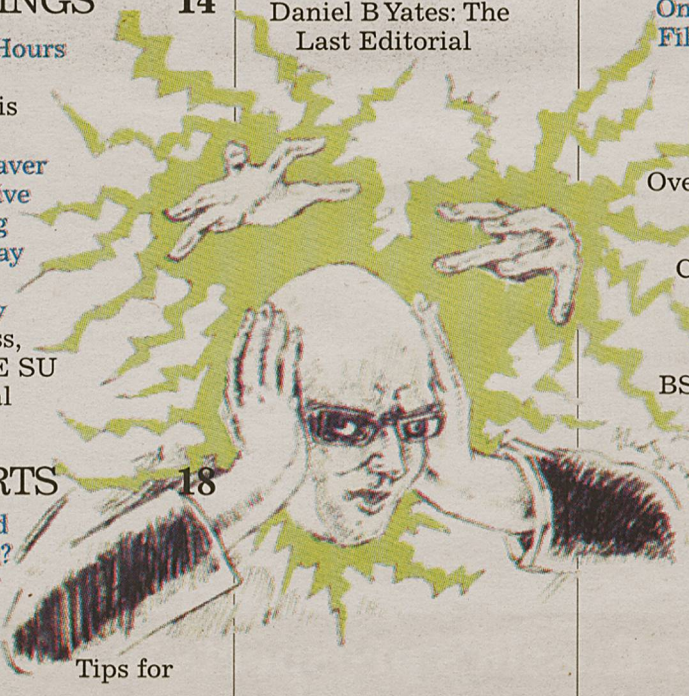
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Virus hits the UK and LSE

LSE staff members and students received an email from the School warning them about a winter vomiting disease. The Norovirus bug is currently affecting many people across the UK. Norovirus is the most common cause of infectious gastroenteritis in England and Wales. The bug can be spread by contact with an infected person, through contaminated food or water, or by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Symptoms include severe vomiting, diarrhoea and fever symptoms, which last about 48 hours.

Norovirus is not dangerous in normally healthy people. The Royal College of GPs is advising that anyone affected by the bug remain at home until 48 hours after they last suffered symptoms.

MP for Europe to speak at LSE

Jim Murphy, Minister of Parliament for Europe, will deliver a public lecture at the LSE this Wednesday, 9 January. The public lecture is entitled "The EU at 27 - taking on a global role" and will take place in the Hong Kong Theatre.

The Minister for Europe will consider how an enlarged EU can address global challenges and how the Reform Treaty will help the EU to perform more effectively both in Europe and internationally.

The event is a part of FT Business - LSE European Institute The Future of Europe lecture series and is free and open to all with tickets, available on the LSE website.

LSE SU to host largest cultural show in its history

The LSE Students' Union (LSE SU) is set to produce the largest celebration of dance, drama and music in its history at Her Majesty's Theatre. The show will be held on Sunday 20 January.

Timeless will comprise of 160 performers, featuring acts from various communities. The show has been jointly organised by various LSE SU societies and aims to raise funds for The Prince's Trust and The Care Education Trust.

Mikesh Vora, Timeless co-producer, said: "Language may form barriers in our world but music, dance and drama are a means of expression that transcend all barriers. We have worked together towards dismantling the stereotype that we only care about our classroom grades, curriculum vitae and job opportunities. We hope this show provides you with a taste of the true essence of our culture and philosophy. With a spectacular array of contemporary, modern and classical dances, a variety of music and a glamorous fashion show, Timeless promises to be a unique production, that will be remembered for years to come."

Tickets are available at the Houghton Street "Timeless" Stand on the School campus everyday from 11am-3pm.

Controversy looms over Sutherland arrival

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

At the time of the appointment, Director Howard Davies regarded Sutherland's reputation as a potential asset to the School. He described himself as "delighted" with the appointment, stating that Sutherland's "background in public policy and his business and international interests match the LSE's profile remarkably well."

Arthur Krebbers, an honorary student and former student governor, also welcomed the appointment. He described Sutherland as "an excellent candidate for chairman, given his impressive resume and breadth of managerial experience." He referred glowingly to Sutherland's reputation, stating it would prove "essential" for attracting top academics and donations to the School. "A great majority of students consider him an excellent ambassador for the LSE," he said.

Other students are less impressed by Sutherland's track record. Joe Butler-Biggs,

Photograph: Pooja Kesavan



Peter Sutherland has already attended Council as a guest, and has dominated headlines since his appointment was announced in March 2006

second-year Philosophy student, believes Sutherland's chairmanship of the LSE implicates the School in his actions as it implies that "his actions and ethics are being actively endorsed by us all whether we like it or not."

Lord Grabiner makes way

Michael Deas
News Editor

As Peter Sutherland takes his place as LSE Chairman, Lord Grabiner makes way after almost nine years at the head of the Council.

Grabiner was appointed Chair of Council, the LSE's governing body, and Chair of Court of Governors in 2008. *The Beaver* understands that Lord Grabiner will continue, unelected, to Chair a fundraising sub-committee within the School.

During an interview for the LSE Magazine last year, Grabiner said he was proud of his achievements, especially the governance reforms that saw Council become the highest decision making body in the School. However critics have argued that this restructuring has led the School to become increasingly run like a business, ignoring the views of students and academics.

"Another thing I am proud of is the development of the LSE estate during my time...The pedestrianisation project with Westminster (Council) went a long way to creating more of a campus. During my time as a student, cars passed through Houghton Street. That will never happen again," he added.

Grabiner stressed that "We must continue to attract the best staff to attract the best students and we must have matching facilities. I am especially delighted about the academic building on the corner of Lincoln's Fields. It opens up LSE to a particularly attractive part of London and will dramatically improve experience

for staff and students alike."

Perhaps interestingly, in light of the controversy surrounding his successor, Grabiner also called on LSE to remember its roots during this interview: "I think the School needs to stick closely, even today, to what the founders had in mind."

Whilst not as controversial as the appointment of Peter Sutherland as his replacement, Grabiner's conduct has been called into question by students on several occasions.

During contract renewal negotiations with Director Howard Davies that took place last year, Grabiner authorised a paid sabbatical leave of absence as a condition of Davies' reappointment without the prior consent of Council. Students and academics remained unaware of this arrangement until after the appointment had been finalised. According to student governors present at the meeting that authorised the reappointment, Grabiner pushed the sabbatical through Council without full and proper debate. It is the first sabbatical the LSE has ever awarded to a non-academic.

James Caspell, former Student Governor and Member of Council, stated: "These shady deals without any democratic input or scrutiny are typical of how the School has been run under Davies and Grabiner. It is crucial that in the future students do not rely on these bankrupt representative institutions and organise mass campaigns of direct action when campaigning against tuition fees."

More recently, Grabiner has been accused of aggressive behaviour towards members of the Palestine Right to



Lord Grabiner presides over a Council meeting as student protestors stand behind him

Education campaign. Campaigners entered a Council meeting to demand a meeting with Davies over his alleged "implicit support of Israel" and failure to speak out against the plight of students in Palestine. Grabiner was markedly more confrontational than Davies and other council members and even threatened to have the demonstrators forcibly removed by security staff.

Davies agreed to hold a meeting with students, and told the campaigners they could decide which representatives from the School should attend. Despite this agreement, and being specifically told that students would rather he did not attend, Grabiner eventually

took part in the meeting, and members of the campaign claim he was aggressive and disruptive.

Seph Brown, LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Palestine Society spokesperson, said that Grabiner acted in the best interests of Davies, not the best interests of the School: "As a high court judge and chairman of the Arcadia group, Grabiner's uncompromising character has likely been key to his success. However, in the academic environment of the LSE this quickly translated into belligerence as he fell into the role of Davies' chief henchman. We at Palestine Society witnessed this in full force with his intrusion on and steam-

rolling of our discussions with the School regarding Howard Davies' attack on debate about the boycott of Israeli academic institutions. His bullying tactics will not be missed by students and I imagine some on the Council will not be upset to see the back of him either."

Anthony Stephen Grabiner graduated from the LSE with Bachelor of Laws (first class honours) in 1966 and with a Master of Laws with distinction one year later. Grabiner was made a member of the Queen's Council (QC) in 1981 and has been a Deputy High Court Judge since 1994. He was made a life peer, with the title of Baron Grabiner of Aldwych, in 1999.



Union Jack

The floor was wet and slippery. The nauseating stench of expelled toxins mercilessly assailed any unfortunately exposed nostrils. Like the most revolting yet potent of smelling salts, the foul tang of Jack's bodily excrements roused him to consciousness. Lifting himself off the cold, hard floor of an unfamiliar room, his hands found paydirt. Unsure if the unsightly clumps clinging onto his hands were a new release from Play Dough, Jack unwisely brought them to his face. The putrid intensity of that ghastly moment would never leave him; food was never meant to be recycled.

Having survived an instant return to unconsciousness, Jack's alcohol-impaired senses began easing their way back into commission. His watch told him it was thirteen hours, eleven minutes and twenty-two seconds into the New Year. His white shirt, now adorned with stains and smudges of the colours of the rainbow (and brown), told him he was in a world of shit.

Seemingly distant and banished memories flooded back. Jack's fragile psyche was seared in an instant - his moment of clarity triggered a terrifying revisit into the deep, dark recesses of his mind. Flashes of a moribund UGM struck him hard. Amnesty Rugstad and Angler Fisher...their collected and composed demeanour...the flaccid but effective defence of their plot to besmirch the good name of the School with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights...a document boasting untold riches at face value but finding no currency in some states.

Oh heavens, who is it now? The insufferable manbear who presided over the verbal cross-fire calls the crowd to a tune. The piercing intonations ripped through any pathetic vestige of aural defences that Jack may have had. The strangled chords sliced deep into Jack's maimed consciousness. Be gone! That foul and woefully bungled rendition of Jingle Bells!

Jack flailed his arms to shield himself from the self-induced yet mercilessly relentless psychological assault. Jack struggled to his piss-soaked feet, wrinkled from prolonged exposure. His unhearing ears, overwhelmed with fetid song, fail to tell Jack that the horrors of the last UGM haunt him not. His unseeing eyes, clouded with fear, could not reveal to Jack the unpleasant, excrement-filled, sanctuary his room now offered him from the terrors of the Union Reichstag.

He fell. The last puddles of Stella Artois that remained on Jack's tiles claimed him.

As the floor rose to meet Jack's face, now adorned with the inglorious remnants of yesterday's dinner, he swore he saw the advent of his salvation - his goddess of mercy, his angel, his bad-idea bear. Her gentle touch reminded him of past glories and forthcoming adulation, reigniting his passion for the Union and its hallowed UGM. Her soothing voice reassured him, "Happy New Year, Jack..."

Then his head hit the floor.

The Beaver goes nationwide

Michael Deas
News Editor

Beavers could be reintroduced into the wild in the UK after an absence of nearly 500 years. Beaver colonies have been successfully established in several nature reserves and private estates in recent years and now a proposal by wildlife groups aims to release them into a natural habitat in the Knapdale Forest in Mid-Argyll.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland have applied to the Scottish Government for a license to conduct a trial reintroduction in 2009 and hope a decision will be made during spring this year.

Allan Bantick, trustee of The Scottish Wildlife Trust, told the BBC: "We are delighted that this license application has now been submitted and we look forward to conducting a full scientific trial of the first formal reintroduction of a native mammal into the wild in the UK."

Beavers, whose pelts were used in medicine and clothes, were hunted to extinction in the UK during the sixteenth century but still flourish across North America and in some parts of Europe. Reintroductions have been

highly successful in Holland and Germany, with new colonies spreading far from their original release site.

Around 15 beavers from Norway will be released into a trial site in Argyll if the license application is granted. If successful, information gathered during the trial would form part of a strategy to reintroduce beavers across Scotland and the UK.

The Scottish Government released a wildlife strategy that included the reintroduction of beavers in 2005.

The dam-building rodents are thought to play an important role in the success of aquatic and wetland ecosystems and improving biodiversity. The Scottish Beaver Trial Partnership also argues that a successful reintroduction could boost tourism.

An LSE spokesperson said: "There was a lovely piece on the possible reintroduction of beavers in Autumn Watch on BBC2 a couple of months ago. Very sweet creatures, but apparently quite destructive!" Previous attempts to reintroduce beavers have been met with opposition from local residents who fear the beaver's dam building could disrupt local ecosystems.

The beaver was chosen as the mascot of the LSE because it represents "an industrious animal with social habits".

Beavers - At a glance

■ There are two separate species of Beavers – The European Beaver (*Castor fiber*) and the American Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*)

■ A third species, the Giant Beaver (*Castoroides ohioensis*) grew up to 2.5m long but was eradicated during the Holocene mass extinction event

■ Beavers dam rivers using sticks and leaves and make their homes in the resulting pond. The largest known Beaver dam was discovered in Montana, USA and was 620m long, 4m high and 7m thick at the base

■ When endangered, the beaver beats its large tail and webbed feet against the surface of the water to alert other beavers

■ Eskimo medicine used dried beaver testicles as painkillers

■ When beavers became extinct tailors and hatters used Mercurous Nitrate to make easily available furs appear like that of a beaver. Mercurous nitrate causes hallucinations and psychosis. Hence the expression (used before CS Lewis wrote *Alice in Wonderland*) "As mad as a hatter"

■ Beaver is a colloquial term for Vagina

LSE students launch events business

Timothy Root
Managing Editor

Two LSE graduates, Arthur Krebbers and Alex George, have launched an events business for graduates across the UK. The organisation, called 'Generation 2 Generation' (G2G), hopes to transfer the 'LSE experience' to those beginning on the career ladder.

"Alex and I have greatly benefited from our interaction with a wide variety of people while at LSE," explains Krebbers, postgraduate student in Management. "While here, you are able to meet some of today's leading figures from politics, business and academia. Also, you can speak to peers from a range of different backgrounds. We want that experience to continue upon entering the workplace."

G2G hosts monthly speaker and networking events in the centre of London. Its launch event is set to take place on Monday 4 February in Dartmouth House, and will feature a variety of prominent speakers, including Tim Cullen, former spokesman for the Worldbank, Baroness Sally Hamwee, Chair of the London Assembly, and Charlie Osmond,



G2G founders Arthur Krebbers and Alex George

Esquire's Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Sir Howard Davies, Director of the LSE and supporter of G2G, commented: "Alex George and Arthur Krebbers were prominent students at the LSE during their time here. As conference organisers and journalists they handled many events involving high profile visitors to the School. I am sure they have the qualities needed to make Generation 2 Generation a success."

The founders have set their aims high: "Ultimately, we aim

to become the leading forum for interaction between today's and tomorrow's leading figures in business, politics and culture." Krebbers says, "There is a huge market out there. In the UK, our target audience encompasses approximately 3 million graduates and young professionals. Surveys show all of them are very ambitious and rate career and personal development highly amongst their list of priorities. They are also familiar with the G2G concept, due to their experiences while at university."

The initial response from

graduates has been "exuberant", Krebbers tells *The Beaver*. "Our network has doubled in the last few weeks. We've even received one e-mail saying 'Thank you for such a great initiative!' This flurry of enthusiasm has helped us attract more excellent speakers, such as Michael Howard QC, former leader of the Conservative Party."

The organisation has received public endorsements from a wide variety of leading figures. Sir Geoffrey Owen, former editor of the *Financial Times*, labels it an "excellent scheme for promoting interaction between people at the start of their careers and leading figures in business and other walks of life". Mervyn Metcalf, managing director of Merrill Lynch, lauds it as a "great idea that should hopefully create some interesting opportunities for all those that use the service." Ann Kenrick, Secretary-General of the Franco-British Council, believes the events "will greatly enrich those who speak and those who attend the events".

G2G is encouraging final year and postgraduate students to sign on to its newsletter on www.g2gnetwork.co.uk.

Former LSE Director knighted

Ruchika Tulshyan
News Editor

Former Director of the LSE, John Ashworth, was knighted in the Queen's Honours list 2008. Dr Ashworth received the knighthood for public services. Other LSE staff and alumni on the honours list included David Metcalf, Robert Cassen and Lynne Brindley.

Professor Metcalf was honoured for public services and Professor Cassen, a visiting professor at the School, received an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to education. Lynne Brindley was a former librarian and Director of Information Services at the LSE and was also honoured for her services to education.

Dr Ashworth was director of the School from 1990 to 1996. He was under-secretary to the Government's Cabinet Office from 1979-81, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Salford from 1981-1990, and is a former chairman of the British Library board.

There were fourteen LSE current staff and alumni in total that received honours this year.



Sir John Ashworth

The following alumni also received honours this year:

David Burge, OBE, BSc (Econ) Economics 1970

Mark Goldring CBE, MSc (Econ) Social Policy and Planning 1989

Peter Jones, CBE, BSc Statistics 1964

David Knowles, CBE, BSc (Econ) Economics 1963

Brian Leonard, CBE, BSc (Econ) Geography 1969

Randolph Otter, MBE, BSc Social Psychology 1992

Michael Radford, OBE, LLB 1987

Andrew Trotter, OBE, BSc (Econ) Economics and Sociology 1989

Nicholas Watson, OBE, LLM 1983

Keith Young, OBE, BSc (Econ) Econometrics 1968

The Beaver

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COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Hope springs eternal



Timothy Root

When George Bush was reelected in 2004, the American people sent a frightening message to the rest of the world. It said either one of two things. "We, the majority of Americans, are ignorant and have no understanding of the rapidly amounting international sentiment against us as a result of our President", or worse: "We don't care. City on a hill. America, fuck yea!"

Whatever the message, it didn't translate well into Arabic. Since 2004, the Iraq war has sealed its place amongst the lowest points in American history. It has come to represent to the world, and especially the Arab world, all that is wrong not just with America, but also with Americans. The fact that the majority of the American people is now either able or willing to appreciate that the war was a mistake is enormously significant. This on its own is a major step forward for America, and consequently a major step forward for the world. The question is, as the election looms and with no Bush in the picture, what now?

The first round of the gladiatorial contest that is the US Presidential election has pointed America in the right direction - one of hope and renewal

The first step will surely be to elect a Democrat. The Republican Party, perhaps unfairly, internationally is considered the party of the Bush administration. Where reelecting Bush in 2004 said to the world that Americans were either oblivious to or unconcerned about international public opinion, electing a Republican in 2008 would say the same thing. Sometimes politics has a naturally appropriate course to run, and in this case the Republican Party must take a break, even if its candidate is the best one. The fact is, though, that in Barack Obama, America has found not just the most appropriate statement to make to the rest of the world and to itself, but also the best candidate.

For all America's eccentricities, the way the Republican and Democratic parties choose their candidates is up there with the Electoral College. The system is designed in such a way as momentum means everything. Where the American Democratic population two weeks ago was waffling between two candidates, Hillary Clinton and Barack

Obama, he (or she) who won Iowa was always likely to pick up speed with a fair wind behind him (or her). It's unlikely anyone could have anticipated how much this has applied this year.



In Barack Obama, America has found not just the most appropriate statement to make to the rest of the world and to itself, but also the best candidate

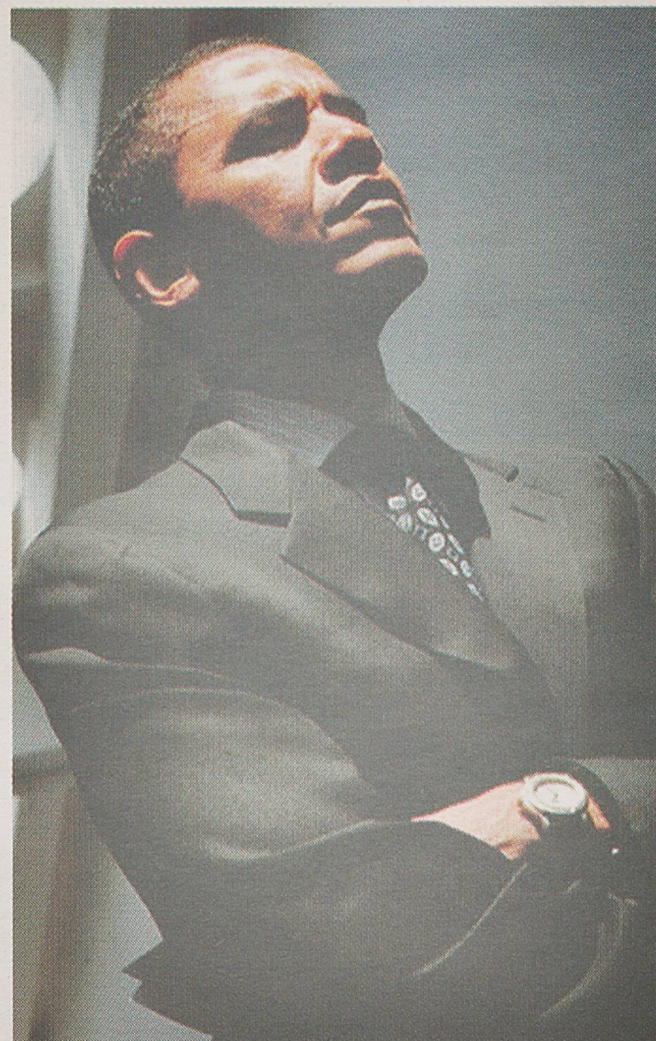
And as it turned out, Obama won Iowa last week, and Clinton finished third behind even John Edwards

(although only just). The juggernaut that is the Clinton machine has been dealt a mighty blow by a black man wielding nothing but hope, and oh, what could be more refreshing? The prospect of the first female president in Hillary Clinton could have carried a similar message, but the fact is that she has been eclipsed by the potential to go one step further. Obama is as charismatic as Bill, black, has the middle name Hussein, grew up in Indonesia, has an academic background and truly believes he can navigate America back on course. It is literally almost impossible to conceive a more appropriate message for the US to send the rest of the world than to elect such a man, and Americans are seeing it.

Against all the odds Obama has already triumphed in Iowa, and in so doing proved he can win the vote of a white majority. This is what Democratic and Independent Americans needed to be sure of. The proof is now there, and the bandwagon is overflowing. With no real Republican contender in sight (God forbid, please, that Mike Huckabee be considered a legitimate contender), it looks like Americans are poised to put the Bush administration and

the Iraq calamity behind them. When they do so, it will indicate to the rest of the world that America is back on the

same page, and even if you think Obama is soft on the issues, his ability to represent an ideal has infinite potential.



The Empire struck back



Chun Han Wong

I am writing in response to Peter John Cannon's letter of 11 December 2007, in which he cited the 1982 Falklands War to challenge the notion that wars can never end in a 'just resolution' and not have a 'bloody aftermath'.

He did not elaborate on why he thought the war did not have a bloody aftermath, but it is probably safe to assume this is founded upon the fact that the war produced significantly less casualties than many other 20th century conflicts. As much as this is

The argument that the Falklands War did not produce a 'bloody aftermath' and resulted in a 'just resolution' is based upon dubious premises

true, I find that his arbitrary judgement of what constitutes a 'bloody aftermath' rather disturbing and, in fact, macabre.

The passage of time and benefit of victory made it very easy for Cannon to dismiss the sufferings of 907 dead, 1,800 wounded, their families and countless others veterans left mentally-scarred by the experience. What then can we consider bloody? Is it the statistics, the hundredth, thousandth or millionth death that makes a war truly terrible?

