

The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

First Published 05 May 1949

02 November 2004

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Candidates anxiously wait for the results of the Court of Governors election. / Photo: James Upsher

Prashant Rao Executive Editor

Left-wing candidates have won a majority of available seats in the Michaelmas Term elections with nearly 1,100 ballots having been cast.

Of the 16 available posts on the LSE Students' Union Executive and various School committees, only two were won by right-wing candidates: Daniel Freedman, Conservative Association Chair, was narrowly elected to Court of Governors and Alykhan Velshi, Conservative Association Vice-Chair, was elected to Academic Board.

The number of ballots cast represents an approximately 38 percent increase year-on-year.

SU Returning Officer Anthony Gilliland had only printed 800 ballots and ran out on Thursday afternoon. Indeed, as he told *The Beaver* last week, he only anticipated 700 students voting.

Both Executive posts went to left-wing candidates with Ozan Kirtac running for the post of Mature and Part-time Students' Officer unopposed, and Matt Willgress winning Post-Graduate

Students' Officer.

Willgress, LSE Labour Secretary, does not believe the "Left" have, as a collective, necessarily done better.

"In terms of the profile of people, those who were left and centre-left all turned out to have much better ideas than people who have run on that platform before," he said.

One right-wing insider claimed the right's poor performance has been overblown: "Last year the Left did exceptionally well in Michaelmas Term elections and went on to get hammered in Lent. No one cares about Michaelmas."

Several winning candidates in all elections are rumoured to possibly be running for Executive posts in the Lent term elections.

Among those mentioned most often have been current SU Residences Officer Rishi Madlani and former Executive Editor of *The Beaver* Mark Power.

An insider in the Madlani camp has confirmed that he is looking towards a run for General Secretary in March while several observers have speculated that Power is considering a campaign

for General Secretary as well.

The count was plagued by inefficiency in the early stages as Gilliland attempted to debut a voting software that took half an hour to tabulate 60 votes solely in the election for Court of

Governors. One observer lamented that at that rate, it would take several hours to count.

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Maggie falls to RON

Chris Heathcote
News Editor

By a sizeable lead, Re-open Nominations, better known as RON, has beaten the only candidate in the race to be the LSE SU's Honorary President.

RON won the support of 534 students, representing 49 percent of the vote, whilst Thatcher received just 365 votes, around 33 percent.

According to one well-placed Union source, this represented "the usual Tory bloc given to all right-wing candidates."

A further 186 ballots were declared spoilt because the voter either did not express a preference for either candidate.

One observer who helped to count the votes in the Honorary

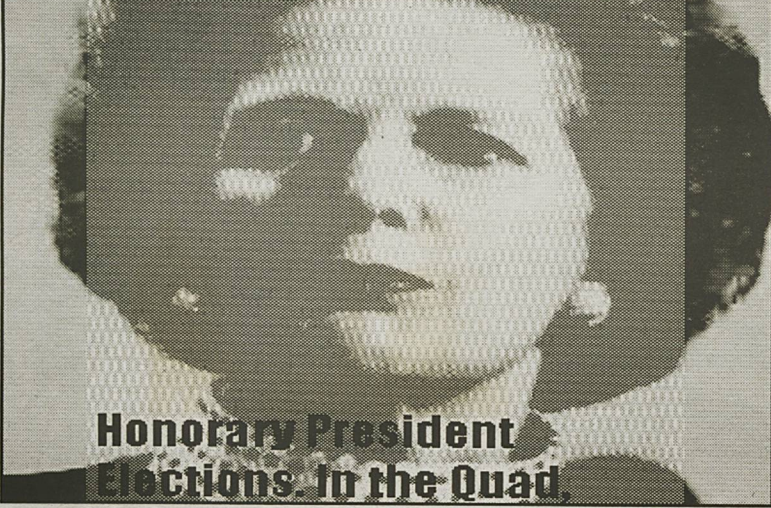
President election noted that a number of students had chosen to offer their own suggestion as a candidate rather than support Thatcher or RON. He said Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela were two names mentioned.

The RON option is available in every election and should anyone wish to campaign on behalf of RON, they are bound by exactly the same rules as any other candidates in the race.

However it is extremely rare for RON to secure more than a handful of votes and the option is usually the first to be eliminated in a count and have its votes redistributed under the Single Transferable Vote and Alternative Votes systems, which are used in the elections.

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Vote for RON or Maggie wins.



Honorary President Elections. In the Quad.

Posters helped re-open the nominations for Honorary President..

Continued from page 1

However it is extremely rare for RON to secure more than a handful of votes and the option is usually the first to be eliminated in a count and have its votes redistributed under the Single Transferable Vote and Alternative Votes systems, which are used in the elections.

It is even rarer for anyone to actually campaign for RON, but this year saw a fevered attempt to re-open the nominations with posters reading "Vote for RON or Maggie wins" being placed around the School and a number of left-leaning societies advising their members to put RON above Thatcher.

Well-known Union insider Dave Cole was behind the posters and told *The Beaver*; "Although I have deliberately avoided Union politics this year, I felt I had to act over this."

He went on to explain; "I agreed with Anthony Gilliland [the Returning Officer] not to campaign on Houghton Street, but I don't think the posters made much difference to the result anyway."

Aside from posters, groups from the Socialists and Socialist Workers Party to the more moderate People and Planet, Liberal Democrat and LGBT societies emailed their members appealing

them to place RON ahead of the Iron Lady.

One email listed RON with an explanation in brackets saying; "Margaret Thatcher is the only candidate and we don't think she will represent our views!"

Rumours around the School throughout the week suggested that the reason only one candidate had been nominated, an unusual occurrence by everyone's account, was due to confusion between different groups on who should oppose her.

Cole said that although he wasn't sure of the details, he believed the situation aroused because one group thought that writer Edward Said was being nominated, whilst others thought that Michael 'Scouse' Griffith, the LSE student who recently died in a car accident was being put forward.

In fact, neither had been proposed and Thatcher was unopposed.

Uncontested elections are surprisingly routine, but the candidate usually prevails over RON. This was the case in this year's Part-time Students Officer race, where Ozan Kirtac secured 589 votes to just 159 who wanted RON.

With Thatcher rejected, a by-election must now be called.

Right get Left behind in elections

Continued from page 1

Gilliland stopped the process, however, and counting resumed in the normal fashion, extending until 1 am the next morning with candidates and counters often left befuddled by the convoluted Single Transferable Vote (STV)

and Alternate Vote (AV) systems of voting.

The system, which calls for disqualified and elected candidates to both have their votes redistributed among those remaining, created much confusion, especially in the election for

NUS Conference as varying groups of votes were mislaid.

Court of Governors on the other hand, with its 14 candidates, had to be counted by only one person to simplify the process.

Ballot shortages

Alison Ball

Unexpectedly high turnout at the Michaelmas election led to a temporary shortage of ballot papers.

Returning Officer Anthony Gilliland originally ordered 800 ballot papers, expecting a similar turnout to last year's election, where 789 students voted.

But by the end of the first day's voting it was clear turnout was far higher than anticipated and a further 200 booklets were produced to meet the demand.

However, large numbers continued to arrive on Thursday and by 7 pm that evening 1085 votes had been cast, a 38 percent increase in turnout from the previous year.

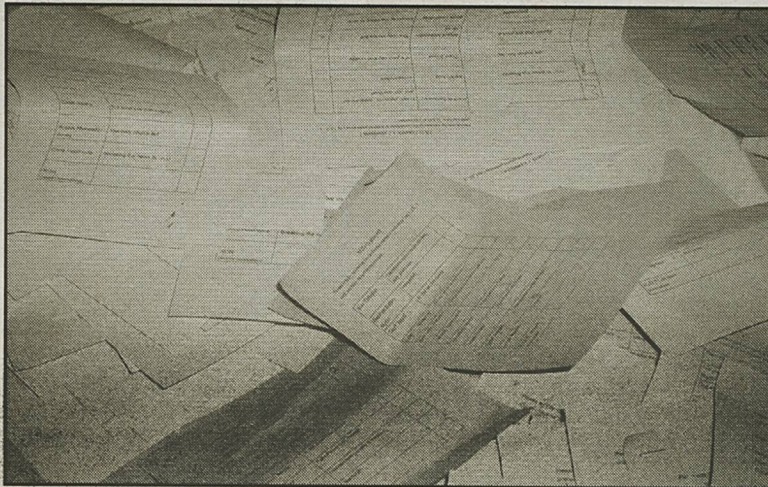
Due to the ballot shortage approximately 15 students were asked to return later, as the Returning Officer and copy shop staff rushed to produce additional papers.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, successful candidate for ULU Council and Court of Governors Angus Mulready-Jones praised the swift replenishment of ballot paper supplies, saying "the Returning Officer and his volunteers did an excellent job coping with demand".

Anthony Gilliland has also received acclaim for raising awareness of the election, and the significant rise in turnout was attributed by many observers to his efforts.

Gilliland used posters around the School, as well emails to students living in halls to increase interest in an election where voter apathy usually prevails.

However others have claimed the rise in interest can be attributed to candidates canvassing votes around the campus attracting the attention of the student body and encouraging participation.



Eventually every student who wanted to was able to vote. / Photo: James Upsher.

PuLSE debates

Owen Coughlan

In a further sign of its regeneration, PuLSE radio has hosted a pre-election hustings.

The a new initiative from LSE SU Communications Officer Khurshid Faizullaev and Returning Officer Anthony Gilliland, allowed candidates for ULU Council and Postgraduate Officer candidates to take part in a live debate on air.

Broadcast in the Quad and on the internet, interviewer Priya Bose invited the candidates to make short speeches before posing untargeted questions to them.

However, not all the candidates were able to attend, due to the event being scheduled during Ramadan

Of the five candidates for ULU council, only two; Chris Heathcote and Angus Mulready-Jones participated, whilst in the race for Post-graduate Officer, only Matt Willgress attended.

This prompted amusement from some listeners since there were two positions available on the ULU council and one for Postgraduates' Officer, hardly allowing much competition.

However, perhaps the PuLSE hustings had more influence on voters than some originally thought, given that all three candidates eventually won.

Faizullaev described the hustings, which took place during Tuesday afternoon, as a success and expressed his hope that "the Returning Officer will agree to do this again in the Lent Term elections time."

Asking for trouble? Passfield goes political

Shams Sooltangos

Tomorrow, Passfield will become the first ever LSE residential hall to organise a politically-based presentation for its residents.

After much deliberation, given the controversial nature of this issue, the committee finally allowed Maytav Dagan, Passfield resident and vice-chair of the Israeli Society, to organise the event.

Approval was also secured from Passfield's Warden, Dr Bradley Franks, provided that the presentation was balanced

Dr Franks, also insisted that an SU Executive Officer and a representative from Friends of

Palestine society be present at the event, to ensure impartiality.

Dagan's says his aim is to be as objective as possible.

He will begin by giving an outline of the history of the conflict before analysing the different points of views that both Israelis and Palestinians have.

When asked about his motivations, he commented that "it is in the interest of anybody who lives in the region or cares about the region to get as many people to be informed about the conflict."

Dagan's initiative was particularly appreciated by Passfield's Social Secretary, Fynnwin Prager, who said the event was "an excellent idea which was

brought to us by someone who has in-depth knowledge of the subject."

"This is obviously a very controversial issue and the presenter holds very particular views," Prager continued, "the committee acknowledges this and hopes that he can be as objective as possible."

"I believe that such cultural exchanges should be encouraged at Passfield in particular and in other halls in general," he added.

He admitted that he had been concerned about the impact of bringing politics into halls, but defended the decision by saying; "I believe that a better understanding of each others' worlds is entirely desirable for a hall's pop-

ulation."

The hall President, Jimmy Tam, made it clear "that we, as a hall committee, are not endorsing any political issue".

"The Passfield Hall Committee saw allowing Maytav to give his presentation on understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an opportunity for Passfielders not only to learn more about the people they are living with, but also to find out about an issue that is extremely current," he added.

Passfield is historically renowned as a politically active hall and Tam maintained that the hall was the right venue for the debate.

The idea was positively

received by LSE SU Anti-Racism Officer, Farhan Islam, who said "hall committees should ensure that they do not endorse any partisan political causes and that a careful balance is maintained".

When asked whether the event might stir trouble, Islam told *The Beaver* that "I don't see why it should really create any problems. [The societies] have worked together in the past and I think that this is an ideal opportunity for them to work together to raise awareness and understanding," he continued.

The event will be held at 7:30 pm tomorrow, but will not be open to non-Passfield residents.

New print charging system slammed

Simon Chignell

Complaints about the new card-less printing system at LSE mounted last week as offline printers and loss of money on the new system led to staff at the Library copy shop inundated with students' problems.

Since the charging of printing accounts switched from a card-based system to the current "PCounter" electronic accounts, copy shop staff have found that "there are many more problems with this system", and pointed to technical glitches as the cause of many of students' grievances.

This includes money being indiscriminately lost on the system as well as printers charging accounts for non-existent pages when paper runs out, which "makes it look like the staff are making mistakes".

They admitted that the system was currently slower than the old card-based system and it meant that they "don't stop all day".

They also felt that they were not informed soon enough by IT services that the change was going to take place and often were not sure what to tell to students that had lost money.

Sue Wing, IT User Services Manager, yesterday defended the new system saying "PCounter should provide a very much improved service."

The problems that were encountered were basically teething problems with a new system; although we carried out extensive testing before the start of the year, problems inevitably come up when using a new major system in anger for the first time.

When asked about students losing money she commented that "if anyone thinks they have been charged and have not received their print, they should contact

the IT Help Desk straight away, and we will be able to facilitate a refund in those circumstances."

The School's IT Services department has distributed a comment sheet to survey students' opinions on the new system. A sample of these surveys recovered by *The Beaver* shows approximately 75% of people responding have only complaints and nothing positive to say about the new system.

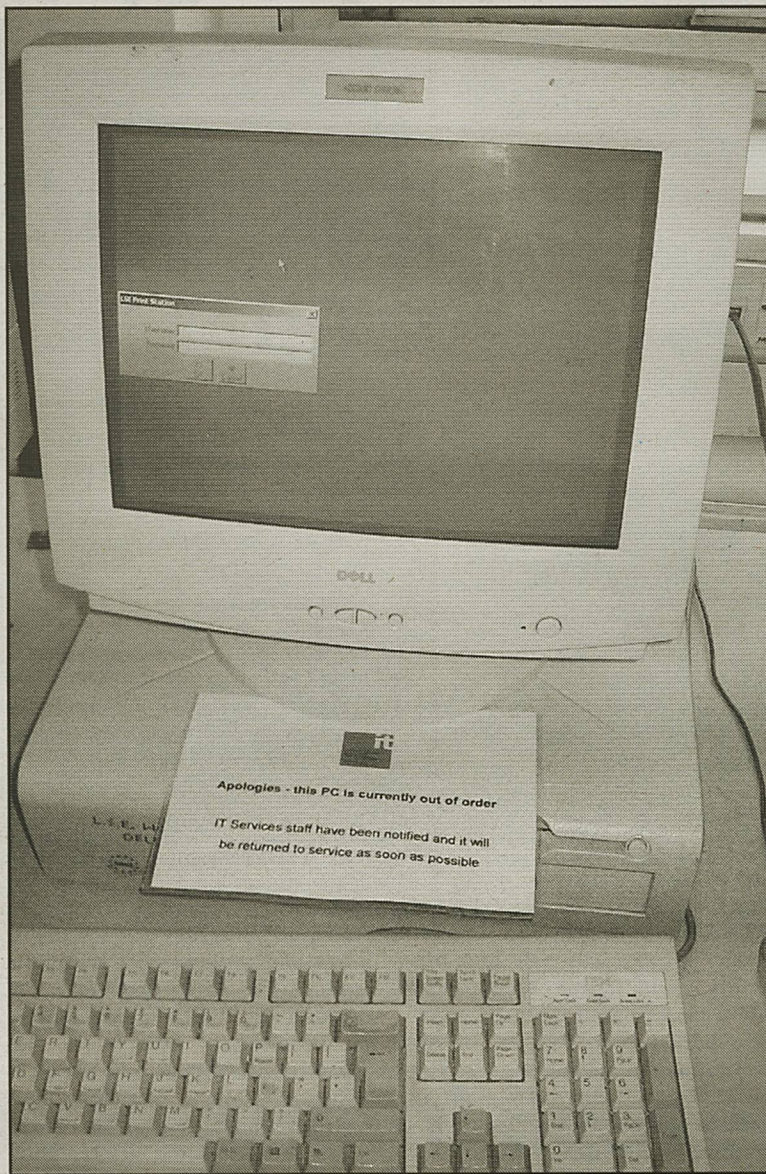
Many of the surveys point to the problem of having to have two separate accounts as photocopying still uses a card-based system. Other problems detailed were the loss of money on the system, problems with adding money to accounts and loss of a visible balance during printing.

Some positive feedback was received in the surveys however, mostly praising the "user-friendly" scheme and the benefits of "not being able to lose or forget your card".

Wing said, "the next phase of this service will be to enable students to top up their print account through LSE for You, which also should be a considerable improvement to the previous printing system." She added: "IT Services send its sincere apologies for the inconveniences students have experienced, and hope that they encounter a much improved service from now on."

The changeover difficulties come on the back of continued problems with Library printers being offline and problems finding free printers during busy periods.

Second year student, Shwetha Janarthanan, has found many problems this term: "The IT helpdesk is too busy and understaffed and I am owed money because I was charged for things I didn't print. Everyone has trouble finding a computer between 11 and 3,



Non-functioning printer equipment has been frustrating many students. / Photo: Stacy-Marie Ishmael

and it's during these times that long queues can often occur at the print stations."

Wing explained that such queues were "caused by the print server running out of space on its system drive."

She added that IT services has since taken extensive measures to

ensure that a recurrence of such problems does not occur.

"This was only a temporary problem, and nothing to do with support from the School or for our staff. We expect the printing system to be a vastly improved service for our students from now onwards."

SU television let LooSE on campus

Andhalib Karim

Plans for the the LSE SU to have its very own television network are well underway newly-formed LSE Students' Union Television society, responsible for the project, took off with the idea of creating an entirely student-run channel with the aim of providing "accessible and diverse visual entertainment and information to LSE students".

However, after running into copyright problems with using the "LSE" name, the society settled upon calling the fledgling channel LooSETV which Chair of the society Rebecca Michael feels "very much captures the entertaining and creative nature of the endeavour". However the society is planning to shorten this name to LTV for its more formal and serious programming, which is planned to include interviews with the vast range of guests and speakers at the LSE.

At the moment the channel is completely funded from the

Students' Union budget, but is seeking sponsorship in order to "pursue ever more ambitious projects". Currently the team behind the project has to rent facilities at other ULU colleges to edit the programmes but Michael has expressed its eagerness to "raise funds to purchase our own equipment which will pave the way for more efficient and up to date programming."

The channel is set to be broadcast on the 42 inch plasma screens installed in the Quad area and the Three Tuns and Underground bars. "This has all been possible due to the support of the digital broadcast channel, SUBTV, which owns and operates the screens" commented Michael.

SUBTV Creative Director John Kingdon emphasised in correspondence with the society that "what is going on is really exciting with LooSETV's motivated team behind the project." They have given LooSETV complete control of its output, providing the channel with the platform to broadcast its pro-

grammes.

The initial works planned include a wide range of programmes ranging from current affairs and news to entertainment and sport.

There are intended to be regular three minute news bulletins, reporting on the issues most relevant to LSE students. It is hoped that this will very much take the shape of the BBC's Newsround programme, "making on and off campus news more accessible for the busy LSE student."

On similar lines the channel is also planning to show a "hard hitting David Frost type" programme called "AIR Time with Arun" where prominent LSE students, such as members of the executive and staff will be interviewed, with the aim of holding them to account in front of the LSE student population. This is intended to promote awareness of current issues affecting LSE students. There are plans to interview the Director of the LSE, Howard Davies, for its opening edition.



Union Jack

Jack spent Saturday night in Soho, sampling the local produce; the fungi left me bewildered, especially when thoughts turned, as they did, to the union, which is rife with contradictions and disorder.

The Tories, who last year were led by an Anglican-turned-Catholic, are now run by a camp atheist, an "outspoken Jew" and a JD-swilling Muslim. Prada-Meinhof campaigns for Students Not Politics. Not Smarter Carter is actually doing a half-decent job. And the Comms Officer's communications abilities are as good as Madway's understanding of PhD regulations.

Michaelmas elections (ie: the ones nobody gives a shit about) are over. Willgress' comrades won; Packer's jugend lost - 'twas ever thus. RON, after many futile attempts, finally won an election against someone who hasn't pulled Power. Jack reckons that Lady T wouldn't enjoy presiding over a union anyway; especially this one, where she'd share the throne with a furry beaver: women are by nature jealous.

Isoc mostly sat St. Michael's elections out. Jack would ask, rhetorically of course, if the Middle East is incompatible with liberal democracy; but that wouldn't play well with - well - anybody. A notable exception was Taris Ahmed Von Velasco, who, in one persona, combines the condescension of German nobility and the bathos of Palestinian nationality (oops), ethnicity (oops), er, politico-cultural affiliation.

The bright minds in C & S, flexing their collective encephalic muscles at the UGM, were incapable of handling a simple quorum count. Jack noticed that Ms. Kibble has taken to sitting with the Tories (not very progressive). Psychiatrists, Jack hears, claim we internalise the personalities of those whom we're close to; so El, be careful.

Jack has only begun planning his pyrotechnic display for Guy Fawkes (Sports Editors welcome) and already the jockeying for Sabb has started; in contention: Rishi, who said the privatisation of Passfield Hall was never going to happen just before it happened; Mulready-Jones, who spends more time babysitting children with posh surnames they didn't inherit than helping Societies; Freedman, who has the uniting-power of Srouji and the enduring popularity of B M B; and Power, who's been outmaneuvered by Jimmy Tam so many times as to make the fruity Kiwi an overripe banana, with analogical electoral appeal.

In beaver news, Jack didn't get any. In *Beaver* news, Prashant "I have no clever nickname yet" Rao is the new Executive Editor. Same shit paper, though.

Library ATHENS project system lets down users

Alexa Rowe and
Dhalini Nagarajan

Faults with the Library's on-line journal system has created major problems for many students unable to access key course texts online.

The Library ATHENS system is an essential resource for many LSE courses as it allows students to study important texts on-line rather than having to rely on pressurised library resources. Users first started experiencing difficulties with the system on 22nd October when they had problems logging on. When students typed in their user name and password a message appeared telling them that their accounts had expired. The Deputy Librarian Maureen Wade explained that the problem was caused by an error in the system where the wrong expiry dates had been entered for many student ID cards.

"Dates which should have been set to 22 October 2005 had in fact been set to 22 October 2004. The student card is also the Library card and therefore this caused problems with access to the Library," she said.

Hundreds of students have been affected. One disgruntled third year said that her account had not been working since the start of term and as a result of the problems one of her courses was a week behind schedule. She com-



Problems with the online journal system, ATHENS, put extra strain on the library's paper resources. / Photo: Mark Donahue

mented: "The professors expected ATHENS to work and [consequently] there was only four off-prints in the library of a core text for a course with 115 students." She added that because of the shortage of material she was not able to finish an assignment in time to meet her deadline.

Law Students have been particularly badly affected by the

breakdown. One second year law student highlighted the problem: "Most of the classes are based on case studies. They are accessed through the ATHENS system and its breakdown has made the classes quite pointless as the lack of material means we have nothing to discuss."

Wade added that library staff had identified the problem and

were working to restore the service as quickly as possible. "The Library immediately put measures in place to inform students who reported problems and who wished to use these affected electronic resources, that a temporary campus password could be obtained from the Library information desk," she said.

The library assured students

that the problem would be quickly corrected and apologised for any inconvenience caused to ATHENS users.

It was hoped that all the accounts would be updated and working by noon on Friday 29th October, however some students were still reporting problems logging on.

University application fraud on the rise



Birmingham University has received fraudulent applications.

Saleem Bahaj

Fraudulent applications to universities reached record levels this year, according to a spokesperson from the university admissions body, UCAS.

It detected more than 1,000 false applications, double the number from last year.

Normally fraudulent applications come from within the UK but this year the majority came from abroad with China and Pakistan highlighted as primary sources.

MP's are now calling for an inquiry and Barry Sheerman, the chairman of the Commons education select committee, told *the Guardian* "Cheating is not acceptable. There's a range of

things in terms of fraud - fraudulent applications, then fraudulent colleges preying on vulnerable students too."

Meanwhile, Oxford Brookes University excluded eleven first year students following an investigation by the *Times* Higher Education Supplement, which revealed that international students had paid for their places.

Students were also expelled from Birmingham University after their applications were found to be fraudulent.

An Oxford-based man calling himself Mandi told the *Times* he had produced fake certificates for hundreds of unqualified Chinese students, which he used to fix them places at Universities such as Oxford Brookes.

Tories state their opposition to OFFA

Lukhimai Linnebank

Conservative MP's last week called for the immediate abolition of the Office for Fair Access (Offa).

Reopening the university admissions debate, Conservatives called for "the removal of state interference from issues which lie at the heart of university independence, freedom and standards."

The motion, which was presented to the commons last Monday read "This house believes that universities should be solely and wholly in charge of their own admissions policies, without regard to any externally imposed quotas, targets or benchmarks".

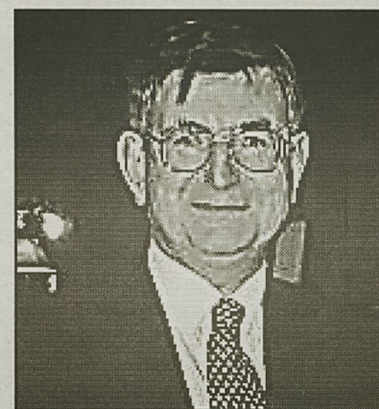
This most recent attack on Labour's controversial higher education programme comes amidst outcries from a number of leading university figures. Michael Beloff, the President of Trinity College Oxford told the government earlier this month to "take its tank's off Oxford's lawns." His comments were followed by calls from other Oxford heads to privatise the university within the next ten years.

Attacking the appointment of Sir Martin Harris as the new director of Offa earlier this month, Chris Grayling, the Conservative Party's higher edu-

cation spokesman said it was the "clear intention" of the party to "abolish Offa at the earliest opportunity," adding that with the general election only a few months away, Sir Martin's tenure was likely to be short-lived.

The LSE told *The Beaver* that they "did not take a position" on the debate, commenting that their "priority remains to continue to attract the best students regardless of social background."

According to statistics from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) 66% of LSE students come from state schools. The LSE was keen to stress its continuing involvement with charities such as the Sutton Trust in encouraging students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Sir Martin Harris, head of Offa

Scholarship award for LSE

Sam Jones

The LSE has announced plans to implement a scholarship scheme by 2006 in time for the inauguration of the government's controversial top-up fees programme.

Reporting to the Academic Planning and Resource Committee (APRC), the Scholarships Group last week recommended that the School establish a scholarship programme to counter the effect of the new fees.

At the moment, the Students' Union is left to organise and finance the student hardship fund.

The proposal comes following a provisional decision by the school to charge the maximum top-up fee of £3000.

The LSE has agreed that one third of all funding earned from top-up fees will go towards student support schemes.

If approved by the APRC, the matter will be taken to the academic board on the 17th November, before finally being passed to Council on the 23rd November.

Several other universities have already established scholarship schemes, including Oxford and Cambridge, which plan to offer several large scholarships of £6000.

Election event less exciting than the real thing

Adrian Li and
Lukhimai Linnebank

Last week the LSE hosted a debate between the UK spokesmen of the leading candidates in anticipation of this week's US presidential elections.

Jamey Dumas, chair of UK Democrats Abroad spoke for Senator Kerry with President Bush represented by Michael Carter, Head of Communications and Media for UK Republicans Abroad.

The two speakers adopted markedly different approaches in their speeches. Dumas took time to clearly explain and defend Kerry's 20 year record and reputation as a Senator for Massachusetts. Republicans claim Kerry's campaign has played down this because of his allegedly ambiguous voting record.

Dumas asserted that Kerry would retain the right to act preemptively and would rebuild the world's trust and respect for America. He also criticised President Bush for moving troops into Iraq with a "tunnel vision" policy of "admit no mistake, hold no one accountable and stay the

course". He believes Senator Kerry would bring a "fresh start" and he would "internationalise Iraq" by encouraging support from allies.

Concerning possible future of US involvement in the ICC, Dumas said that there had to be changes either cosmetically or to the institution itself. He drew attention to Kerry's stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict by saying that there was a need for a "viable autonomous Palestinian state."

Michael Carter discussed Bush's record with reference to Kyoto protocol, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and Iraq as these areas attracted the heaviest criticisms of the current incumbent.

Carter defended the President's policy in Iraq and painted the war-torn country as an idyllic society, while conceding that pockets of instability like Falluja existed.

He suggested that Falluja needed "to be won over with ruthlessness and without interference from the press", blaming Iraqi fighters for unrest.

He outlined President Bush's vision to "embed the enterprise of democracy in Iraq" in the hope



The Bush-Kerry event disappointed some audience members. / Photo: Mark Donahue

that it would take root elsewhere in the region, and expressed his view that the current US policy in Iraq was beginning to bear fruit.

The audience appeared amused by responses to some questions raised during the debate.

Professor Michael Cox was occasionally forced to limit the length of both speakers' answers and prevented evasion of answer-

ing questions. When Carter's description of Fox News as "fair and balanced" was met by near uproar from the audience, Cox wryly remarked "I take it you don't agree."

Professor Cox thanked the audience for their restrained conduct, although this could be attributed to the steadily declining audience numbers.

There was wide consensus

that Jamey Dumas had been the better speaker and that poor presentation of Carter's argument had diminished their enjoyment of the event.

Others commented that the style in which the debate was conducted did not provide any new insight into the policy of either candidate and was rather less dramatic than they had expected.

UCL moves to take degree-awarding powers away from University of London

Alison Ball and
Simon Chignell

UCL have applied for permission to replace the University of London in the granting of taught and research degree-awarding powers (DAPs).

The draft proposal has been submitted to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and has raised questions over the future purpose of the University of London.

Although UCL, LSE, King's, Imperial, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Queen Mary and various other institutions are all part of the University of London, they are almost entirely independent of the institution, except when it comes to the issuing of degrees, a power which rests with the central university.

On Thursday, the Director of Academic Services at UCL Tim Perry invited the entire student body to review the draft before its submission.

