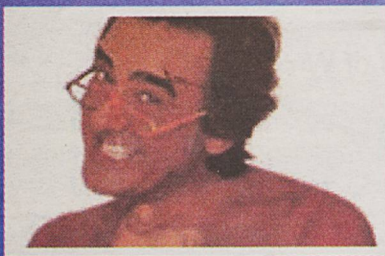


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BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL
& ECONOMIC SCIENCE

The Beaver



Free in B:art! A David Dickinson Advent Calendar!



Bang Bang! B:link gets subversive see page 10



The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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Issue number 568

It's Off - No, It's Back On: Andy Gilchrist says The Barrel is Go!

Boycott Backlash

Michael Bourke

LAST THURSDAY saw more than 600 students pack out the UGM to debate a contentious motion calling for LSESU to boycott Israeli goods. The motion was put forward in solidarity with the Palestinian people and was comfortably the best attended UGM of term, banishing fears about a lack of interest in union affairs.

The motion had aroused considerable debate across campus with both sides of the debate leafleting and lobbying extensively in the days leading up to the UGM. It was proposed by the LSE Friends of Palestine and supported by the Stop the War Coalition. The text detailed alleged Israeli violations of UN Resolutions and human rights. It called for a boycott to demonstrate "solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and that 'the international community will not tolerate racism or the violation of human rights.'"

Strongly opposed to the boycott were, amongst others, the LSE Jewish Society and the national Union of Jewish Students (UJS). They argued that to single out Israel as specially deserving of censure was simplistic, unfair and would undermine the inter-communal co-operation needed to find peace.

Both pro- and anti- boycott activists had been actively leafleting on Houghton Street in the days leading up to the UGM. At times the situation had become fraught as tempers frayed. It has been alleged that UJS activists from off campus were responsible for abusing students staffing the Friends of Palestine stall in the run-up to the meeting. Similarly some Jewish students have condemned some pro-boycott activists for allegedly displaying "inflammatory" posters that criticised

"Jews" rather than the Israeli government for misdeeds in the Occupied Territories.

As the UGM finally got underway, the Old Theatre was soon packed to well beyond capacity, with students standing between the aisles. The atmosphere was tense and expectant. Worries about safety, exacerbated by the fire dispute, led LSE staff to move some of those standing out of the hall. With remarkable speed the School set up an audio link with the New Theatre, allowing approximately a hundred students unable to squeeze into the Old Theatre to follow the UGM's proceedings from there.

Proposing the motion Omar Srouji, Chair of the LSE Friends of Palestine, cited UN Resolutions "ignored" by Israel. He argued that "a message must be sent to the Israeli government", urging those present to "fight injustice - vote for the motion!"

Speaking against the motion, Jonathan Shapiro reminded the assembly that Israel was a democracy in which women were enfranchised and the population enjoyed religious freedom. Greeted by raucous applause, he stated that Israel was prepared to compromise and stressed the need for co-operation between the opposing parties to find common ground. His views echoed those expressed in a UJS leaflet distributed at the meeting, which rhetorically asked how "this partisan and one-sided boycott [would] bring peace to the region?"

Debate then moved to an amendment that removed all mention of boycotting Israeli goods and all allegations of Israeli human rights abuses from the motion. Instead the amendment acknowledged the "legitimate national aspirations" of the

"To those who did not attend..."
Editorial page 7



"Now or Never!"

- SU issues final fee fight rallying cry

Michael Bourke

LSESU IS set to launch its biggest campaigning effort yet against the threat of top-up fees.

With the government publicly squabbling about the future of higher education and the NUS's National Demonstration only 8 days away, the SU will argue that students have a unique opportunity to campaign for a better funding system.

General Secretary Tuuli Kousa said: "With the government's funding review coming out in January, we're entering a crucial phase in the fight for a fair funding system. We need to do everything possible to make student voices heard and avert the tragedy of top-up fees. LSE students really do have the chance to make a

difference - it's now or never."

Kousa's comments appear to be born out by an embarrassing row at the heart of the Labour government. Over the last two weeks a variety of government ministers have rushed into print, alternately attacking and defending top-up fees. Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, has branded them "a really bad idea". Frank Dobson, former Health Secretary and the MP for Holborn and St. Pancras, has also put his opposition on record, citing fears of elitism and the creation of a two-tier higher education system.

However, Higher Education Minister Margaret Hodge, LSE Alumna and ULU hate figure, continues to give top-up fees

Editorial Page 7

Crush Climbedown - School Sees Sense

Michael Bourke

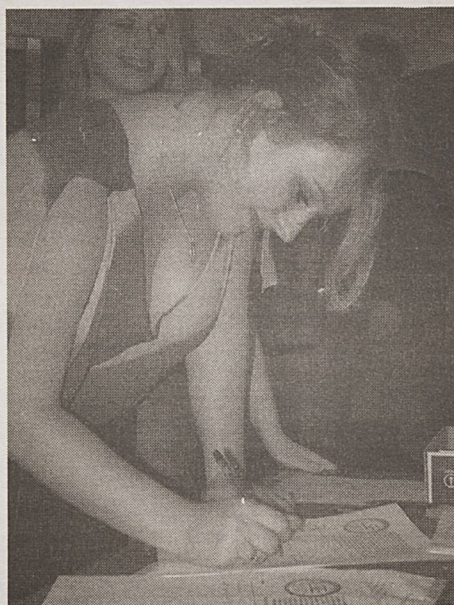
FRIDAY SAW the successful return of Crush, the LSESU club night, as the School's management retreated from last week's decision to cancel it due to the firefighters strike.

A spokeswoman for the School said: "The safety and potential risk factors of the Crush event on Friday 29 November were reviewed. Senior School staff, who have overall responsibility for health and safety in the East Building and Clare Market, decided to allow the event to go ahead on this evening with the important safety provisos that there would be no opening of the Underground bar, a reduced fire limit of 500 in the Quad, and for the SU to provide 18 registered security staff instead of the usual seven".

However, LSESU General Secretary Tuuli Kousa told the Beaver: "The school has agreed that we can go ahead with our events as long as we fulfill some precautions, all of which we had already offered for last weekend. I think the school has realised that they overreacted, though they obviously won't admit it."

The cancellation of Crush on 22nd November, which had provoked the wrath of the Students' Union and threats of legal action, has also prompted a more

fundamental review of the relationship between the School and the SU. Ents Officer, Jimmy Baker, told last Thursday's



Who says signing petitions never changed anything?

UGM that the SU's autonomy had been threatened by "overbearing School authorities acting on a whim".

While expressing hope that legal recourse would not be needed, he was adamant that the SU would not be "bullied" and reiterated its demand for full compensation of the £11 000 lost due to the cancellation.

Baker also told the UGM that he was proud of the SU's Officers for standing up to the School and heaped praise upon his fellow sabbaticals and the Ents Team.

The SU is also calling for the Memorandum of Understanding that governs its relationship with the School to be reviewed to prevent future problems of this nature from arising. They have also requested that a lay governor investigate the original cancellation.

Despite the School's change of heart one insider told the Beaver he stood by the original decision, saying "If I was asked to go back to last Friday... I would come to the same conclusion that the Director and the senior School Administrators arrived at - and that was to cancel."

The SU's solicitor has apparently written to the Director concerning the cancellation, a communication described by Gen. Sec. Kousa as "an angry letter". The School has replied and negotiations are on-going. Despite its volte face on the issue of Crush the School appears unlikely to want to set a precedent by refunding revenue lost to the SU.

600 turn up to debate branded a "disgrace"

cont. from P1: Israeli and Palestinian peoples and the terrible suffering experienced by both sides during the last two years of violence. It resolved to call upon the government of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority "to work together... to achieve a peaceful and just conclusion to the current conflict"

Despite arguments that "peace without justice for the Palestinians would be meaningless" the amendment was passed by a large majority, to the disgust of some who felt that it was purely a "gutting" amendment designed to replace the substantive issue of the boycott with weak platitudes. Omar Srouji told the Beaver: "What happened yesterday was a disgrace for numerous reasons, the main one being that what was billed as an 'amendment', was actually a brand new motion."

However, this view was contested by Jarod Krissman, an active supporter of the amendment, who described it as "a truly positive and accurate message that will hopefully serve as a starting point for reconciliation and understanding."

After the success of the amendment there was a brief flurry of activity as the proposers of the motion sought to withdraw the now radically changed text. However, a swift conclave of the Constitution and Steering Committee ruled that this was not possible and

debate could continue. Although there was now little doubt in anyone's mind what the final outcome would be, summing up speeches were heard.

Most notable was that given by Ellie Ching. She told the UGM that she was a Jewish student and a supporter of the boy-



No road to consensus at the LSE either...

cott. In a powerful and emotional speech she recounted her experiences of Nablus and Ramallah, recounting the death of a 13 year old Palestinian boy who had "drowned in his own blood."

When the final vote came the new motion, consisting entirely of the amend-

ment, was passed by an even larger majority. The decision of the UGM was met with cheers and hugs from many in the Old Theatre.

In the aftermath of the meeting reactions appeared as starkly polarized as the underlying issue. Srouji, while keen to reiterate that he was "very much for peace", branded the outcome a "disgrace" while Krissman declared: "an attempt to further divide the parties involved in the conflict was effectively put down."

Questions have also been raised about the wisdom of the close association of the Stop the War Coalition with the motion, some suggesting that publicly linking the two issues damages the Coalition. However, this view was refuted by STWC activist Gregor Hackmack, who told the Beaver: "The Palestine issue is the central source of conflict in the Middle East and the real threat to world peace and stability." He went on to add: "The cohesion and spirit within the group is brilliant - people involved see that they can make a difference and that their views cannot be ignored."

Rumours reaching the Beaver suggest that the original motion will be resubmitted next term, giving everyone another chance to consider the thorny issue of Israel-Palestine.

NUS
National
Demo THIS
Wednesday

Cont. from P1: her strong support. She recently described the debts incurred by students as a "good investment" and warned students that there "was no such thing as a free lunch". Hodge has been at the forefront of what is seen by many commentators as a government "softening-up exercise" designed to prepare public opinion for the announcement of top-up fees. Over the last few weeks she has been keen to point out the financial "crisis" facing UK universities, a problem that fees can be introduced to solve.

Behind the scenes, it seems, top-up fees have become the latest battleground in the ongoing rivalry between the Prime Minister and Gordon Brown, his Chancellor. Tony Blair's advisor, Andrew Adonis, is seen as the chief hawk pushing the fees agenda within government while both Short and Dobson are well known allies of Brown. The issue is also provoking significant unrest among rank and file Labour MPs, 87 of whom have already



Kousa: "We must use this opportunity to get our message across."

signed a Commons motion urging the government to rule out top-up fees altogether.

Against this backdrop of conflict and uncertainty, the NUS's National Demonstration, to be held on Wednesday 4th December, is assuming much greater importance than usual. Its success or failure will be seen as a crucial indication of the public mood. Opponents of top-up fees will be hoping that thousands of students will take to the streets, giving them invaluable opposition to use against a Prime Minister renowned for his sensitivity to the concerns of Middle Britain. Conversely a low turnout will encourage those like Hodge, who believe that higher fees are fair enough and that fears of elitism have little resonance with the public.

LSESU is planning an impressive range of activities to build support and raise awareness in the run up to the demonstration. Events will include a stall in the Quad, banner making, campaign t-shirts and an after-demo party. Tuuli Kousa said: "As a prestigious University in the heart of London, LSE has a special role to play. I hope we can provide a strong contingent to help make the demo a success. We must use this opportunity to get our message across."

Meet outside the Old Building
at 11am tomorrow to come
on the National Demo

2000 academic jobs cut despite plans for expansion

Prashant Rao

THE PARADOX that is the UK's education system manifested itself again this past week when it was reported that more than 2,000 academic jobs have either been eliminated or are in danger of being cut. This is despite the continual calls for expansion of the country's higher education population.

The numbers, tallied by the Association of University Teachers (AUT), put increasing pressure on the Government to institute education reform in the midst of what some claim is a crisis in the country's higher education system. The union of lectures, NATFHE, points out that the figure does not include the 20,000 or so short-term researchers, whose posts were not renewed, claiming that the figure thus underestimates the actual number.

Sally Hunt, General Secretary of the AUT, expressed dismay over how the government was pressing ahead with plans to try and attract 50% of all young people into higher education at the same as cutting university jobs.

"The reason these people are being forced out of higher education is that Ministers have chronically under-funded the sector. If the government wants to expand and maintain standards at the

same time, it must start to put its money where its mouth is."

Peter Knight, Vice Chancellor of the University of Central England, visited 10 Downing Street two weeks ago to discuss new funding methods. In the view of the government, the only way to increase funding going to universities is to allow



For once our Tone wasn't at the No.10 party...

them some degree of freedom in the way of increasing their tuition fees.

Knight, for one, agrees. He feels that without top-up fees universities will not be sustainable in the future, beginning a 'graceless decline into mediocrity.'

Also attending the meeting at 10 Downing Street with Knight and Prime Minister Tony Blair were education secretary, Charles Clarke and the Vice Chancellors of Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, Nottingham and Warwick. Yes, you read that right - LSE was noticeably absent. Whether that is a positive thing for LSE students remains to be seen.

Top-up fees pose an interesting dilemma for the government - although they are a one-way street for students. If they were to charge top-up fees, they would probably be unable to meet their goal of bringing 50% of the country's youth into higher education. In Knight's view, however, if top-up fees were not introduced, absent of a viable plan to fund higher education, students would be forced to look outside the UK to get university degrees.

Knight points to increased education investment in India, China, Malaysia and Singapore - key areas in terms of recruiting international students for UK universities, and claims that if top-up fees are not approved, students will go to Asia, in search of a top-quality degree.

Among the solutions to the debate is to sell £2 billion worth of student loans to banks, an option the government has already exercised. Twice.



Union Jack

Who said democracy is dead? It seems the majority of the student body will turn out to vote on matters of importance, whilst leaving minor policy matters in the hands of dedicated hacks. Maybe the Trots should be congratulated for once for stimulating such an impressive turnout.

Jack knew it would be a special UGM when, in Houghton Street, he spotted the two camps gathering Tories, J soc et al congregating by the Tuns, and Swizz and other Socialist Worker funded parties by the entrance to the Old Theatre, hoping to bag the comfiest seats and form a ring of steel round their Queen Bee, Madway. The Third Way camp was also present, but didn't make it to the UGM because, having congregated at Tower One, decided to stay in the hope of catching a glimpse of their spiritual leader.

Jack has noticed Madway's increasing use of gormless innocents to propose and second motions, in the hope that people will not recognise him as the evil genius behind them. His cover was blown, however, when he insisted that the motion be withdrawn following the successful amendment. Jack wonders why he wanted to prevent the motion from being discussed as amended - its message of desire for peace in the Middle East would surely accord with his anti-war stance. But no, apparently the message sent by the motion "wouldn't be strong enough", Madway and co. clearly gravitating towards their natural position of contention and argument, feeling free to ignore violent conflict when it is in line with their own beliefs.

Voting at the UGM has become a lengthy process, made worse this week by card counts spanning two locations. Irritation raged as hacks chuckled with glee as they discussed logistics, and 2:00pm loomed closer. Jack proposes a solution to this cumbersome method of counting: in the true tradition of Ready Steady Cook, Jack's second favourite daytime TV show let us all hold up red tomatoes or green Percy peppers. Sorted.

Jack was pleased to see that the art of giving fine speeches hasn't been lost since MC Blackwell's departure, with several good first time speakers. The best speech of the UGM award, however, goes to Iain "bundred" Bundred for his devastating critique of the evils of alcohol, which narrowly beats an old Treasurer dismissing rumours of rats in the Veggie Café as rubbish, claiming that "they're just big mice".

Ignorant novices were to blame for numerous interruptions. One persistent heckler with more than a passing resemblance to Cousin It found it most amusing when Chair Sa-mam-tha declared him "ridiculous". The balcony boys, on the other hand, were particularly well behaved throughout these speeches, with few if any missiles being hurled, though Jack suspects this was out of a feeling of remorse following a harsh rebuke by a schoolmarmish Madame Heather, who lectured them on recycling and taught them the difference between green and white paper. Now we are all clear: recycle green paper and throw white paper at Packer, yes?

New loan scare for students

Ib Rasheed

This weekend the Independent on Sunday revealed that students could potentially face a new loan shock. There has been much criticism of the government's flirtation with the idea of 'top-up fees'. Vice-chancellors from the prestigious Russell Group of universities are known to favour measures such as this. Indeed, it is argued that the proposed merger between Imperial College, London and UCL failed because once IC Vice-chancellor Richard Sykes revealed that the new university might charge up to £15,000 as its fees, the move was seen as an attempt to sneak top-up fees through the back door.