Isn't human suffering what makes a war the horrifically catastrophic event that it is? Cannon's argument that war is not always an apocalyptic affair is seemingly based on a dubious and offensive premise that quantification of a war's devastation can provide meaningful conclusions over its palatability and efficacy.

I don't think I have read too much into Cannon's words. It follows from the nature of the debate and the thrust of his argument that he was trying to suggest that war can be wielded as an instrument of justice, or at least produce the 'right' results. In doing so, he inevitably, deliberate or otherwise, masked the suffering intrinsic to any war under a cloak of statistics.

On his claims of a 'just resolution', Cannon cited the collapse of the Argentine military junta as a positive product of the war. This is again problematic; this is clearly an unforeseen political knock-on effect of losing the war, certainly not a British war aim. Also, Cannon's claim of 'justice' in this instance is predicated on the belief that Britain's sover-

eighty over the Falklands is wholly legitimate. This is clearly not recognised by the UN, which has called for the resumption of negotiations on the issue. The US remains neutral, while Argentina and Britain receive backing from their respective continental neighbours. British *de jure* sovereignty over the Islands is, at best, disputed.



Is it the statistics, the hundredth, thousandth or millionth death that makes a war truly terrible?

The bigger problem, however, is the underlying assumption Cannon makes. For anyone to assert that a certain war has produced a 'just resolution', he must logically hold the (rather arrogant) belief that the victor is necessarily just. Yet which state goes into war without the belief, legitimate or otherwise, that they

are in the right? Does this then make warfare an arbitrary mechanism for justice?

All is well if you win. And if you don't, why not let's just all forget about it. Like Vietnam. Pardon my digression here, but I shall present an interesting snippet. General William Westmoreland, US Army Chief of Staff during the conflict, maintained till his death that the US did not lose the Vietnam War, even going so far as to suggest that they had eventually won it, given the positive developments that have since occurred in the country. Not too difficult to put a positive spin on just about any war, it seems. Perhaps he was trying to emulate British war hero Field Marshal William Slim in turning 'defeat into victory'.

I would pose this question - what if Britain had lost? In his memoirs of the conflict *One Hundred Days*, British Task Force commander Admiral Sir John Woodward conceded that the war was "a damned close run thing." If Argentina had invaded just a month later, the South Atlantic winter would have rendered the recovery of the Islands a military impossibility. If the Royal Navy had shot down the

Brazilian airliner which it had mistaken for an Argentine surveillance aircraft, the Task Force would have had to withdraw. If the Exocet missiles had struck the Task Force flagship HMS Hermes instead of the HMS Sheffield or the Atlantic Conveyor, the British operation would have fallen apart.

Cannon's lauding of the merits of the war in terms of its positive outcomes was in fact based on fickle twists of fate. The war could easily have left General Galtieri more securely in power. Interestingly, if Argentina had won, it could be seen as poetic justice; mindful of the fact that the nature of the 1833 British invasion which secured *de facto* British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was hardly any different to that of the 1982 Argentine riposte.



HMS Sheffield's loss brought home the realities of war



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Purchasing peace of mind



Chloe Pieters

'For every bank account that you open with us, we will buy and protect one acre of Amazonian rainforest.' For every packet of



Buying into the pseudo-charitable consumerist rhetoric serves only to divert resources and energies away from more meaningful forms of aid

diapers you buy, we will contribute ten cents towards child vaccination programmes in Africa.' These advertisements are just two examples out of many which have linked middle-class guilt with middle-class consumerism, transforming both forces into a slick new way to sell branded goods and services.

Tapping into middle-class guilt in the name of humanitarianism is of course nothing new. Charities have done so for decades in order to raise money for worthy causes. But when it comes to companies hijacking this guilt in order to sell products, we have to ask: cui bono? Are people in need or the environment really being served because people in wealthier parts of the world are buying more? Or is it just a clever way to lull the consumer into a bliss of guilt-free spending?

After all, most people feel more than a little twinge of guilt when they spend money they can't really do without on items they want but don't really need. Often, their thoughts wander to those less fortunate than themselves. By linking consumerism to development

programmes, companies are removing this sting of guilt and urging us to buy more. "Oh, it's for a good cause, so at least my money's going somewhere, doing something. Maybe I'll take two..."



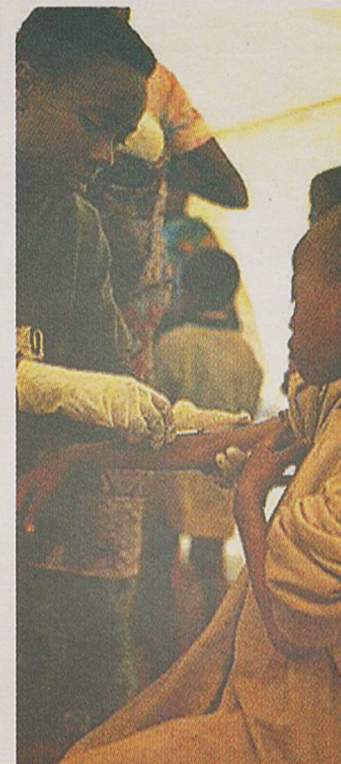
More than just eliminating our pangs of consumerist guilt, such advertisements are actually implying an obligation to consume

More than just eliminating our pangs of consumerist guilt, such advertisements are actually implying an obligation to consume. If we don't make the choice to buy more products, we are denying people medical

care, or actively destroying the environment. If we don't want to buy a particular product and wish to choose another, we are consuming parasitically, without 'giving back'. Thus the sense of middle-class guilt is fed by consumption, but appropriate, environment and developmentally aware consumption can ameliorate these feelings.

However, products which 'give back' to the community or the global environment have less impact than is advertised (after all, terms and conditions apply, and the amount of money donated is always negligible in comparison to the cost of the item), and also give us as consumers very little sense of having done something...because we haven't. If we really want to prevent climate change, we should be consuming less, not more. After all, the 'Reduce' in 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle' is the most important, and most overlooked of the three 'R's. If we really want to help the less fortunate people around us, we should spend less time and money shopping, and instead make an effort to get directly involved in programmes around the world, whether this means volunteering at our neighbourhood homeless shelter or hospital or building homes in Cambodia.

By all means, keep consuming 'green' products and buying from companies with socially responsible programmes. However, such purchasing patterns should be the finishing touch on our efforts to change the world, not representing the bulk of these efforts.



Show yourself the money



Arthur Krebbers

The LSE is, as we all know, a haven for two distinct groups of people: investment bankers and radicals. One worshipping the dollar sign, the other the hammer and sickle. One campus, two universes. Is there any hope for reconciliation? Maybe there is. What I'm advocating is a Giddens-esque 'Third Way' between the two groups via entrepreneurship. As an entrepreneur, you can change the world while also fattening your pockets.

The LSE could potentially be a highly fertile breeding ground for 'uni-preneurs'. Yet many students seem uninterested. They are held down by several common misconceptions about the trade. Let's consider these in turn.

"I need to have 10 years of business experience and an MBA." That is not the case. Google was founded by two students, as are many other companies. The British Museum recently hosted an event for 'Teenpreneurs'. Indeed, even twelve-year-olds can set up their own company. If it is that easy, why aren't you doing it? As a student, you have nothing to lose from setting up your own business. You don't have a mortgage or a family to worry about. Just

Making it big doesn't necessarily mean landing a lucrative investment banking job, for you can make it by yourself with some wit and daring-do

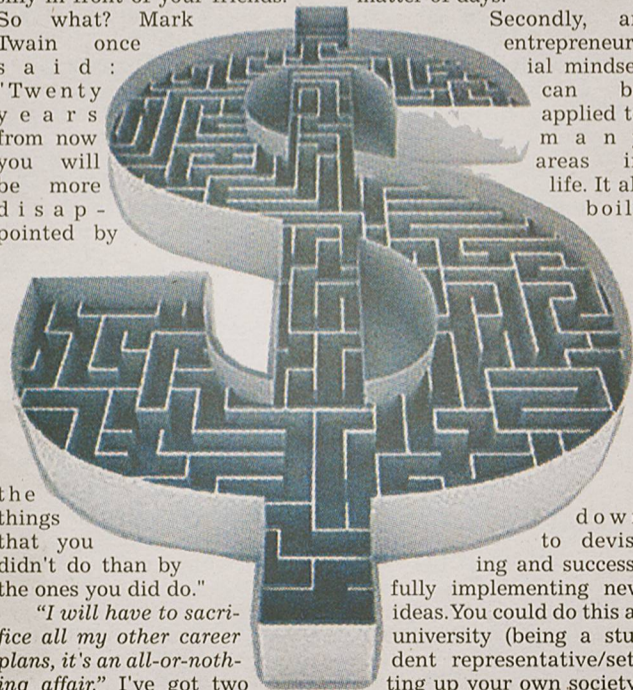
think to yourself: what's the worst that could happen? You end up failing and looking silly in front of your friends.

So what? Mark Twain once said: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do."

"I will have to sacrifice all my other career plans, it's an all-or-nothing affair." I've got two things to say to this. Firstly, there is an up and coming generation of part-time entrepreneurs. People with a part- or full-time job who also set up their own business. The internet has made setting

up your own company easier than ever before. You could be selling e-books online within a matter of days.

Secondly, an entrepreneurial mindset can be applied to many areas in life. It all boils



down to devising and successfully implementing new ideas. You could do this at university (being a student representative/setting up your own society) or in your job (devising new business processes). No wonder many companies say they are looking for 'entrepreneurial' people. Independent people who can think outside the box and can see projects

through. By looking at how you can add value, you are already thinking in an entrepreneurial way.

"I will need loads of cash to get it off the ground." Writing a business plan and a sales pitch doesn't cost you anything, except time and a few megabytes on your computer. There is a lot of wealth out there you can tap into. Rich individuals and corporations are constantly looking for the next big thing: the next Google, iPod or even Harry Potter. If you have a good idea, and you are confident you are the right person for implementing this, there will be cash available.

"I need to have a brilliant idea." Often the best ideas are relatively simple innovations. Slight improvements to existing products or services. Many allegedly 'brilliant and innovative' ideas have been already tried in the past. A board game inventor I know regularly receives pitches for new games. In most cases, it turns out the game is hardly new at all. In fact, sometimes the inventor himself thought up the idea some 10 years ago! If you're lacking creativity, then look at your every day life from an entrepreneurial perspective. What is lacking? What could you improve? What kind of demand is not being fully catered for?

"Setting up a business will be extremely stressful and

painstaking." This negative framework won't help. Yes, setting up a business will be hard work. That is why it is advisable to find a 'partner in crime'; someone you trust, someone you can work with. But setting up a business should also be fun. If you don't enjoy doing it for its own sake,



As an entrepreneur, you can change the world while also fattening your pockets

then you have to ask yourself whether you are cut out to be an entrepreneur. Don't get obsessed about making buckets full of money or beating a competitor. Enjoy what you're doing. And the riches will, indeed, come your way.

Arthur Krebbers is 'Featured Entrepreneur' at the Career Services. He is a co-founder of the Generation 2 Generation network, an events business for graduates and young professionals.

the Beaver

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The views and opinions expressed in *The Beaver* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors or the LSE Students' Union.

the Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 676

Letters to the Editor



The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.

Fear of the Other...

...obscures the real issues

The Border and Immigration Agency is currently being criticised in much of the press because of a leaked memo stating that their staff should not deport students who have overstayed their visa, unless they have committed a crime. Director of Enforcement Jonathan Lindley stated that the change in the law at the beginning of September has increased the number of students being refused applications to stay in the UK after their studies. The tabloid press have jumped on this leaked memo as evidence of yet more illegal immigrants being allowed to invade our shores.

In an interview with this paper, migration expert Stephen Castles stated that he thought the vilification of immigrants by tabloid newspapers and many of their readers, comes not from an inherent racism or xenophobia, but from a fear of change. He argued that while people are unsettled by the rapid social changes that they are living through, they cannot easily point to evidence of it - except in the case of immigrants. The changing ethnic makeup of society is a visible indicator of social change, it is something that people can focus their fears upon.

In many ways, Peter Sutherland has become a similar symbol for the discontented elements in the LSE community. Those concerned with environmental change, with Human Rights issues or with the commoditisation of their educations have all found a rallying point around the figure of the new LSE chairman.

However, while this consensus is forming, *The Beaver* suggests that perhaps personal attacks are not the best way of making progress on the issues that concern us all. There are a lot of things wrong with the world, and a lot of ways in which student action can have a positive influence on them, but few of these goals would actually be achieved by forcing Sutherland out of his position at LSE. Indeed, acts of indignation may serve only to be divisive and to strengthen the resolve of those we attack. Rather, by focusing on concrete issues on which we can make real progress we can achieve actual change for the better.

End of an Error...

...the wonderful world of Daniel B. Yates

The Beaver wishes to express its deepest love and most heartfelt thanks and gratitude to departing PartB editor Daniel B. Yates. Daniel has been editor of the arts pullout for 33 issues; a quite staggering feat considering the time and dedication he has put into each issue. Somehow he also found the time to put together a superb podcast. If you haven't heard it point your compupod at www.thebeaveronline.co.uk/loculture now and pour honey in your ears.

During his tenure at PartB, he has transformed what was an arts review section into a piece of art in itself, while retaining an acerbic reviewing style. He has given everything that has been asked of him, and on more than one occasion, things that most certainly have not been asked of him.

On occasion his work has been vulgar and crude. He has been consistently iconoclastic and esoteric and his opinions have often divided opinion, but his fans have been as vocal as his detractors. He has always been funny and clever and disturbingly often he has been Right.

It has been a genuine honour to work with him, to listen to his encyclopaedic knowledge of music, films and literature, and the passion with which he speaks and writes about them. His eloquence with the written word is a joy to read, so treasure this week's PartB, as it will be the last that he will helm - although hopefully it won't be the last.

"library calls"

Dear Sir,

At the commencement of Lent Term, I would like to express my concern for the intolerable amount of noise that permeates the library during school hours. Serious users would be no stranger to the periodic throngs of casual users who use the library to pass time between lessons or other later engagements. Whilst the majority observe the silence that the library calls for, their good name is tainted by an irresponsible minority who make small talk in groups in front of computer terminals or study desks, oblivious to their surroundings.

I urge the latter to be more sensitive to the needs of more bona fide library users, whilst appealing to library security and administration to take more proactive steps to ensure a conducive study environment for the majority of library users. On a number of occasions, irate library users, including myself, have had to stand up for our rights and tick the miscreants off. If, as I suspect, relying on the goodwill of students remains ineffectual in the new term, the library administration must take full responsibility and grasp the bull by its horns.

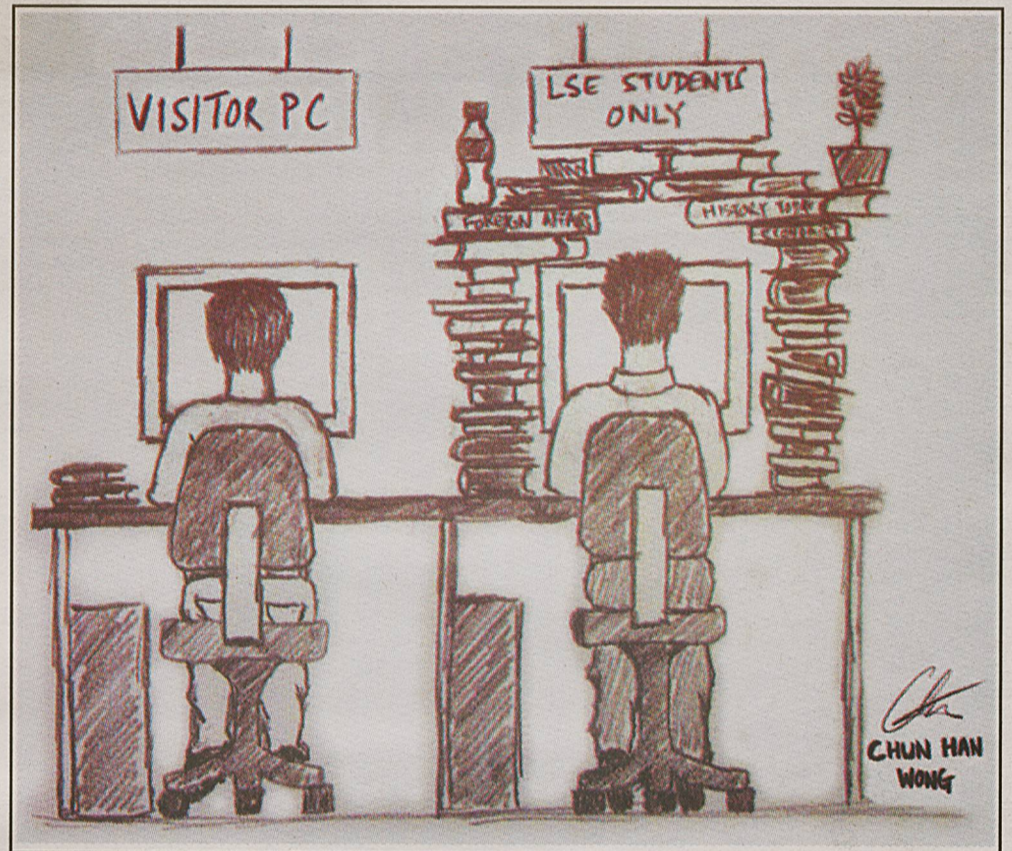
Michael Lui
2nd year Geography

"head compared"

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the article of 11 December 2007 entitled "Students throw the book at the Library". The allocation of funds to extend 24-hour opening beyond the Easter holidays and Summer term is a matter for the School rather than the Library, so I will not comment on that.

However, the article also claims that students are dissatisfied with other Library services, including the provision of multiple copies of course books. Clearly no library can provide every book that every student wants whenever they need it - an academic library provides resources for students to share. But the Library puts a great deal of resources into providing students with course readings. These include a reading list system which links to the registration system to calculate the number of copies based on student numbers and provides students with a single look-up point. Our Course Collection comprises of over 100,000 volumes and we also provide a course packs service,



which allows academic staff to order print course packs and also electronic readings via Moodle/WebCT. The Library also stocks over 23,000 electronic journals, an increasing range of electronic books and currently over 500 titles on LSE reading lists.

Last year, Library users borrowed over two million books - LSE students regularly borrow five times the number of books per head compared with the UK national average. We believe this shows, not only the hard-working nature of LSE students, but also the fact that a large number of the required books are available for them to borrow. In our annual survey conducted last February, nearly 1,600 students responded and 94% of them said they were satisfied with the Library service. According to the annual Book Availability exercise conducted in March last year, (a snapshot of whether students found the required books in the Course Collection) 80% of students found the books they needed on that day.

With the additional student numbers this year, the School has provided additional funds for course books and Library staff are continuing to stock the Course Collection with extra copies of essential texts. If students identify any missing titles or insufficient copies, we would encourage them to let staff on the Help Desk know.

The article also mentioned complaints of insufficient study spaces and computers. Library and IT Services monitor usage of study spaces and PCs and neither of them have been fully occupied during the Michaelmas term - spaces can always be found within the building. As students will be

aware, additional study spaces were added in the Library during the summer building works, in anticipation of the School's growth. In recognition of the extra students this year, the School has provided additional funds to IT Services and a further 45 PCs are being installed in D010, Kings Chambers and Lincoln Chambers.

Library staff work hard to provide students with a good service and, in particular, to supply course readings in line with the requirements of academic departments. It is unfortunate that, as part of the campaign for extended 24-hour opening, *The Beaver* has seen fit to present such a negative and one-sided picture of Library services for students.

Maureen Wade
Head of Library Services

"a skinny"

Dear Sir,

I am writing this with hope that it is fair to assume that readers will at least be peripherally aware of the results of the Iowa caucus on 4 January.

The first of many in a long and arduous primary season has marked a historic and hopeful moment in the history of not just American politics, but America itself, and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone, whether you are American or not, to sit up and watch a singular moment that is taking place on

the world stage just as much as it is in the US.

The US affects change, for good or bad and whether you like it or not, across the globe - every single person at the LSE and beyond has had their lives changed by the actions of the US government. It is in your interest to keep track of any American election, whoever is running: It's a big show, so everyone should be watching at least some of it!

However, it is to this primaries show in particular that I urge you to pay attention, because after eight long years of embarrassment and disappointment, the people of America have a wide field of candidates, and many of those people are choosing to show themselves, and the world, that they are able to transcend a history of social division and ingrained stereotypes both at home and aimed their way from abroad. They have shown the world that America does not just reject the actions of their government for the last eight, or even 16 years, but that it is starting to reject a world view that judges them for prejudices that they, as a nation, no longer want to have.

The voters in Iowa rolled the dice on a skinny kid with a funny name, who promises change; this is done with the hope that instead of a government that forces change on the world without a mandate from its people but in their name, they will get a government that will reflect America and Americans the way they really are, and give them a world reputation that they deserve and can be proud of.

The country is starting to be hopeful - fingers crossed that we can all be hopeful too!

Molly Tucker

Features

Leadership in 2008

Red isn't Dead

Capitalism in 2008: Crunched

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica



May I start this term's column by offering everyone my best wishes for 2008. We will all need a bit of luck and hope because, unfortunately, this year is not promising to be a very prosperous one. Some months after it exploded, the international credit crisis is still ruffling feathers in the bourgeois capitalist press. That begs one question: will this be the big one? The last twenty years have seen a succession of economic 'bubbles' inflating and bursting. None, though, has hit the core of the system. While it is still very early for commentators to be making predictions (some radical left economists, I will have you know, are credited with having predicted ten of the last six crises), it is more likely than not that 2008 will mark just the beginning of a 'perfect storm' in the structure of capitalism.

Of course many would not agree. As Larry Elliot, the Guardian's economics editor, argues, "the global economy goes into its current bout of rough weather after its longest period of strong, sustained growth in four decades...so even if the US is in for a tough couple of years, the big developing countries may compensate...there is little sign that the acute problems of the financial markets have spilled over into the rest of the western economies. There has been no jump in unemployment, and consumer spending has remained strong." This is not to say there won't technically be a recession (two consecutive quarters of negative growth) but it does assume there is no impending crash. As far as Elliot is concerned, markets will work themselves through the storm.

Even some radical leftists agree that there is no threat of meltdown. Perry Anderson, an editor of the New Left Review, points to "some spectacular demonstrations of popular will" in recent years - such as Venezuela in 2002, Bolivia in 2004, and France in 2005. However, he believes "the overall drift of the period has been a further shift to the right... the imperatives of financial markets have more and more come to be taken for granted as conditions of social existence." Never mind neoliberalism's failure to return profit rates to levels experienced in the three decades after World War Two. For leftists like Anderson, it is not that neoliberalism is stable but that it has created both a mode of experiencing the social world and a constellation of forces across the globe that decisively block out the possibility of a more generalised resistance - even in the event of a global economic crisis.

It would indeed be foolish to proclaim the certainty of radical change as a simple result of economic turbulence. But it would be even more foolish to accept that the world economy is stable, or that the forces mobilised against us are just too great for any impact to be made.