The application document was prepared by UCL having consulted at length with administrative officers and senior academics throughout the university.

Their success will depend upon approval from the QAA following UCL's routine institutional evaluation in March of next year.

A successful application would further the decline of the University of London and possibly set a precedent for independently awarded degrees from each separate college.



UCL has asked to take control of degree awarding away from the University of London.

Gaining such powers would entitle individual colleges to issue degree certificates under their own names rather than the University of London.

The LSE submitted a similar application in September and the QAA are due to assess the LSE's portfolio during visits in late November and January.

Senior Assistant Registrar at the School, Simeon Underwood revealed that if the powers are awarded, they intend to hold them in abeyance in parallel with Imperial College London.

Underwood stressed, "Student input is a very important part of this process. During the assessment process, the QAA audit team will be holding meetings with all students and not just SU sabbaticals."

According to Underwood, the LSE, Imperial and UCL all believe that degree-awarding powers should be kept in reserve and not used immediately.

He said, "None of the three of us would be likely to invoke degree-awarding powers without sustained - and lengthy - negoti-

ations with the University."

He went on to say that the University had actively encouraged its colleges to attain degree-awarding powers and that it, "feels that it is stronger for having Colleges of proven status as its constituent members."

The University of London has been much maligned by several students as being an irrelevant bureaucracy that has no relevance to its students at its various constituent colleges around the city.

Disability awareness week kicks off

Simon Rees

Continuing from the success of previous years, disability awareness week began yesterday and will continue until Friday.

Although this year's programme features fewer events than last year, it will nonetheless be action packed.

Highlights will include LSE Director officially opening the wheelchair ramp in the Old Theatre on Thursday as well as sabbatical officers and the Dean of Undergraduate studies Mark Hoffman each spending a day with mobility impairments.

Other events include free sign language sessions open to all students

In addition to these events the termly Consultative Forum will meet on Thursday to discuss disability issues at LSE.

It is chaired by the Hoffman and attended by staff from around the School.

The School stresses that "all students with a disability, special needs or dyslexia are welcome to attend."

The week will conclude with Students with Disabilities Crush on Friday night.

Hazel Mowbray, LSE SU Students with Disabilities Officer has encouraged every student to "take advantage of the free events to learn a little more about the 400 plus students with disabilities at LSE."

She added that a stall will be operated all week in the Quad.

Be an interested observer

Early on I'd decided I wouldn't participate in these SU elections at all. I wouldn't stand, I wouldn't campaign, I wouldn't care. And I most certainly wouldn't attend the count. Yet, although I neither stood nor campaigned, I did end up doing the latter two.

For although there was no "Nick Spurrell" on the ballot, I felt implicated. Several of my fellow free-marketeers were standing, and, more importantly, so were many leftists.

When the new *Beaver* editor asked me to write this comment piece I thought I'd use the opportunity to explain why I do care about what happens in student politics, unlike the vast majority of students, who at best find it bewildering and at worst pathetic - and that's if they know about it at all.

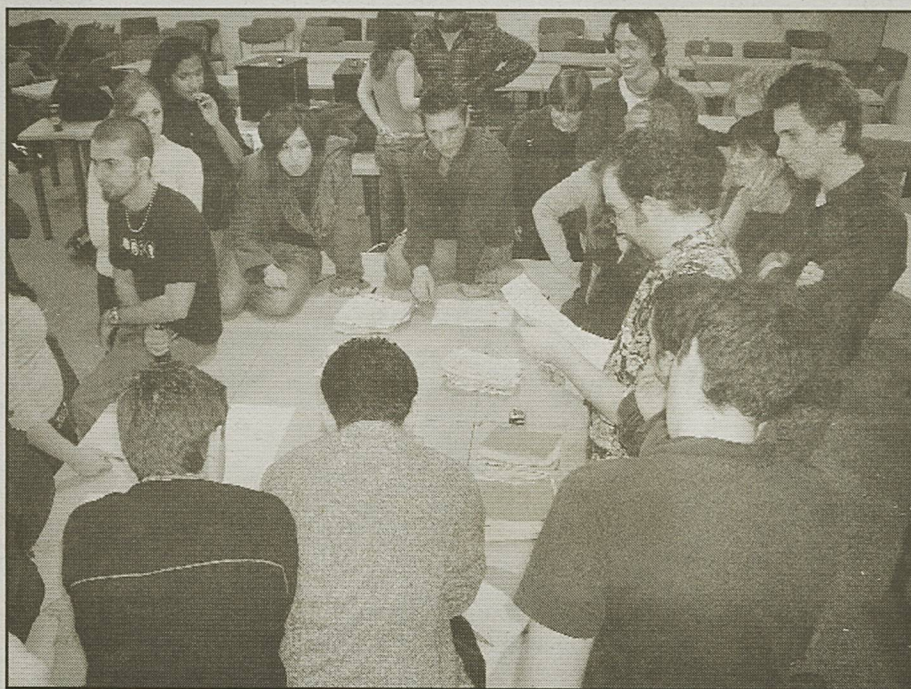
Plato famously declared that one of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. Two and a half millennia later that maxim still holds true. In fact, in Parliament, the intelligent get mocked (David 'Two Brains' Willetts), and the stupid get to be Deputy Prime Minister (John Prescott). As Napoleon Bonaparte aptly put it, in politics stupidity is not a handicap.

It is often maintained that stable and moderate governance requires a balance of power between what is usually known as the left and the right.

In Britain, the right has traditionally comprised those who want to stop the state interfering in the affairs of the private individual or group of individuals.

The left, meanwhile, seek the de-individualisation of individuals. They have given up on communism as the means, and have turned to an ironically conservative theory of incremental change.

In policy terms this means ever-increasing regulation, paternalism, stealth taxation and ostracism. Their



Regardless of your level of participation, student politics remains more important than you might think, argues Nick Spurrell.

objective is fundamentally significant: they want to shift the role of decision-making and risk-taking from the private individual and family to the impersonal machine of the state.

What has all this to do with student politics? The left are present here too. They want to use your resources to further their ideological objectives. 'Not in our name', they roared last year against the war in Iraq.

Yet the same people at the same time seek to pursue their own coercive objectives in your name. And in my name. And that's what I want to stop.

Politics has an inherent propensity to reduce freedom, because whoever gains power wants to use it. The left wants to increase the proportion of human action controlled by politics; the right wants to reduce it; everyone wants power. It is at university when most people form their outlook on life.

Student politics is often the first step to a parliamentary career. It is, then, not necessarily pointless to involve ourselves in it. It may, however, be too time-consuming to be worth it. And that's the simple reason why I didn't stand this year.

Prioritising the poorly

The fact that stupid people get seen at A&E before the genuinely unfortunate is wrong, says Eliot Pollak.

It's fact that a trip to the casualty section of the local hospital is a possible consequence of a particularly boisterous night out. Indeed for many, particularly in the North where entertainment is scarce, it is an essential ingredient for a good night out. (Do I now have to travel up there to apologise?)

The problem with A&E however, and the true reason many simply opt to stay in with Jonathan Ross the next Friday night, is the lengthy queue one faces upon arrival. In my thankfully limited experience, on an average night these tend to fall (no pun intended) into two categories.

Firstly, there are the alcoholics, drug addicts and ginger-haired whose wound is a consequence of their own intravenously antagonistic behaviour.

Category B includes the hypochondriacs for whom a splintered finger demands an immediate dial of 999 (dialled not with the splintered finger obviously.) Whilst the second type are undoubtedly irritating and far from the sort of men I would like with me in the trenches, the bulk of my ire is reserved for those whose injury is largely of their own doing.

It is simply grossly unfair that said masochistic buffoons are allowed to be examined before oneself. There you are,

'It is simply grossly unfair that masochistic buffoons are allowed to be examined before oneself.'

having been the victim of a nasty punch from a bloke of whom you merely enquired, albeit quite drunkenly, "what are you looking at?"

(It's not an unreasonable question after all. The optician gets away with it several times a day - red or green circles is surely a far more annoying method of optical interrogation.)

Yet as an innocent participant in a street brawl, and with an arm now so discombobulated that it may not even require your exaggeration in front of mates tomorrow, it is the guy with the cheeseboard through his neck who gets

seen first, purely on the basis that his arrival in hospital preceded your own.

So how to ameliorate the situation? In keeping with my recent theme of trying to make the world a better, fairer place for all, I have a suggestion.

Upon arrival in casualty, the wounded should be forced to fully explain how their injury occurred. (Lying at this juncture would have to be declared the legal equivalent of lying in court.)

The 'stupidity' level of the injury is then calculated by the receptionist, possibly a civil servant fresh from a new publicly-funded government course on 'injury-doofus analysis.' This receptionist will issue a number between one to one hundred, with level one typically being a blameless heart attack, whilst one hundred would involve a snooker cue lodged up one's nose or by default, anything involving superglue and body organs.

The lower the number, the higher up in the queue you are placed. This ensures one will get seen according to how blameless they were for the incident, not how quickly ergo recklessly they drove to casualty.

Word complement fulfilled, I'm off to casualty. My groin has suffered burning from my laptop. I think that's about a ninety seven on the scale.

The Beaver

2nd Floor, East Building
LSE Students' Union
London WC2A 2AE
email: thebeaver@lse.ac.uk

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PRINTED BY THE NORTHCLIFFE PRESS

If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email thebeaver@lse.ac.uk and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

The Beaver

Comment

Information shortfall

Information Services has been the culprit in what is the latest in a series of administrative blunders that have added to student difficulties in these early weeks of term.

While several IT Services officials have remained upbeat about the new printing system, it has thus far not lived up to the promise. The idea is, at the core, a good one: it could, in theory, streamline the entire process. The switch has been made half-heartedly, however, as cards remain necessary for photocopying whilst the change in printing accounts has been beset by errors. With some students losing upwards of £5 in system malfunctions, the question as to whether the system really provides good value for money must be raised. Along with the glitch having left many students feeling cheated, the long queues at the IT Help Desk discourage many of them from voicing their displeasure. The fact is, IT Services has the best intentions, but their execution has not lived up to the promise.

The Library, on the other hand, continues in its seemingly unending determination to be the bane of student life at the LSE as the collapse of the ATHENS system only under-

lines the poor service it has provided students recently. Professors and teachers continue to laud the system, what with its thousands of electronic journals and millions of articles: there is no excuse for not reading on a given week, they tell us, because something will always be available online. Library resources are already over-stretched after the policy to reduce Set Text loan periods to just four hours was introduced. The ATHENS system becomes indispensable - how can students at the LSE be expected to contribute to any form of debate if they do not have the directory of electronic journals at their disposal?

Students who arrive at the LSE are confronted by a heartless and over-crowded behemoth of a building which, much like the Student Services Centre, is aesthetically pleasing on the surface and is an impressive addition to a prospectus, but is lacking in much real value to the student.

Perhaps it is time for the School and its various departments to begin to look inward and concentrate on student welfare and ensure that before implementing any new system, it will work for those who will use it - the students.

Michael-miss

Members of the Left would be wise to not read too much into the results of the Michaelmas Term elections - though they won all but a small minority of posts available, as *The Beaver* quoted one right-wing insider as saying, "No one cares about Michaelmas."

The fact is, students form a tiny minority on the Court of Governors and as such, we have little say in matters to do with the LSE's decision-making apparatus. The NUS, meanwhile, is an institution with questionable value to the School with our large numbers of international students.

One wonders whether the students who will sit on the Court this year actually believe they can make any difference,

and the likelihood is that they are preparing to declare their candidacy for Executive (and possibly Sabbatical) posts in March.

Last year's Michaelmas Term elections were also characterised by victories for the Left and the LSE itself is a historically left-wing university and yet the Right and apolitical centre claimed victory when it came to the Sabbatical elections.

Current SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane trumpeted his experience at NUS Conference and Court of Governors when he ran for the job, saying he had already experienced many of the tasks a Gen-Sec must perform. Which of last week's winners will follow that formula?

International apathy

Of the 16 students who were elected to either School committees or Executive posts, a tiny minority were international students - at a university where international students are the norm and not the exception, their participation in the Union remains disappointing at best.

It is unfair to lay blame at anyone's feet for this; the fact is that most international stu-

dents go back to their home countries after three years here and do not really see the merits of getting involved in the Union.

Unfortunately, there is not much that can be done - Executive officers who have advocated a more 'inclusive' Union have come and gone and nothing has changed.

The sad likelihood is that nothing ever will.

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. Letters may be edited prior to publication. The deadline for submission is 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication.

Dear Sir,

I found myself shocked and appalled upon reading last week's *Beaver* (605) to discover that candidates standing for the Michaelmas term elections had been credited with the articles they had written. This move clearly contravenes *The Beaver* Constitution:

"11.1.ii. The Beaver shall not publish articles with the by-line of the candidate or agents other than specified under 11.1.1"

Simply because an Executive Editor is editing his last paper does not give him the right to break the Constitution in such a blasé fashion.

Furthermore, I would like to draw attention to the heinous fashion in which News Editor, Prashant Rao, also broke the Constitution in writing the article entitled 'Michaelmas Term elections set to take off'. The constitution clearly states:

"11.1.i. The Beaver shall offer equal space (number of words) to each candidate in an election. The choice and size of limit and of which elections to cover are the decisions of The Beaver. This space may be used by the candidate or the agent to deliver a statement of profile."

In mentioning only a portion of the candidates, Mr. Rao has clearly violated protocol.

Also, in a positively shocking move inevitable to draw criticism from all quarters, I was aghast to learn that the Returning Officer hadn't even bothered to proof read the copy. Despite this being only an informal arrangement, I would like to draw attention to the LSE SU Codes of Practice, where it clearly states:

"C.16.1. [The Returning Officer] ... shall be responsible for the proper conduct of all cross campus elections and referenda."

I think I voice the opinion of much of the jaded student population of LSE when I say that if you're going to take student politics so seriously, don't be so bloody hypocritical as to break the constitutions.

Matthew C Boys

Dear Editor,

I would just like to clarify a point in your interesting article "Council discusses school growth" on the front page of last week's edition of *The Beaver*. Your article says that because of lack of space the Library is "restricted in the number of new books that can be purchased". I would like to reassure your readers that this is not the case. The restrictions on physical space are not affecting the number of books we buy. We are still purchasing essential texts on School reading lists at the ratio of one copy per nine students on the course.

However, with probable further expansion in student numbers, we need to plan for a larger Course Collection, with more shelving for books, more circulation space for students and further space for facilities such as self-service machines. Options for a larger Course Collection will be one of the topics covered in a paper on space planning which the Librarian will be taking to the meeting of the Library and Information Services Committee in November.

Maureen Wade
Deputy Librarian

Dear Editor

It doesn't bother me that *The Beaver* has joined the ranks of countless other publications with a tacit leftwing leaning. What does bother me, however, is the mode of expression - that is to say, the style, rhetoric, and diction - in which some of *The Beaver's* staff writers choose to express themselves. High-minded politically contentious polemic is college culture, no one agrees more than I; but crass, lowbrow, self-serving criticism is not constructive but destructive.

The purpose of dialectic, of debate, is to arrive at truth, is to partake in an existential safari of sorts and, to put it mildly, *The Beaver* has fumbled the ball in this respect. You present unadulterated, raw critique without reflection, without an inner-consciousness, without an inkling or a shred of consideration for counter-criticism. Sure, you run editorials, as does every college newspaper in the western hemisphere. It's simply not enough. Go back to the drawing

board, you're embarrassing yourselves.

I would now like to respond to a particular writer who stirred my resentment, Tracy Alloway: the self-proclaimed postwoman, delivering snippets of the truth to the weary reader with her nonsensical phraseology and altogether amateurish writing style. And since that age-old aphorism tells us to answer a fool by his folly, I figured Who am I to argue with tradition?

Let's start from the top. 'Fire with Fire', an apt title I think for Tracy's column; it captures perfectly the nature of her writing: biased, unreflective, sensationalistic, and better, completely unproductive. Tracy imparts wisdom I could only aspire to, and she prefaces her manifesto on American politics with ominous words: '...you can consider this a last ditch effort to expose the truth about President Bush [...]'. And don't be fooled readers, Tracy Alloway has, and I quote, 'no qualms whatsoever about hitting him [Bush] below the belt. So here goes.. [sic]. Good. Because I don't have any 'qualms' about hitting you below the belt either, and I would love to expound on every aspect of why your claims about Bush are uninformed, unintelligent, and various other words beginning with un-. Fortunately for you, I have a 250-word cap. Unfortunately for you, there's always next week's editorial.

Matthew Sellers

Dear Editor,

In response to the article in last week's issue, titled 'SEX: Yes please... Oh sorry I'm at the LSE', I would like to suggest a solution to Ms. Nangla's problem. She complains of a lack of willing males for sexual activities at the LSE. I can tell her that this problem can be solved easily. Simply attend The Tuns on a Wednesday night, and Ms Nangla can take her pick of the cream (not literally) of LSE's sporting talent. The sex may not be great, but as they say, you don't look at the mantelpiece when you're stoking the fire.

Simon Taylor
LSE 7th Football Team

Collective Meeting

The Beaver will be electing a new:

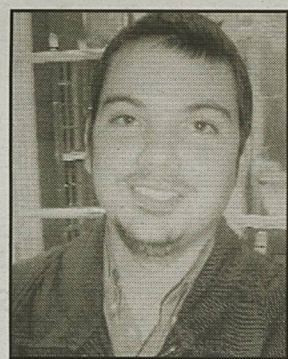
News Editor
Web Editor

on Monday 08 November at 6 pm in Room S75.

Anyone interested in the positions is eligible to stand.

All Collective members are eligible to vote.

Postgraduate Students' Officer

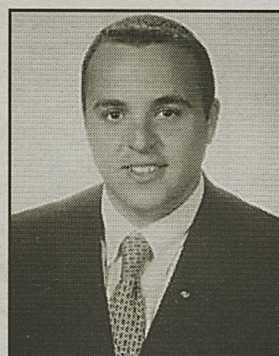
**Matt Willgress** 500

Philip Coticelli 162

Capri Journi 107

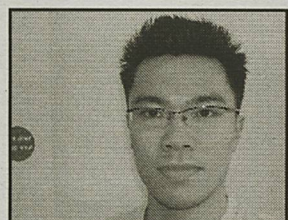
David Yellin 85

Mature & Part Time Students' Officer

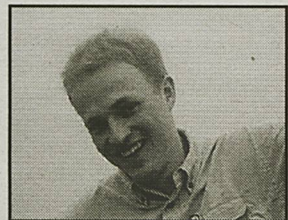
**Ozan Kirtac** 589

Re-open nominations 159

Court of Governors

**Rishi Madlani** 160.8**Jimmy Tam** 160.8**Joel Kenrick** 160.8**A. Mulready-Jones** 147.98**Daniel Freedman** 140.52

Syed Nazir Hussain 136.56



Simon Rees 107

Mark Power 97.45

Jeet Gordhandas 75



Alice Brickley 50

Gareth Carter 38



Louis Haynes 20

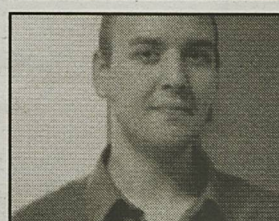
Capri Journi 17

Arvinn Gadgil 13

NUS Conference

**Sian Errington** 152**Matt Willgress** 152**Mark Power** 152**Taris Ahmad** 147.05**N. Sultan-Mydin** 115.62

Jessica Ejdelbaum 102.9



Narzanin Massouri 88.55

Louis Haynes 63.55



Capri Journi 50.1

Jonathan Maron 18.35

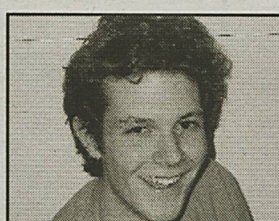
Academic Board

**Anna Ngo** 315**Alykhan Velshi** 261.05

Syed Nazir Hussain 231.45

Capri Journi 82

ULU Council

**Chris Heathcote** 291**A. Mulready-Jones** 243

Azren Aziz 230

Karthik Sankaran 123



Capri Journi 62

Honorary President

Re-open nominations 534

Margaret Thatcher 365

Honorary Vice President

Winston Churchill 451

Mordechai Vanunu 345

Tanni Grey Thompson 218

Ayn Rand 36

blink

Editor: Matthew Sinclair
(thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk)

Politics

Leave my holidays alone

"Valentine's Day, Halloween, Mother's Day and even Bonfire night have been the subject of blasphemy all over the campus. Everywhere I have turned my ears have caught the partial grumbles of various students attempting to diminish the sacred value of our beloved capitalist institutions."

pg. 10

The Centre Left Approach

"Attacking Al-Qaeda is the right thing to do, without a doubt, and it's nice that Mr Freedman and I can agree on something. However, Iraq was not Al-Qaeda."

pg. 11

Recognising Algeria's Plight

"The attachment to the idea of Algeria's union with France led to a long and bloody war, which ended with the massive exodus of the European population back to France."

pg. 12

Solving the economic problem... spiritually

"Without improving one-self, it is impossible to improve society and lead it in the right direction where there is equality and a universal happiness."

pg. 13

International

Six Page US Election Special

"Kim Jong Il for Kerry; Lockheed Martin for Bush; Musings for Nader."

"If Bush wins I'll commit suicide. I can't believe how ignorant people in the US are."

pg. 14-19

Law

Legal Issues the US election should be about

"The point that I'd like to make though is about the lack of debate about some major aspects of American domestic law as well as international law."

pg. 18

Business

The Business of Politics in the US election

"Isn't that over 10 times more for Bush than Kerry from business?"

pg. 19

Two to tango

"In the few months that the government has been there, the Left has indeed created a mess. Be it their war against the deceased Disinvestment Ministry or their inscrutable love for labour reforms, the stock market has- understandably- not always been a sport."

pg. 19

Why are we here? Answers abound aboard the 188



Picture may not be strictly accurate/ Picture: James Upsher

So why are we here? I think I've actually found the answer thanks to Ken Livingstone. Surprisingly, those expensive and arduous journeys on London's public transport offer a window of insight into the real lives of students at the LSE, and whether the journey to get here has been worth it. Forget Big Brother - and hop on...

Just as the 188 bus closes its doors, enter Mr Kenya, a 1st year economics undergraduate fresh off the er...plane. He strikes up a conversation with Miss London, a 2nd year student, by asking if she is enjoying LSE. "Hmm, yes I suppose...but I think I had a great 1st year because London has such a cool party scene." Miss London then enquires, "And what about you - why did you choose the LSE?" Mr Kenya solemnly responds, "Well to be frank, it came down to the name and the reputation". "But you're paying for the name" retorts Miss London sarcastically. After a short pause, Mr Kenya muses "perhaps, but the great name will carry me far in the future". I found myself being drawn to the long-termist view of the Kenyan, particularly with his final quip "So, didn't all that partying affect your grades?" Miss London grumpily concedes, "Well, you know, actually... erm, well I suppose it did."

So like Mr Kenya, are we here just for our careers or are there any romantics out there? I remember being told in my first year that there are three places where you are most likely to meet your life partner -at university, at work or at a wedding.

'Cut to a drunken night bus conversation post-Crush. Two students are pondering whether their current partners will be THE ONE.'

Mala Nangla asks for a human (not political) perspective on whether the LSE is worth the dollars.

Admittedly for the first year students reading this, this thought should be at the back of your minds but it is not for some...

Cut to a drunken night bus conversation post-Crush. Two students are pondering whether their current partners will be THE ONE. They huddle conspiratorially and Girl loudly whispers, "I hope so...but I think my boyfriend is cheating on me." Boy sighs and grudgingly admits, "I think my girlfriend is cheating on me too".

Simultaneously they agree, "Oh well, I suppose it doesn't matter, as long as we don't find out". A long pause ensues, all the passengers are breathily hanging onto their words and mentally recoiling in shock from their passivity towards infidelity or, reluctantly and shruggily (I will make up a word which ends up in the dictionary goddamit), nodding in agreement when Boy says "So hon, can I walk you back to your room?" She looks at him coyly and giggles "ok".

But coming to the LSE is not just about making money or finding love, as I discovered in the Underground when I was touched and humbled by the story of Monica, a Brazilian postgraduate who struggled for years to get here.

"I wanted to study abroad all my life. I live in a country where the class divide is in front of me everyday on the streets and I wanted to do something about it. I worked for five years for an NGO on human rights, and hoped that by going abroad to study at the LSE, I could learn more about what I could do to make the conditions of those in poverty better when I go back home.

I applied for a scholarship and for four years I waited to see if my dream had come true. Every year I was crushed by rejection, but then, the one day eventually came that I won't forget. And the timing was perfect. I had met the man of my dreams, and fortunately he happened to share mine. He had secured a job in London so we began to plan our future together: he would go there first and find us a new home, I would join him and start university and then who knows what would happen; I felt like I could breathe for the first time.

All around me my friends had begun to get married and have babies and made me feel as if I was the odd one out. LSE offered me another life. But one day my perfect world was shattered. A letter arrived informing me that unfortunately, due to financial circumstances, my scholarship had to be delayed by another year. My boyfriend (for whom I had risked so much by going against my family's wishes and cultural conventions by moving in with him) said he just couldn't wait another year and had to go on without me.

I was heart-broken and that was the main reason for our break-up. But, life goes on. I waited another year, packed my bags, left my family, flew here and moved into a single room. The weather makes my heart feel cold, the prices are so inconceivably high they would make my mother cry but still...I can finally breathe again and am so, so happy to be here."

Hacktivist



Election Reflection

Tracy Alloway

Well, by the time you are reading this, the U.S. elections will be underway, and, most likely, under suspicion. Some of us will be breathing a sigh of relief, revelling in the knowledge of a four-year interval before the next round of campaign madness. Others (and I include myself in this category) will be drowning their sorrows in the Three Tuns, mourning for a lost atmosphere of political frenzy. So before we say goodbye, let's take a look at the highs and lows of campaign 2004.

This was, undoubtedly, one of the most polarized campaigns in American history. Consequently, we've seen some amazing displays of political loyalty. Witness the actions of an eighteen-year-old marine recruit, who, after hearing his girlfriend was breaking up with him and voting for John Kerry, held the girl hostage in a police-standoff, threatening to stab her in the neck with a screwdriver, shouting loudly "You'll never live to see the election!" Now if that's not political loyalty I don't know what is. Incidentally, the marine will be undergoing a psychiatric exam, if only they could force those on all Bush supporters.....

In the frenzy of campaigning, we saw the development of several new politicking techniques. My favourite happens to be the sudden appearance of sex-related activist groups. *Votergasm.org* for example, is encouraging people to withhold sex from non-voters. Even better, is *FTheVote.com*, which pushes for the "sexy liberals of the U.S." to take back "the government from the sexually repressed, right-wing" by swapping sex for pro-Kerry votes. Hey, whatever works for you right? (If any of you are considering going for this approach, apparently all you need are "sexy progressive values, a razor-sharp wit, your genitalia, and a mindset that doesn't mind taking one for the team.")

And of course, let's not forget the three-ring circus that was the Republican campaign. Stealing songs without permission ("Still the One" was used at pro-Bush rallies), digitally altering TV ads (to add more "brave" and "proud" looking soldiers), and of course, illegally attempting to deny the vote to as many potential pro-Kerry voters as possible.

I guess that's it for the strange and wonderful world of elections 2004 then. And, unless we have a tie on November 2nd, we must sadly bid farewell to the political hysteria which marked the campaigns - and provided subject matter for a whole lot of these columns! Speaking of columns, I've made a bet with Daniel Freedman (see *The Right Approach*). If Bush wins on Tuesday, I will have to write a Hacktivist column extolling Bush's virtues (if I can find any) and congratulating him on his victory. If Kerry wins, we'll have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Freedman finally write something remotely believable in his column. I know I'm looking forward to it....

Politics

Leave My Holidays Alone

Steve Gummer knows that holidays are commercialised but doesn't care.



Over the past week I have heard them described as tacky, tasteless, unnecessary, and a complete and total waste of money. Shockingly I'm not actually talking about my articles in *The Beaver*, but instead commercial holidays.

Valentine's Day, Halloween, Mother's Day and even Bonfire night have been the subject of blasphemy all over the campus. Everywhere I have turned my ears I have caught the partial grumbles of various students attempting to diminish the sacred value of our beloved capitalist institutions. So, in this week after Halloween and before Bonfire Night I thought I'd take the opportunity to defend these festive days that I love so deeply.

The first and probably most valid critique of these events is that they are simply advertising gimmicks by big companies to boost sales. One student I spoke to had done some research and claimed that the average American family spends \$44 on Halloween. Another I spoke to claimed that these holidays forced parents into spending huge amounts of money to please their children - to buy the best firework, the most evil costume or indeed the biggest box of chocolates, to win over the hottest girl in class. These features of these events are undoubtedly true but speaking as a guy who never managed to have the biggest box of chocolates, I don't care.

Yes I know that all the products are tacky. Even the most ardent advocate of my side would find this idea hard to refute. As I walked into Tesco's last week I discovered that you could actually purchase just one 'Fiendish Finger' (The plastic ones that you put on your hands when you're about five to scare your friends). The cheap commercial argument does seem hard to deny. I think we can picture the other relevant scenarios already. As February 14th approaches the shop shelves become full of poor quality red velvet urging us to express our undying love for that special person, at the bargain price of £4.50. But once again my position remains unchanged. As opposed to rejecting it, why not embrace those horrifically cheap costume creations or the vulgar valentines invention? Take it on board!

After all it's part of our capitalist duty to spend as much as possible and this is undoubtedly a great opportunity. To go against the commercial grain would be very unlike the actions of a proud member of the free market. Hence, to those who

reject my corny artificial days of celebration, I am refusing to surrender my market minded indignation. I am holding my solitary 'Fiendish Finger' defiantly aloft.

One student I overheard discussing Halloween claimed that University students were too old to enjoy such an immature event and was 'embarrassed that his hall was having a party to celebrate'. Too old? Are you kidding? I bet he didn't stop asking for Christmas presents just because he found out Santa wasn't real. No, he did what the rest of us did, and what this reporter still plans on doing. He put out the mince pie (for the reindeer) and the wine (for Mr. Claus) and got into the event in the hope of getting some rather lovely presents (There is a real possibility that nobody else in the whole of the LSE does this in which case I am willing to accept that I am deeply sad).

Even if he doesn't do anything of this nature, surely one must claim that us hard working University students need as many excuses to party as possible. A break from the many hours we all diligently spend struggling in the Library with advanced theories on social policy. Or, if unlike me, we turn out to be not so hard working students then surely we wouldn't object to a different excuse to drink other than we just fancied an evening down the in the Tuns. Is an extra excuse to get drunk, and yes look a bit stupid (as though most of us don't end up doing that on a Friday night anyway) really that outrageous?