Some have also cast an apprehensive eye at Charles Clarke's recent comments about elitism in higher education. He defended the exclusivity of the Oxbridge universities by claiming that 'elites have an important role to play, particularly in research'. Cynics would claim that these comments were more a swipe at Chancellor Gordon Brown, who criticised Oxford over the Laura Spence affair, than anything else. Yet the specific reference to the importance of research highlights the financial problems of British universities as they slide down the league tables in comparison to their wealthier counterparts across the Atlantic. New Labour is under pressure to come up with an answer to this problem.

The new idea which the government is said to be toying with is that of abolishing interest free loans. Under the current system graduates pay a subsidised interest rate equal to the inflation rate. According to the IoS, the new proposal would mean students could be charged up the prevailing interest rate on loans with the repayment to be arranged once their incomes reached £20,000. Politically this new scheme would be far more acceptable to the Labour Party. The trouble

with the existing system is that it is seen to subsidise rich families that take out the loans.

One of the biggest proponents of abolishing interest subsidies on student loans can be found here at the LSE. Nick Barr makes a very convincing case for this. Amongst others, one of his key arguments is that interest subsidies do not help students as it is graduates who repay loans. This seems a very obvious answer yet many oppose it on the grounds that the fear of debt keeps students away from higher education altogether.



Hodge: Public Enemy no. one!

But, they do not help low-earning graduates, since unpaid debt is cancelled after 25 years. The only people that are helped are higher-earning graduates in mid-career whose loan repayments are switched off earlier because of the interest subsidies.

Barr also argues that fees should be flexible, that the loan scheme should be adequate to

cover living costs and tuition fees, and that there needs to be active measures to promote access. It is not clear how far the government would accept these proposals. What does seem apparent is that they recognise the need to make students pay for their education after graduation rather than lumping huge tuition fees at the start of their university career. As long as the pressure is kept up, it is likely they will come round to the view that even if they want to abolish interest subsidies, they should ensure that the loans are substantial enough to eliminate student hardship.



Charles Clarke: favours elitism

As the Beaver went to press we learned that Nick Barr gave a talk at LSE council endorsing his plan for higher education to be taken as the LSE's official view. SU General Secretary told us that she would take the matter on with caution and wanted more student input to the debate before the school decided on its official position.

The Beaver's weekly round up of student news with Lyle Jackson



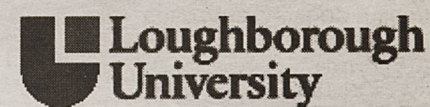
The University of Bristol rag, Epigram, this week tells of a student with a novel way to pay off the debts from her education. The veterinary student has sold some of her eggs to a Californian agency by the name of Egg Donation Inc. Epigram reports that, "the 'job' allowed the student to accumulate more than £4,000 to put towards her education. The girl was paid a premium because of her looks and intelligence; however, as science will substantiate there is no guarantee that the offspring would show either of these two qualities." In this country, it is illegal for companies to pay women more than £15 plus limited expenses for egg donation, however it has proved a big business in America with potential parents buying eggs from students studying at the top universities. Students at Ivy League colleges such as Harvard and Yale have been offered up to £60,000 a time, with an average fee somewhere between £6,000 and £15,000. After a strenuous wrestle with my calculator, I managed to discover that this places an education at Bristol somewhere between 4/15 and 2/3 as well respected as an Ivy League education (assuming beauty and other determining factors are constant - although having watched some of my favorite Baywatch episodes followed by a bit of Eastenders last weekend, I am dubious about this). Another British student from Aston University has also sold her eggs to an American couple recently, starting fears that this will become a new trend. The two students acquired the 'perk' of all-expenses-paid trips to the US so their eggs could be extracted. Hopefully the yanks won't be demanding a refund when somebody tells them that the 'cute accent' isn't genetic.



Regular reader of Far Flung will have heard enough news about Warwick to last a lifetime, but this story could affect all of us at some point. Never wanting to leave us without a story for too long, the Warwick University Senate has approved in principal radical new plans to abandon degree classifications. The Senate has been discussing reforms to replace classifications with simple percentages. The discussion coincides with a confidential government review of the degree classification system ordered by Margaret Hodge, the Minister for Higher Education, who herself graduated from LSE with a third. She explained: "With such a high number of people graduating with good degrees, the classification system is no longer serving any purpose." The proportion of 'good' degrees awarded has reportedly doubled in the last 15 years. Susan Bassnett, one of Warwick University's pro-vice-chancellors, observed: "The time and energy academics spend on determining whether a degree is a 2:1 or a 2:2 is absurd."



Trying to give a balanced view of stories from around the country can be a difficult task with the quality of literature available varying from that of The Beaver to some of the drivel produced by Euston Tech. However, getting anything from the University of York has been almost impossible, the only news story really being the lack of any news at all. A visit to their student's union website was no more fruitful. 'There ain't no party like Fresh - freshers' bash 2002 is nigh', I was told. With this headline I can only conclude that it was so good, the editors are still recovering. More news when (and if) it is available.



A joker at the University of Loughborough has caused a stir by putting up notices on boards offering free money as part of a study. Unfortunate (read - gullible) students from the university were greeted only with laughter when they called the phone number left on the advertisement. The joker is probably one of a number at the university who have voted on the student's union website online poll asking, "Do you participate in online polls". A staggering 38.6% were hilarious enough to respond 'no', while 'don't know' and 'what's an online poll' gained a side splitting 1.8% and 4.1% respectively. The website completes its role in promoting the reputation of the university by asking 'preregistered users to sign on using their date of birth as a password' in the numerical dd/mmm/yyyy format. Useful for those of us born in Rectember - the 100th month.

Elliot's Sprawling Column Inches

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - SOCIETY COLOURS

I am currently taking suggestions about how LSE students would like the new Society Colours to be awarded at the end of this academic year. Currently we are hoping to recognise ten individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to an SU society or societies; and confer the titles of: Best New Society, Best on Campus Society Event and Society of the Year. The elected SU Financial Services Committee will process all applications -since they are in an excellent position to judge the performance of societies and the contributions of individuals to them. However, the question remains of how societies and individuals should be nominated for this award; and what sort of criteria they should meet to be considered. If you have any answers, or ideas, please contact me by email or letter (my pigeonhole is located at SU Reception -Ground Floor, East Building).

Thanks. Elliot Simmons, SU Societies Officer, e.c.simmons@lse.ac.uk

BREAK DANCE - LESSONS

DATE: Every Monday
LOCATION: The Old Gym
TIME: 16:00-17:00
COST: £4

DATE: Every Thursday
LOCATION: The Old Gym
TIME: 14:00-1600
COST: Special Price £6 for 2 hours

We are the bboy/bgirl society, and we promote things such as going to your lectures and classes, even if it does mean you miss out on our lesson. WE also encourage all people: men, women, older, younger, small, big, long, short, all races, to come and experience the breakin' or breakdance. Last lesson we had 8 girls and 4 guys...representing 7 different countries. We are all people, we all shall dance. We all shall breakdance.

QUESTION TIME SOCIETY - "LEADERS OF BUSINESS" PANEL DEBATE

DATE: Tuesday, 3rd December
LOCATION: Old Theatre
TIME: 13:00
COST: Free tickets available from SU Reception (Ground Floor, East Building)

Panel Debate featuring:
Noel Edmonds - TV presenter and Entrepreneur
Reuben Singh - European Entrepreneur of the Year
Sir Stanley Kalms - President, Dixons Group
Justin Urquhart Stewart - Investment manager and TV markets pundit

For more information please go to:
http://www.lse.ac.uk/cgi-bin/checked_xslt?xml=2002%2F10%2F24%2F20021024t1447z001.xml&xsl=event_s_wrapper.xsl

SOCIALIST SOCIETY - PUBLIC SERVICES, TRADE UNIONS AND THE ECONOMY

DATE: Tuesday, 3rd December
LOCATION: Room H103
TIME: 17:00
COST: Free

Meeting called by Socialist Society and supported by LSE Labour on public services, trade unions and the economy - speakers include MICK SHAW, LONDON MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION - DAVE WETZEL, TRANSPORT FOR LONDON - KELVIN HOPKINS, SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN GROUP MP - MARTIN MCIVOR, DIRECTOR OF THE CATALYST FORUM. If you want to know what the mayor is doing with transport, or why the FBU are on strike, then come along to this meeting

RUSSIAN SOCIETY - INVESTMENT BANKING EVENING

DATE: Tuesday, 3rd December
LOCATION: D302
TIME: 20:00-22:00
COST: Free

To help you with your career choices and preparation for the interviews, we have invited seven speakers from different investment banks and different divisions, who will give us a general overview of investment banking industry with insights of their divisions and banks. Talks will be followed by a question and answer session. And, of course, reception after that is a must! (For some - opportunity to drink, for some - to ask more questions)

LAW SOCIETY - CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE: Tuesday, 3rd December
LOCATION: 'Aquarium', 256 - 260 Old Street, EC1V 9DD
TIME: 22:00 - 03:00
COST: £6 members, £8 non-members

Santa's sexy little helpers will be out in force with drinks promotions and free mistletoe for the ladies, ensuring a night of festive drunken debauchery for all. Guaranteed to be a sell-out, our own DJ will be playing all mainstream cheesy hits, as well as dance and R n B. It's going to be hot, so we've cleverly acquired use of the pool for those of you who get too steamy to cool off...need I say more? Tickets will be sold from Wednesday 27 November in Houghton Street, see you all there.

ITALIAN SOCIETY - PARTY

DATE: Tuesday, 3rd December
LOCATION: The Underground Bar, LSE SU
TIME: 20:00-23:00
COST: £3 members/ £4 non-members

Come to the first Italian Party at LSE ever!! Highlights are: Italian wine tasting competition, authentic Italian pizza and starters for free, Dj Carlo's selection of music and much much more... A PRESTO!

POETRY & ROMANIAN SOCIETIES - A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROMANIAN POETRY

DATE: Wednesday, 4th December
LOCATION: Wolfson Theatre - D702, Clement House
TIME: 17:00
COST: Free

The Speaker - Ion Martea, an award winning Romanian Poet - is traversing the history of Romanian Poetry and picks up the highlights from every period - from folklore, the Illuminists and the Romantics of the Modern Age, to the Symbolists, Modernists and the experimentations of our days. Poems by Mihai Eminescu, Eugen Ionesco, Vasile Alecsandri, George Bacovia, Nichita Stanesco and many others are presented in the finest translations to date. For further information, please e-mail Su.Soc.Poetry@lse.ac.uk

BUSINESS SOCIETY - CHRISTMAS BOAT PARTY

DATE: Wednesday, 4th of December
LOCATION: Boat leaves from Embankment Pier
TIME: 20:30
COST: £6 for members, £8 for non-members (Also includes a free drink!)

Limited places. Buy your tickets early! Tickets on sale at Houghton Street from Wednesday onwards!

SOUR APPLES - LIVE MUSIC EVENT FOR CHARITY

DATE: Thursday, 5th December
LOCATION: The Underground Bar, LSE SU
TIME: 19:30-23:00
COST: £5 / £4 NUS or Flyer

Live Music Night featuring Automata - Industrial Drum N Bass, Lumiere & Million Dead - 'Post-Hardcore'. All proceeds go to charity.

MALAYSIA CLUB - MALAM BAKTI (ANNUAL CHARITY PLAY)

DATE: Friday 6th, December
LOCATION: Old Theatre, Old Building, LSE
TIME: 19:00
COST: £4 - donated to Hospis Malaysia

This year's charity play will be 'Kindly Keep It Covered...' A fast, furious and frantic comedy featuring: A husband, a wife, a resurrection... a mother-in-law. Malaysian style refreshments will also be provided on the night.

RAG & CHESS SOCIETIES - CHARITY SPEED-CHESS TOURNAMENT

DATE: Saturday, 7th December
LOCATION: Room D202
TIME: 14:00-17:00
COST: £3 entry fee payable on the day

Swiss-style six-round tournament in aid of charity. 1st prize - full size ornamental glass chess set. Consolation prizes for runners-up plus magazines and catalogues for all. To register, just email Donny Surtani on d.d.surtani@lse.ac.uk. Hurry though, places are limited! All prizes kindly donated by: The London Chess Centre, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR www.chesscenter.com

TURKISH SOCIETY - ANATOLIAN FEVER

DATE: Tuesday, December 10th
LOCATION: The Underground Bar, LSE SU
TIME: 19:00-23:00
COST: £4

There will be food served by Sofra restaurant and a complimentary Turkish alcoholic drink (raki) between 7-8:30pm. There will also be a belly dancer later on in the night. The party will carry on after 11pm with free entrance to the Raks Bar just off Regent Street.

For more information please contact C.Coskun@lse.ac.uk or N.Taraf@lse.ac.uk

HISTORY SOCIETY - XMAS PARTY

DATE: Wednesday, 11th December
LOCATION: The Quad, LSE SU
TIME: 18:30-20:00 - History Students / 20:00-23:00 - Everyone Welcome
COST: Free

This is our first party! There will be a lottery system in operation whereby every 15 minutes the lucky winner will receive a free drink through a system of numbered tickets given out at the entrance. There will be also pizza and other food, not to forget music!

HISTORY SOCIETY - DISCUSSION OF THE RUSSIA IRAQI CONNECTION

DATE: Thursday, 12th December
LOCATION: Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House
TIME: 18:00
COST: Free

Discussion on Past and Present of Russia-Iraq Relations featuring: Professor Margot Light, LSE, Dr. Peter Duncan, SSEES and Dr. Janet Hartley, LSE, Chair.

To advertise your Society in the 'Societies Page' in The Beaver, the 'Global Email' or the News Section of the SU Website please email Elliot Simmons -the SU Societies Officer- at e.c.simmons@lse.ac.uk by the Thursday before the paper / global email you wish to advertise in is published. Please send adverts in the format of those above.

Irrational Exuberance:

Julia Giese considers the rights and wrongs of the IMF, Globalise Resistance and the best way to get your message across...

FRIDAY 22ND November, 10.40am, Clement House, LSE: During a presentation by Mr. Ramaciotti, a high-ranking IMF recruitment officer, a group of about 15 students entered.

From amongst them, a speaker came forward and attacked the IMF with well-known arguments. After about three minutes everything was over, the group had left, shouting clear-cut parables. The assembled students sat in embarrassed silence; a few shook their heads. Why, I asked myself, were the protesters not ready to enter a discussion? During their "speech" someone from the audience tried to issue a comment but was completely ignored.

As questions following the presentation by Mr Ramaciotti showed, the students attending the meeting were well aware of some flaws within the IMF. They were ready to directly address the IMF, or at least its representative, and evaluate his comments. In contrast, the protesters were obviously not prepared to enter into a discussion.

James Meadway from LSESU Globalise Resistance told the Beaver: "There is no meaningful dialogue with such an institution; at best, those millions excluded from key decisions about their lives have learnt to defend themselves from its attacks. Cynical calls for a "dialogue" by the Fund are redundant whilst the fundamental balance of power and resources inside the IMF remains the same. We may as well be talking different



The mark of the beast? Or the sign of things to come?

languages." But if change is needed, surely the IMF needs new employees taking a critical stance, ready for change?

If so, it may be worthwhile to address those prospective new employees, as LSE Globalise Resistance tried to do. According to Meadway, "the protestors at LSE took the deliberate and principled decision not to engage themselves in a futile "dialogue" with the IMF, but to argue with those considering a career there to think very carefully about the type of institution and the type of work they will be called on to do". However, as mentioned before, they did not even do the latter - as they stormed into the lecture theatre, they stormed out.

If members of the Globalise Resistance

movement want to gain influence among critical people, they should open themselves to discussion. Had they attended the whole meeting, the speaker would not have had to remark "...or whatever he told you", referring to the presentation of Ramaciotti. Generally, movements can only be successful if they themselves behave in the way they expect their opponents to do: To critically evaluate arguments.

For example, a very calm Ramaciotti dismissed the argument 'that the IMF is utterly undemocratic on the grounds that all 184 members have voting rights. A balanced answer from the Globalise Resistance movement on why the present voting system might be unfair would no doubt have sparked an interesting discussion. In contrast, the students who listened to the presentation are merely left with the impression of unaccommodating protesters on the one hand, and an open IMF representative on the other.

Furthermore, I would like to know what the protesters have to say to the fact that a lot of economists employed at the IMF come from Third World countries, like Ramaciotti himself. If the IMF is always genuinely trying to ruin their home countries - how could they work there?

I am sure that there is some sympathy for the Globalise Resistance movement present on campus. It seems stupid that they should, with such hypocritical actions, make their argument incredible to any serious person.



He thinks he knows the answer...