So where is the evidence for this? In fact, there is plenty. Financial markets and financial institutions play a very specific and hugely important role under capitalism: coordinating the system as a whole, and moving capital to wherever it can make the greatest profit. The system was thus able to counteract falling rates of profit by creating the conditions whereby provision of cheap loans and easy credit could simultaneously pay workers less and still sell the goods and services provided by capitalists. So in Britain, whereas real wages have grown slowly over the last decade, consumer spending has risen by forty per cent since 1998. But the underlying rate of profit, though higher since the mid-1990s than for two decades, has remained too low to cover the gap in spending. The system cannot run on debt forever. Even global financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund are starting to get jittery. To quote Larry Elliot again: "there is the fact that the headwinds facing the global economy - a credit crunch, a housing market crash, spiralling oil prices - spell trouble even when taken separately. Together, they are a potentially explosive cocktail."

And while it is true that 'spectacular demonstrations of popular will' against capitalism remain few and far between, deeper networks of solidarity have sprung up across the world that resist imperialist war, challenge global climate change and protest worsening living standards. These networks, when put under pressure, may prove to be the foundations for a world that places people above profit.

Blue is True

Democracy in 2008: the only New Year's Resolution that matters

Annette Pacey



A New Year is a time for fresh starts, and many of us will return to LSE full of determination to improve ourselves in various ways, whether it is to stop smoking or avoid handing in essays late. If the world was to set itself a New Year's resolution for 2008, what would it be? Peace seems like too much to ask given the continuing carnage in Iraq and Darfur; but perhaps we could hope that 2008 sees an increase in democracy around the world.

2007 was hardly a great year for democracy. In September, we were gripped by television images of pro-democracy protesters in Burma, a brief moment of hope soon crushed by the ruling junta.

Sadly, military crackdown was not confined to Burma. In Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf declared martial law in November, apparently concerned that an imminent judgment from the Supreme Court on the legality of his rule would not be in his favour. Press restrictions and mass arrests of political opponents followed. Hopes were briefly raised for a reasonably fair elections in January with two serious, if flawed, former Prime Ministers in the running - only to be dashed by the tragic but depressingly predictable murder of Benazir Bhutto on 27 December.

Rigged elections were also a marked feature of 2007. In December the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe said the Russian parliamentary vote was "not fair and failed to meet standards for democratic elections". Vladimir Putin and his United Russia party rigged the election for reasons unclear, as by most accounts they would have won by a significant margin anyway. A correspondent for The Economist described witnessing bus loads of workers being driven around Moscow to vote repeatedly at different polling stations. Kenya also disappointed those who had hoped it would set an example for the region with a fair election. Incumbent President Mwai Kibaki, despite being routed in the parliamentary vote, drew ahead of the opposition Presidential candidate Raila Odinga suspiciously late in the counting. International observers condemned the presidential result as unfair, amid reports of results announced in the provinces being simply crossed out and changed before being re-announced in Nairobi.

Given this bleak picture, is there any reason to hope that the world can stick to a New Year's resolution for greater democracy in 2008?

The outlook is decidedly mixed. In Pakistan elections will take place on 18 February, although only the most ardent optimist would expect them to be entirely free and fair. In any case it will take more than one election to establish anything approaching political stability in what some commentators have described as possibly the most dangerous place on earth. The Russian presidential elections due in March are likely to set new standards of political cynicism. President Putin, prevented from running for a third term by the constitution, has hand-picked his successor, Dmitri Medvedev, and will become Prime Minister instead. The change of title is unlikely to deprive him of much of his influence. Although Putin has wide popular support, this is not democracy. The fallout from Kenya's unfair election also continues. Although Kibaki and Odinga may eventually cut a deal, the violence has plunged Kenyans into a humanitarian disaster.

Still, there is one weighty cause for optimism in an otherwise thoroughly depressing picture. The long-awaited US election will take place in 2008 and will be the most wide open race for many years. It is refreshing to see the candidates desperately wearing out their voices as they and their policies are exposed to the full force of public scrutiny. Of course, the extremely complicated US system has its flaws, and we all remember 2000, but it does seem likely that the self-proclaimed home of democracy will set a reasonably good example this time around.

Sadly though, a look at the bigger picture seems to show that if the world's New Year's resolution is to increase democracy, it looks as likely to stick to it as the rest of us are to stick to drinking less and exercising more.

thebeaver.features@lse.ac.uk

Notes on Nothing

Peter Sutherland

The new Chair should be given time to prove his competence

This Features section, for one, welcomes its new lord and master. Peter Sutherland's new position as chair of the LSE council will not, in fact, have that much power and influence. Though the chair is a prominent role, it is a non-executive one, and Sutherland's significance in the School's constitutional machinery is out of all proportion to the ferocity of the students who have arrayed themselves against him. For all that, we should welcome Mr Sutherland first and foremost because he is more than up to the job. Although that job is not the overlordship of the LSE that you would expect from listening to the protesters, the School needs better management at its top levels. The LSE's expansion from a small social sciences institution to a larger university has not been handled well of late, with too many students being drafted in for the facilities available. This has called the Director's own competence into question, and Mr Sutherland should make it his priority to retain confidence in the School's academic reputation while completing the necessary expansion work.

When pressed, those who oppose Mr Sutherland as chair are unable to make a coherent case for the dismissal of a patently competent man. Vague imprecations about his ideologically inconvenient business background are not good enough. Other, more serious allegations are either misplaced - Mr Sutherland's chairmanship of BP, while demanding scrutiny, does not extend to daily command responsibility for that firm's well-known environmental and human rights shortcomings - or damningly inaccurate. Many argue, for example, that Mr Sutherland's period as Irish attorney general, during which the constitution was amended to outlaw abortion, proves he is against abortion. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr Sutherland watered down the amendment, foisted on his government by a vocal minority, as far as he could. Given their propensity to make mistakes of this magnitude, it somewhat sticks in the craw that the anti-Sutherland protesters have taken it upon themselves to speak on behalf of the student body as a whole.

They have no right to do so. The Student Union could easily have made the concerns now expressed clear at several selection committees and meetings of the Council and the Court of Governors, on all of which it was represented and its views taken into account. Peter Sutherland was voted into his office unanimously, and nothing has changed in the interim for us to take the radical step of setting the School's procedures aside to oppose him now. The last redoubt in the anti-Sutherland argument, that the appointment of a Chair of Goldman Sachs International goes against the LSE's Fabian traditions, is also a moral chimera. If that vague test of ideological correctness was applied across the School and student body, not many would escape outside the protesters' hermetic and self-important world. This is a shame, as the same individuals who have opposed Sutherland have ably and successfully defended the School's social ethos in areas such as the Living Wage campaign. Peter Sutherland is not a corporate monster. He too has shown a commitment to such progressive causes as the United Nations and European integration, but he must - as with any other member of the School community - be allowed to beg to differ on other areas. Mr Sutherland's competence is the issue now. Give him time to prove it.

Joseph Cotterill
Features Editor



Matthew Partridge profiles the Republican who could reunite American politics - and steal the Democrats' thunder

Barring a sudden change in the polls, John McCain will win the New Hampshire primary today and will therefore be on course to win the Republican nomination. Much has been written about the seventy-one year old Arizona senator, from both supporters and detractors. His supporters have stressed his heroism as a Viet Cong prisoner of war, while his detractors have raised questions about his age and his 'maverick' tendencies. At the same time, his decision to reject John Kerry's offer of a place on the 2004 Democratic vice-presidency and to campaign instead for George W. Bush in that election led to him being accused of hypocrisy and ambition. Indeed, as late as October 2007 one writer claimed that, "John McCain's candidacy may not be dead, but then again, neither is Ariel Sharon." However, even a non-American like myself can see that McCain is not only the best candidate, but also the only candidate who can address the forgotten centre.

Over the past four years the political discourse in the United States has become ever more polarised and both the major parties have drifted ever further from the centre. Although the rampant social inequality and domestic problems in America would usually call for a President with progressive values, the Democrats have shown that they are incapable of delivering this change if any of the three remaining candidates are elected. Indeed, since November 2006 they almost immediately forgot that they were given Congress with a mandate to make the US a bit fairer, and instead concentrated all their efforts on trying to force Bush to surrender Iraq to the terrorists. Indeed, a Hillary Clinton victory would lead to inconsistent and cautious foreign policy, while Barack Obama simply has

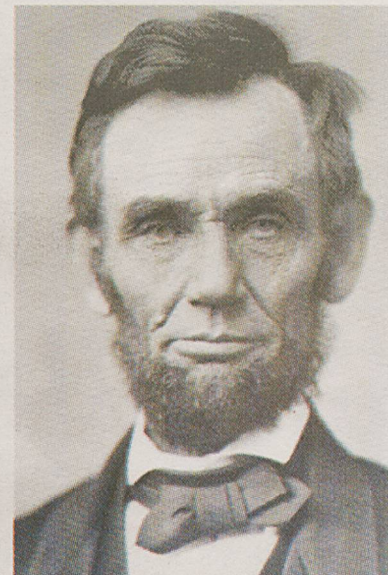
hardly any foreign policy experience at all. For his own part, Bush has refused to come out of his bunker in the White House, either to work with the Democrats on domestic issues, or to push the few vaguely progressive parts of his programme, such as immigration reform.

The only candidate who seems to realise that the United States needs both a muscular foreign policy and to address some deep seated domestic concerns is John McCain. His support for action on global warming, pension reform and an interventionist foreign policy make him an ideological brother to Tony Blair. In addition, his attempts to work with Democrat senators on attempts to reform immigration, healthcare and campaign finance show his dedication to the important issues that affect ordinary Americans. Indeed, the respected magazine National Journal puts him smack the centre of the Senate based on his voting record last year. At the same time, McCain has shown himself willing to sacrifice personal animosity in favour of getting things done, whether it is working with John Kerry to repair US-Vietnam relations, working with Bush to keep American troops in Iraq or to teaming up with Edward Kennedy in an attempt to bring America's immigration laws into the twenty-first century.

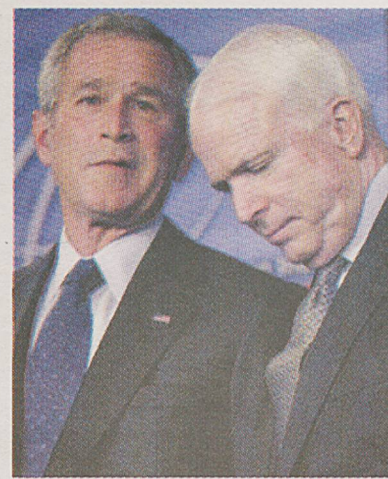
For all that, however, McCain is still no Tony Blair. After all, he may have opposed Bush's tax cuts and proposed a commission on healthcare, but he doesn't intend to reverse them and he hasn't put forward specific proposals of his own (though he hinted at support for universal healthcare in his 2000 campaign). However close McCain came to leaving the Republicans in 2001 or joining Kerry's ticket in 2004, he has remained a Republican. Despite the

fact that he has been a senator since 1984, McCain began his bipartisan cooperation only in the mid Nineties. He might have populist leanings, but by British standards he is extremely conservative on many issues. At the same time the Republicans need to accept that, however brave Bush may have been on keeping troops in Iraq, he has lowered the tone of American politics. The salience - and success - so far in the Republican nomination race of truly maverick candidates such as Ron Paul and Mike Huckabee shows that it would be political poison for the eventual Republican nominee to run his campaign as the Bush administration's third term.

To fully show that a McCain administration will not mean the continuation of Bush's politics, he will need to take a leaf from the playbook of the first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln. In 1864 Lincoln shocked America by nominating Andrew Johnson, a Democrat who supported the Civil War, as his running mate. Similarly, if he is nominated McCain needs to select Joseph Lieberman as his running mate. Joe Lieberman is an unapologetic centrist progressive who combines a belief in greater help for the middle classes with a dedication to public service and the belief that America (and Europe as well) needs to face up to its responsibilities in the world. Lieberman's comeback victory in Connecticut, against the weight of the Democratic machine, has already shown that this sort of politics can work. A McCain/Lieberman ticket, rather than Clinton's venality or Obama's 'Audacity of Hype', is the type of leadership that could transform America, as the ten years of Tony Blair transformed Britain.



A Lincolnesque candidacy?

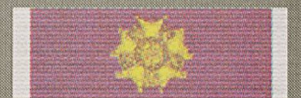


Or just more of the same?

John McCain's military decorations



Silver Star



Legion of Merit



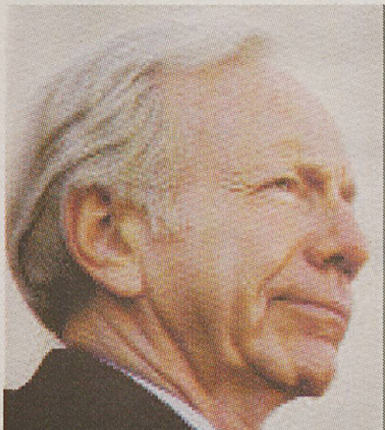
Bronze Star



Purple Heart



Distinguished Flying Cross

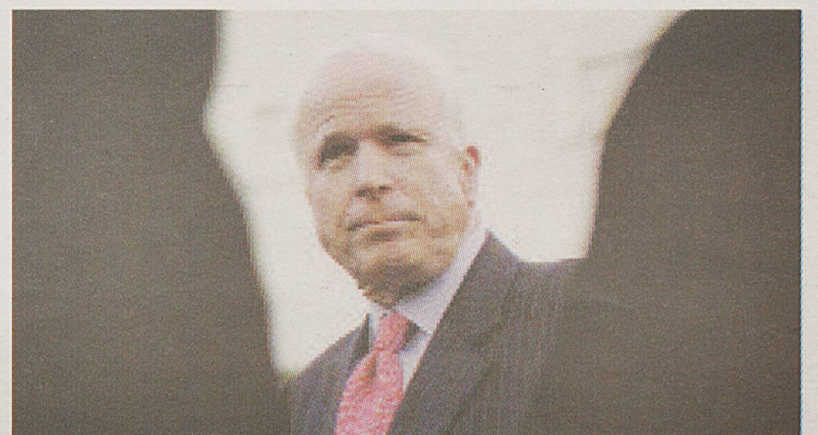


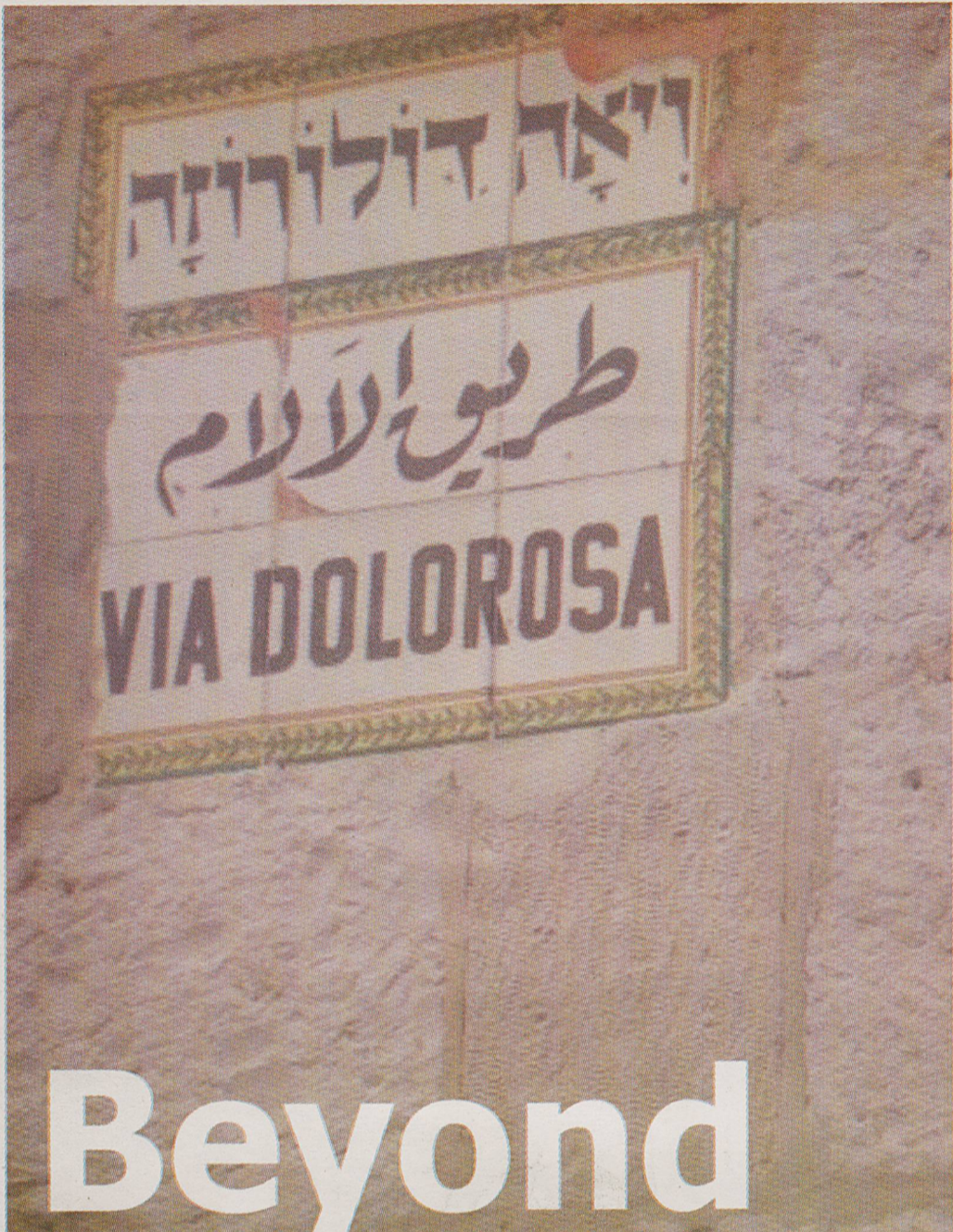
WHAT HE SAYS:

"As President, John McCain will bring America together again. He will inspire a new American unity and a new American patriotism..."

John had the courage and the common sense to stand against the tide of public opinion and support the surge in Iraq, where we are at last winning."

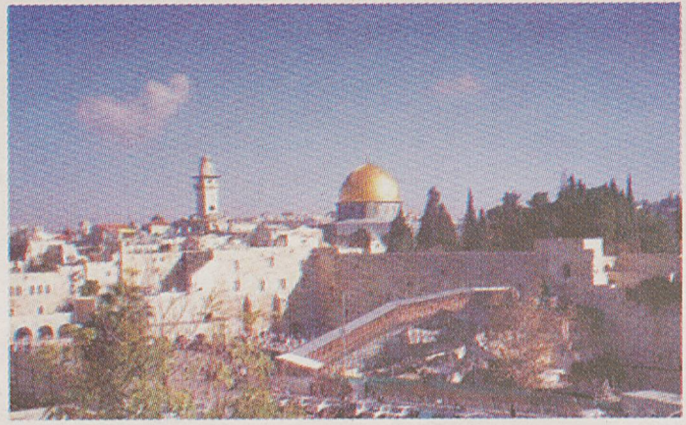
Joe Lieberman, 27 December 2007



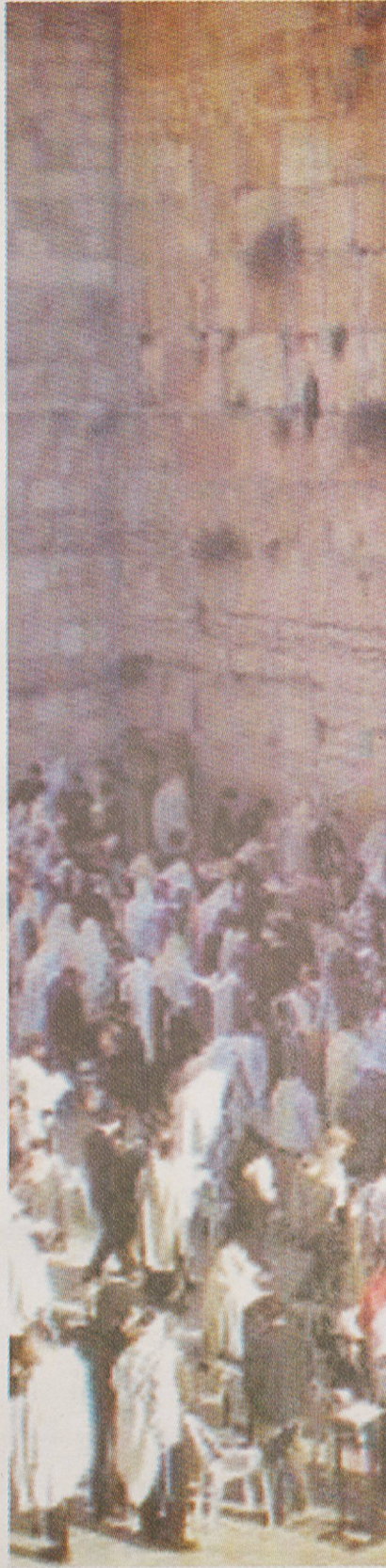


Beyond Annapolis

Joseph Cotterill visits Israel at a key juncture in the peace process



Clockwise, from left: street sign in Jerusalem marking Christ's bearing the cross; the Temple Mount; the Western Wall; a Sderot bomb shelter; the West Bank security barrier. Opposite page: spent Qassam rockets collected in Sderot



You have probably never heard of the Britain Israel Communications Research Centre (BICOM). I hadn't, until they contacted me in November with the offer of a place on a student journalist delegation to Israel. BICOM, it seems, had heard of me. Set up at the beginning of the 2000 Al Aqsa Intifada to combat what it sees as disinformation and inaccuracy in the media, BICOM represents a moderate pro-Israeli message in British politics.

BICOM has a smooth Parliamentary option (its CEO is Lorna Fitzsimmons, a former chair of Labour Friends of Israel) and good contacts in Israel and the Palestinian Authority. It regularly sends out delegations of politicians, academics and journalists to Israel, in order (as its spokesmen put it) to see the conflict for themselves. Since the Israel-Palestinian conflict remains an important talking point in student unions across the country, and since the delegation was taking place in the context of the peace negotiations at Annapolis that had just concluded, I decided - along with reporters with student newspapers in Oxford, Leeds, and Birmingham - that this was too good a story to miss.

On arrival with Israel, we were taken by BICOM's people

around the places you would expect to go to get a general orientation in Israeli culture and history. So, in addition to visiting the three Abrahamic holy sites in Jerusalem - the Western Wall, walking around the two Mosques on the Temple Mount, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre - we also went to Yad Vashem, a vast Holocaust memorial complex on the top of a mountain, and to the tomb of the founder of Zionism, Theodor Herzl himself.

To its credit, BICOM refrained from deploying these places as an emotional sledgehammer or to sell an ideological line to us. Instead, its guides used them to suggest to us how Israel's imagined community as a Jewish refugee state/Middle Eastern democracy has changed with the passage of time. Still, even this exercise seemed artificial. Even if such a thing as a national psyche exists, (and I doubt it, even in Israel's extreme case) we were not going to find out much about it in the three days we were there. So, as interesting as they were, the trip wasn't just about the mood music of Jerusalem and Yad Vashem. It also granted access to geographical areas of the conflict that would otherwise have remained far out of bounds. These included the tense Israel-

Lebanon border and Sderot, a town literally on the frontline of the Hamas-controlled Gaza flashpoint. Before we saw these, we would also get personal perspectives from both sides.