One of the more classical debates about so-called 'commercial holidays' is that they lack any genuine sort of legitimacy. Real holidays such as Christmas and Easter are based on Christian events in the life of Jesus Christ. Bonfire Night too becomes more legitimate in such a context as we celebrate the work of one of Britain's least successful terrorists, Guy Fawkes. Yet according to the critics Halloween represents nothing more than the shameless Americanisation of our society (or 'Coca Colonisation' as it is now called). Valentine's Day too is apparently an excuse for all us genuine men to let our girlfriends down again - as if we need a special holiday for that.

Yet I'd argue that these holidays too, have genuine and important backgrounds, with Christian references and all. Halloween began in Celtic circles as a precursor to New Years called 'Samhain' (New Years Eve) which without explaining the slightly pagan rituals that accompanied it

became known in the Christian calendar as All Saint's Day. Its name derives from the term 'All hallows eve'. So what does this have to do with dead people I hear you cry? Well as the history lesson has begun I'll finish. The Celts thought the beginning of the New Year was the point at which the link between the dead world and the living world was the strongest. Hence they began to worship creatures of the dead on that evening - Well I can't think of a reason why not, can you?

As for Valentines Day, this story has less to do with brutal Celtic rituals and more to do with horny Italians, particularly one, who became a Christian martyr called (unsurprisingly) Valentine. He was killed and imprisoned for his faith but whilst imprisoned he fell in love with a woman called Asterius. So there, the reporter says to all you cynical critics out there who deny the true existence of my commercial holidays. They may be shallow and meaningless now but in either case history is on my side.

If my article has bothered anyone in any way, who may be allergic to commercial holidays or finds the idea of both my writing and these events to be repulsive I would only remind them that I am not the strongest advocate of commercial holidays out there. I found one website that maintained Halloween was better than sex, intrigued by such a statement I clicked and to my delight I discovered corny one line explanations such as, 'The uglier you look the more you get' (presumably referring to candy) and more impressively, the fact that your 'always likely to get something in the sack at the end of the evening'. Whilst I don't share the gentleman's fervour I do appreciate his overriding message, which is that commercial holidays are truly worth saving. Don't intellectualise them, or think about them, just go with the flow and party.

So with these musings I will leave you until next time, when no doubt I will once again be moaning about something else that makes me unhappy. I'm now off to celebrate all three of my favourite capitalist holidays in one swoop - To hollow out my pumpkin with one hand, to swirl my sparkler with another and to begin to think about that box of chocolates for Valentine's Day. You can never prepare too early.

Politics

The Centre Left Approach



Richard Coopey takes issue with a recent edition of *The Right Approach* and argues that a more subtle response to terrorism is needed than lashing out with military force.

Whilst I accept that I will never share political beliefs with Daniel Freedman, and should perhaps just accept that I won't agree with what he writes in his column, reading his article last week was just too much, and I felt the need to offer a common sense response to him from the moderate left. Admittedly, "The Centre Left Approach" would be a less witty column title, but I'm working on it.

Attacking Al-Qaeda is the right thing to do, without a doubt, and it's nice that Mr Freedman and I can agree on something. However, Iraq was not Al-Qaeda, but since the invasion it has become a battlefield and recruiting ground for them. I fail to see how this is making the world a safer place. Saddam Hussein was no Islamic fundamentalist. In fact his Ba'ath party was quite ideologically opposed to the hardcore Islamism, as evidenced by his war with Iran (a war in which, incidentally, the USA supported Iraq). The war in Iraq has not stifled international terrorism, it has merely given Al-Qaeda free propaganda. Some very nice American soldiers even took the photographs themselves.

Before being portrayed as a "cheese eating surrender monkey" I would like to point out that I support the removal of Saddam Hussein and indeed the whole war in Iraq. But I would like the "right" to at least be honest and accept that it has nothing to do with Al-Qaeda. My issue with the war in Iraq is essentially the false reasoning behind it, and also the fact that it has been abysmally managed. An arrogant belief that regardless of their actions the Allied forces would be welcomed as liberators was somewhat foolhardy, and has left the Allies with a war which we have won but a peace which we are losing. I should specifically site the attitudes of the American troops, as it is no coincidence

that most trouble has been in the American Zone. Admittedly, the US is occupying areas which were inherently more likely to rebel, but the arrogance of the occupying troops (see Abu-Ghraib) has exacerbated the situation markedly.

The article illustrates the point that Iraq is not related to international terrorism very clearly by saying how Franco-Russian objection to the war in Iraq has not protected them from attack. That is because they are not related. Specifically, to simplify the Beslan atrocity as another act of Islamic terrorism is a gross underestimation of the complexity of the situation in Chechnya and the surrounding provinces. That tragedy had nothing to do with Iraq, and everything to do with the ethnic strife which is so prevalent in those regions. This is another important issue. The right has a love of broad-brush simple to understand statements which ignore the intricacies of world politics. Easy equations: Terrorist = Al-Qaeda. Muslim = Terrorist. This is a simple failure to understand that regional issues can be just as important as overarching ideology. It also fails to consider (as the West Wing so eloquently put it) that Al-Qaeda is unto Islam as the KKK is to Christianity. The most extreme, militant wing. Perhaps we should have invaded the USA in the 30s as they were harbouring the Klan?

The simple fact is that it was easier to sell the war to the American public on the grounds that it was an anti-terrorist war, whereas it would have been much better represented as a humanitarian war to remove an evil dictator. Perhaps, however, the USA feared that it then might be expected to do this in other parts of the world, without such obvious oil related benefits. For example, removing the regime in the Sudan would be rather more difficult that removing Saddam Hussein, and

whilst there are potential oil reserves in that country, it is far smaller and harder to obtain than the reserves in Iraq. America's history of isolationism meant that it would be very difficult for the American people to accept an interventionist war unless it was for the reason of "Homeland Security".

As a historian, I feel I must take issue as well with the comparison of Islamic Fundamentalism and Nazism. Yes, Sir Winston Churchill was a voice in the wilderness for some years. However, the decisions behind appeasing Hitler were immensely rational, logical and undoubtedly the right thing to do. Britain and France simply could not have stood up to Hitler when Churchill was advocating war. In an ideal world it is quite possible that war with the Nazi's would have come sooner, but it was simply not possible at the time that Churchill was advocating it. Therefore, the comparison with Bush is totally redundant. His views are criticised not because people are not ready to fight, or because people did not want to remove Saddam Hussein, but because they represent an arrogant American administration which wants to impose its own will on the world without logic or sensibility. Bush is no Churchill, and to suggest so is an insult to the great man's memory. Churchill was a man of great intelligence and charisma and superb leadership. Bush is none of these. The difference is most greatly shown by their great speeches. Churchill led with the "We will fight them on the beaches" speech. Bush says he knows how hard it is to "put food on your family".

Finally, defeating Al-Qaeda requires far more guile than simply invading country after country. It is less an organisation than an idea, a belief. It is not even Al-Qaeda which is currently operating terrorist attacks, it is other splinter groups inspired by it. Fighting an idea does not require

guns or tanks, it requires persuasion. It requires an America which takes a balanced role in the Middle East and abandons its unstinting support for the Israeli government. It requires a leader who does not describe military action against terrorists as a "crusade". It requires some common sense, and extending a hand to the vast majority of the Islamic world that deplore the actions of the militants. It requires making perfectly clear the fact that the Alliance was coming in to liberate the Iraqi people, not just their oil. This means guarding important historical sites in Baghdad, not just the Oil Ministry. It required a plan to win the peace, as well as to win the war. Dare I say it, it requires the victory of Senator Kerry later tonight.

Rather than portraying the current state of the world as a clash of the civilisations, the West needs to ally itself with moderate Islam and crush militancy. We have a common goal with the vast majority of the Islamic world, and it is only by working with them that we can remove the scourge of Islamic Terrorism. Acting with Turkey is key to this, and Egypt is another crucial ally. Most importantly, nothing will calm the Islamic world until agreement is reached in Palestine. An agreement whereby the United States lets Israel know that compromise is essential and that co-existence is key. Only then will the fuel to the fire of Islamic Militancy be extinguished, and then the recruits and support for terrorist organisations will dry up. The war cannot be won by armies, but by starving the terrorists of what they need more than anything else. People. Without more willing suicide bombers, the terrorists will be unable to succeed, and then the menace will be no more.

Surely that is "the right approach"?

Politics

Recognising Algeria's Plight

Charles van den Boogaerde describes the hardships Algeria has suffered and how these are now being recognised in France.

On November 1, 1954, the All Saints Day revolt ignited what would become the Algerian War. This conflict, often dismissed offhandedly as yet another desperate attempt by a declining power to preserve a colony, came to a conclusion only eight years later with the Evian Accords. It is my belief, however, that it still shapes the 'consciousness' of a very large segment of the French population. This is largely due to the same facts that encouraged France to opt for intransigence in the face of popular revolt, an idea which I believe a rapid historical review should illustrate. Fifty years later, though, a new sense of openness has begun to emerge, which might just be the first step towards the eradication of 'old ghosts' and, more importantly, towards a true, open debate and a more general awareness of France's "Duty of Remembrance", especially among the younger generations.

The French colonisation of Algeria begun in 1830. Unlike many of France's possessions, it was a 'settler colony', that is to say that a sizeable European population emigrated towards this new territory, a population comprising French, Spanish, Italians... The subsequent atomisation of pre-existing structures allowed for the integration of Algeria into France: it formed three departments. Of course, the European population only ever comprised about a tenth of the Arab population.

Despite this, and unlike what had been the case in British-ruled India at the time of independence, Algeria was considered to be fully French. After the All Saints Day revolt, Charles de Gaulle went as far as declaring "Algeria is France!". Despite what some may have thought privately, in the public arena the myth of 'L'Algérie française' dominated and encouraged a severe response, which was then to escalate into a long, drawn-out war.

The gradual escalation, which precipitated the French into the Suez crisis because of Nasser's help to the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN), radicalized both the Pieds Noirs, as European settlers were called, and Algeria's Arab population. The Army, relying on conscripts for 80% of its troops, achieved significant military progress. However its elite units increasingly took on a role of policing (through torture, imprisonment, rapes...), while its upper echelons became politicized. Profiting from the Fourth Republic's weakness, it engendered a change of system among the countries which had adopted new Constitutions after 1945.

The creation of the Fifth Republic under Charles de Gaulle changed France's political orientation in Algeria profoundly. On the 16th of September, 1959, he referred to Algerian self-determination. By then the idea of 'l'Algérie française' was only heralded by the far-right, the Pieds Noirs, and the upper echelons of the Army in Algeria. Unable to accept the 'winds of change', these groups reverted, towards the end of the war, to terrorist tactics, while the vast



majority of the French military contingent in Algeria, and the vast majority of the French public, had accepted the independence of Algeria as inevitable, or indeed as primordial for the modernisation of the French economy and of its military.

The attachment to the idea of Algeria's union with France led to a long and bloody war, which ended with the massive exodus of the European population back to France, and the shocking massacres of Harkis, the Algerian Arabs who had collaborated (willingly or not) with the French, once Algeria became independent. To an Algerian representative who had seen ten of his family members murdered by the FLN in retributive actions and told de Gaulle "We will suffer", the latter coldly answered "oh well, you will suffer". The Evian Accords might have ended the war, but they left many questions unanswered.

Albert Camus' widow probably expressed the sentiments of many when she took the defence of General Jouhaud, a leading member of the Pieds Noirs' terrorist organisation, the O.A.S (Organisation Armée Secrète) and declared: "I feel torn: partly French and partly Algerian, dispossessed in these two countries that I do not recognize anymore as I never imagined them being separated". Her eloquent statement most probably encapsulates the sentiments of many a Pied Noir, and yet fifty years after the beginning of the conflict a space for discussion has emerged.

If the public debate often remains far from cold, clinical examination, the taboo surrounding the Algerian war has receded. The long path towards dispassionate debate is more advanced than is the case for the United States and the Vietnam war, for example: one of the main debates in the run-up to the American presidential elections was, after all, whether John Kerry had indeed deserved his medals or not!

There is a multiplication of documentaries, films and books about the war in France: the historian Benjamin Stora claims that he has come across 3000 books in French on the subject. Some important steps have been made, notably through the media. The General Massu has thus openly

'After the All Saints Day revolt, Charles de Gaulle went as far as declaring "Algeria is France!'

admitted taking part in acts of torture and has apologized. The infamous General Aussaresses has even gone further. On the 23rd of November, 2000, he gave an interview for 'Le Monde', in which he declared that he had personally executed 24 persons. In her doctoral thesis, Raphaëlle Branche estimated that hundreds of thousands of Algerians had suffered from acts of torture.

Of course, you may ask about the utility of bringing up such hard facts that most people, especially those involved, would rather forget. I believe, on the contrary, that it is through these evocations that useful debates are sparked. This process has been helped further by the recent opening of archives.

The French State has also played a part in filling the gap of information. In June 1999 the National Assembly adopted a text officially recognizing the war, as opposed to the euphemistic 'events' that was used beforehand. That same year, the Algerian War was integrated into the history cursus taught in French high schools, raising awareness as to what had happened.

Of course, a lot remains to be done. The passion involved into expressions such as 'L'Algérie française' still pollute many debates. Still lacking are memorial sites for the victims of the war, both French and Algerian. Still lacking are official apologies for the treatment of Harkis by the French. There still remains a strong sense of auto-censorship when one approaches the subject. Further, memories tend not to interact: history told by a Pied Noir will not draw the same conclusions as history told by a French man of Algerian origins. Further we are still very far from a complete Franco-Algerian reconciliation.

I strongly believe that it is the duty of French youth today to move away from their grand-parents passion, and towards debate and remembrance. The worst way, though, is a move towards apathy.

Politics

Solving the economic problem... spiritually



Picture: James Upsher

Since the beginning of humanity, society has been making efforts at solving the economic problem. The problem has always involved the allocation of limited resources to meet "wants." Mankind has set up various mechanisms in an attempt at solving the economic problem, and the West has certainly pioneered this attempt, hence the "capitalist" tag being used on the West. Successful problem solving has a framework, and we should constantly monitor our progress and reassess where we are in relation to where we should be.

Almost everyone would agree that we live in a world far from the ideal and it is that it is very difficult, if not impossible to roll-back the past and have a second attempt at solving the economic problem. There remain two alternatives namely, we carry on living life with no apparent direction for society as a whole, or we try to redirect society. A feasible way to redirect society is to improve ourselves as individuals and help each other to work towards the same goal. Without improving one-self, it is impossible to improve society and lead it in the right direction where there is equality and a universal happiness.

Mahatma Gandhi was once approached by a middle-aged woman and her son. She asked him to tell her son to stop eating so much sugar. Gandhi pondered for a moment, and replied "Come back to me next week." They came back to Gandhi a week later and she asked him again. He looked at her son and said "Don't eat so much sugar." The woman was puzzled and asked him why he told them to wait a week when he could have just told them that the week before. He then explained that a week ago, he ate too much sugar himself. Basing our approach on Gandhi's example, let us now look at what the current situation is in society and how we as individuals can improve.

Greed

As time has gone by, mankind has gone from only wanting the bare necessities, to wanting unimaginably advanced luxurious goods such as robots enhanced with artificial intelligence who are capable of carrying out tasks ranging from cleaning the

house, to having conversations with us to make us feel less insecure. When excessive amounts of wealth are at hand, it becomes less difficult to choose what to spend the money on. Therefore, we don't have to choose- we can have everything and more!

This causes an increase in our desire to enjoy material, which we can never get enough of. The endless quest for limitless amounts of money shows no signs of slowing. Businessmen still have the long faces on the tube in the morning, and the masses of businessmen pushing and shoving on the tube during the rush hour on the way back could easily be mistaken for livestock being crammed into a transportation truck.

There is never too big a wait till the next fashionable luxury good is released, which is a "must-buy" for anyone wanting to converse with neighbours without feeling ashamed of not having one. This attitude is consistent throughout the West. Companies thrive for maximising profit margins at almost any cost and are constantly releasing new products in an attempt at luring the middle class into purchasing them. Society keeps its finger on the pulse, waiting for new products to be released.

With the increasingly widespread use of communications technology, the less prosperous countries are given the privilege of viewing advertisements of various luxurious goods currently endorsed by most in the West. Reduction of greed can aid the redistribution of wealth, which would be a great contribution to solving the economic problem.

Lust

The Bhagawad Gita, the text renowned as the jewel of India's spiritual wisdom states, "from lust, anger arises." Applying this to our current context, we can see how society is constantly thriving to enjoy material, which may make us attached to this material. Extensive contact with material from which our mind feel a sense of "joy" may lead to reliance. The clearest examples are addictions to materials such as cigarettes and alcohol, which are the root causes of many health problems. An absence of this material which we may

have become reliant upon may lead to frustration. However, one may argue that these material possessions on which we are reliant are more often than not available to us. This approach doesn't attempt to control our desire and attachment to the material and can have drastic consequences on our happiness in this uncertain world.

The West has conceived that there is much uncertainty in this world; There are two guarantees in life namely, death and taxes. The frustration caused by the combination of strong desires and absence of the material needed to satisfy this desire is not limited to the West and may circulate and hit back at the West in various ways we have seen recently. Reduction of lust enables better sense control of one-self. If we do not crave for something, we are more likely to be under control of ourselves.

Lack of knowledge in youths has led to high-rates of under-age pregnancies, and a similar lack of knowledge has led to an AID's crisis, which is a major cause of concern in the under-developed countries. We can clearly see the underlying cause beneath not only these two problems, but many more problems. People who contribute to these problems suffer from the apparently uncontrollable desire to engage in sexual activity and cannot constrain their senses enough to avoid engaging in this activity.

Lust is a very difficult problem to solve as it is subtle and often doesn't cause too much immediate harm. However, we can see that lust is the stepping-stone for other problems and it isn't a problem only experienced by under-educated people of the less developed countries. In the West we have seen many people in high positions of authority be investigated for engaging in sexual activity where it wasn't seen as "right" in the public eye. This has often caused them problems with their families and working life which they could no doubt have done without.

Anger

When conflict comes to a boiling point and the result is violence, the underlying reason is usually anger. When people cannot sufficiently control anger, it transforms into various feelings such as hatred and

Prashant Joshi argues that spiritual practice is necessary to confront the many problems in the world today.

jealousy. These feelings stall our progress to be happy. In recent times, conflict and war have been the primary concern of the world. Support for war has often been rejected hence the number of anti-war movements has been great. The Spanish Popular Party was booted out of office in March and was an enthusiastic backer of the war against Iraq.

People often find it difficult to take a stance on war and the reason is often that they feel a sense of mercy on those who are innocent victims. When a part of society feels threatened, they often resort to action to remove the threat. This can be a vicious cycle as we have seen recently with the measures the West has taken to cope with the terrorist threat. In an angry state, it is very difficult to control the mind and coordinate actions. The civilians killed in Iraq and the members of the West captured by those in Iraq show that anger has devastating direct consequences.

In an angry state of mind, one cannot simultaneously be happy. In a world where even the most powerful of people seem to have such little control of their environment as it is effected by an infinite number of factors, it becomes ever-important to control anger.

Conclusion - Spiritualisation

We analyse the past in order to learn from it, make predictions and to formulate solutions. We have looked at the doom and gloom caused by humanity's apparent way of solving the economic problem, and it would be very easy to leave it at that without proposing a renewed solution. However, when the solution stares you in the face it would be absurd not to give it a chance. The three factors that are responsible for the current situation in society can be put down to a common denominator consisting of 3 evils, namely greed, lust and anger. Spiritual practise helps us control our senses instead of letting them control us.

When anger, lust and greed are effectively controlled, we can let our minds connect to the soul, and we can act to please our souls. Meditation involves focussing on an object in order to focus our senses upon the object and stop them from straying. It is important what we focus on, and a pure object will help restrain our senses. The Supreme Soul, or God is the most effective object of our focus, as God will help us if we show we are making an effort at it:

The Bhagawad Gita says "Those who meditate on my spiritual form (God)- to them I carry what they lack, and I preserve what they have." Individuals make up societies, which make up humanity. Spiritualisation requires us to control our senses, and could possibly offer a painless and obvious solution to the economic problem. Who knows what could happen if we start putting our souls in front of our material bodies!

Musings

...for Nader

Matthew Sinclair

An axis of evil endorsements. Kim Jong Il for Kerry; Lockheed Martin for Bush; Musings for Nader.

If you vote Ralph Nader for President you'll get an enormous number of desperately bad policies. The best solution to a US economy struggling to compete in international markets is not, of course, to raise business tax; a "fair" America. It is also unsurprising that shareholders have not asked for his heroic policy of "democratizing" corporate governance. Nader as a doctrine appears to revolve around putting the word "democracy" or "democratizing" (Americans love their 'z's) in front of everything he'd vaguely like to scrap; world trade for instance.

However, this really doesn't matter. American congressional elections are so thoroughly gerrymandered that extraneous variables like public opinion have little effect. Should Nader come to power its entirely possible he would still face a Republican Congress. If Republican Congressmen can't work with Clinton they have absolutely no chance of getting along with Ralph. In the ensuing deadlock you could achieve something of a libertarian/anarchist wet dream, the end of government.

If a European government were to shut down it would be catastrophic. Without the state Britons would, within a week, be reduced to eating what we can kill (the population of Oxford), commuting by horse and cart and attempting to throw rocks across the channel. Americans are not quite so dependent.

If the US government were to shut down Washington's population would rapidly be reduced to three insane homeless people, living like kings as everyone else fled for the higher standards of living available in downtown Grozny. The rest of the country would feel little impact. If I'm wrong and something truly awful happened, an Amish takeover is my best candidate for doomsday scenario, people would just buy lots of canned goods, sit in the same bunkers they used for their new year's eve party a few years back and hunker down for a decade or so while it all blew over.

In the meantime you'd have no ladelling of contracts and protectionist pork from the US government to prevent dastardly poor countries selling manufactures. You'd have no one attempting to make the North Koreans, and their nuclear arsenal, really twitchy. You wouldn't have your country's political debate entirely sidelined every four years for news of a foreign poll. Everything would be better.

This scheme may appear a little impractical at the minute; Nader is trailing a little at the polls, a somewhat weak third. However, I can suggest a scheme for any conscientious LSE student who feels that they should make a difference. Following the example of countless Guardian readers; write a letter describing to George Bush and John Kerry (it's a little late and futile talking to American voters) all about how they should really stand down and accept that Europeans are so much better informed about how their country should best be run. Only by following the European example, after all, can the US avoid major wars, a faltering economy and imperialism.

Bugger.

International

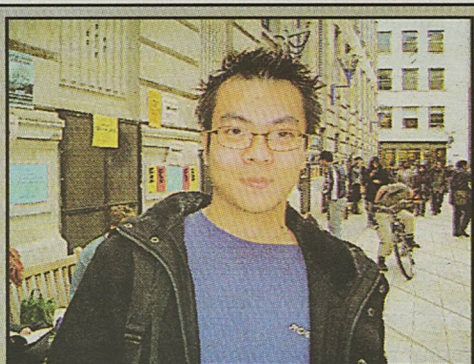
International Correspondents: Kristin Solberg and Stefanie Shaw

COUNTDOWN to the RECOUNT 04

How would LSE students vote?

We Want Kerry

Who do you want to win?



"To me, Bush and Kerry are similar in their levels of judgements as short-sighted politicians, so whoever wins has no bearings on me."

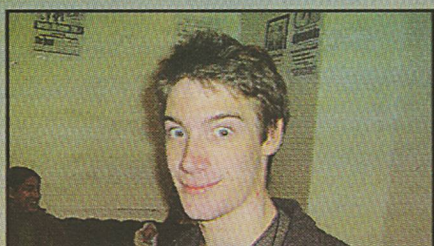
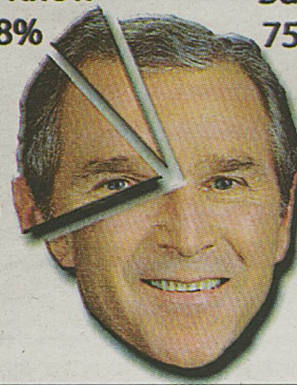


"I'm going to be an optimist and think that Kerry will win, although it may be naive."

Who do you realistically think will win?

Don't Know 5.8% Bush 75%

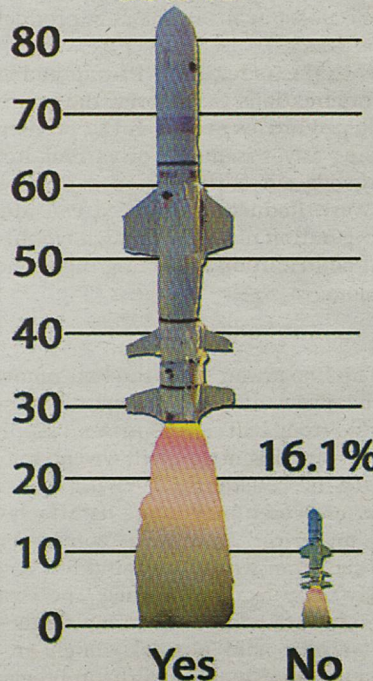
Kerry 19.2%



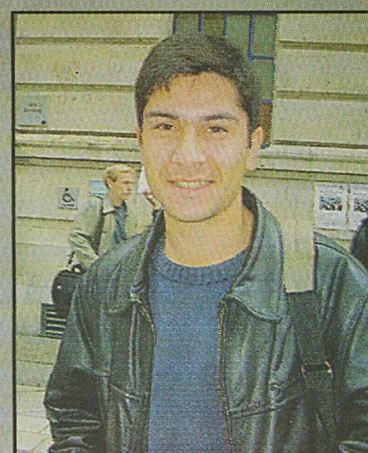
"If Bush wins I'll commit suicide. I can't believe how ignorant people in the US are."

Would Kerry's election change foreign policy?

83.9%



Stefanie Khaw and Kristin Solberg surveyed LSE students on their opinions in the run up to the US election.

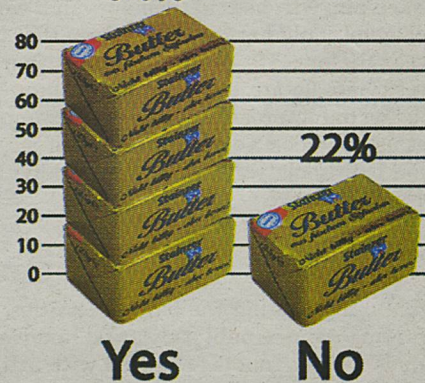


"I sympathise with Kerry because he's a good politician and deals with present domestic issues. But if I were American, I would probably vote for Bush. He is the person who would like the US. to be more dominant in the world, to be one of the influential countries, and that is good for American business and economy."

Kerry would change things

Would a Kerry Victory change domestic policy?

74%



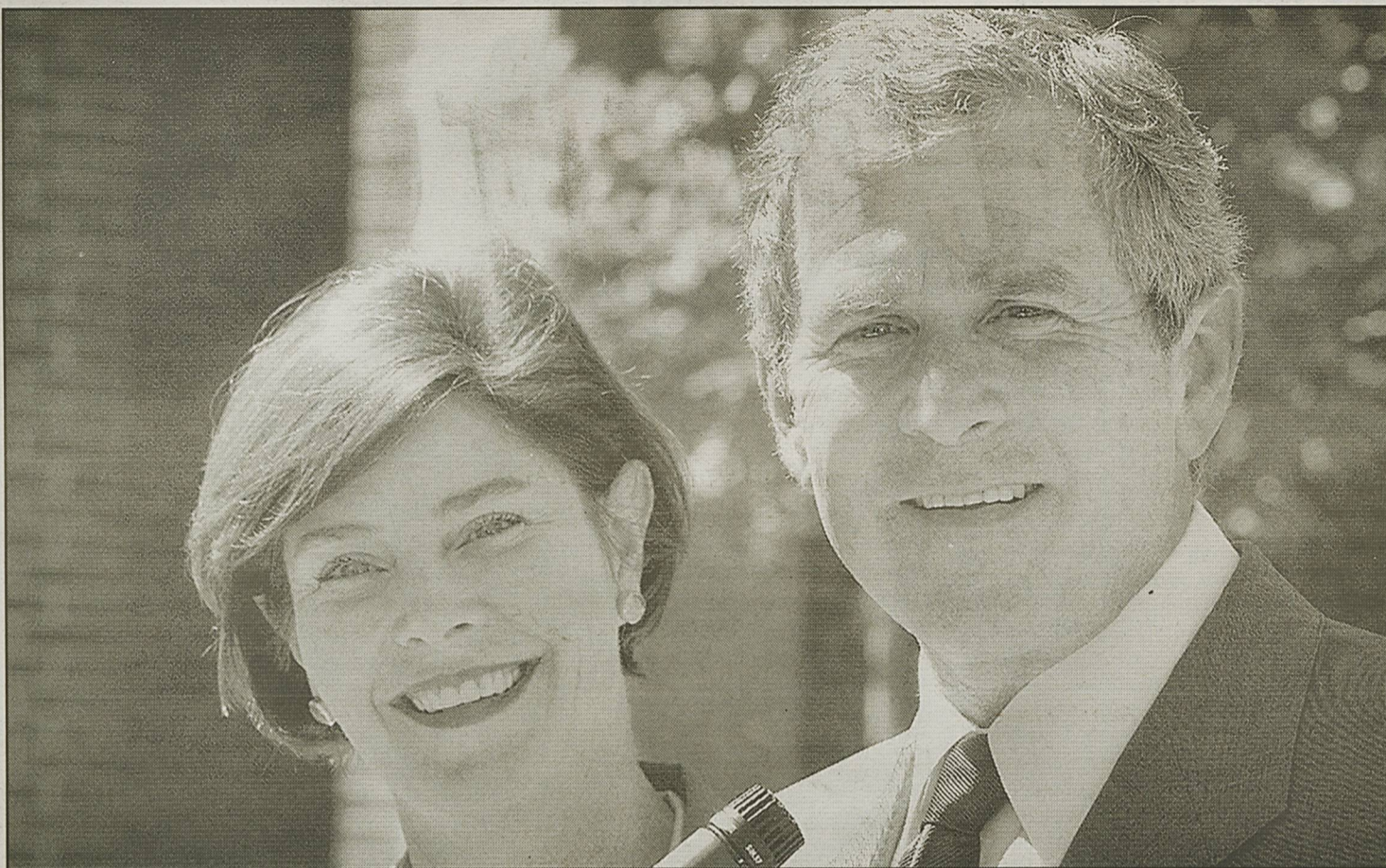
Graphics: James Upsher

International

International Correspondents: Stefanie Shaw and Kristin Solberg

America needs four more years

Alykhan Velshi endorses President Bush's re-election



The London School of Economics is hardly the most favourable place to argue for President Bush's re-election. This is odd because LSE's twin values - internationalism and innovation - have all been embraced by President Bush, and rejected by his challenger.