The Beaver's Thinking Links to follow for more on the IMF debate:

www.imf.org - Guess who?
www.worldbank.org - And their partners in "crime"
www.resist.org.uk - Those global resisters have their say
www.brettonwoodsproject.org - Critical voices on the IMF and the Bank
www.bwrc.org - Private club for IMF staff

It's Christmas ! (Almost) Christmas Lunch at LSE

Yes, it's almost that time of year again so why not get together with colleagues or friends (or both!) and enjoy a festive meal.

The Robinson Room (3rd floor, Old Building) will have Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 10th December and Wednesday 11th December, and the Staff Dining Room on Tuesday 17th December (S.C.R. Members and guests only).

Both will provide a choice of starters, traditional fare with fish and vegetarian options, Christmas pudding and mince pies with brandy sauce, and wine to wash it all down!

Limited table reservations can be made either in person or by calling Ext 7819 for the Robinson Room, or Ext 7821 for the Staff Dining Room.

Young Persons Railcard Competition

Young Persons Railcards have always made financial sense for us poor students - a third off all rail fares is always welcome. A railcard only costs £18, and can pay for itself in one journey. It's available to all full-time students, regardless of age.



To buy a Young Persons Railcard all you need to do is go down to your local railway station with a passport-sized photo of yourself, proof that you are either 16 - 25 years old (a passport) or a mature student aged 26 or over in full time education (get your friendly tutor to fill out the form) and £18 pounds. Alternatively, you could enter our fantastically generous competition and win one of the five we have to give away.

To win one of five railcards, simply answer the following question:
Which railway station does Harry Potter catch the Hogwarts Express from to go to school?

- a) Holborn
- b) Durham
- c) King's Cross

E-Mail your answers to
thebeaver@lse.ac.uk

You can find more information on the railcard by visiting www.youngpersons-railcard.co.uk

Editorial Comment

Hypocrisy hijacks honesty

Student apathy is always something that needs to be quelled. The perfect opportunity seemed to have arisen when a motion was tabled for last weeks UGM, proposing a boycott of Israeli goods in protest at human rights violations occurring in the Occupied Territories. No longer would students be able to turn the other cheek claiming they had no interest in "petty" student politics. The issue is very close to the hearts and minds of many and this feeling was sure to rub off on those who would be witnesses to the spectacle about to come. The UGM could not afford to cock-up.

But alas, after only one speech from either side, an amendment was put forward enticing the congregation to 'send a positive message in support of peace'. The amendment was in fact an entirely new motion making the observation that both Israelis and Palestinians had suffered during the conflict and called on the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority (they don't have a government you see...) to work together to achieve peace. The fact that the Union's constitution and standing orders allow for a motion to be completely remodeled in this fashion, is a sham.

The new, amended motion was so uncontroversial and politically correct that it provided many

with an escape route from making a very important, albeit difficult, decision. It was passed easily as someone got a pat on the head for possessing such political guile as to kill off the motion so effectively without breaking into a sweat. Is there a parallel to be drawn between Israel and apartheid South Africa? Is it right to impose economic sanctions on a country just because of the actions of its rulers? If this is not the case why is there so much support for economic sanctions on Iraq? None of these questions were asked, much less answered, because the student body lacked the testicular fortitude to allow them to be debated. We chose to ignore the real issues and pass a toothless motion which simply stated laudable aspirations that have been reiterated (and subsequently ignored) time and time again. To our credit we managed to walk away thinking that justice had been done and that we could get on with our lives.

So, to those who chose not to attend; to the spineless who voted to amend the motion because it was the easy thing to do; to those who said they did not know enough about the issue because they could not be bothered to watch the news; to he that said 'and I don't buy any of that idealist its all or nothing shit' - this edition of the Beaver is dedicated to you.

cost of their education. Think of Ms. Hodge's 'dustman' sound bite.

Yet it is our responsibility to ensure that the outcome of the higher education debate ends up with an equitable solution. The voice of the nation's students should be taken into consideration. It is imperative that everyone turns up to the NUS march tomorrow, Wednesday the 4th, to lend your voice to the battle against 'top-up fees.'

Turn up or be turned out

As the governments date for the release of its White Paper on higher education funding draws nearer, it is clear that we are being softened up for an increase in tuition fees. This is a burning issue on both sides of the political spectrum, albeit for different reasons. It is obvious that, no matter what the NUS says, we are never going back to the good old days of grants and will have to live with the fact that students will have to pay something towards the

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I'd like to respond to the inaccurate, and personal, article last week in connection with the Crush cancellation and an incident involving a student in a lift.

The facts of the case are that East Building and Clare Market are freehold premises owned by the School. This means that sole responsibility for what happens in there is with the School's senior staff. A decision on the closure of the Quad for two evening events was taken with very careful consideration of the risks to life, given the firefighters' decision to strike from the morning of Friday 22 November.

The Crush is an event held in a venue below ground floor level. It is often very crowded, as the name suggests. From experience, regrettably, we also know that there is a high risk of false fire alarm calls in the Quad. Indeed, a colleague overhead one woman, when hearing of the cancellation, say: 'I am not surprised bearing in mind the number of false fire calls down there every Friday night!'

Usually when a fire alarm goes off in there, the call goes through to the in-house night shift security staff in the main School entrance. Under normal circumstances where there is no fire strike, they do not immediately call the Fire Brigade but run over to the Quad and seek out the cause of the alarm activation. They only call the Brigade if it is apparent that this is a real fire. By doing this, the call to the Brigade is delayed by about 10 min-

utes. The normal response time of the London Fire Brigade to a call is around 10 minutes. This means that the Brigade would normally be at the Quad in 20 minutes.

In the current firefighters' strike, we are told that it will take 30 minutes to get a green goddess to the School. This means if a fire alarm is activated anywhere in the School, but especially in the crowded Quad, the in-house security teams have been instructed, because of the increased response times of the green goddesses, NOT to investigate first but to call the brigade immediately. To investigate first would mean a delay of 40 minutes in getting an appliance here and that is far too long. In addition, the School's professional fire advisors say that the Crush should be capable of evacuation in no more than 10 minutes. Presently evacuation is taking 15 minutes.

I wonder what the reaction from the Beaver would have been if the Crush had gone ahead, a real fire had happened, and people had been injured or worse. The decision was taken to err on the side of safety.

Finally, yes, a person was stuck in a lift but you forgot to tell readers that they were out of there in under 10 minutes, thanks to the prompt action of one of the security team, trained by myself and associates on what to do in such an emergency.

Bernie Taffs
House Manager

Are you provoked, pulsated or even pissed-off about TheBeaver?

Then write a letter to us and let us know what you - the readers - think
email: thebeaver@lse.ac.uk with your comments

Dear Sir,

Last week Union Jack noted that he regretted that there was to be another restructuring to change the job titles of the Sabbs to fully describe the job that they do.

To this end Jack said that such job titles may be "the fat one who sits around a lot" or "the one who hogs all the freebies." I would like clarification as to which one of these titles would be thrust upon me in Jack's eyes as both job descriptions are fairly accurate to my position and stature.

Also Jack noted that my office smells. Of course it does! I am a chain smoking borderline alcoholic who occupies an office which has no windows and no natural light.

I have concluded that the fact that the anonymous Jack knows that my office stinks means that he must have been in it at some point. Now, I am going to start a guessing game called "Who the Fuck is Union Jack?" to try and work out who Jack is.

The rules of this game are simple: anybody who enters my office will gain a Chinese burn upon entry until some little piggy squeals that they write the Union Jack column.

I am powdering up my hands ready to inflict a searing wrist twister on the next person to enter my stinky office where I sit around a lot hogging the freebies and being fat...

Jimmy Baker - LSESU Entertainments Officer

Sir,

The Students Union had better make its mind up about precisely the level of involvement in student politics it is willing to tolerate. A couple of weeks ago, there was mass outrage when the UGM was declared 'not quorate' for the first time in its history.

This week (28th November) witnessed a farce of the opposite kind: far too many people turned up to take part in the explosive 'Boycott Israeli Goods' motion. The sight of people being turned away from their own UGM, after being herded backwards and forwards between the balcony and downstairs in the hope of finding a seat, was utterly disgraceful. The heavy-handed approach of the security staff did not help to cool the frayed atmosphere, with students being physically barred from entering the Old Theatre, even though they had LSE cards, whereas many of those already inside clearly did not.

I am aware that there is a need for heightened vigilance dur-

ing the Fire Fighter's strike, and security were being extra-cautious in unusual circumstances. The Union, too, cannot be held entirely responsible for failing to predict the massive turn-out and unusually emotive nature of the UGM.

However, what the events showed was that there is a clear lack of contingency planning in place for what should happen in an event like this. It took half an hour for a spill-over room to be created for all the extra voters, and the card count that did take place in the New Theatre was relayed to the Old Theatre by mobile phone - hardly the most stringent and democratic of measures.

What I am saying is that the union cannot hope to increase the the popularity of the UGM without ensuring that adequate procedures are in place to cope with the extra turn-out it has so fervently encouraged.

Yours,
Victoria Peckett.

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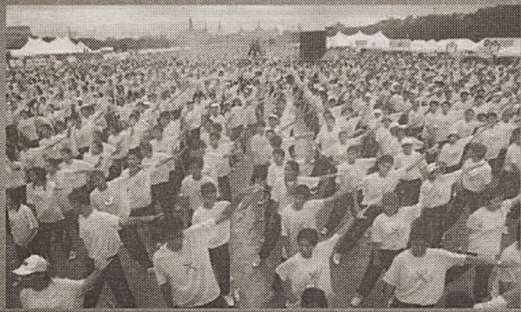
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A Picture Says a 1000 words....



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features

Ibarretxe Demands Increased Autonomy for Basque Region

Peace? Lets Hope So

A Shock to the System

The Northern Ireland Human Right's Commission

Right to Strike - Strike out that Right

IBARRETXE DEMANDS INCREASED AUTONOMY FOR BASQUE REGION

By PATRICK MURDOCH

President Ibarretxe Demands Increased Autonomy for Spain's Basque Region Patrick Murdoch

"If the Basque country wants to succeed in the global environment, it cannot depend on central management from Madrid," Juan Jose Ibarretxe, the Basque government president, proclaimed last Wednesday at the LSE's old theatre.

Ibarretxe, Basque Nationalist party president, won regional elections for Spain's Basque region on May 13, 2001. Since his rise to power over a year and a half ago, Ibarretxe has had to deal with increased terrorist violence from Basque's more radical ETA organization and the subsequent crackdown on all forms of Basque nationalism.

Speaking for the most part in Spanish, Ibarretxe's controversial and at

times passionate speech focused on the changing role of the Basque country in a globalizing world. "The ability to operate flexibly on regional levels is essential to operate [efficiently] in an era of globalization," the president told the international audience of students, professors, and economists.

"It's madness to discredit small nations and minority identities; small nations are more conducive to promoting social and economic growth than older and larger states," he said.

Ibarretxe's argument focused on the link between regionalization and international market structures. He maintained that recent economic

successes of the Basque country point to the advantages of decentralized societies where political power is diffused over autonomous regions, rather than controlled under a central state.

Such logic supports the Basque government's goal of establishing "a state of free association" with Spain. This would involve, Ibarretxe told the crowd, not only recognition of shared citizenship [with the rest of Spain], but also an international projection of the Basque identity.

Spain's Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, clearly does not share Ibarretxe viewpoint. He has repeatedly rejected Ibarretxe's proposals for greater autonomy. Aznar's stern position comes at time of unprecedented clampdowns on the Basque region's more militant separatist party, the ETA. Often resorting to terrorist measures, the ETA has killed more than 800 people in its campaign for a Basque homeland.

While Ibarretxe clearly condemns ETA violence, he shares some of the ETA's goals of Basque self-determination. Where the Basque president fundamentally differs from the ETA's position is in its use of terrorism in order to achieve political aims. He mentioned to the audience that unlike the ETA's emotional and violent response, he hopes to achieve his parties objectives through "reason, impartiality, and compromise."

Ibarretxe also stated on Wednesday, "the mindlessness of terrorism has triggered an authoritarian reply by the Spanish government." Such a

response is only likely to exacerbate the conflict between Spain and the Basque region, he argued. "The Spanish government has taken the easy option of branding Basque as an ethnic or identity based movement; however, it

is a liberal movement proposing shared sovereignty," Ibarretxe informed the crowd. He later added, "the recognition of Basque country as a pluri-national state is vital not only to co-existence, but also vital to welfare and economic growth."

To illustrate his point, Ibarretxe pointed to the fact that political forces have become the decisive factor towards the development of Basque economic institutions. Accordingly, increased political autonomy would offer Spain "the ability to operate flexibly on regional levels." He argued that the Basque region has the most comprehensive knowledge as to which of its sectors require subsidizations or spending cuts. Accordingly, Basques should be the ones in control of their own fiscal and economic policies; not government officials in Madrid, he claimed.

Ibarretxe was supported by John Gray an LSE professor, who added a

"theoretical footnote" to Ibarretxe's speech. Gray argued, "having a strong and deep national culture isn't an ephemeral stage in economic culture; rather, successful capitalist economies are enhanced by [civic] nationalism."

Gray attacked the Neoliberal standpoint that argues with globalization the state is increasingly becoming an economic tool facilitating free trade. He told the audience that, "it was the emergence of a national sentiment which permitted the emergence of modern capitalism."

Gray's point, that economies can be supported by national identities, undermines "the simple model of market globalization." Relating his point to Ibarretxe's claim that greater political autonomy can lead to more efficient economic systems, Gray argued, "the Basque country points to a

less standard corrective [than the neo-liberal model] that is fertilizing growth."

Critics who side with Spain's prime minister argue that the Basque's regions separation from Spain would also mean separation from the EU and would be a source of economic turmoil. In response, Ibarretxe is demanding direct participation for the Basque country in the EU. He hopes that his region, as both one of the oldest cultures in Europe and a vital industrial economic centre, will be acknowledged in the EU's 2004 constitution. However, granting the Basque country 'special-status' in the future EU constitution could have spillover effects in other states with sub-national regions such as the UK, Italy, and France.

Consequently, the Basque issue raises questions that extend beyond the boundaries of Spain. As Ibarretxe pointed out, Spain's current situation is by no means unique. It is that of a relatively young democratic society, beset with all the major problems that have arisen with globalization; these range from the changing nature of borders, to the rise of regionalisms, and the threat to cultural identities.

Apart from obvious differences in opinion one notion shared by both Aznar's Spanish government and Ibarretxe's Basque nationalist party is that ETA style violence and terrorism must be avoided at all costs. More generally, how, or if, Ibarretxe and Aznar resolve the Basque dilemma could also have ramifications for other European countries facing similar conflicts. Only time will tell if the Basque example will serve as a prototype to be followed or a failed solution to be abandoned.

PEACE? LETS HOPE SO

AS THE DUST FINALLY SETTLES, OMAR SROUJI-
PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF PALESTINE- COMES
TO GRIPS WITH THE BOYCOTT BACKLASH

After the UGM last Thursday, it was truly great to see that a number of people want peace and coexistence in the Middle East. It was also great to note that concern about Human Rights in places such as Sudan and Saudi Arabia was very much at the forefront of people's minds during the past few weeks.

I have just one question, why wait until now?

It is true that the situation in Sudan is horrendous, but if people were REALLY concerned about it, why did they not take action earlier? Why wait until we criticise Israel before anything is said.

I would truly love to believe that this motion was 100% sincere, and I would truly love to believe that all the shouting and cheering and waving of Israeli flags on Houghton Street was a genuine gesture for peace and coexistence. However, I cannot help feeling that what actually happened at the UGM was nothing but a cheap trick employed to divert criticism away from Israel.

I would also love to believe that all those who and verbally abused us that day, both in the Old Theatre and on Houghton Street before the UGM, did so out of a desire for peace.

There was an awful lot else wrong with Thursday's UGM; I will not go into details, as I am sure it will be highlighted elsewhere in this paper.

As the 1st proposer for the motion, I deeply resent the fact that we were not allowed to discuss the motion. Rather the so-called 'amendment' (I use the term loosely) was nothing more than a new motion, completely defeating the object of what we were trying to say.

We do strongly want peace in the Middle East, but this cannot come without justice. The illegal occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem is preventing the peace process. Not only is it destroying the Palestinians, it is also harming Israel. We believe a boycott was the only way we could get through to the Israeli government. They have already ignored the UN as well as their own people, such as the Refuseniks, who have condemned the government's actions. Furthermore, 50 years of simply writing letters has got us nowhere. A boycott is a non-

political, non-violent means of protest, not an attack on all things Jewish as it was twisted to be.

Of course the whole issue is not wholly one-sided, but we must realise what is happening in Palestine and we must also realise that it is wrong. Human Rights and the 4th Geneva Convention are violated on a daily basis in Palestine. No one bats an eyelid. The minute anyone even implies criticism of Israel, you have the whole Jewish lobby against you.