The "Iranian threat"

In this regard, our first real political contact was Ephraim Sneh, a former IDF commander, deputy defence minister and now chair of the Labour Party. Considered a tough dove in Israeli politics, Sneh is a fairly typical product of the Israeli establishment and its close civil-military relations. We met him for an interview in the Knesset, Israel's parliament: a cross between a squat fortress and a military academy, sulking on central Jerusalem's outskirts. Since the United States' National Intelligence Estimate had poured cold water on the progress of Iran's nuclear weapons programme just days previously, Sneh was eager to talk about the Iranian threat, and he was angry that the world would not see Teheran the way Israel did.

He insisted that "even Syria," Israel's former bugbear in the region and supposedly Teheran's closest Arab ally, was "scared to death" of Iran and its "imperial

ambitions." If it is, Damascus has a strange way of showing it. Lebanon remains in political deadlock, and Syria remains quiescent in the campaign of Hizbullah (which is Iran's baby as much as Syria's) to determine the Lebanese presidency. Nor on the face of its recent actions is Israel that interested in smoothing the Syrian brow. Sneh - predictably - said he could not comment when I asked him about the rationale for Israel's surprise air strike into Syria in September 2007. Israeli officials refuse to discuss this slight speed bump in diplomatic rapprochement with Damascus, but it is rumoured to have had something to do with either nuclear or chemical weapons.

Still, Sneh's candour in all of this is a sign that Israel's elite remains realistic and flexible in its diplomatic options, despite its reputation for reliance on American support. On the other hand, Sneh was vague on what constitutes Israel's current goal towards Iran. In talking of a "Persian empire" and of negotiations being "practically out of the question" so long as President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad remains in power, Sneh strongly suggested that the Israeli government is eyeing regime change in

Teheran as its endgame. If it is, then Sneh is going to have to show more for the prospects for this than asserting, as he did to us, that student demonstrations in Teheran are at their strongest since 1999. Iran will likely get its hands on nuclear weapons - even on the NIE timetable - well before there is momentum for a genuine revolution. Israel may have to decide whether it will have to bear the Iranian bomb in order to get at the regime behind it.

Moreover, Sneh was so focused on Iran that he seemed to gloss over newer threats to Israel's security. Take Iraq. Sneh painted a dire picture of the region in the event of a precipitate United States withdrawal: "the bad guys will walk taller" in this "new reality," and Jordan, Israel's neighbour, would be the next "domino" to fall. If it troubled Sneh that Israel - despite having Saddam Hussein toppled on its behalf - faces this prospect on the whim of a superpower, he did not show it.

Sneh - allowing for his dovish politics - was also breezily confident about the post-Annapolis direction of the peace process. The future Israeli-Palestinian border will be "like Belarus and Poland" and the

West Bank's economy will be "hooked" to Israel's. Echoing Sneh, a Foreign Ministry spokesman even went so far as to argue that "we are more interested in a Palestinian state than the Palestinians."

Palestine, Post-Annapolis

These sentiments were not quite matched by our sole Palestinian contact during the delegation: Rami Nasrallah, a former adviser to President Mahmoud Abbas and now an academic drawing up plans for the peaceful partition of Jerusalem. We met him at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem, our sole venture into Palestinian territory - in this case, barely stepping over the 1967 ceasefire line that demarcates the two zones of control.

As far as Nasrallah is concerned, Annapolis is a "non-starter" for Israeli security. Hamas has every incentive to spoil the settlement with a campaign of violence in 2008. Nasrallah even alleged that Israeli hardliners had welcomed Annapolis for precisely this reason, as the agreement provided an elaborate pretext to come down hard on the Palestinians once they broke its flimsy structure.

Nasrallah this...
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HAPPY



N W



YEAR



BABEH!

top 15 honchos

general secretary
ericlundquist

visual art honcho
fionamackay

identity honcho
holliestman

rant honcho
joshheller

travel honcho
willjoce

gaming & tech honchos
simonwang & hasibbaber

assistant editors
ravimistry & thomas blake warren

sex & gender honcho
alicepfeiffer

literature honcho
erinorozco

music honcho
adamjohn & rahimrahemtulla

theatre honcho
tomwhittaker

film honcho
bernardkeenan

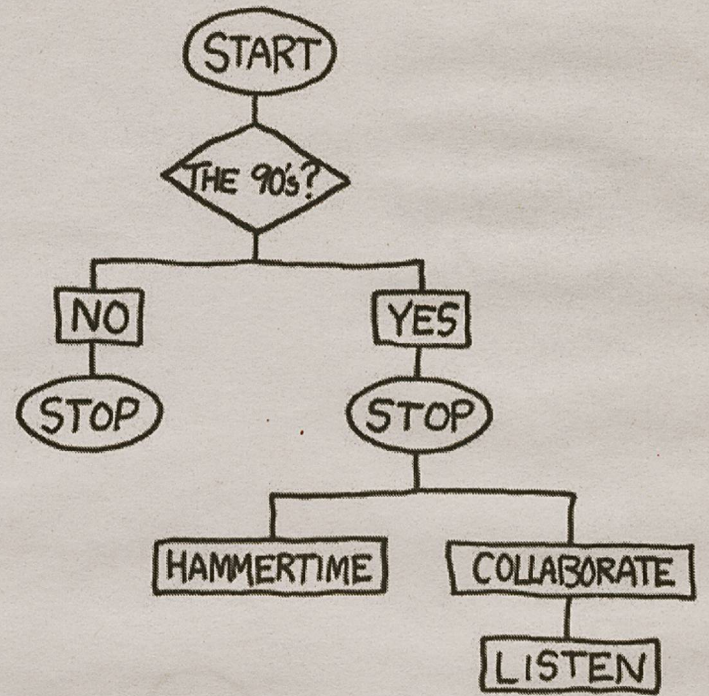
top 7 LSE pervesex zones

1. The Beaver Office, under the PartB special sexnest-machine.
2. Inside photocopiers where it's warm and smells of fresh endeavour.
3. The Quad in the evenings, when you think you're a whirling sex-pageant, dancing the fancied hordes to tears, but you're really face-down in the corner, covered in Don't Panics, burbling sour nothings

into space whilst departmental sexpests aggressively court your rear.

4. The library concourse. Spread yourself over the meagre displays whilst columns of sexually frustrated young geeks slaver, stumble and try to avoid your eyes.
5. The Sky Tunnels. In these architectural facsimiles of coitus you can play all the wrong games.
6. Facebook. Frig yourself into orbit over the nipple slips and buttock sculptures of friends and enemies alike.
7. Your mind. Generally speaking the sickest place of all.

top 1 flowchart



top 10 places not to be seen on a Friday night

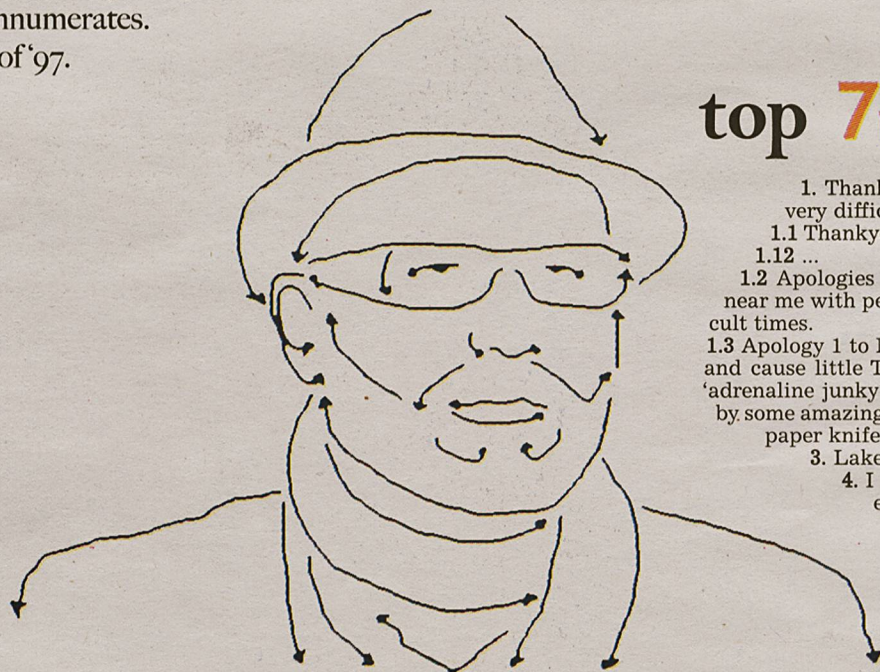
1. On the floor at Crush vomiting like a carrot fountain.
2. At Crush.
3. Anywhere near Crush.
4. In the library taking numbers and kicking staff.
5. Relaxing with a glass of sherry in your own purpose-built PartB library.
6. In Hackney Wick
7. Down the docks.
8. Languishing in the LSE cells.
9. Flaunting your B.Bhutto fancy-dress costume in central Islamabad.
10. Touching your tutor in the special grade-places.

top 10 top ten lists

1. Top Ten bylaws of the parish of Milton Keynes
2. Top ten Shibboleths
3. Top Ten Top Ten Jimmy Carr vehicles
4. Billy Bragg's Top Ten nations of the world.
5. Top 10 Hammerhead sharks, ranked in order of general attractiveness (of dorsal fin).
6. Gunter Von Hagen's Top 10 shemale strippers
7. Hiawatha's Top 10 P2P streaming sites.
8. Top 10 methods of meaningless quantification.
9. England's Top 9 innumerates.
10. Top 10 felch-acts of '97.

top 20 PartB-endorsed sexual positions.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Reverse Colonoscopy | 4000 Years Ago |
| 2. La Pump | 11. Kayt Berry's Smoke-off |
| 3. Skedd Says Relax | 12. The Rectal Trumpeteer |
| 4. The Spatial Bassoon | 13. Joshua's Gates |
| 5. Father's Secret Treasure Pit | 14. Penal Servitude |
| 6. The monstrous Albany fetcher | 15. The Donkey Handshake |
| 7. 40 Ways to skin a cat | 16. The Modern Living is Hell |
| 8. It Fell Off That Tramp, Don't Touch it | 17. The Rejection Letter |
| 9. Fassbinder's Parapet | 18. The Ginger Slammer |
| 10. The Farting Ice-mummy From | 19. Petchey's Assault |
| | 20. Wrong Turn |



top 7ish editorial sentiments

1. Thankyou to everyone who has supported me throughout these very difficult...
 - 1.1 Thankyou, to everyone who has supported...
 - 1.12 ...
 - 1.2 Apologies to everyone who has showed the human decency to try and come near me with perhaps a hitherto unstated view to supporting me through these difficult times.
 - 1.3 Apology 1 to Marjorie, I never meant to throw the bullet into the crowded sex-show and cause little Toto's idiotic head to cave in like a Devonshire pothole heaving with 'adrenaline junky cocks' in flooding season. And Jimbob, if the surgery's happened and by some amazing act of Beezlebubhimself you've come through it alive, i'd really like my paper knife and powerplay tm meathooks back.
 3. Lake Woebegone Days. Never read it. Told everyone I had.
 4. I am stepping down to spend some more time with my family. of hardened sex criminals that I had to adopt at christmas as part of a wrong-headed attempt at a progressive secret santa instigated by my contacts at the DoJ. (Two cleaners, a vending machine and loose-limbed phantom of a Brigadeer created by me inside my lonely mind).
 5. There is a party inside my pants. Noone has yet RSVP'd.
 6. As some of you may have noticed I haven't cared for as long as I can remember.
 7. I give up.

'daniel b. yates'

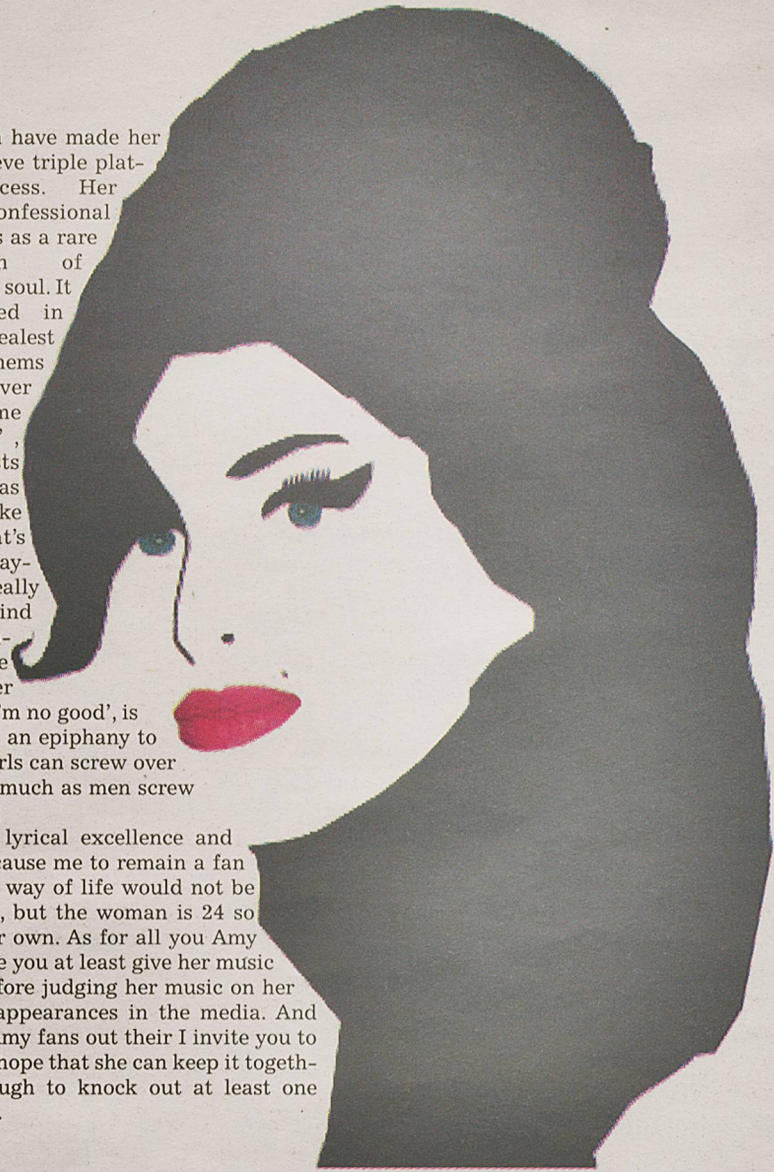
heroin chick

anikamathur whines while winehouse wastes what we want whether we want it or what

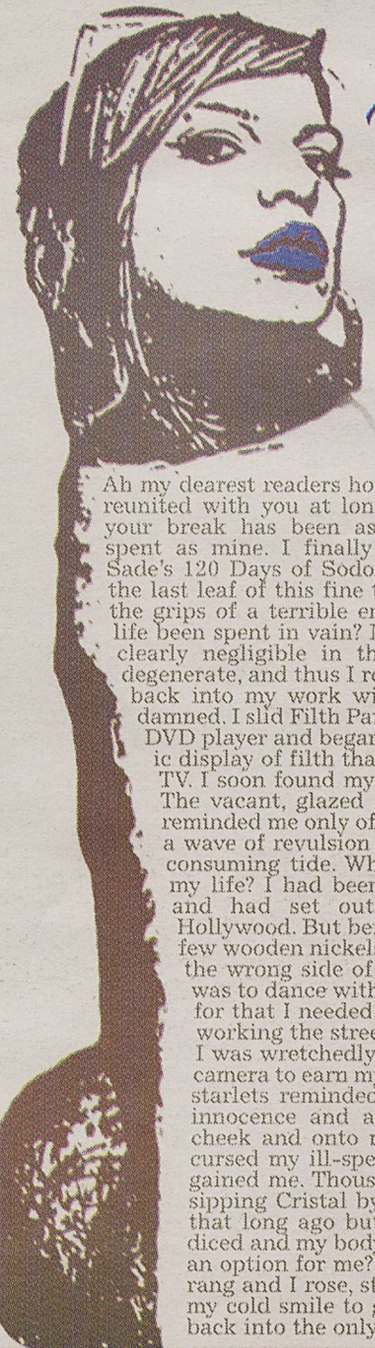
Evening falls over the streets of London and the LondonPaper and Lite guys set up camp and start bombarding you with a free newspaper to entertain you on your journey home. Why wouldn't you be enticed by the trashy looking photos of celebrities and their antics from the previous night?! Among which is the recently recurring face of the infamous Amy Winehouse. A woman who consistently makes the headlines as a result of her early morning escapades around London town. Contrary to popular opinion this didn't used to be the be all and end all of Amy's life! Amy's second record is what brought her to stardom. 'Back to Black' came out in October 2006 with her catchy anthem "Rehab". It had critics claiming this debut album was amazing. They clearly failed to do their research and realise that it was not her debut album. Amy's first record "Frank" which has a completely different feel to it, (soul and jazz as opposed to jazz and r&b) came out in 2003. However one cannot blame the people who failed to realise that the woman on the cover of *Frank* and *Back to Black* is indeed the same person! 3 years ago the Amy that we all know was busty, tatooleless, lacking eyeliner and roughly a size 14, boasting a curvy figure. (Look at the cover of *Frank* if you don't believe me!) Today she seems unrecognisable to the Amy that was able to advocate lyrics such as "I can't help you, if you won't help yourself". Hence the question, is she a victim of celebrity culture? Amy is claimed to have lost weight not for herself but after the first time Blake left her, because she is quoted to have said she had nothing left to live for. So celebrity culture cannot be entirely blamed for turning her into what she is today. But it

can fully be blamed for advocating everything she has become and ensuring that she has no reason to change. Amy became famous not only for her new album, but because of her image. She fell into the centre of the size zero debate with her skeletal frame and jutting out ribs. While at the same time creating a trademark out of her beehive and her lashes of eyeliner (which people don't want to stop imitating). The media has turned the beehive and eyeliner into fashion statements and their continued fascination by her tattoos, drinking, drugs and general way of life has turned her life into a reality show that is documented by newspaper's and magazines. Celebrity culture and people's fascination with these larger than life characters is what continue to accelerate these eccentric entities of life into symbols that people look up to and admire. Is Amy her own worst enemy? Absolutely. She has played up to the hype and media attention around her like a little girl. The stunts are endless. She's like a puppy doing tricks constantly to get attention. The unfortunate thing is that underneath the messed up demeanour she is actually hugely talented. Amy's talent is spectacular because it is raw and natural. She's never had to work at it, she was born with it and her incredibly soulful voice has simply always been there. This is probably because she doesn't regard her talent highly enough to nurture it, because she can take it for granted. Her rawness, musically, is what sets her apart in this day and age. Her voice is real and not manufactured which is exactly what fans of music are craving for right now. Amy's rawness reflects in all aspects of her life. Her wreckless approach to love, drugs, and alcohol have manifested themselves into

lyrics which have made her album achieve triple platinum success. Her music is confessional and emerges as a rare combination of humour and soul. It has resulted in two of the realest female anthems there ever were. "F me p u m p s", which boasts lines such as 'you don't like players, that's what you say-a, but you really wouldn't mind a million-aire'. While the other 'You know I'm no good', is pretty much an epiphany to state that girls can screw over men just as much as men screw women over. It is Amy's lyrical excellence and music that cause me to remain a fan of hers. Her way of life would not be chosen path, but the woman is 24 so each to their own. As for all you Amy haters I hope you at least give her music a chance before judging her music on her antics and appearances in the media. And for all you Amy fans out there I invite you to unite in the hope that she can keep it together long enough to knock out at least one more record.



GRANT



Ms. Rubella Valve reviews porn

Ah my dearest readers how good I feel to be reunited with you at long last! I hope that your break has been as lascivious and ill spent as mine. I finally managed to finish Sade's 120 Days of Sodom and upon turning the last leaf of this fine tome found myself in the grips of a terrible ennui. Had my squalid life been spent in vain? My ministrations were clearly negligible in the face of so great a degenerate, and thus I resolved to throw myself back into my work with the abandon of the damned. I slid Filth Party 13 into my shiny new DVD player and began to watch the cornucopic display of filth that emanated from my HD TV. I soon found myself tired and ill at ease. The vacant, glazed eyes of the porn starlets reminded me only of my days on the game and a wave of revulsion swept over me like an all consuming tide. What had gone so wrong in my life? I had been the pretty girl at school and had set out to make my name in Hollywood. But before I knew it I had taken a few wooden nickels and found myself stuck on the wrong side of the tracks. My only option was to dance with the gorilla on my back and for that I needed money. I soon found myself working the street and it was not long before I was wretchedly thrust naked in front of the camera to earn my keep. Looking at these porn starlets reminded me of the sale of my own innocence and a single tear slid down my cheek and onto my Conran designed sofa. I cursed my ill-spent life and the little it had gained me. Thousands of dollars by day and sipping Cristal by night had seemed so easy that long ago but it had left my soul jaundiced and my body aching. But what else was an option for me? At that point the doorbell rang and I rose, steeling my soul and forcing my cold smile to greet my client as I moved back into the only world I knew.

MR. WLEFT'S TOP RECIPE

Happy New Year my Cholo's! Hope those hangovers have dissipated by now, and you are soon enriched by the munificence of The Student Loan Co. Good Old Mr. Wleft isn't doing so well himself on the finance front. After buying Xbox 360's and PS3's for the kid's, even the one I think might not be mine, I'm damn well skint like that Tony Wilson Clart after the Happy Mondays spent all his money on crack. In my day all I got was a mouldy tangerine and solid beating which was, and still is I maintain, good for the constitution. My old man spent 23 hours a day in the factory to pay for that an' all. You youngster's don't know just how good you got it. My old Mrs. Lefty's back to turning tricks to pay for Crimbo, so let that be a lesson to you kids to enjoy yo' loans and don't blow it all at once.



LSE in

Email: thebeaver.porn@lsc.co.uk

LOVE

- have a love so pure that no other can tear it apart. That's why i'm not angry that you are sleeping with my mum.
- met last tuesday when I went dogging with my boyfriend. I have your crabs, can we meet up so I can give them back to you?
- am looking for anybody, just anybody, I am so lonely. I haven't been laid since August 1937.
- Met you at the LSE swingers club and I want you to put some ointment on the welts on my back.
- gotta head for the border baby. Your ex was asking for a knife in the gut and I gave it to him, see?
- are so damn wrong. I am not stalking i'm simply obsessing. There is a key sematic distinction which I will explain to you if you lift the restraining order.
- love the feel of your tongue on my flesh and staring into your puppydog eyes. I even buy your pedigree chum. Why don't you love me?
- want you to attach electrodes to my nipples and treat me like the naughty boy I am. Do you take credit cards?

Part B Interviews

Harmony Korine

“How old are you?” A dishevelled looking Harmony Korine asks as I walk in to the interview room. “Twenty.” I reply, “I know, I look younger.” I confess, recalling the countless times of late where I’ve been ID’d trying to get into 15-rated films.

“My new wife is twenty.” Harmony tells me, “She plays Little Red Riding Hood in my latest film.”

Not the typical start to an interview, but what else am I to expect from the man who, at the age of 19, gave the world, “Kids”. While most teens are spending their student loans on cigarettes, booze and drugs, Harmony, most likely with the same accessories, was not at college (he dropped out of Art school after one term) but at the heart of the independent film world, providing the inspiration behind one of the most talked about movies of 1995, the whirlwind day-in-the-life adventure of New York City’s rich teens who indulge in the X-rated hedonism of underage (and unprotected) sex, drinking and drugs. Sound like the scene you want to be in? Well wait for the kicker - the main character, and the most promiscuous, is HIV positive and unaware.