Whatever your view on the Iraq war - whether you were in favour of it like myself, or against it like Saddam Hussein - Americans should expect their Commander in Chief to have a clear and consistent policy on the issue. Bush has been steadfast in his support for the war, and unwavering in his commitment to building a free Iraq. Senator Kerry has, on the other hand, been anything but clear: he voted for the war; he voted for funding the war (before voting against it); he defended the war in the Senate and in the media; then, with characteristic opportunism, he said invading Iraq was "the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time." On the central foreign policy issue of the day, Americans, and the world, deserve someone who will not wobble.

Since his election to the Senate, John Kerry has been on the wrong side of every major foreign policy issue: he supported nuclear freeze, opposed fighting communism in South America and voted against the Gulf War. One should approach politicians as one does abusive spouses: don't trust them when they say they will change, few ever will.

Senator Kerry interprets the War on Terror narrowly; hence his myopic focus on capturing bin Laden, et c'est tout. To which Bush, in rebuttal, offered the allegory (ok, he didn't actually call it an allegory) of the snake. Bush reasons: if a snake in your backyard bites your child, do you kill just that snake, or capture all the snakes in your backyard to safeguard against future attacks? This is how President Bush connects 9/11 to Iraq; and, of course, the fact that Saddam Hussein's operatives met with those who planned 9/11 soon before the attack.

President Bush has received considerable criticism for his domestic policy, most of it unfair. The unemployment rate in the

'One should approach politicians as one does abusive spouses: don't trust them when they say they will change, few ever will.'

USA currently stands at 5.6%, the same as when President Clinton ran for re-election in 1996. Since President Bush passed his landmark tax cuts, the US economy has been steadily improving. The tax cuts did not simply return money to Americans, they reduced the penalty on capital investment, the penalty on marriage and the penalty on dying.

Critics of President Bush have claimed, with passion not matched by reason, that Bush is in hoc to the Christian Right. They cite, firstly, his opposition to gay marriage, and secondly, his support for faith-based charities. On the first, President Bush is joined by the vast majority of Americans, among whom one will find people of all faiths and persuasions. On the second, faith-based charities are an eminently sensible idea. As most soup-kitchens in America are run out of churches, it is to put ideology over compassion to deny federal funding to these charities. Even France, whose laws enshrine dogmatic secularism as constitutional principles, is considering repealing its 1905 laws preventing state funding of religious institutions. These are all based on the sensible understanding that religion is not evil, and that if, and to the extent, that the state supports non-religious charities there is no good reason that religious ones should be ipso facto penalised.

It is a near certainty that the next President will fill one, possibly two, vacancies on the Supreme Court. This has many Americans - conservatives and liberal alike - understandably nervous; the next President might tip the balance of the high

court, and so the country, in one direction or the other. Liberals have, as ever, been in histrionics over the possibility that Roe v Wade, the landmark legal decision on abortion, might be struck down. Personally, I am in favour of abortion; but, as a law student, I oppose Roe v Wade: it is sloppily argued, legally incorrect, unconstitutional, and a violation of states' rights. Overturning Roe v Wade will not, all of a sudden, make abortion illegal.

What John Kerry and his Democratic Party lack are ideas. On education, Republicans favour school vouchers; on poverty, they support an Earned Income Tax Credit and low-tax "Enterprise Zones"; on health care, they support incentives for employers that provide coverage. On each of these issues, Democrats are embedded to outdated and failed socialist ideas: on education, they want increased funding; on poverty, they want to increase welfare payments and the minimum wage; on health care, they want more government involvement. If the Republican Party is anything, it is the party of ideas and innovation. The Democrats, on the other hand, refuse to discard failed ideas of old: they are, to wit, the new reactionaries.

President Bush has made some mistakes. He did not send enough troops to Iraq. He did not allow his Marines to finish the job, once and for all, in Fallujah. Prior to invading Iraq, he spent too much time cap-in-hand at the UN and not enough planning the post-war peace. But his steely resolve, his inspirational words, his strength in the days after 9/11 coupled with his unwavering commitment to eliminate the terrorists and the states that sponsor them showed the makings of a worldly leader. President Bush evinced moral clarity in his ability to call evil by name. He displayed the mind of strategic thinker in his understanding of who, and whom, are America's actual allies. Standing on a heap of rubble after 9/11, President Bush understood that the world had changed, and only he is capable of seeing us through it.

The Right Approach



No War, For Oil

Daniel Freedman

It turns out the debate over whether to remove Saddam really was about oil. Just not in the way the anti-war crowd claimed. As the Iraqi newspaper al-Mada first revealed last year - and as was explained in greater detail earlier this month by the Duelfer-report - Saddam used the UN's oil-for-food program to run the greatest bribery and money laundering scheme in world history. Put simply, Iraq's oil was used by Saddam to buy allies and entrench his rule.

The Duelfer report - compiled based on information obtained from deposed Iraqi officials and lists belonging to the former Iraqi Vice-President and Oil Minister - explains how Saddam was able to manipulate the UN program using discretionary powers given to him by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. These powers enabled Saddam to: sell oil to friends at below market prices, buy goods from them at inflated prices, and receive kickbacks from others - generating around \$10 billion in illegal revenue.

The list of people and companies who are alleged to have received kickbacks reads like a who's who of worldwide friends of Saddam. Highlights include: former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the personal office of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and even Benon Sevan - the head of the UN oil-for-food program itself!

According to sources - unconfirmed because British and American names were withheld from the public - the list also includes former Labour-MP and anti-war leader George Galloway. Galloway was on the original al Mada list, although he then denied the charges. Incidentally, after being expelled from the Labour party for urging Arab states to fight British troops, he founded his own anti-war party - inappropriately named "Respect" - which has links to the secretive Trotskyist group Socialist Action - of which, interestingly, some members of the LSESU executive are reportedly members (names cut out by editor).

If these allegations are true it explains why the UN-run sanctions system was allowed to descend into a farce: "essential" imports were permitted to include luxury cars, building materials for palaces and the like. In addition it explains why Russia, France and UN officials appeared to jump at every opportunity to ease sanctions further. And it also explains why some leaders of the anti-war movement protested as furiously as they did. Forget the "Stop the War Coalition," the "Bribed by Saddam Coalition" is more accurate.

Unfortunately the scandal doesn't even end there. The oil-for-food program, remember, was designed to provide the Iraqi people with essential food and medicine. It now appears many of those who would movingly speak about the plight of the Iraqi people were willing participants in scamming them and thereby depriving them of these crucial supplies. And instead of easing the plight of the oppressed Iraqi people, the program only served to increase Saddam's stranglehold over them. And all so some Westerners could profit from Iraq's oil.

International

International Correspondents: Kristin Solberg and Stefanie Khaw

Vote Kerry

Troy Stangarone makes the case for Kerry

Today, Americans will choose between two distinct visions for our nation's future. While for many on one side or the other of the political aisle this will be a clear choice - it is a choice which I believe clearly calls for the election of Senator John Kerry as President of the United States.

As with any election dealing with an incumbent, this election is partially a referendum on President Bush's record over the last four years. So let's look at the bottom line beyond the well worn issues of Iraq and terrorism:

- The loss of American leadership and respect in the world.
- A growing surplus turned into a deficit of more than \$415 billion.
- The first president since the Great Depression to lose jobs.
- More American's without health insurance than 4 years ago.
- The weakening of environmental standards.
- Taking police off the streets by cutting funding for the COPS program.
- Allowing the assault weapons ban to expire.

Over the next four years, America will face many important issues both at home and abroad, and we need a president who understands that leadership is about more than making a decision, its about bringing people together to overcome the challenges before us and having the wisdom to learn from your mistakes.

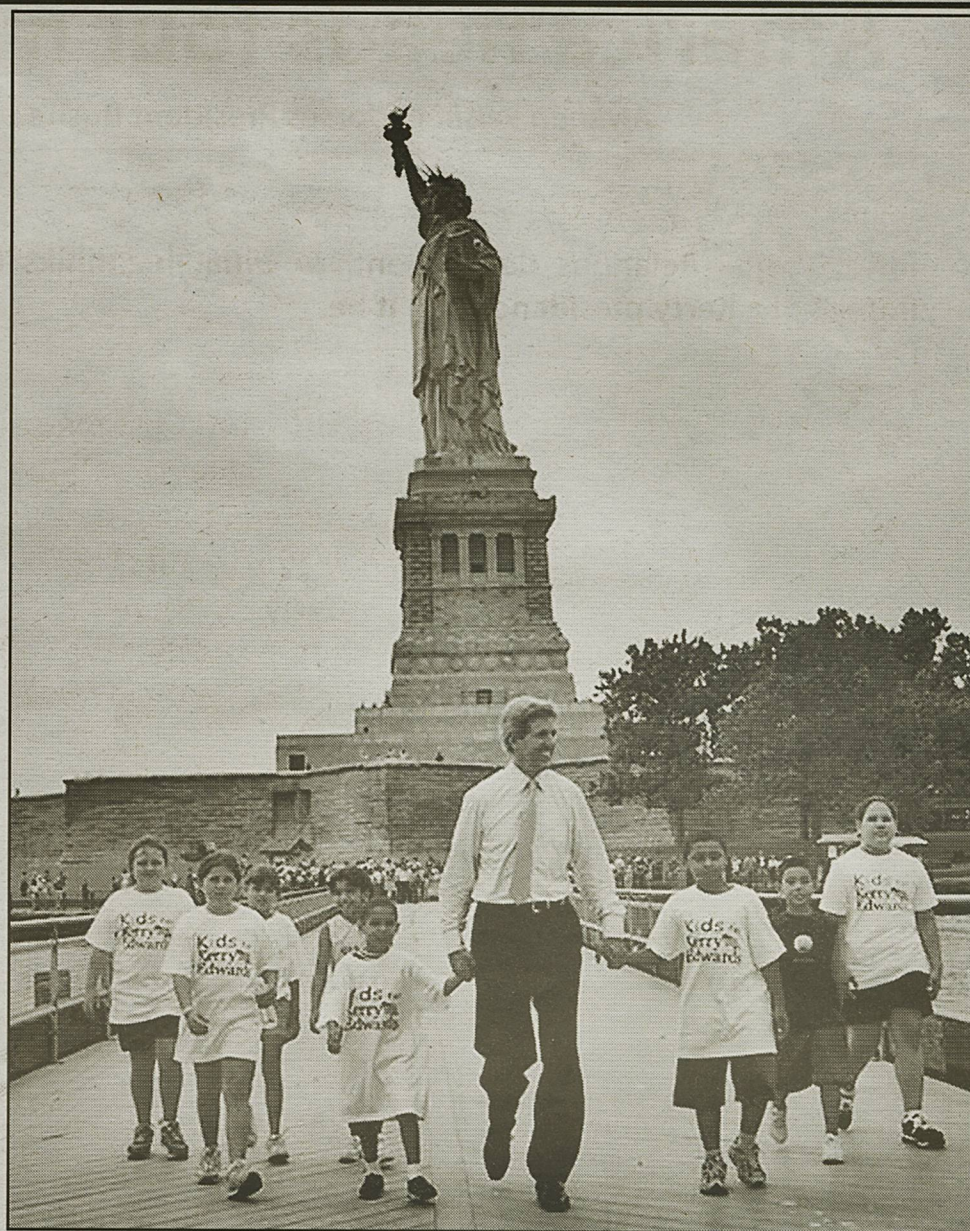
There must also be a choice in an elec-

tion, and Senator Kerry provides a clear one. Senator Kerry would work to restore the honor and integrity of the White House that has been lost in the eyes of so many of the American people and the world. He would reach out to our allies and the rest of the world and begin the process of healing wounds while retuning to the American tradition of providing leadership on issues of global importance ranging from security to the environment.

Beyond the Senator's war record, he has worked to protect America in these difficult times by supporting the creation of the 9/11 Commission and the Department of Homeland Security from the beginning, unlike President Bush. He would restore the COPS program and the assault weapons ban while reaching across the aisle to protect America's soft targets and enact the intelligence reforms supported by the 9/11 Commission.

On the domestic front, the Senator would return to the policies of fiscal responsibility. He has pledged to roll back the tax cuts on the wealthy and to reduce the deficit by half - meaning he would scale back any of his programs if the funding was not available. He would also enact the only real plan to provide Americans with a real choice for affordable healthcare while working to protect our environment.

For Americans who want a return to the prosperity of the 1990's and our nation's honoured role of leadership among allies, the choice is Senator Kerry.



In defence of the electoral college

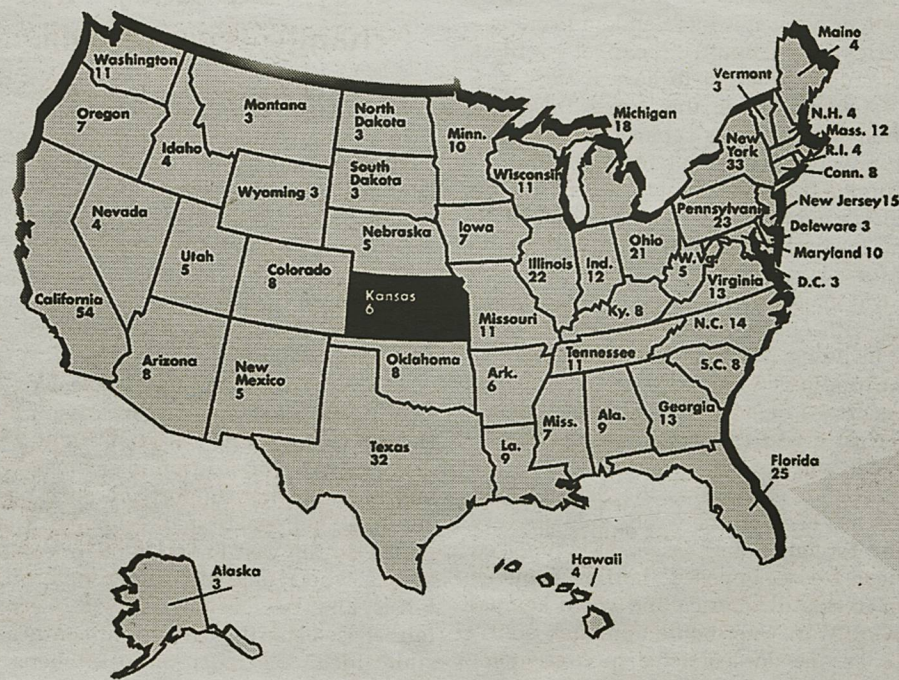
Matt Peterson argues that the electoral college assists in the maintenance of a healthy two-party system and ensures that candidates try for wide-ranging support.

The Electoral College system is neither anachronistic nor in need of reform. In fact, the College is a shrewdly designed system that ensures Presidents have the broad-based popular support they need to govern. Critics who argue that the system is non-democratic wildly over-estimate the potential of the alternatives.

At this point the critic will jump to his feet in rage and protest loudly that "There is no alternative to democracy! Popular majorities are the only real mandates!" Most critics of the current system argue that the College should be abolished in favor of a simple nation-wide popular vote. The candidate who gets the most votes should win. Fine, but before you accept this argument, ask yourself, does getting the most votes always mean the support of 51% of the population? What about 40% or even 30%?

Deciding the presidency on majoritarian terms would erode two key pillars of

American politics: the two-party system and the nation-wide distribution of votes. The Democrat-Republican rivalry is one of the greatest strengths of American politics, and it is a direct result of the Electoral College. Since any candidate who wants to win the election needs to gain 270 electoral votes, it is very difficult for third parties to enter into the political mainstream. A party that campaigns for, say, expulsion of non-White immigrants, might garner a small fraction of the popular vote, but it will never even come close to 270 electoral votes. The current system forces national politics to the center. The victory of a centrist candidate ensures that the maximum possible number of citizens have their views respected (if not fully enacted) by the President. Furthermore, there is still a place for third parties in the House of Representatives and in local politics. Le Pen's National Front could have won a few House seats if it ran in the US, but Le Pen himself would never come close the



The Electoral College in all its glory

The Electoral College

The US Presidential Election is determined in the 538-member Electoral College. There is one elector for each Representative and each Senator, plus three for the District of Columbia. Each state, then, gets at least three votes: two Senators plus a census-based number of Representatives. States cast all their electoral votes for one candidate. Winning requires 50% of the votes plus one, or 270 votes total.

American Presidency.

The more important, but less discussed, argument in favor of the College system is that it ensures a wide ranging national distribution of support for the President. Candidates who want to win are forced to campaign in states all across the nation. No single region can field 270 votes. So a successful candidate will not only have a substantial percentage of the population behind him, but he can count on having supporters all across the country as well.

Now that's a formula for good government.

International

International Correspondents: Stefanie Khaw and Kristin Solberg

Kerry might change less than you expect

Kristin Solberg interviews Professor Michael Cox, of the LSE International Relations department, on what he thinks the impact of a Kerry presidency might be.

Those who expect a major shift in American foreign policies if John Kerry wins the election tonight, might "get disappointed," Professor Michael Cox in the International Relations department at LSE says.

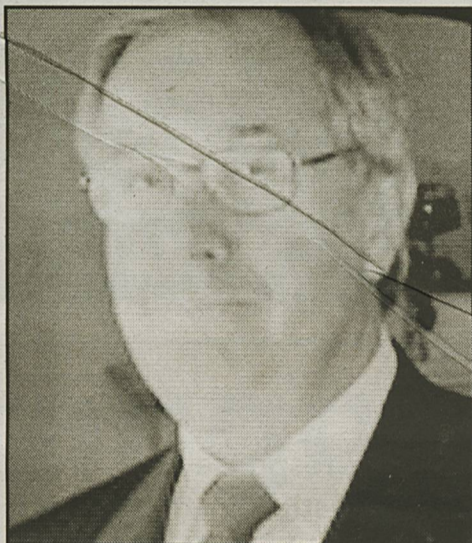
Most LSE students hope for a John Kerry victory when the polls close tonight, but Professor Cox, who's an expert on American foreign policy, warns that there might not be a major shift in policies even if the Democrats win.

"Many things simply won't change. Kerry's been silent on Israel, he was in favour of the war in Iraq, and he will not withdraw troops from there. Kerry will accept the legacy of 9/11. And on other large issues - Russia, China, and the relationship with the EU - not much will change. In many ways, one shouldn't expect a major shift in the foreign policies," Professor Cox says.

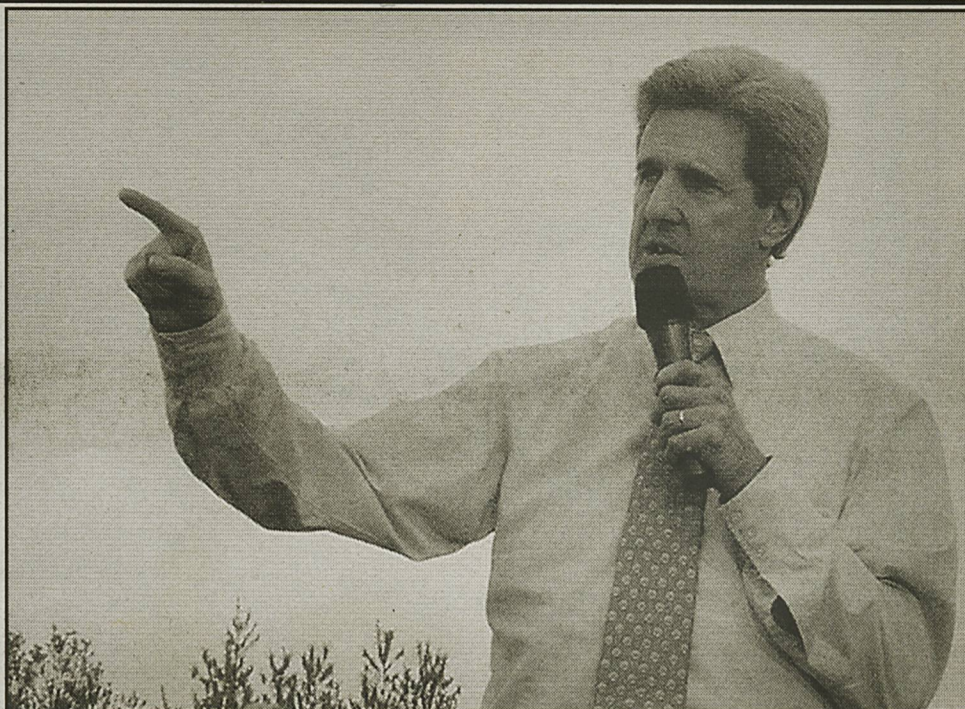
Although Kerry has made it clear that he wants to improve relationships with America's allies if he becomes the next President, Professor Cox also thinks the Europeans might "get disappointed" by his foreign policies.

"The Europeans - except Blair, Berlusconi and Putin - would like to see a Kerry victory. But they might get disappointed. Firstly, the fundamental war on terror: It's basics will remain the same. Secondly, on Iraq, Kerry could be more of a problem than Bush. He will say to Europe:

'Professor Cox, who's an expert on American foreign policy, warns that there might not be a major shift in policies even if the Democrats win.'



Professor Michael Cox



Forwards! Not very far.

You wanted me in the White House. I'm your friend, and friends help each other. Not only will I need more money and economical and political support, I will also need more troops."

With the USA having a deficit of more than 400 billion, Professor Cox doesn't think that Kerry will be any softer on trade than the current President. "I think that Kerry will be as tough, if not tougher on trade. Clinton was also a very tough trade warrior."

On the UK-US relationship, Professor Cox argues that if Kerry gets elected tonight, it could make life worse for Tony Blair. If Bush is defeated, he argues, it would very much be a vote against the war in Iraq. "Bush going will expose the loneliness of Mr Blair. He will be alone, and it will leave a question mark over his head."

Professor Cox also believes that if Kerry becomes the next President when the polls close tonight, he might feel that Blair hasn't helped him enough, as the

Prime Minister publicly supports Bush. "That could present some real problems," he says. "I don't think Blair will be badly hurt whoever wins, but he will be more hurt if Bush goes. So if I were Tony Blair, I would hope for a Bush victory."

Who wins tonight is hard to guess, Professor Cox says. "I should say it's too close to call. But if there's a big turnout - if the Democrats have managed to mobilise enough new voters in the crucial states of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida - and we don't see any of the technical problems preventing people from voting Democrats, then I think Kerry might just get in."

"On the other hand, the President is still the President, and he is a President in wartime. I think some voters will start thinking 'we're at war, I'm going to go for the commander-in-chief' when they're in the booth. I think a lot is going to be decided in the last few days, if not in the last few minutes."

Osama bin Laden won't save Bush

Jonathan Gradowski doesn't think that Osama bin Laden's message to the American electorate will swing any votes.

President Bush didn't quite get the "October surprise" he was hoping for but last week, judging from the reaction of his supporters, he got second best: Osama bin-Laden's latest single.

Common sense would seem to dictate that this would be a decidedly unpleasant surprise. After all, just three years ago, President Bush declared that he wanted him "dead or alive". And further, if Bush didn't "outsource" (Kerry's term) the job of hunting bin Laden in Tora Bora to the doubly hapless and feckless Northern Alliance in late 2001, he probably would've been caught. Why, then, are Bush campaign officials referring to his latest videotape as bin Laden's "latest gift" to President Bush?

The Bush-Cheney campaign official who referred to the tape as bin Laden's "little gift" explains: "Anything that makes people nervous about their personal safety helps Bush." Repugnant cynicism and inappropriateness aside, this campaign official has a point. Bush has consistently led Kerry on terrorism by a twenty-something point margin. This explains why Republicans can barely mask their glee over the fact bin Laden is alive and well,

'Will the [Osama] bin Laden tape influence the election? Perhaps, but probably not.'

and threatening Americans just days before the election.

But will the bin Laden tape influence the election? Perhaps, but probably not.

Here's the probably not.

Virtually ninety-five percent of those intending to vote have made up their minds. They're entrenched partisans. To them, this tape merely buttresses their prior convictions. For Republicans, this tape is yet further evidence for why we need the resolute Bush at the tiller; for



Apparently no one wants to bomb Sweden

Democrats, yet another exhibit of Bush's manifest and myriad failures.

What about the remaining five percent? I can't see this tape making much of an influence on how they'll vote either. It's not as if they didn't know that bin Laden was alive and bent on attacking the nation again. At most, they learned that bin Laden has no intention of bombing Sweden.

Here's the perhaps.

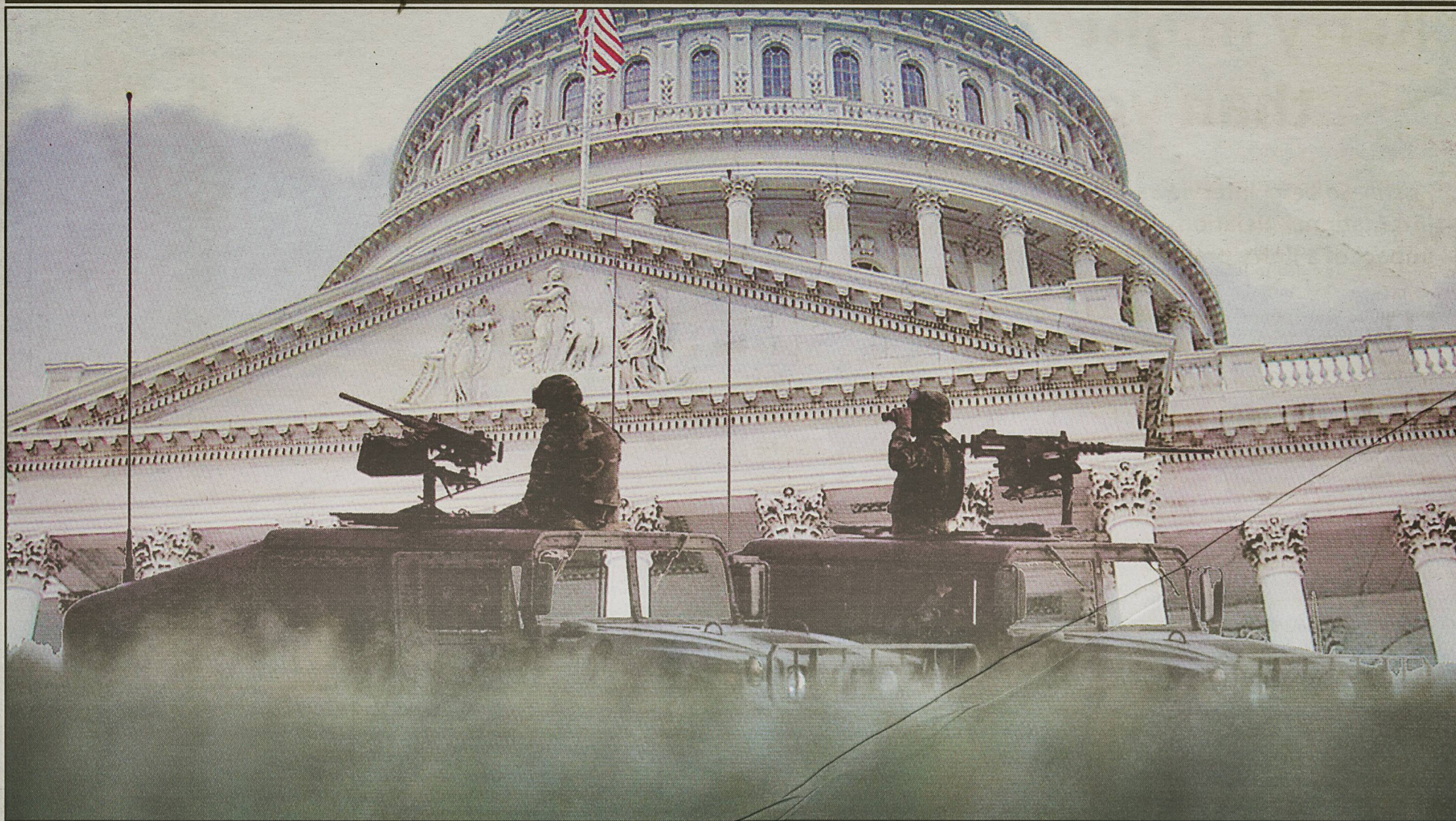
What this tape has the potential of doing is shifting the debate between Kerry and Bush away from Iraq and the three hundred and eighty tons of high-grade explosives that was recently reported to have been stolen there to terrorism. Such a shift is to Bush's advantage because it invokes memories of Bush's handling of 9/11 and in doing so, draws Americans' attention away from the most damning indictment of the Bush presidency-the last

three years.

But the effectiveness of this approach is contingent upon Kerry's reaction.

If he doesn't allow Bush to redefine the debate so as to make it seem as if the last three years hasn't happened and stays on the offensive and continues to vociferously lambast him for his criminal incompetence in Iraq and the war on terror, writ large, his electoral gain will range from slim to negligible.

In which case, we're back to where we were prior to the bin Laden tape, an election determined by voter turnout in swing states. That is to say, Democrats doing their all to boost voter turnout, especially among minorities, and Republicans doing whatever is (dubiously) legally possible to prevent such people from voting.



Picture: James Upsher

What about the law?

Shariq Gilani argues that Guantanamo Bay and the Patriot Act should be defining this election.

Watching the Presidential debates, I'm guessing that most of you were probably quite pleased to see John Kerry looking 'Presidential' and John Edwards aggressively confronting Dick Cheney about Halliburton. Barring a ridiculous recount scenario, you will soon know whether any of that ended up maturing.

The point that I'd like to make though is about the lack of debate about some major aspects of American domestic law as well as international law, which do not merely have academic interest but are extremely important questions to be answered in the fighting of the 'War on Terror'.

The first question is that of the Bush administration's view of the relevance of the Geneva Conventions on Prisoners of War in fighting the threat of terrorism. The White House Counsel Judge Alberto Gonzales' opinion was that due to the nature of the threat faced by the United States, Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters were not afforded the rights given to prisoners of war in the Geneva Conventions.

Now, this was a radical departure from previous international law and a bold decision on the part of the Bush Administration. It is interesting to note that Colin Powell and the State Department were strongly opposed to this, but that they ended up being overruled by other voices in the administration.