It is at this point that I would like to raise another grievance with what happened. In the weeks running up to the UGM, I was accused on a number of occasions of being an anti-Semitic and trying to incite racial hatred. The only anti-Semitism I experienced was being dealt out by the very same people who had taken offence at the motion. The only Jew I saw get attacked after the UGM was Ellie, the second speaker for the boycott. Ellie is remarkable for two main reasons. Not



only has she shown tremendous courage as an International Solidarity Movement volunteer, standing in front of Israeli tanks and bulldozers in order to protect children and homes, but also coming from a strong Jewish upbringing and having the courage to stand up to her own people and proclaim that what Israel is doing is wrong. After all, she had seen it with her own eyes.

Obviously the truth was too much to bear for certain individuals who took it amongst themselves to verbally attack Ellie on her way out of the Old Theatre, proclaiming how can she be Jewish and say this? Sadly a journalist from the Jewish Chronicle was among the anti-Semites.

Which bears another question, did those voting against the motion

actually know what is going on in Palestine, and what is precisely being carried out in their own name? Either a vast majority of them are sadly in denial, or they simply do not know (or do not wish to find out) what is being done.

It is at this point that I have a request for you, the reader. For all of those who have had their eyes opened by recent events, I urge you to take it on yourselves to find out what is going on in Palestine for yourselves. There are a number of independent organisations set up who provide information about the current conflict. Palestine Monitor, the Israeli human rights organisation B'tselem and the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz are all a very good place to start.

Furthermore, try and visit Palestine, go and see for yourselves the devastating effects of the Occupation. We will be sending out our own delegation from LSE sometime in the very near future.

I would now like to dispel a few myths or misconceptions that some of you may have. Israel is indeed a democratic state and fully respects human rights in relation to its citizens. Sadly for the three and a half million Palestinians in Israel, who are not regarded as citizens, they have no such enjoyment of basic human rights. There are approximately nine million

Daniel points out that Arab-Israelis are allowed to vote, this is true. However, he fails to mention that they are not allowed to join the army, no matter how openly gay they are and furthermore, as many jobs in Israel have the pre-requisite of army service, a large majority of them have great difficulty finding employment.

He also fails to talk about the living conditions of the forgotten three and a half million Palestinians under brutal military occupation. Due to this increasingly brutal military occupation, the Palestinian infrastructure has collapsed. Due to the 24 hour curfews people are made prisoners in their own homes. As a result many are denied access to medical treatment, food and water. Many babies have been born under curfew, around 90% die as a result. If the Palestinians are lucky enough to get out of their homes, it is by no means safe, Both Israeli army and settler snipers are left behind to fire indiscriminately. Furthermore, anyone found out of their homes during curfew, often pays with their life, no matter who they are, many women and children have been murdered this way. This is a denial of the most fundamental human rights; it is also the collective punishment of an entire race of people, which is illegal under international law.

The UN International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (1973) defines apartheid as 'inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination of one racial group of persons over another racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them'. A definition that clearly applies to Palestine.

To conclude, I cannot express enough that I do want peace in the Middle East, but we cannot have this without justice. However, with the current situation and the

continuing oppression of the Palestinian people, there can never be a just, viable peace. I do hope that after the UGM, there will be more co-operation and moves for peace within the LSE. We must start somewhere and try to find a common ground. Following the actions of various individuals before and after the UGM, I must admit that I am not entirely hopeful. I would like to be proved wrong.



Andre Durand / AFP

Palestinians in the world today; over half the Palestinian population were expelled from their homes between 1947-1948. A second wave of Palestinian refugees was created after the 1967 war, when Israel illegally occupied the remainder of Palestine. Today, two thirds of Palestinians are refugees.

For the one million Arab-Israelis, the story is not as rosy as Daniel Freedman makes out in last week's article 'Why Israel, what about the Sudan?'

BY NICK 'BANG BANG' PAURO

This is an invitation to leave yourself behind; to do something out of character, something you have never done before. Dear reader, you are supposedly at one of the most dynamic, 'multi-cultural' (whatever that is?) universities in the world. You will go on to be the future's bankers, accountants, politicians and consumers. But ask yourself, what does it all mean? What is it really worth? Do you not crave something 'more'?

"I must create a system or else be enslaved by another man's". These words, penned by my greatest Briton, William Blake, should hold so much for us all such is their potential and potency. These south Londoner's words seem to resonate with increasing numbers of people today (marches and protest rallies have mushroomed across the globe) and can act as a guide to us all as they ask each of us to 'know thyself'. They ask us whether we live a free or downtrodden existence, whether we are creative or spoon fed.

Around you stands the 'new man', his body and mind stolen from him, his soul reduced to the animal impulses he thinks (is told) he is. His reality is a dance of electrical signals, mobile phones and programmes that ensure that he will live an illusion and never perceive the actual. His happiness comes through a cable whilst his masters lurk behind a binary coded curtain.

His inner lizard dictates that he consume, be aggressive, territorial and above all, survive. He is a modern day dracula sucking in all he can from shop shelves, websites, overheard conversations and junk mail. It matters little to him that 'his' government says they have no money for firefighters but bottomless pockets when it comes to sending cruise missiles (which cost around £1 million each) across the ocean.

When the war on terrorism began following the infamous downing of the twin towers, no austerity was called for (as is usual with wars), instead he was simply told to carry on shopping. So, that's what he does with his girlfriend every Saturday, sometimes they hold hands.

The 'mind virus' is the latest form of consumer brainwashing. With a mix of psychology and Internet technology, the aim is to create social epidemics by feeding the right information, or virus, into someone's mind. Once implanted,



it can make the most useless of gadgets seem essential, the most unnecessary accessory irresistible. It is a money spinning dream. That is the claim of psychologist Paul Marsden who believes he can help businesses to trigger shopping crazes for their prod-

ucts. including American Express, Land Rover, Lloyds TSB and Mars.

The Nazis introduced flouride into the tap water in their concentration camps in order to make prisoners gradually more compliant. It was

A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM



It works like this. First you find out how the mind of your target consumer works by getting at his or her ideas and subconscious thoughts. Marsden's company, Brand Genetics, is pioneering this, not through market research but word association games on the Internet that can tell the psychologist everything he needs to know.

hoped that slowly increasing the flouride count in the water supply would lessen the prison population's natural resistance to slavery and thus make giving orders and forcing people to do whatever they wanted a lot easier. Today, all Western governments put flouride in our water systems because it helps 'protect your teeth'; how convenient. Fortunately, government today would not dream of experimenting with and manipulating



populations.

The MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) jab (Urabe strain) was approved by the Conservative Government of John Major for two years even after some children given the vaccination developed a form of meningitis. The Government's own figures also reveal that 20,000 children almost certainly suffered side-effects.

The number of children and young people who have developed autism has soared since the introduction of the vaccine. The figures from Britain and the US have exposed a massive increase in autism since 1988 - the year the MMR vaccine was introduced.

Stateside, Middle-schoolers face the threat of being yanked from home and taken into custody by New York state unless their parents agree to vaccinate them for a disease usually caught by drug abusers or the sexually promiscuous. On October 10, students in Utica were sent home for failing to get hepatitis B vaccines by the state deadline. Parents were warned their children would be turned over to Child Protective Services for neglect if they were still without vaccination in 2 weeks.

Two months before Prozac was approved for the U.S. market there had already been 27 deaths from controlled clinical trials. 15 were from suicides, 6 by overdose, 4 by gunshot and 2 by drowning. All were confirmed to be directly related to taking Prozac. An additional 12 deaths were reported but, could not be directly related to Prozac.

As we in the West continue to create our own 'good food diet' culture, we may be well served to remember that the habitual consumption of 'diet' products containing the chemical aspartame (Nutrasweet - Candarel) not only risks aspartame disease but also clinical addiction. Aspartame changes the brain's chemistry. It is the reason for severe seizures and also causes birth defects. A Congressional record said, "It makes you crave Carbohydrates and will make you FAT." (How many Diet Coke's is that for you today?)

So you see, there really is nothing to worry about what with medicine killing us off and wars against invisible enemies being waged. Perhaps one day you can get your own liver swapped for a new 'Monsanto' improved pig version, get your stomach stapled or be one of the first to be micro-chipped so that all your vital statistics can be logged by a world health authority computer.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; A BLUEPRINT FOR BRITAIN?

OWEN LYSAK GRADUATED FROM LSE WITH AN LLB LAST YEAR. HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING AS A HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCHER FOR THE PRESSURE GROUP CHARTER 88

The constitutional arrangements of the UK have long been defined by the political, historical and cultural landscape of the nineteenth century, of a long Victorian summer, of laissez-faire government dominated by the aloof pessimism of the aristocratic politician, homogenous society lacking any significant social legislation. However, the contextual backdrop of citizenship has been altered in the face of dramatic constitutional change, regionally, nationally and internationally, no longer insulated from the emotive and divisive areas of social policy that permeate globalisation. This major period of historical transition has irrevocably challenged tradition and family, democracy and society. Perhaps most importantly, after a century recognised for some of the most horrific human rights infringements in human history, our hopes for a twenty-first century of peace, freedom and justice have been called into question by the events of September 11th. The focus for humanity has become not what binds us as human beings, but critically, what keeps us apart. In an era where the differences amongst us are being exploited to all our cost, it makes explicit the need to build on our common humanity. 'The observance of human rights is a hallmark of a democratic society because it demonstrates that society values each member as an individual.' We have the knowledge and means to make the twenty-first century the most prosperous in human history, to grasp the opportunity for a new relationship of the individual to the state, to meet our responsibilities to forge new bonds between individuals and community. However, it remains to be seen whether we have the will.

democracy. Similarly, it has been hoped that the Act will bring about an equivalent change in the methodology of 'making, applying and interpreting the law', a holistic approach to the legal culture of rights in the UK. Yet can a purely 'legal' culture, to be defined and adapted by one narrow case followed by another, really be enough in an era that demands the rebirth of a civic society? Public bodies protecting their own backs, individuals forced into lengthy, insular court cases, within a legal system permeated by costly, adversarial court proceedings, surely falls short of the vision held by many of the proponents for a UK Bill of Rights.

It is clear that we do not expect society to overcome racism merely through the statutory provisions of the Race Relations Act. Nor has there ever been a misplaced naivety that sex discrimination would be ended by one fell swoop of Parliament's legislative powers. The Commission for Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities Commission, and more recently the Disability Rights Commission, have become synonymous with a deep-rooted belief that we should actively work to promote a culture of rights, equality and co-operation in Britain. However, there is no similarly identifiable body for the UK with responsibilities in respect of human rights. It would seem that we expect the legal and human rights and responsibilities underpinning society and how they relate to cit-

Northern Ireland has presented a state and government malleable to new constitutional developments, witnessing the abandonment of a pragmatic empiricist approach to constitution-building and embracing a constitutional idealist approach previously anathema to conservative Britain. A Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has followed proportional representation and devolution in an attempt to 'irrigate' the social and political landscape of Northern Ireland, procedural reforms combined with substantive institutions, processes and methods hand-in-hand with liberty, equality and justice. Commission representatives organise, speak and facilitate numerous Bill of Rights events throughout Northern Ireland. The remit of the Development Worker of the Commission, Mirium Titterton, has included encouraging participation in the Bill of Rights consultation. The Commission has worked with disability and self-help groups, including Mencap, on a series of consultation events aimed at getting views directly from a broad range of people. The Commission operates a legislation and policy committee with the primary function of drafting advice on the compatibility of Westminster and Northern Ireland Assembly legislation and public policy, with domestic and international human rights standards. Moreover, by Section 69(6) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Human Rights Commission has a duty to promote understanding and awareness of the

Ireland has embraced the argument of Charter 88, a prominent constitutional pressure group, that, as stated in the Labour Party manifesto 1997, incorporation of the ECHR into UK law should be seen as a 'floor, not a ceiling' for human rights protection. The work of the Human Rights Commission in Northern Ireland reflects the key role an independent human rights commission can play in working towards a pluralist and tolerant human rights culture as well as a wider educational role in respect of human rights. There must be a need to foster a 'grass roots' human rights culture throughout the UK through a 'people centred organisation' if the vision of the Human Rights Act becoming part of the nation's dialogue is to be achieved.

This is not to suggest that the simple introduction of a Human Rights Commission offers a quick fix, a stop-gap in a society so far bereft of a human rights culture. In an era where the economy, society, family and democracy have changed dramatically, the process towards building a new community can not afford to be a piecemeal process; the fundamental purpose of our constitution must be re-examined as our history, culture and social structure changes. However, rarely do we have such an opportunity to mould the political landscape and shape our society to the values and goals of a community that this New World of globalisation and multiculturalism demands. The aim of the Bill of Rights was to achieve a cultural shift way beyond the law courts, and a Human Rights Commission must be a starting point to follow the blueprint of Northern Ireland for an integrated and co-operative rights based society. Lord Woolf has stated "the most important benefit of a Commission (would be) that it will assist in creating a culture in which human rights are routinely observed without the need for continuous intervention by the courts. Human rights will only be a reality when this is the situation." In the words of the Institute for Public Policy Research 'we have the Act - the Commission would be responsible for delivery.' A Human Rights Commission would provide the adaptable framework for the kind of change society must accommodate if we are to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Opportunity, responsibility and community must be embraced for the advancement of what binds us as human beings. In a world increasingly fractured by wealth, race and religion, the vision for Northern Ireland must surely be the vision for all.

UN report scorns UK human rights record

The Human Rights 1998, which was brought into effect in October 2000, has been interpreted by many as a first step along this modernising road, incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights and protecting the positive rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Convention. Lord Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice, has stated that 'the Human Rights Act has strengthened our democracy by giving each member of public the right to seek the help of the courts to protect his/her human rights in a manner that was not previously available.'

The Human Rights Act has aimed to provide a more systematic concern with fundamental values, to increase public debate on the values and rights to be protected in our

izens to become embedded in the public consciousness through the mere passing of legislation. Raised expectations of a new relationship between government and the people, between each member of our society, have been dashed. There is little evidence of the development of an inclusive human rights culture that recognises the diversity of British society.

Uniquely for the UK, the movement towards a peaceful settlement in

importance of human rights in Northern Ireland. In the past year the Commission has concerned itself with whether education, law and practice in Northern Ireland sufficiently protect human rights. This has included the provision of training to the Prison Officer's Association, social workers in the Western Board Area, staff from the Southern Education and Library Board, students on various social work courses and equality managers from Health and Social Services Trusts. The approach to human rights in Northern

STRIKING AS A TOOL FOR NEGOTIATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS UNFAIR AND SHOULD BE MADE REDUNDANT, SAYS DONNY SURTANI

Public sector strikes seem to have come back into fashion in recent times. We have been subjected to them by train drivers, tube drivers and firemen, to name but a few. Recent strikes have caused inconvenience, frustration, loss, injury and death. That being the case, I can't imagine strikes will have convinced anyone of the rationality of these groups' arguments. In light of this, we should question whether the right to strike serves a useful purpose in civilised society.

Now before you go accusing me of being a right-wing fascist who wants to deprive the working class of their fundamental rights and perpetuate the domination of the many by the few, let me assure you that I have a legitimate alternative proposal, and hopefully this article will demonstrate its worth.

Strike action is inherently unfair, especially in essential services, because it is little more than hostage-taking. If an employee of a private enterprise is hard done by, we could all sympathise with him, but nobody in their right mind would support him if he took the CEO's family hostage to demand a better deal. Yet that's exactly what is being done to the electorate when trade unions want something out of the government. Tube strikes decapitate the capital's economy and block people's ability to engage in important activities. It is arguable that the world will keep on turning if the investment banks were understaffed for a day or two, but when we start talking about nurses, teachers, care workers, and so on, I think the willingness of union leaders to ballot their members at the slightest provocation is insensitive and self-absorbed. I don't even need to detail the implications of fire strikes, particularly to those readers who have seen Green Goddesses struggling to cope.

So why is it that we see strikes in essential services? Because they hurt more than private sector strikes. The private sector is characterised by multiple suppliers and (generally) non-essential services, so a strike in a private firm would not hurt the public. State-run monopolies have us by the scruff of the

neck. It is exactly for this reason - the ability to cause suffering - that strikes in the public sector are so effective, and therefore so frequent.

Don't believe these people when they say they have no choice. They are sources of labour in a free labour market, with the same set of alternatives as anyone else. Doctors, nurses and teachers have expressed their unhappiness with the deal offered by the state by leaving their professions, and until the deal gets better, the government will struggle to attract people to join these sectors. On the other hand, Deputy Prime Minister John



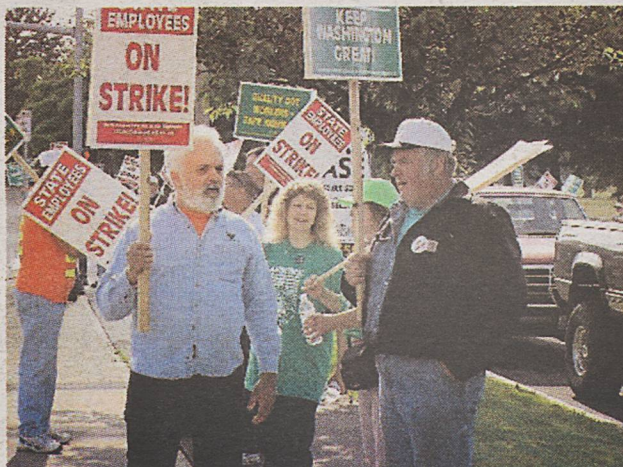
There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time.