While the film drew mixed reviews, with some critics finding the storyline implausible and exploitative and others raving about it, Korine returned to the medium he loves with 1997’s “Gummo”, which he co-produced and directed, garnering the praise of Werner Herzog and Gus Van Sant, as well as the top prize at the Venice Film festival. His fascination with the obscure and (arguably) grotesque comes to the forefront in this film based on small town America. The opening scene is of a cat being drowned; later in the film we see a genuinely drunk-off-his-face Korine play the part of a young man who has never felt truly loved, pouring his heart out to a black male midget prostitute, and begging for physical intimacy with him. Bizarre it may be, yet it is also refreshing. As Hollywood continues to spurn out crap which is so predictable you feel as though you’ve seen the whole film just by watching the trailer, cinemagoers who yearn to be shocked and surprised should look no further than the work of Harmony Korine. This year we will be graced with his latest creation, Mister Lonely, starring Samantha Morton and “Y Tu Mama Tambien’s Diego Luna. The plot outline is as follows: a young American working as a Michael Jackson impersonator in Paris, befriends Marilyn Monroe, who invites him to her commune, where she lives with her husband Charlie Chaplin and their daughter, Shirley Temple.

What fascinates me about Korine is the trigger of inspiration for the films he makes. He has said in the past that in his mind it is the image which comes first in his plans for a film, not the narrative. I ask him to elaborate on this unusual creative process.

“Usually it starts off like a photograph. I’ll see, like, the guy on the street corner, with a pair of big ears and some headphones, eating a watermelon, with his shoes off, and talking to himself. He’s got, like, a pipe hanging out of his pocket, and I think - Man. That guy is amazing. And I’ll just start to daydream. Like, say, I wonder what his house looks like, I wonder how it’s decorated.

I wonder if he has a wife and kids, and what they do. How does the guy make a living? Where does he work? And then I just start to come up with stories based on that. Based on snapshots, images, characters. That’s usually always how it works.”

Perhaps this is why he prefers to cast inexperienced actors to play the character he creates, in an attempt to stay as true to his perception of reality, or rather, his imagination’s interpretation of it?

“Yeah, I mean, it depends you know. I love working with non-actors because it’s a completely different thing. A lot of the time you work with non-actors because there’s some part of their life that you really want to explore that you haven’t seen before in a film. And a lot of the times they are able to give you what a real actor can’t give you. They’re able to give you their life, or an approximation of their life, and so I love working with non-actors.”

Having such a clear image of what one wants to portray in every frame, I wonder if it’s harder to work with people not used to taking direction?

“It’s just different. In some ways it’s harder, in some ways it’s easier. It’s really about what kind of story you want to tell.

So, the world knows how much time, energy and creativity Korine has devoted to Mister Lonely, why should he have to justify it?

“if you have a baby and someone tells you your baby is cute it’s a reflection of you. If someone says your baby is disgusting, ugly, you’re going to feel bad about it”

“Justify? I wouldn’t justify it. I don’t think I try to justify anything I’ve done. I think the movie is the movie. The movie exists on its own. Everything I’ve done just exists on its own, whether someone likes it or doesn’t like it, I don’t know, I don’t really worry about any kind of justification.”

This makes me wonder if he ever wishes for commercial success - themes he has examined in the past, such as children dressed as Satanists vomiting on a Bible, would suggest otherwise, but one should always hear it from the horses’ mouth, so I ask.

“The truth is, I make movies for people to see. I don’t make movies only for myself. I make movies to satisfy a creative urge. I feel that I have to make movies because that’s what I’m meant to do. But at the same time, I want as big an audience as I can see the film. I make films for an audience. But I’m also a firm believe that the victory in and of itself is just in the completion, the

making and completion of the film. Anything good that comes after that is just a bonus.”

How do you react to viewer’s interpretations of your films?

“If you have a baby and someone tells you your baby is cute it’s a reflection of you. If someone says your baby is disgusting, ugly, you’re going to feel bad about it.”

Being fond of experimentation, I wonder if Korine would ever consider making a film on a mobile phone?

“Yeah, I would consider anything, technology doesn’t scare me like it scares many people. I think it’s just a tool, a device for storytelling. If I felt that there was something I have to say that would best be served with a camera phone, I’d use a camera phone. I can’t imagine that being the case, but you really can’t tell.”

Many people put Korine and Werner Herzog in the same sentence, I ask if he finds himself similar to Herzog in any respect?

“Werner is like a hero of mine. The first time I watched his films it was a big thing for me. He’s like a foot soldier in the army, he’s on the side of righteousness, and in that way it is something I try to aspire to myself.”

In true PartB style, I pull out the YouTube comments. In this segment of the interview, we ask interviewees to respond to comments posted on clips of their works by random YouTube viewers..

CuntFish: I’m 35 and a retired cop who inspects houses now. If you take a good look at the world you will realise that all there is anarchy everywhere. Neat structure only exists in Hollywood movies and TV. So go ahead and be smug but we’re all gonna die someday. Horribly and alone. Might as well see the beauty in that.

“We’re all gonna die horribly and alone? Man, sounds like that guy’s had a rough life. Man, I hope that’s not the case. Jesus.”

JoLee: I’m starting to feel retarded. Is it me or is it the movie?

“Well, I think they’re saying it perfectly.”

I ask Korine how, if at all, “Mister Lonely” differs from his other work.

“it’s more ambitious in a lot of ways, and the actual narrative is actually more classic, more basic, in some ways to me the film is less of a provocation, but I think it’s still doing the same thing as it did in my first movie. I’m still speaking to the same things, feelings, ideas. I’ve never been concerned with plotting things out. All I’ve ever wanted to do is convey a certain emotional state, an ambience, an atmosphere and tone, so that’s really what I try hard to work on.”

Before our time is up, I ask Korine what he looks forward to the most when he’s in town.

“The strip clubs. Strippers are fun. I’m from the South [Tennessee], and it’s all about the strip clubs”.

And with that our time is up. In Old Goriot, Balzac writes, “they are so used to sensation that it takes something outrageous to produce a lasting impression.” To what the media and popular culture have made our overexposed senses, Korine’s imagery is that outrageous something..

Words by Aba Osunsade

Mister Lonely is out in cinemas 14 March 2009.



2008 AT LSE

It's a brand new year and following the man have set out to show you what is going to

Peter Sutherland

This should well prove to be one of the hot potatoes of the year ahead. The big man of British Petroleum is winging his way to the LSE and has divided the student body. Is he really the big bad oil baron with a poor record or is he going to bring the goods to the table? We don't rightly know and to be honest many of us don't give a shit either way.

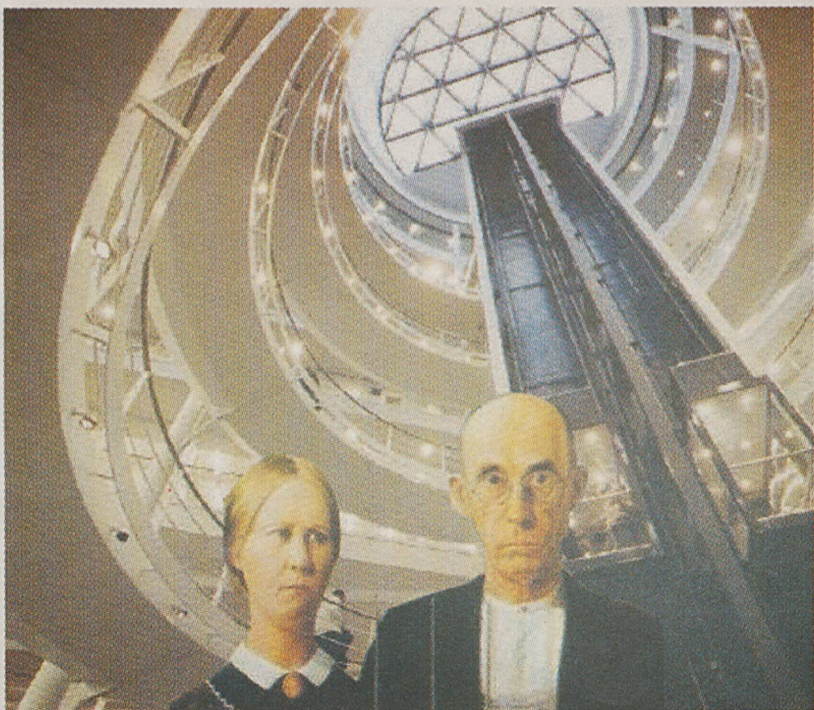


Sabb Elections

One more horde of future politicians going to be running for those hotly contested and well paid positions. You get ready for egos a plenty as this glorified popularity contest takes place in Houghton Street. All of us know that none of these megalomaniacs change much anyway and we all hate fighting the minions that they get to campaign them, so get ready to avoid LSE when these loonies get to have their fun. At least they don't have the bomb.

Sobriety

As we all get into the second term the fear hits us all as we get ready for essays and exams. It feels like a swift kick in the balls it does when you realise that the coveted 2:1 is slipping through your fingers and that you have wasted and money and your dignity, so you lay off the hooch, stub your last joint and get to the library. After the exams are over it's back to normal, and you can continue your life of staggering about and vomiting on your crotch.



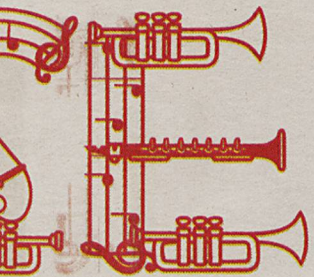
I'M VOTING FOR JUSTIN GRUBBS.. WHO DO YOU THINK?

JUSTIN OFFERS YOU HIS PROTECTION

Howard Davies'

Sabbatical

The controversial break for Davies. The sabbatical is paid work, but I think Howie's going back sipping Mojito's and snorting reefer. For this reason I wholeheartedly support the man's paid holiday of LSE, and all of us would do the same thing if we had the chance.



mandate of every journalistic enterprise we
to be big at LSE in the coming year...

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Freshers

A new year at LSE means a new influx of sorry individuals to our community. Whilst last years new batch are up to speed with work, laundry and not bursting into tears when they miss their mummy, the new batch in September always give us an excuse to laugh at others making all the mistakes we made. We can expect from our neophytes nothing but drunkenness and slovenliness with a side order of vomit and tears.



And of course....

The continued downfall of LSE!
Rankings slide, falling teaching stan-
dards and mass corruption!

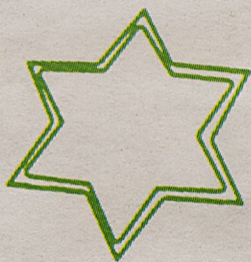


BACK 2 THE FUTURE

The year of 2007 has passed. It was the year that brought us a bald Britney Spears, Kate Moss launching her clothing line into the fashion atmosphere, the I-Phone and the epilepsy inducing neon's of Nu rave. A new year is upon us. All hail MMVII, or two thousand and eight for all of those on less amicable terms with the roman world. Identity shines up its crystal balls and ponders what is going to make this year two thousand and great...

Style:

Star motifs are the symbol for this upcoming season. The shape is to be embraced in a subtle fashion, mainly on jewellery or shoes (check out YSL's white gladiator sandals for an amazing example), not splashed over tees or hoodies, in order to avoid appearing like a misunderstood youth. 2D clothing is last year's news. Clothing this year is standing up for itself, literally. Burberry has concertina looking skirts and jackets. Taking inspiration from our neighbours from across the pond, an Americana approach to dressing should also be adopted, think stars and stripes flag style, or fifties diner candy pink and mint green dresses and cardigans like Betsey Johnson. A spring staple as always, and a nice way to try and convince yourself that summer is actually only 5 months away, floral print everything should also be embraced. Try miss matching prints to avoid looking like your grandmother and smaller more detailed designs to stop a tree hugger faux pas. Accessorize like you're living in the 1970's, adorn an arm full of bangles and wrap your head with silk patterned scarves and you're good to go.



Names:

2 0 0 8 already appears to be the year of the celebrity sprog, thus the year is sure to be filled with yet more playground teasing, life ruining names for the poor kinder of the pregnant stars. Nicole Ritchie, Xtina, J-Lo and lets not forgot Jamie Lynn Spears, are all set to pop them out this year and I am sure there will not be a John or a Sarah to be seen. Twenty five year old Eddie Redmayne is a name to keep an ear out for. The British beauty has already starred alongside Angelina Jolie in *The Good Shepherd* and is set to be Scarlett Johansson's sweet stuff in *The Other Boleyn Girl* coming our way in March.



Look at:

Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham-Carter in barbarous barber shop action in *Sweeney Todd*. Look out for Baz Luhrmann's new epic film about his home lands pioneer past, *Australia*, starring fellow countrywoman Nicole Kidman. *Notes on a Scandal* author Zoë Heller's hugely awaited new book *The Believers* is a must read about a secularized Jewish Family in New York struggling to reconcile religious and political identities which conflict with the woes of modern life. Sold as the 'new' Facebook, Twittler is supposed to be the next phase of social networking. With news feed replacing BBC news as our source of information is it really possible for Facebook to be replaced? We all remember that Facebook was the 'new' Myspace after all...

Places:

China is the place to be this year. Olympic Games times are here again, so look forward to a summer of lazing in front of the television celebrating others athletic achievements with gorging yourself, after all watching exercise is almost as good as doing it yourself. Euro 2008, finally a football event that can be enjoyed without the nationalist undertones of St George flag mania, and woes about Rooney/Beckham/Sven's toe bones fracturing. Jolly on down to see Jude Law as *Hamlet* from May at the Donmar in the West End directed by Kenneth Branagh in order to see his delightful portrayal of the Danish Prince. British Painter Peter Doig is taking over part of the Tate Britain from February; his work is inspired by films and photographs and are worth a gander.

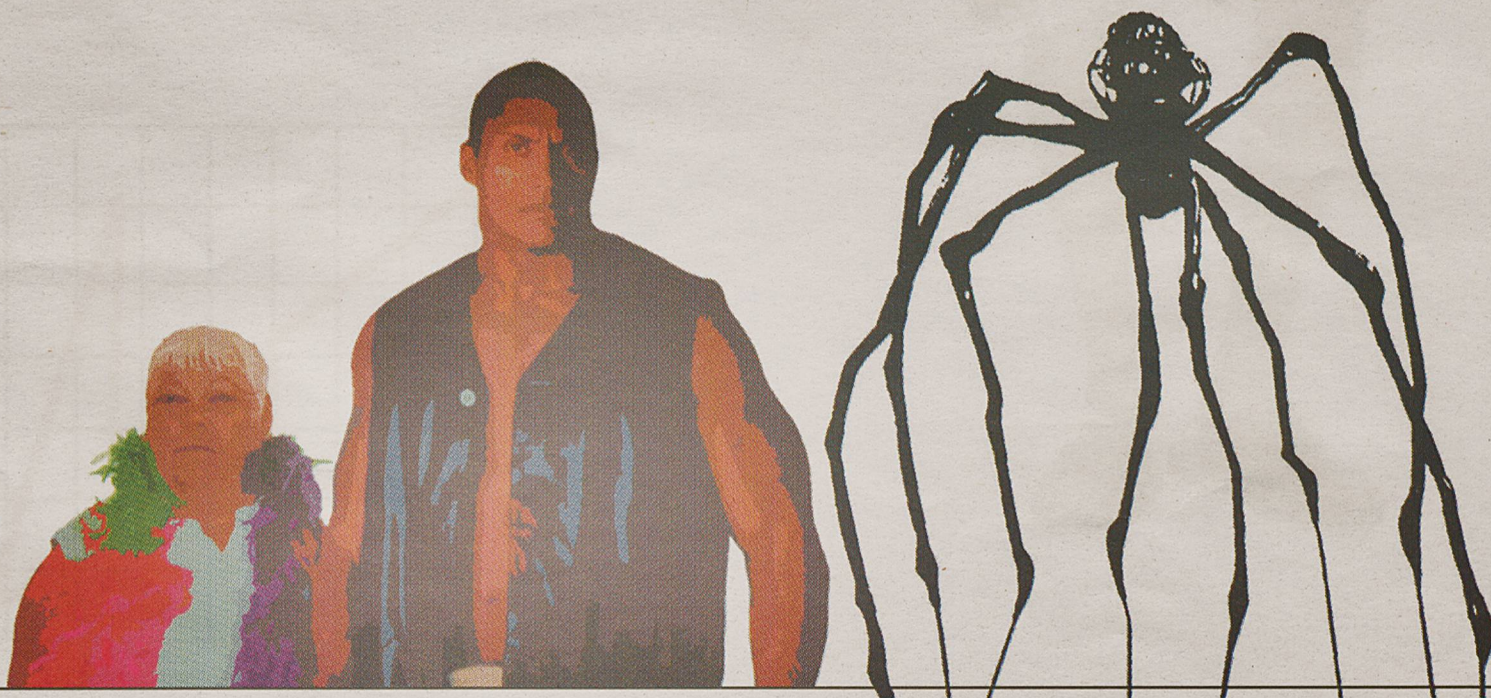
words by holli easiman

be a part of something awful.

Part B position available: interview editor

Arrange and conduct in-depth interviews with celebrities and other notables of note. In the past we have talked to the likes of Robert Redford, Ashton Kutcher, Alan Bennett, etc. You can talk to them too and maybe some other people who aren't them.

Apply yourself to thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk and we will get back to you with details.



IDENTITY

+ CMYK +



One hundred films in one hundred lines

Part B reviews the 100 films you may die before you see - in singular lines

1. Badlands
Young dreamers gone wild
2. Chinatown
Jack, Roman, the black heart of America
3. Nosferatu
Funny little geezer
4. Sans Soleil
You can't talk about sans soleil
5. Grey Gardens
Two weeks in the life of lost souls
6. The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie
A gob in the face of society
7. A Woman Under the Influence
Ragged deranged hot butchery
8. Paris, Texas
You are born alone, you will die alone
9. Taxi Driver
Remember: Travis is not cool
10. La Strada
Fellini's dark masterpiece
11. Seven Samurai
Ultimate adventure in feudal Japan
12. Aguirre: Der Zorn Gottes
When I want the birds to fall from the trees, they will fall from the trees, for I am Aguirre, The Wrath of God
13. A Clockwork Orange
Proper horrorshow my chellovecks
14. Persona
Who are you? Who do you wish you were?
15. Psycho
How is your mother?
16. Mulholland Drive
Haven't figured it out yet
17. Annie Hall
A piquant love story
18. Night And Fog
A survivor returns to Auschwitz, and all the unspeakable horror it holds
19. The Life of Brian
Always look on the bright side of life
20. Dawn of the Dead
They won't stay dead! Racism, nuclear terror, and zombies.
21. Slacker
Linklater defines the 90s
22. Bande a Part
Anna Karina dancing. C'est ca.
23. Three Colours
Red, white, blue
24. Man Bites Dog
Belgium is a fucked up place
25. The Holy Mountain
A bad trip beyond all knowledge
26. The Battleship Potemkin
Soviet cinematic science
27. Even Dwarves Started Small
Herzog's nightmare
28. Stranger Than Paradise
New York city nihilism
29. Kes
A boy and his bird
30. If...
Why a moustache? To hide my sins
31. A Fistful of Dollars
The West reimagined, redefined
32. La Jetee
Short French genius, inspired 12 Monkeys
33. The Lady Vanishes
Hitchcock - creepy bastard
34. Black Narcissus
Five nuns lose their faith in the Himalayas
35. Gimme Shelter
Altamont, the Stones, a greek tragedy
36. Blow Up
Three star decadence
37. This is Spinal Tap
Goes all the way to eleven
38. Point Blank
Lee Marvin's assault on bureaucracy
39. The Battle of Algiers
Insurrection, revolution, reaction
40. The General
Buster Keaton's comedy masterpiece
41. Solaris
Power, desire, nature - in space!
42. Une femme est une femme
Sartre never looked this good
43. Straw Dogs
Peckinpah's masculine fantasy
44. The Idiots
Singularly brilliant, Danish dogme classic
45. All About My Mother
Mother/Actress/Saint/Sinner
46. The Third Man
The ruin of morality in the ruins of Vienna
47. Naked Lunch
A mindfuck
48. Black Orpheus
The myth of Orpheus in the favelas of Rio, an explosion of life and colour
49. Dr Strangelove
Gentlemen, you can't fight in here, this is the war room!
50. Belle Du Jour
Prostitution fantasy
51. Yojimbo
A crafty ronin cuts motherfuckers down
52. Harold and Maude
A very very special love story
53. Tokyo Story
Japan, generations, disintegration
54. Un Chien Andalou
Slicing up eyeballs I want you to know
55. Repo Man
Have you ever had a frontal lobotomy?
56. Faces
Cassavetes - genius, misogynist, alcoholic
57. F For Fake
Forget Citizen Kane, this is Welles' masterpiece
58. Metropolis
You'll never look at the tube in the same way
59. The Producers
Mel Brooks tackles the hilarious issue of Nazism
60. Cache
Paranoia, responsibility, uncertainty.
61. Dead Man
The bad West, the dead west.
62. The Devils
Nun-fucking riot
63. Blue Velvet
Don't you fucking look at me!
64. Manhattan
When a city steals the show
65. Betty Blue
A mauve plastic heart
66. Do The Right Thing
A new generation retouches America
67. The Wicker Man
There will be no traces
68. Beau Travail
The placidity of war
69. Delicatessen
Tastes like human
70. Don't Look Now
Beautiful, terrifying, a dead daughter or a dwarf
71. Instrument
Jem Cohen's floating, breathing music film
72. The Seventh Seal
Bergman's great leveller
73. The Toxic Crusader
Lloyd Kaufman's troma triumph
74. Bonnie and Clyde
Kill yr idols, all yr idols
75. Days of Heaven
Luscious meditative cinema for lovers
76. Daisies
Teen, terrific, dadaist Czech new wave genius
77. Downtown 81
New York at its ugliest and greatest, fucker
78. Goodbye Lenin
Nostalgia for the East German nightmare
79. The 400 Blows
Watch this, and Breathless, and you will understand the French New Wave
80. Chungking Express
Hong Kong new wave pop magic
81. Infernal Affairs
Scorcese's blueprint for the Departed
82. Ghost in the Shell
The net is vast and infinite in AD 2029
83. Easy Rider
Death of the dream, man.
84. Faster Pussycat, Kill, Kill
Trash- pure, glorious trash
85. Before Sunrise
A treacly fuck-storm
86. Walkabout
A freaky mind-fuck-storm
87. Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner
England - in all its grey, grim isolation
88. Brazil
The world is fucked, enjoy the ride
89. Drugstore Cowboy
Because what else is there to do?
90. Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure
Totally excellent film
91. Festen
The psychosexual meltdown of an extended family
92. Freaks
Freaks love freaks
93. The Big Lebowski
The funniest film, possibly ever
94. Buffalo 66
Freak love, the only love that loves to love
95. The Unbelievable Truth
We're too bored to watch tv, we're too old to make believe.
96. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Jim Carrey forgets himself at last
97. M
Not all paedos are bad guys
98. West Side Story
Pretty, witty and gay
99. Irreversible
Perfect for Valentines
100. Stop Making Sense
The fiction of a live performance laid bare

FILM

Violent Videogames and You

weichaowang kills innocent civilians on the street (and in the game)

A well publicised event on the news last year was the banning of *Manhunt 2*, a multiformat videogame by Rockstar. The game revolves around an inmate named Daniel Lamb who has another personality implanted into him by a group of scientists working on "The Project". The other personality is Leo Kasper, a psychotic killer, who tries to take over Daniel's body. The point of the game to regain Daniel's memories and take revenge on the people who have wronged him (now where have I heard that before?) but you do this not through just killing them, oh no. *Manhunt 2* let's you use various methods of execution on innocents as well as on enemies, which includes shooting, stabbing and clubbing to death with a hard blunt object, while allowing you to use your environment to create executions, such as shoving someone face first into a live fuse box. Then after you completed a level, the game gives you points on how violent and gruesome your kills were and then provides bonus material based upon it. I think you can guess why this was banned now.