If one looks at the Kerry-Edwards general critique of the Bush administration then Guantanamo Bay seems like it should fit in with it. America will 'hunt down the terrorists', but at the same time it needs the

help of its allies in Europe and the Muslim world to help win the War on Terror and that Guantanamo has severely damaged America's credibility which John Kerry would help overcome by bringing a fresh face to the Presidency and abandoning a facility which would have provided little useful intelligence, while tarnishing America's image abroad.

My guess is that the Kerry campaign made the calculation that the American public's perception of Guantanamo being what it is, speaking out against it would merely serve to give the Republican Party ammunition to attack them with.

Moving on to the Abu Ghraib scandal, the attack line for the Kerry campaign seems even simpler. By not being forthright about the need to follow Geneva Conventions in Iraq and by the 'outsourcing' (a favourite buzzword for Kerry and Edwards) interrogations to shady third party groups, a culture of sadistic abuse was allowed to develop which when exposed, angered millions of Muslims and Non-Muslims alike across the world, aided the insurgents and made life more difficult for American troops on the ground.

Incidentally the Bush Administration did release statements and memos after the incident in which they claimed that soldiers were ordered to follow the Geneva Conventions. Still to most observers this seemed quite disingenuous and that there was a whole lot of material for Kerry to work with. In any case, it is something which I think one of the moderators should have brought up at the very least.

Moving away from international law, I will now deal with the biggest domestic

'In response to a great question in the second presidential debate about the Patriot Act watering down rights, President Bush gave a weak defence.'

legal issue. No not tort reform but the passing of the Patriot Act. There was definitely scope for the Kerry campaign to make this a legitimate part of their criticisms of President Bush without it appearing to be soft on terror, by arguing that as is the case with Guantanamo Bay, it was not particularly useful in tracking down terrorists while severely impeding civil liberties by giving governments overly intrusive powers.

Unfortunately in the aftermath of September 11th when the bill was passed, opposition senators panicked and we ended up with the USA/Patriot Act being passed by 98 votes to 1 with maverick Senator Russell Feingold from Wisconsin being the sole dissenter, thereby not leaving the Kerry campaign much room to manoeuvre without being bombarded for 'flip-flopping'.

In fact, there were only about 3 minutes

of discussion in the four debates on any of the three issues which I've discussed. Firstly, there was a brief flip-flopping charge in the Vice-Presidential debate when Dick Cheney mentioned that the Democrats used to be for the Patriot Act but now were against it.

Secondly, in response to a great question in the second presidential debate about the Patriot Act watering down rights, President Bush gave a weak defence while Senator Kerry was bringing up a couple of well made analogies, talked mainly about fixing and rechecking as opposed to drastically reforming or abolishing the deeply flawed act. I'm guessing that a lot of American's came away from the debate thinking about 'sneak and peek' searches.

So, what lessons can be learned from the debates and the campaign as a whole? It could be that despite their strong showings and reasonably effective critique of the War in Iraq and the failings in the War on Terror, John Kerry and John Edwards showed a distinct lack of interest in defending the rule of law—whether or not this continues in a potential Kerry administration largely depends largely on whether this stance was because they actually believe in many of the Bush Administration's policies or because they do not have the courage or are politically savvy enough to realise not to bring it up in the election.

If it is indeed the latter point, then that conveys a worrying message to the rest of the world and I believe could be a sign of the danger to the American public themselves. That is it has become conventional wisdom that it is indeed justifiable to go against the rule of law when dealing with the threat of terrorists so much so that the moderators of the debates did not feel it relevant in bringing up these issues and that despite the work of the American Civil Liberties Union, proponents of civil liberties fighting against the increasing powers of the state to intrude in the lives the individual have already lost.

Business

Business Correspondent: Aanchal Anand

The Business of Politics in the US Election

George W Bush has raised far more for the US presidential race than his Democratic challenger. *Malcolm Bell* argues that these donations are hugely important for the relationship between business and politics.

The wider importance of business is not just reflected in the fact that the *Beaver* has decided to launch a special 'Business' section, but also in a study of campaign donations to today's Presidential candidates.

To run for President you need several things, but one of the most important these days is money. Business and politics have a close relationship, not just in the management of the economy but also in political campaigns and it will continue to do so until we move to the ghastly alternative of a state funded campaign system. However, donating to candidates brings certain benefits to individuals and business because of the 'potential' influence on US policy.

According to the latest figures from the independent Federal Electoral Commission in the US, George Bush has received \$2,870,372 of campaign donations from businesses and ranks first place of all candidates (including those for the Senate and House) in receiving business donations. John Kerry on the other hand is in 548th place with just \$141,918.

My maths was never very good which is why I study Economic History, but isn't that over 10 times more for Bush than Kerry from business? It gets more interest-

ing. Of those donating to Kerry from the business community, 'organized labour' and 'lawyers' are highest, can you guess who is donating most to Bush? That's right 'natural resources' and 'finance'

Moreover, the firms doing US government-funded business in Iraq and Afghanistan donated more to President George W Bush's 2000 election campaign than to any other politician in the past 12 years. In 2000 there were more than \$500,000 in donations to Bush's campaign from 70-plus US firms and individual contractors now active in Iraq and Afghanistan. The very same donors have been 'awarded' up to \$8 billion in reconstruction business.

That may be coincidence or it may be considered to be 'cronyism'. Regardless, the importance of business in politics is undoubted and not just in the US but all over the world. In the UK, the Conservative's appointed Lord Ashcroft Treasurer after his large donations to the party and we know about the links between business and politics in Russia. Back to the US and the ambassador to London is traditionally the one who donates most to the Presidential campaign.

Whilst some businesses and individuals



may gain from their large political contributions, there is a greater importance of business and politics not just in campaigns but in the economy. These figures may rep-

resent different things to different people, but to me the most important thing they demonstrate is that politics relies on business and business relies on politics.

Two to tango

Varun Bhandari and Aanchal Anand examine the effects on the Indian economy of Congress taking power.

The elections results of May 2004 in India had placed many a question mark in front of investors. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), that had credited itself with an over 8% annual growth, booming investments, a never before stock market high and foreign exchange reserves of over \$100 billion (versus \$500 in 1991) had lost out to the United Progressive Alliance under the Congress, a party that not only lacked the confidence but also the numbers in all pre-poll predictions. Thus began the Indian investor's nightmare for the key ally of the Congress was the dreaded Left with a career best of over 60 seats in the Indian Parliament.

Given the benefit of hindsight, I'd like to explore a little. What did the NDA do so horribly wrong that the Indian voter had completely ignored its candidates on the ballot paper? And what was the Congress's miracle? The Congress likes to believe it's Sonia Gandhi but it is really the Indian trait of economic dualism that won them the election. 2003 saw a healthy monsoon and India's agriculture-dominated economy boomed; the farmer was happy but the NDA was not to benefit. Moreover, with only 13% of the total population investing in the stock markets, the impressive market movements were restricted in their appeal. Clearly the fatal mistake that the NDA had done- aside from their obvious display complacency in the Gujarat communal riots- was ignoring too large a chunk of the electorate.

So what of the foreign investors? Do they need to pack their bags and move to China?

The stock markets went berserk the day the results were declared. The Congress was coming to power and now the critical question was who would be Prime Minister. Even as Sonia Gandhi vacillated, the markets went on a little roller coaster ride of their own finally stabilising when it was announced that Manmohan Singh, a renowned economist would do the top job. But the doubt over the Left as a major ally lingers.

In the few months that the government has been there, the Left has indeed created a mess. Be it their war against the deceased Disinvestment Ministry or their inscrutable love for labour reforms, the stock market has- understandably- not always been a sport.

The investors tend to forget two things. Firstly, the Left in India lives by the motto- 'Teach never Preach'. They tell the Centre not to do exactly what they do in West Bengal. They hiked petrol prices in Calcutta when oil prices went up and at the same time threatened demonstrations in New Delhi.

Secondly, the Left won't for its own sake bring the government down because if they do so they play into the hands of the a rather communal NDA. In the words of a prominent Left Leader, Sitaram Yechury, the Left is "a watch dog and not a lap dog" and as every dog it barks. So if the investor



is looking for political stability to be able to invest, he shall have his wish granted.

Continuing the analogy, it can be inferred that the Left's bark is worse than its bite. It has shown that its willing to compromise on its ideology to maintain its place in the coalition. However, that does not mean it cannot be a pest, often delaying crucial policies and giving investors negative signals through the media.

What can the Congress do to ensure India remains an attractive investment destination? To be fair, a lot has been done already. FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) caps have been raised in a number of sectors such as aviation, telecommunications and insurance, where investors can now take up a 74% stake in Indian firms. However, the international business community still needs to be convinced that the Left shall not be a hindrance to their interests.

It is then essential for the government to engage the Left and convince them that

India's voracious appetite for investment cannot be met internally. India is in urgent need of infrastructural development to take off like the Chinese economy did. Shrugging off ideological differences, it must be realised that this is what really benefits the common man as more jobs are created, the industries become more competitive and prices of goods fall as a result. This is entirely in conjunction with what the Left professes to uphold - better standards of living for the man on the street.

Clearly, the argument for allowing foreign investment is very compelling. The elections prove that unless it is proved to the common man that investment will benefit him, he won't be interested in it. With the highest number of poor in the world this point needs to be a put across to the ordinary Indian rather well. Reforms and economics performance are meaningless to him unless they make a visible difference to his life.

B:art

Edited by Carolina Bunting



Visual Arts

Raphael's Talent
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The Corporation: Boring self indulgence, or riveting social criticism?



Personally? I liked the film. The fact that I'm liking the book less is probably because the author ran away from me post interview. But that's another story.

I thought the material was startling, the interviews eye-opening, and the interviewees genuine. Who knew that the first thought that ran through a commodity broker's mind after hearing about 9/11 was "I bet the price of gold is sky rocketing right now"? Watching Ray Anderson, the

CEO of Interface, the world's largest commercial carpet manufacturer, admit to 21 years of not giving the slightest shit about the environment hit me where it hurt, being that I am a Geography & Economics student. But how does Joel Bakan justify the 2.5 hour film?

"The film and book was a kind of abstract idea, and it wasn't the typical film like Super Size Me, just about McDonalds. This was about the corporation, not a cor-

poration, not this or *that* one, and to me that was both the really original aspect of the project, and the most challenging. We thought very hard about using particular examples to illustrate a general issue and specific examples that would actually stand the test of time."

A query about what brand trainers they wear was answered with a friendly "I've been wearing my Nike trainers for about 15, 20 years" from Jennifer, but provoked a rant from Joel, who directly attacked the motivation behind the question,

sarahcoughtrie gives the new Fahrenheit 9/11 a wholehearted "meh", then ducks for cover

Director: Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott

With: Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Jane Akre

Certificate: 15

Release Date: 29 October

Running Time: 145 min

Life, meandering as it is, holds at least some certainties. Death. Taxes. People paying to see **The Corporation**, to come out jabbering about how "like, yah, totally anti-capitalist and, like, enlightening" it was before completely forgetting their names and where they live because their brains have shut themselves down from the boredom.

No human being is built to withstand this. The Canadians were on the right path by having it aired as a mini-series but two and a half hours? Spare me. There's only so much moralising I can take in one sitting, even if I have been plied with free wine. Please, readers, if you're going to make a documentary about American corporations, basing it around people talking straight to camera, extracts from Fox

News, clips of ickle dead animals and monotone voiceovers reeling off statistics swiped from the Greenpeace website, it's only polite to give us some laughs to sweeten the pill. Imagine **Bowling for Columbine** without the "Don't you think it's a little dangerous to be handing out guns in a bank?" moments, Heston baiting and gung-ho gallivanting. How *shite* does that sound?

But I digress. Plus, I don't like to be overly critical since I did agree with the politics of the thing. I actually currently work for Greenpeace, the material itself was fascinating and the whole thing had a wholesome done-on-the-cheap aesthetic which lent some credibility to the message. One of the best chunks of the film is devoted to comparing the psychological profile of a corporation to that of a psychopath, and is a bona fide "whoa, that's clever" moment. Sadly, with the exception of a few chapters about whistleblowers and corporate spies, this is one of those Jimi Hendrix films that leaves you impressed rather than emoting. Indeed, at times it blithely transcends *The Sense Barrier*, particularly during a scene where

a conversation between two Canadians – speaking English – is subtitled for no reason whatsoever. Patronising, eh.

The ennui actually *distressed* me. I sat in the dark wondering why on earth, if I'm such a liberal, I'm not entranced by this stuff. I felt guilty that my brain and ass were so numb I couldn't properly get into the plight of the Indonesian sweat shop workers, or the Bolivian people marching against the privatisation of their rain water. Luckily, when the lights *finally* went up, the rest of the hacks, who all looked like they were en route from the May Day riots to the Rhythm Factory, yelped with relief and dashed off muttering dark words along the lines of "Well, it was intense but holy crap was it dull". I realised then that if you want a 150 minute long list of reasons why big companies are evil then *The Corporation* will be right up your alley. If not, the average Simpsons episode contains a plethora of political and social comment, and it's coming to Channel 4. Thank Christ for that.

"You know, the publisher of the book in America is part of a major transnational corporate empire. The cameras we use are made by corporations, the planes that we fly on to get here are made by corporations. So the question is are you hypocritical if you do this kind of work that criticises the corporation, yet you're still reliant on the corporation? Well I guess my answer to that is, well if it's hypocritical I'd rather risk being hypocritical than keep my mouth shut. Because if you're living in a society that's dominated by corporations, they are producing everything and if you want to be critical and if you want a vehicle for your criticism, at some point you end up relying on corporations. So the corollary to that question, and the implication under it is that because we live in a society where we have to rely on corporations, we shouldn't criticise them"

I won't lie. Speaking to the creators of the film after watching it does add to my appreciation of it. However, if everyone is going to continue to be so bloody gung ho about Michael Moore's prolificacy, this film definitely merits a cinema viewing.

daniismail

film

edited by Dani Ismail and Sarah Coughtrie

God is not here today... Can I take a message?



Exorcist: The Beginning

misjavandeklomp explains why in this quadrilogy, there's 3 films too much...

Director: Renny Harlin
Starring: Stellan Skarsgård, James D'Arcy, Izabella Scorupco
Certificate: 15
Release Date: 12 November
Running Time: 114 min

Apparently hyenas are the devil's playthings, but the Lion King already taught us that, right? The fourth movie in the Exorcist series is a fact, and let me save you the suspense: it's not quite as good as its oldest brother. In this prequel, Father, or rather, Mr. Lankester Merrin (**Stellan Skarsgård**, *Good Will Hunting*) an Oxford-educated archeologist and former priest (hero from the original movie), is approached by an antiquities collector to retrieve a demonic artifact from a Christian Byzantine church - "[a] church in a place where no church should be," and seemingly buried soon after its construction. It turns out it covers a great evil, and many disturbing things happen during its excavation (involving upside-down crosses and plenty of hyenas). Eventually, when the evil underneath the church is released, all hell breaks loose (no pun intended).

Exorcist: The Beginning isn't entirely despicable nor is it very lovable (a very poor outcome for a horror film since those appear to be the two roads to cult status); it's really quite mediocre in most senses. While the original Exorcist made a fasci-

nating transition from everyday life to, well, hell on earth, you'll find yourself knee-deep in blood within the first few scenes of *The Beginning*. Nauseatingly gruesome suspense has made way for the 'Boo! Are you scared yet?' tactics of modern-day horror, and of course there is the obligatory plot-twist.

The only attempt to give the movie some extra meaning is a look into Father Merrin's past. His horrific experiences during WWII are used to revive the inevitable cliché that Nazism equals Demonism, a (mistaken) analogy taken too far and abused to create some shocking imagery (these Exorcist people really don't like children).

Granted, the movie has its scary moments, and in all fairness, director Renny Harlin (*Die Hard II*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street IV*) could hardly get away with filming another remake. But perhaps the people involved should have recognized a dead horse when they saw one. Comparing this film to the Exorcist may be unjust, but when you're shooting a prequel, you're just asking for it. So for those of you who were dying to find out where Father Merrin did his 'Exorcism 101' (remarkably well really, he didn't even need the book), and don't care much about originality, please feel free to see *The Beginning*. Otherwise, wait till it's out on TV.

**

Will this movie claim your life?

In 1973 when the first instalment of *The Exorcist* franchise was unleashed on the world, it was widely rumoured to be the *Macbeth* of the film industry, being the subject of a curse which wreaks havoc on those surrounding the film. In theatres it caused hysteria, as paramedics were called to tend to the wimps who vomited and fainted in the aisles, and there were just too many "accidents" on set for comfort. Ellen Burstyn for example received a permanent spinal injury while filming the sequence where she is thrown away from her possessed daughter. A harness jerked her hard away from the bed, and she fell on her coccyx, screaming in pain, which was filmed for the movie. According to legend, the curse also claimed the

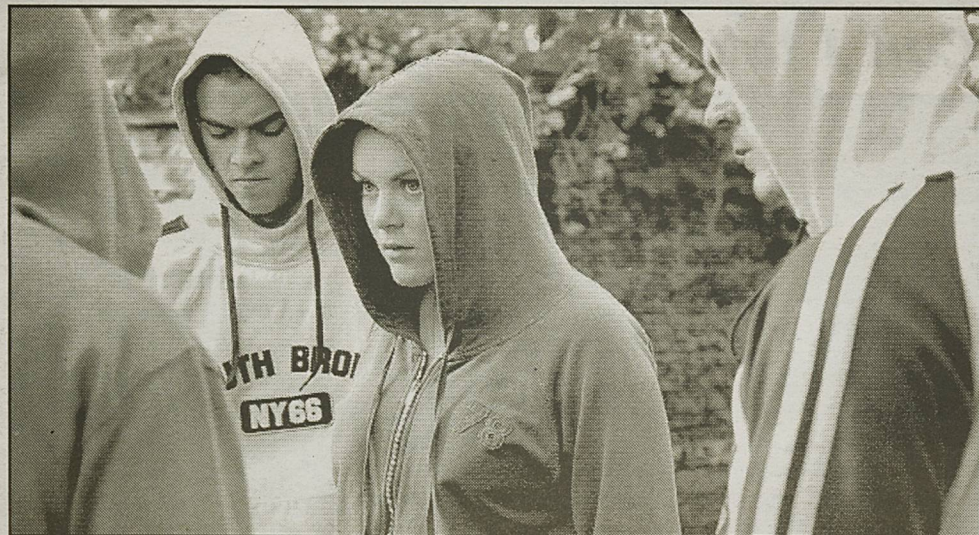
lives of nine people involved in filming. Even if you escaped with your life, filming wasn't the most comfortable of experiences. For the famous bedroom scenes the temperature in the room was sometimes dropped to minus 30 causing condensation to freeze and form a thin layer of snow over the set. It must be assumed that with the luxuries of modern technology, filming the new chapter was a relatively more bearable experience. The curse seems to be getting lazy however; for a sequence in *Exorcist: The Beginning* in which a child is attacked by dogs director Renny Harlin was forced to rely on digital effects since the trained dogs refused to attack the boy. *Lame*.



This early design for the new Tuns was rejected on the grounds that it looked "too welcoming"

A Way of Life

morwennabennett discovers that not all chavs are funny



Ever left a movie needing a stiff drink? If you see **A Way of Life** this may just be your reaction. Described as a film containing elements of racism, tenderness and teen pregnancy; I was unsure of what to expect as the film began. However debut director **Amma Asante** does not leave her audience guessing for long.

The opening scene shows a gang of white youths kicking to death their Turkish Muslim neighbour. There is only one word I can use to describe this film - shocking.

The story follows the lives of a Welsh Valley gang - teenage mother Leigh-Anne Williams and her friends, Gavin, Robbie

and Stephen. The film is structured around set pieces of violence and the everyday mundane lives of these teenagers as they try to make ends meet. Robbie is desperate to escape the Valleys; Gavin hopes love will be the answer to his problems and Stephen wants desperately to reject his Asian father's name and identity. The anger and frustration over their situation manifests itself in racial abuse and hatred towards everyone and everything around them.

Performances are good all round, especially the gripping portrayal of Leigh-Anne by **Stephanie James**. Leigh-Anne is the ring leader of the group and slyly manipulates the disturbing events of the film, seeming to enjoy causing pain to those more fortunate than herself. James achieves this believably while constantly wearing velour tracksuits and carrying around a baby. When Leigh-Anne's daughter needs new trainers, she manages to pimp a 14 year old virgin to a middle aged

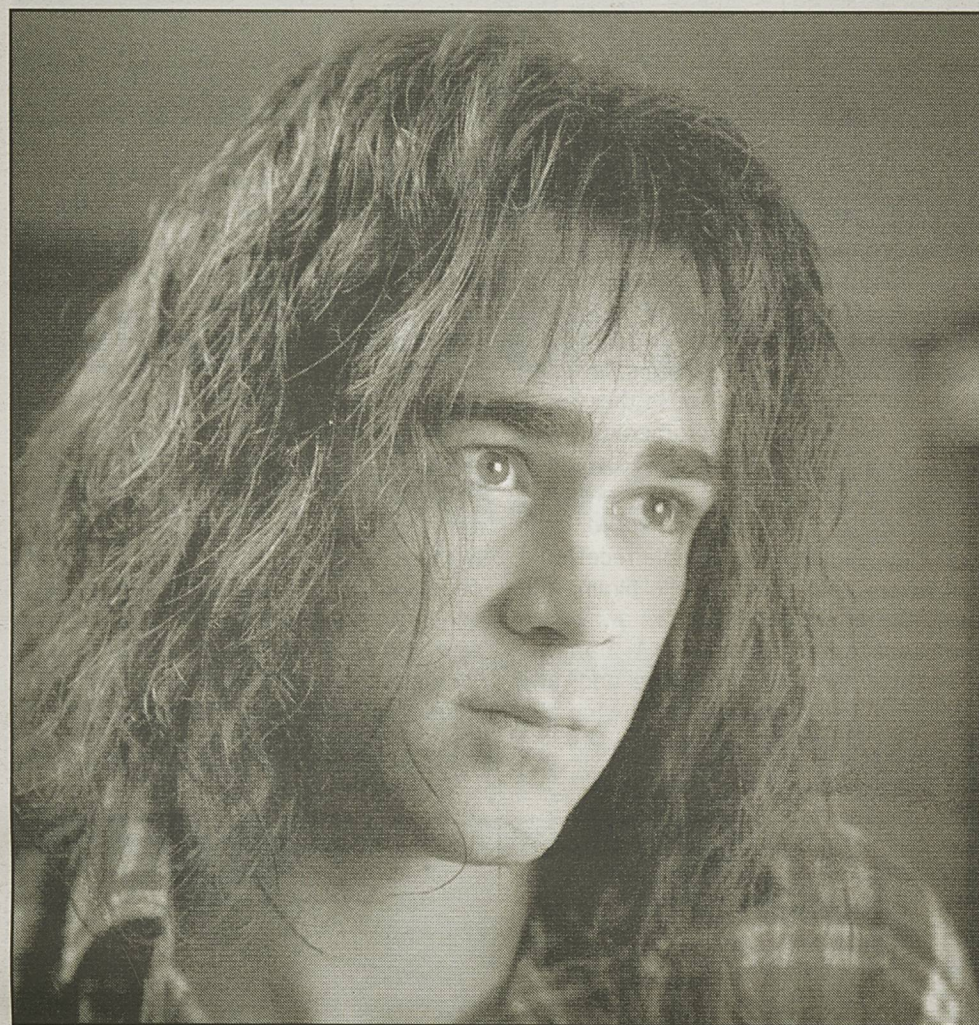
Director: Amma Asante
Starring: Brenda Blethyn, Stephanie James
Certificate:15
Release Date:29 October

man behind a pub. As the event occurs she sits nearby smoking a fag and rocking the pushchair, expressionless. The character of Gavin, played by **Nathan Jones** is the most impressive of the male leads, coming across as a victim of circumstance. The actor calls himself the Welsh **Bruce Lee** - look out for the amusing *Matrix* re-enactment scene.

Despite the sensitive subject matter the film manages to steer clear of clichés. The constant combination of rage and routine is highly effective and at times causes the film to have an element of the surreal. It is clear that the makers of 'A Way of Life' are trying to achieve an almost poignant tone, but the subject matter makes the viewing experience uncomfortable. This is an interesting film dealing with gritty issues but I would struggle to call it entertaining. A nice movie about sheep this is not.

A Home At The End Of The World

phoebewhite is disappointed, despite expectations of Colin Farrell in the buff...



This film has been given an R rating for strong drug content, sexuality, nudity, language and a disturbing accident. Sounds good, right? Knowing **Colin Farrell** was in the movie and nudity being part of it, I thought I was going to be in for a real treat. In actual fact, what I got was something quite different, but they did get one thing right - the disturbing accident was pretty horrendous. Let's just say it involves a lot of drug taking, some running, and a French window...The movie is based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham - he also wrote *The Hours*. Now, I haven't seen 'The Hours' so I can't make any sort of comparisons between the two, so if you're looking for a more insightful review then you best look elsewhere.

Bobby (Farrell) and Jonathan (Roberts) meet as teenagers in an Ohio suburban school. The film is done in 3 stages and takes place over 3 decades (the 60s, 70s and 80s). Each section establishes different relationships between different characters in the film. In the first section we see the relationship between Bobby and his brother Charlton; the second is most obviously the developing relationship between Bobby and Jonathan as teenagers. Another important relationship is formed between Bobby and

Director: Michael Mayer
Starring: Colin Farrell, Dallas Roberts, Sissy Spacek
Certificate:15
Release Date: 5 November

Jonathan's mum Alice, when Bobby's father dies and he becomes an orphan. The final section involves a love triangle that occurs between Bobby, Jonathan and an older woman named Clare.

The film is an attempt to examine modern relationships, the definition of family, and the need to create your own happiness. It does do this to an extent but I felt it left certain characters, especially that of Clare, underdeveloped. I thought that, having started off extremely well, the ending was quite weak and I was definitely left disappointed. The film does deal with some interesting issues, and circumstances that are extremely frequent nowadays and I can't help but think that it could have done so much more.

On a more positive note, the main actors played their characters' parts well, especially **Sissy Spacek** as Alice and **Dallas Roberts** as Jonathan. The soundtrack to the film was excellent; the tracks chosen were not mainstream, so a lot of them I didn't actually recognise, but they were well suited to the time and mood of the film and I would think about buying it if I wasn't a scabby student and had some money.

In your local cinema

Bad Santa

Billy Bob Thornton shocks and entices as an alcoholic, safe breaking, department store Santa, in this refreshing addition to the list of Christmas movies we will be subjected to this year. Far be it from the typical, goodwill drivel (Love, Actually - anyone?). Let us rejoice at the swearing, join in with the drinking and grimace at the dirty sex, and celebrate Christmas as the good lord intended.

Birth

Nicole Kidman pervs on a little boy.

Enduring Love

Roger Michell directs this dark thriller based on Ian McEwan's novel. A hot air balloon accident leaves a witness, Daniel Craig, slightly obsessed. He amasses a stalker and loses his mind simultaneously as such deep and intense topics, as love, obsession, biology and everything in between.

In your local Blockbuster

Shrek 2

We should all know by now that with the exception of *Labyrinth* kids movies are completely useless. This week, in the sequel to the most overrated piece of saccharine bullshit ever, Shrek is still all love-struck by that ugly princess, and apparently they have to do some soul-searching over a visit to her parents. Fuck this.

Goodfellas Special Edition

This is more like it. As far back as I can remember, I've always wanted to be a gangster...hell yeah.

Futurama Series 1-4

The Season 4 episode where Bender shags the Planet Express ship is worth the rental cost alone.

music

edited by Matt Boys and Ben Howarth

Hope of The States

talk West Wing, Avril Lavigne and tailoring to owensmith



Hope of The States: Tailored to a Tee

In a dark and dingy corner of the Astoria, Hope Of The States' Paul (Bass) and Mark (Violin) are discussing the tailoring of vintage combat jackets. "The cut under the shoulders comes up really high, so you don't have any room for movement.

It's silly, hot sweaty and dirty." Thus, sadly, HOTS no longer play in their band uniform. But the depth of bonding, the comradeship, the unity the uniforms were always meant to represent – no Libertinesque style-statement for these

lads – is as present as it ever has been.

The group's unity extends beyond their friendship into their playing. When they take to the Astoria's stage that night, they display from first to last an unbelievable togetherness in their playing – this is certainly no band that relies on studio trickery for it's precision, rattling through their biggest songs ('The Red, White Black & Blue', 'The Black Amnesiacs', 'Don't Go To Pieces' and 'Black Dollar Bills', to name a few) perfectly. The band's searing post-rock, itself born out of the diversity of the group's musical backgrounds, requires serious engagement and effort to get on top of its complexity – and that's just if you're listening.

To be honest, it's hardly surprising they've got their act sewn up – after four years of working and touring on the material that their debut album "The Lost Riots" was taken from, including a recent extensive first tour in America, they've had plenty of time to polish up. And how was the America tour? "It was a totally mixed bag; one night we'd be playing to one man and his dog in the middle of nowhere, and in New York at the end of it, it was a few thousand" says Phil, before reprimanding Mark on the theft of his brand new lighter. "It was quite humbling, playing these tiny venues where we're really just starting out again".

And what of touring life, the rock 'n' roll existence? "It's not quite what people on the outside looking in would expect. You're on stage for an hour or so every day, and you've got the rest of the day to play around with. A lot of waiting, a lot of travelling. We've ended up going to HMV and getting a stackload of box sets to watch. Pretty much polished off the 4th season of the West Wing. Sort of a mobile student house, but with daily replenishing of the fridge". A distinct bonus, I think we'll all agree. "We were on the bill for the Summersonic festival in Japan, which Avril Lavigne headlined. We tried to get her mobile number, but there were big sturdy men all around her" One wonders exactly what HOTS, the antithesis of Avril, could do, armed with her phone number...