Calvin Coolidge, in a telegram, 1919

You can't talk to a man with a shotgun in his hand
Carole King, lyrics from the song 'Smackwater Jack'

Prescott pointed out that there are a number of unemployed people who would happily do the fire-fighters' job at current salary levels, so it is, to an extent at least, a valid salary in a free labour market.

Striking is about economic bargaining. When you start a career in serving and protecting the public, you take a job that carries a certain dignity, honour and responsibility. You are assuming an important social role that I think is severely cheapened when you take your



lives at risk. So how else are these people going to negotiate with their employer? Private sector employers reward their staff in order to motivate them and maintain competitive levels of productivity. The government has no similar competitive drive to reward public servants. So when the government refuses to listen to their rational, well-argued claims for a pay rise, what else can they do but strike?

I think this justification for the right to strike is simplistic and does not solve the problem. Ultimatums rarely do. The government may succumb to pressure now, but the problem of a fair pay system is not solved. So what happens after a few years, when inflation has built up again, and public sector pay does not reflect it? Strike again?

It is exactly this pattern that has rewarded the wrong people in the public sector. It does not reward the people doing the hardest, or most skilled, or most risky work, but it rewards the strongest unions. The fact that tube drivers are paid more than bus drivers, or firemen, or policemen, is a

reflection of this deeply flawed negotiation system. Both sides need to take some responsibility and build a better system for public sector pay assessment. Fortunately for them both, I have a cunning plan.

My proposal for public sector pay is for the government, in association with the unions and relevant interest groups, to review all jobs in the public sector, and rate them (perhaps on a scale of 0-100) on four criteria: effort, skill, risk, and job-related costs.

Next, these four ratings should be applied (using an appropriate formula) to a single base public sector salary range (a 'salary core', negotiated jointly with all unions and reviewed regularly in light of inflation), in order to determine the salary ranges for specific jobs. At this stage, then, the discrepancy between tube drivers and policemen is cut out, because any difference must be justified through the rating system discussed above. Further, it means that the only way MPs can give themselves a pay increase is if they raise the salary core, thereby raising salaries for all public servants as well. Further, this salary core will become the focal point of lobbying by all public servants, which will hopefully be more effective.

This scheme attempts to reward people on a rational and transparent basis, however, and thus has all the hallmarks of political failure. Democratic politics prefers appeasement to rationality. But then we are not in a typical political democracy, and for that situation we have Iain Duncan Smith to thank. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is so monumentally hopeless that the Labour government is virtually certain of winning the next general election. Tony Blair is in a position of power, and as Winston Churchill once said, with great power comes great responsibility. The right to strike has been over-used as a bargaining tool, and has produced perverse results in favour of those with the loudest voice. Abolishing the right to strike in essential services in favour of a more systematic approach to public sector pay might not be popular, but it's something he could get away with. It is an opportunity to forsake short-termism for the bigger picture, so I call upon the government to do the brave thing. The police are already without a right to strike, on the grounds that their services are essential to the community. Are they the only ones crucial to our lives?

b:art

film: j-lo: enough!

clubbing: roach

literature: stealing, fences and shopping

free: david dickinson advent calender

contact: j.j.nolan@lse.ac.uk



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Eight Crazy Nights BRIANKELLY: wait, drinking isn't the solution?

Director: Seth Kearsley
Starring: Adam Sandler, Tyra Banks, Kevin Nealon, Rob Schneider, Jon Lovitz
Running Time: 71 minutes
Certificate: 12A
Release Date: 27th November

First of all, let me explain that this is an animated Christmas/Hanukkah musical inspired by Adam Sandler's "The Hanukkah Song" (versions 1 through 3!). Trying to reconcile that all at once may make your head spin, but bear with me. Sandler lends his vocal talents to the lead character Davey Stone. His old Saturday Night Live (SNL) buddies round out the menagerie of voices in this film directed by Seth Kearsley, who may best be known for directing MTV's *The Maxx* a lifetime ago.

Davey Stone is the embittered local ne'er-do-well who rampages through the New England town of Dukesberry on the first night of Hanukkah, ultimately leading to his arrest: he hates the holidays, hates the world, and hates himself. In the spirit of the holidays - and of many holiday films - Davey avoids jail time and instead is ordered to referee youth basketball under the tutelage of the kindly - and hairy - codger Whitey (also voiced by Sandler). Ungrateful Davey misuses Whitey to no end until Davey is forced to cohabit with Whitey and his spinster sister when Davey's trailer burns to the ground. The warm environment of their home softens Davey considerably until the subject of his painful childhood is raised which provokes Davey to go on a self-destructive drinking binge. It isn't until Davey comes to terms with his past that he realizes how hurtful he has been to Whitey and what a mess his life is in general.

It sure sounds like your typical holiday story except how do you reconcile human feces-licking reindeer, a woman with three breasts, and an intervention organized by popular American corporate logos? I simply don't know, and yet here they are on the screen mixed in with menorahs and Christmas trees.

Now, maybe you are wondering about those reindeer. Well, this pack of cartoon reindeer inexplicably bails Whitey out of trouble on many occasions, one of which is when, thanks to Davey, he is trapped as a human feces-sicle. What puzzled me the most is

when the logos of Foot Locker, Victoria's Secret and other American shopping mall mainstays try to convince Davey, through song, that the bottle isn't the solution to his problems or his pain. Who is this film geared towards? The humour is downright juvenile and I am not convinced that university students will fork over cash for an animated holiday musical even if it does star Sandler. On the other hand, this film is rife with crude and sexual humour, drinking, random drug references which I believe rules this out as a family flick.

I found the film to be quite facetious and immature, but then again I outgrew Sandler's products years ago. But, for you old fans of the Sandler comedy albums you can find enough references here to warrant renting this one evening with likeminded friends...but don't forget the liquor, it may help some of the pain despite what those Yank logos say.

★★★★☆



At last, the film editor reveals her hidden identity!

Here is a completely gratuitous picture of me, the Film Editor, Eleanor Keech (aka Ellie from the Tuns). I've never had my picture in the Beaver before (unlike everyone bloody well else round here), and after realising that I control my own section (it took me a few weeks to figure out that I have the power) I decided to reveal myself to the world that is the London School of Economics. It's true - I have no shame about using my section for what some might call "space filling". If you see me around and about give me a pat on the back for all the hard work I put into The Beaver for your pleasure (OK it's only a few hours a week but that's dedication for you).

Also currently at the cinema:

- Die Another Day** (12A): Double "O" heaven? Maybe not
- Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** (PG): Suspicious Slytherin shenanigans
- The Quiet American** (15): Mr J. Fagan & Bang Bang are Caine fans, but this might not satisfy
- 8 Women** (15): French female murder mystery
- Changing Lanes** (15): Ben Affleck & Samuel L Jackson deliver
- xXx** (12A): As we said before, pile of poo
- My Big Fat Greek Wedding** (PG): Still in the top 10 of the UK Box Office
- Bowling for Columbine** (15): Still not seen it? You're no friend of mine then

Enough

DANIISMAIL: Yes, thank you, that will do for now J-Lo

Director: Michael Apted

Starring: Jennifer Lopez, Noah Wyle, Juliette Lewis

Running Time: 115 minutes

Certificate: 15

Release Date: 29th November

Jennifer Lopez, accompanied by Billy Campbell and Juliette Lewis star in this relatively bad Irwin Winkler Production. Admittedly I've seen worse movies, but that's only because I was expecting this to be even more abysmal than it turned out to be. Before I start completely slagging it off however, I'd like to begin with the most obvious problem with this flick... the name. Honestly - puns fly left right and center with a title like Enough. And talking of punning, the fact that J-Lo's character was called Slim just made me want to laugh out loud. But I didn't, until her 6-ish year old daughter said, much to my joy, "I would never call you Slim, because I really don't think you are slim." Bless the child.

Slim is a waitress at a diner, who is constantly getting hit on. One day however, one seemingly charming fellow (played by ER's Noah Wyle) manages to get her to talk to him. There is of course a twist and in jumps Billy Campbell to save the day, the man she ends up marrying. He seems perfect... till he turns into an abusive pig who deserves what he gets at the end of the film. The film does have flickers of originality and really stretches this thin-spread story to its very limits, but overall it really is a waste of time. Maybe it's just me, but movies of female empowerment are getting pretty old. The soundtrack boasts Jewel, Sheryl Crow, and Aimee Mann (singing a song called, ironically, 'Enough'), but that's also just a vain attempt to call up the "You go girl!" sentiment the producers were obviously going for. It didn't quite do it.

Moving on, I should try and be more objective. There were aspects of the film that, though not staggering works of genius, did add certain flair to an otherwise tired story of a woman having had "Enough" of the cheating and the beating from her husband the arsehole. J-Lo obviously thrives in her cringe-worthy transcendence to kickboxing champ (think Karate Mum Part 1). Now think Karate Mum Part 1, "wax in" many badly constructed conversations, "wax out" good acting and you'll definitely have Enough. You have to give it to J-Lo though, her impressive fight (and car-chase) scenes will make feminists all over the world cheer in unison. It may even trigger a Mexican wave.

The film makes up for being overall an absolutely boring excuse of a movie by tossing in some cool gadgets and a few moments that might make your spine shiver a little. The only hints of humour are in conversations with the daughter who gets caught up in the mess, Gracie. ("Don't beg - you look like a dog," J-Lo endearingly says to her.) During the first hour or so of the movie, sub-titles were put in before some of the scenes - original? Yes, but catchy? No. "How they met" was a good one, because of the twist in the love story at the beginning. "You can run," at the point where she literally starts running away from her husband - well, we're not stupid, you know.

Well. At least there's one less jerk in the world, eh?

★★★★☆



CLASSIC FILM REVIEW - The Big Lebowski (1998): PAULKIRBY is the dude

In 1998 the God of Cinema gave birth to *The Big Lebowski*. So it cannot possibly be a classic. It is not full of lengthy silences. It is not shot in black and white or punctuated by slow, meaningful looks from the principle characters. It was not filmed before 1970. Those are the characteristics of classics. The soundtrack is not dodgy, sentimental orchestral tripe but Captain Beefheart, Bob Dylan, Creedence Clearwater Revival and The Gypsy Kings reinventing Hotel California afresh, Spanish guitar style. Laura Wheeler is in love with Paul Newman. Who can blame her? Not I. But my heart belongs to Jeffrey Lebowski. The Dude. Duder. His Dudeness. Or El Duderino if, you know, you're not into the whole brevity thing. He is the man for his time and place. The time in question being the early 90s. Nasty people come looking for Jeffrey Lebowski the millionaire. They find our identically-named hero (a born-to-play-it Jeff Bridges) by mistake. They realise their error but urinate on his rug because, essentially, they're not very nice. And that rug really tied the room together. The Dude's best friend Walter (unhinged, gun-toting, wannabe Hebrew, obsessed Vietnam veteran, played by John Goodman) convinces him to get compensation. That's how it all starts. With a rug.

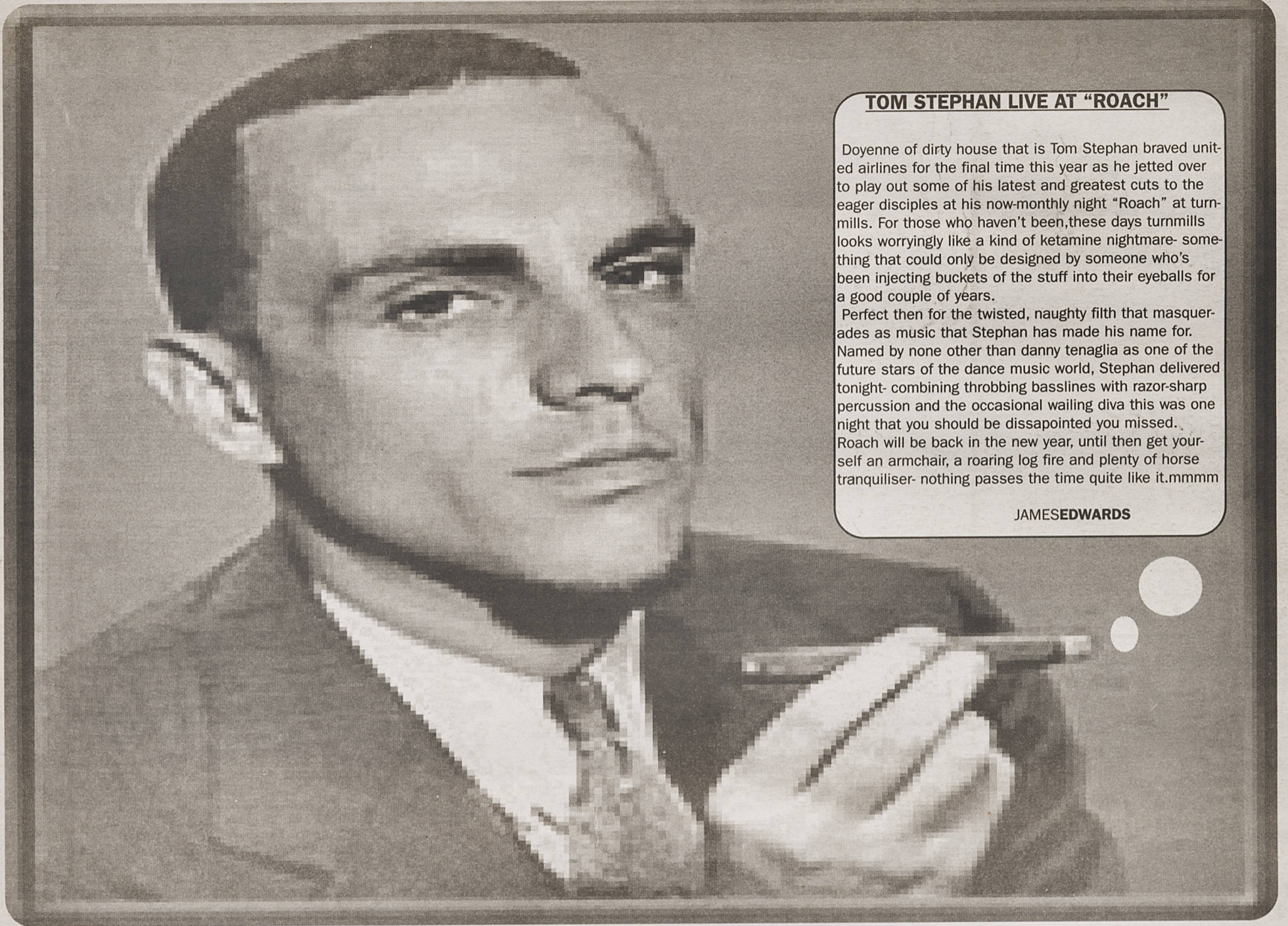
This film has Nihilists who complain that life isn't fair. It has a manipulative token wife so deep in debt that she'll "suck your cock for a thousand bucks". It has a convicted paedophile bowling champion called Jesus. It has Steve Buscemi, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers in it. But more than all this it has dialogue. I cannot possibly do it justice here. But as



Walter: "This is not 'Nam. This is bowling. There are rules."

far as I'm concerned any film that can describe the Gulf War as "our situation with that camel-fucker in Iraq... a bunch of fig-eaters with towels on their heads trying to find reverse on a Soviet tank" deserves a look. Then there are lines like "Say what you like about the tenets of National Socialism dude, but at least it's an ideology" and exchanges like "...you know Smokey has emotional problems!... What! Beyond pacifism?" and "Fuck your sympathy! I don't need your sympathy! I need my fucking Johnson!... What do you need that for Dude?".

Obviously some of this has to be seen to be appreciated for its true genius and I've probably left most of you bored enough to read this even more lethargic or totally enraged by jokes about Nazis and Iraq. This is an underestimated film. It did not win Oscars or get fantastic reviews. But then Titanic got awards and Empire Magazine gave Attack of the Clones 5 stars so how much does that prove? This is a dark comedy so thought through and thorough that you have to watch it at least three times before you pick up all the references and spot all the jokes. You will also need a knowledge of Theodore Herzl, The Port Huron Statement, Nihilism and The Man in the Black Pyjamas. This is an intelligent film. It also manages to be hilarious and engaging. You care about these characters. Nobody puts male reproductive fluids in their hair or tries to make love to a pie. Rather if *Dr. Strangelove* is one of your favorites or if you think *Fargo* (the Coen's best known work) was a comedy, this one is for you.