Violent games, like *Manhunt 2*, have been published by various game developing companies such as Rockstar, the group behind *Grand Theft Auto*, who argue that the games that they make are an outlet for people's anger and not designed to teach people how to kill in real life. But counter-arguments have been that the spat of school shootings around the world was motivated by violent computer games, where the perpetrator would use computer games as a way to train themselves on how to kill (or so Jack Thompson, an infamous anti-videogame lawyer, claims, but more on him later).

A recent research paper have shown that computer

games can be used as teaching tools since the way that games are structured is extremely similar to how a person would learn how to do something. Although the research was not conducted to prove that violent games lead to the Virginia Tech shootings but it did find that the samples (children and teenagers) exhibited greater aggression in those who played violent computer games than those who did not. If you want to read more, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/2m78n5>

Now, whether you believe that study or not, it's not going to change the fact that computer games, in all its glory and wonderment, are now part of our society. I bet that at least some time in your life, you have tried your hand at a computer game in one form or another. Banning the violent ones because of a few nut-cases running around who have nothing better to do with their time is insane. It's like saying that the BBFC banning car racing games because people will then tend to drive at higher speeds, it just doesn't make sense. I guess now is a good time to bring up Jack Thompson. He is a fundamentalist Christian lawyer in America who has been trying, unsuccessfully, to sue video game developers, distributors (especially Sony) because they did not take responsibility when selling violent games to young people, who would then go on to commit crimes. These children were reportedly using the violent video games like *Grand Theft Auto* to 'train', and thus the videogames themselves should bare responsibility for it. His argument, to be brutally honest, is weak and misguided. Most supermarkets, like Wal-Mart, are responsible for what they sell to young people while developers have made all efforts to show that their games are not for children and why the hell does suing Sony going to prevent children from getting violent games? After all, videogames have

the same laws and guidance ratings that films do. So how do the kids get their hands on it? I'd say it's the parents. The only time that children will get their hands on something like *Grand Theft Auto* or *Manhunt* is when their parents or someone of above the age limit buys it for them. Sure, the stores could have been a bit more cautious about selling the games but how are they supposed to know that the person who's buying the game isn't going to give it to their 13 year-old emo child? We blame bad parenting for absences from schools, so why can't we use that here?

Violent games is a genre of gaming where people can have fun hurting others without the fear of actually hurting someone real, and it's been around since the beginning of gaming history. *Duck Hunt* simulates shooting ducks without actually killing them while *Tetris* lets you mutilate innocent blocks by lining them up horizontally. So what would happen if we did get rid of violent games? Not only is it impossible to set a distinguishable barrier on what games are 'violent', and if a precedent is set, then this could lead to problems in development and limiting the creativity of developers. Therefore, censorship of violent videogames are probably not going to happen unless the British government decides to cut its gaming industry a new belly button.

People will always be violent and are very creative. no matter whether you ban violent computer games or ban guns, they'll find a way to hurt others, but having computer games to simulate it, you'll probably not going to actually hunt them down. So the next time you're thinking about punching someone in the face because they're being a bitch, try a boxing game instead.

Tech and Gaming is always looking for writers! Email your interest and/or submissions to thebeaver.parr@lse.ac.uk

OVERLAND OVERLORD

willjoce fears water

The debate between eco-warriors and budget airlines has grown ever more dirty and desperate over the past year. On the one side we are told that cheap air travel is going to kill us all, which puts a negative spin on being able to get to Spain for tuppence. On the other hand the airlines throw back statistics showing that air travel is a minor polluter compared to cars or industry and that they are doing their best to limit their emissions through the use of fuel efficient planes. The choice seems to be either holiday in Bognor Regis from now on or face the consequences of global climate catastrophe. This is ridiculous though, because both sides are overlooking the fact that there are more ways than simply flying to get around the world.

Overland travel does require a different approach to travelling than hurtling through the sky at 700 miles an hour and 30,000 feet. It takes longer and can therefore cost more. But the benefits more than outweigh this.

It is obviously better for the environment to go overland, even more so if you adopt an eco-friendly approach to the various countries you pass through. But going overland does not just bring benefit that are abstract and totally removed from you and your experience. The free spirited adventure of going overland is infinitely preferable to the soul crushing experience offered by international air travel these days. Rather than spend a considerable amount of money traipsing through dreary departure lounges, eating miserable airline food and arriving jet-lagged and depressed you can instead encounter a multitude of countries, soak up various cultures and arrive at your destination fresh and healthy.

Overland travel is considered the growth area of travel business at the moment, partly because of the rise of environmental issues. The best example of this is the Oz Bus, which over the summer of 2007 started offering regular services from London to Sydney, taking in 20 countries and taking 13 weeks. Passing through Iran and Pakistan this is certainly a different option for most of the Australia bound Gap Year tourists, although whether their parents will fund such a 'dangerous' adventure is debatable. A major benefit of companies such as Oz Bus is that they provide an organised group for people who want to head

off the beaten track but are worried about doing so alone. They therefore enable many more people than would have been possible before to broaden their horizons in a safe environment.

The whole point of travelling overland is that you can choose whatever route you want, although there are some classics that are worth a mention. The daddy of them all is the Trans-Siberian Railway, the 7,000 mile network of railways that runs from St Petersburg or Moscow across Russia and onward into Mongolia and China. This is the northern route alternative for those wishing to travel to South-East Asia or Australasia but avoid Iran and Pakistan, which is the southern route taken by the Oz Bus. The Trans-Siberian has a few disadvantages, mainly the bureaucratic difficulties of getting Russian visas and the less than appealing nature of a route that involves sitting for days on end on a train.

At the other end of the spectrum, although sticking with the train theme, is the Orient Express. Running across Europe from London to Istanbul this symbol of luxurious elegance aims to recreate the golden age of train travel in the 1930's and offers one of the most opulent travel experiences on earth. The prices, however, represent this aim and so if you intend to backpack around Europe next summer it would probably be wise to avoid booking a ticket on the Orient Express.

There are, of course, an almost infinite number of overland routes that travellers could take around the world, however, Britain being an island this limit's the options of those of us living here. Any route that involves flying long distances, for example across the Atlantic, cannot really be considered to be overland, no matter how far you travel after you disembark from the aircraft. Unless trans-Atlantic ocean crossings once again become a realistic possibility our options are 'limited' to Africa, Europe, Asia and Australasia.

Any discussion in the UK of overland travel is hampered by the disgusting fact that due to the corporate greed of Eurostar it is considerably cheaper to fly to the continent than it is to go by train. The current minimum ticket price from London to Paris is £29.99, which compares favourably with low-cost airfares, but because they release so few of these tickets to keep more space for the higher paying customers you have to book several months in advance to get one. Most overland trips from the UK, therefore, involve at least one flight. Despite this, the combination of old fashioned adventure and modern environmentalism mean that overland travel should always be considered an option, even if you have to stretch the definition a little bit.



LET'S GO TECHNO

neelsagar chronicles technology's role in music production through the ages

When Cher decided to make a comeback in 1998 with 'Believe', most people weren't that excited (let's face it - she is one scary looking lady). But thanks to some mucking about with some settings on Auto-Tune, (an audio processor that corrects pitch errors) along with a vocoder, a new vocal effect was born. That characteristic 'voice tearing' effect in the chorus was then used anywhere and everywhere. Yep, effects and technology in music are here to stay - but where did it all begin? Let me take you on a journey...

For hundreds of years, music followed the same formula, using tried and tested instruments and methods. But like its impact on all other walks of life, electricity changed music forever - and in three main ways.

Being able to finally record music onto a medium created the huge machine that is the recording industry. No longer did you have to pop down to your local whatsit - first the radio and then the 1920s records boom meant that you could listen to music in your own home (garage, love shack, whatever). The fat cats got rich and people started dancing in their living rooms. Everyone was happy.

As technology improved, so did the cost and quality of recordings. The advent of stereophonic (2-channel) audio in the late 50s allowed listeners to experience a whole new standard of music. You could now have different instruments coming at you from different directions, just as you would experience when listening to live music with



your 2 ears. It gave rise to some effects (such as panning) which are now taken for granted, and stereo is still the de-facto standard for albums to this very day. The other huge breakthrough in recording terms was digitalisation. The concept has been there since 1937, when British scientist Alec Reeves patented 'Pulse-code modulation', but it wasn't until the CD in the 80s that it became widely used. Analogue sound waves captured every vibration; including background noise and distortion that you didn't want to hear. By encoding each sound in binary form (the sound was either there or it wasn't), you could remove the 'grey areas' so to speak, and were left with only the sounds that you wanted. No longer would your beloved Barry Manilow cassette tape sound like Barry White after playing it to death (don't deny it, I'm onto you).

Electricity paved the way for radical new instruments with sounds people had never heard before. It is believed that Russian Professor Leon Theremin created the first ever electric instrument in 1919 (named after himself) - a box with antennae that create sounds depending on how you move your hands around them. It creates that delightful sci-fi wooshy sound that we have all come to know and love, and which inspired a whole generation of synthesizers later on (most notably the legendary Moog synth). As well as this, due to microphone technology and amplification, most existing instruments could be given an electric makeover. Sound vibrations were picked up using electromagnetic coils, processed and output via loudspeakers. This brings us on to the third major change - signal processing.

Any audio signal can be manipulated in weird and wonderful ways before you output it. It would take an encyclopedia to list every effect, but I'll go through the

most important ones. Reverb and delay both work by duplicating the input and playing a copy of it after the original. Reverb results in sustain and creates a richer overall sound, like inside a concert hall. Delay creates an echo, where the timing and decay can be adjusted (à la The Edge from U2). Filters (such as the famed guitar 'wah-wah') shape the equalisation of sound - for example to remove all bass and middle, leaving only the high frequency portion; whereas compression removes extremes, creating a cleaner and crisper sound. More ironically, sound distortion was a plague on early recordings when you turned the volume up too much, but when guitarists discovered that distorting a guitar created such a striking effect, you have a piece of technology that almost single-handedly created the genre of rock.

Music has changed more in the last 100 years than possibly in the 10,000 before that, and it's all down to the role that technology has played in our lives since industrialisation. It has opened the door to sounds that we would never have imagined before and improved quality, changing our ability to listen to and create music for the better.

There's always a trade-off though. The average talentless sweaty teenager in 1700 never had the chance to poison the world with his/her music. Loop a drum track, 2 chords and auto-tune said teenager's voice today and you might create next week's number one. C'est la vie.



CAN'T STOP THE DROP

by abaosunsade

Rejoice ye lovers of the beat for nu rave is dead. Your eyes will no longer be blinded by neon brights and large black letters printed on white when you venture to the discotheques, as the blaring and brash revival predictably exits to a bass heavy requiem. What began with such promise for the real ravers out there was soon consumed by opportunistic high street shops and fifteen year olds who believe that the Klaxons invented MDMA and messy marathon dance sessions. What remains to fill this void you ask? Lucky for us, a bountiful variety of beats await our choosing.

Dubstep looks set to cement itself into the mainstream, with dub legends Benga and Coki's "Night" infiltrating DJ sets of every genre from techno to grime. If you're in need of some organ-rumbling, mind-blowing basslines then "Forward" Friday's at Plastic People is one of your best bets, with a soundsystem built by a specialist DJ to produce the perfect aural experience. Download some Headhunter and Skream now, as you will certainly be hearing more of them in the year to come, and check out Digital Mistikz while you're at it, the dynamic duo who host the ultimate dub night "DMZ" at Brixton's Mass.

Grime will continue to blow it up in the Big Smoke in 2008. If you are looking for a decent rave, this is the scene you need to be in.

Discard your glowsticks, get your fingers in gunshot position, lick your lips and be prepared to "boooooo" the night away. Like all music, it is best enjoyed live, as a dozen MCs grapple for the mic for as long as the DJ can keep the discs spinning. Your ears are in for a lyrical treat, whilst you get your head and booty bopping. Keep an eye out for new albums from Durrty Goodz, Trim and JME as well as more tracks from the promising new MC Young.Dot aka Y.Dot. If all that is "urban" is what you dig, be sure to check out "Dirty Canvas" club nights which change venue all over London, and definitely get yourself down to the Rhythm Factory in Old Street - check their website for listings.



The end of 2007 saw T2's 'Heartbroken' blazing through the charts. Storming into the London scene from up North, he claims to be the inventor of the new genre "bassline house", which sounds suspiciously like garage. If you're already sick of the track's "Art school, a-a-art school" refrain have no fear, 2008 will see the release of T2's album, giving us more to enjoy than this well-worn track. Speaking of garage, it would seem that this somewhat retired genre still holds a place in many hearts. While the likes of Oxide and Neutrino and Artful Dodger faded from pop culture along with the Y2K bug scare, their 'choons still fill up dancefloors. Will 2008 be the year that sees garage return full force? Watch this space.

Minimal tech is another buzzword on the lips of music lovers, and is looking set to blare out of club speakers in the year ahead. All you dance-mad movers should not let the label deter you from the music. It may be minimal by name but in terms of danceability it is maximum by nature. 'Get Physical Vol.2' is a great starter guide to the glorious world of this genre. Featuring songs which lulling you into a rhythmically comfy catch zone with slow beginnings, they soon build to a booty-shaking, finger-pointing, sensually satisfying drop. (It also features great mixes by M.A.N.D.Y which you'll no doubt recognise if you've been to any popular techno/electro nights in the last year) "Superfreq" Sunday at The End is the go-to place if this tickles your fancy. Look out for new releases from the Get Physical record label, home of breakthrough DJ Samim, in the coming year.

HOT PICKS FOR 2008

Los Campesinos

by rahimrahemtulla

Having formed at Cardiff uni in 2006, Los Campesinos (which translates, from the Spanish, to the farmers) have gone from strength to strength. Recently signed to Witchita records (home of Bloc Party) and having just completed their first album, they look set to be big in the coming year. The record, due out next month, showcases LC's quirky, infectious brand of indie-pop which will have your feet-tapping and head-nodding. The seven-piece band, which includes the usual line-up of guitars, drums and bass, but also makes room for keyboards and a violinist, has a unique sound, unlike that of the many generic indie/rave bands currently doing the rounds. A full UK and European tour is due to commence shortly and take them through to the Spring, so be sure to catch them at the London showing.

The Rocks

by anuppatel

Re-released single Disco Dancer is out now and being play across the airwaves so check it out. 2008 starts with an intensive tour around the UK focusing on The Rocks have been around for a good few years now working the London underground scene. Hailing from New Cross in the dirty South their sound of raw 70's style punk has gone unnoticed by the masses of the UK. Signed to Weekender Records and with an album already under their belt and live shows alongside the likes of Razorlight, The Rakes and The Libertines it's no surprise that to most people they are the, 'How the fuck are they not famous yet band!'

2008 promises to be a big year for the band, particularly outside the UK, so you overseas students pay attention. A brand new album is down for release with Weekender Germany and should be out in April/May and the band planning a tour of the area too. Japan has also shown a great interest in these guys with the Rocks already having had an album release there on the Vinyl Junkie Label. Finally the US of A dawns, having ended 2007 with a host of shows in New York and a prestigious gig at Club NME in the Big Apple. 2008 starts where they left off with their music being used on the MTV show 'The Hill's' and Petrol Records set to announce a digital release of their UK single 'Heartbreak City'. The picture is rosy for The Rocks away from these shores, however the UK may still benefit from a free CD release so just watch this space.



Parka

by anuppatel

London's newest adopted band are Parka, signed to Jeepster and having made the long trip down from their home in Glasgow, Parka are set to take 2008 by storm. Playing their brand of disco punk or 'cowbell rock' as they like to call it, will make you want to dance till your eyeballs fall out. Their influences range across the music spectrum; Joy Division, Blur and Jurassic 5 to name a few and their sound is refreshing and an alternative to the garbage that is doing the rounds at the moment. In terms of their live show, they've got upcoming shows at some of London's finest venues before moving up to their home town of Glasgow for some intimate homecoming shows. An album is down for release in March/April with more touring to follow and of course a band of this calibre will be causing a stir at the UK festival scene in the summer. If you really can't wait to see check them out tomorrow night (9th) at the Soho Revue Bar. The boys have some tunes on their Myspace and their single is also available for download and pre order.

MUSIC

B.S.I LOVE YOU

CHICK FLICK SHIT - PART I

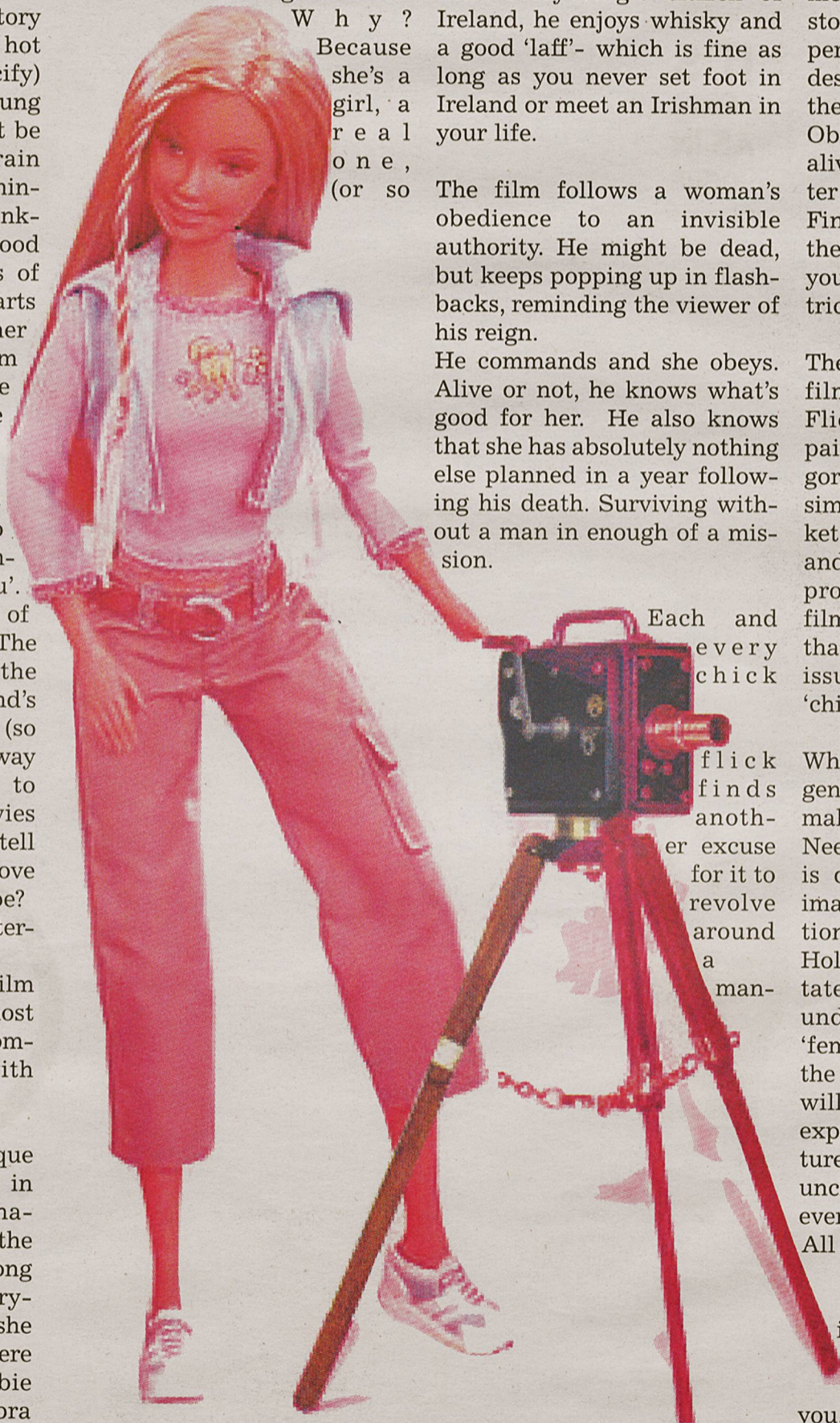
alicepfeiffer flips the bird to the chick flick

Another chick flick?! For those of you who survived the saccharine attacks of Bridget Jones, The Holiday, a Cinderella Story and other tortures, be warned- P.S. I love you is a juicy one. The story goes as follows: A (young, hot and rich- needless to specify) woman's husband (also young and hot, what fun would it be otherwise?) dies of a brain tumor within the first 10 minutes of the film (which, thankfully, hasn't affected his good looks). After three months of airbrushed grieving, she starts to receive letters from her dead husband. Mail from above? No, the clever corpse had planned the whole thing while in hospital. For the following 10 months, she receives letters instructing her what to do to help her through her pain- all signed 'PS, I love you'. Dead? Yes, but oh-so-full of emotions - and commands. The entire film focuses on the widow following her husband's instructions: go Karaoke (so she can celine-dion her way out of depression), go to Ireland, watch Betty Davies movies blablabla, do as I tell you, but it's ok because I love you. How gullible can one be? Love from the grave? Or after-life dictatorship? Yes, you've guessed it, this film is high up on the list of most painful films of all times, competing the first place with Ghost and The Notebook.

Both characters are grotesque caricatures that only exist in Hollywood's naïve imagination: Hillary Swank plays the leading role. She's gone a long way since Boys Don't Cry- she's a 'real' girl now and she wants everyone to know. There she is, a born-again Barbie doll, running around in a bra throughout most of the film (all cleavaged and sixpacked- because she's worth it). She cries without losing her pout,

flirts with autistic Irish bartenders -as we all do- (no I'm not making this up, this makes it almost worth seeing the film), and sings off-key with her girlfriends.

Why? Because she's a girl, a real one, (or so



Butler. He is Irish, 'Oirish' (a Hollywood manufactured identity, as convincing as Angelina Jolie's Russian impersonation in 'Alexander'). Like every single citizen of Ireland, he enjoys whisky and a good 'laff'- which is fine as long as you never set foot in Ireland or meet an Irishman in your life.

The film follows a woman's obedience to an invisible authority. He might be dead, but keeps popping up in flashbacks, reminding the viewer of his reign. He commands and she obeys. Alive or not, he knows what's good for her. He also knows that she has absolutely nothing else planned in a year following his death. Surviving without a man in enough of a mission.

Each and every chick

flick finds another excuse for it to revolve around a man-

What exactly is this telling young influencable minds watching this? Thou shalt be a girl- chicks shall be chicks. Even in grief, femininity means maintaining a flat stomach, straightened hair and perfect makeup (that stays on despite hours of crying, aah the magic of Hollywood.)