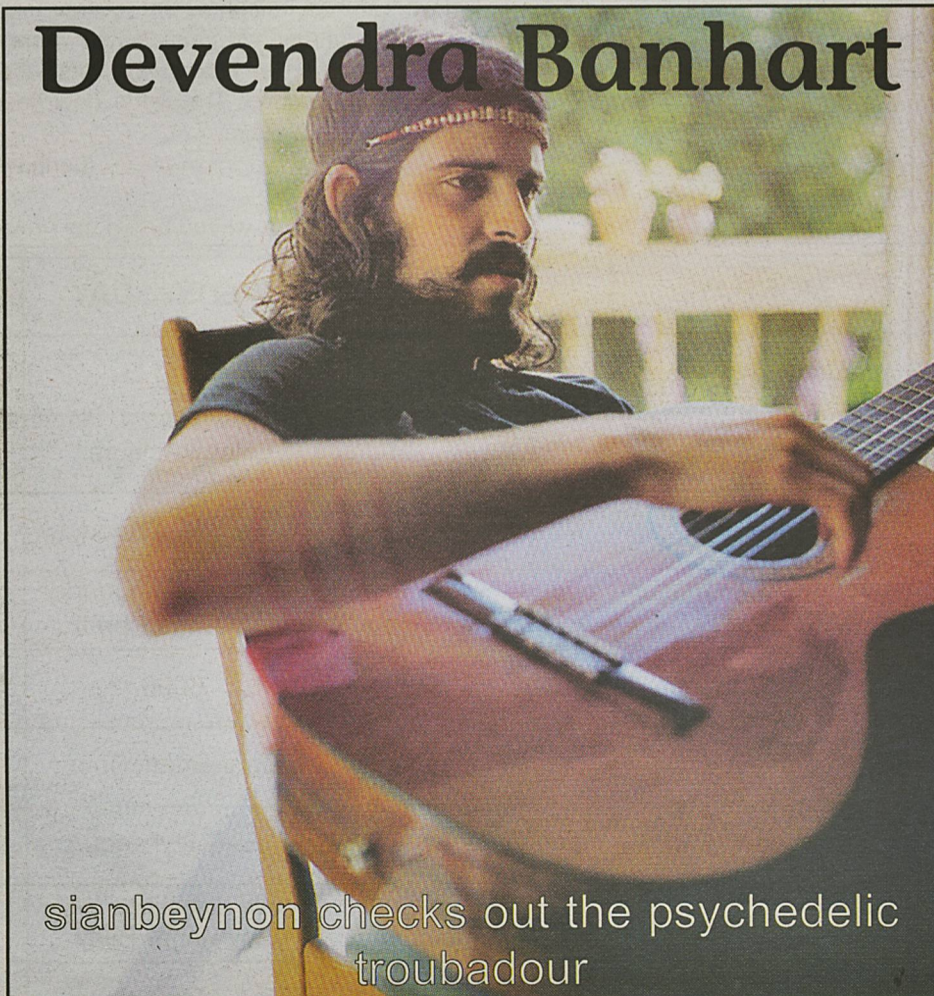
If HOTS ever stop touring (another America tour could well be in the works for January), plans are afoot for a new album. Despite stressing that no single person dominates the process of songwriting, Mark and Paul did tell that frontman Sam is looking to play less acoustic guitar ("He's jealous of everyone else having lots of pedals"), so expect a heavier edge to the next album, and for the songs to go further towards the extremes of post-rock's spectrum.

The faded opulence of Shepherds Bush Empire, it's tarnished chandeliers and plush red velvet seats, weren't conducive to spreading love Banhart style. Or so I thought. Despite the ramshackle bunch of scraggy hippies looking swamped in such a large, formal venue, they warmed to the bottles of wine and whiskey and I warmed to Devendra's unexpectedly sweet, quivering voice, his flowing folk melodies and amusing antics of five flamboyant characters.

A puzzling and elaborate character, Devendra was born in Texas and named by an Indian Mystic. He was raised in Venezuela amid the slums and shanty towns. Later to be discovered by Young God Records aged 20 as a 'homeless, wandering, neo psych/folk hippie artist and musician'. Surprisingly, that came across quite nicely during the only UK night of his European tour.

He definitely led the night for the other members of his support band The Queens of Sheba with unspoken respect. However this disintegrated somewhat towards the end of the night as the effects of the whiskey got the better of the bass player. As a group, they offered a fine arrangement for upbeat jams that fused a wall of enthusiastic noise. The drummer, Jona Bechtolt, played a little like a rusty robot form of Michael Jackson. His elbows were locked to his chest, forearms slicing up-down and then the odd, precise spasm to a cymbal. Yet despite the stylized approach, he didn't com-

Devendra Banhart



sianbeynon checks out the psychedelic troubadour

promise on quality of the rhythms. And, Oh what a hairy, bass player, I almost missed his face. Without shoes, but a curiously placed flip-flop on the head of his bass, Adam Forkner pounded feet and marched and swayed in his own world. Highly talented, his very funky bass lines twisted to and fro yet kept a driving energy behind the music.

The group together packed a punch of insane, frenetic activity, but my preference of the night was towards Devendra's solo pieces which came from his album releases this year (Rejoicing in the Hands and Nino Rojo), which demonstrated his talent for songwriting as a fresh voice, with a natural finger picking style that complemented the easygoing melodies. He had a purity that set him aside from the other members of the band, whereby his performance seemed more natural and effortless.

Devendra rang the hippy bell of love with all his might but, although the tone was right, it wasn't loud enough to whip up the Londoners into the outlandish orgies he perhaps had anticipated. Nevertheless, only the stoniest of hearts could have resisted Devendra's honorable intentions and with a gang of hairy hippy monkeys in tow they did manage to get some people to dance on the stage.

John Peel OBE: 1939-2004

Music pays tribute to the passing of a legend

On Tuesday 25th October, Broadcaster John Peel suffered a fatal heart attack whilst on a working holiday in Cuzco, Peru. He had worked continuously for BBC's Radio 1 since its inception in 1967.

He was renowned for covering the best in all musical genres, being one of the first DJs to play punk, reggae and hip-hop styles.

Besides this, he routinely featured unsigned bands from around the globe, often giving them the break they needed to become recognised.

He also recorded uncountable numbers of live music, the "Peel Sessions", of almost every band you can name.

The music team have put together their thoughts and feelings on the great man.

Rest in Peace.

Which other mainstream DJ could claim Carcass to be among their favourite-bands? A unique bloke, R.I.P

(martingribbin)

John Peel is irreplaceable. Who'll now champion the bizarre and the eclectic, from the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band of tomorrow to the next big hillbilly punk cover band? Do something strange to commemorate the outsider's champion.

(aedanlake)

One thing I'll always remember about John Peel was seeing him on tv at about 3am on a BBC 2 programme - it was essentially oldies talking about what they would have done when they were young had they 'known what I do know' kind of thing. John

said that he would have had a lot more sex, but also that he had come to the conclusion that pessimism was on the whole a far better life philosophy than optimism. I admired Peel because he made dryness and sarcasm into something kind, almost positive, and that will always stick with me. I think i'm actually going to cry

(alexsmall)

He was a voice of generations and the biggest music fan of us all, a true legend.

(jondekeyser)

Unlike today's mass of irritating squealing radio presenters Peel's show was always throughly informative and exciting, you never knew what he was going to play next, his chit chat between songs being fascinating and solely about the music. I heard my first interview with Billy Corgan on his show and was a 13 year old fountain of indie knowledge because of him. A truly unique human being.

(nastarantavakoli-far)

Peel has a lot to answer for, his unending passion for music and urge to share, has meant that his departure has left a gaping hole in my life

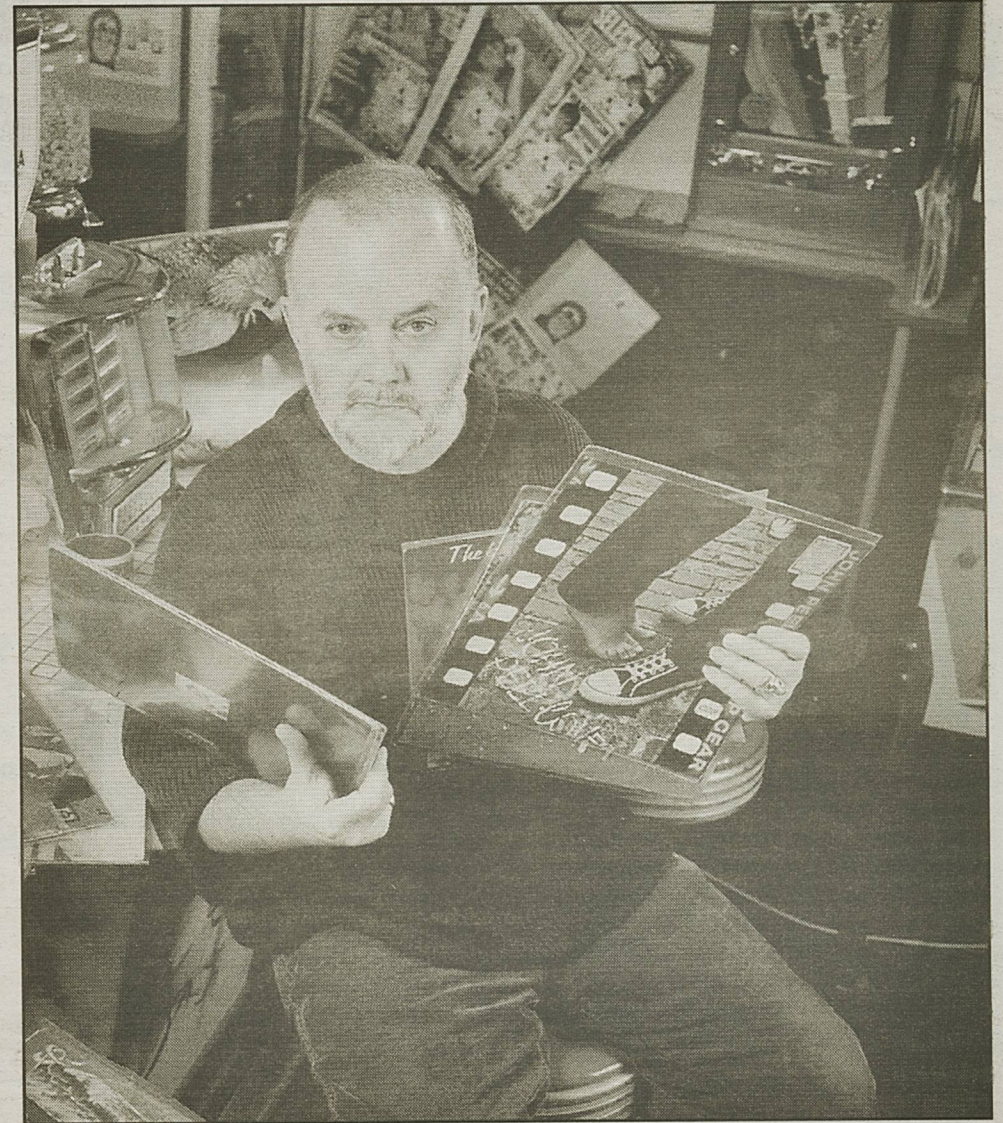
(neshyboukhari)

When John Peel introduced Pulp to me something changed- he had a unique ear for the special song that perhaps may even change your life.

(jandanieldormann)

Oh John we will miss the song, for you played so long.

(jameskent)



The wonderfulness of John Peel was his accidental brilliance: the records played at the wrong speed, unexpected clunks, and the odd jewel hidden amongst the norwegian techno. The world now seems a less nice a place.

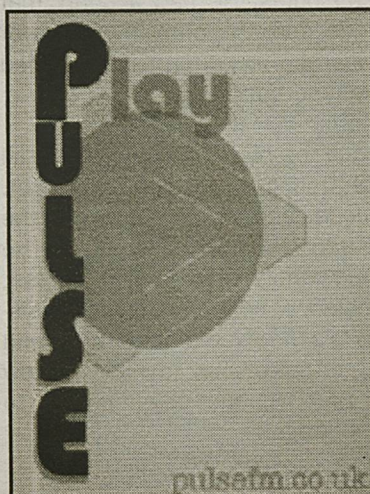
(benhowarth)

friend and I were at Artrocker that night; the mood was sombre, but we consoled ourselves that this was what he would have wanted us to do. I'll always remember him for saying that he saw no point in playing songs twice, as that denied another song from being played: what an ethos...

I was in shock when I heard the news. My

(mattboys)

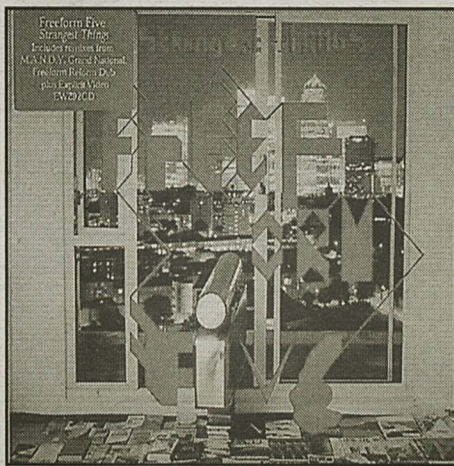
PuLSE schedule



TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10.00	Crazy in Tune	Do it with Frequency	Fong Li	LooSe Ends	Double Dutch
11.00	Mahie's Mix	Soul 4 Real	Rock Asylum	English Breakfast	Multi-Culti Tutti-Frutti
12.00	News - Sophia Money-Coutts	News - Ion Martea	News - Joel Kendrick	News - Jimmy Tan	News - Ion Martea
12.15	Sports: Final Quarter w/ Jazz Li	Sports: Final Quarter w/ Chiraag + Karan	Sports: Final Quarter w/James Parfitt	Pop Tarts	Sports: Final Quarter w/ Will + Johnny
12.30	Phil Bahoshy	Cruising The World	6090	Ozymandias is Back	Neshy, Laura & Chums
14.00	Cleaner Cuts	Fusion	Daar Bhatti Boyz	An Education in Dance	Rave Show
15.00	Kate Jones/Berry	Three at Three with Priya B	Ellie Stylianou	Ben Chapman	Radio Hell
16.00	The Underplayed	The Cherub Rock Club	Paolo Valentino's Wide Boy Dance Party	Hollywood Gossip	The Indie Lounge
17.00	The All Star Hour	Cosmopolitan@LSE	S & M evenings	Ginger and Tonic	Charles and Paul Show
18.00	Generations All Stars	Masti n Masala	Urban Ice Box	Jazz Club	Tomo Tanaka

Albums

Freeform Five - Strangest Things



Given that Freeform Five started out remixing others' work (with "others" being as diverse as NERD, X-Press 2 and Elton John), it is perhaps unsurprising that their debut album is on the untidy side, proving at least half their name is apt (the other half's inaccuracy coming from the fact that there's only four of them). This album features a couple of impressive tunes and some distinctly less impressive; however the bulk of the album is catchy and listenable dance music which may not always be substantial but mostly goes down well.

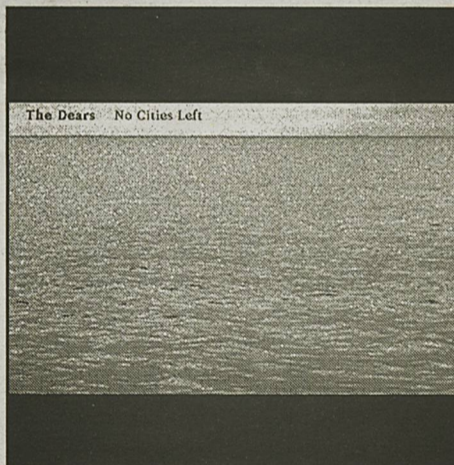
The opening tracks are undoubtedly the strongest, setting a standard that is never quite met in the rest of the album, which fluctuates between funky R&B-influenced electro and rather insipid chill-out filler. Freeform Five give an impression of being jacks of all trades and masters of

few: they have strengths, but they don't play to them, preferring to experiment with styles and genres. While this spirit is admirable, seeing the potential shown in Prince-inspired opener 'Electromagnetic' and the new, Bounty-Killer-featuring version of 'Eeeeeaow' go to waste on the subsequent weaker songs is disappointing.

Saying all this in a vacuum is somewhat unfair however. Most the songs here are electro you could happily shake your mullet to in a club; and as a whole the album is well suited to a party or getting laid, or indeed any environment where the atmosphere smoothes out the album's deficiencies by letting its low points fade into the background. All-in-all, a fair album that shows the foursome's potential but could easily have been better.

(aedansmith)

The Dears - No Cities Left



Like a cold winters day, the morosely warm voice of Murray A. Lightburn will embrace you whole, and perhaps with the more mellow hearted of you, even beckon you in for a up of coco. (or warm beverage of choice, natch...).

Less of a mixture, and more of a juxtaposition of folk and grooved up beats coupled with mandatory string section and piano with brief visits from what can only be described as an oddly posed horn section stolen from a west end musical, yet 'No Cities Left' manages to retain enough rock paraphernalia to keep it 'happening'.

The general vibe is definitively sullen, and credit is due for never attempting to fob the listener off with any of today's sub marginal corny tripe.

Yes, Lightburn does possess dulcet tones akin to those of our beloved Morrissey

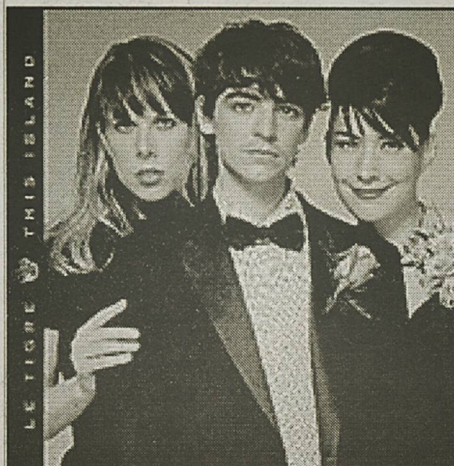
reincarnate, but don't let that put you off, because that's what make it so endearing. There's also a tinge of Neil Hannon and Divine Comedy inherent throughout the reck'd, evident in the quirked up nature of the lyrics through to the shimmer of tambourine peppered here 'n' there.

The diverse nature of the tracks on the album underlines an extreme competence that most bands shouldn't bother to hope to acquire if only by virtue of their longevity, or lack of.

Bored of tedium and monotony in any form? Then this record is for you.

(neshwaboukhari)

Le Tigre - This Island



The fourth album from feminist electro-punk-riot grrrls, Le Tigre rocks. End review.

Okay, some more details. Kathleen Hanna (of Bikini Kill fame) still has THE voice, and the band is still kickin' out music to make boyz, grrlz and everything in between dance like they don't care. Live they wear matchin' outfits to make boy/girl bands weep sweet tears o' shame. They have dance routines all worked out like they're seven years old, dancin' in front of the mirror at a sleep-over.

They cover the Pointer Sisters' *I'm so excited* and make it sound fresh, exciting. The originals here are even better. Openers *On The Verge* and *Seconds* are blasts of pure electro-punk in-ye-face action; *Don't Drink Poison* follows suit. But they ain't pigeonholed, okay?! *After*

Dark smacks of Ladytron with a sense of humour, *Nanny Nanny Boo Boo* is a band having a laugh: "*it's just a joke man / it's just an interview..!*" Shit gets slowed down with (whisper it) soulful tracks *Tell You Now* and *Sixteen*. Butch JD's here though, kickin' the shit down on *Viz*: makes ya wanna gain a few pounds, raid ya brother's wardrobe and strut ya shit at the local bar.

They're all lesbians and proud! Who wants to listen to a feminist who ain't fuckin' queer anyways?! "*It's just a joke man... / I guess you'll never get it...*"

Buy this record.

(mattboys and neshwaboukhari)

Singles

The Izzys: Dreaming

This single is clear evidence that we need to take pre-emptive action against the threat of ZZ Top. Jazz-cum-country-cum-Dadrock has been done before, but some people still think it's innovative. No matter how much The Izzys want to sound like The Rolling Stones, the reality is that it is not 1967 any more.

(laurencekavanagh)

Lemon Jelly: Stay With You

Lemon Jelly's new single is, to be frank, nothing special. Sounding like anything you'd ignore, but might just eventually come to loathe with repeated listening. The central Gallagher and Lyle sample is bludgeoned into distinctly average and repetitive club cliché. Far better is Presidents of the USA-sampling B-side 'The Fruity Track', enjoyably processing their 'Peaches' into tasty, fruit-flavoured gelatinous fun.

(aedanlake)

The Streets: Could well be in

Another attempt by Mr Mike Skinner to prove he is capable of being both sensitive and funny. The reality however is somewhat different. His comedy singing voice is as sickening as ever, as his interpretation of body language. Note to girls: according to Mike, if you play with your hair it means you want a good shag. Just so you know.

(benhowarth)

Pellumair: Iris

Pellumair are a highly polished, pretty, but ultimately inconsequential new duo from Southampton. I usually like widdly indie pish, and their debut single is inoffensive enough, but unlike even Belle and Sebastian at their most anaemic, this is boring. Unlikely to set the charts, or anything else, on fire.

(sarahtaylor)

Mark Lanegan Band: Hit the City

Fab slab of bass-heavy rock from Mark Lanegan proving he is more than justified going solo again after his stint with the Queens of the Stone Age. You can almost smell the cigarettes and whiskey. Grizzly? Maybe but definitely good stuff.

(benhowarth)

Electric 6 - Vibrator

Electric 6 plumb the depths of their "oh-so-naughty" repertoire another pro-tool-s'd to the max dance floor ripper. This ain't no Danger! or even a Gaybar... everything's here and in the right place, but it's wearing a little thin this time around.

(mattboys)

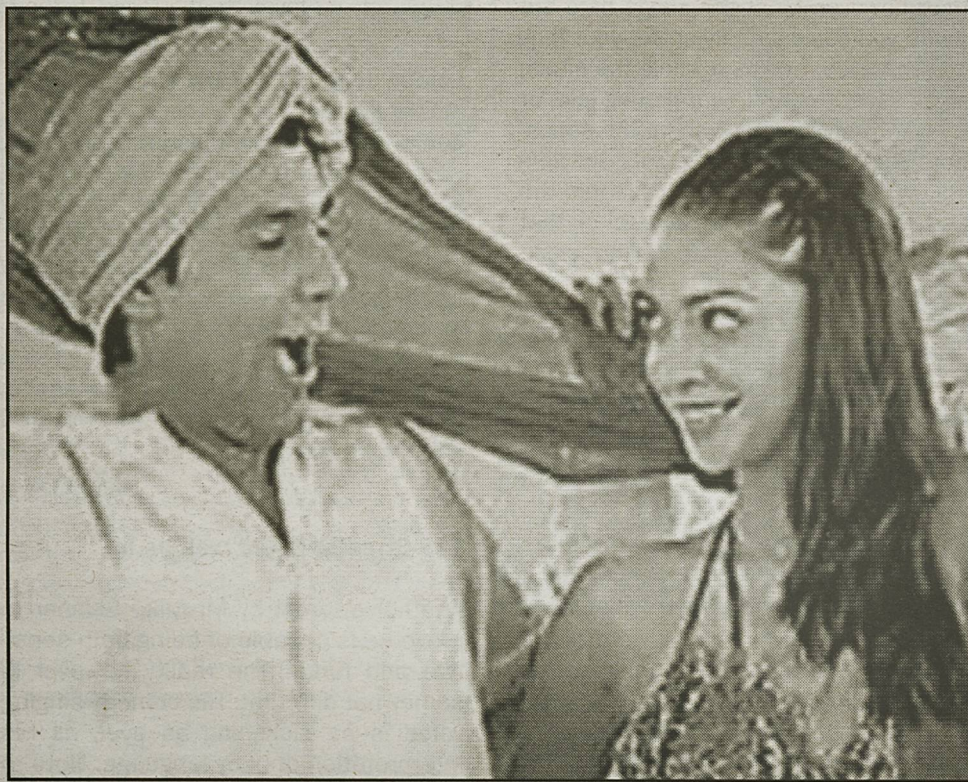
theatre

edited by Carolina Bunting

Classic Reviews

Twelfth Night

vickybrocklehurst enjoys this alternative interpretation of Shakespeare's masterpiece

Director: Stephen Beresford**Playwright:** William Shakespeare**Actors:** Raza Jaffery**Venue:** Albery Theatre

Stephen Beresford makes a wonderful directors debut with his clever and imaginative idea to set Shakespeare's slick comedy in contemporary India. The latter and 16th century England both have strict hierarchical and patriarchal social structures, a disorganised infrastructure and close communities which facilitate the numerous coincidences upon which this chaotic plot rests. Feste played by Kulvinder Ghir (Goodness Gracious Me) was magnificent. His hypnotic presence lifted the company's energy instantly; brilliant timing and an accurate characterisation of an Indian guru were hilarious. He personifies Shakespeare's comment that acting is just as respectable as academia; 'The Fool doth think that he is wise but the wise man knows himself to be a fool'.

performance Ragav, well done.

The play roller coasters from hilarious highs to dramatic lows; provided by the beautifully sincere and simple soliloquies of Viola (Shereen Martineau) and Orsino (Raza Jaffery star of Bombay Dreams) leaving the audience's emotional appetite fully satisfied. The eerily lit set, a tenuous street scene radiates mystery, danger and intrigue, urging the audience to believe that anything really is possible and providing the perfect backdrop for this farfetched comedy. This really enjoyable slant on a great classic scores another point in India's plight to break into the British entertainment industry.

Also check out LSE's very own Ragav Chanana making his west end debut as the confused, adored linchpin of the play Sebastian. A funny, engaging and truthful

Flamenco Directo

nastarantavakoli-far asks where the passion's gone

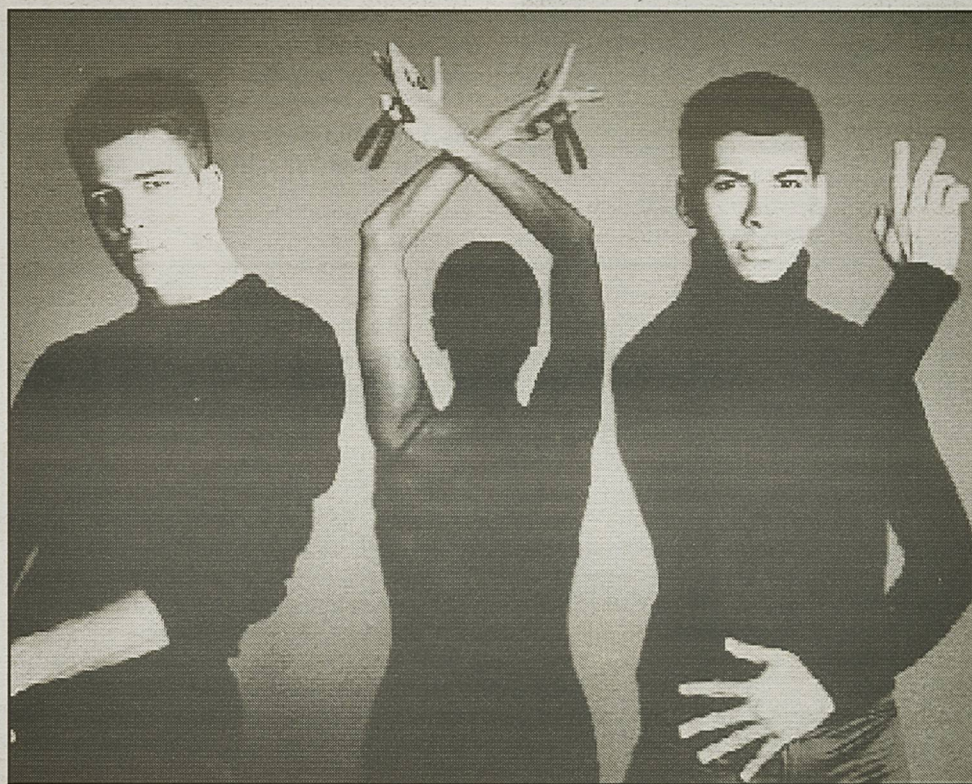
Established by Carlos Rodriguez and Angel Rojas, *Neuvo Ballet Espanol* has been one of the leading forces in modern Spanish dance and traditional Flamenco. Their last show, the acclaimed *Flamenco Directo*, was shown in the Peacock Theatre (which contrary to what you may think, scrubs up finely when evening calls).

This company's trademark old-new fusion was evident from the opening sequence of the dancers in simple black attire to the highly feminine deep terracotta dresses of female dancers later on. Furthermore, traditional flamenco music was given an extra spark with a slightly jazzy by a cello. There were abstract duets between the dancers under a crescent moon to be followed by a deeply traditional flurry of foot stomps.

Rodriguez and Rojas were superb in their solo pieces. Never have I seen such deeply pained dancing as that of

Rodriguez in *Mil Besos*, or since Carlos Acosta's lament of a dance during *Tocororo*. Where Acosta was smooth and lithe, Rodriguez truly conveyed inner anguish with his furious yet restrained, lightening paced steps. Inspirational. Rojas also shined in *De Corazon* (Of The Heart), which was just that, inviting the singers to join him as they led each other though this free solo.

While the dancing of the rest of the company was indeed brilliant, I did feel that there was a slight lack of passion. Flamenco is meant to be a cry from the heart, one of the perfect mediums for the manifestation of the *duende*, (to be loosely translated as a dark muse essential to heartfelt art, see Federico Garcia Lorcas essays on the Theory of the Duende). It was such primal feeling which cut Rodriguez and Rojas above the rest.

**Event:** Dance**Artistic directors, choreographers and principal dancers:** Angel

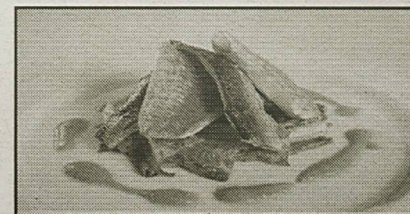
Rojas and Carlos Rodriguez

Venue: Peacock TheatreTip
Bit

There are many agents, particularly those dealing online, that offer extremely good-value restaurant-theatre package deals. These offers are usually for two people and often involve discounts of between 25% and 50%.

Otherwise the 'theatre menus' offered at

many establishments and operating between around 5 to 6.30pm, are often in themselves good value. If you're pressed for time, check out the great restaurants on Tavistock Street. They're right by the LSE and conveniently on the way to the theatre district.



visual arts

edited by Caroline Bray

Raphael...

gerardraiti reviews the High Renaissance superstar

Raphael: From Urbino to Rome

Venue: National Gallery, Trafalgar Square

Cost: £9 full price, £8 concessions, £4 students

Open: 10am until 6pm daily, open until 9pm on Wednesday

When: 20th October until 16th January

So you're a student at the LSE, the foremost cosmopolitan university in the world, and you made a vow to become more cultured, right? It's okay if your culturing thus far has taken place only between the pubs and the library because the National Gallery has provided an apt panacea. Raphael: From Urbino to Rome highlights a 103-piece collection of some of the foremost paintings and drawings by Raphael and a handful of his cohorts.