**TOM STEPHAN LIVE AT "ROACH"**

Doyenne of dirty house that is Tom Stephan braved united airlines for the final time this year as he jetted over to play out some of his latest and greatest cuts to the eager disciples at his now-monthly night "Roach" at turnmills. For those who haven't been, these days turnmills looks worryingly like a kind of ketamine nightmare- something that could only be designed by someone who's been injecting buckets of the stuff into their eyeballs for a good couple of years.

Perfect then for the twisted, naughty filth that masquerades as music that Stephan has made his name for. Named by none other than danny tenaglia as one of the future stars of the dance music world, Stephan delivered tonight- combining throbbing basslines with razor-sharp percussion and the occasional wailing diva this was one night that you should be dissapointed you missed. Roach will be back in the new year, until then get yourself an armchair, a roaring log fire and plenty of horse tranquiliser- nothing passes the time quite like it.mmmm

JAMES EDWARDS

**THIS WEEKS ESSENTIAL NIGHT**

MADRUGADA@THE RHYTHM FACTORY.: SAT 9TH DECEMBER £10
DIVIDE+RULE
GIRLSLUVBASS
ROY WILLIAMS
FRANK TOPE
DJ COLEY
TYREE COOPER

This weeks essential night is completely brand spanking new so not necessarily a gold badge of Beaver Authorised Approval™ but for those of you with an ounce of adventure (well, all ten of you) this is a night that looks set to cause some serious damage on the London club scene. Featuring Frank Tope who is also resident at the night Rooty- run by Bassment Jaxx and famed for South London mash-ups, and an exclusive UK appearance by Tyree Cooper this night looks set to be a sparkler. Residing in the Rhythm Factory which is a decent enough venue with a rather rude soundsystem- there is no longer any excuse for staying in and don't forget, saturday night TV sucks dick. So if any of you get off your arse we'll see you down there.

16-18 Whitechapel road
Aldgate East tube.

MUPPET!

Whats the mayor of our fair city doing on the clubbing page? No, its not what you think ken hasn't thrown in his political towel in exchange for a career on the wheels of steel instead Ken has, in his eternal wisdom, decided that raves held in buildings that have been disused for months, often years, are a **VERY BAD THING.**

The idea therefore mooted by the boy red is to create giant "holding pens" to which all those unfortunate enough to want to dance and have a good time will bu summarily thrown into where they will be held until drug tested and then perhaps severely spanked.

Already bandying around Giulianiesque phrases like "zero tolerance" this looks suspiciously like a u-turn for the man who was photographed behind the decks at a party organised in his benefit by Fatboy Slim and who said of the Criminal Justice Bill "Its all a load of bollocks!" Let ken know how much you appreciate his forward-thinking, tolerant politics at 105277.3653@compuserve.com or, if your an apathetic bastard, do nothing and wait to be locked up. And spanked. Severely.

IBRAHIMRASHEED reviews a collection of articles on the great globalization debate

FENCES AND WINDOWS...

Dispatches from the Frontlines of the Globalization Debate

In her first book "No Logo" Naomi Klein gave an intellectual dimension to what became known as the 'anti-globalisation' movement. Her book was groundbreaking as it was published shortly after the infamous riots in Seattle in December 1999. While the world shook its head in confusion, Klein's book showed how the frustrations of the demonstrators had boiled up to the point culminating with Seattle.

In the two and a half years since its publication, Naomi Klein has been busy keeping up to date with the globalisation debate and has unwittingly become one of the key mouthpieces of the movement. "Fences and Windows" is a compilation of essays and speeches made during this period and highlights the issues that arose'. She argues that the clash is not between protectionists and globalisers, but between those who wish to see more accountable and representative globalisation and those who hold the current monopoly.

The first part of the book takes us on a whirlwind tour of the main 'battle-grounds': Seattle, Washington, Prague, and Toronto. From there the argument that increased trade liberalisation causes people to lose the power to govern themselves, is developed. In the post September 11th world the debate should not be pushed out of the picture. But this is what seems to have happened. Terrible as those events were, it should not be made out that some lives are worth

more than others. The Africans killed in the US embassy bombings of 1998 remain anonymous victims. The firefighters of New York, on the other hand, have a family, a life and a story- and get to tell it to the world on Larry King Live.

Klein argues that there is currently a clash of fundamentalisms- economic vs. religious. We should move beyond these and seek the path that allows for greater diversity and increased democracy. All that the current neo-liberal economic order has achieved is centralization and homogeneity. An alternative needs to be found which will shift economic power out of unaccountable corporations (remember Enron?) and into the hands of the people.

It is easy to disagree with her politics and dismiss them as leftish tosh. The 'Anthony Giddens' and 'David Held' of this world may be the leading intellectuals in the debate but you have to read Naomi Klein to hear the word from the street. There is a large movement that is unhappy, and as the chances of alleviating poverty and attaining democratic global governance over the next few decades are pretty slim, it is here to stay. "Fences and Windows" gives us an invaluable insight into the heart of the movement and this is its strength.

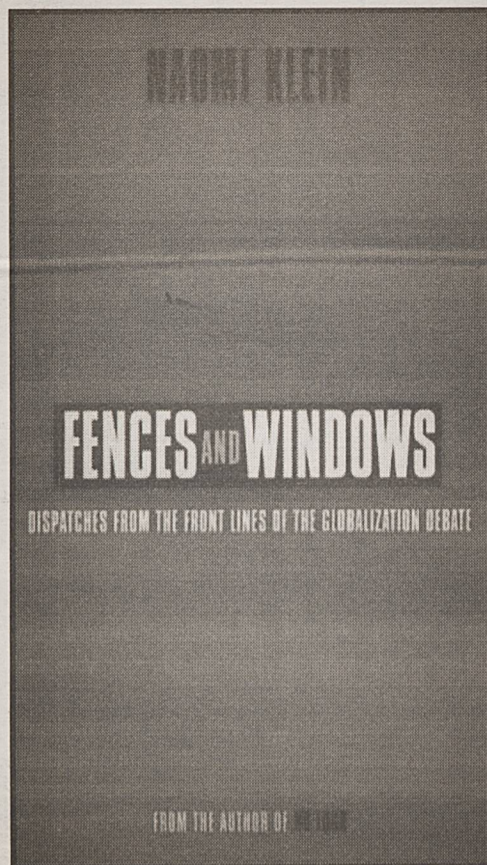
Just The Facts...

Author: Naomi Klein

Publisher: Flamingo

Price: £8.99

Date: October 2002



TONYPRING laughs all the way to *The Beaver* after reading Brookmyre's latest on...

THE SACRED ART OF STEALING

Angelique de Xavia of the Strathclyde police force is having a hard time lately. After thwarting terrorists' attempt to blow up the Dubh Ardrain power plant (Brookmyre's previous book *A Big Boy Did It And Ran Away*) and saving thousands of lives, her superior officers tell her that 'disciplinary action would be inappropriate' for the one million pounds worth of damage she necessarily caused.

What's more, on her 30th birthday she is taken hostage during a bank robbery - by a bunch of clowns. Incidentally, the leader 'Jarry' is one of the nicest and most charming men she has ever met as well as the most audacious thief (he lets elderly hostages and those with heart conditions leave immediately). She feels much closer to him after this one brief acquaintance than with any of her previous relationships with fellow police officers.

After ingeniously robbing the bank and leaving the police with no leads, Jarry makes contact with de Xavia and invites her to meet him for a drink in a trendy new bar that used to be a bank. On their second 'date' Jarry whisks Angelique to Paris for a few days, she agrees partly because she finds Jarry intriguing and attractive and also because the police investigation into the aforementioned bank job is going nowhere.

The crux of the plot develops in Paris when Jarry confides that he has no choice but to pull off one more job, after which he must disappear indefinitely. Further he expects Angelique to do her best in catching him; it even seems that somehow he may be relying on it.

The plot flows well and is always one step ahead of the reader. There is a distinct quality to Brookmyre's writing in his creation of characters (good and bad) that you can in some ways identify with. If you haven't read his work before, buy this and his six other titles and enjoy Britain's best satirist.

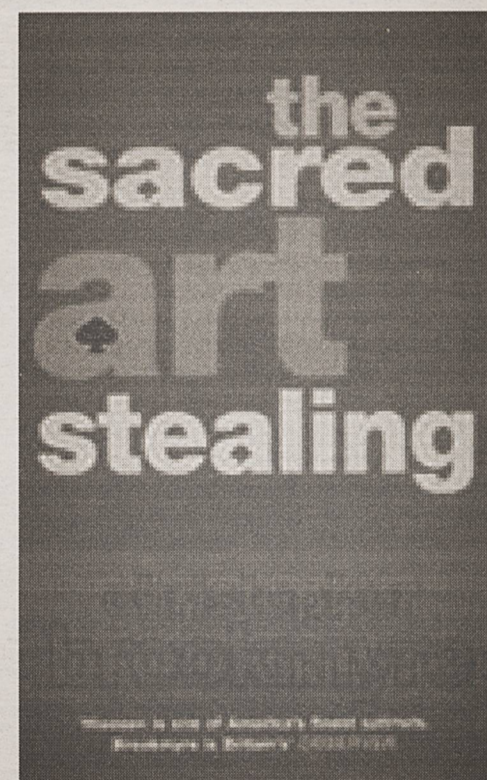
Just The Facts...

Author: Christopher Brookmyre

Publisher: Abacus

Price: £10.99

Date: November 2002



Just The Facts...

Author: Sophie Kinsella

Publisher: Black Swan

Price: £6.99

Date: July 2002

AALIADATOO bonds with a woman after her own heart when a...

SHOPAHOLIC TIES THE KNOT

This novel is definitely 'girly' in the true sense of the word, as the life of Rebecca Bloomwood, the ultimate shopaholic, continues to entertain for the third time - this being the third in her series of "Shopaholic" novels.

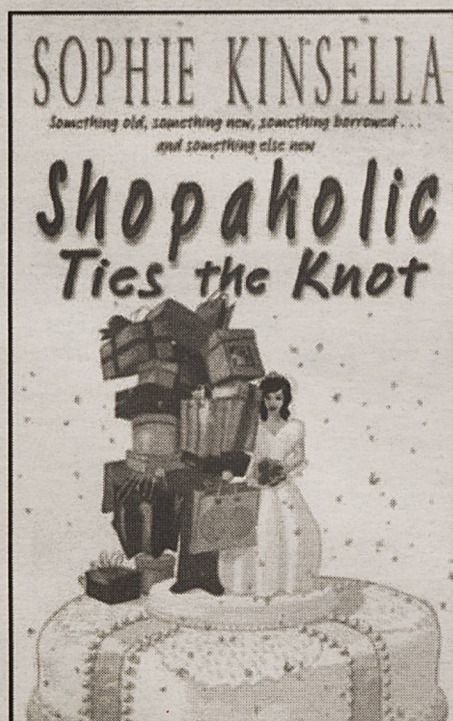
Not being a stranger to shops, boutiques and more shops myself, it is not hard to understand the dilemmas Rebecca faces as the stereotypical woman, though my life cannot compare to hers by any stretch of the imagination!

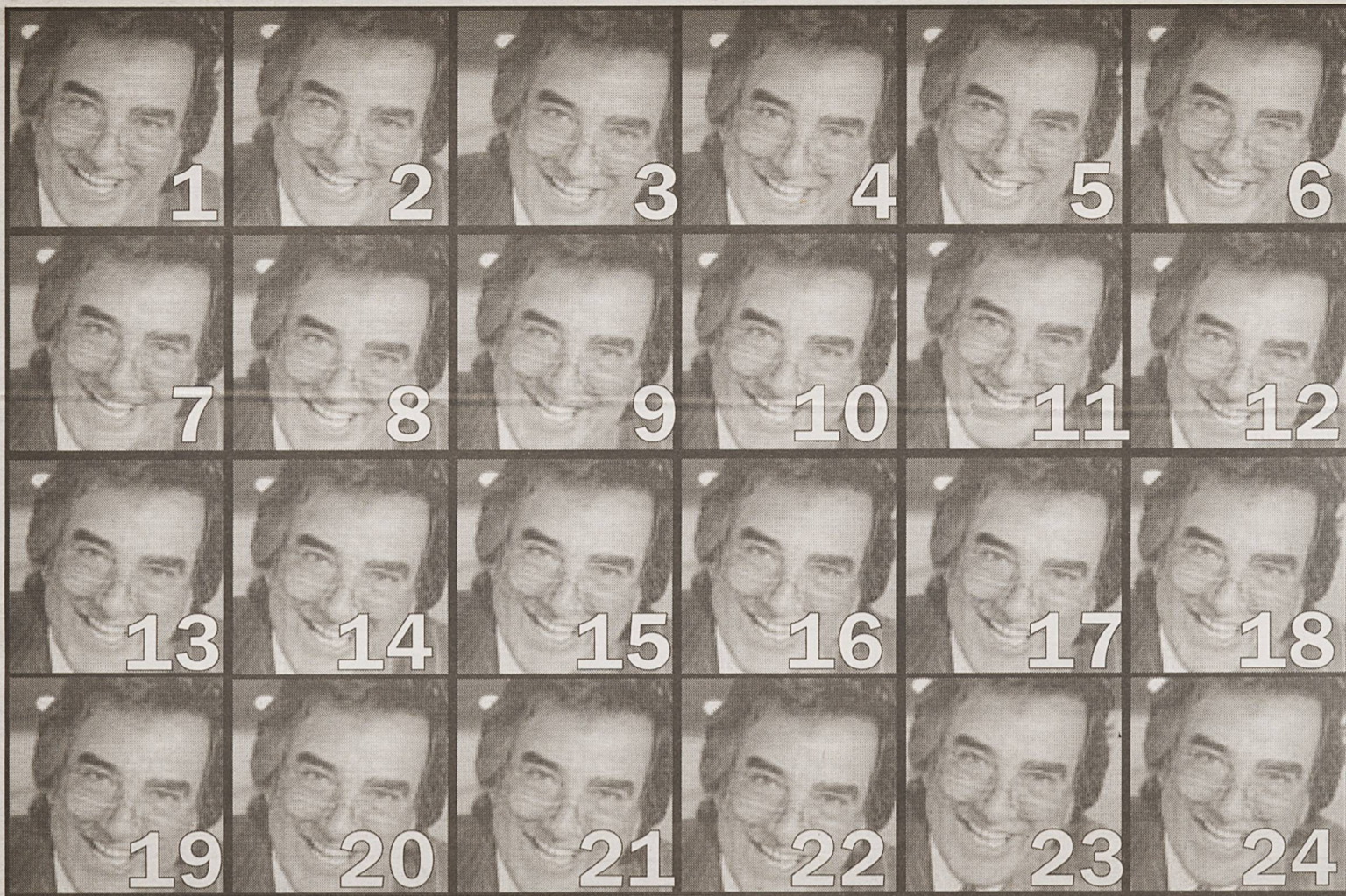
Once again the reader is thrilled by Rebecca's somewhat extraordinary, even dreamlike life: the perfect eligible boyfriend, the Manhattan apartment, the job as a personal shopper and now the wedding of the century with a wedding planner to match.

Skilfully Kinsella retains a dimension of realism as we see the emotional sides to each character: the sticky patches in Rebecca's relationship with Luke, her fiancé; the challenge of a difficult mother-in-law-to-be and the truth of child birth, courtesy of her best friend Suze.

The real intricacy to this plot though is the fact that both mother and mother-in-law have totally different ideas for two totally different weddings in two totally different continents on the SAME day! How exactly does Rebecca plan to overcome this one? With no escape it will take a particularly ingenious plan to get out of this one!

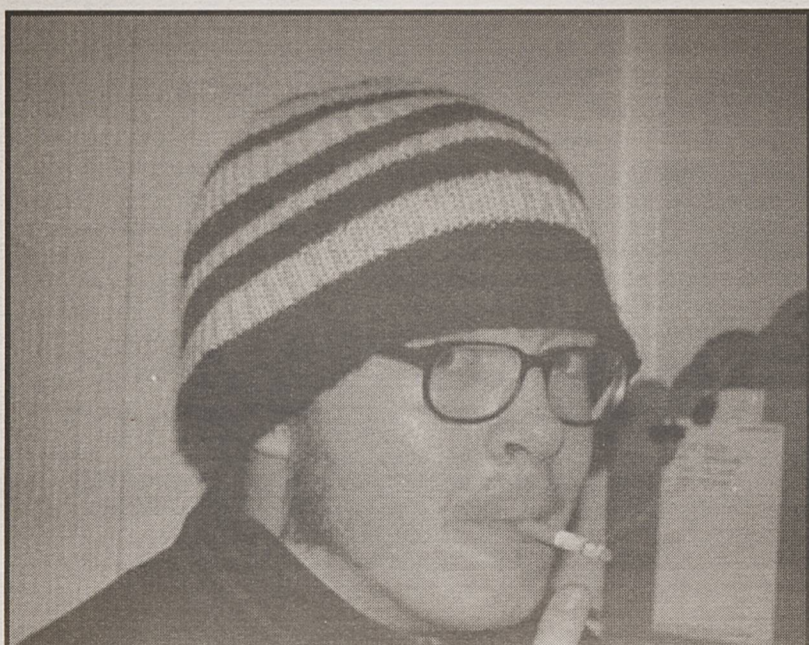
Wonderfully romantic and exotic, this novel is a witty and quick read, guaranteed to make you laugh!