Obey thy boyfriend, dead, alive, Irish, he knows you better than yourself. Finally, never underestimate the power of Betty Davies. If you're a 'real' girl, that'll do the trick.

The question is why are such films still around? 'Chick Flick'- the term itself is painful- why does such a category still exist? The answer is simple: because there is a market for it. Yes, millions of girls and women around our mass-produced world enjoy such films. What's even scarier is that all these women have no issue being referred to as 'chicks'.

What is disguised as indulgence is in fact a spectacle of male-induced gender tyranny. Needless to explain what this is doing to young girls' self-image - or to their expectations of adult relationships. Hollywood manufactures, dictates, imposes a Barbie-doll understanding of 'romance', 'femininity', 'love'. What are the chances that any partner will ever live up to the plastic expectations set by pop culture? How is an uninformed, unchickflicked-educated other ever to cope?

All these aspects of life are owned and commoditized, morphed into a commercial culture, one that you must consume before it consumes you.

we're told)

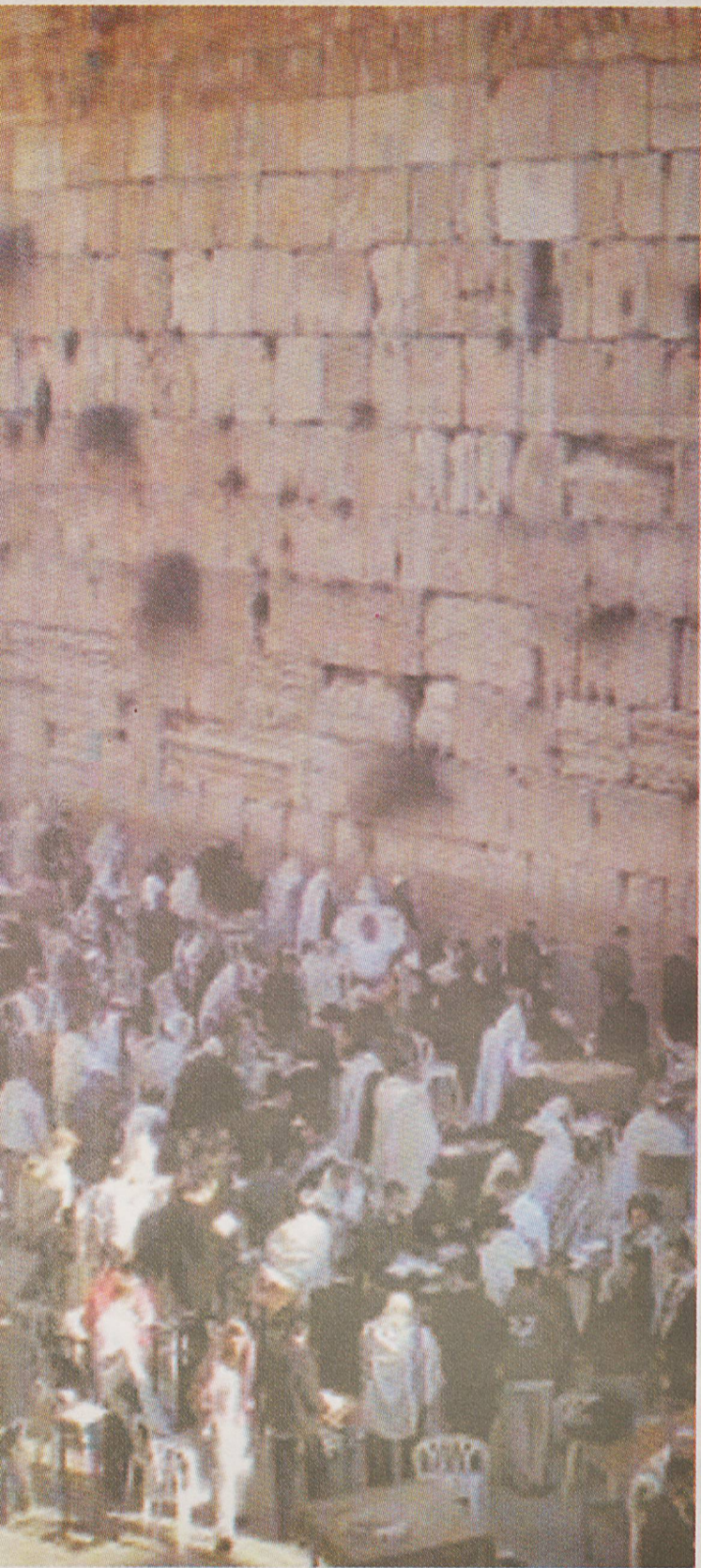
He, the divine authority/dead husband is played by Gerard

and creates a strict female gaze that one must accept to follow the film.

So...New Year resolution for 2008? Step away from the screen!

SEX & GENDER





Nasrallah did not substantiate this doubtful claim, but it was telling to hear Nasrallah, whom BICOM had sold to us as a Palestinian moderate, repeating it so freely.

The same is true of his belief that the West Bank barrier is "in the long term a burden" to Israel's security. 187 bombings stopped since its construction tell a different story. In any case, for all his pessimism, Nasrallah is personally already looking to the shape of Palestinian politics after independence is granted at the conclusion of the Annapolis timetable in 2008. After this turning point is reached, the PA will still have to pick its way around about five hundred Israeli checkpoints that will still be left in the West Bank. It will also need to somehow ward off Hamas and contain it in its Gaza stronghold, which was taken out of Fatah's hands in a violent coup in 2007. (Nasrallah was certain that the imprisoned political leadership in the West Bank is communicating with the military wing in Gaza: again, I can't substantiate this) Finally, negotiations will have to continue on obtaining further trappings of statehood. These include the so-called "right of return" for Palestinians displaced by the 1948

war and now scattered across the Arab world to reclaim their homes. Since many of these are now deep in Israeli territory, the meaning of the right is going to have to be reinterpreted in some way. For his part, Nasrallah plans compensation in kind, and a viable democratic state in Palestine as the logical locus of return. It would appear that although Nasrallah is compromise-minded, he does not trust the Israelis to think in similar terms, nor their American allies. He also insisted, for instance, that George Bush prevented Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert from negotiating with Hamas after the coup, as it would reflect badly on his administration's refusal to talk to Iraq's Sunni insurgents. Finally, Nasrallah gloomily predicted an Israeli invasion of Gaza early in 2008. Several other speakers on our trip forecast this as well, almost to the point of making it a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Indeed, there had been times when our Israeli sources had also suddenly turned prickly on trusting the Palestinians. In defending stringent West Bank border controls, for example, the Foreign Ministry spokesman was quick to point out horror stories of Palestinians hiding bombs in

ambulances or attaching them to pregnant women. Furthermore, we were due to visit two areas that could easily derail the Annapolis Conference's already low expectations: Israel's unresolved wars in Lebanon and Gaza.

The Lebanese border

We were taken to the Lebanese border by helicopter, in the company of Israeli Defence Force spokesmen. The journey - from Tel Aviv - took half an hour, during which we were well able to see the security barrier with the West Bank, stretching along the length of Israel before skirting off towards the east. Landing in the mountains close to Lebanon, we walked up in a descending mist to an Israeli patrol overlooking the border itself - a white zigzag two km distant, locked down with watchtowers and the lights of military vehicles. It was cold, dark, threatening and wet, though the border's atmosphere of military tension was soon surreally punctuated by a barbecue party started by the soldiers among the patrol's military vehicles. Its wafting smoke rendered the potted history our spokesmen gave us on Israel's relationship with Lebanon somewhat absurd. This was just as well, because the history lesson was itself blinkered to an uncomfortable extent. Lebanon had become a base for the PLO in the Seventies, from which it could easily launch cross-border attacks. Our military sources were right that its retreat to Tunisia - a major blow for its then leader, the late Yasser Arafat - was assured by the IDF's 1982 Operation "Peace for the Galilee" across the border. However, the spokesmen neglected to mention an earlier, unsuccessful attempt to eradicate the PLO's presence in Lebanon, Operation "Litani" in 1978. This created UNIFIL, the "interim" United Nations peacekeeping force still in Lebanon. Moreover, Operation "Peace for the Galilee" was no repeat of the 1978 campaign. It began with Israel destroying the Syrian air force and engaging Syrian forces on the ground, a gamble that could easily have launched an international war. The PLO in fact left Lebanon under the auspices of a Multinational Force sent to contain the instability Israel had unleashed. This force was in its turn attacked and made to withdraw from the main political actor to benefit from the PLO's disintegration, Hezbollah. For the first time, this Shia group was able to take up what had been the primarily Sunni cause of Palestine for itself. The rest, as they say, is history.

The IDF spokesmen ended by pointing out just below the horizon the ravine in which a patrol had been ambushed within Israel by Hezbollah in 2006, taking the two soldiers who survived as hostages. This was the immediate spark for that summer's conflict, although the truth behind the war's escalation is more complex than that. According to the military source briefing us, Hezbollah rockets started hitting civilian targets on the same day of the kidnap: some were ready-aimed at hospitals in northern Israeli cities. Others could reach Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, but were destroyed on their launchpads by Israeli Air Force warplanes on that first night of the war. For its part, Israel had already decided to "change the rules of the game" after a spate of earlier kidnap attempts. Naturally, it does not

seem Hezbollah played by the new rules either, and it is not obvious Israel won the game this time.

The other student reporters with me wanted to know more about the issues that had drawn intense international disapprobation of Israel's campaign at that time, including the IAF's bombing of a UN observer position during the war and its use of cluster bombs in civilian areas. Of course these are all questions that have to be asked; on the other hand, the IDF spokesmen were well-prepared for them, and we weren't going to get anything new out of our sources. After their potted history of the conflict, I was more interested in whether Israel had actually won the 2006 war. They did not give a straight answer.

After waffling about how UNIFIL had been strengthened as a result of the war - hardly a top-drawer strategic goal in Israel's decision to go on the offensive - the spokesmen did make the valid point that, having previously had the "capabilities of a real army," the old Hezbollah was indeed blown away in the summer of 2006. Its activities on the border continue, but more clandestinely and in less force than before. Hassan Nasrallah did not win his war - though he might not have lost it, either. On the other hand, in telling us that 200 to 300 missiles continued to fall on Israel at the war's end, and that to this day the Israeli-Lebanese border has the highest density of rockets in the world, our military sources implicitly admitted that Israel had failed to achieve the majority of its war aims, and that the myth of Israeli military invincibility had been sorely tested.

Sderot

In that context, the small town of Sderot on the Gaza border is an interesting counterpoint. Constant rocket attacks from Palestinian militants are a part of daily life for Sderot's residents. Around seven thousand metre-long "Qassam" rockets have struck the town in seven years. Since Sderot lies only 850 metres from the nearest town in Gaza, Beit Hanoun, its residents have about fifteen seconds to run for cover once the alarm sounds. The system spots rocket launches from Beit Hanoun's water towers and apartment buildings through a combination of heat-tracking lasers and airborne surveillance drones stationed around the border. It sometimes malfunctions during winter or on foggy mornings: the latest mortality in Sderot resulted from a rocket attack that came without warning. The morning of our visit was a particularly bad one, with three rockets landing during our time there and twelve

that morning overall. The day before had seen nineteen rockets. Provision of proper bomb shelters is few and far between. Bus stops are fortified. Most residents run indoors, but Qassams are more than capable of punching through houses, many of which in Sderot were built before the Knesset introduced legislation for every new building to have a reinforced "safe room." A third of Sderot's children display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder; many citizens are on anti-depressants as they daily face what one woman called "Russian roulette." Most people have stayed on in the town either through a vestigial Zionism, or because they can no longer sell their homes. Sderot, in short, is a weird kind of warzone.

It is even weirder because the Israeli government has markedly refrained from entering Gaza with enough military force to remove the threat to Sderot. This is despite the rockets fired from Gaza having become stronger and stronger over the years. The latest range of Qassams have a range of up to 10 kilometres. A month before our visit, the first Katyushas appeared, the same missiles used by Hezbollah to strike deep into northern Israel during last summer's war. Last Friday, Katyushas from Gaza landed in fields near Ashkelon, a city well into Israeli territory.

Hamas has been the organisation directing most of this rocket fire from Gaza, since its June 2007 coup removed Fatah from the area and gave Hamas control of the vast munitions stocks it left behind. The spend Qassam rockets collected at Sderot's police station are even colour coded according to the militant group that manufactured them - green or red for Hamas, black for Islamic Jihad. Although it is questionable whether the Hamas leadership really has enough central control to staunch or release the flow of rocket attacks as it sees fit, Hamas' media management skills are such that it often times rocket launches with the 8 o'clock evening news in Israel. Hamas' sole comment on the matter to us was the message painted onto the Qassam tailfins: al-Quds, 'the city' - Jerusalem.

Sneh had crowed that Hamas "swallowed something they can't digest" by taking over Gaza, which territory is "totally dependent" on Israel. "In order to be in the game" Hamas will now have to recognise Israel. Sneh did not enlarge on what the "game" is, or why Hamas should care about playing it.

Looking over the Gaza border from a kibbutz vantage point, its security fence and Beit Hanoun in the distance, it did not seem to me that Hamas particularly cares about creating a viable fiefdom in Gaza, so long

as Israeli pressure is kept at boiling point. I could also see Gush Katif on the horizon, an Israeli settlement evacuated by the IDF in a controversial operation in 2005. At this point, the Gaza coup seemed like not so much as a temporary hitch in the peace process as a slow motion shooting war waiting to speed up again.

In that case, can we expect Annapolis to unravel in 2008, given the likelihood Israeli invasion of Gaza? Perhaps. BICOM were relentlessly insistent that 85 to 90 per cent of Palestinians want a two-state solution. That is the problem though, surely: in the politics of war termination, losing 15 per cent of your population - particularly if they are the ones with access to weapons - is not good news, as together they are more than enough to spoil any putative settlement. Still, though I left Israel disabused of the notion that Shababs (Iranian long-range missiles) mattered more now than Qassams to Israeli security, I still found grounds for optimism. Take Jerusalem, the capital desired by both sides. Despite its appearance on the Qassam tailfins, Jerusalem is probably not going to be a major sticking point in the peace settlement. Ephraim Sneh - in so far as he, a self-styled pragmatic dove, can speak for Israel - mostly emits bromides about having an "inter-religious authority" regulate the Old City, apart from a glint of steel in the "one red line" of ultimate Israeli sovereignty over the holy sites themselves. That should be enough for the Rami Nasrallahs of the PA to work with. Both sides are in a fortuitous mood to compromise. Olmert's government may not be here by this time next year, as the Winograd report into the Lebanese military debacle may give his Labour partners the momentum they need to call an early election. In order to ward this off, Olmert has an incentive to carry on with the peace plan this year. Abbas, assailed by Hamas, needs the Israelis onside.

For all that, they will almost certainly have to weather a Gaza storm. During my last day in Israel, the Knesset voted against another military incursion into Gaza, to the frustration of the IDF's Chief of Staff. The first meeting of the Israel government and the Palestinian Authority under the Annapolis schedule ended in mutual recriminations, although both sides agreed to meet again. In the evening, Eli Moyal, Sderot's mayor, resigned in protest at the government's failure to halt the Qassam attacks on his town. The Defence Minister later persuaded him to remain in his post. And so the beat goes on.



From Hamas, with love



The Old Man's Back Again

But for how much longer?

Alex Teytelboym sifts through the Kremlin's succession politics

Kremlinology is back in fashion, but sound political commentary on the Kremlin has been in the doldrums for a long time. In Russia, the interested public treats most serious commentators as it treats magical healers and palm-readers. Vladimir Putin has probably enjoyed proving the oracles wrong with every announcement and appointment.

The crystal balls of political prophets have been clouded for so long that they could not believe that their own prophecy has come true. After the unfair Duma elections in December, Putin backed Dmitri Medvedev as his candidate for the presidential election in March. Medvedev hurriedly announced that, should the stars align and the gods favour him, Putin would be his Prime Minister.

Two Deputy Prime Ministers

Admittedly, everyone and no one were surprised. To most observers, Medvedev, first Deputy Prime Minister for national projects since 2005 and the chairman of Gazprom, the Russian gas and oil giant, is not the worst choice, especially after what the real pessimists predicted following the farce of the Duma elections. The Guardian describes him as a "liberal" (also in inverted commas), but this is only to contrast him to the siloviki, the clan of internal security forces (FSB) under the Igor Sechin, chairman of Rosneft (another oil giant).

The presidential contest between Medvedev and the other silovik First Deputy Prime Minister (in charge of a myriad of projects including nanotechnology), Sergey Ivanov, has been going on for a year. The government TV channels have been scared to show

one and not the other in a single news report. Both ministers stayed after the shake-up of the cabinet in early autumn - then several serious political commentators, who I spoke to in Russia, tipped unknown bureaucrat Viktor Zubkov, who had just been appointed Prime Minister, for president. I was quite surprised and advised them to have their crystal balls checked. From the style of Zubkov's meetings, it was obvious Putin had been in need of an executioner or a loyal rottweiler, to bark at the ministers shortly before the Duma election.

Still, Zubkov has not received the recognition due him for the most rigged election in modern Russia. The opposition had practically no access to television, which finds a daily excuse to show Putin and his many premiers. Putin's United Russia party refused to participate in any electoral debates. Negative campaigning (read: criticism of the government) was banned. The main state TV channel somehow knew before the results were announced to which four party headquarters they had to send their correspondents. Every popular tabloid was tightly censored. A giant poster of United Russia, just outside

Red Square in Moscow, was left untouched during a supposed three-day campaigning prohibition. Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia had turnouts of around 100% and some consulates reported every foreign resident voting for the same party. United Russia's core supporters are apparently in prisons, the army and psychiatric institutions.

United Russia received a "constitutional majority" (it does what it says), which is compatible with the new notion of "sovereign democracy" (it does not do what it says). So what? Past speculation that the constitution will be changed to allow Putin to run again or that Belarus will be annexed to Russia, making Putin the first President of the union, has now largely been scaled back. For the first time in at least four years, we should probably expect the government-sponsored crystal ball to tell us the truth: Medvedev will become President and Putin, Prime Minister.

Destabilisation Fund

Now that the Kremlin's succession battle has reached a ceasefire for the time being, the more pressing concern is what is going to happen to Russia's international position when traders in New York jokingly buy oil for a \$100/barrel. When oil is above \$27 per barrel (although this is not the triple figure Brent, but Urals traded at around \$72 per barrel) the government shovels the additional budget receipts into a designated Stabilisation Fund, which has been

used to repay the national debt and fix pension fund deficits. However, Andrey Illarionov, Putin's ex-economic advisor has said that "the Stabilisation Fund, in the form in which it was created in which monies were accumulated, has ceased to exist. It has died. This is now a fund for increasing the personal wealth of specific individuals." (Russia has 53 dollar billionaires and an average monthly salary of under £300).

But what is the quick and famous way to become a billionaire in Russia? It can't be to buy government-owned assets at rigged auctions and very low prices, because that is what happened in the Nineties. Putin, in his recent speeches, has taken a lot of credit for "cleansing the powerful oligarchy, whose power was based on corruption, violence and informational blackmail". Shortly before Medvedev's announcement as the backed candidate for the presidential election, a little-known financier Oleg Shvartsman gave a controversial interview to Gazprom-controlled Kommersant newspaper, accusing the siloviki of repeating the economic tragedy of the Nineties with "velvet re-privatisation." Could this have been what put Putin off the Ivanov-Sechin siloviki clan? Putin himself may be no saint. Shortly before Christmas, the media picked up controversial allegations that Putin's fortune is estimated at \$40bn. An excellent Russian journalist, Stanislav Belkovsky made the comments to Die Welt, a respectable German newspaper in November, having written a

book about Putin early last year. True or not, Putin has still not dealt with the allegations in his usual manner.

Putin has always put the economy before democracy. But despite GDP growth, inflation has hit double figures, forcing pre-election price freezes. Spending on roads, hospitals and schools has been barely noticed outside major cities, although funds seem to be constantly allocated for something. Stabilisation Fund spending is supposed to commence soon. Transparency International has ranked Russia 143rd on its corruption perception index. Putin has got neither the economy nor the democracy right.

Medvedev is not the liberal law professor that the Western media makes him out to be. He is a ruthless technocrat who will need to make some tough choices for Russia, like Putin did in 2000. If Medvedev wants Russia to prosper, he will need to give freedom to the media to give it an opportunity to check the government's steps. The Nineties seem like such a terrible time to Russians because they today don't have a chance to hear about the government's crimes today. Medvedev would also need to diversify industry and gradually devalue the propped-up rouble to encourage businesses to face international competition. Finally, he would need to tackle corruption. This would mean waging war on Ivanov, Sechin, the rest of the siloviki and finally on the Time Magazine Person of the Year himself. I doubt he will do anything.

Medvedev is not the liberal law professor that the Western media makes him out to be. He is a ruthless technocrat who will need to make some tough choices for Russia

(l-r):
Dmitri Medvedev;
Joseph Stalin;
Vladimir Putin





Sarko l'Américain?
Nicolas Ferminet evaluates
Franco-American relations

FIGHTING FOR FRANCE

"Long live the French-American friendship!" As the French President Nicolas Sarkozy pronounced these words before the United States Congress, on November 7th, 2007, he symbolically brought to an end the confusion and distrust that had enveloped Franco-American relations for the past four years - since the 2003 Iraq Crisis which divided President Jacques Chirac and the Bush Administration. The thundering applause and standing ovations that punctuated the speech appeared as the ultimate approbation to the return of French fries in menus on Capitol Hill.

In a France known for its rising anti-Americanism in the past decade, Nicolas Sarkozy had already made a gamble in the presidential election by accepting the epithet "Sarko l'Américain." He had already criticised French arrogance in a 2006 visit to Washington, causing much turmoil as his opponents laid into his apparent adulation of the transatlantic neighbour. After the election, the French President continued to look and point west, nominating the pro-American and Socialist maverick Bernard Kouchner as Foreign Minister. Mr Sarkozy even chose Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, for his first presidential summer holiday. Logically, his election as President of France could only have had a positive impact on relations between both powers. In his speech before Congress, Sarkozy did what few in France would have dared to do: he acknowledged the positive role of the United States in recent French history. By praising Elvis Presley and the Marshall Plan, the French President gave to Caesar what is Caesar's, burying the arrogance that had shocked Americans years before. However, the spirit of Asterix the irreducible Gaul is never too far away.