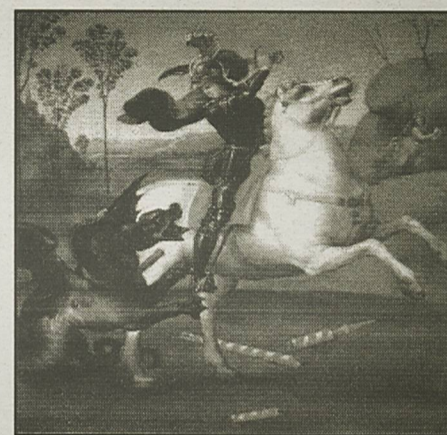
The National Gallery lies in Trafalgar Square, just a stone throw from our humble academic institution. You have no excuse not to check this out! The exhibit is extremely popular even during this off-peak tourist season. If you don't want to queue forever, your best bet is to arrive either early or late. Between 10am and 10:30am is always a safe bet. If you really want to be safe, book tickets at least a day in advance. Due in part to the crowds once inside the exhibit, it takes about 40 minutes to traverse at your own pace. If you get the self-guided audio tour, anticipate between 60-90 minutes.

Highlights include the *Alba Madonna* from the National Gallery of Art, Washington, the *Conestabile Madonna* from the Hermitage, *Saint George* and *Saint Michael* from the Louvre and the *Self Portrait* of Raphael at age 20 from the Uffizi. As a bonus, you get

to see Leonardo da Vinci's massive *The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne and Saint John the Baptist*, which is normally housed in the National Gallery's main gallery.

While the exhibit is a representative sample of Raphael's work throughout his brief twenty-year professional career, some visitors have been disappointed by the paucity of grand-scale painted works. (Some people are just never satisfied!) The exhibit does have an abundance of sketches and drawings while lacking any of Raphael's significant works from the Vatican. The sketches, nonetheless, are the best part of the exhibit; it is easiest to observe Raphael's talent by looking at his doodles and then following them all the way to the finished painted product.

If you are new to London and just can't get enough of your favourite boy from Urbino after seeing the National Gallery's exhibit, make sure you also stop by the V&A sometime to check out his gigantic Christian cartoons. For tickets, call that National Gallery at 0870 906 3891 or visit www.nationalgallery.org.uk.



Left: *Saint Michael Trampling the Satan* Right: *Saint George Fighting the dragon*

...A Talented Anachronism?

gerardraiti and antionettedi michele argue their opinions on the great master

Antionette: Raphael is one of the top three masters of the High Renaissance along with Michelangelo and Leonardo. Raphael's craftsmanship was considered as impressive in his own day as it is now, no doubt about that. Most moving are the fascinating sketches revealing with every stroke of chalk, every "doodle" of duck or dome, every nude or clothed figure (what am I saying, everyone's nude), the talent, the mad skills. Raphael first studied under Perugino and the beginning of the exhibit allows the viewer to see Raphael's work along side Perugino's and Santi's. Works within the School that share very similar organizational compositions and a shared avoidance of excessive detail. Raphael's works are easily recognized in their idealised faces, calm expressions (expressionless sometimes) and notably small lips. Raphael obviously absorbed all he was taught, and yes indeed, he came to perfect his craft very early in his life, which was lucky because it wasn't a very long one.

Yet is the exhibit worth the time, frustration, and cost considering any other gallery or exhibit one could attend in London free of charge? Well, I must admit that the works most worth viewing are already part of the permanent collections at either the National Gallery or the British Museum. However, it helps to understand a body of work when you can actually view some of it as a collection rather than seeing the works separately. Is Raphael's collection worth it? Short answer is yes. It provides a context within which you can contemplate his worthiness yourself. Raphael is viewed as genius, despite not articulating his own decisive style. He "borrowed" ideas and he was uncontroversial.



Above: *The School of Athens*

Raphael's most impressive works cannot tour, however. *Disputa* and *The School of Athens* are attached to the walls of the rooms leading into Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Museum in Rome, while the very intriguing *Sistine Madonna* featuring uncharacteristically expressive Mother and Child and the famous "putti" (cute fat angels of stationary and napkin fame) is in Dresden.

Raphael is the kind of artist that perfected a look, a style, but never articulated or challenged ideas in his work. Does that make him less of an artist? After his death, Michelangelo wrote that 'everything [Raphael] knew about art, he got from me' and many of his works in the exhibit reveal the influences of Michelangelo and Leonardo, including sketches of their work. Was he inspired, or unoriginal? I put it to you.

Gerard: What's the deal with Raphael and other long-dead Renaissance painters? Face it, most of us actually made our first introduction to him as the scarlet-clad, hot-head Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle in the 1980's. That aside, is there anything that mandates that Raphael's paintings and drawings epitomize Renaissance art? Should we really be queuing and paying money to see some old pictures of primarily Christian imagery? Most of us venerate Raphael in the same Classical way that we approach other canonic "masters" in the Arts like Mozart, da Vinci, Beethoven, and Shakespeare. Most of us won't go into the Raphael exhibit without a preconceived bias that we are about to witness artistic virtuosity. When we were all kids, did we first encounter a Raphael painting and have our candy-filled jaws drop in awe. No! We were told that he was one of the best painters ever - just as we were told how fantastic Mozart is. Most of the heralding towards these figures came during the nineteenth century by a bunch of what are often referred to as "dead, white, Germanic men." They attributed popular aesthetics of the Enlightenment to the then-forming canons of study.

There are a number of things wrong with Raphael. First, every background in his paintings looks identical. That's not very original for an "artistic genius." Secondly, what are people wearing? Saint Catherine looks like she borrowed her wardrobe from the same guy who sold Joseph his Technicolor dream coat. If Raphael is so classical, shouldn't his paintings look more realistic? For example, the Borghese Entombment depicts Christ after the crucifixion being brought to the tomb by the Apostles while wearing what I can only describe as a pastel pink loincloth. I'm sorry, but that is not realistic. Countless other postmodernists have also criticized the uniform and anachronistic nature of Renaissance painters by depicting their Biblical subjects as if they all lived in Mantua during the middle Renaissance.

In short, while it's important to visit and observe works by acclaimed artists like Raphael, it is equally important to consider our own biases towards such individuals. Much of our love and adoration for their works and them is only a result of cultural brainwashing.

literature

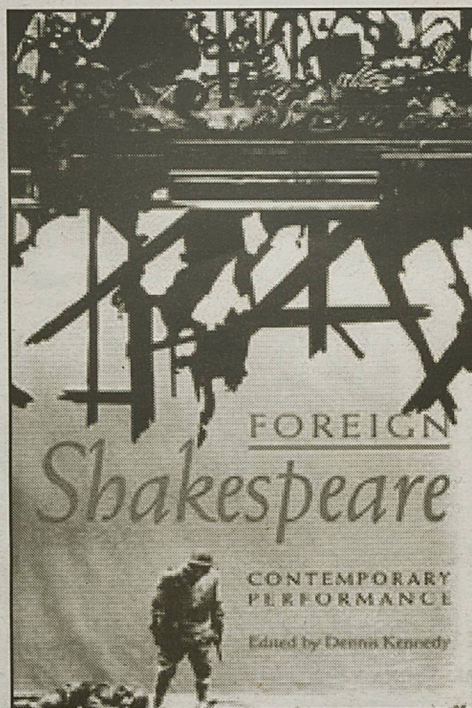
edited by Ion Martea

New Discoveries

Foreign Shakespeare: Contemporary Performance

edited by Dennis Kennedy

ionmarteade-Anglicises Shakespeare

**Publisher:** Cambridge University Press**Release Date:** November 2004**List Price:** £27.00**Paperback** 329 pp.

lacks the hyper musicality of Romance languages, and yet he managed to produce verses that vibrate as passionately as Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, verses which stare into our soul more intimately than Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*. His English verse has influenced the work of some of the best poets of the modern era, such as Wordsworth or even Dickinson. But what is most striking about Shakespeare's pieces is their easiness to adapt to almost every linguistic system. Translators avoid his work until they reach a level of competency that can match the quality of his writing, and once the process of transposition is started, something more seems to dominate the entire process. The language becomes a universal tool and the beauty created by poetic word juxtaposition stays untouched in its foreign form. Shakespeare sounds authentic in Italian, Russian, Arabic, or Japanese; the story inflicts the same complexity of feelings in the Czech, Israeli, or Brazilian audiences.

Either by talent or accident, Shakespeare has become the most talked about writer in English literature. On a weekly basis new editions of his work appear, critics publish their take on his art on a similar basis, and performances of his plays can be seen almost anywhere, if not on stage, then definitely in film.

Shakespeare wrote in a language which

The medium of film, due to the possibility of universal distribution, has managed to

show most successfully the quality of Shakespeare's work in the world's artistic environment. But it is mainly the stage where Shakespeare's plays become tools of globalisation.

Foreign Shakespeare offers a most insightful look into how different, and original, often even pedantic, the adaptation of the bard's work has become in contemporary performances. In a collection of essays, compiled by Dennis Kennedy, we are given a chance to understand what form plays such as *Titus Andronicus*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, or *Hamlet*, take on stages around the world. From traditional adaptations, to Brechtian and post-modern undertakings, from Paris to Tokyo, Kennedy challenges the idea of the degree Shakespeare is owned by the English world, and through that we are given an interesting take on his importance to world art.

We still go to see Shakespeare because of his apparent actuality, but often do we forget that actuality is derived from the quality of the language great works are written in. Adaptations in different languages for the consumption of diverse cultures becomes testament to that quality. This universality is Shakespeare's ultimate achievement.

Classic Pearls

Down and Out in Paris and London

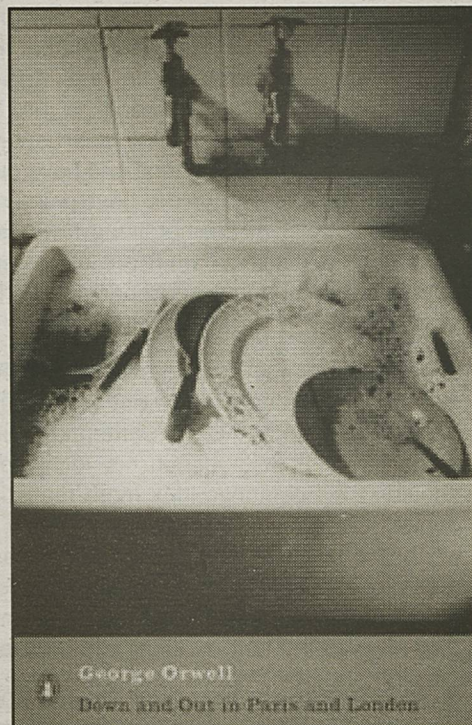
by George Orwell

gracetan on modern-day slavery

Before *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-four*, there was *Down and Out in Paris and London*. Despite its relative obscurity, this punchy travelogue is more accessible than the political allegories that Orwell was later synonymous with.

It follows the misadventures of the strait-laced penniless narrator as he roughs it out on the streets of Paris and London. In Paris, he befriends an ex-colonel of the Russian Army, a lambent Bolshevik who always declares: "Nothing is easier to get than money". Together, they set out to look for a job. They encounter endless lines of other unemployed people and they try everything, from being circus extras to joining a communist party.

The description of modern-day slavery is spot-on. It describes the lives of workers who have never been further than the street corner, of the meaningless work where the highest virtue is the will to carry

**Publisher:** Penguin Books**Release Date:** 27 September 2001**List Price:** £7.99**Paperback** 240 pp.

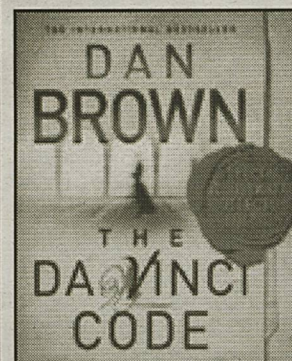
on working. It depicts the people labour

ing at the bottom of the chain, in smoky kitchens and dirty backrooms, as ordinary individuals who are equally sentient beings. But an elaborate hierarchy exists even in such places: from the lowly dish washer to the ambitious waiters who take English lessons on their spare time.

In London, the narrator pawns his clothes and becomes a fully-fledged tramp. He meets other fellow tramps, including one with artistic and literary leanings, to whom sleeping on park benches have translated into astronomical expertise.

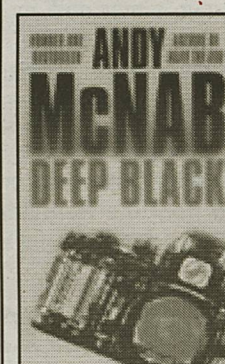
The book is an excellent study on poverty. It offers a vivid shot of how a man's life is reduced to nought when there is a shortage of money. It is an original book, few others offering as incisive a portrayal on how hard it is to be at the bottom. A definite must-read.

New Releases

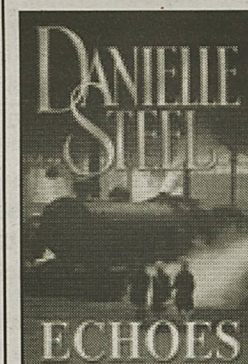
**The Da Vinci Code**Dan Brown
(Bantam Press)

The new illustrated edition brings more colour and depth to Brown's novel

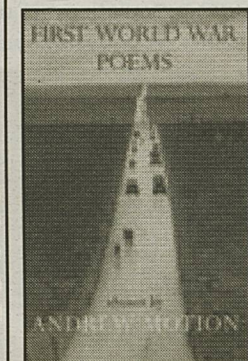
on a race against time to discover a mystery hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. Reminiscent of Harris' *Enigma*, this is a novel that respects the readers intellect, providing a detailed look into the famous controversy.

**Deep Black**by Andy McNab
(Bantam Press)

Once the most highly decorated serving soldier in the British Army, Andy McNab tells a story of a man who is used as a bait in the Baghdad streets. A chilling effective thriller, *Deep Black* benefits from the author's war expertise, portraying the gore and deception of the dream of salvation.

**Echoes**Danielle Steel
(Bantam Press)

A most moving tale of a Jewish girl converted to Catholicism before World War One. But Hitler's regime is more concerned with genes, than creeds. A riveting ode to love and courage in a fast changing environment, in which faith loses its power, and yet keeps hopes alive.

**First World War Poems**edited by Andrew Motion
(Faber & Faber)

Motion expands the tribute to authors such as Owen, Broke, Sassoon, Blunden, and others, with the inclusion of women poets like Farjeon and Mackay, and contemporary writers, like Hughes and Larkin, who but echo the strength of war poetry in a most troubled present-day. (Andrew Motion will read from *First World War Poems* on the 10th of November at the Imperial War Museum, at 7pm.)

Lyrical Effigies



In the mind of Ion Martea

Born in a Romanian family in the capital of Moldova, Chisinau, in the summer of 1983, I only discovered the beauty of poetry at the age of 9. Writing does take the life out of someone, and yet there is no life without writing. This is the only way I can explain the cause behind writing a reasonable amount of material in my first 20 years of life. At 15 I had my first collection of poetry published, following two others in the subsequent years of 1999 and 2000. Poetry is everywhere, and it is easy to find inspiration if one is open to it. Today, through poetry, I expose my soul for you to devour.

The Awakening of Dreams

Today through wounds the dawn-horizons strain,
As rays strain through the filter of the clouds,
Slowly and deeply; the wounds' anguished pain
Have put an end to frissons' haunting crowd.

And souls awaken silences of steel,
Silences that forgot old boring things,
The dawn-skies sink them deep into my wounds,
No purpose in caresses can I feel.

Yesterday magic spells sewed days to nights,
Waters were sewn from fire and from toil;
Yesterday wounds grew deeper, probed by lies,
And by the touch of sweet thoughts they were healed.

Yesterday, the night whispered fire and light
And courage and mistakes and mysteries,
Yesterday, to the seas the day brought more
Of that marriage - matter and energy.

Yesterday dawn-horizons could be grasped
By all our minds, our eyes beheld them clear.
Yesterday, tears and wounds, born out of words,
Did not clamour that they must appear.

Today I feel how salts dance in my wounds
And how their revels bring death upon me,
Today I feel how gossip, secrets, talk
Probe wounds from the thick cables binding me.

Today my tears are tears born of joy,
And tears that, answering tears of yearning, fall,
Today, words spoken, though sweet, are not
Intended to bring happiness to all.

Today the dawn brings dark upon our sight
Like demons in the space twixt earth and sky.
Today, those demons seek mates in the light
Of candles blown in an eternal wind.

Today no candles gleam in holy shrines,
Only on tables where sin casts its shade;
Today all graveside tears to myth decline,
And on salvation are dark shadows laid.

Courage and joy for me are source of hurt,
Painful the smiles of babe and mother prove,
Hurt am I by the fur of beasts and birds
Plumage, and the kisses born of love.

But wounds that come from words bring me no woe,
Nor stones loaded on ropes to twist them tight,
Today - no pain comes from tears' surging flow
To world of dreams - my dream is perished, quite!

What good are words and dawns if I've no dream?
Friends who would eat my courage, wear it down?
Enemy faces smiling from the seas
Saying that for my own good I should drown?

If I've no dream, then I must be a dream,
My wounds, opened towards the fire, are eyes,
Out of extinguished dark dawns cast their gleam,
And through impenetrable smog, words fly.

I feel no frissons, sense no silences;
A dream, I steal dreams from the clouds on high,
Steal them from candles, pain and memories
Of simple things that twinkle in dawn skies.

(Translated from Romanian by Vera Rich)

The Roundel of Sins

I do forgive you for your pains
And sins you made me to embrace.
A wooden leg still keeps its pace,
Though it is stuffed with bloody grains.

Its step on roads new hearts does chase
Until it's stopped by salty rains.
I do forgive you for your pains
And sins you made me to embrace.

Your tears touch my leg, your swains
Do vanish slowly in disgrace,
But yet my love - an empty space -
To die it dares, live it deigns.

I do forgive you for your pains
And sins you made me to embrace.
You say: "I'm wrong!", then clear my trace
And make me to escape these chains.

Do give me reason, hell replace,
With blood do fill my grainy veins...
I'll still forgive you for your pains,
New sins you'll make me to embrace.

But yet you fail, your love reigns
Only in passenger's briefcase.
I've changed my leg, you kept your face.
Who traces our bloody lanes?

I did forgive you for my pains,
Your sins I made you to embrace.

A poem I live by...

The Poet by George Cosbuc

A soul in the soul of my people am I
And sing of its sorrows and joys,
For mine are your wounds and I cry
Whenever you do, drinking dry
That chalice of poison that's meant
for Fate's toys.
Whatever your pathway, together we'll ail,
We'll bear the same cross and we'll feel
the same nail;
Your banner and creed will be mine;
The shrine of my hopes I shan't fail
To set by the side your shrine.

A heart of my people's great heart;
I sing of its love and its hate;
The part that you play is the fire's;
my part
Is that of the wind; you're mate
In all that's decided by Fate.
You're the source and the aim
of whatever I sing
And if at times say a thing
That's not in your Scriptures, you can,
Most holy celestial King,
Lock up with a lightning the mouth
of a man.

Some people hold dear and supreme
What's vain in the other men's eye;
But he who can scan both the earth
and the sky
And set up a bridge 'tween the low
and the high,
Will always distinguish "to be"
from "to seem".
My heart is all yours and your heart
is in me
Whatever your place on the chart
Of forth-coming ages,
whatever they decree,
For you, mine own people,
of your soul I will be
For ever and ever a part.

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about

edited by Joanne Lancaster

Macondo: the Latin experience

robertomorris on why one hundred years of solitude are definitely up

Macondo, located in the very avant-garde and trendy Hoxton Square is a cafe (and by night a bar) like few that I have seen in London. Its delicious food and laid-back ambience truly resemble a Latin lifestyle. It is truly worthy of its name. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the origin of Macondo, it was the fictional village that Nobel Prize winning author, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, made famous thanks to the role the town played in his novel, 'One Hundred Years of Solitude'. Macondo was based on the rural villages which were of special importance to the author due to the fact that he spent his childhood living in them. The author describes Macondo as being a village defined by egalitarian justice, so that the houses were laid out in such an order that they would shine equally upon them.

Well, a hundred years of solitude will be the last thing anyone who attends Macondo will encounter. The cafe evokes the magic surrealism of Latino literature. Macondo takes advantage of its Latin heritage and admirably offers its clients an authentic Latin experience (as I am from Mexico I can vouch for that). The cafe promotes traditional Latin culture such as a flair for the fiestas, the taste of drinks and the promotion of the arts, all within a truly cosmopolitan London setting (there are no cheesy sombreros or cheap margaritas).

Macondo consists of a small cafe area, this perhaps being its only flaw, where one can choose from a variety of sumptuous and affordable Latin dishes (I myself had the chilaquiles, corn tortilla and chicken drenched in fabulous chile sauce and molletes, toasted baguette with



beans, cheese and pico de gallo sauce).

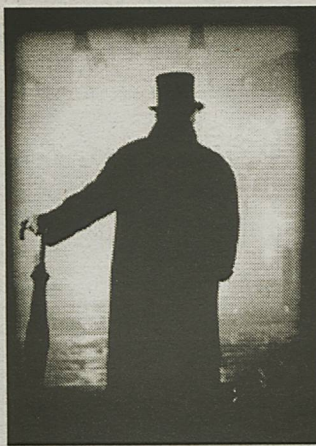
This same area can also serve as a coffee bar where organic Latin coffees are served with top of the line pastries (the cheesecake is a must) and at night, throughout the week but particularly from Wednesday to Saturday, it becomes a very trendy lounge playing contemporary Latin lounge music. They frequently hold spe-

cial events, such as art exhibitions (last week there was an outstanding Alebrije, Mexican artisan, exhibit). It is also available for private parties.

Macondo is located in Hoxton Square. The closest tube station is Old Street.

Spooky London

joannelancaster on the city's darker side...



discover that nearly every building has at least one ghost- even London Underground is haunted by a few, an ancient Egyptian who has previously kidnapped women off the platform at Holborn for example, listen carefully and they say you can hear him wailing. It is also said that a race of subhuman cannibals live at Russell Square. But enough about UCL students.

Halloween may have passed, but London has no lack of spooky corners to explore at any time of the year. Perhaps in a city with such a long history it shouldn't be surprising to

If you're interested in discovering spooky London, you might want to take a walk through London's ghostly past. The London Walks Company (<http://london.walks.com/>) is one of the oldest established and best known walks companies with high quality guides. They have a range of walks regarding the supernatural, including "Ghosts, Gaslights and Guinness" every Wednesday at 7.30pm from Holborn.

I went on the "Haunted London" walk, and although it was interesting, and the guide was funny and informative, scary? The library scares me more! This tour is perhaps better described as an introduction to- admittedly- a lovely part of London with a few ghost stories thrown in along the way. Good if you want to know about the city, not so good if you want to be scared.

In my opinion, much better and more spine tingling was the Jack the Ripper walk. This leaves Tower Hill at 7.30pm

daily. The London Walks Company happens to have possibly the number one Jack the Ripper historian as one of their guides- he works on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Friday if you're interested which can't hurt.

You get to see pretty much all the important locations, the scenes of three out of five deaths, plus various other stops (where victims were last seen alive, Mary Kelly's first home in London, the temporary home of one of the suspects...). All the traditional theories are covered- Masonic conspiracies, madmen, Jack-is-really-Jill- as well as some of the less well known. And if you don't just want to take my word for it, and ex (and satisfied) customer is Johnny Depp.

All walks with the London Walks Company cost £4.50 for students, enjoy yourselves and happy haunting!

London
Landmarks #2Highgate
Cemetery

Not many people would think about visiting a cemetery for fun, time to broaden your horizons!

Opening Times: East Cemetery 10am weekdays (11am weekends)- 3.30pm last admissions

West Cemetery hourly guided tours (11-3) at weekends, book on 02083401834

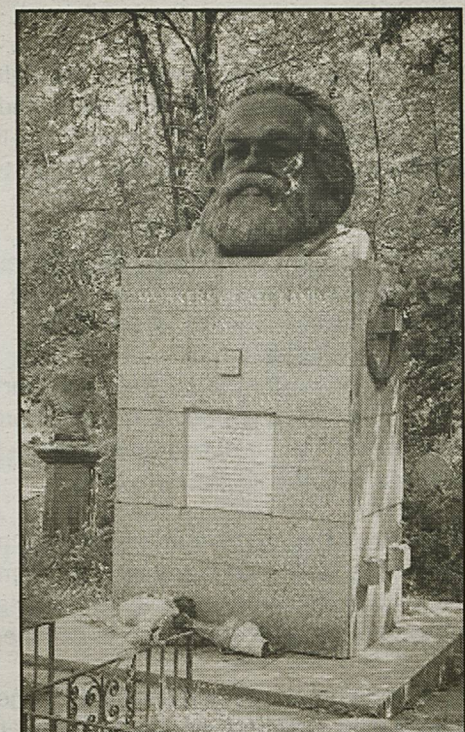
Cost of Entry: £2 for the East Cemetery, £3 for tours of the West Cemetery

Location: Archway station on the Northern Line, walk up Highgate Hill and through Waterlow Park- it's a very pretty area

Why Visit: It's the last resting place of the spiritual father of LSE politics- George Bush. Oh, sorry, Karl Marx. Like many old cemeteries Highgate has turned into a bit of a picturesque wilderness, lots of wildlife and so on. Some very rich people are buried here and lots of the graves are beautiful monuments. Slightly spooky perhaps, but peaceful and something different!

On the Downside: Winter is obviously not the best time to visit any out-of-doors place, the cemetery gets pretty muddy and you don't get the flowers and plants you do in spring and summer. Highgate is also home to a resident vampire, so watch out for your neck...

More information/ Booking: <http://highgate-cemetery.org>



The tomb of Karl Marx

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The Arts Society will be selling 150 half price tickets to see the Lion King Musical. Contact su.soc.arts@lse.ac.uk.

SU Shop

Full range in clothing now available in store.
Look out for new lines just arrived!

Snopake offers still available in stock.
Also squash raquets still available.

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LSE Amnesty International's
Letter Writing + Committee Meeting
Every Friday 12:00 - 13:00 Room S421
Same room - Same time - Every week - Simple!

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Women in Business Society
Presentation by MD of JPMorgan Robin Lawther,
European Head of Financial Insitutions Investment
Banking
'The Financial Insitutions Group at JPMorgan'.
Monday 8th November, 16:00-17:30 in D502.

FIT IN.

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**CREDIT
SUISSE** | **FIRST
BOSTON**

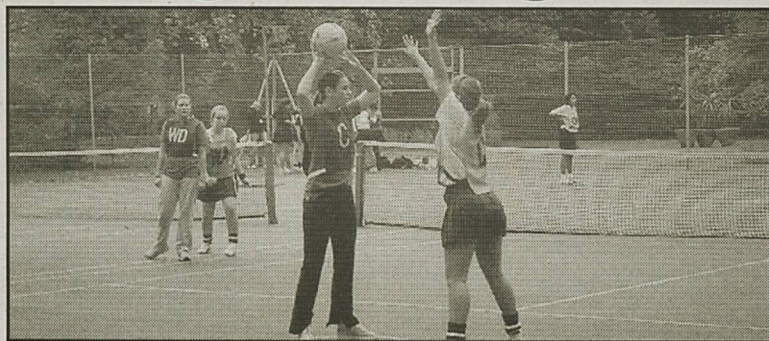
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www.csfb.com/standout

LSE Netball golden girls

Olivia Schofield



Netball 1sts.....54

Goldsmith's.....5

New Cross Gate, London

I think we've all been acquainted with the saying, "All that glitters is not gold". Well this was a case of all that's Gold, is shit. No wonder Platinum is the new Gold.

As usual the mighty first team made a very glamorous journey, not by limo as suits our stardom, but by the 172 bus, all the way to New Cross Gate. After pissing off the entire bus with our high-pitched laughter and abundance of penis talk, chocolate was needed so we had a bonding team outing to Iceland to stock up on Mars bars - yes I know, 'fat bitches'. High on sugar we arrived at Goldsmith's College to be bombarded with flyers for the latest arty productions - it was worse than being on Houghton Street on election days. After struggling our way through the matrix of corridors we finally arrived outside and on

something resembling a netball court. With spirits high and ready to get started, we were knocked back down to reality when it occurred to us that our opposition was nowhere in sight.

After a while, a girl in a trashy outfit came out and apologised. What for, you're thinking...their team was running late, they had to borrow players from the seconds and thirds, and oh yes, they have no umpire. Would we like to cancel? After careful consideration we decided to shove their offer up their arses and beat them convincingly to get a good goal difference which might be important later on in the season. And that's exactly what we did.

The game started and the awfulness of the situation soon became apparent. The problem with having no umpire is that you can get away with murder. That's fine if you're bigger than you're defender, if you're not however, it's a license to get abused. Despite winning convincingly by the

end of the first quarter (10-1 lead), our entire team was pissed off with the low standard of the game. There was only one solution. Since we had an 8th player, I was subbed off to be the umpire and Laura, our star GS, took over. The rest of the game was much better, with decent umpiring (even if I do say so myself) it enabled us to really storm into the lead, and play our own game without fear of abuse. The final score says it all, 54-5 is a very good result, even if they were shit. Captain Jade was voted player of the match by the opposition which at least proved they were not blind.

This means the LSE 1st netball team remains unbeaten this season. Next week we face Southbank and so I can confidently predict our 4th victory considering last year we whipped them with a staggering 61-8 scoreline (more than one goal a minute!). Yes, we're good.

Hockey have their revenge!

JJ and Rishi



LSE Hockey 2nds.....6

St George's.....2

Unknown Location

We want to start by setting the record straight. St Georges are a shower of self-righteous twats. The Hippocratic oath went out of the window last year when they caused us distinct mental and physical harm by first offering and then later revoking their invite for food. They claimed our poor attitude after their umpire robbed us of victory was to blame. Bastards!

Now, the new improved 2nds, minus Nosh, Sach and Cleric took to the pitch with a taste for revenge. As opposed to food. Wankers. The first 20 minutes of play saw our standards drop further than Tommy's self-esteem. To be fair, it is hard to criticise a hat-trick scoring debutant. Cheer up, mate!

Captain Anthony was clearly a little sore due to a severe lack of fitness and an eventful incident involving Rishi and a scooter. He therefore spent most of the game on his arse (that's his, not Rishi's). Fortunately though, we got off to a flyer with two quick goals within the first 15 minutes. Although, to be fair, our style of play was more White Lightning than Moet. It was at this point we seemed to decide to become professional ball watchers as our defence turned out to be easier to get past than the University of East Anglia's admissions board, resulting in St George's two goals.