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Victoriana - Posh or What?

Helen Donald and Lorne Charles ask if the fashion industry has re-invented an era too far...

The most noticeable and objectionable of this season's fashion trends has to be the remarkable rise of Victorian and Edwardian fashions. Catwalks, fashion magazines and the High Street are all full of frills, beads and corsets, and glamorised by Nicole Kidman's character, Satine, in Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge*. But beneath all the splendour and decadence, for women, there lay a harsh reality.

History has found fashions, especially female fashions to be deeply intertwined with the underlying social values of the times. It also seems that re-inventions contain the same connections. Nowhere is connection between fashion and values more evident than in the Victorian era, where female sexuality was seen as an object of shame, and had to symbolically be restrained within a corset. The modesty with which a woman dressed would be inter-

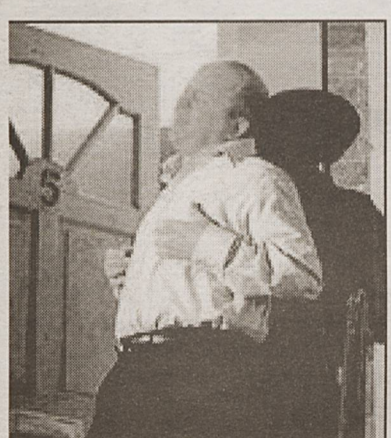
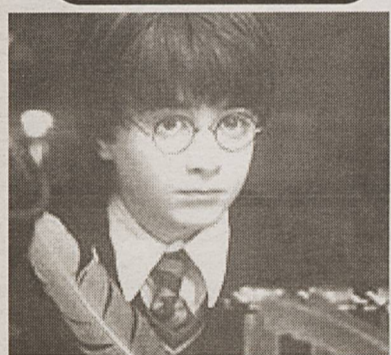
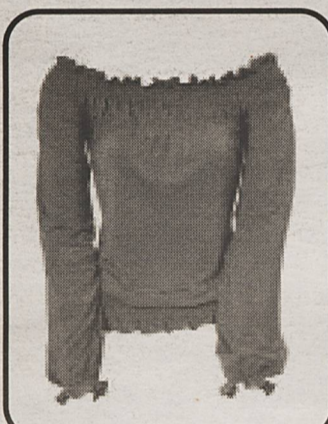
preted as a reflection of her character. Double standards were used to judge men and women's sexual misdemeanours differently; a man having an extra marital affair may have got dirty looks in church, but a woman lying in a bed other than her husband's

“Posh and Becks are hardly the intelligentsia or artistic elite of their day”

was ostracised and shunned by society. Life for the Victorian woman was in many ways similar to that of women who previously lived under the Taliban. Previous re-inventions of eras by the fashion world have tended to be in association with a rise in the social values of the period being reflected. The economic confidence in the late 1990s and 2000 was accompanied by a revival of the fashions of those

two most materialistic of ages, the 1950s and 1980s.

There has in recent years been a resurgence in those greatest of Victorian institutions, marriage and the family. It seems as if the most fashionable thing for celebrities to do at the moment is get married and have babies; Posh and Becks, Madonna and Guy, Kerry McFaddon and the mingling one from Westlife. We are confident, that most of the other social values associated with the Victorian era are not back in vogue. We have therefore come to the conclusion that the fashion industry has finally run out of ideas. The turn of the last-but-one century is fashionable not because it reflects a mood in the *intelligentsia* and artistic elite of the time (I don't think that Posh and Becks could be put in either of these two categories), but because they have done everything else. But does this mean that in wearing Victoriana we are not reflecting our moral values, but merely blindly following fashion?



What's Hot and What's Not

Hot	Not
1880s Queen Vic rocked	1980s
Paganism	Conventional Religion
Harry Potter	Dirty Phil Mitchell
Paper Chains	Tinsel - wait a minute, it's nearly Christmas...
Monotonic Chic	Prints (especially Burberry - so last season)
Pointy calf-length boots	Furry Knee length boots (as worn by Jordan)
Denim	Leather

When will people come to realise that Tinsel had never been cool

Beaver Campaign - This Christmas, chuck out the tinsel and all that gold and silver tack, and go for a more natural look.

Let's face it, yards of tinsel everywhere is one of the most daunting and embarrassing things we have to face this time of year. There is of course the inherent naffness of it; it has to be the most ugly of decorations so why does everyone insist on having it draped over everything, the tree, shelves, picture frames. We ask the question has tinsel ever been attractive? Even when brand new it looks as though its something from Claire's Accessories, but does your Mum not insist on using the same strands year after year? We have not even yet mentioned all the thin strips of foil that fall off and you are invariably hoovering up for the next 6 months.

This is why this year, we are starting a Beaver campaign to outlaw tinsel. This year, we shall protest against any piece of tinsel appearing on LSE property. We should insist that the SU shop ask for a refund for their decorations and buy a new paninni machine instead. Hopefully, as LSE students move on to take up positions in high places across the globe, we can eradicate this most obnoxious of decorations. This year Houghton Street, next year the World!!!!

As an alternative to all that gaudy metallicness and in tribute to the phenomenal rise in the popularity of Paganism (a lot of which can be put down to one H. Potter), why not decorate your home this Christmas with natural products...(!)
This week, learn how to create attractive and fragrant cloved oranges to hand about your room.

- You will need:**
- Oranges
 - Lots of whole cloves
 - Some attractive string or ribbon
 - Hands

1. Tie a piece of coloured string around an orange, as you would when tying a parcel. The orange should then be segmented in four
2. Proceed by pushing the cloves thin end first into the orange in attractive patterns, about 0.5 cm apart. My own personal favourite design is to put two rows either sides of the stripes of ribbon, and put a star in the middle of the segment.



LSE Rock-Climbers Defy Gravity!

Terance Li takes it at all angles and elevations

You may have noticed some drunken fools scaling the walls of LSE in an attempt to reach and touch all the LSE signs on campus. Although motivated no doubt in a large part by drunken courage we are in fact attempting what is now known as "The Three Touches".

Although we have a healthy fear of heights it doesn't mean we aren't willing to climb to the second floor balcony to show our arses to the security camera. Rather my twisted sense of humour at the thought of a guard being confronted by the view of someone's arse. Scaling walls isn't the only stupid thing we do, thanks to a little ingenuity and lateral thinking some of us have established a no paying, no queuing way to get into crush. Once inside we

congregate around anything that might seem like a challenge "how many one armed pull ups can you do?" usually starts a succession of people with sliced fingers and bruised egos. The stairwell between the quad and the mezzanine floor isn't safe. Hanging upside down seems to attract the attention of the bar staff but a hasty departure is required before a bouncer chooses to make you his bitch.

We speak in tongues grade everything we see. "Left-Right traverse, features for feet anything for hands" and "five A or a hard severe". We don't even know what we are talking about sometimes, Overhangs, Mantle-piece, Dyno's. We never train, never go to the gym but we are all in pretty

good shape, even if it means painting a six pack onto some of our larger members.

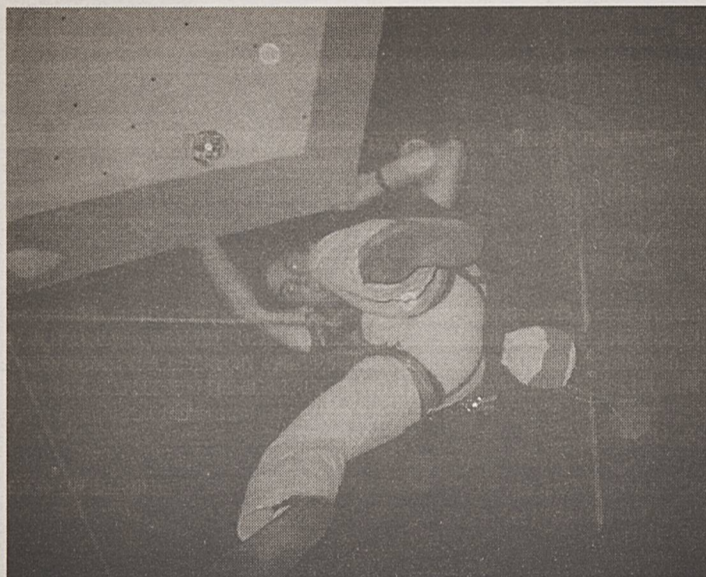
You'll usually find us at the Manor House climbing wall on Wednesdays and Fridays. Thirty to forty feet climbs with leads and also some good bouldering. Its hard to describe climbing to anyone who hasn't done it before, but if you enjoyed



climbing trees as a child its pretty much just an extension of that. But there is more to it, whereas other sports have you competing against others here you are competing with yourself. There is something to be said about hanging

tain amount of skill.

It's like the old adage goes, when they join they're arses are like cookie dough, after three weeks they are carved out of wood.



Angry Editor Gets Angrier In Order To Fill Space

IN AN attempt to widen the scope of Beaver sports this week the beaver will address the age old issue of money in sports. Is it good or bad?

First we take a look at football. It is the old chestnut, where wages spiral out of control and send clubs to the edge of their financial powers. This is not so much a problem at the larger premier ship teams who make vast amounts of revenue on merchandise and ticket sales, but for the smaller clubs, there is little chance of them being able to compete as they do not make as much in such ways. Also, regardless of the size of the club, the prices of tickets and team strips etc would not be so high if it were

not for the demands of top players of a fifty thousand pound a week wage!

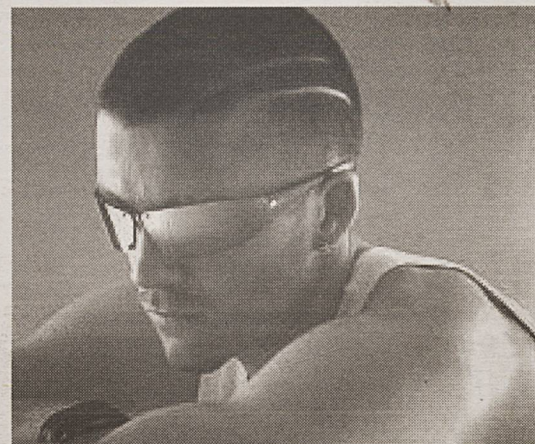
Rugby union is a sport that has only comparatively recently become professional. This has highlighted how enabling sportsmen to dedicate their lives to a sport can be beneficial. As a result the standard of rugby has risen greatly in the UK. This is apparent when we can be seen to be battling on a even playing field against the best in Europe in the Heineken cup and has culminated in the recent display of England beating the Southern hemisphere teams, considered to be the best in the world.

Athletics is a sport that is in between. Although it claims to still be amateur, for many athletes it is their job. Through the possibilities of advertising and appearance fees they manage to make a great deal of money. However, this still doesn't help the problem at grass roots level. It is hard for people to break into a sport where you need to be a known face to gain money and therefore an open door into the sport. It is a vicious circle - you need to be known to get the money, but you need the money to enable you to get known.

Although lottery grants have helped many sports that struggle financially, this is often not a year round thing. In Hockey for example, many players only receive funding in Olympic years which does not enable the players to be at their best due to monetary constraints. The lottery gives on average \$14, 994, 942 per month to various sporting projects which is a valuable contribution but we

will always need more.

But is it a bit naïve to believe that this can be changed? I know that it has been said a million times before, but sport is a business now and not just something that we can enjoy. Even at LSE the issues of paying to rent pitches and buy kit are evident. The money is tight and we must watch what it is spent on. Millions are made everyday from people buying sports memorabilia, buying tickets for matches, buying products advertised by sports stars and in sport generally. It is now a fundamental part of our economy that the country could not do without.



Barrel Ettiquette: 'Aving It Responsibly

For the attention of all members of the AU:

The AU Barrel is now less than two days away!!

Whilst, I am sure that you are all aware of the fun aspects of the day; the dressing up, the return of the Wheel of Death by popular demand, the Streak etc. it is very important that some matters are cleared up.

Most of you are I am sure, know all about the tradition of running to Kings at the Barrel, however after last year got very out of hand, both on the day itself and later when Kings retaliated. The AU received a heavy fine after the Barrel and the School were reluctant to allow us to hold the Barrel again but the AU Exec has fought all year to ensure that it can take place. There are certain preconditions however and it is imperative that these are adhered to:

Under no circumstances must any LSE Student go to Kings or off the main campus on the day of the Barrel.

Anyone who is found to be going to Kings will be severely punished by LSE, putting their future at the school at risk.

The AU takes NO responsibility for the action of any individual who goes to Kings - they will incur any financial or legal implications on their own.

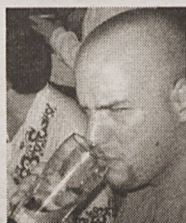
We want everyone to have a great day and are certain you will but we also don't want to spoil it for others in the future. Everyone coming to the Barrel needs to bring there AU Cards in order to gain entry, which will be held at the door. Thanks alot for your co-operation and just remember that in not going to Kings we ensure maximum drinking time!!

Emma Walsh

AU Events Officer



Andy Schwartz,
Squash, Rowing, The
Christian Union



Tall Paul



Football 5ths and
6ths, Netball 1sts
and 2nds, Women's
Football



Rex W, Ed Cook,
Terence Li, Netball
4ths and 3rds,
Women's Rugby

Darius, Piers S, Ali
G, Candice, Emma
B, Tristan E, the 7ths
except Schwartz,
The Pirate, Harry,
Healey, football and
rugby in
general...

Won't Turn Up

Low Risk

Medium Risk

High Risk

Extreme Risk

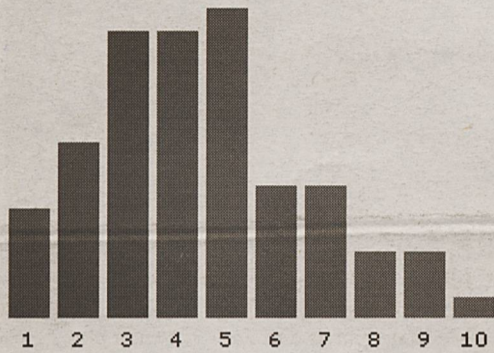
There's Only:
**48 Hours, 37 Minutes
and 21 Seconds To Go!**

Make Sure You're On Time (and thank the firefighters too)

HOT or NOT.

7.6

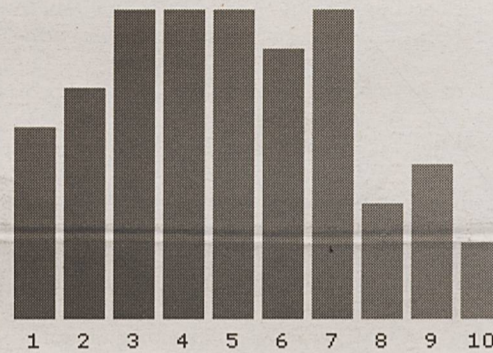
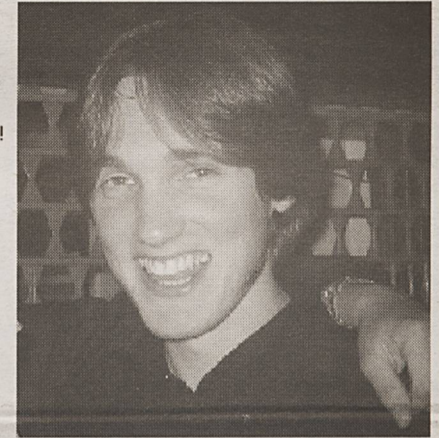
You are hotter than 72% of men on this site!



72 people have rated you

8.4

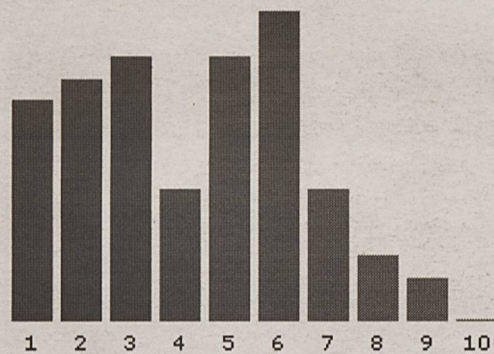
You are hotter than 82% of men on this site!