After all, former French Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine describes autonomy of decision as the recurrent theme in French foreign policy. From General De Gaulle's 1966 withdrawal of French troops from the NATO high command to President Chirac's oppo-

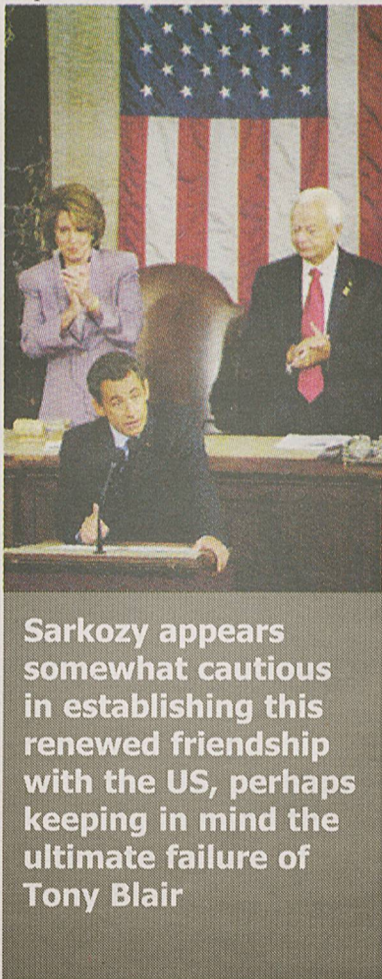
sition to the war in Iraq, France has always tried to retain its own independent foreign policy. Little tangible suggests that Mr Sarkozy's policy will be any different. In a joint press conference in September with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Mr Kouchner declared that "having good relations doesn't mean that we're in complete agreement everyday, everywhere, but we have excellent relations." The Sarkozy administration appears somewhat cautious in establishing this renewed friendship with the United States, perhaps keeping in mind the ultimate failure of former Prime Minister Tony Blair to win significant concessions for Britain from its so-called Special Relationship.

The Ghost of De Gaulle

However, this caution goes beyond the need simply to please French public opinion. The French President continues to voice his disagreement with the policies in Iraq, and in the speech before Congress, he urged the Bush administration to change its monetary policy and take action against global warming. Sarkozy also called for the United States to trust Europe: he has been a strong supporter of the European Defence Initiative as a mean to increasingly replace NATO. Hence, while he has tried to improve the form of Franco-American relations, his policies have actually continued the work of previous presidencies in strengthening France and Europe's roles on the international arena. Nevertheless, President Sarkozy's skills in diplomatic crisis management have been highly appreciated by a US administration that is once again beginning to rely on multilateral decision-making.

In a recent article in *Le Monde*, the US ambassador to France, Craig Stapleton, stressed the need for the United States to use France's diplomatic skills and contacts around the globe, regarding Iran and perhaps even Iraq. The 2006 summer crisis in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah had already seen a renewal of Franco-American cooperation.

While both states' respective initial reactions to the conflict were different, the United States began to value the importance of France's established diplomatic connections within this region, which ultimately enabled the passing of a United Nations Security Council resolution and subsequent ceasefire to end the conflict.



Sarkozy appears somewhat cautious in establishing this renewed friendship with the US, perhaps keeping in mind the ultimate failure of Tony Blair

Since his election, President Sarkozy and his administration have pursued a highly activist foreign policy, committing to numerous issues around the globe - including Iran, Darfur, the release of the Bulgarian nurses and

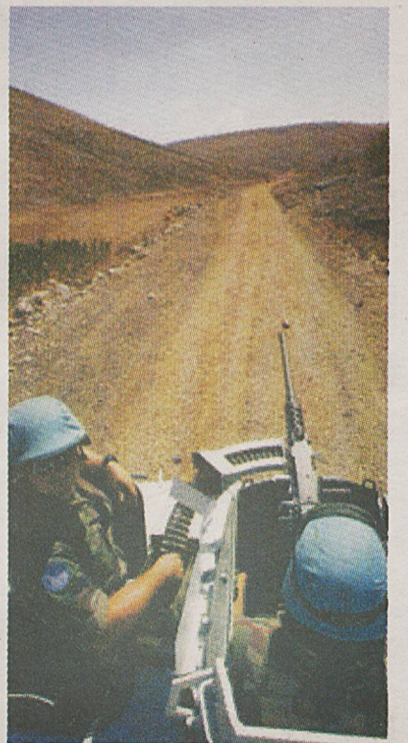
the establishment of civil nuclear energy contracts in Libya, and most recently financial aid to the Palestinian Authority. All of these have met with the certain approval of the Bush administration, and tie in with its broader strategy for the Middle East.

An Iranian Problem

Still, Iran could be a big test to this renewed friendship. President Sarkozy has shared his concerns with the possibility of Iran developing nuclear weapons, and in September, Bernard Kouchner shocked the world by stating that states should prepare for the possibility of war. Furthermore, France has been a strong advocate for unilateral European sanctions on Iran, to the delight of the United States. On the other hand, since the recent publication of a United States National Intelligence Estimate that Iran stopped its nuclear weapons programme in 2003, this trend could be halted. If it is confirmed in the months to come that Iran has indeed put an end to its proliferation activities without resurrecting them, then the Iranian threat would vanish as political leverage and Sarkozy would shoot himself in the foot both at home and abroad if he remains aligned with the current aggressive line adopted by the United States. Kouchner's warning of the possibility of war proved how unpopular the idea was in France, and the French President has found it increasingly difficult to sell the idea of sanctions to his European counterparts. After the victories of Mike Huckabee and Barack Obama in the Iowa caucuses, change could appear to be a new leading trend in American politics, making it in Sarkozy's interest to distance himself further on the Iranian matter from a fading Bush administration.

It is all the same clear for now that the United States needs allies, so France's newfound position can only carry on. This is not just limited to foreign policy. A recent analysis in the *Herald Tribune* remarks that both


countries are beginning a similar process in wanting to reform their own domestic systems, perhaps choosing the other as a possible model. France seems to be increasingly popular with an American left which wishes to redefine freedom and equality, and Mr Sarkozy's plan to increase productivity, liberalisation and wealth will continue to bring comparisons with the transatlantic neighbour. However, what is important is that the renewal of Franco-American friendship marks a slow but positive return to multilateral decision making and diplomacy, and if it can be a beacon for cooperation involving an increasing number of states, we can only join in and toast to its longevity.



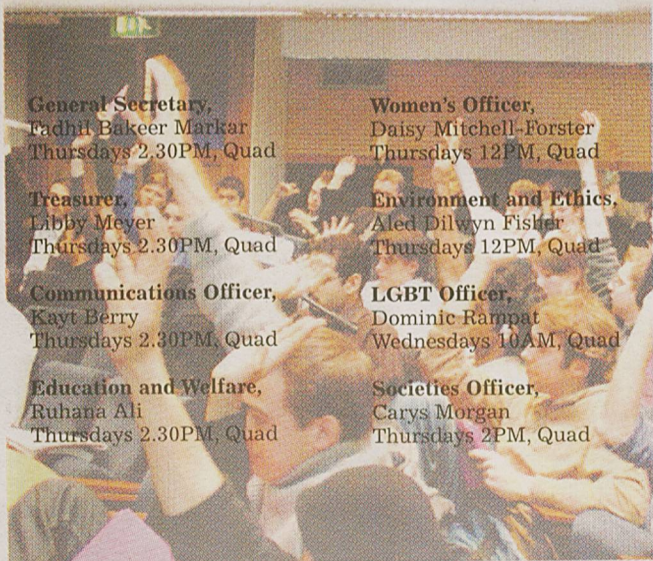
A Franco-American turning point? French UN peacekeeping troops in Lebanon, October 2006

Listings

www.lsesu.com

Tuesday, 8th of January		Thursday, 10th of January	
12.00	Knitting. Knitting Society Quad.	13.00	UGM: Union General Meeting LSE SU Old Theatre
18.30	Russia's Policy Towards Europe: Aggressive Retrenchment? Speaker: Marie Mendras Hong Kong Theatre	17.30	Credit Suisse M&A Game Investment Society G108
Wednesday, 9th of January		Friday, 11th of January	
13.15	Mass Chaplaincy	19.00	Life Drawing Visual Arts Society TBC
18.30	Globalisation and Europe: Getting the Message Right European Society D202	19.30	LARA Re-tox Pub crawl LARA The Market Porter
19.00	Swing Dance (Beginners) Swing Dance Parish Hall	19.30	Hip Hop (Beginner) Dance Society Parish Hall
18.30	Oil, War and Geopolitics: the struggle over what remains Speaker: Professor Michael Klare Old Theatre	20.30	Hip Hop (Advanced) Dance Society Parish Hall
Thursday, 10th of January		Pub Golf RAG Week Tuns	
10.00	REFRESHERS FAIR!		
16.00	Another chance to join the Media Group, SU societies and an oppor- tunity to see which societies are newly created! The Quad	21.00	Crush! LSE SU Tuns/Quad/Underground

SU EXECUTIVE OFFICE HOURS



General Secretary, Fadhil Bakeer Markar Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad	Women's Officer, Daisy Mitchell-Forster Thursdays 12PM, Quad
Treasurer, Libby Meyer Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad	Environment and Ethics, Aled Dilwyn Fisher Thursdays 12PM, Quad
Communications Officer, Kayt Berry Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad	LGBT Officer, Dominic Rampat Wednesdays 10AM, Quad
Education and Welfare, Ruhana Ali Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad	Societies Officer, Carys Morgan Thursdays 2PM, Quad

GLOBALISATION AND EUROPE - GETTING THE MESSAGE RIGHT

What? Lecture
Who? The LSE SU European Society
When? Wednesday, 9th of January
Where? Room D202, Clement House

How to explain a Commission Communication on "Managing Change" to local enterprises and local policy-makers alike? How to be seen to be 'tackling globalization' when so many people are losing jobs? The European Commission's Legislative Work Programme is probably something that many citizens do not see as a priority for reading over their bowl of cornflakes, but it is a document that fundamentally shapes the

European political agenda for the next year. It has highlighted tricky and also populist areas for Commission action, not least continuing to place the Lisbon Strategy centre-stage, driving the need for a better knowledge-based economy. It bases itself heavily around wider EU institutional questions concerning globalisation, notably: "The 2008 Spring European Council will give the EU the opportunity to reflect on whether the Lisbon strategy

Stephen Alambritis - Head of Public Affairs - Federation of Small Businesses, UK
Katinka Barysch - Deputy Director, Centre for European Reform.
Christian Krappitz - Political Officer, UK Representation Office for the European Commission.
Katerina Rudiger - Researcher - The Work Foundation - this foundation has just produced a report on knowledge work in Europe.

needs refinement to address the challenges of globalisation most effectively." Commission President Barroso has also proposed to the European Parliament, regarding the outcome of the recent IGC that: "...it was decided to work on a "Declaration on Globalization" for the December 2007 European Council, to show that tackling globalization is a common thread in much of European Union's work today."

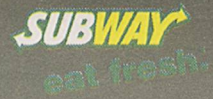
The LSE SU European Society would like to deconstruct these proposals during the debate, including what the Commission's aims should mean for the everyday population in terms of investing in people. How should the European Commission Representation office in the UK best deal with communicating its message from its work in a practical way in 2008? Come along, discuss with others interested in this topic, and ask your questions to the speakers!



CMYK



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Her Majesty's Theatre

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the **Beaver**

GET IN BETWEEN THE SHEETS WITH US.

Collective Meeting

Thursday, 10th January 2008, 6pm, E304

Open to all LSE Students; only Collective members may vote

Stall at Refreshers Fair

Thursday, 10th January 2008, 10am-2pm,

The Quad

Journalism Information Session

Wednesday, 16th January 2008, 2pm, A283

Elections

News Editor

The news Editor is responsible for managing a team of news writer, gathering stories, laying out the news section with two co-editors.

Features Editor

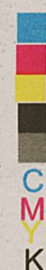
One of two editors heading the Features section. Responsible for sourcing features content, managing team of writers, editing articles and laying out section.

Comment and Analysis Editor

Stoke the raging fire at the LSE

Edit the C&A section and be at the heart of politics, SU news and current affairs.

+



+

PartB Editors

The PartB Editors manage a team of honchos, lay out and edit PartB. They are responsible for the direction taken by the Beaver pull-out.

Web Editor

The Web Editor manages the website.

Graphics Editor

The graphics editor plays a key role in shaping the way the Beaver looks. They work closely with the Managing Editor, the Photography Sub Editor and all sections in insuring the visual quality of the paper, using standard industry softwares such as Quark and Photoshop.

Listings Sub-Editor

Play a vital role in the SU's communication with the student body and gain valuable experience in graphics design and layout using industry-standard software.

Photography Sub-Editor

Responsible for the Beaver photography. Manage a team of photographers.

Commissioning Sub-Editor

Source interviews for all sections. Meet famous people under the guise of working for the paper.

Collective Chair

The Collective Chair chairs the collective meetings and is a link between the Editors and the Collective. They must be re-elected each term.

Requirements:

Any member of the LSE SU can run.

The editor will be elected by the collective.

Send nominations to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk

Insane Rambling...

Shy and Retiring? Not Sir Alex



Kevin Perry

Back at the beginning of the 2001-2002 Premiership season, Alex Ferguson announced his plans to retire at the end of the season. As we all know, he went back on his word and has continued to enjoy success since. However, another thing we all know is that American

physicist Hugh Everett III postulated that our universe can be explained by the many-worlds interpretation of quantum physics. This means that in an alternate universe, Ferguson did retire, and it isn't hard to work out what would have happened.

First of all, difficult as it may be to believe now, at the time it was widely considered that Steve McClaren was being groomed as Ferguson's natural successor. He had been Ferguson's assistant during the Treble winning season and had enjoyed a fairly successful first

season as a Manager, taking Middlesbrough to the FA Cup Semi-Final.

So what would McClaren have done given the resources available at Old Trafford? Well, as we all now know he would have first dropped David Beckham, in order to stamp his

Furthermore, with United now failing to score anywhere

other than at their



authority on the team. So Becks would still have ended up in Madrid.

McClaren would have almost certainly gone after Stewart Downing, so Ryan Giggs would also have been on his way out. Probably to Man City, like Denis Law.

Obviously, United would then have been utter shit. Rather than bouncing back from a trophyless 2002 to win the title as they did in our universe, they would have been drawn into a relegation dog-fight with West Ham and Bolton. My sources tell me that on the final day of the season, Ryan Giggs scored against his former club to send them down. Like Denis Law.

Christmas parties, Wayne Rooney never makes the move to Old Trafford. Despite constant overtures from Chelsea, Rooney refuses a move to London, claiming that "its full of southern poofs", and decides to stay at Everton. David Moyes, realising the need to team him with a glamorous, tricky winger, plays him alongside Kevin Kilbane. Everton win everything for the next decade.

So what have we learnt from this debacle? Not a lot, other than I should not be allowed to drink absinth and watch Match of the Day on my own. I'm not even an Everton fan. Good night.



JPMorgan

THIS YEAR,
SUMMER
 STARTS ON
JANUARY 13.

Internship application deadline: January 13, 2008

That's official. It may be cold and wet, but January 13 is the hottest date of 2008. That's when applications are due for our summer internship programme. So hurry. And as the majority of our summer interns receive full-time offers, the outlook's bright, even if the weather isn't. **This is where you need to be.**



jpmorgan.com/careers

The Punter

Some tips for the New Year



Matthew
JCG
Partridge

The New Year is a time for taking stock, something I generally avoid doing. On the negative side my predictions that Gold was going to collapse was only matched by the sharpness of its rise in real life. Similarly, the good voters of Iowa apparently didn't realise that I had suggested that Barack Obama definitely wouldn't win Iowa. On the other hand Mitt Romney didn't win in Iowa and it's pretty obvious to even the most dedicated supporters of Ron Paul that he will not be the Republican nominee. McCain is still leading in the polls in New Hampshire and if Obama manages to ride anti-Clinton feeling to the Democratic nomination, Senator James Webb could very well be his running mate.

In terms of the football predictions I made, the bad news is that of the 23 tips I made only 7 came to pass. The good news is that, thanks mainly to my tip on Croatia, if you had put £10 on each tip you would have won £315.40, for a profit of £84.00 (a return of 37%). However, I have to warn you know that I can't guarantee such returns all the time!



In any case I'm going to stick with my belief that sometime soon people will realise that Barack Obama is not a

credible candidate for the Presidency, so I'm suggesting that you bet against him (58.6-60.1). On the Republican side I

would suggest that you keep your money on McCain, although at (32.3-34.8) there probably isn't much value still

left in his price, as I guess the probability of him winning the nomination is 40%. Indeed, although I believe that,

although McCain should win in the Granite State, you should take cash in any bets you have on him winning New Hampshire. Indeed, if you have bet on McCain winning the nomination, now might be the time to bet on Mitt Romney winning in New Hampshire (13.2-18.4) as a form of cheap insurance.

In terms of finance I am going to stick with my prediction that the price of gold is going to fall, possibly to under \$800 by the end of the month. The world is obviously a more unstable and uncertain place. However, that does not justify gold prices being over 30% higher since last August and nearly doubling over the last thirty-six months. Like all bubbles the gold bubble must come to an end, so I would short gold (or if you were unlucky enough to take my earlier advice) stick with your position.

In any case I wish you all the best of luck for the 2008, let the gambling commence! With the prospect of continued volatility in world financial markets, eleven months of a presidential election to go and Euro 2008 to handicap there are going to be many opportunities for making some money.

Use any advice given here at your own risk and don't gamble what you cannot afford to lose. Columnist(s) may have positions in wagers mentioned. Prices quoted are correct at time of going to press.

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SPORT?**

theBeaver NEEDS

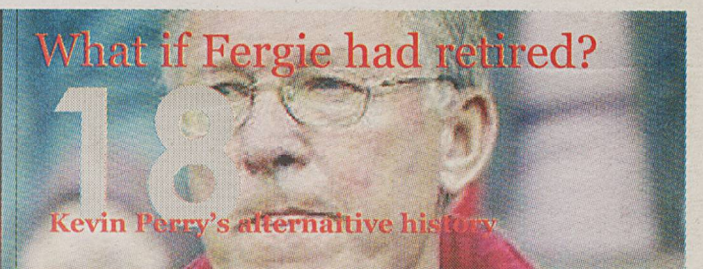
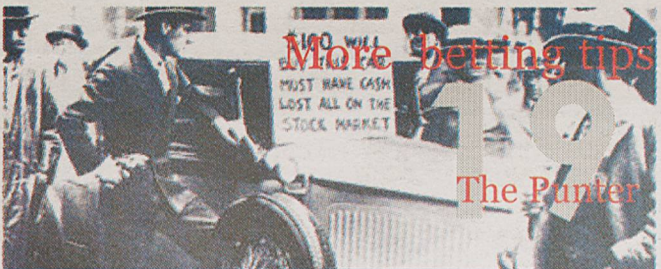
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Beaver sports

Cruisin' for a brusin' in Oxford



Chris Baugh

On the 6th of December, the LSE boxing crew, travelled up to Sheffield to compete in the national university championships. The team for the three day competition consisted of only 2 fighters, Danielle Tapitake and Chris Baugh, and coach Karim Redwood, but their diminutive number was not to dampen their ferocity.

The team went up on the Thursday evening coach to rest up before the first fights on Friday. Everybody had a nervous night. Neither boxer had ever had a competitive bout, added to which the hotel's lively bar pounded out wall-vibrating music until 3am - not the most calming night then.

Chris was the only one fighting on Friday, a medicine student from Cambridge. Despite having had to wait nervously almost all day to come on, the fight didn't prove very testing. Chris went through to the semi's on a convincing points win.

Saturday was Danielle's day. Although originally having entered the competition at Featherweight, come weigh in Danielle was only a few pounds over Bantamweight. A few minutes skipping with a lot of layers and Danielle weighed in at Bantam, where there was only one other opponent.

Coach Karim's 'mind games' on Danielle's Oxford adversary were of crucial significance. Having con-



vinced the Oxford coach Danielle was a Featherweight and therefore no threat, Karim caught the Oxford girl off guard come the fight, when she realised she had spent the previous day chatting happily to her future opponent's coach.

Danielle's fight was a close match. Although her opponent had a considerable height and reach advantage, Danielle visibly shook her in the first round when she came forward with big shots, switching between head and body. In

the second and third rounds the pace of the fight started to take it's toll and although she was still very wary of Danielle's right hand, the fitter Oxford fighter seemed to be scoring more points. The third round bell was a relief for both fighters; although Danielle lost on points, Karim aptly observed that 'That Oxford girl didn't enjoy that, not one bit'.

Sunday dawned and Chris fought his semi against a Southhampton boxer. This second fight was

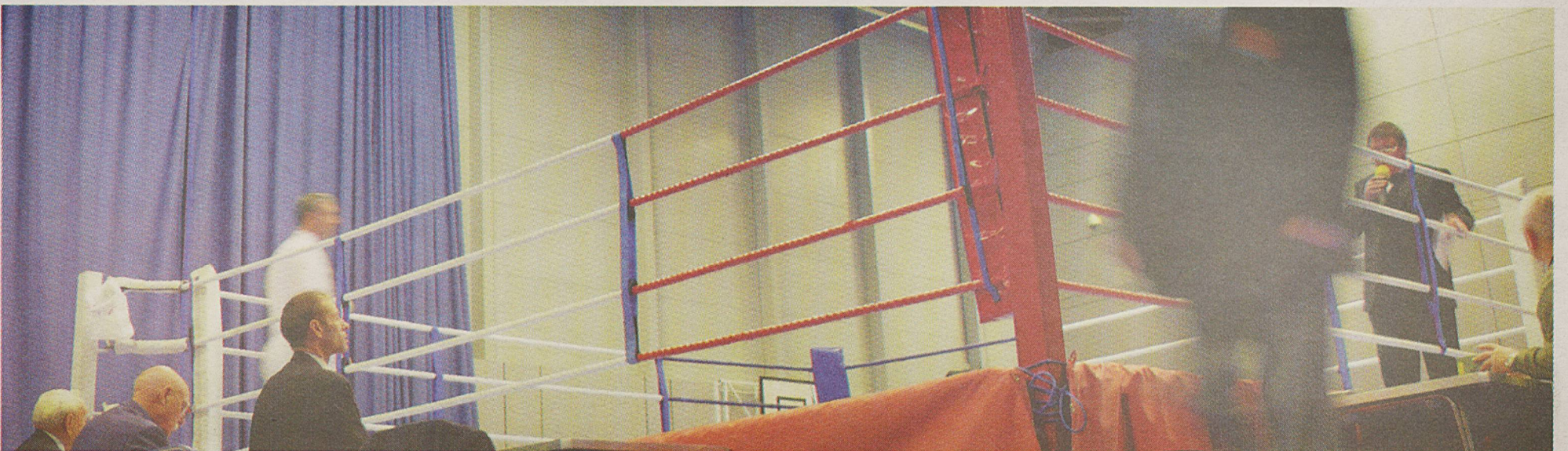
much more challenging than the first with the Southhampton fighter much fitter and agile than the previous opponent. However Chris seemed to be landing more power shots and when he came forward he was largely left unanswered. The last round saw both fighters on their last legs, but Chris went through to the final on a points win.

The final was only a couple of hours later and trying to rest while still being so nervous was difficult. The other finalist was

a much more experienced boxer from Coventry. The first round was fairly even, as it was clear that Chris' power and aggressive style were being met with equal measure by the other corner. However in the last two rounds, the previous fight started to take it's toll on Chris- despite landing good punches of his own, he took some big shots and was forced to take two standing counts even though he was far from beaten. The last round was all about heart; an exhausted Chris came

out swinging but the Coventry man was fitter- he showed much fewer signs of tiredness and ultimately threw enough punches to secure a points victory.

Three days, two national finalist medals and a happy coach- overall not bad given we train in a badminton court and our only punch bag broke a long time ago. With another load of fights in February, the LSE boxers plan to keep training hard, and next time, we'll beat 'em all.



"the LSE boxers plan to keep training hard, and next time, we'll beat 'em all."