St. George's misplaced confidence in their own ability was to be their downfall as two superbly taken counter attacks sealed the deal for LSE. Final score 6-2. Congratulations to Emmsy, Tommy and Jeff for getting on the score sheet. Thanks also to Christina and Nat for agreeing to be umpires at the last minute. Needless to say we planned to return the favour and deprive our opposition of post match sustenance, (un)fortunately they managed to get lost on the way to the pub. Shame.

Adventures of the Beautiful Beavers: Part III

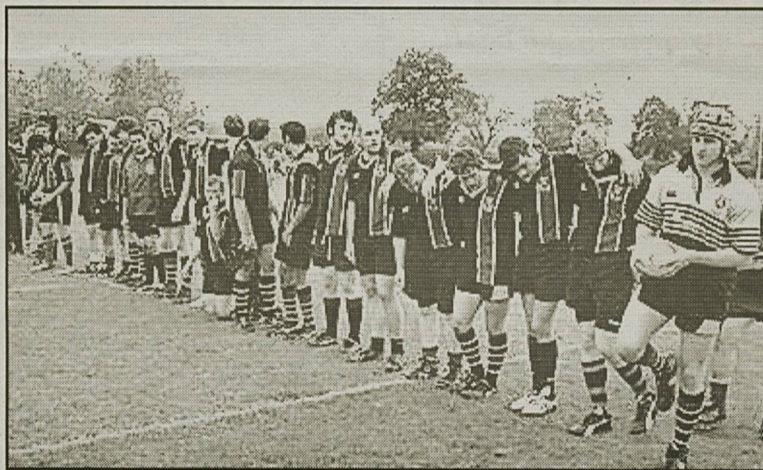
Colin Daretta



LSE Rugby 3rds.....15

RUMs 2nds.....17

Miles from civilisation



I would like to utter a word of caution to anyone who has proceeded thus far. I am American. (Hah, no, okay, that's not actually the caution.) In fact, I am an American whose experience with rugby is lacking. Elaborate on lacking, you ask? Well, I have a good idea which direction I'm supposed to run, who is who, and how I score. Beyond that, however, things grow murky. Thus, if this article is not up to snuff, if instead of a try I call it a touchdown, bear with me.

In the past, I have heard talk of the thirds as little more than an eclectic mix of unathletic, inebriated, slobs. I take issue to the latter, because frankly I think we are quite good looking fellows (ie Rob Donnellan and Zac Moriarty-Lewis) and anyone who looks down on us should be ashamed.

Anyhow, the medics' strategy soon became clear as we spent two hours in an odourous dilapidated bus that lacked air conditioning but furthermore lacked windows that opened. I was shocked at this last facet, and was quickly reassured that this is common enemy practice.

After our departure from the tin

death trap (and after having sweated out nearly a third of our team's collective body weight) we found ourselves faced with obviously sub par locker rooms. Nonetheless, we maintained steadfast and cheerful, exchanging witty banter (had I mentioned how witty we are...ladies?).

Anyhow, upon our arrival we were given little time to warm up. Of course, our planning had been impeccable, save we had not taken into account the fact that the bus driver had been paid to take the scenic route through the English countryside (it's quite flat...) which made us a tad later than anticipated.

The mighty Beavers however (that's us) were undeterred. As if in answer to our confidence the Marshmallow Man from Ghostbusters took the field, making friendly banter with a host of oversized aged medics.

I found him at least mildly amusing until which point he announced himself as the referee for the match. The uniform must have set off alarms

with the rest of the boys, because looks of disconcert were exchanged. This new turn of events, much akin to a plot twist in some soap opera, did not bode well for the beautiful Beavers.

Now, I know what you are going to say. It's always the referee's fault. This is, while probably used too often, always true. Never accuse someone who says it, of just making an attempt to blame an independent third party.

As a newly inducted Beaver, I can give you my word that it was, in fact, the ref. For the next eighty minutes he would play the Ali to our Frasier, the Vader to our Luke, and the cocaine to our Robert Downey Jr. Suffice to say, whenever we exposed our soft spots (which are few, think Achilles heel style) he was there, typically with a fresh donut in hand, calling a penalty.

Now, granted, I found the donuts somewhat strange... and yet it was all laid clear when hidden amongst the medic's bags was a box of sizzling warm Krispy Kreams. Was there no limit to how low they would stoop?

Were it not for the tremendous

efforts of the "lads" we would have surely been crushed underneath their donut addled sixteen man team (to those who don't know, and as I only recently realized this, there are only regularly fifteen men on the field). Clem, a.k.a. Suzie the Scot, danced her way through lines of helpless medics... of course only being stopped by the referee's daring tackle. I wasn't sure if that was allowed, so I didn't say anything. Needless to say, he would have scored at least half a dozen times were it not for their extra fullback. Browne, known as Browneye (and I still don't know why), at one point tore off his shirt and flexed, screaming "Come and get some!" scaring at least three of the other players off the field. Had we not been penalised for this obviously friendly sporting action, again, another host of points would have been racked up for the intellectually elite (again, us). Then there was the incredible punt by Jan, which everyone assured me, was incredible, yet I really have no idea what constitutes an incredible punt. Oh, and I'm not even sure it's called a punt. He

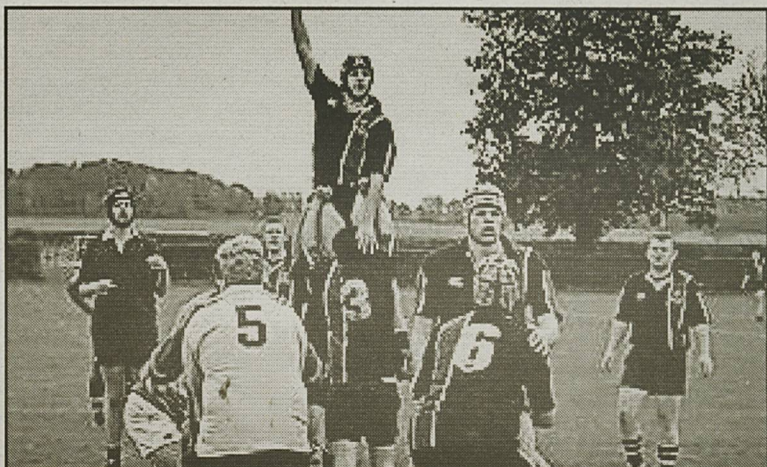
kicked it over their heads, anyway.

And lastly, of course, there was Rich, whose ginger mane could be seen headbutting and causing various other forms of injury to the opposition's forwards. In fact, he played so well, that during a donut fuelled rage the referee resorted to throwing him out of the game (okay, for only ten minutes...).

Jimmy Son was outstanding at scrum half, Kevin at prop made some excellent breakaways. Jim Lamarca combined excellently in the lineout with Phil Burkimsher and Jon Brown leaping like giraffes.

When the dust settled, and we had exhausted what many would consider a cornucopia of expletives in disgust, the medics managed to steal away a narrow victory. Is there a moral to the story? No. Hope you laughed, and if you know anything about rugby and want to help me out email me.

Oh, and ladies, Wednesdays nights, the Tuns. (cue a wink)



QM Wenches edge past LSE Hockey beauties

Claudia Whitcomb



Women's Hockey.....5

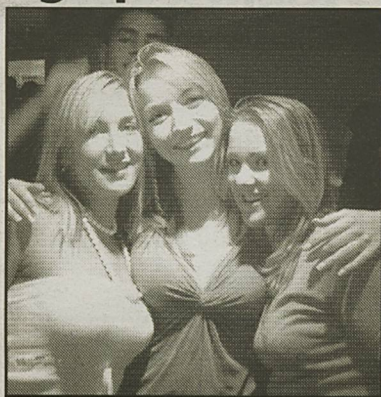
Luton Tech.....0

Three Towns Over

Women's Hockey.....2

Queen Mary.....3

Mile End, Shithole



Women's Hockey have always been advocates of playing two 'big lads' up front

Martha, Andrea, Louise, Tara etc... Our backs had a little more action in the second half, however the easyjet crew were unable to put anything past keeper Kristina. The final score was 5-0, however it could have been more with captain Meenal calling for everyone to 'get in the D', shame we didn't take her seriously! Wednesday night was a bit of a shambles from a girl's hockey point of view, with myself returning to the Valleys and little enthusiasm within the team, so we had to make up for it this week.

Admittedly we weren't expecting much from the Queen Mary side, whom we had beaten on every occasion last year, however as we have learnt with our squad a few very good freshers really do make the difference. The first half was unimpressive with us trailing 3-0 at half time, luckily the game picked up significantly. We were awarded a suspicious number of short corners from referee's JJ and Melissa and luckily enough new girls Martha and Andrea converted two in beautiful fashion. The game had improved drastically in the

second half and we came off smug, especially certain players who were insistent we had drawn, we hadn't however; the final score was 3-2 to the Mile End crew.

Wednesday evening proved to be highly successful from a hockey club point of view, with the women's and men's first teams going out for dinner prior to the tuns. All this meant was an increased consumption of alcohol and a little bit too much banter! Firstly I have to give special mention to all those people on the no.38 bus on Wednesday night who watched in amazement as certain members of both the public and the AU sang Lion King classics as we drove down Theobalds Road, thanks Simba. Anyway back to the hockey, we arrived in the tuns in record numbers and started putting down the vodkas before our beautiful club rendition of Gina G's 'Oo Ah Just A Little Bit', thanks to men's captain Frodo. A few more vodkas were drunk and we were ready for Walkabout, as per usual we managed to lose half our team en route but were surprised to find almost the entire men's team there on arrival which made an evening full of tears, sick and hilarious chatting up techniques even more enjoyable. How someone managed to actually throw up on what seems like half the female population of the AU however is another question. So the evening progressed and Martha our post-grad had the double bonus of not just football club captain Taffy trying to chat her up but second team captain Brummie too, the lucky girl! Admittedly we thought the evening couldn't get much funnier but again we were proved wrong by the Jade who had earlier complained about the fines being placed on her, all I can say is she more than doubled them.

Manni spreads the gospel....

Nathan 'Hucknall' Dobson



Champagne 7ths5

St Barts.....0

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey

On Wednesday the Champagne Seventh's rolled on to their third win of the season in quite emphatic style by beating St Barts by five goals to nil. It was an easy result with goals coming from Greame Holloway, Nick Vivyan and Ed Calow. 'K-Lo from the Surrey' as he's known by his awfully rude boys was voted Dom Rustam's star of the week last week and the Seventh's were ecstatic this week to find that once again we had made it into his first eleven with two of our Brockley boys, hat-trick hero Greame, Rock the Casbah Holloway, and Nick, (last seasons player/monk of the year) Vivyan. Anyone would think we have connections with the Beaver.

K-Lo has enjoyed his fair share of ups and downs whilst at LSE as any young, bright spark might. Perhaps one of his highest lows was on Monday when, after smoking some 'seriously strong drugs', he was forced to leave the company of my friends and family because he had inadvertently turned into an albino pterodactyl. Four hours of conscious flight from the early Cretaceous era to the present day, K-Lo soared to new levels of meaning, sight, sound and pleasure.

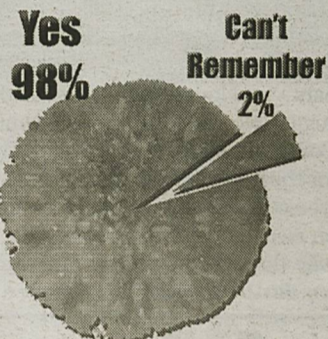
The Champagne Seventh's have now scored 17 goals in four games under the leadership of our much unsung (because he usually writes the reports) captain Paul McAleavey. His tireless work at centre half has been invaluable as we look to make it two promotions in a row. New additions to the squad have proved faultless. We even have a new man between the sticks to replace Manni - the fantastic Matt something or other, the anthropology librarian.

Manni is now our leading missionary, spreading the word about the Seventh's from here to India. Stories about various miracles such as showers of champagne football from the golden booted seventh's are circulating free around the Asian sub-continent, along with stories of Vandal's Milwall Whackers, new boy Nick's Colombian cartel, DJ Infrared ('Oi, Oi'), and that Lopypy Northerner: Sweets provided.

Breaking News

The AU Tuns Survey

We asked 100 AU members - Have you ever been sick in The Tuns?



NB: Margin of Error - 2%

Walk in the park for the LSE Frisbee team!

The Frisbee Team beat Holloway and celebrate in true AU style - with Lidl beer!

James Dracup



LSE Frisbee.....5

Gimperial.....2

Hyde Park



started. LSE came back to make it 2-1 and the play was fairly even for a few minutes, but then they scored lots. Final score was perhaps 10-1.

Having lost two from two, we were knocked out of the quarter-finals, and had a couple of hours until our next game. So we started drinking in the rain - which, by the way, was even heavier by then. A couple of hours later, after many an 'Excelsior' lager (Lidl's finest) and some soggy sandwiches, we were ready for our third game against Holloway.

This game was highly enjoyable compared to our previous one, and the whole team started to play together really well. Lots of scores, many from Phil Hills who seemed to be a goal hanging pro, and committed dives in the mud from just about everybody. In defence we had some great diving interceptions from Markus Illukka (throughout the tournament in fact), and otherwise the whole team stuck to their opposite like glue. The final score was LSE a lot, Holloway not very many.

With the rain almost turning to hail - and the field now mud, we took on Imperial in our final match. This game was fairly close, but we stuck it out as a team, and finally won 5-2.

Considering the club only formed three weeks ago, and most of the team had never played Ultimate until a fortnight ago, two wins and two losses was a decent result. Brunel, the only team to really outclass us, went on to win the tournament. LSE were certainly the best of the rest. We technically finished 9th, as we didn't qualify for the quarters.

If you are at all interested in playing Ultimate, join us for practice every Wednesday at 1pm in Lincolns Inn Fields (or meet outside Waterstones just before) - e-mail P.S.Chowla@LSE.ac.uk for more info. Everybody's welcome, the ability to throw a Frisbee and drink a pint is useful, but not at all required.

Running off to a good start

LSE Running leave King's eating dust....



Kevin Baddeley



A new season and a new look LSE running team got off to an impressive start at the opening London Colleges League cross-country fixture at Parliament Hill. With only 6 members from last year returning this season, the fresh team of 13 men and 2 women put on a convincing display, with the men's team coming a close 2nd behind Imperial out of UL, and the women reaching a respectable 9th position.

On arrival the course looked all too familiar with its steep climbs, deep ravines and dense forests. The conditions were made worse by the rain, giving a much needed boost of confidence to the unfortunate runners without spikes who now faced miles of 'trying not to break you ankles' style running. On the starter's orders 137 runners

sprinted off towards the first hill amid the thundering sound of pounding feet. Before long the field was stretched out as far as could be seen, being led by the incredibly fast and followed by the rest. The course covered mixed terrain, with frequent hills and frequent mud.

After one lap of the 2.5 mile circuit the women crossed the finish, the men completing the course after 5 miles. First in for LSE was Megan, shortly followed by Suzanne, both scoring well for the women's team. For the men, first out of the team was David with an impressive top 20 finish, with Scott, Jack, Matt and Anand also in the top half of field. Mention should also be made of last year's captain and LSE old-boy John who finished a personal best 11th overall.

A look at the team results shows it's going to be another hard fought challenge between LSE and Imperial for the coveted title of UL champions. And what a great moment to see not one but two LSE teams in the first division! Every point will count so watch this space.

Rugby Seconds (and friends) defeat Reading Poly

Tristram
Leech



LSE Rugby 2nds32

Reading Poly 2nds20

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



Rugby rise about the masses of Reading Polytechnic

On match day our motley collection of the thoroughbred 2nd-teamers and, those recently promoted from the first team met at the Tuns, and what a sight we were. The sight of so many battle-hardened yet sensual athletic Adoni caused passing females to moisten at the gusset. And so, for fear of distracting the fair sex from their studies, we moved out to the fortress.

Introductions were necessary on the train, as some of the freshers were unaware of the identity of the Big Gay Bear, and were in danger of leaving their drinking vessels within his defecatory range. This warning out of the way we merrily bonded while yours truly used his Woodwardesque prowess to select the finest starting XV known to man, only very slightly

marred by the fact that it had Raging Ryan Doyle playing in two positions. Ah well, e'en Homer nods.

The game began with Tiny Tim the Aussie cripple bravely trying to play at fly half and showing himself to be one of LSE's finest paralympians, thanks to great service from Barry Van-Wyck

and Jon Cox. James Lennard and The Third Best Gay Bear at LSE strengthened the backs line, and Neil, Leggy and Ballsucker aided our pack's mobility. Contrary to all expectations, however, the Rubbish Reading were a well drilled and talented side, and crossed our line twice in the first ten

minutes. In any lesser team, heads would have dropped, but I am proud to say that the words "damage limitation" did not cross the mind of any of our brave band. No, these paragons of manhood merely held their heads high, and strode forward once again, more determined than ever to conquer. Thanks to storming forward play, we soon regained the initiative and pushed Reading, inch by hard-earned inch, back into their own half of the field.

By half time we had closed the gap to five points as tries from Marine Ballsucker and "Referee" Rob Bissett, were answered only once by Reading. We took on board a new front row as Kieron "fitness" Farnsworth was getting pint withdrawal symptoms, and Joey had some secret business to conduct with a bearded man named Abdul from Algeria.

What a half of rugby then ensued! At my signal, we unleashed hell. With the wind at our backs, Shettters' touchline expletives in our ears, and fire in our hearts we wreaked bloody execution on the hapless Reading. Forward pick ups from the likes of Silky-Skills Sameer Daar exposed opposition weakness at the fringes and scrum-half Little John provided precise service to both backs and crash-ball runners. Reading began to show their true calibre by degenerating, UKIP-like,



Another win in the scrum for LSE

into a disorganised rabble (only their scrum half remained unaffected by his team's poor showing, and he showed his high spirits by dancing a merry little jig on my back on several occasions). Three tries followed in quick succession, as Ballsucker and Chris hurtled over the line, and then Jim showed his scouse credentials by stealing a try that was the rightful property of the captain.

By this time the contest was over, and even such innocuous behaviour as Sean asking very nicely indeed where Reading was, caused the opposition to crumple into spasms of apoplectic (and impotent) rage. We closed the game out easily, unimpeded by the fact that our full-back was having a full blown cardiac arrest at the back of the field, and strode off the pitch masters of all we surveyed. A 4th rate university should know when they are conquered.

Footy Fourths begin one match unbeaten run!

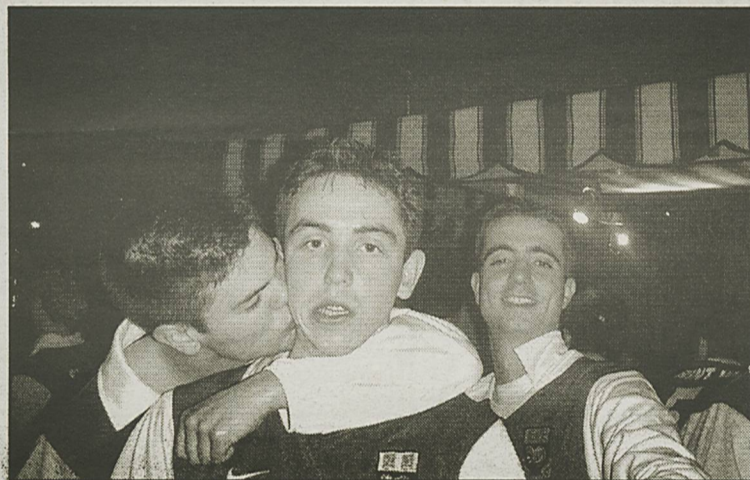
Ben
"Schoolboy"
Tutt



Gimperial.....3

LSE Fourths.....3

Terminal 1, Heathrow



The season hasn't smiled upon the Footy 4th team as of yet, pissing all over two teams before Wednesday's encounter with arch rivals Imperial, with no reward. The only high point in two disappointing and rain soaked games had been Dennis 'Earthworm Jim' Nelson's first goal for LSEFC in two years yet, despite his new-found enthusiasm, the third game didn't start much better.

Captain Alex Lee kept faith with the dodgy 3-5-2 arrangement that leaked four goals in one half last week, (when I came on) and went on to concede two goals in the first twenty-five at Imperial. The first came from a free-kick conceded by fresher Barbie which went up and over the wall in the swirling wind, usual Imperial luck taking the ball past the keeper into the back of the net. The disappointment had only just set in when a second goal from outside the area flew in across the face of the goalie, 2-0 Imperial. With Heathrow around the corner the team were obviously thinking about Calella a bit too early, but harsh

words of 'encouragement' from Captain Alex saw the team pick up a little and somehow manage not to concede another going into half-time.

Changes were made by our tactically brilliant manager at the half and the team reverted to a more solid looking 4-4-2, with old boys Chris Spicas and Alex coming on to replace Barbie Chris and fellow first-year Min. With the wind now in our favour and the old boys terrorising the opposition, the 4th's actually started to play some football. The 4th's began their comeback just after the break, the goal greeted with more shock than applause when we saw that Earthworm Jim had scored again. A horribly miscued cross from the right wing caught the keeper napping at his near post, which placed Dennis at the top of the 4th's scoring charts, though not for long, and put the game within their reach.

The comeback was halted however when the lucky Gimperial scored another

deflected goal, this time off the legs of Spicas. Heads dropped but were brought back up when makeshift striker Rob scored the first of his two point saving goals. The first was a cool finish after good work from Dennis on the right, and the second, greeted with a huge cheer from the team and the small crowd, was a sweet curler at a narrow angle. In a post match interview he claimed "But i'm c**p up front" just the kind of modesty the FC isn't used to. In a last ditch attempt to claim a winner The Goat, Ben another FC fresher, was brought with ten to go but he couldn't make the difference and the game ended 3-3. They confidently claim to go on an unbeaten run till the end of the season, but after the celebrations on Wednesday night I doubt many of them know what a football is anymore.

The Fourths' spirit therefore lives on and it will be a shock to the league if they are ever defeated again, before going on to win the league!



Team of the Week

Dom Rustam selects the best players from this week's games.



Key:

- 1 First Team Player
- 2 Second Team Player
- 3 Third Team Player
- 4 Fourth Team Player
- 5 Fifth Team Player
- 6 Sixth Team Player
- 7 Seventh Team Player

Star of the week:

RHAM 'ROBBO' BUVANENDRA- The young Indian, nicknamed 'Robbo' seeing as Taffy couldn't be arsed to learn his real name, clawed the fourth's from the clutches of defeat. Coming off the bench at 3-1 down, Rob's brace saved a 3-3 draw. Taffy still refused to learn his name though.

Team of the week:

THE SIXTHS - For drawing 2-2 with a team that the Sevens beat 9-0 last week. That was supposed to be ironic by the way.

Schoolboy of the week:

BEN 'TUT' TUTT- I bet Ben was a nice quiet lad before he came to uni, Wednesday nights down at the homeless shelter handing out soup. Well now he spends them downing pints that could strip paint, and subsequently puking all over himself and the new Tuns carpet. Don't tell Gaz though.

Idiot of the week:

FABIAN 'LIABILITY' JOSPEH- A special award this week goes to Fabs, captain of the 3rd team, for leaving the team's kit in C120 and until he steals enough money to buy a new kit they'll be playing in their underwear.

Dom Rustam.



Battle of Berrylands results in Thirds victory

Mark 'The Administrator' Hultum



LSE Football 3rds.....1
RUM's.....0
Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



This game should have been remembered as one where the mighty thirds resumed their quest for ULU glory. However, instead of looking back on a gritty, and hard-fought one-nil victory we'll remember it for the most comical refereeing decisions, and perhaps the longest second half in football history.

The first half was forgettable. Our new look defence of 'gypsy' Paul Beaumont, Chris 'Big Duncan Ferguson', myself, and Daniel Brown, our token American, were

determined not to allow a repeat of last week's shambles. Similarly, the wank medics seemed to have parked their team bus in front of their goal (much to the anger of Jose Mourinho no doubt) which made it difficult for our attacking duo of Fabs and Andy 'Philipino sex slave' Ong to break. Even with our wingers Gary 'LSE Team of the Week regular' Dhami and Fabs' mate Anser (whose English strangely doesn't extend to the word 'pass') Alonzo enjoying plen-

ty of the ball, we were unable to make it count. That was until somewhere near the end of the half where we finally decided to play with the intellect one would expect as products of our fine institution.

A great move down our left flank saw Fabs open their defence up with as much ease as a drunk Jodie Marsh, Anser to pull back such a cutting pass to James 'poor man's Healy' McGurn, and him to slot the ball coolly into their net.

The goal scoring legend of Healy continues to live on.

The second half was not much better, the only things of note were Fabs' baffling Tinkerman-esque substitutions, and an Andy 'Euan Blair' Logan screamer which hit the post only to see El Capitan come excruciatingly close to the rebound. As our referee had cancelled one of their subs (yes one of the shameful fuckers not even good enough to start) was afforded the opportunity to show us his best Mike Riley at Old Trafford impression. Fabs pulled the ball back for Gary to slot home his second of the season. But unsurprisingly this was ruled offside by our highly educated (not likely) RUM's official, despite two defenders clearly playing him inside. And so the game descended into a farce.

The shocking officiating continued and dubious tackles began to fly about. The Battle of Berrylands it was, with more handbags but less pizza throwing than the Battle of Old Trafford. We had a valid penalty appeal unsurprisingly turned down as well. But

the real comedy came with a change of referee with their right winger, an already proven bastard with a big mouth. In the interests of allowing this shit university to equalise, we proceeded to play an extra twenty minutes, not even a countdown from the first team could get this cock to blow for full time..

Then finally, 65 minutes later, the final whistle blew. They were shit, proper shit, and we were miles better, even if the scoreline didn't suggest it. 'The real Fit Nick' in goal had more time on his hands than Gary Megson, barely having a shot to save all game. Regardless, the thirds got back to winning ways and restarted their surge up the table. Most of us later decided to work on the finer points of our game by having it in the Tuns. And so Captain Fabs' magic continues, even if he is a bastard when he's drunk. Lets hope we can carry it on with a tricky trip to the pikey prison scum of Holloway on Saturday. Until then, you know, you know...

Men's Hockey: blood, sweat and small penises

FT Boy and Spok



LSE Hockey 1sts.....4
Bart's Axis of Evil.....3
Downtown, Falluja



George Dubya's Black Watch deployment has failed to resolve conflict in Falluja...with nowhere else to turn, Dubya has contacted the LSE hockey club to fix the issue. As a result, our own Commando has been on manoeuvres in Iraq and was unable to join us this week.

As for the rest of the team, we too were in a war torn, crime ridden slum, crusading against the axis of evil a.k.a. Bart Simpson's College. We arrived at Mile End station to find that Frodo, our great leader, had made a school-boy error: believing Jarlath's directions. After a brisk walk, we eventually got down to dispatching another obscure London poly.

LSE quickly notched up a comfortable one goal lead. New boy "Alan Ball" (the man with the smallest penis in Newcastle) latched on to a ball from FT Boy and promptly dispatched the ball past their whore of a keeper.

Unfortunately, complacency set in: Wacko gave away lots of short corners and the genetically deficient oppo scraped a goal

back. It wasn't really Wacko's fault, our shit goalie Sharon.

The next half hour was a cat & mouse affair. The midfield bossed the centre whilst upfront Mowgli & Meldrew mesmerized their backs with some miraculous movement... mmm.

Although LSE were clearly superior, a permanent feature in the opposition's 25, Barts had a lucky break to make it 2-1. Thankfully normality was restored when goal machine Mowgli popped up with a canny goal.

The second half maintained LSE domination but ultimately unable to tame Bart's team. Several costly mistakes later left us trailing 3-2 and Frodo had begun to bleed.

Fortunately Spok handed him a sanitary towel (from where?) and the game resumed. Our palpable

supremacy was beginning to tell as the team contrived to score two unanswered goals: one through our captain, and the winner slotted with aplomb by F#cknut - his face contorted in fairly camp celebration... The same expression would be revisited during his Tuns solo karaoke session!

Onto the festivities: Bart's female team were kind enough to cook for us and wash & iron our match kit...football and rugby girls take note.

Frodo was elected man of the match and FT Boy was, for some unknown reason, dick of the day. A special mention must go to Alan Ball for his spunky beauty treatment, Tesh for being a gimp and "the river Nial" for being Claudia's "fit" fresher...we can hear wedding bells ringing.

Netball Fifts smash Strand Poly

Sancha Bainton



Netball 5ths.....10
King's Wenches III.....9
Back Ass of Nowhere

Like with any sport, preparation is key to success and we were more than ready to dominate the Strand Poly. The King's intimidation tactics began immediately after reaching Canada 'back ass of nowhere' Water station. After marching miles, we were greeted by the 'look how straight our hair is' Kings III team. Now I would be lying if I claimed confidence (we had lost our previous match by 20 goals), however a minute intense practice session meant our deadly plan was ready for execution.

The first quarter started well, leading by three goals, four scratches and 18 bruises. But Kings weren't great: they didn't know the rules, they were so attracted to our sexy figures they enjoyed contact and quite frankly, the throw-in that never made the court took the piss.

The dismal opposition were not the issue, we were playing the Big Heffa and her short sidekick (or the referees from hell). Her constant coaching from the side lines and sarcastic tone was disgusting. Rudely asking OUR team "do you

girls know the rules?" when she had just given thirty penalties against her own team in the first two quarters. She made some appalling decisions regarding side lines, foot work and contact culminating with a new rule on short passes. Our response to such cheating fell short of the polite moral high ground approach: we bitched at the end of each quarter, making sure we were in earshot, tutted extremely loudly every time the referee incorrectly blew her whistle and possibly shouted the odd "this is fucking outrageous!"

We managed to survive the first three quarters with a lead of two goals. The last quarter was going to be epic. We were pissed off, the referee was getting worse, they seemed to be getting better and equalised with two minutes to go, but the Heffa ironically saved us blowing conveniently after our flawless goal and before their counter-attempt. 10-9 final score.

We were awesome. Clare played an amazing match recovering beautifully from a ruthless beating by King's. We saw a darker side of Jovana who managed to get in a few punches when the Heffa wasn't watching. Robyn made an energetic comeback supporting the forever wonderful Ros. Laura was wrongly accused of footwork a few times but took it well, only hurling a few insults. Hannah didn't let the decision to wear a skirt affect her tough play and Tamsin stepped up to the challenge of playing GS with style.

Three cheers to the opposition! We're off to hide round the back ally and jump the Heffa.