59 people have rated you

7.2

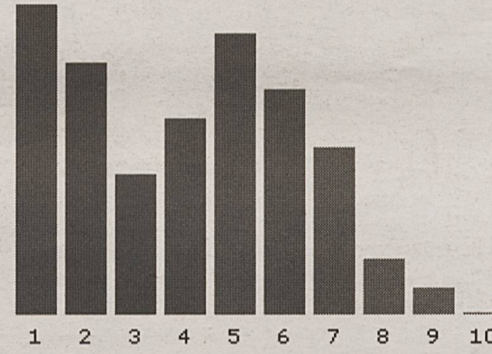
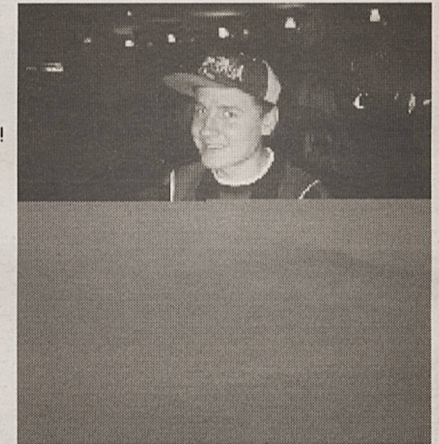
You are hotter than 68% of men on this site!



76 people have rated you

6.8

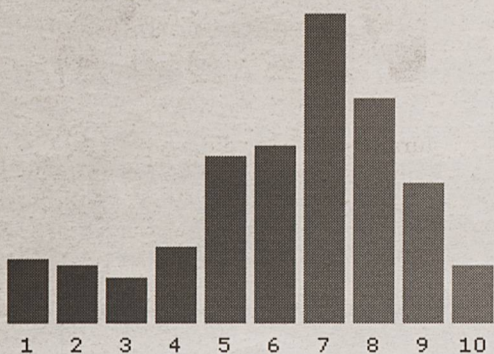
You are hotter than 64% of men on this site!



59 people have rated you

8.4

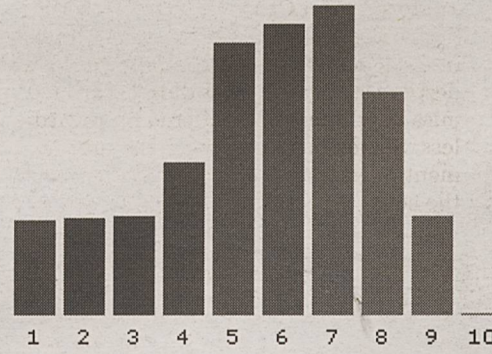
You are hotter than 82% of women on this site!



635 people have rated you

7.2

You are hotter than 68% of women on this site!



622 people have rated you

Incredible! Who could have forseen such titanic struggles as these? Sexual Andy obviously making the right choice in lopping off the Morrison and Loz obviously benefiting from being completely wasted and having the Pirate's arm draped casually over his shoulder. In round 2 Healey's boyish charm and full-frontal pose wooed the ladies whilst Dougs cheeky-chappy demeanour found less fans on t'internet. As for the bitch fight that was round 3, our virginal vixens fought tooth and nail. Ali G's rude-boy appeal finally triumphing over Candice 'Ronald' Macdonald's Queen-of-Reef appeal. We think that precedents have been set here, and the general image of LSE AU as being a union of pretty people has been upheld. To our detractors he said that this competition was just to fill pages we say, nay! Matters dear to the hearts of the AU have been investigated.

I'm Sorry Miss Jackson, I Am For Real...

LSE Men's Hockey 1st XI 4

UCL Men's Hockey 1st XI 1

The mood was buoyant in the LSE hockey camp with the news that a new goalie had joined our ranks. He had no trouble passing the nominal selection requirements; being that he's a fucking nut-job. And so with no more formal training than a cautionary remark or two on how best to protect his bollocks, he was thrown straight into the fray.

This week we were faced with the onerous task of dismissing UCL; onerous only in the fact that it's a painful experience just standing on the same pitch as these pathetic excuses for sportsmen. Our only worry was that we were playing on a water-based pitch which, for those of you not so well versed in the gentlemanly sport of hockey, is a bouncy, scrappy and generally more dangerous affair, especially considering the special needs opposition we were facing.

It will come as much as a surprise to you as it did to us then, that UCL managed to open the scoring in the match. Well sort of. A rubbish short corner strike by UCL hit our goalie on the head, only to be pounced upon by the Kangaroo (just to clarify, he plays for us). He proceeded to ram the ball home with the ferocity of a paraplegic with an itch.

Just to make sure the ball had indeed crossed the line, he followed up with an even more ferocious rebound. The whole ground was stunned into silence, eventually broken by the immortal words, "Mayur you fucking twat."

Never averse to shooting ourselves in the foot, we responded well, with wave after wave of attacks on the UCL goal. Finally our persistence paid off, when a quick free hit caught the UCL defence knapping, and the ball was tucked into the far corner by yours truly. By then it was only a matter of time before the realization of our superiority overwhelmed the weak willed opposition, and they collapsed in a pool of their own piss, wailing for their mummies to come and make the bad men stop hurting them.

This week Cunt was moved from the back to play upfront. Instead of knocking opposition centre-forwards into the back of our net, he was now, thankfully, knocking the ball into the back of their net. Twice in fact. This was before the game descended into utter tedium as we became guilty of playing at their level. Nothing more of any note happened in the game until the end, when Suppa



popped up to strike a superb shot into the bottom corner, further rubbing their noses in it.

And so we retired to the bar, to enjoy a good old traditional English after-match tea: sandwiches, cakes and a nice cuppa. Could the day get any better? Back at the Tuns we were joined by James Jackson's little sister. To no one's surprise, she came to the immediate attention of a certain lecherous Rastafarian. He somehow managed to steer the poor innocent girl towards the exit, proceeding to make her wet (it was raining) in some back alley of the Tuns, while he stuck his tongue down her throat. When propositioned to a night of soulful love-making

sounds of Bob Marley, she unfortunately had to decline, as she had a mock GCSE the next day. Yes I did mention this was his little sister. Oh dear Rasta, a charge of statutory rape won't help your career prospects in the city. It was at this point that the team took it upon themselves to intervene, subjecting the dirty pervert to a bit of vigilante justice: a wedgie to end all wedgies, and one that put an end to this man's favourite pair of boxer-shorts. The day certainly could get better.

LSE Netball Fourths Lose To Cheating Medical Bi-atches

Laura Wheeler shows why the netball fourths really are good

LSE 4ths	11
RUMS 2nds	22

Captain Ali and I got a bit excited when we saw whom we were playing. The medics? Easy! Unfortunately, we thought we were playing their fifth team, not the seconds. The score belies the match - we played really well under difficult circumstances, but, although it hurts to admit it - they were a bit better. Some might even say a lot better. Though one thing still remains the same, that they were dirty, cheating, lying

bitches.

It was a freezing night when we arrived in Mornington Crescent to play RUMS (Royal Free and United Medical Schools, in case you're interested). Captain Ali was desperate for a piss but didn't want to miss anything, and soldiered on regardless. Somewhat worryingly, the umpire mentioned that she'd forgotten to record the score properly in her previous match.

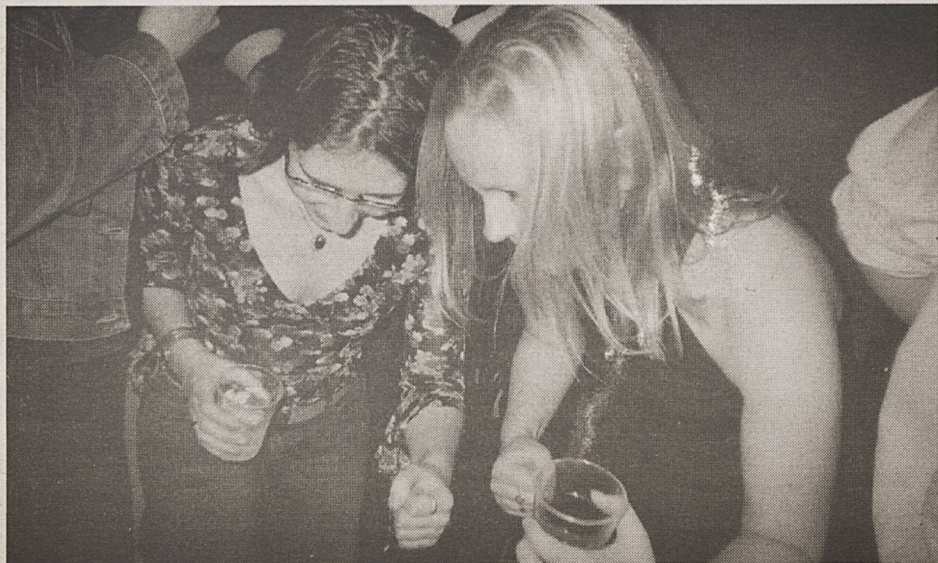
Although, in hindsight this could have been of benefit to us. I wasn't playing as I had been throwing up and nearly fainting all day (I'm not pregnant, honest) so I was designated Score Taker. I was also Chief Supporter, as little Lini's voice couldn't carry very far.

And I shouted and shouted. I thought I must be pissing off my own team, but apparently I helped them with shouts of, "get her" and "your doing really well, honest!". Captain Ali played her first match of the season and she was great, though her sidelines encouragement was missed.

Holly and Ali had an impossible job of trying to contain RUMS captain Neeha (who was amazing) and the small little centre bitch who gave Holly a dead arm. Nice! They got an intimidating partnership going double-marking the centre and wing attack in turn. She didn't know what had hit her as Holly and Ali surrounded her so she couldn't move. The umpire was incredibly biased and pulled up the usually faultless Holly and Rebecca, whilst ignoring RUMS' sly punches and blatant infringement of the rules. Running with the ball, surely even the medics should know that that is against the rules.



Laura C and Marie did a great job defending goal, but the RUMS shooters were damn good. Our own shooters, Shelly and Rebecca, were spot on - it was just a question of getting the ball to them. We did play very well, and definitely improved as the match went on and we became more annoyed with the cheating of the medical scum. In one quarter we scored 4 to their 1, this could almost be classed as a comeback! Anita had tireless energy (as ever) and I really like her method of marking, waving her arms manically in front of players, maybe to make them dizzy and pass out, I don't know! We weren't too disheartened at the end, though we did lose. We still have the hope that we can win more matches. But we can smile in the knowledge that at least we are nice girls and play fair. Though maybe this will change...





Doctor's Of Wrong Do The Right Thing!

Handoncock documents the victory

LSE 7ths (Doctors of Wrong) 4

GKT 5ths (Doctors of Medicine) 2

Having got the thoroughly farcical debacle of the non-game against RSM (Royal School of Mincers) behind them the Sevenths had to refocus on playing football against teams that actually turn up and can play, unfortunately Wednesday 21st November's match was against GKT so focussing would have to wait.

The referee obviously knew that we wanted a super early doors arrive in the Tuns so he insisted on a 2 o'clock kick-off. This meant that most of the team had to get the 12:56pm train and those with more depraved habits of a Wednesday morning had to make up excuses about lectures from 12-1 or some such nonsense and run for the 1:26pm train. Champagne Andrew and Cunt Ivan appeared on the train red-faced and in a fluster, muttering about their landlord at Cuntly Hall, Terry Wogan, being extra randy and the docking session having over-run. Ignoring their fetishes Captain Oslo roused the lads with a simple scientific "we've beaten them before, we'll beat them again".

Once on the field of play the ref really wanted to kick off and it was realised by all that we only had 10 men and no goalie, Schwartzy, Francis, Jeremy and Simon having missed the 12:56 because of their circle-jerk society meeting were still stuck on the delayed 1:26. What to do in such a quandary? What about playing everyone in different to usual positions and try and hold on until the re-inforcements arrive? Genius. So Will Will and Owen Oyvind Leonhardsen (Centre Midfielders) took up position in the centre of defence in front of Doug in nets still smarting from the previous day's gruelling Boxing training. Rich "the grafter" dropped to centre-mid with

Andrew "the cunt" Lee and Jay "J Okocha" wandered lonely as a cloud up front. The only fortunate outcome of this pick 'n' mix style 4-4-1 formation was that the "Stubby Girl" Joss didn't end up in attack.

We managed to cling doggedly to the plan of "0-0 until Schwartzy arrives" despite the many temptations to score against a GKT team who had perplexingly performed the tactical schoolboy error of removing all their good players that they had in the match against us at the start of the season. After ten minutes Canada's answer to Neville Southall came lumbering over the Berrylands turf braying like a donkey and replaced the wincing Doug in goal who pushed up to join Owen. Will the fat man went forward to midfield and Rich the plumber joined Jay in attack. The team was looking, if not feeling, a little more shapely. The first half continued in traditional 7ths style, Andrew "the cat, sorry, cunt" Schwartz and Doug set up a backgammon board and two Hookah pipes on the edge of the 7ths penalty area and whiled away the half gently discussing Nietzschean philosophy and the moralist debate completely unperturbed by any semblances of a GKT attack. Back in the other half the other 9 players were playing the usual polite game of contriving to fall over each other in attempts to let someone else score,



everyone forgetting that the aim of the game is to boot the ball in the back of the net more times than the opposition not string together more passes than them. Half time and the usual story, 0-0 despite having had more chances to score than Teddy

Sheringham in a London night-spot and loads more than Teddy Sheringham on the football field. So it was time for some rubbish advice: "Boys, if we score more than they do, we'll win".

With this in mind we swapped ends, and, as usual, it immediately went Pete Tong. The ball was slipped through to one of their forwards (who had cheekily stolen Caustic's champagne gold boots), and, instead of tackling him conventionally, Joss thought he would see if he could run as fast as the guy to exactly the same place as him (1 yard from our line). Joss was overjoyed to find that he could but such was his merriment he forgot to get the ball off him and watched as the guy slid it in from a tight angle but point blank range. Changes had to be made, Oslo subbed Will off, pushed Owen up to midfield and brought Francis "wet dreams about Celtic" Murray on in centre defence. This reaped some rewards: 5 minutes later Cunt Ivan (c.ivan@lse.ac.uk) picked up the ball 10 metres inside their half and half dribbled/half stumbled past three of their

players to a point just outside their penalty area and just before he completely lost balance and made himself look like an utter tit he managed to miraculously pull off a good shot which he steered past their goalie. Everyone was happy except Doug who was enraged that the 7ths had let c.ivan score and suggested that they abandon the game to give him a good kicking. The 7ths didn't get time to put this to the democratic vote however since they'd managed to get another corner. Champagne Andrew had been attempting to shoot directly at the goal from the corner spot all afternoon, despite Oslo's pleas to "just put it on my head", and he now got his reward, a wicked inswinger left their goalkeeper with the choice of letting it go in direct or making a half-arsed attempt at saving it and pushing it into his own net, he chose the latter. 2-1 to the LSE, plain sailing now? Of course not. A innocent ball was played down the 7ths right hand side and Doug lopped across for the usual ill-aimed, hoofed clearance, however, with the ball hanging in the air in front of him instead of hitting it full gun straight back down the pitch he conspired to skim it off the top of his foot behind him and straight into the path of a GKT striker who struck the ball goalward, Schwartzy got a hand to it but only man-



Handoncock fosters cock in Cockfosters. If you see this man, please call Crimestoppers.

aged to push it into the top corner. More changes: Bradford, who was having the game of his season, was subbed off, c.ivan pushed up to replace him at left mid and Simon (Glennie, not Lopy) came on at left back. After a while Cunt Ivan could take no more and limped off to the sideline moaning about "cramp". Fortunately another sub, Jeremy "the General" Sanders, was on hand to replace Doug at centre defence who, instead of replacing Ivan at left-mid, decided to run around like a headless chicken for the last 15 minutes. When he did stop for a second he managed to pass the ball to Owen who saw a ripe opportunity and performed the entertaining party trick of lobbing their keeper whilst simultaneously falling over. Then Francis confirmed the rumour, he isn't rubbish, and like the Alan Hansen of old strolled out of defence and played a killer ball through to the grafter Rich who side-footed around and over their on-coming keeper into the far corner of the net.

4-2, hurrah, back to winning ways. Having gone out to the Tuns in heavy numbers after a spate of disappointing losses the 7ths decided that it would be rude to go there after a victory and most stayed in, wrong'uns. A few people came out and sung rubbish gay 1980's disco pop though.

You can check out our progress here: <http://www.ululon.ac.uk/leagues/110489611202unlo0d1100006.htm>



The reprobates were allowed out on weekends. Devoid of Oslo and Doug, getting to Berrylands proved too much for replacement captain Oyvo, who managed to take them instead to Hyde Park, to play with themselves. Quite literally, it turned out.